**MARGARINE ACT AMENDMENT BILL1940**

**Legislative Council, 21 August 1940, pages307-8**

Second reading

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The Hon. A. L. McEWIN (Northern—-Chief Secretary)—The object of the Bill is to amend the definition of table margarine in the Margarine Act passed last year. It will be remembered that under this Act the Minister of Agriculture was given power to fix from year to year the maximum amount of table margarine which could be manufactured in South Australia. The object of this provision was to protect the butter industry against the competition of margarine. Table margarine was defined as margarine produced from imported fats or oils. When last year’s Act was being prepared the Government was advised by persons who understood the margarine business that all table margarine was made from imported fats and oils, and a definition to this effect was included in the Act. The Government has, however, now been advised that table margarine is being made from oil produced locally from imported materials. On the true interpretation of the principal Act it cannot be said that this margarine is table margarine within the meaning of the Act. It follows, therefore, that the quota prescribed by the Act will not apply to this margarine, although it can be used as a substitute for butter.

The Act will, of course, be of little use as a protection to the butter industry if margarine of the kind mentioned, which is capable of being sold in competition with butter, can be manufactured in unrestricted quantities. The Government therefore submits to Parliament a proposal for extending the definition of table margarine so as to include margarine made from fat or oil obtained from any product produced elsewhere than in Australia.

While the subject is being dealt with the Government also suggests a further provision. In view of the restrictions on the production of table margarine it is likely that in the future, in order to evade these restrictions, manufacturers may devise means of making table margarine from ingredients wholly produced in Australia. It is proposed that there should be power to apply the quota to table margarine of this kind, if it should be manufactured. The Government has therefore included in the Bill a further provision enacting that table margarine will include any other margarine which the Governor by proclamation declares to be table margarine for the purposes of this Act. The Bill also includes a clause giving the Governor express power to make the necessary proclamations for the purpose of the definition. It also provides that the quotas which have been fixed shall apply to all table margarine, whether falling within the original definition or within the amended definition. I move the second reading.

The Hon. E. A. OATES secured the adjournment of the debate.