

## SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Minutes of Meeting - March 17, 1975

The ninth meeting of the Committee on Education was held on March 17, 1975 at 3:00 p.m., Room 323.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Richard H. Bryan  
 Senator Schofield  
 Senator Blakemore  
 Senator Foote  
 Senator Neal  
 Senator Sheerin  
 Senator Young

OTHERS PRESENT: See Exhibit A

A.B. 229 - Permits school districts to make agreements involving preparation of hot lunches for persons 60 years of age or older.

Assemblyman John Polish spoke in favor of A.B. 229. Mr. Polish stated that "after visiting and seeing what this does for senior citizens, I can't see how anyone can turn down this elderly group." On fixed, limited income, many do not have a chance to get one square meal a day.

Senator Foote asked why, on line 3, it reads that "The state board of education shall:..." Senator questioned why a learning institution would be involved in lunch programs. Mr. Hanson advised that since they are the custodians in seeing how the lunch program is run, they should have a voice in the performance of such a program. They have to certify to the Department of Agriculture that funds are being distributed properly. They are audited as well as the school districts; therefore, if anything is wrong, they are held jointly responsible. Mr. Hanson further stated that they have no authority over the school districts as to whether or not they carry out this program. Also, the bill states that they "shall cooperate" rather than "shall provide". Mr. Hanson stated that they strongly support the bill as written.

Senator Foote questioned why the age of 60 is used in this bill. Linda Botts, Division of Aging Services, advised that 60 years old is the age that is used in Title VII program. Furthermore, most people are still working when they are under 60, and problems seem to begin at 60. Ms. Botts further stated that the senior citizens themselves would pay the cost of the lunch. This bill is aimed mainly at the small counties where Title VII is not in effect. (See Exhibit B for handout from Ms. Botts).

Mr. Joe Braswell, Native American Elders United, stated that he would support this bill on behalf of the Indian people and that it would be for the benefit of the community. Mr. Braswell feels that the more you can tie the schools in with all segments of a community, the more the schools will be the center of activity.

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Mr. Braswell advised that the age of 60 was set by the federal government, and therefore does not feel that it could be used as the basis for discriminatory charges.

Mr. Dick Wright, Washoe County School District, stated that they support this bill and they have been doing this for two years in Washoe County. Mr. Wright felt that perhaps line 19 should be amended to state "locations designated by the Board". Senator Young feels this would be unnecessary since the bill indicates that an agreement will be entered into and this agreement will take care of such matters.

Mr. Orvis E. Reil, Carson Chapter AARP, feels that this bill should be passed because at the present time there is nothing that authorizes the school districts to carry out this program.

Senator Schofield moved "Do Pass"; seconded by Senator Neal; unanimously carried.

Being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Sharon W. Maher, Secretary

ROOM # \_\_\_\_\_  
DAY \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME ORGANIZATION ADDRESS

Joe Braswell Native American Elders United Carson City

George Archer American Assn of Retired People Carson City

B. L. Forsythe " " " " Dayton

Jewel Forsythe " " " " " "

Ruth Noot Carson City Senior Citizens Center Carson City

Larry Dunphy Franciscan Center Las Vegas

Kenneth Hansen Dept. of Educ Carson

Ingie Doyle American Assn of Retired Persons Carson City

Saul A. Doyle, Jr. " " " " " "

Orvis E. Reil - Carson Chapter AARP - Carson City News

Nell Laird AARP/NRTA Joint Legislative Committee Dayton Nev

Mildred Thahed, AARP Senior Citizen of Co. County, P.O. Box 197 Minden

Elizabeth Pierce Senior Center Gardnersville

JOHN PIERCE DIRECTOR SENIOR CITIZENS BOX 712 MINDEN NEVADA 89424 Sparks

Wesley H. Dams

Mildred Archer AARP Carson City Senior Citizens Center Carson City

John R. Kimball member 16 county courts common agency Silver Queen Inn

Anna Szarynski 709 E. Telegraph St Carson City

Pete Keefe, interested guest, Legis. Dir. Aux. V.W.V. of Dept. of Nav

Diana Ballen Lake Humboldt 132 CC Shinkitsjealhang

John Pohl McGill, Nevada Carson Chapter

Dick Wright WCSID 425 E 9th St Reno

Bob Best N.S.S.B.A. 4751E Hwy 50 East Carson

Richard Morgan NSFA

Linda Batts Div for Aging Services 201 So. Fall CC

Helen & Henry Poludnak Sr Citizens Center AARP Carson City

Rae Ziller Dayton, Mo. Sr. Citizens Center

ROOM # \_\_\_\_\_  
DAY \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

*Mrs. Leland Johnson Rayton, New*

# CARSON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89701

1402 WEST KING STREET - P.O. BOX 603 - TELEPHONE (702) 882-6894

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- Mr. LeRoy Rupert, Member

Mr. John Hawkins, Superintendent

March 7, 1975

Mr. John McSweeney, Administrator  
 Division for Aging Services  
 Union Federal Building  
 308 North Curry Street  
 Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Mr. McSweeney:

The Carson City School District supports legislation which would permit the use of school district school lunch facilities for Senior Citizens and school buses for Senior Citizens activities.

The only qualification on such use would be not to interfere with student programs or involve additional costs to the school district.

If I personally can be of any assistance in legislation regarding senior citizens and school bus or school lunchroom facilities please contact me.

We are looking forward to the development of programs of assistance to this age group.

Sincerely yours,

*John Hawkins*  
 John Hawkins,  
 Superintendent

JH/lsc

**RECEIVED**  
 Aging Services  
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*Exhibit B*

# MORE THAN A MEAL

two programs provide companionship and hot meals for the elderly

## It's off to school for Seattle's elderly

By *Benedicto Montoya*

WHEN YOU CONSIDER that Seattle, Washington, has 230 overcast days a year, it's hard to believe the people there are optimists. Yet optimism is as prevalent in the city as the much maligned rain, especially among the staff of an ambitious new city sponsored program called SPICE.

SPICE, an acronym for School Programs Involving Our City's Elderly, is designed to provide food, health and recreation services to the elderly through the city schools. And one important aim is to involve participants in school activities as well as the SPICE program itself.

Seattle began SPICE at a dozen neighborhood elementary schools in October. The city selected schools that were located near concentrations of elderly residents and could be reached by public transportation.

SPICE's food service component began the three-pronged effort. The program uses the city's school food service capability to provide nutritious hot meals for persons 60 and over. The meals are basically the same served schoolchildren under the National School Lunch Program.

Although not designed as a pro-

gram for people with low incomes, meal prices are low enough to attract these individuals—the full cost of the meal is 70 cents. (The children's meal is 45 cents.)

Since all 12 schools are authorized to accept food stamps, elderly food stamp recipients can pay for the meals with their coupons.

According to SPICE director Bob Barr, participation by elderly food stamp recipients has been disappointingly low, although overall participation has been more encouraging. At the end of the first month, the program was serving an average of 675 people.

"When we began planning SPICE we talked in terms of serving 50 people per day at each of the 12 sites by the end of the first year. These were optimistic figures," Barr said. "Realistically we are talking about an average of 15 people per day per site . . . if, after 2 years, participation has not gradually increased, then we are in trouble."

Seattle's Mayor Wes Uhlman, a prime mover behind the city-sponsored program, shares Bob Barr's optimism.

"A meal program just can't carry it," he said. "Once the health, recreation and elderly involvement in the school and program begin, participation should increase."

To help publicize the project, the mayor recorded radio and television spots promoting SPICE.

"It's no problem to reach the organized groups of elderly," he points out. "What's tough is getting to those who are alone, who don't participate in anything."

For those people more difficult to reach, door belling has begun. Barr is currently trying to get a Washington State National Guard unit to spend a weekend canvassing neighborhoods to spread the word about SPICE.

The idea behind the food component of the project is not new—a

number of cities have food programs for the elderly.

"What is innovative about SPICE," explained Lee Pasquarella, special assistant to Mayor Uhlman, "is the combination of food, health, recreation, and interaction between kids and elderly that will be offered in neighborhood schools." Pasquarella added that SPICE is also unique in being entirely funded by city revenue.

Seattle is a city of about 500,000 people, 98,000 of whom are 60 or older. Mr. Barr said that while more money is now available for services to the elderly than ever before, no one agency has enough to adequately meet the needs of the elderly.

"There's a bit of money here for recreation, a bit there for health services, and some over there for food service," the director said. "Our idea was to bring all this together under one program. Then, rather than using large portions of the money for facilities and hardware, use existing facilities—the schools—thereby freeing the money for what it was intended, serving people."

The park department now puts money budgeted for senior adult recreation into SPICE, providing specialists who organize programs for the elderly in the schools. The health department also plans to provide services to the elderly through SPICE.

When approached by the city, the school district reacted enthusiastically to the idea of using school facilities for SPICE.

"Everyone thought it was a great idea," said Ken Baer, manager of food service for the Seattle public schools. "We have given full cooperation and really want it to work."

"We have a lot to learn about serving the elderly," he added. "We've had some complaints—institutional food service always does—and while we can't create new menus for the elderly, we are willing to make adjustments to the school lunch menu."

For instance, when the schools serve carrot sticks to the children, they offer the elderly salads. If tacos, corndogs, pizza or similar foods are on the menu, schools substitute convenience foods for the elderly.

The food service managers are presently making an effort to identify foods generally unpopular with the elderly participants. This will give the cafeterias enough flexibility to make substitutions to satisfy nearly everyone involved.

"All we ask," said the food service manager, "is that they try our menus. There are many things that the elderly just think they won't like but are really quite acceptable."

Many SPICE participants expect pizza to be spicy and crunchy, but

the pizza the schools serve is mildly seasoned and has a soft crust.

Meals planned for students can be easily adapted for the elderly, according to Betty Marcelynas, nutritionist for the Seattle school district, who has helped school cafeteria managers adjust their menus. The dietary requirements are similar for both groups—fewer calories and more protein than normal adult requirements.

Although SPICE has not begun a formal program involving students and the elderly, the kids have been very receptive to the older folks. At some schools, the elementary school-children act as hosts and hostesses to their elderly visitors, showing them to their seats and carrying their trays. At others, the children have made

welcome signs and placemats and invited the elderly into their classrooms.

In an effort to promote interaction, SPICE staffers are planning projects like STEP—Services to Elderly People—in which junior high school students can volunteer 100 hours of services to the elderly and receive one semester of credit.

SPICE encourages the elderly to become involved in school activities by serving as teacher aides and lunch-  
eon assistants. There is also a great emphasis on involvement in the SPICE program itself.

Mr. Barr and his small staff are working to involve established senior citizens organizations. The American Association of Retired Persons has encouraged their chapters to hold their



Following lunch in the cafeteria at Adams School, SPICE participants enjoy activities sponsored by the city's Park and Recreation Department, including clay modeling.

monthly meetings and eat at the schools. SPICE has asked church groups that meet regularly to come to the schools and have lunch. The response has been very good.

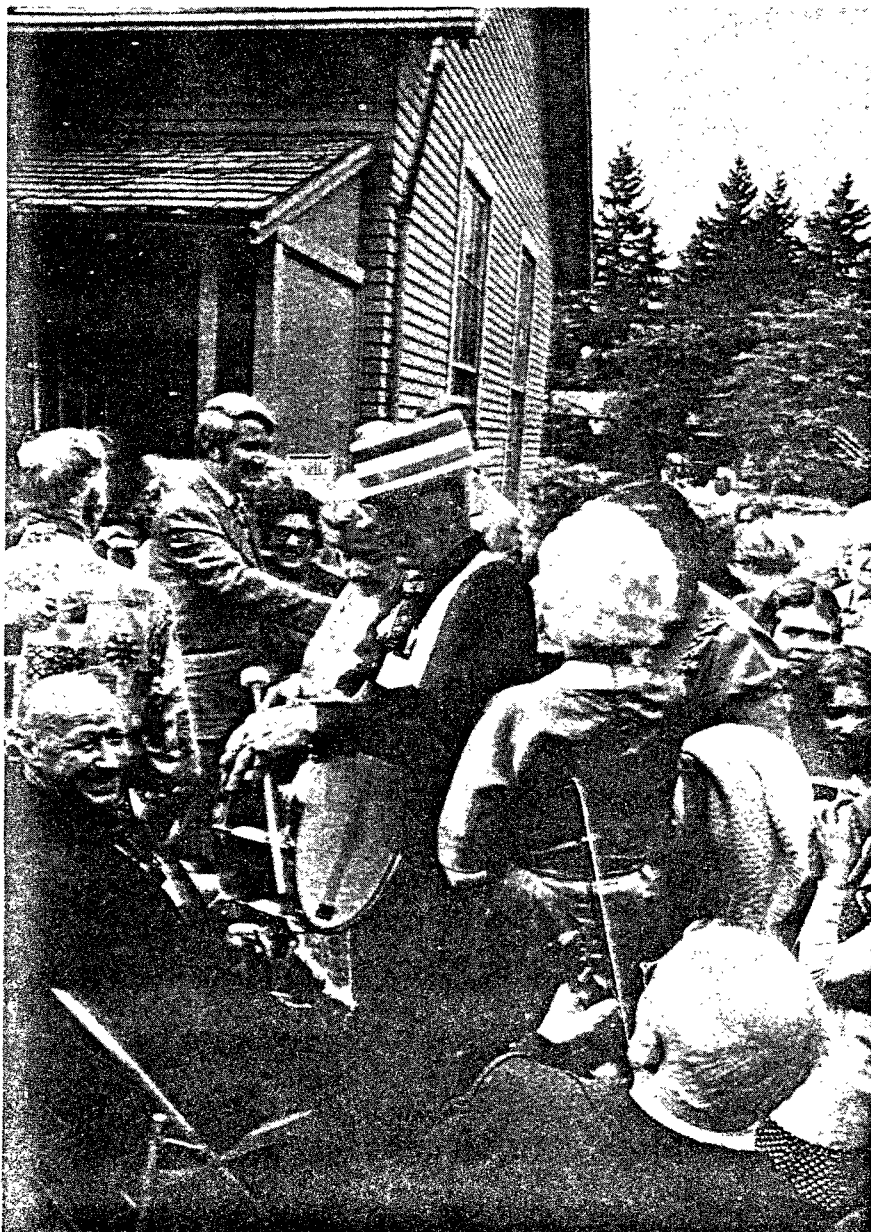
Eventually, the SPICE staff plans to turn the whole program over to the elderly and just monitor financing and help with technical problems.

"The program is for seniors and is going to be run by seniors," Mr. Barr explained. "We are going to form advisory committees, composed of, say, the school principal, a member of the board of a senior center, and

just people who live in the neighborhood and participate in SPICE."

Food service manager Ken Baer believes that each of the 12 schools could feed 100 elderly citizens a day and he hopes the present volume will increase. "The greater the volume," he said, "the greater will be the menu choice.

"The schools really want this to work," he added. "Our cafeteria managers are excited about the program and are going out of their way to see that the elderly are satisfied." ☆



City dignitaries attended the SPICE opening, which featured the Senior Swingers Band.

## Communal dining in Pennsylvania

By Herb Strum

GOOD FOOD. Good friends. Good talk.

The raucous demands of the three Musketeers?

No. Rather, they are the simple unassuming requests of a part of American society—senior citizens who are alone.

Governments and social service organizations are beginning to respond to the need of filling the void at the end of these long and full lives.

One heralded project in helping the elderly has been the establishment of communal dining centers where senior citizens can enjoy both nutritious meals and the companionship of peers.

"It is more than just a hot meal we're offering," said Sandy Shuman, site manager of a senior citizens center at St. John's Lutheran Church in Easton, Pennsylvania. "It is an interlude, a place to come and put your mind off your loneliness and age."

The impetus for centers like St. John's came in 1972 from the Older Americans Act, and centers opened throughout the country.

The program received a boost last year when USDA food stamp regulations were amended to permit senior citizens to pay for their meals