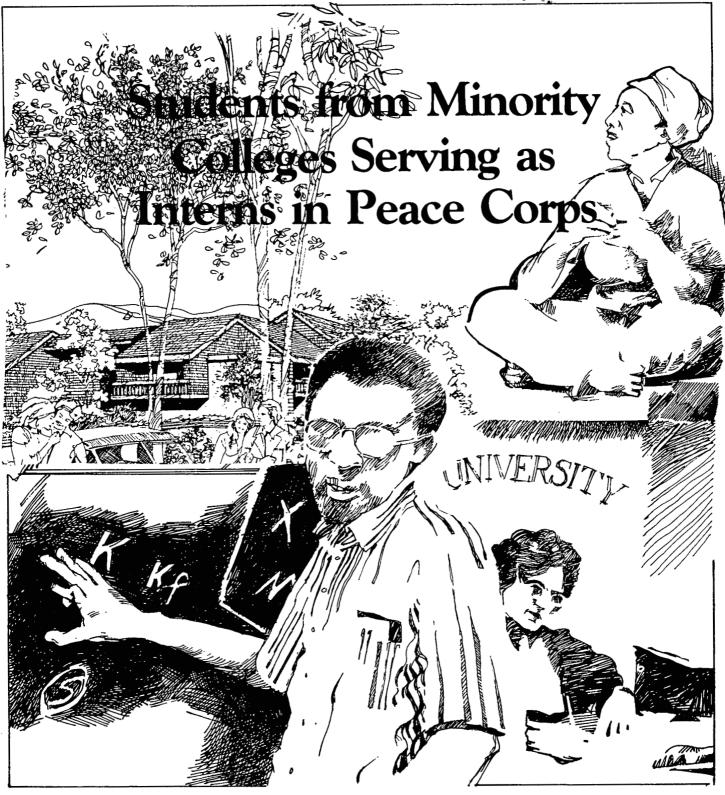
ACTION update...



Program to Increase Awareness, Involvement in PC Issues

Increased minority participation, the design of a core curriculum and significant development education thrust are three Peace Corps priorities for the 80s.

This year the Peace Corps will initiate a summer intern program which addresses these priorities – bringing third-year students from traditionally minority colleges to work and study at Peace Corps headquarters for eight weeks.

The program was designed cooperatively with the Office of Policy and Planning (OPP), the Office of Programming and Training Coordination (OPTC) and the Office of Voluntary Citizen Participation (OVCP). It will serve as an introduction to the Third World and Peace Corps' role in addressing development issues and basic human needs in developing countries, both in terms of the conceptual framework of Peace Corps development approach and the real work involved in delivering volunteers to the field.

The first 15 interns will begin the intensive



work study program on June 30. They were chosen from applicants in more than 100 minority colleges in the United States and Puerto Rico.

Although this is not exclusively a minority program, the first group of interns has been recruited through minority institutions in an attempt to correct an imbalance of minority participation in Peace Corps programs Figures from Peace Corps show that out of 4,800 volunteers now serving abroad, less than 200 are minorities – a disproportionately small number.

Peace Corps Deputy Director William Sykes made the final selection of interns on April 24. The majority of students were nominated by the president, vice-president or dean at their respective schools. Each had at least a B average and a demonstrated commitment to important social issues.

The selected students are: Jeanette Marks. Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Ala.; Ivy Lewis, Delaware State College, Dover, Del.; Tranda Green, St. Augustine College, Raleigh, N.C.; Phillippa Norman, Tougaloo College, Tougaloo, Miss.; Kevin McKinnon, Elizabeth City State University, Elizabeth City, N.C.; Brenda Wallace, University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff; Emile Wilson, Xavier University, New Orleans, La.; Betty Parker, Benedict College, Columbia, S.C.; Jane Hemphill, Jackson State College, Jackson, Miss.; Lori Ford, Clark College, Atlanta, Ga., Darrel White, Florida Memorial College, Miami, Fla., Donna Green, University of D.C., Washington, D.C.; Willie Holmes, Bethune-Cookman College, Daytona Beach, Fla.; Lorriane Avitea, Antioch West University, Denver, Colo.; and Vera Warren, Southern University, New Orleans, La.

The interns should develop a working knowledge of Peace Corps operations and an in-depth knowledge of development theories. This will be done through a series of workshops, lectures, films, case studies on the one hand, and regular work with agency staff on the other. Work assignments will team interns with staff in placement, OPTC and OVCP as well as PC country desk officers.

The range of issues to be examined is vast and includes cross-cultural perspectives among Third World countries, women's involvement in the Third World and the role of minorities as volunteers.

In the case of this first internship, a special effort will be made to strengthen the knowledge base from which minority students can operate in regard to Peace Corps and to Third World issues which often mirror those of minorities in the United States.

Students also will examine and identify technical and personal skills needed to function effectively in the developing world. This examination will include an exploration of Peace Corps assignments that might use their respective skills.

Special provisions will be made for interns who decide, within three months of completing the program, to enter Peace Corps service after graduating from college, including early processing of their

application, nomination and placement in a program. In addition, successful participants will be encouraged to enter into the Peace Corps recruitment process, during their senior year, through participation in existing or potential strategy contracts at their college and through contact with ACTION's area recruitment offices.

The program will contribute to the development of a replicable curriculum that can later be adapted to other intern programs, cooperative education, service-learning, in-service training for Peace Corps desk officers, and the core curriculum for Peace Corps volunteers.

LaForge Runs in Boston Marathon

Peace Corps Congressional Liaison Bill LaForge goes to extremes to get out the Peace Corps message. He is shown at the 26-mile point of the Boston Marathon, which was held April 21. LaForge finished the 26-mile, 385-yard course in two hours and 53 minutes. (Bill Rodgers, four-time winner, won the race in two hours, 12 minutes and 11 seconds.)

LaForge's attention-getting Peace Corps shirt may have cost him a few minutes. It led him into a number of on-the-road conversations with former Peace Corps volunteers also in the race, including a recent returnee from Morocco, a PCV who served in Nigeria in the early 60s and a recruit headed for Upper Volta this June. LaForge said the red, white and blue shirt elicited an enthusiastic response from the thousands of spectators lining the Marathon route.

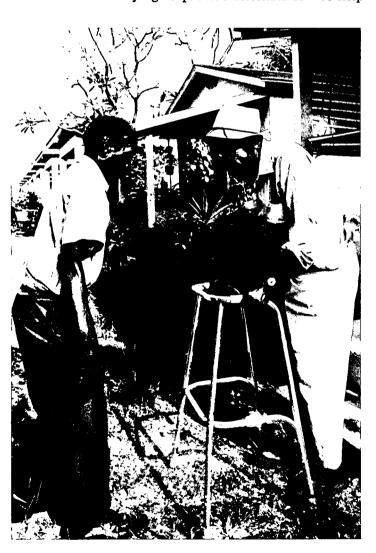
Laurie Binder, a former PCV in Kenya, finished with the fourth-best women's time at 2:39:22. Five-thousand people were officially registered to run in the race, and LaForge estimates that a similar number may have run unofficially.



ACTION Helps the Handicapped Live More Independently

Mental and physical disabilities can strike anyone, without warning, at any time of life. Nobody is immune to the ravages of mind and body that occur with illness, old age or at birth. In addition, the cost of institutionalization of handicapped citizens runs into millions of taxpayer dollars.

A major tragedy is that an estimated 40 percent of mentally or physically disabled citizens live in institutions because they have no alternative. ACTION is trying to provide alternatives – to help



the disabled overcome some limitations and come out of institutions back into the community where they can live more independently, and hopefully more rewardingly.

ACTION's Senior Companion Program (SCP) has been particularly helpful to the handicapped elderly. Over 3,500 Senior Companions on more than 60 projects are providing services to the frail and infirm elderly in their communities in an effort to prevent or delay institutionalization. They also work with patients in nursing homes and hospitals in preparation for their return to the community and provide important follow-up support once they are home.

In a 1978 survey, conducted by the Office of Policy and Planning's Evaluation Division (OPP/E) 26 out of 29 SCP directors questioned, indicated their feeling that Senior Companions were playing a crucial role in keeping the sick elderly from being placed in nursing homes in the hope of making life better for their clients and saving hundreds of thousands of dollars in public funds.

OPP has made some major initiatives. In September, 1979 that office awarded a \$60,000 grant for a one-year demonstration program to the Southeast Alabama Rehabilitation Center (SARC), a non-profit facility which provides rehabilitative services to retarded and developmentally disabled citizens.

The grant is helping to develop the Center's Community Independent Living Program, which coordinates community support services in an effort to offer daily living instruction, and training in vocational preparation and personal adjustment to its patients. The grant also enables twelve full-time college student volunteers, housed in the center's quarters or "domiciliary" to work, for one college quarter and for academic credit, to provide round-the-clock rehabilitative activities for patients. Four students, planning careers in social work, human development and rehabilitation, are involved per academic quarter.

In addition, 24 community and high-school student volunteers are providing ten weeks of follow-up activities, helping their clients to locate jobs, housing, and in general to adjust to a more independent lifestyle once they have left the

center.

SARC administrator, Ron Haller says, "Although it is too early to completely assess the impact of the project, we expect that an increasing number of patients will be able to locate jobs and to leave the center as a result of the work of the volunteers. So far, three out of four patients helped by the volunteers have found employment, and this has exceeded our expectations."

A major reason for Haller's optimism is an observed increase, since the awarding of the ACTION grant, in the self-esteem of the patients and their desire to break away from a total support living situation. "Also, SARC personnel and the student volunteers are conducting a publicity drive, educating the community about the center's work and the ability of the handicapped," he says.

"The community is receptive," he continues. Local institutions and businesses are showing considerably more understanding of and respect for the handicapped than before. They are beginning to improve special services to them and to recruit them for employment. This has been an ongoing process which we feel has been enhanced with the help of the ACTION grant."

According to OPP grant manager Leo Voytko, ACTION deinstitutionalization initiatives, such as SARC, have attracted the interest of several organizations, including the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), formerly HEW, the President's Committee on Mental Retardation (PCMR) and the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation. He anticipates that ongoing communication with such organizations will result in joint funding of those models.

OPP funded three other new programs in 1979 to test deinstitutionalization models. Volunteers in and around Billings, Mont. are working, as case managers in a community mental health center, "in a manner which gains community and client acceptance of volunteers as part of an integrated service system," Voytko says.

In Cleveland, Ohio, former and current mental health clients are benefitting therapeutically by serving as volunteers in community settings; and in Sonoma, Calif., some 300 community volunteers are providing one-to-one assistance to developmentally disabled persons in institutional and community settings. They are also training those pati-

ents in self-help/self-advocacy and consumer organization techniques.

In addition OPP is continuing two demonstration programs originally funded in 1978, Helping Hand in Salem Ark. and the Personal Representative Service System (PRSS) in Salem, Ore. and



Many ACTION volunteers like this Senior Companion (left) provide home care for the sick elderly.

Harrisburg, Pa. Helping Hand pairs senior volunteers with developmentally disabled students in a day school setting. And PRSS is training volunteers to assess support services responsive to the self-defined needs of the handicapped.

"Our models are demonstrating that the handicapped must be prime movers and decision makers in programs geared to their needs," Voytko says. "A self-help/self-advocacy approach is the touchstone of the success of these programs."

Voytko also stressed the increasing importance of volunteers in meeting deinstitutionalization goals. "Indications are that they are an important part of a comprehensive, community support system for the handicapped," he says, "particularly where intensive personal care is needed."

Community Energy Conservation Drive Begins Nationwide



ACTION has selected 18 communities across the country to take part in a newly initiated energy conservation program. The involved towns and cities, which range from 600 to 685,000 people, will demonstrate how any American community can marshall its own financial, technical and human resources to help meet the energy crisis.

The recently formed Community Energy Project (CEP) in ACTION's Office of Voluntary Citizen Participation is assisting these communities with technical advice and mini-grants of up to \$5,000 provided through an interagency agreement with the Department of Energy (DOE) (See February 29 issue of Update).

CEP is an extension of the nation's first city-wide volunteer effort to meet the soaring costs of energy. An intensive nine-week campaign, conducted last fall by the Fitchburg Action to Conserve Energy (FACE) program in Fitchburg, Mass., brought about dramatic decreases in energy consumption for the people of that city. ACTION initiated the FACE effort, provided technical assistance, and worked with the citizens of Fitchburg to design a program to suit their community.

"Citizens from every walk of life can and will rally around and get things moving when it comes to energy conservation," said ACTION Director Sam Brown. "Now, we have a chance to tell every city and town in America that they too can begin conserving energy as a community-wide effort. FACE proved that it can be done."

The CEP drives are located in Northampton and Haverhill, Mass.; Milwaukee and Madison, Wisc.; Inkster, Mich.; Middletown, Conn.; Jackson County, Ill.; Lafayette, La.; Valley City, N.D.; Charlottesville, Va; Council Bluffs, Iowa; Rochester and Chemung County, N.Y.; Casper, Wyo.; San Juan Pueblo, N.M.; Ellsworth-Hancock, Maine; Elmira, N.Y.; Salt Lake City, Utah; and Moses Lake, Wash.

The Ellsworth-Hancock campaign, which began on April 21, involves education workshops to motivate residents to conserve energy in their daily lives by such measures as using pressure cookers to save gas, and avoiding the use of styrofoam cups and plastic wrappers, by-products of the petrochemical industry. Training sessions on low-cost/no-cost conservation techniques will be conducted and volunteers will be recruited and trained to weatherize houses belonging to the elderly and handicapped.

The Chemung Energy Conservation (CHECK) program in Elmira, N.Y., a city of about 40,000, will begin this summer with demonstration programs in a deteriorating inner city neighborhood, a rural trailer park and possibly two public housing projects.

"Come fall, we intend to blitz the whole county with an all-out conservation campaign," says Louise Fletcher, director of the Chemung County Retired Senior Volunteer Program, which is sharing the responsibility for volunteer activities with a local volunteer center.

"We have problems here that you don't have in a single government situation or in states with regionalized governments," Fletcher says. "We have a city, 11 towns and 10 villages here. Each has its own layers of authority. But when we kick off, everyone will have to be ready to act on the same day at the same time in the same way."

Each community will have home energy conservation trainers operating out of permanent and mobile CHECK sites, which also will serve as distribution points for low-cost weatherization kits, and volunteer crews will be on hand to work on homes belonging to senior citizens and others who need assistance, according to Fletcher. "As in Fitchburg, we hope that when 10 or more people are gathered together, a mobile van will be there," she says. "We'll go to stores, factories, hospitals — wherever the people are."

CEP Director Francis Luzzatto said that ACTION staff, particulary in the involved state program offices, have been working beyond the call of duty, with CEP in support of the energy program. "I have never been involved in an innovative program which gained such immediate support from everyone involved," Luzzatto said.

Committee Recommends Funding Levels for Staff Training

In order to implement staff training programs within the limited FY 80 ACTION budget, an Ad Hoc Committee on Staff Training and Career Development has been established.

The committee recommend training and funding levels for each ACTION office and determined the percentage of training funds to go to each of three categories within each office.

The committee, made up of six ACTION staff members, consists of: Jim Lancaster, Director of Administration and Finance; Chick Tooker, Domestic and Anti-Poverty Operations; Vinette Jones, Office of Recruitment and Communications; Dana Rogers, Office of Policy and Planning; and Barbara Wedge, Ken Van Osdol and Ben Figueras, representing the ACTION Employees Union.

The three training categories, ranked according to priority, and the recommended percentage of funding for each is as follows:

Higher Law and Regulation - 25 percent - This includes funding necessary to meet those needs directly required by law, regulation or order, i.e. required training for supervisors or for Upward Mobility candidates.

Agency - 60 percent - This includes needs created by new or modified systems, i.e. training for Sycor terminal operations; needs identified through performance appraisal, as necessary to improve performance of official duties; state-of-the-art updates in technical areas considered

essential to the function of the organizational unit, i.e. new accounting or recruiting techniques; and needs created by new or modified policies having major impact, i.e. agency ZBB/CYOPs planning.

Career Development - 15 percent – This includes needs created as a result of, but not required by higher authority, i.e. communications and human relations type skills; and need for additional development of skills of benefit to an office where the potential has been identified through performance appraisal and/or merit promotion procedures, i.e. on-the-job or bridge position training.

Funding levels for training, recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee and approved by the Director of ACTION, have been established for each office. (See Chart)

Consultation between Lancaster and Nancy Kingsbury, Director, Peace Corps Office of Resource Management, resulted in Peace Corps' receiving \$10,500 of the \$53,000 in training funds available for the remainder of FY 80. Based on information Peace Corps has requested from regional directors and office heads, funds will be allocated within the next month. The Staff Training Systems Branch of A&F/Personnel Management will continue to provide administrative support to Peace Corps for the remainder of 1980.

| OFFICE | LAW & REGULATIONS | AGENCY | CAREER DEVELOPMENT | TOTAL |
|----------|-------------------|----------|--------------------|----------|
| DO | \$4,245 | \$11,046 | \$4,335 | \$19,626 |
| AF | 4,300 | 5,955 | • | 10,255 |
| ORC | 1,571 | 3,840 | 450 | 5,861 |
| OPP | - | 3,040 | 850 | 3,890 |
| OC | • | 405 | 500 | 905 |
| GC | • | 715 | - | 715 |
| OVCP | - | 400 | • | 400 |
| DIRECTOR | - | _ | 300 | 300 |
| LGA | - | • | • | • |
| | \$10,116 | \$25,401 | \$6,435 | \$41,952 |

Earth Day Celebrations:

New Commitment to the Environment



Michael Duberstein (seated) chats with visitors at ACTION's Earth Day Exhibit.

n April 22, 1970, millions of U.S. citizens publicly and formally acknowledged the need for a new awareness of and concern for their environment, through a series of special events marking what was called "Earth Day."

Ten years later, after considerable maturation and diversification of the environmental movement, "Earth Day '80" demonstrated a renewed and continuing commitment to improving the environmental quality of our planet and to enhancing its natural resources.

To mark this commitment, thousands of events were held in cities and towns across the country on or around April 22, 1980, the 10th anniversary of the original Earth Day. Events included rallies, concerts, demonstrations, street fairs, teach-ins and a variety of contests. A group of citizens called the National Office of Earth Day, began co-ordinating events last fall.

The major event in Washington, D.C. was a fair, on April 19-22 on the Mall. Sponsored by the Department of Energy and nine other federal agencies, the fair featured over 50 environmental and community self-reliance exhibits ranging from operating stills for producing alcohol fuels to

electrically powered vehicles to solar grain-drying exhibits and a solar-powered glider. A number of special workshops were also featured.

As a proponent of self-help energy programs ACTION participated in the fair. An agency exhibit provided information on Peace Corps and VISTA programs for prospective volunteers and distributed brochures on various low-cost/no-cost energy-saving methods. These methods were also demonstrated through a continuing hands-on workshop based on ACTION's Community Energy Project which is helping develop these techniques in 19 cities and towns across the country.

Staff from the Office of Voluntary Citizen Participation (OVCP) and the Office of Recruitment and Communications coordinated and managed the exhibit, with the assistance of former VISTA and Peace Corps volunteers. David Gurr of the Office of Policy and Planning, and Michael Duberstein of OVCP headed ACTION's efforts.

"We want to recruit volunteers for ACTION programs who are sensitive to the environment," Gurr said. "With the exhibit, we were able to attract such people. In this way, it served as an excellent recruiting tool and a good way of bringing together

former volunteers and other people with shared values. According to Duberstein, over 16,000 energy-saving brochures were distributed.

Another highlight of the D.C. fair was the Solar-in-the-Cities Tour in which hundreds of people explored a number of solar applications representing a wide range of achievements toward energy self-reliance. As part of the tour, 18 families in the city, who use solar applications in their homes, opened these homes to the public. Deborah Higgins, staff member on ACTION's Community Energy Project, assisted as a tour conductor.

At a "bike-in" at 8:30 on Earth Day morning, groups of cyclists, totalling 3,000 people, including

members of Congress and the cabinet, converged at Lafayette Park, across the street from the White House to participate in a rally featuring speakers, music and entertainers. "The rally showed that bike riding is not only healthy and fun, but also a very feasible way to save transportation fuel costs," Duberstein said.

He added that the Earth Day Fair "not only presented ACTION an opportunity to demonstrate valuable energy-saving teachniques, but also presented us an opportunity to learn from others. A number of visitors taught us some new and worthwhile energy-saving methods," he said.

Peace Corps Staffer, Ex-PCVs Discuss Somalia Refugee Relief



Somalian Ambassador Abdullahi A. Addou is shown, second from left, discussing relief for Somalia refugees with (1. to r.) Martin R. Ganzglass, Calvin Hill and Charles R. Baquet. Hill, running back for the Cleveland Browns football team, is currently serving as special assistant to the director of the Peace Corps. Baquet and Ganzglass, former Peace Corps volunteers in Somalia, are members of the Board of Directors of the U.S.

Committee, founded by former volunteers. The committee is organizing activities to raise funds for relief of the estimated 600,000 refugees now encamped in Somalia after fleeing recent fighting in Ethiopia. The United Nations estimates that 1,000 refugees arrive in Somalia every day and that \$120 million is needed in emergency funds for food, medicine and other assistance.

Co-op Bank Opening Marks New Gains for Consumers

"The National Consumer Cooperative Bank (NCCB) is a people's bank," said its chairman, Lawrence Connell, at a recent opening ceremony at NCCB Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

'It was created to fight inflation by lending to people's cooperative enterprises that reduce costs across a broad range of basic needs," Connell continued.

Representatives from Congress and cooperatives nationwide, and other public officials also attended the ceremony which was held to celebrate the Bank's first official day of operation.

The Bank is a mixed-ownership corporation, established in August, 1978, to make loans to various types of cooperatives and to provide technical and special financial assistance to low-income cooperatives with special needs. As such, it represents the first major commitment of federal government resources to help meet the specialized requirements of consumer-owned businesses.

ACTION was part of an interagency task force that was instrumental in implementing the NCCB Act through which the bank was established and proposed policies were set up. ACTION Director Sam Brown, who attended the ceremony is one of the 13 members of the Board of Directors of the Bank.

With \$300 million in Congressionally authorized assets, the bank began, on March 21 to offer loans, at prevailing rates of interest to cooperatives involved in housing, health, food, legal services and other mutually beneficial enterprises.

In a speech last January, accepting her new position as Bank President, Carol Greenwald called the NCCB legislation "a timely victory for consumers. For too long, consumer cooperatives have been denied credit from the banks because of their unique status," Greenwald said. She added that the Bank would help consumers in those areas of the economy "that are hurting them most, in these inflationary times — home and auto repair, food services and health care."

Borrowers from the Bank will automatically become shareholders, with one percent of the initial loan and 15 percent of each subsequent payment going toward stock purchase. In this way, co-ops will gain control and ownership of the Bank, which may borrow up to three billion dollars from other special resources.

The Bank's Office of Self-Help Development and Technical Assistance will provide financial and technical aid to new cooperatives or to low-income cooperatives with special needs – cooperatives that

(cont. back page)



Carol Greenwald and Lawrence Connell at Co-op Bank Opening.



OPP DIRECTOR OF POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Patricia Peery has joined the agency as director of the Policy Development Division in the Office of Policy and Planning. She came to ACTION from Howard University in Washington, D.C., where for the past four years, she was an associate professor at the School of Architecture and Planning.

Earlier Peery was an associate professor and Chairman for Research in the School of Social Work at Atlanta University in Georgia. She also held a variety of research and policy analysis positions in the field of social science, both in the academic community and in private business.

A Doctoral candidate in sociology at Howard University, Peery has an MA in social science from the University of Chicago and a BA in sociology from the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.

ATLANTA SERVICE CENTER PLACEMENT MANAGER

Effective April 21, Emil Knutti is the new placement manager in the Atlanta Service Center. He will oversee the evaluation of VISTA and Peace Corps volunteers, as well as the placement of VISTA volunteers for Regions III and IV.

Knutti joined ACTION in 1974 as a recruiter in the Atlanta regional office and later served in that position in Dallas. While working in the Atlanta Service Center, he was a volunteer recruitment specialist, and for two years before assuming his new position, an administrative officer.

As a former Peace Corps volunteer in Brazil, from 1970 to 1973, Knutti worked with an agricultural extension service to develop farm plans in that country. Earlier he taught vocational agriculture at the secondary level in Princeton, W. Va. He has a BS in agricultural education from West Virginia University in Morgantown.

SEYCHELLES COUNTRY DIRECTOR

Janet Simoni is the new Peace Corps country director in Seychelles, an island nation off the east coast of Africa. She has been with ACTION since 1973, serving most recently as a management analyst in the Office of Recruitment and Communications.

From February, 1977 to July, 1978 Simoni was placement manager in the Atlanta Service Center. Prior to that, she served for two-and-a-half years as manager of the Philadelphia Area Recruitment Office. Earlier she was a recruitment specialist, first in Boston, and then in the Philadelphia Area Office.

As a Peace Corps volunteer in Sierra Leone, West Africa from 1968 to 1970, Simoni was a teacher/trainer in a rural village of 450 people. She has a BA in history from San Jose State University in California.

GC DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL

Bob Martin has been appointed Deputy General Counsel in the Office of General Counsel. He has been with ACTION since its inception in 1971, serving since that time as an associate general counsel.

Martin worked with the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) for six years before portions of that agency were incorporated into ACTION. While with OEO, he worked first in the Office of Inspection and then in the Office of General Counsel.

Earlier, Martin practiced law in New York, both on a private basis and with Western Electric. He has an LLB from Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y.



Marge Tabankin, director of VISTA and ACTION Education Programs, who received an award from the National Conference of Black Mayors (NCBM). Tabankin, and the VISTA volunteers and programs she directs, were honored and recognized for "the outstanding service and special sensitivity to the disenfranchised and to the mission of the National Conference of Black Mayors." The plaque was presented to Tabankin by Richard Hatcher, president of the Conference and mayor of Gary, Ind., at the Sixth Annual Convention of the

NCBM, held in Washington, D.C., April 17 - 19.

Ann Burleson and Suzy Miller, placement clerk and communications aide, respectively, in the Dallas Service Center, who were elected recording secretary and first vice-president of the Dallas area chapter of Federally Employed Women (FEW). With some 90 members, the Dallas FEW chapter is among the largest in the nation.

Co-op Bank

(from page 10)

are unable to meet the loan criteria of the Bank. The Self-Help Development Fund would offer financial assistance at lower interest rates than those charged by the Bank and wouldn't require its clients to purchase stock.

The Office of Policy and Planning is developing a demonstration program in which VISTA, RSVP and non-ACTION volunteers will work with low-income cooperatives to help them gain access to and productively use the resources of the Bank and the Self-Help Development Fund. The program is scheduled to begin in FY 81.

Recently held public meetings on the Bank's proposed policies collected considerable testimony on the operation of the Bank. The Bank's Board

of Directors considered this testimony in setting policies at the end of March.

Over 1500 people from a variety of cooperatives and other community groups attended the meetings, which were held in 14 cities in January and February. Some 600 of those people presented either oral or written comments on such topics as eligibility criteria, availability of funds, interest rates. low-income definition and priorities.

As the Bank develops, branch offices will be established in other parts of the country at the direction of the Board of Directors. The first regional office will open in Oakland Calif. later this spring.

ACTION UPDATE

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