

On Lethal Weapons

Local Level Laws Urged

By JACK BELL
WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Warren G. Magnuson said today Congress must make it more difficult to buy guns by mail but

the ultimate prevention of future homicidal outbursts such as that in Texas lies in local controls.

Magnuson, Washington Democrat who heads the Senate Commerce Committee which will have a final look at any gun legislation, predicted his group will approve any measure to tighten requirements on the interstate shipment of weapons.

"But there are so many lethal weapons a man can gain possession of that this is not going to be effective for such incidents as that at Austin, Tex.," he said. On Monday, sniper Charles J. Whitman shot and killed 13 persons and wounded 31 others from a perch in the University of Texas tower after slaying his wife and mother.

"A man could make himself a Molotov cocktail, climb up in the tower, toss it into a crowd below and kill 30 people," Magnuson said.

"The federal government can go only so far in regulating the sale of weapons. It is at the state and local level where the most effective controls can be exercised," Magnuson said.

Sen. Thomas J. Dodd, D-Conn., awaited promised action by Chairman James O. Eastland, D-Miss., to call the Senate Judiciary Committee together to consider a gun control bill approved by its Juvenile Delinquency subcommittee. Under an agreement, any legislation approved by the judiciary group would be sent to Magnuson's committee for review.

The Dodd bill would ban interstate mail orders for pistols and revolvers, require affidavits for mail purchasers of rifles and shotguns, bar the direct sale of pistols and revolvers to persons under 21 and the sale of rifles and shotguns to those under 18.

Magnuson said that while this would make it more difficult for individuals aiming toward crime to obtain weapons, the cities and states will have to act on their own to curb over the counter sales.

A great-circle track is the shortest distance between any two places on the globe, the National Geographic says. Aircraft leaving the United States for Europe head north to fly the great-circle route.



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War Toll 99; 534 Wounded

SAIGON, South Viet Nam (AP) — The U.S. military command announced today that 99 Americans were killed and 534 were wounded in combat last week.

Both figures were a drop from the previous week when 136 Americans were killed and 578 were wounded.

The number of Americans captured or missing in action was not immediately available, a spokesman said. Fourteen Americans were reported missing the week before.

The report brought the unofficial toll of American battle dead to 2,691 for the year and to 4,539 since Jan. 1, 1961, the date considered the beginning of American involvement in the war. A total of 15,912 Americans have been wounded this year.

South Vietnamese combat dead increased by five last week to 200 but the number of missing or captured declined from 42 to 31, a spokesman said. The government does not report the number of wounded.

The other allies reported 12 dead, 21 wounded and none missing compared with three dead and seven wounded the previous week.

Enemy casualties also were lower. Allied spokesmen said 1,153 Communists were killed and 88 captured compared with 1,272 killed and 120 captured the week of July 17-23. This raised the reported Communist toll to 39,949 killed for the year.

2 Climbers Die On Mont Blanc

CHAMONIX, France (AP) — A whirling snowstorm swept over Mont Blanc Wednesday, bringing death to at least two Alpinists and threatening many others.

One victim was identified by police as Colin Thomas-Spacy, 20, of Newcastle, England, who died while climbing the Aiguille de Saussure, near Chamonix, with four other Britons.

Five other climbers — three Britons and two Czechs — reached a refuge and reported they had left a companion dead of exhaustion at the summit of Mont Blanc. At least three other groups of climbers were out of contact at nightfall.

Speed Crackdown

ROME (AP) — A nationwide campaign is under way in Italy this week to slow down speedy Italian drivers on the country's network of twisting roads. The campaign slogan: "If in doubt, don't pass."

Salesman Autopsy Ordered In Death

An autopsy has been ordered in the early Thursday death of a 51-year-old salesman whose body was found in a burning automobile in the 6400 block of North Lamar Boulevard about 2 a.m.

City police identified the dead man as Charles Aubrey Roe of 4803 Ave. G.

Patrolman Bob Boatright found a vacuum cleaner hose connected from the exhaust pipe of the car and running into the trunk, a 1954 DeSoto.

Another piece of hose was stretched from the trunk into the back seat. All windows were rolled up.

Police investigators surmised the auto caught fire while the motor was running. The car was parked on a vacant lot.

Firemen had to extinguish the blaze to reach the body sitting erect in the front seat.

Justice of the Peace Buck Smith said he will withhold a verdict in the death pending the results of an autopsy.

OK by AEC Lets Sobell Use Papers

NEW YORK (AP) — After reading in federal court a statement from the Atomic Energy Commission, government counsel has withdrawn objections to potential trial use of documents that figured in the Rosenberg-Sobell spy trial in 1951.

The documents, impounded since that trial, include a sketch of an atomic device which Ethel Rosenberg's brother, David Greenglass, allegedly made and passed on to Mrs. Rosenberg and her husband, Julius, for delivery to the Soviet Union.

Objections to use of the documents were dropped Wednesday in the proceedings in which attorneys for Morton Sobell, who was sentenced to 30 years in prison, had been seeking permission to use them in his attempt for a new trial.

Censors at Work

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — Self-appointed billboard censors are cropping up in New Delhi. Joined by some municipal workers, they paint clothes on scantily-clad actresses on grounds that the film posters corrupt the young.

Navy Eyes Conduct Of Captain

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — U.S. Navy Capt. Archibald C. Kuntze, often referred to by friends as the American mayor of Saigon, is on leave in the United States while the commandant of the 12th Naval District studies a board of inquiry's report on allegations of personal misconduct.

Until June, when the Army took over the operation from the Navy, Kuntze for almost two years directed one of the biggest businesses in South Viet Nam, providing logistic support for 137,000 American troops.

His Headquarters Support Activity Saigon had 9,652 Vietnamese on the payroll and poured \$13.2 million into the local economy in 1965. It was responsible for billeting and feeding troops and operating hospitals, ports and post exchanges in much of South Viet Nam.

Kuntze, 45, a career naval officer from Shelbyville, Wis., was reassigned to the 12th Naval District headquarters in San Francisco last month and is presently on 30 days leave, a Navy spokesman said today.

The New York Times, in a dispatch from Saigon, said the naval board of inquiry in Saigon which investigated the allegations recommended a court-martial trial for Kuntze.

The Navy spokesman in San Francisco said "a decision as to what disciplinary action, if any, will be taken in this case is not expected in the immediate future. The investigations are being conducted in connection with certain allegations concerning personal misconduct."

He declined further comment "since such comments might prejudice his case."

In March, when it was announced the Army would take over the logistic operation, Kuntze said the change was because the "Navy was never intended to provide logistical support for a land operation."

The Navy assumed the task in 1962 before the big American troop buildup.

Kuntze, a 1942 graduate of the Naval Academy, said at the time he hoped to return to sea duty. A veteran of combat in World War II and Korea, he has commanded attack transports, destroyers and minesweepers.

He was wounded in action off Okinawa in 1945, and was awarded the Bronze Star for directing landings behind enemy lines in Korea in 1961.

Austin Man Electrocuted

M. T. Piper, 40, of 3406 Pennsylvania was pronounced dead on arrival at Brackenridge Hospital Wednesday, the victim of a heavy electrical shock in the 2400 block of East 7th Street.

Police Lt. Wilford Swinney said Piper received the shock while charging a car battery with a long extension cord.

Most States Lack Legal Curbs on Weapon Sales

By HOLLIE I. WEST
NEW YORK (AP) — Most states have no laws against the purchase of rifles or shotguns despite growing pressure for stiffer regulations, an Associated Press survey shows.

Of 40 states checked, only two — New Jersey and Rhode Island — require a prospective purchaser to obtain a rifle permit. New Jersey requires a person to apply to local police for a \$2 lifetime identification card. The police then investigate the applicant's background and fingerprint him before issuing the card.

Maine and West Virginia laws stipulate that gun dealers report to police any person buying a rifle or shotgun.

Virginia, alone of the states reporting, has no gun-control law. Connecticut State Police say that the sale and purchase of rifles in their state is "pretty much unregulated." And in Texas, where Charles J. Whitman shot and killed 12 persons and an unborn baby from a 27-story tower with high-powered rifles, there is no law against carrying rifles, carbines and shotguns.

Of the states canvassed, 20 require permits for pistols. New York, which has one of the strictest state laws, requires that a prospective purchaser of a pistol be a resident of or principally employed in the state.

After investigations by the local police and in state mental hygiene files, the person must be photographed and fingerprinted. The fingerprints are checked with the FBI and the State Department of Correction.

If all this is approved, the person must obtain a permit from a judge of any court of record who can turn down an application without appeal.

In New Jersey, a prospective buyer must apply to his county judge for a permit that is renewable annually.

About 15 states have laws forbidding the carrying of concealable weapons, or hand guns. Ohio makes an exception of persons "engaged in lawful business and circumstances justifying carrying a weapon in defense of person," such as a businessman carrying a pistol while taking cash to a bank late at night.

The states are virtually unanimous in forbidding the sale of firearms to felons. But in California any felon who has served time for crimes such as assault with a deadly weapon, manslaughter or murder can obtain a weapon with no restrictions as long as it is not concealable.

In 1965 two men wanted for murder in Oregon kidnaped California's finance director, his wife and infant daughter, and found no problem in purchasing rifles and ammunition at stores in separate California cities.

Some states permit gun collectors to own large firearms. Ohio officials estimate that 2,000 to 3,000 Ohioans, mostly collectors, own machine guns. The weapons are registered with federal authorities.

To purchase a machine gun in California, a person need only obtain the approval of the chief of the State Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation.

Some western states still have laws that carry over from pioneer days when youngsters were expected to bear arms to protect the family. Montana, Oregon and Utah require that a person be only 14 to obtain a gun permit.

A spokesman for the gun industry estimated Wednesday that there are enough guns in the United States to arm half the population, or more than 100 million firearms.

But Charles Dickey, director of the National Shooting Sports Foundation, Inc., is hopeful that pending legislation in Congress, if passed, will help guard against dangerous persons with guns.

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American Killed On Matterhorn

CHAMONIX, France (AP) — An American airman fell to his death Wednesday on the Matterhorn, and at least nine climbers from Germany and Japan were reported missing today in a snowstorm on Mont Blanc. Two

other climbers died on Mont Blanc Wednesday.

Swiss police said Joseph Gordon St. Germain of Longview Drive, Monson, Mass., fell more than 1,000 feet while trying to climb the 14,880-foot Matterhorn. The soldier was stationed at the U.S. airbase in Sembach, Germany.

The snowstorm around 15,771-foot Mont Blanc, western Europe's highest mountain, blocked the search for three Japanese on the 6,000-foot Grandes Jorasses. Six Germans were missing on the Italian side of the mountain after leaving the Gamba refuge at 6,000 feet.

Police said a British climber was killed on Mont Blanc Wednesday and a group of three Britons and two Czechs left a companion dead of exhaustion at the summit.

Italian authorities said still another group of climbers, including four Frenchmen, two Poles and two Germans, was out of contact at nightfall.

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