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# One-Third of MP's Miss Arrow Debate

By JAMES McCOOK  
of The Journal.

Even when the Arrow debate was at its height in the Commons last night, with the Prime Minister speaking and Opposition Leader Pearson jumping up with objections, one-third of the seats in the House were empty.

The Conservative and Liberal benches had gaps in equal proportion.

## No Time for Warnings.

Western and Maritimes members complained as usual that Central Canadian colleagues were having a long week-end. There had been no time for the whips to warn that a big debate was in the brew.

The absentees missed some of the best House of Commons talk in a year.

Defence Production Minister O'Hurley and Hon. Paul Hellyer, associate Defence Minister in the last Liberal administration, got the discussion off to a slow start.

Defence Minister Pearkes, in a lucid outline of the Arrow history, revealed such things as the Allies' surprise that the Russians could have a fighter as good as the MIG-17 in the Korean War and that the Russians are not continuing with their more advanced type of bomber.

Mr. Pearson spoke like an Opposition leader grown accustomed to his task. He consulted his notes infrequently and briskly took Mr. Pearkes to task for suggesting that Canada had stood alone at any time since World War II. He recalled that NATO had been founded in 1950 as an alliance of free nations of which Canada was part.

Government members pricked their ears when Mr. Pearson said that if Canada could not get defence production orders from the United States she should look elsewhere. She might, for example, think of replacing the CF-105 Arrow by a plane bought in the United Kingdom. But he made haste to say he did not suggest there should be any break in the North American defence alliance.

## Sheafs of Quotes.

Mr. Pearson quoted Hansard and newspaper articles against the Government and Mr. Diefenbaker had a sheaf of like quotations to use against Mr. Pearson. The latter did not agree that all the quotations were acceptable and Hon. Paul Martin, who sits at Mr. Pearson's right hand, appeared at the evening sitting to aid his chief with protests that the Prime Minister was violating the House rules.

The galleries were full throughout the afternoon and evening.

Mr. Diefenbaker's voice quavered in mock distress as he quoted some of Mr. Pearson's statements. Mr. Pearson flushed.

CCF House Leader Argue, who had said Arrow workers had been cast out on the street as casually as if they were garbage, took calmly the Prime Minister's comment that he had not acted in keeping with his responsibility in his sharp comments about the United States.

The Liberals appeared uncomfortable when the Prime Minister countered Mr. Pearson's remark that Canada now appeared to be taking mutual aid from the United

States for the first time. Mr. Diefenbaker said that the U.S., under a Liberal administration, had paid for all the DEW Line in the Canadian Arctic and shared expenses of the Pinetree radar line in the same proportion as it now proposes to contribute to the Bomarc missile system in Canada.

## Applause for PM.

The Prime Minister won applause from his followers when he said that the chiefs of staff had thought it did not make sense to spend \$800 million of the taxpayers' money on continuing the Arrow program.

But the loudest applause of the day was when Mr. Diefenbaker pleased his followers by saying that the A. V. Roe Company, in abruptly laying off 13,800 workers on Friday when termination of the program was announced in Ottawa, had sought to embarrass the Government.

During the Throne Speech a month ago the Prime Minister said, after a reference to the Arrow program, that lobbies would have no effect on defence decisions made by his government. "I think the experience generally has been that the stronger the lobby, the weaker the argument", Mr. Diefenbaker said then.

Government supporters took his remark to be critical of the publicity campaign waged by the Avro management in recent months in favor of having the Arrow continued.

When he stated his criticism more bluntly last night they were ready to beat their desks in approval.

The debate in general was as vigorous as if an election was

Vancouver speech. Mr. Diefenbaker said in typical fashion that Arctic acres under permit are not acres in production he added:

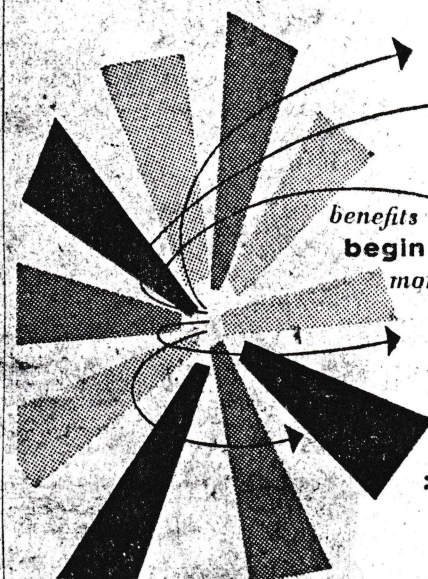
"But the companies are

## Credit Buying In Soviet.

LONDON, Feb. 24.—(Reuters)—Moscow radio reported yesterday that buying on time has been introduced in several towns in the Ukraine, Southern Russia. The terms: 25 percent. down and the balance in six months.

Brisk trade was reported in motorcycles, radios, bicycles, record players and cameras.

around the corner instead of probably four years away. The series of quotations on what had been said in a dozen places by the Prime Minister or Mr. Pearson about the Arrow sounded at times like a bout on the hustings.



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