

The Decision To Close Avro

Others Jobless

John Diefenbaker exhibited a refreshing amount of courage that ought to win the admiration of all unbiased people.

Uppermost of course is the welfare of taxpayers. However, the arguments advanced by union pressure groups and ambitious politicians raise interesting points. There are upwards of 6,000,000 in our working force; Avro is concerned with a mere 14,000.

We have had very large numbers of others unemployed for some time. One hears little about them.

I know of one or two other large industries — specialists producing essentials. Several hundred in one are laid off. Are they not entitled, too, to a slice of the taxpayers' dollars to keep them working? One Avro man bemoans being rehired at \$80—formerly he got \$90. It's about time for this industry to quit leaning on Government—the public. We are quite a piece down the road to socialism but have done pretty well on private enterprise. Let Avro take its place in the ranks and give the public a break. True, money pumped in by Government circulates and benefits thousands. Avro workers seem to have got a lion's share.

A wise Prime Minister thought it time to call it quits. I fully agree. Pumping the public purse to keep people employed at obsolete tasks leads us nowhere. This country is living beyond its means, it's time to call a halt.

ERNEST SMITH

Not Aiding Canada

One fact seems to emerge since A. V. Roe closed last week — that neither Britain nor U.S. are going to close factories in their lands in order to keep factories in Canada in business. British and U.S. elected representatives will not authorize purchase of Canadian products if that means unemployment for their people.

It seems time for our MPs to consider a policy that will

not take jobs from their constituents. H. F. MacKAY

Government Right

I find the reaction of Avro employees to the situation unbelievable and frightening. That so large a group should believe Ottawa can be pressured into doing something it believes against the best interests of the country seems wrong. I did not lose my job, but it is my taxes that have been paying those workers. I believe the Government is right and has shown great courage in dealing with a touchy situation that was not of their making.

After Avro had been warned that Arrow might be discontinued how did they rationalize expanding its operations? Obviously their decision to close the plant was not a sudden one. No company that size could do so without consulting a great many directors and advisers. The company was much at fault.

Why should they any more than any other business be guaranteed work from the Government?

I congratulate the Government and hope it continues to keep our welfare in such hands. M.B.

U.S. Absorb Canada?

There is a case to be made out for having Canada increasingly dependent on U.S. and eventually absorbed by it.

If Diefenbaker had gone before the public advocating some such policy he would not have been elected but the program would have commanded respect even though it were turned down flat.

So we close up making what is said to be an obsolete plane, though some British authorities do not agree manned bombers are obsolete; and instead we spend the money on Bomarcas, product of a U.S. company which it was reported would have had to close if it had not turned to making these missiles. So we close our plant making an obsolete plane to keep open a U.S. plant making obsolete missiles? This is the quickest way of

depreciating our dollar. U.S. exasperation at the premium on our dollar is likely to end as soon as we start spending defense money in U.S. instead of in Canada.

GILBERT TEMPLETON

PM Knew Facts

Why do Avro employees condemn the Government that has been paying them top wages for years? Mr. Diefenbaker knew what he was doing, no doubt having consulted Canadian and U.S. defense experts.

Let's not forget the thousands of others who have lost their jobs. Remember the Springhill miners. They too are worthy of consideration and priority. H. BURKE

Probably Wise

With the wisdom of the decision to scrap Arrow-Orenda production not many will quarrel. The Government had greater knowledge, based on facts. It was a hard action to take. This adds to the probability of it being wise.

This problem, though affecting one section, cannot be isolated. It must be looked at in relation to the entire picture.

It is now known that for the past few years this army of workers, this vast establishment, with its intricate and valuable machinery, was producing what now must be scrapped.

It is as though men were put to work taking stones and piling them up on the other side and then piling them back. That would be "work;" it would not be employment. Technically the men became unemployed the moment their product ceased to have value. The workers ceased to draw wages for doing work that was not of value. Perhaps closer scrutiny of other so-called defense expenditures would reveal that some has been for obsolescent if not obsolete armament, etc., and like that on Arrow has gone down the drain.

The Avro situation is not as great as it seems to those affected. They are the immediate sufferers; the 15,000 added to the unemployed only

mean an increase of one-quarter of one per cent. Of course this does not mitigate the hardship of those whose income abruptly stopped.

An outstanding feature is the disparity between Canadian exports and imports. Here are the figures for 1955, with 000 omitted:

Raw material	Imports	Exports
Partly manufactured	\$791,724	\$1,062,275
Fully manufactured	205,694	1,275,371
	3,095,778	1,543,676
Total	4,093,766	3,881,272

So value of exports of raw and partially manufactured goods was \$1,342,418,000 more than that of similar imports. Our exports of fully manufactured goods were \$1,552,102,000 less than our imports of such goods. The significance is fundamentally important.

There must be an increase in the processing of our exports—giving employment and balancing international trade. We have raw materials, know-how and skills equal to any.

Premier Frost is setting up a committee to study and report on this and no doubt will put the province's resources back of any action. But we must not ignore the necessity for more carefully planned economy; private industry has failed.

Let us have a thorough study of our whole cockeyed economic system.

BEN H. SPENCE

No Plan Ready

I am quite young, yet able to see through most of the propaganda. Mr. Diefenbaker and Mr. Gordon, the Avro president, both knew Arrow was to die. Why did not Mr. Gordon months ago start drawing up plans for different projects at Malton? B. L.

Not Even T4 Slips

I have deep sympathy for the Avro people. We have four children. My husband was laid off early in December, for two weeks, they said. We hear they went bankrupt, and left without giving us our T4 slips

for income tax. We have \$190 paid and due us. They owe us over \$90 holiday pay stamps. We doubt they paid our hospital premiums and I am soon to have a baby. It cost us \$75 to join a union but they have done nothing; local welfare also won't help. Avro people think they have been treated shabbily? MRS. E. ROCHE

Aid Others, Not Us

If we are too poor to build planes for our defense isn't it time we stopped giving money and other help to foreign lands and build up our defenses? Defense too should begin at home.

We have troops in Germany and Egypt, Air Force in France. What is that costing us? It doesn't make sense.

The Liberal cabinet forced us into a situation beyond our means.

MRS. NORMA HIGGINS

Ed. note: Letters on Avro matters have been received also from Mrs. A. Cronin, T. L. Proctor, F. J. Vacher, Doug Hedger.

Daily Telegram
March 3, 1959

2864