

CENTER FIRE RIFLES - contd.MODEL 700 BOLT ACTION CENTER FIRE RIFLE - IMPROVEMENTS
(Introduction 1974)

R & D reported that the present plan, unless otherwise directed, is to introduce the new Sight, the solid steel Follower, the new Bolt Handle with ball moved forward, and the new solid Recoil Pad for magnums, as they become available. The new Stock, the Bolt Guide, and Firing Pin changes for enclosing the head and improving lock time, are planned for introduction in January, 1974. Economics will be presented as soon as available on each item. Rough estimates are available for the Recoil Pad and the solid Follower. The Follower is expected to cost nearly \$1.00 each more than the present sheet metal. The new Recoil Pad will save about \$.80 each if purchased in black. The new Rear Sight was presented and approved showing a minor savings.

Work on the Stock is pointed toward a rolled on checkering pattern for the Fore-end. R & D feels that Remington should not plan on pressed checkering being salable much beyond 1973 on the Model 700. With both the Winchester M/70 and the M/77 Ruger having cut checkering, the Model 700 will be in a poor position to compete. For this reason, any work including pressed checkering is believed to be a stopgap measure.

The Stock with new Fore-end Tip, Grip Cap, and checkering, should be available before the next meeting.

Production was asked for a comparison of investment of cut versus pressed checkering. An investment of approximately \$100,000 in the current N/C checkering machine will produce 4000 Stocks per year. A \$15,000 pressed checkering machine with \$15,000 in dies will produce about 50,000 Stocks per year.

Winchester is now delivering rifles with cut checkering. A sample is needed to see how far the checkering goes around the grip.

It was concluded that development of the second generation of N/C checkering machines should start as soon as possible. Responsibility for this development was assigned to Production. The expected development time indicates that an interim press checkering pattern will be required.

83