

EISENHOWER SEES A BAN ON PISTOLS

Chairman of Violence Panel
Backs Licensing Plan

BALTIMORE, Dec. 15 (UPI)—Milton S. Eisenhower, who headed an 18-month study of violence in the United States, said today that the nation eventually would have to take pistols from private citizens.

"The day is coming—it ought to be here today, but it isn't—when we are going to have to have a system of restrictive licensing so that those guns must be taken away from everyone except those who need them," he said.

Mr. Eisenhower, chairman of the National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence, gave his personal views on gun control, the causes of violence and student unrest in an interview with United Press International for publication after the panel's final report. That report came out last week-end.

Recommended by Panel

The commission, on a split vote, recommended similar gun control measures in its report. Mr. Eisenhower, giving his own opinion, said private ownership of handguns should be outlawed both to reduce bloodshed caused by anger and to facilitate police detection of illegal firearms. He did not include rifles and shotguns in the category of weapons that should be outlawed.

He also urged a national commitment to rebuilding the nation's cities, upgrading law enforcement and criminal justice and continuing the curtailment of television violence.

At the same time, Mr. Eisenhower, president emeritus of Johns Hopkins University here, said that student protest arose

from affluence and "deep Christian involvement" and described today's college students as "the best we've ever had."

While strongly endorsing the right to peaceful protest and dissent, Mr. Eisenhower suggested ways in which student activism could be channeled into more constructive directions. He proposed lowering the voting age to 18, establishing a voluntary national service corps, and giving students more responsibility for establishing codes of college conduct and setting the penalties for violators.

Role of Media

"My one criticism of the mass news media," Mr. Eisenhower said in the interview, "is that for a long, long time it has given greater news value to conflict than it has to the fundamental knowledge that the people need in order to make wise, democratic decisions."

"If the citizen, who still possesses the basic power, is to help make intelligent, right decisions to overcome our problems, he needs more information and in greater depth than he has ever needed before," he said.

Mr. Eisenhower, brother of the late former President Dwight D. Eisenhower, would leave it up to the states to determine who "needs" pistols.

"You have to leave it up to the states," he said. "They have the police power. I would expect that policemen, bank guards, armored truck drivers and guards and perhaps a few businesses would be allowed handguns."

Mr. Eisenhower cautioned against any belief that violence would disappear if his suggestions were adopted and if all poverty, discrimination and ignorance were eliminated.

"There is something in the human make-up, the human spirit," he said. "There is sufficient variety that we'll always have some violence."

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