

ARMY CUTS HELP TO GUN PROGRAMS OF CIVILIAN CLUBS

To Aid Only Persons Facing
Military Service — Sales
of Pistols Are Halted

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON, June 21—

The Army has sharply reduced its support of civilian marksmanship programs, limiting it to those clubs whose members generally still have their military obligations ahead of them.

This will include junior clubs, junior divisions of senior clubs — in the 12-to-18 age group—and undergraduate college clubs affiliated with the National Rifle Association.

No pistols will be sold. Only excess rifles, especially designed for competitive marksmanship, will be offered for sale, and the sale of ammunition will be restricted to limited quantities of .22-caliber.

The move was announced today by Secretary of the Army Stanley R. Resor in the light of demands for tight gun controls that have arisen since the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

The Army is responsible for the civilian marksmanship program under law, which restricts the sales of rifles and ammunition to members of the National Rifle Association.

A Result of Studies

The announcement by Mr. Resor did not mention the Kennedy assassination but it said that the action was the result of studies and recommendations by the National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice, a military-civilian group.

The Secretary announced last November that the Army would not supply men and money for the 1968 National Rifle Matches, but the National Rifle Association said that it would go ahead with the matches on its own.

Mr. Resor said that support for civilian marksmanship clubs would be "limited to those clubs most of whose members still have their service obligation ahead of them and whose marksmanship training would be of greatest value to the military services."

In saying that the Army would no longer provide rifles for senior clubs, age 19 and up, Mr. Resor said that any club that did not back a junior group must turn in its Army

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rifles by Dec. 31.

And no ammunition will be issued to senior clubs, although such clubs supporting a junior division may keep the rifles that have been issued to them previously. And the sales of ammunition to individuals will be halted. Only those junior clubs affiliated with the Army programs may make such purchases. The Army said that all purchasers of rifles "will be checked for criminal records and other disqualifying characteristics in the files of appropriate Federal and local law enforcement agencies."

In a related development, Jesse Unruh, Speaker of the California State Assembly, and Gary Townsend, a student in Los Angeles who is a member of the delegation that Senator Kennedy won in the California primary, brought 400,000 signatures to Washington today.

The signatures are those of persons supporting strong Federal gun controls. They were obtained over last weekend in Los Angeles County.

Sears To Drop Ads

CHICAGO, June 21 (AP) — Sears, Roebuck & Co. announced today that it would discontinue the advertising and promotion of firearms, ammunition, toy guns and similar toys of violence.

The company said the merchandise would be eliminated from its 1968 Christmas catalog and it would not be advertised or promoted in its retail stores this Christmas season.

Sears officials said that the action was taken in response to public concern over recent acts of violence.

Earlier this week, Sears announced its support of the gun control bill being urged by President Johnson. Sears has also ended all mail order sales of guns and ammunition.