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### Letter to New Jersey constituent

Florence P. Dwyer

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AGRICULTURE FOOD STAMPS

September 30, 1968

[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

Thank you for your September 23 letter objecting to the distribution of Food Stamps to striking workers.

As you know, the House amended the Food Stamp Authorization Act to specifically ban food stamp distribution to strikers. The Senate version of the legislation, however, was handled as a routine renewal, and did not include such an amendment. In conference Committee, the Conferees agreed to delete the House amendment, and agreed to leave such distribution to the discretion of the administrators of the program. A motion was made on the floor of the House with the Conference report was up for approval to recommit the bill with instructions to the Conferees to include the amendment specifically banning distribution to strikers, but the recomittal motion was defeated in order to enact this legislation.

I voted against recommitment for two reasons. First, present law is silent on this specific point, and there is no requirement that administrators of the program authorize the sale of Food Stamps to striking workers. In fact, determination for eligibility for food stamps is made on the local level, by the local welfare officials, and is based on whether there are any liquid assets held by the individual -- striker or otherwise -- who is applying for Food Stamps. Second, I felt that, this late in the session, a recommitting the bill would, quite probably, kill the bill and I feel very strongly that the Food Stamp Program has benefitted far more individuals than have exploited the program.

Thank you for taking an interest in this matter, and I hope that this explanation will be helpful to you.

Very sincerely,

FLORENCE P. DWYER  
Member of Congress

FPD:B