

been major contributors to its failure to give us a consistent industrial policy.

• (1250)

That failure is demonstrated, for example, in the fact that the previous Minister, testifying before the international trade committee last year, told us that within two months to three months we would have before us a new automotive strategy. We have still to see such a strategy, approximately 10 months after that statement. We have seen absolutely no statements of broad strategy in respect of the critical need in the country to produce much more of the machinery that we use. We have seen no policy to get the most out of foreign investment. As a matter of fact, we have seen important and dangerous retreats in respect of that goal. We have seen no policy whatsoever with regard to the lay-offs that have hit many workers across the country. Many of them are older workers who have been hit by shut-downs, as a consequence, and have not been able to find alternate jobs.

Despite the statements of the previous Minister of Labour, no policies in respect of industrial adjustment have been put forward by the Government. The consequences are to be found in the Black & Decker plant in Barrie, which shut down in 1984, the Trenton Car Works in Nova Scotia, which was shut down for much of the Government's period in office, as well as apparel manufacturing plants in downtown Toronto which have been shut down, to the Gulf refinery in Montreal, which was shut down, and the pressures which exist on smaller steel companies in the West. We have seen no policy which has given any direction whatsoever. We have seen no sense of a broad strategy or of a game plan with regard to the manufacturing sector.

Referring to the Province of Ontario alone, in the past year there have been, in terms of either announced shut-downs or significant lay-offs, over 100 such occurrences affecting over 14,000 workers, according to data which come from the Ministry of Industry in Ontario.

In this set of failures there have been some real horror stories. There has been the case of Lapp Insulators where we in Hamilton appealed to the Minister to permit a workers' co-operative to buy out the company. He refused, and the consequence a few short months later was that an American took it over and shut it down. We have seen horror stories like that one which affected Goodyear workers in Toronto, 1,400 of whom hit the bricks because of a lack of strategy in the automotive sector, and 1,300 people who have now lost their jobs at Firestone in Hamilton for much the same reason.

We have seen the case of White Farm Machinery in Brantford, where a Canadian entrepreneur had taken the plant to a point where it was moving well but needed some assistance from the Government. The Government said "no", and the company was put under as a direct result of the Government's lack of direction and lack of action in the industrial area.

S. O. 21

This has been especially evident in the area from which I come. The constituency of Essex—Windsor has seen an accelerating number of such shut-downs, demonstrating this lack of effectiveness and this lack of direction in industrial policy. We have seen the International Tool Limited case that has cost 185 workers their jobs, without a single word of explanation to the community about why that plant which had been profitable up to that stage should have simply shut down at the very start of a strike and at a point at which it had received all sorts of grants and assistance from the Government.

We could talk about the case of Cross Lasalle in the Windsor area, a small plant which was taken over by an American plant and shut down very shortly afterwards. We could talk about the case of Sheller Globe, again a profitable plant taken over by an American company which was shut down and cost 205 workers their jobs. We could talk about Dominion Forge, another plant which at this stage is in the process of shutting down. We could talk about lay-offs which are hitting, for instance, Kelsey Hayes, costing 200 workers their jobs at this point; the General Motors transmission plant in Windsor, costing over 300 workers their positions; and the lay-offs at Central Stamping that I visited this past week which is costing 30 workers their jobs.

Part of the reason for this is in the failure of the Government to define and set out an automotive strategy. I think part of it also comes from the preparation of various companies for the trade deal coming into effect. However, I think a big part of what is taking place is a consequence of the complete absence of policy on the part of the Government. It is almost as if the Government set out to devastate the heart of manufacturing in Canada.

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): After recess, the Hon. Member will have five minutes left to finish his speech.

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. 21

[Translation]

THE ARMENIANS

MEMBER'S SUPPORT

Mr. Raymond Garneau (Laval-des-Rapides): Mr. Speaker, the present situation of ethnic minorities in the Soviet Union is worrisome. The Armenian, Lithuanian, Ukrainian, Jewish,