

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE



MOP-UP OPERATION - Miss Hospitality contestants cool off in the shade after posing for pictures in near-100-degree heat in Little Rock, Ark. Mayola Satterfield, right, uses a borrowed handkerchief to wipe perspiration off the chin of Paula Toustineau, left. (UPI)

Motivating Teen-Agers

Speaker on Food Motivation Knows What He's Talking About

By DICK WEST
Washington—(UPI)—There is presently in progress here a national food distribution conference, which seems to have some connection with the national distribution of food. What attracted me to the conference was a notice that one of the sessions would include a panel discussion on "motivating teenagers."

It so happens that I have been in a position to observe the behavior of teen-agers at close range in recent years. But nothing in my experience indicated that they ever needed any motivation where food was concerned. In fact, quite the opposite. Around my house, the teen-agers pick up where the termite leaves off. Being curious to see just who might be trying to motivate them, I stopped by the conference and listened to a couple of the panel members. It turned out they were talking about the

school lunch program. Apparently, the program hasn't been going over too big in high schools, anyway, not as well as in the lower grades. Teen-agers have been reluctant to participate and so a little motivation seemed in order. One of the panel members was Dr. Francis Ianni of the U.S. Office of Education, who undertook to explain what food motivation was all about. Teen-agers, said Ianni, tend to eat what they have been taught to eat at home. Right away I figured he didn't

know what he was talking about.

It may be that someone taught the teen-agers in my household to eat the stuff they do, but it certainly wasn't dear old daddykins. Or good old mommykins either, for that matter.

Ianni added, however, that the greatest influence on the diet of a teen-ager is the diet of other teen-agers. That proved he did know what he was talking about after all.

A small child allowed to select his own food would pick a balanced diet, he continued. But free choice in a high school lunch program would boil down to pizzas and coca-cola, he said.

"Man shares with the pig the distinction of being able to eat anything," Ianni observed.

True enough, and I don't envy the lunch program planners their task of trying to change high school dietary patterns. I'd sooner try to motivate a teen-age pig.

Washington—(UPI)—America's senior citizens' income is well below the national average and it shows up in the quality of their housing, according to the government.

A report on "Senior Citizens and How They Live" finds that more than 19 per cent of the 16 million dwelling units housing persons 60 and older "may be characterized as substandard." These houses and apartments "lacked private bath, toilet or hot running water or were structurally deficient."

Sub-titled "The National Scene," the report is the first of six statistical studies being prepared by the Housing and Home Finance Agency from data compiled in the 1960 census of housing. The census was conducted by having every fourth household throughout the nation answer a "detailed questionnaire on living conditions, size of family, age of family members, income and other matters."

Reflected Low Income
The agency said the "high

proportion of deficient units occupied by households with one or more elderly persons plainly reflected senior citizens' "relatively low income."

The 19 per cent ratio of "deficient" units compared with 17 per cent for the entire population, reported in the overall results of the housing census.

Following are the key statistics on elderly persons' incomes given by the housing agency: half the elderly persons heading households had a 1959 income of \$1,900 a year or more — and half less. It "was only about two-thirds of the median income received by all persons 14 years of age and over."

Because not all elderly persons choose to maintain their own household, combined income of all household members gives a better indication of what older persons could afford to pay for shelter, the agency said. The median el-

derly household income of \$3,300 fell well short of the \$5,000 median for all households.

Not Surprising
This was not surprising, the agency said, considering that at least some household members exceeded the usual age for fulltime employment.

It is unlikely, the agency speculated, that elderly persons who rent need higher incomes than those who own their own home. Yet, renter households had a median income of \$2,400 as against

\$3,800 for owner households. The report focused special attention on the income of the 3.8 million single, elderly persons who live alone. Their median income was \$1,200 for renters and \$1,100 for owners. These figures show that "many of them cannot afford decent housing," the agency asserted.

It suggested that many persons living alone in a house they own might prefer to rent smaller quarters but lack the income to pay for "suitable rental housing."

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An exception, the report noted, occurred for older persons who lived in a household headed by someone under 60. Thirteen per cent of these households were "overcrowded" (the 1.01 standard). In many of these instances "overcrowding has resulted as one or more elderly persons have moved in with children in homes ill-equipped to accommodate extra persons."

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