

Abdnor Pledges Improvements In SBA Program

Washington, D.C., July 15 James Abdnor, administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration, today recommended revisions in the Agency's 8(a) program to "enhance the chances for success and eliminate opportunities for potential abuse."

Under 8(a), so-called after a section of the Small Business Act, SBA directs federal contracts on a non-competitive basis to minority-owned small firms.

While saying he is "fully committed to the program" and that 8(a) reflects "thousands of success stories," he conceded there were some serious problems. Abdnor made his comments at a White House minority business briefing on President Reagan's Economic Bill of Rights. Participating with the President and Abdnor in the briefing were White House Chief of Staff Howard Baker and Budget Director James Miller.

In his remarks Abdnor stated we "need some changes in the law." He then outlined his recommended revisions:

- *Fix the term of participation for all firms and encourage competition among firms participating in the program during their eligibility.

- *Broaden participation in the program.

- *Streamline entry procedures while still assuring that applicants are qualified.

- *Establish a data base to track present and former 8(a) concerns and the success they achieve.

- *Enhance training opportunities within the program.

"Increase ten-fold the penalty for falsely certifying size and disadvantaged status."

"The 8(a) program is a good one," Abdnor said. "It can be made better and it will be made better."

The SBA head indicated that the 8(a) program is an integral part of the President's economic Bill of Rights - "the freedom to work, the freedom to enjoy the fruits of one's labor, the freedom to own and control one's property and the freedom to participate in a free market."

"Make no mistake about it," Abdnor said. "There has been progress in the operation of the 8(a) pro-

gram. And I am very proud to be a part of the Reagan Administration which has had such a strong record in support of disadvantaged business....It is essential that socially and economically disadvantaged business owners have the opportunity for full participation in our free enterprise system. Contracting with the government should be just one tool to accomplish this objective. It should not be the only tool."

In Fiscal 1986, SBA directed a record \$3.1 billion in 8(a) contracts to minority-owned small companies. Abdnor said that minority enterprise small business in-

vestment companies (which SBA certifies and supervises) in Fiscal 1986 "provided 1,656 financings worth \$139.1 million to minority firms."

As another example of SBA assistance to minority entrepreneurs, Abdnor said that "of the 128,000 counseling cases conducted by retired and active executives under SBA's Service Corps of Retired Executives/Active Corps of Executives programs, 38,000 assisted minority business operators. Of 555,000 business people taking part in SCORE/ACE training classes, over 71,000 were minority clients."

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Charles Williams, owner of the House of Charles was recently elected president of the North Carolina Cosmetology and Barber's Association. President and stylist of his own business, Williams will be responsible for coordinating all of the different agencies and districts in the state.

Brownlee Jewelers Opens New Store

Brownlee Jewelers has opened a new store in the lobby of the United Carolina Bank Building at 212 S. Tryon St.

Continuing its 50 year old tradition in providing its customers and friends a new and unusual collection of fine jewelry, watches, diamonds and gifts in the beautiful designed new shop.

Again all of the beautiful Brownlee creations are here, classic gold jewelry, innovative and distinctive diamond pieces, together with the most desired gifts of fine silver, china and crystal. They also continue to offer a complete selection of watches, clocks, lighters and pens. They will continue all of their well known quality services including watch and clock repair, jewelry repair and engraving.

Brownlee's will be open daily from 9 am to 5 pm and will be closed Saturdays and Sundays.

Eckerd's Program Honors Black Accomplishment

Clearwater, FL -- Eckerd Drug announces their sponsorship of a new program honoring the significant accomplishments of Blacks throughout history.

"Profiles in the Building of America" will be aired on radio stations throughout 11 Southern states, on over 35 stations. Each short inspirational message will highlight the life of a member of the Black Community and their accomplishments in World History, Science, Art and American Culture. For example, the program highlights Emonia Lewis, a sculptor; Richard Hunt, an artist; Malvin Gary Johnson, a printer, and Gordon Parks, a photographer. In addition, the program will cover the lives of Historic Blacks in the Old Testament. This new radio program is scheduled to air each weekday throughout the year.

Eckerd Drug stores operates stores in the 15 Southeast and Southwest states.

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<p>Verne Dale Ice Milk Half Gal. 99¢</p> <p>HT Orange Juice 64 Oz. 99¢</p>	<p>Parkay Margarine Quarters 3 Lbs. For 99¢</p> <p>Listermin w/Fluoride 5 Oz. 99¢</p> <p>Goody's Headache Powders 6 Oz. 2 For 99¢</p> <p>Wella Balsam Shampoo Or Conditioner 8 Oz. 99¢</p> <p>Regular Or Pivot Disposable Gillette Good News Razors 3 Oz. 99¢</p>	<p>White Potatoes 5 Lb. Bag 99¢</p> <p>California Plums 2 Lbs. For 99¢</p> <p>South Carolina Free-Stone Peaches 4 Lbs. For 99¢</p>	<p>Sealtest Or Breakstone Sour Cream 16 Oz. 99¢</p> <p>THE BEST DELI-BAKERS</p> <p>French Bread Loaf 99¢</p> <p>Club Rolls 5 Oz. 99¢</p> <p>Southern Style Potato Salad Lb. 99¢</p> <p><small>Available in Stores With Deli-Bakery</small></p>

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