Mr. Althouse: The committee can get no more facts than we are getting tonight.

Mr. Young: Resign.

Mr. Andre: Every single person in the Province of Alberta, at least, and I would not be far wrong if I said western Canada knows what the fundamental problem is.

Mr. Lapierre: The Government.

Mr. Andre: Yes. It was the Government, the Liberal Government in 1980 that brought in the National Energy Program. There is no question about that.

This is a good opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to remind those of short memory what that National Energy Program did.

Mr. Lapierre: U.S. loans.

Mr. Axworthy: Where did you get your lobotomy?

Mr. Andre: On October 28, 1980, applauded by the Hon. Member for Vancouver Kingsway (Mr. Waddell) and the New Democratic Party, the Hon. Marc Lalonde brought in this document which put western Canada on its knees.

Mr. Gauthier: Baloney.

Mr. Andre: If the New Democratic Party is interested in facts, let them bring out the documents and look at the facts. Let them look at the Budget of November 1981 when the NEP was in place and let them look at the taxes that were being collected.

An Hon. Member: What has this got to do with the Northland Bank?

Mr. Andre: It has everything to do with the Northland Bank.

In fiscal year 1980-81, the Government of Canada collected about $2.3 billion in taxes from the oil and gas industry, representing about 10 per cent of corporate taxation. The oil and gas industry was about 10 per cent of Canadian industry.

Mr. Young: What about the companies you were involved with?

Mr. Andre: The next year under the the National Energy Program the taxes doubled. The next year the taxes doubled again. In the course of four years, the NEP took out $20 billion from the western Canadian economy. Let me repeat that. the NEP took out $20 billion. That is not the complete story, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Young: Poor Rosenberg and Eaton. Those are the boys you are protecting.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): Order.

Mr. Andre: As I indicated, the New Democratic Party is not interested in facts. Facts have a way of destroying a good issue, I agree. I understand their fear because facts are not of interest to them over there.

The National Energy Program introduced on one industry, not corporate income taxes which apply evenly and equally across the country—

Mr. Waddell: To oil companies.

Mr. Andre: —but the Liberal Government introduced in addition the Petroleum and Gas Revenue Tax. That only collected $82 billion, $83 billion, $84 billion.

Mr. Gauthier: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Some half an hour ago, Mr. Speaker, you brought to order a Member of the New Democratic Party because he was talking about the Canadian Commercial Bank. I wish you would bring it to the attention of the Minister that we are talking about the Northland crisis tonight and not about something that happened in 1981. Get back to the facts.

An Hon. Member: It is all relevant.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): An Hon. Member in the House says it is all relevant. It is relevant. I would like once again to invite all Members to keep in mind that the subject matter of debate tonight is a motion concerning the Northland Bank. The Hon. Minister is referring to the reasons that the Northland Bank is in difficulty now.

Mr. Axworthy: Alleged reasons.

Mr. Andre: The National Energy Program imposed on one industry, one sector of the country, Mr. Speaker, these extra taxes borne by no other industrial sector. The Petroleum and Gas Revenue Tax in 1982-83 raised $3.7 billion from one industry in extra taxes. The incremental oil revenue tax, the natural gas and gas liquid tax, the oil export tax, the Canadian ownership charge, only five separate different taxes to collect a total of $20 billion. Any economy, any nation, let alone a part of a nation, subject to that massive increase of exorbitant taxes will feel economic pain. In addition, the National Energy Program provided for confiscation of 25 per cent of oil and gas company assets offshore. It imposed a new regulatory regime, the Canadian Oil and Gas Lands Administration with a bunch of bureaucrats to look after the regulations and, FIRA was instructed to take a fine look at any transactions of oil companies.

What happened as a result of that, Mr. Speaker? According to estimates of, I believe, the Conference Board, something like $18 to $22 billion of Canadian capital left Canada. Let me emphasize that, $18 to $20 billion dollars. That translates at a bare minimum to 250,000 jobs that were poof, gone.

Mr. Axworthy: This is fantasyland.