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Diet Control Bureau a Poor Idea

IF YOU like OSHA and EPA, you will love the Federal Bureau of Dietary Control, if it becomes a reality.

The Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs received a setback when it brought forth a proposal along these lines in February, but the idea is still being pushed.

The Senate committee, headed by Sen. George McGovern, D-S.D., primarily advocated that people eat more poultry, fish, fruits, vegetables and grain products. It advocated that everybody eat less fats, sugar and meats.

The proposal was described as "dietary goals," but to dedicated bureaucrats, that is a close equivalent to "quotas."

Federal employment control agencies don't set "arbitrary quotas" for hiring from specified groups; they merely have "numerical goals." Businessmen may see no difference.

Spearheading the diet control drive is a group called the Explora-

tory Project for Economic Alternatives (EPEA). It is demanding that government lend its strength to nationalization of diets that it espouses, but there is much more to it.

The total campaign also calls for an end to corporate farming, a breakup of large farms, use of organic farming, extra taxation on food purchases by America's top 25 per cent income group, subsidization of food production so consumers may buy for less and reduced commercial food processing and packaging.

The whole idea is illogical and contrary to known efficient methods of producing abundant food to provide ample supplies at minimum prices.

Oklahomans are remotely situated from densely populated consuming centers, and it may be easy to assume that nobody could be taking such reforms seriously. Many do.

Activist groups make a lot more noise than satisfied customers do, and politicians know they sometimes stir up votes to swing elec-

tions. Most congressmen are no longer concerned about farmers' votes. They don't have many in their districts.

Reliable sources from Washington say heat is being applied to nutritionists, medical authorities, consumer groups and educational organizations to lend credence to the movement.

When authority now held by federal bureaus for control of diets is considered in its entirety, such a nutritional policy possibly could be put into effect for millions of people without further action by Congress.

Dietary regulations might be added to programs for welfare, food stamps, school lunches, health services, the military, cafeterias and restaurants operated for public employees, as well as in other areas where food is subsidized.

Such a program will not be given much publicity here. People are too well informed to buy it. But bureaus like EPA and OSHA have demonstrated that support of the majority of the public is not needed to establish federal regulation.