

Effect on Toronto

Metro Leaders Fear Hardship in Layoff

Metropolitan Toronto leaders last night condemned the Federal Government for causing the layoff of 13,800 aircraft workers at A. V. Roe Canada Ltd.

"The closing down of the aircraft industry is much to be deplored and will result in many hardships for individual families," said Mayor Phillips.

The mayor said these workers "have been cast out on the street." He hoped other industries could offer jobs.

Controller Donald Summer-ville said the Federal Govern-ment had made a disastrous decision. He said there was no reason why the government could not have arranged a gradual transition from aircraft to missile production.

"This is a vivid example of Metro taxpayers being called upon to bear the brunt of un-employment caused by another level of government," said Con-troller William Allen.

The controller suggested that the Metro municipalities would be well within their rights to demand that the Federal Govern-ment assume welfare costs that will result from the layoffs.

Controller Jean Newman said municipal winter works pro-gram could not begin to help the aircraft workers. "The area winter works program is a drop in the bucket compared to the need now facing us," said Mrs. Newman.

North York will be hard hit by the layoffs said Reeve

Norman Goodhead. "A very hard-hearted action on the part of the Government," he said. The reeve said the Government should have studied the unem-ployment consequences before making its decision.

Metro Chairman Gardiner said the loss of \$1,000,000-a-week aircraft payroll will have an adverse effect on the econ-omy of area municipalities.

"Both the Federal Govern-ment and the aircraft company obviously came to a very reluc-tant conclusion," said Mr. Gardiner.

Scarboro's Reeve Albert Campbell described the layoffs as a critical blow. "How are these men going to meet the food and fuel bills for their families?" he asked.

Mr. Campbell said he had expected gradual layoffs, but not a wholesale dismissal. He said the Government should have waited until summer when more jobs in other indus-tries would be available.

York Township's Reeve Chris Tonks said: "It would have been better to keep these men on the production line instead of dumping them on the relief line."

East York's Reeve Jack Allen contended the Government had not made an intelligent decision. "In fact it was a stupid deci-sion," he said.

He said aircraft workers should have been given time to prepare for other work.