

The manifesto

THE leaders of Project FATE - Focusing Attitudes Toward Empowerment - have issued a ringing manifesto to introduce their concept of Mandela, Mass: a new municipality. Here's how the manifesto reads:

"Mandela is a new city that would be formed by incorporating Greater Roxbury into an independent city. Mandela is also an ideal: independence. It is about power and control. Power to control the land we live on; power to control the schools that educate our children; power to control our environment; power to hold our elected officials accountable to the people they represent.

It also means taking responsibility for our community; getting involved in the decisions that affect our lives; joining together to build political, social, and economic institutions that can deal with the serious problems we face; saying that we won't wait for someone else to solve them; using our talent and resources to bring other resources to our community; building something we can proudly leave to our children.

This is our chance to stand up and be counted in a way that just isn't possible within the City of Boston. Did you know that in the 1983 election for mayor, Mel King lost by a wide margin (2 to 1) even though he had more than 99% of the black vote? Independence is a way for us to rep-

resent our own interests instead of hoping that a system and politicians with other agendas will look out for us.

Taking control over our community - taking responsibility - will also give us a solid foundation on which to build pride in our community and ourselves. Taking on the responsibility for our own affairs demonstrates that we are more than just tired of waiting for promises that won't be fulfilled; more than sick of settling for second best - we are ready and willing to build our own future!

The effort to gain an independent city is not about fanning the flames of racial conflict. We can be for ourselves without being against others, and that is exactly what incorporation is all about. We think that we can handle our affairs better than any one else.

Independence would give us a victory in the struggle to build positive images and positive attitudes in our community. It would help us to transform the belief that we can't change the conditions we live in; the belief that politicians who are not accountable to us will look out for our interests every time; the thought that someone else should take responsibility for creating change and managing our affairs; the attitude that we should settle for second best. Independence gives us a way to control the land we live on and the community we live in."

FULL POWER TO THE PEOPLE



PROJECT MANDELA is a political attempt by a segment of the working class population of Boston, Massachusetts, to arrest political power for itself.
PAUL KNIGHT reports.

DESPITE the billions of dollars of Federal aid, the poverty-stricken areas of the major cities in the United States continue to suffer from high unemployment and a poor quality of life.

In a bid to break into the cycle of deprivation the coloured population of Greater Roxbury, a 12.5 square-mile area of Boston, is fighting for independence. The dwellers of this area of a city controlled by the white, affluent citizens want to create their own municipality by 1992.

They point out that City Hall representation would be more democratic if Roxbury were split from Boston and incorporated into an independent city.

The use and taxation of land is one of the major motivating forces behind the movement. Says Mitch Chanellis, above, who has been involved with GRIP (the Greater Roxbury Incorporation Project) for more than a year:

"Mandela is an attempt to municipalize some valuable real estate in Boston upon which resides most of the city's communities of colour. They are proposing to fund themselves with, among other things, land value taxation."

The name Mandela has been chosen in honour of Nelson and Winnie Mandela, the South African anti-apartheid leaders. The founders of GRIP assert: "They are fighting a system which was invented in the United States and copied by the white Afrikaaners. There is a desperate struggle. They need us and we need them. The final name will be chosen by the people via a referendum, but for now Mandela is the working title used to carry the incorporation message forward."

GRIP argues that independence for the 150,000 residents would mean "we can have a decision making

MANDELA'S...
blem of reven...
the value of f...
Empowerment

City govern...
services and l...
from the state...
should be intr...
to adopt a lan...
taxation entir...

Right now, ...
buildings, and...
study conduc...
George Instit...
would immedi...
12 and 14 by...
reason for thi...
their taxes in...
Their researc...
obstacles to e...

The use of ...
encouraged c...
have been dis...
pay a signific...
encouraged s...
the improvem...

The land ...
F.A.T.E. woul...
present home...
taxes on any i...
you as a hom...
beauty of yo...
additional cos...
increase as ...
increased.

role in how p...
advisory rol...
ment. We wo...
divided betw...
care, parks,

Financing ...
argues that ...
revenues. Ci...
\$450m woul...
controversy ...
the new mu...
covered the ...
(see story ab...