

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
AMERICAN SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE ASSOCIATION

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
SUNDAY, JULY 23, 1978

I AM DELIGHTED TO BE IN NEW ORLEANS THIS EVENING AT THE 32ND ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE ASSOCIATION.

WE HAVE STOOD TOGETHER MANY TIMES OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, FIGHTING FOR THE NUTRITIONAL WELL-BEING OF AMERICAN SCHOOL CHILDREN, WINNING SOME BATTLES, LOSING OTHERS, BUT ALWAYS, I THINK STRIVING FOR THE BEST POSSIBLE SCHOOL FOOD PROGRAM IN THE WORLD. AND I THINK WE'VE BEEN FAIRLY SUCCESSFUL.

AS RANKING REPUBLICAN ON THE SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE AND ITS SUBCOMMITTEE ON NUTRITION, I LOOK FORWARD TO MANY MORE YEARS OF COOPERATION WITH THE AMERICAN SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE ASSOCIATION.

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BECAUSE I BELIEVE THAT EFFORTS TO FOSTER GOOD NUTRITION AND HEALTHY DIETS BY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY OUR CHILDREN, MUST BE EXPANDED IN THE YEARS AHEAD. TODAY, THE PUBLIC AND THE CONGRESS ARE MORE AWARE THAN EVER BEFORE OF THE LINK BETWEEN DIET, GOOD NUTRITION, AND GOOD HEALTH. AND I THINK THERE IS A GROWING REALIZATION THAT GOVERNMENT NUTRITION PROGRAMS MUST BE A MAJOR PART OF PREVENTATIVE HEALTH CARE POLICIES WHICH WILL HOLD DOWN SKYROCKETING HEALTH CARE AND HOSPITAL COSTS, REDUCE WASTE IN GOVERNMENT HEALTH PROGRAMS, AND PUT AN END TO EVER-ESCALATING PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS.

WE ALL KNOW THAT GOOD NUTRITION LEADS TO GOOD HEALTH, AND THAT GOOD NUTRITION FOR ALL AMERICANS -- RICH AND POOR, THOSE ON THE FARM AND IN THE CITY -- SHOULD BE AVAILABLE

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IN EVERY HOME AND SCHOOL IN AMERICA. BUT WE CAN'T EXPECT AN UNLIMITED OUTPOURING OF FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL DOLLARS TO FINANCE THE MOST GRANDIOSE SCHOOL FOOD PROGRAMS IMAGINABLE. FAR FROM IT. FEDERAL NUTRITION PROGRAMS, LIKE ALL FEDERAL EXPENDITURES, MUST BE PLANNED, BUDGETED, AND IMPLEMENTED WITHIN STRICTLY DEFINED POLITICAL AND BUDGETARY LIMITS. THE ADOPTION OF PROPOSITION 13 IN CALIFORNIA -- AND UNMISTAKABLE EXPRESSION OF THE TAXPAYERS' ANGER OVER HIGH TAXES, INCREASING INFLATION, AND BIG GOVERNMENT -- IS A FACT OF LIFE WITH WHICH WE ALL MUST DEAL.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE TAXPAYERS' REVOLT

I, FOR ONE, BELIEVE CONGRESS DOES HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE TAX RELIEF, TO REDUCE GOVERNMENT SPENDING WHERE POSSIBLE.

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GOVERNMENT FISCAL AND MONETARY POLICIES MUST STEM THE INFLATIONARY TIDE WHICH THREATENS TO ENGULF US. IF WE HAVE LEARNED ANYTHING FROM THE VOTE IN CALIFORNIA, IT IS THAT PEOPLE ARE READY AND WILLING TO ACT, THAT THEY WANT TAX RELIEF, THAT THEY DEMAND AN END TO WHAT THEY PERCEIVE TO BE RUN-AWAY GOVERNMENT SPENDING, UNCONTROLLABLE INFLATION, AND ENDLESS GOVERNMENT GROWTH.

I THINK CONGRESS CAN AND SHOULD RESPOND TO THESE DEMANDS. BECAUSE I THINK SCALED-DOWN GOVERNMENT CAN PROVIDE AN ADEQUATE LEVEL OF GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES WITHOUT EXTRACTING EVER-INCREASING TAXES FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. WE CAN HOLD THE LINE ON TAXES AND SPENDING BY TRIMMING THE FAT, ELIMINATING TOTALLY UNNECESSARY GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS, AND STILL GENEROUSLY FUND IMPORTANT HUMAN SERVICE PROGRAMS SUCH AS THE FEDERALLY-SPONSORED NUTRITION PROGRAMS FOR THE YOUNG AND OLD.

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THE TAXPAYERS' REVOLT, AS IT IS CALLED, DOESN'T MEAN THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT TO TURN A DEAF EAR TO THE UNQUESTIONED NEEDS OF OUR CITIES, ABANDON SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMS, GUT THE DEFENSE BUDGET, OR FORGET AMERICA'S FARMERS. WHAT THE TAXPAYERS CAN AND SHOULD EXPECT FROM GOVERNMENT IS THAT THEIR HARD-EARNED DOLLARS ARE SPENT ON PROGRAMS WHICH PROVIDE A REAL SERVICE TO PEOPLE WITH A REAL NEED.

BY THAT STANDARD, I THINK FEDERAL NUTRITION PROGRAMS WOULD RANK HIGH ON ANYONE'S LIST OF PRIORITIES. AS A MATTER OF FACT, I THINK MORE OF THE LIMITED FEDERAL TAX DOLLARS AVAILABLE SHOULD BE SPENT ON NUTRITION, NUTRITION RESEARCH, AND FEEDING PROGRAMS.

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INADEQUATE NUTRITION-CANCER RESEARCH

I AM PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE PALTRY SUMS BEING BUDGETED BY THE NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH INTO THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NUTRITION AND CANCER. AND I THINK THIS SHOULD BE A SUBJECT OF CONCERN TO SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE MANAGERS, TO EVERYONE WHO IS INTERESTED IN FOSTERING GOOD NUTRITIONAL PRACTICES AMONG OUT SCHOOL CHILDREN.

WE NOW KNOW THAT OVER 80% OF ALL CANCERS ARE ENVIRONMENTALLY INDUCED AND THAT ABOUT 50% OF THE CANCERS ARE NUTRITION-RELATED. YET THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SPENDS ONLY ABOUT 1% OF RESEARCH FUNDS ON DIET-NUTRITION-RELATED CANCER RESEARCH.

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TO BE SPECIFIC, THE NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE HAS A RESEARCH BUDGET OF ABOUT \$867 MILLION THIS YEAR. YET ONLY \$3.4 MILLION IS SPENT ON DIET-NUTRITION RESEARCH.

I, FOR ONE, THINK THIS IS UNCONSCIONABLE. AND I THINK THAT THE AMERICAN SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE ASSOCIATION IS AN ASSOCIATION COMMITTED TO GOOD NUTRITION AND THE GOOD HEALTH TO WHICH IT LEADS, SHOULD BE CONCERNED TOO. WE NEED TO KNOW WHAT KINDS OF DIETS, WHAT NUTRITIONAL PRACTICES, BEST PREVENT THE DEVELOPMENT OF CANCER AND OTHER DISEASES IN LATER LIFE. AND IF MORE MONEY WAS BUDGETED, MORE INFORMATION WOULD BE DEVELOPED, AND EVEN MORE NUTRITIOUS, HEALTHY MEALS COULD BE SERVED IN OUR NATION'S SCHOOLS, AND IN OTHER FEDERALLY-SPONSORED NUTRITION PROGRAMS.

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PRESSURE ON N.C.I.

I BELIEVE PRESSURE SHOULD BE EXERTED ON THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH AND THE NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE BY THE CONGRESS, THE NUTRITION COMMUNITY, SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE PERSONNEL AND THE MEDICAL COMMUNITY TO EARMARK A MUCH GREATER PERCENTAGE OF LIMITED PUBLIC FUNDS ON NUTRITION-RELATED CANCER RESEARCH.

IN ADDITION, OTHER ACTIONS CAN BE TAKEN BY THE NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE. VACANCIES ON THE CANCER ADVISORY BOARD AT NCI SHOULD BE FILLED WITH PERSONS HOLDING EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUNDS IN NUTRITION. THE NUTRITION RESEARCH COMMUNITY SHOULD BE MADE AWARE OF AND AWARDED GRANTS WITH AN APPLIED NUTRITION EMPHASIS. AND MATERIAL SHOULD BE DEVELOPED AND DISTRIBUTED TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC WHICH CAN OFFER PEOPLE THE BEST AVAILABLE DATA ON DIET AND NUTRITION AND CANCER PREVENTION, INFORMATION SIMILAR TO THAT WE PROVIDE PEOPLE ONCE THEY GET CANCER.

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FRANKLY, PART OF THE PROBLEM IN SECURING MORE FUNDING FOR NUTRITION RESEARCH INTO CANCER-CAUSING DIETS IS WITH THE NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE'S "PEER REVIEW SYSTEM". AS IT NOW STANDS, THE SAME SCIENTIFIC ESTABLISHMENT WHICH DETERMINES WHERE NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE RESEARCH MONEY GOES ACTUALLY WINDS UP WITH THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE FUNDS AVAILABLE. THIS "BUDDY SYSTEM" WOULD NEVER BE TOLERATED IN THE PENTAGON OR OTHER AGENCIES OF GOVERNMENT. AND I HAPPEN TO THINK THAT NUTRITION RESEARCH IS AN IMPORTANT COG IN THE NATION'S BATTLE AGAINST CANCER, AND SUCH PRACTICES SHOULDN'T BE TOLERATED AT THE NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE.

CONSUMER NUTRITION AWARENESS

ALL ACROSS THIS NATION, CONSUMERS ARE INCREASING THEIR AWARENESS, INTEREST, AND DEMAND FOR INFORMATION ABOUT DIET AND HEALTH.

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OVER THREE-QUARTERS OF THE PEOPLE INTERVIEWED IN A RECENT POLL INDICATED THAT THEY WERE MORE INTERESTED IN NUTRITION TODAY THAN THEY WERE A FEW YEARS AGO.

SOME OF YOU MAY BE AWARE OF THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER ON NUTRITION FROM MY OFFICE. IN THE JUNE ISSUE I RAN A LITTLE SURVEY TO GET A FEEL FOR THE MAJOR NUTRITION OR HEALTH RELATED CONCERNS OF TODAY'S CONSUMERS. TABULATION OF THE RESULTS TO DATE REVEAL THESE ISSUES ~~IN~~ THE TOP FIVE CATEGORIES: MORE ACCURATE NUTRITION INFORMATION - 30%; MORE ON DIET-CANCER RESEARCH - 27%; DIET AND WEIGHT CONTROL - 25%; AND FOOD ADDITIVES AND HIGH FOOD COSTS BOTH RANKED 13%.

SO IT IS OUR DUTY, AS MEN AND WOMEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ADOPTION, FUNDING, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF FEDERAL NUTRITION PROGRAMS TO USE THE LIMITED DOLLARS WE HAVE AVAILABLE IN THE MOST EFFICIENT AND ECONOMICAL WAY. WE MUST STREAMLINE WHERE POSSIBLE, CONCENTRATING EVERY AVAILABLE RESOURCE ON FOOD AND NUTRITION EDUCATION AND

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RESEARCH AND MINIMIZING ADMINISTRATION AND BUREAUCRACY. IN MY OPINION, ONE WAY NOT TO ACCOMPLISH THIS GOAL IS TO TRANSFER CHILD NUTRITION AND NUTRITION EDUCATION PROGRAMS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO THE NEWLY PROPOSED DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

OPPOSE TRANSFER OF NUTRITION PROGRAMS

I STRONGLY OPPOSE THE TRANSFER OF CHILD FEEDING PROGRAMS AWAY FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE. I FEAR THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAS PROPOSED THIS DRASTIC MOVE, NOT BECAUSE IT WOULD MAKE FOR BETTER GOVERNMENT NUTRITION PROGRAMS, BUT BECAUSE THE TRANSFER WOULD PROVIDE A FUNDING BASE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND FULFILL A PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN PROMISE TO THE NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION.

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TRANSFERRING NUTRITION PROGRAMS TO AN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WOULD HAVE FAR-REACHING IMPLICATIONS FOR AGRICULTURE AND THE ENTIRE FOOD PROCESSING AND DISTRIBUTION INDUSTRY. THE COMMODITY DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM IN USDA IS A MAJOR SOURCE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO SCHOOL LUNCH AND BREAKFAST PROGRAMS. CERTAINLY THE CONSERVATION AND EFFECTIVE COORDINATION OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMODITIES CAN BEST BE HANDLED BY THE AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT.

IN ADDITION, MAJOR ASPECTS OF THE CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS COVER FOOD PRODUCTION, PROCESSING, AND DISTRIBUTION. IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT THEY WOULD ALL REMAIN TOGETHER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

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AND THERE ARE OTHER REASONS TO OPPOSE THE MOVE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION. LAND GRANT COLLEGES, WHICH MAKE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION IN THE TRAINING OF SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE PERSONNEL AS WELL AS HUMAN NUTRITION RESEARCH AND NUTRITION EDUCATION, ARE AT THE HEART OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND THE LAND GRANT COLLEGE SYSTEM. AND THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HAS BEEN RELENTLY DESIGNATED AS THE LEAD AGENCY FOR HUMAN NUTRITION RESEARCH.

FOR THESE REASONS AND MANY OTHERS, THE FULL MEMBERSHIP OF THE SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE WENT ON RECORD THIS SPRING AS OPPOSED TO THE TRANSFER OF CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION. AGAIN LAST WEEK, AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEMBERS REAFFIRMED OUR FEELINGS ABOUT THE TRANSFER IN A LETTER TO SENATOR ABRAHAM RIBICOFF, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE WHICH IS CONSIDERING THE PROPOSED TRANSFER.

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AS YOU PROBABLY KNOW, SENATOR CHARLES PERCY'S AMENDMENT TO BLOCK THE TRANSFER FAILED ON A TIE VOTE IN THE COMMITTEE. BUT THE MATTER IS NOT OVER YET. WE'RE TAKING IT TO THE FLOOR OF THE SENATE WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. AND WE'RE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT OUR CHANCES THERE.

BUT YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT IS NEEDED. YOU NEED TO LET YOUR SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN KNOW HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT THE TRANSFER. THE VOTE COULD BE CLOSE AND THE SUPPORT OF ASFSA IS CRUCIAL.

OF COURSE, THEN UNIVERSAL MEALS PROGRAM

OF COURSE, THERE ARE OTHER ISSUES IN CONGRESS TODAY WHICH DIRECTLY AFFECT OUR SCHOOLS.

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ON FRIDAY, THE SENATE PASSED S. 3085 BY A VOTE OF 68 TO 0. THIS NOTION OF FREE SCHOOL MEALS FOR ALL CHILDREN REGARDLESS OF INCOME, PROPOSED BY OUR FRIEND, HUBERT HUMPHREY, TOOK A SIGNIFICANT STEP FORWARD ON FRIDAY. SENATOR MORGAN OF NORTH CAROLINA INTRODUCED AN AMENDMENT WHICH PASSED, CALLING FOR FOURTEEN PILOT PROJECTS TO STUDY THE MANAGERIAL, NUTRITIONAL, AND ECONOMICAL BENEFITS, IF ANY, OF UNIVERSAL SCHOOL MEALS. WE ARE ALL AWARE OF THE BENEFITS HERE TO LUNCHROOM MANAGERS -- RECORD-KEEPING, MONITORING FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEALS, ETC. WE CAN ALSO APPRECIATE THE POTENTIAL NUTRITIONAL BENEFITS FOR A LARGER NUMBER OF CHILDREN.

MANDATED BREAKFAST PROGRAM

LAST FRIDAY, THE SENATE ALSO TOOK UP A COMPROMISE AMENDMENT FOR THE MANDATED SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM -- CALLING FOR LOCAL SCHOOL ELECTIONS AS A BASIS FOR DECISION -- THE TENOR OF THE SENATE WAS NOT RECEPTIVE TO THIS MOVE.

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THE CONCERN OF SENATOR PATRICK LEAHY OF VERMONT, THE AUTHOR OF THIS AMENDMENT, WAS THAT TOO OFTEN THERE IS A REAL NEED FOR SCHOOL BREAKFAST AND FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS HAVE TO IGNORE THIS NEED. I HAVE CONFIDENCE THAT SCHOOL MEAL PERSONNEL CAN AND ARE BEING INFLUENTIAL IN MAKING SOUND DECISIONS ABOUT THE NEED FOR BREAKFAST PROGRAMS.

BREAKFAST CAKES

I IMAGINE YOU ARE ALL AWARE OF THE STATUS OF BREAKFAST CAKES IN S. 3085. THE SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE HAS CALLED FOR RESULTS OF TWO STUDIES NOW UNDERWAY BEFORE THE SO-CALLED BREAKFAST CAKES ARE REMOVED FROM SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS.

I RECEIVED MANY COMMENTS WHICH SERIOUSLY QUESTIONED THE RELEVANCE OF THE STUDIES TO THE ISSUE. IN ADDITION, I HAD A DIFFICULT TIME TRYING TO ASSESS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE IMPACT OF BREAKFAST CAKES ON THE PROGRAM AND THE IMPACT OF COMPETITIVE FOODS ON SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMS.

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ON FRIDAY, I INTRODUCED AN AMENDMENT TO DIRECT THE SECRETARY TO REVIEW AND RECONSIDER THE USE OF THESE ALTERNATE FOODS. IF THE SECRETARY DETERMINES THAT SUCH ALTERNATE FOODS NO LONGER FULFILL THEIR ORIGINAL PURPOSES, OR THAT SUCH FOODS ARE NOT AN INTEGRAL PART OF A NUTRITIONALLY SOUND DIET OR CONTRAVENE CURRENTLY ACCEPTED NUTRITION EDUCATION PRINCIPLES, THE SECRETARY SHALL REVOKE ANY PREVIOUS APPROVALS OF SUCH ALTERNATE FOODS: PROVIDED, THAT NO ALTERNATE FOOD ITEM SHALL BE PRESENTED TO SUBSTITUTE FOR MORE THAN ONE FOOD COMPONENT IN THE BASIC MEAL REQUIREMENT.

IN GAINING SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT I URGED MY COLLEAGUES TO JOIN ME IN MAKING THESE CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS MORE THAN A MERE FOOD DELIVERY SYSTEM, MAKING THEM A TOTAL COMPONENT OF PREVENTATIVE HEALTH CARE.

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IN THE DAYS, MONTHS, AND YEARS AHEAD, I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH THIS GROUP TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF NUTRITION FOR OUR NATION'S SCHOOL CHILDREN. WE HAVE MADE GREAT STRIDES SINCE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM. BUT WE HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO. HERE, AT YOUR 32ND ANNUAL MEETING, YOU HAVE A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM IN THE COMING WEEK. I AM CONFIDENT THIS YEAR'S CONVENTION WILL LEAD TO CONTINUED SUCCESS AND COMMITMENT IN THE OPERATION OF THE NATION'S SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS.

CONGRESS CAN PASS THE LAWS, FUND THE PROGRAMS. BUT IT'S YOU, THE SCHOOL FOOD EXPERTS OF OUR NATION, WHICH MAKE THE PROGRAMS WORK FOR OUR NATION'S CHILDREN. AND AS ONE WHO BELIEVES STRONGLY IN THESE PROGRAMS, I WANT TO THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

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