

Income Tax

work. I urged the then Conservative party to vote against it. They did not have the guts to stand up and vote against it in 1971.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Horner: I am perfectly happy to have left such a party. In 1972 the Conservative party campaigned across the country, but that party did not have the guts to assess anything. It was the same situation when the Conservative convention was held in Quebec City. The Conservatives did not have the guts to assess anything that was real.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Horner: The hon. member talked about indexing pensions and salaries. That puts us in a difficult competitive position with the United States. What party advocated it to begin with?

Mr. Kempling: Who indexed them? You indexed them.

Mr. Horner: That party over there.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): This party.

Mr. Horner: Let us talk about the capital gains tax. I spoke out against indexing, against the increase in unemployment—

Mr. Kempling: Who did in the Liberal government?

Mr. Horner: Was that great leadership on your side when your party did not have the brains to advise the government that it was wrong?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Horner: The hon. member for Provencher spoke out against capital gains tax. What party did not have the guts to speak out about capital gains tax at that time? His party.

Mr. Epp: Are you going to oppose it now?

Mr. Horner: I spoke out against it. I spoke out against capital gains tax. I said it was wrong.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): Order, please. It appears as if this is going to be a long debate. We will all have our turn. The hon. Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce has the floor.

Mr. Paproski: Keep your cool, Jack.

Mr. Horner: Hon. members opposite talk about the excessive wage increases which have been made. I remember one in particular which occurred a few years ago in regard to the grain handlers and the grain companies of western Canada. It was indicated that they were going to receive a 60 per cent wage increase, and the grain handlers indicated that it was 49 per cent, or something like that. I nearly begged the Conservative party to bring in an amendment—

Mr. Clarke: We can hear the tears flowing now.

[Mr. Horner.]

Mr. Paproski: Calm down.

Mr. Horner: Hon. members opposite asked me why I am happy over here. I have decided to tell them why. I begged that party to stand up and move an amendment, but they did not have the guts. When one looks at their convention in Quebec City, it is evident that they have not acquired the guts since.

Mr. Clarke: They didn't ask for you once, Jack.

Mr. Horner: At no time did Conservative members advocate that any of the social benefits, which the government brought in and which increased the costs, should be curtailed. In one speech an hon. member mentioned the minimum wage and how high it was in comparison to the United States. When I was in the Conservative party, I spoke in the House of Commons and asked the government not to raise the minimum wage.

Mr. Paproski: What did they do?

Mr. Horner: They followed the advice of the gutless Conservative party which moved amendments to raise the tariff.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: A gutless government.

Mr. Horner: Well, the government did not take all the advice of the Conservative party at that time. They did not accept your amendments.

Mr. Kempling: You have crossed the floor, Jack. Don't make any more excuses.

Mr. Horner: I am not making excuses. I want to state the facts correctly and not leave false impressions.

Mr. Kempling: Tell us about the dollar.

Mr. Horner: Hon. members opposite are asking me to tell them about the dollar. The hon. member for Provencher referred to the dollar in his speech.

Mr. Kempling: What about the balance of trade?

Mr. Clarke: What about the deficit?

Mr. Horner: There are Canadian citizens on the other side of the House betting that the Canadian dollar will go down more. They are buying American dollars, Canadians sitting on the other side of the House.

Mr. Kempling: Name them, Jack.

Mr. Clarke: Name them!

Mr. Horner: Yes, I can name some.

Mr. Paproski: Then, name them.