Contractors group calls court quota decision unjust

By Chester A. Higgins, Sr.
NNPA News Editor

Washington, D.C. — The U.S. Supreme Court decision by a 6-3 vote striking down the Richmond, VA, minority business set-aside program, was assailed as "unjust" by the 3,500-member National Association of Minority Contractors, the organization that represents the most directly affected group.

NAMC Executive Director Ralph G. Thomas called the ruling "unjust" and fears that it will put similar programs in 32 states and 164 localities in serious jeopardy. Thomas' organization is headquartered in New York.

He told NNPA "it is a bad decision;' adding "but it is not disastrous. However, it sends a bad signal and it is imperative that we immediately inform the various states and localities which have set-aside programs that the Supreme ruling did not outlaw minority business utilization programs; it simply said that the City of Richmond had to justify its program in another manner."

Thomas told NNPA, "this ruling assumes the majority and the minority are starting out even, which is not true. One thing that scares us is that the discrimination the Supreme Court is looking for may be very hard to find."

Added to the gloomy atmosphere is the National Urban League's recently released annual "State of Black America" report which declares that the economic condition of Blacks is becoming worse in this country.

Intimidation from NAMC's chief foe, the mostly white Association of General Contractors" in these localities is our biggest concern right now," Thomas said. This ruling, however, is not directed at the huge federal sector set-aside programs.

Addressing a 49th NNPA Mid-Winter Workshop luncheon in Daytona Beach, Fla., Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young, said the Supreme Court's ruling "represents almost a Marxist world view". That view holds that an economic pie is of finite size, therefore, if programs are fashioned to give minorities a larger slice, this is done at the expense of white people. The court mistakenly assumed this view, Young said.

"This is not a capitalist court world view. A capitalist world view is the most people you bring into the pie, the bigger the pie gets and everybody has more of a share." He said before Maynard Jackson(former Atlanta mayor) the city, awarded Blacks $41,000 out of $29 million in contracts. Last year, $33 million went to Black businesses but now out of an $80 million expenditure.

Young said Atlanta demonstrates the latter point, admirably. His city has a "35 percent set aside program—more than Richmond's 30 per cent — but it is not fixed. It is flexible," he told NNPA enroute to the Daytona Beach airport to return to Atlanta.

In his address, Young cited a recent Atlanta Chamber of Commerce study that shows a half million new jobs were created in the city during the past five years along with $67.8 billion in new business. "This is a phenomenal record, equal to more than all economic growth in European countries "in that period. We have learned to work, Black and white together, in this city" he beamed. Nevertheless the city is still being sued over its affirmative action program. Young has won the first court round and is confident he will win at the state appellate level.

The U.S. Supreme Court majority opinion in the City of Richmond (VA) vs J.S. Croson was written by Justice Sandra Day O'Connor who said the City of Richmond program failed essentially two tests: it was not based on proof of prior discrimination against minority contractors, and it failed to prescribe "narrowly tailored" remedies to overcome that specific discrimination.

In a bitterly ringing dissent, Justice Thurgood Marshall said the decision "sounds a full-scale retreat from race-conscious remedial efforts". Justices William J. Brennan and Harry A. Blackmum joined in the dissent. Said Blackmun: "I never thought I would live to see the day when the City of Richmond, VA, the cradle of the Old Confederacy, (would seek) on its own to lessen the stark impact of persistent discrimination. But Richmond acted. Yet this court, supposed bastion of equality, strikes down Richmond's efforts as though discrimination never existed."

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Business Briefs

(Continued from Page C1)

Ernst & Whinney, Chicago; Herman J. Russell, chairman, H. J. Russell & Company, Atlanta; Bernard Shaw, news-anchor, CNN, Washington, D.C.; and William Wallace, chairman & CEO, Environment Sevent Ltd., Chicgo.

Proceeds from the banquet will go to the Chicago Urban League's Edwin C. "Bill" Berry Student Emergency Loan Fund, the Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, Mother Clara Hale's Hale House Center for chemically addicted children in New York, a scholarship fund for Junior Achievement and INROADS students, and to other worthy charitable causes.

Tickets for the banquet are $200 each and a table for ten is $2,000. For tickets or more information, contact Angela D. Wimes at 312/375-6800.

Anne Arundel Contractors Roundtable

On Wednesday, March 15, 1988, the Anne Arundel County Department of Central Services, Purchasing Office will sponsor its Second Annual CONTRACTORS ROUNDTABLE. The event is scheduled from 6:00-9:00 p.m. at the Ramada Inn, 173 Jennifer Road, Annapolis, MD.

The purpose of this meeting is to increase interaction between minority contractors and County contract management staff and engineers, as well as County procurement officers.

Furthermore, this session will provide networking opportunities among prime contractors and subcontractors and acquaint minority and women-owned construction companies, suppliers and architectural/engineering firms with requirements for doing business with Anne Arundel County.

Guest speaker for this year's ROUNDTABLE will be Denise H. Lloyd, President of D. H. Lloyd & Associates, a Washington, D.C. licensed broker providing bonding and insurance for businesses and construction companies. Her topic is, "INSURANCE & BONDING FOR CONTRACTORS."

The workshop is free, but reservations by March 13, 1989 are required. To make reservations, call Ms. Jackson, MBE Coordinator, Anne Arundel County, 301-280-1367.

IRS increases mileage rate

The standard mileage rate for automobiles used in business in 1988 is 24 cents a mile, the Internal Revenue Service says. The 24 cent rate is for the first 15,000 miles of business use of a car or a truck that is not fully depreciated. The rate for a fully depreciated car or truck, or for additional business miles after 15,000 per year, is 11 cents per mile.

The standard mileage rate gives taxpayers a fixed deduction per business mile. Taxpayers may deduct either the standard mileage rate or actual expenses for business use of an automobile to the standard mileage rate, taxpayers may deduct the business portion of parking fees and tolls.

This method cannot be used if the car is leased or for hire, or if more than one car is used in the business at one time.

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Responsible for the final writing and editing of manuscripts, articles, annual reports, special reports, and related printed materials produced by the Md. Historical Trust, within the State of Md., Dept. of Housing and Community Development.
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SALARY RANGE: $17,840 thru $21,211 — State unclassified.
APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS: All applicants must include a cover letter, a complete resume of related professional experiences with references, and representative writing examples. The deadline for applications is 3/10/89. Send applications to: Thomas J. Lutz, Office of Community Education, Md. Historical Trust, 21 State Circle, Annapolis, Md. 21401. EOE.

LIBRARIAN
Part-time Librarian wanted to staff reference desk beginning 3/6/89 and to assist w/other library project in community college library. Day time hours, 15 hrs. per week; requires MLS, ALA accredited library school. Library experience in an academic setting preferred; public service experience preferred; $10.00 per hour. Send letter of interest and resume to Sharyn Myrick, Catonsville Community College, 800 S. Rolling Road, Balto., MD 21228. Qualified women, minorities and the handicapped are encouraged to apply.

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Applications are invited for consideration for appointment to the following position:
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Onondaga Community College is accepting applications for the position of Director of Campus Safety and Security, responsible to the Vice President for Administrative Services and Finance for the development, implementation and management of the campus safety and security programs and services of the college; including the protection of persons and property, compliance with applicable laws, rules and regulations and liaison with appropriate enforcement agencies, traffic and vehicular control, creation and maintenance of a safe and secure campus environment. The Director of Campus Safety and Security performs such other work as may be acquired and assigned.
The Director of Campus Safety and Security is responsible for developing, managing, evaluating and recommending policies and procedures for improving the college program for the protection of persons and property on campus or wherever college operations are located; recommend for selection, supervise and evaluate Campus Security Officers and other reporting personnel; responsible for developing, recommending and implementing plans for compliance with OSHA, "Right-to-Know", asbestos abatement, fire, emergency evacuation and other laws, rules, regulations and codes related to campus safety which are applicable to the College; develop, recommend and implement orientation and training programs and activities for both Safety and Security personnel and other campus personnel; chair the Campus Safety Advisory Committee; and act as college liaison with law enforcement and governmental regulatory agencies in connection with college safety and security programs and related matters.
QUALIFICATIONS: Required are a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university. Master's degree in an appropriate discipline preferred. Included in degree work or in addition to it, formal training in law enforcement, plant security and environmental safety management, conflict management and resolution, and other areas related to the management and operation of a public safety organization which is equivalent to at least two years of full time study and five (5) years supervisory experience in an organizational unit responsible for public safety functions (fire and other safety concerns, and the security of persons and property); three (3) years of which must have involved regular management for the operation, including budget control. Regular responsibility for organizational compliance with relevant laws, rules, codes and regulations (OSHA, Right-to-Know, Handicapped Access, Liability, Maintenance of Public Order, Civil Rights, etc.).
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