

Where Canada Missed the Boat

Much has been said and much more will be said on the subject of the Avro Arrow. Right or wrong, the decision to cease development of this project has been made and now the Canadian taxpayer must accept the fact that he will be materially affecting the well-being of Boeing employees in Seattle, Washington, rather than Avro employees in Toronto, Ontario.

It is superfluous at this stage to note that both the Arrow and the Bomarc are equally ineffective in this age of intercontinental ballistic missiles. The problem facing Canada, it seems to this writer, is not simply a question of whether or not to build the Arrow. The problem goes deeper and has much greater implications.

Rather than go our own way as an independent and sovereign nation, we will tend more and more to become submerged economically, militarily and politically by the United

States. Most Canadians are aware of this state of affairs and yet the citizens and Governments, past and present, have never had the courage and fortitude to assert their independence and face hardship sufficiently in order to become a truly great nation.

Back in the late 1800's and around the turn of this century, the people of the U.S. were not looking for the "easy dollar" and that nebulous thing called "security". The U.S. Government maintained a vast immigration program which brought into the country millions of Europeans with all their diversified skills. Canada missed the boat in this respect of course. While the U.S. became populated and that country's huge natural resources were developed, Canada remained relatively dormant.

The results today are here for all to see. American capital controls, to a very large extent, all the basic natural resources in Canada as well as the majority of our secondary manufacturing industries. Many Canadians blame Americans for this state of affairs. I would suggest that the fault is not wholly that of the Americans. They are good businessmen who know a good investment when they see it.

On the other hand, very few Canadians would be willing to lower their standard of living to support a massive immigration program. Many Canadians refuse to use capital for speculative purposes or invest in their own country. Too many of us expect to have the same luxury automobiles, homes, electrical appliances and travelling holidays as do citizens of the United States. So few Canadians realize that the only reason we have all of these things is because of a sustained high rate of United States investment in Canada.

This is now all "water over the dam". No Government can turn back the clock, and any radical measures such as nationalization of foreign industries have never had any significant acceptance in this country. Ultimately, therefore, Canada will continue to be economically dependent to an ever increasing extent on the U.S.A., distasteful as they may be to some. Good or bad, this is the situation which Canadians have largely created themselves, and must now accept.

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