

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEPTEMBER 10, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary
-----THE WHITE HOUSE

The President today announced the start of the thirteenth nationwide search for outstanding young men and women to serve as White House Fellows.

Established in 1964, the White House Fellowship program is designed to give rising leaders one year of firsthand, high-level experience with the workings of the Federal Government and to increase their sense of participation in national affairs. The program is open to U.S. citizens from all fields who are not less than 23 and not more than 35 years of age. Employees of the Federal Government are not eligible, with the exception of career armed services personnel.

Members of the eleventh group of White House Fellows are now completing their year long assignments. A twelfth group, the 1976-77 White House Fellows, will begin their duties next month.

In addition to their educational assignments with the Vice President, Cabinet officers or principal members of the White House staff, the Fellows participate in an extensive seminar program, typically consisting of some 300 off-record sessions with top government officials, scholars, journalists, and leaders from the private sector. The young men and women who have, to date, been selected as White House Fellows have included lawyers, scientists, engineers, corporate business entrepreneurs, scholars and academic administrators, writers and journalists, medical doctors, social workers, architects, and local public officials. Last year 2864 persons applied for the coveted honor.

The Fellowship is designed to be a one-year sabbatical in public service. Fellows are expected to return to their professional careers at the end of their experience in government, with their perspectives of national issues broadened and their qualifications for significant service in their chosen careers and to their communities permanently enriched.

Leadership, intellectual and professional ability, high motivation, and a commitment to community and nation are the broad criteria employed in the selection process.

Requests for applications for next year's program must be postmarked not later than November 1, 1976. Application forms and additional information can be obtained by sending a postal card to the President's Commission on White House Fellowships, Washington, D.C. 20415.

#