

REMARKS OF GOVERNOR THOMAS H. KEAN

TO THE

NEW JERSEY STATE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL

AFL-CIO

LEOW'S GLENPOINTE HOTEL

TEANECK, NEW JERSEY

THANK YOU, JIM -- AND THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH.

AS I STAND BEFORE YOU THIS MORNING, HERE IN THIS
BEAUTIFUL NEW HOTEL, THERE IS A NEW SPIRIT ALIVE IN NEW
JERSEY.

IT'S A SPIRIT OF GROWTH.

IT'S A SPIRIT OF OPPORTUNITY.

IT'S A SPRIT OF PRIDE.

AND I MUST SAY -- I'M VERY PROUD OF WHAT NEW JERSEY HAS
ACCOMPLISHED IN THESE LAST FOUR YEARS.

WE'RE STANDING THIS MORNING IN THE MIDDLE IN ONE OF THE
BIGGEST CENTERS OF GROWTH -- ONE OF THE BIGGEST CENTERS OF
JOBS -- IN THE ENTIRE NORTHEAST.

WELL, I'M MIGHTY PROUD OF THAT FACT.

I'M PROUD THAT, IN NEW JERSEY, PEOPLE ARE GOING TO
WORK.

AND THEY'RE DOING IT IN RECORD NUMBERS.

SINCE JANUARY OF 1982, WE'VE CREATED OVER 300,000 JOBS
IN THIS STATE. THAT'S THE BIGGEST BOOM IN FOUR DECADES.

AND, THANKS TO THE HELP OF EVERYONE IN THIS ROOM, THERE
ARE MORE JOBS ON THE WAY.

ALOT OF THE FACES I SEE HERE THIS AFTERNOON, LED OF
COURSE BY JIM GROGAN, BUT INCLUDING SO MANY OF YOU, WERE
THE SAME FACES THAT ROAMED THAT STATE HOUSE -- A COUPLE OF
TIMES UNTIL THE WEE HOURS OF THE MORNING -- TO PASS A BILL
THAT IS A TURNING POINT IN NEW JERSEY'S APPROACH TOWARD
CREATING JOBS.

THAT BILL WAS THE TRANSPORTATION TRUST FUND.

AND IT WAS A TURNING POINT NOT ONLY BECAUSE WE WORKED TOGETHER -- GOVERNMENT, LABOR, AND BUSINESS -- TO GET IT PASSED; NOT ONLY BECAUSE IT MEANS THAT UNLIKE IN THE PAST WE'LL GET THE MOST WE CAN FOR NEW JERSEY IN TRANSPORTATION DOLLARS FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT; NOT ONLY BECAUSE WE'LL FINALLY BE ABLE TO ATTACK THAT \$3 BILLION BACKLOG IN ROAD AND BRIDGE REPAIRS.

THAT BILL WAS A TURNING POINT BECAUSE IT MEANT THAT NEW JERSEY, INSTEAD OF SITTING BACK AND WAITING TO REACT TO A PROBLEM, DECIDED TO AGGRESSIVELY GO OUT AND CREATE JOBS.

THE \$3.3 BILLION IN TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS WILL CREATE THOUSANDS UPON THOUSANDS OF JOBS IN AND OF THEMSELVES.

BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, THEY WILL LAY THE GROUNDWORK THAT WILL ATTRACT NEW JOBS IN THE FUTURE. NEW COMPANIES, NEW BUILDINGS -- IN SHORT, NEW GROWTH.

THEY'LL HELP BUILD THAT NEW JERSEY PRIDE.

NEW JERSEY'S ON A ROLL RIGHT NOW.

AND THAT TRANSPORTATION TRUST FUND WILL HELP US
CONTINUE THAT ROLL.

OBVIOUSLY, I LIKE TO THINK THAT I HAD SOMETHING TO DO
WITH BRINGING NEW JERSEY TO THE PROUD STATE THAT IT'S IN
TODAY.

BUT I'LL BE HONEST.

I KNOW THAT THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO HELPED CREATE
NEW JERSEY'S RENAISSANCE.

AND A LOT OF THOSE PEOPLE ARE REPRESENTED BY THE
LEADERS WHO ARE IN THIS ROOM THIS MORNING.

YOU AND YOUR MEMBERS ARE THE ONES WHO ARE DOING THE
WORK.

YOU ARE BUILDING THE ROADS AND BRIDGES THAT ARE MAKING
NEW JERSEY'S TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM THE FINEST IN THE NATION.

YOU ARE PUTTING UP THE OFFICE BUILDINGS THAT ARE GIVING
NEW JERSEY SUCH A TREMENDOUS ECONOMIC ADVANTAGE IN
ATTRACTING JOBS.

YOU ARE PUTTING THE BLOCKS IN PLACE ON WHICH NEW
JERSEY'S PRIDE IS BUILT.

YOU KNOW, AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT ONCE SAID SOMETHING
ABOUT LABOR.

HE SAID: "WHATEVER THERE IS OF GREATNESS IN THE UNITED
STATES, OR INDEED IN ANY OTHER COUNTRY, IS DUE LABOR. THE
LABORER IS THE AUTHOR OF ALL GREATNESS AND WEALTH. WITHOUT
LABOR THERE WOULD BE NO GOVERNMENT, NO LEADING CLASS, AND
NOTHING TO PRESERVE."

THAT WAS ULYSSES S. GRANT, OVER ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

BUT IT IS STILL TRUE TODAY.

AND THAT'S WHY I'M SO GRATEFUL TO YOU TODAY.

I'M GRATEFUL FOR YOUR SUPPORT -- NOT ONLY THIS YEAR, BUT
FOR ALL FOUR YEARS; NOT ONLY POLITICALLY, BUT
SUBSTANTIVELY; NOT ONLY IN WORKING TO WIN THIS ELECTION; BUT
IN BUILDING PRIDE IN NEW JERSEY.

TOGETHER, WE'VE FORMED A PARTNERSHIP: A PARTNERSHIP
FOR JOBS IN NEW JERSEY.

AND I'D LOVE NOTHING MORE THAN TO CONTINUE THAT
PARTNERSHIP FOR ANOTHER FOUR YEARS.

THAT PARTNERSHIP HAS BEEN AWFULLY GOOD SO FAR.

AND I'LL TELL YOU WHAT: YOU KEEP DOING THE
EVER-IMPORTANT WORK. AND I'LL KEEP DOING MY BEST TO MAKE
SURE THAT THERE'S PLENTY OF WORK TO BE DONE.

THANK YOU.