



Behind dean Lewis (at podium) are (from l.) David Dinkins; Rose Dobrof; CUNY counsel and vice chancellor for legal affairs David B. Rigney; Barbara Scott Preiskel, chair of the School's Council of Advisors; Samuel J. Silberman; Robert F. Wagner, Jr.; Wilma S. Tisch of the Council of Advisors; G.G. Michelson; Paul LeClerc; and Alfred Miller (see story below).

School of Social Work Celebrates New Facilities

In a festive ceremony before an audience of some 200 well-wishers, the Hunter College School of Social Work celebrated the opening of three additional floors of its East 79th Street building on November 17. The school also used the occasion to discuss how the profession of social work and social work education will develop in New York City over the next decade.

The key to the new facilities was presented by Samuel J. Silberman, President of the Lois and Samuel Silberman Fund, which had financed the \$8 million expansion. The Fund also built the original seven-story building, home of the School since 1968, which is leased to the Board of Higher Education of New York City rent-free. Receiving the key was Paul LeClerc, president of Hunter College.

Robert J. Wagner, Jr., president of the Board of Education, who had been chairman of the Commission on the Year 2000, summarized the findings of the Commission's report, which calls for a restructuring of social programs in New York City.

In response, dean of the School of Social Work Harold Lewis announced that each of the school's five concentrations is preparing proposals on how the School should respond to the challenges described in the Commission's report. These will be distributed to the School's field placement

agencies for recommendations and critiques and, when finalized, will serve as a blueprint for the School's development in the next decade.

"The picture of New York City that emerges from the Commission Report is one reminiscent of Victorian London, a vision of two nations, the rich and the poor," said Lewis. "The School commits itself to promoting practice that will address the needs of the most economically, physically, emotionally, and educationally disadvantaged so as to narrow the gap between the haves and the have-nots in our city."

The November 17 program included reactions to the report and the School's plans from the business, employment, and government sectors.

G.G. Michelson, senior vice president of R.H. Macy & Co., Inc., called for more contacts between social work and business. "The business community is likely to welcome the connection once they understand the value of social work to the health of the economy. We have a lot to learn from each other," she proposed.

"Social workers shouldn't be expected to take a vow of poverty," stated Alfred Miller, executive vice president of Federation Employment and Guidance Service. Miller called for changes in educational preparation as well as job and salary restructuring

to recruit, prepare, and retain "the corps of social work professionals indispensable to a stable economy and healthy society."

David Dinkins, president of the Borough of Manhattan, said, "I urge Hunter to develop partnerships with public agencies for service provision, research, and training. I would also urge the enthusiastic support and cooperation of local government for any such efforts."

Rose Dobrof, director of the Brookdale Center on Aging of Hunter College, summarized and commented on the various viewpoints presented by the speakers before they and the audience attended a reception and a tour of the new floors.

LeCLERC APPOINTED TO STATE COMMITTEE

President Paul LeClerc has been appointed to the Senate Higher Education Advisory Committee, a group of experts on higher education in New York State which advises the Higher Education Committee of the State Senate. The advisory committee evaluates legislation that is before the Higher Education Committee, confers with that committee on long-term policy, presents initiatives for the committee's consideration, and provides advice as needed. It meets once a year but members are contacted more frequently on pending legislation.