

OPENING REMARKS  
OF  
SENATOR BOB DOLE  
KANSAS COMMITTEE ON NUTRITION AND HUMAN NEEDS  
RAMADA INN, TOPEKA  
JUNE 28, 1969

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Senator Pearson, members of the Kansas Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs, and guests:

I am gratified by your acceptance of my invitation to serve on the Kansas Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs and am especially pleased that you could attend the initial meeting of the Committee.

After nearly six months of testimony in Washington and three field hearings, it has become apparent to me that numerous problems exist throughout the United States that are closely related to nutrition and human needs. I have further concluded, that only through the close cooperation of all levels of government and the private sector, do we have any real hope of finding meaningful solutions to these problems. The Federal Government has neither the resources nor the ability to solve all the problems. It is for this reason that you have been asked to serve on the Kansas Committee for Nutrition and Human Needs. Only through your efforts can the existing programs be made to work more effectively and without your suggestions, there is no hope for devising new approaches to the pressing needs of our disadvantaged citizens.

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Although widespread publicity has been directed toward the issue of hunger, I am convinced that while hunger may exist, the overriding problem is the extent of malnutrition among the poor.

There are many causes of malnutrition...ignorance of the need, or what constitutes, an adequate diet, unsatisfactory housing and sanitation that results in parasitic infestation, as well as those factors that can be determined clinically and that may occur in people at all economic levels. But there are numerous people in this affluent country who suffer from malnutrition because they have been unable to purchase the right kinds of food.

Witnesses before both the Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs and the Senate Agriculture Committee have suggested that additional money be spent to subsidize eligible families incomes. In response to this need, the Senate voted for an additional appropriation of \$750 million for fiscal 1970. However, I am not convinced that additional expenditures will benefit all the eligible recipients. Several of our witnesses have suggested a form of income maintenance or cash payment as a replacement for all public assistance programs. Before this issue is resolved, it will be necessary to improve the existing delivery systems through legislative and administrative changes. Among the questions to be answered are:

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1. <sup>Current</sup> ~~The~~ lack of participation by many eligible recipients.
2. ~~The~~ administrative <sup>lack of</sup> capacity ~~of the~~ local welfare offices.
3. ~~The~~ certification procedures of recipients of family food assistance.
4. ~~The~~ delivery systems, ~~both~~ of commodities and food stamps.
5. <sup>Current</sup> The outreach efforts by public and private organizations.
6. ~~The~~ Administration and participation in the supplemental foods programs for preschool children and pregnant women.
7. The administration and participation in the Federal School Lunch Program.

One of the most promising programs on which we have heard testimony is the Nutrition Aide program initiated last January by USDA. This program is presently being operated in Kansas by the KSU Extension Service and will be described by Dr. Shirley White.

While your interest will largely be directed toward government programs, the private sector of our economy must be encouraged to participate to a greater extent both in nutrition education and developing and marketing nutritious foods.

My request of you is to:

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- 1) To act as an advisory committee to me on Kansas needs in order that I may report them to the Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs.
- 2) To analyze existing food and public assistance programs and propose legislative and administrative changes.
- 3) To create an awareness of malnutrition as related to poverty and accompanying human needs.

Report back to me on your findings and recommendations by September 15. I will use your work product to guide me in proposing legislative and administrative changes.

As President Nixon stated in his message to Congress on Hunger and Malnutrition, "that hunger and malnutrition should persist in a land such as ours is embarrassing and intolerable." It is not a partisan problem, but one that confronts all of us and these problems can be solved through our combined efforts. My staff will endeavor to be of assistance in providing materials and ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ communicating with Federal Agencies.