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# Antiwar Legislator Suicide

NEWTON (Mass.)—(UPI) State Rep. H. James Shea, 30, the Newton Democrat who drafted landmark legislation challenging the constitutionality of the war in Vietnam, fired a bullet into his head yesterday as his horrified wife looked on.

"I witnessed the event, I was in the room at the time," said Mrs. Shea, composed but barely able to control her wavering voice as she arrived at police headquarters.

She told them "political pressures" had led her husband to take his life.

### Account Given

Police Chief William F. Quinn asked reporters not to question Mrs. Shea and gave this account of the incident:

"Mrs. Shea said they had been visiting friends in Newton all evening and had arrived home shortly after midnight. Representative Shea had gone to a second-floor room used as his office. He had closed the door.

"Mrs. Shea, after a few moments, opened the door and observed her husband raise a revolver to his head with both hands on the gun, pull the trigger and fall backwards onto the floor."

The chief identified the weapon as a .38 Smith & Wesson revolver owned by Shea.

"Mrs. Shea said her husband had been troubled lately because of political pressures," Quinn said. "International events have been men-

tioned to us. Nothing I know of on the local level."

Shea, who once described himself as an "activist in the legislative process," was serving his first term in the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

### Cause of Peace

He was the sponsor of a bill which said Massachusetts citizens do not have to fight in undeclared wars. The purpose of the measure, signed last month by Gov. Francis W. Sargent, is aimed at making the U. S. Supreme Court rule on constitutionality of undeclared wars, such as that in Vietnam.

Mrs. Shea said her husband wanted to serve his people in the cause of peace "and chose to do what he felt



**H. JAMES SHEA**  
Dead by own hand

was right" by challenging the foreign policies of the federal government.

"He chose to work within his conscience and within the law," she said, her voice showing her strain, "and he would urge you to work in peace and before the law."