

council, concentrating their strength in a district where the possibility of a real breakthrough is greatest. The only independent party presently planning to run a city wide slate is the Consumer Party, which has indicated a desire to build unity with other independents in order to mount a broad based challenge in next year's election. This initiative on the part of the Consumer Party should be seriously explored.

Unless independent forces organize themselves to exercise the maximum impact on the election next year, much of what was won in the course of the charter change campaign will be squandered away. Few of us who worked so hard to stop Rizzo did so in order to see a reinvigorated, freshly credible Democratic Party with a new set of slick power brokers at the helm. To build on the charter victory we must avoid the

twin pitfalls of withdrawal from the electoral process on the one hand and tailing behind the liberal wing of the Democratic Party on the other.

TOWARD A PEOPLE'S PLATFORM

December 1978

Now that Frank Rizzo no longer dominates the political life of Philadelphia, many are talking about a "new dawn" for the city. But talk is cheap and phrases of this sort mean different things to different people. If Philadelphia is really to go forward the policies of the Rizzo years will have to give way to programs that really benefit the working people of our city. Next year's election, if it is to mean something, must center on what measures can improve the conditions of life for Philadelphia's people.

The following ten points represent the PWOC's thinking in outline form. In future issues we will expand on these points. We are also anxious for criticism and suggestions from other organizations and individuals. We offer these ideas as a contribution toward what will hopefully be a broad discussion among progressive forces.

1) **DEMOCRATIZE CITY GOVERNMENT**—Recall of all elected officials—redraw city council districts to eliminate racially motivated gerrymandering—eliminate council at large positions—an elected school board—abolish provision of city charter giving financial interests control over appointment of finance director—reform election law.

2) **IMPROVE CITY SERVICES**—restore all cuts in service and personnel—end moratorium on city hiring—prioritize health, child care and senior citizen services—cut cost to consumer for energy

through public regulation and ownership of utilities—improve SEPTA services and hold line on fare increases.

3) **QUALITY, DESEGREGATED EDUCATION**—Restore all cuts in program and personnel—strengthen special, bilingual and remedial programs—replace firetrap schools—promote greater parent student and community involvement—promote real desegregation based on a metropolitan plan—full funding for the schools.

4) **DECENT HOUSING FOR ALL**—Pass Tenant's Rights Bill—Strict Liscense and Inspection (L&I) enforcement aimed at landlords—aid to small homeowners to maintain properties—expand rehabilitation of abandoned properties—expand both subsidies for low income housing ownership and public housing programs.

5) **REDEVELOPMENT FOR PEOPLE, NOT PROFITS**—Cancel the Center City Commuter Tunnel—No more expensive downtown commercial development—redirect funds to improve housing and transit—aid to small businesses in the neighborhoods with particular emphasis on minority businesses—stop all urban renewal programs which promote the decay of neighborhoods.

6) **FIGHT UNEMPLOYMENT**—Public investment in job creating programs—hiring priority to minorities and women who suffer greatest unemployment—aggressive approach to passage of federal

programs that will curtail unemployment—promotion of national legislation for a shorter work week with no cut in pay—pass law penalizing local firms that move jobs out of the city.

7) **CURB POLICE ABUSE**—Institute an elected Police Review Board with power to indict and prosecute police wrongdoers—destroy all police files on political activities of citizens—abolish civil disobedience, labor and K-9 squads—carry out court mandated affirmative action programs in relation to police hiring and promotion.

8) **FIGHT DISCRIMINATION**—Affirmative action in hiring and promotion for all city jobs and firms with city contracts—aggressive enforcement of existing civil rights legislation—promote anti-racist education in the schools—beef up the Human Relations Commission.

9) **NO MORE TAXES ON WORKING PEOPLE**—no increase in property taxes—lower accessments on small homeowners—restore corporate net income tax—abolish city wage tax—institute a progressive tax on unearned income from rents, interest and capital gains.

10) **BREAK THE STRANGLEHOLD OF THE BANKS**—Declare a Moratorium on debt service payments—end practice of high interest, short term loans from banks to cover cash flow problems—end deficit spending which increases reliance on banks.