

Many factors behind

Poli-Twine plant's demise

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"The employees of Poli-Twine, from management to production, have done more than they were required to keep this place running," he said.

He believes several factors came to play in the plant's demise, saying the higher Canadian dollar and an American bank's move to reduce the company's credit flow "have caused us to close our doors."

Another 23-year employee at Poli-Twine was bitter about the closure.

"We knew we have a cash flow problem but they said they would get it straightened out," said the worker, who declined to give her name.

"I feel pretty down and very disappointed. You work with people for a number of years and now they're all gone."

She said employees are con-

cerned about getting what is owed them.

"A lot of us have severance coming to us and we're not even sure about that anymore," she said.

A 15-year-employee said the closure wasn't a complete surprise.

"We have been dealing with problems the past six months. Business has been dropping and, to me, it wasn't a surprise that it's closing," said the worker who didn't want to give his name.

"I'm just ambivalent at this point because I was expecting something like this for a while. Everyone has to move on now," he added.

The chairman of CAW Local 1839 charged the local plant was unprepared for Friday's closure.

"The company wasn't really prepared with the paperwork to close us down," said the official, who declined to give his name.

"The union membership is

heartbroken," he said. "We all have families and we are left without benefits."

The union, he noted, has invited its national representative, Dan Garvey, to come to Belleville and speak with senior plant managers about benefits and severance packages for the workers.

"Our union is trying to get some information out of them. Really, we have no information about benefits, severance pay, or anything."