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to the people of Alberta. As I recall the figure, 80 per cent of the people of Alberta invested in that pipeline system, a system that is now operated by NOVA Corporation. While the people of Alberta may sound like separatists, when push comes to shove, they are Canadians to the nth degree.

We ought to copy some of the successful moves of the past. Sure Dome got itself into financial trouble. It got carried away by the tremendous potential wealth that was at stake. While I cannot divulge all that I do know, I can tell you that the future of this whole continent in terms of self-sufficiency in energy is based on the Canadian Arctic. The Americans know that, and so do we.

The Americans are not coming in here as big powerful elephants; rather, they are crawling in on their hands and knees trying to get access to some of these resources. One merely has to look at the Paley report of 1952, which advised the Americans to start acquiring resources around the world. The Americans are quickly using up their own oil and gas reserves, and they know it. They are not going to cut back on their efforts in the North. They need to add to their reserves.

The New Democratic Party, in recent years, has made three big mistakes politically. The first mistake was in 1966, when the NDP joined with the Liberals to oppose the building of a loop from Manitoba through to Sarnia by TransCanada PipeLines Limited. An application to construct that loop had been granted by the National Energy Board. Had that loop not been built, big interests from east Texas and Louisiana would have had the whole southwestern part of Ontario as part of their market.

Looking back to that debate, it was the speech of a then opposition Member that turned things around. It may be self-serving to say so, but I was the individual who delivered that speech. I used the same tone as I am using now in suggesting to the Liberals that they not be pushed around by the NDP. I made the point that the NDP were promoting a northern line for the sole purpose of creating a few jobs in the north in order to win two by-elections. I went on to say that the Liberal Party, as the Government of Canada, had to stand up and do what was right for Canada.

The point was made that the construction of that loop would lead to additional gas sales, ultimately leading to the necessity to construct a line through the north, and that has in fact happened.

Those opposing the construction of that loop by TransCanada PipeLines stood to capture the Sarnia market with higher priced gas as compared to the TransCanada proposal to provide lower priced gas because of the high load factor of its loop. Every large labour union in the United States opposed the construction of that loop, as did every large American corporation. The large unions had the right to defend their own interests, and the large American corporations were in opposition because they knew that we could get western gas into Ontario at a lesser cost than Louisiana and East Texas gas could move into that market.

When those facts were put before the House, the then Leader of the New Democratic Party and his supporters and all of the Liberals reversed their stand. The Government reversed itself and went 180° the other way, and permitted the construction of that loop.

When the facts are known, the members of all Parties are great Canadians. So, the first mistake of the New Democratic Party was going along with this childish approach that we had to build a line in the north only. Their rationale was that the construction of the northern line would have resulted in more jobs over a longer period of time.

An Hon. Member: That was Blakeney's fault.

Mr. Hamilton: The second mistake of the New Democratic Party was when, for the sake of nationalism, it supported the National Energy Program brought in by the Liberal Government. There has been enough said about that. I do not have to tell Hon. Members what happened. That program constituted front-end loading by the federal Government on top of the oil and gas industry, backed up by all of these huge grants, and it was a program that interfered directly with the Constitution. No federal Government has the right to do indirectly what it cannot do directly under the law.

The Liberal Party, with the help of the New Democratic Party, passed the National Energy Program, a program which ultimately damaged all of the large companies in the oil patch. The NEP encouraged these companies to engage in wild expenditures and into large borrowings, regardless of the interest rates. The result is that all companies in the oil and gas sector were hurt. Dome Petroleum Corporation, in acquiring the deep gas reserves along the Foothills and involving itself in its Beaufort Sea exploration program got behind, and like any common farmer or businessman, once one gets behind in times of high interest rates, one is a dead duck. The interest rate policy in Canada led to that particular situation, and as such we all have to take responsibility for it.

The third mistake of the New Democratic Party relates to its position on the proposed takeover of Dome Petroleum Corporation by Amoco Canada. Amoco is no bigger than an elephant, and it is easy enough to upset an elephant if one gets him off balance. Amoco has to have the reserves, or it is a dead duck; but in order to acquire those reserves, it has to adhere to the regulations of the Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan and, to some extent, British Columbia, and certainly in the Canada Lands, where the majority of the holdings of Dome Petroleum Corporation are.

If one is truly thinking of the interests of Canada, one should not think in terms of building a wall around us. We cannot take the position that we are going to grow only enough to feed our own people or to produce only enough to keep our own people working. We are part of one world economically. We are part of a situation where both parties get wealthier if they trade with each other. As traditional proponents of freer trade, Hon. Members opposite should not take the position that free trade constitutes a sell-out. Canada and Brazil, and