

REMARKS OF GOVERNOR THOMAS H. KEAN
NEW JERSEY STATE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
ANNUAL CONGRESSIONAL DINNER
WASHINGTON, D.C.
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1985

79

-1-

THANK YOU, DWAYNE (MINARD), AND THANKS TO ALL OF YOU FOR THAT WARM RECEPTION.

YOU KNOW, I ALWAYS ENJOY THE CHAMBER TRIP. IT'S SUCH A SPECIAL OCCASION.

YOU SEE THINGS THAT ARE SO VERY UNIQUE.

I MEAN, I DON'T WANT TO SAY THAT THE POLITICKING ON THE TRAIN AND IN THE LOBBY DOWN HERE IS INTENSE, BUT IT IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SEEN LOBBYISTS RUNNING AWAY FROM POLITICIANS!

THE TRAIN RIDE, IS OF COURSE, THE BEST PART OF THE TRIP. I LOOKED AROUND THE TRAIN TODAY, AND SEEING EVERYONE ON IT, I ASKED MY STAFF TO CHECK --- JUST IN CASE --- ON WHO THE ACTING GOVERNOR IS. WELL, THEY LOOKED DOWN THE LIST OF SUCCESSION, AND IT TURNS OUT THAT BROOKE SHIELDS IS THE ACTING GOVERNOR BACK HOME.

OF COURSE, I HAD A SPECIAL FEELING OF ALMOST NOSTALGIA ON THE TRAIN TODAY AFTER LEARNING THIS WEEK THAT AMTRAK MIGHT NOT BE AROUND THAT MUCH LONGER. I CALLED DAVE STOCKMAN WHEN I GOT IN, AND HE PERSONALLY ASSURED ME THAT AMTRAK WILL BE AROUND LONG ENOUGH FOR THE TRAIN TO GET BACK TO BALTIMORE TOMORROW. AFTER THAT, WE'RE ON OUR OWN.

SERIOUSLY, I COULDN'T HELP BUT NOTICE SOME OF THE POTENTIAL CANDIDATES FOR GOVERNOR FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE AISLE ON THE TRAIN. I WAS REMINDED THAT SOMEONE ASKED ME THE OTHER DAY IF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY WAS SLIPPING IN NEW JERSEY --- AFTER ALL, THEY'RE STILL SEVEN CANDIDATES SHORT OF THEIR QUOTA FOR A GUBERNATORIAL PRIMARY!

THE BEST PART OF THE EVENING IS STILL AHEAD --- THE HOSPITALITY SUITES.

YOU KNOW, YOU CAN'T TAKE ANYTHING FOR GRANTED IN THIS BUSINESS. I CAN UNDERSTAND THE OTHER GUYS, BUT CAN ANYONE TELL ME WHY BO SULLIVAN AND PAT KRAMER HAVE HOSPITALITY SUITES?

YES, THE HOSPITALITY SUITES, THEY'VE INSPIRED MANY A STORY.

LIKE WHEN EINSTEIN DIES AND GOES TO HEAVEN. HE'S MET AT THE GATES BY ST. PETER, WHO SAYS: "MR. EINSTEIN, IT IS A GREAT HONOR FOR US TO HAVE YOU. IF YOU JUST WAIT ONE MOMENT, I'LL ESCORT YOU TO YOUR ROOM AND INTRODUCE YOU TO YOUR ROOMMATES."

WELL, EINSTEIN GRUMBLES ABOUT HAVING TO HAVE ROOMMATES, BUT HE DECIDES THAT THIS ISN'T THE PLACE TO QUIBBLE.

ST. PETER AND EINSTEIN GET TO HIS ROOM, AND THERE ARE FOUR MEN IN THERE WHEN THEY ARRIVE.

ST. PETER TURNS TO EINSTEIN AND INTRODUCES HIM TO THE FIRST ONE: "ALBERT," HE SAYS, "THIS IS YOUR ROOMMATE IRVING. HE HAS AN I.Q. OF 170."

"THAT'S GREAT," EINSTEIN SAYS, "I WAS WORKING ON SOME NEW THEORIES WE CAN TALK ABOUT."

ST. PETER TURNS TO THE NEXT FELLOW: "ALBERT, THIS IS YOUR SECOND ROOMMATE, WILLIAM, HE HAS AN I.Q. OF 150."

"OH, GOOD," EINSTEIN SAYS, "WE CAN TALK ABOUT THE ARTS, OPERA, BALLET."

THEN, "ALBERT, THIS IS YOUR THIRD ROOMMATE, BEN. HE HAS AN I.Q. OF 110."

"WONDERFUL, I LOVE SPORTS. WE CAN TALK ABOUT SOCCER."

FINALLY, ST. PETER TURNS TO THE LAST FELLOW. "ALBERT," HE SAYS, "THIS IS YOUR LAST ROOMMATE, JOE. HE HAS AN I.Q. OF 70."

AND EINSTEIN SAYS, "AN I.Q. OF 70? SO TELL ME, WHAT ROOM IS YOUR HOSPITALITY SUITE?"

I DO ENJOY THE CHAMBER TRIP, BECAUSE IT'S A SPECIAL NIGHT FOR NEW JERSEY. IT'S A CHANCE FOR ALL OF US TO GET TOGETHER AS ONE, TO SHARE SOME SPIRITS, TO THINK ABOUT WHERE WE'VE BEEN SINCE WE LAST GATHERED, AND TO LOOK TO THE YEAR AHEAD.

IN SOME WAYS, IT'S THE KICK-OFF OF THE POLITICAL YEAR. AND OF COURSE, THIS YEAR, THE BIG EVENT IS THE RACE FOR GOVERNOR.

WELL, I HAVE A MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENT TONIGHT. I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THIS ALL DAY.

AND I WANTED YOU TO BE THE FIRST TO KNOW.

AFTER CAREFUL THOUGHT, AND AFTER SOME CONSIDERATION, I WOULD LIKE TO ANNOUNCE TONIGHT...THAT I AM NOT GOING TO TAKE THE TRAIN BACK TOMORROW.

NO, THE CHAMBER TRIP IS VERY IMPORTANT.

IT GIVES US CHANCE TO HONOR --- AND TO THANK --- OUR OUTSTANDING CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION FOR ALL OF THE FINE WORK THEY HAVE DONE IN THE PAST YEAR.

I'M GLAD TO SEE OUR TWO NEW ADDITIONS TO THE DELEGATION --- CONGRESSMAN DEAN GALLO AND CONGRESSMAN JIM SAXTON --- HERE TONIGHT. I KNOW WE CAN EXPECT GREAT THINGS FROM BOTH OF THEM IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

AND I AM SORRY THAT MARGE ROUKEMA COULD NOT MAKE IT. I AM SURE THAT ALL OF YOU JOIN ME IN SENDING MARGE OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY UPON THE DEATH OF HER FATHER. I THINK IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR US TO JOIN IN A MOMENT OF SILENCE IN HIS MEMORY.

FINALLY, THERE IS A CERTAIN BITTERSWEET SADNESS IN NOT SEEING JOE MINISH HERE TONIGHT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS. JOE SERVED THE STATE WELL --- AND JOE, WHEREVER YOU ARE TONIGHT, WE ALL SEND YOU OUR THANKS FOR YOUR SERVICE AND YOUR HELP.

1985 WILL BE A YEAR OF CHALLENGE TO OUR DELEGATION. WE WILL HAVE TO LOOK ONCE AGAIN TO OUR SENATORS, BILL BRADLEY AND FRANK LAUTENBERG, AND TO OUR REPRESENTATIVES TO STAND FIRM FOR NEW JERSEY'S INTERESTS.

WE'VE WORKED WELL TOGETHER IN THE PAST, AND WE WILL HAVE TO DO SO AGAIN THIS YEAR.

THE NORTHEAST, AS A REGION, IS DOING WELL, WE'RE BOUNCING BACK. AND OF COURSE, IN NEW JERSEY'S CASE, WE'RE ON A ROLL.

WE CAN'T LET THE FEDERAL BUDGET --- OR ANY OTHER FACTOR --- STOP THAT ROLL.

IN NEW JERSEY, WE HAVE A TRADITION. WHEN THE STATE'S INTEREST IS AT HAND, WE PUT PARTISAN POLITICS ASIDE. WE WORK TOGETHER. AND WE DEFEND, PROTECT, AND ADVANCE THE STATE.

THIS YEAR CAN BE NO DIFFERENT.

I STAND READY TO BE AT YOUR SIDE, AND I AM COUNTING ON YOU TO BE AT MINE, IN MAKING SURE:

- THAT FEDERAL BUDGET CUTS ARE NOT AIMED AT THE HEART OF THE NORTHEAST;

- THAT SUPERFUND IS REAUTHORIZED AND EXPANDED SO THAT WE CAN GET ON WITH THE BUSINESS OF CLEANING UP TOXIC WASTES;

- THAT THE TAX SYSTEM TREATS NEW JERSEY FAIRLY;

- AND THAT WE PUT THE PIECES IN PLACE TO MAKE 1985 AN EVEN BETTER ECONOMIC YEAR FOR NEW JERSEY THAN 1984.

AND WE SIT HERE TONIGHT, 1985 STANDS TO BE ONE OF THE BEST YEARS WE'VE EVER HAD TOGETHER.

THAT'S NO MISTAKE.

THIS ADMINISTRATION, THIS DELEGATION, THIS CHAMBER, THIS FAMILY OF NEW JERSEY, HAS BEEN THROUGH A LOT TOGETHER IN THESE LAST FEW YEARS.

WE'VE BEEN BUILDING --- BLOCK BY BLOCK --- A BETTER NEW JERSEY.

WE'VE LAID, THROUGH MUCH HARD WORK, A FOUNDATION THAT GIVES OUR STATE A UNIQUE ADVANTAGE --- THE NEW JERSEY ADVANTAGE.

WE'VE GROWN TOGETHER --- FROM AN ALSO-RAN TO A FRONT-RUNNER; FROM A WEAKER NEIGHBOR TO AN ECONOMIC FORCE; FROM A FOLLOWER TO A LEADER.

THIS CHAMBER, AND SO MANY OF YOU IN THIS ROOM, HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THAT METAMORPHOSIS.

IN THE LAST YEAR ALONE, YOU HELPED PUT TOGETHER THE COALITION --- CHAIRED BY BOB VAN BUREN, AND AIDED SO ABLY BY CHARLIE MARCIANTE AND JIM GROGAN --- THAT PASSED THE TRANSPORTATION TRUST FUND.

THAT'S A JOB CREATOR. IT'S GOING TO ATTRACT COMPANIES. IT'S GOING TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR BUSINESSES IN NEW JERSEY TO PROVIDE GOODS AND SERVICES. IT'S GOING TO BUILD THAT NEW JERSEY ADVANTAGE.

YOU HELPED, UNDER THE COALITION LED BY DAVE SHERWOOD AND JOHN FEEHAN, PASS THE JOBS, SCIENCE, AND TECHNOLOGY BOND ISSUE.

THAT'S A JOB CREATOR. IT'S GOING TO PUSH NEW JERSEY TO THE FOREFRONT OF THE HIGH TECH AGE. IT'S GOING TO HELP US ATTRACT NEW FIRMS WELL INTO THE NEXT CENTURY. AND IT'S GOING TO CEMENT THE KIND OF COOPERATION BETWEEN ALL SECTORS OF NEW JERSEY --- BUSINESS, GOVERNMENT, LABOR, ACADEMIA --- WHICH IS THE HALLMARK OF NEW JERSEY; AND WHICH IS SO EVIDENT HERE TONIGHT.

WE FORMED THE COMMISSION, WITH JOE HOFFMAN, FRED WESTPHAL, BRUCE COE, ARCHIE COLE, AND CHARLIE MARCIANTE, WHICH LED TO THE LONG-AWAITED REFORM OF OUR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SYSTEM.

AND THIS YEAR, WE'RE GOING TO FINISH PAYING BACK OUR DEBT TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT --- SO WE CAN REMOVE THE SURCHARGE THAT DEBT SADDLED ON BUSINESSES IN THE STATE. SO THE WORK OF THAT COMMISSION WAS A JOB CREATOR.

AND THOSE ARE JUST THE HIGHLIGHTS. WE'RE STILL, AS A STATE, BENEFITING FROM THE SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS AND TAXPAYER SAVINGS OF THE GOVERNOR'S MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT PLAN, SPEARHEADED BY ROCCO MARANO, DAVE CLARE, AND BOB FERGUSON.

IN TOTAL, WE'VE GROWN UP AS A STATE BECAUSE WE'VE GROWN TOGETHER AS A FAMILY. WE'VE LOOKED AT OUR NEEDS --- AND WE'VE PLANNED WISELY, WORKED HARD, AND MET THEM.

NEW JERSEY IS AT A PLACE WHERE SO MANY OTHER STATES WANT TO BE.

NEW JERSEY IS A PLACE WHERE SO MANY COMPANIES --- AND SO MANY JOBS --- WANT TO BE. AND BY THE WAY, I WANT TO WORK WITH YOU TO SEE IF WE CAN'T MAKE GENERAL MOTORS' SATURN CORPORATION ONE OF THOSE COMPANIES.

I'VE SAID IT BEFORE, AND I'LL SAY IT AGAIN TONIGHT: THESE ARE GREAT TIMES TO BE A NEW JERSEYAN.

BUT THERE ARE SOME CHALLENGES AHEAD.

OUR FAMILY OF NEW JERSEY HAS TO STICK TOGETHER --- TO MEET FUTURE NEEDS, TO WARD OFF TROUBLE, TO KEEP ON GROWING.

WITH ALL OF US TOGETHER CARRYING SOME OF THE LOAD, NEW JERSEY HAS COME A LONG WAY. IT'S BEEN A GROUP EFFORT --- FUELED BY THE KIND OF COALITIONS I'VE MENTIONED TONIGHT, ACCELERATED BY HARD WORK, AND DRIVEN BY A SPIRIT OF COOPERATION.

NOW, WE'VE GOT TO TAKE HER EVEN FURTHER.

I SAID IN MY ANNUAL MESSAGE THAT WE'RE GOING TO MAKE 1985 THE YEAR OF THE ENVIRONMENT IN NEW JERSEY.

THAT'S GOOD FOR BUSINESS, IT'S GOOD FOR JOBS.

IT'S GOOD BECAUSE IT WILL MAKE NEW JERSEY A BETTER PLACE IN WHICH TO LIVE AND WORK. THAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE.

AND TONIGHT, I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU FOR ANOTHER COALITION. A COALITION FOR A CLEAN NEW JERSEY.

A COALITION THAT WILL HELP PASS THE BOND ISSUE WE NEED TO CLEAN UP TOXIC WASTES, BUILD SEWAGE TREATMENT PROJECTS, AND GET GOING WITH RESOURCE RECOVERY TO MAKE SOMETHING USEFUL OUT OF OUR GARBAGE.

A COALITION THAT WILL HELP SECURE NEW JERSEY'S FUTURE, AND MAKE SURE THAT IT'S EVEN BETTER THAN THE PAST WE'VE HELPED CREATE.

A COALITION THAT WILL SHOW THAT OUR FAMILY OF NEW JERSEY --- OUR FAMILY OF BUSINESS, GOVERNMENT, LABOR, AND EVERYDAY CITIZENS --- IS STRONGER THAN EVER.

THAT'S MY REQUEST TO YOU TONIGHT.

I'VE ENJOYED TONIGHT, AND I WANT TO THANK THE CHAMBER.

I'VE ENJOYED THIS PAST YEAR, AND I WANT TO THANK THE CHAMBER IN PART FOR THAT, TOO.

BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY, I WANT EVERYONE IN THIS ROOM, AND ALL THOSE BACK HOME IN NEW JERSEY, TO ENJOY THE DAYS AHEAD --- THE YEARS AHEAD --- MORE THAN EVER.

-17-

THAT'S THE ESSENCE OF OUR CHALLENGE.

THAT'S THE TASK WHICH LIES AHEAD.

THANK YOU.