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which imposed changes in the rules and taxation retroactively. That wrecked the oil and gas industry of Alberta and Saskatchewan and put this country back tremendously in the last several years. I remember in February of 1980 the Prime Minister promised to do the big projects. We have not had a big project done since. The biggest project we have had was the elevation of Ann Cools to the Senate. That is the only big project we have had since. The oil sands or tar sands plant went out the window. The Cold Lake heavy oil project went out the window. The Labrador Hydro development went out the window. We have not had a big project since because of the NEP and these other programs.

• (1140)

Our relationship with the U.S. has improved a little. Mr. Speaker, when we eliminate the NDP from the House of Commons altogether in the next election, or reduce them to two or three Members, when the United States, the business world and Canadians generally know that there is no longer a possibility of a vicious coalition between the NDP, the socialist lunatic-fringe element of Canadian life, and the Liberal Party, and that we are going to be in office for five years and sensible economic policies are going to be applied, then, of course, there will be a restoration of confidence and better relationships between the U.S. and Canada. I am glad to see the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. De Bané) is here because he knows how desirable that is. He knows how important the U.S. is to us for the marketing of fish products. He had the good sense to appoint my brother to the board of Fishery Products International Limited. He is now the interim chairman. I congratulate the Minister of Fisheries; he is almost non-partisan.

To get back to the question, I would like to see—

Mr. De Bané: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I would like to say to the Chamber that I am very fortunate that Mr. Andrew Crosbie has accepted to act as chairman of that very important company which is going to be the engine of the fishery in Newfoundland. According to every person who works for that company, he is the most competent Newfoundlander.

Mr. Crosbie: Except for his brother.

Mr. De Bané: Obviously, of course, he is not of the same political Party as my friend.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): Order, please. Would the Minister come to his point of order, if any?

Mr. De Bané: Mr. Speaker, my point is that the Hon. Member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie) should try to follow the path of his brother and become as responsible and competent as his own brother.

Mr. Crosbie: Mr. Speaker, he and I are no longer brothers so there cannot be any conflict of interest. The Minister tried to accuse me of a conflict of interest because I asked a question about that company. He can put my brother in every

company the Government has but it will not stop me from asking questions, Mr. Speaker. In any event, the only person in Newfoundland whom it would have been better to appoint than my brother would be myself. However, since I was not invited, I could not accept.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): There is one minute left in the question period.

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, I have just a quick question for the Hon. Member. He mentioned that John Turner's policies were the same as "ours". Could he elaborate on what he meant by that? Is he saying that what Turner is saying is basically Conservative policy?

Mr. Crosbie: Mr. Speaker, I am saying that John Turner exhibits every sign of having the same views with regard to the general direction the Government should move in as a Conservative would have. He is adopting the points that we have been making in the House since 1980. Why he would stay in the same Party that has ignored those views all through these years is beyond me. Let me give an example. Mr. Turner has said—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): Order, please. The question period has come to an end. The Hon. Member for Kamloops-Shuswap (Mr. Riis) on debate.

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to have an opportunity to follow the hon. Finance critic for the Progressive Conservative Party and to provide another viewpoint as to why our country is experiencing serious economic problems these days. I will perhaps make some responses to some of the comments made by the Hon. Member.

I would like to read once again the motion put forward by the Hon. Member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie). It is:

That this House is of the opinion that the Government of Canada can manage the economy in a way that would allow us to have lower interest rates than Canada now has and that we can have greater independence in interest rate policy despite the Government's failure to meet its commitment to so manage the economy.

We agree with the intent and principle of this motion. We believe that we can have a much more independent interest rate policy, a much more independent economic policy, that we can become less than totally dependent upon people like Paul Volcker, the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board in the United States, and that there are a number of areas in which Canada could be moving independently at the moment which would begin to reduce interest rates.

At the outset, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that while discussion today focuses on interest rates, surely it is more related to the tragic situation of the high unemployment levels which exist in Canada. Presumably we are debating interest rates today because, as Members of Parliament, we are concerned with the very serious plight faced by so many Canadians in all parts of the country. Perhaps one of the difficulties which we have in the House, and which the Government has generally, is that we normally refer to the unemployed in