

Butz Issues Food Stamp Statement

Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz has issued the following statement on the Food Stamp Program, after President Ford announced that he will allow H.R. 1589 to become law without his signature: (The bill would, in effect, freeze Food Stamp Purchase Requirements at their Jan. 1, 1975, level through the year 1975).

"I fully share President Ford's concern for the negative effects of this bill. His statement documents them well.

"The promptness with which the President has made this decision is most helpful, particularly to our cooperating States and local administrators of the program. Local administrators are right now in the process of preparing "Authorization To Purchase" credentials for use by food stamp participants in the month of March — just two weeks away.

"Therefore, the Department's Food and Nutrition Service has immediately notified all State cooperating agencies of the President's action (allowing the bill to become law without his signature).

"The 30 Per cent Purchase Requirement regulation which was announced Jan. 17 is rescinded, and the Table of Monthly Coupon Allotments and Purchase Requirements that was announced Nov. 14 (effective Jan. 1, 1975) will continue in effect for March and subsequent months. In turn, the States will notify the Counties, so that they may proceed with preparation for the March issuance of food stamps.

"I hope that the news media — with their speedy communications capabilities — will help us to spread this story widely, and quickly.

"Looking beyond this current confusion, I am pleased that Senators Dole and Curtis have prevailed on the colleagues to join in Senate Resolution 58 which directs a full review of the operation of the Food Stamp Program be made and reported to the Congress by June 30th. We are proceeding promptly to initiate this study. We are hopeful that this comprehensive review will contribute to better understanding of the Program, and thus help the Congress and the Department to work together in achieving Program objectives."