



Broken Arrow: The huge, sleek Avro thoroughbred was reader's favorite. John Diefenbaker stands condemned, he says, for the destruction of a complete industry, representing thousands of jobs, billions of dollars and a potential boon to Canadian pride.

John Diefenbaker: Butcher of Avro

In reply to Mrs. M. Jean Duff (letter, "Diefenbaker a PM worth of our pride," May 17):

This land, with its small population spread thinly across its various picturesque and promising fields has, in virtually every field of science, contributed discoveries and inventions far out of proportion to its diminutive numbers. From the flights at Bras d'Or to the variable-pitch propeller to insulin, these achievements are visible feathers in our collective cap. In garages and basements and university labs, ignored and largely unsupported by industry or government, the Canadian people have put our flag in the forefront of science throughout the world.

Two of these are my own particular loves. The first was a huge, sleek thoroughbred — the Avro Arrow. The other was that workhorse of the air, the Avro jetliner, only one of the two original commercial carriers, but the first that did not fly apart in mid-air. These two products represented for Canada military and commercial sales of tens of billions of dollars, and a were fantastic feat for our industries. For those detractors who claimed there was no market, as far as the Arrow was concerned, anybody knowing the American psyche and can picture the faces of their pilots trying to cope with just one squadron of these planes, and the exhortations to their military chiefs for possession of that performance in their own weapons. There were sales if the already-built aircraft had been flown. Altitude, speed and other records could have been a boon to our pride.

But these two blossoms of Canadian industry were

picked before fully bloomed, and consigned to the trash can by the party that first put Canada together and since then, as if having regretted its deed, has done its level best to undo it.

John Diefenbaker and the military chiefs of staff of our country stand forever condemned for the wanton destruction of a complete industry, the loss thousands of jobs and billions of dollars, and of a heinous blow to Canadian pride.

Lester B. Pearson has been described as a diplomat and not a politician, but he gave us our own flag to fly with pride beside our mother country's, and not to supplant it. Trudeau, for all his wrecking of the sense of MPs representing their electors, has given us our own house to paint, clean and protect. It will become what we ourselves make of it. After all, the people chose him, and what other choice do they have?

Anybody from the industrial side of Canada that would vote for a party that perennially brings with it such scandals and destruction as do the Conservatives can only be described as manic-depressive with masochistic tendencies.

No, Mrs. Duff, John Diefenbaker can be described with many words, but "admirable" and "pride-worthy" are not among them. His tarnishing did not start after his political defeat, but with his destruction of the Canadian aerospace industry during his regrettable term of office; it is merely being justifiably recalled by Canadian flag-wavers like myself.

L. G. RAU
Mimico