

6. *Prospective changes in program orientation*

(a) Pending legislative proposals: None.

(b) Proposed administrative and organizational changes: None.

(c) Probable changes in conditions in 1970: Improving economic conditions, more extensive education and training and the contemplated expansion of the food stamp program will tend to reduce the size of the needy family program to about 2 million persons. School feeding, additional attention to nutritional problems of the aging and emphasis on recreation will enlarge each of these programs.

7. *Coordination and cooperation*

(a) Within the office: Close working liaison is maintained with the national school lunch program and the food stamp program. The latter is important to assure that eligibility standards and certification procedures are compatible since most States have both programs.

(b) With other units of USDA: Through C. & M.S. representation on the Rural Area Development Board, the poverty program liaison task force and the task force on Appalachia and through the regional and State offices of a variety of USDA agencies, information on the program, its benefits and obligations, is dispersed as widely as possible, particularly to low-income rural areas.

(c) With other Federal agencies: A close working relationship has been developed with HEW and the Office of Economic Opportunity. In recognition of the program's benefits to the nutrition of children and low-income families and the fact that USDA provides no operating or administrative funds to State or local agencies, OEO has agreed to consider assistance to meet local expenses in situations of demonstrated need for financial assistance and where the program will enhance and supplement other programs designed to break the poverty cycle. Commodity distribution programs are now being so financed in Carter and Oregon Counties, Mo.; in Conecuh County, Ala.; Telfair County, Ga., and the State of Mississippi Welfare Department has been given \$1.6 million of OEO funds for a demonstration project on the benefits that can accrue from making the program more widely available. Several States and communities have received grants to aid in child-feeding programs. Applications from several other areas are now pending in OEO. This OEO assistance also includes extensive efforts to provide nutrition education to low-income families.

As is true of the other consumer food programs, the commodity distribution program is an approved work station for enrollees in the Department of Labor's Neighborhood Youth Corps and HEW's work experience program. This is in recognition of the fact that not only are these programs understaffed at the local level, but that they represent good training opportunities in a variety of capacities that can lead to jobs in the commercial market. Several distribution programs for needy families in Massachusetts and elsewhere have been made possible by use of NYC trainees.

(d) With State governments: Since the program is administered through State agencies, continuing liaison is maintained with all 50 States and the territories or offshore possessions by Washington personnel and the five district offices of consumer food programs.

These district offices hold a conference each year to which State officials are invited for an exchange of views on the program.