

'Blackest News Since World War'

By FRANK DREA
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"The blackest news since World War II," said the Machinists' Union after hearing that its 13,800 Malton members had been fired.

"Irresponsible," snapped the Ontario Federation of Labor in a stinging attack on both Prime Minister John Diefenbaker and A. V. Roe (Canada) Ltd.

The Machinists, largest Toronto area union, is preparing to become an employment agency for its members.

"There isn't much else we can do," shrugged Peter Podger, senior business agent for the Malton district lodge, which includes four local unions and encompasses the entire Malton aircraft operation.

SQUEEZE PLAY

Douglas Hamilton, fiery secretary-treasurer of the OFL, accused A. V. Roe of a squeeze play against the Government.

He charged the Government was "irresponsible."

"The Prime Minister is the fellow who said no one would suffer from unemployment and now he admits he hasn't a clue about the situation," said Mr. Hamilton.

He rapped Avro president Crawford Gordon for making encouraging statements about Arrow "before the roof fell in."

The United Auto Workers, with more than 1,500 members tied to Arrow production, feared a fast-moving chain reaction.

"The reaction may be moving too fast as it did in 1929," warned Paul Siren, international representative.

"The biggest blunder ever made by a Prime Minister," snapped Dennis McDermott, another UAW international representative.

"Economically and politically stupid," said Larry Sheffe, president of the de Havilland local 112, hit by the Garrat Aircraft cutback yesterday.

BRUTAL WIPE-OUT

The UAW is afraid 500 of its members may be without jobs by Monday.

"This is a brutal wipe-out," said Mr. Sheffe. "Our members are caught in the squeeze."

Black Friday came as sud-

denly to the Machinists' Union, built from a handful 20 years ago to a militant 13,000 members, as to the workers.

The negotiating committee for office workers had just signed a new contract with Avro Aircraft and President John L. Plant was cautious about the future of the supersonic jet interceptor as he spoke with the union men in a meeting in his office yesterday morning.

"Mr. Plant started to say we had another five or six weeks of indecision about the Arrow when he received a message," said a union spokesman.

"Then he turned white and told us about the end of the Arrow."

(Ironically, the office workers' contract calls for \$10 weekly supplementary unemployment benefits. Production workers refused such a contract and were scheduled for a conciliation board hearing yesterday.)

TO 47,000?

The union complained that its weeks-old request for a meeting to discuss the possible dismissal of workers had been ignored.

It complained of the suddenness — the finality of the loudspeaker announcements that signaled the end of an era for Malton workers.

And it warned that the eventual total of jobless would climb as high as 47,000 because of the scrapping of the Arrow.

Mr. Podger said the union was notified that Lucas-Rotax, a major supplier, had laid off 2,000 employees yesterday.

Bill Kanis, president of the office workers' union — Local 1922 — at Malton, said the first announcements stopped all work at Orenda Engines and Avro Aircraft.

"Everyone just dropped tools, drawing boards and huddled in small groups," he said.

"It's unbelievable."

The official union announcement accused the Government of "selling out" aircraft workers and violating its platform of Canadianism.

The union also scrapped its plans for a new centre adjoining the plants and probably its 20th anniversary celebration.