

CHECK MATE ON ACCESS TO DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS?

Tyranny by Treaty

By Leanne Wylet, B.A. and Helen Lawler, M.A.

If all it takes is a treaty to take, food supplements off the market in any country, it maybe only a matter of time before consumers worldwide will lose access.

Barbara Stewart, a member of the New Zealand Parliament and Health Spokesman for the New Zealand First political party, expects a vote in New Zealand soon on legislation to implement the Joint Trans Tasman Treaty (JTTT) with Australia. This would cost New Zealand consumers access to most supplements and put thousands of people out of work. If passed, the JTTT will harmonize New Zealand's dietary supplement laws to Australia's, thus canceling New Zealand's sovereignty over the regulation of safe dietary supplements.

Opponents of this legislation include Dr. Kenneth McIver of the New Zealand Charter of Alternative Health Practitioners, and Amy Adams of New Zealand Health Trust, as well as Barbara Stewart. <mailto:aja@smpartners.co.nz>

WHY IS THIS A GLOBAL ISSUE?

Over the last couple of years there has been a global pattern of harmonization in Australia and the European Union (EU) Food Supplements Directive (FSD) going in the direction of pharmaceutical interests - a direction that hampers consumer access to supplements, and creates red tape that drives vitamin companies manufacturing costs up, and limits what they are allowed to manufacture as well as allowable potency levels. If New Zealand implements this treaty with Australia, it may set a precedent for worldwide implementation of similar restrictions through CODEX and "free" trade agreements. The Free Trade Agreement of the Americas (FTAA), scheduled for 2005, will go beyond NAFTA to turn the entire western hemisphere into a larger version of the European Economic Community. The purpose of trade agreements is to free multinational corporations from regulation by individual countries and from smaller competitors.

For help in fully connecting the DOTS, please read Greg Ciola's interview with John Hammell of the International Advocates for Health Freedom (IAHF) in the "Health Crusader Magazine" (see below).

In Canada, a group called Freedom of Choice in Health Care (FCHC) has filed a lawsuit to overturn illegal regulations MADE last summer when Health Canada illegally harmonized Canada to Australian law.

In South Africa, a group called PHARMAPACT (People's Health Alliance Rejecting Medical Authoritarianism Prejudice and Conspiratorial Tyranny) is again going into high gear to oppose current rule making efforts by the South African Medicine's Control Council to destroy consumer access to dietary supplements. If all goes according to the Pharma Cartel's plans, the UN's Codex Alimentarius Commission could finalize an extremely restrictive *global trade standard* for vitamins and minerals at their November meeting in Germany. Stopping this is even more crucial than ever before because CODEX can now be "fast tracked" going from step five directly to eight skipping six and seven so it can be finalized.

Precedents in Europe, New Zealand, Canada, South Africa, could set things up for American consumers to lose access to supplements via international bodies--such as Codex, the World Trade Organization, or FTAA. If the WTO or FTAA -rules that the U.S. law is in violation of international law, Congress could nod; the FDA may applaud; and pharmaceutically dominated trade associations could celebrate. (To see whether your trade association is dominated by pharmaceutical interests, look at the employers of current board members see below.) The only thing that could spoil the Cartel's hoped for outcome here is if enough vitamin consumers awaken rapidly to grasp the nature of what is before us, and take appropriate grass roots action accordingly.

Please note, the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act of 1994 (DSHEA), passed to help protect consumer access to supplements, had loop holes written into it the FDA hasn't fully implemented. This language makes it easy for the FDA to ban products such as ephedra, whose banning was not justified. To date the FDA hasn't released their overly stringent Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) regulations, but may soon. When drafting these GMP regulations, the FDA ignored most public comments, and is anticipating law suits filed by many small companies who could easily be put out of business by these regulations. In other parts of the world there is already a pattern of stringent GMP being used adversely against dietary supplement companies. Unless legislation is written and passed by our Federal legislative bodies our DSHEA law will remain vulnerable to the FDA and pharmaceutical interests.

Why focus on the EU besides USA? The EU is now the dominant political power at Codex. At the November meeting the EU could try to push for their vitamin standard at Codex so it would mirror their EU FSD. This is why supporting the Alliance of Natural Health and their law suite to over turn the EU FSD in court, is so crucial. Over turning the EU FSD would make it harder for them to justify a finalized Codex vitamins standards that even partially mirrors. If this should occur in may be only a matter of time before it reaches our shores.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

1. Donate to the Alliance for Natural Health Support can be given to help ANH fund the ongoing costs of this legal challenge via http://www.alliance_natural_health.org, or contact Dr Robert Verkerk, Executive Director, at Tel: 01252 371 275 (general enquiries) or Tel: 0771 484 7225 (direct) or by Email: robv@alliance_natural_health.org Or contact David Hinde, Solicitor, Legal Director at Tel: 07958 548 186 or Email: davidh@alliance_natural_health.org
2. For help in fully connecting the dots, please read interview Greg Ciola did of John Hammell from the International Advocates For Health Freedom (IAHF), in the “Health Crusader Magazine”, <http://www.thehealthcrusader.com/pgs/article-0104-ban.shtml> and see the article in Life Extension Magazine: http://www.lef.org/magazine/mag_2003/2003_prepring_en_01.htm or see contact information below on how to obtain a copy.
3. Educate yourself about the harmful side effects of “properly” prescribed prescription drugs. Obtain a copy of this well documented article “Death By Medicine” at: <http://www.garynull.com/Article.aspx?Article=deathbymedicine/deathbymedicine1.htm>. To compare the relative danger of dietary supplements with other threats, including precription drugs, lightening strikes, bee stings, etc, see: http://www.laleva.cc/petizione/english/ronlaw_eng.html or see contact information below to obtain a cop.
4. If you belong to a trade association find out who is on their board. Do any of the board members have conflict of interest because they are also associated with a pharmaceutical company? Is this trade association still representing your interests? It isn’t advisable to “assume” what you’ve been told is accurate. Take the information given and check (or delegate) sources, references i.e. given for consistency. If the dots don’t connect consider dropping your support and join a association(s) who does represent you..

Sources:

EU vitamin rule change attacked,” *BBCNews*, January 30, 2004, www.bbcnews.com

John C. Hammell, President International Advocates for Health Freedom, 556 Boundary Bay Rd., Point Roberts, 98281 USA, 800_333_2553 toll free N. America 360-945-0352 World, www.iahf.com, “Health Freedom D-Day Soon in New Zealand – Member of NZ Parliament Responds to IAHF”.

jham@iahf.com Verkerk, Robert and David Hinde; “ANH Obtains Reference to European Court of Justice on Food Supplements Ban,” www.iahf.com

See also: “UK, Canadian moves set back drug industry globalism by inches,” *Independent Council for Health Freedom*, Volume VIII:1; Spring-Summer 2004

See the 3-hour documentary movie, “The Corporation,” by Mark Achbar, Jennifer Abbott, and Joel Bakan. <http://www.thecorporation.tb/icorp/> . or <http://www.thecorporation.tv/usa>

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Barbara Stewart MP, New Zealand First _ Health Spokesperson, Parliament Buildings, Wellington”, www.iahf.com

Devon Herrick and Russel Bennet, “U.S.-Australia Agreement Is Step Toward Free Trade in Prescription Drugs”, *Health Care News*, Sept. 2004, The Heartland Institute, 19 S. LaSalle St. #903, Chicago, Ill. 60603, 312-377-400, <http://www.heartland.org>

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Donations can be mailed to him or on line via his secure Pay Pal account.



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