

Most Arms 'Seized' In Illinois Obtained Over Long Period

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CARBONDALE, Ill., April 23 (AP)—A widely publicized series of raids through three southern Illinois counties lost considerable stature today as officials reviewed the operations.

As first announced by Mitchell Ware, superintendent of the Illinois Bureau of Investigation, 41 persons were arrested and "huge caches of explosives, firearms and narcotics" were seized in Franklin, Jackson and William Counties.

A check with various participants in the raids, involving 144 state and Federal agents, county and municipal policemen, showed that most of the contraband reported to have been seized yesterday had been obtained weeks or months ago and was merely being displayed for the first time.

Some Federal and county agents who participated in the raids said yesterday that Mr. Ware's agents, working undercover, had purchased most of the contraband from suspects earlier this year.

Mr. Ware, these sources said, apparently permitted unrelated offenses to pile up for four months and then, supplied with warrants naming about 60 persons, organized an army of law officers to make arrests.

Mr. Ware said today that it

had been his position all along that some of the contraband had been purchased by undercover agents during the last four months.

"There has been some attempt to make this look like a headline grabbing attempt," he said. "But I think it is very unfair to the men who worked on this, living with these people and risking personal harm." "We had to make the raids all at once," he added, "or risk having some of the suspects flee."