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Drop 3 Avro Pilots 'I'm Through'--Jan



LAI D OFF: TEST PILOT JAN ZURAKOWSKI
"Arrow is Better Airplane Than Any Other Nation Has"

Jan Zurakowski, first man to fly the Arrow, has been laid off along with two other Avro test pilots.

Three test pilots remain with Avro, it was revealed today, but their future is in doubt. Also wondering how long they will be working are two test pilots with Orenda Engines Ltd.

Mr. Zurakowski, 44, a pilot for 24 years, said he is leaving the aviation field. "There's so many people looking for jobs in aviation there's no hope for me," he said.

An Avro test pilot for seven years, he quit active flying last November to take a staff job in the company's engineering branch.

He felt sad about the death of the CF-105. "The Arrow is a better airplane than any nation has at this time," he said. "There's still room for the manned interceptor. Russia has a terrific number of bombers, still the best way of delivering atomic bombs."

He said government criticisms in the House of the Arrow's lack of range was "purely nonsense. They don't know what they're talking about."

Range Exceeded Request

"I wish somebody would release classified information about its actual range. The Arrow has 50 per cent. better range than was requested. It could have had much more by

simply adding auxiliary fuel tanks."

Commenting on the sudden way the Arrow was dropped, Mr. Zurakowski said: "I've never seen anything like it before. I've seen plane order cancellations in England (where he tested jet fighters for Hawker-Sideley) but never like this."

"Here, they hold talks after the cancellation, not before. I can't understand it."

"You have to make up your mind to pay for defence, or forget about it and let other people take over your defence. U.S. fighters will be defending Canada."

Tested 692 Planes

Laid off with him were production test pilots C. A. Pike, 34, and Stanley Haswell, 36. The pair tested every one of the 692 CF-100's which rolled off Avro assembly lines.

Mr. Pike, who was Avro chief production pilot, plans to return to his native British Columbia to seek a flying job. "But I may end up selling real estate," he said. "When you're out, you're out of flying."

"Test piloting is a highly specialized job in a shrinking field."

Mr. Haswell, a native of Liverpool, Eng., plans to stay in Canada and seek a flying job. "I don't want to give it up. Flying is in a recession now," he said, "but it's bound to pick up."