

OPPORTUNITIES SEEN IN TRAVEL INDUSTRY - Columbus Dispatch, The (OH) - August 5, 1989 - page 08D

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The growing U.S. travel and tourism industry represents nearly \$300 billion in sales and opportunities for minority businesses, according to an industry official.

Minority enterprises are responsible for \$30 billion of that total, but Oscar J. Coffey Jr., president and chief executive officer of the National Association of **Black &** Minority Chambers of Commerce in California, would like to see them gain a larger piece that pie.

Coffey, who also serves as an advisory board member for the U.S. Travel and Tourism Administration and as a California Tourism Commissioner, made his comments yesterday at the ninth annual **Ohio Black Expo** at Veteran's Memorial.

In 1983, Coffey helped found NABMCC to assist minority businesses gain more market share in the hospitality industry. The organization represents 71 chambers with more than 150,000 members nationwide.

Opportunities exist because there are less than 10 **black** managers of hotels and only 10 general managers of convention centers nationwide, Coffey said.

NABMCC is not a replacement for membership in other chambers of commerce, but fills a void, Coffey said. "Most (chambers) don't focus on the problems of **black** businesses," he said.

Sheryl Dickey, deputy director of the **Ohio** Department of Development's Small and Developing Business Division, and Walter Cates, president of the Main Street Business Association, also addressed workshop participants.

Additional **Ohio Black Expo** workshops, exhibits and activities will be held today and Sunday.

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