### **VIEWPOINT**

# Will HEW change with Patricia Harris?

The recent appointment of Patricia Harris to head the Department of Health. Education and Welfare (HEW) definitely is a landmark decision in the naming of a Black woman to head a top-level government agency.

However, the implications that accompany this designation are far and wider than may be shown from the sur-

Of course, President Carter's naming of Mrs. Harris to the top at HEW represents a gainful move of political strategy, by achieving a renewed confidence from America's Blacks and women.

Secondly, it gives Carter's cabinet "breathing room" to work with in an otherwise stuffy agency that has been laden with controversy. It represents a new beginning - a fresh start.

But what has failed to be considered by many is whether or not Mrs. Harris' naming will represent a policy change in the HEW-UNC and HEW anti-smoking campaign disputes that have been muchpublicized within the last year.

The answer is NO, and if there is any change at all, it will probably be unrecognizable.

There is no logical way that Carter would switch engines in while going down the middle of the tracks, he may switch engineers (as he has done) but not engines.

Yes. Patricia Harris would be expected to agree with most of Joe Califano's already-started programs including the decision to restructure the UNC university system since it is beneficial to the state's Black institutions which is probably aligned to her feelings.

For those who thought her naming would nullify the government anti-smoking campaign, you're wrong.

Patricia Harris will continue the same programs and continue in support of the major issues that Califano initiated and stood for. But her approach may be a little more forceful, seeing that she is most described as a stern no-nonsense woman who demands excellency from those who work with her.

Mrs. Harris has been put up front at HEW not only as a political figure piece, but to give the state of North Carolina and HEW a chance to cool out in the onceheated dispute and reconsider their fight.

The people will accept Patricia Harris and her policies and the people of this state will grow with her even in the face of bat-

Why?

Because she will lend her fantastic mind, ideas and an open ear to North Carolinians who will suffer when the disputes are settled. She seems to be more interested in compromising on the issues rather than allow a take-all or give-all

Her relationship will be good and North Carolina will be more willing to settle the cloudy issues that hover above.

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#### WE WERE WRONG

In the August 20 issue of BLACK INK. we listed Terry Pittman as the black student selected to perform on the varisty cheerleading squad. The name should read Terry Lamb.

Think Black Ink! Meetings are held every Monday at 6:30 p.m. in Upendo Lounge.

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