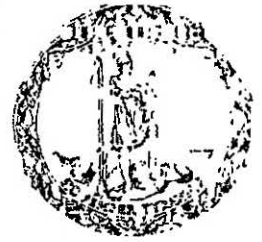


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Virginia Department of Commerce

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January 16, 1991
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RICHMOND - The Virginia Board for Auctioneers at the Department of Commerce has adopted a get-tough policy with the misleading "oriental" and "Persian" rug auctions occurring in northern Virginia and other areas of the state.

Anwar M. Khan, of Chantilly and Centreville, surrendered his license after the board discovered that an ad he placed in the Washington Post inferred that the government, and especially the U.S. Customs Service, sanctioned an auction of "valuable Persian rugs."

At the auction itself, the board learned that Khan, trading as "Fidelity First Financial Corp.," had hired temporary workers from an employment agency to act as shills, increasing the bids made by legitimate bidders to increase the prices artificially.

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During its investigation of Khan, prompted by complaints about the auction and the Washington Post ad, the Board also discovered that he had falsified his original application for an auctioneer's license in Virginia.

Khan indicated on the application that he had never been disciplined elsewhere when in fact Kentucky had revoked his license in December of 1987.

In addition to having to surrender his license, Khan was fined \$750 by the Board.