

MATERIALS SUPPLY - contd.WOOD - CONTD.

For the short term, already approved is the use of sycamore and birch on Models 552, 572 and Mohawk-48. In March and April, 130,000 Model 700 Stock blanks were promised; 70,000 were delivered. It will be necessary to use sycamore on some Model 700 ADL rifles. On Model 1100 and 870 shotguns, 30,000 to 40,000 mahogany Stocks and Fore-ends will be used. The entire production of a model, during some periods, will be with the alternate wood. Efforts to purchase additional walnut from any source possible continue.

Marketing has provided tags and label wording for Models 552, 572 and Mohawk-48. Wholesalers will be informed of the change in wood specification.

On the shotguns, it will be necessary to start machining mahogany the week of June 3. Two hundred Stocks and Fore-ends will be started for finish development and selection of samples. Production is confident an acceptable finish and color match will be achieved. The 200 sets will be completed in about two weeks. Agreement on finish will be needed in mid-June. There are no walnut short Stock blanks on the plant now.

Walnut is available for the Model 700 through July. A satisfactory finish has not been developed for sycamore for the Model 700. Additional finishing steps, requiring a labor increase, are being tried. When a finish that appears to be acceptable is achieved, samples will be reviewed with Marketing.

Competitive shotguns at present have walnut wood.

Marketing is taking a positive approach to the alternate wood. The gun tags are worded to emphasize good properties of the alternate wood; for example, the light weight of mahogany.

Production has confidence sufficient walnut will be available, at some price, for 1975 but not beyond. Veneer logs could be available as short Stock blanks in October and Model 700 Stock