

members of the Quebec Conservative Caucus who asked the government about support for shipyards in the province of Quebec, and it is clear that the industry cannot count on that support.

[English]

One can see the same thing in Ontario and in parts of Quebec in the major problems which exist in both those provinces in the automotive industry. Certainly I see it in my home constituency. I also see it in the city of Windsor itself. I see it in St. Catharines, in Toronto, in Oshawa, in Ste. Thérèse in Quebec. Right across the whole of industrial Ontario and Quebec one sees that this industry, which has been the engine of economic progress and growth for Ontario and Quebec and to a significant degree for the entire country, has been hit with lay-offs, some of them temporary, but far too many of them permanent. These lay-offs are hitting workers in General Motors in their van plant in Toronto, lay-offs which are hitting workers in St. Catharines that are permanent, lay-offs in Ford in its engine plants in my constituency, lay-offs in Ste. Thérèse which I fear may turn out to be permanent.

These same economic problems exist across the prairie provinces. Earlier this past year when I was in Portage La Prairie, one of the largest employers, Campbell Soup, was shutting down its operations and consolidating its operations as a consequence of the free trade deal.

One can see the farm economy right across western Canada being hard hit directly and, therefore, the offshoots of that farm economy itself being very, very hard hit, for example, food processing, machinery manufacturing that contribute to inputs to the farm economy itself.

We have just heard that this sense of serious problems in the Canadian economy is reaching British Columbia. The resource sector is being especially hard-hit. The west coast fisheries are being hit with serious threats to processing plants as a consequence of GATT decisions.

As well, some of our mining and mineral industries such as Cominco in Kimberley, B.C. in the Kootenays are telling 700 plus workers and another 200 or 300 staff people that their jobs are being eliminated. That is in a

town of 6,000 people, so we are looking at devastation for that community.

We can see many changes in economic policy which are required in the face of some of these serious problems. We see, for instance, the need to cut interest rates in this country to a sensible level. Historically, we have never had a gap of 4.5 percentage points between interest rates in Canada and the United States. Yet that is what this government continues to support.

We can see the immense importance of serious rules to govern plant closings so that a company cannot simply decide that because it can make more money in the United States, it can shut down its operations in Canada and transfer production to the United States. There has to be a possibility for workers in communities that are affected to be able to examine the books of companies in those situations, and if those companies are making money to be able to take those operations over with the support of community development funds to make sure that jobs and communities are preserved.

We need the development of regional development banks which will be able to see that in poorer parts of Canada that assistance in the form of capital, at lower interest rates, is available to help small producers, to help new businesses establish new jobs.

We have to see the potential for a general system of variations in interest rates so that poorer parts of the country suffering much less from any inflationary pressure are able to have access to capital at significantly lower rates of interest. They have done this in Japan for many years. It is something that we could do in Canada quite readily.

We have to put much more emphasis on research and development, not just in the industrial sector of our economy, but right across our economy.

However, and this is what the motion deals with, we need a bottom-up approach to industrial planning for the future of this country so as to make much more use of the skills which we have here in Canada; to be able to use the resources which we have in this country in a way that will see to it that the many Canadians who are out of work are combined with the resources which exist in this country to produce new items which we have been