

Simmons heads Housing Management Center

HUD Secretary George Romney announced that the Directors of the newly-organized National Center for Housing Management of Washington, D.C., have selected Samuel J. Simmons, HUD's Assistant Secretary for Equal Opportunity, as the Center's new president and chief executive officer.

In accepting Mr. Simmons' resignation as Assistant Secretary, President Nixon wrote: "You have put the Federal Government firmly on course toward ending discrimination in housing and, although much remains to be done, there can be little doubt of the direction in which we are moving."

Mr. Simmons will assume his new duties on Monday, September 7. His appointment by the President as HUD Assistant Secretary was on January 25, 1969.

Carter L. Burgess, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Center for Housing Management, pointed out that Mr. Simmons, as Assistant Secretary, is "aware of the basic mission of the Center which focuses on the preservation and effective management of the Nation's housing stock, a most important national resource."

Mr. Burgess added that in his new post Mr. Simmons will "have general supervision over the property, business and affairs of the corporation and its officers, employees and agents. In general, he will have all the powers and perform all the duties normally



Samuel J. Simmons

the responsibility of the chief executive officer of a corporation." Mr. Simmons will also serve as a member of the Board.

Secretary George Romney commended Mr. Simmons for his "outstanding contribution in behalf of Equal Opportunity within HUD and throughout the Federal establishment. He has provided the leadership

enabling us to systematically expand opportunities for minority entrepreneurs in the fields of construction, housing and community development. As a result of his patience and persistent dedication, standards have been developed and are being implemented to insure that Federal housing programs will provide expanding options for all Americans.

Blacks in health jobs to increase

In launching a major effort to increase the number of Blacks in the health professions, the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW) awarded ten grants totaling more than \$1 million to schools and organizations in eight States.

The grants were among 13 totaling more than \$1.4 million, the first to be awarded under a new Federal effort to raise the proportion of minorities in the health professions. Institutions and organizations in 10 States received the one-year grants awarded by the Bureau of Health Manpower Education. The Bureau is the major educational component of HEW's National Institutes of Health.

The University of Alabama's School of Community and Allied Health Resources will conduct Project Black Awareness with grant funds. Using a team of health career counselors, the school plans to disseminate health careers information throughout Alabama to young Blacks.

The University of California at San Diego School of Medicine received a grant to conduct a multi-pronged effort to recruit students into health careers. The approach will include lectures, conferences, workshops, visits and training programs.

Governor grants tax relief

Governor Tom McCall said he has directed the property tax relief to be granted to several persons who had been denied relief because of an administrative technicality.

The 1971 Legislature passed a law granting property tax relief to homeowners based on household income. Administrative rules adopted by the Department of Revenue to implement the act provided that homeowners must have recorded their deed by December 31 of the year for which relief was to be granted.

At least 60 persons were temporarily denied relief for failure to record their deeds. McCall told Charles Mack, director of the Department of Revenue, that the administrative rule was working a hardship on persons who were actual homeowners but who were unaware that their deed or land sale contract had to be recorded.

McCall said the issue was brought to his attention by some Oregon tax collectors and assessors. The governor wrote to Mack: "I have a strong feeling that the Act was passed by the legislature to provide relief to low-income and elderly persons and that administrative niceties should not be used to thwart the legislative desire. In those cases where the person claiming relief was actually the owner of the property prior to December 31, 1971, I direct you to grant the property tax relief if the evidence of ownership has now been recorded and if the applicant is otherwise eligible."

He also asked Mack to change the department's rule.

Judge appointed

Robert L. Carter, former general counsel of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, has been named Judge of the U.S. Southern District of New York by President Nixon. Carter's appointment was confirmed by the U.S. Senate last Friday.

Xavier University of Louisiana in New Orleans will recruit and train students for allied health careers in rural areas. Emphasis will be placed on the recruitment of military veterans with health experience and students from rural areas.

The University of Maryland's School of Pharmacy will undertake a three-phase program to expand opportunities for Blacks in pharmacy. The project will include a recruitment program, a retention effort and assistance to graduates beginning their careers. Mississippi Valley State College will conduct Operation HOP (Training Health Occupation Potentials), which is designed to prepare students for health careers and graduates for practice in shortage areas. Emphasis will be put on training students for careers in pharmacy, medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, public health, nursing, medical technology, dental hygiene, physical therapy, and sanitation.

Rutgers University's Livingston College will offer several new science courses designed for disadvantaged students interested in health careers. The college also will provide students with opportunities to see health activities in such settings as Neighborhood Health Centers in New York City.

Temple University's School of Medicine will recruit minority applicants for medical education by establishing a system of early identification and continuous career development services for minority college students in the Greater Delaware Valley Region. Admissions procedures will be changed to increase the enrollment of minority applicants at Temple.

The University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine will identify disadvantaged students with potential for veterinary medical education and encourage them to enroll in training. If they are not qualified to enroll, the school will give the necessary instruction.

Meharry received a \$220,229 grant to support its Biomedical Sciences and Dental Admissions Program. The Biomedical Sciences program, for college students interested in health careers, strives to increase the number of minority students enrolled in health professions schools and to improve their performance in classes. The dental program provides supplemental training for disadvantaged students who were unable to qualify for admission to Meharry's School of Dentistry.

Meharry also received a \$104,791 grant to undertake an undergraduate program in health care administration and planning for minority students at Meharry and nearby Fisk University and Tennessee State University. Meharry will administer the program and the other two schools will serve as centers of instruction.

Blacks comprised 11 percent (23 million) of the Nation's population of 203 million in 1970, but they are seriously underrepresented in the health professions. Only two percent of U.S. physicians and dentists are Black. About five percent of the employed registered nurses are Black. Of the 43,400 students in U.S. medical schools in 1971-72, about five percent were Black.

Civil Service exams discriminatory

Several key legal and civil rights organizations severely criticized the U.S. Civil Service Commission's proposed new guidelines for the Federal Service Entrance Examination as "invalid", "racially discriminatory", and "totally inadequate".

These criticisms were first registered at a morning press conference held at the offices of the National Urban Coalition, and later formally filed with Civil Service Commission authorities. Cooperating organizations include the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, the National Urban Coalition, the National Education Association, the Employment Rights Project, the National Law Employment Project, The Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, and Ralph Nader's Public Interest Research Group.

Referring to the Legal Defense Fund's "Comments", LDF spokesman Jeffrey Mintz noted that federal employees, under the Employment Opportunity Act of 1972, have the "same rights and remedies as

other employees covered by Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964".

Mintz emphasized, however, that these "rights and remedies" have been ignored by the Civil Service Commission's proposed new guidelines - in faulty interpretation of Congress' intent, in contradiction of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's application of the law to private, as well as state and local, employees, and in apparent contempt of the Supreme Court's decisions on the subject.

Mintz shared the press conference podium with Dr. Richard Barrett, an industrial psychologist consulted by the LDF; Stephen Pollak, an attorney representing the National Education Association and former chief of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division; and David Tadel, staff director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.

Comparing the EEOC standards to those of the CSC,

Mintz said, "The EEOC standards ensure that ability to predict job performance will be the measure of the validity of selection devices. The Civil Service Commission makes this a secondary factor. The emphasis is rather on determinations which in essence judge the test itself, with the relationship to the ability to perform the job greatly limited."

The CRC's examination standards, Mintz declared, "will have the result of producing a lower quality of civil service employee and will not serve to eliminate racial bias."

The Legal Defense Fund's and the other organizations' reports identify as the "most fundamental and pervasive defect of the CRC's proposed instructions... the reliance on 'rational validity' an invention of the Civil Service Commission" which has the endorsement of neither the American Psychological Association, the EEOC, the Department of Labor, nor the Office of Federal Contracts Compliance.

"Stripped of its cloak of professional jargon," the LDF report states, "rational validity means that the Civil Service staff analyzes a job, selects or develops a set of tests which the staff members believe measure abilities required by the jobs, and then confers upon itself the mantle of respectability by declaring that these tests have met professional standards."

Moreover, the LDF report continues, "There is no other check of the validity or non-discriminatory nature of the tests; all that is necessary is that persons in the employment of the Commission agree that their work is satisfactory."

The LDF concluded that "if these proposed instructions are finalized, the Civil Service Commission will have missed the opportunity to make the United States Government a leader in the area of equal employment opportunity."

Bradley salute set

A "Salute to Bill Bradley" is being held by the East Multnomah County Democratic Forum on Saturday, August 12. The event, to be held at the home of George and Irene Starr at 909 N.E. 114th, Portland, will begin at 5:00 p.m. The party will feature the first joint appearance of the three Democratic nominees for statewide office, Joe Smith, candidate for attorney general, Beulah Hand, candidate for Secretary of State, and Alice Corbett, candidate for State Treasurer. Also featured will be Representative Dick Eymann, Springfield, House Democratic Leader, Ralph Bunch, Democratic candidate for Congress, First District, and Allison Belcher, Multnomah County Democratic Chairman. The speaking schedule will be: Belcher, 5:00 p.m.; Eymann, 6:00 p.m.; Hand, 7:00 p.m.; Corbett, 8:00 p.m.; Smith 9:00 p.m. and Bunch, 10:00 p.m. A charge of \$5.00 per couple

will be made for this star-studded performance and will feature beer and hot dogs. In commenting on the event, Dick Eymann, House Democratic Leader, had this to say: "With incumbent legislators running for only half of the house seats, this is a new ball game. We Democrats are confident that we can win control if good candidates like former Representative Bill Bradley receive the support they have so well earned by their past service in the House. Bill was named by us as the outstanding Representative of the 1967 session and would be an incumbent now if he had not been willing to make a sacrifice by trying to save a Democratic seat for the loyal Senate Democrats in 1970. To do so he gave up a safe house seat. Now he deserves to be returned to Salem." Members of the public are invited. For further information, call 252-1514.

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