

REMARKS OF

THE HONORABLE THOMAS H. KEAN

GOVERNOR

AT THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF

NEW JERSEY CITIZENS FOR BETTER SCHOOLS

STATE HOUSE

TRENTON, NEW JERSEY

JUNE 26, 1984

GOOD MORNING.

AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR WHICH IS JUST NOW
ENDING, I STOOD BEFORE A JOINT SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE
AND OFFERED MY BLUEPRINT FOR EDUCATION REFORM IN NEW JERSEY.

AT THAT TIME, I SAID THAT THE ISSUE OF EDUCATION WAS SO
IMPORTANT TO THE FUTURE OF OUR STATE THAT WE IGNORED IT AT
OUR OWN PERIL. AND I SAID THAT REFORMING OUR STATE'S
EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM MAY WELL BE MY MOST IMPORTANT TASK AS
GOVERNOR AND THAT OF THE LEGISLATORS TO WHOM I SPOKE.

MY VIEW ON THESE MATTERS HAS NOT CHANGED.

WHAT HAS CHANGED, I BELIEVE, IS THE IMPORTANCE WHICH THE PUBLIC ATTACHES TO EDUCATION.

THROUGHOUT THIS COUNTRY, IN THE WAKE OF THE GREAT NATIONAL REPORTS WHICH HAVE BEEN RELEASED IN THE LAST YEAR, PUBLIC CONCERN ABOUT EDUCATION HAS GROWN. THAT CONCERN IS REFLECTED IN SURVEY AFTER SURVEY. WHEREAS A FEW YEARS AGO EDUCATION RANKED NEAR THE BOTTOM OF ISSUES WHICH PEOPLE CARED MOST ABOUT, TODAY, IT RANKS NEAR THE TOP.

NEW JERSEY, OF COURSE, IS NO DIFFERENT FROM OTHER STATES. OUR PEOPLE CARE VERY MUCH ABOUT OUR SCHOOLS. THEY CARE ABOUT THE FUTURE OF OUR STATE, AND ABOUT WHAT A DECLINE IN THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION WOULD MEAN TO THAT FUTURE. THEY ARE CONCERNED WHEN NATIONAL REPORTS INDICATE THAT THIS MAY BE THE FIRST GENERATION OF AMERICANS LESS WELL EDUCATED THAN THEIR PARENTS.

TODAY, I AM HERE TO ANNOUNCE AN EFFORT TO BRING THAT CONCERN TO BEAR IN IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF NEW JERSEY'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

I HAVE WITH ME A GROUP OF LEADING CITIZENS FROM OUR STATE. ALL OF THEM HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN EDUCATION IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. THEY ARE JOINING ME TODAY TO ANNOUNCE THE FORMATION OF A BI-PARTISAN, GRASS ROOTS, CITIZENS ORGANIZATION WHICH WILL WORK FOR EXCELLENCE IN NEW JERSEY'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS -- NEW JERSEY CITIZENS FOR BETTER SCHOOLS.

I AM ABSOLUTELY CONVINCED THAT THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF NEW JERSEYANS WHO CARE DEEPLY ABOUT WHAT IS GOING ON IN OUR SCHOOLS, BUT WHO HAVE NOT BEEN INVOLVED TO DATE. THEY HAVE NO VOICE. THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY CAN DO TO MAKE OUR SCHOOLS BETTER, OR IN SOME CASES THEY DON'T HAVE AN EFFECTIVE WAY TO CONVEY WHAT THEY THINK CAN BE DONE TO IMPROVE EDUCATION.

NEW JERSEY CITIZENS FOR BETTER SCHOOLS WILL PROVIDE A VEHICLE FOR THEM TO EXPRESS THEIR CONCERN; TO COMMUNICATE THEIR VIEWS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION TO PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND TO THEIR FELLOW CITIZENS; AND TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN SHAPING THE FUTURE DIRECTION OF OUR SCHOOLS AND OF OUR STATE.

THE ORGANIZATION WILL HAVE SEVERAL FUNCTIONS. IT WILL SEEK TO INFORM THE PUBLIC, THROUGH PUBLIC MEETINGS, NEWSLETTERS, NEWSPAPER ARTICLES, AND OTHER MEANS, ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION TO NEW JERSEY'S FUTURE, AND ABOUT EFFORTS TO PROMOTE EXCELLENCE IN NEW JERSEY'S SCHOOLS. IT WILL WORK TO SUPPORT THE REFORMS NEEDED TO MAKE NEW JERSEY'S SCHOOLS THE BEST IN THE NATION.

BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY, IT WILL BE A GRASS ROOTS ORGANIZATION THROUGH WHICH NEW JERSEY CITIZENS CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT THEIR SCHOOLS.

I HAVE WITH ME TODAY THE GROUP OF DISTINGUISHED NEW JERSEYANS WHICH HAS BANDED TOGETHER TO FOUND THIS IMPORTANT ORGANIZATION.

AT THIS TIME, I WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE THE CO-CHAIRS OF NEW JERSEY CITIZENS FOR BETTER SCHOOLS.

MRS. TERRY CHRISTIANO IS A HISTORY TEACHER AT MORRIS KNOLLS HIGH SCHOOL IN MORRIS COUNTY. AS SUCH, SHE IS PARTICULARLY FAMILIAR WITH THE PROBLEMS AND THE PROMISE OF NEW JERSEY'S SCHOOL SYSTEM. WE ARE ESPECIALLY FORTUNATE TO HAVE TERRY HEADING UP THIS EFFORT, BECAUSE TERRY WAS NAMED NEW JERSEY'S "TEACHER OF THE YEAR" FOR THE 1983-1984 SCHOOL YEAR.

TERRY:

(CHRISTIANO SPEAKS)

OUR OTHER CO-CHAIR HAS BEEN A LEADER IN NEW JERSEY EDUCATION FOR MANY, MANY YEARS. HE IS THE HONORABLE RAY BATEMAN, THE FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE NEW JERSEY STATE SENATE.

RAY:

(BATEMAN SPEAKS)

LET ME NOW INTRODUCE THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE FOUNDERS
COMMITTEE OF NEW JERSEY CITIZENS FOR BETTER SCHOOLS:

(SEE ATTACHED LIST)

FOUNDERS COMMITTEE

HAIRS

Donald H. Bateman, Sr.
President
Public Affairs Consultants
Former State Senator

Terry Christiano
Vocational Teacher (Grades 10-11)
Morris Knolls High School-Morris County
1983-1984 Teacher of the Year

MEMBERS

Mrs. Lillian Augustine
Day Kindergarten Teacher
North Amboy Public Schools
1981-1982 Teacher of the Year

Edward J. Bloustein, President
Managers, The State University of NJ

Mary B. Burch
Managers, Inc.
Educational & Cultural Youth
Center in Newark

Robert Burstein, Esq.
Lawyer, Gelman & Weiss
Chairman, Special Education Comm.
Former State Assemblyman

Robert J. Campanella, President
New Jersey Bell Telephone Company

Mrs. Penny Cipolone
Vocational Teacher (Grades 8-12)
Newark Regional High School
1982-1983 Teacher of the Year

Mrs. Riletta Cream, Principal
Linden High School

Mrs. Janice G. Dennis
Member & Past President of the
Linwood Board of Education

Mrs. Vera King Farris, President
Richard Stockton State College

Marie Fitchett, President
New Jersey PTA

Harry A. Galinsky, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools
Morris School District

Jon Hanson, Chairman
Hampshire Management Company

John Lloyd Huck, President
& Chief Operating Officer
Merck & Company, Inc.

Lorraine Laneville Jones, M.D.
Pediatrician, Plainfield
Member, Muhlenberg Hospital
Board of Governors

Nancy Lane, Vice President
Personnel & Administration
Ortho Diagnostic Systems, Inc.
Division of Johnson & Johnson

Peter L. Levine, President
Levcom Shopping Developers

Richard B. McGlynn, Esq.
Stryker, Tams & Dills

Most Reverend John C. Reiss,
D.D., J.C.D.
Bishop of Trenton

Gerard Russoniello, Principal
Public School Number Twenty
Jersey City

James A. Skidmore, Jr.
Chairman, President &
Chief Executive Officer
Science Management Corporation

Norman Tanzman, Senior Partner
Jacobson, Goldfarb &
Tanzman Associates
Former State Senator