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[illegible] BULLETIN NO. 1 May 29, 1968

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE
TEMPLE EMANU-EL OF SAN DIEGO
4799 Seminole Drive

SUBJECT: Distribution of Surplus Food

National: A Board of Inquiry into Hunger and Malnutrition in the United States estimated that over 10,000,000 poverty stricken Americans are eating what the department of Agriculture regards as a "poor diet." Most of the hunger is concentrated in 256 counties in 20 states primarily located in the South and Southwest. Only 18 per cent of the poor now receive surplus food or food stamps. Ninety-two per cent of those who could benefit from the surplus food program are not included in it. (These poor are undernourished either by actual lack of food or by their inability to obtain food containing minimum nutritional standards.)

San Diego County: On April 19, 1968, Mr. Fred J. Morey, Chief Administrative Officer for the County Board of Supervisors, estimated that 17,000 persons per month would be "eligible and desirous of participating in the surplus food program" in this county. This estimate has been reviewed by officials of the U.S. Department of Agriculture "who indicate that this figure is a dependable projection."

Based on current retail prices, San Diego County can obtain $1,428,000 worth of surplus food at a cost of $135,288 to the county. This is enough food to care for the needs of the estimated 17,000 undernourished persons in San Diego County for the fiscal year 1968-69. This could include school lunches for more than a thousand (1959 estimate) undernourished children who received free lunches at school prior to the discontinuance of the program in 1959.

The food, which is stored in government warehouses in Bell, Calif. is available to the County at no cost. The expenses required are for shipping, local storage, distribution, and for administrative accountibility. It is estimated that it will cost the County 66¢ to feed each eligible person in the program for one month...35¢ shipping costs and 31¢ administrative costs.

Over half of the 30,000,000 persons living in poverty in the U.S. are children unde 18 years of age. There is no reason to believe that this ratio is substantially different for San Diego County. If this program is adopted here, more than half the food will go to malnourished and undernourished children.

Proposed Action: The San Diego County Board of Supervisors will consider the adoption of this program early in June. On May 23, 1968, The Economic Opportunity Commission of San Diego County voted for the second time to urge the county to "undertake the distribution of surplus food to needy families." Economic Opportunity chairman, Charles E. Reid, said that local community action councils have received numerous requests from mothers without enough food to feed their children.

The Board of Public Welfare at a meeting on December 11, 1967, commended the Supervisors "for their willingness to consider use of the Federal Surplus Food Program". They affirmed their conviction that "in our land of plenty, every effort should be made to assure adquate food for all persons". They cited the Surplus Food Program as a "simple and inexpensive means of making food available to those who need it".

What Can YOU do? The Social Action Committee of Temple Emanu-El supports the action of the Economic Opportunity Commision and the Board of Public Welfare in urging the County Board of Supervisors to act favorably on the Surplus Food Program. IF YOU WISH TO HELP, YOU MAY DO ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING:

1. Write to the County Board of Supervisors expressing your support. If you address your letter as follows, all Supervisors will get a copy:

   Board of Supervisors
   Room 306
   County Administration Bldg.
   1600 Pacific Highway
   San Diego, Calif. 92101

2. Take extra copies of this information sheet to your friends and urge them to write to the Board or to individual Supervisors.

3. If you belong to an organization, see if you can get official support for the program.

4. If you wish to speak in favor of the program at the coming budget hearings, call Mrs. Porter Clemens, Clerk of the County Board of Supervisors, and ask that your name be included on the docket of speakers. Make certain that you ask to be informed of the exact date, time and location of the hearings.

Additional information concerning the Surplus Food Program will appear in subsequent bulletins to be issued shortly. Call Dr. Robert Ontell, 460-2813, if you require more specific facts concerning the program.

Send Telegrams to Board of Supervisors urging support of Surplus Food Program