

## Readers' Views on Arrow and Defense

Amid the hysterical furor over cancellation of Arrow the writer, a non-Conservative, must express a cheer for Canada's Prime Minister. Mr. Diefenbaker took the only course that an honest and fearless public servant could. There are all too few politicians on this continent who have courage to face public criticism and mass clamor from those who judge only from outward appearances.

Avro's precipitate shutdown, a calculated slap in the face at government, would seem unwarranted and petty. They and millions of Canadians had been aware that Arrow might prove to be an ultra-expensive, soon obsolete luxury which Canada can't possibly afford. The time to stop it is now, not 1960.

Toronto.

A. E. Richards.

We pride ourselves that the Western World does not have periodic purges such as Cuba is experiencing now and which other countries have used frequently in the past. Perhaps if we had a rash of such purges in this hemisphere we might deter men of military and commercial power from deliberately misleading the public.

Here we have just, temporarily at least, stopped one of the most stupidly evolved plans to use the patriotic spirit of the people to maintain a great monster of Victorian military and commercial cliques. Now our present Minister of Defense states that he is going to spend hundreds of millions more on what he calls "defense of the country".

Are we now going to enter into a race of missiles, competing against Great Powers like the U.S.A.? Why don't we leave the defense of this continent to the U.S.A.? They are going to defend it anyway, either with us as partners or without us.

Toronto.

R. A. C. Kreuger.

Americans have for a long time been rather exasperated by the fact that the Canadian dollar was at a premium. Well, that exasperation isn't likely to last much longer. The United States Government has persuaded Mr. Diefenbaker that we should help keep a Seattle airplane factory operating, by buying Bomarc missiles, which, according to your correspondent, Philip Deane, are obsolete—at least as obsolete as the Arrow airplane, perhaps more so. There is a good deal of difference of opinion among authorities as to whether manned airplanes really are obsolete.

However, now that we have shut a Canadian plant in order to avoid making obsolete airplanes, we are now buying American missiles which apparently would not be manufactured if it were not for the necessity of keeping an airplane factory in Seattle from closing down. Now that we will be paying vast sums to the Americans for Bomarc missiles, etc., I don't doubt that this will bring the Canadian dollar down below the American, given a reasonable time.

In dealing with the Americans we need a tough bargainer, like Mr. Howe; not babes in the woods. The Americans are our very good friends, but they are a lot friendlier when we are their hewers of wood and drawers of water, than when we are tough competitors, with our dollar selling at a premium over theirs.

Toronto.

Gilbert Templeton.

The only sane suggestion respecting the Arrow is that the planes under construction be completed and used indefinitely. They constitute the difference between something and nothing. Obsolete? So were taxicabs and rowboats in the world wars, yet what a part they played. To terminate production when we could have eight or 18 or 30 (depending on whose figures are taken) for the money being paid in cancellation awards borders on insanity, frightening one about a Government that does not know the difference between something and nothing. Ending the project without having at least a dozen Arrows to add to older planes might be all right for a super-rich country. But we want at least something for every nickel we spend.

If the future calls for more missiles than anything else, that is no excuse for doing away with an excellent manned vehicle before its missile replacement is even started. One could understand the Government not pro-

ducing Arrows in dozens, but at least we should have some produced and used, now that matters have gone this far.

Co-operation to this end would prompt the average Canadian to forget the lack of common sense displayed by the Government and the gusto with which the management of Avro put its letter-of-the-contract rights before the common good. Besides, man is very fallible. The planes salvaged from this scheme might prove valuable, in spite of what some groups of experts think.

The scrap-it-at-any-point mentality is not for us. If, in the future, we have to cancel a national project, let it be at some definite point of conclusion, after some product has been produced. In other words, let it be done in every way differently from this.

Toronto.

T. A. Adred.

The Government's decision to cancel the Arrow project and depend mainly on the Bomarc missile for air defense is supposedly based on the presumption that the latter will provide better defense against attacking bomber aircraft. Recent newspaper reports, however, seem to indicate that the Bomarc has neither the speed nor the altitude capabilities of the latest Russian bomber aircraft (The Globe and Mail, February 23). Are we to believe that Canada's military leaders are prescribing the Bomarc missile simply because it will lessen the burden on the taxpayer?

In the event of an all-out nuclear attack with ICBM's the Arrow would certainly not protect us; but neither would the Bomarc. As yet there is no effective defense system against this type of attack and, even if there ever is, it is more than doubtful whether Canada would be able to afford to produce it or to buy it. The argument to this probably is that the United States would be capable of producing such a weapon and that she would use it for the joint defense of the two countries under the NORAD agreement. Surely no thinking Canadian really believes that Canada is any better than a second partner in NORAD and will receive any better than second-rate defense in the event of war.

There seem to me to be good reasons why the Government should change its policy and revert to producing the Arrow: 1. The Arrow will provide a means for Canadians to defend their country under limited attack using conventional weapons; 2. The Arrow program will keep Canadian workers employed. Unemployment is surely one of the most potent enemies of freedom and it costs the Communists nothing. It is still doubtful whether the Government is going to be able to persuade the U.S. to let us manufacture some of the missiles that are supposedly for our joint defense; 3. It would bolster our sense of pride and achievement.

Let us face the facts. We are a small nation and capable of defending ourselves only under limited attack. Let us do what we can afford to do by ourselves.

Toronto.

Peter L. Riches.

### There Is No Defense Policy

Nobody can claim that the Arrow decision came without warning. Last September, the Government gave a clear indication that development of the interceptor would likely be discontinued this year.

The Government may be vulnerable to a charge that in the interval it has apparently done nothing to provide alternative jobs for Arrow employees or to keep the Arrow experts together and in Canada for use on the next phase of defense development. But do we need the Arrow experts for the next phase of defense? What is the next phase of defense?

These questions raise an issue more basic and more disturbing than the Arrow decision and the unemployment it may cause. It is this: Canada lacks any coherent framework of defense policy. The Arrow is gone but nobody seems to have any clear idea where we go from here.

The Bomarc missile is not the answer to this question. Like the Arrow, there is already talk that it may be obsolete before the first missile bases are set up in Canada. The Bomarc is intended to intercept bombers. But are bombers the threat we face?

Policy is the responsibility of the Government but it is also of concern to Parliament which this year is being asked to vote \$1.6 billion for defense. A Parliamentary committee on defense cannot make decisions for the Government but it might well provide the searching review on which policy can be built.

—The Winnipeg Tribune.

## Atomic Power Program for Canada

Within five years Canada has become the greatest producer of uranium in the world. In dollar value, uranium oxide now exceeds all other mineral products; in 1958, over 14,000 tons of precipitates came from Canadian mills, valued at an estimated \$290 million. Ontario's production was 11,000 tons. Millions of dollars are invested in uranium mines, and others could be developed if there were an assured market for their products.

At Canada's Chalk River atomic energy establishment, and elsewhere in the world, scientists are working to reduce the cost of building atomic reactors in order that electricity generated by their heat might be competitive with power derived from other sources. Recently it was announced at Chalk River that already improvements in design and economies in operation make it possible to produce power in reactors with a rating of 200,000 kilowatts as cheaply as by other means.

There is, however, in addition to the larger atomic reactors, a need for smaller "package"

reactors which would be an important element in the development of the North, as well as being of great value in other parts of Canada. At the present time these smaller reactors cannot be manufactured at a price which would render their use economical; but only through experience gained in building them can their cost be reduced.

Because of the need for expensive research and experimentation, promotion of atomic energy has, by general consent, been considered a legitimate field for Governmental action. Therefore, with thousands of highly trained Avro scientists and technicians out of work, a splendid opportunity is now presented for the Federal and Ontario Governments to step into the breach and by long-term investment subsidize the building of atomic reactors to the point where they may compete economically with other energy sources and eventually provide cheap power for everyone.

Toronto.

D. M. LeBourdais.

March 2, 1959. Globe & Mail.