

THE TOPEKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

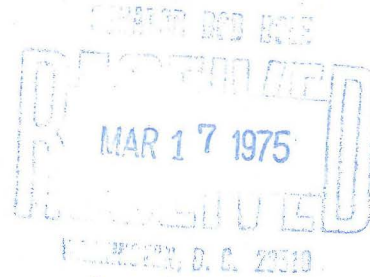
Unified School District No. 501 — Shawnee County, State of Kansas

Division of Foods

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March 13, 1975

Honorable Bob Dole
2327 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510



Dear Sir:

I am greatly concerned over the news of the President's proposed cut back on the Child-Nutrition programs.

The Child-Nutrition Programs have come a long way since June 4, 1946 when Public Law 396 of the 79th Congress was passed, providing us with a continuation of Child Nutrition Programs. With the proposal the way it presents itself today is, in my opinion, a great step in the opposite direction. It is regression of everything that we have worked so hard for in the past 29 years.

My concern is two-fold and they both have very high priority reasons. Number one: I am the Food Service Director for the Topeka Public Schools serving approximately 12,000 lunches a day and approximately 900 breakfasts a day. I know the community and I know the salary range of the people in the community. I also know that if this bill passes, that we will have to increase the cost of our meals between 75¢ and 85¢. People in these times cannot afford that kind of an increase. Therefore, their children would have to do one of three things:

1. Do without lunch.
2. Bring their own lunch.
3. Try to struggle with the high price that we would have to charge in order to provide them with a lunch at school.

This I do not believe they will do.

I, myself, have four children. Two of which are in school at the present time. If this bill were to pass, I would be paying out approximately \$32.00 per month for my children's meals. I, myself, on my take home pay could not afford that kind of an increase in my budget as it exists today. Therefore, I respectfully urge you to vote against this cut in the Child-Nutrition Program. This past week new bills have been introduced on the legislation by Senator McGovern and Representative Perkins that would greatly increase Child-Nutrition Programs, and I would greatly appreciate your support on these issues.

-2-

Our President has said, "Bite the Bullet". But I say--Let the bullet be bitten where it is fired. Cut off the aid to Vietnam and Cambodia. Let's take care of our children here at home first. As the saying goes -- "We've come a long way but we still have a long way to go." I feel for the first time since my association with the school system that we have made great strides, especially in nutritional education and now through a team approach, I feel sure that we will develop a strong Nutritional Education Program in our School System today. After all, this is a subject that should be taught because there is nothing else taught in the school system that a child will use three times a day seven days a week 365 days a year.

I sincerely feel that we are on a misson of Nutrition and we desperately need your help. Please help to defeat this bill on the proposed cut in Child Nutrition Programs.

Sincerely,



Richard P. Feleay, Director
Division of Food Services

RPF:la