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SEIZED IN BOSTON: Some of the 16 rifles found in the trunk of a car when policemen investigated a report that a man was selling them to pedestrians. The man was arrested.

Rifle Group Head Disputes Need of Gun Controls

By PETER GROSE

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 7—The flags in front of the marble and glass headquarters of the National Rifle Association flew at half-staff today.

"You're damned right I'm sensitive to the criticism we're getting," said the organization's president, Harold W. Glassen.

"I've had a bundle of telegrams telling me that I personally am responsible for the death of Senator Kennedy—even threatening my life. 'You're going to be next,' one of them said.

"The simple fact is there is no gun control law that the mind of man could conceive that would have had the slightest effect in preventing any of the assassinations of our day."

Across busy 16th Street stood Representative Richard D. McCarthy of Buffalo, who pointed to the modern nine-story building and said, "This organization is the main reason why we don't have strong gun control laws."

About 30 lunch-time picketers carried such signs as "National Rifle Assassination."

'An Easy Target'

"We're an easy target for the frustration that everyone feels," Mr. Glassen said, "but let's not punish 40 million American sportsmen because of the fact that there are some kooks in America today."

Founded in 1871, the association calls itself the "foremost

Says They Wouldn't Prevent Assassinations—He Calls Talk of Lobby 'Baloney'

guardian of the American tradition and constitutional right of citizens to keep and bear arms." On behalf of nearly one million members, it has been the most outspoken critic of the gun control policy of the Johnson Administration.

"All this talk about the gun lobby is baloney," Mr. Glassen said. "We have yet to spend one single dollar on lobbying; we have never hired a lobbyist. We keep our members informed of our views on legislation, but we don't send out any petitions, we don't tell anyone to write their Congressmen."

"We believe in certain principles and we are not going to back away from them just because the Administration and the news media are giving us a bad image."

Unsalariated Post

Mr. Glassen is a 62-year-old lawyer and conservationist from Lansing, Mich. He is completing his second year as the association's president, a part-time post for which he receives no pay.

In a one-hour interview, he outlined his organization's policy on gun controls and President Johnson's call yesterday for strong legislation.

"There is no correlation whatever between the prolif-

eration of firearms and crime," he said. "Tight gun control laws don't prevent or reduce homicides.

"Leading criminologists will tell you that the availability of a weapon has little to do with the commission of a crime. And why single out firearms for controls?"

"There are 20 weapons in this office that I could use to kill you," he told his interviewer, "and you won't find a single gun in the room. This dictating machine. The telephone. That picture frame—I could kill you with any of them if I wanted to badly enough.

"We agree with the Administration that firearms are not for everyone. We support legislation barring the sale of guns to juveniles, to delinquents, to drug addicts and convicts.

"But we say that insofar as any law can keep guns out of their hands—and there isn't any such law—it should impose selective controls, not what would amount to a complete prohibition. We support a waiting period in the purchase of guns and an investigation of any buyer by local police.

"But registration of every firearm is too complex to carry out—it gets bogged down in red tape and bureaucracy—and in localities where it is being tried registration never prevented a single crime and has helped to solve precious few."