



HOW TO GET THEM

FOOD STAMPS, CONCEIVED ORIGINALLY in 1964 as a sort of political *hors d'oeuvre* for urban Congressmen to whet their appetite for the Administration's agricultural price support bill, attracted little public notice until the "undeserving poor", i.e., communards and "hippies" began to apply for them.

Immediately Senatorial breasts began to swell with indignation. Hard-working Congressional staffers probed the original statute in an effort to construct a legal sieve. One that would let the food stamp law through to the short-haired poor but stop somehow before they reached the households of the communards and hippies. Finally about a year ago, Senator Spessard Holland (D., Fla.) announced to his colleagues the new agreed-upon gimmick. Holland decided to redefine the term "household" to "exclude households consisting of unrelated individuals under the age of sixty, such as hippie communes." "This," added Holland rather gratuitously, "is a good provision of the bill." Predicted the Assistant Secretary of Agriculture soon afterwards, "This will take care of those communes."

Well, in Berkeley, the communards began a counter-attack. They've pulled together an *ad hoc* committee to "End Food Stamp Famine." With surprising amounts of support from black people, ordinary poor whites and newly unemployed people, the communards have organized soup lines, sought injunctions against the food stamp regulations and begun distribution of an increasingly notorious pamphlet—*How to Get Food Stamps*—because it enables just about anyone to get food stamps regardless of age, income, or life-style. All you have to do, they say, is read the easy-to-follow instructions. These are valid for Governor Reagan's California—the state with the most rigid food stamp guidelines in the country. The Berkeley food stamp conspirators feel that, if they can beat Ronnie's welfare cops, you can get around their counterparts in such relatively civilized places as Mississippi, Governor Maddox's Georgia and Rocky's New York. In other words, guidelines vary from state to state depending on the political heat and the strength of local food stamp conspiracies. For the most com-

plete information on how to get food stamps, however, you should check with your local office of the National Welfare Rights Organization.

[REQUIREMENTS]

There are seven basic eligibility requirements: residence in the county, cooking or food preparation facility, household, tax dependency, work registration, resources and income.

1. Residence (63-302.1) An applicant must live in the county in which he or she applies. But, "intent to remain permanently in the State will not be a condition of eligibility and no durational residence requirement may be imposed."

2. Cooking Facility (63-302.2) An applicant must have facilities for preparing food (unless he is eligible for delivered meals). But, "this facility need not be conventional kitchen, with formal cooking arrangements." A hot plate or other source of heat may be enough.

3. Household (63-302.3) An applicant must either be living alone or in a related household to be eligible for food stamps. A person is considered to be living alone if he or she is a roomer, boarder, or live-in attendant. A person is considered to be living with others if they are a living unit. This is the anti-commune provision, but the regulations leave a large area of confusion as to how a household should be characterized. "It is possible to divide a structure into separate living quarters (apartments). Sharing of kitchen and bathing facilities does not preclude separate living quarters."

It used to be that the most important issue was whether there were separate food storage shelves for each person in the cabinets and refrigerator. This was based on the Administration's theory that a commune consisted of people who ate out of the same bowl. More sophisticated theorists have decided that a commune consists of people who sleep in the same bed, so it is important to establish separate sleeping areas. But, "*in no case will individuals who purchase and prepare food together be allowed to apply as separate households.*"

If you are not living alone, you must be a member of a related household in order to receive food stamps.

Related means related by blood, affinity, or through a legal relationship. The regulation goes on to state that "The intent of Congress is . . . to 'prohibit food stamp assistance to communal families of unrelated individuals.' " However, "A man and woman living as man and wife and accepted as such by the community in which they live" are eligible for food stamps. (63-302.321).

People under 18 can be considered part of the household if they live with an adult who is acting as legal guardian or performs duties and responsibilities of the parent.

4. Tax Dependency (63-302.6) An applicant who has been claimed as a tax dependent within a year of application is not eligible for food stamps unless the tax-paying household is eligible for food stamps. The Welfare Department will send out a questionnaire to parents in order to verify tax dependency if the facts make it seem likely that the applicant was claimed as a dependent. This provision is aimed directly at students trying to live away from home.

5. Work Registration (63-302.7) An applicant between 18 and 65 years, including persons not working because of strike or lockout, must register with HRD unless: a) they have the responsibility for the care of dependent children or of incapacitated adults; b) they are students registered at least half-time; c) they are already working at least 30 hours a week; d) they are physically or mentally incapable of engaging in gainful employment; e) they are self-employed at a full-time job.

You do not have to take a job which HRD offers if: a) the wages offered are below Federal minimum wages and State minimum wage regulations; b) you're required to join, resign from or refrain from any legitimate labor organization; c) if the work is at a place on strike or a lockout; d) you must spend more than 25 percent of the work time just getting there and back.

6. Resources (63-302.8) A household with everyone under the age of 60 can have up to \$1500 in cash, bank accounts, stocks and bonds. A home and lot, a car, personal effects and household goods, insurance policies, tools needed for employment are not considered as resources.

If you are a student, however, your

assets count as income. This means that money made during the summer and in the bank counts as current income during the school year.

7. Income (62-302.9) The monthly maximum allowable monthly adjusted net income for households not receiving public assistance is as follows:

If your household size is 1, your maximum net income cannot exceed \$170; if there are 2 people, it's \$222; if 3, it's \$293; if 4, it's \$360; if 5, it's \$427; if 6, it's \$493; if 7, it's \$547; if 8, it's \$600; and an additional \$53 for each person above 8.

On April 1st, the ceiling on maximum eligible monthly adjusted net income for one person will be raised to \$180. For two people, to \$230, and for three, \$300. For larger households, the old figures will still apply.

[FAIR HEARINGS]

When the Welfare Department takes any kind of adverse action, you have the right to apply for a fair hearing. If you apply 15 days from the post-marked date of the notice and the issue is based on fact (e.g. they say you aren't living alone; you say you are—you have your own room, separate cooking facilities, etc.), you can continue to receive food stamps on the same basis as before, until you get a decision from the hearing. That is, in *theory* you can. In *practice*, 90 percent of the persons on hearing are denied continuing aid in such cases. But it's still worth it to file immediately after you've been cut off.

A hearing generally takes from 2 to 3 months, and the red tape necessary for one costs the state anywhere between \$500 and \$900 per hearing. You must be notified in writing of the decision and the reason according to law. By all means, request a hearing from your state department of welfare.

[HOW TO BEAT THE SYSTEM]

Unrelated Household Provision. Section your house so that when the case worker comes to see it, all (s)he can see is your room and the kitchen. If the house is not physically set up for this arrangement, try to find one that is (a friend's possibly). A lot of the workers are sympathetic and will try to make it easy for you. You can

help make it easy for them (to make it easy for you) by having a good story already prepared. In the above example, the person shared a kitchen and had separate living quarters—a person going to the kitchen would not have to pass through anyone else's living quarters. Use your imagination to make a plausible arrangement, but it is probably better to say you don't share a kitchen.

Another way is to set up your very own kitchen. A hot plate with some cans and a few pots lying around should be enough (or a Coleman stove). A refrigerator should not be necessary. It is possible to eat without one.

Rent. Seeming to eat together or sleep together is still a no-no according to the Federal guidelines. The job of the welfare investigator is to figure out whether or not you do. The old test employed by HEW anthropologists used to be whether or not you had to go through the bedroom to get to the kitchen. (That's right, going through the bedroom . . .) Increasingly that test is being abandoned. The new test is rent payment. If two people occupied the same living arrangements and paid \$100 month rent and one of the two left, would the other have his or her rent increased? The correct answer, of course, is "No." If you have a friendly landlord, arrange to pay your rent individually.

Another possibility is adoption. A person can be adopted at *any* age. It is best that relationships be worked out by the people involved, as they will probably be difficult to duplicate more than once.

Work Requirements. The work requirements are somewhat meaningless right now since job markets are tight and should remain so indefinitely. You can however always get around the work requirement by trying to fail job interviews unless the job seems worth taking.

Arrive 15 minutes late for the interview, wearing Levi's and munching a hot dog. When you shake hands with the interviewer, drop some mustard on his sleeve. Belch a couple of times, laugh loudly, maybe even fart. Be sure to answer questions as incoherently as you can. When asked about your previous experience, say, "I like making my contacts by phone."

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As Chile offers a new Latin American political model, so Tanzania serves for black African nations, newly free and attempting to radically reform domestic institutions and steer an independent foreign policy. Politics and cultural events will dominate this itinerary, which includes Nairobi in Kenya, for meetings with political representatives, students and workers plus tours; then onto the game preserves at Serengeti and Ngorongoro crater and the Moshe/Arusha areas, finally to dar es Salaam in time for Saba Saba Day, the major national holiday and fair. July 1-22, twenty-one days, about \$1400 from New York.

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A unique introduction to new political controversies: the question of withdrawal from the occupied lands, the effect of several hundred thousand Palestinian Arabs inside the Israeli economy, the growing tensions between Oriental and European Jews and the program of the Israeli left opposition. We will meet with a wide range of political viewpoints, visit artists, journalists, officials, students, stay overnight at a kibbutz, and travel to the Sinai, through the Negev, to Eilat, Sharm el Sheikh, Jerusalem, Galilee, the Golan Heights, Nazareth and the Dead Sea. Late September for 21 days, about \$1000 from New York.

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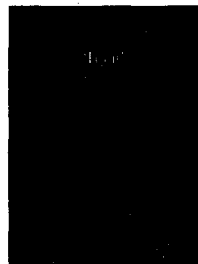
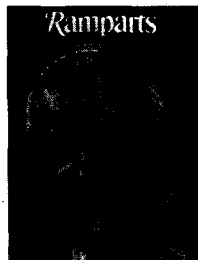
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You Can't Trust Anyone Over 10 Except *Ramparts*



We grew up when America's innocence was ending. The 60s were hard times, and we found ourselves involved in a series of stories that shocked us about as much as they did the rest of the country.

- In 1964, when the FBI and other investigating agencies were unable to bring the killers to justice our reporters recreated the brutal murders of three civil rights workers in a lonely Mississippi field.

- In 1965, as waves of American troops and napalm were washing over the Vietnam countryside, we editorialized in behalf of an NLF victory, documented the horrible mutilations suffered by the children of Vietnam, and tried to give aid and comfort to the militant anti-war movement here at home.

- In 1966, as the Great Debate was beginning over whether or not the U.S. should be in Vietnam, Ramparts showed that it was already a fait accompli: the CIA, the semi-official Vietnam Lobby, and universities like Michigan State having conspired to get us involved there long since.

- In 1967, Ramparts printed an expose on the CIA which if it didn't shake the Johnson administration at least caused it to tremble perceptibly. We showed how the Agency had subverted the National Student Association and kindred institutions and reached into almost every other aspect of American life as well.

- And in 1968, we described the way that US agents had directed the manhunt leading to the capture and execution of Che Guevara, and one of our editors brought home from Cuba the authoritative version of the Guevara Diaries.

We have, in other words, marked our coming of age by crisis in American history. We are 10 years old now, and still raising hell with those out to destroy America. This year, for instance, while the President and Congress were filling the air with confusing and misinformed talk about heroin, we showed how the epidemic now afflicting this country was due directly to the opium trade cultivated in Southeast Asia by the CIA, South Vietnam vice-president Ky, and other symbols of the US presence there.

Like any 10 year old, we are proud of ourselves. If a magazine's job is to change things, however, we've probably failed, for there's no denying that the 70s are proving as tragic as the 60s. But if journalism is supposed to shake up the powers that be, then Ramparts has done its part. "A gadfly to the establishment"—this is what the New York Times called us. The trouble is that a gadfly doesn't sting hard enough. We prefer to think of the magazine as part of the movement for social change that will some day turn things around in this country.

But whatever we are at the ripe old age of 10, growing up to be an important journalistic voice, having an impact on the times, hasn't been easy. The national advertisers who subsidize most magazines have found our stories too controversial.

But our independence is crucial: on top of the rest of this society's problem is the question of whether there will be a "free press" and diversity of opinion by the end of the 70s.

In a time when magazines like Look have been dying or being gobbled up by conglomerates (Psychology Today by Boise Cascade, for example) and when Nixon, Agnew and Their Gang have been seizing on excuses to assault this diminished press, Ramparts has kept the faith. If we have our way, we'll keep it for another 10 years as well.

This is more than an advertisement for ourselves, however. We want you to invest in our family-owned business. We can't tell you for sure what you'll be buying: that depends in large part on what becomes of this country in the next decade. But we can promise to take you to the middle of things and keep you there.

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Micronesian Memories: Paving Over Paradise

There was a lot of murmuring and eyebrow-raising in the Council of Rull. . . . Mike Killian ignored the hubbub and said, "Let's get on with it. Do the people here prefer to have their airport on the reef, or along the ridge?"

It sounded to me like they might not want it at all. Supposing they didn't, I asked Mike—would it be stopped? Mike did not like the question. He glared at me and muttered to Tamaged, the administration's interpreter, "I don't want that translated." Tamaged didn't translate it, but Figirmad did. . . . Killian and the other administration people were really overbearing. To me this jet port looks like a railroad.

MICRONESIA IS AN AMERICAN-ADMINISTERED United Nations Trust Territory. Think of it as an Indian reservation, one scattered across two thousand islands in three million square miles of ocean between Hawaii and the Philippines. The total land area of Micronesia is about seven hundred square miles. The population is a bit over a hundred thousand.

I was there for ten months last year, helping to set up an

Office of Economic Opportunity [OEO] legal aid program. I saw some very lovely scenes: white beaches and green lagoons, waves crashing on reefs at the edge of an ink-blue sea, coconut forests, breadfruit groves, patches of morning glories and wild orchids. In the central Carolines, where I spent most of my time, outrigger canoes with hand-woven sails still ply the horizons. In other parts of the Trust Territory there are cloud-wreathed tropical mountains no man

by Eric Treisman