

HUNGER IN AMERICA: A CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

The series of events summed up in the phrase "rediscovery of hunger in America" was a complex one, involving both private and public, legislative and executive actors. This chronology is designed for use with Kennedy School Case No. C94-76-085, Hunger In America, 1965-1969, and with Nick Kotz, Let Them Eat Promises: The Politics of Hunger in America; it summarizes the principal hunger-related events in 1967-1968.

A word on the appropriations process may be helpful. Each calendar year funds are appropriated for the fiscal year beginning on July 1* of the following calendar year. For example, late in 1967 the Department of Agriculture (USDA) sent its proposed FY 1968 (July 1, 1968 to June 30, 1969) budget to the Bureau of the Budget for review, and early in 1968 the President sent a Budget Message to Congress. The House and Senate Agriculture Committees considered and reported out bills setting authorizations for the various USDA programs, i.e., spending levels which cannot be exceeded. The House and Senate Appropriations Committees considered and reported out bills setting the actual levels of appropriations. Floor action and, when necessary, conference reports follow as in the case of other bills.

1967 was an especially important year for the food stamp program because the program's three-year authorization would expire on June 30, 1968. In 1967 (for Fiscal 1968) and again in 1968 (for Fiscal 1969), the Administration requested that the program be made permanent with open-ended authorizations, i.e., with no spending limit. Each year, Congress refused and extended the program for two years with fixed authorizations.

*Fiscal years now begin on October 1.

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1967-1978 CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

Year Month	Non-Governmental	U.S. Congress		Executive Branch		
		House	Senate	President's Office	USDA	Other Agencies
(1967) February		Appropriations pose \$195 mil. food stamp extension	Hearings pro- million for extension	Budget Message asks \$195 Mil. for food stamp extension		
March			Hearings: Poverty subcommittee			
April	Field Survey commissioned Citizen's Board of Inquiry authorized	Agriculture Com. reports 1 yr./\$195 Mil. authorization for food stamp extension	Poverty subcom.: Visits Mississippi RFK and Clark tour Petition LBJ for emergency action	Petition diverted to OEO Freeman sends aides to Miss.		
May	Field Foundation doctors tour South		Agriculture Com. reports three-year extension of food stamp authorization			
June	Field foundation hears report	Appropriations Com. pro- poses and House adopts \$195 Mil. food stamp ex- tension for FY '68 Both Houses adopt their Agri- culture Com. authorizations bills; sent to conference com.	Field Foundation M.D.'s meet with RFK & Clark		Freeman pro- poses food stamp plan Freeman's trip to South	Field M.D.'s meet Freeman, Gardner, Shriver Shriver & OEO pro- duce 4 months/\$1 million program for 20 counties

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(1967) July	Board of Inquiry organized in New York	HEW nutrition survey authorized as amendment to health bill	Poverty subcom.: Hearings Asks Executive Agencies for report Approp. Com. proposes and Senate adopts \$195 Mil. food stamp exten- sion for FY 1968 Stennis emergency food aid is introduced (\$10 Mil.) (Approved (\$25 Mil.))		\$200 Mil. returned to treasury Counter- plan offered orders BOB to mediate, for joint report Shriver's plan (\$1 Bil.)
August				Califano sets up nutrition task force	
September		Conference Report adopted: \$200 Mil. authorized for FY '68 and \$225 Mil. for FY '69			
October	Agri. com. Hearings: Poage scuttles Sten- nis bill	Conf. Report adopted: \$185 Mil. appropriated for FY 1968		Zwick's Com- mittee asks \$300 million program	Joint report made to Senate committee
November	Quie attaches Stennis bill to Economic Oppor- tunity act; it passes			Agriculture budget asks \$225 million for food stamps for FY 1969 BOB request authorization increase to \$245 million	

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December (1968) January February	Boone letter to food mfrs.	Congress enacts the emergency food and medical services pro- gram to help pay pur- chase price of food stamps and provide other assistance--af- fecting 250 counties.		\$2.5 million food aid funds stamp program Slow implementation of emergency program	of Stennis bill's emergency food aid funds spent on regular food
March	McCarthy receives 42% of N.H. Primary vote RFK enters race	House agric. Approp. Hearings			
April	Board of Inquiry's "Hunger USA" is pub- lished School Lunch report Abernathy lobbies in Washington	Education and Labor Committee agrees to hold hearings Appropriations Com. proposes \$225 Mil. for food stamps for FY '69	Resolution forming Senate Select Com- mittee introduced \$96 million pre- school food program voted	LBJ says he won't run LBJ asks for secret food proposals LBJ gets deal with Mills on budget	First emergency food aid under Stennis Bill (\$10 million)
May	Poor People's March CBS documentary: "Hunger in America"	Mills denies deal Appropriations Com. proposal adopted	Approp. Com. proposes and Senate adopts \$225 Mil. for food stamps for FY 1969 Javits Amendment passes (\$227 Million) (dies; no action from House) Agric. Com. proposes and Senate adopts \$245 Mil. food stamp author- ization for FY 1969	Murphy plan (\$2.5 Billion) LBJ rejects it Freeman prom- ises expansion (\$100 mil. for CD and mothers)	

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June	RFK assassinated			HHH memo diverted	
July	Resurrection City cleared	Tax increase passes with \$6 Billion expenditure cut		LBJ explodes at Freeman	
		Agric. Com. proposes \$245 Mil. authorization for FY 1969 House rejects and adopts Leonore Sullivan proposal for open-ended extension thru FY 1972		LBJ rejects further food program expansion	
August	National Political Conventions	Conference Report adopted: \$225 Mil. food stamp appropriation for FY 1969			
September		Conference Report on food stamp authorization adopted: \$315 Mil. for FY 1969 \$340 Mil. for FY 1970 \$170 Mil. for 1st half '71			