

Tues, May 16, 1972

Bremer's Gun Traced in 10 Minutes

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Shooting Aftermath

New Gun Curbs Likely

CHICAGO -- (DCN) -- The shooting of George Wallace undoubtedly will spawn new attempts to restrict the availability of handguns. Ironically, one of the men most opposed to gun control is Wallace.

In his campaigns for president and for governor of Alabama, Wallace always has defended the right of the individual to own a gun. And so have many of his backers.

Less than 20 feet from where Wallace was shot there was a car with a bumper sticker that said "Fight Communists, not guns."

Under several gun control proposals being considered by Congress, Arthur Bremer, the accused assassin, would have been unable to obtain a handgun legally. Wallace was shot with a .33 caliber pistol.

One bill introduced by Almer Mills (D-III) would prohibit anyone from owning a handgun except members of the military, policemen and pistol clubs. It would ban the domestic manufacture of some one million handguns annually, including 600,000 assembled here from foreign-made parts.

Another proposal by Sen. Birch Bayh (D-Ind.) would exempt to domestic production the present ban on imported, small caliber handguns unless the

Treasury Department rules they can be used for sporting purposes.

The Nixon administration and Attorney General-designate Richard Kleindienst have opposed such proposals while trying to draft a bill outlawing cheap, small-caliber handguns without interfering with the rights of citizens to own guns.

The last federal gun control measure -- spurred on by the assassinations of Robert F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King -- was the Gun Control Act of 1968.

It prohibits interstate shipment of pistols and revolvers to individuals and out-of-state purchase of handguns, rifles, shotguns and ammunition.

The law stopped short of President Johnson's request for legislation to require registration and licensing of privately owned firearms.

Gun control supporters have cited the lower gun crime rates in states with gun control laws and compared them to such unregulated states as Wallace's Alabama where the murder rate is one of the highest in the country.

Wallace has said if restrictive gun control legislation came about it would "arm completely the outlaws and that's the way to reduce crime."