Shock For 15,000 As Ottawa Drops Arrow

Officials of Peel county municipalities where many of the some 15,000 Avro and Orenda aircraft workers make their homes, were jolted today by an Ottawa announcement that the Arrow jet interceptor program is to be terminated immediately.

Reeve Mary Fix of Toronto township was shocked by the report.

"It is very bad news," she said. "We had hoped all along that production wouldn't have been cut off all at once."

Reeve Fix said she wasn't in a position at this time to appraise the effect it will have on the township.

Hope Other Project

"We can only hope now that the government will see fit to provide another defence project to keep the Malton plants in production," she said.

Robert Speck, deputy reeve of Toronto township, said Malton is now at the crossroads. "Its future now depends on an alternate program Avro may have. This is a terrible blow to the aircraft industry as a whole . . . it's Canada-wide."

Reeve Cyril Clark of Chinguacousy township said he could not regard the announcement as a calamity.

"A firm of this magnitude is bound to be too resourceful to collapse," he said. "We have been doing far too much worrying—crossing too many bridges before we come to them in this whole matter."

Mayor Carman Core of Brampton said he did not visualize any sudden collapse in area employment.

"My understanding is they have enough orders at the Malton plant to keep them going for the best part of a year," he said. "By that time the firm should have something else under way."

"Flat On Its Back"

Reeve James Berney of Caledon East in the northeast corner of Peel fears the cancellation will put his village and district "flat on its back."

"Arrow production has been putting $500,000 a month into this vicinity alone," he said.

"If lay-offs start as is almost certain, it will be tough for men here to find other jobs at this time of year. Not many families could stand a lull of two or three months."