

10:45 am

REMARKS OF GOVERNOR THOMAS H. KEAN

AT THE

PUBLIC BILL SIGNING OF S. 2751

A BILL TO INCREASE FUNDING

FOR THE SAFE AND CLEAN NEIGHBORHOODS PROGRAM

MEADOWLANDS HILTON

SECAUCUS, NEW JERSEY

MAY 23, 1985

GOOD MORNING.

TODAY'S ENTIRE CONFERENCE IS GEARED TOWARD EXPLORING  
WAYS TO FIGHT CRIME EFFECTIVELY IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY.

IN EFFECT, WE'RE LAYING OUT A BLUEPRINT FOR A SAFER NEW  
JERSEY.

ONE THING HAS BEEN CLEAR BEFORE THIS MORNING'S  
CONFERENCE AND WILL REMAIN CLEAR AFTERWARDS: THAT IS THAT  
THE MOST EFFECTIVE CRIME-FIGHTING TOOL WE HAVE IS THE COP ON  
THE BEAT.

THIS MORNING, WE'RE HERE TO MAKE GREATER USE OF THAT BEST AND MOST IMPORTANT TOOL IN CITIES ALL OVER THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY.

WE'RE HERE TO SIGN A BILL TO DEVOTE STATE FUNDS -- \$25 MILLION -- TO THE WAR ON CRIME IN NEW JERSEY. THAT NEW MONEY MUST BE USED EXCLUSIVELY TO PAY FOR UNIFORMED POLICE OFFICERS.

AND IT WILL FUND THE ADDITION OF 1,000 UNIFORMED POLICE OFFICERS TO OUR LOCAL POLICE FORCES.

1,000 MORE COPS CAN GO A LONG WAY TO FIGHTING CRIME.

THIS BILL IS A SHOT IN THE ARM TO THE ONGOING DRIVE FOR SAFER STREETS IN NEW JERSEY.

AS YOU KNOW, I PROPOSED THIS ADDITION OF 1,000 POLICEMEN IN MY BUDGET MESSAGE TO THE LEGISLATURE BACK IN JANUARY.

AND I WANT TO PAY SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO SENATOR FRANK GRAVES -- WHO HAS EARNED THE JUSTIFIABLE REPUTATION AS MR. CRIMEFIGHTER IN THE NEW JERSEY LEGISLATURE -- FOR HIS COOPERATION AND HARD WORK IN STEERING THIS BILL THROUGH THE LEGISLATURE.

IT CAN TRULY BE SAID THAT NEW JERSEY IS -- AND WILL BE -- A SAFER PLACE THANKS TO FRANK GRAVES.

THE \$25 MILLION THAT THIS BILL PROVIDES WILL NOT ONLY PAY FOR 1,000 NEW POLICEMEN WITH STATE FUNDS. THE BILL ALSO INCLUDES SOME MATCHING PROVISIONS. THE 49 "SAFE AND CLEAN" COMMUNITIES WILL BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE A 25% MATCHING AMOUNT OF THE MONEY THEY WILL RECEIVE. AND THESE 49 COMMUNITIES -- WHICH INCLUDE OUR INNER CITIES, WHERE THE NEED TO FIGHT CRIME IS GREATEST -- WILL RECEIVE 65% OF THE FUNDS CONTAINED IN THIS BILL.

THE REST OF THE MONEY WILL BE AVAILABLE ON A 50-50 MATCHING BASIS TO ANY MUNICIPALITY IN THE STATE THAT MAINTAINS A REGULARLY ORGANIZED POLICE FORCE AND QUALIFIES FOR STATE REVENUE SHARING.

BECAUSE OF THESE MATCHING PROVISIONS, WE ESTIMATE THAT THE FUNDS WE ARE PROVIDING TODAY WILL ACTUALLY YIELD AN ADDITIONAL 2,000 POLICE OFFICERS FOR PATROL DUTY.

THAT'S 2,000 MORE COPS ON THE BEAT.

THAT'S 2,000 MORE PLACES WHERE THE MUGGER IS STOPPED IN HIS TRACKS BECAUSE HE SEES THAT BLUE UNIFORM COMING DOWN THE STREET.

THAT'S 2,000 MORE CHANCES THAT THE BURGLAR WON'T BREAK IN BECAUSE HE SEES THE SHIELD OF THE LAW NEARBY.

THAT'S 2,000 MORE STREETS THAT SOMEONE CAN WALK DOWN MORE SAFELY, REASSURED BY THE FRIENDLY PRESENCE OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD COP.

THAT'S 2,000 MORE TROOPS IN THE WAR ON CRIME IN NEW JERSEY.

AS YOU KNOW, WE DIDN'T BEGIN THAT WAR WITH THIS BILL.

WE'VE STEADILY ADDED LOCAL POLICEMEN AND WOMEN THROUGH THE SAFE AND CLEAN NEIGHBORHOODS PROGRAM THROUGHOUT THESE LAST THREE YEARS.

WHEN I TOOK OFFICE, THE SAFE AND CLEAN BUDGET STOOD AT \$16 MILLION.

THE SIGNING OF THIS BILL BRINGS IT TO \$50 MILLION THIS YEAR -- MORE THAN TRIPLE THE ORIGINAL AMOUNT.

THAT'S THREE TIMES THE PROTECTION WE'RE HELPING TO PROVIDE TO LOCAL NEIGHBORHOODS.

AS I SAID, COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT NEW JERSEY WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR THESE FUNDS.

BUT I'LL TELL YOU, IT'S IN OUR CITIES THAT THIS BOON FOR SAFER STREETS WILL MAKE THE MOST DIFFERENCE.

WE'VE BEEN FIGHTING TO BREATHE LIFE INTO OUR CITIES. WE'VE USED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANTS, URBAN ENTERPRISE ZONES, AN URBAN EDUCATION INITIATIVE, EVEN INCREASED FUNDING FOR THE ARTS IN URBAN AREAS.

BUT, AS I SAID IN MY BUDGET MESSAGE, THE BIGGEST SINGLE DETERRENT TO THE GROWTH OF BUSINESS IN THE CITIES IS CRIME. THE SINGLE BIGGEST REASON THAT FAMILIES FLEE THE CITIES IS CRIME.

AND THIS BILL STRIKES RIGHT AT THE HEART OF THAT PROBLEM.

THIS BILL WILL HELP US ERASE THE BLANKET OF FEAR THAT COATS TOO MANY URBAN NEIGHBORHOODS -- THE FEAR THAT MAKES AN EMPLOYER WORRY ABOUT HIS OR HER EMPLOYEES, THE FEAR THAT MAKES SENIOR CITIZENS AFRAID TO VENTURE OUT FOR GROCERIES, THE FEAR SWEEPS THROUGH TOO MANY STREETS AFTER DARK AND STRIPS THEM OF PEOPLE, OF ACTIVITY, OF THE VIBRANCE THAT MAKES CITIES ALIVE.

AS WE ARE SEEING AT THIS CONFERENCE, WE ARE WAGING A WAR ON CRIME IN NEW JERSEY. AND THIS BILL GIVES US THE MOST INVALUABLE WEAPON OF ALL.

IT'S ANOTHER STEP TO A SAFER NEW JERSEY -- AND TO A BETTER NEW JERSEY.

THANK YOU.