

with outlines of the proposed patterns will be discussed by Sales with General Management concerning: use of the same pattern for all Custom Checkered grades within a given model; use of the same checkering patterns on different models to the extent possible; two grades versus single grade structure.

SHOTGUNS

SPORTSMAN 68 AUTOLOADER

The Production Department reported project work on the Sportsman 68 remains approximately two months behind schedule. Steps continue to recover the lost time and warehouse the shotgun January 15, 1963 as scheduled. A new scheduling system is being established, indicating all necessary work to complete each step in the production sequence of major components. Trial and Pilot operations will continue through the vacation shut-down.

The status of the other new guns, the XP-100 pistol and Model 600 rifle, are periodically reviewed to determine that they will not interfere with the Sportsman 68.

Research and Development reported no information significantly affecting the adequacy of the Sportsman 68 design has come to light during the past month. The design changes that have become evident will not interfere with the project schedule. Items of note are:

1. The Interceptor latch which was reported to have failed at approximately 3,000 rounds has been improved and dry cycle testing indicated 75,000 rounds endurance without failure.
2. The breech bolt of the 2 3/4" chamber shotgun was previously reported to have cracked during endurance testing but did not fail. It was planned to make a design and material change to correct this. Subsequently, the design change and a polishing operation in critical areas was determined to suffice instead of changing material.

Chrome plating the bolt, carried over from the Sportsman 58 to prevent rusting prior to purchase by the consumer, contributes to cracking due to hydrogen embrittlement. Research proposes that as a further preventive the breech bolt of Trap and Skeet guns be highly polished rather than chrome plated.

The Production Department reported that it may be desirable to highly polish rather than chrome plate all Sportsman 68 breech bolts. The chrome plating does not allow the roll marking to show up clearly.