

# Editorial

## NUCLEAR AGE BIOLOGY

Did you know that if two scorpions are forced into a fight, each will fight with every means at its disposal *except* its poisonous sting, because it knows that use of the sting will mean instant death to both?

## HOW NOW, ICBM?

Did you know that operational tests of the U.S. Army's Nike Zeus anti-missile are soon to begin in the Pacific? The Nike Zeus has been developed to destroy ballistic missiles in flight. Authorization to put the anti-missile into production awaits demonstration, the purpose of the upcoming tests, of the weapon's capabilities against actual ballistic missile targets. The U.S. Secretary of the Army has expressed confidence that the forthcoming tests will be successful.

What then? Back to bombers? Fighters to the fore again? And *just* when we were getting to know the names of all the missiles!

## GOVERNMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

The recent reshuffle of the Cabinet has resulted in changes which are of prime importance to aviation in Canada. At the same time, these changes emphasize a characteristic of the present Government that is, to our mind, a serious weakness and a threat to Canada's future as an industrial power.

This characteristic—one that would also be present in any Liberal government that could be formed today—is a total lack of members of prestige and influence, with a knowledge and an appreciation of modern technology.

**Among the Missing:** One could review the entire membership of the Cabinet, and the Government and Opposition sides of Commons alike, and be hard pressed to find a single man whose pre-political career did not embrace either the law, teaching, finance, business, or farming. Indeed, politicians with an engineering or otherwise technical background are most conspicuous by their almost complete absence.

It is difficult to understand how it could even be thought possible to govern a modern industrial nation such as Canada without active executive participation by men of technology. Try to imagine a manufacturing industry without at least one representative of the sciences or the engineering professions on its board of directors. Yet the Cabinet, whose decisions affect the operations and successes of not one, but thousands of industrial and technical firms, does not number among its members a single technologist who speaks with influence.

How can such a group make intelligent decisions on problems having many technical facets when no one of the members has the background which would enable him to counsel his colleagues on the implications of the various courses of action open? In the aeronautical sphere, for example, it was possible to argue for the cancellation of the Arrow on military grounds, on the basis of knowledge available at the time. But we would suggest that had there been a technologist with a voice in Cabinet discussions, the development of the Iroquois would have been continued even after the airframe was cancelled.

Belatedly the Government has discovered that there might have been applications abroad for the Iroquois. Lacking a technical mind to state the case with ministerial authority, the Cabinet members could not comprehend such a possibility at the time the decision on the Arrow was taken.

**Man With a Mission:** The Rt. Hon. C. D. Howe, a man of vast powers in the previous Government, was a technologist of unusual talents. There are few who would deny, even among Mr. Howe's not inconsiderable number of political enemies, that if any one man could be said to be responsible for the emergence of Canada as a leading industrial nation, that man was C. D. Howe.

We invoke Mr. Howe's name here only to support our thesis that technology has an important role to play in government at the executive level. Though nobody would ever quite fill Mr. Howe's shoes, we cannot believe that there are no other technologists who could take over his role.

The fact that the political hue of the Government is now Conservative instead of Liberal does not mean that the role has vanished. It's still there, and it's still vacant. The industrial future of this country depends on its being filled soon.