Secretary of H.E.W., SHE CONTROLS:

A $200 Billion Budget

In 1953, she was executive director of Delta Sigma Theta; In 1965, ambassador to Luxembourg, today a cabinet officer heading the highest-budgeted department in government.

By Theresa Humphrey

The power to make significant change is something few blacks have. But 54-year-old Patricia Roberts Harris is among the few. She was quoted once as saying that those with power "have to use it" during the short time they have it.

And that's just what she's doing.

As chief of the nation's largest government agency — the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare — Mrs. Harris controls a $200 billion budget, a figure surpassed only by the budgets of the United States, and the Soviet Union.

She assumed her position at HEW in August 1979, having received the cabinet appointment from President Carter during his administrative shuffle of top-level employees. At the time, she was secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

And although it is said of so many blacks that they forget where they came from once they get into the white world, Mrs. Harris does not fit the category. She too, is a friend of blacks.

Contrary to what Sen. Proxmire thought of her being able to identify, Mrs. Harris was first called a "nigger" at age six. She was in the first grade then and whacked her fellow first-grader over the head for the remark.

She was quoted once as saying, "I have never felt, I'd guess from age 6 on, that I have anything to prove to white people or to males. What I do have to do is prove to myself that I can do what I think I ought to be able to do . . ."

Mrs. Harris, who lived in Mattoon, Ill., before moving with her family to Chicago at age 14, is a black woman who defines herself for herself while working in a white man's world.

Which could be one of the reasons the term "abrasive" has been used to describe her.

To look at her, however, one sees an attractive matronly looking woman — impeccably dressed in the latest style, make-up and hair in place — a woman who could be anyone's favorite grandmother.

But don't let that fool you. She knows her stuff — is articulate — and can have a sharp tongue when she feels the occasion warrants it.

Her spacious office on the sixth floor of the Hubert H. Humphrey building overlooks one of the many tidal basins in the District. And the expensively, but tastefully furnished office lends itself to her stately manner when conducting business.

Patricia Roberts Harris is sworn in by Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall as Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare as her husband, Judge William Beasley Harris.

Mrs. Harris served as Ambassador to Luxembourg under Lyndon Johnson from 1965 to 1967. At the same time, she was a partner in the prestigious Washington and New York law firm of Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver and Kampelman. She has served on numerous boards and commissions, including having served as a director of the Chase Manhattan Bank, Scott Paper Co., National Bank of Washington and IBM.

Mrs. Harris is also a trustee of the 20th Century Fund and of the American Bar Association. In addition, she is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Delta Sigma Theta and the Order of the Coif.

She was graduated summa cum laude from Howard University and received her law degree, with honors, from the George Washington University in the District.

Mrs. Harris was admitted to the D.C. bar in 1960, and served as a trial lawyer in the U.S. Department of Justice from 1960 to 1961. She also served as associate dean of students and lecturer of law at Howard University. And she went on to become a professor of law and dean of Howard's law school.

She lives in the Rock Creek section of the District with her husband, William Beasley Harris, an administrative law judge with the Federal Maritime Administration.

There was a time, however, when Mrs. Harris was facing Senate hearings on her HUD appointment, when her ability to relate to the poor was questioned.

During the confirmation hearing, Sen. William Proxmire, D-Wis., chairman of the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee, said he did not think Mrs. Harris was "of, by and for the people," basing his statement on her background as a corporate lawyer, former ambassador, and a board member of several corporate giants.

She responded: "Senator, I am one of them. You do not seem to understand who I am. I'm a black woman, the daughter of a dining car waiter. I'm a black woman who even eight years ago could not buy a house in some parts of the District of Columbia. Senator, to say I'm not by and of and for the people is to show a lack of understanding of who I am and where I came from . . ."

A 1959 photo of Sec. Harris.

Mrs. Patricia Harris, then ambassador to Luxembourg, is greeted by Carl T. Rowan in 1965 photo. Dr. Geraldine P. Woods, then national president of Delta, looks on.

This being an election year, Mrs. Harris technically has less than a year to achieve her goal since the reelection of Carter is not guaranteed, which could put her position in jeopardy.

Being the hard worker she is, however, Mrs. Harris does not plan to let time control what she feels needs to be done in, and by HEW. She has no top priority because she plans to do it all.

Those plans include a carry-over from her year-and-a-half at HUD where, within the department, she upgraded the affirmative action program, and increased the department's deposits in minority-owned banks, in addition to increasing HUD's participation in the Small Business Administration's 8a program which gives government contracts to minority-owned small businesses.

And she has made great strides in her short time at HEW. Since becoming secretary, the top staff in the Office of the Secretary has changed from all-white male to a staff that has blacks and women in top policy positions, as well as in other positions.

"People know I am committed to having that range of experience that reflects what the United States is — not what it was. It has people who are female and black and Asian and Hispanic," she said.

The employment changes were made within three months, and during the next three months, she said, "We were able to get welfare reform through the House, and we have had hearings on the national health plan — we're going to do all these things and we're going to do them with equal vigor."

Concerning minority contracts through the 8a program — a program rocked with scandal in the past and a high failure rate for participants — Mrs. Harris said, "Eight-a has nothing to do with failures. That is not the problem. It is that the firms themselves may not have experience or are unable to contract.

According to Mrs. Harris, it's not easy contracting through 8a, but it wasn't meant to be.

"We are supposed to be picking up a slack that was created by racial discrimination in this country for over 300 years. Normally we would expect black business persons to be distributed throughout the society with random disregard for race in terms of the businesses," she said. "Also we have a problem with finding a willing vendor for services — who is black — to perform the services needed at a given moment."

Mrs. Harris recently examined HEW's contracting goals and why they weren't met last year. But she said she has notified the department that it is to meet and exceed its contracting goals this year. In addition, she said HEW has been working with the minority section of management and budget to see that there is an increase.

Mrs. Harris was asked about the future for the "little man" who makes the bare minimum.

"The best investment and protection the 'little man' has is the Social Security system," she said. "It is not going to go broke.

THE COBRA CONTEST STRIKES AGAIN.

Enter today and look what you can win.

● **WIN!** The Cobra Grand Prize. A fully equipped 1980 Ford Mustang Cobra.

● **WIN!** One of ten, 40 channel Cobra CB radios with AM and Stereo FM.

● **WIN!** One of a thousand Cobra t-shirts. Wear it and be a winner.

● **ENJOY:** The Cobra. The delicious new drink made with your favorite COla and The Christian Brothers *BRA*ndy over ice.

Following are rules for The Christian Brothers "Win The Cobra" contest to run from February 1, 1980 to April 30, 1980

1. To enter, you must clearly print your name, address, and answers to two questions: "1. A Cobra is ☐ a great new drink made with COla and The Christian Brothers BRAndy ☐ a racy, sporty, special-edition Ford Mustang, ☐ a leading name in CB radios, ☐ all of the above. 2. The Christian Brothers Brandy is distilled, blended, and bottled in which California city?"
(Answer can be found on any Christian Brothers Brandy front label, free label may be obtained from: The Christian Brothers, P.O. Box 6, Pound Ridge, NY 10576

2. Submit entry on an official entry form or on a 5"x 8" card and mail in an envelope no larger than 4½" x 9½" to: The Christian Brothers Win the Cobra Contest P.O. Box 3600, New Canaan, CT 06842

3. Enter as often as you wish, but each entry must be mailed in a separate envelope. Entry form may not be reproduced mechanically. NO PURCHASE IS REQUIRED

4. All entries must be postmarked by April 30, 1980 and received by May 10, 1980. Winners will be determined by random drawing from among all correctly answered eligible entries. Winners will be notified by mail

5. Grand Prize: Fully equipped 1980 Ford Mustang Cobra including Cobra option package and Cobra hood graphics, subject to manufacturer availability. Title, license plate and registration fees are the responsibility of the winner. 9th Second Prizes: Cobra 4 78LR CB-AM-FM Radios. One thousand Third Prizes: Cobra T Shirts. Prizes may not be transferred or substituted. Local, state, and federal taxes, if any, are the responsibility of the winners. Only one prize will be awarded per family

6. All 1,011 prizes (valued at $14,000) will be awarded. The odds of winning are a function of the number of correctly answered eligible entries received

7. Contest is open to all residents of the United States who are of legal drinking age in their home state. Affidavits may be required of winners. The following persons are not eligible: members of The Order Of The Brothers Of The Christian Schools, employees of the following organizations and their families: Mont La Salle Vineyards, Fromm and Sichel Inc., their advertising and merchandising agencies, V.I.P. Service, Inc., liquor and wine wholesalers and retailers, federal and state liquor and wine authorities

8. A list of winners will be furnished after July 31, 1980 to anyone who sends a self-addressed stamped envelope by May 1, 1980 to: Cobra Winners, P.O. Box 202, Pound Ridge, NY 10576

9. Contest is void in AL, GA, CO, CA, MI, NJ, OH, OK, PA, TX, UT, and VA, and wherever restricted or prohibited by law. No correspondence will be answered

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

To enter, answer the following questions. Winners will be selected by random drawing of correctly completed entries.

1. A Cobra is: I. ☐ a great new drink made with COla and The Christian Brothers BRAndy; II. ☐ a racy, sporty, special-edition Ford Mustang; I. ☐ a leading name in CB radios; I. ☐ all of the above

2. The Christian Brothers Brandy is distilled, blended, and bottled in which California city?

Send your completed entry to: The Christian Brothers WIN THE COBRA CONTEST P.O. Box 3600, New Canaan, CT 06842. I certify that I am of legal drinking age under the laws of my home state.

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

NO PURCHASE REQUIRED

Brandy from The Christian Brothers of California.

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTORS: FROMM AND SICHEL, INC., SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, U.S.A. BRANDY 80 PROOF.