

RESOLUTIONS

Mrs. Herb Maluske

Mrs. Maluske, Convener of Resolutions presented the disposition of the resolutions which had been sustained at the Annual Board Meeting. All answers were not back, however, those received were passed on to the Board Directors.

EASTERN AND NORTH CENTRAL AREAS—requesting the Federal Minister of Communications, Federal Minister of Justice, Chairman CRTC, that guidelines be established regarding violence and obscenity and viewing hours for children be established, also amendments made to the Criminal Code so guidelines will be enforced.

The Hon. Jeanne Sauve, Minister of Communications says: There is little the government can do with regard to your desire to see the establishment of guidelines for the portrayal of violence and sex in television programming. Neither the CRTC nor I can regulate the scheduling or censor the content of dramatic programs. Under section 3C of the Broadcasting Act, the primary responsibility for the content of programs resides with the broadcasters and the only vehicles that can be used to restrict the broadcasters' freedom of expression are what the Act calls generally applicable statutes and regulations.

In this case, the applicable statutes are the Criminal Code. Only the courts of law are vested with the power to determine whether a broadcaster has abused his freedom of expression by contravening the Act.

The law was construed in this way for two major reasons. First, where the possibility of government censorship exists, there is always the danger that this power will be misused to restrict freedom of speech; not only that of the broadcasters but that of every citizen. Second, decisions concerning what is and is not acceptable are usually a matter of personal taste. For these reasons and with the exception of criminally obscene broadcasts, it is preferable that viewers act as their own censors, both for themselves and for their children.

From the Broadcast Programmes Directorate, Diane Rheume writes, "Your concern regarding advertising for children is one which has troubled the parents, the public in general, the advertisers and their agencies, the broadcasters, the CRTC, the Federal and Provincial Governments alike".

In 1971, the great number of complaints coming in mainly from the public prompted the introduction of the Broadcast Code for advertising aimed at children.

LONDON AREA—Requesting both the Ontario and Canadian governments to devise a method to have Canadian Products marked "Product of Canada".

Hon. Eugene Whelan, Minister of Agriculture writes: This very subject has recently been discussed between ourselves and representatives of the provincial agriculture departments, and there was general agreement that a more positive identification of Canadian products was desirable. How exactly this will be done will be decided in the near future.

Agriculture Canada has recently taken steps, by amending the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Regulations, to require packers of produce which is imported into

Canada in bulk and repacked here into consumer size packages to declare the country of origin of that produce on the package. This will assist the consumer in identifying the imported produce.

Mrs. Margaret Szeker, Director of the Consumer Section, Market Development Branch, OMAF, states: Concerning Canadian Food Products, to date, some action has already been taken in the area of fresh fruits and vegetables. After meetings with the Federal government, the provinces have all agreed that the Canada prefix should not be used as part of the grade name, whether the product is imported or Canadian. However the country of origin should appear in conjunction with and adjacent to the grade and in letters of the same size. With this system, grade would indicate quality only and not be confused with the origin of the product.

Dependent upon formal approval by the provinces, the Federal government and the Horticultural Council necessary amendments will be made federally and provincially.

NORTHERN AREA—requesting legislation be enacted to amend building codes and return to sizes as advertised for dressed lumber.

The Hon. Frank Drea, Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations says, proposing an amendment to the building code relative to the sizes advertised for dressed lumber, I would point out the following.

Lumber sizes, standards, descriptions, etc. are established by the National Lumber Grades Authority, in consultation with the industry.

Dressed lumber has not been produced to the full size of 2 x 4 or 2 x 6 for many years; however, for ease of communication, it has continued to be referred to in construction, in their phraseology, utilizing those measurements for just as many years. As such, in my opinion, this does not constitute false advertising.

The Building Code governs insulation requirements for new houses, but specifies the R-value rather than a specific thickness by inches. Existing lumber sizes are considered when the R-value is established.

The insulation industry is developing higher density insulations that will achieve greater energy conservation with less thickness of insulation. Any concern that smaller lumber sizes might conflict with energy conservation goals, therefore, can be set aside.

NORTH CENTRAL AREA—requesting the Ontario Government to remove sales tax on all articles resold.

Dr. E. E. Stewart, Secretary of the Cabinet replies: The rationale for applying tax to purchases of used items is that it maintains that basic equity of the tax. While many items, such as cars and trucks depreciate in value each time they are sold, and the amount of tax collected from successive consumers decreases accordingly, other items such as antiques, works of art, or rare stamps and coins often become more valuable each time they are sold, and successive purchasers may, therefore, be subject to correspondingly higher amounts of tax. If purchasers of used items were exempt from tax, certain groups of consumers would receive unwarranted tax relief on their acquisitions of valuable used articles, and at the same time, the Province would lose substantial amounts of revenue.