

"Next year we plan to consider three new calibers, the 25-06, 7mm-08, and 223.

"Samples of the carbine are now being field tested by Marketing. Status will be reviewed when the field test reports are compiled.

"The XSG project has its roots in 1975 when it started out as a New Generation shotgun with minor revisions to the 1100. It evolved through a special 3" magnum in 1976, a series of 1100A versions starting in 1977, and became the XSG Project in 1978. Then, in 1979, the family of guns concept that was introduced to the Remington gun line in the early '50's was rediscovered. While the M370 and the M58 were truly a family in design, the 870 and the 1100 are quite another story. The major components of these two models have little in common. By redesigning the barrel, ribs, receivers, and stocks we found we could double our volume and realize a cost reduction of approximately \$640,000/year (Chart XLII). In addition, assuming the increased capacity needed by the mid-1980's and that the proposed non-synchronous transfer system for receiver production would be implemented, an additional processing cost reduction of \$310,000 became apparent. The total annual savings potential became \$950,000/year. In addition, the changes required to the 870 could be made with very little difference in appearance and no compromise to function. Accordingly, the XPG was added to the project. Chart XLIII shows some of the potential advantages to be gained.

"Throughout the life of this project, over a dozen engineering prototypes have been tested in various combinations of features. The schedule now hinges on one critical design issue. Can the Action Spring be developed so that it can be mounted around the magazine tube?

"Two of the main objectives of this project are hanging on the solution to this problem: cost and overall gun weight.

"The Action Spring, mounted forward in our last engineering prototypes, proved to be adequate for upland game hunters and for target shooters. It was not adequate for the magnum shotgun with its high bolt velocities that cause a constant decrease in spring force over several thousand rounds, eventually causing failure of the gun to feed properly and failure to lock up.

"Two solutions to the problem are being developed:

1. Two springs have been designed and will be in test later this month. One is made from square wire. We should know by September if they solve the problem.