

March 29, 1963

Dr. Hiram B. Van Deusen
258 Genesee Street
Utica, New York

Dear Doc:

Thank you very much for the True Magazine that you sent and the article contained therein describing problems in the development of the M14 and the political difficulties they are having with it. Not only are they having political problems but this certainly is not the right type of rifle for the Army NATO and the armed forces. This of course you and I have discussed several times and after reading it I suspect you can appreciate the problem we have been faced with in trying to design against a stacked deck. However, the truth finally comes out, and also I have noted that information similar to this article has been appearing in other gun magazines.

I had Jack Fredericks, the TV announcer, with me the other day up to the shooting pit where we were firing the pistol, and we had some difficulty getting into that area. Now I understand it is full of mud and slush so I expect we will have to be content for a few weeks before we go up there again to shoot. However, I will keep an eye on conditions and advise you in advance so that we can plan to shoot the 7mm, the M/1100 and the pistol.

I was reading with interest the article that you sent concerning the buckshot loads. I believe the best way to test such combinations would be to shoot experimentally with these loads into a ballistic pendulum and measure the results. Then select the ones that produce the best impact and later on try them on wild game.

We are receiving many enthusiastic letters and comments from our salesmen and customers concerning the XP-100 Pistol, which apparently is taking the country by storm. The sales volume certainly proves that. Also, comments from the NRA and sports writers indicate that although this is a controversial item it certainly is being well received by the hunter who likes to shoot varmint with pistols. I think that the use of a telescope on the pistol is an absolute must if one is not too adept at offhand shooting.

Dr. Hiram B. Van Deusen

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I am sending you a write-up on the XP-100 that just came out in the May issue of one of the newer sporting magazines, and also a brochure giving the specifications of the pistol.

Will close for now and will be contacting you in the near future. Perhaps we can get together for lunch one day.

Regards,

W. E. Leek
Chief Designer - Firearms
Illion Research Division

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