

BUSINESS MEETINGPRODUCTION - Contd.Cost - Contd.

A number of additional programs are planned over the next five years. The most significant of these involve process automation to reduce costs and/or improve product quality:

- o A Transfer Machine to produce Model 700 Stocks will consolidate several operations on one machine. This will reduce labor, improve product quality, minimize in-process handling, and reduce floor space requirements.
- o A machine to automatically sand Model 7400 and Model Four Fore-ends will eliminate eight manual sanding operations. This will reduce labor and provide a more consistent and uniform product.
- o A machine to automatically size Butt Plates on press formed Stocks, utilizing a sensory feedback system, is being investigated. Du Pont's EDL has expressed an interest in developing the control system. This investigation is in response to Marketing's request to eliminate plastic margin on press formed Stocks.
- o A process to automatically fill wood components is under investigation. This will reduce labor costs as well as improving wood finish quality.
- o Expanded use of programmable manipulators is planned now that the first such machine is in operation. This will include the use of simple "Pick-and-Place" devices to tend machine groups as well as more sophisticated systems. One application under immediate consideration is loading and unloading master and profile Stock presses.
- o A new drying oven with temperature and humidity controls is planned for use with the electrostatic spray line. This will provide much needed controls for the finish curing process. It will improve product quality as well as reduce finish repair costs.

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