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FOCUS

AMERICA'S YOUTH: AN UNTAPPED RESOURCE



Joint Center for Political Studies

Perspective

For a number of years Sen. Birch Bayh (D Ind.) has been trying to abolish the Electoral College and to replace it with a system for direct popular election of the President and Vice President. What is different this year is that Sen. Bayh is trying to accomplish his objective by skipping traditional public hearings in the Judiciary Committee where strong opposition has been voiced in the past, and by going straight to the Senate floor where he hopes two-thirds of his colleagues will support his bill (S.J. Res. 28).

In the past I have been among those who have opposed Senator Bayh's proposal to institute direct popular election of the President and Vice President in place of the Electoral College. I continue to be opposed to it and to any other tinkering with the political process that may have the effect of diluting the votes of blacks and other minority groups. There just is not sufficient evidence to show that the Electoral College is so mischievous that it should be totally eliminated or that direct elections would not work against minorities.

Blacks, Jews, and other minorities, derive what precious little political leverage they have in Presidential elections from the existence of the Electoral College. For blacks, this leverage stems from the fact that they are ten per cent of the national electorate; they have historically tended to vote as a block; and they are strategically concentrated in the metropolitan areas of key states with large numbers of electoral votes. Because of this concentration, blacks provided the margin of victory for Jimmy Carter in 1976. It is this advantage, however slight it might be, which could be lost under direct popular elections.

While Senator Bayh has produced studies which attempt to show that blacks and others are not likely to be adversely affected by direct elections, other studies, equally prestigious, if not more so, including one published by the Brookings Institution in 1970, indicate that blacks, Jews and other minorities stand to lose substantially if the present system is replaced.

The Bayh amendment raises other serious questions which have not yet been answered satisfactorily. Here are some of them;

- Is there a role for the state, as an entity, in the presidential election process? Is it desirable to shift entirely to a concern with winning the popular vote nationally rather than with winning majorities within states?
- To what extent will popular presidential elections move us toward a greater degree of regional or big state presidential politics? Would this be a desirable development?
- What kind of impact will the proposed reform have on the future of the two party system? Would it discourage third party bids when there is no longer the possibility of using electoral votes as bargaining chips, and thereby strengthen the two-party system? Or, alternatively, would it invite "spoilers" or non-serious candidates to seek enough regional or national votes to force a run-off election?
- Would direct election encourage or discourage the creation of a black political movement either as a serious third force or as a strategic attempt to make the major parties more responsive?

Given all these uncertainties, one wonders why a staunch civil rights ally like Sen. Bayh would propose to skip public hearings on his legislation and to by-pass the Judiciary Committee. This back-door procedure is seldom used in Congress. A recent New York Times article said:

"The public explanation is that the Electoral College has been debated so often in recent past, both in committee and on the floor, that such formalities are unnecessary and time-consuming. In the last Congress, however, the amendment won the Juciary Committee's approval by a single vote, and sponsors are taking no chances."

By avoiding the risk of public opposition, the sponsors of the Bayh amendment are denying citizens — including Judiciary Committee members and expert witnesses — an opportunity to comment, no matter how often, on matters in the public interest.

The American Jewish Congress and the Black Leadership Forum have urged Sen. Bayh to hold new hearings.

However, the more fundamental issue is whether the proposal to abolish the Electoral College should see the light of day at all — in Committee or on the floor.

We continue to believe that it is an uncertain shot that deserves to be blocked.

Eddie N. Williams
President

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Black Representation in State Legislatures

by **Dr. Michael Goldstein**

Dr. Goldstein is associate director of the JCPS Research Department.

The dramatic increase in black representation in state legislatures in the 1970's reflects the overall political advancement of blacks during the decade. However, the more recent leveling off in the rate of increase and the appearance of distinct regional trends, suggest the possible development of new patterns of black representation in the next decade.

At the beginning of the decade there were 168 black state legislators. By 1979 that figure had increased 70 percent to 285. Thirty states currently have more blacks serving in state legislatures than they had in 1970, while only seven states have fewer representatives.

These gains have been registered in all regions of the country and in states with both large and small black populations. The increase has been greatest in the five states which have a population 25 percent or more black. Whereas only 16 blacks served in the legislatures of these states in 1970, their number had increased to 66 by the end of 1978. There has also been an increase in the number of black legislators serving in the 16 southern states, which include the five states mentioned above, from 54 in 1970 to 139 in 1979 (See tables 1-2)

However, a simple comparison between the number of black legislators in office in 1970 and in 1979 obscures the continuing underrepresentation of blacks at that level of government. Blacks, even now, represent only 3.8 percent of all state legislators in the country,while they comprise 11.6 percent of the population. There clearly is room for improvement, the more so since the *rate* of increase in the number of black state legislators has shown a definite decline in the period 1975 to 1979.

Although there has been an increase of 15 black state legislators in the South since 1975—due in large measure to redistricting — in the Northeastern, North Central and Western states, the number of blacks state legislators has, in fact, been reduced by six during this period.

Size of Black Population

The size of the black population in a state appears to be the single most important factor in realizing potential black gains in the legislature. Among the 24 states with black populations of less than 5 percent, there are ten fewer black state legislators in 1979 than there were in 1975. However, most states with 5 percent or more black populations have maintained or slightly increased the number of blacks in their legislatures during the past four years.

Another important consideration in assessing black legislative gains, is to compare the percentage of blacks in the population of a state with the percentage of blacks serving in its legislature.

In the North Central and Western states, where the black population comprises 5 or more percent of the total, the differences are generally not great. In fact, in Michigan, Ohio, California and Nevada, the percentage of blacks in the state legislatures closely parallels the percentage of blacks in the states' population. However, in Northeastern and Southern states with 5 or more percent blacks, the differences are greater. For example, in the legislatures of Connecticut and New Jersey, blacks are represented at less than half the rate at which they are found in the population of those states (See table 3).

The disparity is greatest in the South. In spite of the fact that southern legislatures now contain more black representatives than ever before, blacks remain grossly underrepresented. For example, in Mississippi, blacks comprise almost 36 percent of the population but only 4.4 percent of all state legislators. Similarly, in South Carolina, 31 percent of the population is black, but only 7.7 percent of state legislators are black.

TABLE 1

Blacks in State Legislatures By Region

	1970	1975	1979
Northeast	35	51	47
North Central	64	80	79
South	54	124	139
West	15	21	20
	168	276	285

The size of the black population, however, is by no means the only factor affecting black representation at the state level. The dilution of black voting strength through a variety of state election laws also influences the election of blacks to public office. Thus, the existence in many states of multi-member districts in which two or more legislators represent the same constituency makes it much more difficult for blacks to get elected. They have to campaign among a large number of voters, many of whom—perhaps the majority — are white. Multi-member districts also increase campaign costs because a more widely distributed and more heterogeneous electorate has to be reached than would be the case in single member districts.

Of the ten states with black populations in excess of 15 percent, seven have multi-member districts. In those seven states, black representation in the legislatures is 5.2 percent. However, in the three states with single member districts, blacks make up 8.9 percent of all legislators.

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Youth and National Service

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This article is extracted from Youth and the Needs of the Nation, *a report by the Committee for the study of National Service, recently published by the Potomac Institute. Jacqueline Wexler and Harris Wofford chaired the committee. Roger Landrum was study director. Committee members included Bernard Anderson, Donald Eberly, Harold Fleming, Edythe Gaines, Rev. Theodore Hesburgh, Mildred Jeffrey, Charles Killingsworth, Christian Kryder, Willard Wirtz, and Eddie N. Williams, president of the Joint Center.)*

This report examines two major national problems and outlines a program of service that would attack both at once.

One of these problems is the predicament of America's young people. Alarming numbers of them are unemployed — worse yet, unoccupied. Many, especially those from minority and impoverished backgrounds, reciprocate society's disregard for them with a like disregard for the claims of society. Even among those materially better off, many are either aimless or preoccupied with narrow self-interest.

The other problem is the host of needs in our society that go untended. These needs are of many sorts. They range from caring for the sick and elderly to repairing our abused physical environment. What they all have in common is that they are dealt with inadequately, if at all, by business or government.

The following recommendations and the reasons that led to them are offered as a contribution to the national study and debate that this far-reaching idea requires.

1. All young people should be challenged to serve full-time for one or more years in meeting the needs of the nation and the world community.
2. A system for National Service should be established to provide opportunities so that at least a year of such service after leaving secondary or higher education can become a common expectation of young people. Year-by-year the system should find, encourage, and develop a variety of new opportunities for civilian service — in the home community, national parks, in other parts of the country, and overseas — so that before long participation in either civilian or military National Service will be as generally accepted as going to high school.
3. In moving toward universal service, the system should aim to enlist at each stage a representative cross-section of American young people, drawing into work together men and women from all regions, races, and backgrounds. Though difficult to carry out, this functional integration of Americans should be an essential operating principle of the system.
4. National Service should be organized so as to enable young people to help meet the real economic, social, and educational needs of the nation in the most economical and effective ways. It should expand only to the extent the service of young people is effectively helping to meet those needs. The administrative structure should emphasize decentralization and result in the smallest feasible government bureaucracy with the strongest possible ties to the private and voluntary sectors of American society, including business, labor, charitable, and religious organizations.
5. All the present government programs of full-time civilian service, such as VISTA, the Peace Corps, and the Young Adult Conservation Corps, should be included among the options in the new system of National Service. Another option could be individual or small-team arrangements with private or public agencies in local communities. Private programs, such as those approved by Selective Service for alternative service by conscientious objectors during conscription, should also be included if they can offer at least a year of full-time service. In addition, the system should develop — or assist in the development of — new programs that make effective use of young men and women in essential areas of community and national need.
6. Each of the programs to be included should plan and administer the work of the young men and women in National Service so as to achieve a substantially increased contribution to meeting one or more of the nation's needs. Those responsible for schools, day-care centers, tutoring programs, programs for the elderly, hospitals, community health centers, institutions for the retarded and for the mentally ill, prisons and juvenile detention centers, neighborhood associations, city, county, and national agencies for conservation, renovation, and energy-saving, and efforts to deal with disasters of nature — and other service agencies — should be asked:

   What could you do better to meet your present goals if you had the full-time service of a substantial number of young people? What larger goals could you then set? Precisely how would you utilize the service of such young people? What training and supervision would be required?

   The same invitation to the imagination should be put to business, labor, and religious groups who might be ready to organize and sponsor new programs of National Service.
7. National Service should *not* be seen as job-training or work programs for the unemployed but as a supplement to, or, for some young people, an alternative to such programs. Those in National Service should find the experience of serving under the supervision and discipline of private or government agencies a practical form of career exploration; in many cases the training and work of National Service could be viewed as internships and apprenticeships. Notwithstanding the differences of approach and purpose between National Service and the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) — including the Youth Employment and Demonstration Projects — there should be careful coordination. In some cases, young people in job-training programs might move thereafter into one or two years of National Service; in other cases, young people completing National Service might benefit by one of these training or job-placement programs.

8. The terms of National Service should reflect the fact that *service* is being rendered. Following the precedents of the Peace Corps and VISTA, the general rule during service should be a reasonable living allowance. Though these modest cash stipends would be important to young people seeking not to be dependent on their families, especially those who are poor, for more affluent youth the amount will seem like very little and part of the challenge will be learning to live on less. Citizens, in turn, would be gaining new services at low cost.
9. One of the incentives for participants should be appropriate post-service educational and employment benefits along the lines of the G.I. Bill of Rights and the Peace Corps readjustment allowance, apportioned according to the length of service. Not all such benefits need to be provided by the government. In making hiring decisions, the private business sector as well as government at all levels should consider giving appropriate weight to an applicant's National Service. Colleges and universities should give such service weight in admissions decisions at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. In these ways, society could place value on the experience and reinforce the concept of service as an obligation of citizenship.
10. While engaged in National Service, the participants should be encouraged to continue their education. In addition to the learning-by-doing of apprenticeship, once the main form of American education, they might take a variety of available extension courses or attend night school, as further preparation for a career and for more general education. The staff of the National Service system should seek to initiate and assist a variety of educational activities among participants: English-speaking and Spanish-speaking young people could learn to tutor each other in oral language skills; college-trained participants could tutor high school dropouts in basic skills or subjects they lack; the central literature of the American tradition could be read and discussed.
11. The nation should seek effective ways to provide the opportunities for service from all its citizens, and should ask the young to participate at some point after age 16, but it is not necessary now to decide whether the nation should require such service. During the gradual development of a voluntary system, the idea of mandatory service can be carefully considered. If it should be determined that the needs of national defense call for the restoration of the military draft, at that point the case for mandatory universal service, including non-military options, would be very strong.
12. Military enlistment should be recognized as a form of National Service, and service should be reemphasized as the central mission of the military. A growing expectation of service should improve the climate for all volunteering, and thus aid the armed forces in attracting young people without having to offer ever-higher compensation and benefits.
13. To assist young people in choosing the best form of National Service, service councils should be established in each community, composed of citizens with experience in voluntary service, education, business, labor, and religious organizations. Members would be appointed nationally and serve without pay. The councils might well be located in underutilized facilities in local high schools. They would provide information and counseling on the various opportunities for service.
14. After age 16 and before leaving high school, all young people should be urged to visit a local service council, and the councils should hold open meetings in schools. In addition to giving up-to-date information on National Service opportunities, the councils should be well-informed about job-training and public service jobs available through other federal programs, and about opportunities in the armed forces.
15. Establishing the National Service system as a public corporation, chartered and funded by Congress but drawing its leadership largely from the private sector of American society, seems to us the most promising course. Innovative structures in both the private and public sectors should be examined, including the American Red Cross, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Atomic Energy Commission, the Peace Corps, and the administration of the educational benefits of the G.I. Bill of Rights. The National Service system should be empowered to set overall guidelines and criteria for funding and monitoring the various programs in which young people may serve; to initiate and administer some programs directly itself; and to establish a network of local service councils for information and counseling. Its charter must give it appropriate flexibility.
16. The system of full-time National Service for youth should be connected in all appropriate ways to the voluntary service of older citizens and of students who are in secondary schools or colleges so that the spirit of service, whether full-time or part-time, paid or unpaid, is strengthened throughout all parts of American life and among all ages.

We [the committee] were all aware that service to one's community and country is practiced in one form or another almost everywhere, and that the challenge of the mobilization of human resources by an authoritarian regime is as old as the hills of Sparta . . Yet service to others, and voluntary action without waiting for government leadership or command, has been a special American theme from the first days of colonial settlement.

In most wars, prior to Korea and Vietnam, a great part of the population was swept with the spirit of national service. But, in peace time in the 20th century, without the challenges of the physical frontier, that spirit has withered. Our committee advances the idea in the hope that it could help end the present depression of the national spirit and tap once again, on a large scale, the best in the American tradition and the best in us as a people today.

Continued from page 3

The facts and figures included in this brief analysis of black representation in state legislatures leads us to the following tentative conclusions:

1. States with small black populations — 5 percent or less—appear to have difficulty in maintaining consistent levels of black representation. Personalities of individual candidates and state-wide party fortunes are likely to play a major role in determining the number of blacks elected to state houses.
2. Black representation is likely to increase in states with black populations of 5 percent or more and particularly in those states where large differences remain between the percentage of blacks in the legislature and the percentage of blacks in the population.
3. The greatest potential for an increase in the number of black state legislators exists in those five southern states which contain 25 percent or more black population.
4. Efforts to increase the number of black state legislators must address such issues as redistricting, campaign finance laws, candidate selection procedures and most especially, voter registration and voter turnout.

The decade of the '80's will see state legislatures playing an increasingly important role in shaping the political and economic future of this country. It is vitally important, therefore, for blacks to make every effort to increase their representation at that level of government.

TABLE 2

Black State Legislators By Black % of State Population

Size of Black Population in State	Number of States	Number of Black State Legislators		
		1970	1975	1979*
0—5%	24	17	37	27
5.1%—15.0%	16	115	138	148
15.1%—25.0%-	5	23	42	44
25.1% +	5	16	59	66

* Due to a typographical error, this chart appeared in the December 1978 issue of FOCUS with the number of black state legislators at 47 instead of 27.

TABLE 3

Black Representation in State Legislatures in States with 5% or More Black Population

Region — State	Blacks in Population 1975 (%)	Blacks in State Legislature 1979 (%)
NORTHEAST		
Connecticut	6.1	2.7
New Jersey	11.9	4.2
New York	13.2	7.1
Pennsylvania	8.8	6.3
NORTH CENTRAL		
Illinois	13.7	8.8
Indiana	7.3	4.0
Michigan	11.9	10.8
Missouri	10.6	7.1
Ohio	9.6	9.1
SOUTH		
Texas	12.5	7.2
Oklahoma	7.1	2.7
Kentucky	7.2	2.9
Florida	14.2	2.5
Delaware	14.7	4.8
Arkansas	16.9	3.0
Tennessee	15.6	9.0
North Carolina	21.9	2.4
Virginia	18.7	3.6
Maryland	20.1	10.1
Louisiana	29.8	7.0
Mississippi	35.9	4.4
Alabama	25.4	11.4
Georgia	26.1	9.8
South Carolina	30.8	7.7
WEST		
California	7.6	6.7
Nevada	6.0	5.0

TABLE 4

Black Representation by Type of Electoral District in States with 15%+ Black Population

	# States	# Black Legislators — 1979	% of All Legislators
States with 15%+ Black Population and Multi-Member Districts	7	72	5.2
States with 15%+ Black Population and Only Single Member Districts	3	38	8.9

TABLE 5

Black Representation in State Legislatures and Type of Electoral District

	1970	1975	1979
All Black State Legislators	168	276	285
Black State Legislators from States With Only Single Member Districts	108	155	156
Black State Legislators From States With Multi-Member Districts	60	121	129

Telescope

Annual Dinner is Widely Supported

The Joint Center's Second Annual Dinner, to be held March 6, 1979, is attracting a wide base of support from the civil rights, corporate, union, and academic communities.

Georgia State Senator Julian Bond will act as master of ceremonies for the dinner and Marian Wright Edelman, Director of the Children's Defense Fund, will present an award to Dr. Kenneth Clark in whose honor the dinner is being held.

Charles Brown, chairman of AT&T and Dr. Jerome B. Wisener, president of M.I.T. are co-chairpersons for the dinner. Reginald H. Jones, chairman of the board of General Electric, and George Meany, president of the AFL/CIO, who were last year's dinner chairpersons, serve on this year's Honorary Advisory Committee. The Center is expecting well over 1,200 persons to attend, many of whom will be black elected officials in Washington for the Congressional Cities Conference, held by the National League of Cities.

For tickets or further information, contact Nancy Crothers, Joint Center for Political Studies, area 202-638-4477.

JCPS Begin Youth Workshops

The Joint Center for Political Studies, in cooperation with the District of Columbia Board of Education, has established a Youth Leadership Development Workshop to gain greater insight into the problem of community and political apathy among young people.

The Workshop, funded by ACTION and located in Washington, D.C., offers 25 high school students a unique opportunity to express their views about the political process and to explore ways for young people to become more effective participants in that process.

Students will participate in the Workshop one day a week between February and May. They will receive a grade based upon their attendance and satisfactory completion of workshop activities. The Workshop is under the direction of Dr. Louise Taylor, JCPS acting director of research.

Participants will analyze factors leading to apathy and develop strategies to encourage greater political participation. They also will expand their own knowledge of government through mock elections, case studies, and meetings with political and other leaders.

The idea for the workshops grew out of the Joint Center's concern for the fact that youth between the ages of 18 and 24 have the lowest voter participation rate of all age groups, including whites of the same age. According to the Bureau of the Census last year only 37 percent of black youth were registered to vote and only 20 percent actually voted. In the 1976 presidential election only 38 percent were registered and only 26 percent voted.

NUL Releases Report on the State of Black America

The National Urban League (NUL) has issued its annual report on the state of black America. The report deals with the economic and social conditions that affect the country's blacks.

In issuing the report, NUL president Vernon E. Jordan, Jr., said that black America today verges on the brink of disaster and that 1979 promises to be a year of crisis for blacks.

Although the economic and social conditions for blacks continue to look bleak, one chapter in the report shows that some progress has been made as far as political participation is concerned.

"Black Political Participation in 1978," written by JCPS president Eddie N. Williams, concludes that:

"The tradition of black political participation continued and advanced in 1978 despite a climate of fiscal conservatism and economic stringency and despite a declining black political base . . . New and compelling political strategies must be developed to energize the disparate elements of the old civil rights movement and to attract new supporters."

House Committees Named

The 96th Congress has made its selections for the standing committees in the House of Representatives. Members of the Congressional Black Caucus are represented on the following committees as are representatives that are elected from districts that are 25 percent black or more.

Agriculture Committee: Reps. Walter B. Jones (D N.C.); Dawson Mathis (D Ga.); David R. Bowen (D Miss.); Charles Rose (D N.C.); Frederick W. Richmond (D N.Y.); Jerry Huckaby (D La.); and Charles Whitley (D N.C.).

Appropriations: CBC members—Reps. Louis Stokes (D Ill.); Julian Dixon (D Calif.); and Bennett Stewart (D Ill.) Also Reps. James L. Whitten (D Miss.), chairman; Joseph P. Addabbo (D N.Y.); Lindy Boggs (D La.); Bo Ginn (D Ga.); and John W. Jenrette, Jr. (D S.C.).

Armed Services: CBC members—Reps. Ronald V. Dellums (D Calif.); and Melvin Evans (R V.I.). Also Reps. Charles Bennett (D Fla.); Charles H. Wilson (D Calif.); Bill Nichols (D Ala.); Jack Brinkley (D Ga.); Robert H. Mollohan (D W.Va.); Dan Daniel (D Va.); and G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery (D Miss.).

Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs: CBC member—Rep. Walter Fauntroy (D D.C.). Also Reps. Henry S. Reuss (D Wis.) chairman; Doug Barnard (D Ga.); Carroll A. Campbell (R S.C.); and Jon Hinson (R. Miss.).

Budget: CBC members — Reps. Stokes and William Gray (D Pa.).

District of Columbia: CBC members — Reps. Dellums, chairman; Charles C. Diggs (D Mich.); Walter Fauntroy; and Mickey Leland (D Calif.).

Education and Labor: CBC members—Reps. Augustus Hawkins (D Calif); and William Clay (D Mo.). Also Jon Hinson (R Miss.).

Government Operations: CBC members — Reps. John Conyers (D Mich.) and Cardiss Collins (D Ill.). Also L H. Fountain (D N.C.); Don Fuqua (D Fla.).

House Administration: CBC member — Rep. Hawkins. Also Reps. Mendel Davis (D S.C.); Rose (D N.C.); and William L. Dickinson (R Ala.).

Interior and Insular Affairs: CBC member—Rep. Evans. Also Dawson Mathis (D Ga.).

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International Relations: CBC members — Reps. Diggs, Collins and Gray. Also Rep. Fountain.

Interstate and Foreign Commerce: CBC member — Rep. Leland. Also: Reps. David E. Satterfield (D Va.); and Richardson Preyer (D N.C.).

Judiciary: CBC member — Rep. Conyers. Also Rep. Peter W. Rodino (D N.J.), chairman.

Merchant Marine and Fisheries: CBC member — Rep. Evans. Also Reps. Walter B. Jones (D N.C.); David R. Bowen (D Miss.).

Post Office and Civil Service: CBC members — Reps. Leland and Clay.

Public Works and Transportation: Reps. Billy Lee Evans (D Ga.).

Rules: CBC member — Rep. Shirley Chisholm (D N.Y.). Also Rep. Gillis W. Long (D La.).

Science and Technology: Rep. Don Fuqua (D Fla.), chairman.

Small Business: CBC Member — Rep. Parren Mitchell (D Md.) Also Reps. Billy Lee Evans (D Ga.); Doug Barnard (D Ga.).

Standards of Official Conduct: Reps. Charles E. Bennett (D Fla.), chairman.

Veterans' Affairs: Reps. Satterfield (D Va.); Montgomery (D Miss.); and Jack Brinkley (D Ga.).

Ways and Means: CBC members — Reps. Charles Rangel (D N.Y.); and Harold Ford (D Tenn.). and Wyche Fowler (D Ga.).

JCPS Receives Grant From HUD

The Joint Center for Political Studies has received a grant from the Office of Community Planning and Development, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), to aid selected communities which are eligible to participate in HUD's Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program.

The director of the program is Henry Moore, former city administrator of Seat Pleasant, Maryland. Moore also worked for Seat Pleasant as assistant city manager and director of community services.

For further information, contact Henry Moore or James Duncan, at the Joint Center, 1426 H St., N.W., Suite 926, Washington, D.C. 20005, (202) 638-4477.

Orr Named Secretary of Florida's Department of Labor and Employment Security

Wallace E. Orr, former president of the Florida Teachers Association, has been named secretary of Florida's Department of Labor and Employment Security by Gov. Robert Graham.

Orr becomes the first black in the nation to hold this position in state government. The department has the responsibility for state employment offices, workman's compensation and apprenticeship programs.

In addition, Orr has administrative responsibility for the Public Employees Relations Commission, the Unemployment Compensation Commission, and the Industrial Relations Commission.

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