

Binder

REMARKS OF THE HONORABLE THOMAS H. KEAN

GOVERNOR

ANNUAL NEW JERSEY STATE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CONGRESSIONAL DINNER

WASHINGTON, D. C.

FEBRUARY 2, 1984

THANK YOU, DWAYNE. THANKS TO ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE COME TO WASHINGTON FOR THIS ANNUAL EXTRAVAGANZA. THANKS TO THE STATE CHAMBER, FOR PUTTING TOGETHER ANOTHER MEMORABLE TRIP AND DINNER. AND THANKS, ESPECIALLY, TO OUR CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION, FOR ANOTHER YEAR OF HARD WORK, OF COOPERATION, AND OF MAKING NEW JERSEY'S VOICE HEARD HERE IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL.

IT REMINDS ME OF THE FIRST TIME I EVER CAME TO THIS BEAUTIFUL CITY. IT WAS WHEN MY FATHER WAS ELECTED TO THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS, AND BEFORE WE WERE TO LEAVE, I ASKED AN OLD FRIEND OF HIS, "WHERE'S WASHINGTON?"

"HE'S DEAD," THE OLD MAN SAID.

"NO, NO," I SAID, " I MEAN THE CAPITAL OF THE UNITED STATES."

AND HE REPLIED: "THEY LOANED IT ALL TO EUROPE."

THAT, OF COURSE, WAS BEFORE THE REDSKINS PUT WASHINGTON ON THE MAP, AND BEFORE THE RAIDERS TOOK IT OFF,

I DO ALWAYS ENJOY TRAVELING HERE, OF COURSE, IT'S HARD TO GET AWAY FROM ALL THE WORK BACK AT THE OFFICE IN TRENTON. TODAY WAS NO EXCEPTION --- ALTHOUGH I WAS HAPPY TO SEE EVERYONE WORKING SO HARD ON THE TRAIN ON THE WAY DOWN,

BEFORE I LEFT, HOWEVER, I WAS ABLE TO GET ONE IMPORTANT PIECE OF WORK DONE. THIS MORNING, BEFORE I STEPPED ON THE TRAIN, I SIGNED A PROCLAMATION WHICH RECOGNIZES THE WORK OF A GROUP THAT'S PLAYED SUCH A MAJOR ROLE IN MAKING NEW JERSEY THE KIND OF EXCITING PLACE IT IS; THAT'S HELPED US IN OUR EFFORTS TO BRING IN NEW FIRMS --- AND NEW JOBS; THAT'S CONTRIBUTED SO MUCH OVER THE YEARS TO THE UNIQUE CIVIC PRIDE WE HAVE IN NEW JERSEY, TO THE PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP THAT HAS HELPED OUR STATE GROW IN SO MANY WAYS,

THIS MORNING, I SIGNED A PROCLAMATION DECLARING TODAY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DAY IN NEW JERSEY.

WE ARE HERE TONIGHT, OF COURSE, NOT ONLY TO HONOR THE
CHAMBER, BUT TO HONOR OUR SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES. I AM
LOOKING FORWARD, AS I KNOW YOU ARE, TO HEARING FROM SENATOR
BILL BRADLEY, SENATOR FRANK LAUTENBERG, AND MY OWN CONGRESSMAN,
JOE MINISH, SO I WILL NOT GO ON FOR TOO LONG. AND I'M SORRY, AS
I KNOW YOU ARE, THAT THE DEAN OF OUR CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION,
CONGRESSMAN PETER RODINO, CANNOT BE WITH US TONIGHT. MAYBE A
ROUND OF APPLAUSE FROM ALL OF US WILL HELP PETE FEEL A LITTLE
BETTER TONIGHT.

ACTUALLY, WE CAN PROBABLY GET THE CHAIRMAN TO SPRING BACK
FASTER IF WE JUST TELL HIM THAT ED MEESE IS ALREADY SETTLING INTO
HIS NEW OFFICE!!

I WILL BE BRIEF, BECAUSE WHENEVER I SPEAK AT A DINNER LIKE THIS, I REMEMBER A STORY ABOUT ONE OF THE GREAT NEW JERSEYANS OF ALL TIME: THOMAS EDISON.

EDISON WAS THE FEATURED SPEAKER AT A DINNER, AND WHEN THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EVENT GOT UP TO INTRODUCE HIM, HE WENT ON AND ON RECOUNTING THE INVENTORS MANY GREAT INVENTIONS: INCLUDING THE TALKING MACHINE, AS THE PHONOGRAPH WAS KNOWN AT THAT TIME.

FINALLY, EDISON GOT UP TO SPEAK. "I THANK THE CHAIRMAN FOR HIS KIND REMARKS," HE SAID, "BUT I MUST MAKE ONE CORRECTION."

"I DID NOT INVENT THE FIRST TALKING MACHINE: GOD DID. I ONLY INVENTED THE FIRST ONE THAT CAN BE SHUT OFF."

1984 IS A SPECIAL YEAR FOR OUR DELEGATION, OF COURSE: IT'S AN ELECTION YEAR.

I RECENTLY HEARD A NEW DEFINITION OF ELECTIONS: THEY'RE THE THINGS THAT ARE HELD TO SEE IF THE POLLS ARE RIGHT.

IN SOME WAYS, I HOPE THE POLLS ARE RIGHT, BECAUSE THE POLLS I'VE SEEN ARE SHOWING SOME INTERESTING THINGS ABOUT ATTITUDES IN NEW JERSEY AND THE NATION.

THEY'RE SHOWING THAT NEW JERSEYANS --- AND ALL AMERICANS --- CARE MORE ABOUT THEIR ENVIRONMENT THAN PERHAPS EVER BEFORE. THEY'RE SHOWING THAT NEW JERSEYANS --- AND ALL AMERICANS --- CARE MORE ABOUT THEIR CHILDREN'S SCHOOLS THAN EVER BEFORE. THEY'RE SHOWING THAT PEOPLE ARE MORE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE FUTURE THAN THEY HAVE BEEN IN A LONG TIME --- BUT JUST AS IMPORTANTLY, THAT THEY CARE MORE ABOUT IT, TOO.

I THINK THAT AUGURS WELL FOR THOSE OF US IN PUBLIC SERVICE. AS WOODROW WILSON SAID, "GOVERNMENT IS NOT A MACHINE BUT A LIVING THING, MODIFIED TO ITS ENVIRONMENT...SHAPED TO ITS FUNCTIONS BY THE SHEER PRESSURE OF LIFE."

IN SHORT, WHEN PEOPLE CARE MORE, WE CAN GOVERN MORE EFFECTIVELY AND MORE RESPONSIVELY. WHEN PEOPLE CARE MORE, GOVERNMENT IS MADE BETTER.

BUT WHAT'S ESPECIALLY ENCOURAGING ABOUT THOSE POLLS IS THE ISSUES WHICH OUR PEOPLE AND OUR FAMILIES CARE ABOUT.

AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, IN THE PAST MONTH, I DELIVERED MY ANNUAL MESSAGE AND BUDGET MESSAGE TO THE LEGISLATURE. IN BOTH, I STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE TODAY OF MAKING AN INVESTMENT IN NEW JERSEY'S FUTURE.

NEW JERSEY TODAY STANDS AT A POINT WHICH MANY OTHER STATES ENVY. OUR UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IS FAR BELOW THE NATIONAL AVERAGE. MORE OF OUR PEOPLE ARE AT WORK TODAY THAN EVER BEFORE. CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS, HOUSING STARTS, AND NEW BUSINESS INCORPORATIONS ARE RISING STEADILY. WE'VE MOVED AHEAD IN CLEANING UP THE ENVIRONMENT, RESOLVING PRISON OVERCROWDING, AND CONTROLLING HEALTH CARE COSTS. MOST IMPORTANTLY, OUR POTENTIAL FOR GROWTH, FOR JOBS, AND FOR A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE FUTURE IS GREAT.

BUT BEING FIRST TODAY IS NOT ENOUGH FOR TOMORROW. WE HAVE TO BUILD ON THAT POTENTIAL. WE HAVE TO SEE THE PROBLEMS THAT LOOM IN THE FUTURE AND FACE THEM HEAD ON. WE HAVE TO SEIZE THE ADVANTAGE.

AS CERVANTES' DON QUIXOTE TOLD SANCHO PANZA: "FOREWARNED, FOREARMED: TO BE PREPARED HALF THE BATTLE."

AND FEW ISSUES ARE AS VITAL TO ATTRACTING JOBS IN THE FUTURE AS EDUCATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT.

NEW JERSEY TODAY STANDS POISED TO REAP MANY BENEFITS IN THE HIGH TECHNOLOGY ECONOMY. WE HAVE THE RESEARCH CAPABILITY, THE ACCESS TO MARKETS, AND THE MANY OTHER INGREDIENTS WINNING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY.

BUT OUR SUCCESS WILL BE DEPENDENT ON PROVIDING THE EMPLOYERS OF TOMORROW WITH A SKILLED FORCE: ONE THAT CAN READ AND WRITE. ONE THAT CAN IS PROFICIENT IN MATH AND CAN USE COMPUTERS. ONE THAT CAN DO THE JOBS THAT WILL BE OUT THERE TOMORROW.

WE WILL ALSO HAVE TO PROVIDE THEM WITH AN ENVIRONMENT THAT IS SAFE FOR THEIR WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES ALIKE. ONE FREE OF THE THREAT OF TOXIC WASTES. ONE WITH WATER THAT IS SAFE TO DRINK AND AIR THAT IS SAFE TO BREATHE.

AND WE CAN BEST PROVIDE THESE THINGS IF WE BEGIN TO WORK ON THEM NOW.

THAT IS WHY I AM SO ENCOURAGED BY POLLS WHICH SHOW THAT THE PUBLIC IS BEHIND US. THAT OUR CONSTITUENTS, TO WHOM WE OFTEN GIVE TOO LITTLE CREDIT, ARE AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD SCHOOLS AND CLEAN WATER, OF A PREPARED WORK FORCE AND A GOOD QUALITY OF LIFE, TO THE NEW JERSEY OF TOMORROW.

WE WILL NEED THEM BEHIND US, BECAUSE FOR US TO FULFILL THE PROMISE OF THAT TOMORROW WILL REQUIRE ALL OF US TO WORK TOGETHER. IT WILL DEMAND THAT WE MAKE GOOD ON THE PRESIDENT'S PLEDGE TO SUPPORT THE EXTENSION OF SUPERFUND, AND THAT WE WORK TO PASS THE BILL WHICH SENATOR BRADLEY AND SENATOR LAUTENBERG HAVE SO WISELY TAKEN THE LEAD ON.

IT WILL REQUIRE THAT WE MAKE SURE THAT NEW JERSEY GETS FAIR SHARE OF FEDERAL FUNDING --- IN ENVIRONMENT, IN EDUCATION, AND IN ALL AREAS.

IT WILL REQUIRE THAT ALL OF US: GOVERNORS, SENATORS, CONGRESSMEN, BUSINESS LEADERS, LABOR LEADERS, TEACHERS, CITIZENS, PUT ASIDE SHORT RUN INTERESTS FOR THE LONG TERM GOOD.

IT WILL DEMAND THAT IN THIS, AN ELECTION YEAR, OUR LEADERS REMEMBER THAT IT IS NOT THE BATTLE BUT THE WAR THAT COUNTS, AND THAT ULTIMATELY THE BEST CAMPAIGNING STRATEGY IS TO WORK FOR WHAT'S RIGHT FOR OUR STATE, FOR OUR COUNTRY, FOR EACH OF OUR FAMILIES.

I AM CONFIDENT THAT WE HAVE THE CAPACITY TO MEET THOSE MANY REQUIREMENTS.