

ments, this is, indeed, a minor amendment.

Mr. President, the bill before the Senate extends the food stamp program and the purpose of the amendment is to allow food stamp recipients to use stamps to purchase seeds and plants for use in their gardens. The recipients of food stamps would thus be able to use their own initiative to produce fruits and vegetables needed to provide variety and nutritional value for their diets.

While this amendment does broaden the definition of food items which may be purchased with food stamp coupons, I would expect that the food stamp recipients would be able to purchase the seeds and plants they need from grocery stores who are now participating in the food stamp program. I would not expect the Department of Agriculture to undertake the administrative costs of certifying those thousands of additional stores to supply the seeds and plants that food stamp recipients might wish to purchase.

Mr. President, the amendment would allow the food stamp recipient to purchase with his food stamps seeds and plants for the purpose of growing food for consumption by himself and his household. It would allow a person to buy \$1 or \$2 worth of seed or vegetable plants and possibly have available a plot of land and be able to raise \$50 or \$100 worth of food for himself and his family. It would encourage industry on the part of the food stamp recipient and it would be at no cost to the Federal Government.

I have spoken to the manager of the bill, the distinguished Senator from Georgia (Mr. TALMADGE) and also the ranking member of the committee (Mr. CURTIS). I would hope they would offer no objection to the amendment.

Mr. PASTORE. Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

Mr. ALLEN. I am delighted to yield to the Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. PASTORE. Mr. President, I would like very much to be a cosponsor of the amendment with my distinguished colleague.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the name of the distinguished Senator from Rhode Island may be added as a cosponsor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. President, does the distinguished Senator yield the floor?

Mr. ALLEN. I yield the floor.

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. President, I rise briefly in opposition to the amendment. I am very reluctant to do so. I think there is much to be said for the Senator's amendment. On the other hand, this program has been consistently confined to the purchase of food. The people who use food stamps, for the most part, have some money, because they have to match money with stamps, not entirely but for the most part. So it does not mean they cannot get garden seeds.

One of the reasons I feel as I do about this amendment is that the distinguished Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS) presented to the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry a case for our Eskimo citizens the opportunity to trade food stamps for ammunition in order to kill

certain animals as part of their regular diet. As I see it, both amendments are identical. Both seek food stamps as a means to get food, one for ammunition and the other for seed. Inasmuch as we turned down one and it has been the view that we should not go beyond that, I wish to state my opposition to the amendment. I do so reluctantly because I realize it is a worthy objective.

Mr. PASTORE. Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

Mr. ALLEN. I yield.

Mr. PASTORE. Mr. President, with all respect to my colleague from Nebraska, I think he is stretching the point a little bit when he compares garden seed with bullets. There is a big difference. After all, this is an amendment that promotes self-sufficiency and everyone knows the cost of food is going up by leaps and bounds. All this amendment does is to help these poor people who have to depend upon food stamps to go out and buy some garden seed and cultivate a little plot in their backyards. It encourages self-sufficiency. After all, this is an agricultural bill. We are talking about crops and food and we are not talking about bullets. I hope this will pass.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I yield back the remainder of my time.

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. President, I yield back my time.

Mr. TALMADGE. Mr. President, I yield myself some time very briefly.

I have studied the Senator's amendment. Various proposals have been made to extend the food stamp program to include soap, toothbrushes, toilet paper, perfumes, and ammunition that I have consistently opposed.

I think it is a mistake to greatly broaden the food stamp program. The Senator's amendment does have considerable appeal. If someone can buy some seeds and produce more food, he could perhaps get more value with those food stamps than by trading them in the store.

I am grieved to differ with the ranking minority member of the committee, but I have no objection to the amendment.

I yield back my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time on the amendment having been yielded back, the question is on agreeing to the amendment of the Senator from Alabama.

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I call up my amendment and ask that it be stated.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The amendment will be stated.

The amendment was read as follows:

On page 38, between lines 10 and 11, insert the following subsection:

"(d) by adding at the end of subsection (b) of section 3 the following: 'It shall also include seeds and plants for use in gardens to produce food for the personal consumption of the eligible household.'"

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, compared with many far-reaching provisions of the bill and many far-reaching amend-

