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PLANE PATTERN

by *Ernie Hampill*



"Much has been said of late about the coming missile age and there have been suggestions from well-intentioned people that the era of the manned aeroplane is over and that we should not be wasting our time and energy producing an aircraft of the performance, complexity and cost of the Avro Arrow. They suggest that we should put our faith in missiles and launch straight into the era of push-button war.

"I do not feel that missiles and manned aircraft have, as yet, reached the point where they should be considered as competitive. They will, in fact, become complementary.

" I feel sure that if these aircraft continue their development with the same promise as they have in the past, there is no doubt in my mind that they will be a necessary requirement to the arsenal of the West for many years to come."

Hon. George R. Pearkes, VC,
Minister of National Defence, Oct. 4, 1957.

"Conditions of air defence are, however, different in North America from those in Europe. Here we have much more air space to patrol and defend. We must be able to cover all of it to maintain our territorial integrity. The manned interceptor, with the flexibility provided by its crew, is a good means of carrying out part of this enormous task.

"I believe that it is a vital element in the North American Air Defence System and that there is no substitute for the versatility of the piloted aircraft, where the trained man on the spot can use his human intelligence and ingenuity."

Hon. Douglas S. Harkness,
Minister of National Defence, July 24, 1961.

Significance of the above two statements to Canada's aviation industry lies in their source and occasion of utterance.

The first is an excerpt from an address by the Hon. Mr. Pearkes during ceremonies attendant the roll-out of the CF-105 Avro Arrow at Malton.

The second is a portion of remarks by the Hon. Mr. Harkness at the MacDonnell F-101B Voodoo handing-over ceremony held at RCAF station Uplands, Ottawa.

There has been a fair bit of water under the bridge in the period between the two statements. The continuity of purpose and policy on this particular aspect of Canadian defence effort, fully evident in the words of the Ministers, is reassuring. After almost four years, the government evidently still knows where we're headed. Such tenacity can inspire nothing but confidence from industry.