

# LICENSING OF GUNS BARRED BY HOUSE

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### Vote on White House Bill's Plan Is 179-84—Curb on Ammunition Softened

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 23—Gun control forces lost another fight today as the House refused to require state licensing of gun owners.

Last week the House rejected a proposal for Federal registration of guns.

The latest setback for advocates of tough gun control legislation came as the House debated for the third day an Administration bill to ban interstate mail order sales of rifles, shotguns and ammunition.

The state licensing proposal was rejected on a nonrecord vote of 179 to 84.

#### 'Crippling Amendments'

Gun control opponents also succeeded in adding to the Administration's bill what floor managers described as "seriously crippling amendments."

One amendment, adopted 82 to 77, would exclude from the interstate mail order ban all rifle and shotgun ammunition. The ammunition ban would thus be restricted to mail order sales of pistol and revolver ammunition.

With opponents standing by with 20 or more proposed amendments, floor leaders postponed final action on the bill

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## Licensing of Gun Owners Is Rejected by House

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until tomorrow.

Meanwhile, the Senate Judiciary Committee announced today it would meet tomorrow to vote on gun control legislation that has been stalled in committee for months.

The state licensing proposal had been backed by the White House and by a bipartisan group in the House, led by Representative Robert McClary, Republican of Illinois.

Under the proposal, states would have been given two years to enact licensing laws, along lines established by the Federal Government. In states that failed to do so, Federal licensing would have been established.

Each gun owner would have been required to obtain an identification card certifying that he was a responsible person and not a felon, fugitive from justice, dope addict, alcoholic or mental defective. The fee would have been \$1.

The debate, at times, seemed to border on hysteria, with gun control opponents denouncing efforts to create a "bureaucratic gun czar" in Washington to "harass hunters and sportsmen."

"We'll be disarming the law-abiding citizens and allowing the criminal to go free," Representative Jamie L. Whitten, Democrat of Mississippi, said.

"Let's not put the camel's nose under the tent; he'll be in there, hump, tail and all before you know it," Representa-

tive Bob Casey, Democrat of Texas, shouted.

Backers of licensing argued in vain.

"We license dogs, we license cars, why we even have to have a license to get married," Representative Richard D. McCarthy, Democrat of upstate New York, pointed out.

#### Owns 47 Guns

And Representative Silvio O. Conte, Republican of Massachusetts, insisted that licensing would not inconvenience sportsmen.

"I'm an avid sportsman and gun owner myself," Mr. Conte said. "I own 47 guns, but I'm for licensing."

After defeat of the licensing proposal, gun control opponents peppered the bill with amendments. Some were defeated, some adopted.

In addition to excluding long-gun ammunition, the House agreed to allow gun collectors to become licensed so they could buy and sell firearms in interstate commerce.

Representative Emanuel Celler, Democrat of Brooklyn, floor leader for the bill, protested that this would "open

up loopholes as wide as the Grand Canyon."

However, other gun control advocates said later that the amendment would not seriously cripple the bill.

However, gun control advocates expressed dismay over adoption of another amendment that would continue to permit the National Board for Promotion of Rifle Practice to ship firearms and ammunition to junior clubs of the National Rifle Association.

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