

end of April. Research is re-determining the gas orifice size due to recent gas system changes to overcome the failure to blow back on light loads.

Initial SC grade production will be Custom instead of hand checkered as specified by the model Standards. The hand checkering patterns proposed would require excess labor and more than off-set the price differential for the SC grade.

The proposed patterns are more extensive than the SC grade of previous models in order to be compatible with the extensive Custom Checkering pattern in the lower grades. The Production and Sales Departments will resolve and recommend to the Committee the long term checkering to be supplied on the SC grade.

Start-Up Status - 16 and 20 Gauge

Research reported no significant changes to the 16 and 20 gauge design that will affect the January introduction date. Minor changes to improve the design continue to be made.

The Production Department reported start-up activity is on schedule. No conventional manufacturing facilities are being provided for the barrels. The GFM barrel forming machines scheduled for installation in early Summer are being relied upon to produce for these gauges.

The Sales Department requested the 20 gauge gun be supplied in 3 inch Magnum with plain and vent rib barrels. This is a new request in that the Model 1100 is a replacement for the Sportsman 58 in which 20 gauge 3 inch Magnum is not supplied. The Committee requested the Secretary to summarize the additional start-up cost and earnings for a decision at the May meeting.

CENTER FIRE RIFLES

MODEL 600 BOLT ACTION RIFLE

Production states trial and pilot of 308 caliber is on schedule and pilot assembly with the larger size barrel established last month will begin in July. Barrels for caliber 222 Remington (or 222 Remington Magnum) are being processed up to the point where different machining will be required for the different calibers. The Sales Department will make their recommendation between 222 Remington and 222 Remington Magnum by April 19. Caliber 35 Remington barrels are not being produced yet but are not in any danger of failing to meet the January, 1964 schedule.

The Committee considered the possibility of chambering the Model 600 rifle for the .221 Remington "Fireball". Sales indicated there