

Mr. HOWE: This is what the letter said. We will see how much my hon. friend epitomized them. The letter reads:

Following the request of the Acting Minister of Munitions and Supply for the opinion of the undersigned as to how the Anson project can be expedited, the following unanimous recommendations are submitted:

1. Federal Aircraft Limited to be dissolved;
2. de Havilland to be asked to manage (or administer) for the department, the Anson project, taking over the personnel, material, records, et cetera, of Federal Aircraft Limited forthwith;
3. de Havilland to assume responsibility for engineering and procurement of material;
4. These functions of de Havilland not to include the taking over of Federal Aircraft Limited's financial obligations (other than for material) or financial functions or contractual obligations; all of which the department can handle best.
5. Contracts for components, etc., made henceforward to be with the department.

I do not see any difference in the language.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Number five is not in mine, and the others are exactly the same.

Mr. HOWE: My hon. friend can epitomize by leaving out number five.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I did not have it in.

Mr. HOWE: I know my hon. friend did not have it.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I am content to stand on my statement. I should like to have the letter produced.

Mr. HOWE: I propose to table all three letters.

Mr. MacNICOL: Has the minister the report or statement which was presented to the acting minister?

Mr. HOWE: I have just tabled it.

Mr. MacNICOL: And which is quoted in the January 7 issue of the *Financial Post*. Does the minister say that the statement of January 7 is wrong?

Mr. HOWE: I say that it is absolutely correct, word for word. I continue with the report from the *Montreal Star*:

I understand the matter was given attention by the chairman of the war-time requirements board, and a leading executive in aircraft production in the United States was asked to come to Canada to investigate the situation and to give his advice, and I am informed that his views were in agreement with those of the Canadian manufacturers and confirmed the hopelessness of the Federal Aircraft situation in its present state, and that, on the basis of this report, the chairman of the board recommended to the government that Federal Aircraft be abolished.

My hon. friend admits that that is a very slender foundation for that, apart from the *Financial Post*.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): No, I have the best authority for that. I have it from one of the executives.

Mr. HOWE: Who was it?

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): That is my business. I am not going to divulge his name.

Mr. HOWE: Does my hon. friend mean one of the three men who have been named, Mr. MacMillan, Mr. Carmichael or Mr. Breech?

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I did not name anyone.

Mr. HOWE: Surely I am entitled to that information. He is an executive of what?

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): One of the executives of the aeroplane manufacturers.

Mr. HOWE: He would not know, unfortunately.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): He would if he talked to these people.

Mr. HOWE: My hon. friend got it in a rather devious way, at least.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I object to that; I got it in a perfectly honourable way.

Mr. HOWE: My hon. friend got it second or third hand at least.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I could not see Mr. MacMillan. If he had been here I would have seen him.

Mr. HOWE: Does my hon. friend think he would have told him?

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I think he would have been frank and honourable with me.

Mr. HOWE: From the inception of the Department of Munitions and Supply the executives and employees of that department have taken an oath of secrecy that they will not divulge the business of the department to others. I hope and believe that Mr. MacMillan would not have violated his oath of secrecy. The report goes on to say:

He went on to make a forecast of production which is considered by aircraft manufacturers to be a little short of fantastic.

The forecast that I made was the forecast given me in November and it was confirmed by Mr. MacMillan in his report, to which reference is made. The firms were requested by me to answer three questions: