

**A PENNY SAVED IS A PENNY EARNED** ... AND YOU'LL FIND THOSE SAVINGS REALLY ADD UP WHEN YOU SHOP AT **The Carolina Times ADVERTISERS**

## Top Black Agriculture Official Rooting Out Ageless Racism in The Department

WASHINGTON — Dr. Joan S. Wallace, assistant secretary of Agriculture for administration, has taken a man-size job in attempting to root out ageless racism in that agency.

But she has taken it on with sleeves rolled up like any sweaty farmer, and, in the harness with her suprisingly, is Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland, a Minnesota small grain grower.

Together, they hope to rid agriculture of racism not only in Department employment rolls, but also out on the land where discrimination and outright grand larceny have reduced the number of black farm families from nearly a million fifty years ago to less than 50,000 today.

As recently as 1940, black farmers owned more than ten million acres of good cotton and tobacco land. Now they own less than four million, and it is reported to be slipping out of their hands at the rate of 6,000 acres a week, most of it in courthouse sales after owners die, and relatives in distant cities fail to keep up the taxes or to lay full claim to the land by having the will probated.

But the slide really started with the New Deal's acreage allotments and price-supports "designed" to be administered at the county level by the farmers themselves. Only black farmers never shared in the administration. As a

result, many of their farms have no assigned acreage allotments for growing cotton or tobacco and other cash crops.

With the black farmers dwindling and their land disappearing,

Dr. Wallace, the highest ranked black ever in the Department of Agriculture, and Secretary Bergland may be trying to close the barn door after the horse has been stolen.

But they are trying. The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, which administers acreage allotments and price supports, has been told by Secretary Bergland, at Dr. Wallace's urging, that it must assure equal opportunity access for all farmers.

And the Farmers Home Administration, which is supposed to make loans to low-income farmers to help them acquire land, buy equipment, and build decent homes, is being held accountable for assuring blacks a fair shake.

As a result, Hispanic Assistant Secretary Alex Mercure and black Assistant Administrator of Farmers Home, Kenneth Latcholia, have instituted new policies to aid more black farmers both in acquiring land and in sharing in the \$50-million fund for business and industrial development loans.

Also Florida A. & M. University has been awarded a contract to train USDA employees to work more effectively with rural blacks, and it

and all the other sixteen predominately black land-grant colleges will receive directly the \$16 million set aside for their research activities rather than through the white land-grant colleges.

In her own bailiwick, Dr. Wallace is working to assure equal employment opportunity through her Office of Personnel, including a fair share of jobs for blacks at the three computer centers operated by the Office of Finance and Management.

Her Equal Opportunity Office, headed by James Frazier, now has the equal employment opportunity responsibility for the Department's 100,000 job slots in its far-flung operations.

Dr. Wallace is a tough row to hoe, but in her seventeen months on the job, she has made a good beginning. This is not surprising, considering the training and experience she brings to the position.

A native of Chicago, Dr. Wallace received her Ph.D. in social psychology from Northwestern, her bachelor's at Bradley Polytech, and her master's at Columbia. She has taught at the University of Illinois, University of Chicago, and Howard, has held the posts of vice president of Morgan State University and director of the school of social work at Western Michigan University before becoming assistant secretary of Agriculture.



**AGRICULTURE'S LONG-STANDING RACISM IS UNDER ATTACK** — by Assistant Secretary Joan S. Wallace, highest ranking black in the Department. She is shown at left receiving a citation from Wilbert Williams of Toastmasters International. At right, she joins Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland in cutting the ribbon to dedicate USDA's \$6-million computer recently installed at the Department's National Finance Center in New Orleans. Center is administered by Dr. Wallace. Left to right: Charles R. Kessler, Honeywell program manager; Charles A. Bucy, deputy assistant secretary; Dr. Wallace; Secretary Bergland; Dennis C. Boyd, center director; John F. Carson, Office of Finance and Management; Kevin F. Quinn, chief, Computer Services Division; and Tommie Cooper, Data Service Division.

## Average Annual Pay Highest in Alaska, D.C.

WASHINGTON — Average annual pay of workers covered by state and federal unemployment insurance programs is highest in Alaska and the District Columbia, according to new data published by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The data, for 1977, was compiled from the records of unemployment insurance programs. The data covers States as well as Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

Average annual pay was computed by dividing total payrolls of employers by average monthly employment. The figures approximate the average annual earnings paid to employees in various geographical areas.

Average annual pay was highest in Alaska (\$21,847) and the District of Columbia (\$15,132). These figures were 91.2 per cent and 32.5 per cent, respectively, above the national average of \$11,425. South Dakota (\$8,854) and Mississippi (\$9,075) were the states with the lowest average pay figures. Average annual pay among states is affected by differences in the industrial mix of their respective economies as well as differences in basic pay levels of workers.

The distribution of average annual pay among states, indicates there are nineteen States with averages close to that for the nation, five states with averages slightly above the national average, and twenty states with averages slightly below. A concentration of high average pay in the large urban centers of the Northeast, Middle Atlantic, and North Central States accounts for the uneven distribution of average pay among the States. Among the 264 selected

Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas (SMSA's), Anchorage, Alaska, (\$20,939) and Flint, Michigan (\$15,860) had the highest average annual pay and were 83.3 per cent and 38.3 per cent, respectively, above the national average. Average pay among SMSA's also is affected by differences in the industrial mix of their labor markets as well as differences in basic pay levels of workers.

The distribution of average annual pay among the selected SMSA's, using the same earnings intervals as presented in the chart, indicates the nine SMSA's are substantially above the national average, and 24 are substantially below.

### Are You 60 or Older?

If so, the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) can use your time and talent. We need the following: drivers to carry elderly persons grocery shopping once every two weeks, persons to assist with a Cub Scout day camp, someone to assist with clerical work in a vital Durham agency and retired teachers to assist with adult basic education classes.

Transportation can be arranged or mileage paid for any of the above. If any of these interest you, please call Mary Ingram or Helen Pressley at 596-9311, Durham Technical Institute.



Jade plants won't grow very well unless they have about six hours of sunlight a day.

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