

British See U.S. Squeeze On Arms Sale

By HAROLD MORRISON
LONDON (CP) — Britain is beginning to show increasing concern that it slowly is being squeezed out of the major arms-selling market in the Western Alliance by United States pressure tactics.

While Prime Minister Wilson tried to persuade West Germany to buy more in Britain to offset high cost of maintaining the British army on the Rhine, former foreign secretary Patrick Gordon Walker delivered a sharp warning to the U.S. against the threat of a cold war through "ruthless competition in major arms production within the Alliance."

The initial Washington reaction suggests the British argument is not making much of an impact in the Pentagon. The Sunday Times reports the Pentagon is ready to ring up another sale within two weeks—a deal to provide Canada with \$25,000,000 worth of aircraft which the newspaper does not further identify.

The Sunday Telegraph says "hard sell" salesmanship is winning the U.S. more arms orders and the Pentagon is boldly publicizing its successes to show it is helping to overcome U.S. balance of payments difficulties.

Forced by spiralling costs to curtail its own arms production, Britain recently placed an order for some \$700,000,000 worth of U.S. military aircraft. The Telegraph reports from Washington that American officials are puzzled why Britain didn't announce this deal "with all the verve they felt it warranted."

SAVE BRITAIN MONEY

The Sunday Times quotes Henry Kuss, a deputy assistant secretary at the Pentagon, as saying the British aircraft orders would save Britain about \$50,000,000 since producing similar planes in Britain might have doubled or tripled the cost.

Kuss, is further quoted as saying Britain cannot sell Sergeant missiles to West Germany when the British product is still on the design boards while the American products are on the firing line.

Wilson is hoping to persuade Chancellor Ludwig Erhard that Germany should increase the volume of its orders in Britain to help reduce the British payments deficit caused in part by high costs of maintaining the \$1,000-man army on the Rhine.

Britain wants the U.S. to agree to share the arms market even though the U.S. can beat British industry because bigger American production usually means lower average prices.

Air Canada Boosts Profit

OTTAWA (CP) — Air Canada turned in a profit of \$1,405,975 last year, almost triple the 1963 figure, the publicly-owned airline has reported.

The 1964 annual report, tabled in the Commons by Transport Minister Pickersgill, showed record operating revenues of \$213,509,708 on a traffic increase of 11 per cent.

President Gordon R. McGregor predicted another operating profit for 1965.

At the end of 1964 Air Canada was operating 16 DC-8 jets and a turbo-prop fleet of 23 Vanguards and 30 Viscounts. During the year it finished paying off two DC-8s and made progress payments on the eight DC-9 medium-range jets to be delivered in 1966.

The profit figure is the airline's 11th in the last 14 years and contrasts with the heavy losses of 1961 and 1962 caused by DC-8 purchases.

Answer Is Given On Books' Cost

TORONTO (CP) — W. H. E. Bell, president of the Canadian Textbook Publishers' Institute, has answered charges by Newfoundland Premier Joey Smallwood that publishers of Canadian schoolbooks are unnecessarily costing the provincial government thousands of dollars each year.

Mr. Bell said Canadian textbooks conform to provincial courses of study as laid down by the department of education. Publishers would be ill-advised to revise textbooks without consultation with the departments concerned, he added.

Mr. Smallwood told the legislature Friday the publishers "go off with their expensive order and then when it wills them, they change parts of the text, the format or the layout, and then they have a lot of new books to sell."

"Textbooks are as inexpensive as publishers can make them," Mr. Bell said in a statement. "It is not to the publishers' advantage to produce 'fancy books' at a high cost."

He said surveys showed less than two per cent of the cost of education is on school books.

"Statistical surveys show profit margins in Canadian publishing are so low as to be unattractive to many investors," he said. "I know of no publisher who is in the business solely to make money."

RADICAL JACK

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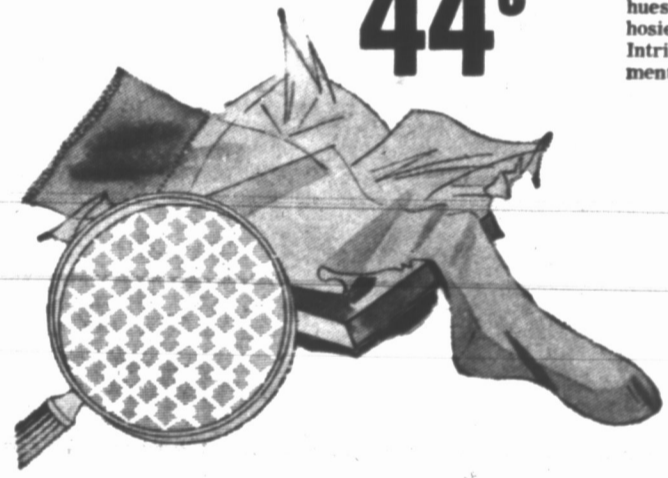
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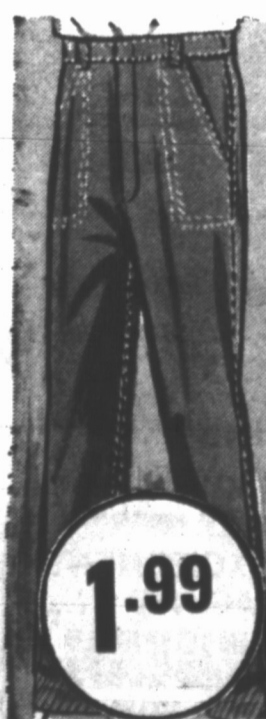


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