PS1 for 6/30/88#LESS TO DUKAKIS THAN MEETS THE EYE

There is an old political story about the candidate who offered to make a deal with his opponent. ""You promise not to tell any lies about me,'' he said, ""and I'll promise not to tell the truth about you.''

It's time for George Bush to start telling the truth about Michael Dukakis. The truth is that there is far less to him than meets the eye of the nightly television viewer, and the much-acclaimed ""Massachusetts miracle'' should be called the ""Massachusetts mirage.''

The economic recovery that came to Massachusetts in the late 1970s and early 1980s was due to Proposition 2-1/2, a major tax cut which Dukakis opposed because liberals always oppose tax reductions. The economic growth that resulted from Proposition 2-1/2 even happened during the years when Dukakis was not Governor, having been thrown out of office because of the high taxes during his 1974-1978 regime.

Since Dukakis returned to the Governor's chair in 1983, the rate of growth in jobs has been 20% less than the rest of the country. In the last 12 months, Massachusetts has lost 17,400 industrial jobs, the steepest decline of any state.

Now, Massachusetts is facing a state revenue shortage of at least $600 million over the next two years. Dukakis' aides are frantically trying to paper over this huge deficit with bookkeeping legerdemain, but there is no way he can present himself to the voters in 1988 as a manager who can balance the budget.

Dukakis' record shows that he is a typical tax and tax/spend and spend liberal. Since 1983 he has raised state spending 62%, the highest of any state. His principal talent seems to be using taxpayers' money to build his own political power base.

Since 1983, Dukakis increased the state payroll by 10,000 fulltime

jobs, the largest increase in Massachusetts history, and raised the pay of the average state employee 51%. In addition, Dukakis made widespread use of state funds to reward his political pals by paying consultants' fees and giving grants to provide state services.

For example, Dukakis awarded a consulting contract for $275,000 to an investment banking firm whose partners had raised $275,000 for Dukakis' campaign. Wasn't that a coincidence!

Investigative reporter Warren Brookes, who has monitored Dukakis for ten years, has reported numerous examples of how Dukakis' cronies or campaign fundraisers wrote lucrative state contracts and then awarded them to their business associates. In one case, a member of Dukakis' cabinet voted to give a $3.7 million low-interest loan to a housing project in his own wife's name.

State Inspector General Joseph Barresi, a Democrat, said that, under Dukakis, the state ""routinely enters into large ill-defined endless contracts in which genuine competition is illusory and money is no object.'' He called it the ""write your own ticket'' way to get state funds.

Dukakis' choice of personnel is curious. His education adviser was convicted for giving away $80,000 in bogus consulting contracts (known as ed-scam). Dukakis' choice to head the Metropolitan District Police Commission was convicted for stealing and selling police examinations and answer sheets (known as exam-scam).

Dukakis' number-two man in public safety was forced to resign after FBI documents revealed his ties to a convicted loan shark. Dukakis appointed a man to a $54,000-a-year college professorship who had paid $10,000 in hush money to the family of one student and settled out of court a suit brought by the family of another student.

Dukakis' secretary of administration and finance and also his economic adviser prepared Urban Development grant applications that

were layered over with all sorts of conflicts of interest.

A master of negative campaigning, Dukakis came back into office as Governor in 1982 by orchestrating charges of ""widespread corruption'' against the incumbent, Democrat Edward King. On the ""corruption'' issue, Dukakis was endorsed by U.S. attorney Edward Harrington.

However, only two low level tax examiners were indicted and both cases were dismissed shortly after. Harrington admitted, ""there was no evidence whatsoever of widespread corruption or conspiracy.'' He publicly apologized to Ed King, and later said, ""I became convinced that the whole revenue scandal of 1982 was nothing more than an election year trick, and I am only sorry I allowed myself to get used in it.''

The television newscasts permit Bush to speak for himself only about 30 seconds every other day. If George Bush waits until after the National Nominating Conventions, there might not be enough time left before November to tell the voters all they need to know about Michael Dukakis.