

REMARKS OF GOVERNOR THOMAS H. KEAN
AT THE
OPENING CEREMONIES FOR MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS
TEANECK, NEW JERSEY
THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 1985

TODAY'S OPENING OF THE BERNARD GIMBEL MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS CENTER SYMBOLIZES THE COURAGE OF THE PATIENTS WHO WILL BE USING IT AND THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS. THEIR COURAGE TO MAKE A BETTER LIFE FOR THEMSELVES.

AS I UNDERSTAND IT, THESE MEN AND WOMEN -- MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS PATIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN THE BERGEN-PASSAIC MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS CHAPTER -- MADE UP THEIR MINDS THAT THEY DESERVED BETTER. THEY DESERVED BETTER THAN HAVING TO GO OUT OF STATE FOR COMPREHENSIVE TREATMENT.

JUST AS THEY HAVE SO COURAGEOUSLY MET THE CHALLENGES PRESENTED BY THEIR DISEASE, THEY HAD THE COURAGE TO MEET THE CHALLENGE BEFORE THEM.

THEY INITIATED PLANS FOR A COMPREHENSIVE CENTER.

OTHERS MIGHT HAVE PRONOUNCED THE DIFFICULTIES IN REALIZING THIS PROJECT -- LIKE RAISING \$400,000 -- OVERWHELMING. THESE SAME PEOPLE MAY ALSO HAVE DEEMED THE DIFFICULTIES OF MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS OVERWHELMING. BUT THERE IS ANOTHER VIEW.

ALEXANDER THE GREAT WHO SAID: "THE COURAGEOUS LOOK ON OBSTACLES AS CHALLENGES." YOU HAVE PERSONIFIED THIS SECOND VIEW -- IN YOUR LIVES AND IN THIS LATEST ACHIEVEMENT.

THIS BUILDING ALSO SYMBOLIZES THE GENEROSITY OF BERNARD GIMBEL AND OF OTHER CONTRIBUTORS WHO THROUGH THEIR DONATIONS TURNED THIS CHALLENGE INTO A REALITY FOR THE MORE THAN 16,000 PEOPLE IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY WHO SUFFER FROM MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS. I THINK THAT WE ALL OWE A DEBT OF GRATITUDE TO BOB FRANKLIN, CHAIR OF THE CENTER'S BOARD, BOB LULL, CHAIRMAN OF THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN, AND ALL THE OTHERS WHO DONATED TIME, MONEY, AND HARD WORK TO BRING US TO WHERE WE ARE TODAY.

TODAY WE MARK A TURNING POINT IN OUR BATTLE AGAINST MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS -- IN OUR STRUGGLE TO HELP THOSE WHO SUFFER FROM THIS DISEASE LEAD PRODUCTIVE AND INDEPENDENT LIVES. THIS CENTER, FOR SO LONG A GOAL IN THE MINDS OF ALL OF US HERE, IS ALSO THE BEGINNING OF A BETTER LIFE FOR ITS PATIENTS.

I AM REMINDED OF A LESSON FROM THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR TAUGHT TO US BY A GREAT LEADER OF THE TIME, DR. BENJAMIN RUSH. AT THE END OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR, A FRIEND REMARKED TO DR. RUSH, "IT LOOKS AS IF THE BATTLE FOR INDEPENDENCE IS FINALLY OVER. RUSH REPLIED, "YOU ARE MISTAKEN. THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR MAY BE OVER, BUT THE BATTLE OF INDEPENDENCE HAS JUST BEGUN,"

AND SO TODAY WE MARK A NEW BEGINNING FOR MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS IN NEW JERSEY TO FREE THEMSELVES FROM THE TYRANNY OF THIS DISEASE.