SCHOOL LUNCH PROTEST

Citizens in furor over 97,000 kids to go hungry

By VAL HYMES

Governor Marvin Mandel has appealed to President Nixon and the United States Senate to reinstate the $4 million in federal funds for school lunch programs for Maryland's needy children.

The Department of Agriculture's decision to limit the school luncheon through new regulations last month has caused a furor in educational and political circles across the nation.

Maryland officials predict the new rules will affect 97,000 or more children, as it cuts the allotment from the nearly 60 cents per lunch the State expected to spend, to 35 cents.

The battle to restore program saw a victory for proponents in the U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee Wednesday.

The committee voted 8 to 5 to require the administration to spend more money for free or reduced-price school lunches. Four Republicans and one Democratic opposed the measure.

William G. Sykes, head of the Model Cities Agency and newest member of the State Board of Education, called the proposed cut "disastrous."

"For many years," Sykes said, "we have fought to get these funds increased so more children would be fed at least one hot meal a day. Now we find we may not even be able to feed those we fed last year."

The State board member estimated that as many as 16,000 children in Baltimore City's model neighborhood area will be affected by the new regulations.

The cutting of the program will be "particularly harmful to poor children and to black children," he said, "because it has been demonstrated that in many cases that lunch is the only hot meal they get."

Governor Mandel telegraphed the President to ask him to intercede "on behalf of 97,000 hungry Maryland children in the attempts by your Office of Management and Budget and the Department of Agriculture to reduce the level of federal contributions to the school lunch program."

The telegram added that "in Maryland we have learned that hunger is a corrupting classmate and this State government has met its responsibility to its young people.

"For the federal government to abandon an essential part of its responsibility by reducing funding would jeopardize the future of millions of young people for whom a decent education might be the key to self-sufficiency and productive citizenship."

The Governor also telegraphed Georgia Sen. Herman E. Talmadge, who with 44 other senators has asked President Nixon to scrap the new rules. Wednesday, Senator Talmadge said he was "strengthening" his joint resolution requiring the Department of Agriculture to come up with the funds "necessary to assure every needy child free or reduced price lunches this year."

Talmadge is chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture.

DOUBLE BLOW

A spokesman for the State Department of Education, which saw that a letter and application for the free or reduced-price lunches went to every Maryland parent, called the new rules "a double blow."

The Maryland educators had hoped to expand the program this year and had already announced new family income levels to include more children in the program.

The State's new eligibility requirements raised the allowed annual income by $720 to $4,440.

The number of children who applied for food assistance will not be available until later in October.

In a related move, the Maryland Food Committee urged Marylanders to write their congressmen and U.S. senators to appeal the decision.

Mrs. Suan P. Tippett, president of the committee, estimates that as many as 168,000 Maryland children are eligible and in need of help.

Maryland law requires the state to have meal programs in all schools, so the state may find itself holding the full bill for the school lunches. Last year, the federal government put in $4.6 million and the state added 2 million.

Mrs. Tippett called the cutback "an effort to affect the federal economy through children," as she pointed out that President Nixon had promised in May, 1970, that every hungry child would be receiving school lunches by last Thanksgiving.

O-T. 13

Public school administrators and supervisors association

Public School Administrations and Supervisors Association of Baltimore City holds pre-convention dinner honoring retiring administrators and supervisors from 6 to 10:30 p.m. a Eudowood Gardens, 1267 Eudowood Plaza, Towson. The $7.00 subscription includes cocktails, dinner, gifts, parking, checking service and live music.

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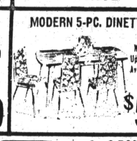

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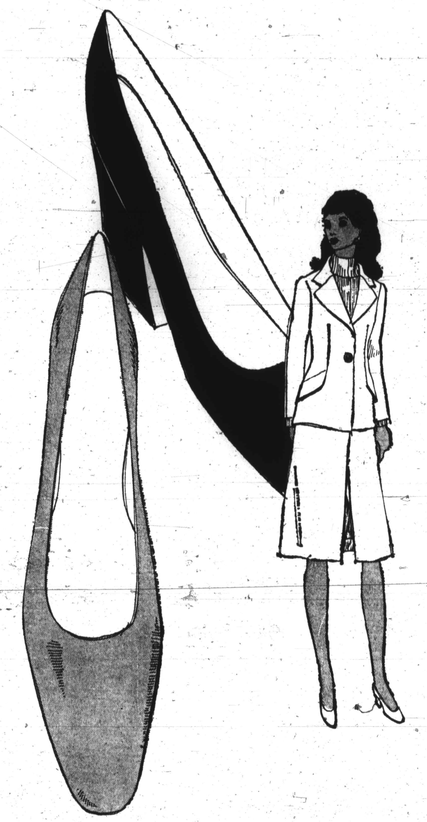

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EARL KOGER (L) presents citations to Dennis C. Crosby, president of the Baltimore Teachers Union, Local No. center; and to William Adams, who heads the Public School Teachers Association, at Frontiers' banquet.

FREDERICK NUNLEY, president of the Business Men's League of Baltimore, (R) accepted citation from James E. Nix at Frontiers' Awards Banquet.

THE BALTIMORE CLUB of Frontiers International presented citations to organizations and individuals at the annual awards banquet, Thursday evening. In panels, from left: Armstead Jenkins presents plaque to Franklin Parker (r) cited as "Yorkfellow of the Year;" Dale G. Lee, makes citations to Lloyal Randolph for Upton Planning Committee and to Samuel T. Daniels for the A.M.E. Church and Prince Hall Masons Development Co; and Milton E. Branch, Jr. to Vernon Sheffey, executive director of the Lafayette Square Community Center.

Girl, 16, guilty of manslaughter

Miss Felicia Mae Mitchell, 16, 200 block N. Aisquith St., was found guilty of manslaughter in a one-day murder trial on Monday, Sept. 27, before Criminal Court Judge Joseph C. Howard.

Miss Mitchell changed her earlier plea from not guilty of murder to guilty of manslaughter on the day of her trial in the death of Wade Ash, 16, 100 block N. Central Ave.

According to police reports, Miss Mitchell stated the victim and his cousin, known only as "Bunny," came to her home while intoxicated on Nov. 2, last year.

Reportedly, Miss Mitchell was washing dishes when Mr. Ash gave her a loaded gun and said "Shot me."

Police reveal Miss Mitchell admitted firing the gun and shooting Mr. Ash in the chest.

As the victim staggered and fell, Miss Mitchell revealed "Bunny" grabbed the gun and escaped before police could arrive.

A sentence of probation will be entered in the case, according to court files, pending reports from probation authorities.

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