

GENERAL ASSERTS HE RECEIVED GUNS FOR PERSONAL USE

But Turner Tells Senators He Signed Receipts Saying Weapons Were for Army

By ROBERT M. SMITH
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Oct. 7—Maj. Gen. Carl C. Turner, a former Provost Marshal General of the Army, who is also a former Chief United States Marshal, told a Senate inquiry today that he had received weapons at no cost from the Chicago and Kansas City, Mo., police departments.

General Turner maintained that the weapons had been given to him for his personal use.

Witnesses have alleged that he received the arms for official use and sold some of them for personal profit.

The General admitted that he had signed four receipts in Chicago that specified that the weapons were for Army use, but he said the Chicago police superintendent had told him the receipts were only a formality.

General Turner acknowledged signing one such receipt after he had retired from the Army.

Superintendent Quoted

The general testified that he had told the superintendent, James B. Conlisk Jr.: "Jim, you know I'm not in the Army." He said Mr. Conlisk replied, "This is the way we have to clear our records. It's O.K."

In Chicago, a spokesman for Mr. Conlisk said that the superintendent had turned 397 weapons over to General Turner "for Army training purposes." In Kansas City, a spokesman for Police Chief Clarence M. Kelley said 96 weapons had been given to the general "with the understanding they were to be used by the military for exhibition and training purposes."

Mr. Conlisk and Chief Kelley are scheduled to testify before the subcommittee Monday.

General Turner testified that he could not tell the subcom-

mittee how many guns he had sold in recent years or whether he had sold any of those given him by the police because the ledger of gun transactions he was required by Federal law to keep "disappeared" in May or June.

He also said in answer to a question that he filed within the last few days amended tax returns for the last four years

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listing the profits he made from gun sales. These totalled \$6,800 from 1964 to 1968, he said.

He did not originally list the sales in his income tax, the general explained, because he regarded gun sales and trades as "a hobby" rather than a business.

The subcommittee also learned that a large red-and-blue-covered journal of gun transactions, which the general provided in response to a subpoena, had been written in one day on the basis of estimates because the original ledger had disappeared.

The general testified that he had not reported the loss of the ledger to the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Division of the Internal Revenue Service because he "did not know it was lost" and because he hoped he "would find it."

Today's session of the subcommittee marked the first appearance of the slight, bald, bespectacled retired major general, whose name has come up again and again in a week of hearings.

Earlier, witnesses told the subcommittee the general had been involved in an attempt to "whitewash" criminal investigations into the operation of servicemen's clubs. The investigations allegedly involved the first Sergeant Major of the Army, William O. Wooldridge.

The subcommittee is expected to ask the general about the "whitewash" charges tomorrow.

The session brought a new atmosphere to the hearings, which until today consisted

mainly of witnesses reading calmly from prepared statements and sedate questioning by subcommittee members and their staff.

When this morning's hearing began at 10:06, the small chamber on the third floor of the new Senate Office Building was jammed, with about three dozen persons standing at the rear of the room. About 50 more stood in the corridor outside.

General Turner had no prepared statement with him. He and his two lawyers sat under the glare of a half-dozen television spotlights fastened to the large bronze Grecian urns that decorate the chamber. There was a constant whirr of motion picture cameras and the rustle of still photographers popping up and down in front of the witness table.

General Turner, who was born in Altus, Okla., spoke in a loud, self-assured voice tinged with an accent that was vaguely Southern. He gestured frequently to the Senators in front of him to emphasize a point, and he made frequent notes on what the Senators asked him.

When he came before Senator Ribicoff to be sworn in, he walked briskly to the witness table and clicked his heels. Another sign of the 33 years he spent in the military emerged when he corrected one of his answers by blurting, "As you were."

General Turner was adamant that he had received the weapons from the police for his personal use. Thumping the mahogany table in front of him three times, the general declared, "These guns were given to me, and there was no ques-

tion in my mind or I would not have accepted them."

The Senators questioned the retired officer closely about his having signed receipts for 397 weapons he received from the Chicago police.

"What puzzles me," Senator Ribicoff observed, "is that you were Provost Marshal General of the Army. You knew the seriousness of statements that people sign. What were you thinking of when you signed such a declaration [that the weapons were for Army use]?"

'I Questioned This'

"I questioned this," General Turner replied. "I said, 'These are not for the Army.' He [Mr. Conlisk] said, 'That's O.K. That's the way we close our records.'"

"Would you as Provost Marshal stand for such games being played on a manifest?" Senator Ribicoff asked.

The general replied that "in hindsight" he should not have signed the receipt.

Senator Edward J. Gurney, a Florida Republican, asked why the general had consented to signing a receipt he knew was false. The general said he had told Mr. Conlisk, "I don't want any part of it."

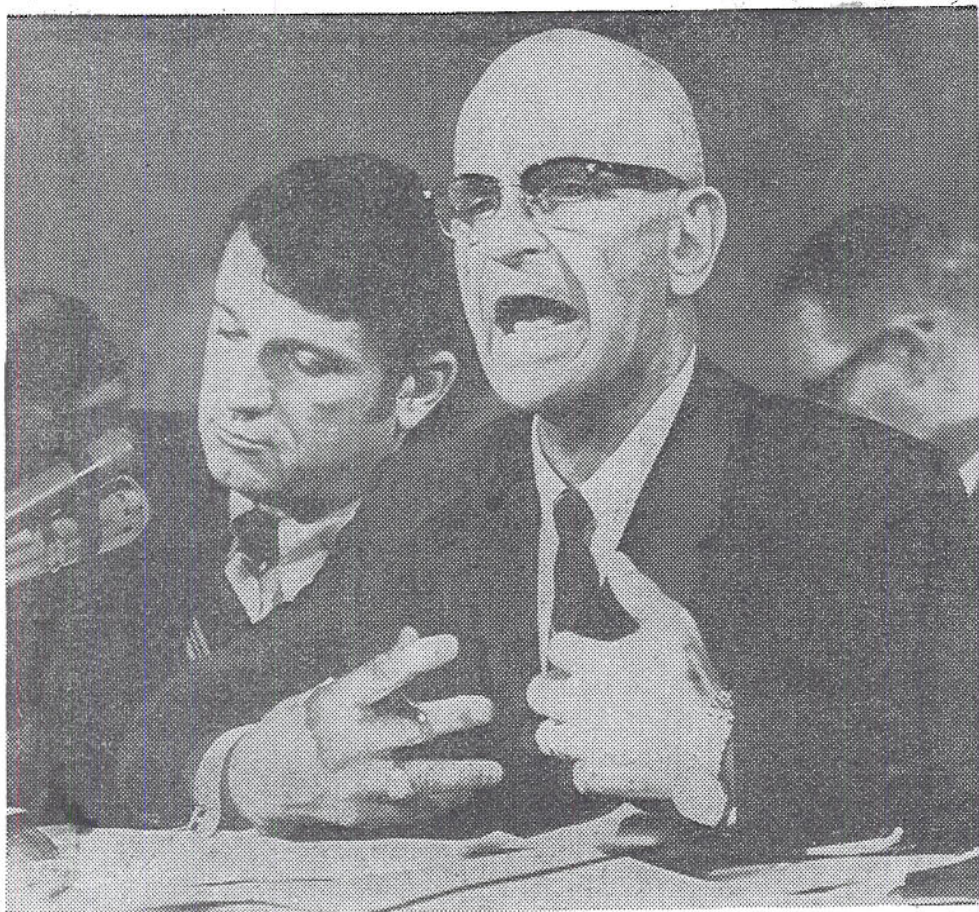
"Then why did you sign it?" Senator Gurney asked.

"Because he told me this was the way they cleared their records," the general answered.

"Did you conduct your affairs as Provost Marshal General this way?" Senator Gurney persisted. "You don't have to answer that."

When Senator Lee Metcalf, Democrat of Montana, asked similar questions, General Turner said, "Why should

OVER



The New York Times (by Mike Lien)

TESTIFIES ON RECEIVING ARMS: Maj. Gen. Carl C. Turner, right, at the Senate subcommittee inquiry yesterday. With him is Walter J. Bonner, a lawyer for the general.

I not accept this man's statement? He's a man of great integrity."

"Well, you're a man of great integrity," the Montana Democrat replied. "Why shouldn't we accept the statement you signed?"

The general made no answer. The spectators in the rear of the room laughed.

The receipts that General Turner acknowledged he had signed read:

"My signature hereon is acknowledgement that I have received all the inventoried property listed on this manifest and all the said property will be retained by the United States Army for training purposes.

"Destruction of all said items will be the responsibility of the United States Army after they have completed their usefulness as training aids."

Search for Journal

Concerning the journal listing his firearms acquisitions and sales, General Turner said he had searched all his records and telephoned a friend in the hope of finding it.

He told Mr. Ribicoff: "Sir that book would be to my advantage today, and I would appreciate it if whoever has it would return it."

One of his lawyers, Walter J. Bonner, said he took full responsibility for counseling the

general to put together a new ledger when the records were subpoenaed by the subcommittee.

"I want to take the blame, if there is blame," Mr. Bonner said.

The general said the disappearance of the ledger had prevented him from accounting for the 493 weapons he had received from the police and for 195 weapons he had received from Fort Bliss, Tex.

He said "many of them were cannibalized [dismantled for parts], many were destroyed and some were traded."

General Turner retired from the Army Oct. 31, 1968. He was appointed Chief United States Marshal by the Nixon Administration last spring and resigned from that post Sept. 2. He detailed for the subcommittee the events leading to his resignation:

"When the C.I.D. [Army Criminal Investigation Division] said I may be called, I went to Mr. Kleindienst and said I may be called, and to preclude embarrassment, I will give you my resignation."

Richard G. Kleindienst is Deputy Attorney General.

Mr. Kleindienst "said he'd check it out," the general continued. "He called back and said, 'It's going to be really sticky.' I said, 'In that case, I'll give it to you.'"