

OCT 25 1975

# Gun Ownership Jumps

Washington

Pollster Louis Harris said yesterday a survey he made last weekend shows Americans "are armed to the teeth with guns" and it may be due to their lack of confidence in the nation's leadership.

He told a Senate Government Operations Committee that his poll showed the ownership of guns is rising at a time when more people are worried about rising levels of violence.

Seventeen million American households — or 47 per cent — have a gun in the house, compared with 41 per cent in 1968 at the peak of the urban riot period, Harris said.

Harris based his figures on a poll of 1519 adults who were asked about gun control and presidential assassination attempts.

"Our country is armed to the teeth more than any people on earth," the pollster said.

Harris said 74 per cent of Americans believe it is impossible to prevent the assassination of a President if someone is intent on shooting him.

He also said 73 per cent believe it would be easy to

commit an assassination.

On President Ford, specifically, Harris said that no more than nine per cent believe Mr. Ford should curtail his activities because of recent alleged attempts on his life, but that 65 per cent want him to make limited public appearances under carefully protected circumstances.

On the issue of confidence in the government:

"I can well see people saying, 'I have to rely on myself, I can't depend on the government,'" he said. "People trust themselves much more than they do the government."

Even though the number of guns is increasing, Harris said, a growing number of Americans favor enactment of more gun control laws.

He said these are not necessarily contradictory findings and offered his theory: since Congress has not passed gun legislation in the face of public sentiment for it, "people are arming themselves to the teeth out of frustration that the leaders are not doing anything about violence."

He said 73 per cent of those surveyed favor "federal laws which would control the sale of

guns, such as making all persons register all gun purchases no matter where the purchases are made."

Twenty-four per cent are opposed, he said. That compared with a 75-to-14 ratio in 1968 and 66-to-28 in 1967.

Dr. Milton Eisenhower, chairman of the National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence, told the committee his group made 80 unanimous and two split recommendations to the federal government for dealing with violence after an 18-month study in 1968 and 1969.

"None has been enacted by the federal government," he said, but "a great deal of action has been taken by most of the states."

Senator Charles H. Percy (Rep.-Ill.) asked Harris for a poll on the sentiment for banning all private ownership of handguns and Harris said he would do one.

Harris told the panel that 68 per cent of those polled believe the easy availability of guns contribute to violence.

Among those who own no guns, 83 per cent favor registration, 13 said no. Among owners, A.P. & L.P.



**LOUIS HARRIS**  
**'47 per cent have guns'**

the ratio was 63-to-34, he said. Those who own only handguns and no rifles favor registration by a 64-to-33 margin, he said.