

Fear Loss of Skills As Result of Layoff

Special to The Globe and Mail
Preston, Feb. 24—Thirty pre-

cision machine operators at Williams Machines Ltd. will be dismissed as a result of the cancellation of the Avro Arrow program, J. J. Havlick, the company's president, said today. This represents 50 per cent of the firm's skilled working staff.

The company's contract for Arrow parts represented 50 to 60 per cent of its production schedule.

"Men we are obliged to lay off have, in many instances, been trained over an eight-year period for specialized precision machining. If they are lost they cannot be replaced," said Mr. Havlick.

He said the company will continue production of custom-built machines. Its program was not geared entirely to the Arrow, but present work schedules will not provide continuous employment for the present staff.

No RCAF Changes

Winnipeg, Feb. 24 (CP) — A senior RCAF officer said the Government's decision to halt production of the Arrow interceptor will not change Air Force training or manning policies.

Air Commodore H. H. Rutledge, speaking at a press conference preceding a dinner celebrating the 50th anniversary of Canadian and Commonwealth flight, said: "I hope that we shall be able to find a suitable aircraft to keep us going for the next five or 10 years. There has been no change in government thinking regarding the

future role of the Air Force as far as I know."

He said present fighter interceptor aircraft are obsolete and finding a suitable replacement "is one of the most difficult problems facing planners today."

Beyond Belief: UAW

Windsor, Feb. 24 (CP) — George Burt, Canadian United Auto Workers director, today issued the following statement:

"Failure of the Canadian Government to come up with alternative employment for 14,000 Avro workers during the six months it took to decide against the Arrow is almost beyond belief.

"It is conceivable that any Canadian, charged with the knowledge Prime Minister Diefenbaker had from experts regarding this country's defense needs, would have come to the decision he did not the Arrow. But who but the most calloused free enterpriser would have come to that decision in a void as far as the job opportunities of the workers involved are concerned?

"There are those who say that our system will go under, not from H-bombs, but because we let our economy run a bad second to the Communists. Apparently Mr. Diefenbaker either never heard of this or doesn't believe it. If we are going from Arrows to missiles, why could there not have been some kind of orderly transition which would not have thrown thousands more workers into the ranks of the unemployed at a time when Canada's out-of-work lists are already scandalously high?"

Croll Terms Arrow Decision Harsh Brutality

Ottawa, Feb. 24 (CP)—Liberal Senator David Croll today accused the Government of "harsh brutality" in announcing the death of the Arrow jet interceptor without providing alternative work for thousands of men laid off.

"The Diefenbaker vision of a greater Canada has become a nightmare to thousands of Canadians," the former Ontario labor minister said in the Senate.

At one stroke the Government "swept away the livelihood of possibly 50,000 Canadians," destroyed the aircraft industry and touched off a mass exodus of skilled workmen to the United States, he said.

Senator Croll said the Government made no attempt to cushion the impact of the Arrow cancellation. It held no prior consultations with the company, made no plans to replace the cancelled contract and dismissed six alternative proposals put forward by the company.

The Government's present defense plans meant that U.S. planes would man Canada's defense lines, and that nuclear warheads for missiles would come from the United States and be guarded by U.S. forces.

"We can no longer kid ourselves that we are partners, junior grade, of the United States in the defense of North America. We are about to be integrated into the gigantic military complex of the United States.

"The reality is that we have been swallowed up by the giant to the south. Cancellation of the Arrow is a symbol of our reduced stature."

Senator Croll said there should be ample work for the A. V. Roe plants. The 12 RCAF squadrons in Europe needed new planes and the Government, instead of buying new planes from the United States, should arrange for U.S. planes to be built under license by A. V. Roe.

Senator Croll said the Government claims to have put 26,000 persons to work under its municipal winter works program. But that faded into insignificance beside the 50,000 persons affected by the Arrow decision.

It was all very well for the Government to speak of Canadian defense industries seeking U.S. military contracts, he said, but to succeed they had to "bypass the Buy America Act, out-lobby the U.S. aviation and electronic lobby, and overcome the politicians who have 5,000,000 or 6,000,000 unemployed in the United States.