

GUN BILL IS VOTED BY SENATE PANEL

Tough Johnson Measure Is
Approved by 5-4 Margin

By BEN A. FRANKLIN

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 20 —

The Senate Juvenile Delinquency subcommittee approved today by one vote the Johnson Administration's strong bill to control firearms.

Further action on the controversial measure, however, remained in doubt. Senator Roman L. Hruska, Republican of Nebraska, the subcommittee's leading critic of the bill complained that the vote had been taken in his absence, while he was rushing to the closed subcommittee meeting.

Senator Hruska's "no" vote was counted, however, in the 5-to-4 margin by which the bill cleared the subcommittee late this afternoon.

Frank C. Daniel, secretary of the 800,000-member National Rifle Association, which has led the opposition to the measure, predicted that it could not win approval on the Senate floor. He called the bill "too extreme and too unpopular."

The association is supporting a much less sweeping bill sponsored by Senator Hruska, and Mr. Daniel said prospects for its adoption were "good."

Long Way To Go

The proposed Federal Firearms Control Act of 1967 must still get by the subcommittee's parent body, the Judiciary Committee, and also undergo a review by the Commerce Committee, which normally considers firearms legislation, before it reaches the Senate floor.

Both committees are regarded as hostile to the Administration measure.

Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts, who is a chief supporter of a strong bill, said he would introduce the Administration measure on the floor as an amendment to some other legislation if it was blocked in either committee. Mr. Kennedy predicted that there would be a Senate vote on its provisions "one way or another" before Congress recesses this fall.

He called today's subcommittee approval "the first step in what I am confident will be a successful effort to adopt this bill in this Congress."

In the House, a similar Administration gun control bill has not yet been reported to the Judiciary Committee by a subcommittee that considered it

weeks before the Senate Juvenile Delinquency subcommittee held its hearings in July.

Those voting to approve the Mr. Kennedy, were Senator Thomas J. Dodd of Connecticut, the subcommittee chairman, and Senators Joseph D. Tydings of Maryland, Birch Bayh of Indiana and Hiram L. Fong of Hawaii. All except Senator Fong are Democrats.