

The Battalion

Wednesday, August 29, 1984

Housing secretary says job program successful

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Housing Secretary Samuel Pierce Wednesday praised a government-industry pilot program that trained and placed 61 minority youths in jobs this year, but said the 33 percent unemployment in that age group is "still way too high."

The Housing and Urban Development chief was joined at a news conference by the mayors of several cities that are participating in the project to train minority youths in management, repair, landscaping and maintenance of public housing projects.

"This is an excellent training program but more needs to be done to stimulate the overall economy," said Johnny Ford, mayor of Tuskegee, Ala.

The program has awarded \$100,000 to each of 11 cities participating.

The money comes out of HUD's Comprehensive Improvement Assistance program. In addition, many of the cities have obtained supplemental funds through matching private industry programs.

While the nation's overall unemployment rate is hovering just over 7 percent, joblessness for black youths has ranged much higher, from 48 percent in 1980 to about 33 percent today, Pierce said.

"That's still way too high," he said, but said the three graduates of the Minority Youth Training Initiative who participated in the news conference are "tangible proof of a successful program."

Earlier Wednesday, the National

League of Cities released a report showing that more than six out of ten U.S. cities list unemployment among their top problems.

Pierce said "policies of the past" such as the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of the Carter administration had failed because they did not train people for jobs that actually exist.

"This program attacks the roots of unemployment, it does not just hack at the branches," Pierce said.

He said 165 youths had graduated from the program in the past year, though only 61 have found jobs.

"This is a model project," Pierce said repeatedly. "We want to see how well it does."

Pierce said the program will be expanded to seven more cities next year.



Talking it up

Photo by PETER ROCHA

Seniors Mark Dries and Denise Leigh take a new slant to soak up some sun and enjoy some conversation between classes Wednesday outside Milner Hall.

Hughes' estate pays out millions in death taxes

United Press International

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — The administrator of billionaire Howard Hughes' personal estate Wednesday signed a "costly" agreement to give California up to \$150 million in cash and land in death taxes, culminating a lengthy legal battle over the reclusive tycoon's property.

William Lummis, administrator of Hughes' complicated estate, said he planned to sign a similar negotiated settlement to pay \$50 million cash in inheritance taxes to Texas.

Lummis called the agreements "an important milestone," ending an eight-year legal battle between Hughes' heirs and the states of California and Texas over inheritance taxes.

"This is a compromise settlement, a costly one for us," said Lummis, who identified himself as Hughes' first cousin. "But after eight years, with three trips to the Supreme

Court, this is the time to dispose of this litigation."

California Controller Ken Cory, who signed the inch-thick document during a news conference Wednesday, said the settlement must still be approved by a probate judge in Los Angeles Superior Court and the Supreme Court.

"We're convinced we fought a war and we are declaring victory," Cory said.

He said without the settlement, it would take another five years to resolve the legal issues.

Hughes left a personal estate estimated at between \$300 million and \$500 million when he died in April 1976 while flying on a private plane from Acapulco, Mexico to Houston, Texas, for medical treatment. Hughes always denied leaf residency in either state and said he lived in Nevada, which has no inheritance tax.

For tax purposes, the IRS placed a \$371 million value on Hughes' personal estate, although both California and Texas claimed its value was closer to \$450 million.

Cory said the state would receive \$44 million in cash and a trust deed for 73 acres of undeveloped "prime real estate" near the exclusive Southern California community of Marina del Rey.

The land will be held until 1988, after which the state could either sell it to the highest bidder or return it to the Hughes' founded Summa Corp. for a minimum of \$75 million, Cory said.

Summa Corp. has already agreed to make more than \$6 million in improvements to the land, which is now used as a Little League baseball field. An appraiser from Caldwell Banker has estimated the land could be worth up to \$106 million if it can be developed, he said.

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