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ALS/LETTERS

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Liberals forced cancellation of the Arrow

The letter from Leslie John Caine, *PCs killed off our aircraft industry*, (Oct. 19) must not go unanswered.

Whenever the political situation calls for a shot at the Tories, an article or letter will recall the awful occasion when John Diefenbaker cancelled the Arrow program.

There's no argument from here that it was, indeed, a sad day for the Canadian aircraft industry. What used to surprise, but now angers me, is that your staff does not appear to contain even one writer with the knowledge, or sense of fairness, to point out one important fact that is never mentioned in your paper. Diefenbaker, a heck of a politician, but probably as pathetic a prime minister as John Turner, was under extreme Opposition pressure in the House to cancel the Arrow program on the grounds of cost. An overrun in the order of \$3 million was sufficient for the "loyal Opposition," consisting mainly of Liberals, to turn the House into bedlam.

Threats were made to disrupt all business until John D. agreed to cancel the Arrow. The Liberals won their point. The Arrow was cancelled.

It was a terrible day for Canadian aircraft workers. We might still have been selling only slightly improved versions of the Arrow today, had we continued to build it. Perfidy, indeed.

The Liberals won many an election since, just because their party was not in power on that day. Not one of them now chooses to remember how the Liberal Party forced cancellation of the Arrow.

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