

Our goal is to be able to warehouse guns by mid-1983.

Our main design concern at this time is the strength of the fore-end. Different methods of reinforcement are currently under investigation.

As the schedule shows, the series is planned to continue through 1984 and 1985.

In 1984 it is planned to offer three more versions of the Special, a 12 gauge rifled slug version, a 3" chambered waterfowl version and the LT-20 special field grade. The rifled slug model and the LT-20 special field grade will probably have the same individual features as this sample. Model requirements for the waterfowl design have not yet been defined, but some of the features being considered include interchangeable choke tubes, a manual load selector for 2-3/4" and 3" shells, rust resistant internal finishes, and low luster external finishes for both wood and metal parts.

In 1986 the series will be completed with rifled slug and waterfowl versions of the LT-20.

Production commented that Research and Marketing have proposed model requirements for a 12 gauge Model 1100 Special (Chart XLVIII) to be introduced in mid-1983. Production is estimating investment and manufacturing costs based on advance prints supplied by Research. Economics and an implementation schedule will be presented at the October 14 meeting. The critical features, as perceived by Production, are listed in Chart XLIX.

Model 870 Special

A similar series based on the Model 870 is also being considered. Features comparable to those discussed on the 1100 will be investigated. As with the 1100 Special, shortening the magazine tube is expected to complicate the design of the fore-end. How much of a problem this will be remains to be seen. Unlike the 1100, however, 870 barrels will not be interchangeable, since the short magazine will necessitate moving the barrel guide ring.

If no insurmountable problems are encountered, the special field version will be announced in 1984, followed by a series of models in 1985 and 1986, patterned after the 1100 series; rifled slug, waterfowl and 20 gauge.

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In July, a four-page list of design specifications for a bolt action rifle that is being considered as a replacement for the 700 was reviewed. Three contingency designs are being considered. Today, I will review what we feel are the key

design elements (Chart L) of this rifle: the receiver will be redesigned to provide the features that seem to be preferred by gunsmiths, gun writers, and customers; flat bottom and integral recoil lug. The external appearance will be similar to the sample Model Seven that was passed around.

It is desirable that the safety block the trigger as well as the firing pin, for the added margin of safety against accidental discharge. We feel that a bolt lock is a good selling feature and continue to feel that it should be independent of the safety switch for maximum protection.

A fully adjustable fire control is also a good selling feature and we will try to provide one. We would like to go the extra step of providing this feature without removing the action from the stock.

The combination of a high gloss, lightweight contour with a hammer marked barrel may prove incompatible with the process, but this will have to be investigated. It does offer unique styling opportunities.

The rotary magazine feed system offers three advantages:

1. Smooth operation;
2. Better feeding characteristics since you feed from a single location;
3. A more rigid receiver since the shell opening cut is not as large. This feature can contribute to improved accuracy.

In spite of the fact that our present extractor is stronger than most competitors, it is perceived by shooters as being a cheap, weak, unreliable stamping. We will try to correct that problem without compromising the superior strength of the 700.

Reduced lock time is a key factor in the recognized accuracy of the 788. We will try to duplicate that feature in this new rifle and at the same time provide our Marketing Department with laboratory measured effects of improved lock time at the target, to be used in sales promotions and advertising.

Finally, the stock will be walnut, designed in conjunction with leading stock makers, with features found only in custom-made stocks. The butt will be cast off and toed out to fit the natural contour of the human shoulder and enable the shooter to sight quickly with a more natural head position. Current methods of stock manufacturing should enable us to make three versions if necessary: cast off or on, toed in or out, or straight. We believe this touch of custom work is a good

sales feature. The two rifles shown contain some of the features discussed.

Our schedule (Chart LI) shows two possible announcement dates, with the availability of capital and the successful completion of the design phase being the determining factors.

Model 7400 Carbine


Two different versions of the 7400 Carbine are being developed. Prototypes of the 30-06 and .308 rifles have been made and tested, and at this point, are simply standard rifles with shorter barrels. These are scheduled for 1985 introduction.

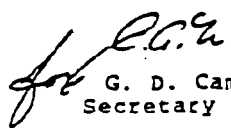
The other version, scheduled for introduction in 1984, will be chambered for the .223 caliber. Styling options have been proposed and samples will be made.

In the .223, the proposed specifications (Chart LII) include an aluminum receiver with low luster finish, a slimmed down fore-end and a straight stock with no Monte Carlo or cheekpiece. Both stock and fore-end will be birch with a low gloss finish and no checkering. The 18-1/2" barrels will be provided with open sights. In keeping with the low cost of the .223 ammunition, and the rapid fire nature of the target sports, magazine capacity will be increased to 15 rounds.

The critical item on this schedule is the development of a 15-round magazine that feeds reliably.

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.


C. A. Nash
Secretary - Bridgeport


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