

Destiny's last call Black Americans

When I read your story that appeared below the fold on the front page of the August 5, 2003, issue of Washington Post this morning, this morning I was compelled to write this brief note about my role in establishing the Affirmative Action Enforcement Policy,

When I jump-started the federal government's Affirmative Action Enforcement policy, I too was in a no-nonsense mood. I had punched all the holes on my qualification card. Fought in WW-II., Patten's III Army Red Ball Express. Returned to America, a disabled vet, went to college via the GI-Bill of rights legislation Public Law 16. entered school with a wife and two children, and while in college the family increased to a wife and 4 children. Nevertheless, I worked 48 hours per week every week that I was in school, got my BA in 3-1/2 years, and was included in a national publication called Who's Who for Academic Achievement and Extra Curricular Activities in my junior and Senior.

But guess what? When I got my degree in May 1950, I couldn't find employment anywhere in Kansas or elsewhere in the country for the life of me. A major employer who didn't miss coming to see me play at home or away. During the 4 seasons that I played a Washburn Un. Had this to say when I approached he about a job. " Its too bad that you boys wasted your time and taxpayers money by going to college. The federal government is guilty of causing you Negroes to have false hopes.

50 firms that Fortune magazine, list annually, as engaging in Best Practices as to contracting with minority owned firms in particular.

The attached summery report contains pertinent segment of blow by blow accounts of my efforts, to achieve my assignment. As stated elsewhere, these accounts reveal the plans strategies, and tactics I employed in mobilizing public, private and independent sector segments of our economy in support for the project.

For example the letters included in this report reveals the specific approach I used to gain support for the project from certain concerned members of congress. The same applies to letters I wrote to trade associations executive with offices in the nation's capitol. Like wise for corporate government relations government relations agents based in Washington, DC.

In addition it includes information gathered from minority owned firms that contract with big business enterprises that are engage in "Best Practices" .

Before the critics point out the short fall involved in such best practices efforts I should pause here and add the following side bar comments: This report is about "best practices" and not "flawless perfect practices". Flawless perfect practices, if they ever appear, will be the end result of "best practices" which is the subject of this investigation.

After all, in the final analysis, the success of minority owned firms is the subject of this benchmark study investigation. Therefore, the purpose of the investigation is to

daughter as well as a no-non-since. stay on the case, master the challenge sustained achiever that you have and are still proving to be.

When I stood my ground and insisted that voluntary Affirmative Action and been tried and found wanting. And from June 27, 1969, enforcement should be the name of the game. I took that position because of confident shattering treatment that I had experienced personally. Those experiences plus that of hundred of thousands of other African American GIs, men and women, who secured under grad, and post graduate degrees after WW-II via the GI Bill Rights I knew this; That minus a Affirmative Action Enforcement Policy, they too would be turned away, qualified or not, when they knocked on the door called opportunity that both black and white tax dollars financed.

Thank you, thank you, and thank you again and as the late Count Basie would say
Thank You One More Once.

Respectfully

Dr, Art Fletcher

P.S . I am going to launch a national tour designed to forewarn African Americans of the critical facts behind the suggesting that the life expectance of Affirmative Action should be no longer than 25 years. But that's not all. I am taking the tour, to urge our brothers

and sister to take full advantage of that 25 year window. Why? Because, although I wont be among the living when 2028 arrives, I am thoroughly convinced that when that year arrives, ready or not, the door will be slammed shut, super tight, and never to open again.. In other words our destiny is in our hands from now own.