

We, on the other hand, as maritimers, tend to send opposition members. As a result, our voices are not as numerous and not necessarily as strong as those of other regions of the country. When I go to caucus on Wednesday morning, I see four fellow Nova Scotians in the room. At the same time, I see 55 or 56 members from Quebec. It is incumbent on us as Nova Scotians to speak up loudly to make sure that our voices are heard.

That is why I stand in this debate and welcome the opportunity to participate early, to raise my voice, not only on behalf of Canada which we are all here to represent, but particularly on behalf of my own province of Nova Scotia, as we look at the two goals of economic prosperity and the quest for national unity.

Economic issues are not only the key to unity, but they are foremost on the minds of Nova Scotians today. When I am in my constituency, or travelling in different parts of my province, I find that while there is passing interest in the unity debate in Canada, the preoccupation is with economic issues.

We are in the midst of, and have been for some time, difficult economic times in the maritimes, precipitated in part by the difficulties in our fishing industry, which is still our largest industry, and also by difficulties in our forest products industry because of burgeoning disputes with the Europeans and concern about what may happen with a memorandum of understanding in softwood lumber, and other issues.

We have not been well served, quite frankly, by the medicine that has been given to the Canadian economy to respond to the overheated situation in Ontario. We have not been in an overheated situation, therefore, we have not benefited from the high interest rates over the last couple of years, or from the high dollar which makes our exports more expensive. In the south-west of Nova Scotia we are an export economy and we have not benefited from a high dollar.

Quite frankly, as I travel from one end of the south shore to the other, I am distressed at the number of businesses that have gone out of business or that are bankrupt.

Looking at unemployment insurance statistics, although recently they appear to have become more favourable in Nova Scotia, I suspect that if we were to examine the number of people who have withdrawn

themselves from the labour force, that may well have impacted those rates.

It is important for people here in Ottawa to understand that whatever arguments may be made about various economic and fiscal factors, whether they be good or whether they be bad, the perception that exists in my province right now is that times are tough and that we have been negatively impacted by the economic medicine that has been targeted primarily at Ontario and Quebec.

I see, Mr. Speaker, that you are giving me the eye so I guess I will have to wait until after lunch.

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until two o'clock this afternoon.

At 1 p.m., the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[Translation]

THE ARMENIAN COMMUNITY

Mrs. Shirley Maheu (Saint-Laurent—Cartierville): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to make the House realize of the concerns shared by the Armenian community of Canada, who are gravely offended and angry about the most recent acts of violence perpetrated by the Soviet security forces.

[English]

Financial assistance should not be provided to the Soviet Union if it does not immediately halt the violence against the Soviet-Armenian population. It is time for the U.S.S.R. to act as a responsible power and facilitate a peaceful solution of this crisis.

[Translation]

It is extremely urgent that we express our great concern and anxiety to the central authorities of the Soviet Union. We must demand an immediate end to these criminal acts.