

Ask Government Aid For Aircraft Firms

By E. A. INGRAHAM
Globe and Mail Staff Reporter

Fort Erie, Feb. 15—Federal assistance to Canada's aircraft industry, threatened with serious cutbacks if the Government curtails or cancels the Avro Arrow fighter program, was requested here today by the Aircraft and Guided Missiles Council of Canada.

Fate of the Arrow project overshadowed the three-day conference of the council, composed of delegates from two trade unions who represent all phases of the industry.

Recommendations from a panel which discussed the industry's future called for continued development of the industry with government assistance to stabilize it.

The panel, under the chairmanship of James McQueen of the International Association of Machinists, Malton local, also recommended that a meeting of representative of aircraft companies be held to plan ways of preventing the industry's disintegration.

Delegates stressed that the industry must become independent of defense contract support and concentrate on civilian aircraft production.

Dennis McDermott, United Auto Workers international representative, told the more than 40-delegates representing 50,000 aircraft workers that the Diefenbaker government has a moral as well as an economic responsibility to the industry.

He pointed out that Avro had a lead on the world in developing a commercial jet liner when it was ordered to switch to fighter production at the outbreak of the Korean war.

"Prime Minister Diefenbaker promised the people his pro-

gram was to keep production at home and he must be reminded of this at this time, when the industry faces its most crucial period," he said.

Speculation that the government may buy the American Convair 106 jet fighter in place of the Arrow was not in keeping with the prime minister's pledge, considering that competent persons have said the Arrow is the best aircraft of its class, he told the council.

He said that purchase of U.S. planes would place the government in the position of the victims of the U.S. aircraft industry lobby.