

Statements are Misleading, Inaccurate

BELLEVILLE, Ont. (CP)—Liberal Leader Pearson Tuesday produced a series of quotations from Prime Minister Diefenbaker's recent public statements on defence and branded them all as "misleading and inaccurate."

In a 500-word statement, Mr. Pearson undertook to prove his point by matching the Diefenbaker quotations against the facts from other sources including statements by the cabinet ministers who resigned, NORAD, the U.S. state department and others.

Party officials said later the Diefenbaker quotations were taken from tape recordings of his campaign speeches, but declined to say who made the recordings. The statement was issued to reporters en route by plane and bus to Belleville, where Mr. Pearson spends the night.

Mr. Diefenbaker was quoted as saying in a Halifax speech March 15 that "we have no commitments that we have not discharged."

Mr. Pearson's statement then quoted former defence minister Harkness as saying the government has accepted a commitment and if it is to be met, "the accepted armament" must be obtained for the CF-104. Former trade minister Hees was quoted as saying "no defence policy does not either fulfill our commitments or provide for the security of our country."

CITES KEY POINT
A key point in Mr. Pearson's statement dealt with nuclear warheads for weapons in Canada.

Mr. Diefenbaker was quoted as saying in Winnipeg March 4: "Insofar as our bombers are concerned, we have negotiated and have been successful. But if war comes there will be available and accessible atomic warheads for the Voodoo in Canada."

Then followed the U.S. state department statement March 30 saying that the question of nuclear warheads for the Bomarc anti-aircraft missile and "for other nuclear-capable weapons systems acquired by Canada has been the subject of inconclusive discussions between the two governments."

Secretary Rusk was quoted as saying March 11 that Canada-U.S. negotiations on nuclear weapons "are continuing

intermittently" and that he expected the discussions "would go forward."

Mr. Diefenbaker was quoted as saying in Moncton, N.B., and elsewhere that "if an emergency arises we will have accessible the necessary warheads."

Mr. Pearson's statement commented: "This is impossible without a political agreement with the United States and there is no such agreement. No warhead is available during the Cuban emergency."

Again, Mr. Diefenbaker was quoted as saying in Moncton and elsewhere that "the Canadian government will not place Canadian forces in any less position than the Allies with which they serve."

Mr. Pearson's comment: "The Canadian government has done exactly this by making ineffective certain equipment it has acquired for our forces."

NO AMMUNITION
He said the Bomarc were without ammunition in the Cuban crisis. In NATO, the F-104 aircraft "cannot be used effectively because the government has refused to give it the necessary ammunition."

Mr. Diefenbaker's statement that the Bomarc could have nuclear or high explosive warheads—while Mr. Pearson said was made in Halifax March 15—was answered by quoting the NORAD statement that became available in Ottawa March 20. NORAD said at that time that no conventional high-explosive warhead has been developed for the Bomarc B and that while the U.S. Air Force experimented with a conventional warhead, it "has no intent of interest itself in developing or acquiring one."

As for the manned bomber, Mr. Pearson quoted the prime minister as saying in Winnipeg March 4 that "we are not worried about bombers now" and that the intercontinental ballistic missile was taking its place. The Liberal leader then quoted Mr. Harkness as saying in Calgary Feb. 21 that "the main weapon of our defence is the NORAD defence minister. Sevigny was quoted as saying Feb. 20 that Russia still has, and will have, for many years, "a huge and threatening fleet of bombers."

First Break Seen In French Strikes

PARIS (Reuters) — The first break in a wave of industrial strikes that have threatened to paralyze the French economy appeared Tuesday night when 3,000 strikers at the state-run natural gasfield at Lacq agreed to return to work.

The strikers accepted a management offer putting them on the same footing as some 240,000 coal miners, whose walkout has stopped production in the French coalfields for 26 days. Management pledged to give the gas workers any wage increases and benefits the coal miners might receive.

The settlement, which followed the first outbreak of violence since the wave of labor trouble began, eased the crisis in the hard-hit gas industry but left the fundamental conflict between the French government and state workers unresolved.

The agreement followed a clash between picketers, including some women, and riot police at the coalfields of the north in the eastern France in which several striking miners suffered minor head injuries.

The clash brought an immediate accusation from the Lorraine strike committee that the government was attempting to provoke the miners in an attempt to place them in an unfavorable public light.

DENOUNCE TV PROGRAM
The committee also denounced as a deception of the public a televised statement Monday night by Information Minister Peyrefitte that the strike could "drag the country into economic chaos."

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Pompidou conferred with key

government ministers on demands made by leaders of rail and electricity workers—both of whom are threatening renewed strikes to back demands for substantial wage increases.

The rail workers are threatening to throw France into a new day of transportation chaos—the fourth this month—Wednesday and electricity workers have announced plans for an "active week" starting Thursday.

Feyrefitte's back-to-work appeal outlined a government wage offer to the coal miners made Monday and denied union statements that an eight-per-cent raise would be dragged out over two years.

He said the government offer, which he described as "more amount to eight per cent by Oct. 1 with an increase to 12.5 per cent by April 1 next year."

The government ministerial meeting brought no new offers from the management side and left the issue squarely in the hands of the miners.

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- Saturday, March 30—Wood Islands

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