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May 26, 1966

Call

Honorable Winston L. Prouty
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator:

The Senate will shortly begin debate on S. 985, the "Truth-in-Packaging" bill reported by the Senate Commerce Committee.

The AFL-CIO, which has long supported "truth-in-packaging" legislation, urges your favorable vote on this bill in the form reported by the Committee, without further amendment.

The Committee's bill, reported after more than five years of investigation and hearings on unfair and deceptive packaging practices, represents minimum legislative protection due to the public in the area of fair dealing with the ordinary shopper in the Nation's supermarkets.

Frankly, we would prefer a stronger bill, but we are satisfied that the compromise legislation proposed by the Committee will make a significant contribution to the interest of the consumer while at the same time affording ample safeguards to the contrary considerations that have been raised by manufacturers and packagers.

We ask further that you vote against an expected motion to refer S. 985 to the Senate Judiciary Committee for further consideration. In view of the lengthy period in which packaging and labeling practices have been under study in the Congress and the extensive compromises incorporated in the present bill, such a move can be interpreted only as a hostile effort to kill this much-needed legislation by interminable delay.

As now presented to Senate, S. 985 is ready for a decision on its merits. We urge that you vote in favor of the bill as reported, vote against any additional amendments, and vote against further consideration by any Committee of the Senate.

Sincerely yours,

Andrew J. Biemiller
Andrew J. Biemiller, Director
DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATION