cc: G.M. Calhoun
L. J. Boyle - L. Fox

M.H. Walker

W.E. Leek - File

Ilion, New York May 30, 1972

F. E. MORGAN Bridgeport

MODEL 700 - IMPROVEMENTS

There is some confusion as to plans for improving the stock checkering, but first we need to know whether or not Marketing will still accept the "custom checkering" which is impressed, or will we have to plan on the BDL Grade going to cut checkering.

At a conference recently including Messrs. Boyle, Fox, Leek and Walker, and Norkman, it was agreed that the Firearms Design Group would not try to extend efforts in further machine development for checkering. It was also opinion that the recently developed robot checkering may be adequate for limited volume job shop type of checkering as originally intended, but would not be adequate for high volume such as anticipated for Model 700 BDL Grade. It was also the opinion of the group that development of a new high volume design would probably involve greater expense than for the first generation. Also in the matter of time such activity would need to be started at once to meet the development schedule. However, I do not believe the Production Department is planning to initiate any action of this extent without some further direction from Management.

As an alternate I had thought of having some work started on another design which may be adapted to press forming of the checkering and hopefully in such a pattern that might be reproduced better than the present one.

Will you please look into this and see if can get something started one way or the other.

S. M. Alvis, Manager Ilion Research Division

SMA:T