

JOHN R. LEDBETTER, JR., M.D.

April 10, 1979

Mr. E. S. McCawley Jr.  
Manager, Public Relations  
Remington Arms Co.  
Bridgeport, Conn.

Dear Mr McCawley:

I was shocked to learn, from your letter in the April 13, 1979 Gun Week that the much publicized 6.8 million dollar settlement was not a court award but a negotiated settlement. And here all the time I was mentally cursing our slanted court system, for the facts as given in the articles indicated that, even if there were a defect in the gun, the accident was the result of flagrantly careless gun handling.

I think your company was very short-sighted in agreeing to this settlement. In the first place, it is the worst sort of public relations, for anybody reading of the settlement would assume that the company would have fought in court unless there was a strong element of fault with the company. In the second place, this sort of thing fairly begs any fool who injures himself with one of your products to get a smart lawyer, claim some defect in the gun, demand a large amount of damages, and then settle for less, but still a lavish amount. This willingness to settle unjustified suits out of court is one reason for so much litigation.

If your insurance companies won't let you fight unwarranted lawsuits, you had better get other companies, or insure your self; a large company should have the reserves to do that, and in the long run save money over paying other companies to take your money and make the settlements.

Sincerely yours  
*John R. Ledbetter Jr.*  
John R. Ledbetter Jr.

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E. S. McCawley, Jr.

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