

Dr. Gloster

REMARKS

THE HONORABLE HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

MOREHOUSE COLLEGE

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

JUNE 3, 1969

Bohler*my advice to you graduates about ready to go
out in the world - don't go!*I come to the Alma Mater of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.Humphrey

to address the Class of 1969 on the critical national issue of hunger in America -- a cause which was uppermost in Dr. King's mind and at the top of his agenda of action during the last years of his life.

Largely due to Dr. King's pioneering efforts in the mid-1960's, and the dramatic efforts of the Poor People's Campaign last year, the American people slowly became aware of the painful and shocking fact of severe hunger and malnutrition in this richest and most affluent of all nations.

*"A hungry man is not a free man"**"To the millions who have to go without two meals a day, the only acceptable form in which God dare appear is food. (Candide)"*

A U. S. Senate subcommittee discovered conditions in Mississippi nothing short of inhuman. ~~Other efforts, culminating in the series of disclosures by Senator George McGovern's special subcommittee,~~ ^{and has} have erased all doubt about the urgency of this human crisis. And the American people have responded: a Gallup Poll in late March found that seventy percent favored free food stamps for needy families.

↳ The hunger issue has a sad history of neglect. We have sent billions of dollars worth of food overseas under our Food for Peace program -- a worthy and necessary goal, but, because of bureaucratic bickering and lack of both federal and local initiative, we have allowed hunger and malnutrition to become part of the poverty cycle in our own country.

↳ There are about 8 million Americans in families whose total income is less than what government studies show is necessary for food alone.

Congress repeatedly has gone on record for providing food for needy children. Yet we have failed to recognize the stark dimensions of this problem or face up to what is required to solve it.

↳ The national nutrition survey, which examined diets and physical conditions of thousands of families in all income brackets in 10 states, turned up these shocking statistics:

↳ 34 per cent of the pre-school children examined have anemia, a condition that causes fatigue, listlessness and an inability to perform.

↳ 33 per cent of the children under six have Vitamin **A** deficiency, unknown to any child who simply drinks enough milk.

↳ A majority have serious dental problems, a condition that often accompanies poor nutrition.

↳ Large numbers have rickets or scurvy or beriberi *and other* ~~or marasmus or kwashiorkor~~ *diseases normally associated* ~~with the kind of famine found in Biafra.~~

L Dr. Charles Lowe, a nutrition authority, has studied
 hundreds of infants born prematurely because their mothers
 are malnourished. He concludes that as many as 50 per cent
will grow to maturity with an intellectual ability far below normal.

~~These findings underscore the crippling effects of hunger
 and malnutrition and show how people can be forgotten and
 ignored by the march of progress. They also dramatize the
 serious and needless public health emergency we face.~~

✓ *So what shall we do?*
well,

There is ample historical precedent for launching a vast
 food effort.

L We were distributing ^{food} ~~commodities~~ to nearly 13 million
persons in 1939, a troubled time when the national treasury
 was low and the population much smaller. ~~Two years later~~ *By 1940-41 -*
nearly 4 million persons were getting food stamps.

These figures are astonishing when compared with a combined total of only 7 million now assisted in government food stamp and commodity donation programs. *Today* • what is possible when the Country has leadership that inspires confidence and hope.

Keep

↳ In January a new Administration, declaring its intention to eradicate hunger, came on the scene. But months have gone by and little has been accomplished. It seems clear from the record that so far it is either unable or unwilling to meet this challenge.

Keep

Let me also be perfectly candid on a related point: I must also admit my deep personal disappointment that more -- much more -- was not achieved during the eight preceding Democratic years. This is not to decry the important beginnings that were made, but simply to say that somehow more should have been done... and could have been done. *(DeLoach)*

But today we note that the Administration's \$1.46 billion appropriation request for hunger and malnutrition for next year is, in fact, only \$218 million more than this year's total. By no stretch of the imagination can this be called more than a token gesture.

We ~~also~~ are aware of the highly-publicized decision to provide free food stamps to the most needy families. But then we find the government is spending only a few thousand dollars to make this program available to a handful of families in two counties in South Carolina and the District of Columbia.

We heard President Nixon weeks ago announcing his intention to seek \$270 million in additional food stamp outlays in fiscal year 1970. But to date this declaration has produced no specific request for action on Capitol Hill.

~~And although the fiscal 1971 budget will be increased by \$1 billion, these funds would not be available for at least 18 months from now.~~

We learn that the U. S. Department of Agriculture which runs these programs, is still having problems overcoming its inertia ⁱⁿ and spending what Congress provided for this year.

At last count the Department now plans to return to the U. S. Treasury \$20 million in unspent food stamp money on June 31 -- the end of this fiscal year.

↳ We read other stories saying the Administration may go slow on the hunger problem, ^{while it takes a long} ~~pending a long~~ look at ways to reform the welfare system. ~~Any bureaucrat will tell you that this approach can, and probably will, take years to produce any meaningful results.~~

} and much needed

↳ Add this all up and one is forced to conclude that the overall hunger attack outlined with such fanfare by the President a few weeks ago--but not yet put before Congress--lacks the urgency so clearly required. It calls for too little money, no new or imaginative programs, and a delay in meaningful expansion until the 1970s.

-8-

↳ This kind of response is inadequate in view of this country's tremendous wealth. ↳ It is unnecessarily timid in view of the strong public support for doing what is necessary.

↳ And it is indefensible in view of recent testimony disclosing findings of the national nutrition survey. — So what to do

↳ Present food programs must be expanded -- now. (The fact that they reach only about 20 per cent of our poor families is not due to any shortage of food in this country.)

↳ We have an unlimited supply of reasonably-priced and highly-nutritious food and the world's most efficient food industry. (Millions of acres of cropland are in reserve, and our farmers could gear up overnight to produce much, much more.)

↳ We can also afford the cost of doubling or tripling these programs immediately -- if we really decide to do the job. Any country that regularly finances a Pentagon budget in excess of \$75 billion a year can surely find the ~~several billion dollars~~ money necessary to eradicate hunger!

The political test now, put very bluntly, is voting the money.

⌞ America has a long list of urgent problems like slums and illiteracy and poverty, all generations in the making and all requiring years and billions of dollars to solve. But hunger is the one basic and critical problem we can meet-- now--by providing the money.

now
generations

Hunger is not the kind of problem that takes

~~The necessary funding must be accompanied by some administrative improvements.~~

decade to remedy

~~and Our food programs should no longer be directed by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the agriculture committees in Congress, which traditionally--and properly--have been concerned with the serious problem of low farm income.~~

⌞ But this is a human crisis. The priority must be feeding the hungry--~~not disposing of excess agricultural commodities.~~

not regulating production or prices

Quality of Life - We can help

Moreover, the commodity distribution program should be used only as a supplemental program; it is inefficient and carries the stigma of the welfare dole.

↳ We need instead a greatly expanded food stamp program run by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. It should have ~~the breadth of authorization that guarantees the~~ funds necessary for total coverage and for the planning and staffing to make it function successfully.

↳ Free food stamps should be available to families with little or no income. Large numbers of poor families in the South still buy food and all other necessities on credit and rarely, if ever, handle any cash. Cash requirements for those who do earn a few hundred dollars a year should be sharply reduced, if not eliminated altogether.

TWT

Fact of our time

Change - ferment - restlessness -

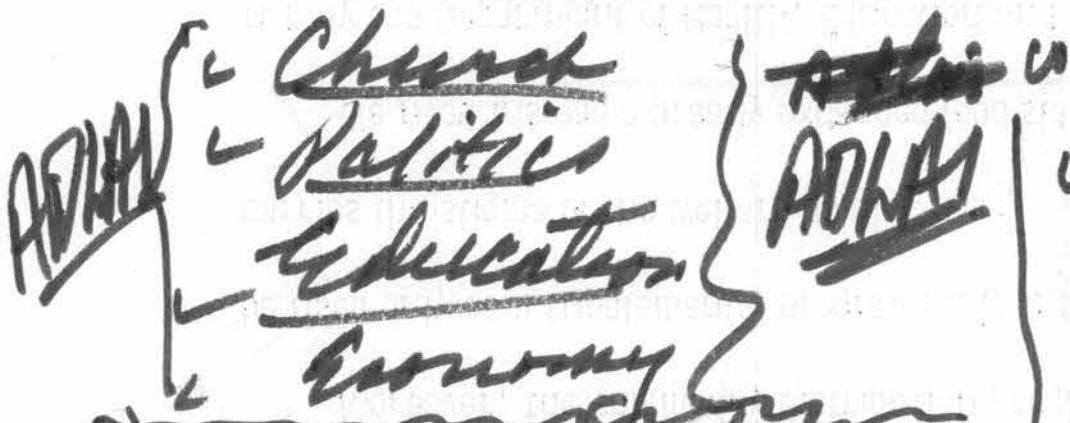
Why - - want -

Dr Hoster

Book Hope

Also Club

- End of Empires
- New Nations
- Science & Technology
- Population explosion
- Atomic age (nuclear)
- Space Age
- Radio-TV - no place to hide
- Rising Expectations
- Emancipation
- all institutions under
critical examination



(X) much done - more to do
(Churchill story)
De Tocqueville.

we have the
Resources.
Do we have
the will!
will we make
the commitment?

The food industry does a remarkable job of merchandising diet foods and helping the "haves" take off their excess pounds. It is time for the industry, as a public service, to sponsor similar efforts to show poor people how to buy, prepare and serve balanced meals using food that is within their budget.

↳ The eradication of hunger is not the kind of problem that takes decades of effort to remedy. Traditionally we accept the fact that meaningful social and economic change takes time. But these are critical days and this is one issue that should not, and need not, wait.

↳ The spectre of hunger and malnutrition in affluent America is both immoral and intolerable. The public conscience is aroused and political leaders should use this upsurge of public opinion to do what is necessary to meet this challenge.

-13-

~~These are difficult and challenging times. The established order is very much on trial. The Administration must and can act decisively on this one problem where swift and visible results are possible.~~

We can feed our hungry ~~And we can do it now!~~ I know you join with me in calling upon the Executive and Legislative branches of our government to demonstrate the responsiveness, the compassion and courage which this critical situation so clearly demands.

Yes, you can help in continuing to dramatize the urgency of the crisis. (OUR TASK) - AD LAC STEINMAN

In doing so you honor the memory of Dr. King, but, more importantly, you are doing what is right simply because it is right -- and simply because none of us have any moral alternative until this shameful situation is removed from this country.

Thomas # # # # -

REMARKS
THE HONORABLE HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES
MOREHOUSE COLLEGE
ATLANTA, GEORGIA
JUNE 3, 1969

I come to the Alma Mater of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to address the Class of 1969 on the critical national issue of hunger in America -- a cause which was uppermost in Dr. King's mind and at the top of his agenda of action during the last years of his life.

Largely due to Dr. King's pioneering efforts in the mid-1960's, and the dramatic efforts of the Poor People's Campaign last year, the American people slowly became aware of the painful and shocking fact of severe hunger and malnutrition in this richest and most affluent of all nations.

A U.S. Senate subcommittee discovered conditions in Mississippi nothing short of inhuman. Other efforts, culminating in the series of disclosures by Senator George McGovern's special subcommittee, have erased all doubt about the urgency of this human crisis. And the American people have responded: a Gallup Poll in late March found that seventy percent favored free food stamps for needy families.

The hunger issue has a sad history of neglect. We have sent billions of dollars worth of food overseas under our Food for Peace program -- a worthy and necessary goal, but because of bureaucratic bickering and lack of both federal and local initiative, we have allowed hunger and malnutrition to become part of the poverty cycle in our own country.

There are about 8 million Americans in families whose total income is less than what government studies show is necessary for food alone.

Congress repeatedly has gone on record for providing food for needy children. Yet we have failed to recognize the stark dimensions of this problem or face up to what is required to solve it.

The national nutrition survey, which examined diets and physical conditions of thousands of families in all income brackets in 10 states, turned up these shocking statistics:

-- 34 per cent of the pre-school children examined have anemia, a condition that causes fatigue, listlessness and an inability to perform.

-- 33 per cent of the children under six have Vitamin A deficiency, unknown to any child who simply drinks enough milk.

-- A majority have serious dental problems, a condition that often accompanies poor nutrition.

-- Large numbers have rickets or scurvy or beriberi or marasmus or kwashiorkor, diseases normally associated with the kind of famine found in Biafra.

Dr. Charles Lowe, a nutrition authority, has studied hundreds of infants born prematurely because their mothers are malnourished. He concludes that as many as 50 per cent will grow to maturity with an intellectual ability far below normal.

These findings underscore the crippling effects of hunger and malnutrition and show how people can be forgotten and ignored by the march of progress. They also dramatize the serious and needless public health emergency we face.

There is ample historical precedent for launching a vast food effort.

We were distributing commodities to nearly 13 million persons in 1939, a troubled time when the national treasury was low and the population much smaller. Two years later nearly 4 million persons were getting food stamps.

These figures are astonishing when compared with a combined total of only 7 million now assisted in government food stamp and commodity donation programs. They show what is possible when the Country has leadership that inspires confidence and hope.

In January a new Administration, declaring its intention to eradicate hunger, came on the scene. But months have gone by and little has been accomplished. It seems clear from the record that so far it is either unable or unwilling to meet this challenge.

Let me also be perfectly candid on a related point: I must also admit my deep personal disappointment that more -- much more--was not achieved during the eight preceding Democratic years. This is not to decry the important beginnings that were made, but simply to say that somehow more should have been done...and could have been done.

* * * *

But today we note that the Administration's \$1.46 billion appropriation request for hunger and malnutrition for next year is, in fact, only \$218 million more than this year's total. By no stretch of the imagination can this be called more than a token gesture.

We also are aware of the highly-publicized decision to provide free food stamps to the most needy families. But then we find the government is spending only a few thousand dollars to make this program available to a handful of families in two counties in South Carolina and the District of Columbia.

We heard President Nixon weeks ago announcing his intention to seek \$270 million in additional food stamp outlays in fiscal year 1970. But to date this declaration has produced no specific request for action on Capitol Hill.

And although the fiscal 1971 budget will be increased by \$1 billion, these funds would not be available for at least 18 months from now.

We learn that the U. S. Department of Agriculture which runs these programs, is still having problems overcoming its inertia and spending what Congress provided for this year. At last count the Department now plans to return to the U. S. Treasury \$20 million in unspent food stamp money on June 30 -- the end of this fiscal year.

We read other stories saying the Administration may go slow on the hunger problem, pending a long look at ways to reform the welfare system. Any bureaucrat will tell you that this approach can, and probably will, take years to produce any meaningful results.

Add this all up and one is forced to conclude that the overall hunger attack outlined with such fanfare by the President a few weeks ago --but not yet put before Congress --lacks the urgency so clearly required. It calls for too little money, no new or imaginative programs, and a delay in meaningful expansion until the 1970s.

This kind of response is inadequate in view of this country's tremendous wealth. It is unnecessarily timid in view of the strong public support for doing what is necessary. And it is indefensible in view of recent testimony disclosing findings of the national nutrition survey.

Present food programs must be expanded--now. The fact that they reach only about 20 per cent of our poor families is not due to any shortage of food in this country.

We have an unlimited supply of reasonably-priced and highly -nutritious food and the world's most efficient food industry. Millions of acres of cropland are in reserve. And our farmers could gear up overnight to produce much, much more.

We can also afford the cost of doubling or tripling these programs immediately--if we really decide to do the job. Any country that regularly finances a Pentagon budget in excess of \$75 billion a year can surely find the several billion dollars necessary to eradicate hunger.

The political test now, put very bluntly, is voting the money.

America has a long list of urgent problems like slums and illiteracy and poverty, all generations in the making and all requiring years and billions of dollars to solve. But hunger is the one basic and critical problem we can meet--now--by providing the money.

The necessary funding must be accompanied by some administrative improvements.

Our food programs should no longer be directed by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the agriculture committees in Congress, which traditionally--and properly--have been concerned with the serious problem of low farm income.

But this is a human crisis. The priority must be feeding the hungry--not disposing of excess agricultural commodities.

Moreover, the commodity distribution program should be used only as a supplemental program; it is inefficient and carries the stigma of the welfare dole.

We need instead a greatly expanded food stamp program run by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. It should have the breadth of authorization that guarantees the funds necessary for total coverage and for the planning and staffing to make it function successfully.

Free food stamps should be available to families with little or no income. Large numbers of poor families in the South still buy food and all other necessities on credit and rarely, if ever, handle any cash. Cash requirements for those who do earn a few hundred dollars a year should be sharply reduced, if not eliminated altogether.

Where local government is unwilling to act, the federal government must step in, set eligibility requirements, and run the food stamp program. We must remove bureaucratic obstacles to this program in more than 400 counties and cities.

We must also make it easier for poor people to buy food stamps. Under the present program there is often only one food stamp office in a county, and the poor must buy their entire month's supply of stamps at one time.

There is no reason why food stamps cannot be sold in every post office, during every week of the month, and in amounts covering as little as one week's groceries.

Nutrition education also is essential. Newspapers and radio and television stations should tell poor people about food stamps.

The food industry does a remarkable job of merchandising diet foods and helping the "haves" take off their excess pounds. It is time for the industry, as a public service, to sponsor similar efforts to show poor people how to buy, prepare and serve balanced meals using food that is within their budget.

The eradication of hunger is not the kind of problem that takes decades of effort to remedy. Traditionally we accept the fact that meaningful social and economic change takes time. But these are critical days and this is one issue that should not, and need not, wait.

The spectre of hunger and malnutrition in affluent America is both immoral and intolerable. The public conscience is aroused and political leaders should use this upsurge of public opinion to do what is necessary to meet this challenge.

These are difficult and challenging times. The established order is very much on trial. The Administration must and can act decisively on this one problem where swift and visible results are possible.

We can feed our hungry. And we can do it now. I know you join with me in calling upon the Executive and Legislative branches of our government to demonstrate the responsiveness, the compassion and courage which this critical situation so clearly demands.

Yes, you can help in continuing to dramatize the urgency of the crisis.

In doing so you honor the memory of Dr. King, but, more importantly, you are doing what is right simply because it is right -- and simply because none of us have any moral alternative until this shameful situation is removed from this country.

#

Remarks
The Honorable H. H.
Commencement Exercises
Morehouse College
Atlanta, Georgia
June 9, 1969

I come to the Alma Mater of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to address the Class of 1969 on the critical national issue of hunger in America -- a cause which was uppermost in Dr. King's mind and at the top of his agenda of action during the last years of his life.

Largely due to ~~the initial work~~ Dr. King's pioneering efforts in the mid-1960's, and the ~~the~~ dramatic efforts of the Poor People's Campaign last year, the American people slowly became aware of ~~something among~~ the painful ~~and~~ and shocking fact ~~that~~ of severe hunger and malnutrition in this richest and most affluent of all nations.

led by the late Senator Robert Kennedy
A U.S. Senate subcommittee discovered conditions in Mississippi nothing short of inhuman. Other efforts, culminating in the series of ~~these~~ disclosures by Senator George McGovern's special subcommittee, have erased all doubt about the urgency of this human crisis.

The hunger issue has a sad history of neglect. We have

sent billions of dollars worth of food overseas under our Food for Peace program, ^{-- a worthy and necessary goal,} ~~But,~~ because of bureaucratic bickering and lack of both federal and local initiative, we have allowed hunger and malnutrition to become part of the poverty cycle in our own country. ^{-- a totally inescapable situation which both political parties permitted to develop.}

There are about 8 million Americans in families where total income is less than what government studies show is necessary for food alone.

Congress repeatedly has gone on record for providing food for needy children. Yet we have failed to recognize the stark dimensions of this problem or face up to what is required to solve it.

The national nutrition survey, ~~revealed these stark facts~~ which examined diet and physical conditions of thousands of families in all income brackets in 10 states, turned up these shocking statistics:

--34 per cent of the pre-school children examined have anemia, a condition that causes fatigue, listlessness and an

~~2~~



inability to perform.

--33 per cent of the children under six have Vitamin A deficiency, unknown to any child who simply drinks enough milk.

--A majority have serious dental problems, a condition that often accompanies poor nutrition.

--Large numbers have rickets or scurvy or beriberi or marasmus or kwashiorkor, diseases normally associated with the kind of famine found in Biafra.

Dr. Charles Lowe, a nutrition authority, has studied hundreds of infants born prematurely because their mothers are malnourished. He concludes that as many as 50 per cent will grow to maturity with an intellectual ability far below normal.

These findings underscore the crippling effects of hunger and malnutrition and show how people can be forgotten and ignored by the march of progress. They also dramatize the serious and needless public health emergency we face.

There is ample historical precedent for launching a vast food effort.

We were distributing commodities to nearly 13 million persons in 1939, a troubled time when the national treasury was low and the population much smaller. Two years later nearly 4 million persons were getting food stamps.

These figures are astonishing when compared with a combined total of only 7 million now assisted in government food stamp and commodity donation programs. They show what is possible when the Country has leadership that inspires confidence and hope.

(4)

also admit
a my deep

Let me also be perfectly candid on a related point: ~~that~~ ^{I must} that more -- much more -- was not achieved during the eight preceding Democratic ~~years~~ years. This is not to decry the important beginnings that were made, but simply to say that somehow more should have been done. . . and ~~that~~ ~~which~~ ~~more~~ could have been done.

* * * *

In January a new Administration, declaring its intention to eradicate hunger, came on the scene. But months have gone by and little has been accomplished. It seems clear from the record so far that it is ^{either} unable or unwilling to meet this challenge.

~~But today we~~ ^{note} note that the Administration's \$1.46 billion

appropriation request for hunger and malnutrition for next year is ^{in fact,} only \$218 million more than this year's total. By no stretch of the imagination can this be called more than a token gesture.

We are ^{also} aware of the highly-publicized decision to provide free food stamps to the most needy families. But ^{then} we find the government is spending only a few thousand dollars to make ^{this program} available to a handful of families in three scattered areas.

We heard ~~the~~ ^{Nixon} President weeks ago asking for another

Nixon

5

\$270 million in food stamp authorization for fiscal 1970.

But legislation to accomplish this ~~limited~~^{limited} objective has not yet been sent to Capitol Hill.

We learn that the ^{U.S.} ~~Agriculture~~^{of Agriculture,} Department which runs these programs, ~~has failed to overcome~~^{is still having problems overcoming} its inertia and spending ~~what Congress provided for this year.~~^{At least count the Department now plans to} ~~It is turning \$20~~
^{Return to the U.S. Treasury \$20} million in unspent food stamp money ~~back to the treasury this~~^{on June 31 -- the end of this} ~~friscal year.~~^{month.}

^{Other} We read stories saying the Administration may go slow on the hunger problem, pending a long look at ways to reform the welfare system. Any bureaucrat will tell you that this ~~kind of~~^{produce any meaningful results,} approach can, and probably will, take years to ~~complete.~~

~~Finally we discover~~^{Add this all up and one is forced to conclude} that the overall hunger attack outlined with such fanfare by the President a few weeks ago--but not yet put before Congress--lacks the urgency so clearly required. It calls for too little money, no new or imaginative programs, and a delay in meaningful expansion until the 1970s.

(This kind of ^{response} ~~leadership~~ is inadequate in view of this country's tremendous wealth. It is ~~weak~~^{unnecessarily timid} in view of a strong public support for doing what is necessary. And it is indefensible in view of recent testimony disclosing findings of the national nutrition survey.

~~This survey, which is examining diets and physical conditions of thousands of families in all income brackets in 10 states, has turned up shocking statistics like these:~~

①

what is possible when the country has leadership that
inspires confidence and hope

[Present food programs must be expanded--^{now} ~~and~~ at least.
The fact that they reach only about 20 per cent of our poor families is not due to ~~need~~ ^{any} shortage of food in this country.

[We have an unlimited supply of reasonably-priced and highly-nutritious food and the world's most efficient food industry. Millions of acres of cropland are in reserve. And our farmers could gear up overnight to produce much, much more.

[We (also can) afford the cost of doubling or tripling these programs immediately ^{-- if we really decide to do the job.} Any country that regularly finances a Pentagon ^{budget in excess of} shopping list ^{costing} \$75 billion ~~or~~ more a year can ^{surely} find the ~~money~~ ^{several billion dollars necessary} to eradicate hunger.

~~What hunger and malnutrition problems need now is not more speeches or statements of national commitment.~~

~~These have been in surplus for some time.~~ [The political test now, ^{to} put very bluntly, is voting the money.

[America has a long list of urgent problems like slums and illiteracy and poverty, all generations in the making and all requiring years and billions of dollars to solve. But hunger is the one basic and critical problem we can meet--now--by providing the money.

[The necessary funding must be accompanied by some administrative improvements.

[Our food programs should no longer be directed by the

APZ

U.S. Department of

Agriculture ~~Department~~ and the agriculture committees

in Congress, which traditionally ^{--and properly--} have been ~~seriously~~ concerned with the serious problem of low farm income. ^{But} This is a human crisis. The priority must be ^{disposing of excess agricultural commodities} feeding the hungry. --not

^{Moreover,} The commodity distribution program should be used ^{only} less because it is inefficient and carries the stigma of the welfare dole. ~~It should be continued~~ as a supplemental program; ~~it is inefficient and carries the stigma of the welfare dole.~~

^{We need instead} ~~that is urgently needed~~ is a greatly expanded food stamp program run by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. It should have the ^{breadth} ~~kind~~ of authorization that guarantees the funds necessary for total coverage and ^{for the} planning and staffing to make it ~~work~~ ^{function successfully}.

Free food stamps should be available to families with little or no income. Large numbers of poor families in the South still buy food and all other necessities on credit and rarely, if ever, handle any cash. Cash requirements for those ^{who} ~~that~~ do earn a few hundred dollars a year should be sharply reduced, ^{if not eliminated altogether}.

Where local government is unwilling to act, the federal government must step in, set eligibility requirements, and run the food stamp program. We must remove ^{bureaucratic obstacles} ~~ways~~ to this program in more than 400 counties and ~~independent~~ cities.

^{also} We must ^{also} make it easier for poor people to buy food stamps. Under the present program there is often only one food stamp office in a county, and the poor must buy their entire month's supply of stamps at one time.

8

There is no reason why food stamps cannot be sold in every post office, during every week of the month, and in amounts covering as little as one week's groceries.

Nutrition education also is essential. Newspapers and radio and television stations should tell poor people about food stamps.

It is time for the food industry, as a public service, should sponsor similar efforts to show poor people how to buy, prepare and serve balanced meals using food that is ~~not too~~ ^{within} ~~expensive~~ their budgets.

The food industry does a remarkable job of merchandising diet foods and helping the "haves" take off their excess pounds. ~~The time has come to merchandise food that is low cost and nutritious so the "have nots" will know more about what to buy.~~

The eradication of hunger is not the kind of problem that ~~should run the risk of long legislative delays.~~ ^{take decades of effort to remedy.} Traditionally we accept the fact that ^{social and economic} meaningful change takes time. But these are critical days and this is one issue that should not, and ~~not~~ ^{need} wait.

The spectre of hunger and malnutrition in ^{an affluent} America is both immoral and intolerable. ~~It has aroused~~ ^{Public} the public conscience, ~~and~~ ^{is aroused and} ~~made it possible for~~ ^{should use this upsurge of public opinion} political leaders to do what is necessary to meet this challenge.

If our government is unable to respond to such a critical national need, then the poor and hungry will turn to cynical dissidents who call our society a failure and incite revolution against our institutions. And we will

9

have nobody to blame but ourselves.

You can help in this effort. Monitor these local programs, wherever you may be, and be sure the needy are contacted. Organize transportation for those forced to go long distances for commodities or food stamps and those who are physically handicapped.

Work on local governments that resist these programs or set unfair or unreasonable participation standards. The poor are usually hidden and powerless and unrepresented.

Getting these programs funded in Washington, then making them work locally, will not be easy. But it is one of the most urgent social challenges of our time.

We can feed our hungry, and we can and must work together to do it now.

J

These are difficult and challenging times. The established order is very much on trial. It is, therefore, all the more reason for us to act decisively on this one problem where swift and visible results are possible.

We can feed our hungry. We ~~cannot~~ must ~~not~~ call upon the Executive and Legislative branches of our government to ~~finish this job, do the job~~ demonstrate the responsiveness, the compassion and courage which this critical situation so clearly demands.

J



Minnesota Historical Society

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.



www.mnhs.org