

SPEECH TO KANSAS SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 25, 1980

IT IS A PLEASURE TO BE HERE WITH YOU TODAY. THIS OCCASION IS SOMETHING THAT I HAVE LOOKED FORWARD TO FOR SEVERAL WEEKS. I ALWAYS ENJOY AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH PEOPLE WHO ARE SUPPORTIVE OF SIMILAR GOALS IN PROMOTING GOOD NUTRITION AMONG THE CHILDREN OF THIS COUNTRY, AND OF KANSAS IN PARTICULAR.

PROGRESS OVER THE YEARS

WE HAVE COME A LONG WAY TOGETHER FROM THE DAYS WHEN THE SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMS WERE SIMPLY VIEWED AS AN OUTLET FOR SURPLUS AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION TO THE REALIZATION THAT NUTRITIONAL HABITS DEVELOPED IN THE SCHOOL CAFETERIA WILL BE THE FOUNDATION FOR GOOD DIETARY PRACTICES THROUGHOUT LIFE.

MY GOAL HAS BEEN TO BRING SOUND PRINCIPLES OF NUTRITION INTO OUR COUNTRY'S SCHOOLS AND TO CONVERT THE CAFETERIA INTO A LEARNING LABORATORY. THIS IS NOT AN EASY APPROACH TO IMPLEMENT, BUT IT IS ONE IN WHICH WE HAVE MADE CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS. THE NUTRITION EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN OUR COUNTRY'S SCHOOLS HAVE EVEN MORE IMPACT THAN IS READILY IMAGINED. WHAT CHILDREN LEARN ABOUT NUTRITION AND EATING HABITS FILTERS THROUGH TO THEIR FAMILIES, WHO MAY NOT EVER HAVE HAD THE BENEFITS OF NUTRITION EDUCATION AS THEY WERE GOING THROUGH SCHOOL. THIS INDIRECT EXPOSURE HAS A RADIATING EFFECT ON PARTS OF THE POPULATION THAT ARE DIFFICULT TO REACH THROUGH OTHER MEANS.

AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, I WAS A LEADING PROPONENT OF THE COMPETITIVE FOODS PROVISIONS THAT HAVE BEEN RECENTLY IMPLEMENTED BY USDA. MY MOTIVATION

WAS SIMPLE. I COULD NOT SEE FEDERAL TAX DOLLARS, IN EFFECT, BEING THROWN OUT WITH THE TRASH IN THE FORM OF UNEATEN SCHOOL LUNCHES SIMPLY BECAUSE STUDENTS WERE FILLING UP ON POP AND CANDY INSTEAD OF THE MORE NUTRITIOUS ALTERNATIVES PRESENTED BY THE SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM.

I REALIZE THAT THIS POSITION IS SOMEWHAT CONTROVERSIAL, AND THAT SOME OF YOU MAY DISAGREE WITH ME. ALTHOUGH I DO NOT FAVOR FEDERAL INTRUSION INTO LOCAL SCHOOL MANAGEMENT DECISIONS, NUTRITION IS AN EXCEPTION. THIS AREA IS ONE OF NATIONAL CONCERN AND MUST BE DEALT WITH, IN GENERAL TERMS, AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL. HOWEVER, NUTRITIONAL AWARENESS CAN AND SHOULD BE PATTERNED TO MEET LOCAL SITUATIONS. FOR THIS REASON, I HAVE BEEN IN THE FOREFRONT ADVOCATING EXTENSION AND EXPANSION OF THE NUTRITION EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMS.

FINDINGS OF SELECT COMMITTEE ON NUTRITION AND HUMAN NEEDS

DURING THE LATE SEVENTIES, I WAS ACTIVE ON THE SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON NUTRITION AND HUMAN NEEDS. DURING THE COURSE OF OUR WORK ON THIS COMMITTEE, WE DISCOVERED A LOT ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP OF DIET TO KILLER DISEASES. DURING THE JULY 1976 HEARINGS ON THE RELATIONSHIP OF DIET TO DISEASE, DR. D. MARK HEGSTED OF HARVARD SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH STATED THAT IT IS INCREASINGLY PROBABLE "THAT THE MAJOR CAUSES OF DEATH AND DISABILITY IN THE UNITED STATES ARE RELATED TO THE DIET WE EAT." HE INCLUDED CORONARY ARTERY DISEASE, WHICH ACCOUNTS FOR NEARLY HALF OF THE DEATHS IN THE UNITED STATES, SEVERAL OF THE MOST IMPORTANT FORMS OF CANCER, HYPERTENSION, DIABETES AND OBESITY AS WELL AS OTHER CHRONIC DISEASES.

PERHAPS THE MOST WORTHWHILE OUTCOME OF WORK DONE BY THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON NUTRITION AND HUMAN NEEDS WAS THE RELEASE OF "DIETARY GOALS FOR THE

UNITED STATES," WHICH WAS PUBLISHED IN FEBRUARY 1977.

DURING THIS CENTURY, THE COMPOSITION OF THE AVERAGE DIET IN THE UNITED STATES HAS UNDERGONE SOME RADICAL CHANGES. COMPLEX CARBOHYDRATES -- FRUIT, VEGETABLES, AND GRAIN PRODUCTS -- PREVIOUSLY THE MAINSTAY COMPONENT, HAVE BEEN DEEMPHASIZED, WHILE FAT AND SUGAR CONSUMPTION HAVE RISEN. CURRENTLY, THESE TWO ELEMENTS ALONE COMPRISE AT LEAST 60 PERCENT OF TOTAL CALORIE INTAKE, WHICH IS UP FROM THE 50 PERCENT OF THE EARLY 1900'S. THESE AND OTHER CHANGES IN THE NATIONAL DIET AMOUNT TO A WAVE OF MALNUTRITION, CONSISTING OF BOTH UNDER AND OVER-CONSUMPTION. CONTRARY TO POPULAR BELIEF, OBESITY IS BECOMING AS GREAT A PROBLEM OF MALNUTRITION AS THE UNDER-CONSUMPTION OF NUTRITIOUS FOODS. LOW-INCOME PEOPLE MAY BE PARTICULARLY SUSCEPTIBLE TO INCLINATIONS LEADING TO THE CONSUMPTION OF HIGH-FAT/HIGH-SUGAR DIETS.

PROMOTION OF CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

OVER THE YEARS, AS A MEMBER OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY, I HAVE WORKED HARD TO EXPAND AND IMPROVE THE MANY PROGRAMS WHICH FALL UNDER THE HEADING OF "CHILD NUTRITON," FROM SCHOOL LUNCH TO WIC. SINCE THEY CAME INTO BEING, THESE PROGRAMS HAVE CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICANTLY TO REDUCING DOMESTIC HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION. BY PROMOTING GOOD NUTRITION AMONG THE YOUNG PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY, WE ARE MAKING GOOD USE OF THE BEST POSSIBLE PREVENTIVE MEDICINE TECHNIQUE.

CHANGE IN ECONOMIC CLIMATE

MOST OF US WHO HAVE BEEN SO COMMITTED TO THESE PROGRAMS OVER THE YEARS NEVER THOUGHT WE WOULD SEE THE DAY WHEN OUR EFFORTS WERE CHALLENGED BY LARGER ECONOMIC REALITIES. THIS YEAR, THE ECONOMIC CLIMATE IN THE CONGRESS AND AROUND THE COUNTRY WAS NOT CONDUCIVE TO FURTHER

EXPANSION OF CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS AND AN IMPLIED INCREASE IN GOVERNMENT SPENDING. AS THE CONGRESS WENT THROUGH THE BUDGET PROCESS LAST SPRING, IT BECAME INCREASINGLY EVIDENT THAT CUTS WERE TO OCCUR IN EVERY AREA OF THE FEDERAL BUDGET, EXCEPT DEFENSE, WHICH HAS BEEN SO WEAKENED DURING THE LAST FOUR YEARS THAT IT WAS DEEMED A PRIORITY IN TERMS OF REBUILDING THE STRENGTH OF THIS COUNTRY. THE ENSUING ACROSS-THE-BOARD BUDGET CUTS MEANT THAT WE ALL HAD TO MAKE SOME SACRIFICES IN OUR PET PROGRAMS. WHILE THERE WERE COMPLAINTS FROM NUMEROUS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS, A UNIQUE SITUATION OCCURRED IN THE AREA OF CHILD NUTRITION.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

THE BUDGET COMMITTEE HAD MANDATED THAT \$500 MILLION WORTH OF CUTS WERE TO BE MADE IN THE CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS, AND, FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, CONCERNED ADVOCATES FOR THESE PROGRAMS WORKED TOGETHER WITH SENATE STAFF TO CONSTRUCT LEGISLATION THAT WOULD TARGET THESE CUTS TO AREAS THAT WOULD NOT DAMAGE THE ESSENCE OF THE PROGRAMS THEMSELVES.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS LEGISLATION SYMBOLIZED AN UNPRECEDENTED MOBILIZATION OF COMMON GOALS AND CONCERNS. I DO NOT MEAN TO IMPLY THAT ADVOCATES WERE HAPPY WITH HAVING TO MAKE BUDGET CUTS. THEY WEREN'T. IN REALIZATION OF OUR ECONOMIC SITUATION, HOWEVER, THEY CHOSE TO BE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE BUDGET PROCESS, RATHER THAN BEING RELEGATED TO AN OUTSIDE OBSERVER POSITION. THIS CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH, WITH A GREAT DEAL OF INPUT FROM THE AMERICAN SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE ASSOCIATION, WAS INDISPENSABLE TO OUR EFFORTS.

IT WAS OF VITAL INTEREST TO ALL OF US CONCERNED THAT, IF CUTS WERE TO GO INTO EFFECT, THEY SHOULD BE DONE IN WAYS THAT WOULD HAVE THE

LEAST AMOUNT OF IMPACT ON NUTRITION BENEFITS FOR CHILDREN. WE DESIRED TO PROTECT THE POOREST OF THE POOR AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, BECAUSE, IN TIMES OF ECONOMIC HARDSHIP, THEY ARE THE PEOPLE WHO SUFFER THE MOST.

ON JUNE 25TH, SENATOR McGOVERN AND I INTRODUCED LEGISLATION THAT OUTLINED WAYS TO ACHIEVE CLOSE TO \$500 MILLION WORTH OF SAVINGS IN THE CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS. ON THE EVE OF THE MARK-UP SESSION IN COMMITTEE, AS IT BECAME EVIDENT THAT THE ORIGINAL BILL THAT WE HAD INTRODUCED WOULD FALL FAR SHORT OF ITS INTENDED BUDGET GOAL, I INTRODUCED LEGISLATION WHOSE PROVISIONS WERE ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS DURING THE MARK-UP. WITH STRONG FEELINGS AMONG COMMITTEE MEMBERS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ISSUE, THIS COMPROMISE PROPOSAL TURNED OUT TO BE MOST EFFECTIVE IN PREEMPTING DISASTROUS DISAGREEMENTS OVER THE NATURE AND EXTENT OF THESE CUTS.

SPECIFIC SAVINGS PROPOSALS

THE BILL THAT PASSED THE SENATE CONTAINED SAVINGS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE PROGRAMS, SO THAT NO ONE GROUP WOULD HAVE TO ACCEPT MORE CUTS THAN OTHERS. THE MAJOR SAVINGS PROVISIONS WERE IN CUTTING BACK THE SCHOOL LUNCH REIMBURSEMENT FOR ALL CATEGORIES BY 2.5 CENTS ACROSSTHE-BOARD, IN THE ANNUALIZATION OF REIMBURSEMENT UPDATES, IN MODIFICATIONS IN INCOME ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS, IN REDUCING THE COMMODITY SUPPORT BY 2 CENTS, IN LIMITING THE SPECIAL MILK REIMBURSEMENT TO 5 CENTS, IN INCREASING THE PRICE OF REDUCED PRICE LUNCHESES TO 20 CENTS, AND IN ATTEMPTING TO LIMIT SPONSORS IN THE SUMMER FEEDING PROGRAM.

SENATE AMENDMENTS

SEVERAL AMENDMENTS TO THIS LEGISLATION WHICH WERE ACCEPTED ON THE

SENATE FLOOR HAVE PROVED TO BE EXTREMELY CONTROVERSIAL, IN PARTICULAR THE BELLMON-DOMENICI CONSOLIDATION PROPOSAL, WHICH WOULD HAVE AUTHORIZED SIX STATES TO INITIATE PILOT PROJECTS. I VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE AMENDMENT, BECAUSE THE BLOCK GRANT APPROACH IS PART OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY PLATFORM AND IT HAS BEEN PROVEN EFFECTIVE IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF MANY PROGRAMS AT THE STATE LEVEL BY VIRTUE OF PROVIDING INCREASED FLEXIBILITY IN MEETING THE PEOPLE'S NEEDS.

IT IS ARGUED THAT MANY OF THE PROGRAMS TO BE INCLUDED IN THIS PROPOSAL HAVE HAD THEIR EFFECTIVENESS PROVEN OVER TIME AND WOULD BE REPLACED WITH PROGRAMS WHOSE EFFECTIVENESS REMAINS AN UNKNOWN. THIS APPROACH COULD BE EXTREMELY DETRIMENTAL TO THE BEST INTERESTS OF NEEDY RECIPIENTS. FEDERAL FEEDING PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN DESIGNED TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF SPECIFIC SEGMENTS OF OUR POPULATION, AND A BLOCK GRANT APPROACH LEAVES OPEN THE POSSIBILITY THAT CERTAIN NEEDS COULD BE IGNORED WHICH WERE PREVIOUSLY ADDRESSED. HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION ARE NATIONAL PROBLEMS THAT HAVE BEEN PROVEN TO BENEFIT FROM A COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL DESIGN AND RESEARCH ALLOCATION. HOWEVER, JUST BECAUSE A SYSTEM WORKS, DOESN'T MEAN THAT IT CAN'T BE IMPROVED. THERE IS NO REASON WHY ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES CANNOT BE EXPLORED IN ADMINISTERING FEDERAL PROGRAMS, ALTHOUGH WE MUST MAKE CERTAIN NOT TO TOTALLY DISMANTLE EFFECTIVE, EXISTING PROGRAMS IN THE PROCESS.

WHEN WE WENT TO CONFERENCE WITH THE HOUSE ON THIS LEGISLATION, I FELT A RESPONSIBILITY TO UPHOLD THE SENATE DECISION TO ENDORSE THE BELLMON BLOCK GRANT AMENDMENT AGAINST THE UNILATERAL OPPOSITION OF THE HOUSE SIDE. HOWEVER, A MORE CAUTIOUS APPROACH TO IMPLEMENTING SUCH A PROPOSAL SEEMED ADVISABLE; ONE DAY OF HEARINGS IS REALLY INADEQUATE

FOR EXPLORING THE IMPLICATIONS OF SUCH A POTENTIALLY FAR-REACHING PROGRAM. ALTHOUGH THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MET FOR SEVERAL SESSIONS IN MID-SEPTEMBER, MOST OF THE SUBSTANTIVE PROVISIONS WERE LEFT UNRESOLVED, INCLUDING THE BLOCK GRANT AMENDMENT. WHEN THE COMMITTEE RECONVENES, I PLAN TO INTRODUCE A COMPROMISE ON THE BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM, WHICH WOULD PROVIDE FOR GRANTS TO BE AWARDED TO THREE STATES TO DEVELOP PLANS FOR CONSOLIDATING STATE CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS. THESE PLANS WOULD THEN BE REVIEWED BY THE HOUSE AND SENATE AUTHORIZING COMMITTEES BEFORE THEY COULD GO INTO EFFECT. I THINK THIS IS A SENSIBLE APPROACH TO THIS CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE, AND WE WILL THEN BE ABLE TO SEE IF THE FEARS ABOUT IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS TYPE OF PROPOSAL WOULD BE SUBSTANTIATED.

PROGNOSIS FOR FUTURE ACTION

WE PLAN TO GIVE OUR FULL ATTENTION TO THIS AND OTHER UNRESOLVED ISSUES WHEN CONGRESS RECONVENES IN NOVEMBER. IN THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE HOUSE SO FAR, WE HAVE BECOME BOGGED DOWN IN THE ISSUE OF ONE-YEAR VERSUS PERMANENT CUTS. THE HOUSE RECONCILIATION MEASURE PROVIDES FOR ONE-YEAR CUTS, WHILE THE SENATE BUDGET CUTS WOULD BE PERMANENT. ONE-YEAR CUTS COULD PROVE DISRUPTIVE TO ONGOING PROGRAMS, AS REGULATIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE ADJUSTED TEMPORARILY AND THE PROGRAMS AFFECTED WOULD THUS BE IN TRANSITION FOR QUITE SOME TIME.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

THIS HAS NOT BEEN A GOOD YEAR FOR CHILD NUTRITION, BUT THEN IT HAS NOT BEEN A GOOD YEAR FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. A BALANCED FEDERAL BUDGET IS CLEARLY THE DESIRED OBJECTIVE OF A MAJORITY OF

AMERICANS. IT SYMBOLIZES THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO IMPOSE A LITTLE SELF-DISCIPLINE AND SET AN EXAMPLE TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THAT WE MUST ALL MAKE SACRIFICES DURING THESE DIFFICULT ECONOMIC TIMES. THE TREMENDOUS BI-PARTISAN SUPPORT IN THE CONGRESS FOR THIS MOVEMENT IS CLEAR EVIDENCE THAT WE IN WASHINGTON ARE TRYING TO BE A LITTLE MORE RESPONSIBLE WITH THE TAXPAYERS' HARD-EARNED DOLLARS.

IT SHOULD BE EVERY AMERICAN'S RIGHT TO BE FREE FROM HUNGER. GOVERNMENT HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO HELP THOSE WHO CANNOT HELP THEMSELVES, AND IT IS TO OUR NATION'S CREDIT THAT WE WILL NEVER BE GUILTY OF NEGLECTING THOSE WHO HAVE NOT BEEN BLESSED WITH THE ABUNDANCE WHICH OUR COUNTRY REPRESENTS TO SO MANY. THE CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS ARE AN ACCOMPLISHMENT IN WHICH WE CAN ALL TAKE GREAT PRIDE.

YOU IN THE AUDIENCE HAVE PROVIDED THE FOUNDATION IN KANSAS FOR THESE EFFORTS TO PREVENT MALNUTRITION IN OUR SCHOOL CHILDREN. WITHOUT YOU, THERE CAN BE NO SCHOOL LUNCH OR BREAKFAST PROGRAMS. IN CARRYING OUT THESE PROGRAMS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL, YOU ARE HELPING TO ENHANCE OUR GREATEST NATURAL RESOURCE: THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF AMERICA. OUR CHILDREN WILL BE TOMORROW'S LEADERS, AND IT IS NECESSARY TO GIVE THEM A GOOD, STRONG START INTO AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE.

ALL KANSANS SHOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR EFFORTS. AS PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE LINK BETWEEN NUTRITION AND HEALTH INCREASES, YOUR ROLE WILL BE MAGNIFIED, AND PUBLIC APPRECIATION OF YOUR EFFORTS HEIGHTENED. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK OUT HERE IN KANSAS, AND BE ASSURED THAT I AM WILLING TO WORK WITH YOU IN STRENGTHENING OUR FEDERAL CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS.

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FINDINGS OF SELECT COMMITTEE ON NUTRITION AND HUMAN NEEDS

DURING THE LATE SEVENTIES, I WAS ACTIVE ON THE SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON NUTRITION AND HUMAN NEEDS. DURING THE COURSE OF OUR WORK ON THIS COMMITTEE, WE DISCOVERED A LOT OF ^{about the relationship} ~~FACTS THAT RELATED~~ ^{of} DIET TO KILLER DISEASES. [FOR EXAMPLE, IT WAS ESTIMATED THAT THERE MIGHT BE A 25 PERCENT REDUCTION IN HEART DISEASE BY AN IMPROVED DIET. FURTHER, A TEN PERCENT REDUCTION IN CANCER CASES AND A TWENTY PERCENT REDUCTION IN INCIDENCE AND DEATHS MIGHT BE ANTICIPATED AS A RESULT OF IMPROVED DIET.] *leave out* DURING THE JULY 1976 HEARINGS ON THE RELATIONSHIP OF DIET TO DISEASE, DR. D. MARK HEGSTED OF

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LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

THE BUDGET COMMITTEE HAD MANDATED THAT \$500 MILLION WORTH OF CUTS WERE TO BE MADE IN THE CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS, AND, FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, CONCERNED ADVOCATES FOR THESE PROGRAMS WORKED TOGETHER WITH SENATE STAFF TO CONSTRUCT LEGISLATION THAT WOULD TARGET THESE CUTS TO AREAS THAT WOULD NOT BE ^{damage} ~~DAMAGING~~ TO THE ESSENCE OF THE PROGRAMS THEMSELVES.

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POSAL HAVE HAD THEIR EFFECTIVENESS PROVEN OVER TIME, AND ~~THAT THEY~~
WOULD BE REPLACED WITH PROGRAMS WHOSE EFFECTIVENESS REMAINS AN
UNKNOWN. THIS APPROACH COULD BE EXTREMELY DETRIMENTAL TO THE BEST
INTERESTS OF NEEDY RECIPIENTS. FEDERAL FEEDING PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN
DESIGNED TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF SPECIFIC SEGMENTS OF OUR POPULA-
TION, AND A BLOCK GRANT APPROACH LEAVES OPEN THE POSSIBILITY THAT
CERTAIN NEEDS COULD BE IGNORED WHICH WERE PREVIOUSLY ADDRESSED.

HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION ARE NATIONAL PROBLEMS THAT HAVE BEEN
PROVEN TO BENEFIT BY A COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL ~~APPROACH~~, DESIGN
AND RESEARCH ALLOCATION. HOWEVER, JUST BECAUSE A SYSTEM WORKS,
DOESN'T MEAN THAT IT CAN'T BE IMPROVED. THERE IS NO REASON WHY
ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES ~~TO PROGRAMS~~ CANNOT BE EXPLORED IN ADMIN-
ISTERING FEDERAL PROGRAMS, ^{although we} ~~BUT WE~~ MUST MAKE CERTAIN ^{effective,} ~~THAT WE ARE~~ ^{not to}
~~NOT~~ TOTALLY DISMANTLING ~~THE EFFECTIVENESS OF~~ EXISTING PROGRAMS
BY TESTING OTHER AVENUES.

~~BECAUSE THE SENATE HAD ENDORSED THE BELLMON BLOCK GRANT AMENDMENT,~~
WHEN WE WENT TO CONFERENCE WITH THE HOUSE ON THIS LEGISLATION, I
FELT A RESPONSIBILITY TO UPHOLD THE SENATE ^{decision to endorse the Bellmon Block} ~~POSITION~~ AGAINST THE ^{Grant} ~~AMOUNT~~

UNILATERAL OPPOSITION ^{of} ~~PRESENTED BY~~ THE HOUSE SIDE. HOWEVER, A MORE CAUTIOUS APPROACH TO IMPLEMENTING SUCH A PROPOSAL SEEMED ADVISABLE; ONE DAY OF HEARINGS IS REALLY INADEQUATE FOR EXPLORING THE IMPLICATIONS OF SUCH A POTENTIALLY FAR-REACHING PROGRAM. ALTHOUGH THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MET FOR SEVERAL SESSIONS IN MID-SEPTEMBER, MOST OF THE SUBSTANTIVE PROVISIONS WERE LEFT UNRESOLVED, INCLUDING THE BLOCK GRANT AMENDMENT. WHEN THE COMMITTEE RECONVENES, I PLAN TO INTRODUCE A COMPROMISE ON THE BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM, WHICH WOULD PROVIDE FOR GRANTS TO BE AWARDED TO THREE STATES TO DEVELOP PLANS FOR CONSOLIDATING STATE CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS. THESE PLANS WOULD THEN BE REVIEWED BY THE HOUSE AND SENATE AUTHORIZING COMMITTEES BEFORE THEY COULD GO INTO EFFECT. I THINK THIS IS A SENSIBLE APPROACH TO THIS CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE, AND WE WILL THEN BE ABLE TO SEE IF THE FEARS ABOUT IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS TYPE OF PROPOSAL WOULD BE SUBSTANTIATED.

PROGNOSIS FOR FUTURE ACTION

~~WHILE THIS AND OTHER ISSUES REMAIN UNRESOLVED,~~ WE PLAN TO GIVE ^{to this and other unresolved issues} THEM OUR FULL ATTENTION ^{when} CONGRESS ^{reconvenes} RETURNS TO WASHINGTON IN NOVEMBER. IN THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE HOUSE SO FAR, WE HAVE BECOME BOGGED DOWN IN THE ISSUE OF ONE-YEAR VERSUS PERMANENT CUTS. THE HOUSE RECONCILIATION MEASURE PROVIDES FOR ONE-YEAR CUTS, WHILE THE SENATE BUDGET CUTS WOULD BE PERMANENT. ~~IT WOULD SEEM THAT~~ ^{could prove} ONE-YEAR CUTS ~~WOULD BE~~ DISRUPTIVE TO ~~THE~~ ONGOING PROCESS OF THESE PROGRAMS, ^{as} ~~BECAUSE THE~~ REGULATIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE ADJUSTED TEMPORARILY AND THE ~~VARIOUS~~ PROGRAMS ^{thus} AFFECTED WOULD BE IN A STATE OF TRANSITION FOR QUITE SOME TIME.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

THIS HAS NOT BEEN A GOOD YEAR FOR CHILD NUTRITION, BUT THEN IT HAS NOT BEEN A GOOD YEAR FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. ~~THE MESSAGE THAT HAS CLEARLY COME ACROSS THIS YEAR IS THAT A BALANCED~~ FEDERAL BUDGET IS ^{clearly} THE DESIRED OBJECTIVE OF A MAJORITY OF AMERICANS. IT SYMBOLIZES THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO ^{impose} ~~ENFORCE~~ A LITTLE SELF-DISCIPLINE AND SET AN EXAMPLE TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THAT WE MUST ALL MAKE SACRIFICES DURING THESE DIFFICULT ECONOMIC TIMES. ~~THIS MOVEMENT HAS RECEIVED~~ ^{The} TREMENDOUS BI-PARTISAN SUPPORT IN THE CONGRESS, ^{for this movement is clear evidence that} ~~WHICH IS TRYING TO SEND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE A SIGNAL THAT WE IN WASHINGTON ARE TRYING TO BE A LITTLE MORE RESPONSIBLE WITH THE TAXPAYERS' HARD-EARNED DOLLARS.~~

~~WE ALL AGREE THAT~~ IT SHOULD BE EVERY AMERICAN'S RIGHT TO BE FREE FROM HUNGER. GOVERNMENT ^{has} ~~DOES HAVE~~ A RESPONSIBILITY TO HELP THOSE WHO CANNOT HELP THEMSELVES, AND IT IS TO OUR ^{nation's} CREDIT ~~AS AMERICANS~~ THAT WE WILL NEVER BE GUILTY OF NEGLECTING THOSE WHO HAVE NOT BEEN BLESSED ^{with} ~~BY~~ THE ABUNDANCE WHICH OUR COUNTRY REPRESENTS TO SO MANY ~~OF ITS CITIZENS~~. THE CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS ARE AN ACCOMPLISHMENT IN WHICH WE CAN ALL TAKE GREAT PRIDE.

^{provided the foundation in Kansas} YOU IN THE AUDIENCE HAVE ~~BEEN THE BACKBONE~~ OF THESE EFFORTS TO PREVENT MALNUTRITION IN ^{our} ~~THE~~ SCHOOL CHILDREN ~~OF KANSAS~~. WITHOUT YOU, THERE CAN BE NO SCHOOL LUNCH OR BREAKFAST PROGRAMS. IN CARRYING OUT THESE PROGRAMS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL, YOU ARE HELPING TO ENHANCE OUR GREATEST NATURAL RESOURCE: THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF AMERICA. OUR CHILDREN WILL BE TOMORROW'S LEADERS, AND IT IS

NECESSARY TO GIVE THEM A GOOD, STRONG START INTO AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE.

ALL KANSANS SHOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR EFFORTS. AS PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE LINK BETWEEN NUTRITION AND HEALTH INCREASES, YOUR ROLE WILL BE MAGNIFIED, AND PUBLIC APPRECIATION OF YOUR EFFORTS WILL BE HEIGHTENED. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK OUT HERE IN KANSAS, AND BE ASSURED THAT I AM WILLING TO WORK WITH YOU IN CONTINUING TO

STRENGTHEN OUR FEDERAL CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS. *You are part of a changing and dynamic science that will potentially call for modifications in your programs and our*

Although cuts in programs may be necessary, the congressional commitment to child nutrition remains undim