

Gun Control Accord On Licensing Hinted

By JOHN W. FINNEY
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 28—The outlines of a possible compromise in the battle over gun controls legislation emerged today as segments of the gun lobby started retreating from their adamant opposition to stricter controls.

At the same time, the Administration's gun control bill, already bogged down in the Senate Judiciary Committee, ran into a delay in the House Rules Committee.

Representative William M. Colmer, Democrat of Mississippi, announced that the Rules Committee, which had originally planned to consider legislation next Tuesday, was postponing any action until July 8 so it could first dispose of the foreign aid authorization bill.

With both Senate and House

Continued on Page 12, Column 7

29 JUN 68

GUN CONTROL FOES HINT COMPROMISE

Continued From Page 1, Col. 7

consideration now delayed until mid-July, the fear of gun control proponents is that the legislation will become lost in the drive to adjourn by Aug. 2.

The compromise tentatively advanced by certain members of the gun lobby would call for a general form of licensing of all gun owners. In turn, the Administration and gun control proponents would drop their proposals for registration of all firearms.

It appeared doubtful, however, that such a compromise would be completely acceptable to gun control proponents on Capitol Hill. They are insistent upon some form of registration, and are increasingly confident that they have the votes in the Senate to incorporate such controls in legislation.

Their confidence has been increased by the apparent splintering of the once powerful gun lobby.

At least some segments of the gun lobby seem to be concluding that they are fighting a losing battle, and that their best political tactic now is to seek a compromise.

In the last week, according

to well-informed Congressional sources, representatives of some leading gun manufacturers met in Connecticut to discuss possible compromise legislation. A similar meeting last weekend was reportedly held by some directors of the National Rifle Association.

In both meetings, according to Congressional sources, it was recognized that the tide of sentiment in the Senate would probably make it necessary to accept legislation going beyond the ban on interstate mail order sales of rifles and shotguns initially proposed by the Administration.

Testifying today before the Senate Juvenile Delinquency subcommittee, Thomas L. Kimball, executive director of the National Wildlife Federation, hinted at the compromise being advanced by some segments of the gun lobby.

Under his proposal, a gun owner would be granted an identification card by the police, with permits denied to such persons as convicted felons, mental incompetents, chronic alcoholics and drug addicts. An identification card would be required for the purchase or possession of any firearm.

This procedure, he said, "would be aimed at the criminal and not the legitimate gun owner."