

Mrs. Marleau: Thank you for a well-put question. The post-secondary level of education in this country has been severely taxed and severely hit in the past. The people in the education field in my area are extremely concerned with the cutbacks that have already occurred within the system, and they are wondering how they can withstand more serious cutbacks as they see them coming.

The biggest issue is that if we do not train our young people today, how can we have the competitiveness that we need? Our human resources are key. We have the natural resources, but we must train our young people to add value to these resources so that we are the ones who are manufacturing and selling our exports to the other countries and not shipping these resources out to those countries where the labour is cheap and perhaps the training is not very good. If our training is very good, we can afford to pay ourselves some decent wages because we can produce goods that are of higher quality and we can sell them for better value. We will have done the training of our young people and we will also at the same time have done the research and development that needs to be done in order to come up with newer, more innovative techniques in the manufacturing sector. It is absolutely essential.

These are areas within our country that have made our country great in the past. We must not slacken our efforts in that area.

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, I commend the member of Parliament for Sudbury for a well-articulated display of economic wisdom. However, I am wondering whether she knows that in Ontario of some 31,000 people who were recently laid off, almost 20,000 of those individuals came as a result of complete shut-downs of plants and closures, and therefore they are of the permanent variety.

I wonder whether she might draw the House's attention to the fact that these are not just lost in a temporary short-term sense but that they are long-term and permanent. It tells us that we have to make severe and serious structural changes.

Mrs. Marleau: I would like to add to that comment. Shame to this government for doing the kinds of things that it has done. It is unconscionable that it would

Supply

continue in closing its ears and shutting its eyes when we see this total deindustrialization, the loss of these long-term jobs. Has it no care for what happens in Canada?

I see the member across from me shaking his head. I do not believe that this is a laughing matter, hon. colleague. I do not foresee any greatness for our country when a government chooses to continue in its policies of total devastation within our economy.

I would ask the member across the way to please go back to his leader and convey the message which we are trying to bring forth.

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): On debate. The hon. member for Ottawa—Vanier has the floor for 10 minutes.

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I will be sharing that time with the hon. member for Sudbury.

The motion before us takes stock of the disastrous consequences the Conservative government's policies have had on the Canadian economy. There are three points in that motion. First, it proposes:

That this House condemn the Government for:

(1) maintaining a high interest/high dollar policy that gives foreigners a continuing competitive advantage over Canadian producers;

It is a fact as well as the truth. The current recession, which was largely made in Canada by this government, is fuelled by a conservative policy of high interests and an over-valued dollar.

[English]

In the past year the Ontario economy has borne much of the burden. Between January 1990 and February, Ontario lost 56,000 jobs, most of them in the manufacturing sector, half of them by experts who will be difficult to replace. Ontario's industrial base has been eroded and much of the damage will be, as I said, permanent.

The blame for this economic mess can only be placed on the insensitivity of this Tory government, which has purposely engineered a recession and thousands—I say, thousands—of personal and business bankruptcies. The pain being felt throughout Ontario and within my riding of Ottawa—Vanier is terrible.