

Labour Crisis in Aircraft Industry

but marked for release anytime this afternoon. I should like to quote briefly from it, because I think we can rely on his judgment. He says:

I do not want to be dramatic. But Canada, of all countries, cannot afford to live in a world where she will not have the skill and technological know-how to hold on to what she has got.

Truer words will never be spoken, Mr. Speaker. We agree with that statement. We want the government to show some evidence of its concern. We want the government to move and take the initiative in a positive way before it is too late to salvage the situation.

We have heard a great deal about education. I should like to repeat something I said the other night, that people coming back here from Russia have pointed out the giant strides that the Russians have taken in their educational system. More particularly, they point to the tremendous number of scientists and engineers the Russians are producing and how they are pulling ahead of us in this field. Comparisons have been drawn between our two systems, and we have been warned that we should put greater emphasis on the training of scientific personnel. For what, I ask? To export to the United States.

For generations many of Canada's brightest have been going there to seek greater opportunity after having received their education in Canada. Since the beginning of world war II the picture has changed and it has become fashionable for young Canadians to stay in their own country. Young Canadians desperately want to stay here, but they have to be able to live; and, even more important, they have to have the opportunity to create and develop. During the post-war years most young people were able to find full and satisfactory outlets for their talent and ambition in this country. Are we now going to pull the plug again?

Is this what the government means by production sharing? We have heard much of this high-sounding phrase in the past and again today. Does it mean that we are going to produce scientists and engineers and that the Americans are going to produce the equipment? Is that a fair way of production sharing?

We heard a rather lengthy statement by the Minister of Defence Production this afternoon. He did not tell us very much that we did not already know. We find that we are going to make tail fins and some wings for the Bomarcs, and we are going to get \$1.7 million for that. We knew how to make tails and wings 20 years ago. What we want to make now is something far more consequential. The \$1.7 million will not pay

the unemployment insurance for more than a few days for the people who have been laid off.

So far all that has come out of the committee has been promises and pious platitudes. The statement this afternoon was positively staggering in its insignificance. There was just nothing in it at all. It reminded me of an empty cracker barrel I saw over the week end. The minister told us that time and continuing efforts will be required to achieve the desired result. That is not what we want to know. What has been going on for the last year and a half? What has the government been doing with the time it has had? Where have the ministers been when they should have been in Washington negotiating contracts and giving some thought to the future as far as our mutual defence is concerned. Why was this matter not given some thought last fall when the ministers had time on their hands? The government must act at once, within the next few days, to prevent a national tragedy.

Surely the problem facing us is a great one, whether this country is to grow, develop, prosper and blossom into a great industrial giant or whether we are going to set the clock back. We not only have to talk big and speak of a great vision; we must act accordingly. Surely the vision of Canada's future is not a vision of our young scientists and engineers marching two by two to the nearest border crossing point. Canada is a land of great resources, and the greatest of these is the skill of our people. We dream of a great new country. We want to compete with the world, and to do so we must have the technological basis on which to build and expand.

National development or national disaster? That is really the choice that faces us. The government has cancelled one great Canadian project. It must present some alternative plan at once if the situation is to be saved.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I should like to point to the fact that today a new Canadian stamp has been issued. It depicts two airplanes, one of which appears to be the CF-105 taking off into the blue yonder, and the other is the Silver Dart. There seems to be something symbolic about the fact that under the present administration there has been flown in Nova Scotia today, to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of flight in Canada, a replica of the Silver Dart instead of one of our great Canadian aviation achievements.

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member, but his time has expired.

An hon. Member: Let him go on.

Some hon. Members: Go ahead.