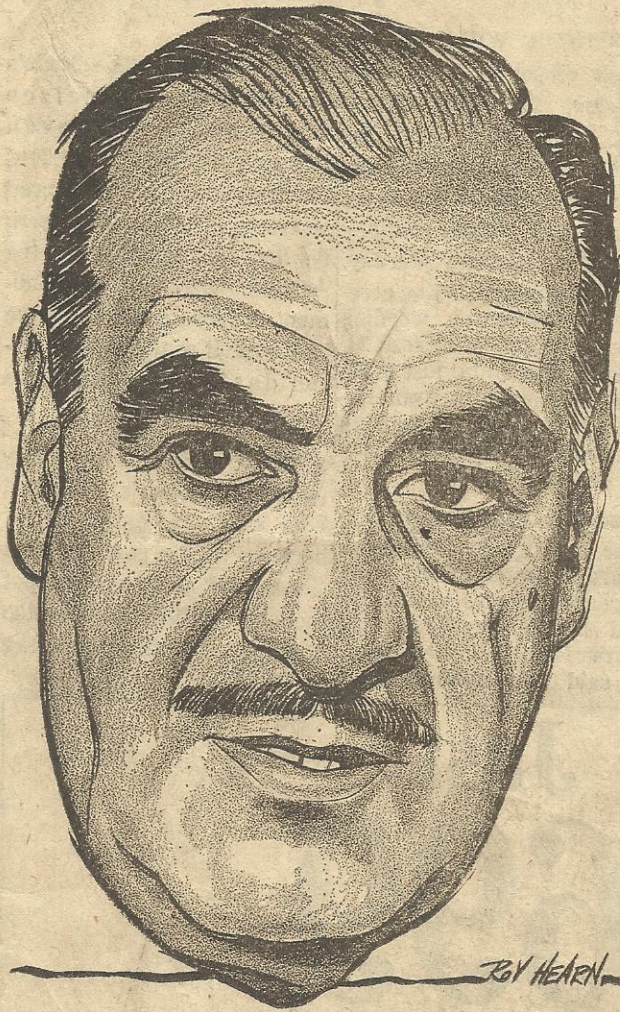


# Cleveland's Tony:

By THOMAS R. GUTHRIE

Chief, Plain Dealer Bureau



Tony Celebrezze was showing his visitor out. Just inside the door he hesitated, then stopped, and his hand went out to a small table to finger a penholder unlike any other; for this black penholder holds 18 black pens standing almost straight up.

"One for each bill we have managed to get through Congress," explained the secretary of health, education and welfare with more than a trace of pride in his voice.

He stood there silent, as if trying to recall something, perhaps some of the battles in committee when steering the 18 bills on their way to the President's desk where they were to meet up with the pens. Then, unexpectedly, he added in a tone so low that the visitor scarce could hear him, "You know, this is a long way to come from the slums of Cleveland."

A LONG WAY IT IS, indeed, from the Central Market area of Cleveland, where the immigrant Italian boy peddled papers, to the secretary's light and airy office on top of the world—the fifth floor of HEW North.

But to say that Anthony J. Celebrezze is satisfied with his place in the sun would be a mistake. He gets a world of satisfaction from his work as secretary of HEW, but he will never be satisfied because never will he be able to say that there is no poverty in the United States, that there is no disease in the United States, and that no one in the United States is lacking an education.

His aim in life may be stated very briefly. It is to help people. And until he has helped everyone who needs help, this essentially humble man will never be satisfied.

"IF CHILDREN LACK wholesome shelter," he says, "we must find it for them. If they lack schooling, they must be taught. If men and women are hungry, they must be fed. If they fall sick, they are entitled to the benefits of modern medicine. If they are dependent, they should be given every possible chance for independence.

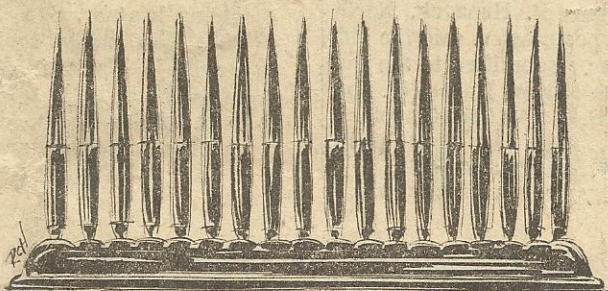
"By background and experience, I feel these things."



# Johnson's 'Can-Do' Secretary Soft Sells Congress on 18 Bills

So strongly has he felt these things that when he was sworn in to the job for which he was picked by President Kennedy, he took the oath with his hand on the old family Bible open at a passage in Psalms: "Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble."

Happily, the troubles that have beset the secretary of HEW in the three years he has held the office, have not been such as to require providential intervention on any massive scale. With an unassuming competence that first surprised Washington, but is now taken for granted, and an immense capacity for patiently staying with a problem,



he has piloted through Congress the boldest education bill in many decades, and is on the verge of seeing Medicare become the law of the land to tend to senior citizens in the years of their infirmity.

**NOT ONE OF CELEBREZZE'S** predecessors at HEW—there have been four since the creation of the department in 1953, none of whom lasted more than three years—can boast of a legislative record to compare with that of the former mayor of Cleveland.

How does he do it?

Well, first of all, there is his own impressive confidence in his ability to get things done. On the wall just above the penholder there is a photograph of Secretary Celebrezze with his boss, the President. The inscription

in the heavy, bold hand of the President says: "Lyndon B. Johnson, to a 'can-do' secretary."

"What does that mean, Mr. Secretary?" asks the visitor.

"It's pretty simple," he replies. "When the President calls with a job for me to do, no matter how tough the assignment, I always answer him, 'Can do, Mr. President.'"

**HOW HE DOES IT** reflects another interesting facet of the character of this stocky, sturdy little fighter for what he believes to be right and necessary.

"See that table across there," he says as he points to his left. "That's where I solve most of the really difficult problems."

That table is a long, low coffee table surrounded by a comfortable sofa and several equally comfortable padded chairs in an alcove some 10 or 12 feet from Celebrezze's desk.

"You know," this Roman Catholic member of the cabinet continues without heat or passion, "there was a lot of prejudice and bias about this education bill. There has been for many years, and it isn't going to disappear in a night."

"Well, we had some clergymen in to see me before the bill went through. Naturally, they questioned the constitutionality of giving free books to parochial school children. I said to them, 'All right, let's talk this over where we can be comfortable. Let's get our feet up on the table and see if we can't agree.'"

**"SO WE GOT OUR FEET UP** on the table and I said to them: 'I'll agree with you that it's unconstitutional to give these children free books in school if you will agree with me that it's unconstitutional for these same children to go to the public library, built with public funds, and take these very same books and use them in their classrooms.'"

"There wasn't too much argument after that," the secretary slyly admits.