

The Office of the Inspector General provides audit and investigatory services for the program.

(c) *With other Federal Government agencies.*—A close working relationship has developed with HEW, the Office of Economic Opportunity and the Treasury Department, and the Department of Justice, particularly. Since the program is administered through the State agency that administers HEW's public assistance programs, there must be complete mutual understanding of program objectives, policies and prospective changes in the whole field of assistance to low-income families.

Similarly, in the case of the Office of Economic Opportunity, close liaison is maintained to insure that in designated food stamp areas, associated antipoverty programs move forward in harmony with the food stamp effort.

The food stamp program, as other consumer food programs, is an approved work station for those employed in the Department of Labor's Neighborhood Youth Corps and HEW's work experience program.

In addition, OEO has offered to finance the local costs of administering a food stamp program in several counties that have been designated by the State welfare agency as eligible for participation but which have indicated difficulty in financing the issuance offices and local certification costs.

Close relations are maintained with the Treasury Department because commercial banks are used to redeem the coupons and they act as Federal depositories for the sums collected from recipients. The Department of Justice is responsible for court actions with respect to the civil and criminal sanctions set forth in the act.

(d) *With State governments.*—Because the program is administered through State welfare agencies, close liaison and program direction and supervision is essential, to assure program effectiveness.

(e) *With local governments or communities.*—The nature of the food stamp program is such that it requires full community understanding and support for maximum effectiveness. This can only be assured if local government support is enlisted.

(f) *With foreign governments.*—A number of foreign government representatives have inquired in depth as to how the program operates and its effectiveness as a means of providing food assistance to low-income families.

(g) *With nonprofit organizations.*—An important feature of the food stamp program is a nutritional education effort for participating families to help them use their increased food purchasing power to good advantage. A nutrition education committee is organized locally wherever the program operates. Much of the impetus for this effort comes from members of community organizations.

The cooperation of private welfare agencies is sought in an effort to maximize program benefits.

(h) *With business enterprises.*—Food coupons issued under the program are spent in retail food stores and redeemed by banks. This requires full understanding and support for the program from major sectors of the business community. Similar understanding and support is important on the part of local news media to encourage participation in the program and to relay information on the program's benefits to the entire community.

(i) *With others.*—None.