

MICHAEL C. HARPER APPOINTED TO DCRA



MICHAEL C. HARPER, new Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Community and Regional Affairs.

RurAL CAP Director Resigns Post for Job

Mike Harper, RurAL CAP's Executive Director for the last two years, has resigned his position to accept appointment as Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Community and Regional Affairs.

Harper, who joined the RurAL CAP staff in 1971 as a Human Resources Planner, was hired as Deputy Director in 1972. In December of '72, the RurAL CAP Board hired him as Executive Director, a post he has held until he accepted the position with the state.

During his two years as RurAL CAP's Executive Director, the regional structure of the agency became stronger. In keeping with the CAP's philosophy of "putting the money where the people are," RurAL CAP is now funding 12 independent regional organizations.

A major personal victory for Harper occurred when Congress overwhelmingly passed legislation to continue the Office of Economic Opportunity and to keep it independent from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Since January of 1973, stated national administration policy has been to "kill" OEO and Community Action

along with it. Harper was very active in the national effort to retain a visible, independent, and strong federal commitment to continue the War on Poverty begun in 1964 under President Johnson.

Ironically, the compromise legislation (H-14449) passed Congress on the day Harper resigned.

In his letter of resignation to the RurAL CAP Board, Harper said, "... the mission of RurAL CAP, the people serving as directors of regional and statewide boards, the staff of the agency, and certainly the village people I have come to know, makes the job of Executive Director one of the most varied and interesting in the state."

Phil Smith, RurAL CAP Deputy Director, will be Acting Executive Director until the board meets to hire a new director, probably in early February.