

# Ask Government Pay \$2,000,000 in 'Wages' To Avro Unemployed

Special to The Star

Ottawa, Feb. 25—Nearly all discharged Avro - Orenda workers will get termination pay which might equal six and a half weeks' wages, if A. V. Roe can persuade the department of defence production to assume an extra \$2,000,000 bill needed to fulfill what the company feels is a "moral" obligation. The workers are already assured of some \$3,000,000-plus in termination pay.

This is to give the 9,500 hourly rated employees the same possible 26 weeks of supplementary benefits—at \$10 a week—which is enjoyed by weekly employees. The "Sup" works out to the equivalent of about three weeks' pay, at Avro's average wage rates.

At present, most hourly employees are technically qualified for two weeks' pay in lieu of notice and one and a half to two weeks' vacation pay, because of government and union contracts. About two-thirds of the workers are hourly-rated.

The other third, the weekly paid workers, are almost all now technically assured of six and a half to seven weeks' pay—if they collect all their supplementary unemployment benefits.

While the hourly employees do not enjoy the supplementary unemployment benefit plan, the company is telling the government this week it feels there is a "moral" obligation on the government to meet this need in its termination of contract payments, so all Avro-Orenda employees will be treated the same.

It was felt in some company circles, apparently, that Mr. Diefenbaker's reference in the Commons Monday to the workers' three weeks' severance pay showed a misunderstanding of the complexity of the situation.