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## The Senate's Gun Control Bill

Looking over the firearms bill approved by the Senate yesterday—and looking through its loopholes, too—one can say with surprise and relief that this measure banning the interstate mail-order sales of rifles, shotguns and ammunition is, on the whole, relatively good.

The addition of the ban on interstate mail-order sales of ammunition—not included in the weaker House version—strengthened the Senate's bill and, if finally enacted, will supplement regulations imposed on interstate sales of pistols and revolvers in the omnibus crime-control law adopted last June.

Considering the vitriolic opposition by rifle lobbyists to any regulations at all, the Senate action can be regarded as a victory for aroused citizens who let their feelings be known to Congress. In retrospect, what is saddest is that it took assassinations by rifle and pistol of two outstanding Americans this year to awaken Congress.

It was too much to expect yesterday that the Senate would also approve the Administration-backed Tydings amendment requiring registration of all guns and the licensing of their owners. This is something to fight for next year; but in the meanwhile the State Legislatures ought to enact registration and licensing laws. The Council of State Governments has drafted model legislation that would create a central state registry for guns and require identification cards for qualified gun owners and users.

The bill banning interstate sales of long guns and ammunition is progress; but neither Federal nor State Governments can consider this the end of firearms regulation.