

# Government, Avro Officials Remain Silent

By CLARK DAVEY

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Ottawa, Feb. 26—Another day of watching and waiting for developments in the Government-Avro discussions on alternative work to replace the cancelled Arrow program ended late today with still no sign of progress.

The talks will be resumed Friday morning.

But today's developments reached the stage by noon where Prime Minister Diefenbaker, fighting a cold, went home for the afternoon after the House of Commons opening.

Crawford Gordon, Avro president, and the five cabinet ministers with whom he has been meeting several hours a day since Thursday all maintained the tight-lipped secrecy which has surrounded the talks.

Their last meeting today—a two-hour affair this afternoon in Defense Minister Pearkes' office—broke up about 5:10 o'clock.

Mr. Diefenbaker met Mr. Gordon and Fred Smye, Avro vice-president, with the cabinet ministers this morning for about 10 minutes but reported afterwards only that the discussions were continuing.

The prime minister told the Commons the same thing. "Until there is some degree of finality," he said, "there is nothing I can add."

Hazen Argue, CCF House leader, had asked him to comment on whether attempts were being made to keep a nucleus of the engineering and technical staffs together and on whether there was the hope that the 14,000 persons laid off would all be employed again in the aircraft industry.

Mr. Diefenbaker also refused, with one of his typical circumlocutions, to confirm or deny that Premier Frost had suggested to him that the seven Arrows still on the Avro production line be completed.

"Any communications," the prime minister said, "which have been received have been in the nature of general discussions in furtherance of the consideration which is being given to this matter by the Avro company. It would be inappropriate to say anything further than that."

Paul Hellyer (L, Trinity) asked for tabling of the tele-