

REMARKS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY BY GOVERNOR JIM FLORIO  
DEMOCRATIC STATE COMMITTEE GALA  
EAST BRUNSWICK, NEW JERSEY  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1990

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I'M PROUD TO BE A MEMBER OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY. AND I WANT TO THANK ALL OF YOU FOR BEING OUR SUPPORTERS.

PEOPLE LIKE YOU ARE THE REASON FOR MY PRIDE. BECAUSE THE FAITH AND ENERGY YOU BRING TO THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY HERE IN NEW JERSEY SPELLS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HINDSIGHT AND VISION, THE PAST AND THE FUTURE, FAILURE AND SUCCESS.

IT STARTS WITH AN ATTITUDE -- ONE THAT HAS DISTINGUISHED WHAT WE'RE ABOUT FROM THE VERY BEGINNING. IT'S AN ATTITUDE OF HOPE, OF IDEALISM, OF A BELIEF IN PRINCIPLES, AND IN WHAT WE STAND FOR.

TONIGHT, I COME HERE TO THANK YOU FOR STANDING BY ME. FOR BELIEVING IN WHAT WE'VE DONE AND WILL DO.

I KNOW IT HASN'T BEEN EASY. THESE HAVE BEEN AN INTERESTING TEN MONTHS.

TUESDAY, ON ELECTION DAY, THE PEOPLE SENT US A MESSAGE -- A WARNING, SO TO SPEAK. THEY PUT US ON NOTICE THAT THEY WANT TO BE MORE INVOLVED IN WHAT WE'RE DOING.

LEADERSHIP IS ABOUT MAKING HARD DECISIONS, BUT IT'S ALSO ABOUT BRINGING PEOPLE INTO THE PROCESS. I HEARD THE PEOPLE'S MESSAGE.

SO, THE QUESTION THAT MANY MAY BE ASKING TONIGHT IS, "WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?"

I SUGGEST THAT WE MOVE FORWARD.

BECAUSE, WHILE WE ACKNOWLEDGE TODAY THAT WE NEED TO DO BETTER, WE SHOULD NOT LIMIT OUR STRIVING TO REALIZE A BETTER NEW JERSEY TOMORROW. WE MUST MOVE FORWARD WITH A STRONG AND ACTIVE FAITH -- IN OURSELVES, IN THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND, MOST IMPORTANT, IN THE PEOPLE OF THIS STATE.

WE'LL DO THAT BY KEEPING OUR FAITH WITH THE PEOPLE. AND WE'RE GOING TO DO IT BY KEEPING OUR PROMISES TO THEM.

PEOPLE ARE SKEPTICAL. THEY'VE HEARD IT ALL BEFORE.

PEOPLE WANT PROPERTY TAX RELIEF. WE CAN MAKE SURE THEY GET THAT RELIEF.

PEOPLE WANT AN ECONOMY THAT GIVES THEM A QUALITY OF LIFE THAT'S AS GOOD AS -- IF NOT BETTER THAN -- WHAT THEIR PARENTS ENJOYED. WE CAN MAKE SURE THEY HAVE THAT QUALITY OF LIFE.

PEOPLE WANT THEIR CHILDREN TO GROW UP KNOWING THEY CAN ACHIEVE ANY DREAM OF THEIR CHOOSING. THAT MEANS MAKING SURE THAT EVERY CHILD IN THIS STATE HAS ACCESS TO A QUALITY EDUCATION. AND WE CAN DO THAT, TOO.

PEOPLE WANT SAFE STREETS. THAT'S WHY I'M PROUD THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY HAD THE COURAGE TO STAND UP TO THE GUN LOBBY -- AND WIN.

PEOPLE WANT GOVERNMENT THAT LOOKS AHEAD, AS MUCH AS THEY WANT GOVERNMENT THAT TAKES CARE OF THE PRESENT. THAT'S WHY WE'RE ALSO MAKING INVESTMENTS TO MAKE SURE NEW JERSEY IS READY FOR THE CHALLENGES OF THE 21ST CENTURY.

AND WHILE WE'RE MAKING THOSE INVESTMENTS IN OUR FUTURE, WE DEMOCRATS ARE PRAGMATIC, TOO. WE KNOW THERE ARE THINGS THAT NEED OUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION. THAT'S WHY WE BALANCED THE BUDGET TO KEEP OUR TRIPLE-A BOND RATING, PUT IN PLACE A PLAN THAT WILL LOWER THE COST OF CAR INSURANCE BY \$222 COME APRIL 1, AND ARE TACKLING HEAD ON THE OUTRAGEOUS COSTS OF HEALTH CARE AND HEALTH INSURANCE.

THE FACT THAT WE'VE DONE THESE THINGS MAKES ME GLAD I'M NOT IN THE OPPOSITION PARTY. I'M GLAD I DON'T HAVE TO DEFEND A PRESIDENT WHOSE HEALTH CARE POLICY BEGINS AND ENDS WITH FINDING CREATIVE WAYS TO CUT MEDICARE FOR OLDER AMERICANS.

I'M GLAD I BELONG TO A PARTY THAT NOT ONLY HAS THE COURAGE TO TELL THE TRUTH, BUT IS WILLING TO FACE THE TRUTH. WE DID OUR DUTY BY ELIMINATING THE \$3 BILLION DEFICIT LEFT TO US BY THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION. AN ADMINISTRATION THAT HAD LET STATE SPENDING GET OUT OF CONTROL AND HAD DOUBLED THE SIZE OF STATE GOVERNMENT IN JUST EIGHT YEARS.

BUT FOR ALL WE'VE DONE, AND THE PRIDE WE CAN TAKE IN THE VISION OF OUR PARTY, WE CAN'T FORGET THAT THE ROOTS OF THAT VISION ARE WITH THE PEOPLE AND THE PUBLIC INTEREST. THAT'S WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO -- WHETHER IT'S RUNNING FOR OFFICE AND SERVING IN GOVERNMENT, OR SUPPORTING THE PARTY WITH OUR TIME AND MONEY.

I BET A LOT OF YOU HERE SHARE MY BACKGROUND. AND I BET THAT BACKGROUND HAS A LOT TO DO WITH WHY YOU'RE SUPPORTING DEMOCRATS.

BY ALL ACCOUNTS YOU'VE BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL. I ADMIRE ALL OF YOU BECAUSE THOUGH YOU'VE REACHED ECONOMIC SUCCESS YOU AREN'T PULLING THE LADDER UP BEHIND YOU.

IN FACT YOU'RE SUPPORTING OUR EFFORTS TO HELP OTHER PEOPLE CLIMB THE LADDER. I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I APPRECIATE YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS.

BUT THERE'S SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT THAN THAT. AFTER ALL, IF THIS WERE ONLY ABOUT MONEY, WE'D BE IN THE OTHER PARTY.

WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT ABOUT THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY IS THE CONVICTIONS, THE FAITH, AND THE VISION OF WHERE WE ARE, AND WHERE WE'RE GOING.

THOSE VALUES -- THE VALUES OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY -- ARE THE VALUES OF THE PEOPLE OF THIS STATE. THEY'RE ABOUT BELONGING TO AND BEING CONCERNED WITH THE LARGER COMMUNITY WE CALL NEW JERSEY. THESE TRADITIONAL VALUES ARE NOT DEAD, IN FACT, WE'RE GIVING THEM NEW LIFE. AND THEY WILL SUSTAIN US IN THE YEARS TO COME.

THE 1991 CAMPAIGN BEGINS TONIGHT. IT BEGINS WITH A PROMISE TO THE PEOPLE THAT WE WILL LISTEN AND STAY TRUE TO THEIR VALUES. AND I'M CONFIDENT THAT THE YEAR WILL END WITH A RINGING AFFIRMATION. BECAUSE WE ARE DOING THE RIGHT THINGS. THE THINGS NECESSARY TO INSURE THAT NEW JERSEY STAYS A STATE OF OPPORTUNITY.

THANK YOU.