

Third U.S. Health Official Resigns

Washington

The resignation of a third major administration health official in less than three months was announced yesterday when Dr. William I. Bauer quit as chief evaluator of medical care for the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

Bauer, a Greeley, Colo. physician who was hired only last April, said he was resigning effective October 1, in disillusionment over the administration's reorganization of federal health services in the Health, Education and Welfare Department.

Bauer headed HEW's Office of Professional Standards Review.

He said the administration had made a "significant commitment" to his program, "but that commitment has not been translated into action."

STAFF

Sources said Bauer was especially unhappy with the 36 staff positions given him to carry out a program potentially involving 50 million patients, 300,000 doctors, 3000 nursing homes and 3000 hospitals.

The sources said he had been led to believe he also would have the services of another 50 physicians in Social Security's Bureau of Health Insurance and up to 150 from HEW's Health Services Administration.

SUCCESSOR

HEW Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger praised Dr. Bauer's "many and significant" contributions, and appointed Dr. Henry Simmons, deputy assistant HEW secretary for health, as Bauer's acting successor.

The resignations began June 28, when Dr. Arthur J. Lesser, veteran chief of federal health services for crippled children and low-income pregnant mothers, quit and complained that a breakup of his agency would make its director "a figurehead" with no authority.

He was followed by Dr. Gordon K. Macleod, who left July 3 as director of the administration's health maintenance organization services program of prepaid group practices. Macleod said his program would become merely "a desk function" under an internal overhaul at HEW.

Bauer was hired to supervise development of federally chartered doctor's organizations that will monitor the quality of medical care provided to the elderly and

needy. Congress, concerned that Medicare and Medicaid medical care had not been monitored adequately, created Bauer's program last year.

OPPOSITION

Bauer found confusion in the program and scattered opposition among physicians groups that expressed fears of new government involvement in private medicine.

His office has a \$34 million budget, and the director reports to Dr. Charles C. Edwards, assistant HEW secretary for health.

An Edwards spokesman said: "Bauer was concerned with the way the office was organized and felt he didn't have enough muscle to do the job. We disagreed. We believe the resources were there to do the job. We are not happy about his leaving, but the thing is going to go on."

A.P. & U.P.