

REMARKS OF GOVERNOR THOMAS H. KEAN

ETHNIC ADVISORY COUNCIL

DRUMTHWACKET

FRIDAY, MAY 24, 1985

I WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME ALL OF YOU, ESPECIALLY THOSE
NEW MEMBERS OF THE ETHNIC ADVISORY COUNCIL WHO HAVE NEVER
BEEN HERE AT DRUMTHWACKET BEFORE.

IT IS ALWAYS A PLEASURE TO SEE THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE
SERVED SO WELL FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS. AND I ESPECIALLY
WANT TO THANK YOUR CHAIRMAN, GEORGE PAPPAS.

WE HAVE A SPECIAL HONOR TONIGHT: HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN
SILIAS (SIA - HAS) HAS JOINED US HERE AS GEORGE'S GUEST.
WELCOME, YOUR EMINENCE.

ETHNIC PRIDE RUNS HIGH IN NEW JERSEY. AS IT SHOULD.
WE HAVE A DIVERSE, AND THRIVING ETHNIC POPULATION. NEW
PEOPLE AND NEW CULTURES CONTINUE TO ARRIVE IN OUR STATE
DAILY. AND SECOND AND THIRD GENERATION FAMILIES WORK TO
MAINTAIN THE UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS OF THEIR ROOTS AT THE
SAME TIME.

THE ETHNIC ADVISORY COUNCIL HELPS TO FOSTER THIS PRIDE.
EACH OF YOU SHARES THE CULTURE AND TRADITIONS OF YOUR
COMMUNITIES, AND TOGETHER, YOU HELP GENERATE AN APPRECIATION
FOR THEM AMONG ALL OUR CITIZENS.

YOUR EFFORTS ARE SEEN THROUGHOUT THE STATE -- IN CULTURAL EXCHANGES; IN THE NUMEROUS ANNUAL ETHNIC FESTIVALS, MANY OF WHICH I HAVE ATTENDED; IN THE PRIDE OF OUR PEOPLE THAT CONTINUES TO GROW TODAY..

YOU ARE HELPING THE PEOPLE OF NEW JERSEY TO LEARN ABOUT THEMSELVES -- AND ABOUT EACH OTHER. ABOUT OUR MANY AND VARIED HISTORIES; ABOUT THE TRADITIONS WHICH MAKE US STRONG; ABOUT THE MANY FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO MAKING US WHAT WE ARE TODAY.

AND I MUST SAY THAT I, TOO, HAVE LEARNED FROM YOUR WORK. I'VE BENEFITTED FROM IT. AND IN SOME CASES, I'VE TAKEN ACTION TO FOLLOW UP ON IT.

AS A MATTER OF FACT, A NEW MEMBER, TOM KOMANTINI, FIRST APPEARED BEFORE THE COUNCIL TO INFORM US OF THE GROWING CONCERN IN THE JAPANESE COMMUNITY OVER THE REDRESS ISSUE FOR THE JAPANESE-AMERICANS INTERNED DURING WORLD WAR II. THE COUNCIL AGREED THAT AN APPROPRIATE APOLOGY AND REDRESS WERE NECESSARY AND I WAS GLAD TO PASS ON YOUR RECOMMENDATION TO OUR CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION IN WASHINGTON.

THAT'S JUST ONE EXAMPLE OF HOW THE COUNCIL CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

OF COURSE, THE MOST VISIBLE COUNCIL PROJECT AND PROBABLY MY FAVORITE EVENT OF THE YEAR IS THE ANNUAL HERITAGE FESTIVAL AT LIBERTY STATE PARK. BECAUSE OF YOUR DEEP COMMITMENT, THIS FESTIVAL HAS GROWN TO OVER 500 PARTICIPANTS AND IS ATTENDED BY WELL OVER 25,000 VISITORS.

NEW JERSEY IS STILL KNOWN AS THE GATEWAY TO AMERICA AND FOR OVER 100 ETHNIC GROUPS, THIS GREAT STATE OF OURS IS HOME. IT IS OUR JOB TO MAINTAIN OPEN COMMUNICATIONS WITH THESE COMMUNITIES AND MAKE THE PEOPLE OF NEW JERSEY AWARE OF THE HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF OUR DEVERSE ETHNIC POPULATION IN OUR OVERALL DEVELOPMENT.

I JUST WANT TO SAY THAT YOU ARE DOING THAT JOB -- AND DOING IT WELL. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.

THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING HERE TODAY -- AND ENJOY THIS FABULOUS GREEK FOOD WITH WHICH GEORGE HAS SO GENEROUSLY PROVIDED US.