

## Drop Those Guns

Congress would make a major contribution to the health and sanity of the American people in this tense, troubled season by enacting a comprehensive gun control law. The threat of violence hangs like a heavy pall over the nation. The next outbreak could come anywhere and at any time from a political terrorist, a suddenly angered crowd on a street corner, or the quiet man next door gone berserk.

The threat is real and terrifying because in the United States the ruthless, the angry, and the mentally sick find it so easy to get their hands on guns. No other advanced industrial society in the rest of the world permits such easy access to deadly weapons. Americans suffer the consequences of their laxness. As former Justice Arthur Goldberg pointed out yesterday in announcing the formation of the New York State Emergency Committee for Gun Control, an American is killed or wounded by gunfire an average of every two minutes of every day.

Congress can cut down this carnage. The House of Representatives is scheduled to vote today on a bill to ban the interstate mail order sale of rifles and shotguns, a companion measure to the ban enacted earlier on the interstate sale of pistols and revolvers. This measure is all right so far as it goes, but it does not go nearly far enough.

It is imperative that Congress approve the bipartisan amendments sponsored by Representatives McClory of Illinois and Bingham of New York to require the registration of every gun and the licensing of every gun owner with the police. The prattle about "hardships" for sportsmen is silly. Gun registration would be no more of a hardship than it walking to the post-office to buy stamps or applying to the State Department for a passport.

Let no Congressman think that he will have done his duty by voting for a mail order ban on rifles and shotguns. This issue is not going to go away until registration and licensing are required by law.

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### U.S. PUTS GUN DEATHS AT TWO EVERY HOUR

WASHINGTON, July 18 (UPI)—Americans are dying from gunfire in this country at the rate of one every half-hour, the Justice Department said Thursday.

"Each day an average of 50 people die by firearms misuse," the department said, "or one death by firearms every 30 minutes."

It said nearly 20,000 people died annually by firearms misuse, including homicides, suicides and accidents.

Copies of a 23-page compila-

tion of firearms statistics were sent to the House Judiciary Committee and given to Col. John Glenn, the former astronaut who heads the emergency Committee for Gun Control. He will distribute them in his drive for passage of stronger gun control laws.

It was the first time that the department, lobbying intensively for a bill to halt interstate arms sales, had put together all the available data on firearms in this country.

Special to The New York Times

READFIELD, Me., July 18—The Maine Camp Directors Association censured Wednesday

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the National Rifle Association for opposing strict gun controls. Directors of all camps "inal" retainer of \$12,000 a year. Senator Thurmond shouted. that have rifle courses belong to the N.R.A.