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University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

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# NEWS

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### "OMBUDSMAN" LECTURE SLATED AT UM

MISSOULA--

An "Ombudsman" may sound like someone from outer space, but he really is as down-to-earth as anybody. In fact, an Ombudsman may someday prove to be one of the nation's most valuable intermediaries between the government and the people.

Stanley V. Anderson, visiting associate professor of political science at the University of California, Berkeley, will visit the University of Montana campus in Missoula on March 8 to discuss "The Ombudsman." The lecture, which is open to the public without charge, will be at 8 p.m. March 8 in the UM Music Recital Hall.

Anderson's discussion will be the third in a series of four lectures sponsored by the University law school under a \$2,000 grant from the Sperry and Hutchinson Foundation Lectureship Program. The series deals with modernization of government to fit today's changing society.

Dr. Anderson was among 72 who participated in the 32nd American Assembly last October on the Harriman, N.Y., campus of Columbia University. The group, which included participants from business, education, communications, labor, and government, and from the clerical, legal and military professions, urged prompt enactment of laws to create the special office of the ombudsman.

If established in this nation, the Ombudsman would serve to handle citizens' complaints against local, state and federal government agencies.

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According to the Final Report of the 32nd American Assembly, the ombudsman would receive a complaint, perhaps consult further with the complainant and agency. He would report his findings to those concerned and perhaps suggest a specific remedy to rectify individual injustices. He may suggest an improvement in agency procedure.

The ombudsman concept originated in Sweden in the early 19th century and has been adopted by other countries since then. The Swedish parliament appoints ombudsmen for four-year terms to represent citizens in cases of arbitrary action or abuse of power by government law enforcement officers and administrative agencies.

Dr. Anderson's lecture will be preceded March 8 by an afternoon panel discussion sponsored by the UM law school in conjunction with the lecture.

The panel discussion will feature Lester R. Rusoff, UM law professor, who will discuss the rudiments of administrative procedure; James Newton, Seattle, regional administrator of the Securities and Exchange Commission, who will discuss "Substantive Regulations in the Impact of Administrative Agencies in Providing Flexibility Delegated to Them"; and Robert D. Corette, Butte, who has been involved in recent years with the state legislature concerning a Model Administrative Procedure Act for Montana.

The discussion also is open to the public without charge.

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