

Martin

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results in terms of our goal of 2 percent of purchases.

In this respect, we equalled or exceeded our mark in seven of the months, and our overall goal was precisely what we had set out to achieve. More importantly, the pilot project was a success of discovery -- that is, a method of identifying flaws in the system and finding ways to correct them. Some months we exceeded 5 percent and some months were under 1 percent. At no time were we under the 0.15 percentage of the previous administration. And we met our goal. And we learned a lot to do better.

Today, I am pleased to announce that I am instructing my counsel to prepare an executive order formally establishing a Goals Program, effective this month, and setting a goal of 4 percent for the current year. To assure a continued level of cooperation, information and coordination among departments, I am designating Emory Rann, to serve as coordinator.

In support of this action, I am

also directing the secretary of administration to provide staff assistance to Mr. Rann on a project basis, thereby assuring an efficient and effective program.

Moreover, I already have taken steps to bring about greater representation of minorities in purchasing and personnel positions by instructing department secretaries to register all vacancies with the equal opportunity/affirmative action representative in the Office of State Personnel, as well as the director of minority affairs.

Currently, we have a vacancy for a purchasing officer and a clerical worker in the Department of Natural Resources and Community Development, and I have notified Secretary Thomas Rhodes to set aside these positions for qualified minority applicants. If we hope to meet or exceed our goal for minority contracting, it will be vital to have purchasing officers who understand the minority business community, and who can help other purchasing officers understand.

From the outset of my administration, I have appointed minorities to key non-traditional leadership positions. During my first year, we set a new record of

appointing or employing minorities in almost 28 percent of all state government job vacancies.

Approximately 9 percent of the new minority employees were in official and administrative positions; more than 10 percent were in management-level openings, and more than 50 percent were in professional and technical jobs. I believe this represents a good-faith effort by the administration to bring about a favorable impact on purchasing decisions. In the past, so-called "good-faith efforts" didn't produce any result.

No other administration in state government has ever approached the number of minorities appointed to cabinet and sub-cabinet positions. My appointees have included Aaron Johnson, secretary of corrections; Lew Myers, assistant secretary of commerce for small business; Sylvania Wilkerson, assistant secretary of transportation; Henry McKoy, deputy secretary of administration; Ed Garner, assistant secretary of crime control and public safety, and Brenda McGee, deputy commissioner of the Employment Security Commission.

None of these is limited to minority affairs. It is very significant that they are in key leader-

ship jobs serving all the people. That's the new wave of equal opportunity.

I could go on, listing dozens of others who are members of my staff or who hold jobs as directors of various divisions within the nine departments under the executive branch. However, I believe that my actions demonstrate a deep personal involvement in minority affairs -- something that heretofore has been absent in state government.

We are moving rapidly to make necessary adjustments in our minority purchasing program, including upgrading of our computer systems so they can interface with all departments, and consolidation of our purchasing directories to include business listings by product or service codes. These improvements are extremely important.

The first task of meeting and exceeding our minority contracting goal is the identification of companies whose products or services meet our purchasing requirements.

Once these firms are identified, we can launch a concerted effort to contact them on an individual basis and make them aware of anticipated purchases. Our Small Business Division and our Minority Business Division, both

of which are under the Department of Commerce, are available on a day-to-day basis to provide technical assistance to firms that wish to participate.

All of us should take pride in the increasing number of minority men and women who have conquered seemingly impossible odds to make significant contributions to the economy of North Carolina and to their own particular economic sectors.

During the past year, black-owned businesses posted a 14.8-percent growth in business on a national basis, compared to a growth rate of only 3.2 for the United States as a whole.

North Carolina's economy, during the same period, surged ahead even faster. We continue to have unemployment below 5 percent, and for the first time, more than 3 million of our citizens are in the active work force, meaning that they are employed. As one of the 10 fastest growing states in the nation, North Carolina offers unlimited potential for expansion.

Minority business can excel in this business climate. It will require dedication, tenacity and creativity as their tools of trade. But the opportunities are here for them to carve out a solid place in

the bedrock of our mainstream economy.

For decades, minority business enterprise in North Carolina has defied an adverse system in order to realize the dream of business ownership. Today, black entrepreneurs are boldly facing new challenges -- challenges of new opportunities. We must realize that, to achieve a measurable degree of success, these businesses must possess the same level of skills, financial savvy and technical know-how as their counterparts in majority-run businesses.

More importantly, they must capture the spirit of enterprise, displaying the courage, ingenuity and determination to succeed, no matter what obstacles lie before them.

State government will continue its successful efforts to establish a strong public-private partnership -- one which fosters economic growth and opportunity for all. Our goal in government is to achieve one united state -- a state in which there is success enough for all who have the determination to pursue it.

This administration had made a good beginning; it has established a framework for progress. Together, let us build upon this successful beginning.

Peacekeeping force may be needed to protect South Africa's neighbors

The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS, Nev. -- A peacekeeping force may be needed to protect neighboring countries from the apartheid regime in South Africa, the Rev. Jesse Jackson said.

"We must be prepared to use troops to protect self-determination in South African as much as we did 40 years in European policy," Jackson said in an interview Sunday.

He was in Las Vegas Monday to the opening session of the American Federation of Government Employees convention.

"We need a new policy; one which chooses Nelson Mandela and not Tarzan or Tarzan and the ape in South Africa," Jackson told some 1,500 convention delegates.

"In South Africa our government is a co-conspirator with the apartheid regime -- the historical successor to Nazi facism -- that is waging its racist war against both the black majority and its neighboring states," Jackson said.

Jackson charged that South Africa is occupying part of Angola and had "bombed over a billion of infrastructure" in neighboring states.

Jackson, who lost a bid for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1984, said the United States must be firm in resisting U.S.-sponsored terrorism" by South Africa against neighbors Zimbabwe, Botswana and Zambia.

Jackson said he would leave Wednesday for a meeting with leaders of eight southern African countries.

The Baptist minister urged South Africa to aid South Africa's neighbors in an effort to isolate the apartheid government. But he said such options "will never be endorsed by leaders who are ignorant of the region."

Jackson also charged that the Reagan administration "has used workers against themselves and the workers scapegoats for the union's ills."

"We are challenging workers to cease and resist cutbacks in wages and securities and benefits through ballots, marches and demonstrations," he said.

Some 1,500 members of the AFGE are meeting in Las Vegas through Friday for their 30th biennial convention. The union has some 210,000 members and represents more than 70,000 federal workers.

AFGE President Kenneth Blaylock, in an address opening the convention Monday, said his members want a union "that can stand effectively between them

and a management at the worksite that cares nothing about them."

"They have sent us here to build a union that can stand between them and the political forces of power that would do away with our government, that would destroy their jobs, and that would turn our government over to the rich and powerful," Blaylock said.

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barbecue where Mrs. Ross grills ribs and brisket, Singleton is apt to be thinking about another of her specialties.

"I may come back and eat some gumbo tonight," the church deacon would often say, carrying his lunch in one hand and a worn felt hat in the other.

Mrs. Ross learned the kind of hospitality and good cooking that keeps such regulars coming back at home.

"While my grandmother was cooking, I was nosy enough to get on a stool to help her," she says. Her cooking skills expanded with her travels overseas, but the daily menus posted on a chalkboard reflect a preference for Southern-style cooking.

Each menu is entered a second time in longhand in a thick, worn spiral notebook, because Mrs. Ross doesn't want to serve the same combination twice. Cooking starts at 6 a.m., when she starts preparing everything from sausage links and cornbread to pies and pecan candies -- from scratch.

"I just don't feel like it's really eating if we don't cook from scratch," says Mrs. Ross, who employs kitchen help during the busiest times of the day.

"I am very, very particular. In fact, I think I am a fool at times ... but it's the only way you can stay in the cooking business. You have to be very firm. You're playing with people's health."

Mrs. Ross' firm demands, though, are softened by a smile as sweet as her candied yams. She rules her neatly ordered kitchen with organization.

"It's all easy to me. After you do it so long, it all falls into place. The main thing is to have a system I have with a system. I like to do things my way."

But Mrs. Ross is not all business.

"People come in and holler at

me all day long in the kitchen," she says, stopping long enough to tell a visitor to stuff his lunch payment into her apron pocket.

"You know where to put it," she says, and he does.

Mrs. Ross left the restaurant business for a time when her husband retired. "He decided he didn't want me to do anything but stay home," she says, heading across the kitchen to pick up a pot that need scrubbing.

Mrs. Ross closed her restaurant and stayed at home for a year and a half, confining her restauranting skills to a barbecue stand at the South Texas State Fair.

"And then I began, you know, spending money I shouldn't be spending," she says.

Meanwhile, friends kept urging her to open another restaurant.

So Mrs. Ross decided to reopen. "I had to have something to keep myself busy," she says. Furthermore, her "retired" husband had taken on another job.

"I can't make him quit his job, and he can't make me quit mine," she says.

The restaurant, which Mrs. Ross says nets her a profit of \$100 or \$200 a month, is less a business investment than an investment in her neighborhood, she says.

"It's something I like to do," Mrs. Ross says. "I feel like being up here is helping the neighborhood. I was born and raised on this end of town. People come by every now and reminisce about old times."

But Mrs. Ross doesn't confine her neighborliness to longtime regulars.

"All my customers are special," she says.

"They don't have to come here. They can go somewhere else. I think they have to be thinking about me in order to come here."

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