

REMARKS OF GOVERNOR THOMAS H. KEAN

MIDDLESEX COUNTY REPUBLICAN CONVENTION

PISCATAWAY, NEW JERSEY

APRIL 13, 1985

THANK YOU, BOB, AND THANK YOU ALL FOR THAT TREMENDOUS
RECEPTION.

YOU KNOW, I HAVE FOND MEMORIES OF THIS CONVENTION.

FOUR YEARS AGO, AT YOUR VERY FIRST CONVENTION, YOU HAD
TO SELECT A CANDIDATE FOR GOVERNOR. THERE WERE MANY
CANDIDATES IN THAT PRIMARY.

WELL, YOU DID SELECT A CANDIDATE.

YOU SELECTED ME. I REMEMBER. AND I AM GRATEFUL.

AND FOUR YEARS AGO, IN THE JUNE PRIMARY, YOU SELECTED
AGAIN. YOU -- THE LEADERSHIP OF MIDDLESEX COUNTY --
DELIVERED THE ENTIRE COUNTY FOR TOM KEAN FOR GOVERNOR. I
REMEMBER. AND I AM GRATEFUL.

TODAY, I AM RETURNING TO YOUR CONVENTION -- TO
MIDDLESEX COUNTY -- WITH A DIFFERENT SITUATION, AND WITH A
DIFFERENT AGENDA.

FOUR YEARS AGO, ON THAT APRIL SATURDAY WHEN I CAME BEFORE YOU, WE HAD A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNOR. THE STATE, FRANKLY, WAS WHAT BOB MAIN JUST CALLED IT -- A MESS.

OUR UNEMPLOYMENT WAS HIGH -- HIGHER THAN THE NATIONAL AVERAGE. BUSINESSES WERE LOSING CONFIDENCE IN THE STATE -- AND LEAVING.

PARENTS WERE LOSING CONFIDENCE IN OUR SCHOOLS, AND THEIR CHILDREN WERE SUFFERING FOR IT. CRIME WAS HIGH -- TOO HIGH.

PEOPLE WERE EMBARRASSED TO SAY THEY WERE FROM NEW JERSEY.

WELL, NO MORE.

ALL THAT HAS CHANGED. AND I, FOR ONE, AM VERY, VERY PROUD TO BE FROM NEW JERSEY.

NEW JERSEY IS ON A ROLL.

WE'RE IN THE MIDST OF THE GREATEST JOB SURGE HERE IN FORTY YEARS!

UNEMPLOYMENT IS DOWN, AND THE INCOME OF YOUR AVERAGE
NEW JERSEYAN IS UP.

CRIME IS DOWN FOR THREE YEARS IN A ROW, AND ECONOMIC
ACTIVITY IN OUR CITIES IS UP.

PESSIMISM ABOUT OUR SCHOOLS IS DOWN, AND NEW JERSEY'S
TEST SCORES ARE UP.

FINALLY, JOKES ABOUT NEW JERSEY ARE DOWN, AND PRIDE IN
OUR STATE IS UP.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED? NEW JERSEY HAS HAD A RENAISSANCE.
AN ECONOMIC RENAISSANCE, AN EDUCATIONAL RENAISSANCE -- A
RENAISSANCE OF PEOPLE.

WE ARE SHOWING THE WORLD WHAT A TALENTED, DIVERSE, AND
HUNGRY STATE WE ARE.

AND THE WORLD IS NOTICING. DOESN'T IT MAKE YOU FEEL
GOOD THAT NEW YORK AND PHILADELPHIA ARE NOW BEGINNING TO
LEARN FROM NEW JERSEY? TO FOLLOW OUR EXAMPLE. TO ENVY OUR
SUCCESS.

WELL, IT MAKES ME FEEL DAMN GOOD.

BUT WHAT MAKES ME PROUDEST OF ALL IS THAT NEW JERSEY'S
EMERGENCE, THIS GROWTH, THIS RENAISSANCE, HAS TAKEN PLACE
UNDER REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP.

WE EMERGED FROM THE SHADOWS OF EIGHT YEARS OF
DEMOCRATIC RULE AND BROUGHT OUT NEW JERSEY'S BEST.

NOW, IT'S PLAIN FOR ALL TO SEE:

-THAT WE ARE THE PARTY OF OPPORTUNITY;

-THAT WE ARE THE PARTY OF MORE JOBS AND BETTER SCHOOLS;

-THAT WE ARE THE PARTY OF LOWER CRIME AND A CLEANER
ENVIRONMENT;

AND IT'S PLAIN TO ME THAT, BEFORE LONG, WE WILL BE THE
MAJORITY PARTY IN THIS STATE -- AND IN THIS COUNTY!!

FOUR YEARS AGO, WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT THE
REPUBLICAN PARTY WOULD BE WHERE IT IS TODAY?

FOUR YEARS AGO, NO ONE WOULD HAVE GIVEN A REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE FOR GOVERNOR A FIGHTING CHANCE TO CARRY MIDDLESEX COUNTY.

WELL I'LL TELL YOU SOMETHING -- DON'T RULE IT OUT THIS YEAR!

FOUR YEARS AGO, NO ONE WOULD HAVE EVEN DREAMED THAT THE REPUBLICANS WOULD WIN SOME ASSEMBLY SEATS IN MIDDLESEX COUNTY.

WELL I'LL TELL YOU SOMETHING -- DON'T RULE IT OUT THIS YEAR!

WE HAVE GOT SOME OUTSTANDING CANDIDATES IN THIS COUNTY THIS YEAR. AND ALAN KARCHER AND HIS FRIENDS MIGHT JUST BE IN FOR A SURPRISE COME NOVEMBER.

YES, ALOT HAS CHANGED IN THE FOUR YEARS SINCE I LAST CAME BEFORE YOU.

THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT, I BECAME GOVERNOR OF THIS STATE. I THANK YOU FOR THAT. AND, OF COURSE, I NEED YOUR HELP THIS YEAR AGAIN.

THANKS TO YOUR ENTHUSIASM, THE REPUBLICAN PARTY HAS GROWN. AND TODAY, I WANT TO ASK YOU TO HELP IT KEEP GROWING. I THINK WE CAN ATTRACT A LOT MORE NEW FACES TO OUR RANKS, AND IT IS PEOPLE LIKE YOU WHO CAN DO IT.

AND FINALLY, THANKS TO THE WORK AND THE EFFORT OF EACH AND EVERYONE OF YOU -- AND OF MILLIONS OF OTHERS AROUND THIS STATE -- NEW JERSEY HAS BECOME A BETTER PLACE.

I THINK NEW JERSEY CAN BE BETTER STILL. AND I'M COUNTING ON YOU TO HELP ME MAKE IT BETTER.

THANK YOU, AND GOD BLESS YOU.