

Rifling

As mentioned above, sales of 244 ammunition indicate that the caliber has become a hunting caliber. The availability of heavier bullets than the present 90 grain would, it is believed, be a sales advantage both to guns and ammunition.

The Sales Department has asked consideration for a Model 725 barrel with 10" twist to accommodate heavier bullets. The Ilion Plant has ordered rifling plugs to produce a 10" twist and delivery is expected by October 1. A pilot quantity of barrels will then be produced for testing with all weights of bullets for accuracy comparison with a 12" twist. The Bridgeport Plant is preparing sample 244 cartridges with heavier bullets (100 and 105 grain) which are needed at Ilion as soon as possible. Bridgeport Research & Development will also make ballistic studies. It is believed that ballistics of a 105 grain 244 caliber should be equal to or better than the 243 Winchester with 100 grain bullet, and that competition has reached the limit for the 243 with the 100 grain bullet.

The Plant has had misgivings with respect to possible mixing of barrels in production but now believes the situation can be handled.

MODEL 725 SHORT ACTION - CALIBERS 222 and 244

Approximately fifteen pilot 222 caliber guns are being assembled. Additional stocks are promised the middle of September.

Assembly of 244 caliber guns will be held until decision on rifling (item above) and barrel weight has been made. Production of guns for delivery starting January 1, 1959 may be delayed. The Sales Department recognizes this but feels it is worthwhile and that announcement can be made the first of the year with delivery in reasonable time thereafter.

RIM FIRE

MODEL 552 LIGHTWEIGHT

The Plant had been advised (August 22, 1958) to suspend work on this gun. The Sales Department is hesitant to introduce this model in two colors simultaneous with the introduction of the Nylon 66. To do so would mean two rim fire autoloaders in color vying for customer attention and sales effort. The stake in the Nylon 66 is much larger and warrants maximum concentration on promotion. If it is decided to go ahead with the Model 552 Lightweight, this can be accomplished in a relatively short time.

At the time of the hold-up of the Model 552, there were 100 guns going through assembly with tooling 98% complete. Pilot operations had been scheduled for September 1.