

[Text]

Douglas, you, Mr. Pringle and I, are all members of an assembly gang and we are assembling Ford, General Motors, or Chrysler cars. Let us suppose we are all assembling parts on that car. We have been all employed in that job for the last 10 years.

Then it makes no difference now when work—there used to be a Western song by that name "It makes no difference now" by Wilf Carter. The point I am trying to make is that if we were employed in a menial chore of assembling cars, it does not matter what kind, Ford, General Motors, Volkswagen, if we were employed it would not matter if I would vote in favour of retirement at 60 years. Section gang and any other employment. If it comes to a question of employment not because of the menial task, not because of the physical labour of my task, but if it came to a question of employment with regard to my brain power then I would severely question the words of a clause which suggested that I should be retired at 65 when I have just been appointed at 58 or 59.

The whole purport of the Board of Grain Commissioners act is that it is the one who is appointed because of his knowledge, the one who is prepared to operate and act because his knowledge, the one who is prepared to operate and use his judgment, based—and I want to emphasize this point—based on his knowledge because of his past experience. I say to you, gentlemen, I wholeheartedly concur in a general amendment to all labour code standards that for anybody basically employed in the art of labour—and I spell labour with a "bour" to emphasize the word labour—I wholeheartedly support an amendment at the age of 60. But an age of 70, when the age of brain power is needed, I defy. I defy the member, Mr. Pringle, the member for Fraser Valley East, Mr. Pringle, one who had vast experience, and I single him out not because I dislike him, more, Mr. Chairman, because I like him, because I judge the worth of his statement, not on his knowledge but because of his experience.

An hon. Member: He is only 53.

Mr. Horner: He is only 53 somebody said, but I judge the worth of his statement and I like him because of the worth of his statement. I say to you, Mr. Chairman, that there may be men of 60, 62, 63, 64 and 65 who may be well justified keeping on under this Act past the age of 70.

Mr. Chairman, let the Committee face the facts. Does a man reach his mental ability at the same time he reaches his physical ability? No, no, there is not question about it.

[Interpretation]

C'est une tâche servile et la marque Ford, General Motors ou Volkswagen, n'y change rien. Et si un employé de ce niveau vote en faveur de la retraite à 60 ans, cela ne change en rien le résultat final. Mais si l'on met en jeu mes facultés mentales, et non physiques, je m'opposerais fortement à la terminologie employée dans l'article, disant que je dois prendre ma retraite à 65 ans, alors que je viens tout juste d'être nommé à ce poste, à l'âge de 58 ou de 59 ans.

L'objectif principal de la Loi sur la Commission canadienne des grains est de nommer les personnes compétentes qui sont capables d'assumer leurs fonctions en employant leur raisonnement et leur intelligence à la lumière de leur expérience, je tiens à le souligner. C'est là le seul objectif de la Commission. Pour quiconque travaille de ses mains, il est normal que l'âge de la retraite soit fixé à 60 ans. Je suis absolument d'accord, il faut modifier le code du travail à cet effet. Mais je m'oppose à ce qu'on limite l'aptitude mentale à 70 ans. Je vous mets au défi, vous monsieur Pringle, député de Fraser Valley-Est, dont la vaste expérience est reconnue de tous. Je m'adresse à M. Pringle en toute amitié, car, précisément, son jugement est étayé par une vaste expérience.

Une voix: Mais il n'a que 53 ans.

M. Horner: Quelqu'un vient de dire qu'il n'a que 53 ans, mais j'apprécie ce qu'il dit, étant donné son expérience. Je pourrais vous dire, monsieur le président, qu'il y a des personnes de 62, de 63, de 64 et de 65 ans qui devraient continuer à travailler, même après 70 ans.

Que le Comité veuille bien examiner les faits. Est-ce que l'homme arrive à sa maturité physique et mentale en même temps? Non, je ne le crois pas. L'on ne peut mettre cela en