

*Hazardous Substances*

Some examples of the kind of products that could be covered under this legislation have been mentioned this afternoon, and they include dangerously flammable clothing, defective matches, dangerous children's toys, power lawnmowers, household electrical appliances or any other type of consumer product that might be dangerous to health or safety if it has design or construction defects.

Hazardous products will be listed in the schedule, and as has been pointed out the schedule to the act is divided into two major parts. Part I lists hazardous products which cannot be advertised, sold, or imported into Canada; in other words products which are intended to be absolutely prohibited, forbidden for sale, importation or advertising. Part II lists products which may be advertised, sold or imported only when they comply with certain specified regulations prescribed by the act.

• (9:10 p.m.)

Many members have mentioned the kind of products which might be listed in part II and some types of regulations we might have. It was suggested that we might have warning labels in appropriate cases or, as the hon. member for Waterloo (Mr. Saltsman) mentioned, that we might have safety packaging in some cases. The hon. member for Edmonton Centre (Mr. Paproski) mentioned glue and the extent to which we would be able to regulate it under a provision of this kind in this piece of legislation. As has been mentioned in this debate, there are examples of products which are to be banned absolutely and outright. The jequirity bean grown in the Caribbean area and used to make necklaces and eyes for dolls has recently received notoriety and widespread publicity. One of these beans if chewed or swallowed contains enough poison to cause death in a few hours. Children's furniture or toys coated with paint containing lead compound beyond a certain allowable tolerance will be banned, as will extremely flammable paints or paint and varnish removers for household use.

As time and experience dictate, other products which are deemed to be dangerous to the health and safety of consumers may be prohibited. In general, products will be banned where it is found that the hazard involved in their use is so great that the public health and safety can be adequately protected only by removing the product from the market place.

The products which are placed in part II of the schedule are those that may be dangerous to the health or safety of the consumer if used in a manner not intended by the manufacturer. Examples of such products are household bleaches and cleaners. These products are often hazardous to children whose natural curiosity leads them into danger. Regulations will be required by the act compelling manufacturers to label these products with appropriate warning or cautionary statements. Instructions will also be required on the package prescribing the antidote to be taken or other necessary information in case of accidents.

Another example of products requiring regulatory legislation are those containing toxic chemical additives such as toluene and acetone. Hon. members are well aware of the problem of glue sniffing among young people. The hon. member for Waterloo mentioned that this is a social and psychological problem. I am the first to agree and concede that all the regulations in the world will not solve a social and psychological problem, but the information we have is that some regulation can help. During a recent inquest at the city of Ottawa a local police official reported coming in direct contact with 88 sniffing cases in the city during the year. Regulation will be proposed to prohibit the sale of these toxic substances unless they contain explicit cautionary labels which warn that the vapours in these products can cause serious bodily harm or death. We are also looking for other possibilities in respect of the regulation and sale of these products to minors. Before Christmas I sent an official of my department to the state of New York and the city of Washington to examine the kind of regulations they have in those two jurisdictions.

I repeat that the addition of a hazardous product to the schedule in the act will prohibit its advertisement, sale or importation into Canada if it is listed in part I, or will allow it to be advertised, sold or imported into Canada only if it complies with the regulations if it is listed in part II.

In order to protect legitimate and responsible manufacturers or distributors, this legislation provides for the establishment of a Hazardous Products Board of Review. This Board, consisting of not more than three persons, will be called upon to review the decision to add a product to part I or part II of the schedule if a manufacturer, distributor or person having the product in his possession files a request within 60 days in which