

87WMSO) PMS BUDGET

A

MISC II - NRA

15 Aug 1964

EA7WX

E (480) PMS BUDGET

ARMY-GUNS

BY STANLEY MEISLER

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON, AUG. 15 (AP)-SINCE 1959, THE ARMY HAS SOLD 539,267 RIFLES AND OTHER GUNS TO NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION MEMBERS AND HAS SPENT AT LEAST \$12 MILLION FOR ITS PROGRAM OF SUPPLYING GUNS AND AMMUNITION TO CIVILIANS.

THE ARMY SUPPLIED THESE FIGURES TO REP. HENRY B. GONZALEZ, D-TEX., WHO HAS ACCUSED THE SERVICE OF ALLOWING THE WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION TO FALL INTO THE HANDS OF THE MINUTEMEN. THE MILITANT ORGANIZATION'S MEMBERS SAY THEY ARE TRAINING FOR WHAT THEY EXPECT TO BE GUERRILLA COMBAT AGAINST A COMMUNIST TAKEOVER OF THE UNITED STATES.

THE ARMY HAS SAID IT IS SURE THAT "ARMS AND AMMUNITION DO NOT FALL INTO UNSCRUPULOUS HANDS."

GONZALEZ HAS REPLIED THAT "THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS NO WAY IN THE WORLD OF KNOWING WHO THE 400,000 PERSONS RECEIVING FREE GUNS AND AMMUNITION ARE OR WHAT THEY ARE DOING WITH THEIR MILITARY AID."

GONZALEZ MADE THE ARMY'S FIGURES PUBLIC TODAY.

THE \$12 MILLION THE ARMY SPENT FOR SUPPLYING GUNS AND AMMUNITION TO CIVILIANS OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS DOES NOT INCLUDE THE COST OF SELLING GUNS AT CUT RATES TO MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION (NRA). IT IS NOT CLEAR HOW MUCH MONEY, IF ANY, THE LATTER PROGRAM COST THE ARMY.

MAJ. GEN. F. W. BOYE JR., CHIEF OF THE ARMY'S LEGISLATIVE LIAISON, WROTE GONZALEZ THAT "HAD THESE WEAPONS NOT BEEN SOLD . . . A SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF THE REMAINING WEAPONS WOULD NORMALLY HAVE BEEN MUTILATED AND SOLD AS SCRAP UNDER CURRENT DEFENSE POLICIES.

A8WX

THE RECORDS SHOW THAT THE \$12 MILLION FIGURE IS BROKEN DOWN THIS

WAY:

--\$7.2 MILLION FOR 246.9 MILLION ROUNDS OF FREE AMMUNITION SUPPLIED TO GUN CLUBS AFFILIATED WITH THE NRA FROM THE 1960 FISCAL YEAR TO THE 1964 FISCAL YEAR.

--\$2.3 MILLION WORTH OF GUNS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT ON LOAN TO GUN CLUBS.

--\$2.5 MILLION FOR THE ARMY'S NATIONAL BOARD FOR THE PROMOTION OF RIFLE PRACTICE, TO CONDUCT RIFLE MATCHES AND OTHER ACTIVITIES OF ITS CIVILIAN MARKSMANSHIP PROGRAM.

IN ADDITION, THE RECORDS SHOWED THAT THE ARMY SOLD 539,267 RIFLES, SHOTGUNS, AND PISTOLS TO NRA MEMBERS SINCE 1959 FOR A TOTAL PURCHASE PRICE OF \$9.2 MILLION.

THE \$9.2 MILLION WAS RETURNED BY THE ARMY TO THE TREASURY. IN ALMOST ALL CASES, HOWEVER, THE GUNS WERE SOLD TO NRA MEMBERS AT A PRICE FAR BELOW THE LISTED PROCUREMENT COST.

THE ARMY, FOR EXAMPLE, SOLD 278,938 OF THE OLD .30 CALIBER 1903 A3 RIFLES FOR \$14.50 EACH. THE PROCUREMENT COST IS LISTED AS \$50 EACH.

THE ARMY SOLD 132,994 .45 CALIBER PISTOLS FOR \$17 EACH. THE PROCUREMENT COST IS LISTED AS \$38 EACH.

THE ARMY SOLD 117,850 .30 CALIBER M1 CARBINES FOR \$20 EACH. THE PROCUREMENT COST IS LISTED AS \$32 EACH.

BOYE SAID THAT THE LISTED PROCUREMENT COSTS ARE BASED UPON THE 1945 PRICE FOR THE WEAPONS ALTHOUGH, IN MOST CASES, THE WEAPONS SOLD WERE PROCURED BY THE ARMY BEFORE THEN.

JK129AED