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# Food and Nutrition

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COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

## Comments Asked on Proposed Stamp Regulations

THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE is asking comments on two proposed changes in its regulations for operation of the food stamp program. One would prohibit the giving of cash change to food stamp users. The other would require that deposits on bottles or other returnable food containers be paid with cash instead of food coupons.

The proposal is being made under USDA's rule-making procedure in response to comments contained in the Agricultural Appropriations Conference Report of July 22, 1971. In that report, the Senate-House conferees said "...the Food Stamp Act made no provision for providing cash for face value of stamps even in making change." They further said that giving cash change "threatens the success of the Food Stamp Program" and that it "should be stopped...."

The proposal also specifies the type of credit slips or tokens which might be used. These rules are designed to pre-

clude retailers from using slips or tokens which would be in violation of Federal monetary laws.

The proposed revision appeared in the Federal Register on Friday, September 10. Comments, suggestions or objections are invited and may be mailed or delivered so as to be received within 30 days by James E. Springfield, Director, Food Stamp Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. All comments, suggestions, or objections received will be open to public inspection.

### Summer Program Results Reported

PRELIMINARY FIGURES show that over one million children were reached in summer feeding programs in July 1971. This is well over double the peak of 445,800 reached last summer.

## NUTRITION EDUCATION T.V. SERIES PLANNED FOR 1972-1973

THE NEW ENGLAND STATE Educational Council and the Food and Nutrition Service have announced plans to produce a 10-program educational television series on nutrition to be used in the 1972-1973 school year. After being televised in the six New England States, the series will be available to other States.

Designed for school food service personnel, the series will stress the importance of improving the diets of children and youth and the nutritional requirements for optimal growth and development. It proposes to communicate nutrition information to school food service workers and others, especially parents.

School food service personnel will watch each television program together. They will then discuss the telecast, using materials provided. This will form a structured course in which tests will be given and which can be used toward State accreditation.

FNS is funding the project by contract with the New England State Educational Council, composed of the six State Education Commissioners. The project was initiated by School Lunch Directors of each of the New England State Departments of Education (Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut). An Advisory Committee appointed by this group includes representatives of FNS, the National School Boards Association, and National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

Dr. Fredrick J. Stare, Professor of Nutrition and chairman of the Department of Nutrition, School of Public Health, Harvard University, and his staff will serve as consultants to the Educational Foundation of Station WGBH in Boston, producers of the series.

## SALUTE SCHOOL LUNCH!

OCTOBER 10-16 IS National School Lunch Week, and this year the celebration is an especially significant one.

The National School Lunch Program is celebrating its Silver Anniversary--25 years after the enactment of the National School Lunch Act in June 1946.

The number of children taking part has grown from 6.6 million to 24.6 million in 1971.

The Food and Nutrition Service has prepared various public information materials for National School Lunch week. These include:

- o Television spots in English and Spanish.
- o Radio spots by celebrities.
- o Information and press kits, including fact sheets, leaflets, a 25 year progress report, and other informational materials.
- o A filmstrip and slide set, entitled "The School Lunch Bunch."

The slide set may be used with a record or narrative guide. Order should be sent to: Photo Lab, Inc., 3825 Georgia Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20011. The slide set is \$11.00, the filmstrip \$5.50, and the record \$3.00.

Other informational materials on the school lunch program may be obtained from the Information Division, Food and Nutrition Service.

## Donated Foods Survey Underway

THE FIRST PHASE OF a nationwide survey of the use of USDA-donated foods by institutions is underway in the Food and Nutrition Service. Under the Food Distribution Program, a variety of USDA foods are made available through cooperating State agencies to public and private nonprofit institutions serving needy persons.

The three-part survey is expected to determine:

- o Number and types of donated foods institutions are receiving, and how these foods are being used.
- o Demand for foods among institutions.
- o Effectiveness of food distribution to institutions and how the program might be improved.
- o Number of needy people benefiting.

Phase one of the survey asks State distributing agencies to list names and addresses of all institutions participating in the Food Distribution Pro-

gram, as well as their size, type, function, primary age served, number of needy recipients, sponsorship, and average daily participation.

The deadline for collection of this data is September 30.

In phase two of the survey, USDA's Statistical Reporting Service--under contract to FNS--will conduct an in-depth study of a sampling of institutions to determine the total impact of USDA's institutional food aid.

Phase three of the survey will attempt to determine how effectively the program is reaching all of the nation's needy in institutions.

The entire survey is expected to be completed by June 30, 1972.

## PROGRESS REPORT: MISSION REBELS

IN JULY THE "MISSION REBELS," who have been called the most successful anti-poverty group in San Francisco, opened their second food stamp outlet.

The Rebels opened their first outlet last February with the assistance of Wells Fargo bank, which operates four food stamp outlets. (See FOOD AND NUTRITION magazine, No. 2, Aug. 1971.)

By May the Rebels were serving 11,000 food stamp recipients a month in the storefront that has become the largest food stamp sales operation in the city.

Their new outlet is located in the outer Mission District in an old beauty parlor which the Rebels themselves remodeled in a week.

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## MEETINGS OF NOTE

THE AUGUST 11 MEETING of the Oklahoma Nutrition Task Force featured discussions of "Meals-on-Wheels" for shut-ins, free school lunch programs, and a review of self-service food distribution centers. The Nutrition Task Force was appointed by Governor Hall to advise the State Health Planning Council.

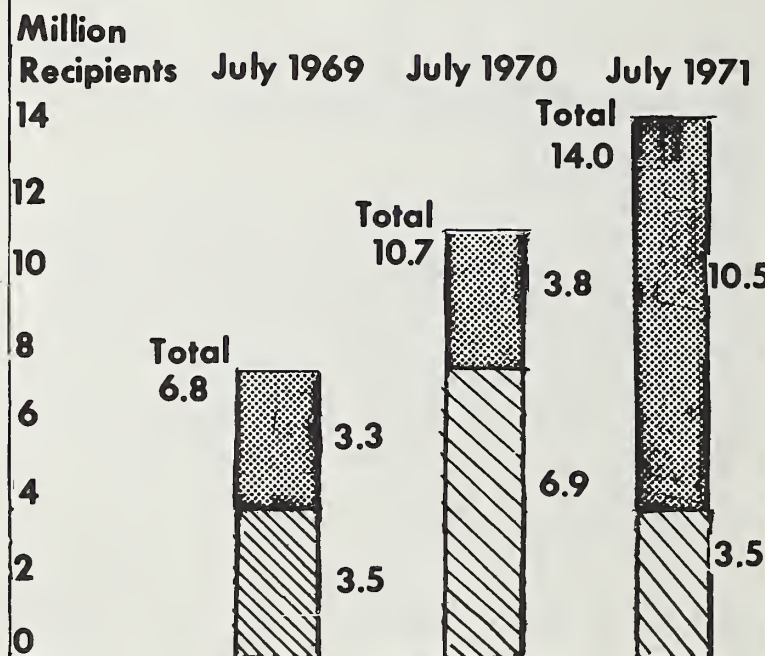
FOCUS WAS ON "The Family Food Dollar" at the Northern Virginia Governor's Conference held Sept. 15 at Marymount College, Arlington, Va. Planned to reach homemakers of all income levels, the conference featured speeches and food demonstrations, and included representatives from the food industry, State agencies, and consumers.

Items for MEETINGS OF NOTE should be sent to the Editor, "Food and Nutrition Newsletter," Information Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

## Family Food Programs Reach 14 Million

USDA FAMILY FOOD PROGRAMS reached 14.0 million needy people in July. 10.5 million took part in the food stamp program, 3.5 million in the family food donation program. The total is 31 percent more than the July 1970 combined total of 10.7 million.

Family Food Assistance Programs Participation



 Food Stamp  Food Distribution

IN THE FIRST 9 MONTHS of fiscal year 1971, USDA donated nearly 1.8 billion pounds of food to the States and territories to improve diets of needy families, needy persons in charitable institutions, and schoolchildren. This is 10.4 percent above the totals for the same period in fiscal 1970.

Of the 1.8 billion pounds total, needy family programs received 991.2 million pounds, schools 710.9 million, and institutions 88.7 million. This was an increase of 15.1 percent in the family programs, 5.4 percent in the schools, and 1.5 percent in institutions, over the same period in fiscal 1970.