

Campaign Is Launched To Save Avro Arrow

Projects in some communities dependent on the Avro payroll are being held in abeyance pending Ottawa's decision on the Arrow problem, a Brampton councillor told a meeting of Avro union officers and municipal representatives yesterday.

The meeting launched a public opinion campaign in support of retaining the Arrow as Canada's manned interceptor.

Councillor W. H. Brydon of Brampton said Peel County has appointed a committee to appeal to Ottawa to continue the Arrow program.

Avro provides employment for 13,000 aircraft workers living in 18 communities within a 30-mile radius of Malton. Total weekly payroll is more than \$1,000,000.

Officers of the Toronto lodges of the International Association of Machinists told the meeting of more than 50 area representatives that if the Arrow is scrapped it will mean the end of Canada's aircraft industry.

Area representatives at yesterday's meeting expressed concern over the impact that cancellation of the Arrow would have on their communities, and indicated their support of a program to bring this to the attention of the public.

Union business representatives said the cost of continuing the project would be about \$90,000,000 a year based on two planes a month.

James McQueen, Machinists representative, said Avro has all its eggs in one basket, and that all but about 200 of its employees would be hit by cancellation of the Arrow.

The end of the Arrow would break up a team of more than 7,000 engineers and technicians, he said.

Prime Minister Diefenbaker has stated that the Government

will make its decision before March 31. Mr. McQueen said the union would not let up on its campaign until the decision is reached.

"We have been informed that the RCAF continues to insist there is a need for a manned interceptor and we feel the \$90,000,000 annual cost for the Arrow is only a drop in the bucket in the defense budget," he added.

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