

GUN LAW EASING BACKED IN HOUSE

Repeal of Restrictions on
Ammunition for Shotguns
and Rifles Is Approved

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Nov. 17—

The House cleared the way today to exempt shotgun and rifle ammunition from gun control restrictions enacted just last year.

Repeal of the ammunition restrictions was added last month by the Senate to a House-passed bill extending the interest equalization tax.

Today, after a flurry of debate, the House voted 313 to 36 to send the bill to conference, where Senate and House negotiators are expected to accept repeal of the ammunition restrictions.

Under the law passed last year, dealers are required to keep records on the name, address and age of persons purchasing all kinds of ammunition, for both long-guns and short-guns.

No attempt has been made to repeal provisions requiring that records be kept on pistol ammunition purchases and .22-caliber rimfire ammunition would also remain subject to restriction.

Representative Emanuel Celler, Brooklyn Democrat who guided the gun control act through the House last year, protested today that the Senate seemed intent on "piecemeal destruction" of that law.

"Last year alone, 1,600 Americans were murdered by

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both sides.

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rifle and shotgun ammunition," the Brooklyn Democrat noted.

Contending that the ammunition provision was not germane to the bill extending the interest equalization act, Mr. Celler asked: "How long are we going to permit the Senate to tag nongermane amendments to our bills?"

By accepting the Senate amendment, he said, "We make the Senate our masters and we make ourselves vassals."

Many members of the House have fretted for years over the adding by Senate of extraneous amendments to House bills — amendments dealing with subjects entirely different from the bills themselves.

However, Congress has been under such heavy pressure from hunters and other sportsmen to repeal the ammunition restrictions that few members voiced any protest today over the Senate action.

Representative Wilbur D. Mills, Arkansas Democrat who heads the House group that will negotiate differences with the Senate, said earlier this week that he and his fellow conferees would accept the ammunition repeal rider.

The bill to which the ammunition provision was added would extend the interest equalization tax through March 31, 1971. The tax discourages United States acquisition of foreign securities and debt obligations.

The Administration said it had no objection to easing the record-keeping on sporting ammunition.

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Gun Law Amendment Is Approved by House

WASHINGTON, Nov. 19 (UPI)—The House today approved without debate a compromise bill that exempts shotgun and high-powered rifle ammunition from regulation under the Gun Control Act of 1968.

The measure was sent to the Senate on a 334-47 vote for final Congressional approval, which is viewed as certain. The Senate initially tacked the exemption onto a tax equalization bill passed earlier by the House.

The Senate amendment, while removing shotgun and high-powered rifle ammunition from registration requirements of the gun control law, leaves all hand gun ammunition and .22-caliber ammunition covered by the law.

Advocates of strong gun control objected earlier that the amendment was a further weakening of the law enacted after the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

Representative Al Ullman, Democrat of Oregon, said he hoped the Ways and Means Committee, of which he is a member, would act soon on his bill to also exempt .22-caliber rimfire ammunition, which can be used interchangeably in rifles or hand-guns.

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