Representation

I. More democracy . . .
in the neighborhood

- Establish democratically elected neighborhood boards with jurisdiction over all public investment, major private development, and zoning matters within the neighborhood.
- Allow appeal from the decisions of neighborhood boards by popular vote of the neighborhood (neighborhood referendum).

II. More democracy . . .
in elections

- Institute automatic voter registration.
- Take the money out of politics by:
  a. Establishing public financing of campaigns.
  b. Setting maximum spending figures for candidates.
  c. Requiring strict disclosure of all campaign contributions.
  d. Prohibiting corporations from contributing to any type of local, state, or federal election, including general election, primary, initiative, recall, and referendum.
- Eliminate filing fees for elections.
- Require that public officials be elected from the smallest practicable units—that is, from wards rather than at-large, from single-member districts rather than multi-member districts, etc.

III. More democracy . . .
in the government

- Require recall, referendum, and initiative provisions at all levels of government.
- Require that low and moderate income people be proportionally represented in all major political institutions, including: the Cabinet, the judiciary, the regulatory boards, and the national party conventions.
- Select the members of government regulatory boards by direct popular election.
- Require government offices to be open on evenings and Saturdays so that working people have access to them.
- Limit the salaries of public officials to no more than the average income of their districts.
- Compensate citizens who serve on public boards and commissions, testify at utility hearings, or represent the public in other ways for their time and expenses—as with jury duty.
- Eliminate the electoral college, so that the president and vice-president will be elected directly by the people.

IV. More democracy . . .
in big business

- Require all corporations of over $10 million in assets to include worker representatives and low and moderate income members of the community on their corporate boards.
- Require the news media to provide equal access to low and moderate income people.
- Expand the organizing and collective representation rights of workers, farmers, tenants, consumers, and communities in their confrontations with business corporations.

ACORN is the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, a grass roots membership organization of low and moderate income people.

Founded in Arkansas in 1970, it has grown to a membership of over 23,000 families in 19 states: Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, Nevada, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee and Texas.

ACORN members have organized to improve their communities and to win a fairer share and a greater voice for all low and moderate income Americans.

The People's Platform

In December, 1978, ACORN held its first national convention in Memphis where 1000 delegates adopted a nine-point People's Platform and marched with it to the Democratic Party's national mid-term convention.

Over the next six months, ACORN members met in local group meetings and statewide conferences to add more detailed planks to the Platform and in June, 1979, 1600 delegates ratified the final People's Platform at a two-day conference in St. Louis.

The People's Platform represents the dreams and demands of low and moderate income people. It is an action agenda for a more just and democratic America.

For additional copies of the People's Platform, contact ACORN, 628 Baronne, New Orleans, LA 70113, (504) 523-1691.