



DEBATES OF THE SENATE

2nd SESSION • 41st PARLIAMENT • VOLUME 149 • NUMBER 33

BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

Motion to Change Commencement Time
on Wednesdays and Thursdays and
to Effect Wednesday Adjournments Adopted

Speech by:

The Honourable Claudette Tardif

Thursday, February 6, 2014

THE SENATE

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[*Translation*]

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Hon. Claudette Tardif: Honourable senators, I know that this new motion is the result of negotiations between the two sides. I also recognize that it is a significant improvement over what the government initially proposed.

However, I want to again voice my opposition to any motion that would force senators to choose between their responsibilities in the Senate and their responsibilities in committees.

This motion changes an important feature of the Senate that sets us apart from the other place. Unlike members of Parliament,

senators can participate in debates of the Senate without having to worry about a conflicting committee meeting. This is an important feature of this chamber, but I am afraid that adopting this kind of motion repeatedly will adversely affect this distinct feature of the Senate.

Canadians expect the Senate to conduct an objective and sober review of legislation. They do not expect us to rubber-stamp it.

It is during the months of June, November and December that we debate the largest number of bills in this chamber. Depriving senators of their right to take part in the proceedings of the Senate so that they can attend committee meetings is unjustified and is not in the best interests of the Senate.

However, I recognize the compromise and the efforts that were made. I thank you.
