

POINT IV
GUN CONTROL

"PRESS THE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICERS AND THE COURTS TO ENFORCE MORE VIGOROUSLY THE SEVERAL EXISTING GUN CONTROL LAWS."

The Subcommittee has found gun control an extremely difficult issue with which to deal. Detroit residents who carry guns appear to be unwilling to give them up or register them without the assurance that those who are threatening them have been disarmed. With respect to family quarrels involving the use of weapons, the sense of the public would seem to be that the Police Department will not respond to pleas for help.

The Subcommittee has determined that effective gun control would be a key factor in the reduction of street crime. Despite this very serious situation, several recommendations have been considered by the Subcommittee. The most effective recommendation that we strongly encourage the Mayor to adopt is a mandatory sentence for unregistered guns.

The Subcommittee realizes that 60-70 percent of the homicides in Detroit occur in homes or in family type settings, however, guns are used for a staggering amount of street crimes; a major present concern.

If a citizen realizes that any person arrested and in possession of an unregistered gun will have to serve a period of time on a mandatory basis, perhaps hand guns will disappear.

It is further expected that this recommendation will receive recognition in the form of a properly amended State Statute or new City ordinance.

Legislators will be contacted in Lansing for the purpose of preparing the proper State Statute for immediate passage.

In a larger sense, the administration should further go on record in support of national legislation restricting firearm manufacture and distribution.