

cc: G.M. Calhoun

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Ilion, New York
February 12, 1971

To: S.M. Alvis
From: W.E. Leek
Subject: 17 Caliber Remington

This letter is in response to your request for my opinion on the problems and policies associated with this caliber.

My understanding of the problem is: How to adjust our firearms to accommodate the 17 Caliber without inviting the chances of legal reprisals. We can start by reviewing good policies.

First, we must not produce a gun/ammunition combination that in any way abnormally distorts the ammunition.

Second, we must remain firm in our principles of sound gun design, especially when the safety of the product and its effect on the customer is concerned.

Third, we must guard against inconsistency in basic gun design, especially within an individual model.

Fourth, we must do a better job in the future in thoroughly testing our proposed designs prior to release to Production.

Fifth, we must never ask Production to produce anything not supported by a model drawing.

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My immediate concern involves the chamfering of the firing pin hole in the M/700 Rifle to accommodate a weak, over powered cartridge. One does not have to be knowledgeable in this area to realize this is poor practice and could lead to a dangerous, unsafe condition. To my knowledge, all our designs in the past, both military and commercial, have adhered to the principle of no radius or chamfer in the firing pin hole for obvious reasons.

This caliber will be used by hand-loaders. These people rely upon the appearance of the primer as an indication of pressure. Any cratering or deformation of the primer will cause concern by the hand-loader and questions will arise pertaining to safety. In case of an accident when firing one of these combinations, a chamfered firing pin hole could very easily be used to lead to a conviction in favor of the plaintiff.

In view of this situation, my recommendation is as follows:

- (1) Do not ship any rifles containing a chamfered firing pin hole.
- (2) Reduce the size of the firing pin and firing pin hole so that adequate support be given the primer.

WELeek:sp