

# White House Plans Conference of, by and for Youth

By JAMES M. NAUGHTON

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 11 —

A national conference intended to be of young people, by young people and for young people was announced today by the White House.

"We have been told by the young that they want to deal with the issues," said Stephen Hess, chairman of the conference, "and they will deal with the issues. We have been told that they want to meet with people that count, and they shall. We have been told that they want to define a conference in their own way, and we intend to allow them to do just that."

Mr. Hess said that the traditional Conference on Children and Youth, which has been held at the end of each decade since 1909, will be broken up this year, with the children's meeting in December and the meeting for youths (ages 14 to 24) in February.

The goal of the conference on youth, Mr. Hess said in a speech prepared for delivery tomorrow in San Francisco and released by the White House, is to seek to widen channels of communication between youths and adults on topical issues — foreign relations, the environment, race relations, drugs, education and others.

## Friction on Staff

The announcement came as two young members of Mr. Hess's staff were being dismissed for being "overqualified" for their jobs.

Carol Valoris, 24, and Marlene Silverman, 27, both activists on social issues, were given 30 days, through tomorrow, to find new jobs.

Both staff members said they

believed that their dismissals were related to their participation in a mass rally May 9 of opponents of the Nixon Administration's decision to send American troops into Cambodia. They were asked to resign in the week following the rally.

Mr. Hess said in an interview that he was unaware that the two women had attended the rally. He confirmed, however, the accounts of the woman that they had been told they were "overqualified" for their jobs.

"What am I going to do with two people I don't need?" said Mr. Hess. "I need secretaries. Everybody wants to be an administrative assistant."

## Promoted 2 Months Before

Two months before her dismissal, Miss Valoris had been promoted from a GS-7 Government salary level to that of GS-9, an increase of some \$1,700 a year.

There were reports from present and former staff officials of the White House conference, including some who left when Mr. Hess was appointed chairman last Dec. 5, that prospective panel chairmen for the upcoming conference were being given political background checks.

According to the sources, staff members were instructed to find out, among other things, the voting residence of the prospective panelists.

"Forum chairmen are Presidential appointees," Mr. Hess said. "We handle them like any other Presidential appointees."

Mr. Hess said in the text of his San Francisco speech that 45 young people would work in Washington this summer, compiling information to present in August to committees of the youth conference. Each one

will have twice as many young people as adults, he said.

Members of the committees will decide the shape of the full conference in February, Mr. Hess added. He emphasized that the White House believed that the meeting should be "a youth conference, not a student's conference—that is, it should involve all types of young people, working youth, poor youth, youth in the military, teenage mothers, as well as students."

Mr. Hess and his staff originally had planned to hold a youth conference in June of 1971. The decision to move the conference up to February was interpreted as the latest in a series of efforts by the White House to reopen lines of communication that were severed in the aftermath of the Cambodian action and the campus turmoil associated with it.

Unlike most White House conferences, in which experts

present scholarly papers and examine issues, the youth conference will essentially be an attempt to develop a dialogue between young people and their elders in Government, religion, education and the social sciences.

Another difference between the forthcoming conferences and those held during the previous six decades is that Mr. Hess is the first full-time national chairman. Traditionally, a prominent individual outside the Government has been named chairman and served part-time.

Prior to his appointment, Mr. Hess had been a deputy assistant to President Nixon, working with the Urban Affairs Council.

The Conference on Children, focusing on those ranging from infancy to age 13, will be held here Dec. 13 to 18. President Nixon is expected to address both conferences.