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June 17, 1966

Honorable Maston O'Neal
United States House of Representatives
House Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Representative O'Neal:

I was glad to learn that Senator Ellender introduced Senate Bill 3467, an amendment to the National School Lunch Act, on June 6.

Senator Ellender's amendment safeguards the National School Lunch Act and provides a sound approach to School Food Service Programs. It carries out the wishes expressed in my letter to you of April 13, 1966.

After comparing Senate Bill 3467 with House Resolution 13361, the Child Nutrition Act, the following observations are made:

- (1) The National School Lunch Act has proven to be a basic and sound federal program. To the extent of funds available, it has achieved to a high degree the purposes stated in the Act.
- (2) Because of inadequate National School Lunch Act appropriations, many children are not now served nutritionally adequate lunches.
- (3) Many other children are not served because schools lack school food service equipment.
- (4) Since the passage of the Economic Opportunity Act and Elementary and Secondary Education Act, school officials have been initiating other needed school food services such as breakfast programs. They have been using Economic Opportunity Act and Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Title I, funds to provide lunches for more economically needy children

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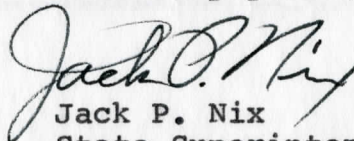
than was possible with National School Lunch Act funds alone. Also, some schools have used funds from these sources to equip school food service departments, thereby expanding the program to care for previously unmet needs.

Such multiple source financing and the resultant necessary dealing with several federal agencies, has created confusion and many difficult and complex administrative problems. Furthermore, because the National School Lunch Act does not now provide any administrative funds for state departments of education, most if not all state departments of education have been unable to provide adequate leadership, technical assistance and administrative staff assistance to local schools.

It is most desirable to preserve the National School Lunch Program of which Senator Russell was a co-sponsor in 1946. Senator Ellender's amendment helps make possible adequate lunches for all pupils, does not place undue emphasis on economic need, and thus preserves the Basic School Lunch Act. The additional services and assistance proposed in Senate Bill 3467 are needed. I would hope that the changes recommended by the American School Food Service Association would be incorporated into the Bill.

Please use your influence to secure an early passage and adequate financing of Senate Bill 3467, which in my opinion is far superior to House Resolution 13361.

Sincerely yours,



Jack P. Nix
State Superintendent of Schools

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