

November 7, 1967

Mr. Larry Miller  
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Miami, Florida 33054

Dear Larry:

Thank you for your interesting and detailed letter, which reached the individual who had a little bit to do with development of the XP-100. Like you, I have been an ardent pistol shooter for many years and thought it would be fun to have a pistol of super accuracy and power that could be used for vermint shooting. The XP-100 and its counterpart the 221 cartridge was the result.

I wouldn't say that Mr. Page's comment was quite true and where he got his information I do not know, but I will admit however that the sale of the XP-100 is not as high as one would expect most rifles and pistols to be. On the other hand, when we introduced this model we did not design it for anything but vermint and target shooting, and this target shooting generally would be from the bench. Therefore, it was recognized that sales would be rather limited. It did strike the fancy of a great number of shooting enthusiasts, however, and made the cover of five magazines around the world.

Also, its accuracy leaves little to be desired. Les Bowman, who fired 5,000 hand loads, is a world reknowned writer and big game outfitter from Cody, Wyoming, as you may or may not know. He finally achieved a group from the bench of 5 shots at 100 yards in .430" extreme spread, which is superb even for a fine rifle. I have obtained some offhand groups at 50 yards that could be covered with a 50¢ piece. Occasionally, however, I lose control and even though four are within that size circle, pull the fifth one.

Practically every big game animal, legally or otherwise, in the United States and Canada and Alaska have been killed by the XP-100. One individual even uses the XP to knock off Brahma bulls now and again on his ranch, when they get out of control and need to be put away. He carries it in a special saddle hung on the side of a jeep.

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Now to answer some of your questions in their order.

1. A carbine designed for the 221 cartridge has been made but the velocities of the small cartridge would not come up to the velocities obtained by shooting a 222, 222 Magnum or 223 in the same barrel length. The original XP-100 was made up on the 222 and as a result there was a tremendous loss in velocity and a huge blast at the muzzle because the cartridge and load was designed to work more efficiently in a long barrel. This necessitated redesign with result that the 221, being of smaller capacity with a little faster burning powder, was more efficient in the short barrel than the 222. Some individuals who have not given careful thought in this area, rechambered their 221 Fireball for the 222 and have lost velocity and ruined their gun. The reverse of course is true as previously mentioned, that the 221 being designed to perform more efficiently in a short barrel will not do as well in a long barrel; hence, the 222 would be more efficient.
2. Repeating mechanisms certainly have been considered. The gun was not designed in the first place for rapid firing. Accuracy, strength and high velocity were of course the main objectives. One individual not associated with Remington designed a rotary box magazine to fit on top of the receiver surrounding the telescope. The mechanism fed very well and I believe it was 6 shots. However, I don't believe it would be acceptable as the top heavy portion was objectionable. If you would observe the design of the pistol carefully it would be noted that it would be relatively impossible to feed from under the gun in the conventional manner as the grip is in the way. The grip not being large enough to accommodate a magazine to hold the 221 shell properly, would not allow such a feeding system. The other alternative would be to feed from the side, either right or left. Actually the gun is plenty strong enough even with one set of lugs, and feeding could be accomplished in this manner. It was felt, however, that such a feeding system would not enhance the sales of the pistol, but it can be hoped that suggestions from customers such as yourself may be influential.
3. Chambering this pistol for the 22/250 would even be worse than chambering it for the 222. The 22/250 has difficulty in burning rather efficiently even in a 26" barrel. Therefore, there would be a huge muzzle blast, and a very uncomfortable one indeed with the resulting low velocities. Recoil would be a little bit difficult for

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3. the ordinary individual to handle also, as the design of the grip is such that the upward recoil moment is less than those experienced in most handguns. I doubt very much that the velocity of the 22/250 would reach 2650 ft./sec. in the 10" barrel.
4. Publicity has been rather restricted on this item, being of low volume and advertising so expensive it is a little difficult to justify the high expenditures. Another item to consider is the fact that sales personnel must be specialists in what they are selling. Remington has not been in the pistol business for many years and we have very few people in our company and in the sales department who are professional handgun shooters. Most of them are expert with shotgun and quite proficient with rifle. I know of only two at the most who are proficient with the handgun. You can readily see that it is difficult for a salesman to push a product that he cannot handle.
5. Remington does care, and that is why I don't think you will find the item will be dropped, at least in the near future. If it does sell, has consistent sales, and we must remember that there are only a certain few people in the gun shooting fraternity who are interested in this type of shooting.
6. There has been some experimental work, naturally, with other calibers for this handgun. A 6mm was tried and has been used by some of the gunsmiths around the country, using the lightweight 6mm on a 222 cartridge. The accuracy is superb and the range is very great, recoil is still within reasonable limits. It is questionable, however, whether the volume for this combination would justify tooling and advertising in this caliber. I believe there has also been some experimental work, not by Remington but by others, in rebarreling it for a 177 caliber based on a 221 cartridge. This seems like an interesting combination, but would also meet the same objections as far as dollars and cents are concerned.

No, I don't think you have degraded the average gun minded students of America. It's fellows like yourself who keep the gun business moving ahead with bigger, better and greater things. Without the gun enthusiasts we might as well fold up shop and go into some other business.

I wish you the best of luck in your endeavors at school, and hope you find your retirement, which is certainly many years away, as a gunsmith is a profitable and enjoyable one. Best regards and thanks again for your fine letter.

Sincerely yours,

W. E. Leek,  
Manager - Firearms Research & Design  
Illion Research Division

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