Bateson Co. bias charges set for Saturday hearing

A public hearing has been set on the case: Maryland Commissioner on Human Relations vs. J. W. Bateson Company, Inc. 9:30 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 21 in Suite 300, Metro Plaza at Mondawmin Shopping Center.

The Commission charges that Bateson has unlawfully discriminated against black citizens minoritise in hiring, promotions, recruitment, and job assignment in violation of the Maryland's anti-discrimination laws (Article 49B of the Annotated Code of Maryland).

Bateson, a Texas-based corporation in the construction industry, won the bid to build the $21,000,000 Maryland World Trade Center in the Inner Harbor Development in downtown Baltimore.

It is scheduled to be completed in April, 1976.

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A Commission investigation and analysis of statistical data shows that black citizens are underutilized in the high paying construction jobs.

In a seven month period, black employes were limited to the following job categories and total work time percentages: carpenters 14 per cent, pile drivers 13 per cent, iron workers 1.8 per cent. Black workers are non-existent in the higher paying trades such as engineers and electricians.

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Bateson contends that since it must subcontract work only to contractors who recruit through unions, it must hire union personnel.

Commission investigaiton revealed that black citizens in Maryland have been unable to gain entrance in representative numbers into most craft unions except the Laborers, Teamsters and Cement Masons unions.

In addition, the February, 1974 report of the Maryland State Advisory Committee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights, entitled "Employment Discriminantion in the Construction Industry in Baltimore," documents the historical pattern of discrimination in the construction industry.

Although the Bateson Company has adopted an Affirmative Action Plan for the World Trade Center project which calls for an 18 per cent minority employment goal, it has refused to establish even this goal as a contractual obligation.

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In describing how they expected their Affirmative Action Plan to work, the company stated: "In practice, . . . we will ask the unions to furnish us qualified minority workers. However, if the unions cannot furnish these qualified minority workers, we will not then discriminate against qualified non-minority workers who may be "on the bench" awaiting assignment."

Bateson has also requested that subcontractors comply with the 8 per cent minority goals. But they have made no effort to identify minority subcontractors' work forces to determine compliance.

Bateson's Affirmative Action Plan also calls for "a continuing effort to identify minority subcontractors and suppliers" who have the ability to perform subcontracts on the World Trade Center project. No evidence has been supplied by Bateson that shows they have taken positive steps to invite minority subcontracts to bid on any subcontracts.

Elbert L. A. Gulliory, the Commission's executive director has publicly stated, "We are seeking to force J. W. Bateson Company, to deliver to the black community a fair share of the working hours to be performed and the money to be received. It makes no sense, in a city that is over 50 per cent black, to have a whole half of that city receive only a few thousand dollars of the $21,000,000 involved in the Bateson contract."

Therefore, the Maryland Commission on Human Relations contends that J. W. Bateson Company by relying on the craft unions to hire employees for construction of the World Trade Center, voluntarily and effectively excluded blacks and other minoritise in significant number from gaining employment.

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2 charged in burglary of Northwest home

A 16-year-old Northwest Baltimore youuth has been charged with shooting with intent to kill Eric Green, 23, 3700 block Dorchester Ave., near the victim's home Tuesday.

According to police another youth, aged 15, was charged with burglary. The two were apprehended by the victim's ex-marine brother who observed the two fleeing with stolen goods from a neighbor's home.

Alphonso Green, a brother of the Green brothers, told the AFRO Eric and his brothers, ex-marine Marcellus, 24, and Alfred Green, were in their home when at about 2:30 p.m. they observed the two suspects fleeing the home of a neighbor with stolen goods. According to Mr. Green, Eric and Marcellus took after the suspects and as Eric tripped and fell, one of the suspects stopped and shouted: "I am going to kill you. You have seen my face." Police said the youth then fired at Eric hitting him in the groin area.

As Eric laid on the ground in pain, Marcellus shouted to Alfred to call the police. Mr. Green narrates Marcellus picked up two empty trash cans, and shielding his face and body with them chased the young suspects to a neighbor's yard where he apprehended them.

One of the youths is released in his parents' custody while the other is being held in police custody, police report.

A GOOD CITIZEN is registered and prepared to vote. Register now so you can vote for the next Mayor of Baltimore and your City Council representatives in the next election, Sept., 1975. Register today at Supervisors of Elections, People's Court Building, Fayette and Gay Sts.

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