



**GARREY CARRUTHERS GOVERNOR
STATE OF NEW MEXICO**

APRIL 25, 1988

GORDON ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT PLANS

SANTA FE, NM-- Larry Gordon, Secretary of the Health and Environment Department today joined Governor Garrey Carruthers at a news conference to announce plans to retire from his post June 30, 1988.

Gordon resigned for personal reasons; however, he announced plans to continue involvements with Carruthers' administration on health-related and environmental issues in an advisory capacity at the request of the governor. Additionally, Gordon will continue consultation work with the U.S. Public Health Service and remain active in various efforts to enhance public and environmental health education programs throughout the nation, consult on management and organizational issues with various national groups, and present guest lectures on public and environmental health.

"It is with much regret that I accept Larry's resignation. Larry's professional background and extensive experience in health and environment issues enabled him to effectively manage the state's largest department. He is chiefly responsible' for initiating public policy affecting a statewide health plan with an emphasis on prevention, and aggressively moving toward resolution of various environmental health problems.

"Larry has also brought professional management to the department by implementing standards of conduct and performance, appointing qualified professional individuals to all upper-level management positions, and improving employee morale," Carruthers said.

Gordon, 61, was director of the City of Albuquerque's Environmental Health Department from 1982-86, and from 1955-67. He served as deputy secretary of HED from 1977-82. Gordon resigned and was the first director of both the state Environmental

Improvement Agency (1967-73) and the New Mexico Scientific Laboratory System (1973-77). He also recommended creation of the Public Health Division and the Albuquerque Environmental Health Department, and was active in efforts to create the New Mexico Health and Environment Department in 1977, subsequently serving as State Health Officer.

Gordon is past-president of the American Public Health Association, the New Mexico Public Health Association, has been active in the National Environmental Health Association, and has served on the National Sanitation Foundation's Council of Public Health Consultants.

In 1987, Gordon received the Sedgwick Memorial Medal for distinguished service in public health, the highest award given by the American Public Health Association, and the Clinton P. Anderson award for outstanding and dedicated efforts to improve the health and environment of New Mexicans from the American Lung Association. He has been the recipient of numerous other national awards including the Mangold Award, the Sanitariums Distinguished Service Award, the Davis Calvin Wagner Award, and the Snyder Award.

Gordon, who has authored more than 100 public health publications, is a Navy Captain in the U.S. Public Health Service Reserve.