MARGARINE ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1973

Legislative Council, 21 August 1973, pagr 398

Second reading

**The Hon. T. M. CASEY (Minister of Agriculture)** obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Margarine Act, 1939-1956.

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: I move:

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

It arises from an agreement between the Ministers of Agriculture in the States of the Commonwealth that the quotas for the production of table margarine be increased. The increase in quota for South Australia agreed at that time was from 528 tons (536.4 t) to 700 tons (711.2 t). A close metric equivalent of this latter figure is 712 t. Clause 1 is formal. Clause 2 amends section 16 of the principal Act which provides that no licence under that Act shall be granted to any premises situated within 100 yards (91.44 m) of a butter factory. This figure has, by this clause, been altered to 100 m.

Clause 3 repeals and re-enacts section 20 of the principal Act which deals with quotas for table margarine. Subsection (1) of clause 20 provides two definitions which are substantially the same as were contained in the original section 20. Subsection (2) permits the Minister to specify the maximum quota for table margarine that may be manufactured in the State during the period specified in the notice; the period is generally one calendar year. Subsection (3) is formal. Subsection (4) provides that the notices should be published in the Gazette not less than one month before it is expressed to come into operation and, in fact, these notices are published in the Gazette in November in the year preceding the year in which they are to come into operation. Subsection (5) makes it an offence to manufacture margarine in excess of the quota.

Subsection (6) makes it an offence to sell margarine in excess of the quota, but subsection (7) provides that amounts from previous quotas may be sold during any quarter. Subsection (8) limits the total amount that may be manufactured in this State in any period of 12 months to 712 t. Subsection (9) is a transitional provision. Subsection (10), in effect, increases the quota that may be manufactured in this State during the last nine months of this calendar year by one-quarter, which is equivalent to an increase of one-third for a full year. The reason for this increase is to ensure that manufacturers of margarine in this State are not placed at a disadvantage compared to manufacturers of margarine in the other States of the Commonwealth. Since the decision to increase quotas was taken in February of this year, it seems equitable that the increase should have effect for the last three quarters of this year.

The Hon. C. R. STORY secured the adjournment of the debate.