

REMARKS OF GOVERNOR THOMAS H. KEAN

AT THE

FAREWELL DINNER FOR

GEORGE J. ALBANESE

COMMISSIONER OF HUMAN SERVICES

HYATT REGENCY HOTEL

PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 1985

THANK YOU, GEOFF (PERSELAY).

TONIGHT IS, I SUPPOSE, A FITTING NIGHT TO BE THINKING ABOUT HUMAN SERVICES IN NEW JERSEY. BECAUSE TODAY IS THE BIRTHDAY OF HELEN KELLYR, BORN ONE HUNDRED AND FIVE YEARS AGO IN TUSCUMBIA, ALABAMA.

HELEN KELLER, AS ALMOST EVERYONE MAY KNOW, WAS BOTH BLIND AND DEAF.

BECAUSE SHE WAS DEAF, SHE COULDN'T TALK.

BUT SHE LEARNED TO TALK; SHE LEARNED TO READ LIPS BY TOUCHING THE LIPS AND THROAT OF THE PERSON SPEAKING.

SHE LEARNED TO READ BY TOUCH AS WELL. AND SHE BECAME A PROFESSIONAL WRITER AND A CRUSADER FOR BETTER TREATMENT OF THE BLIND AND DEAF.

HELEN KELLER WAS A PIONEER IN HELPING US TO UNDERSTAND WHAT IS POSSIBLE FOR PEOPLE WITH HANDICAPS, WITH DISABILITIES, WITH NEEDS.

SHE INCREASED AMERICA'S UNDERSTANDING OF THE NEED FOR HUMAN SERVICES.

GEORGE ALBANESE HAS BEEN A PIONEER IN ANOTHER WAY. HE HAS BEEN AT THE CUTTING EDGE OF A NEW BREED OF MANAGERS -- A BREED WHICH, I BELIEVE, CAN GIVE PUBLIC SERVICE A GOOD NAME.

GEORGE ALBANESE TOOK THE BIGGEST AGENCY IN STATE GOVERNMENT, THAT HAD OFTEN BEEN CALLED UNMANAGEABLE, AND MANAGED IT WELL.

HE TOOK THE TASK OF DELIVERING SERVICES TO OVER ONE MILLION NEW JERSEYANS, WHICH MANY CALL THE MOST DIFFICULT JOB IN STATE GOVERNMENT, AND MADE IT LOOK ALMOST EASY.

HE TOOK A DEPARTMENT OF 23,000 EMPLOYEES, OFTEN
CRITICIZED IN THE PAST, AND MADE IT AN EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT
TEAM.

GEORGE ALBANESE HAS BEEN A GIANT OF THIS ADMINISTRATION.
AND WE SHALL MISS HIM.

THERE HAS BEEN, SOMETIMES, AN UNFORTUNATE MISCONCEPTION
ABOUT HUMAN SERVICES -- AND I THINK ABOUT GOVERNMENT IN
GENERAL.

THAT IS THE FEELING THAT EFFICIENT GOVERNMENT AND
COMPASSIONATE GOVERNMENT ARE SOMEHOW INCONSISTENT.

GEORGE ALBANESE HAS PROVEN THAT GOVERNMENT CAN BE BOTH
CARING AND EFFICIENT.

HE HAS DRAMATICALLY INCREASED THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE
SERVED BY KEY PROGRAMS -- HOME HEALTH CARE, COMMUNITY MENTAL
HEALTH, MENTAL RETARDATION PREVENTION, AND SO MANY OTHERS.
HE'S HANDLED THE INCREASED CASELOAD OF CHILD ABUSE CASES
EFFECTIVELY.

AND HE HAS DONE SO WHILE STREAMLINING THE DEPARTMENT,
MAKING IT MORE EFFICIENT, AND MODERNIZING ITS OPERATIONS.

GEORGE HAS SHOWN THAT GOVERNMENT CAN BE BOTH CARING AND
EFFICIENT.

AND THAT KIND OF MODEL PUBLIC MANAGER IS WHAT WE MOST
NEED.

GEORGE, YOU'RE LEAVING SOME VERY BIG SHOES TO FILL.

I RECALL THE STORY OF THE VETERAN CHARLIE GRIMM, THE
MANAGER OF THE CHICAGO CUBS.

ONE YEAR, THE TEAM COULDN'T HIT THE SIZE OF THEIR HATS
AND HAD SUNK DEEP INTO THE NATIONAL LEAGUE CELLAR. ONE
NIGHT, GRIMM GOT A CALL FROM AN EXCITED CHICAGO CUB SCOUT
WHO WAS IN SOME TANK TOWN IN NEBRASKA.

"BOSS," THE SCOUT SAID, "I'VE JUST STUMBLED ONTO A
GREAT PITCHING FIND. THIS AFTERNOON THE KID PITCHED A
PERFECT GAME. 27 STRIKEOUTS IN A ROW. NOBODY EVEN TOUCHED
THE BALL UNTIL A GUY HIT A FOUL IN THE LAST INNING. LISTEN
BOSS, THE KID'S WITH ME RIGHT NOW. SHALL I SIGN HIM UP?"

"NO," GRIMM SAID, "SIGN THE GUY WHO GOT THE FOUL."

"WE NEED HITTERS."

GEORGE, YOU'VE BEEN A HITTER. WE'LL BE VERY SORRY NOT
TO HAVE YOU IN OUR LINEUP ANY LONGER.

THANK YOU, FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART, FOR ALL YOU
HAVE DONE FOR THIS ADMINISTRATION AND FOR THE PEOPLE OF NEW
JERSEY.

AND THE VERY BEST OF LUCK IN THE FUTURE.