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WHITE HOUSE "THINK TANK" SESSION
MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONAL ANALYSIS
MARCH 14, 1975

OPENING STATEMENT

BY

STANLEY S. SCOTT, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

GOOD AFTERNOON....WELCOME TO WASHINGTON.....WELCOME
TO THE WHITE HOUSE. ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT, I WOULD
LIKE TO PERSONALLY THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENDANCE AND
PARTICIPATION IN THIS "THINK TANK" SESSION ON MINORITY
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT. THIS UNPRECEDENTED SESSION, IN
MY VIEW, REPRESENTS A TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITY FOR
CONCERNED AMERICANS TO IMPACT POSITIVELY ON NATIONAL
POLICY TOWARD MINORITIES. I WOULD LIKE FOR YOU TO KNOW
THAT THOSE OF US WORKING IN THIS ADMINISTRATION SEE THIS
SESSION AS SOMETHING MORE THAN JUST AN EXERCISE IN RHETORIC.
PRESIDENT FORD, AS MANY OF YOU IN THIS AUDIENCE ARE AWARE,



ISSUED A STATEMENT TO DEPARTMENT AND AGENCY HEADS LAST DECEMBER... STRESSING THAT AN IMPORTANT OBJECTIVE OF HIS ADMINISTRATION WOULD BE ASSISTANCE TO MINORITIES TO FURTHER ALLOW PARTICIPATION IN THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF THE PRIVATE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM.

IN THAT STATEMENT, THE PRESIDENT ADDED: "DURING THIS DIFFICULT ECONOMIC PERIOD, MANY MINORITY BUSINESSES ARE PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE. THEY NEED EVERY HELP THE GOVERNMENT CAN REASONABLY PROVIDE. IT IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT, THEREFORE, THAT YOUR AGENCY LOOK FOR EVERY APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY FOR MINORITY BUSINESSES TO PARTICIPATE IN GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS AS CONTRACTORS, SUBCONTRACTORS, BANKERS, ETC., AND THAT MANAGEMENT, TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BE PROVIDED WHENEVER FEASIBLE." ALL WELL AND GOOD. BUT WHY THIS MEETING TODAY?

SIMPLY BECAUSE THOSE OF US IN GOVERNMENT WOULD BE THE FIRST TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WE DO NOT HAVE ALL OF THE



ANSWERS TO MANY OF THE AGE-OLD PROBLEMS YET TO BE RESOLVED. HOWEVER, THERE IS MORE TO IT THAN THAT.

ALL TOO OFTEN GOVERNMENT DECISIONS AFFECTING THE HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS OF MILLIONS OF AMERICANS ARE MADE HERE IN WASHINGTON WITHOUT INPUT FROM LARGE SEGMENTS OF THE POPULATION THAT THESE FEDERAL DECISIONS ARE INTENDED TO ASSIST.

WITH THIS VIEW IN MIND, THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET AGREED THAT WE SHOULD GAIN AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE FROM THOSE INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED AND CONCERNED WITH MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE BEFORE DECIDING ON FUTURE DIRECTIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S MINORITY BUSINESS PROGRAM. WE LOOK TO THIS SESSION AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR OPEN AND CANDID DISCUSSION OF INITIATIVES, PROBLEMS AND A CRITICAL AND CONSTRUCTIVE ANALYSIS OF WHAT MUST BE DONE TO MAKE THE MINORITY BUSINESS PROGRAM MORE EFFECTIVE... IN ORDER THAT WE MIGHT DELIVER BETTER SERVICES TO MORE PEOPLE FOR YEARS TO COME.



IN THAT SAME SPIRIT OF BEING CANDID--BUT NOT SELF-DEFEATING--I WOULD URGE THAT WE DO NOT USE THIS FORUM FOR PERSONAL AND INDIVIDUAL CONCERNS. BUT, INSTEAD, TO PROVIDE INPUT FOR THE OVERALL PROGRAM IN TERMS OF DIRECTIONS AND GOALS.

I WOULD HOPE THAT YOU WOULD CONSIDER THIS FORUM AS A DIALOGUE...A TALKING WITH SESSION...AS OPPOSED TO A TALKING TO EXERCISE. WE NEED AND WANT YOUR INPUT SO THAT THE ADMINISTRATION MIGHT STRENGTHEN MINORITY BUSINESS PROGRAMS.

WILLIAM BAROODY, JR., ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR WHITE HOUSE PUBLIC LIAISON AND A COLLEAGUE OF MINE, WILL GIVE YOU A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF HOW WE ATTEMPT TO MAINTAIN THE PRESIDENT'S "OPEN DOOR" POLICY BY INVOLVING AS MANY AMERICANS AS POSSIBLE IN DEVELOPING ADMINISTRATION POLICY.

BAROODY WILL BE FOLLOWED BY WALTER SCOTT, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR ECONOMICS AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. WALLY WILL PROVIDE AN OVERVIEW OF THE MINORITY BUSINESS STUDY SUMMARY.

