LABOR & WELFARE ADVOCATES COME TOGETHER

State's Job Programs Under Scrutiny

Just as community pressure appeared to win two victories on the controversial Job Creation Program, a plan by Governor Dukakis, to force welfare recipients into clean-up jobs for the state, was revealed. One victory is that an advisory board is now to work with the state on the Job Creation Program. Half the board's members are from welfare advocacy or labor groups, as had been demanded by SEOC and other community organizations. The other victory is a promise that no waiver of the prevailing-wage laws would be requested without consultation with labor groups.

Job Creation Panal

Both SEOC and the Massachusetts Community Action Agency Directors Assoc. (MCDA) had pressured the state for more public input on the Job Creation plan. It was thought to be the major state initiative in work plans for AFDC recipients. SEOC went beyond demanding input and asked that a citizens's board have supervisory powers.

In early March the state's Executive Office of Human Services (EOHS) announced the formation of the advisory board to work with Peter Munkenbeck, the EOHS official managing the Job Creation proposal. The board will not supervise Munkenbeck. Thus far, the three advocacy groups asked to send representatives are SEOC, MCDA, and the State Welfare Advisory Board. SEOC is sending Linda Winchell of Lynn. MCDA will be represented by Jim Boylan of the Beverly CAA (Community Action Agency). The State Labor Council, AFL-CIO, is sending three represenatives, two of whom are Joe Joyce (Boston Labor Council) and Jim Damery (Boston Building Trades). In addition there are three business representatives and three financiers. How much influence the group will have over program decisions remains to be seen.

At a meeting at the SEOC office welfare advocacy and labor spokespeople got together in criticism of the plan. Under sharp questioning from Jim Damery, Peter Munkenbeck agreed not to ask for any waiver of federal prevailing-wage standards until he consulted the unions.

SEOC policy on the Job Creation program is that it needs to be improved as to the level of wages, greater precaution against just shifting unemployment from one person to another, emphasis on low-income community develop-

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Tell the Truth! Win a T-Shirt!

We want to know what you think about the People's Platform Newsletter. So, here are the questions. Because we believe in incentives for work, we will reward you for responding. A lucky winner, drawn at random from the responses we receive by April 15, will get a FREE T-shirt, emblazoned with the great Nick Thorkelson cartoon "Working People in Massachusetts Are in Trouble."

Please clip the questionnaire and send to: SEOC, Rm.744, 294 Washington St., Boston, Massachusetts 02108.

1. *I get the newsletter* ☐ *by mail* ☐ *passed on to me by another* ☐ *at a community agency*
2. *Most articles are* ☐ *interesting* ☐ *not so interesting*
3. *The articles I read most carefully are about* _____
4. *The information in articles is* ☐ *useful* ☐ *interesting but not useful* ☐ *not useful*
5. *One thing I'd like to see more of is* _____
6. *Are there events that you know of that we missed?* _____ *What?* _____
7. *If there were more Platform Hearings, I would attend:* ☐ *Yes* ☐ *no*
8. *Which subject is most interesting to you?*
   - ☐ *a- news about state government*
   - ☐ *b-information about community groups*
   - ☐ *c- explanations of issues and programs*
   - ☐ *d-other*

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Group, if any: _____