

Statement* of Fred R. Sheheen, Chairman
South Carolina Commission on Higher Education
Columbia, South Carolina
January 9, 1986

It is a rare good fortune for a person--or a chairman--to participate in a historic occasion, and I am privileged to do that today.

In many ways, it is sad for me to announce publicly the retirement of Howard Boozer as Executive Director of the Commission, effective June 30, 1986. He has, I believe, notified the Members of the Commission and the staff of his decision during the last several days.

It is sad because the end of something good and glorious for the people of South Carolina is happening--the active public service career of Howard Boozer, a man whose character and quality are too seldom found in public service.

But while this announcement is sad, it is also joyous--joyous because of the record Howard has written as chief executive officer of this agency. It is a splendid record of sustained and unrelenting progress in the life of the agency and in higher education.

It is a record of superb professionalism, rock-hard integrity, and able scholarship in the examination of public issues.

Howard approached me two years ago about a prospective retirement on June 30, 1985. I persuaded him to extend that for one year, and I am eternally grateful for that extra year, full of vision and promise.

I count as one of my genuine contributions to South Carolina in my various public service capacities service on the selection committee that named Howard in 1973. I will probably never render a greater service to my state.

In the coming months, Howard, manifold praises will be showered upon you--and deservedly so.

But it is fitting that the first tribute come from those who have worked most closely with you, and who have themselves been enriched by knowing you--the members of this Commission and the staff.

I invite you all to rise and pay tribute with me to our colleague and our friend--Howard Boozer.

*Concerning the announcement by Dr. Howard R. Boozer of his plan to retire on June 30, 1986, from the position of Executive Director of the Commission, in which he has served since July 1, 1973.