

# The Scrapping of the Avro Arrow

The policy of Mr. Diefenbaker's Conservative Government to scrap the Avro Arrow is the most deplorable decision made by any Canadian Government since the end of the war. It will be interpreted by the workers as direct action by the Government against their interests, which no smooth talking will allay. It will add further fuel for Red propaganda.

Is it not time the Canadian public awakened and resisted insidious pressures exercised by vested interests in the U.S. to control their lives? Is it not time legal measures were introduced to prevent further infiltration of Canadian industrial and labor organizations by power-hungry U.S. officialdom, which already controls so many facets of Canadian industry? The pretense of friendship which is made by the capitalistic colossus across the border is a mockery when the wealth of Canada is milked to satisfy the greed of U.S. imperialism. No subtle propaganda can disguise their policies of engrandisement, and the only difference between their policies and that of the USSR is in method of achievement.

No one will deny that Canada had need for U.S. capital to develop Canadian resources, but when investment becomes power and enables Governmental decision to be influenced, then it is time for a resurgence of a nationalistic spirit and a cry of "Canada for Canadians!"

Having been a member and actively supported the Conservative Party, for 20 years, one can but express disgust and contempt for the weakness of Mr. Diefenbaker. No soothing, no excuses, no talking down the effect which the Avro Arrow decision will have on the Canadian economy, will provide jobs for the workers of Avro and the sub-contracting firms, or will fill their children's stomachs. The \$2,000,000 payroll of the Arrow workers and the dynamic factor which their spending has on the Canadian economy will have serious effects on the Gross National Product.

The experts could not agree on the Arrow, but is that decision of major importance? The economy of Canada is just as important, for without a stable economy there is no defense.  
Toronto. R. Rothwell.

Mr. Diefenbaker, in "scrapping" the CF-105 Arrow, has made what he undoubtedly considers a "courageous" and "realistic" decision. Others will feel, as I do, that this act represents a tragic, and to some extent irreparable, blow to our national aspirations and scientific sovereignty.

It would be futile, indeed ridiculous, to recapitulate the already published technical data establishing the irrefutable superiority of the CF-105 over any planned aircraft in the Western World for the next half dozen years. Similarly, no purpose could now be served for remembering the public statements of both American and Canadian senior commanders of NORAD to the same effect. The imprudent dreams of those Canadians who dared to expect that our Government would, unlike its predecessor, permit our country to be proud of its scientific and industrial achievements, have been decisively crushed.

Just as the Jetliner, winner of the U.S. Wright Medal for the most advanced aircraft

of 1949, was "scrapped" by Mr. Howe in spite of over 50 orders from U.S. and Canadian airlines, so the Arrow, a week or 10 days before its new Iroquois engines would have pushed it several hundred miles-per-hour over the existing world speed record, is doomed by Government intervention. Clearly, the political embarrassment of scuttling an indisputably world-beating Arrow was considered more important to Mr. Diefenbaker than the national pride which such a startling performance would inevitably have encouraged.

Besides, it would have been almost indecent to have stolen the speed record from our future protectors, the USAF; is it not far more sporting of us simply to back blushing away from fame, and to hand over the remains of our scientific and technical elite to the Boeing-Convair lobbies who are today arrogantly fishing in your "Help Wanted" columns?

But let us not dwell upon the past, however bitter and galling it may be. We should instead profit from Friday's shock by reviewing our entire economic and military situation with less delusion and infinitely more conscience.

There was one, and only one justification for stopping the Arrow short of its target. That justification would be in using the money saved for the material betterment of the hundreds of millions of our fellow human-beings who starve this very minute in Asia, Africa and South America. Mr. Diefenbaker has said in effect that we cannot be a serious military Power, and he has financially silenced those who were on the point of proving him wrong.

A mere 10 per cent of our annual military budget would be more than double the total United Nations resources this year for economic and technical assistance. Such a small reduction could hardly endanger the security of a country that is incapable of defending itself anyway, and would, if diverted to appropriate UN channels, act as the spectacular pump-primer that alone can shame the "Great" Powers into significant giving.

In other words, there is still a "world's record" that Canada is in a position to conquer. It is, moreover, a far more noble one, not to be found in the laboratory or factory, but in the heart. If our leaders possess a minimum of courage and imagination, they will surely realize that Canadians would welcome an appeal to their idealism even more than one to their pocketbooks.

Toronto.

Keith Spicer.

*globe & mail*