

REMARKS OF THE HONORABLE THOMAS H. KEAN

AT THE

PRESS CONFERENCE

ANNOUNCING THE FORMATION OF THE COALITION FOR A CLEAN NEW JERSEY

STATE HOUSE

TRENTON, NEW JERSEY

MONDAY, JUNE 10, 1985

GOOD AFTERNOON.

I STAND HERE TODAY FLANKED BY SOME OF NEW JERSEY'S
LEADING ENVIRONMENTALISTS, BUSINESS AND LABOR LEADERS, AND
MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS.

THEY HAVE OFTEN DISAGREED ON KEY ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES
IN THE PAST.

THEY HAVE COME TOGETHER TODAY, HOWEVER, BECAUSE THEY
ARE UNANIMOUS ON THE NEED -- THIS YEAR -- FOR A MAJOR
ASSAULT ON THREE KEY ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS FACING THE
STATE: TOXIC WASTE CLEANUP, GARBAGE DISPOSAL, AND SEWAGE
TREATMENT PLANT CONSTRUCTION.

TODAY, THEY ARE FORMING A COALITION, THE COALITION FOR A CLEAN NEW JERSEY, TO PASS LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD ATTACK THESE THREE KEY PROBLEMS.

AS YOU KNOW, I HAVE PROPOSED SUCH LEGISLATION -- ORIGINALLY IN MY STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATURE -- IN THE FORM OF A \$500 MILLION ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST -- THAT WOULD ACCELERATE NEW JERSEY'S CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS IN THESE THREE AREAS.

WITHOUT THAT TRUST, NEW JERSEY COULD FACE A FUNDING SHORTFALL IN CLEANING UP TOXIC WASTES, THE PROSPECT OF BUILDING BANS WHEN THE DEADLINES SET FORTH IN THE FEDERAL CLEAN WATER ACT BECOME EFFECTIVE IN JUST A FEW YEARS, OR A SITUATION IN WHICH NEW JERSEYANS HAVE NO PLACE TO PUT THEIR GARBAGE.

ANY ONE OF THESE IS INTOLERABLE, AND THAT IS WHY I AM GRATEFUL TO THE MEMBERS OF THIS COALITION FOR COMING TOGETHER AT THIS TIME.

MY PROPOSAL CALLS FOR \$175 MILLION IN APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE GENERAL FUND, \$150 MILLION IN APPROPRIATIONS OF UNEXPENDED MONIES FROM PREVIOUSLY AUTHORIZED BOND ACTS, AND PASSAGE OF A \$175 MILLION CLEAN NEW JERSEY BOND ISSUE THIS FALL.

I AM WILLING TO COMPROMISE WITH THE LEGISLATURE ON THE DETAILS OF THE PACKAGE. THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT WE PASS A PACKAGE -- THE SOONER THE BETTER.

IF THE PACKAGE THAT PASSES CALLS FOR A CLEAN NEW JERSEY BOND ISSUE, I WOULD EXPECT TO ASK THIS COALITION TO CONTINUE ITS WORK SO THAT THE VOTERS UNDERSTAND THE NEED FOR THIS PROGRAM WHEN THE BOND COMES BEFORE THEM FOR APPROVAL.

WE NEED THE MONEY TO CONTINUE OUR TOXIC WASTE CLEANUP PROGRAM, WHICH LEADS THE NATION, BUT WHICH WILL BE BROUGHT TO A STANDSTILL WITHOUT THE TRUST.

WE NEED THE MONEY TO HELP COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS BUILD WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS -- BECAUSE THE FEDERAL MONEY FOR SEWAGE CONSTRUCTION JUST ISN'T THERE, AND WON'T BE FOR THE FORSEEABLE FUTURE.

AND WE NEED THE MONEY TO MOVE AHEAD WITH CONSTRUCTION OF RESOURCE RECOVERY FACILITIES TO TURN GARBAGE INTO ENERGY, TO KEEP CLOSING UNSAFE LANDFILLS, AND TO BUILD LANDFILLS -- WHEN NEEDED -- THAT ARE SAFE.

ALL OF US HERE TODAY AGREE THAT NEW JERSEY'S FUTURE GROWTH AND CONTINUED PROGRESS HINGE ON PASSAGE OF THIS PACKAGE.

AS YOU CAN SEE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP, THIS IS A BROAD BASED COALITION.

THERE ARE THREE CO-CHAIRS: CHARLIE MARCIANTE, THE PRESIDENT OF THE STATE AFL-CIO, BRUCE COE, THE PRESIDENT OF THE NEW JERSEY BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (REPRESENTED HERE TODAY BY THE ASSOCIATION'S VICE PRESIDENT, JOE GONZALEZ), AND PEGGY HASKIN, ONE OF NEW JERSEY'S LEADING ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISTS, AND AN EXPERT ON WATER WHO CURRENTLY SERVES ON THE NEW JERSEY WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY AND THE DROUGHT CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

THEY HAVE DISAGREED IN THE PAST. THEY AGREE ON THE NEED FOR A TRUST.

THE COALITION INCLUDES ENVIRONMENTALISTS, BUILDERS,
LABOR LEADERS, BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES, AND MAYORS.

THAT RANGE OF MEMBERSHIP POINTS OUT A CRITICAL FACT:
THIS CLEAN NEW JERSEY PROGRAM WILL NOT ONLY CLEAN UP THE
ENVIRONMENT. IT WILL HELP CREATE JOBS IN NEW JERSEY. IT
WILL ENSURE NEW JERSEY'S CONTINUED GROWTH. AND IT WILL HELP
LOCAL GOVERNMENTS PAY FOR PROJECTS THAT THEY SIMPLY WOULD
NOT BE ABLE TO PAY FOR OTHERWISE.

SO PASSAGE OF THIS PACKAGE WILL NOT ONLY EXTEND OUR
NATIONAL LEADERSHIP IN CLEANING UP THE ENVIRONMENT, IT WILL
MAKE NEW JERSEY A CLEANER, SAFER, AND MORE ECONOMICALLY
HEALTHY STATE.

OUR GOAL IS NOTHING LESS THAN TO HAVE THE CLEANEST
STATE IN THE NATION. I THINK THAT'S ACHIEVEABLE.

AND I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT A CLEAN STATE IS THE ONE BEST
SUITED TO GROWTH; BEST ABLE TO ATTRACT NEW BUSINESSES;
BEST ABLE TO CREATE JOBS.

1985 SHOULD BE OUR YEAR OF THE ENVIRONMENT. IT CAN BE THE YEAR WE PUT IN PLACE THE BLOCKS NEEDED FOR BUILDING A CLEAN NEW JERSEY.

THAT'S WHAT THIS COALITION IS ALL ABOUT. I AM GRATEFUL TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE COALITION FOR THEIR WILLINGNESS TO WORK TO MAKE THIS THE YEAR OF THE ENVIRONMENT -- THE YEAR OF A CLEAN NEW JERSEY.

I ASK ALL NEW JERSEYANS TO JOIN THEM IN WORKING FOR A CLEANER, SAFER, HEALTHIER STATE.

THANK YOU.