

Editorial

POTENTIAL RECORD BREAKER

John L. Plant, president & general manager of Avro Aircraft Ltd., was quoted earlier this month as saying that . . . "when the Arrow is powered with the Iroquois engine, the world speed record could be brought to Canada any time Canada wants this done." Mr. Plant was speaking following the Nov. 11 flight of an Arrow flown by Spud Potocki in which it was reliably reported the aircraft, while in a gentle climb, had come close to the official world speed record of 1404.19 mph, now held by Capt. Walter Irwin, USAF, with the assistance of a Lockheed F-104. It is to be sincerely hoped that the Government gives the necessary permission for either Avro or the RCAF to make an attempt at capturing this record for Canada. It seems that the Arrow/Iroquois combination would have no difficulty whatsoever in exceeding the standing mark (indeed, one U.S. source says that the Arrow has already exceeded 1500 mph with its present P & W J-75's, and may be able to reach Mach 3 with the more powerful Iroquois engines). The international prestige that such a record would bring to Canada cannot easily be ignored.

TREND OF THE TIMES

Definition of artificial insemination: unmanned mothers.

NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Air Marshal W. A. Curtis, vice chairman of the board of A.V. Roe Canada Ltd., made a speech to the Empire Club this month. Because of the confusion and lack of direction that exists at this time, what he said is of particular interest.

In summary A/M Curtis was asking for public understanding of what is involved in maintaining a deterrent military force if Canada is to discharge her responsibilities in continental defence and in team work with other NATO powers.

The Consequences: "If the Government of Canada should decide to reduce our capability and commitment on the North American continent, then it is inevitable that the U.S. will have to take over the job. This means the U.S. would have to supply manned interceptors and perhaps pilots as well, to operate from Canadian bases. It might also mean the U.S. would maintain electronic tracking and communication stations, and missile bases in Canadian territory.

"If we were to make such a decision, that we could not take our place in these defensive operations, it would mean, at that point, we would exchange our hard-won position as a growing and significant partner in world affairs into a benign satellite of our great neighbor to the south.

"In my opinion, this will not happen. But we are in danger because of the amount of misinformation and misunderstanding that exists and because we do not realize the magnitude of the battle in which we are engaged nor the deep implications for our nation.

"Defence is always costly and seems even more costly and even unnecessary in peacetime. But despite present high costs, preventative military preparedness is infinitely cheaper than the real cost of war which is in human lives."

Buying Time: "This was the price paid for the time we have had to work for a peaceful solution to world problems . . . If we want to prevent another shooting war, we, in company with all the western powers must be prepared to continue to carry this burden.

"This is particularly difficult when the threat has been present for so long a time that we get used to living under it.

"If we are to insure our growth as a sovereign nation, respected in the council of the world; if we are to insure our position in the highly technological age now beginning; and above all, if we are to play our fair role in protecting that precious element of time . . . the one thing earned by the selfless human sacrifices of two world wars . . . we must face the fact that there is a continuing price to be paid. By using the time to seek international understanding, while deterring aggression through strength, the price will be in terms of material only."