

REMARKS OF GOVERNOR THOMAS H. KEAN
HUDSON RIVER WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT OFFICE OPENING
JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY
THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 1984

THANK YOU, GARY.

TODAY, I FULFILL A PROMISE MADE IN MY ANNUAL MESSAGE, BY OPENING THE PERMANENT OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR'S WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AND STAFF. THIS WILL BE THE HEADQUARTERS FOR COORDINATING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HUDSON RIVER WATERFRONT --- THE MOST VALUABLE PIECE OF REAL ESTATE IN THE COUNTRY.

I'D LIKE TO THANK THE PORT AUTHORITY FOR PROVIDING US WITH THE SPACE. THIS OFFICE WILL BE THE FOCUS OF STATE EFFORTS TO TAP THIS AREA'S VAST POTENTIAL, AND IT WILL MAINTAIN OUR ACTIVE PRESENCE UP HERE "ON THE WATERFRONT."

I AM DETERMINED THAT THE AREA'S GREAT PROMISE WILL BE FULFILLED. OUR STATE CANNOT AFFORD NOT TO DEVELOP ONE OF ITS GREATEST ASSETS. IN THE PAST YEAR, THE HUDSON RIVER CITIES AND THE STATE HAVE MADE OUTSTANDING PROGRESS IN THEIR DIFFERENT PROJECTS. THE CITIES HAVE WORKED VERY HARD TO GET FEDERAL SUPPORT, WHETHER IN GRANTS OR IN ACTION LIKE THE RECENT TRANSFER OF THE FEDERAL PIERS IN HOBOKEN. I'VE BEEN VERY IMPRESSED BY THEIR WORK AND RESULTS, AND I THINK THE MAYORS AND THEIR STAFFS HAVE DONE A GREAT JOB.

THEY HAVE A LOT MORE TO DO. BUT THE GROUNDWORK IS THERE --- THE FOUNDATIONS ARE IN PLACE. THIS YEAR SHOULD SEE EVEN MORE CONCRETE PROGRESS. SEVERAL MAJOR RETAILERS ARE ALREADY COMMITTED OR NEAR COMMITMENT TO ENTER THE NEWPORT CITY DEVELOPMENT. NEW TENANTS ARRIVE EVERY WEEK TO JOIN BANKERS' TRUST IN THE HARBORSIDE TERMINAL. FURTHER UP NORTH, HARTZ MOUNTAIN AND ARTCORP ARE ALSO DEVELOPING RIVER PROPERTY. THE FORD PLANT IN EDGEWATER --- IDLE FOR MANY YEARS --- IS NOW BEING CONVERTED TO MUCH-NEEDED HOUSING.

OUR OFFICES TALK TO MORE COMPANIES EVERY WEEK, WHO ARE VERY INTERESTED IN THE BENEFITS OF DOING BUSINESS IN NEW JERSEY. THEY LIKE OUR LOWER RENTS, OUR LOWER UTILITY RATES, OUR LOWER TAXES. MAYOR KOCH --- ONCE A NEW JERSEY RESIDENT --- IS RIGHT ON ONE POINT. NEW JERSEY IS A GREAT PLACE TO VISIT. TOURISM IS ONE OF OUR BIGGEST INDUSTRIES. NEW JERSEY IS ALSO A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE IN AND WORK IN. I SHOULD KNOW. I WAS BORN IN NEW YORK CITY, AND LOOK WHERE I AM NOW!

THE NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE IS STILL DELAYING A BILL TO CLEAR SOME OF THE PROJECT IN HOBOKEN. I URGE THEM TO PASS IT SOON AND STOP SITTING ON IT! BUT WITH OR WITHOUT THAT BILL, WE ARE GOING AHEAD WITH OUR PROPOSALS. NEW JERSEY AND HOBOKEN SHOULD NOT AND WILL NOT BE DEPRIVED OF 10,000 CONSTRUCTION JOBS AND UP TO 4,500 PERMANENT JOBS --- BECAUSE OF OUR NEIGHBORS' INACTION.

MY WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT OFFICE WILL POOL THE DIFFERENT EFFORTS OF DIFFERENT CITIES. BY WORKING TOGETHER WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT, IT CAN BE A CATALYST --- PULLING TOGETHER MANY ELEMENTS, BRINGING THEIR FORCES TOGETHER TO ENERGIZE THE WHOLE REGION. I SEE THE HUDSON RIVER DEVELOPMENTS BECOMING STRONG ENGINES WHICH CAN PULL THE CITIES INTO AN ECONOMIC RENAISSANCE.

THIS IS WITHIN OUR REACH, AND WE'RE GETTING CLOSER TO IT EVERY WEEK, THANKS TO MANY OF THE PEOPLE HERE TODAY. OPENING THIS OFFICE IS ANOTHER STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, AND I HOPE YOU WILL USE IT AS THE RESOURCE IT SHOULD BE. I WILL DO WHATEVER I CAN TO HELP. WITH YOUR HELP, THE OFFICE CAN GIVE US A UNITED FRONT --- TO RESCUE NEW JERSEY'S WATERFRONT, AND TO PUT NEW JERSEY BACK WHERE SHE BELONGS --- OUT IN FRONT.

THANK YOU.