

REMARKS OF
THE HONORABLE THOMAS H. KEAN
GOVERNOR OF NEW JERSEY
AT THE
PRESS CONFERENCE
ANNOUNCING THE ENDORSMENT OF THE
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY, AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES
OF THE GOVERNOR'S CANDIDACY FOR RE-ELECTION
CAPITOL PLAZA HOTEL
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY
JUNE 20, 1985

THANK YOU. THANK YOU ALL, VERY, VERY MUCH.

THIS IS, OF COURSE, A SPECIAL DAY FOR ME. A SPECIAL
DAY FOR A.F.S.C.M.E.. A SPECIAL DAY, EVEN, FOR THE
REPUBLICAN PARTY.

FIRST OF ALL, LET ME SAY HOW GRATEFUL I AM TO GERALD
McENTEE, THE PRESIDENT OF AFSCME, FOR HIS COMING UP FROM
WASHINGTON TO ENDORSE MY CANDIDACY TODAY.

AND OF COURSE, I AM ALSO GRATEFUL TO MY GOOD FRIENDS AL WURF AND JACK MERKEL HERE IN NEW JERSEY FOR THIS ENDORSEMENT.

BUT MOST OF ALL, I AM GRATEFUL TO THE 40,000 AFSCME MEMBERS HERE IN NEW JERSEY FOR THIS SHOW OF SUPPORT.

FOR THE LAST FOUR YEARS -- TOGETHER -- WE HAVE TRIED TO RUN A GOVERNMENT THAT IS EFFICIENT, YES; MANAGED WELL, ABSOLUTELY; BUT BEYOND THAT, A GOVERNMENT THAT HAS COMPASSION. A GOVERNMENT THAT CARES ABOUT THOSE WHO NEED ITS SERVICES -- AND CARES ENOUGH TO DELIVER THOSE SERVICES WELL.

I THINK WE'VE SUCCEEDED.

AND AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THIS STATE, I CAN TELL YOU THAT NO GOVERNOR IN THIS COUNTRY HAS A FINER GROUP OF STATE EMPLOYEES NOR A MORE DEDICATED LEADERSHIP THAN HERE IN NEW JERSEY.

TODAY IS A NOTEWORTHY OCCASION. SOME MIGHT EVEN SAY A LANDMARK. BECAUSE IT'S NOT EVERY DAY THAT A LABOR ORGANIZATION ONE MILLION STRONG, ONE OF THE KEY FEDERATIONS OF THE AFL-CIO, ENDORSES A REPUBLICAN FOR RE-ELECTION.

I THINK THE FACT THAT IT IS HAPPENING TODAY SPEAKS VOLUMES ABOUT WHAT WE'VE DONE HERE IN NEW JERSEY.

WE HAVE, IN THIS STATE, A LEVEL OF COOPERATION THAT YOU DON'T FIND IN OTHER STATES.

TOGETHER -- REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRAT; LABOR, INDUSTRY, AND GOVERNMENT; PUBLIC SECTOR AND PRIVATE SECTOR -- WE HAVE BUILT A BETTER, PROUDER NEW JERSEY.

WE HAVE TAKEN A STATE THAT LAGGED BEHIND OTHERS, AND THRUST IT AHEAD.

WE HAVE TAKEN A GOVERNMENT THAT SOMETIMES DIDN'T HAVE THE FAITH OF THE PEOPLE, AND PUT IT TO WORK FOR THE PEOPLE.

WE HAVE SHOWN THE COUNTRY THAT WELL-MANAGED GOVERNMENT IS NOT INCONSISTENT WITH COMPASSIONATE GOVERNMENT -- BECAUSE WE HAVE COMBINED THEM BOTH IN NEW JERSEY.

OUR STATE EMPLOYEES HAVE BEEN FULL PARTNERS IN BUILDING THAT NEW PRIDE IN NEW JERSEY.

TOGETHER, WE HAVE TAKEN LONG STANDING STATE PROBLEMS AND FACED THEM HEAD-ON.

COMPARABLE WORTH. WE SET UP A TASK FORCE BEFORE VIRTUALLY ANY OTHER STATE.

AND LET ME SAY THIS RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW: I SUPPORT THE INCREASE THAT THE TASK FORCE RECOMMENDED.

IF YOU HELP ME GET IT THROUGH THE LEGISLATURE -- I WILL SIGN IT INTO LAW!

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION. WE'VE INCREASED MINORITY HIRING. AND VERY SHORTLY, I'M GOING TO LAUNCH AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION SENSITIVITY TRAINING PROGRAM FOR ALL STATE EMPLOYEES. IT WILL BE THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN THE NATION.

TRAINING. WE'VE IMPLEMENTED COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT TRAINING FOR PUBLIC MANAGERS.

IN SHORT, YOU'VE SHOWN FAITH IN THE STATE BY WORKING TO
MAKE IT BETTER.

AND I'VE TRIED TO SHOW FAITH IN YOU, BY NEGOTIATING A
FAIR AGREEMENT -- AND BY SHARING SOME OF THAT SURPLUS WITH
YOU WHEN TIMES WERE GOOD FOR THIS STATE. BECAUSE I KNOW
THAT WE ASKED YOU TO TIGHTEN YOUR BELTS WHEN TIMES WERE
TOUGH.

OBVIOUSLY, THERE IS MORE TO BE DONE.

WE'VE CREATED 350,000 NEW JOBS. BUT I THINK WE CAN --
AND MUST -- CREATE MORE.

WE'VE IMPROVED THE SCHOOLS. BUT I THINK THEY CAN BE
FAR BETTER.

WE'VE LED THE NATION IN CLEANING UP THE ENVIRONMENT.
BUT THERE IS A LONG TASK AHEAD.

WE'VE EXPANDED THE COVERAGE THAT THE STATE PROVIDES TO
THOSE IN NEED -- BUT THERE ARE STILL THOSE WHO FALL BETWEEN
THE CRACKS.

TODAY, YOU ARE SHOWING FAITH IN ME.

I'M GRATEFUL THAT YOU FEEL I'VE EARNED THAT FAITH.

WHAT I ASK IS THAT YOU KEEP SHOWING FAITH IN NEW JERSEY.

BECAUSE I THINK THAT TOGETHER -- WE CAN -- AND WILL --

MAKE NEW JERSEY THE ENVY OF THE NATION.

THANK YOU.