

Division of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Little Rock, Arkansas,  
August 4, 1934.

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Director,  
Division of Investigation,  
U. S. Department of Justice,  
1001 Vermont Avenue, N. W.,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Recently while in Kansas City, Missouri, appearing as a witness in the trial of a case, I took the opportunity to confer with agents of the Kansas City Division Office and employees of the Books Kansas City Trunk Company with regard to various carrying cases being designed and manufactured by that company for firearms equipment.

It appears that the carrying case for the Springfield 30.06 Sporter Rifle has been approved by the Division and specifications for same have been forwarded to Washington. I formerly made some suggestions regarding that case and was entirely familiar with its construction. There was one additional improvement, however, which I suggested and which the Kansas City Trunk Company advised they would make and furnish the Kansas City Office to be transmitted to the Division for its consideration.

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Rather than using large steel clips to hold .30 calibre army cartridges, themselves held in a clip, I suggested the use of leather or imitation leather pockets to be sewed to the top of the carrying case. This would afford a much more substantial construction and allow for the carrying of seventy-five cartridges rather than fifty as in the original design. The cartridges should be carried either in the cartridge clips supplied by the army or in loose form it being noted that when cartridges are purchased locally and not through the army, that they are not supplied with the cartridge clips. In addition, it has been my experience in the army that these cartridge clips bend easily and do not hold the cartridges in a rigid position which would be necessary in the event that the large steel spring clips are used in the case. In addition, it may be noted that the leather pockets afford a much more attractive appearance to the case in addition to the added utility.

With reference to the carrying case for the Remington Express Rifle (Carbine) it was suggested that this case could be made much smaller than the design approved by the Division. The rifle could be laid in a position whereby the barrel is at an angle to the sides of the case in the same manner as the Springfield 30.06 Sporter Rifle is laid in the case approved by the Division. This would afford a much more compact case and do away with much waste space. It will be noted that although the Reming

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ton Express Rifle case approved by the Division, is shorter than the Springfield Sporter Rifle case, that it is larger in its other dimensions which should be changed. In addition, I have suggested that the leather pockets for the holding of the cartridges rather than the steel spring clips also be used in the manufacture of this case.

I also conferred with the employees of the Kansas City Trunk Company regarding a carrying case for gas equipment. A sample case was already under construction but it was found that the gas mask had not been included. Appropriate changes were suggested to include the gas mask and the construction of the sample case was begun when I was in Kansas City. This case will include about one dozen gas shells of different sizes. Projectiles or flares may be placed in the case according to their need. The case also includes a gas gun on the same side of the case. On the other side of the case, is the gas mask, five large grenades and five small grenades. This case should be about the size of an ordinary suit case and should be attractive in design. It is my understanding that when the sample case has been completed, that it will be forwarded to the Division at Washington to be approved.

While in Kansas City, Missouri, I was advised that the Division had issued instructions to the effect that in the future, bids would be received through the Division at Washington, D. C., rather than through the Kansas City Office. In connection, therewith, due to my experience at Kansas City along those lines, I have a few suggestions to make. In Kansas City, it was found that some of the manufacturers attempted to substitute coverings and linings of an inferior quality. Lighter coverings may be applied by machine, whereby the heavy coverings used on the cases ordered by the Division to date, are of such heavy material that it is necessary to apply them by hand. Lighter coverings would not afford the durability of the cases which have been furnished the Division. I have also noted in Kansas City that the Kansas City Trunk Company has taken a great deal of pride and care in the manufacture of the cases furnished the Division. The officials of that Company have watched the progress of the manufacture of the cases very carefully and have given the cases their personal attention. However, some of the manufacturers might not exercise this same care and in the event some other company at some other point might be the successful bidder, it is suggested that the Division Office at that point watch the progress of the manufacture of the cases carefully.

Very truly yours,

  
E. E. CONROY,

Special Agent in Charge.

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