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Our Party is very concerned about what this means. What we are seeing here is simply part of two critical processes which are starting to raise more concerns with Canadians than ever these days. The first process is the continuous sell-out, the willingness of the Government to accept the notion that what is a good deal for the shareholders of Dome is a good deal for Canada. I think a case can be made, as my colleague, the Hon. Member for Vancouver—Kingsway did so well today when he indicated that the major shareholders of Dome Petroleum are actually Canadian citizens, Canadian taxpayers. Think of the hundreds of millions of dollars Canadians have invested in that critical natural gas and oil company through their taxes.

I think, as responsible parliamentarians, if we are concerned about the investment which has been made by the shareholders who have invested in Dome, as well as the taxpayers who have also invested heavily in that company, we must realize there is a vested interest and responsibility to ensure that the deal which is made with this particular company is in the best interests of Canada as a whole. We are all well aware that Canada, unfortunately, will be a net oil importer by the early 1990s. We have to become aggressive in the development of that resource.

As long as there are critical decisions being made about oil and natural gas, not in Calgary but in Chicago, Dallas or Houston, those decisions will not necessarily be made in the best interest of Canadians. That is what we are saying. It seems to me when we call for an emergency debate, we do so to get some information. There are all kinds of questions which need to be asked. My Leader went through a long litany of questions which people have asked, yet there has been no response from the Government. Our energy critic, the Hon. Member for Vancouver—Kingsway, asked another set of questions; what are we getting for this? What steps is the Government taking to ensure that this is a good deal for Canada? All we hear are rather flowery speeches and rhetoric from Members of the Government, including the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. That is not the way to conduct business. That is not the way this House of Commons is supposed to operate. In fact, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Shields) had the audacity to suggest that it seemed like we were being political. Of course we are being political. This is a critical political question. Who owns Canada? Who controls Canada? Who controls this important resource? That is what this is all about.

It is critical that we move away from a Government which believes that what is good for the shareholders of Dome is automatically and unquestionably good for Canada and its future. We also have to ask why we are moving so quickly. Why is it that the directive went out to the Chairman of Petro Canada: "Do not talk to Dome"? Why did the word go out to the chairman of Dome: "Do not talk to Petro Canada"? It seems to our Party that this is part of the process of the Government giving in to the United States because of its rush to negotiate a free trade deal. It is in effect admitting it gave in

to the States on the softwood issue and on a whole range of other issues, including acid rain. This American giant wants to gobble up one of the major players in our energy sector and the Government is laying down its cloak and saying: "Welcome to Canada once again. This is another takeover and we like takeovers in Canada". That is the voice of the present Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and the federal Government.

Our Party believes this is not in the best interest of Canada. We have articulated a whole host of reasons why we believe a better deal can be struck. A joint venture can be put together which would be in the best interests of Canada and would retain this critical Canadian company in Canadian control.

I want to simply issue a challenge to members of the Government who are here tonight. Can any of them tell me of an oil country in the world which would allow a majority resource to be controlled by foreigners? If there is such a country, I am unaware of it. I am unaware of any country which would allow foreigners to dominate its critical industry let alone own and control it. If there is such a country, I would challenge Members of the Government to identify it. Is there any other country which is prepared to sell out its petroleum industry as the Government of Canada has been doing over the years and will certainly do if it gives its approval to this particular takeover?

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle—Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, My remarks will be addressed through you to members of the Opposition and to the people of Canada. This happens to be a subject which one could call by several headings. It could be called "The Canadian solution". First, in reply to the Hon. Member for Kamloops—Shuswap (Mr. Riis), I challenge him to read the oil and gas regulations which deal with the Canada Lands. If he did read them, or if he ever does read them, he will find out that the law is very clear. That land belongs to Canada and is given out to companies either in the form of a permit or later on in the form of a lease. With one breach of the lease the whole acreage is lost.

• (2250)

I ask the Hon. Member to take a look at that and then come back to the more serious question. Any person who has read the British North America Act, and in particular the Alberta Natural Resources Act and the Saskatchewan Natural Resources Act, will know that it is made very clear as part of the Constitution that the sole owner of those resources, including water, is in the hands of the province. So when Hon. Members use the word "control" they do so without realizing the amount of control that we have set on all our industries. I do not think they should get too excited about this great perceived danger.

There is an Hon. Member sitting behind me who was in the Alberta Legislature in 1940. He belonged to the Social Credit Party. He knows that the Province of Alberta controls all the land in that province.

Mr. Taylor: Right on.