



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

June 20 1966

John
Letter coming
on this _____
Please put on
my desk -

Honorable W. R. Poage
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Poage:

For the past few months, 30 schools in Texas have been participating in the special school lunch demonstration projects conducted under Section 11 of the National School Lunch Act. The Congress appropriated \$2 million for this fiscal year for Section 11. Under this Section, schools drawing attendance from low-income areas may receive special assistance to bring the lunch price within the reach of children in the school and to help cover the cost of free lunches where necessary.

Every State, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico has at least one project in operation. Nationwide, there are 817 schools, with an attendance of 330,000 children taking part in these pilot projects. More than 60 percent of the attending children are participating in the lunch programs. In schools previously in the School Lunch Program, participation increased 60 percent. In the schools where new lunch programs were started, participation reached a level of 66 percent.

The States did a remarkable job in getting these demonstration projects under way considering the fact that funds were not available until November and time was required to select schools for participation and explain the purpose of the program and the procedures to be followed.

Under this pilot program, schools that meet strict criteria as to their need for assistance may receive cash reimbursement payments of up to 15 cents per lunch plus extra allowances of foods donated by the Department. Reimbursement under the regular school lunch program amounts to an average of 4 to 5 cents a lunch.

In addition, food service specialists on the staff of the State educational agency and the Department work directly with local school officials and interested local groups in initiating or expanding a food service program. Since the assistance payments from Federal funds are used only to help meet food costs, local resources and support are necessary to finance labor costs and those of any additional equipment needed. Frequently, the local PTA or other civic organization provides some help and mothers volunteer their services.

The major problem in reaching many needy schools is the lack of funds for food preparation equipment. One of the amendments to the National School Lunch Act recently introduced by Senator Ellender in S.3467 would authorize the appropriation of funds to help solve this problem.

Enclosed is a summary of the demonstration project conducted in Texas. We believe the experience there supports our belief that an expansion of the Section 11 approach, combined with the availability of funds for equipment where needed, will enable us and the State educational agencies to provide effectively for improved nutrition among school children from low-income families.

Sincerely yours,

Rod Leonard

Rodney E. Leonard
Deputy Assistant Secretary

Enclosure

111 x 7213

S 3467

Sec. 11 not in bill - in the law
- must be funded now

- 1) Pilot Breakfast Program
- 2) Non-Food Assistance (Food Preparation Equipment)
- 3) Sec. 17 - State Administrative Expense -

Passed Senate -