Berkeley G. Burrell, President of the National Business League, today pledged his support of the Small Business' programs to assist the minority group business community.

In a letter to SBA Administrator Robert C. Moot on the occasion of Small Business Week, Burrell said, "The National Business League will continue to cooperate with SBA to provide aid and assistance to minority entrepreneurs to establish equal participation in the private enterprise system.

Burrell told Moot, "Our work both demonstrates the validity of American system to the black community and helps instill pride and determination necessary for success for those who have been excluded from equal participation."

While the National Business League was founded by Booker T. Washington in 1900, Burrell said that the work of the League is only now being recognized.

He said that although progress has been made still more needs to be done. "To that great work, we pledge our full support," he told Administrator Moot.

While all of SBA's programs are available, the Agency's Economic Opportunity and Displaced Business Loan programs and the relatively new lease guarantee program are of particular interest to minority entrepreneurs, and the SBA is working closely with the National Business League as well as other groups to provide aid and assistance to those who need it most.

As I stated, the objectives are good and the goals are good, if it can be made to work.

You described these several tools earlier. We might review them. One is the community economic development program, in which you try to encourage the minority groups to own their own businesses. You do this by setting up a team of three men to go into some seven target areas which you have listed, the hard-core areas of some of the cities and a couple of rural areas. What success have you had? What has been accomplished, and what progress are you making? Tell the committee. What achievements can you point to today?

Of course, we recognize that this is a new law, new legislation. Under the old economic opportunity program this was centered in the Department of Commerce, it had many advisory groups. Then it was under the sponsorship of this committee, and particularly our distinguished colleague, Congressman Dingell, who proposed the amendment, that we got the amendment to turn this job over to SBA. Congressman Dingell said in effect, and we agree with him, that we think that SBA can do it better, SBA is the recognized loan agency. If you are going to make loans, SBA should do the job.

And the Congress adopted that concept. So now you have the authority, you have the responsibility. And this committee believes that you can do the job. But again I say, it is new. Tell us, what progress are you making?

Mr. GREENBERG. I would like to answer your question directly as to progress, and then if I might, with your permission, I would like to give a little more background on it, Mr. Chairman.

This program was initiated on the 1st of April. Since the 1st of April we have selected the teams——

The CHAIRMAN. Of this year?

Mr. GREENBERG. That is correct, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. You have been in operation, then, 50 days?

Mr. GREENBERG. We have 24 proposals that we are presently considering. There is another dozen that are under consideration.

The program contemplates not merely the granting of loans, but the developing of a package which would make available to the proposed entrepreneur all of the Federal assistance available, not only by SBA through its loan program and its management and technical assistance, but also the application of the 8(a) program for the granting of Govern-