

Notes on People

New H.U.D. Officer On Fair Housing

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Dr. Gloria E. A. Toote of New York will leave her post tomorrow as Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for fair housing and equal opportunity. She will be replaced by James H. Blair, formerly head of New Jersey's Civil Rights Commission and now chairman of Michigan's Civil Rights Commission.

Dr. Toote, who has law degrees from Columbia and Howard Universities, was appointed in June, 1973. She said yesterday that she had asked for a transfer outside the department about the time Carla A. Hills became head of the department last month "and she suggested I leave by April 30," adding that the new Secretary had accepted her resignation and "has the right to a staff she feels comfortable with."

Dr. Toote, 42 years old, was a Republican candidate for the State Assembly in 1958 from West Harlem, where she lives with her mother and sister. Her only immediate plans are "to rest and then resume some writing and speaking."

Tomorrow will find Betty Ford here for a National Cancer Society benefit lunch, the first of four planned appearances outside the capital in less than three weeks and her busiest schedule since her latest arthritis attacks. Mrs. Ford will see the President crown their daughter, Susan, queen of the Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival Friday. She will be in Philadelphia May 12 and in San Diego May 20.

Representative Wilbur Mills has told his office staff that he will return to work May 5. The Arkansas Democrat has been in a Florida institute for the treatment of alcoholism since late February, following two months in Bethesda Naval Hospital.

The American Center of PEN will have President Leopold Sedar Senghor of Senegal, a poet and author, as honor guest and speaker at its annual dinner at the St. Regis Hotel May 27. The visit was announced by Jerzy Kosinski, the Polish-born novelist who is president of the American branch of the international literary organization.

Theodore H. White, who in his book "The Making of the President, 1972" attributed

Richard M. Nixon's perception of politics and of governing to his training "in the hit-and-cut style of California media politics," now traces Watergate, too, back to California. In his latest book, "Breach of Faith: The Fall of Richard Nixon," condensed in two installments beginning in the May Reader's Digest, Mr. White says California was the native soil of "a new breed of professional manipulators who were to take over, without ever understanding it, the delicate meeting ground of politics and government."

But, says Mr. White, "neither the law, nor Congress, nor the press" drove Mr. Nixon from office. "He had done so himself," the author writes. "For his perception of power, at which he thought himself a master, was flawed, as his character was flawed."

The new executive director of the Washington-based Environmental Defense Fund is Arlie Schardt, formerly associate director at the American Civil Liberties Union headquarters in the capital. Mr. Schardt, a former journalist, succeeds Roderick Cameron, who will practice law in Washington.

Nationalization of the ancient Duchies of Lancaster and Cornwall is being proposed by a persistent critic of the British Crown, Willie Hamilton, a Scots Laborite member of Parliament. The estates, scattered all over Britain, contain thousands of income-producing acres. Queen Elizabeth II receives \$720,000 a year from the Duchy of Lancaster and Prince Charles, her son, gets \$480,000 from the Duchy of Cornwall. Mr. Hamilton proposed Sunday that the income of the Prince of Wales, who is also Duke of Cornwall, be reduced to what the Prime Minister gets — \$48,000 a year.

Janet Flanner, who was to fly to Paris yesterday after her customary half-year in New York, sprained her ankle returning home from Sunday's concert by Vladimir Horowitz and will be grounded until the end of the week. The New Yorker's long-time correspondent "Genet" was 83 last month and will have her eighth book published next month.

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