Carter suggests free food stamps

WASHINGTON, D.C. - President Jimmy Carter reportedly favors giving food stamps to eligible persons free of charge, an idea which is being backed by Agriculture Secretary Robert Bergland.

Supporters of the idea, including Carter and Bergland, claim that the proposed measure would tighten eligibility standards and reduce fraud. Bergland claims the Carter program would cost no more than the existing one, at first, but skeptics note that government spending

Steppingstone Museum opens today

pingstone Museum in Harford County, Maryland, located at the corner of Rt. 136 and Macton Road, midway between Dublin and Whiteford, opens today for its eighth season.

Stepping stone Museum is a unique Harford County institution, the largest and most active museum in the county devoted to our country's past. It was founded by the late J. Ed-mund Bull "that we shall remember where we came from and that we shall be able to look intelligently into the future".

non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of rural arts and crafts of the nineteeneth and early twentieth century and is operated and staffed by volunteers, members of the Steppingstone Museum Association.

Five buildings house a collection of over 14,000 artifacts and depict how our forefathers lived and worked a hundred and more years ago. There are rooms arranged as a turn of the century rural home and shops which contain the tools of the old-time broomaker, joiner and wood turner, leathermaker, plumber, tinsmith, cooper, slater, spinner, weaver, and other

The architect's office and

STREET, Md. - Step- carpenter's tools are from the original collection of the founder, Mr. Bull. A scale model of a nineteenth century barn shows methods construction materials used.

One building has a doll collection and toys of years ago as well as displays of quilting, lace and other fancy-work of the housewife. There is a traditional blacksmith shop where periodic demonstrations are given.

Steppingstone Museum is open Saturday and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m., May to mid-October, with members of the Association on hand to guide visitors through the various buildings and Visitors exhibits. "Steppingstone" make a small donation to help defray operational costs of the museum.

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on food stamps was ten times greater in fiscal year 1976 than it was in fiscal 1970.

Opponents of the free food stamps argue that the socalled "poorest of the poor" already are included in the food stamp program because persons with net incomes below \$30 per month don't have to pay. They state flatly that the Carter proposal would turn the program into another giveaway project.

The Carter proposal on food stamps is just one segment of policies which are designed to overhaul the nation's welfare system. Last Monday Carter proposed a total overhaul of the U.S. welfare system.

Calling the system "worse than we thought," and that the present welfare programs should be scrapped entirely and a totally new system implemented, Carter promises to have legislative proposals to implement the new system by the first week in August. He will be consulting first with legislative leaders in each of the 50 states.

As with the food stamp program, the White House

maintains that the proposed new system won't cost any more than the present one, which is now budgeted at \$23.6 billion for fiscal 1978.

"If the new legislation can be adopted in early 1978, an additional three years will be required to implement the program" Carter said. His plan is to replace the present system with programs which will provide jobs for those who can work, cash for those who can't and income tax credits for the working poor..

The President also favors reducing local and state expenditures for welfare programs, but is stopping short of a complete federal take-over. The programs should be simpler and easier to administer," the President said at a news conference, "and there should be incentives to be honest and to eliminate fraud."

Under present programs, it actually pays some families to go on welfare, or for the husband to leave his family. In some cases, the differences in income can amount to more than \$1000 per year.

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