

Putting our intentions in writing and publishing them to congress, the media, corporate America, the business community, and the public at large, my contain some risk. Therefore, I made an extended effort to not only be cautious, but specific as well. Why? Because words are subject to many and varied interpretations. But keep in mind “risk” is what leadership is all about. In other words, RAM got this contract because it is looked upon as a leader in its field.

Nevertheless, I struggled with the wording, phrases, etc., contained in both the press release and the letter to the members of the congress. I wanted to be super careful with wording in these items because, given that I am known as The Father of the Nation’s Affirmative Action Movement; Once the press release and the letter to the congress are on the market, it will result in the Postal Department’s, national clientele and the constituencies of each member of congress, knowing what we are doing. The results would be a endless string of phone calls and letters to the latter questioning out intent, etc.

However, my view is this: When its evident that we are definitely “**looking for the good guys**” and not engaged in a witch hunt, or that we are not a group of righteous indignant crusaders, **looking for the bad guys**, public sentiment will come down on our side. That should cause those firms engaged in “best practices” to willingly share not only their implementing strategies with the project team, but their tactics for sustaining the process as well.

While the above activities were underway, I also began making plans to contact the 50 firms that are listed in a recent Fortune Magazine publication. The story contained the names of 50 firms that are considered the best with respect to contracting opportunities for minority business owner.

Since that is what our project is about, I have begun approaching some of the Washington, DC. based Government Relation's Agents, for these companies. What is my objective? To inform them of our project and seek their help in arranging an interview, for the project's quality control experts. The reason for the interview is to allow them to have fact to face contact with the "best practices" managers at these facilities.

The Fourth of July Holiday, coupled with the summer vacation season, is presenting challenges with contacting decision makers in both the public and privates sector of our economy. In other words, I want the record to show that not being able to meet with certain knowledgeable individuals, that are key to the success of my contribution to the project, in a timely manner, is causing difficulties.

The difficulty is this: Many key decision makers are on vacation and the subordinate individual, left in charge, are not willing to make critical decision on their own. This is having a direct and less than positive impact, on the quality of my efforts.

However, because of the severe time constraints that the project is being held to (120 days), I'll proceed as planned and do what is expected of me under the circumstances.

During the next report period, the above-mentioned press release and letters to the members of congress, should have had their impact. If I have estimated correctly, RAM should be receiving inquiries form the public, private and independent sectors of our economy. Not only that but the media should be contacting us as well. Should that happen, as the projects government, public, and community affairs agent, I would appreciate it if all such calls were directed to me.