

# Deal for 'Disadvantaged' Went to Ex-Nixon Aide

Washington

A former \$36,000-a-year special assistant to President Nixon has received an \$836,651 Defense Department contract earmarked for the disadvantaged.

Robert J. Brown, former special assistant for minority affairs, also applied for a second contract but was turned down.

The contract prompted House Banking Committee investigator Curtis Prins to remark that he didn't think anyone who had worked for a high salary in the White House was disadvantaged.

The Small Business Administration, which negotiated the contract for the Defense Department, defended its action.

"Because Brown is who he is and who he was, this particular contract was gone over from stem to stern," said Randall Woods, assistant SBA administrator for public affairs.

"This contract was awarded long after Bob Brown left the White House," Woods added. "There was an unusual amount of documentation. It definitely is legitimate from top to bottom."

Brown could not be reached for comment.

The loan stems from the program authorizing the SBA to act as subcontractor for the government to funnel federal dollars to disadvantaged and minority firms. The SBA certifies firms as eligible for the program and then finds them government contracts which are awarded on a non-competitive basis.

Last July, a firm owned 50 per cent by Brown was awarded a \$836,651 Defense Department contract to operate mess halls at El Toro Marine Base in Southern California.

The firm, Cade Services Inc. of Santa Ana, Calif., is co-owned by Harrison J. Cades.

While Brown was in the

White House, the SBA detailed to him Paul A. Laurakas, an SBA minority business development specialist. Soon after Brown quit in February, Laurakas also left government service. He now works for Brown's consulting firm, SBA sources said.

Brown was the highest ranked black in the White House during Mr. Nixon's first term. He left in February.

*Associated Press*