

Two days just became one...

My youngest daughter Jennifer was in a bit of a snit earlier this week. It seems she figures our family isn't doing enough things together for Christmas.

Her three older sisters spend most of their time either with friends or working at their part time jobs, while both my wife and I are always very busy at this time of year.

It just seems we run out of time anymore.

As adults, we tend to forget how magical those two or three weeks before Christmas are to a 10-year-old.

The lights, the color, the music and the spirit of the season all add to the excitement.

But to adults, it all becomes a blur, something to endure and get through, before the new year gets here.

And when Christmas Day does arrive, we're usually so tired, we just sit back and relax, comfortable in the fact we have two days to rest up, before heading back to the rat race.

That is, of course, as long as we don't work in retail. When the legislation goes through, two days will suddenly become one.

You see, contrary to my editor, I think it's appalling that we are just sitting back and allowing the government take away the Boxing Day holiday.

Our editorial of November 24 applauded the Tories for amending the Retail Business Holidays Act to allow stores to open December 26. And in the same breath, everyone who is pro-Boxing Day opening is quick to add that no employees will be forced to work Boxing Day.

Sorry folks, but I disagree.

That's maybe what the law reads, but unfortunately, in the real world, those words aren't worth the paper they're written on.

The part time kids, the newest employees in the store and the ones who can't afford to face retribution later in the year will be forced to work, whether they like it or not.

Even store owners are feeling the pressure.

A TED BIT



Ted Brown

I've talked to retailers who claim their landlords told them they will be open Boxing Day, regardless of what's written in their lease.

And the law hasn't even been legislated yet!

When I hear that one, I'm tempted to ask those same landlords if perhaps the percentage cut that they get from the merchants shouldn't be honored either, since the lease obviously doesn't count anymore.

And I'm damn certain we won't see any management types working Boxing Day.

Now, I may be different than others, but I'm generally out of money by Christmas, so one more day to shop won't entice me one little bit to spend a few more dollars, whether it's on December 26 or 27.

But our government officials, and others like my editor who aren't even remotely affected by the change, are still quick to endorse the legislation, regardless of the little guy. They won't be working Boxing Day either. Instead they'll be out chasing bargains.

But maybe just once they should think about the big picture, the whole effect they have on the economic community, including the little guys.

And maybe, just maybe, they should take a moment and not think of themselves.

Instead, think of those like Jennifer, who want to spend more time with their families.

And perhaps take a page out of her book.

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