

No Shooting Match

The cancellation by the Army of the 1968 civilian rifle matches at Camp Perry, Ohio, is a small but significant victory in the larger national battle for gun-control legislation.

The Defense Department's given reason is economy. So be it. The Army, in fact, admits that savings will be more than \$1,000,000. That is the budget for free ammunition and logistical support for bringing individuals from all over the country to Ohio. Senator Stephen Young—who prefers that the camp be used for underprivileged children—estimates the real cost to be more like \$3,000,000, because servicemen are tied up as contestants and for support duty.

The real meaning is more than financial. The cancellation suggests to the rifle lobby that its membership will not automatically receive the blessings and support of the Army. It is a worthwhile caveat and a small step toward the main goal: Federal control over the traffic in firearms. Congressional committees, blocking the legislation, should get the message.