

Editorial

DOOMSAYERS TAKE NOTE

For those in Canada's Aviation Industry who persist in looking on the dark side of the future, there have in recent weeks been a number of cheerful news items which must have shaken their staunch pessimism. To wit: Maritime Central Airways has bought two new DC-6A's, worth probably a couple of million dollars; Quebecair has ordered two Fairchild F-27 Friendship turboprop airliners valued at some \$1,300,000; A. V. Roe Canada Limited made an offering of 500,000 shares of common stock at an opening price \$16, and the entire offering was taken up within 24 hours. Since then, the price of the stock has risen steadily. What more signs are needed that there are a lot of people in this country, great and not-so-great, who have a deep faith in the future of a thriving industry?

THE FACTS ABOUT EDUCATION

The recently concluded National Engineering Manpower Conference, which was called to discuss and propose action on the critical problems Canada faces in shortages of technical manpower, brought to the fore some startling facts about education in this sphere.

Starting Point: Basis for the discussions was a monumental brief prepared under the direction of S. H. Deeks, chief of engineering administration for Orenda Engines Ltd. This study not only indicated that a tremendous growth in engineering and scientific skills would be required over the next 25 years to hold Canada's present competitive position (three to four times the number of engineers and scientists currently employed), but also that immense sums of money would be required for new educational facilities. According to the brief:

- Between \$1.25 billion and \$1.75 billion will have to be spent over the next 25 years to provide additional universities.

- More than 20% of Canadian university graduates will be required for the teaching profession.

Dealing specifically with the shortage of engineering and scientific manpower, the brief said that by 1980, to remain competitive with other industrial nations, on the basis of projected increases in output per capita and projections of other fundamental factors, Canada will need:

- To at least triple and probably quadruple her currently employed total of some 40,000 engineers.

- To triple and probably more than quadruple today's scientist force of some 20,000.

- To have almost ten times as many technicians assisting Canada's scientists and engineers as are employed today. Existing capacity is capable of producing about 1/20 of this requirement. Providing for technician requirements would absorb about 10% of Canadian matriculation graduates who do not go on to or complete university training.

Staggering: To meet these requirements obviously poses some staggering problems. Just to satisfy presently indicated needs it will be necessary to increase university enrolment by 1980 by as much as three to four times. The brief makes the point that Canada is falling far short of exploiting the full potential of those capable of assimilating higher education and utilizing it to maximum effectiveness.

The enormity of the educational job ahead for this country boggles the imagination. But it's there, large as life and ignoring it won't make it go away. The only thing left to do is to begin whittling it down to size as soon as possible.