

*Food and Drugs Act*

demonstrated by the fact that several members of the house have introduced similar bills. Therefore I have no hesitation whatsoever in fully supporting this bill. Having heard the hon. members who have spoken, I believe we need this type of protection. Hon. members have spoken about the allergies from which they suffer, and if these examples are multiplied by the thousand one realizes that there is in this area a great problem which requires our immediate attention.

We, as parliamentarians, must keep our ear to the ground and be concerned about the cry that comes from those who ultimately give us direction. I believe legislation such as this is required. Therefore I have no hesitation and no reservation whatsoever in supporting the hon. member's bill. I hope that the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Basford), having read the bill introduced by the hon. member and the arguments put forward with respect to this question, will not think it necessary to submit the bill to the standing committee for further consideration. We can deal with this matter now. I believe it is in accordance with the intent of the new rules, which have been adopted to reduce the time spent on legislation in the house, that we deal with a matter such as this. This is the proper forum in which to deal with the question because the amendment is simple and its intent is obvious. Therefore I hope the minister will consider all the arguments that have been raised this evening and will follow the suggestions that have been put forward.

**Mr. Stanley Haidasz (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, the remarks made by previous speakers in connection with Bill C-12 are certainly valid. I am sure they will prove very useful to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Basford) and the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Munro) who is directly responsible for the operations of the Food and Drug Directorate. I am sure hon. members have already learned from the press and the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs that there is to be introduced in the other place a bill called the Hazardous Products Act, which may deal with some of the problems raised in this debate.

I believe this government can be described as being consumer conscious. It accepts the right of the consumer to know, the right of the consumer to feel safe. The right to safety, to be protected against the marketing of goods which are hazardous to health or life, is

one which I am sure is accepted not only by members of this house but by the Canadian people.

With regard to the specific amendment to the Food and Drugs Act which is contained in Bill C-12 and was explained by the hon. member who introduced the bill, I would like to bring his attention to the fact that section 24 (1) of the act provides that the Governor in Council may make regulations for carrying the purposes and provisions of the act into effect. Paragraph (b) of section 24 (1) specifies that the Governor in Council may make regulations respecting the labelling and packaging and the offering, exposing and advertising for sale of food, drugs, cosmetics and devices. This regulation deals with the size, dimensions, fill and other specifications of packages of food, drugs, cosmetics and devices.

It would therefore appear that section 24 as it now stands provides the necessary authority for the minister, the Governor in Council, to require a complete listing of ingredients of any food or drug. With respect to food, the current policy in the Food and Drug Directorate appears to be that ingredient statements are required only on labels of unstandardized food. Standardized foods include alcoholic beverages, baking powder, cocoa products, coffee, food colours, spices, dressings and seasonings, dairy products, cheeses, ice cream, fats and other substances.

In the food and drugs regulations foods are categorized as standardized and unstandardized. Generally speaking, the so-called standardized foods are not required to carry on their labels a list of ingredients. Other foods falling into the category of unstandardized foods, generally speaking are required to carry on their labels a list of ingredients. There are exceptions, however, to this general rule regarding the listing of ingredients on unstandardized foods and the following 14 groups of unstandardized foods are not required to carry on their labels a list of ingredients. They are bakery products, black pudding, white pudding, blood pudding, confectionery, flavouring preparations, gelatine desserts, non-nutritive seasoning sauces, poultry spice, pickling spice, poultry seasoning, preparations of synthetic colours, soft drinks, and soups.

• (5:50 p.m.)

I should also like to state today that as a general principle the Food and Drug Directorate considers that the consumer is definitely entitled to know what ingredients have