

The purpose of this announcement is to state that a movement will be launched to establish the 21st Century Economic Equity Fund. The fund will be a public policy think tank. Its mission will be to engage in activities that will support and assure that racial minorities and women have a fair and reasonable opportunity to participate in various economies resulting from and financed by taxpayers' dollars at any and all levels of government: Federal, state, county and municipal. The word "economies" means jobs, vending, business and contracting opportunities created by and resulting from procurement activities engaged in by the above-mentioned jurisdictions.

The Fund's convener, Arthur A. Fletcher and spokesperson, will be in Kansas City on Friday, February 10, 1995 to address a training seminar sponsored by Blacks in Government (BIG). Commissioner Fletcher was the Bush-appointed chairman of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights from 1990 to 1993. He is still a member of the Commission. Following the training session, he will hold a press conference to announce the convening of a meeting in Washington, DC to establish the 21st Century Economic Equity Fund think tank. He will also share the contents of an Open Letter he has written and is sending to Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, House Speaker Newt Gingrich and each Member of the republican delegation to the 104th United States Congress.

Commissioner Fletcher said that one of the goals of the Fund is to have its national office open and operating in the nation's capital within the next 60 days, and by or before January 1, 1996 arrives, the Fund's convener and spokesperson intends to have an equity fund regional office in the capital cities of the following states: Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Illinois, Missouri, Colorado, Texas, California, and Washington.

By having regional offices in these areas, the Fund will be able to cover the ten federal government regional offices and the state capitols of those states serviced by the national government's regional office system. The Fund is being organized in response to the nationwide firestorm/backlash initiated by anti-affirmative action forces in the republican party and its elected officials at all levels of government. The spark that caused them to act was an uninformed statement made by Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole on **Meet The Press** on Sunday, February 5, 1995.

The founders of the 21st Century Economic Equity Fund are African Americans appointed to sub-cabinet and other executive positions during the Nixon administration. The reason the Fund is being established by this particular group is because affirmative action and minority and women set-aside programs were public policy initiatives that were established and implemented during the Nixon administration era. Throughout the Nixon years, African American presidential appointees and other senior executives formed an advisory council that met monthly in private homes to develop policy initiatives and discuss issue papers that they would submit to President Nixon.

In addition, they met with the President frequently to advise him on policies regarding the administration's civil rights agenda. During these sessions they convinced him that the road to independence and self-reliance is work fare and not welfare. In doing so, they provided information to prove that federal government procurement programs created millions upon millions of jobs, and that qualified minorities and women were not getting their fare share of those jobs. They also demonstrated that millions of business opportunities were created by procurement programs that were financed by taxpayers' dollars and that minorities and women were not getting a fair and reasonable share of those opportunities, either. That was the logic that motivated Nixon to support the affirmative action employment enforcement movement, as well as his administration's minority and women 8-A set-aside contract opportunity programs.

Several of the African American sub-cabinet appointees and senior executives are deceased, but the remaining group plans to convene an organizational meeting in the nation's capital shortly to charter the 21st Century Economic Equity Fund and arrange to meet with Senate majority leader Bob Dole, Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, plus other republican leaders in both houses of Congress. The purpose of the meeting is to advise them of the Fund's mission and willingness to help the Party and the Congress as a whole to establish fair and reasonable policies with respect to affirmative action and minority business set-aside opportunities compatible with the economy of the 90s and the early twenty-first century.
