

R.E.G.

REMARKS OF
THE HONORABLE THOMAS H. KEAN
GOVERNOR OF NEW JERSEY
AT THE
INAGURAL CEREMONIES FOR
THE HONORABLE THOMAS VEZZETTI
MAYOR OF HOBOKEN
HOBOKEN, NEW JERSEY
MONDAY, JULY 1, 1985

THANK YOU, COUNCILMAN VALENTE. (ANGELO).

TODAY IS A SPECIAL DAY FOR HOBOKEN. WE HAVE THE
INAGURATION OF MAYOR VEZZETTI. THE SWEARING IN OF HOBOKEN'S
NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS: PAT PASCULLI, HELEN CUNNING, JOE DELLA
FAVE, AND, OF COURSE, MY FRIEND ANGELO VALENTI. YOU ALL
HAVE MY SINCERE AND HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS AS YOU BEGIN YOUR
TERMS.

BUT TODAY IS SPECIAL FOR ANOTHER REASON AS WELL.

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-TWO YEARS AGO TODAY , ON A FIELD
IN PENNSYLVANIA, ONE OF THE BLOODIEST AND MOST DIFFICULT
BATTLES IN OUR NATION'S HISTORY WAS FOUGHT.

THAT WAS THE BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG, THE TURNING POINT OF
THE CIVIL WAR.

PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN GAVE A SPEECH ABOUT THAT
BATTLE A FEW MONTHS LATER. AND IN IT, HE DESCRIBED THE
CAUSE THAT WAS BEING FOUGHT FOR IN SOME FAMOUS WORDS:

"THAT GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE, AND FOR THE
PEOPLE SHALL NOT PERISH FROM THE EARTH."

(PAUSE)

MY FRIENDS, THAT IS WHAT THIS ELECTION, AND HOPEFULLY
THIS NEW ADMINISTRATION IN HOBOKEN, ARE ALL ABOUT: "
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE, AND FOR THE PEOPLE."

MAYOR VEZZETTI, YOU ARE INHERITING A CITY IN TRANSITION.

YES, HOBOKEN IS CHANGING.

IT SHOULD CHANGE. IT SHOULD DEVELOP.

BECAUSE DEVELOPMENT BRINGS JOBS. IT BRINGS RATABLES TO
KEEP PROPERTY TAXES DOWN. IT BRINGS NEW LIFE THAT CAN HELP
KEEP THIS CITY VIBRANT.

BUT THAT CHANGE -- THAT DEVELOPMENT -- SHOULD BE OF,
BY, AND FOR THE PEOPLE.

THE BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG WAS A BLODDY AND BITTERLY
FOUGHT BATTLE. IN SOME CASES, IT PITTED BROTHER AGAINST
BROTHER. IT CAUSED WOUNDS THAT RAN DEEP.

BUT FROM THE SCARS OF THAT BATTLE GREW A STRONGER
NATION.

THIS HAS BEEN A HARD-FOUGHT, AND SOMETIMES BITTER
ELECTION FOR HOBOKEN.

NOW THAT IT IS PASSED, IT IS TIME FOR HOBOKEN TO PULL
TOGETHER.

IT IS TIME NOW TO HEAL THE WOUNDS, AND -- TOGETHER --
TO BUILD A STRONGER CITY.

HOBOKEN IS A CITY FULL OF PROMISE.

TOGETHER, LET US REACH FOR THAT PROMISE -- AND LET US
FULFILL ALL THAT IT HOLDS.

HOBOKEN STANDS ON THE VERGE OF A NEW ERA. WE CANNOT
STOP THAT ERA FROM COMING. NOR SHOULD WE.

FOR THAT NEW ERA PROMISES A REBIRTH OF THIS WATERFRONT
ON WHICH WE STAND -- ANOTHER GOLDEN AGE FOR ONE OF NEW
JERSEY'S WATERFRONT JEWELS.

WHAT WE CAN DO IS MAKE SURE THAT THE GOLDEN AGE COMES
WITH DECENT AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

THAT IT BESTOWS ITS BENEFITS NOT JUST ON NEWCOMERS
BUT ON THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE LIVED IN HOBOKEN ALL THEIR
LIVES -- THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE BUILT THIS CITY AND MADE IT
GREAT.

THAT THE REBIRTH OF HOBOKEN IS A REBIRTH FOR THE PEOPLE
OF HOBOKEN --- ALL THE PEOPLE.

IN THAT, MAYOR, I PLEDGE TO BE YOUR PARTNER.

AS HOBOKEN DEVELOPS, LET'S NOT FORGET THOSE THINGS UPON WHICH THAT DEVELOPMENT IS BASED -- THE CULTURE, THE HISTORY, THE STRENGTH THAT HAS GROWN HERE.

I'M REMINDED OF A STORY OF AN ITALIAN COUNT -- COUNT SFORZA. HE WAS ONE OF MUSSOLINI'S CHIEF OPPONENTS.

IN 1928, HE VISITED NEW YORK. AFTER ONE OF HIS SPEECHES, A MAN CAME UP AND WISHED HIM WELL. THE COUNT ASKED THE MAN FOR HIS NAME -- AND WAS TOLD IT WAS PHILIP MATTHEWS.

"THAT'S NOT ITALIAN," SAID SFORZA. "NO," REPLIED THE MAN, "THE NAME WAS MAZZEI AND I HAD IT CHANGED TO MATTHEWS."

"WHY DID YOU DO THAT?" ASKED THE COUNT. "DON'T YOU KNOW THAT FELIPE MAZZEI WAS THE NAME OF THE GREAT ITALIAN POLITICAL PHILOSOPHER WHOSE LETTERS TO THOMAS JEFFERSON GREATLY INFLUENCED THE WRITING OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE?"

THAT STORY SHOWS SOMETHING. IT SHOWS THAT IN ADDITION TO LOOKING FORWARD TO WHERE WE ARE GOING, WE MUST REMEMBER FROM WHERE WE HAVE COME.

AND IT REMINDS US THAT AS HOBOKEN GROWS, HOBOKEN CANNOT FORGET ITS ROOTS.

I THINK WE ALL HAVE LEARNED THAT FROM THIS CAMPAIGN.

WE HAVE LEARNED THAT GOVERNMENT CANNOT LOSE TOUCH WITH THE PEOPLE.

AND I, PERSONALLY, HAVE LEARNED SOMETHING ELSE.

I LEARNED SOMETHING ABOUT EFFECTIVE CAMPAIGNING.

ON THE WAY OVER HERE, I WAS TELLING MY STAFF ABOUT THOSE LESSONS. WHEN I COME BACK TO HOBOKEN, I SAID, I'LL BE SURE TO BRING MY OWN BULLHORN.

IT SEEMS TO GET THE MESSAGE ACROSS LOUD AND CLEAR!!

MAYOR VEZZETTI, COUNCILMEN AND COUNCILWOMEN, CONGRATULATIONS. I WISH YOU THE BEST OF LUCK, I OFFER YOU MY FULL COOPERATION, AND I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU.

THANK YOU.