

Parham Resigns as EOA Chief, Accepts Staff Post at University

By PAUL RYAN

Thomas M. (Jim) Parham resigned Wednesday as executive administrator of Economic Opportunity Atlanta to accept a staff position with the Institute of Government at the University of Georgia.

The EOA board of directors accepted Parham's resignation "with very deep regret" and elected Deputy Administrator William W. Allison to head the organization.

The board elected G. Clinton Rodgers, EOA associate administrator for manpower, to replace Allison as deputy administrator.

Parham, who will leave EOA July 15, said he is resigning because "the task of administering the wide range of EOA activities and the necessity of meeting the growing requirements of federal funding sources consumes all and more of one's energies and leaves no time to consider in depth any particular subject."

The 42-year-old Parham, who has served as EOA executive administrator for almost two years, said he has concluded that there are others who can attend these administrative duties as well or better than myself.

In his letter of resignation, dated June 4, Parham said he wants to devote his time to "matters of long-time professional interest, such as child



UNIVERSITY BOUND
Jim Parham



MOVES UP
William Allison

welfare, crime and delinquency and income maintenance for the poor."

In a statement of regret adopted unanimously by the EOA board of directors, Boisfeuillet Jones, board chairman, said that Parham has served "as an able administrator and a sensitive humanist."

In accepting the \$20,000-a-year position, Allison, 35, said he will "continue to follow the same general goals that my predecessor has pursued as vigorously."

Allison, the first Negro to head the agency in charge of

the war on poverty for Atlanta and Fulton, Gwinnett and Rockdale counties, said Parham has "laid the foundation of real resident involvement."

The new executive administrator, who has worked on the EOA staff since the organization's inception four years ago, said he will attempt to increase the participation of public and private agencies in programs to aid the poor.

In addition to his position with EOA, Allison has served since January 1968 as an assistant professor of city planning at Georgia Tech and as a visiting

lecturer at Clark College.

The new EOA head holds a B.A. degree from DePauw University. He studied for a year at the Northwestern University Law School and has completed graduate studies in political science and Far East history at the University of the Philippines.

Studying on a Jessie Smith Noyes Fellowship, Allison received a M.P.A. degree in urban development and a renewal from the graduate school of public and international affairs at the University of Pittsburgh.

Parham said he had recommended Allison to the EOA board of directors because he feels Allison "has the intelligence and experience necessary for the job."

Jones commented that Allison had not been selected because he is a Negro. "The board is completely impartial as far as race is concerned," the chairman stated.

Shortly before Parham was named to the EOA post following the death of C. O. Emmertich Sr., some local Negro leaders had pushed for the appointment of a Negro to the top anti-poverty job here.

Jones said board members, many of whom are Negroes, had elected Parham unanimously two years ago and elected Allison unanimously Wednesday.

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