

# Fall of an Arrow

By SEAN M. MALONEY

On the 20th of February 1959, the Conservative Government, under the leadership of John Diefenbaker, made the decision to scrap the Avro CF-105 "Arrow" aircraft 13 000 employees of AVRO Aircraft and those of many other smaller support industries were put out of work overnight. These people were the forefront of a quickly expanding Canadian aircraft industry that had already produced the world's first jet propelled passenger aircraft and Canada's own jet fighter, the CF-100 "Canuck".

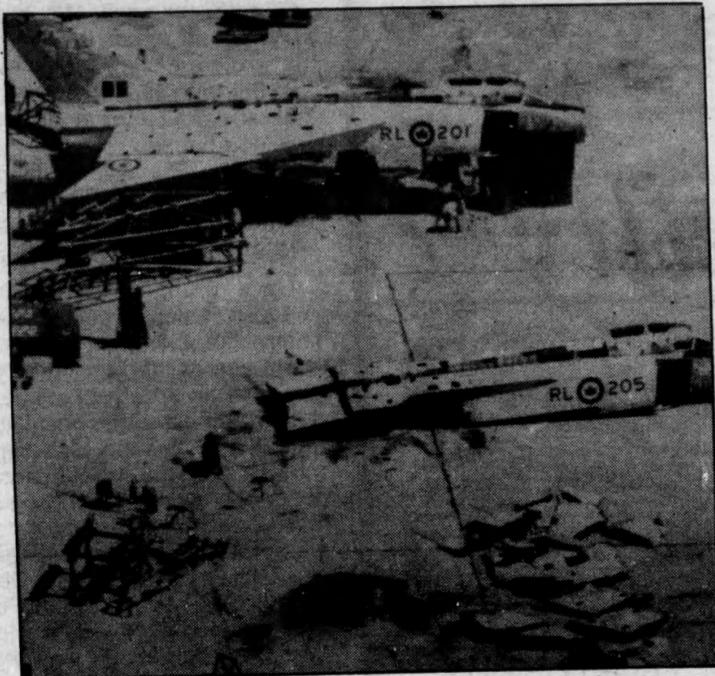
There is no question that we lost something fantastic," said Bill MacNamara, giving a well informed presentation to an enthusiastic audience in Head Hall last Friday. A 1955 UNB Engineering grad, Mr. MacNamara worked on the CF-105 project for Avro Aircraft from 1955 to 1959.

With a stroke of the pen, and some ill-informed shooting from the lip, Diefenbaker destroyed a fantastic episode in Canadian aviation history. The CF-105 "Arrow" world class combat aircraft. With the potential to do Mach 2.5, propelled by the all-Canadian Iroquois engine, and having the most sophisticated fire control and weapons system of the late 1950's, the "Arrow" would have been a hard act to follow at a time when most of the world's combat aircraft had an average speed of Mach 1.5.

Mr. MacNamara dispelled many myths, particularly one of alleged American interference resulting in the cancellation of the project and another of defence economics and export markets. The reason for the cancellation, he says, was the result of vindictiveness on the part of Diefenbaker towards what amounted to a "Liberal" defence project that was under the leadership of wartime industrialist, C.D. Howe.

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As a result of the cancellation, government personnel entered the Avro Aircraft compound and systematically destroyed all of the finished



Government personnel destroy the completed prototypes of the Arrow, a world class Canadian built combat aircraft.

aircraft as well as those under production. After this act of vandalism, the carefully assembled Avro staff and workers left to find jobs in the American aircraft and space industries, eventually assisting the design and production of aircraft such as the American F-14 "Tomcat" and F-15 "Eagle", as well as the Mercury and Apollo space programs.

Anyone wishing to pursue

interest in the Arrow is directed to the following two books, *Avro Arrow: The Story Of The Avro Arrow From Its Evolution To Its Extinction* by a group of aviation enthusiasts called the Arrowheads, and *The Arrow* by James Dow, are available at the Harriet Irving Library. A revised edition of Murray Peden's *Fall Of An Arrow* published by Stoddart Publishing is available from Westminster Books.



The Philippines is temporarily barring its women from working abroad in countries, such as Japan and in the Middle East, which do not respect the Filipino's rights. They say they have been receiving complaints of sexual harassment (Reuters).

In Huntington beach, California, police shot a gun wielding burglary suspect in the head at the *Things for Your Head Shop*. (UPI)

Members of the First Church of the Nazarene in Ironton, Ohio, held a record burning after evangelist Jim Brown told them the song "A horse is a horse" - the theme of the Mr. Ed show - contained satanic messages when played backwards (CP).

A student has filed a lawsuit against the University of Manitoba claiming bureaucratic red tape over one failed course upset her so badly she then failed another course (CP).

Three women, protesting a vote that they saw as restricting the rights of homosexuals, swooped down on ropes from the gallery onto the floor of the British House of Lords.

