

REMARKS OF
THE HONORABLE THOMAS H. KEAN
GOVERNOR
AT THE
OPENING OF THE REAGAN-BUSH HEADQUARTERS
BRIDGEWATER, NEW JERSEY

APRIL 30, 1984

FOUR YEARS AGO, CANDIDATE RONALD REAGAN ASKED ONE CENTRAL QUESTION THAT CAPTURED THE ESSENCE OF THE ENTIRE ELECTION, AS WELL AS THE IMAGINATION OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

HE LOOKED AT ALL OF US, AND HE ASKED: "ARE YOU BETTER OFF TODAY THAN YOU WERE FOUR YEARS AGO?"

THAT WAS IN 1980:

- WHEN INFLATION IN THIS COUNTRY WAS 12.4 %.
- WHEN POVERTY HAD BEGUN TO RISE IN AMERICA FOR VIRTUALLY THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1949.

- WHEN INTEREST RATES HAD RISEN TO RECORD LEVELS;
OVER 21 PERCENT BEFORE THE YEAR WAS OUT
- WHEN FOUR YEARS OF JIMMY CARTER AND WALTER MONDALE
HAD LEFT ALL AMERICANS --- MEN AND WOMEN, WHITE AND
BLACK, YOUNG AND OLD --- STRUGGLING JUST TO KEEP UP.

TODAY, I AM PROUD TO NOTE THAT WE FACE A DIFFERENT SITUATION --
NOT ONLY IN NEW JERSEY BUT ACCROSS THE NATION.

TODAY, MOST AMERICANS ARE BETTER OFF THAN THEY WERE FOUR
YEARS AGO.

INFLATION HAS BEEN PUNCTURED --- STOPPED IN ITS TRACKS ---
AND BROUGHT TO ITS LOWEST LEVELS SINCE THE 1960s.

INTEREST RATES HAVE BEEN BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL, SO THAT
FAMILIES CAN AFFORT TO BUY THE HOMES THEY WANT, AND SO THAT
BUSINESSES CAN EXPAND TO CREATE JOBS.

AND LOWER TAXES AND LOWER INFLATION HAVE MADE THE
TYPICAL AMERICAN FAMILY MORE THAN \$3,000 BETTER OFF THAN
THEY WERE.

IN NEW JERSEY, THE RESULTS OF THE ECONOMIC RESURGENCE THAT HAS OCCURRED ARE EVIDENT.

MORE NEW JERSEYANS ARE AT WORK ^{TODAY} THAN AT ANY OTHER TIME IN OUR HISTORY.

THE NUMBER OF NEW JERSEYANS CLAIMING UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS IS AT ITS LOWEST LEVEL IN MORE THAN A DECADE.

AND CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS, BUILDING PERMITS, HOUSING STARTS, NEW BUSINESS INCORPORATIONS, AND A HOST OF OTHER KEY ECONOMIC INDICATORS ARE ALL ON THE RISE.

PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN AND GEORGE BUSH PUT THEIR FINGER ON THE CRITICAL ISSUE WHICH FACED THIS COUNTRY IN 1980 --- THAT GOVERNMENT WAS TAKING TOO MUCH MONEY OUT OF THE POCKET OF THE AVERAGE AMERICAN TAXPAYER --- AND THEY FACED IT HEAD ON.

THEY SAID THEY WOULD CUT TAXES. AND THEY DID.

THEY SAID THEY WOULD GET GOVERNMENT SPENDING UNDER CONTROL. AND THEY DID.

THEY SAID THEY WOULD BEGIN TO REBUILD THE AMERICAN ECONOMY.

AND THEY DID.

THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY THAT THE REAGAN-BUSH TEAM HELPED
ENGINEER HAS BEEN GOOD TO NEW JERSEY, BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY,
IT HAS BEEN GOOD TO ALL NEW JERSEYANS.

IN 1980, WHAT HOPE COULD WE OFFER THE WOMAN WHO WAS STRUGGLING
FOR EQUAL PAY WHEN WHAT PAY SHE GOT WAS BEING EATEN AWAY BY
THE TWIN RAVAGES OF INFLATION AND HIGH TAXES? WHAT HOPE
COULD WE OFFER THOSE IN OUR CITIES WHEN THE URBAN ECONOMY
WAS PRACTICALLY STAGNANT? WHAT HOPE COULD WE OFFER
YOUNG PEOPLE TRYING TO GET A START IN THE WORKING WORLD WHEN
HIGH INTEREST RATES WERE CHOKING THE ECONOMY?

TODAY, WE HAVE NOT SOLVED ALL OF THE PROBLEMS THAT WE
FACE -- EITHER IN NEW JERSEY OR IN THE NATION.

BUT WE HAVE BEGUN, AS RONALD REAGAN AND GEORGE BUSH PROMISED
TO DO, TO MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN.

WE HAVE RESTORED HOPE. WE HAVE RESTORED OPPORTUNITY. WE
HAVE BEGUN TO REBUILD WHAT HAS TO BE THE BASE OF OPPORTUNITY; OF
ADVANCEMENT, OF A BETTER TOMMORROW --- AND THAT IS A STRONG AND
FORWARD-LOOKING ECONOMY.

THAT'S WHY IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO JOIN OUR NEW JERSEY CHAIRMAN, CONGRESSMAN JIM COURTER, AND ALL OF YOU HERE TODAY TO KICK OFF NEW JERSEY'S EFFORT TO CONTINUE THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY BY RETURNING RONALD REAGAN AND GEORGE BUSH TO OFFICE.

NEW JERSEY WILL BE A KEY STATE FOR THE REAGAN-BUSH EFFORT. THE PRESIDENT WILL NEED EVERY STATE HE CAN GET IN THE NORTHEAST, AND NEW JERSEY, WHICH HAS VOTED FOR THE REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE IN EACH OF THE LAST FOUR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, WILL BE CRITICAL.

BUT I AM CONFIDENT THAT WE ARE EQUAL TO THE TEST.

I AM CONFIDENT THAT WITH A UNIFIED TEAM HERE IN NEW JERSEY, WE CAN NOT ONLY WIN, BUT WIN RESOUNDINGLY.

AND IN DOING SO, I AM CONVINCED THAT WE HAVE AN HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE SOME MAJOR GAINS FOR THE REPUBLICAN PARTY.

YOU KNOW, WE HAVE ALREADY MADE SOME HISTORY HERE IN NEW JERSEY. LAST WEEK, CONGRESSMAN COURTER ANNOUNCED THE NAMES OF OUR STATES DELEGATION TO THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION IN DALLAS.

AND FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY, FULLY HALF OF THOSE DELEGATES ARE WOMEN.

THE OTHER PARTY MAY TALK ABOUT ITS COMMITMENT TO WOMEN, BUT IT IS THE REPUBLICAN PARTY WHO ACTS.

IT IS OUR PARTY WHO HAS PLACED WOMEN IN TOP CABINET POSTS AT BOTH THE FEDERAL AND THE STATE LEVEL; IN THE SUPREME COURT AT BOTH THE FEDERAL AND THE STATE LEVEL; AND IN THE LEADERSHIP OF OUR PARTY AT ALL LEVELS.

IT IS OUR PARTY WHICH IS SYSTEMATICALLY UNDERTAKING TO REMOVE DISCRIMINATORY LAWS AT BOTH THE FEDERAL AND THE STATE LEVEL.

AND IT IS OUR PARTY, I AM CONVINCED, THAT CAN DO MORE FOR WOMEN ECONOMICALLY --- WHERE IT COUNTS --- THAN THE SPEECHES AND THE POSTURING OF THE OTHER PARTY WILL EVER DO.

SO WE HAVE MADE HISTORY ALREADY IN THIS ELECTION. BUT I AM CONVINCED THAT WE CAN MAKE EVEN GREATER HISTORY IN NOVEMBER.

I AM CERTAIN THAT WITH YOUR HELP --- AND WITH YOUR HARD WORK --- WE CAN GIVE THE REAGAN-BUSH TICKET AN EVEN LARGER MARGIN THAN THEY HAD IN NEW JERSEY IN 1980 --- AND A LARGER MARGIN THAN ANY PRESIDENTIAL TICKET HAS SEEN IN THIS STATE IN A LONG, LONG TIME.

YOU KNOW, I AM EXCITED. I LOVE ELECTIONS. I LIKE THE ELECTRICITY, THE TEAMWORK, THE CAMARADERIE.

FOR SOME PEOPLE, THEY SAY, SERVING IN OFFICE IS JUST AN INCONVENIENT THING YOU HAVE TO DO BETWEEN ELECTIONS!!!

WELL, I THINK THAT PRESIDENT REAGAN AND VICE PRESIDENT BUSH HAVE DONE A PRETTY ADMIRABLE JOB SERVING IN OFFICE.

BUT I'M GLAD THAT ELECTION TIME IS HERE.

I'M GLAD TO SEE ALL OF YOU HERE THIS MORNING, AND TO SEE THE EXCITEMENT IN YOUR EYES.

AND I'M ESPECIALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU IN THE MONTHS AHEAD AS WE PUT THIS HEADQUARTERS TO GOOD USE IN RETURNING THE REAGAN BUSH TICKET TO OFFICE.