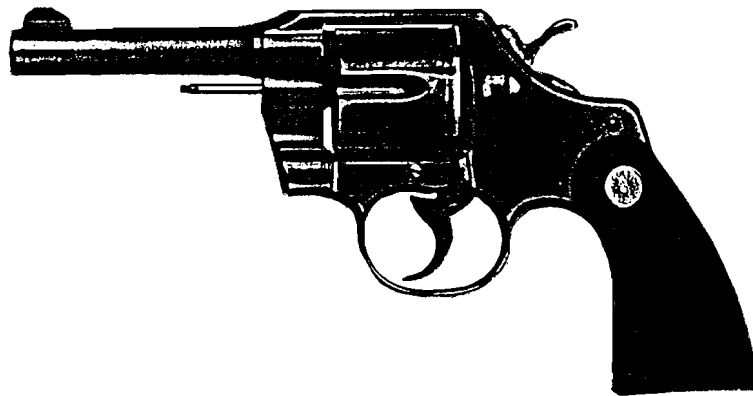


IF THE GUN COULD ONLY SPEAK!

I have protected more people than all the policemen in the world, for I am more numerous, and more dependable. I protect the policeman, too. I am a friend of the small, the weak, and the helpless. If it were not for me, they would be at the mercy of the large, the strong, and the abusive.



I am maligned by the ignorant alone. Of my own nature, I am neither good nor evil, I just am. I am the first thing of which people are deprived, when the intention is to deprive them of all else.

I safeguard the weak in their homes, the honest in their businesses, and the lawful in their streets. I question why I am blamed for the existence of crime as I prevent an *infinite number more* than I assist, when the automobile, which kills thousands and injures millions each year is glamorized.