

April 16, 1963

John Evans, D.D.S.
175 South El Molino Avenue
Pasadena, California

Dear Dr. Evans:

I have before me your letter concerning the Model XP-100 Pistol in which I believe you commented that a picture was all you had seen. Perhaps you would have a better opinion of us as designers and of the pistol if you had the opportunity to handle one of these pistols and to shoot it. Actually, I can appreciate your comments and complaint for left handed shooters. But in this particular design, of which you are apparently not aware, we have gone to great lengths to accommodate the left handed as well as right handed shooter.

For example, the grip has been designed so that it fits the left hand as well as the right hand, as the forefinger groove and the thumb groove which are on opposite sides of each other accommodate the forefinger and thumb of either hand. Most good pistol shooters actually take a new grip on a pistol between each shot, unless of course they are shooting timed or rapid fire, for which this gun is not designed. In this case it is most desirable that the hand not holding the gun during shooting be used to grasp the gun around the rear sight and the trigger guard. This permits the shooting hand to function the bolt in the extraction and feeding of the cartridge. A safety feature is also involved in the manipulation of the gun in this manner because it prevents the trigger finger of the shooting hand from resting on the trigger during the time the bolt is manipulated.

Actually some shooters feel that the bolt handle being on the right side is ideally suited for the left handed pistol shooter. And in some instances we have been criticized for having the bolt on the right hand side because it appears that we might have been favoring the left handed shooter. However, in grasping the pistol as mentioned previously, with the non-shooting hand the bolt handle can be maneuvered with either hand.

I feel that if you had adequate opportunity to handle the new Model XP-100 and perhaps even better to shoot it, you would change your mind as to the

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design aspects of this pistol, and feel that we have indeed considered the left handed shooter in the development and design of this new model.

I would appreciate further comments from you on the new pistol once you have had the opportunity to handle and shoot it.

Very truly yours,



W. E. Leek

Manager - Firearms Design & Development
Ilion Research Division

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