**DAIRY INDUSTRY ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1958**

**House of Assembly, 13 November 1958, pages 1726-7**

Second reading

**The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN (Minister of Agriculture),** having obtained leave, introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Dairy Industry Act, 1928-1957. Read a first time.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—I move—

*That this Bill be now read a second time.*

I again apologize to members for not having copies of my explanation, but I had insufficient time to prepare them, so I have taken this action to have the Bill before members as soon as possible. The Bill refers to the substance known as filled milk. The Australian Agricultural Council decided at its last meeting that each State would bring in legislation to prevent the manufacture and sale of filled milk, and this Bill is South Australia’s contribution to the agreement. Filled milk has been known for many years, but little was produced until towards the end of 1957. Since then its growth has been very rapid in several countries, and if this continues, the effect on the dairying industries of those countries, and particularly Australia, could be most important, so it warrants careful study. Filled milk is made from the non-fat milk solids, either of liquid or powder origin, with which vegetable fat has been incorporated in approximately the same quantity as the butterfat removed from the original fresh milk with or without the addition of vitamins. Coconut oil is generally used, but other kinds of vegetable fat, such as cotton seed, corn oil, palm kernel oil, ground nut oil, may be used and even specially treated whale oil. Filled milk is being produced in the following forms—evaporated (unsweetened condensed), sweetened condensed, powder, and liquid for consumption in the same way as whole fresh milk.

Filled milk is being sold freely in many countries. A survey carried out in the Philippines in November, 1957, only one month after evaporated filled milk had been introduced on the market, disclosed that it was already used in more than half the households, mainly because it was cheaper than the natural product. Of the people interviewed 86 per cent did not realize that “Darigold” and “Liberty” evaporated filled milk—which were on sale—were filled milk. I have copies of the advertisements relating to these products which are completely misleading. One of the posters refers to the product as “quality milk from the finest American dairy herds.”

This product could be a serious competitor with milk. That is the view of the Agricultural Council. The dairy industry is, in some respects, already hard-pressed and serious competition from an imitation could vitally affect it. Each State has decided to introduce legislation to prevent its sale and manufacture. I point out, however, that to my knowledge no move has been made to sell or manufacture this product in South Australia, so that this legislation will not adversely affect any person.

Mr. O’Halloran—Is it being manufactured elsewhere in Australia?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—Not that I know of at the moment, although I have heard talk.

Mr. O’Halloran—Are the other States introducing similar legislation?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—I should think it unlikely that all other States have passed such legislation because the council meeting was only held on October 9. South Australia has taken prompt action to carry out the council’s agreement. The Parliamentary Draftsman’s report on this Bill is as follows:—

This is a Bill to amend the Dairy Industry Act for the purpose of preventing the sale and manufacture of “filled milk,” that is, milk from which the butterfat has been abstracted and in which vegetable oil has been substituted. The effect of the Bill is to make it an offence to manufacture or sell any liquid which is a colourable imitation of milk and contains any substance not derived from the lacteal secretion of the cow.

To summarize the position, filled milk is a product that could seriously compete with milk, particularly as it is an imitation milk, and the dairy industry could be hard-pressed if such an industry were established and large quantities of its products sold.

Mr. O’HALLORAN secured the adjournment of the debate.