

August 22, 1997

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Office of the Secretary, "Made USA" 'ie

Dear Secretary

Although my local newspaper (Hartford
said you were accepting (Connecticut)
written comment until Aug 11,
I am still writing because
I very strongly believe in saying
what one means and mean
what one says.

If an item is labeled ^{made in USA}
I expect label to be accurate, true.

Already I've encountered
misleading labeling where
front of product stated "Duck Head
American Classic since 1865"
only to find upon closer
examination much smaller
label inside "made in Taiwan."

I am enclosing letter to editor
of June 21, 1997, that I strongly
agree with.

Why isn't top management
taking a pay cut instead
of reaping obscene salary
and benefits. If C.E.O.'s
were not paid so much
American products could be
more reasonably competitive
on the global market.

Sincerely,

Katherina Jalbert

K. Jalbert
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'Made in USA' means 100 percent

8.21.97

■ Why does my government want to lower the rate of products being made in the USA, while increasing the number of products being made overseas, and then falsely call these foreign made products "Made in the USA"?

I work at the Stanley Works in New Britain, where a lot of our products, such as millions of hinges, are made overseas. We were told this is done to help keep costs down.

This winter we got anew CEO. In 10 weeks, this man, with stock options, was worth \$13 million! How is this keeping our products competitive and our costs down? If he could have forgone his raise and options, we could have been more competitive in our plant.

In May, we signed for a three-year contract where we not only gave up a large portion of our raise but also benefits — to be competitive. We need to put an end to the practice of importing raw or partially finished products and then claiming that they are made in the USA. For, example, I recently bought a new pickup truck — an "American" pickup. Yet a lot of the parts were made in Asia! I paid quite a lot of extra money to own an American-made vehicle.

Our company says we need to be competitive. Most of the factories overseas are owned by U.S. companies ... so, who are we really in competition with but ourselves?

Last year was a very busy year, so we hired welfare recipients. This is like a new life for some of

them. For the first time in their lives, they are making a decent living. You should see them now with the Chinese hinges. Morale is low; they are asking why we need to buy overseas when we can make the same and better here if our CEO and VIPs were paid just what the president of the USA earns.

I have a hard time going to the grocery store and finding orange juice that is all grown and processed in the USA. Most of the fruits come from Mexico, Brazil, and Argentina. What kinds of pesticides do these countries use? DDT was still available in Mexico the last I heard. The government doesn't want my kids to smoke, so they are passing all kinds of laws to stop. But they allow Third World countries to grow our fruits when we don't even know what kind of fertilizer or pesticides they are using. This makes no sense to me.

As a veteran, I believe in my country. We should take care of our 'people first. We are not doing that by allowing the government to import all of these products.

Most people that I know want to buy American products that are 100 percent made in America. Why is my government against this? Factory workers, coal miners, carpenters, auto workers, and farmers are the backbone of this country. We pay our taxes, fight wars, and raise families. Why downgrade our standard of life?

Joseph G. Morin
Plantsville