

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

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FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT

WASHINGTON, D.C. --- Philip Montez has been appointed Director-Western Program for the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, it was announced today.

William L. Taylor, Staff Director of the Commission, announced also the appointments of Henry S. Johnson as Assistant Director of the Research Division; Larry Cuban as Director of the Race and Education Project; and Mrs. Carol Kummerfeld as Director of the Office of Federal Programs.

Montez, 39, an Area Coordinator for the Commission since April 1967, and former executive director of the Foundation for Mexican American Studies in Los Angeles, Calif., succeeds William J. Williams, who resigned recently to return to teaching.

As Director-Western Program, Montez will supervise all aspects of the Commission's program in the States of Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. This includes working with government officials, communities, organizations, and the Commission's State Advisory Committees in the 11-State area. Assigned to Los Angeles, he will maintain an office in the U.S. Courthouse and Federal Building at 312 N. Spring Street, Suite 1739.

Johnson, 39, former Test Officer at California State College in Long Beach, will direct the Commission's Mexican American Study Project, a study of educational programs, problems, and policies as they affect Mexican Americans. A specialist in Mexican American studies, Johnson is a graduate of the University of Hawaii. He received his Master of Education and Doctor of Philosophy degrees from the University of Southern California. He has done research and writing on matters concerning the problems of the Spanish-speaking population.

A former elementary school teacher, Johnson has served as a consultant to the California State Department of Education and has assisted in the development of the guidelines for that State's compensatory education program. He has been a consulting psychologist for the Westminster (Calif.) School District and director of research and guidance for the El Rancho (Calif.) Unified School District. He also has been director of the Office of Economic Opportunity Evaluation Head Start in Riverside, Calif.; director of Montessori Schools Head Start in Orange County, Calif.; and consultant to numerous educational programs and projects.

Cuban, 33, is an experienced teacher and has developed instructional materials in Negro history. He is now working on a book about teaching in the inner-city. He was a master teacher and later director of the Cardozo Project in Urban Teaching in Washington, D.C., a program which prepared interns for teaching in inner-city schools. He has served as a consultant for the Office of Economic Opportunity, Office of Education, and the Learning Institute of North Carolina.

Currently, Cuban teaches history part-time at Roosevelt High School in Washington and will assume full-time direction of the Commission's Race and Education Project in June. He formerly taught in Cleveland, Ohio and McKeesport, Pa. A graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, Cuban received his Master of Arts degree from Western Reserve University where he has completed the requirements for his Doctor of Philosophy degree in history.

Mrs. Kummerfeld, 28, joined the Commission staff in September 1966 as an Assistant Director of the Federal Programs Division. Prior to that she was a staff member of the Office of Statistical Standards of the Bureau of the Budget. She is a graduate of Cornell University.

As Director of the Office of Federal Programs, a new unit, Mrs. Kummerfeld will supervise the Commission's liaison program with Federal agencies on civil rights policies, administration and programs. Under her direction the Office of Federal Programs will provide technical assistance to Federal agencies and public and private groups on civil rights matters relating to Federal programs.

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WASHINGTON, D.C. ---- The failure of Federal agencies to strictly enforce civil rights legislation has meant that Negroes have been denied an equal opportunity for economic advancement in 16 Black Belt counties of Alabama, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights indicated in a publication issued today.

Entitled Cycle to Nowhere, the Commission's Clearing-house Publication No. 14 is based on sworn testimony received at a public hearing in Montgomery, Alabama, April 27-May 2, 1968 where the agency collected information concerning denial of economic opportunity for Negroes in rural and non-metropolitan areas of Alabama. The hearing focused on 16 counties running in a belt from the Georgia State line on the East through Montgomery to Mississippi on the West.

Cycle to Nowhere was written for the Commission by Paul Good, author and specialist in civil rights reporting.

In releasing the publication, Howard A. Glickstein, Acting Staff Director of the Commission, said: "This narrative account of our hearing this Spring in Montgomery shows how the failure of Federal agencies to enforce civil rights legislation has prevented many Negroes from sharing

the benefits of economic advancement in the South. As Cycle to Nowhere demonstrates, the economic status of most Negroes in 16 Black Belt counties of Alabama has not changed much since the Commission held a hearing in Montgomery 10 years ago. Testimony at our hearing in 1968 showed that Negroes in those counties still are denied equal opportunity in farm programs, education, employment, and health and welfare simply because they happen to be black."

"Particularly shocking," continued Glickstein, "was the testimony of representatives of major firms with millions of dollars in Government contracts who indicated that the Government made only haphazard checks on the equal opportunity requirements of those contracts. Their testimony also revealed instances of overt discrimination in employment and plant facilities on the basis of race."

Glickstein added that the Commission's Spring hearing was part of the agency's study of the issue of economic security as it affects Negroes, Mexican Americans, and other minorities in selected counties of nine Southern States. The study is expected to be completed in about a year, he said.

Testimony at the hearing in Montgomery indicated that patterns of discrimination in farm services, employment, health and welfare services, and education resulted in a cycle of poverty which was an all encompassing aspect of Negro life in Alabama.

At the hearing, a Negro veteran of the military testified how he was demoted from Army "sergeant to boy" when he sought a job; black farmers told how they received discriminatory treatment from federally financed farm programs and some described how they were forced off land they had worked for years because they dared exercise their political rights; a white mayor told the Commission how he screened job applicants for a printing plant; black children described inferior educational opportunities; and a black father declared that he had to drive 40 miles to purchase a malted milk or humble himself to use a "Colored Only" entrance in his home town.

"The cycle of poverty extends from cradle to grave, often a journey of only a few hours for black infants in a State where Negro infant mortality is two and sometimes three times that of white," the publication states. "For those who survive, the cycle continues through a youth of shack living, of under-nourishment and segregated under-education with their inevitable by-products of poor health and scant learning, and then years of adulthood eked out on welfare for mothers while for young men there are careers pushing brooms, pumping gas, and 'scarping meager' yields from another man's land. The ways that discrimination works are varied but all are variations on a single theme: Keep the Negro in his place or force him to flee."

The cycle of poverty remains unbroken in spite of the fact that Federal law exists to break it at nearly every point, according to the publication. "Where there is partial enforcement of civil rights laws in areas like voting, dramatic results are sometimes produced. But implementation is more often indifferent than stringent, particularly when those laws impinge on the course of corporations or challenge the vague monoliths called power structures."

Since the hearing, Cycle to Nowhere reports, Federal Government agencies such as the Government Printing Office, General Services Administration, and the Office of Federal Contract Compliance have investigated allegations of discrimination which were voiced during the hearing against Alabama-based firms holding Government contracts. "Concerned agencies must don 10 league boots if significant progress is going to be made. In field, factory, and classroom, black lives are being denied fulfillment each day that Federal law, designed to make society free and fair for all, is broken by public and private enterprise."

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is an independent, bipartisan factfinding agency created by Congress in 1957. Dr. John A. Hannah, President of Michigan State University, is Chairman of the Commission. The other members are: Frankie M. Freeman, Associate General Counsel of the St. Louis Housing and Land Clearance Authorities; Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., President of Notre Dame University; Robert S. Rankin, Professor of Political Science at Duke University; and Maurice B. Mitchell, Chancellor, University of Denver, Commissioner-designate.