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SANTA CRUZ WELFARE RULING

Communes Lose Free Food

By **BOB LIGON**
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SANTA CRUZ — Persons living communal style Thursday were declared ineligible for free public surplus food by the Santa Cruz County Social Welfare Advisory Board.

The action is seen as a clampdown on the increasing number of out-of-county young people who flock here, especially during summer months, to live in communes.

Many of the youths occupy abandoned mountain cabins.

The food ban is part of a general policy revision on overseeing distribution of surplus federal food to needy persons. The federal government donates the food and the county administers the distribution program.

The policy changes, adopt-

ed unanimously by the board, were recommended by Raymond Ansell, social welfare director.

One policy revision says, "Unrelated groups of single people living together in a commune" are not eligible.

Also, applicants, if unemployed, must register with the Department of Human Resources and "be willing to accept employment" before qualifying.

College students can qualify for surplus food if they are carrying 14 college units or more.

Single or married students carrying less than 14 college units and working parttime or registered with the Department of Human Resources for parttime employment, also qualify.

In cases where a student is carrying less than 14 units, but whose study program requires "full attention" to complete school assignments, this student can qualify.

Ansell said he sought the policy change because his office is having difficulty in checking the eligibility of persons living in communes.

"When you have a house of 12 or more young people,

whose occupants change almost weekly, it is impossible to determine the head of household who qualifies," said Ansell.

The federal law requires that recipients of surplus food have a place and the facilities in which to prepare it.

As in the past, the welfare department employees will make routine checks to verify addresses, the number of persons in the household, and the adequacy of cooking fa-

cilities prior to clearing persons for surplus food.

Surplus food is distributed during county week days, from 8 a.m. to noon, and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The two distribution places are at 1685 Commercial Way, Santa Cruz, and at 1430 Freedom Blvd., Watsonville.

Food, however, is issued only once a month to each family group or individual person.

Board OKs Foster Home Plan

