

cc: W.E. Leek  
M. Walker  
L. J. Boyle  
L. Fox.

DON'T SAY IT—WRITE IT

To G. M. CALHOUN  
FROM S. M. ALVIS

DATE Feb. 17, 1971

MODEL 700 - Caliber 17

It is planned that Lloyd Fox send you a confirmation of his conclusions and recommendations on shipping of the Model 700 - Caliber 17 Rifle. Also, he will recheck the data which was included in Walker's memo and apparently obtained from Plant records.

After giving more thought to the points from Leon Johnson as quoted in my memo of February 12th, I am led to temper my conclusions with some reason and logic. As regards to question of safety, it seems that the present bolt head and cartridge combination has virtually eliminated the pierced primer problems that were previously reported as frequent. There also seemed to be a difference of opinion as to the objection of the degree of primer cratering experienced with the fired cases. I also notice that there are variations in the degree. At the same time it would seem reasonable to expect that as the rifle continues on being fired we should have a falling off of velocity and pressure at a rather rapid rate with this high pressure and small caliber combination. This would be expected to offset any growth of the radius on the firing pin hole.

Walker has offered to continue furnishing the tool for the operation which forms the small radius in the face of the bolt and he will in this way be able to cover the inspection to suit his desire for control of the limits. He claims virtually no wear for this tool and also demonstrates the simplicity of its use.

I have a lot of respect for the opinions of Wayne Leek on these matters and believe he is sincere in his convictions. However, there can be times when we also must consider the judgment of Walker, who actually will have more at stake in the M/700, and there is some comfort that his background is sustained by many years of experience in these matters.

I think we should proceed.

*SMA*  
SMA:T

TO BE SAFE, FIRST THINK YOU MIGHT NOT BE