

SENATE UNIT GETS GUN-CONTROL BILL

But Administration's Plan Wins No Early Sponsors

By NANCY HICKS
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 22—Attorney General Edward H. Levi brought the Ford Administration's gun-control bill before a Senate subcommittee today, but at the end of the day there was still no immediate sponsor to introduce it.

"It's too conservative for most Republicans who support gun control and those who oppose it think the bill goes too far," a Senate staff member observed.

The bill, outlined last month in President Ford's message on crime, provides for greater restrictions on licensing of gun dealers, checks by police on prospective purchasers of guns, a ban on the manufacture and sale of cheap handguns and



The New York Times
Attorney General Edward H. Levi as he testified on gun control.

a new enforcement effort in the 10 areas of the nation with the highest crime rates.

The measure "concentrates on illegal commerce in handguns, the commerce which has stymied local and state efforts to regulate," Mr. Levi said in testimony today before the juvenile delinquency subcom-

mittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

The bill is a moderate-conservative measure among 40 gun control bills pending in the House and 10 bills that have been introduced in the Senate.

When Mr. Levi began his testimony this morning, a spokesman for his office said that the bill was to be introduced today, "but we are not sure who is going to introduce it." By the end of the day, no one had.

A spokesman for the Senate Minority leader, Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania, said that "Mr. Scott is deferring to other members of the committee," referring to the Judiciary Committee. "He hasn't made up his own mind about it," the spokesman said. "There are portions that he has some reservations about."

Senator Roman L. Hruska, Republican of Nebraska, has been asked by the Administration to sponsor the bill, his press secretary said, adding, "he hasn't declined and he hasn't accepted—there are still negotiations going on between himself and the Administration."

"There are still matters that

he doesn't want to specify at this time that he does not go along with. It's a matter of negotiation."

Asked if the White House was in fact negotiating with Mr. Hruska, the Assistant Press Secretary for Domestic Affairs, John G. Carlson, replied, "I wouldn't want to contradict Mr. Hruska."

He said the Administration wanted the bill introduced in both houses before the summer recess, scheduled for next week, and was looking for friendly sponsors.

Mr. Levi was questioned by Senators Birch Bayh, Democrat of Indiana and chairman of the subcommittee, and Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts. Mr. Hruska attended the early portion of the hearing but did not question Mr. Levi about the bill. In addition to its other provisions, it would require mandatory sentences for crimes of violence committed with firearms, restrict multiple sales of handguns and require new safety devices on all handguns.

YOU + FRESH AIR FUND = FUN FOR KIDS AT CAMP