

More than that: I was under the impression that every proposition for such an adjournment should come from our leader, who should be responsible for the business of the House; and if the leader of the Senate has evaded his position, and allowed the matter to come from my hon. friend from Toronto, I consider that he has shirked his responsibility. Some hon. gentlemen here, in anticipation of this adjournment, have put their Bills off until the latter part of next week. Some eight or ten Bills have thus been postponed, among them a very important Bill, introduced by the hon. member from Monck, affecting the whole of the Dominion, which has been stopped in committee in expectation that this adjournment would be granted. It is virtually an adjournment for ten days, Friday excepted, that is proposed; because we know that any Bill coming up on Thursday night will receive no consideration. It is a sham day, because we come here late in the evening, and after routine proceedings nothing is done. Next week there is only one holiday, Ash Wednesday. If my hon. friend is religiously disposed, let him go home and attend to his religious duties, but it is not necessary that the whole House should adjourn for Ash Wednesday.

In my opinion, when members absent themselves on these holidays they should lose a day's pay, and if they did we would not hear of so many adjournments. (Oh! oh!) I say it is so. Some hon. gentlemen move in this matter simply to get so many more holidays at the expense of the public. That is the amount of it. (Cries of "Oh! oh!" and "order"). We hold responsible positions here, and we are supposed to sacrifice something for the public good and to come here to transact the public business. But when we take these long holidays we are neglecting the public business. We have as good a right to be here as the members of the House of Commons. The people come to the Capital expecting to find us here, and on their arrival learn that we have gone away on holidays. Now, that is not in the public interest. It is unquestionably derogatory to our position in the eyes of the public. I have referred to one important Bill that is postponed because of these holidays, and there are other Bills besides, the passage of which is imperilled because some members want to go home

for a few days. There are half a dozen notices on the Order Paper which, if properly discussed, will occupy all the time included in the holidays. It is deluding the public to say that we propose to sit on Thursday next. When the Senate meets at 8:30 in the evening after an adjournment no business is transacted. I know there are Government measures and private measures that ought to be on the Paper, and would be if this adjournment had not been proposed; but they are all staved off on account of this adjournment. I am doing my duty to the public and to the Senate when I protest against this practice continuing. If we must have an adjournment, let the proposal come from the leader of the House, and let him take the responsibility. If he does, and can show that it does not interfere with the public business I should not have the same objections that I have to this motion. We have plenty of business before us, and, as a fact, we rush through the business every day in order to clear the Order Paper by 6 o'clock. We sometimes accuse the Government of not having measures ready for us. They should be ready, and the Government deserve censure if we are without work. We have been here nearly four weeks, and if the leader of the House tells us that there is no Government measure to engage our attention, and that we can practically adjourn for ten days without injury to the public interest, he condemns himself and his colleagues. We should have something to do; otherwise we have no right to be here at all. I feel warm on this matter. This motion is brought up to accommodate a few members who live within a short distance of the Capital. If they want to go home, why not let them go, and take the consequence of their absence. If they wish to remain here, there is nothing to prevent them keeping Ash Wednesday at the Capital. Merchants and others can attend to their business and properly observe the holiday; but the main object of this motion is that the members may retain as much of their pay as possible. (Cries of "Oh! oh!" and "order"). I believe the hon. gentleman opposite who says "Oh! oh!" is governed by just these motives. I am sorry if I have trampled on his corns. When I was asked to join this honorable body I felt, as I believe every member of the Senate should feel, that in order to discharge my duties properly here I should be prepared