

Shootings May Help Dodd To Curb Sale of Firearms

Solon Sees This As an Example

By BARRY SCHWEID

WASHINGTON (AP) — The chief Senate sponsor of an administration bill to control the sale of firearms says he hopes passage will be spurred by the fatal shootings in Austin, Tex.

Sen. Thomas J. Dodd, D-Conn., said in a statement:

"The incident . . . in Austin is an extreme example of what has been going on for much too long in this country.

"Rifles are used to murder and wound tens of thousands of people annually.

"I hope these shootings in Austin will cause those who have fought controls over the sale of rifles to any criminal or deranged person to have second thoughts."

Police found two rifles, a carbine, a shotgun and two pistols with the sniper, Charles Joseph Whitman, 24, after he was killed Monday by police atop University of Texas tower. They said three more rifles and two Jer-ringer pistols were found in his home.

It was not learned immediately where Whitman obtained the weapons. Police said the 12-gauge shotgun had been purchased on credit Monday at a department store.

Dodd is chairman of the Senate Juvenile Delinquency subcommittee which last May approved 6 to 3 an administration bill to put controls on the mail order and over-the-counter sale of firearms. The bill was referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee where a fight is expected to exempt rifles from these new controls.

The House also has received several bills to curb firearm sales. But it has taken no action since July 1965, when its ways and means committee held a hearing on the subject.

In the wake of the Austin shootings, Dodd said: "For my part I will continue to fight to keep controls on the sale of rifles in my amendment to the Federal Firearms Act."

Sen. Ralph W. Yarborough, a Democrat who lives in Austin, said "This horrible deed must lead to some thought of the promiscuous handling of dangerous arms."

"The sharp increase in crimes of violence . . . in recent years is likely to continue unless America stops the teaching of violence to her people," Yarborough added in a statement issued Monday night in Washington.

"Every night the TV programs stress homicide. Murder . . . is piped into every home for viewing as entertainment. Every day our newspapers headline how many people were killed in Viet Nam . . . We emphasize homicide. We are building a Frankenstein which . . . could destroy us."

The Senate bill would:

1. Ban the interstate mail order of concealable firearms — such as pistols and revolvers — to individuals.
2. Regulate the interstate sale of sporting rifles and shotguns through an affidavit provision.
3. Restrict the import into the United States of military surplus firearms and certain other foreign made firearms.
4. Bar the sale of pistols and revolvers to persons under 21.
5. Bar the sale of rifles and shotguns to persons under 18.
6. Ban the over-the-counter sale of concealable firearms to persons who are not resident of the state wherein the licensee conducts his business.
7. Place special regulations over the acquisition of destructive devices.

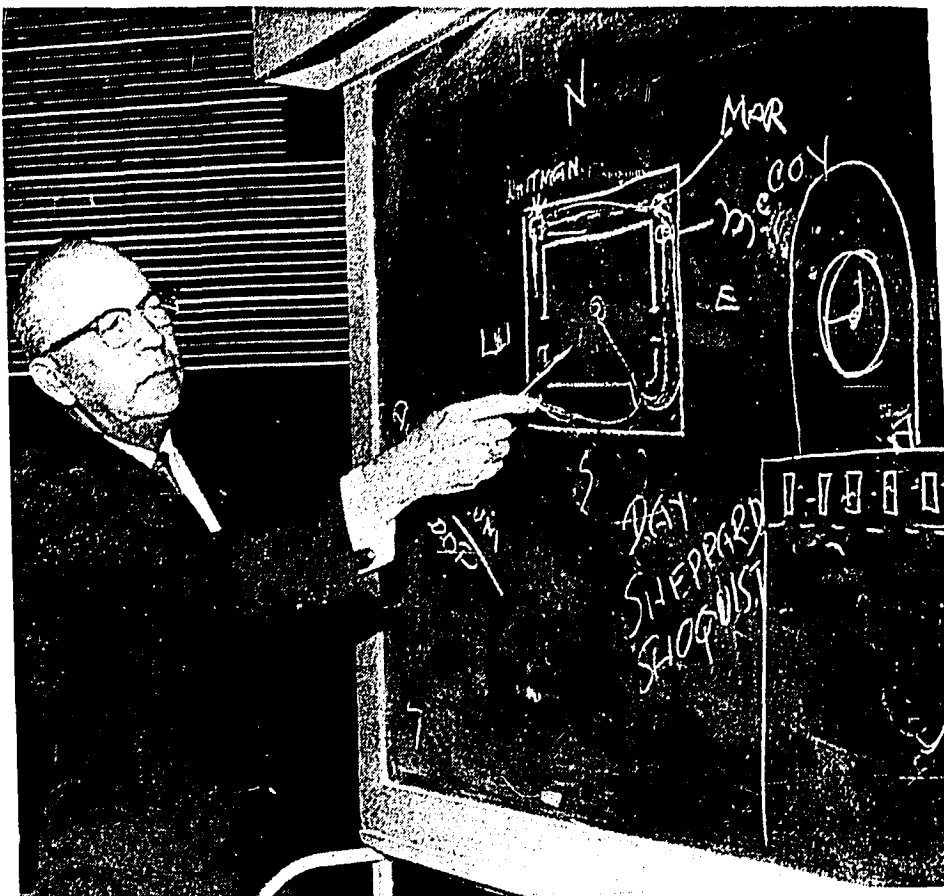


DIAGRAM OF THE END — Police Chief Bob Miles describes for reporters with the help of a diagram how mass slayer Charles Whitman's deadly sniping spree was ended. Whitman was

finally shot to death by Patrolman Ramiro Martinez and Houston McCoy high atop The University of Texas Tower.

Events in U.T. Tower A Bloody 'Nightmare'

By CHRIS WHITCRAFT

Three or four bloody bodies of a family of Mexican descent were piled up at the 27th floor foot of stairs leading to the closed entrance door to the University of Texas Tower observation deck where a rifle was being fired.

Blood was on clothes, bodies, floor and walls.

There was smoke everywhere. Nothing could be done. The rifle shots kept hanging out overhead.

UT Communications School Student James F. Linz, night audio man for KHM-TV news, was waiting near the tower elevator entrance into the 24th floor offices of the UT Hogg Foundation for Mental Health. He was to take his wife, the Foundation receptionist, to lunch in about 15 minutes.

Foundation Administrative Director David J. Latz, retired Air Force Lieutenant Colonel who was stationed six years at Bergstrom AFB until retiring last year, came out.

He pushed the down button of the tower elevators.

It was 11:45 a.m. Latz said he was mad at himself because he was about five minutes late leaving for a Child and Family Service luncheon downtown.

"I started living in a literal nightmare," said Latz. "I heard a sound like a safe or a cabinet falling over, a shot inside the tower building higher than the 27th floor where the elevators stop. It was quite loud. I heard a man yelling 'Help me! Help me!' over and over and over."

"Jim Linz and I raced for the stairs to the west of the building and up to the 26th floor. Jim ran ahead while I grabbed a phone to call the campus and downtown police. I didn't know if the guy was going floor to floor and killing people he met or what. I went back to the offices."

Linz said the noise he and Latz heard sounded like a cabinet sliding downstairs.

"It was a continuous banging noise," Linz said. "A man started yelling 'Help me! Help me!' It was 11:45. I got to the 27th floor. I heard the man yelling 'Help me!' on the opposite side of the entrance to the observation deck."

"The man came racing from around the offices yelling constantly 'Help me!' He was an elderly man."

"I followed him and we went up to the first landing on the stairs to the observation tower. There we entered the smoky hallway."

"I know for sure there was a woman and a boy in the pile up of bloody bodies. I think there were three, possibly four, bodies. They seemed to be a family of Mexican descent. They were at the base of the stairs."

"The man yelling started to grab the boy off the pile. I helped. The boy's body was so limp I was sure he was dead."

"There were too many for us to do anything."

"I came down to the 27th floor and tried to phone. I couldn't get an outside line. I tried and tried."

"I went down to the Hogg Foundation floor and took my wife to join the eight other persons in the barricaded offices of Information Director Bert Kruger Smith."

"I could hear the firing from the tower all the time."

"Even when I got to the phone, I couldn't remember whether the older man was still trying to get the bodies out. I don't know what happened. I have been censoring myself for not going back."

"There wasn't anything we could do. We tried to yell down to the campus from the 24th floor windows, but nobody could hear us. Everybody wanted to do something. There was nothing."

Linz was in the U. S. Navy 1962-65 and finished his tour of duty as an electronic technician with the rank of petty officer second class.

Latz said the sniper fired more than 100 shots.

He said he saw other students drag two kids lying on the mall at the northeast corner of Hogg Auditorium back under cover around the corner.

He saw two more rescued from the south quadrangle, one dead, the other alive, by a man who deliberately exposed himself to fire.



SPOTTING THE SNIPER—A Department of Public Safety officer uses the scope on his rifle to try to follow the activities of sniper Charles Whitman as the ex-Marine

rained deadly fire onto The University of Texas campus. Whitman was well protected by the high, thick concrete sides of the Tower observation deck.

Whitman Described as Good Son, Top Boy Scout, Marine—and Fine Sniper!

By NAT HENDERSON and DERRO EVANS Staff Writers

Charles Joseph Whitman was a good son, a top Boy Scout, an excellent Marine, an honor student, a hard worker, a loving husband, a fine scoutmaster, a handsome man, a wonderful friend to all who knew him — and an expert sniper.

His deadly spree from the observation deck of the University of Texas tower left a path of amazement from those who had observed him at work and play since he was a boy.

Those who knew him best, his wife and mother, were dead. They could not wonder why; for they never knew of his last bloody hours after so spotless a life.

But those who were otherwise closely associated with the 25-year-old U.T. student had only praise for Whitman as a man before something happened.

Nobody could figure out why Whitman went on his rampage. For every little dark spot in his life, there were so many bright spots to overshadow them.

Here is what he was like — at least until the moment he became a killer:

Whitman was born June 24, 1941, in Lake Worth, Fla. His father, C. A. Whitman, was a plumbing contractor. His mother separated from his father about six months ago and moved to Austin to be near her son.

In a note the sniper left Monday, he said he "loved his mother dearly" and "hated his father with a mortal passion."

The father, however, had only praise for his son and his accomplishments. The father, after hearing of the tragedy in Austin, said he was wondering if the separation had anything to do with what happened to his son.

The father then added, "I don't know. I don't know if that had anything to do with it."

This was one of the few hints of possible unhappiness in the life of the young man who caused so much sorrow Monday.

In spite of the feeling Whitman expressed in his note toward his father, he apparently spent a happy youth in Lake Worth.

He became an Eagle Scout at the age of 12 and at that time was the youngest boy in the world to hold such an honor. After moving to Austin to attend the University, Whitman continued his interest in scouting.

He became scoutmaster of

Troop 5 at the First Methodist Church. He also sang in the church choir. He was a member of a Lions Club here.

Scout executive Paul Beisenherz said Whitman was scoutmaster for only a few months. He asked to be relieved because of his studies. Beisenherz said Whitman was having to study such long hours that he could not devote as much time to scouting as he would like.

Whitman asked to become an assistant scoutmaster. However, he later asked to be relieved of that position and in recent months had not been associated with scouting.

The Defense Department in Washington said Whitman served six years in the Marine Corps, enlisting July 6, 1959, in Florida. He was discharged as a private first class in the reserves July 18, 1965. He still

held reserve status with the Marines.

While Whitman was on active duty, he attained the rate of lance corporal. This rate was marked on a footlocker taken from the tower after his death.

The footlocker was filled with ammunition. Also brought down from the tower was an arsenal of guns. Scouting officials, who had seen Whitman fire at Camp Tom Wooten, said he was an expert. They said he learned to shoot in the Marines.

Whitman served two years of his Marine Corps duty at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba.

A portion of Whitman's reserve status in the Marines was spent in Austin while he was attending the University.

University officials late Monday afternoon released to the press copies of Whitman's U.T. transcript and a copy of an employment application filed in

June with the university personnel office.

The transcript shows that Whitman graduated in the first quarter of his class from St. Ann's High School, West Palm Beach, Fla., in 1959.

During the 1961-62 and 1962-63 long sessions and the 1962 summer session, Whitman was enrolled for various engineering courses and some typical freshman and sophomore classes—English composition, chemistry, economics, American history, and so on. His grades varied widely from two A's to one F and two D's.

Whitman withdrew from U.T. during the 1963 spring semester but returned two years later to continue his engineering studies. His grades improved, and during the fall semester of 1965 he made the honor roll with three A's and one B.

Whitman was registered during the summer session for 14 semester hours—described by U.T. officials as an "unusually heavy load" of course work.

The job application lists his height as six feet and weight as 198 pounds.

Whitman lists as his "most typical past work experience" a job as teller from April to June of 1965 for the Austin National Bank. His salary was \$1.25 per hour.

Dr. Leonard F. Kreisle, U.T. associate professor of mechanical engineering, had been Whitman's academic adviser since 1962.

Dr. Kreisle described Whitman as "well-liked by students, prompt and a student who did neat work."

"As far as I could tell, he was a mature and very, very serious young man," Dr. Kreisle stated.



SNIPER'S BODY—The body of Charles Joseph Whitman can be seen through the windshield of an ambulance which carried him away from The University of Texas Tower. The body of the sniper was removed from the Tower through the west exit of the lower corridor. A large crowd

of students jammed the driveway and lawn between the Tower and Undergraduate Library while the dead and wounded were removed from the Tower. Officers at times had difficulty restraining them.