

REMARKS OF GOVERNOR THOMAS H. KEAN

LIBERTY PARK MONUMENT FUND RAISER

MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY

WEDNESDAY JULY 11, 1984

THANK YOU.

IT IS TRUELY A PLEASURE TO BE HERE TONIGHT TO HONOR AND RAISE SUPPORT FOR THE LIBERTY PARK MEMORIAL. A VERY SPECIAL THANKS GOES TO SENATOR FRANK AND LOUISE LAUTENBERG, THE HONORARY CHAIRMEN OF THE LIBERTY PARK MONUMENT COMMITTEE, FOR THEIR GENEROUS HOSPITALITY THIS EVENING. IT IS ALSO AN HONOR TO HAVE WITH US TONIGHT NOREEN BODMAN THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MONUMENT COMMITTEE AS WELL AS THE COMMITTEES CO-CHAIRMEN DAVID KOTOK AND MARTY BARBER.

IT IS THANKS TO THEIR LEADERSHIP AND YOUR SUPPORT THAT WE ARE GATHERED HERE THIS EVENING IN ORDER TO MAKE A NEW HOME IN LIBERTY PARK FOR NATHAN RAPOPORTS HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL, ONE OF MR. RAPOPORT'S MOST BEAUTIFUL WORKS.

NATHAN RAPOPORT IS WELL KNOWN AROUND THE WORLD, FOR HIS POWERFUL, MOVING STATUES. FROM THE WARSAW GHETTO TO YAD VASHEM, HIS WORK SHOWS THE SUFFERING, THE STRUGGLE, THE TRIUMPH AND THE SOUL OF HUMANKIND. HE GIVES US HUMANS WRESTLING WITH ANGELS. HUMANS FIGHTING TO ESCAPE OPPRESSION. HUMANS PERSECUTED BY OTHER HUMANS. HUMANS REACHING OUT TO ONE ANOTHER. HE GIVES US THE HUMAN SPIRIT, ITS SHAME AND GLORY.

IN THIS NEW STATUE, WE SEE AN AMERICAN G.I. --- AN ORDINARY FOOT-SOLDIER, ONE OF MILLIONS WHO LIBERATED EUROPE --- TENDERLY LIFTING IN HIS ARMS A VICTIM OF THAT TERRIBLE WAR --- ONE OF THE MILLIONS WHO SUFFERED UNDER THE NAZIS AND THE AXIS POWERS.

THIS STATUE IS A GREAT TRIBUTE TO BROTHERLY LOVE. IT IS A GREAT TRIBUTE TO LIBERTY --- ITS TITLE. IT IS A TRIBUTE TO THE MILLIONS OF AMERICANS, MEN AND WOMEN, WHO WENT "OVER THERE" AND SET EUROPE FREE.

BUT IT IS MUCH MORE THAN ALL OF THESE, SINCE IT IS A GREAT WORK OF ART.

IT IS THE STRONG HELPING THE WEAK, NOT PERSECUTING THEM. IT IS ONE HUMAN SUPPORTING ANOTHER. IT IS THE INDIVIDUAL REACHING OUT WITH COMPASSION. IT IS A TRIBUTE TO THE HUMAN SPIRIT, AND TO THE DIGNITY OF EVERY HUMAN BEING. IT IS THE ULTIMATE TRIUMPH OF LOVE OVER EVIL --- OF HOPE OVER DESPAIR.

I THINK THESE ARE THE PRICELESS VALUES AND STANDARDS WE MUST REBUILD IN OUR HEARTS, WHEN WE THINK OF AMERICA, AND LIBERTY.

I WANT OUR CHILDREN TO KNOW THAT MILLIONS OF AMERICANS HAVE DIED TO UPHOLD THEM. I WANT OUR VETERANS TO KNOW THAT THE WORLD REMEMBERS. I WANT SURVIVORS TO KNOW THAT WE REMEMBER THEIR AGONY --- AND THAT WE HAVE THE COURAGE TO STOP IT FROM HAPPENING AGAIN.

I THINK WE'VE GOT TO REMEMBER ALL THOSE THINGS AND HONOR THEM. THIS IS A TIME WHEN OUR COUNTRY AND THE WORLD NEED TO UPHOLD COMPASSION AND FREEDOM.

THERE ARE MORE SINGLE WARS AROUND THE GLOBE TODAY THAN AT ALMOST ANY TIME IN HUMAN HISTORY. THERE ARE TWO THOUSAND UNITED STATES MARINES NOW IN WAR-TORN LEBANON. THERE ARE OVER TWO HUNDRED AMERICAN FAMILIES MOURNING THEIR BOYS --- WHOSE AVERAGE AGE WAS ABOUT 21.

LET US REMEMBER THOSE BOYS, DEAD AND ALIVE. LET US HONOR THEIR COURAGE AND THE COURAGE OF AMERICANS BEFORE THEM. LET US DECLARE THAT AMERICA'S PURPOSE IN THIS WORLD IS NOT CONQUEST, BUT LIBERATION. AND LET US STAND BY THAT PLEDGE, KEEPING OUR LEADERS TO THE PEOPLE'S STANDARDS.

THIS STATUE WILL STAND AS THE SYMBOL OF OUR STANDARDS. HE WILL STAND AS A UNIVERSAL SYMBOL OF THE AMERICAN COMMITMENT TO LIBERTY FOR THE OPPRESSED AND HELP FOR THE SUFFERING. IT WILL BE A STIRRING REMINDER OF THE AMERICAN THAT EXTENDED ITS HAND TO THE PEOPLES OF EUROPE AT THE END OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR. IT WILL STAND FOR THE AMERICA THAT HAS WELCOMED THE OPPRESSED FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD TO HER SHORES. THEY CAME FROM EUROPE AND GATHERED STRENGTH. THEN THEY WENT BACK TO GIVE STRENGTH TO THE REST OF EUROPE. THIS STATUE WILL BE A FITTING PARTNER FOR THE LADY WHO LIFTS HER LAMP OVER OUR GREAT HARBOR, THE LADY WHO IS OUR FIGUREHEAD OF LIBERTY PAST AND PRESENT.

THE STATUE OF WILLIAM PENN ON CITY HALL. THE HIGHEST LANDMARK IN PHILADELPHIA, IT IS A MONUMENT NOT ONLY TO THE MAN WHO FOUNDED THIS STATE AND MUCH OF MY OWN. IT STANDS FOR HIS QUAKER TRADITION OF TOLERANCE AND LOVE FOR ALL PEOPLE --- AND OF ACTION TO HELP THE OPPRESSED. ON ITS BASE IS THE BIBLICAL INSCRIPTION: "LO, I GO TO PREPARE A PLACE BEFORE THEE."

ITS COUNTERPART IN ISRAEL IS NATHAN RAPOPORT'S "SCROLLS OF FIRE," HIGH ON THE HILLS OF JUDEA, LOOKING OVER JERUSALEM. THIS MEMORIAL TELLS US HOW EVIL PREVAILS WHEN TOLERANCE, LOVE AND STRONG, ACTIVE COMPASSION FAIL. WHEN GOOD PEOPLE STAND IN SILENCE AND DO NOTHING. IT ALSO TELLS US HOW THE SOLITARY HUMAN SPIRIT CAN RISE ABOVE THE SILENCE.

AND IN REMEMBERING THE SCROLLS OF FIRE, AND WILLIAM PENN, AND THE STATUE OF LIBERTY --- AND ALL THAT THEY STAND FOR --- LET US ALSO REMEMBER THESE WORDS. THEY ARE THE VERSE IN THE BOOK OF ISAIAH, FROM WHICH YAD VASHEM TAKES ITS NAME.

"I WILL GIVE IN MY HOUSE AND WITHIN MY WALLS A MONUMENT ANDAN EVERLASTING NAME WHICH SHALL NOT BE CUT OFF."

THE STATUE IN LIBERTY PARK WILL BE OUR MONUMENT TO OUR BRAVE PEOPLE AND THE PEOPLE WHOM THEY HELPED.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US TO BUILD IT.