

More Blacks Own Businesses

WASHINGTON — These are budding times for black-owned businesses. Budding, but far from full bloom.

The number of black-owned businesses grew a sharp 47 percent between 1977 and 1982 from 231,203 to 339,239, with total sales receipts rising from \$8.6 billion to \$12.4 billion in the same period, the Census Bureau reported today.

If the 1977-1982 rate of growth continues through 1985, there could be 434,904 black businesses by year's end, a 28 percent increase from 1982, according to some economists.

The new report, first of a four-part series from the 1982 Survey of Minority-Owned Business Enterprises, was "encouraging" but far from great news, said economist John Cole at Financial Research Associates. He noted more than half the black-owned firms had sales of less than \$5,000.

And the figures for 1982 — a recession — probably were boosted by a wave of laid-off workers who entered business temporarily while seeking fulltime employment, he said.

The Census Bureau found that 95 percent of the companies were sole proprietorships, three percent were partnerships and two percent were corporations.

The number of black-owned firms with receipts totaling \$1 million or more increased 58 percent to 1,129, and the number with 100 or more employees increased 20 percent to 136.

Reports on businesses owned by women, Hispanics, Asians and American Indians are due out next year.

— Constance Mitchell USA TODAY

Jesse Jackson may try in 88

The Rev. Jesse Jackson, who tried to win the Democratic presidential nomination last year, said he hasn't ruled out another try in 1988.

Jackson said at a Oklahoma city news conference that he had not decided whether to try again to become the nation's first black president. He said his Rainbow Coalition, formed during his 1984 presidential bid, continues to organize across the nation.



CBC WEEKEND EXCELS ALL OTHERS — The 15th Annual Congressional Black Caucus Weekend, held at the Washington Hilton Hotel, Washington, D.C., was judged as the best yet. It was estimated that more than 15,000 attended the Conference Weekend, which expected to raise \$1 million or more for their programs. Convention participants spent much of their time in the exhibitors hall receiving free gifts, literature, sales information and other "goodies" from more than 200 companies, governmental agencies and private groups. The Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) held sessions on such subjects as "Black Life In Corporate America," "Church And State Against Nuclear War," "Long Term Prospects For African Economic Development," "The Current State Of Unrest In South Africa," "The Census Undercount and Implications For Minorities," "Single Parent Families," "International News Coverage In The Black Media," "Black Political Empowerment" and many other critical subjects facing the Black population. There were corporate and private parties galore in elegant suites. Philip Morris, Miller Brewing and Seven-Up teamed with CBS Records to raise funds for the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation. They presented Rodney Franklin, CBS recording artist and Al Jarreau, Warner Bros. Records, who entertained an overflowing crowd and continually brought them to their feet at the Warner Theatre. The concert raised \$125,000. Tom Shropshire, senior vice president and treasurer, Miller Brewing Company, lavishly entertained guests in his suite prior to the closing CBC Awards Dinner. Hands clasped all for one, one for all, for the success of the concert, left to right: LeBaron Taylor, vice president, CBS Records; Rodney Franklin; Al Jarreau and George Powell, director of sales, Philip Morris U.S.A.

55 MPH Speed limit keeps State funds

Highway officials announced that by meeting the national 55 mile-per-hour speed limit, Nevada won't lose \$3 million in federal funds.

Once figures for the final quarter were tallied last

month, Nevada finished with a year-long rate of 49.9 percent of its drivers exceeding the national speed limit — just a tenth below the 50 percent rate that would jeopardize funds.

Funds are withdrawn if 50

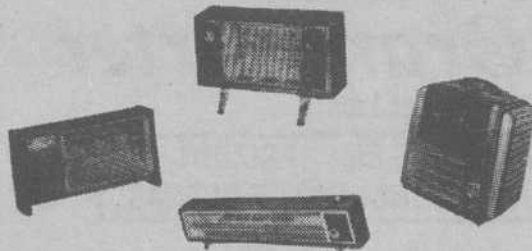
percent of a state's drivers go beyond the limit two years in a row.



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New Southwest Gas Program Needs Volunteers, Coordinator

LAS VEGAS — A new program designed to help senior citizens and the handicapped of Clark County make their homes more energy efficient needs 20 senior volunteers and a program coordinator.

The Southern Nevada Seniors Program is sponsored by Southwest Gas, the City of Las Vegas Parks, Recreation and Senior Citizen Activities, Retired Seniors Volunteer Program (RSVP), and the Nevada Division for Aging Services.

The volunteers conduct home energy audits free of charge to qualified senior and/or handicapped home owners. In addition they

install up to \$25 worth of energy conservation devices, including a water heater blanket, pipe insulation, wall outlet and light switch gaskets, caulking and weather stripping when needed.

According to Southwest's Consumer Affairs Manager Marilyn Bollinger, more than 1,000 homes are expected to be audited this first year.

Interested individuals may contact Al O'Neal at the Consumer Affairs Division of Southwest Gas, 876-7005, to make a reservation for the workshop, or to apply for the coordinator position for the program.

THE LAS VEGAS SENTINEL-VOICE

Nevada's largest and most complete black community newspaper. Published every Thursday by the Brown Publishing Co., Inc., 1201 South Eastern Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada 89104. Telephone (702)383-4030.

Ed Brown, President, Co-Publisher, Director of Sales; Betty Brown, Vice President, Co-Publisher-Editor; LeRoy Brown, Marketing Director.

Members: National Newspaper Publishers Association, West Coast Black Publishers Association.

This newspaper is audited by Community Papers Verification Service, 6225 University Avenue, Madison, WI53705 (608)238-7550.

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