

Address by Senator Robert Morgan  
Nutrition Policy Conference, McKimmon Center  
NC State University, Raleigh, N. C.  
May 5, 1979

FOR BETTER NUTRITION

It gives me great satisfaction to be here  
today to share in this special event.

Today, I would like to share some brief  
thoughts with you on how this special day was  
conceived and developed. I also would like to share  
with you some thoughts on how I, as your Senator  
view nutrition issues.

Before I begin, let me say that this day is  
the result of much effort and creativity. What

will occur here at the McKimmon Center this morning and at the State Fair Grounds this afternoon really is the recognition by a number of people, both from within and from outside government, of the importance of nutrition and the need of people everywhere to focus on sound nutrition.

I am especially thrilled that North Carolina is the very first state in the nation to have such an event. This is a tribute to individuals such as Fleet Sugg of the Agribusiness Council, Howard Jacobson and Tim Hessla at the Institute of Nutrition, and a large number of people in state

government and in the private sector.

Today's program had its roots in a discussion I had well over six months ago with the Governor and some other individuals. Virtually everyone thought that the fair was a great idea, even though something like this had never been done before. The Governor and I decided to proceed, without the use of public funds, to have the best program we could to focus the attention of the people of this state of sound nutrition.

Thus, the seed was planted for the event that blossoms before us today.

Without question, building proper nutrition is both a challenge and an opportunity. It is a challenge because we know so much that we have not been able to implement in our lives. It is an opportunity because sound nutrition can be the key to our success as a society tomorrow.

As a Senator, I view nutrition from a number of perspectives.

First, nutrition is the product of agriculture. And North Carolina is, of course, an agricultural state. Last year, North Carolina farmers received

nearly \$3 billion for their crops and livestock--only one-third of which came from tobacco. It is clear, then, that the production of nutrition is important to the success of our farming system which is the key to the success of the small towns and communities that give North Carolina so much vitality.

As I said early in my comments, nutrition has profound implications for our society. For too long, we have reacted to problems, instead of anticipating problems. Now, we have conclusive evidence that eight of the ten leading killing

diseases in America can be eliminated or the effects reduced through sound nutrition.

We have two nutrition problems in America.

One problem is that some do not have enough to eat.

North Carolina, I am proud to say, was one of the first states that admitted it had a problem with hunger. Federal, state and local programs have been designed to address this problem and, to a large degree, food deficiency has been reduced.

The second problem is just as profound as hunger. Too many people eat too much or not

enough of the right kinds of foods. This problem can best be addressed through sound information and education. I was proud to have been a sponsor of the nutrition education program that now is in place in every public school in North Carolina.

In my short time today, I have tried to outline nutrition policy as I view this area. There are things we as a society can do and have done through government. But I would argue that the primary burden today lies with families and individual citizens. Nutrition, we are learning,

is not a fad, but a crucial ingredient in a socially and economically productive life.

So, I would like to leave each one of you individually and all of you collectively with the thought that what we do is up to us and today is but a beginning. Thank you very much.