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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAY 22, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

The President today announced his intention to nominate James H. Blair, of Lansing, Michigan, to be Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (Equal Opportunity). He will succeed Gloria Toote who resigned effective April 30, 1975.

Mr. Blair has been Executive Director of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission in Lansing, Michigan, since November 1972. From August 1968 until November 1972, he was Director, Division on Civil Rights, Department of Law and Public Safety in Trenton, New Jersey. He was Director of the Office of Technical Assistance for the Department of Community Affairs in Trenton from October 1967 until August 1968. He had been Deputy Director of the Division of Training from June 1967 until October 1967 for the Department.

From October 1966 until June 1967, Mr. Blair was Acting Associate Director and Program Director of the United Community Corporation of Newark, New Jersey. Prior to that he served as Community Action Director from June 1965 until October 1966. He served as Senior Probation Officer and Consultant for the Essex County Juvenile Court from April 1957 until June 1965.

Mr. Blair was born on October 6, 1926, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He received his B.A. degree from the University of Pittsburgh and his M.A. degree from Rutgers University. He also did additional graduate work at Columbia University and New York University.

Mr. Blair is married to the former Murleen Miller and they have two children.

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