

Binder

REMARKS OF  
THE HONORABLE THOMAS H. KEAN  
TO THE  
NEW JERSEY COUNCIL OF GRANTMAKERS  
DRUMTHWACKET  
MARCH 6, 1984

THANK YOU, FRANK (KAREL), AND THANK YOU, BILL (MULLINS).

IT'S A SPECIAL PLEASURE FOR ME TO WELCOME THIS GROUP TO  
DRUMTHWACKET.

EARLY IN MY ADMINISTRATION, WE STARTED A DIALOGUE BETWEEN  
MY SENIOR STAFF AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COUNCIL. SINCE THEN,  
OF COURSE, WE HAVE WORKED TOGETHER REALLY ON AN AD HOC BASIS ON  
A NUMBER OF PROJECTS WHICH WERE OF INTEREST TO VARIOUS MEMBERS  
OF THIS GROUP.

BUT I HAVE NOT HAD THE CHANCE TO COME BEFORE YOU AS A GROUP,  
TO COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH YOU ABOUT THE MANY WORTHWHILE PROJECTS  
WE AS AN ADMINISTRATION HAVE UNDERTAKEN, TO DISCUSS THE BRIDGES THAT

CAN BE BUILT -- AND THAT ARE BEING BUILT -- BETWEEN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS IN NEW JERSEY, AND TO HEAR DIRECTLY FROM YOU ABOUT THE SPECIAL CONCERNS THAT YOUR FOUNDATIONS AND YOUR ORGANIZATIONS HAVE.

I OFTEN RECALL IN DESCRIBING THE MISSION OF STATE GOVERNMENT THE STORY OF THE FOURTEENTH CENTURY TRAVELLER WHO CAME UPON A NUMBER OF MEN HARD AT WORK HAMMERING AWAY AT GREAT BLOCKS OF GRANITE.

HE WENT UP TO ONE WORKER AND ASKED HIM WHAT HE WAS DOING.

"I'M A STONE CUTTER," THE MAN REPLIED.

HE THEN ASKED A SECOND WORKER, WHO SAID, "I'M GOING TO CUT THIS BLOCK OF STONE INTO A PERFECT SQUARE."

FINALLY, HE TURNED TO A THIRD WORKER, AND HE ASKED HIM. AND HE REPLIED, "I'M HELPING TO BUILD A GREAT CATHEDRAL."

THE POINT IS, OF COURSE, THAT IT'S A MATTER OF PERSPECTIVE. THE CATHEDRAL WE ARE TRYING TO BUILD IN STATE GOVERNMENT IS A BETTER NEW JERSEY --- ONE IN WHICH OUR SCHOOLS ARE MAKING OUR CHILDREN BETTER TRAINED AND MORE THOUGHTFUL; ONE IN WHICH OUR AGED AND SICK ARE WELL CARED FOR; ONE IN WHICH ALL PEOPLE WHO WANT

TO WORK --- WHETHER THEY'RE MEN OR WOMEN, BLACK OR WHITE, YOUNG OR OLD --- WILL HAVE THE CHANCE TO FIND A DECENT JOB.

BUT IT TAKES A LOT OF STONES, AND A LOT OF HARD-WORKING STONE CUTTERS, TO BUILD THAT KIND OF CATHEDRAL.

THAT'S WHY IT'S A TREAT FOR ME TO BE HERE TODAY. THE COUNCIL OF GRANTMAKERS CAN, AS A GROUP, SEE THE OVERALL PERSPECTIVE.

LOOKING OUT INTO THE GROUP THAT SITS BEFORE ME RIGHT NOW, I SEE INDIVIDUALS -- AND FRIENDS -- THAT ARE INTERESTED IN A RANGE OF ISSUES. SOME OF YOUR WORK OVERLAPS, SOME DOES NOT DO SO AT ALL.

BUT THE COMMON THREAD, I THINK, IS THE CONCERN THAT WE ALL HAVE FOR A BETTER STATE --- FOR A BETTER TOMMORROW.

NATHAN HALE ONCE SAID THAT "EVERY KIND OF SERVICE NECESSARY TO THE PUBLIC GOOD BECOMES HONORABLE BY BEING NECESSARY."

THAT'S A QUOTE I THOUGHT ABOUT ON MY WAY HERE THIS MORNING, BECAUSE THERE IS SO MUCH TO BE DONE IN NEW JERSEY -- AND ALL OF IT IS VALUABLE. ALL OF IT IS NECESSARY.

MANY OF YOU AS INDIVIDUALS ARE FAMILIAR WITH SOME OF THE EXCITING PROJECTS THAT ARE GOING ON RIGHT NOW THAT INVOLVE A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS. THE MEMBERS OF THE GRANTMAKING COMMUNITY HAVE BEEN VERY GENEROUS IN HELPING TO GET SOME OF THESE FORWARD LOOKING PROJECTS OFF THE GROUND.

BUT VERY FEW PEOPLE REALIZE THE RANGE OF TRULY EXCITING ACTIVITY THAT IS TAKING PLACE RIGHT NOW IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY. AND VERY FEW STATES ARE BLESSED WITH THE LEVEL OF COOPERATION THAT WE ARE SO FORTUNATE TO HAVE HERE.

SO I THOUGHT THAT THIS MORNING, BEFORE I OPEN THIS MEETING UP TO A QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION, I MIGHT TAKE A FEW MINUTES OF YOUR TIME JUST TO MENTION SOME OF THE GREAT PROJECTS GOING ON IN THE STATE, AND SOME OF THE IDEAS WE HAVE FOR THE FUTURE.

I BELIEVE THAT SOME OF THEM MERIT YOUR SUPPORT.

- AS ALL OF YOU KNOW, MY ADMINISTRATION HAS TAKEN A SPECIAL INTEREST IN THE ISSUE OF EDUCATION. IN MY MIND, THERE ARE FEW THINGS AS IMPORTANT TO THE FUTURE WELL-BEING OF NEW JERSEY AS OUR SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES.

THEY WILL DETERMINE WHETHER OUR YOUNG PEOPLE WILL BE ABLE TO COMPETE FOR JOBS IN THE EMERGING INFORMATION BASED ECONOMY. THEY WILL DETERMINE WHETHER NEW JERSEY IS A CENTER OF NEW IDEAS OR A STATE WHICH LAGS BEHIND OTHERS AND PAYS THE PRICE. THEY WILL DETERMINE WHETHER WE WILL BE LEADERS OR FOLLOWERS.

I BELIEVE THAT TO EMERGE AS LEADERS WE MUST STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE. AND ALL OF OUR AMBITIOUS EFFORTS IN THE LAST TWO YEARS FOR YOUR SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES HAVE BEEN GEARED TOWARD THAT GOAL: EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION.

THE DRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE IS NOT SOMETHING THAT THE STATE CAN TAKE ENTIRELY UPON ITSELF. IT DEMANDS THE HELP, AND ESPECIALLY THE INTEREST, OF PARENTS, OF BUSINESSES -- IN SHORT, OF THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE.

WE ARE PUSHING AT THE STATE LEVEL. LAST YEAR, I ANNOUNCED A SERIES OF REFORMS DESIGNED TO IMPROVE LEARNING -- AND TEACHING -- IN OUR SCHOOLS. THEY INCLUDED EVERYTHING FROM HIGHER STARTING SALARIES FOR TEACHERS TO NEW MEANS OF CERTIFYING THEM.

IN MY ANNUAL MESSAGE TO THE LEGISLATURE, I PLACED A SPECIAL FOCUS ON HIGHER EDUCATION, AND CALLED FOR THE LEGISLATURE TO WORK WITH ME IN ENACTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF OUR COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. THE RESULT, I HOPE, WILL BE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ACADEMIC INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH CENTERS, AN UPGRADING OF BOTH FACILITIES AND CURRICULUM AT OUR UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES, AND AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF NEW JERSEY STUDENTS WHO CHOOSE TO ATTEND COLLEGE HERE IN THE STATE.

AND LATER TODAY, I AM ANNOUNCING A NEW PACKAGE OF REFORMS TARGETED SPECIFICALLY AT OUR URBAN SCHOOL DISTRICTS, WHICH HAVE BEEN NEGLECTED FOR TOO LONG.

THAT'S QUITE A RANGE OF PROGRAMS. BUT THE FACT IS THAT PRIVATE SECTOR HELP IS BOTH WELCOME AND NECESSARY IN VIRTUALLY EVERY AREA.

SO IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, TALK TO ME. TALK TO MY STAFF. TALK TO YOUR LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT. OR FAVORITE COLLEGE. THERE IS A RANGE OF SPECIAL -- AND EXCITING -- SUB-PROJECTS WITHIN EACH OF THOSE MAJOR AREAS.

ONE PROJECT INITIATED BY MY OFFICE ABOUT WHICH I AM PARTICULARLY EXCITED IS THE GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL. THE GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL IS A PROGRAM WHICH SELECTS A FEW HUNDRED GIFTED AND TALENTED RISING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS AND PROVIDES THEM WITH AN INTENSE LEARNING EXPERIENCE DURING THE SUMMER.

IT HELPS PUT KIDS WITH GREAT POTENTIAL IN CONTACT WITH THEIR SIMILARLY GIFTED COLLEAGUES --- AND IN THE PROCESS IT CHALLENGES THEM.

LAST YEAR WAS THE FIRST YEAR OF THE GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL PROGRAM. ONE SCHOOL FOR ONE HUNDRED SCHOLARS WAS HELD AT MONMOUTH COLLEGE. IT FOCUSSED ON FUTURE ISSUES OF GREAT IMPORTANCE BOTH TO NEW JERSEY AND TO THE WORLD.

THE ATTEMPT WAS TO ENCOURAGE NEW JERSEY'S FUTURE LEADERS TO START THINKING ABOUT HOW THEY COULD ADDRESS THESE PROBLEMS, AND TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ADDRESSING THEM.

AS BILL MULLINS, SCOTT MCVAY, ALEX PLINNIO, OR ANY OF YOUR OTHER COLLEAGUES WHO WERE INVOLVED IN THE PROGRAM CAN TELL YOU, IT WAS A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS.

THIS YEAR, WE ARE EXPANDING THE PROGRAM TO THREE SCHOOLS -- A SCHOOL IN SCIENCE AT DREW UNIVERSITY, A SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS AT TRENTON STATE COLLEGE, AND THE PUBLIC ISSUES SCHOOL AT MONMOUTH.

WITH THIS EXPANSION COMES A GREATER NEED FOR INVOLVEMENT AND SUPPORT, AND I HOPE YOU WILL CONSIDER GETTING INVOLVED. THE GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL IS ONE PART OF OUR OVERALL DRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION, AND IF LAST YEAR'S EXPERIENCE IS ANY GUIDE, IT IS ONE THAT CAN YIELD MAJOR BENEFITS FOR THESE CHILDREN, FOR THEIR FAMILIES, AND FOR THE STATE IN YEARS TO COME.



NEEDLESS TO SAY, EDUCATION IS ONLY ONE ASPECT OF PROCESS OF BUILDING A BETTER NEW JERSEY, AND ONLY ONE AREA IN WHICH THE PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP THAT IS SO NECESSARY IS BEING FORGED.

AS I SAID EARLIER, WE'VE BEEN FORTUNATE BECAUSE SO MANY INDIVIDUALS WITH OTHER MAJOR COMMITMENTS -- BE THEY IN BUSINESS, IN ACADEMIA, IN THE LAW, OR ELSEWHERE --- HAVE STEPPED FORWARD TO CONTRIBUTE TO EFFORTS TO MAKE NEW JERSEY A BETTER PLACE.

A NUMBER OF LEADERS FROM THE CORPORATE COMMUNITY, FROM THE LABOR MOVEMENT, FROM VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS, AND FROM RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS HAVE JOINED A COMMITTEE --- WHICH I AM CHAIRING ALONG WITH SENATORS BILL BRADLEY AND FRANK LAUTENBERG --- TO RAISE MONEY TO ERECT A PERMANENT MONUMENT IN LIBERTY STATE PARK.

THE MONUMENT WOULD DEPICT AN AMERICAN SOLDIER CARRYING A SURVIVOR OF WORLD WAR TWO TO FREEDOM, AWAY FROM OPPRESSION, AWAY FROM DESPAIR, AWAY FROM PERSECUTION.

IT SHOWS THE COMPASSIONATE SIDE OF AMERICA AND OF ITS FIGHTING MEN, THE SIDE THAT FITS SO CLOSELY WITH THE NAME OF LIBERTY STATE PARK.

WE HOPE TO HAVE THE MONUMENT COMPLETED BY NEXT MAY --- THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF "V.E. DAY".

ANOTHER GROUP HEADED BY FINN CASPERSON IS TRYING TO RAISE MONEY TO FURNISH THE BUILDING IN WHICH YOU SIT NOW --- DRUMTHWACKET.

STILL OTHER GROUPS ARE ACTIVE IN TRYING TO RESTORE OUR INNER CITIES. THEIR EFFORTS --- RENAISSANCE NEWARK, NEW BRUNSWICK TOMMORROW, AND OTHERS --- ARE HELPING THE STATE IN ITS URBAN REVITALIZATION PROGRAMS. AND THEY ARE BEGINNING TO SHOW SIGNS OF WORKING. WITH ALL OF OUR COOPERATION, THEY CAN WORK EVEN BETTER.

SINCE I HAVE TAKEN OFFICE, I HAVE MADE A SPECIAL COMMITMENT TO NEW JERSEY'S CULTURAL PROGRAMS. THE ARTS CANNOT BE IGNORED WITHOUT PERIL. THEY CREATE THE KIND OF LIFE THAT CAN BRING PEOPLE -- AND JOBS -- TO NEW JERSEY.

OTHER STATES HAVE RECOGNIZED THIS TO A GREATER EXTENT THAN WE HAVE AND HAVE INVESTED IN THEIR CULTURAL PROGRAMS. IN NEW JERSEY, WE HAVE NOT TRADITIONALLY BEEN AS RESPONSIBLE.

I HAVE PROPOSED TO INCREASE GRANTS TO CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS THROUGH THE STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS. BUT AGAIN, THE BEST APPROACH IS THAT OF A PARTNERSHIP. AND I HOPE THAT ALL OF YOU WILL JOIN ME IN HELPING NEW JERSEY ACHIEVE THE PRE-EMINENCE IT SHOULD ENJOY IN ARTS AND CULTURE.

IN SUM, THERE IS NO SHORTAGE OF WORTHWILE PROJECTS IN THIS STATE. AND FORTUNATELY, THERE IS NO SHORTAGE OF CIVIC-MINDED INDIVIDUALS AND COMPANIES, OF WILLING HANDS, OF CONCERNED CITIZENS.

I TRULY BELIEVE THAT OUR ONLY LIMIT HERE IN NEW JERSEY IS OUR VISION. IF WE COOPERATE, IF WE DARE TO BE DIFFERENT, IF WE DARE TO INNOVATE --- AS THE SAYING GOES, IF WE DARE TO BE GREAT --- WE WILL BE.

ALBERT CAMUS SAID THAT "REAL GENEROSITY TOWARD THE FUTURE CONSISTS IN GIVING ALL TO WHAT IS PRESENT."

I KNOW THAT ALL OF YOU JOIN ME IN A VISION FOR NEW JERSEY'S FUTURE, AND I AM GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR GIVING YOUR TIME AND ENERGY AND IDEAS TO THE PRESENT.

THANK YOU.