FDD-PST

From: strickp@osceola.k12.fl.us
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2000 9:58 AM
To: fdd-pst@fns.usda.gov
Subject: Food Distribution 2000 Feedback

I would like to respond to several points in the Food Distribution 2000 report:

1. Update of product specifications. I think this can be a good thing, but care should be taken that any change improves the product and does not reduce the standard of the product.

2. Allow vendors to use commercial labels: I feel this would be a big mistake and oppose this move. Commodities need to retain their identity. This leaves too much room for abuse of the program and there are those who would abuse it. It makes it difficult, if not impossible, for the local user to keep track of the products. It would create tremendous problems in emergeny feeding and there is more and more of this in Florida.

3. Expand full substitutability of commodity product: This change compromises the safety of our food supply. The current method ensures that we get what we pay for and that it is manufactured with the specified ingredients and under the safest procedures.

4. Provide computer connectivity to the school level: I think this is a pipe-dream. By the time it could be done, the technology would have changed tremendously and the soft and hardware would be obsolete. Exchange of information should be channeled through the state level and not bypass this group.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this report.

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