



Doctor in the Kitchen®

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A National Nutrition Policy?

In nutrition today, many professionals are saying America's major need is "putting it all together." What they mean is we must now decide how we are going to best approach the national needs of our people. We know what many of the needs are. The technology is available to add to that knowledge. But there has been no central agreement on how we are to get the job done.

The movement for such agreement has grown steadily since the 1969 White House Conference on Food, Nutrition and Health. Now, a

National Nutrition Consortium has been formed by four organizations—the American Institute of Nutrition, the American Society for Clinical Nutrition, the American Dietetic Association, and the Institute of Food Technologists. Others, I feel sure, will join or be involved in the consortium's deliberations. This would mean the 40,000 members of the original four groups will be augmented by still more professionals and thus the resources of the whole movement will be greater to bring about a national nutrition policy.

Problem is Complex

No one believes the development of such a policy should be done by food scientists and nutritionists alone. The problem is too complex for that. But these professionals must play an important role.

Political sensitivity to the problem is indicated in the recent announcement of the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs that it plans to hold a National Nutrition Policy Conference. It is tentatively set for this June.

And a recent food-industry indication of alertness to the problem occurred at the National Dairy Council's 59th annual meeting in Atlanta. More than 700 dairy industry and Dairy Council leaders attended sessions at which a national nutrition policy was discussed.

Is it really all that important? Well, most people now age in hind sight, that if we had a national energy

policy three would not now be an every crisis. And the problem of food and our nation's best use of it for the good of all is certain to be an increasingly pressing problem for America.

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What Would A Policy Cover?

What kinds of considerations would a national nutrition policy cover? A surveillance system would be paramount—some way to keep track of how food prices and nutrition programs, for example, are affecting the adequacy of American diets. Programs and priorities also are needed for nutrition programs for disadvantaged groups, prevention of nutrition-related diseases, nutrition education, training of professional personnel, and support of nutrition research. And all these

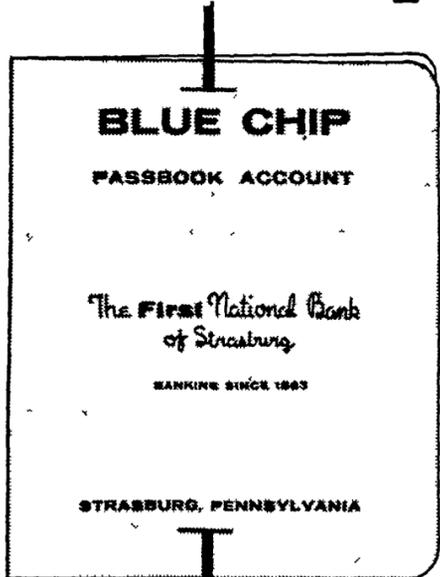
would have to jell with the difficult relationships such policies might have with agricultural policy, international trade and programs, and the question of when decisions are best made nationally or locally.

Yes. A national nutrition policy could be important indeed. So important that it should be decided by representatives of all segments of our society.

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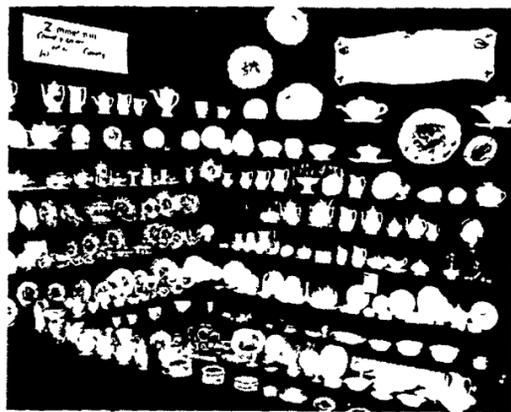
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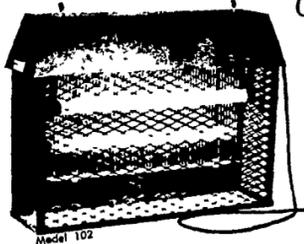


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