

THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT THERE IS UNANIMITY IN OTTAWA WITH RESPECT TO THE VIEWS WHICH YOU HAVE EXPRESSED, NOR THAT ALL OF THEM HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED. BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT YOUR REPRESENTATIONS HAVE BEEN HEARD AND UNDERSTOOD.

THERE IS RECOGNITION IN OTTAWA NOT ONLY OF THE SPECIFIC CONCERNS WHICH YOU HAVE REGISTERED BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY OF THE VITAL ROLE WHICH MANUFACTURING PLAYS IN THE GROWTH OF OUR ECONOMY AND IN THE PROVISION OF JOBS. LOOKED AT FROM AN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE, THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR HAS MADE A PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE OVERALL PERFORMANCE OF THE CANADIAN ECONOMY. IT HAS, FOR EXAMPLE, ACCOUNTED FOR 22-24% OF NATIONAL REAL OUTPUT IN THE POST-WAR PERIOD. TRADE IN THIS SECTOR HAS ALSO BEEN SIGNIFICANT, WITH EXPORTS OF MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS IN 1976 ACCOUNTING FOR \$25 BILLION OR TWO-THIRDS OF TOTAL CANADIAN MERCHANDISE EXPORTS. AT THE SAME TIME, IMPORTS OF MANUFACTURES OF SOME \$30 BILLION REPRESENTED 83% OF TOTAL CANADIAN IMPORTS IN 1976. IN THE SAME YEAR, DIRECT EMPLOYMENT IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR ACCOUNTED FOR ABOUT 20% OF TOTAL JOBS IN THE ECONOMY. THIS FIGURE REPRESENTS A DECLINE OF 5% SINCE 1951 - BUT THIS, OF COURSE, REFLECTS SIGNIFICANT GAINS IN PRODUCTIVITY IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR.