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BOSTON --- Governor Michael Dukakis announced today that he would take his Economic Development Cabinet with him to the Alexander B. Bruce School in Lawrence February 25 to discuss economic growth in the area.

Continuing a series of economic development conferences around the state, the meeting will begin with a press conference attended by the Governor, Lt. Governor Thomas P. O'Neill III, Secretary of Economic Affairs Howard N. Smith, Congressman Paul Tsongas (D-Lowell), Congressman Michael Harrington (D-Beverly) and Mayor John Buckley.

A coffee reception for those attending the conference will begin at 8:45 a.m. in the school's gym.

A large number of local government officials, legislators, business, community and labor leaders will be invited to attend the main session which is designed to help local leaders take maximum advantage of the Governor's program for business growth and job development.

"Our efforts to generate economic growth and provide jobs and increased income for our residents will be effective as long as we maintain a strong working relationship among federal, state and local government and the private sector," Governor Dukakis said.

"These conferences provide an excellent opportunity for business, labor and local and state officials to create what is, in essence, a partnership in economic development. We believe Massachusetts is already moving toward economic success. Our development program provides the mechanism for accelerating that movement," Dukakis said.

The Governor will address an audience of several hundred and then open the forum up to questions and answers from the audience about how they can best use the state's services to promote prosperity in the Lawrence, Andover, Methuen and North Andover area. The Governor's talk will be followed by remarks from Lt. Governor O'Neill. Welcoming remarks will be made by Lawrence Mayor John Buckley, Congressman Tsongas and Congressman Harrington will give concluding remarks.

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Secretary Smith who is coordinating the conferences, said, "We are now at a time of major opportunity. The adverse trends of recent years which bottomed out in the 1974 recession have brought government leaders and citizens alike to an awareness that Massachusetts came close to 'killing the goose that laid the golden egg.' Although we still have to keep our sights focused on our social and environmental responsibilities, the major issue facing the state today is jobs," Smith said.

"The Economic Development Program for Massachusetts is the first of its kind ever written in this state. It is an excellent vehicle for progress and it will work, provided we all pull together and make it work," he added.

Following the main conference, cabinet secretaries will be available for discussions in a series of small seminars in several classrooms. Administration members participating in the conference also include Secretary of Environmental Affairs Evelyn Murphy, Secretary of Transportation and Construction Frederick Salvucci, Secretary of Consumer Affairs Christine Sullivan, Secretary of Community Development Bill Flynn, Office of State Planning Director Frank Keefe and key agency heads.