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Office of the Secretary  
Room 159  
6th & Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest  
Washington, D.C. 20580

Dated this 7th day of  
August, 1997

To Those Concerned:

Having read the enclosed article which was buried deeply and minutely in a recent issue of The Chicago Tribune, I was completely amazed at not being informed through any other media - be it by radio, TV, Talk Shows or print of any description. Needless to say I am a devout subscriber to products Made in The United States of America - from mere trinkets to appliances, clothing, footwear, tools, and on down the line - yes, even cars, trucks, vans and the like. Otherwise I would not be writing this letter. This not to infer that other countries do not manufacture good, quality products. By the same token, manufacturing in The United States of America can, has, does and will produce products equal to and in most cases excel those from elsewhere around the world.

If the FTC adopts the proposed new guidelines (probably engineered by a host of manufacturers lobbying to the call of the dollar rather than caring for the country as a whole), the second step of incrementalism is at hand. The first is already in existence, as stipulated in enclosed article - simply that an insignificant foreign content in any product can exist (with no exact percentage stated) and still qualify as "Made in U.S.A.". The next step will be to increase the foreign content to another unknown percentage. And finally after climbing the ladder of political incrementalism, the foreign content will be so high, perhaps approaching totality, the situation being completely reversed, GOOD OLD US of A won't even get small change. In consequence, the last chapter would read that no one could ever ascertain the origin of anything - a truly perfect example of incrementalism. The whole scheme, and I emphasize scheme, is to obliterate the real source of any and all products. What is there to hide and why? Answers should be shame, exclusion, and profiteering.

The hidden aspect of "Made in U.S.A." lies in where you live and benefits of same. Incidentally, my fair reader, where do *you* live? Of course you will respond, "I live in the United States of America". Fine. Your next door neighbor, the man down the street, across the street, across the town, across the county, across the state, and across the nation all work in the U.S.A. in some phase of manufacturing, distribution, promotion, or sale of a product of some sort and are proud of being a part of the total operation. So they should in effect be rewarded of same by proper and truthful identification. I certainly would think that the general public should realize that the well being of all involved in our country depends upon supporting those mentioned above through purchasing more of the products truly designated as American made.

No, this is not what has been proclaimed as "protectionism"- Rather a more appropriate term would be "patriotism", seemingly a forgotten word except in time of war. Yes, and one might add a couple of other thoughts, good business and practicality. No person of sound mind would own and operate a hardware store and buy their hardware from another hardware store, their competitor. Somehow or other we, or I should say those in power at the time, possess the unique ability to stir the populace into a frenzy of false patriotism, travel the world over by ship, by plane, by tank, by Jeep-fight their wars, rebuild their homes, factories, economies at no cost to them. Just send the bill to Uncle Sam, add it to an already incomprehensible debt and plus, more importantly of all, human expense in the loss of thousands and thousands of lives in addition to VA Hospitals loaded with pitiful cripples. And yet a mere stamp of pride and truthfulness cannot be put on our merchandise without diminishing and polluting the truth. This draws a connotation of misrepresentation, also smacks of abortion.

Let us take a spot check trip through foreign sources, Grab China for openers. China gets and deserves first prize in the abuses against humanity category, ably and indisputably. Their Logo seems to read "Kill to Achieve". Then scoop up Japan, Taiwan, Indonesia, Singapore, and a few other scofflaws to take to the wood shed for participating in a consensual plot to exploit our trade deficit which is already astronomical. These scoundrels are the stupessucking along and allowing it to progress. In Sports terminology they are playing golf and we are caddying for them.

Let us take another spot check tour through the Super Stores to examine labels. Surprisingly, in far and away the majority of cases, intensive difficulty prevails in finding "Made in U.S.A." products. This situation is hard to digest.

In conclusion may I suggest attention should be turned to benefits derived from purchasing products "Made in U.S.A."-creating full time jobs thereby eliminating a high percentage of part time jobs (including hamburger shufflers), tremendous increase in revenue through payroll and income taxes to offset deficits in Social Security and Medicare, crucial aid in Welfare to Work Program, and an uplifting attitude as a part of being something constructive.

In writing this letter I have exercised my right of "Free Speech", which, incidentally, was "Made in U.S.A.". Thank you for listening.

Very Truly Yours

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# Across the nation

FROM TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C.

## FTC proposes to ease rules for 'Made in USA'

WASHINGTON—The government wants to give manufacturers more leeway in promoting their products as "Made in USA" even if some of the parts originate overseas.

In proposing new guidelines Monday, the Federal Trade Commission said it wants to ensure that consumers are not deceived when they see "Made in USA" label and that American manufacturers have enough flexibility to meet global competition.

"The claim that a product is 'Made in USA' is important to many consumers ... as they make purchasing decisions," said Jodie Bernstein, director of the FTC's bureau of consumer protection. "Understanding what the claim means is difficult given today's world marketplace."

Under current rules, companies can't make the claim unless more than a small amount of the product is made in the United States.

The proposed guides would allow a product to be called "Made in USA" if "substantially all" is made in America, meaning:

- U.S. manufacturing costs constitute at least 75 percent of the total manufacturing costs and the product was last substantially assembled in the United States.

- Or the product was last substantially formed in the United States along with a significant component or parts.

The FTC's guidelines are not yet final. The agency will accept written comments until August 1. After reviewing them, it can accept, reject or modify the proposed guides.

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