

WACF / Subject Files (AG) Box 72 / Gen AG 7-2 School Lunch Program  
[1062, 1969-70]

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GENERAL

HC 7-2

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MARVIN MANDEL  
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21404

January 2, 1970

V.P.

The Honorable Richard M. Nixon  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to join with, and supplement, the recent request of Maryland's two United States Senators for added federal assistance to Maryland's school lunch program. As they indicated, the total federal assistance thus far allocated to Maryland will be approximately three quarters of a million dollars short of what is required to keep our program in operation, at its present level, through the completion of the current school year.

As you may know, Maryland dramatically expanded its school lunch program this year. In contrast to the 8,000 students who were aided last year, we are currently feeding more than 44,000 needy students each day. This is not only a humanitarian program of feeding the hungry but also a service to enhance the chances of these youngsters to achieve in school. No added documentation is needed at this time to demonstrate that children beset by the rumblings of empty stomachs cannot learn adequately in classrooms.

Maryland State aid to this program goes beyond its fair share. We have allocated nearly one and a quarter million dollars in State funds to supplement federal and local money. We have acted in response to the compelling case for this program which was developed at the federal level. I note that the federal government speaks of new programs which would feed all needy youngsters by next Thanksgiving. I urge you to implement such

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The Honorable Richard M. Nixon -2-

January 2, 1970

programs, and we will work with you to translate such plans into achievements. However, our present program is successful, and I urge that you find the added federal funds to help feed these youngsters now and for the remaining school months until a better program is instituted.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William French Smith". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".