

GENERAL

MARKET DEVELOPMENT

There were no firearm product suggestions for discussion at this meeting.

OPTIMUM BARREL LENGTHS FOR FIREARMS

The Chairman outlined the Management request that the Committee review barrel lengths of our firearms in light of the fact that some current barrel lengths exceed the optimum for maximum ammunition performance. It was reported that the Bridgeport Research Division is compiling information on performance of various ammunition calibers in barrels of different lengths.

The Committee is of the opinion that firearms barrel lengths are properly dictated by other factors than maximum projectile velocities. The most important of these is appearance. Other factors are functioning, balance, muzzle blast effects with short barrels, and customer preferences. It is felt that any advantages to be derived from shorter barrels must be weighed in light of the design and appearance effects created.

On the question of cost reductions to be gained from shorter barrel lengths, the Plant reports that some savings might occur in tooling and material, and use of smaller packing boxes, but significant economic benefit would occur only if all barrels were of a common length.

In order to settle the question of appearance of firearms with barrels of optimum length, the Committee agreed that Bridgeport Research & Development information on optimum barrel lengths is to be supplied to Ilion Research & Development for preparation of sample rim fire rifles with revised barrels.

After consideration of the Research & Development findings and sample rifles, the Sales Department will report their conclusions to the Committee.

DEFERRED ITEMS

XS-1 Autoloader

Status is unchanged.

Slide Action Carbine - Model 760
(Including 30/30 caliber)

The necessity for this item was reviewed. After considerable discussion the Committee agreed that there is a market demand for a Carbine to handle modern high intensity cartridges. Conversely, the Committee doubts that there is sufficient market potential to warrant producing a Model 760 Carbine in 30/30 caliber.

The Sales Department is interested in a Model 760 Carbine in calibers .308, 30/06 and 280 Remington and will prepare sales forecasts.

83

10/15/59