

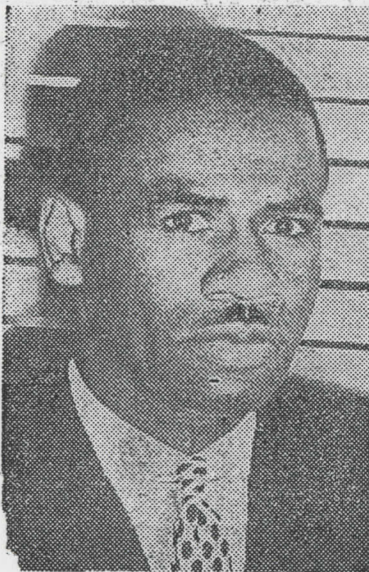
ATTY. DUDLEY

Explains Why He Resigned

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By CHARLES J. WARTMAN

The resignation of Attorney Herbert L. Dudley from the Commission on Community Relations, was regarded here this week as a direct slap at Detroit administration policies in the field of race relations.

Dudley, in his letter to Mayor Albert E. Cobo, cited the "in-



HERBERT DUDLEY

effectiveness" of the Commission a reason for resigning. He pointed out the Commis-

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sion was undermanned in that two citizen members authorized by the ordinance have not been appointed. He said further that domination by City Department heads had seriously hampered the work of the commission.

Dudley's resignation is the second by Negroes in City government posts in the past six months. George Isabell, after several false starts, resigned from the Commission.

Charles Roxborough refused to accept appointment to the Detroit House of Correction Commission following the failure of Mayor Cobo to reappoint John C. Dancy who had served more than 20 years.

Although Dudley did not mention areas of difference with the Commission specifically in his letter of resignation, it is known he has consistently raised questions in the Commission about its lack of direction and initiative in handling the desegregation of public housing.

It is also known he has questioned the lack of final deter-

mination in the status of Mrs. Beulah Whitby, assistant director.

When Dudley accepted appointment on the Commission, he wrote Mayor Cobo a letter in which he clarified his views on segregation in public housing and other issues and indicated he wanted it understood he would be no rubber stamp for the Mayor's policies. His resignation is in line with the position he took upon being appointed.

James McFall, funeral director, is the only Negro now on the Commission.

Dudley was named when Edward Turner, president of the NAACP, resigned after differences with Mayor Cobo over the issue of race restrictions in housing in Detroit.

Dudley's reference to the absence of a full number of citizen members on the Commission was interpreted in most quarters as a protest against the "packing" of the commission with members who by and large possess records of opposition to improved conditions for Negroes in Detroit.

These appointees, in conjunction with the department heads, the majority of whom have never taken the initiative in correcting evils of discrimination and bias in city departments; have naturally "done nothing" in the Commission on Community Relations.

In addition to John Laub, who was named director two years ago and was a known leader in northwest Detroit Improvement Association circles, the Commission includes in addition to the department heads: C. Bradford Hitt, representative of downtown property owners groups; Golda Krolick, prominent Jewish leader; McFall, undertaker; Mrs. Martha Wentz, Detroit housewife; and Mrs. Isabel Wietersen, formerly active in Northwest Improvement Association affairs.

Her husband is coordinator for the Detroit Real Estate Board. She was among those who appeared in opposition to the ordinance which set up the present commission.