

SHOTGUNS - contd.MODEL 870, 28-410 GAUGEMODEL 1100, 20-28-410 GAUGE

R & D reported that breakages of the Breech Bolt and Locking Block at around 6,000 rounds made it necessary to redesign these parts for added strength. In turn, the Barrel Extension and Action Bar Slide are affected by the design changes. It may also be necessary to add weight to the Action Bar Sleeve to slow down unlocking time and reduce stresses on all of the related parts.

Preliminary design changes are complete and have been discussed with the Plant (Exhibits 2 and 3). Engineering has been advised not to retool or redesign any existing tooling but to consider these changes only for planning. New model test parts containing the design changes will be complete the week of May 12. It is planned to test during the week of May 19 with an official release to Production June 1 to June 15. No change in schedule is contemplated on field test guns which are planned for July.

As covered in Exhibits 2 and 3, R & D believes that 410 gauge guns should have the 3" chamber. If the steps now being taken do not provide the required endurance, possibly a 2½" chamber for skeet guns may be recommended.

Marketing would, under normal circumstances, recommend that all 410 gauge skeet guns be chambered for the 3" shells because ...

- . the shooter advantage using a gun chambered for 2½" shells versus 3" shells is not measurable
- . there would be savings in both inventory and production with a single chamber specification
- . the possibility of firing 3" shells in guns with 2½" chambers would be eliminated

Marketing reported that in 1967, we sold 725M 3" skeet loads versus 1,699M 2½" skeet loads.