

## Jobs, Minority Enterprise

Mr. Chairman, members of the Platform Committee:

My name is Mal Sims. I'm from Los Angeles, and I've had previous experience with \_\_\_\_\_ . I'm here to talk with you this morning about the planks to be adopted by this convention on jobs, and particularly minority enterprise.

As a black, I believe the most important road to success and prosperity for my people is through better employment, more managerial positions, and more ownership of real wealth--in other words, we want a bigger slice of the American pie. I'm happy to say that this Administration has not just talked about getting minority Americans into the economic mainstream; it has done something about it. So as a black American I strongly support the efforts of the Nixon Administration to achieve equal employment opportunity and promote minority business ownership.

And, since equal employment opportunity is meaningless if there are no jobs to go around, I commend the creation of 4.7 million new jobs under this Administration.

I particularly commend the opening up of more job opportunities than ever before to minority Americans. A large part of the credit for this belongs to the Nixon Administration.

This Administration has, for example, negotiated or imposed more than 50 city-wide plans, including well-known Philadelphia

Plan, for the increased employment of minority workers in the construction industry. These plans have called for a total of more than 35,000 additional minority hirings by 1978.

This Administration has increased minority employment among Federal non-construction contractors as well. By March of this year, over 230,000 workers had been hired or upgraded under this Administration.

In the public sector, job opportunities have been expanded as a result of an executive order calling on the head of each Federal department and agency to set up an affirmative program of equal employment opportunity. It seems more than just coincidental that minority workers now make up a higher proportion of the Federal workforce than ever before. And it seems more than just coincidental that more minority Americans have been placed in top-level managerial posts in the civil service than ever before.

I'm also turned on by the President's efforts to encourage minority business ownership. The Office of Minority Business Enterprise has been created by the Nixon Administration to coordinate Federal assistance programs for minority members seeking to establish or expand businesses. Federal aid to minority business can now, at long last, be administered thoroughly and systematically.

In hard dollars and cents, Federal loans, grants, and guarantees to minority business have more than tripled under this Administration, increasing from around \$200 million in 1969 to an estimated \$716 million in fiscal year 1973. Minority businesses are now receiving more than double the proportion of the Small Business Administration dollar that they received in 1968.

The Minority Enterprise Small Business Investment Company program, which the President has asked Congress to expand, has provided venture capital to a large number of minority businesses. And the Administration's program to increase minority bank deposits has really paid off; deposits have increased by more than \$400 million in less than two years.

This is progress. Minority Americans have asked for increased economic opportunity and that's what this Administration has given them.

More minority progress certainly needs to be made. I believe that it can best be made and best be maintained if we build on the solid foundation of a accomplished that the Nixon Administration has set up.

Gentlemen, it is my request along with millions of minorities, that you not only continue present progress, but make an even bigger accomplishment in the future; THANKYOU.