

The Minister of Defence Production, Mr. Howe, and the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton, said in a joint statement that deliveries will start almost immediately out of current production at the big Canadair jet aircraft production plant at Montreal. A similar announcement was made simultaneously in Washington by Mr. Thomas K. Finletter, Secretary of the U.S. Air Force. Numbers of planes involved and value of the contract were not disclosed. Informants said, however, that the contract would mean a flow of "many millions of dollars" to Canada and was sufficiently large to help Canada "materially" in balancing her military purchases in the U.S.

The order is in addition to contracts Canadair has received to produce the front-line jet fighter for the R.C.A.F., and for the R.A.F. under a recent tri-nation North Atlantic mutual air agreement among Canada, the U.S. and the United Kingdom.

The Sabre originated in the U.S. plants of the North American Aviation Company. Reason why the U.S. is turning to Canada for the jets was not given in the official announcement, but it was understood that the U.S. Air Force is in continual need of more jets for Korean air battles and it also is understood that the U.S. plant is re-tooling to produce a modified version of the F-86. This will be known as the F-86F. Canadair produces the Sabre jet airframe and imports radar equipment, control instruments and power unit--the General Electric J-47 jet engine--from U.S. Because of a general scarcity of power units, production at the Montreal plant has been maintained at about 20 airframes a month, though the plant is capable of turning out probably four or five times that number.

9,000 Ford Workers Strike In Windsor: Windsor, Ontario, February 17 (CP) -- Nine thousand automobile workers went on strike tonight to enforce contract demands upon the Ford Motor Company of Canada. The walkout, second in three months, came as the climax of a dispute that started 11 months ago.

Negotiations on a proposed 85-clause contract continued almost until the 10 p.m. deadline for the strike.

Edmonton Mercurys Win Second Hockey Game At Oslo: Oslo, February 17 (CP) -- Canada's hockey team--the Edmonton Mercurys--breezed through to a 13-3 win tonight over Finland for their second straight victory in the nine-country round-robin Olympic tournament.

Across Canada: The Alberta Petroleum and Natural Gas Conservation Board reports that out of a total of 1,179 wells drilled during 1951, 763 resulted in oil producers, or about 64 per cent. During 1950, out of a total of only 1,009 wells drilled 752 resulted in oil producers, or 74 per cent....Canadians purchased 45,000 fewer motor vehicles in 1951 than in 1950 but paid \$53 million more for them in federal taxes, according to the latest report from the Canadian Automobile Manufacturers Research Service....Four liners will bring nearly 3,000 new Canadians to Halifax within the next few days Canadian National Railways reported at Halifax on February 16.