

but all that these statistics mean is that the production of components required for home canning is about one tenth, or put it modestly, of the amount that is required.

I hope that the House will approve this motion and that the government will look at this matter more closely than it has in the past. I also hope it will inquire as to the possibility of additional production in this country instead of relying on the excuses that the hon. member for Skeena gave regarding U.S. manufacturers. That is not good enough either. As I say, I hope the motion will pass and that the government will take a much more serious look at this question than has been the case so far.

**Mr. Hugh A. Anderson (Comox-Alberni):** Mr. Speaker, I also would like to congratulate the hon. member for Okanagan-Kootenay (Mr. Johnston) on his motion. I know that for a considerable amount of time he has pursued this question of the shortage of rings in Canada. The explanation that I received when I first came to Ottawa in the latter part of 1974 was that there was a shortage of material for the lids.

The hon. member for Surrey-White Rock (Mr. Friesen) questioned where this shortage arose. Nevertheless I accept the fact that a shortage did occur, as a shortage has occurred of many items during the same period. I am somewhat surprised that the hon. member for Surrey-White Rock should criticize the government for not taking an active role in controlling this industry. This to me seems to be applying a double standard. Many times in the House and over the media I hear it said that the government interferes too much in the business community, yet if something goes wrong in the business community it is said that we are wrong because we have not passed certain regulations, or carried out inspections or, in other words looked into the distribution of products to the Canadian consumer.

● (1750)

I was very happy to be informed by the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce that there are three new outfits in Canada that will be in the business of producing rings. Rockwell International has apparently established an operation in Ontario and will be producing a stainless steel ring. This ring will apparently be reuseable, which I think is an excellent idea because all of us know that rings up to this time have had to be replaced after one use. If we had one that was reuseable perhaps this would be one method of solving the problem, since they will not have to be thrown away and can be used on a year to year basis.

I understand also that Kraft Foods is going to get into the production of lids, and this should also help the situation. There is apparently a company in British Columbia called CFB Trading which will be importing lids from New Zealand. If this takes place this year, this again should give us a better situation in respect of lids, because these will be in addition to the lids produced here in Canada and in the United States.

It would appear that several things have happened in the last few years. One is that many people have rediscovered the joy of working with the soil. I suppose people have decided, because of city life with its concrete, steel, etc., that they want to work with the soil. This is in addition to

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the fact that they can save money. They take pleasure in being out in the open air, and so forth.

This is not something unique in Canada, but is something that has occurred in the United States and perhaps in other parts of the world. As a result there has been an unprecedented demand for these lids. The same occurrence in demand all of a sudden has taken place in the United States within the last few years, and some of the lids that were produced in the United States were diverted in 1974-75 to that U.S. market.

It seems to me that in the type of society we live in, surely if there is a demand for lids, or other goods, this creates an unprecedented opportunity for Canadian companies to manufacture those lids or goods. Quite honestly I feel that rather than trying to become involved in discovering the causes of what has gone wrong, new companies should come in and manufacture the lids. When a shortage is noticed and these companies such as Kerr Glass, Bernadine, Anchor and Ball cannot supply the demand, this gives an opportunity for new entrepreneurs to enter the market and provide a product that will be used by the Canadian consumer.

It is my understanding that the problem of underestimating demand, coupled with the problem of distribution which occurred in 1974-75, has caused distortions. However, in 1976 there will be approximately one million cases produced in Canada and in the United States which will come into the Canadian market, as opposed to approximately 530,000 cases in 1975. If that is in fact the case we will be doubling production and doubling the number of lids available. I am sure that, like the hon. member for Regina-Lake Centre (Mr. Benjamin), my wife will also give me a much easier time, because I can assure the House that in 1974-75 my wife had me shopping in Ottawa for rings to be sent to British Columbia because they were unavailable there.

I hope that with the new manufacturers entering the market, and with the importation of rings or lids, this will reduce the number of people in Canada who will be without this product. I hope that in this day and age a problem in respect of a simple thing like a jar lid can be solved by Canadian industry without government intercession. I believe this can be the case. Certainly the people in the Departments of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Industry, Trade and Commerce will be monitoring the situation, but I do not believe they should enter into this.

I trust that the comments regarding the hon. member for Skeena (Mrs. Campagnolo) will be taken in jest. We all have research facilities on both sides of the House. We ourselves use those facilities and I would suggest other hon. members also use their own facilities. I think it was a rather narrow and petty tirade against the hon. member because she did quote statistics. She did have the facts at hand, and surely debate to be meaningful in this House must include statistics, facts, and figures.

**Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka):** Mr. Speaker, I listened with great interest to the remarks of those western members of parliament, mainly from British Columbia. I think a few remarks from someone in the east representing a constituency in the small province of