

REMARKS OF GOVERNOR THOMAS H. KEAN

POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

SHORE CASINO

ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS

TUESDAY, MAY 29, 1984

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THANK YOU, FRANK (GINESI).

I AM DELIGHTED TO JOIN THE POLICEMEN'S BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION ON THIS, THE DAY AFTER MEMORIAL DAY.

EVERY ONE OF US HERE TONIGHT RECOGNIZES HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO REMEMBER THE SACRIFICES AND DEDICATION OF OUR VETERANS --- THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE SERVED THEIR COUNTRY IN TIME OF NEED, IN TIME OF WAR.

BUT TODAY, LET US REMEMBER THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO PROTECT OUR COUNTRY IN TIMES OF PEACE, EVERY DAY: OUR POLICE FORCES.

THANKS TO YOUR EFFORTS, THE 1983 CRIME RATE IN NEW JERSEY WENT DOWN AGAIN FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW.

THANKS TO YOUR HARD WORK, TOGETHER WITH THE OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, WE ARE SEEING LESS CRIME IN NEW JERSEY. THANKS TO OUR CONTINUING PROGRAM TO BUILD PRISONS, WE ARE SEEING MORE CONVICTED CRIMINALS BEHIND BARS. AND THANKS TO A NEW JUVENILE JUSTICE CODE AND A NEW FAMILY COURT SYSTEM, WE ARE BETTER ABLE TO SORT OUT TEMPORARILY TROUBLED YOUNGSTER<sup>S</sup> FROM HARDENED, VIOLENT YOUNG CRIMINALS.

BUT NONE OF THE PROGRAM<sup>S</sup>, CODES OR COURTS WOULD BE ABLE TO WORK WITHOUT THE DAY-TO-DAY EFFORTS OF YOU --- THE FRONTLINE TROOPS.

LAST FALL, I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF ADDRESSING THE POLICE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION AT ONE OF THEIR MONTHLY MEETINGS. AS I TOLD YOUR LEADERS: "I HAVE COUNTED ON YOUR EFFORTS TO REDUCE CRIME ON THE STREETS IN NEW JERSEY, AND YOU HAVE NOT FAILED ME."

THE GREAT MAJORITY OF NEW JERSEYANS ARE PEACE-LOVING, LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS. YOU DEFEND ALL OF THEM --- ALL OF US --- FROM "THE ENEMY WITHIN; THE MINORITY WHO REFUSE TO LIVE LAWFULLY AMONG THEIR NEIGHBORS, WHO TAKE WHAT OUR SOCIETY HAS TO OFFER WITHOUT LIVING BY SOCIETY'S RULES.

LAST FALL, I ASKED YOUR CHIEFS TO PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO CRIME ON THE ANOTHER FRONTIER --- THE HOME.

AS EACH OF YOU KNOW ALMOST EVERY VIOLENT CRIMINAL WHOM YOU ENCOUNTER COMES FROM A VIOLENT BACKGROUND. THOSE VICTIMIZED CHILDREN LEARN VERY EARLY TO TAKE THEIR OWN EXPERIENCE OF FAMILY VIOLENCE AND APPLY IT TO OTHERS IN OUR SOCIETY.

THE YOUNG CHILD WHO GROWS UP IN THE MIDST OF VIOLENCE LEARNS TO SOLVE CONFLICTS BY LASHING OUT IN VIOLENCE, AT ANY VICTIM OR AT ANYONE WHO PROTECTS THAT VICTIM.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HURTS US ALL, AS A BREEDING-GROUND FOR CRIME AND AS A SERIOUS CRIME IN AND OF ITSELF.

I BELIEVE THAT WE MUST DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH THE PROBLEM OF VIOLENT CRIME IN THE HOME. I TURN TO YOU TONIGHT FOR YOUR HELP.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ASSAULTS IN THE HOME ARE CRIMES, PUNISHABLE BY LAW. WE HAVE SEVERAL NEW PROGRAMS TO HELP YOU APPROACH THE PROBLEM, AS I TOLD THE CHIEFS. YOUR DEPARTMENTS SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED MATERIAL THIS JANUARY ABOUT TRAINING SESSIONS AND CONFERENCES. I KNOW HOW DIFFICULT IT IS FOR POLICE OFFICERS TO HANDLE DOMESTIC DISTURBANCES, BUT I BELIEVE THAT ALL OF YOU ARE MORE THAN CAPABLE OF REDUCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AS YOU HAVE CRIME ON THE STREETS --- AS LONG AS WE HELP YOU AS MUCH AS WE POSSIBLY CAN.

I BELIEVE THAT A COORDINATED, DISCIPLINE CAMPAIGN TO CONTROL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ON THE PART OF ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES WILL HAVE AN EFFECT. RECENT STUDIES SHOW THAT THE AUTHORITY OF POLICE, USED TO INTERVENE AND ARREST A VIOLENT FAMILY MEMBER, OFTEN PREVENTS REPEAT OFFENSES. IF EVEN A TEMPORARY ARREST WILL STOP AN ABUSER FROM ATTACKING A CHILD, SPOUSE OR ELDERLY PARENT --- SO BE IT.

AS JOHN F. KENNEDY ONCE SAID, "IF WE CAN ALL PERSEVERE...THEN SURELY THE AGE WILL DAWN IN WHICH THE STRONG ARE JUST, AND THE WEAK SECURE, AND THE PEACE PRESERVED."

TONIGHT, HAVING SALUTED OUR WARTIME VETERANS YESTERDAY, I SALUTE YOU. YOU ARE THE STRONG, THE UPHOLDERS OF THE LAW, THE GUARDIANS OF THE PEACE. TIME AND AGAIN, I HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT YOUR WORK IS ONE OF THE MOST VITAL, MOST IMPORTANT, MOST CRUCIAL SERVICES IN ANY TOWN OR CITY. WHEN SOME OF OUR CITIES RAN INTO A BUDGET CRUNCH THIS YEAR, THERE WAS NO QUESTION IN MY MIND THAT THE STATE SHOULD MAKE ABSOLUTELY SURE THAT POLICE AND FIRE SERVICES WERE FUNDED.

I WAS PROUD TO KEEP THOSE FUNDS SECURE, AND I WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT YOUR MISSION, I COULD NOT NO LESS.

THANK YOU.