



Investigators examine some of the machine guns seized by state and federal officials at the Erquiaga Arms Co. in the City of Industry, Calif.  
—AP Wirephoto.

## Seized Arms Were Destined For Extremists, Officials Say

INDUSTRY, Calif. (AP) — Machine guns and records of their manufacture seized at an arms factory were held for examination Saturday by federal, state and local authorities who believe they were destined for use by extremist groups. The plant operator denies it.

The 373 weapons, 100,000 rounds of ammunition and three silencers used for testing the guns were confiscated at the Erquiaga Arms Co. on Friday by 30 officers armed with a search warrant.

Said State Atty. Gen. Thomas Lynch: "Speed was necessary in this raid, since our office has definite information that some of these illegal weapons were intended for private armies in California."

### Identifies 'Armies'

A spokesman for the attorney general's office later identified the "private armies" as among others — the Minutemen and Rangers.

"This talk of our making guns for private armies is a lot of

head of Knudson Mfg. Co. and operator of the Erquiaga Arms Co. told newsmen.

"We have a purchase order from the Costa Rica government for 500 automatic machine pistols which we are filling.

"We are licensed by the Internal Revenue Service and working with the approval of the U.S. State Department in making these machine guns, which we understand are to be used by Cubans in fighting Castro," Knudson said.

### Warrant Issued

Sheriff's Lt. E. D. Villines, who led the raid, acknowledged that the firm has a federal license to make the weapons, but said it lacks state authorization for manufacture, possession, sale or transportation of such weapons. On these grounds, Citrus Municipal Court issued the search warrant.

"It has never been my understanding that the state had anything to do with this business," said Knudson.

Four employees were in the plant at the time of the raid. None were arrested.

The guns, which agents said were in racks when they entered the plant, are about 20 inches long, and are fitted with a pistol grip instead of a stock. Agents said they appear to fire a 9mm cartridge at the rate of 450 rounds per minute.

A spokesman for the attorney general's office said the Minutemen and Rangers, for whom they believe the arms were destined, are similar groups — volunteer armies who train in guerrilla warfare.

The spokesmen said that the Minutemen's philosophy is that Americans eventually will have to revolt to retain their freedom, and at that time the Minutemen will be armed and ready to lead them.

Lynch has proposed state legislation that would outlaw such organizations in California.