

Gun Club Set Aims Weapons At Mansfield

By WALLACE TURNER

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BILLINGS, Mont. — The

gun buffs, who are thick as jack rabbits in the big sky country, have undertaken to make things difficult for Sen. Mike Mansfield as he runs for re-election this year.

The issue is Mansfield's vote in 1968 to support federal gun registration legislation and his support of other bills governing registration of ammunition purchases. To own and use guns of all sizes and shapes is a part of the historic tradition here in the Old West.

"If he feels an armed citizenry cannot be trusted, we feel he cannot be trusted with out votes," said Mrs. Francis P. Deisz, the Billings spokesman for the Association to Preserve Our Right to Keep and Bear Arms.

This unwieldy title belongs to an organization directed by A. J. Hollowell from Medford, Ore., where he publishes the "Armed Eagle," which is the source of much of Mrs. Deisz' material for the attack on Mansfield.

The vigor of the anti-Mansfield campaign is surprising, for the Senate Democratic leader has become almost a father figure in Montana politics in the last decade. He was re-elected in 1964 with about 64 per cent of the vote against a very good Republican candidate.

Mansfield is expected to win easily again but the rifle clubs are going to give him a run for it.

The candidate put forward by the gun club crowd is Harold (Bud) Wallace, 38, who is on leave from his job in a sporting goods store in Missoula. Wallace, a native of Honolulu, has lived in Missoula since 1955 and formerly was a swimming coach at Montana University there.