

James Farmer to Resign As a Nixon Welfare Aide

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 4 —

James Farmer, who is the Nixon Administration's most prominent Negro official, and the two chiefs of a White House committee on opportunities for the Spanish-Speaking are resigning, the latter because of what they describe as weariness from dealing with bureaucrats.

Mr. Farmer, one of the founders of the Congress of Racial Equality, declined, in an interview today, to confirm or deny that he was quitting his post as Assistant Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare. But department sources said Mr. Farmer had informed associates of his impending resignation and the California businessman said to have been chosen to succeed him, Rodney H. Brady, was at the department today for a meeting with Robert H. Patricelli, the Deputy Under Secretary.

Henry Quevedo, executive director of the Cabinet Committee on Equal Opportunity for Spanish-Speaking Citizens, said he and the committee chairman, Martin G. Castillo, were weary after two years of playing an advocacy role within the Administration.

"One of the biggest frustra-



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tions is to find, in the 20th century that things like equal opportunity and social justice are still negotiable," Mr. Quevedo said in an interview.

He denied reports that his resignation and Mr. Castillo's had been sought by the White House because Spanish-American voters in Texas and California had not supported Republican candidates in the 1970 elections.

"I feel very strongly and keenly that the President shares

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our aspirations," Mr. Quevedo said. He added that Vice President Agnew had been "very helpful" and he said that Robert H. Finch, counselor to the President, "is our superhero." But he added, "From that [level] down, I don't want to comment."

Mr. Quevedo said that he and Mr. Castillo, both lawyers from Los Angeles, were proud of their successes in developing new opportunities for Spanish-speaking citizens, but he said that they had been accomplished in the face of "less than a warm reception from old-line bureaucrats."

These officials, he said, "are Easterners who seem to think a Mexican-American or a Spanish-speaking person is out there in the West under a tree somewhere. They think of civil rights as a black-white issue and just don't know the nation's second-largest minority is also suffering. That's 10 million people."

Speculation about Mr. Farmer's resignation was circulated for months, but he has consistently answered inquiries by saying as he did today, "I know nothing about it."

He was one of Mr. Nixon's earliest appointees and to critics who frequently accused him of having turned his back on the civil rights movement he has responded that he could do more good inside the Administration than outside it.

As Assistant Secretary for Administration, Mr. Farmer has had little direct responsibility for programs dealing with major civil rights issues.

Mr. Brady, who is white, is a former vice president for management of the Hughes Tool Company of Culver City, Calif. Officials of the company referred inquiries about Mr. Brady to two telephone numbers in Washington, both of them at the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, where he was meeting with Mr. Patricelli.