

ACTION MEMORANDUM

Date: Friday, February 13, 1970

Time: 10:40 A.M.

FOR ACTION: ~~John Whitaker~~

cc (for information):

[Handwritten signature]
needs to Ed Morgan

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

Monday 23
DUE: Date: ~~Thursday~~, February 19, 1970

Time: 2:00 P.M.

SUBJECT: Mr. Ehrlichman's request for action regarding the School Lunch Program.

ACTION REQUESTED:

- For Necessary Action
- For Your Recommendations
- Prepare Agenda and Brief
- Draft Reply
- For Your Comments
- Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

To Ed Morgan!
Would you reply as I recall
you got this box by when I
was in the middle of the
decision made ~~last~~ morning.

PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

[Signature]
H. S. COLE, JR.
For the President

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 11, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR

JOHN EHRLICHMAN

FROM

John R. Price *JRP*

SUBJECT

School Lunch Programs

Per your request, I called the Department of Agriculture and told Dick Lyng of our concern that we knew nothing of this until the storm was about to break. The background is as follows: (See also attached memo to me).

As of the end of September, the Agriculture Department sent a letter to Senator Ellender in which they stated that the appropriation request for school lunches would be adequate and urged early action.

After the attention on the issue at the Conference in December, the program began to pick up, and early warning signals from a couple of areas indicated that States or localities were experiencing budget troubles due to an acceleration.

The Department was aware in early January of troubles in Baltimore and one or two other areas. In addition, a letter of December 30, sent to the President by Senators Tydings and Mathias was forwarded by our Congressional liaison group on February third to the Agriculture Department. There was no notification of the rest of the White House (Ed Morgan or myself).

The Budget Bureau examiner was notified by the Department in mid-January that a problem might exist, and did in fact in some places, but there was no clear idea of its scope--it could be from \$2 to \$20 million or more, BOB was told. The Director was notified of the problem.

The Department then began a State by State check of needs, and apparently only this morning notified the BOB of the total.

The Department and the Bureau are now working on a position to take on the Perkins-Quie resolution.

As to whether there is a story in this, I am at work with Jeb Magruder on a plan for the whole area. DOA has several interesting things they are releasing (increased participation under the new Hardin rate schedule for food stamps; all States but three now have food programs; experimental voucher system for pregnant mothers to buy extra food), and these will be reviewed by Magruder along with some HEW developments (appointment of Jim Grant to be Deputy Administrator, Food and Drug Administration; announcement of task force on food at FDA) for press play.