

REMARKS OF

THE HONORABLE THOMAS H. KEAN

GOVERNOR

AT THE

1983 GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL

JULY 11, 1983

THANK YOU.

I FEEL A SPECIAL PRIDE IN BEING HERE TONIGHT. YOU ARE THE MAIDEN VOYAGE OF THIS SHIP CALLED THE GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL.

I HOPE THAT YOUR FIRST WEEK HAS BEEN ENJOYABLE; BUT EVEN MORE THAN THAT, I HOPE YOU HAVE LEARNED SOMETHING. IN FACT, I HOPE YOU HAVE LEARNED ALOT.

I KNOW THAT IN A SENSE, THE JURY IS STILL OUT -- YOU DON'T YET KNOW WHERE YOUR STUDIES AND THE INTERACTION YOU WILL HAVE THIS MONTH WILL LEAD YOU.

I SUPPOSE IN THAT WAY IT'S LIKE THE YOUNG GIRL WHO WAS PLAYING WITH HER CRAYONS. HER MOTHER ASKED HER WHAT SHE WAS DRAWING.

"I'M DRAWING A PICTURE OF GOD," THE LITTLE GIRL SAID, TO WHICH HER MOTHER REPLIED: "BUT DEAR, NO ONE KNOWS WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE."

THE LITTLE GIRL ANSWERED, "THEY WILL WHEN I'M FINISHED."

I ALSO KNOW -- OR AT LEAST I CERTAINLY HOPE -- THAT THIS WILL BE A MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE FOR ALL OF YOU.

I HAVE LOOKED AT THE LIST OF COURSES BEING OFFERED, AND AT THE LIST OF EVENING SPEAKERS, AND IT MADE ME SORRY THAT I COULD NOT SPEND THE WHOLE MONTH HERE WITH YOU.

I WAS DELIGHTED WITH THE VARIED AND THOUGHT-PROVOKING PROGRAM WHICH HAS BEEN PUT TOGETHER FOR THIS MONTH. SO BEFORE I ADDRESS MYSELF TO YOU, THE STUDENTS, I WOULD LIKE TO JUST SAY A PUBLIC WORD OF THANKS TO THE PRESIDENT OF MONMOUTH COLLEGE, SAM MAGILL, WHO FIRST THOUGHT OF THE IDEA OF BRINGING A GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL TO NEW JERSEY, AND WHO PUT SO MUCH HARD WORK INTO BRINGING YOU ALL HERE. I'D ALSO LIKE TO COMMEND

DOCTORS JIM AND CHERYL KEEN AND ALL OF THE FACULTY FOR THE INTERESTING CURRICULUM THAT YOU HAVE DEVELOPED AND BROUGHT TO LIFE THIS MONTH.

AND NOW TO YOU, THE STUDENTS:

IN PLUTARCH'S LIVES, THE HISTORIAN CITES THE ROMAN STATESMAN CATO WHO SAID: "IT IS ALWAYS RISKY FOR ONE GENERATION TO LECTURE THE NEXT."

SO TONIGHT, I HOPE NOT TO LECTURE YOU, BUT TO ENLIST YOU IN A PARTNERSHIP, AND, IN JUST A FEW MINUTES, TO LISTEN TO YOUR CONCERNS AND YOUR PERCEPTIONS ABOUT OUR STATE.

JIM KEEN ASKED ME TO SPEAK TONIGHT ABOUT MY VISION OF THE FUTURE OF NEW JERSEY. SO I WILL TALK TONIGHT ABOUT THE NEW JERSEY I'D LIKE TO SEE, AND IN DOING SO I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU TO DO WHAT YOU CAN IN HELPING ME, IN HELPING YOUR LEGISLATORS, IN HELPING YOUR FELLOW CITIZENS MAKE SOME OF IT A REALITY.

ALBERT SCHWEITZER ONCE SAID THAT "THE TRAGEDY OF LIFE IS WHAT DIES INSIDE A MAN WHILE HE LIVES."

IT IS SAD TO SAY, BUT THERE ARE TOO MANY OF OUR CITIZENS WHO HAVE LOST THE HOPE AND IDEALISM THAT MAKE CHANGE FOR THE BETTER POSSIBLE.

AS YOU KNOW, ALMOST OF HALF OF THE ADULTS IN THIS COUNTRY WHO ARE ELIGIBLE DO NOT EVEN BOTHER TO VOTE. AND MANY MORE OF THEM DO NOT AVAIL THEMSELVES OF THE MANY WONDERFUL TOOLS THAT DEMOCRACY MAKES AVAILABLE TO CITIZENS WHO CARE.

THERE WAS A SAYING THAT SPRANG UP IN THE 1960'S:

"DON'T MOURN, ORGANIZE!"

THAT SAYING IS ESPECIALLY APPROPRIATE FOR A GROUP OF PEOPLE WITH YOUR TALENTS AND ENERGY.

YOU SEE, OUR PURPOSE IN ORGANIZING THIS FIRST GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL WAS TO ACQUAINT YOU WITH SOME OF THE PROBLEMS FACING OUR COMMUNITIES, OUR STATE, OUR NATION AND OUR WORLD. OUR HOPE IS THAT YOU -- YOU WHO HAVE THE PROMISE TO BE THE LEADERS OF TOMMORROW -- WILL BE MOVED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THEM.

EXACTLY WHAT TO DO, OF COURSE, IS NOT AN EASY THING TO DETERMINE.

AS I'M SURE YOU APPRECIATE, AND AS YOU MAY COME TO APPRECIATE EVEN MORE, MANY OF THE PROBLEMS FACING NEW JERSEY AND THE WORLD ARE COMPLEX. THERE ARE CHOICES TO BE MADE, THERE ARE TRADE-OFFS TO CONSIDER.

IN OUR STATE, SOME OF THOSE TRADEOFFS ARE VISIBLE. CLEARLY, ALL OF OUR PEOPLE WANT, AND DESERVE, JOBS. AND OUR STATE IS BLESSED WITH A LOCATION, A TRANSPORTATION NETWORK, AND A SKILLED LABOR FORCE THAT MAKE IT ONE OF THE HUBS OF INDUSTRY IN THIS NATION. INDUSTRIES SUCH AS OIL REFINING, PETROCHEMICAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTION PROVIDE THOUSANDS OF JOBS FOR NEW JERSEYANS, AND SUPPORT THOUSANDS UPON THOUSANDS MORE IN ANCILLARY INDUSTRIES.

BUT SOME OF THESE INDUSTRIES ARE NOT WITHOUT RISK. OBVIOUSLY, HAZARDOUS BY-PRODUCTS OF THE CHEMICAL INDUSTRY MUST BE DISPOSED OF PROPERLY AND CLEANED UP WHEN THEY ARE NOT.

OUR AIR MUST BE PROTECTED FROM TOO MUCH SULFUR DIOXIDE OR CARBON MONOXIDE.

OUR OCEANS MUST BE CLEAN ENOUGH TO SUPPORT A THRIVING MARINE POPULATION AND TO REMAIN ATTRACTIVE TO VACATIONERS AND TOURISTS. YET A SAFE WAY MUST BE FOUND TO DISPOSE OF THE SEWAGE WE ALL GENERATE AND TO KEEP THE HARBORS OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST PORT DREDGED AND OPEN FOR BUSINESS.

THE BEAUTIFUL AND UNIQUE ECOLOGICAL TREASURE OF THE PINELANDS, AND THE VITAL AQUIFER THAT LIES UNDERNEATH THEM, MUST BE PRESERVED FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS. YET THE PEOPLE WHO NOW LIVE THERE MUST BE COMPENSATED FAIRLY FOR THE LAND THEY OWN AND NOT DRIVEN INTO BANKRUPTCY.

IN SHORT, WE HAVE GOALS THAT MANY TIMES SEEM TO CONFLICT. IN A WAY, THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IS TO BALANCE THOSE GOALS IN SUCH A WAY THAT PROTECTS AND PROMOTES THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

THE GOVERNMENT MUST PREVENT TOXIC WASTES FROM BEING DUMPED ILLEGALLY. IT MUST MAKE SURE THAT PRODUCTS ARE SAFE. AND IF IT IS HUMANE, IT MUST CARE FOR THE ELDERLY, THE HANDICAPPED, AND THE DISADVANTAGED.

AND YET IT CANNOT OVERREGULATE AND OVERTAX ITS BUSINESSES AND PEOPLE.

COMPANIES MUST BE ALLOWED TO EARN A PROFIT SO THAT THEY CAN CREATE THE JOBS ON WHICH FAMILIES DEPEND. INDIVIDUALS MUST BE ALLOWED THE FREEDOMS GUARANTEED THEM BY OUR CONSTITUTION.

WITH ALL OF THESE MANY REQUIREMENTS, IT IS NOT ALWAYS EASY TO MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICES. BUT THE CHOICES MUST BE MADE; AND THOSE PEOPLE WHO CARE MUST TAKE AN INTEREST IN WHICH CHOICES ARE MADE.

AS YOU WILL SEE WHEN YOU COME TO TRENTON LATER THIS WEEK, AND AS MANY OF YOU MAY KNOW ALREADY, OUR GOVERNMENT -- FOR ALL ITS FOIBLES AND PROBLEMS -- IS MORE RESPONSIVE THAN ALMOST ANY GOVERNMENT IN THE WORLD. IT CAN BE SHAPED, AND IT CAN BE SHAPED BY YOU.

WOODROW WILSON ONCE SAID THAT "GOVERNMENT IS NOT A MACHINE BUT A LIVING THING... SHAPED TO ITS FUNCTIONS BY THE SHEER PRESSURE OF LIFE."

SO AS YOU IDENTIFY AND THINK ABOUT PROBLEMS, REMEMBER THOSE WORDS -- " A LIVING THING" -- AND REMEMBER THAT AN ACTIVE CITIZENRY IS THE BLOOD WHICH KEEPS IT ALIVE.

IN MY VIEW, WE ARE FORTUNATE TO LIVE IN A STATE AS GREAT AS NEW JERSEY. WE HAVE CITIES AND FARMS, WE HAVE BEACHES AND MOUNTAINS, AND WE HAVE AS VITAL AND DIVERSE A PEOPLE AS CAN BE FOUND ANYWHERE.

BUT IT IS INCUMBENT UPON ALL OF US TO DREAM OF A BETTER NEW JERSEY, AND TO COMMIT OURSELVES TO FULFILLING THAT DREAM.

WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO SEE IS A NEW JERSEY IN WHICH ALL OF OUR PEOPLE HAVE JOBS; STEADY, MEANINGFUL JOBS; NOT DEPENDENT UPON GOVERNMENT BUT UPON A VITAL AND HEALTHY ECONOMY.

TO REACH THAT GOAL, WE HAVE TO WORK TO ATTRACT NEW INDUSTRY. WE HAVE TO PREPARE OURSELVES AND OUR STATE FOR THE NEW REALITIES WHICH WILL FACE US: AN ECONOMY IN WHICH HIGH TECHNOLOGY PLAYS A LARGER AND LARGER ROLE, IN WHICH INFORMATION AND ITS TRANSMISSION IS INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT, IN WHICH A NEW SET OF SKILLS ARE REQUIRED OF THE WORK FORCE.

NEW JERSEY HAS BEEN FORTUNATE TO HAVE A HEAD START IN THAT HIGH TECH RACE -- A HEAD START THAT IS REFLECTED BY OUR UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF 6.8% WHEN THE NATIONAL AVERAGE IS 10%. WE HAVE SOME OF THE FINEST RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS AND UNIVERSITIES IN THE NATION, AND WE HAVE AN UNPARALLELED TRANSPORTATION NETWORK.

BUT WE WILL NEED MORE. WE WILL NEED TO BE ALERT, TO BE RESPONSIVE,
AND TO BE FORWARD-LOOKING.

I WOULD LIKE TO SEE A NEW JERSEY IN WHICH THE BEAUTY OF OUR
ENVIRONMENT -- A BEAUTY ABOUT WHICH MANY FROM OUTSIDE NEW JERSEY
DON'T KNOW -- IS PRESERVED.

THAT WOULD BE A NEW JERSEY IN WHICH WE COULD ENSURE OUR CHILDREN
AND THEIR CHILDREN THAT THEIR DRINKING WATER WAS SAFE FROM POLLUTANTS,
THAT THEIR OCEAN WAS SAFE FOR SWIMMING, AND THAT THE MOUNTAINS AND
BEACHES AND STREAMS WERE STILL THERE FOR THEM TO ENJOY.

I WOULD LIKE TO SEE A NEW JERSEY IN WHICH THE SCHOOLS AND
UNIVERSITIES WERE THE PRIDE OF THE NATION, IN WHICH BOTH TEACHERS
AND STUDENTS HAD ACCESS TO AND UNDERSTOOD COMPUTERS, AND IN WHICH
THEY WORKED TOGETHER IN A MUTUAL PROCESS CALLED LEARNING.

I WOULD LIKE TO SEE A NEW JERSEY IN WHICH IT WAS SAFE FOR SENIOR
CITIZENS TO GO OUT AT NIGHT, IN WHICH PEOPLE DID NOT LIVE IN FEAR OF
CRIME, BUT IN WHICH CRIMINALS LIVED IN FEAR OF PUBLIC SCORN.

AND I WOULD LIKE TO SEE A NEW JERSEY IN WHICH CITIES LIKE
JERSEY CITY, NEWARK, CAMDEN AND HOBOKEN SHONE LIKE JEWELS ON THE
LANDSCAPE, WITH THRIVING TRANSPORTATION CENTERS, BUSTLING WATERFRONTS,
BUSY OFFICES, AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES TO MAINTAIN THEM.

THAT'S MY VISION OF NEW JERSEY, AND I DON'T THINK IT'S ALL THAT
FAR AWAY.

IT MAY NOT BE THAT WAY IN MY LIFETIME, OR IN YOURS, BUT WE
CAN CERTAINLY START WORKING TO MAKE IT THAT WAY RIGHT NOW.

EVERY LONG JOURNEY BEGINS WITH ONE SMALL STEP.

MY HOPE IS THAT THE THINGS YOU LEARN THIS MONTH WILL ENABLE
YOU TO THINK ABOUT WHAT SMALL STEPS YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE.

AND IF YOU DON'T THINK YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE ANYTHING, THINK AGAIN.

FOR AS JOHN F. KENNEDY SAID, "NO PROBLEM OF HUMAN DESTINY IS
BEYOND HUMAN BEINGS."

TAKE THE GREAT SKILLS YOU HAVE AND USE THEM.

YOU, YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR STATE, AND YOUR WORLD WILL BE BETTER
OFF AS A RESULT.

THANK YOU.