

Labor Welcomes Verdict Keeping 1,000 at Avro

"Belated, but still acceptable."

That's the way David Archer, president of the Ontario Federation of Labor, described Finance Minister Fleming's announcement that action is being taken to retain a nucleus of some 1,000 scientific and engineering personnel at the Avro Aircraft and Orenda Engines Ltd. plants.

"Apparently the Government has bowed to the pressure of the indignation of the people," Mr. Archer said last night.

He said he was sorry that the Government did not take steps to keep together such personnel — as urged by organized labor, The Globe and Mail and other bodies—before it sent a telegram to A. V. Roe (Canada) Ltd. announcing cancellation of the Avro Arrow program.

It isn't right to send a telegram putting about 15,000 people out of work without first having arranged alternative employment, he added.

Union estimates of numbers rehired under the scheme differed sharply from those by Mr. Fleming.

An Avro official said: "We don't know how many will be re-hired."

Peter Podger, a business representative of the International Association of Machinists at Malton, said it appeared about 200 additional top design employees would be re-hired. He estimated Avro and Orenda have 2,000 persons at work.

"This will leave us with 11,600 headaches," he said.

"We're not very pleased with the results of the discussions," Mr. Podger added.

Doug McAllister said the union had heard so many conflicting statements it was difficult to assess in what classifications skilled men would be called back.

Mr. Podger said IAM district business agents will meet during the weekend to study Mr. Fleming's announcement.

"In essence, Mr. Fleming's announcement gives the company six months grace to provide the long range alternative the Government itself was unable to provide," the union official declared.

"The Government does not seem to realize that aircraft or missile design and development form a complex employment inter-relationship. The highly skilled teams built up at a tremendous cost to Canada include the employees necessary to bring mechanical reality to the designers' plans. When you take the team away from the quarter-back, there is great difficulty in rebuilding it to its previous proven performance," he said.

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