

214 Woodlawn Av.
Willow Grove, PA. 19090

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Hon. Dan Burton, Chairman
House Government Reform and Oversight Committee
c/o Milt Copulos
Room 2157 RHOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Sir,

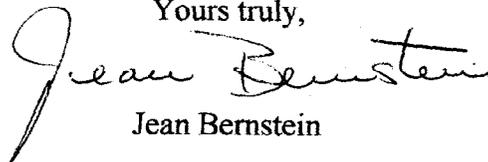
This letter is to protest the international program (called CODEX) being promoted by the pharmaceutical industry to deprive the American people of their health freedom of choice. And further, to protest the actions of our own Food and Drug Adm. in helping the "Codex Gang" by "harmonizing" our supplement and nutrient laws with Europe's much stricter standards, even though the U.S. Congress has made clear its desire that health supplements were to be specifically exempted from Codex "harmonization".

The great majority of Americans are not aware of these underhanded and practically secret attacks on their rights. They do not realize that if Codex is pushed down their throats, they will soon be paying greatly increased prices for minimal amounts of vitamins and supplements, set at RDA levels so low they are of little if any benefit..

We have long-time friends in both France and Germany whom we have been helping to obtain much-needed vitamins/supplements, and have now learned that they can no longer receive them. Even a simple item like Alka-seltzer is no longer available over-the-counter.

We're sending a copy of a brief article high-lighting this foreign onslaught on America's freedom. We're also sending copies to our Senators and our Representative. We beseech all of you to support and vote for HR 2868.

Yours truly,


Jean Bernstein


Melvin R. Bernstein

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Showdown in Berlin

'Harmonization,' truth-bending, camera-shy officials and a looming threat

RACING THROUGH CUSTOMS AT BERLIN'S Tegel airport, I knew I had only a half-hour to reach Dr. Beth Yetley of the Food and Drug Administration, chief spokesperson and only voting member of the U.S. Codex delegation.

As the official U.S. representative, Yetley was spearheading an effort by the FDA to harmonize our supplement and nutrient laws with Europe's much stricter standards. She was conducting this effort despite two clear signals from the U.S. Congress that health supplements were to be specifically exempted from Codex harmonization.

I caught up with her as she sat on a bar stool at the Ravenna Hotel on the Grunewaldstrasse and, armed with a camcorder, finally had the chance to ask her why the FDA was choosing to ignore the will of the U.S. Congress. As proof, I was carrying letters from five members of Congress who were opposed to harmonization.

The fact is, the Codex draft proposal, which was on the program of the Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Use, would deprive con-

sumers of access to therapeutically potent levels of nutrients, set strict recommended daily allowances (RDAs), and make it illegal to include health information on labels. Consumers world-wide could be limited to RDA levels of nutrients, while anything without an RDA would be regulated as a "drug." A global ban could be instituted on the making of health claims for these products.

Consider this: With the exception of England and Holland, many supplements available in American health food stores are unavailable in Europe. In Germany, for instance, you can't even touch a bottle of vitamins unless it is handed to you by a pharmacist from behind a counter.

Yetley avoided my questions, but did acknowledge receiving copies of the letters from U.S. Rep. Dan Burton, chairman of the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee, as well as Reps. Ron Paul, Peter De Fazio, Bob Stump and Merrill Cook.

The FDA announced its intention to harmonize its regulations to emerging Codex standards in an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) that was published in the Federal Register on July 7, 1997, Vol. 62, #129. Its so-called case is supported by the "Risk Assessment Model for Assessing Upper Intake Levels for Vitamins," generated by the National Academy of Sciences, which has already shown itself to be friendly to a pharmaceutical industry that relies on deadly current medical dogma.

Yetley's assistant, Dr. Christine Lewis, claimed that the "Risk Assessment" document had been uploaded to the FDA website for public review. When I challenged her to tell me when it had been made available, she said two days before the Codex meeting was to begin. However, when I used a search engine on the FDA's website

Dr. Matthias Rath put up billboards throughout Berlin urging opposition to the Codex commission. This one says, "Stop the drug cartel!" and "Health is a human right!"

