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Comments on PL 420 report.

There is general agreement with the content of the committee report and the conclusions reached. Some specific exceptions to some of the recommendations are made however.

The intent is not to get into a prolonged philosophical discourse on the merits and shortcomings of the Title II program but some general comments are thought to be appropriate before getting to specific suggestions.

A Title II program can make significant contributions toward achieving our objectives and it should be continued. There is a need to modify the program by reducing the variety of commodities and to improve its implementation by better planning, coordination and control.

The conclusion that there is better control and less waste or sales in the institutional side is not necessarily so. They can and do sell just as easily and actually easier because they have a concentration of commodities with which to deal. Every institution can use funds for purchasing of other support items and the easiest way to get the funds is to sell the Title II food items. What is essential is to see that their needs are verified and the amounts issued not be in excess. Periodic reviews must be made to determine changes in requirements.

It is easier to talk about what should be done to make the program more effective but as in any program in this country or anywhere else the administrative capacity of the agencies involved must be considered and requirements and expectations have to be based upon a practical assessment of what is possible under the circumstances.

A most of the sales of Title II commodities are brought about by issuing too much of an item at one time that is in excess to the immediate needs or involved problems of storage.

Smaller packaging is needed instead of 100 pound bags and two gallon cans. Commodities should go to those with a real need who have no other alternative source to call upon. More coordination is necessary among all agencies involved. There must be periodic reviews of needs and adjustments in amounts provided as determined by such reviews and we should not hesitate to make reduction when they are indicated as being appropriate.

The point whether Title II is considered a food supplement or payment as wages for services rendered is immaterial and is a one sided discussion because the person receiving the food is either ready and willing to fully utilize what is received or will sell or barter for what is needed most to sustain themselves. The recipient is usually not concerned with intent of issue but with being practical in making the best use of it and to him selling or swapping may be the answer.

Proper administration of the program involves a lot of effort on the part of everyone involved. There is neither the capacity nor inclination to put forth that amount of effort so involved is a continuing education requirement to try to make the most from a situation that is far short of being fully satisfactory. There are many examples of commodities that were strange to the diet, being accepted and used properly when the proper use was demonstrated to the recipients. The fact that an item is strange need not automatically exclude it from use in the program. The educational process is slow and tedious but is an essential part of program accomplishment.

There follows now specific comments concerning recommendations.

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Voluntary Agencies can assist in Economic Development but the overall responsibility for food for Work and Livestock production should belong to the GVN. Economic development in a post war situation will need and will receive more GVN control.

IX A. 3 Page 34

Agree with change to his recommendation (par 2a of memo). Self Help should be continued. There have been many excellent examples of the use of Title II food items in stimulating self help activities that other wise would not have been done. This was particularly true in the Montagnard areas. Title II is of more value in the food

deficit provinces of this region. The degree of proper use of the food to obtain the greatest benefit was in proportion to the attention given by US and GVN authorities. Projects to be supported should be on a selective basis. Both now and particularly in the post war period this type of food support would be of great importance in rural development in such areas as road construction, irrigation system, and reforestation.

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not

Feel that Title II rice should be provided but that piasters be issued for purchase of rice through regular commercial sources.

IX C 13 Page 42

Title II corn for animal feed should be deleted and all animal feed should be provided through Title I. The private animal feed industry is developing nicely and will be able to meet the needs. If emergency assistance is needed then piasters should be given by MHSWR or emergency loans granted by ADB.