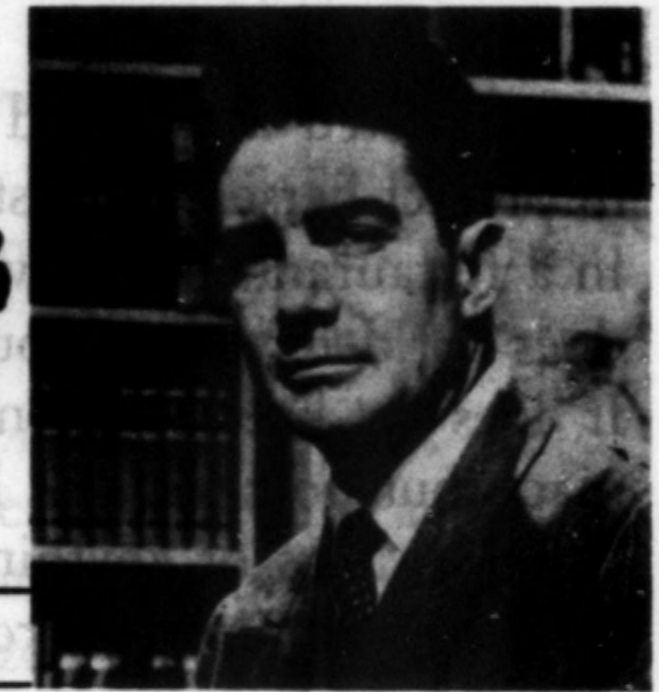


THE

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THE RIGHT OF SELF-DEFENSE

Since the assassination of President Kennedy in November, 1963, Congress has considered several bills to provide more stringent federal firearms control. The bill given most consideration is S 1592, originally introduced by Senator Thomas Dodd on August 2, 1963, revised and reintroduced on March 22, 1965.

As revised and approved by a Senate Subcommittee on April 1, 1966, the Dodd bill became the only federal firearms proposal likely to be seriously considered during the present session. The possibility that Congress would pass the Dodd bill in 1966 was virtually non-existent until August 1, when Charles Joseph Whitman (a Floridan who was a student at the University of Texas) shot 46 persons in Austin (15 of whom died). Before shooting the 46, Whitman had stabbed his wife to death, murdered his mother with a gun.

President Johnson demanded quick passage of the Dodd firearms bill, saying "the time has come for action before further loss of life that might be prevented by its passage."⁽¹⁾ The President failed to note that the Dodd bill would not have prevented the grisly affair in Austin. In the arsenal which Whitman took to the University of Texas tower for his orgy of murder was a sawed-off shotgun — a weapon which was "outlawed" 32 years ago by the National Firearms Act of 1934. Another of Whitman's guns was a pistol: his taking this weapon to the University of Texas tower was a violation of Texas law.

Senator Dodd urged immediate consideration of his gun-control bill. While conceding that the bill would not prevent such "senseless murders" as those committed by Whitman, Dodd said it would be a deterrent. He mentioned New York State's Sullivan law as a deterrent.⁽²⁾ He did not mention that, last year, in New York City alone, there were 631 "senseless murders," 1154 rapes, 16,325 assaults.⁽³⁾ Not long ago, a girl was arrested in New York City for violating the Sullivan law by using a switchblade knife to defend herself against a rapist. More recently, another girl

THE DAN SMOOT REPORT is published weekly by The Dan Smoot Report, Inc., Box 9538, Dallas, Texas 75214 (office at 6441 Gaston Ave.). Subscriptions: \$18.00 for 2 years; \$10.00, 1 year; \$6.00, 6 months; first class, \$12.50 a year; airmail, \$14.50. Dan Smoot was born in Missouri, reared in Texas. With BA and MA degrees from SMU (1938 and 1940), he joined the Harvard faculty (1941) as a Teaching Fellow, doing graduate work in American civilization. From 1942 to 1951, he was an FBI agent; from 1951 to 1955, a commentator on national radio and television. In 1955, he started his present independent, free-enterprise business: publishing this REPORT and abbreviating it each week for radio and TV broadcasts available for commercial sponsorship by business firms.