

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

We, the undersigned, wish to commend you for initiating the White House Conference on Food, Nutrition and Health on December 2-4, 1969. This is a laudable step in breaking the poverty cycle.

Of particular interest to us is the school lunch program. A national free lunch and breakfast program should be made immediately available to all needy children, through secondary school, that will provide at least two-thirds of the minimal requirements of the Recommended Dietary Allowance while respecting cultural food preferences.

The School Lunch Act of 1946 was a step in the right direction, but ways must be found to insure that federal monies appropriated for this purpose are not used by the state and local governments for other projects which do not in any way pertain to the school lunch program. We urge immediate legislation to amend this bill in order to prevent such occurrences in the future. Further, the availability of free lunches for needy children must be made known to welfare recipients so that their children may take advantage of this program.

The recipients of these programs must have responsibility for local administration of the programs under standards determined at the Federal level.

We most strongly recommend that an adequate office and staff be set up immediately in the White House to handle nothing else but matters pertaining to the hunger problem and its solution.

Further, we urgently request that a follow-up conference be held in December of 1970, the conference to deal solely with the hunger problem, what has been done and what will be done.

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