

A sample Model 721 rifle in Caliber 264 was shown. Appearance was considered to be highly satisfactory by the Committee. The stainless steel barrels of this item are provided with anodized finish by an outside vendor, inasmuch as stainless steel does not respond to normal bluing procedures.

MODEL 721 CARBINE

This item is in design study status.

The Research & Development Department reports that the Plant is conducting an investigation of the economic advantages to be derived from use of the smaller Model 500 Series stock blank for this item. The possibility of reducing costs of this item by redesign of open sights is being considered. Volumes necessary to reach a breakeven point and those necessary to produce a favorable return are to be predicted.

Economic data are not yet available for Committee consideration.

MODEL 700 BOLT ACTION RIFLE

This item has not yet been approved. Final appearance samples will be reviewed by the Sales Department during this month, and if acceptable will be referred for approval. Scheduled date for announcement remains as January, 1962.

The Committee was shown a development model provided with an investment cast bolt handle and checkered knob. Use of investment casting techniques achieves a checkered bolt handle at a cost slightly less than that of the current undecorated Model 721 bolt handle. Committee opinion of this item was generally favorable, with some difference of opinion as to the best location for the checkered area of the bolt knob.

Samples of the "A" Grade stock checkering decoration, formed by heat and pressure, were shown. Significant advances have been made in application of this decoration to surfaces having varying curvatures. It has been found that almost any decorative form can be encompassed within a checkered area simply by grinding the desired form into the decorative dies. Committee opinion of the "A" Grade checkering decoration was favorable.

A project request has been prepared on the Model 700 rifle. The bolt action rifle forecast under this project is 20,000 rifles, of which 16,000 will be "A" Grade and 4,000 "ADL" Grade.