

*Agrie. / Food Stamps*

November 3, 1975

Mrs. Juanita E. Hood  
2500 Seabrook  
Topeka, Kansas 66614

Dear Mrs. Hood:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern over my Food Stamp Reform legislation and proposals to permit senators to utilize mobile constituent offices.

Certainly share your view that there is much abuse in the Food Stamp Program. For that reason, I have introduced what I believe to be an excellent food stamp reform bill -- one which will assure that only the truly needy qualify for food assistance from the federal government. In addition, I am a co-sponsor of President Ford's food stamp reform legislation which you indicate you favor. I believe that a combination of the administrative and quality control provisions of the President's bill and the absolute maximum ~~income~~ cutoffs contained in the so-called Dole-McGovern bill will provide the framework for a more equitable food stamp program.

In fact, the Administration bill contains many of the same features which are in the bill I had previously introduced, particularly the concept of a standard deduction. While you and I may not normally share political beliefs with Senator McGovern, he is a powerful man on this Congress on food stamp legislation and I am pleased that he has seen fit to co-sponsor the bill I have introduced. It will establish income eligibility guidelines which will encourage those eligible for food stamps to seek employment. I believe it is very important that any income eligibility guidelines not serve as a disincentive to work. Many reform bills which have been introduced -- including some features of the President's bill -- could serve as a work disincentive and further increase the number of persons on food stamps.

As to the mobile constituent office van issue, I believe you are misinformed on the costs of the proposal. It has wide bipartisan support and would allow senators from states with large rural areas to more effectively serve their constituents. Most importantly, it will not in any way increase the office allowance for any senator who would elect to utilize a mobile office in lieu of a stationary one. This is an important point and I think should alleviate your concern over this issue.

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Since you live in an urban area -- one which contains one of my state offices -- you would have no trouble contacting my office either in person or by telephone should you desire to do so. However, persons in the western part of Kansas do not share your proximity to a senatorial office and if a single office was located in just one city in the western part of the state, it would still be literally hundreds of miles to the nearest office for many residents of the western part of the state. I believe if you would consider these facts, you would support the mobile constituent office concept wholeheartedly.

I am enclosing two reprints from the Congressional Record which explain in more detail the food stamp reform legislation and the mobile office proposal. Hope this clears up any misconceptions you may have had about my position on these two issues. For I believe on both these issues, I am representing accurately the views of the majority of the people of Kansas. If I may be of assistance to you on this or other matters in the future, please don't hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely yours,

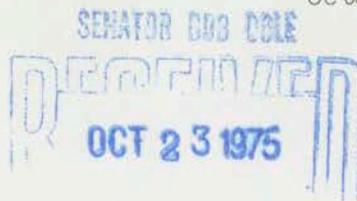
BOB DOLE  
U. S. Senate

BD:kw  
Enc.

Topeka, Kansas  
October 21, 1975

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The Honorable Robert Dole  
Senator - State of Kansas  
2327 New Senate Office Bldg  
Washington, D.C. 20515



Dear Senator Dole:

The old adage "Politics Makes Strange Bedfellows" sure seems to be holding true for you. I am referring in particular to your stand on food stamps and your co-sponsoring of the bill with McGovern!

The plan that President Ford has offered is the only one I have read about that makes common sense, and actually workable without adding more bureaucracy and expense therefore defeating the purpose intended.

- I feel: -
1. The food stamp program is about the most abused program in existence and is totally out of hand.
  2. For the actual need for which it was intended I can go along with and understand. However, to "donate" them as you propose is just another welfare hand out for which I am totally opposed.

I am employed by a large company and work in a rather large office - predominantly Republican - and your actions recently have raised many eyebrows! I would be very interested in your reasoning for such a bill as you have proposed versus what President Ford is proposing.

Also, want to make you aware of this Van proposition you are sponsoring for touring the State sounds like one big rip off! Seems to me if you would venture into Topeka now and then and allow yourself to be interviewed by our local press and news media your purpose could be accomplished very well. With cable TV there are very few towns that aren't receiving Topeka stations. You can be sure of one thing - Martha Keyes is certainly making herself and views known in this manner.

It seems to me the only time the people of Kansas are exposed to you is when the Washington press decides to give you some coverage. If you are appearing in Kansas other than at election time I am not aware of it.

Heretofore I have supported you but this food stamp bill and co-sponsoring with McGovern (of all people) plus purchasing Vans and a few other things, you can believe I am doubting my judgment.

I realize your next election is sometime off but it appears at this time the Democrats are planning to oppose you with the current Attorney General - Mr Schneider. Much as I dislike him he will get my vote unless your voting record and actions change drastically between now and election time. You certainly are not representing the people of Kansas, in my opinion, to their best interest, to say nothing of the nation as a whole on these bills you are proposing.

I shall be awaiting your reply.

*Juanita E Hood*

(913) 273-1242

~~(Mrs)~~ Juanita E Hood  
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Topeka, Kansas

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