

# Thurmond Proteges Run Aid to Blacks

By Jack Anderson

The federal government's \$2.17 billion program to help black businessmen is being administered by political proteges of the Senate's diehard segregationist, Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.).

The cantankerous Thurmond has been able to place two cronies and one in-law over the Small Business Administration's minority business development office, causing outraged howls from blacks and other minorities who seek help from the SBA.

The Thurmond Three are:

- John Patrick, the acting director of the program. He is a retired Air Force colonel from South Carolina and is a long-time family friend of Thurmond.

- Marshall Parker, a former state senator in South Carolina, who jumped to the GOP with Thurmond in 1964. Twice he has run against South Carolina's Democratic Sen. Ernest Hollings, with Thurmond's backing. Parker is overall boss of the SBA's minorities programs.

- Horace Crouch, an in-law of Thurmond. His late sister was Thurmond's first wife. Crouch is Parker's top aide.

Since the first of the year, the

Thurmond Three have tried to reduce federal food service contracts which had been going to minority businessmen and have otherwise undermined the minority programs, according to SBA insiders and black businessmen.

So restrictive were some of the new guidelines that SBA Administrator Tom Kleppe had to step in and ease them. Despite Kleppe's intervention, however, Parker and Patrick have cut back the increase in funding of black and other minority enterprises to a mere \$33 million this year, compared with an increase of \$195 million between 1970 and 1973.

The Thurmond mystique has even extended into the SBA minority division's offices. There is only one professional black employed in the section supposed to assist blacks, and he was hired before Parker took command three years ago.

Both Kleppe and Parker insist that the Thurmond Three's tenure has not hurt the program. Kleppe, however, confided that having Thurmond's men in charge of a minority division does not look good and said a black soon will be appointed to take over Patrick's job.

Footnote: Although Parker has cut back program increases

for minorities, he spares no expense when it comes time to fund conferences on other SBA programs. He vetoed a less expensive conference site recently in favor of the lush, plush Greenbrier in White Sulphur Springs, W. Va.

**Nixon Toy Soldiers**—President Nixon is determined to emulate the crowned heads of Europe by providing himself with resplendent palace guards attired in uniforms of days gone by.

Some time ago, awed by the pomp and circumstance of police he saw on a European trip, he tried to bedeck the White House police in costumes out of a turn-of-the-century operetta company.

The public laughed him out of the idea. But now the Army is reviving the Nixon dream by spending \$70,000 to festoon the 72 men of a nearby military unit in Revolutionary War garb. They will be the President's official escort for galas at the White House.

The idea for reincarnating George Washington's "Lifeguard Company" was hatched by Maj. Gen. James Adamson, commander of the Washington, D.C., military district. The "Lifeguards" were formed in 1776, and Army historians have carefully researched the old

unit to make sure President Nixon sees exactly what President Washington saw.

When we first asked the Army about the \$70,000 costuming, we were told it probably had some connection with the bicentennial celebration. Later, however, the Army conceded that while the bicentennial "may have some use" for the regalia, this was not the major factor in its recreation.

**Fetid Flotsam**—The Justice Department, after first declaring they had "a legal basis for bringing (criminal) actions" against outboard motor makers for polluting lakes, rivers and seashores, has now backed out of the case.

After months of grand jury proceedings, Justice has privately written conservationist Livingston Parmele, who pressed the antipollution case, that the evidence "does reflect technical violations of the law." But Justice decided "not to proceed" against the politically powerful outboard motor makers whose products still spew millions of gallons of gunk a year into the waterways.

The battle by Parmele and other clean-water advocates was not entirely lost, however. The outboard motor makers have put antipollution devices on new models.

©1973, United Feature Syndicate