

# Live Letters: Barbs And Bouquets For Arrow Decision

## Courageous, Masterly

If John Diefenbaker gains no further headlines, he surely rates a special mention in Canadian history for his courageous and masterly stroke of Feb. 20. His lopping of A. V. Roe was most commendable.

We do not hear any public clamor when unions have strikes costly to employees and management. Witness the recent strikes at Inco and, in Toronto, the Square D plant, each lasting months.

However, we must feel pity for the many inefficient and often overpaid workers of Avro.

What efficient management working with limited capital in a competitive market would continue to employ three when one would suffice—which is easy on a cost plus basis.

Perhaps the management will review this and price the planes on a realistic basis, now taxpayers' money is no longer available.

I am tired of hearing of all the golden opportunities their people passed up.

A REFORMED LIBERAL

## Right To Blame

Who has the right to blame the A. V. Roe Co. for letting their employees out on such short notice? All the experts have a lot to say. Most of the employees have a loyalty to the company which is stronger now than to the Government.

Would it have been easier for men and women to go to work with nothing to do and wait for the axe? I feel the company has done its best for employees. My husband will get two weeks' severance pay, two weeks' holiday pay and I believe \$15 a week until he finds a new position.

I have learned one thing — The Telegram does not stick to reporting the news factually, you slant it to whitewash your political affiliations. A nice paperboy will not be leaving your paper any more, a few

more of the editorials I have been reading since last September and I will be sick.

MRS. DOROTHY PEEL

## On Right Track?

Are the people who say Avro and their workers were foolish to work for the defense of Canada on the right track? Do they consider servicemen and others had better look after their own interests than serve the country?

As long as war continues, managements at Avro, Canadair, etc., will fight to get newer and better weapons made. We should honor the men and companies who take the risks of insecurity, instead of telling them how silly they are.

To any other country Canada is expendable. Remember Belgium, Poland and the natives of Okinawa, Guadacanal, etc.

I am not a defense worker, just a housewife continually irked by the type afraid to take any risk for anything or anybody. MRS. W. W.

## Had To Close

The cruel and callous way in which Diefenbaker made his announcement in Commons, before notifying Avro, shows what courtesy he lacks. The company had no alternative but to close as it could not carry that expenditure without Government support. The panic, frustration and confusion will never be forgotten.

For the future, are we to sit back and see Canada crumble for lack of experience and foresight in Ottawa? We are about to receive U.S. mutual aid in the form of part of the cost of the Bomarc missile, an inferior product, with a range they hope will be 400 miles. (In a recent test they managed to get 75 miles.) The Bomarc is not as far advanced as our Arrow.

Pearkes stated Arrow only has a range of 350 miles—how does he explain the trip from

Toronto to Ottawa and return without refuelling?

The Government in cancelling the contract for 37 aircraft on the first order will have spent nearly as much as if they had got 37 complete aircraft—which would have given at least six months' work. Avro could then have gradually depleted staff or perhaps changed to another industry.

Its skilled men are going to U.S. It seems senseless to carry on aeronautical engineering courses for benefit of U.S.

We should accept Bomarcs only on condition that U.S. accepts Arrow. They need it or they would not be developing their F-108.

MRS. I. S. HUNT

## Not So Desperate

How is it that Avro workers are in any more desperate position after three days than any other unemployed wage earners, most of whom get lower wages and shorter terms of employment?

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## Non-Tory Praise

Amid all the furor, this non-Tory must give a shout for our Diefenbaker. He has taken the only possible course an honest and fearless public servant could.

There are not too many who possess enough courage to face uninformed public clamor and criticism.

Avro reaction seems petulant and petty, a calculated slap at Government — after they and millions had been well aware Arrow is an extra-expensive luxury, probably useless, that Canada cannot possibly afford.

BERT RICHARDS

## U.S. Depends On Us

Your editorial No Issue of Sovereignty Here says Canadian security demands co-operation with U.S. I think it

should say U.S. security depends on Canadian co-operation and until we get a Government that thinks 100% Canadian this country will never grow as it should.

We scrap our planes and buy U.S. missiles which to many are useless. If U.S. wants the use of our land to defend theirs (to them we are expendable) and requires planes and missiles, let the manufacture be a joint affair. We are capable and I am sure cheaper.

ANGRY CANADIAN

Lindsay

## Ideas For Idle

The A. V. Roe layoff is of concern to many, especially ex-employees like me.

But with their huge plant and facilities, designers, tool engineers, processors and production staff surely they could design and produce prefabricated aluminum houses, similar but with modern improvements to those shipped from the Old Country.

Bedrooms could be added according to family needs, some with garages and some with car ports.

A. V. Roe, I know, has the boys who can produce cheap but very pleasing homes of many varied types, even the do-it-yourself type.

The boat business? Again the staff and equipment. This is just a couple of ideas. Come on AVRO, have a go. Don't be scared you can't sell 'em. They'll sell themselves.

C. T. BARTON

Daily Telegram.

have been only 14 resignations from his union and many applications for membership since the Premier's attack on it.

I hope everyone recognizes this attack on freedom and supports the loggers and their IWA.

S. S. HUGHES

Assistant Director

I was born and raised in Newfoundland and father was almost a stranger to me, he was so seldom home. Fresh fruit we hardly knew; relief during the hungry 30s was 4c a day. So most Newfies were happy when in 1948 we became the 10th province. It lowered living cost. Before the union flour was about \$15 a 100-pound bag; after, \$9.

In this strike loggers are trying for another step toward equality with the rest of Canada. They ask for a cut in work hours from 60 to 54 a week, and an increase in wages from \$1.05 to \$1.22, to take effect over the next two years. Who would call these demands unreasonable? The men's food is largely beans, and they are away from their families for many months at a time.

Newfoundland's Premier Smallwood has entered the dispute on the side of management and contrary to the unanimous decision of a conciliation board. This is outrageous. I am proud to be a Newfie but would not return to live there now I know the life that exists in other parts of Canada, much less tolerate Mr. Smallwood.

MARION JORDAN

Oakville.

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