

CONFEREES AGREE ON STIFF GUN CURB

Bill Would Ban Mail-Order
Sales of All Firearms

9 OCT 68

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON, Oct. 8—Senate-House conferees agreed today on a bill to prohibit interstate mail order sales of all firearms and ammunition.

The compromise measure also includes a general ban on the over-the-counter sale of firearms to nonresidents of a state and prohibits sales of rifles and shotguns to persons under 18 years of age.

Persons under 21 are already prohibited from buying handguns.

Senator Thomas J. Dodd, Democrat of Connecticut, the chief Senate sponsor of the legislation, hailed the compromise as "a milestone."

And Representative Emanuel Celler, Democrat of Brooklyn, the chairman of the House conferees, called it a thoroughgoing and comprehensive gun control measure.

For the most part, the conferees took the strongest provisions of the separate bills previously passed by the Senate and the House.

The measure supplements a section of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act passed earlier in the year banning interstate mail order sales

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of handguns.

It extends this ban to rifles and shotguns and also covers sales of all kinds of ammunition.

Besides the prohibition on interstate mail order sales, the bill regulates sales of firearms by mail within a state by providing for a seven-day waiting period and the filing of an affidavit of eligibility by the purchaser.

Over-the-counter sales to nonresidents would be prohibited except that a person could buy a long gun in an adjoining state if he qualified under the laws of both states.

The measure would become effective on Dec. 16, the same date as the section of the crime control bill curbing handgun sales.

One exception is that a ban on imports of all surplus military weapons would be effective immediately upon enactment.

NYTimes editorial,

10 Oct 68

Toward Gun Control

The compromise worked out between Senate and House conferees on gun control falls short of the goal of licensing owners and registering their firearms. But the law as it is emerging must be considered a victory over the gun-lobby; and it is surely a law that can be built on.

The basic bill prohibits interstate mail-order sales of rifles and shotguns (pistols and revolvers sold this way are already banned by the Omnibus Crime Control Act approved earlier in the year) and over-the-counter sales to minors and non-residents of a state. The big addition agreed on in conference prohibits what the House had refused to do on its own: ban interstate mail-order sales of all ammunition.

Because Federal licensing and registration do not yet exist, the states and municipalities should fill this breach with their own laws. Some have already done so; but the sooner identification and registration are universally required, the safer the inhabitants of this country will be.