

*Patent Act—Trade Marks Act*

from industry, without having requested them?

It seems to me that nowadays the government could better inform consumers through a larger distribution of those publications. I know that the department is presently publishing a few pamphlets for the information of consumers; unfortunately the public does not know that they are available. There is on the market presently products which are more or less manufactured with a view to fool the public as far as quantity and quality are concerned.

For instance, we are sold a kind of javel water which is 94.6 per cent water and yet the label bears the inscription "Javel water".

I could also speak about certain kinds of soap for which instructions are provided, but which do not give any information to the housewife as to the value they get for their money.

This is why I think the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs must take his responsibilities and consider the recommendations already made by the committee on consumer credit with a view to establishing standards of protection for the consumer. This would enable consumers to make a judgment on the quality of the products introduced on the market and would prevent the public from being fooled by advertising.

The Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs should, first of all, look after the interests of consumers and set up as soon as possible a consumer safety code.

[*English*]

**Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, my first remarks must be to thank the hon. member for his intervention in this debate. In his speech he surveyed the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. I appreciate his interest in my department and its various programs. If I were to comment specifically on all the points he raised I should probably be out of order. We are dealing here with the report stage of this bill and with an amendment to clause 1, subclause 4.

The hon. member read the recommendations of the Joint Committee of the Senate and the House of Commons on Consumer Prices. I remind him that I was the co-chairman of that committee, that I am familiar with the work of the committee and participated in the writing of the committee report and recommendations. I can assure him that the recommendations affecting the work of my department are very much in my

[Mr. Rondeau.]

mind. Many of the matters he has mentioned my department is now working on. I am not at liberty to make announcements today on all these subjects, but I assure the hon. member that they are very much in my mind and are involved in the work of the department. I share the concern he expressed regarding labelling, packaging and advertising. I assure him that I and my officials have these matters in mind.

● (12:20 p.m.)

I have already introduced the hazardous products bill which will be dealt with following this bill. It is an extremely strong piece of consumer protection legislation. It will allow us to deal with a great many products now on the market over which there is at present no control. The hazardous products bill will deal with labelling and packaging.

I suggested to the Consumer Advisory Council, which I appointed last November, that they draw up a consumer charter. I asked in early December that they devote some effort to this matter. I made it very clear last fall that there should be a consumers' charter in Canada, a declaration of consumer rights. In this connection the hon. member and I are in complete agreement.

I will now deal with the amendment before the house. I wish to assure hon. members of the Creditiste party that each of their proposed amendments has received very careful consideration by myself and my officials. I welcome their interest in this bill and their participation in the debate. I share with them their concern for the safety of the public. That is a consideration which must be paramount in the minds of the government and officials.

Knowing the concern and interest of the hon. members, each of their amendments was examined very carefully as to whether it should be accepted. On the question of whether I could accept the last amendment moved, I was invited last night to sleep on it. I have done this, Mr. Speaker, and I must advise that I am unable to accept the amendment because the bill already provides what the hon. members are concerned about in their amendment.

Any compulsory licence granted on stated terms or conditions will be ineffective if those terms are not complied with. If authority is granted to do something in stated terms, the general law is that authority under the compulsory licence automatically lapses if the terms are not complied with. That is the law of the Patent Act and of this country. Any