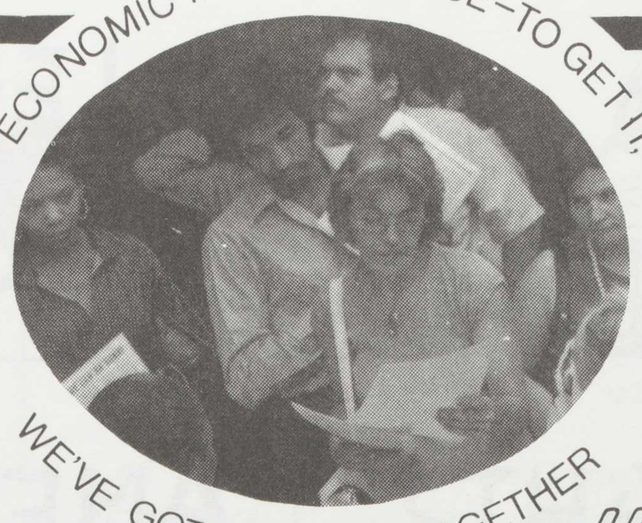
PEOPLE'S PLATFORM Newsletter

ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE—TO GET IT, WE'VE GOT TO GET IT TOGETHER



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WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THE PEOPLE'S PLATFORM?

Back on November 29th Stanley Gawle, Chairman of the Massachusetts Social and Economic Opportunity Council, presented to the Governor the People's Platform, and asked that he examine and support the proposals within. Governor Michael Dukakis stated that he was very impressed with the Platform but wanted time to respond to the particular planks.

The Governor then cited what he termed substantial progress made by the state on some parts of the platform during his administration. Reorganization of the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination, the passage and bonding of the Community Development Finance Corporation, and the Small Business Set Aside Policy were among those he mentioned.

The general feeling of the Council members at the time was that the Governor would make a concerted effort to give a detailed response to the platform some time in the near future.

Since that time, S.E.O.C. staff and representatives of Secretary William G. Flynn have been in contact concerning the progress of the People's Platform. Secretary Flynn (Executive Office of Communities and Development) has had the responsibility for guiding the platform through the governmental maze.

On December 30th, cabinet assignments for the various platform planks were agreed upon by S.E.O.C. and Communities and Development, with the majority of the planks going to Economic Affairs (23), Human Services (11), Communities and Development (4), Administration and Finance (4), while the remaining planks were divided among the other cabinet offices.

Governor Dukakis meeting with People's Platform delegates and S.E.O.C. Council members in November, 1976

By the middle of March, there should be at least three developments that will climax the People's Platform process:

(1) The Governor will be receiving individual response from the various Secretariats as to what they see can, will, has, won't or can't happen with the platform within their departments.

(2) The Secretariats will collectively meet with Governor Dukakis to discuss their personal responses.

(3) The Governor will respond to the Social and Economic Opportunity Council on specifics.

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Rebuilding M.C.A.D

Governor Dukakis has appointed his three new full-time commissioners to the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD). They will be in charge of completing the organizational phase of rebuilding the agency that is responsible for monitoring compliance with the State and Federal anti-bias laws.

Appointed as Chairperson was Jane C. Edmonds, 35, a third-year law student at Boston College and the only black member on the Sharon School Committee. Edmonds has been appointed for

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