

FRENCH FINANCE MINISTER SAYS
DEINDUSTRIALIZATION IS GOVERNMENT POLICY

Nov. 26 (IPS)--At a French Senate meeting Nov. 22 Finance Minister Jean-Pierre Fourcade openly said that the destruction of sectors of French industry is official government policy.

After stating that "a more selective action of industrial restructuring" must be the government's policy in 1975, Fourcade added:

"There is naturally no question of instituting a mechanism of automatically rescuing companies in difficulty: such a system would be irrational from an economic point of view because it would slow down the indispensable evolution of our industrial structures and would do away with sanctions against bad management....In reality, the actions of public authorities in this area can only be selective. Its objective is to facilitate the structural evolution made necessary by economic progress."

Fourcade was reminded by another Senator that such policies might cause increased unemployment. To this the Finance Minister replied: "But one cannot at the same time want to redeploy industry and fight for maintaining present [levels of] company employment."

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