

marks in Hansard will naturally wonder what I am talking about. I do not blame the Hansard reporters because very often this House is so noisy that they cannot hear what is being said.

I would like the committee seriously to consider the question of starting our business earlier in the day and quitting earlier in the evening. As far as I have been able to find out, Great Britain and Canada are the only two countries in the world where night sittings are indulged in by parliament to any extent. At Washington, congress does its business, a business probably three or four times as great as ours, without any night sittings. Nearly all the parliaments in the world do without night sittings except Canada and Great Britain.

May I draw the attention of the House to this fact? Away back in 1907 a resolution was introduced into this House by the then member for South Renfrew asking that the House adjourn at ten-thirty in the evening. We shall have made very little progress in twenty years if we are now simply proposing to adopt a rule to adjourn at eleven o'clock. What I would suggest to the House is this: We might at least sit at two o'clock in the afternoon, take recess at six o'clock, and adjourn at ten. If there is objection to that, could we not at least have two other nights a week off? On Monday and Friday nights we cannot do any very important business in the House because so many members from Ontario and Quebec wish to go home for the week-end, but the members from the west and from the east have to stay here and all they can do is to transact routine business. I say that if the members from Ontario and Quebec are privileged to take off Monday and Friday nights and go home over the week-end, why should not the members from other parts of Canada have the same privilege? Let us do without Monday night and Friday night.

Now a word on behalf of members who come from a distance and bring their families with them. A man's family life should not be destroyed because he accepts the position of member of parliament. If a member does bring his family to Ottawa—and I speak now from experience—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. COOTE: I do not understand the applause. I must admit that I am Scotch. Sometimes I bring my family to Ottawa, but my family complain that I spend almost all my time in the House of Commons and they do not see me in the evening.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. COOTE: Mr. Chairman, I do not care how much amusement the committee get out of this if I can only persuade them to do their business within reasonable hours. All joking aside—

An hon. MEMBER: What is the joke?

Mr. COOTE: I do not know. If a member takes his duties seriously, and if he has as much correspondence and as many departmental calls to attend to as have some of the members from western Canada—their constituents including many homesteaders, people who want leases, and others who desire their member to do something or other for them—he has to be here from nine o'clock in the morning until midnight. I repeat, I do not see where the joke is when I say that even if a man brings his family to Ottawa they will not see very much of him unless they come and sit in the galleries. We have committees almost every morning of the week, we have our correspondence to attend to, and we have our duties in this chamber. It means, as I say, that a man is tied down here from nine o'clock in the morning until midnight. Is it any wonder that in the last parliament we lost so many of our members? I think it is too severe a strain physically on members to carry on even during the hours that are proposed under the new rules, which I must admit are an improvement on the present rules. In my judgment if this House of Commons cannot devise rules for the transaction of the country's business without sitting here until eleven o'clock at night four nights a week it is certainly a reflection upon our intelligence.

Mr. HAY: Mr. Chairman, I differ just a little with my hon. friend from Macleod. I get ample sleep at home during the summer and I thought that coming down to Ottawa I could perhaps do without as much sleep as I had been accustomed to. I find I can. I have reached the conclusion that there are too many days and too few nights in our time-table. If we can readjust ourselves in some way I am quite willing that we should have at our disposal more nights and fewer days. But what affects some of my colleagues from the western provinces most seriously seems to be the disturbance of their family arrangements. Thus far my experience is that I really see more of my family here than I do at home. But perhaps so far as the major membership of the House is concerned it would be agreeable to them if some of us at this end were not so frequent in our attendance and so keenly interested in public af-