

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

FACING THE FUTURE ON CHILD NUTRITION
AMERICAN SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE ASSOCIATION

March 3, 1975

Arlington, Virginia

It always is a pleasure to be with the American School Food Service Association. We are old friends and allies. And now it looks as if we have another tough fight ahead.

Your organization long has had as one of its major goals a universal program of balanced, nutritious meals for youngsters in every school in this nation.

I share your goal. And I am pleased to announce that I have introduced in the Senate the "Child Nutrition Act of 1975," embodying the principles of universality.

I hope that the Senate will move quickly in considering this bill, which would achieve goals that you and I have sought for many years.

The school lunch programs mean more than food for the body. They mean food for the brain and food for thought.

Food is as important as books if a child is to learn and grow up fit to compete as an adult, to apply his learning and make a contribution to society -- and to raise healthy, productive children of the future generation.

Today we know more, thanks to science, than ever before about the relationship between food and the mind. As a member of the Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs, I have listened to expert testimony and read through volumes of transcripts on this subject.

Diet clearly affects mental condition, particularly in the young and unborn. What is or is not in the diet of the pregnant mother or the infant strongly affects what that child grows up to be.

And in growing children, both the diet itself and the eating habits greatly affect the conditions that will prevail in adulthood.

The legacy of poor food and poor mental and physical health can be passed from generation to generation in an endless, heartless, hopeless chain, unless someone steps in to break it.

We have seen further evidence of the Administration's attitude on the school lunch program in its 1976 budget proposal.

Its "block grant" is really a blockbuster.

Rather than moving toward a universal program, it proposes a narrowed welfare program. An estimated 7 to 10 million paying students would be forced from the program if the Administration program were enacted.

It is clear that in a vast majority of schools the poverty program alone would not support a school food service operation.

I want you to know that I will do everything I can in the Senate to see that this Administration foolishness is rejected.

We have a joint mission in reshaping the thinking that has prevailed in the present Administration. We have had various attempts to dismantle programs that have taken years to develop. The Administration cannot seem to recognize that these programs are sound investments for the future.

While the Administration has tried to buy out of these programs, the Congress has to face the need for new legislation on the child nutrition programs.

We will be looking at the Food Stamp program in terms of how to improve it. I would concede that there have been abuses. But, the Administration makes irresponsible charges that the program is out of control.

The program is not under control because of inflation and increasing unemployment. Over 2 million people have joined the program in the last four months because of growing unemployment.

The Administration needs to do a much better job of running this program. We do not have enough information on who is in the program, and who should be in it.

The courts have directed, through Judge Miles Lord, that a vigorous outreach program be undertaken. We will need to see how the Department heeds this directive.

Another program requiring new legislation is the WIC program. I have introduced legislation, S.882, to improve this program and make it permanent.

This is one of the more exciting and innovative programs of recent years. It should be improved and strengthened, not destroyed.

We will need to enact legislation covering other areas of the child nutrition program, such as school breakfasts, day care centers and summer programs.

We have made useful improvements in these programs by increasing reimbursement rates periodically to reflect inflation, expanding the school milk program, and increasing the funding for school lunch equipment.

And we raised the income guidelines that determine eligibility for reduced-price lunches.

These changes have helped, but we didn't win all we wanted. But if we had not fought, the program would be a shambles today.

But now we need a new initiative, and that's why my bill is important. We need to bring all of the estimated 48 million school children into the school lunch program.

The importance of good nutrition is becoming better understood. There is little doubt of its impact on learning, health, absenteeism and dropouts.

And there is no question that the teaching of the principles of good nutrition has been largely neglected in the nation's educational system.

We find poor diets or less than adequate diets prevalent in all segments of the population, regardless of income. To correct the situation, there is an urgent need to incorporate nutrition education in various phases of the educational system.

Clearly, it is time that Congress should express national leadership in stimulating an improved understanding of good nutrition.

My bill also would eliminate once and for all the degrading procedure of singling out certain children as eligible for a free lunch, and certain other children as eligible for a reduced price lunch, while still others, because of higher family incomes, are required to pay the full price.

This bill would free school officials from performing a welfare function when their real business is education. And, the administrative costs of sending out applications and processing and evaluating the applications could be sharply reduced.

Some parents feel compelled today to cheat on these forms, in order that their children are eligible for a free or reduced price lunch.

Americans should not be deceived by the Administration's "block grant" proposal.

It would place a great burden on the states. And with meal prices soaring to eighty cents and higher, pupil participation would be forced down dramatically.

It is tragic that the Administration makes this proposal at the time of the nation's dawning comprehension of the relationship between nutrition and health.

The Administration proposal also imposes a severe hardship on middle income America. At this time the middle class taxpayer is struggling with his bills, inflation and recession.

And yet, while the President proposes a tax rebate to help middle income America, he recommends what is in effect a head tax of \$54.00 per child per year.

This is the time to reaffirm the nation's dedication to an improved educational opportunity for all children. What better time than now to establish a Universal School Food Service Program?

It is time that the nation once and for all accepted responsibility for the nutritional well-being for children while they are at school.

The nation has an opportunity to meet with compassion and vision the needs of our children, and lend a helping hand to them while strengthening a faltering economy.

A Universal School Lunch Program could help develop the eating habits which would lead to a better nourished nation in the future.

That, I know, is your goal. I certainly share it, and together we can make it a reality.

John Curryman
Josephine Martin

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

FACING THE FUTURE ON CHILD NUTRITION
AMERICAN SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE ASSOCIATION

MARCH 3, 1974
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA

h IT ALWAYS IS A PLEASURE TO BE WITH THE AMERICAN SCHOOL

FOOD SERVICE ASSOCIATION WE ARE OLD FRIENDS AND ALLIES, AND

NOW IT LOOKS AS IF WE HAVE ANOTHER TOUGH FIGHT AHEAD.

h YOUR ORGANIZATION ~~LONG HAS~~ ^{Has} HAD AS ONE OF ITS MAJOR GOALS

A UNIVERSAL PROGRAM OF BALANCED, NUTRITIOUS MEALS FOR

YOUNGSTERS IN EVERY SCHOOL IN THIS NATION.

! a great and
ambitious goal.

Land I SHARE YOUR GOAL, AND I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT I

HAVE INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE THE "CHILD NUTRITION ACT OF

1975," EMBODYING THE PRINCIPLES OF UNIVERSALITY.

h I HOPE THAT THE SENATE WILL MOVE QUICKLY IN CONSIDERING

THIS BILL, WHICH WOULD ACHIEVE GOALS THAT YOU AND I HAVE

SOUGHT FOR MANY YEARS.

THE SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAMS MEAN MORE THAN FOOD FOR THE BODY, THEY MEAN FOOD FOR THE BRAIN AND FOOD FOR ~~THE MOUTH~~ ^{spirit}

FOOD IS AS IMPORTANT AS BOOKS, IF A CHILD IS TO LEARN AND GROW UP FIT TO COMPETE AS AN ADULT TO APPLY HIS LEARNING AND MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIETY -- AND TO RAISE HEALTHY, PRODUCTIVE CHILDREN OF THE FUTURE GENERATION. (Egypt. Israel Armed Forces food)

TODAY WE KNOW MORE, THANKS TO SCIENCE, THAN EVER BEFORE ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FOOD AND THE MIND. AS A MEMBER OF THE SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON NUTRITION AND HUMAN NEEDS, I HAVE LISTENED TO EXPERT TESTIMONY AND READ THROUGH VOLUMES OF TRANSCRIPTS ON THIS SUBJECT.

DIET CLEARLY AFFECTS MENTAL CONDITION, PARTICULARLY IN
THE YOUNG AND UNBORN. WHAT IS OR IS NOT IN THE DIET OF THE
PREGNANT MOTHER OR THE INFANT STRONGLY AFFECTS WHAT THAT CHILD
GROWS UP TO BE.

~~AND IN GROWING CHILDREN, BOTH THE DIET ITSELF AND THE
EATING HABITS GREATLY AFFECT THE CONDITIONS THAT WILL
PREVAIL IN ADULTHOOD.~~

THE LEGACY OF POOR FOOD AND POOR MENTAL AND PHYSICAL
HEALTH CAN BE PASSED FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION IN AN
ENDLESS, HEARTLESS, HOPELESS CHAIN, UNLESS SOMEONE STEPS IN
TO BREAK IT.

h WE HAVE SEEN FURTHER EVIDENCE OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S
ATTITUDE ON THE SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM IN ITS 1976 BUDGET

PROPOSAL.

h ITS ^{called} "BLOCK GRANT" IS REALLY A BLOCKBUSTER. - Retreat

RATHER THAN MOVING TOWARD A UNIVERSAL PROGRAM, IT
PROPOSES A NARROWED WELFARE PROGRAM AN ESTIMATED 7 TO 10
MILLION PAYING STUDENTS WOULD BE FORCED FROM THE PROGRAM IF
THE ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM WERE ENACTED.

h IT IS CLEAR THAT IN A VAST MAJORITY OF SCHOOLS THE POVERTY
PROGRAM ALONE WOULD NOT SUPPORT A SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE OPERATION.

h I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I WILL DO EVERYTHING I CAN IN THE
SENATE TO SEE THAT THIS ADMINISTRATION FOOLISHNESS IS REJECTED.

↳ WE HAVE A JOINT MISSION IN RESHAPING THE THINKING THAT HAS PREVAILED IN THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION ↳ WE HAVE HAD

VARIOUS ATTEMPTS TO DISMANTLE PROGRAMS THAT HAVE TAKEN YEARS

TO DEVELOP. ↳ THE ADMINISTRATION CANNOT SEEM TO RECOGNIZE THAT

THESE PROGRAMS ARE SOUND INVESTMENTS FOR THE FUTURE.

*Ret
Pentagon
in charge*

↳ WHILE THE ADMINISTRATION HAS TRIED TO BUY OUT OF THESE

PROGRAMS, THE CONGRESS HAS TO FACE THE NEED FOR NEW LEGISLATION

ON THE CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS.

need your help

↳ WE WILL BE LOOKING AT THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM IN TERMS

OF HOW TO IMPROVE IT. ↳ I WOULD CONCEDE THAT THERE HAVE BEEN

*Food
stamp*

ABUSES. ↳ BUT, THE ADMINISTRATION MAKES IRRESPONSIBLE CHARGES

THAT THE PROGRAM IS OUT OF CONTROL.

THE PROGRAM IS NOT UNDER CONTROL BECAUSE OF INFLATION AND INCREASING UNEMPLOYMENT. OVER 2 MILLION PEOPLE HAVE JOINED THE PROGRAM IN THE LAST FOUR MONTHS BECAUSE OF GROWING UNEMPLOYMENT.

*and many more eligible -
Delay in being certified*

THE ADMINISTRATION NEEDS TO DO A MUCH BETTER JOB OF RUNNING THIS PROGRAM. WE DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH INFORMATION ON WHO IS IN THE PROGRAM, AND WHO SHOULD BE IN IT.

THE COURTS HAVE DIRECTED, THROUGH ^{Federal} JUDGE MILES LORD, THAT A VIGOROUS OUTREACH PROGRAM BE UNDERTAKEN. WE WILL NEED TO SEE HOW THE DEPARTMENT HEEDS THIS DIRECTIVE.

ANOTHER PROGRAM REQUIRING NEW LEGISLATION IS THE WIC PROGRAM. I HAVE INTRODUCED LEGISLATION, S. 882, TO IMPROVE THIS PROGRAM AND MAKE IT PERMANENT.

L THIS IS ONE OF THE MORE EXCITING AND INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS OF RECENT YEARS. IT SHOULD BE IMPROVED AND STRENGTHENED, NOT DESTROYED.

L WE WILL NEED TO ENACT LEGISLATION COVERING OTHER AREAS OF THE CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM, SUCH AS SCHOOL BREAKFASTS, DAY CARE CENTERS AND SUMMER PROGRAMS.

L WE HAVE MADE USEFUL IMPROVEMENTS IN THESE PROGRAMS BY INCREASING REIMBURSEMENT RATES PERIODICALLY TO REFLECT INFLATION, EXPANDING THE SCHOOL MILK PROGRAM, AND INCREASING THE FUNDING FOR SCHOOL LUNCH EQUIPMENT.

L AND WE RAISED THE INCOME GUIDELINES THAT DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY FOR REDUCED-PRICE LUNCHES.

THESE CHANGES HAVE HELPED, BUT WE DIDN'T WIN ALL WE WANTED. BUT IF WE HAD NOT FOUGHT, THE PROGRAM WOULD BE A SHAMBLES TODAY.

BUT NOW WE NEED A NEW INITIATIVE, AND THAT'S WHY MY BILL IS IMPORTANT. WE NEED TO BRING ALL OF THE ESTIMATED 48 MILLION SCHOOL CHILDREN INTO THE SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM.

THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD NUTRITION IS BECOMING BETTER UNDERSTOOD. THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT OF ITS IMPACT ON LEARNING, HEALTH, ABSENTEEISM AND DROPOUTS.

AND THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT THE TEACHING OF THE PRINCIPLES OF GOOD NUTRITION HAS BEEN LARGELY NEGLECTED IN THE NATION'S EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.

↳ WE FIND POOR DIETS OR LESS THAN ADEQUATE DIETS PREVALENT
IN ALL SEGMENTS OF THE POPULATION, REGARDLESS OF INCOME.

↳ TO CORRECT THE SITUATION, THERE IS AN URGENT NEED TO
INCORPORATE NUTRITION EDUCATION IN VARIOUS PHASES OF THE
EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.

↳ CLEARLY, IT IS TIME THAT CONGRESS SHOULD EXPRESS NATIONAL
LEADERSHIP IN STIMULATING AN IMPROVED UNDERSTANDING OF GOOD
NUTRITION.

↳ MY BILL ALSO WOULD ELIMINATE ONCE AND FOR ALL THE
DEGRADING PROCEDURE OF SINGLING OUT CERTAIN CHILDREN AS
ELIGIBLE FOR A FREE LUNCH, AND CERTAIN OTHER CHILDREN AS
ELIGIBLE FOR A REDUCED PRICE LUNCH, WHILE STILL OTHERS,
BECAUSE OF HIGHER FAMILY INCOMES, ARE REQUIRED TO PAY THE
FULL PRICE.

↳ THIS BILL WOULD FREE SCHOOL OFFICIALS FROM PERFORMING
A WELFARE FUNCTION WHEN THEIR REAL BUSINESS IS EDUCATION.

↳ AND, THE ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS OF SENDING OUT APPLICATIONS
AND PROCESSING AND EVALUATING THE APPLICATIONS COULD BE
SHARPLY REDUCED.

↳ SOME PARENTS FEEL COMPELLED TODAY TO CHEAT ON THESE
FORMS, IN ORDER THAT THEIR CHILDREN ARE ELIGIBLE FOR A FREE
OR REDUCED PRICE LUNCH.

↳ *and we must*
~~AMERICANS SHOULD~~ NOT BE DECEIVED BY THE ADMINISTRATION'S
"BLOCK GRANT" PROPOSAL.

↳ IT WOULD PLACE A GREAT BURDEN ON THE STATES. AND

WITH MEAL PRICES SOARING TO EIGHTY CENTS AND HIGHER, PUPIL
PARTICIPATION WOULD BE FORCED DOWN DRAMATICALLY.

↳ IT IS TRAGIC THAT THE ADMINISTRATION MAKES THIS PROPOSAL
AT THE TIME OF THE NATION'S DAWNING COMPREHENSION OF THE
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NUTRITION AND HEALTH.

↳ THE ADMINISTRATION PROPOSAL ALSO IMPOSES A SEVERE
HARDSHIP ON MIDDLE INCOME AMERICA. AT THIS TIME THE MIDDLE
CLASS TAXPAYER IS STRUGGLING WITH HIS BILLS, INFLATION AND
RECESSION.

↳ AND YET, WHILE THE PRESIDENT PROPOSES A TAX REBATE TO
HELP MIDDLE INCOME AMERICA, HE RECOMMENDS WHAT IS IN EFFECT
A HEAD TAX OF \$54.00 PER CHILD PER YEAR *for lunch*

THIS IS THE TIME TO REAFFIRM THE NATION'S DEDICATION TO AN IMPROVED EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL CHILDREN. WHAT BETTER TIME THAN NOW TO ESTABLISH A UNIVERSAL SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM?

L IT IS TIME THAT THE NATION ONCE AND FOR ALL ACCEPTED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE NUTRITIONAL WELL-BEING FOR CHILDREN WHILE THEY ARE AT SCHOOL.

THE NATION HAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH COMPASSION AND VISION THE NEEDS OF OUR CHILDREN, AND LEND A HELPING HAND TO THEM WHILE STRENGTHENING A FALTERING ECONOMY.

A UNIVERSAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM COULD HELP DEVELOP THE EATING HABITS WHICH WOULD LEAD TO A BETTER NOURISHED NATION IN THE FUTURE.

THAT, I KNOW, IS YOUR GOAL, I CERTAINLY SHARE IT, AND
TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE IT A REALITY.

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