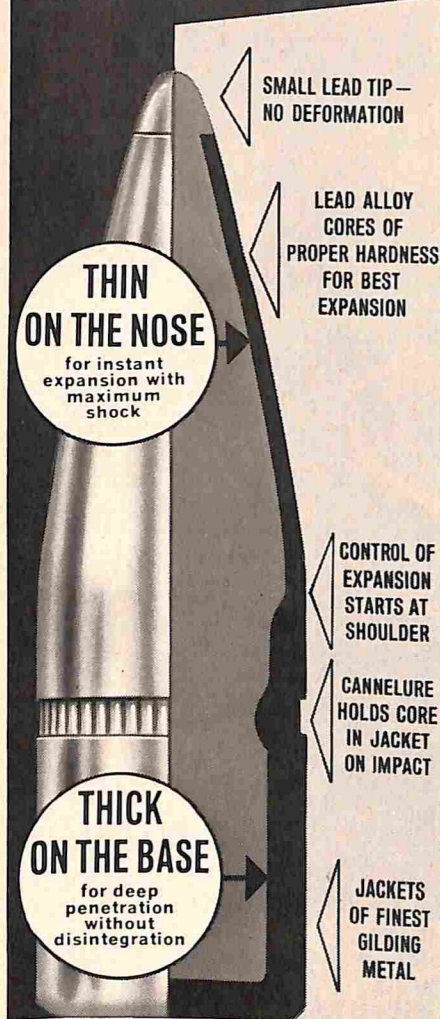


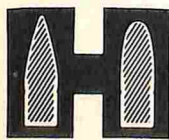
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SHOOTING TIMES

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ON THE COVER

This Spencer carbine is similar to the gun Abe Lincoln tested near the White House grounds. (See story on page 14). The .56-56 cartridges are fast becoming collectors' items. Photo by staff photographer Walter Schwarz.

EDITORIAL

Assassination -- By Hatred

AS THIS IS BEING written, John Fitzgerald Kennedy lies in state in the rotunda of the nation's capitol, struck down by an infamous wretch blinded by a stupid hatred which may never be understood by the people of our nation. Yet, it must be understood.

At about the time that John F. Kennedy's widow knelt beside her daughter and placed a parting kiss on her late husband's bier, the man who allegedly killed him breathed his last — also struck down by another man filled with blind hatred. This righteous killer's stupidity may possibly never be understood by our people either. Yet, it, too, must be understood.

Both the President and his assassin were torn by bullets fired in misguided anger. As a result, the immediate instruments of these men's deaths—and all instruments like them—are under the closest criticism and scrutiny. Those immediate instruments were a rifle and a pistol.

Certainly, it is natural and even, perhaps, logical, that firearms take the first vaguely-thought-out brunt of the nation's shock and anger over the almost incomprehensible degradation that brought about our President's death. Yet, as so many first-impulse decisions, the quick choice to outlaw firearms in one way or another in order to prevent any such occurrence again is a case of intellectual laziness and complete lack of analysis.

Before those who now thunder for the abolition of privately-owned firearms continue their pushing of a natural but poorly considered campaign, they should be made to pause for a moment—in order to think and at least try to understand.

The fact is that our late and revered President's death was not basically caused by a bullet. Neither was his alleged assassin's. President Kennedy was murdered by insane hatred and stupidity. His assassin was killed by another man of the same ilk. One killer deprived us of a great statesman. The other robbed us of the proper course of justice, of which this country is so proud.

Would either of these two killers have been successful if the basic right to keep and bear arms had already been deprived the American people in gen-

(Continued on Page 82)

February, 1964

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