

Re the House Resolution No. 143 concerning the critical shortage of replacement jar lids for home canning.

Members of the Agriculture Committee and the Consumer Protection Committee will investigate the cause of and find a solution to the shortage; hold hearings, take testimony, make investigations. May issue subpoenas under chair.

Ask Shellhamer^a who would you like to introduce^h.

Tentative date for first hearing--August 11, 1975

Maybe we can get Virginia Knauer.

Talk to Shellhamer re who is going to handle this detail so that both will not be duplicating efforts of other.

Contact Renninger and explain Resolution 143 and ask him to designate as soon as possible three members from minority side to serve on this committee.

After this we should notify Shellhamer 489-2700 (network) or 717 683-5239 (h) and tell him who our members are.

Get witnesses lined up.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

MEMO

August 4, 1975

SUBJECT: Public Hearing -- August 11, 1975

TO: MEMBERS OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE

FROM: Representative C. L. Schmitt
Co-Chairman

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be "C L Schmitt".

You have been appointed to serve as a member of the Select Committee to Investigate the cause of and find a solution to the shortage of replacement jar lids for home canning.

This Select Committee will hold a public hearing on Monday, August 11, 1975 at 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Majority Caucus Room.

Margaret Cameron Room

AGENDA OF COMMITTEE HEARING TO INVESTIGATE THE SHORTAGE OF HOME
CANNING JAR LIDS
AUGUST 11, 1975 *10 am to 5 pm*

- 10:00 A.M. - Mrs. Charles Benner, Chairman of Pennsylvania Farmers Association
Women's Committee, Middleburg, Pennsylvania
- 10:30 A.M. - Ms. Joann Lingle, Housewife, Middletown, Pennsylvania
- 11:00 A.M. - Mrs. Vera Sayre, President of Help Enforce Lower Prices,
Erie, Pennsylvania
- 11:30 A.M. - Mrs. Jane Alexander, Deputy Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of
Agriculture
Judy Stover, Chief of Consumer Services, Bureau of Rural Affairs.
- 1:00 P.M. - Dr. Gerald D. Kuhn, Association Professor of Food Technology,
Extension Specialist, The Pennsylvania State University
- 1:30 P.M. - Mr. John McNelis, Secretary of Pennsylvania Grocer's Association
Mr. Harlen Helzer, General Manager, Associated Wholesales,
York, Pennsylvania
Mr. Paul Day, General Manager, Washington Grocery Association,
Washington, Pennsylvania
- 2:00 P.M. - Mr. Eli Herman, Eli Herman Brokerage Company, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania
- 2:30 P.M. - Mr. Vernon Frey, President, James A. Weaver Company,
Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Questions to raise of distributors and manufacturers of canning jar lids to elicit an appraisal of the problem.

1. Trace on a month-to-month basis the quantity of shipments of canning jar lids from the manufacturer? For example--What shipments are being received now as opposed to the non-shortage of 1972 and what has happened between the period 1972 -- 1975?

Objective -- We must try to determine whether or not shipments are running ahead or behind known shortage years.

2. Have you, the distributors, increased your demand on the manufacturers for these canning jar lids and what has been the result?
3. How do you the distributors make your sales and distribution of canning jar lids?
 - a. Do you allocate among regular customers?
 - b. Are you selling to new customers and on what basis if there is an allocation?
4. Has there been an allocation on the part of manufacturers to you the distributors and, if so, on what basis?
5. In your opinion has there been any production manipulation on the part of the respective manufacturers?

Questions to raise of chain stores with reference to canning jar lids to elicit an appraisal of the problem.

1. What has been your experience with reference to the availability of canning lids?
2. What has been the method of distribution to you from the distributors in the past? What is the method of distribution and the promise of supply since the shortage.
3. Do you allocate to any of your individual stores and, if so, on what basis?
4. What has been your experience with reference to consumer demand--Has there been, in your opinion, a noticeable hoarding or the purchase of a substantially greater quantity by any one consumer?

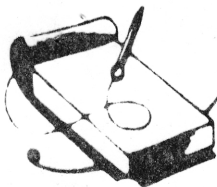
NOTE to Committee Chairman. In a conversation with Mr. Dave Laufer, of the Federal Trade Commission, Washington, D. C., the following information was received:

1. They are in the course of an extensive investigation on this problem at the national level and expect within a couple of weeks to have information on the problem.

2. The manufacturers apparently are reluctant to reveal their production information--have not done so as yet and will only do so under the condition that it remain confidential.

3. They are in the process of trying to establish patterns of supply, distribution and sale that have existed in shortage years as opposed to non-shortage years.

7/31



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Memo

FROM THE DESK OF

MARION YATES

Ext. 7-2885

Judy Stover, Chief Consumer Services
Dept. of Agriculture
called this office with the following
information:

Representative Noye received an anonymous phone call. The caller stated that three box cars full of jar lids are sitting at the Rite Aid Wholesale Distribution House in Mechanicsburg. When asked why the box cars are just sitting there, the reply was--"The manufacturer is putting a 'hold' on them."

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Consumer Protection

Name of Committee

July
Date and Place of Meeting

Time Meeting Started

Time of Adjournment

MAJORITY MEMBERS			Present	Absent	Excused (reason must be given)
MR. CHAIRMAN	C. L. Schmitt	7-2534	412- 337-6666		
11/14/44	Donald Abraham	3-1017	412- 461-9247	-2567	
	James Barber <i>call back</i>	7-7891	215- 222-8430		
11/14	Mark Cohen	7-4117	215- 288-2817		924-7657 (0) 215-516-5950
11/14	Helen Gillette	7-2885	412- 224-3880		
	Amos Hutchinson	7-3500	412- 837-1356		
	Charles Laughlin	7-3504	412- 869-7622		
	Robert O'Donnell	7-5608	215- 563-8254		
	James Romanelli	7-8942			(0) 412-431-3939
	Samuel Ross	7-3541	215- 518-1414		(after 194 bus/Calif)
	Michael Schweder <i>will call back</i>	7-3015	215- 865-1542		865-5489
	Fred Taylor	3-1102	412- 438-9293		
1	Rose Toll	7-3525	215- 549-2323	or	248-1121 <i>for 1122</i>
11	Fred Trello <i>(Vacation)</i>	3-1012	412- 264-1073		
MINORITY MEMBERS					
	John Renninger	3-1386	Canada	Home	215-968-3101
	Clarence Dietz	7-2016			
	Vern Pyles	3-8640			
	John Schaeffer	7-2047			
	John Stahl	7-2684			
	Lee Taddonio	7-2853			
	Peter Vroon	7-8776			
	William Yohn, Jr.	7-2932			
	Herbert Zearfoss	7-5935			

Otis Littleton (staff) 7-4732

Signed

SECRETARY