

loss of jobs, wealth and economic activity that this means to Canadians, particularly young people who are fully capable of being trained in this country to build chips, computers and other microelectronic equipment that we are and will be using in Canada.

Today, our society is one in which soon every child will have a computer on his desk in every classroom in the country, but we will be importing those computers from abroad. That shows a lack of foresight and planning and is a disgrace to a country as talented as ours.

A second concern I have is that of the little high technology industry that does exist in this country, 40 per cent is already foreign owned and controlled. Many Canadian firms are now very vulnerable to foreign takeovers. Whatever industry we do have in Canada will end up like the oil industry today, being foreign owned, if we do not take appropriate action. The situation may even be worse since there will not be branch plants in the country. Instead we will be importing all of the high-tech equipment for our country's use. We must become aware of these realities as a nation and have some vision and confidence.

I am also concerned about the transition from our industrial society to our information society and how it affects so many people by unemployment. While I do not believe anyone has all the answers, one solution is obviously retraining. Perhaps we will move into a society in which we will continue to have shorter work weeks. We began some years ago with a 65-hour work week and we are now down to 40-hour work weeks. Perhaps there will be 15 or 20-hour work weeks in our society 50 years from now and we will have five or six weeks of holidays instead of three or four weeks. The Government of François Mitterrand is now experimenting with shortening the work week from 40 hours to 35 hours.

**An Hon. Member:** There is no work in France. That is what happens with socialism.

**Mr. Nystrom:** Suddenly my Conservative friends get very upset. They are afraid to look at any new and different ideas. I suggest that they will have to consider the possibility of continuing to shorten the work day or work week and increasing the holiday time in the years ahead. I say that because many of the jobs today will disappear and we will have to take care of those displaced people fairly and equally, whether my friends in the Liberal Party like it or not.

Let me use the automobile industry as an example. Last September, I had the opportunity to speak in Chicago to the United Auto Workers. The director of research of the American United Auto Workers told the convention that even if the United States retrieved its full share of auto production from the Japanese and others, only 17 years from now, in the year 2000, 80 per cent of the jobs that existed in the booming 1970s will have disappeared because of robotics and the fully automated factory.

There are now automobile factories in Japan in which 98 per cent of the operation is robotized. The average time for producing a car in Japan is some 11 hours, while it is some 31 hours in the United States. Robots in Japan are now producing cars in nine hours. The cost in terms of robots is about \$5 an

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hour, whereas in terms of human labour the cost is \$15 an hour for salary and benefits. This is the reality. As legislators we will have to consider ways to retrain workers who are displaced rather than letting them simply draw Unemployment Insurance or go on welfare. That is the challenge we face and we must ensure that the ordinary people are not the victims of the robots.

We are heading toward a robotized society in the world. The Japanese now have plants in which robots are building robots. In fact, in a machine plant just outside of Tokyo there are robots working the nightshift with only one human in the plant, the night watchman. That is the type of society that is evolving in our world.

I strongly suggest that we begin to retrain our people and put more money into upgrading their skills and preparing them for the world of today and tomorrow. The Japanese have 40 times as many young people in electrical engineering schools as we do in Canada and Japan has five times our population. Other countries such as Germany, France, Austria and Scandinavian countries put more emphasis on retraining than we do in Canada, and as a result the unemployment rate is lower and the standard of living is higher.

I believe that today's society also causes us to raise many questions about the direction in which our country is headed. The Hon. Member for Saskatoon East (Mr. Ogle) raised the question of our human values and the concept of our moral issues in terms of the machine and human beings. I think they were very good questions. We are moving into a society where many of the things we took for granted years ago, such as the value of physical labour and the value of capital, are being challenged. We are now entering into a society in which perhaps information is more important and brain intensive industries will be more important, where the knowledge that one possesses will be key in determining whether an industry is efficient or productive. I think a lot of the theories we had in the past are now being challenged.

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It is important in this new revolution that we maintain very human values of sharing, co-operating and building and that we use high technology and new innovations to liberate people to make sure that we are not the slaves of the robot, that we make the robot work for us. We should make sure that we use technology to eliminate jobs that are dangerous in terms of health and safety and eliminate jobs that are jobs of drudgery. We should use the new technology to increase our productivity so that we will have more wealth to go around, to give human beings more free time and time to do work in the human and social field than has been done in the past. If we do that, then we can create a society that is better and more decent in the years that lie ahead.

Because of the new technologies we have a chance to have a more decentralized or a more democratic society as well. It will be a more flexible society. We should try to use these new