grand juries to investigate monopoly influence in the food and farm industries.

• Use the small farm extension service to set up a network of country/city(farmer/consumer) marketing co-operatives for farm products, and offer publicly-owned land to open-air markets which sell farm products at wholesale prices.

• Allow associations of farmers to bargain collectively with purchasers of agricultural products.

III. Guarantee a fair share for rural America

• Upgrade essential public services for rural communities, such as: health care, education, public transportation, police protection, low and moderate income housing.

• Nationalize the railroad beds and call a halt to the abandonment of rural track.

• Give small cities and rural communities their fair share of Community Development Block Grant funds.

• Extend National Labor Relations Act rights to farmworkers.

• Prevent rural America from being exploited as an energy colony, a dumping ground for pollution and hazardous waste, and a playground for speculators, developers, and tax evaders by giving rural communities full control over their own future development.

Community Development

I. Clean up the Community Development Block Grant program

• Allocate *100%* of all CDBG funds to projects which directly benefit low and moderate income people.

• Ban the use of CDBG funds for downtown commercial projects until the basic needs of low and moderate income neighborhoods are met.

• Give democratically elected neighborhood boards the power to make decisions on how CDBG funds are spent within the neighborhood, and give elected representatives of these boards the power to determine how CDBG funds are allocated over the city as a whole.

II. Support community-based economic development

• "Get it in writing": eliminate business incentives (tax abatements, bond issues, etc.) as they now operate, and instead encourage *contract arrangements* between private industry and the community; the business receives the incentive *only* if it meets the goals set by the community in the contract.

• Such contracts must be:

a. Approved by a Contracts Review Board with a low and moderate income majority.

b. Subject to public hearings.

c. Offered preferentially to small, community-based enterprises.

• Use the funds saved by the elimination of business incentives to provide credit and management assistance to community-based enterprises, such as:

a. Small businesses

b. Non-profit enterprises

c. Cooperatives

d. Worker-owned businesses

• Require any enterprise receiving assistance from the government to hire from the community, invest profits in the community, and remain in the community.

III. Control the effects of private development on the community

• Require every major new private development in the community—residential, commercial, or industrial—to file a *community impact statement* with the community board describing in detail the potential impact of the development on the community—costs and benefits.

• Force new developments to "pay their own way" by requiring developers to finance any community improvements (streets, sewers, schools) which are needed because of the effects of development.

• Restrict new development in areas which do not have the natural resources to support it.

• Require large companies which desire to leave a community to:

a. Submit *advance notification* to the community board.

b. *Show cause* as to why it is necessary to leave.

c. Obtain an *exit visa* from the community board signifying that the company has adequately compensated all its employees, and the community at large, for losses due to the relocation.

d. *Pay back* any incentives previously granted to it by the community.

IV. Make public services serve the community

• Guarantee every community, whether it be a rural township or an urban neighborhood, close access to certain basic public facilities:

a. An elementary school

b. A branch library

c. A 24-hour emergency health clinic.

d. A community meeting house.

e. Recreation facilities.

f. Public transportation to the city center or county seat.

• Community crime control

a. Increase the number of foot patrols; require that 80% of all federal law enforcement grants be spent on neighborhood crime control.

b. Establish community dispute resolution councils to adjudicate neighborhood disputes, small claims, and minor criminal offenses.

c. Allow persons convicted of minor criminal offenses to do community work as compensation, in place of a fine.

• Education

a. Equalize per-child spending and resources so that children in low and moderate income communities do not suffer a poor education because of the unequal distribution of wealth.

b. Require schools to provide the children of low and moderate income families with basic competency in reading, writing, and mathematics.

c. Forbid the closing of a neighborhood school without the approval of the local community board.

d. Offer night classes for adults in community schools.

• Public transportation

a. Make public transportation free for senior citizens and the handicapped.

b. Reduce general fares by converting the highway trust fund into a public transportation trust fund to provide fare subsidies to public transportation systems.

c. Require public participation in route selection.