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plant, so let's sit down and work something out. If you are prepared to put your money up, maybe we can match it".

Was there that type of consultation with the industry? Was there any attempt to work out a plan of survival, a plan of new development? Again, nothing happened. So, why should it come as a surprise that there is indignation? Why should it come as a surprise when we have been treated to 14 months of inaction, 14 months of a lack of preparation and planning? Of course, this is something that is happening in the entire area of trade. Where are the advisory committees that we were promised seven or eight months ago, whether they be related to textiles, or lumber, or steel? Where are the meetings we were promised in these sectors?

I have met with representatives from these sectors and on asking how the meetings were going, I have been told that they have not yet been invited to any meetings. They do not know what is going on. Because they have not been consulted, they cannot say what the negotiations are going to be like.

Consultation was promised. Advisory committees were promised. Instead, what we got was a temporary, part-time, partially loyal negotiator, an individual who says he will do the job "after four" once he has taken care of his other interests.

In the meantime, as we heard from the statements earlier today, the Americans are already proposing a whole series of very serious negotiations in respect of lumber and publishing. The Americans want to get down to the hard facts. Contrary to what the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) said earlier, they are putting forth the resolution of the disputes in these areas as a precondition to there being any general discussions on trade. I have rechecked the statements from the Washington news reports, and certainly the American trade representative is saying that these issues have to be resolved before the general talks begin.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): That is not—

Mr. Axworthy: I will send you the quotes. I hope the Secretary of State for External Affairs will take a lesson in speed reading so that he will be able to keep abreast of all of the dispatches coming in. I am sure he must be behind.

The fact of the matter is that the Government is not coming to grips with the needs of our domestic industries. Our industries are apprehensive. They do not know what investment plans to make. I have spoken to several major industrial groups, all of whom say that they are being left in limbo.

The brewery industry employs tens of thousands of people across this country, and it is an industry that has invested some \$3 billion to \$4 billion in plants in the last several years. That industry has now stopped absolutely all of its investment plans. It recognizes that in the event that there is a free trade agreement entered into, it will be virtually wiped out right across the country. As a result, it has put a halt to its investment plans. Because it simply does not know what will happen, hundreds of millions of dollars are being held back from investment.

That is the kind of problem we are facing. This Government has designed a communications strategy to make sure that Canadians do not know what is going on. Its aim is to keep people in the dark. The strategy is: "Don't let on what we are up to".

I want to come back to how the example of the shoe industry argues against that approach. We have kept the shoe workers and the shoe manufacturers in the dark for 14 months. They made their offer; they made their proposal. They said: "We want to get to the table to see whether or not something can be worked out". However, they were given no assistance in doing that. Now we are faced with the spectre of having the same kind of indifference being applied to countless other industrial sectors across Canada as we get into the serious negotiation on free trade.

The Minister has used the report of the Canadian Import Tribunal as his defence. Did he read the supplementary report that was prepared as part of that report by the Employment and Immigration Commission, a report which points out that the prospect for the re-employment of many of the workers in that industry is virtually nil given an unemployment rate of 10 per cent or better?

At present we have an unemployment rate of 10.3, 10.6 per cent. It was the view of that commission that the only prospect for the re-employment of the thousands of workers in that industry would be in the situation where the unemployment rate was somewhere around the level of 7 per cent or 8 per cent. Well, I would say to the Hon. Member for Sherbrooke, who quickly scooted out of the House—he is so deeply interested in this debate that he didn't hang around—that the fact of the matter is that the responsibility for reinvestment in that sector, in that region, rests with the Government.

Even if it had been the position of the Government that it no longer wished to protect the shoe industry, it should have at least sat down with the people involved to help them plan for alternative employment. The unemployment rates in many of those regions are not in the range of 10 per cent, the national average, but more in the range of 15 per cent or 20 per cent. We will place a number of workers into a larger pool of unemployed in which their chances of survival are negligible.

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What does the Government have to offer? What is its response to this? What was the beneficent contribution it made to that sector? It said it would give the workers industrial adjustment services. It said that civil servants from Employment and Immigration would open offices in the regions and talk to the people about how they can get early retirement or how they can leave the regions and perhaps find employment elsewhere. That was the answer of the Government. That is simply not good enough. It is not good enough for the shoe workers and it is not good enough for the hundreds of thousands of workers who will be affected by proposed trade negotiations. Surely we must be able to learn at least one lesson from this. Surely we must learn that it is time the Government got busy and did its job.