AIDE QUITS H.U.D., CALLING IT BIASED

N EW YORK TIMES, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1970

Robert J. Affeldt, a civil rights official in the Department of Housing and Urban Development, resigned today, charging that the Nixon Administration is "encouraging and perpetuating racial discrimination in housing, employment and education," he said.

The resignation came "as an independent who was trying to bring into force the "full authority" of the open housing law," according to a number of official studies.

Mr. Affeldt, director of the Department's Office of Public Affairs, issued this statement in response to the charge:

"Robert J. Affeldt did not hold a top position in H.U.D. He was a GS-15 (civil service rank) and occupied a middle management position. He originally came to H.U.D. to stay for a period of one year, which expired today."

His salary was $24,000 a year.

Mr. Affeldt's statement pointed out a deep division within the management about how far it should go in combating racial discrimination.

Mr. Affeldt is white. He worked under Samuel J. Simmons, Assistant Secretary for Equal Opportunity, who is black. Mr. Simmons has quietly been trying to persuade his superiors to adopt stronger anti-discrimination policies.

Affeldt Called Slow

By all accounts, enforcement of the 1968 fair housing act has gone slowly. Some housing has been opened to minority families through conciliation efforts of the department, and the Justice Department has filed some lawsuits attacking "patterns of practices" in discrimination on the recommendation of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

But the law has had little over-all impact on opening white neighborhoods to minority buyers. Meanwhile, job opportunities have moved farther away from black neighborhoods in the central cities, according to a number of official studies.

Mr. Romney has said on numerous occasions that ways must be found to increase housing opportunities for blacks and other minorities. But he recently told Congress that he did not believe he had the legal authority to withhold funds from communities that practice discrimination. A Presidential study group has asserted that he has such authority and should use it.

Mr. Simmons has been pushing a package of enforcement proposals that would stop short of sweeping fund cutoffs, but go further than present policy. One proposal would require developers receiving Housing and Urban Development funds to pledge that they would actively seek minority buyers.

There has been no indication that such steps will be adopted by the Administration. There was "encouraging and perpetuating racial discrimination."