

Top Police Chief:

'Handgun No Home Guard'

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — A police spokesman testified today that homeowners who buy handguns to guard their property and loved ones "constitute a menace to themselves and their families" and would be better off armed with a brick.

Quinn Tamm, executive director of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, strongly endorsed legislation that would make small-caliber weapons less easily available to the public.

"More people are killed accidentally by guns kept to protect against marauders than marauders themselves," Tamm told the Senate Juvenile Delinquency subcommittee.

Not Sporting

These guns just don't fit in with sporting and are dangerous to individuals who are not properly trained. They would be much better off if they equipped themselves with a brick than a side-arm."

Tamm said these views — which he voiced in response to questions — were his own and the IACP had no formal position on the matter. His prepared testimony, however, recited how the IACP has worked for gun control legislation for 60 years.

The subcommittee, headed by Sen. Birch Bayh (D-Ind.) is considering legislation to ban the domestic "Saturday

night special," a catchall term for cheap pistols that have been sold by the millions and police say are used in a high percentage of slayings.

Parts Come In

The 1968 Gun Control Act banned foreign-made models, but domestic production — often with imported parts — has since boomed.

Tamm said 78 of the 119 police officers killed in the line of duty across the country in the 14 months ending Aug. 31, 1971, were shot by handguns.

"The conclusion is unavoidable, I am convinced, that the ready accessibility of handguns constitutes a threat, both to the citizen and more specifically to the police officer . . .," Tamm said.

"Legislation designed to control the 'trash weapon' or 'Saturday night special' would reduce greatly the number of weapons available for illegal use."