—Local reaction

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this Court's affirmative action jurisprudence...an exceedingly myopic view."

Though it may not be clear to six conservative Justices on the Supreme Court that racism is as obvious as its economic effects are lasting, it is clear to those businesspersons who have to operate from a weaker position than their white counterparts.

"We are disadvantaged and we are not getting the business that others are," said Mel McLaughlin, President of MMC, Inc., a local general contracting firm. "I know I have had some breaks, though it is hard to see what they are. But we did try to make the best of each one."

"Now we are going to have to use the leverage we have," McLaughlin said. "We are going to be doing our best to compete with the best. I do not intend to go out of business."

But the Court did stop short of outlawing setasides and instead commanded that such programs prove the existence of racism before attempting to apply a remedy.

"(This)...creates an elaborate, exhaustive, expensive process for state and local governments to prove what every American already knows," said Beverly Hunter, director of the Maryland/D.C./Northern Virginia Minority Supplier Development Council (MSDC).

"The corporate community recognizes that history has provided it with opportunities that minorities can not readily access," Hunter added.

The access that has historically been seen as a stepping stone for the bulk of the corporate community has instead been a stumbling block for minorities.

Private clubs and old boy networks have taken their turn in acting as a barrier against minority entrance into lucrative government contracts.

Though the problem is currently attracting the attention of only those companies and government agencies directly affected, another leftover from the Reagan era — "the trickle down theory" — may soon spread the anxiety felt by Minority Businness Enterprises (MBE's).

"I don't think the average African-American on the street will feel the weight of the decision (immediately)," said Anthony Armstrong. "But it has been proven that minority firms hire greater numbers of African-Americans."

"We will just have to wait and see," Armstrong said. "This is simply a part of doing business in America.

—Morgan

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On Thursday, Miller said if Morgan gains accreditation, it still would not be considered, because the school lacks the proper size or stature of such a top-notch business school that would attract the nation's best talented students and professors and possibly generate millions of dollars to the city.

"Morgan has much more pressing problems, instead of getting a world-class business school," Miller said. "...any dollars it can get its hands on it needs to fix and repair its campus."

Hall contends Miller's answer was a feeble excuse, because many of the nation's business schools are not accredited. She said accreditation only means "having a lot of professors, laboratories and degrees."

Dr. Stanley T. Rich, Executive Assistant to Morgan's president Dr. Earl S. Richardson, said Morgan has continually worked to gain accreditation for its business school and should receive it in the near future, but the school's low enrollment and inadequate facilities have taken precedence. For example, the fifth floor in the 17-year-old business center remains undone and accreditation associations will not accredit Morgan if its facilities are not up to par.

"It's like Alice in Wonderland; we can't run fast enough," Dr. Rich said. "It's like we have to run twice as fast."

The school is showing signs of progress. Enrollment is up substantially to 4100, that is 600 more students than in 1985 and the business school recently hired a new dean, Dr. Otis Thomas.

"We're running as fast as we can," said Dr. Rich. "It's like trying to get to the fifth grade before one, two, three and four."

Miller said it's difficult to establish a prestigious business school at a local school that did not have the stature and prominence of a Johns Hopkins University. Apparently JHU showed no interests, so Miller considered the University of Maryland Baltimore County, but that too showed no interests.

"What he's saying is they can't establish one at Morgan, because it's Morgan," said Hall.

Miller said other regional schools, including Towson State University, also did not qualify because they too were not accredited or lacked the needed "stature".

It was unclear if Morgan did in fact express interest in the business school, but Dr. Rich said if Morgan worked to gain accreditation and did everything else to meet the criteria, he saw no reason why the school should not be home for an internationally-known business school.

"Why is it if Morgan does everything it can, we still cannot have the school?" Rich asked. "When someone sets out to not let something be accomplished...we all suffer."

Dr. Rich said the presence of such a school on Morgan's campus, would not only benefit Morgan, but it would help the city and the entire nation.

"We're talking about the needs of our society for the next 100 years. Whom do we leave this decision to?." he asked. "Are we trying really to meet the needs of all Americans or only a certain group."

In the GBC's report: Challenging Higher Education to Join in Building Baltimore's Economic Future, the GBC labels the Baltimore region's higher education system as "a middling system of higher education at a time when it needs (to be) a first-rate one."

The 72 - page report (released in October), prepared by the SRI International in Menlo Park, CA., also said Morgan and Coppin State College should work to train city school teachers, helping them to pass state certification exams, while Johns Hopkins University and UMCP continued to develop their research and development programs.

The report said Morgan's "presumed mission is to provide remediation".

Miller's testimony came minutes after J. Henry Butta, chairman of the Maryland Higher Education Commission, testified before a Joint Hearing with the House and Administrative Law Committee and the Senate Budget and Taxation, praising Maryland universities and colleges.

Butta told the committee, enrollment in state schools had reached a plateau 250,000; Scholastic Aptitude Test scores by freshmen were up 81 points and the retention gape between black and white students had been cut in half.

"...the point I want to make is that we are making real progress and have achievements we can be proud of," said Butta, although improvements still need to be made.

The commission, which formed after state legislators passed Senate Bill 459 which reorganized Maryland's institutions of higher education, recommended Dr. Shaila Aery, the commissioner of Higher Education in Missouri, as the state's secretary of higher education.

Dr. Aery will take office March 1.

—Grand Jury

(Continued from Page A1)

non-custodial parent is not providing any financial assistance."

Judge Johnson continued. "In a large number of these cases, children themselves become teenaged single parents and receive no support from the non-custodial parents and are required to seek assistance from the Baltimore City Department of Social Services."

Judge Johnson has also implemented a special committee within the Grand Jury to address the specific problems that stem from a lack of non-custodial parent support.

He outlined other problems with the child support system. "An alarming number of teens who come through the court system do not provide correct information as to the father of the child.

"For example, forty percent of all of the alleged fathers who are brought into the court sytem are excluded as the father by court ordered blood test."

Judge Johnson also incisively identified the connection between a lack of child support enforcement and welfare dependency.

"There appears to be some correlation between the lack of effective child support enforcement and welfare dependency, both of which is a shameful blight on our society.

I urge you to use your broad investigatory powers to look into the problems that I have just mentioned and to make recommendations as to how these problems may be corrected."

—'Don't Panic —PJ

(Continued from Page A1)

additional obstacles for local efforts to end discrimination in the market place," Mitchell said, "however, these obstacles are not insurmountable."

He cautioned that "The most important thing is not to panic. After the deFunis case and the Bakke case people panicked and swore that affirmative action was ended. Affirmative action was not ended, nor will minority business set-asides be ended."

"We knew we were in for a long struggle in this war to achieve economic empowerment. We have made a step backwards but we will never be defeated," Mitchell said.

Voting not to limit affirmative action were Justices Thurgood Marshall, William J. Brenner, Jr. and Harry A. Blackman. In their dissent they said that the Reagan court was no longer race conscious and that some cities would not be able to right their past discriminatory practices.

But Congressman Kweisi Mfume (MD-7th) took exception with the Supreme Court decision. "The message from the Supreme Court is clear, affirmative action will no longer be considered a legitimate vehicle for redressing chronic discrimination. Without substantial evidence many localities may lack the will to gather or the courage to reveal discriminatory practices in the awarding of public contracts," Mfume said.

—Bishop Harris

(Continued from Page A1)

"I do not intend to be an international Anglican gadfly, moving around to promote ordination of women, but I will be as supportive as possible," the new Episcopal bishop said earlier this week.

She is scheduled to be consecrated Feb. 11 in Boston, the place where she was elected bishop in September. Rev. Harris' consecration could not be completed until her election was approved by a majority of the Episcopal Church's 118 diocesan bishops.

Blacks and Russia

A firsthand report from Moscow on "An African American's View of Perestroika" will be given by Carl Bloice, veteran African American journalist and associate editor of The People's Daily World newspaper on Tuesday, Jan. 31 at 7:30 p.m., The Davis House, 1822 R Street, NW. $8 regular admission; $4 students and unemployed.

As Moscow correspondent for two years, Bloice has travelled extensively in the Soviet Union and covered the ethnic struggles in Azerbaijan, changes in the daily life of Soviet citizens, environmental problems and the huge relief efforts for victims of the Armenian earthquake. For information, call 331-0567.

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INAUGURATION WEEKEND

JANUARY 20-23, 1989

We were there:

The Inaugual parade and then some

Contributing to this story were Victor Wright, Frances L. Murphy, Robyn-Denise Yourse, Olive Vassell and S. Monique Craig.

(Photo by Paul Greene)
The District's own Eastern High School Band struts proudly in the Inaugural Parade.

(Photo by Paul Greene)
The nation's fighting men proudly march.

Thousand braved harsh temperatures and wind chill to view the parade.

(Photo by Paul Greene)
The District of Columbia float.

Freda Emerson and her off-springs (from left to right) Erik, Ronald and Curtis appear to be enjoying themselves.

It was the kind of inaugural week that made you proud to be an American starting on Monday, Jan. 23 and ending on Sunday.

Friday, Jan. 20 over 300,000 spectators stood in chilled, windy temperature as George Herbert Walker Bush was sworn in as this country's 41st president, using the same Bible and saying the same oath George Washington said 200 years ago.

President Bush along with wife Barbara, and vice president James Danforth Quayle and wife Marilyn arrived at the Bicentennial Inaugural Ceremony in a $600,000 limousine polished to a tea by Mr. Wash Brush Car and Van Wash,1313-13th St. NW.

Dr. Lewis Sullivan, the lone black named to the Bush cabinet was visible. He's to be the director of Health and Human Service. Police Chief Maurice Turner drew cheers from the crowd as did the US Army staff sergeant Alvy Powell, from Birds Nest, Va., who sang the Star Spangled Banner.

Dozens of women galivanted in full length mink and white sable fur coats and jewels, while several men were seen puffing on long cigars—and under some of those luxurious furs were blue jeans.

In the crowd, there were student groups from as far away as San Francisco, Calif. and senior citizens from as close as Baltimore, Md. Heather McGavin, 15, of George Mason Sr. and Jr. High School said she had skipped her Spanish class to attend.

Sgt. Hamilton Plummer, of the DC National Guard, who was one of those detailed to direct traffic, said he had never seen an inaugural parade. This time he was stationed too far away to see anything.

As George Bush was sworn in by Supreme Court Justice William Renquist then Bush elaborated on his campaign promise of, "A Kinder and Gentler Nation." He called for renewed efforts in dealing with the drug and homeless problem facing the country and pledged to shrink the national deficit and work toward a balance budget.

"There are the homeless, lost and roaming," Bush said. "There are the children who have nothing, no love, no normalcy. There are those who cannot free themselves of enslavement to whatever addiction - drugs, welfare, demoralization that rules the slums. There is crime to be conquered, the rough crime of the streets."

"A new breeze is blowing, and the old bipartisanship must be made new again," he said.

A night of dinning and dancing followed.

The band struck up the first familiar notes of "Hail to the Chief" three times at the Omni Shoreham Inaugural Ball before the First couple made their entrance.

The revelers paid $175 a pop to swirl to the music of three orchestras — plus an ensemble from Blues Alley and the U.S. Navy Band — ; partake of two open bars and pretzel munchies scattered throughout the two ballrooms. The President and First Lady arrived at this ball just after midnight — after attending 12 other inaugural balls.

"This is the final stop of the evening for Barbara and I," Bush told the crowd. "We've been going all evening but we wanted to stop by to say hello."

Meanwhile, across the hall, about 400 guests packed the Omni's Blue Room for the Council of 100's third Midnight Inaugural Champagne Breakfast commemorating the organization's founder, Samuel C. Jackson.

"This quadrennial inaugural breakfast reflects the philosophy of the founder, Samuel C. Jackson, who wanted to assure the operation of a viable two-party political system within the black community," said Ed Hayes, the Council' newly elected chair.

"And this would thereby grant alternatives to black Americans for full and effective participation in political affairs at all levels of government."

Hayes added that the Council "looks forward to working closely with the new administration to make the President's word 'a kinder, gentler society', a reality."

During the evening's program, several high-ranking black GOP'ers were honored for their roles in both the Reagan White House and the Bush/Quayle campaign.

They were Melvin Bradley, special assistant to the President; Claire E. Freeman, deputy assistant Secretary of Defense for Civilian Personnel Policy and Requirements; Robert Hobson, associate director, Office of Public Liaisons at the White House; Constance (Connie) Newman, co-director of Outreach Programs, Office of the President Elect and the Rev.Thaddeus Garrett, campaign adviser to President Bush.

MAXIMA Corporation founder and president Joshua Smith was also honored. His corporation is one of the country's top 10 black businesses and generates approximately $60 million in revenues annually.

The diplomatic community came out in full force during inaugural celebrations honoring members of its ranks at a International night held at the French Embassy.

Invitees who paid $75 a head for the occasion, were entertained with the sounds of steel band, Pan Masters and dined on sumptuous hors d'oeuvres.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of awards to the five honorees for their achievement in international affairs.

They were: His Excellency, Terence A. Todman, a former ambassdor to Spain and Denmark; Her Excellency, Mabel Smythe-Haith, former ambassador to Equatorial Guinea and the Cameroun; Warren Robbin, founder/director Emeritus of the National Museum of African Art; Sylvia Williams director of the National Museum of African Art; and Sal Marzullo, vice president of the Mobil Oil company.

Meanwhile at the last event of the inaugural celebrations hundreds of ticket holders gathered outside of the White House, demanding admittance after security staff closed the gates 20 minutes before a free tour was scheduled to end.

Shouts of "read our lips, let us in" and "we want George" filled the crowd as it saw hopes of seeing the nation's 41st president slip away. Tickets for the tour had disappeared 45 minutes before it was scheduled to begin.

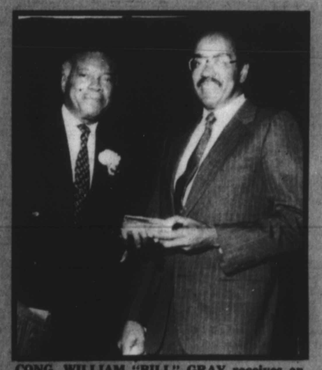
"I think the situation is unfair. They said everyone could stand in line and meet the President," said Frank Posey of Washington, DC. "I wanted to shake the man's hand. But now its not worth it to go."

Another spectator, Donald Osbourne said of the disappointment, "I just imagine that there was some kind of communication breakdown between the inaugural committee and the media."

But despite the confusion and disappointment few people blamed the Bush administration for the upset.

SUPPING AT THE COUNCIL OF 100 DINNER were (l to r) Adrian Bins, Milton Bins, Connie Newman and Minton Francis.
photo by Sam Courtney

JEWELL LAFONTANT AND LEGREE DANIELS converse at the Republican Council of 100 dinner dance at the Marriott, Jan. 18.
photo by Sam Courtney



CONG. WILLIAM "BILL" GRAY receives an award from Gen. (Ret.) Leroy C. Bell at the African American Bipartisan Breakfast Jan. 21 at the Sheraton Washington Hotel.
photo by Sam Courtney

The first couple throwing waves and smiles at the crowd.