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their concern in the next federal election. Unfortunately, that will probably not come for 18 months and in the interim we must do what we can to bring some logic to the Dome takeover.

We believe there are alternatives. The proposal that Dome would sell some of its shares to Canada if the Amoco takeover is approved is of little comfort. It is important to distinguish clearly between ownership and control. We are concerned that the control of Dome will be held by foreigners, mainly Amoco representatives, rather than Canadians. The decision of where the parent company will be headquartered will, therefore, be made in the best interests of the United States. Handing out a few shares to Canadian shareholders will not change that one iota. The future decision-making of that company will be done by people who are not Canadian citizens. Presumably they will be good American citizens, so the decisions will be made in the best interests of the Amoco corporation and, ultimately, the United States of America.

Mr. Cassidy: The Tories don't mind that.

Mr. Riis: As my friend from Ottawa says, the Tories don't mind that. Presumably this is what they want. When the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) went to New York and said that we want more foreigners doing business in Canada he was really saying that the Government does not have faith in Canadian investors and entrepreneurs. Well, Madam Speaker, we have faith. We believe that we should begin looking for solutions to job creation and economic prosperity at home. We should take pride in the knowledge that we can do the job and do not have to turn to the Japanese, Americans or Germans to solve our problems. We like their support, encouragement and involvement, but we are not looking to them to solve our economic problems.

The United States Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has indicated that it wants to change the rules under which we export our natural gas. It has said that the way in which we handle the transmission of our gas and assign the charges to that transmission is not now appropriate for exports to the United States.

This is a very short-sighted decision by the Americans. In 1986 we exported 744 billion cubic feet to the United States. That is a relatively small amount considering our historic trend. It was that low because of the fall in the cost of No. 6 fuel oil in the United States. I suspect that that is probably a temporary situation and that in the future the cost of No. 6 fuel oil will go up, as oil costs generally do. The demand for natural gas will then increase. As a matter of fact, only a few days ago western oil reports indicated that Tennaco from the United States was in Canada looking for possible ways to facilitate future gas exports to the United States.

We must also realize that President Reagan is a lame duck President. While our Prime Minister and the President of the United States may be good friends, write letters back and forth, and telephone each other as the news release indicates, it

is really Congress which decides upon the protectionist policies that will be applied.

As a result of this recent decision by FERC the playing field for natural gas exports to the United States has been tilted in favour of the U.S. They no longer provide equal opportunities for Canadian exporters to the United States. That is the real concern. We must realize that because the Prime Minister calls President Reagan on a regular basis and asks for his help is irrelevant. The President of the United States is either not interested in intervening on Canada's behalf, or not prepared or not able to intervene on Canada's behalf. Whatever the reason, that the Prime Minister reminds us daily of his close friendship with President Reagan is of little comfort, indeed.

In closing, we once again find that western Canada has been betrayed by the inability of the Government to deal with the international crisis affecting natural gas exports, just as the Government was so woefully inadequate in its response to the challenge on softwood lumber exports. One almost shudders to think of what tomorrow's headline will bring us. On what sector will the Americans next make a demand in response to which the Government, true to form, will say that if there is any way in which we can co-operate we will do so, whether with regard to steel exports, agricultural or mineral policy? More than simply having caved in, the Government has co-operated with the American demand on Dome.

We oppose the way in which the Government has bungled the situation of natural gas exports. In spite of the promises made by the Prime Minister when he was in western Canada that he would do something, he has done nothing about this matter. In spite of the promises of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources that he would do something, he has done nothing. The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources admitted today in the House that he was unable to do anything, that it is now up to the law courts in the United States and it will probably take years and years. It looks as though all Canadians will have to look to another political Party if their interests are to be adequately met.

● (1230)

Mr. Shields: Madam Speaker, I listened with a great deal of interest to the Member for Kamloops-Shuswap (Mr. Riis). His opening and closing remarks seemed to sum up the purpose of his rising to speak in the House today. In my opinion, he is not really concerned about the problems that we face in the energy industry in western Canada, but concerned about his Party's popularity and opportunity to transfer some of the support that has supposedly eroded from the Conservative Party in mid-term over to his Party.

I want to assure him that his rhetoric and misspeak will not go unnoticed. The Hon. Member talked about takeovers and that they represented a takeover of Canada by the United States. Of course, we in the House are familiar with the New Democratic Party rhetoric and that the socialist party of this country has always been anti-American.