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March 4, 1976

SUBJECT: FOOD FOR PREGNANT MOTHERS

CBS last night stated that the Food Research and Action Center was suing the Administration for holding back \$140 million in Congressional appropriations for feeding poor pregnant and nursing women and small children.

What is the White House reaction?

USDA has not yet been served with the suit, so we do not yet know all the details, and, of course, you know my policy on stating reaction to matters to be tried in the courts.

Background: The suit refers to the Women, Infants and Children program (WIC). For FY 76, the Congress appropriated \$250 million for the program, \$230 million above what it had been appropriated the year before. However, they failed to appropriate anything for the TQ. Therefore, we are seeking to extend the FY 76 appropriation through the TQ. Also, 800,000 people in the program, many already receive food stamps.

ME

January 8, 1975

SUBJECT:

FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRY
MEETING IN ROOSEVELT ROOM

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

A group of Administration officials will meet this morning in the Roosevelt Room at 10 o'clock a.m. with representatives of the food processing industry. The purpose of the meeting is to review with this industry the current energy and economic situation facing the country today.

This is another in the series of Wednesday meetings held by Bill Baroody in which groups are brought into the White House in order to develop a dialogue and communication with these outside groups.

We can make available a list of the attendees at the meeting.

Some of the government participants include: Messrs. Ash, Butz, Rees, Seidman, Train and Zarb.

JGC

August 22, 1975

SUBJECT: INFO ON FOOD PRICES

According to Secty Butz:

Soviet grain sales will boost food prices 1.5% over the next-16 months.

Total increase in '75 food prices over 74 prices will be 9% (last week he said 6-8%)

In 1973 and 1974, food prices increase 14.5% each year.

It takes 3 to 12 months for a change in the price of grain to work its way through to higher food rprices to consumer

December 12, 1974

MEMORANDUM TO:
FROM:

Ron Nessen
Bill Roberts

SUBJECT:

RESPONSE TO BISHOPS
LETTER

UPI is carrying a report that the Roman Catholic Bishops have made a "unique, if not unprecedented" request to meet with the President to discuss substantial increase in food allocations through the Food For Peace Program to meet the world food crisis. Bishop James S. Rausch, General Secretary of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, is supposed to have sent the letter.

GUIDANCE:

As of 10 A. M. today, December 12, 1974, the White House had not received the letter.

I do not think it would be advisable to comment on press reports about the letter. Let us wait until it gets to the President.

BR:ja



June 23, 1976

SUBJECT: WIC JUDICIAL DECISION

Yesterday a District Court judge ruled that the Administration would have to release funds for the Women, Infants and Children program that USDA had been unwilling to spend because of fuzzy language in the appropriations bill (we believed that the appropriation was far too high anyway). In effect, however, the decision mandates the Government to spend more than the maximum interpretation of the Congressional appropriation. This would mean a total expenditure of \$306 million, versus our anticipated expenditure of \$160 million thru June 30, 1977.

What is the Administration going to do about the decision mandating more money for the WIC program?

The Administration (Justice and Agriculture) are currently in the process of reviewing the judge's decision, and will decide shortly what court action, if any, will be taken.

In any case, the Administration will continue to make sure that those people in need of the funds continue to receive them.

ME

Food

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ME

MARCH 9, 1976

SUBJECT:

FOOD RESEARCH ACTION
COMMITTEE SUES HEW

What is HEW doing about the suit by the Food Research Action
Committee on the nutrition programs for the elderly?

GUIDANCE: Contrary to recent accusations, the Department of HEW is in the process of making available to the states and territories sufficient resources to increase to \$187 million for FY'76 the amount available to the states for nutrition programs for the elderly.

FYI ONLY: HEW is giving this exact response to questions over there. END FYI ONLY.

BACKGROUND:

The Administration of Aging and HEW administers nutrition programs for the elderly under Title VII of the Older Americans Act. About 350,000 hot meals are served daily.

(nutrition) FRAC (Food Research Action Committee) alleges that HEW is withholding (or impounding) funds made available by the HEW Appropriations Bill which became law on January 28, 1976, over the President's veto. That law increased the appropriation level for Title VII programs from \$150 million annually to \$187.5 million annually.

S. Massengale

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