

Press Intelligence, Inc. <sup>2</sup>

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20007

Front Page Edit Page Other Page 2

PHILADELPHIA, PA.  
BULLETIN

E - 671,525

S - 728,276

JUN 12 1969

## U.S. to Revise and Reinstate 'Phila. Plan' on Minority Hiring

By PETER H. BINZEN  
Of The Bulletin Staff

The controversial Philadelphia Plan for minority-group hiring on federally-financed construction projects will be reinstated shortly.

U. S. Assistant Secretary of Labor Arthur Fletcher said in Washington yesterday that the plan is being revised to meet the objections of U. S. Comptroller General Elmer B. Staats, who ruled it invalid last November.

"I expect to issue shortly a revised Philadelphia Plan that will serve the needs of our program and also meet the concerns of the comptroller general," Fletcher told contract compliance officers from 26

federal agencies.

He predicted that the plan "will be instituted in other cities in the immediate future."

### Part of a Major Drive

Reinstatement of the Philadelphia Plan is part of a major effort by the Nixon Administration, Fletcher said, to streamline and make more effective compliance with an executive order requiring contractors to provide equal job opportunities for minorities.

Fletcher said the Office of Federal Contract Compliance will be reorganized and expanded. Contractors will be ranked on their utilization of minority-group workers, he said.

Taking effect late in 1967, the Philadelphia Plan was directed

at increasing black and Puerto Rican representation in eight critical trades — steamfitters, sheet-metal workers, plumbers, electricians, structural iron workers, roofers, elevator constructors and operating engineers.

The plan's key element required low bidders on federally financed construction to specify how many minority-group workers they would employ in each trade and for how long. Only after their commitments were received and approved by federal officials could contracts be awarded.

This requirement was bitterly protested by unions and contractors alike. In the ensuing dispute projects costing millions

were held up. Then Staats found the rule incompatible with normal competitive bidding requirements.

His decision permitted colleges, universities and other agencies receiving federal construction funds to make contract awards without requiring minority-group job pledges.

### Ruling Brings Protests

Staats' ruling, in turn, brought protests from the Urban Coalition, the city's Commission on Human Relations and Philadelphia Democratic Congressmen William A. Barrett, James A. Byrne and Joshua Eilberg.

After meeting with representatives of numerous Philadelphia groups, the Labor Department announced its decision to rein-

state the plan in revised form. Bennett O. Stalvey, Philadelphia regional coordinator of the Office of Federal Contract Compliance and a strong backer of the Philadelphia Plan, said he doesn't know what form the revisions will take, but he views the announcement as a victory for supporters of the plan.

"I'm delighted," he said. "This is exactly what we've been working for. Suspension of the plan caused a slackening in the recruitment and hiring of minorities. Now that it's being reinstated there should be positive results."

"And we expect immediate action. There should be word within a week or ten days."