

## Called Tragic Sellout

# Unions Say 47,000 Jobs Involved

Union leaders yesterday described Prime Minister Diefenbaker's Arrow cancellation announcement as a tragic sellout of the Canadian aircraft industry.

The end project will affect 47,000 workers in 50 communities from Newfoundland to Winnipeg, but with the greatest concentration in Ontario, according to union statistics.

Approximately 13,800 members of four lodges of the International Association of Machinists at Avro and Orenda plants in Malton are jobless. Of the 13,800, approximately 5,000 are office and technical employees and the remainder plant workers.

Peter Podger, a senior IAM business representative at Avro and Orenda lodges, said ending of the program without alternative employment was a violation by the Prime Minister of the Canada-first campaign program.

Mr. Podger said the union last week wrote the Government requesting a meeting of government, union and company officials to discuss possible steps to assist rehabilitation and relocation of employees.

"Instead, we received this stunning blow without any advance notice," he said.

Plight of thousands of skilled workers brought from Great Britain was raised by Douglas

Hamilton, Ontario Federation of Labor secretary-treasurer.

"In a period of rapid technological changes we cannot afford to lose these thousands of skilled employees," Mr. Hamilton said. He suggested that if Canada is going to embark on a missile defense program the weapons should be made in this country.

"Where do they go now, how do they salvage their assets?" he asked.

Dennis McDermott, UAW international representative and member of the joint UAW-IAM aircraft committee, said the Ottawa announcement represented a significant victory for the U.S. aircraft lobby. The government decision was morally and economically wrong and politically stupid, he said.

"We are concerned at the implications this has for the entire Canadian aircraft industry," he said. "It means that we will now lose the cream of our skilled aircraft technicians to the United States."

"You just don't open and shut the industry like a warehouse," he said.

"History will prove this to be one of the most colossal blunders made by a prime minister in Canada."

## Jodoin Blasts Step

Ottawa, Feb. 20 (CP) — The Federal Government's decision to cancel production of the Avro Arrow was described today by Claude Jodoin, president of the Canadian Labor Congress,

as a retrograde action in Canadian industrial development.

"At one stroke, the Canadian aircraft industry has virtually been eliminated and the workers have been told that there is no alternative employment for them," he said.

"Skills developed by the Malton aircraft workers will, at best, be lost to Canada," he said. "At worst, Canada's record unemployment total will be swelled by thousands more workers."

"Canada has finally managed to build up a group of skilled workers in an industry which can mean so much to the nation's development in the future. She cannot allow the services of this group to be lost."

"The dislocation which will accrue from this decision is something that should have been a matter for discussion among representatives of the Government, labor and management. This was not done."

"Canada still needs defense weapons. Her needs of commercial aircraft now and in the future are vast. These needs must be supplied by Canadian workers in Canada."

"Canada has the need, and the facilities to meet that need. She must employ those resources."

"What is true of the Canadian aircraft industry is equally true of our shipbuilding industry. Canada will never truly be independent until basic products such as ships and aircraft are produced for her in this country."