

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 13, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Signing Ceremony
 National School Lunch Act and
 Child Nutrition Act amendments

I. PURPOSE

To sign into law H.R. 515 - the National School Lunch Act and Child Nutrition Act amendments.

II. BACKGROUND

The legislation requires that children from low income families be served free or reduced price meals at school, establishes for the first time national eligibility standards for free or reduced price meals, authorizes advance appropriations of one year, requires States to contribute a fixed percentage of program costs from their tax revenues, and makes other amendments to the National School Lunch and Child Nutrition Acts.

III. ACTIONS REQUIRED

Signing of bill.

IV. POINTS OF DISCUSSION

A. School Lunches for Needy Children

1.4 million more school children are now receiving either free or reduced price lunches than were receiving them at the end of the last school year. The drive is continuing toward the goal of serving such lunches to all needy children by Thanksgiving; the number eligible is estimated to be 6.6 million children.

You might take this opportunity to discuss the achievements made since your Message to the Congress on Hunger of May 6, 1969.

B. Participation in Food Programs

A total of 9 million needy persons took part in Government food programs in March, 1970. This is an increase of 30% over May, 1969.

C. Food Stamps

The Food Stamp program has been sharply improved. A new schedule of payments was announced in December by Secretary Hardin. Purchase requirements were reduced, so that a family need spend no more than one-third of its income on stamps. As of March, 1970 participation had climbed to 5 million people..an increase of 55% over May of last year.

As a result of increased schedules, the amount of "bonuses" or increased purchasing power for Food Stamp participants has gone from \$24.6 million per month in December to \$70 million in March . a three-fold gain.

D. Geographic Expansion

You pledged in your Message to establish food programs in all counties by July, 1970. Out of 440 counties without programs last year, 367 have been brought in.

E. Food and Nutrition Service

A Food and Nutrition Service was set up in the Department of Agriculture to administer all Federal Food programs.

F. White House Conference

The White House Conference on Food, Nutrition and Health held in December produced a number of recommendations, many of which have already been implemented. Follow-up is being handled by the Urban Affairs Council.

G. Outreach (Program of personally contacting potential participants)

The Office of Economic Opportunity has substantially expanded its outreach activities to encourage participation in Federal Food Programs.



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