

15.5.70

Pistols found in school search

WEAPONS WERE found by police in a search at a South London Roman Catholic school. They were being stored, claimed a prefect, for a clash between the fifth and fourth forms.

The haul—two air pistols, a can of ammonia spray and a bowling alley skittle—was found hidden in desks at the 400-pupil Clapham College in Nightingale Lane.

Police were called in to the school by the headmaster to investigate an incident concerning a lost watch.

It was while they were searching desks in a fifth-form classroom that they uncovered the weapons.

'Insane'

The head, Brother Peter, said today: "They were called in purely to investigate an incident concerning the watch.

"Three officers made a quick search of fifth-form classrooms where they found two air pistols and an ammonia spray which had been taken from the school laboratory.

"One boy, for some insane reason, had a bowling alley skittle hidden in his desk."

He added: "It would be exaggerating to say that an arsenal of weapons was found. There were certainly a number of them."

Feud

A sixth-form prefect at the school—which is run by the Xavian Brothers—said that a group of fifth-formers had stored the weapons in preparation for a clash with fourth-form pupils.

The prefect, an 18-year-old who is studying A levels, added: "There is no question of schools being involved. Some of the fifth-form boys had been having a feud with the fourth form."