

February 22, 1973

FIREARMSWOOD PRESS FORMINGMODEL 870, 12-16-20 GAUGE FORE-ENDS

R & D reported that ERD engineers have made several more press formed Fore-ends on which the checkering was pressed in a second operation as is currently done in the plant. A sample was displayed for comparison with standard Model 870 guns. During the month checkering inserts were installed in the press form dies. However, this was not finished in time to provide new samples. There is still optimism that press forming and press checkering can be accomplished in a simultaneous operation. It was recommended that this work proceed before turning to the more expensive interim process of press forming and separate press checkering.

Checkering on the sample Fore-end was not as good quality as on the press formed Stock. It was agreed to hold on the interim process and continue with the development as initially proposed.

SHOTGUNSMODEL 1100, 20 GAUGE LIGHTWEIGHT SHOTGUN

R & D reported that one Model 1100, 20 gauge lightweight shotgun with Receiver made of 1140 modified steel and one standard lightweight gun both had Receiver cracking at approximately 20,000 rounds. The second gun with 1140 modified steel Receiver is at 28,000 rounds and has not failed.

Components for testing the long Barrel Extension will be ready for testing starting February 28. It was indicated that cracking may be associated with tool marks on the ejection port. Polishing of the ejection port was recommended.

During some 68,000 rounds of testing of these guns, the total malfunction rate of .08% was experienced.

Economics of replacing Model 1100 and 870, 20 gauge regular with 20 gauge lightweight shotguns was presented.- Exhibit 1. The