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to afford to go to university in a variety of ways, and it has the gall to cut \$100 million from training programs.

This has been a pattern of a consistent policy of attacking those very measures and tools and institutions that are necessary in economic development.

As Peter C. Newman, the National Advisory Board on Science and Technology, the consortium and as every commentator knows, this government, rather than improving our competitiveness, is presiding over the deindustrialization of Canada. This is not a government that the Canadian people want to continue. We ask it to resign.

Mr. Jerry Pickard (Essex—Kent): Mr. Speaker, I listened with a great deal of enthusiasm to some of the comments that my colleague from Windsor—St. Clair mentioned.

Because he and I represent neighbouring areas of this country in southwestern Ontario, we have very similar concerns. Without a doubt, when we start looking at the situation that has occurred in Windsor, in Essex county and in Chatham and Kent counties, we have seen unlimited devastation. We have seen thousands and thousands of job losses in a very short time.

As a matter of fact since the free trade agreement came in, we have seen 4,800 jobs lost in the manufacturing sector alone. When we talk to the farm community, it is very clearly stating that this goes beyond the farm community to the financial experts who are looking at what is happening. The banks and the finance companies are saying, straight out, one-third of the area farmers in Essex and Kent County are in serious financial difficulties.

• (1820)

I listened to the Federation of Agriculture in Kent County and the Federation of Agriculture in Essex County just a month and a month and a half ago, in January. Their greatest concern was to have enough dollars in order to plant crops this year. They are not talking about difficulties. I heard statements such as a lack of direction in this government, despair, dire straits, we are under attack. These were statements that were made time and time again, not only by the agricultural community, but by the work force, the municipalities involved, the social service groups that came forward, by

everyone who seemed to be there. It was a consistent bit of testimony.

Another interesting point to our region was the fact that we heard: We are cut off from Canada. This government does not care about southwestern Ontario. We are cut off from Canada by its monetary policies, its CBC cuts, the VIA Rail reductions. We see, time and time again, that not only has the monetary policy been very devastating, but communications has been reduced drastically. Now we are faced with rural newspapers, small newspapers in this country, under attack as well.

It is a fact that the agricultural community is under attack, and it is voicing that very clearly. When one-third of the farmers in the most prosperous area in Canada in farming—and may I point out that in the two counties of Kent and Essex they produced in the 1988–89 crop year \$450 million worth of agricultural produce—we are looking at figures like that and saying in two counties, one-third of the farm community is really not going to make it.

Things have to be done in order to improve that situation.

We also clearly heard, and again it relates very strongly to my colleague's area, the very dire concerns about what is happening to the work force. The work force in Kent and Essex county, as I mentioned just a moment ago, lost some 5,000 jobs basically. If we look at Windsor, Windsor has suffered 36 per cent job losses, and my colleague from Windsor—St. Clair can confirm that point.

Mr. de Jong: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

I understand that after a member's address there are 10 minutes allowed for questions and answers. I am interested in the hon. member's remarks but I noted that his question, in fact, is several sheets of paper already typed out. So he must have anticipated the question before the speech.

I wonder if the hon. member can get to the question so that some other members might also be able to pose some questions to my colleague.

Mr. Pickard: It is a shame but this time is called question and comment. Maybe this member is not aware of what this time period really is. Question and comment allows me to prepare in advance, as all Liberals do. Possibly you do not. There are comments that I have heard from you that were not prepared in advance—but