

Gas System - Slight redesign of the inertia weight system has been made to avoid interference with the fore-end, when the fore-end is distorted by hand gripping.

The barrel guide ring gas seal has been staked in place to avoid separation from the barrel when the gun is taken apart.

Functional tests of the gas system have given excellent results with all types of loads, even when the pistol and cylinder have been coated with water, oil, or cleaning solvents. One test gun was fired 15 thousand rounds, without cleaning, under various liquid saturations. The present gas system is inherently "clean", due to smaller barrel orifices and better sealing.

The question of possible incorrect assembly of gas system seals was raised. Research & Development is reviewing various thoughts on means for avoiding incorrect assembly by the customer.

Fire Control - The fire control has been redesigned for improved performance. Safety has been made more positive in function, carrier latch spring has been redesigned to reduce breakage; and sear, connector and associated parts have been shrouded by a metal cover to avoid malfunctions caused by ingress of foreign matter.

Some problems still exist with Magnum guns which feed shells under the bolt and one gun which throws shells out of the gun in feeding, but correction is in sight.

SCHEDULING

The Research & Development Department feels that the entire design of this item can be released by March 1, 1962. On the basis of overall design completion, this item is approximately two months behind schedule. It is proposed that those items of design which are completed should be processed by the Plant. On this basis, 20% of the design could now be released, and 80% of design should be available by February 1, 1962. Research & Development will transmit to the Plant a list of those Model 68 parts which are favorable for processing.

Various aspects of scheduling were discussed. The Committee feels that existing design problems, such as choice of long or short barrel extension, will force telescoping of production activities, as has been done on previous models. Even with telescoping of effort, a January 1, 1963 introduction of this item appears questionable.

The Plant points out that field tests of this item in final form are scheduled for late Summer and Fall of 1962. It is questionable whether the Sportsman 68 will be available at this time.