

Minorities to get 15 percent of Disney

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Minority contractors will be awarded 15 percent of the work on Walt Disney Co.'s \$3 billion expansion near Disneyland, an amount equal to \$450 million in labor and materials, project managers said.

"I don't think we'll have any trouble meeting that goal," said Malek Ali, Disney's Florida-based corporate minority business manager.

The 470-acre Disneyland Resort will be one of the state's largest construction projects of the 1990s. It will generate 48,000 construction jobs and employ 14,000 people when open, more than Disneyland and the Disneyland Hotel combined, according to a Disney-commissioned impact report.

Unlike government agencies, private businesses are not required to hire minority contractors.

In a related development, Disneyland and the Disneyland Hotel in Anaheim will hire 200 inner city youths for summer jobs under a program with the First African Methodist Episcopal Church, the church announced Tuesday.

The issue of business-minority relations has become a hot one since the rioting in April, with contractors in South Central Los Angeles accusing some insurers of excluding them from rebuilding work.

The City Council on Tuesday urged the state Department of Insurance to ensure that local contractors get half of that work.

The council urged adoption of a state policy giving at least 50 percent of the rebuilding work to firms owned by minorities and women.

Preference also would go to contractors with offices within five miles of the jobs on which they bid.

Also on Tuesday, Thrifty Corp. announced it would hire minority contractors to rebuild three stores that were looted and burned in the South Central and Crenshaw areas. The stores were expected to be back in business within a year.

The League of California Savings Institutions released a Federal Reserve Board study this week showing that banks deny home loans in southern Los Angeles at more than twice the rate of savings and loans.

Jay Janis, president of the S&L trade group, maintained the data was released not to criticize banks but to counter impressions that thrifts are inactive in lending to the area, which is largely populated by blacks and Hispanics.

Several advertising agencies say they are attempting to better understand minority lifestyles following the riots in late April. Less than 2 percent of the employees at

Southern California agencies are minorities, compared with 5 percent nationwide.

Ten Los Angeles-area agencies will be hiring minority interns this summer, and several are offering computer training sessions to minorities.

The Kresser-Craig agency is sponsoring ethnic art and film festivals for employees, may invest in an inner-city business with one of its clients, and is underwriting a study of life in middle-class ethnic communities.

"I don't think most of us know beans about black life in the United States, or Hispanic life," Jean Craig, president of the Santa Monica agency, said in a memo to employees after the riots.

"We can't paint a picture for people to aspire to, because we don't know what that picture is," said Ms. Craig.

Kmart refusing to sell Magic Johnson's book

DETROIT (AP) — Kmart Corp. and several other drug and grocery store chains have refused to sell basketball star Magic Johnson's book on preventing AIDS, the book's publisher said today.

The book, "What You Can Do To Avoid Aids," has been endorsed by authorities ranging from the American Medical Association to advice columnist Dear Abby, Times Books Publisher Peter Osnos said from New York.

Osnos said Kmart wrote him, objecting to some of the book's blunt language on sex and how AIDS can be transmitted.

"The idea that this book is objectionable to anybody is baffling," he said. "Kmart is entitled to carry anything they want. But their attitude strikes us as being far too cautious, and maybe at the expense of a few kids' lives."

A Kmart official said the retailer decided against carrying the book in its main stores, but sells it at subsidiary Waldenbooks.

Kmart carries a limited number of books, most of them geared toward children under age 3, national director of public relations Mary McGeachy said from the company's Troy headquarters.

"The thing is, we're not a bookstore," she said. "The book is very informative, but it's also very graphic. It should be available to teen-agers, . . . (but not) a 3-year-old while their mother is buying a lawnmower."

Waldenbooks carries more than 15,000 titles, compared with 1,800 in Kmart stores, McGeachy said. "We feel we're offering the book to our readers through Waldenbooks," she said.

The American Medical Association endorsed the book, saying it could help save lives, Osnos said. He added Dear Abby wrote in her

nationally syndicated column the book should be required reading for everyone.

Johnson, a former Los Angeles Lakers guard and Lansing-area native, wrote the book after announcing he had tested positive for the virus that causes AIDS.

Walgreens drugstore chain and the Texas-based HEB grocery store chain have also refused to sell the book, Osnos said. Officials at those companies did not immediately return telephone calls today.

Osnos said the book was selling well, but said no specific figures were available immediately.

Black-owned firm wins military clothing contract

ROANOKE, Ala. (AP) — A potential \$10 million military clothing contract awarded to an east-central Alabama company sets an annual production goal of at least 258,660 coats.

The demonstration contract, announced Tuesday in Roanoke, was awarded to Terry Manufacturing Co., a black-owned business that has been operating nearly three decades. It was awarded by the federal Defense Personnel Support Center and could be expanded to a two-year contract.

Terry Manufacturing's 280 employees already make crew uni-

forms for McDonald's restaurants and battle dress coats for the Defense Department.

"They are one of the more complicated Defense Department clothing items to make," company president Roy Terry said.

He said the firm will have workers "pre-trained and cross-trained because if we waited for an emergency to begin making them the production increase would come much too late to be worthwhile."

Under the contract, 32 workers at the company who make apparel for McDonald's will be trained to make parts of the battle dress coat.

If a military crisis occurs, McDonald's has agreed to find alternate sources for its uniforms. That would enable Terry Manufacturing to direct all its resources toward making battle dress coats.

The contract sets a minimum production level of 258,660 woodland green camouflage uniform coats per year and a maximum of 554,120, allowing for a surge in production to test Terry's ability to rapidly boost production.

The Roanoke firm, founded in 1963 by the Terry family, has also made apparel for the U.S. Forest Service, Sears, J.C. Penney and

Burger King.

The federal agency that ordered the uniforms is a \$2.7 billion a year office that provides food, clothing and textile items, medicines and medical equipment to U.S. military personnel and their eligible dependents.

BB&T offers new CHIP program

Winston-Salem area residents with as little as \$1,000 to invest can become homeowners through a new housing assistance program recently unveiled by BB&T.

BB&T's Community Homeownership Incentive Program (CHIP) is designed to increase homeownership opportunities for low and middle income buyers in the communities BB&T serves in the two Carolinas.

"A large number of people have been locked out of the housing market because they were unable to meet downpayment and closing requirements," said Ernest J. Sewell, senior vice-president and city executive. "We're trying to address that problem and give these

people an opportunity to realize their dreams of homeownership."

Sewell said as homeownership increases, neighborhood stability increases. "This is another way BB&T is living up to its mission of helping to make the communities we serve better places to live and work."

To qualify for a mortgage loan of up to \$60,000, a customer must earn no more than 80 percent of the median county income. For Forsyth County, the income limit will be \$29,300. No more than 32 percent of income can be tied up in housing debt and total debt obligations must be 40 percent of income or less. These requirements are substantially better than industry standards.

BB&T will loan 97 percent of the value of a home if the borrower supplies three percent of the value in saved funds.

Gifts, public and private grants, and loans and other sources of income may be used for a downpayment of five percent of the value as long as buyers invest at least \$1,000 of their own money. The 15- to 30-year fixed-rate mortgages will carry the same interest rate as other BB&T mortgage loans and will be owned and serviced by BB&T Mortgage.

Sewell said anyone interested in more information on BB&T's new housing assistance program may contact Sue Preston, mortgage loan manager at 765-1789.

Jesse Jackson urges OSHA overhaul

By WILLIAM M WELCH Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Workers should be given a role in assessing workplace safety and assuring companies comply with federal regulations, Jesse Jackson told Congress Wednesday.

Citing the fire that killed 25 workers when it raged through a Hamlet, N.C., chicken-processing plant last September, Jackson backed a bill that would require employers to set up labor-management safety and health committees.

He said it would allow workers themselves to spotlight problems. The government, he said, has enough Occupational Safety and Health Act inspectors to visit workplaces only once every 79 years, or every 11 years for the most hazardous sites.

"If workers can monitor their own workplaces, it will reduce the

bureaucracy. It will be cheaper, safer, more effective and more democratic," Jackson, the two-time Democratic presidential candidate, said.

Jackson appeared before the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee, which is considering a bill backed by its chairman, Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., that would revise OSHA laws.

Business groups and the Bush administration oppose the bill. Under the bill, employers would be required to prepare written safety and health plans, and to form labor-management committees to consider health and safety issues and recommend action.

The bill would allow criminal prosecution in cases where an employer's actions lead to serious bodily injury of a worker. Under current law, prosecution is possible only after a worker dies.

Jackson said conservatives who

like to say their policies would bring "empowerment" to the poor should be attracted to the idea of worker safety committees. "Empowerment" is often used by Housing Secretary Jack Kemp and others in the Bush administration in support of ideas such as federal subsidies for private-school tuition and selling public housing units to their poor occupants.

"If you are serious about empowerment, let workers enforce health and safety regulations," Jackson said. "Let workers, who know their plant and the process intimately, monitor the safety of their working conditions."

Merle T. Allen, employee relations manager for Babcock & Wilcox in Lynchburg, Va., a supplier of nuclear fuel components to the Navy and others, charged the bill was "adversarial" and would be "costly and complicated and difficult to enforce."

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1 cup chopped sausage	1/2 to 3/4 teaspoon hot pepper sauce
1 pound smoked sausage, cut into 1/4-inch slices	

Wash beans. In large, heavy Dutch oven, place beans, cover with water 2-inches above beans. Let soak overnight. Add salt pork, bring to a boil; reduce heat, cover and simmer 30 minutes. Stir in remaining ingredients. Cover and simmer 45 minutes to 1 hour.

Makes 8 servings
Presentation: Serve over rice with a green salad and crusty bread.
Hint: Heat is more evenly distributed in a cast iron Dutch oven.

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