

Industrial Development

Canada is also very fortunate to have an abundant supply of resources in terms of both a variety of raw materials and human resources. In theory, we should have a strong economy second to none, yet this does not seem to be the case.

Countries such as Germany and Japan, which import substantial amounts of raw materials and petroleum for energy needs, have vibrant economies. Canadians ask themselves why. The answer is effective policy and planning and a desire by governments to look after their own countries and their own people first.

People respect hard-earned success and action in the face of challenge. Perhaps that is why more and more Canadians are losing respect for the present government, which has had more than enough time to design and implement some sort of effective and far-reaching industrial development strategy for Canada. We cannot afford to surrender our domestic markets to foreign competitors.

We see unacceptable rates of unemployment and inflation and crippling interest rates in Canada today. Nothing is more demeaning for a person who is able to work, who wants to work and who has a family to support than to be unable to find a job. The government should make the creation of jobs and a comprehensive industrial policy its highest priority, and it must not forget the importance of small business to Canada's economy. When our people are working and our plants are at capacity, then perhaps the government can direct its talents to other measures.

Canada is one of the largest countries in the world. We can go a long way in a north-south or east-west direction without ever crossing our borders. The government must start within Canada to solve the real problems affecting Canadians before it goes off looking for others. We need to ensure that industry and business in Canada survive, grow and compete to serve markets both in Canada and abroad. This goal is vital and basic. It requires immediate government attention. Small business needs help now, as it is a vital contributor to employment and the Canadian economy.

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We must maintain and strengthen our domestic market in Canada so that Canadians have access to a variety of Canadian goods. The Canadian textile industry has some 1,000 plants located in most parts of the country and employs some 90,000 men and women. Together with the clothing industry, these two industries create total direct employment for some 185,000 people and add to the total indirect employment of another 300,000 people, accounting for total employment of some 485,000 people.

The textile and clothing industries are the largest manufacturing industries and employers of production workers in Canada. One out of every eight jobs in Canada, one out of every four jobs in Quebec and one out of every seven jobs in Manitoba are in these industries. Canada's textile and clothing industries shipped over \$8 billion worth of goods in 1979.

In the primary textile industry the average establishment employed some 80 people and had average shipments of \$3.7

million in 1977. Establishments vary in size, from a large number of small establishments, some 400 employing fewer than 20 people, to a couple of dozen establishments employing more than 500 people. Statistics for 1977 indicate that over 70 per cent of textile establishments had fewer than 50 employees and that some .6 per cent had more than 1,000 employees. The bulk of the industry's output is produced in establishments located in non-metropolitan areas with populations of less than 100,000. For example, the Celanese textile plant located in my riding of Hastings-Frontenac-Lennox and Addington employs some 900 people and is located in an area with an approximate population of some 80,000 people.

Over 60 per cent of clothing manufacturing establishments in 1977 had fewer than 50 employees, with only .5 per cent having employees in the 500 to 1,000 range. The bulk of the industry is in Montreal, Toronto and Winnipeg, with other smaller companies in small and medium-sized communities in Ontario and Quebec.

The textile and clothing industry is a very important source of employment for Canadians and a very important input to our economy. We must ensure that this industry survives and grows. The government must create a comprehensive industrial policy that looks hard at the needs and concerns of the textile and clothing industry.

We have heard stories to the effect that souvenirs such as plastic miniature Canadian mounties purchased at well-known tourist attractions are produced in countries other than Canada. I suppose if we carry this further and the Canadian textile and clothing industry is not given the support it deserves and requires, in the future it may be possible to see real mounties on Parliament Hill wearing real uniforms which are made in a country other than Canada.

Due to the external pressures of world trade and politics foreign suppliers could decide to turn off supply. We all know how cold the winters are in Ottawa. The point I am trying to make is that it is not healthy to allow Canadian industry to disappear. Canadian industry employs Canadians. The problem with increasing dependence on foreign goods is that without proper controls we could be signing the death warrant for our own industries. We may not notice this happening if it is gradual, but the fact remains that if it happens, we run the risk of being held to ransom by a monopoly of foreign suppliers. When all aspects of production, quality and quantity reside with others whose first interest is not the Canadian interest, that makes us economic prisoners and reduces our standard of living.

The government must ensure that Canadian industry is protected now and for the future. This will involve hard work and long-term planning. The Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Gray) must show leadership, direction and support in getting Canada on its feet and on its way to restoration to a position of respect and strength, not on its way down the garden path where the government has been leading us in the past.

The textile and clothing industry is attempting to strengthen its position in Canada in order to prepare itself for the future.