

Theft of Arms Laid To Retired General

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 12—A retired Army general, named during an extensive Congressional investigation of military corruption, was accused by a Federal grand jury today of illegal firearms transactions and income tax evasion.

The panel cited Carl C. Turner, a major general who served before his retirement in 1968 as Army provost marshal general and was told to resign in 1969 as civilian chief of United States marshals.

A month later, he was called before the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations to answer charges that he had sold for personal gain guns obtained from two police departments on the pretext

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that they were for official Government use.

The subcommittee also charged that General Turner, as the Army's ranking law enforcement officer, had tried to cover up improper activities within the enlisted men's club system by squelching a military investigation.

Attorney General John N. Mitchell said here today that a 13-count indictment against the 57-year-old retired general, covering some of the subcommittee's charges and adding others, had been returned in the United States District Court at Richmond.

The general, whose Distinguished Service Medal was revoked by the Army during the Senate investigation, now lives in Springfield, Va., he was unavailable for comment on today's indictment.

Grand Jury Charges

On five occasions during 1968, the grand jury said, he asked the Chicago Police Department for guns it had confiscated and "did represent that such gift was being solicited for the use of the United States."

The indictment charged that General Turner took 26 firearms on April 11, 63 on May 23, 132 on Aug. 1, 66 on Aug. 30 and 136 on Nov. 14. The last transaction would have been only two weeks after his Army retirement.

Actually, the panel said, the general "did unlawfully, wilfully, and knowingly embezzle, steal, purloin, and convert [the guns] to a use and purpose other than for the use of the United States."

The general told the Senate subcommittee that he was a longtime gun collector and that he had sold or traded a number of the weapons. But he denied that he had indicated to the police that the firearms were for official use.

The Congressional investigators had found that General



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Maj. Gen. Carl C. Turner

Turner acquired 96 more guns from the Kansas City Police Department on the same pretext and had given the same explanation for this transaction.

The Kansas City guns were not mentioned in the indictment. An official source said this was because the general's representations in obtaining those weapons apparently did not flatly specify their official use.

Two more firearms, the grand jury said, were embezzled by General Turner while he was provost marshal general after they had been donated to the Government by a private individual from North Carolina.

Unregistered Arms

The retired officer was also found to possess a sawed-off shotgun, a submachine gun and a machine gun, the panel charged, none of which had been registered by him as required under Federal law.

He also embezzled 124 firearms that were Government property, the indictment reported. The grand jury did not identify the guns, but it was

understood that they came from Fort Hood, Tex.

In another count, the general was accused of stealing from the Government a .45-caliber Colt automatic pistol shortly before his retirement. It was understood to have come from the Presidio, an Army base in San Francisco.

The four remaining counts charged that from 1965 through 1968 General Turner had reported a total income of \$49,386 and total taxes owed of \$9,563, but actually had a total income of \$96,034 and total taxes owed of \$26,242.

A Justice Department statement indicated that if he was convicted on all 13 counts and received the maximum penalty on each, the general would be sentenced to 80 years in prison and a \$97,000 fine.

The Senate subcommittee's original interest in the general stemmed from its belief that he had hindered an investigation that linked the Army's top-ranking enlisted man, Sgt. Maj. William O. Wooldridge, to graft in the clubs.

The Army stripped Sergeant Woodridge of his Distinguished Service Medal and held up his application to retire, but no civil or military charges have been made. This aspect was not mentioned in the Turner indictment, either.

However, information on a California-based company—organized by Sergeant Woodridge and four other servicemen or former servicemen—that dealt with clubs in Vietnam has been sent to the Justice Department. The general held no financial interest in the concern.

Meanwhile, the Senate sub-

committee has broadened its two-year-old inquiry to include the financial activities of a number of American civilians and Government officials, overseas, and is scheduled to conduct more hearings later this month.