

INTRODUCTION OF GOVERNOR THOMAS H. KEAN

BY

THE HONORABLE LEE LASKIN

STATE SENATOR -- DISTRICT 6

YESTERDAY, I READ IN THE PAPERS THAT NEW JERSEY'S CRIME RATE DROPPED BY 5 PERCENT LAST YEAR.

THAT'S THE THIRD YEAR IN A ROW IN WHICH NEW JERSEY HAS EXPERIENCED A SHARP DROP IN CRIME -- AND THE THIRD YEAR IN A ROW THAT OUR CRIME RATE FELL FASTER THAN THE NATIONAL RATE.

THAT'S NO MISTAKE.

THAT'S THE PRODUCT OF A CONCERTED EFFORT, A CONSCIOUS POLICY, BY THE MAN I AM ABOUT TO INTRODUCE.

WHEN TOM KEAN RAN FOR GOVERNOR IN 1981, HE SAID IT WAS TIME TO GET TOUGH ON CRIME.

AND WHEN HE BECAME GOVERNOR, THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT HE DID.

HE SIGNED A LAW INSTITUTING A DEATH PENALTY.

HE SIGNED A LAW TO MAKE THOSE WHO COMMIT MULTIPLE CRIMES SERVE CONSECUTIVE SENTENCES INSTEAD OF CONCURRENT SENTENCES.

HE SIGNED A LAW TO PROVIDE TOUGHER SENTENCING FOR JUVENILES WHO COMMIT VIOLENT CRIMES.

AND PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANTLY, HE PUT MORE UNIFORMED POLICEMEN -- THOUSANDS OF THEM -- ON THE STREETS OF OUR CITIES.

BUT HE DID MORE THAN JUST ENACT TOUGH LAWS AND PUT THE COPS ON THE STREETS TO ENFORCE THEM.

HE BUILT THE PRISON SPACE TO BACK UP THOSE TOUGH LAWS. HE EMBARKED ON THE MOST AMBITIOUS PRISON CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM IN THE NATION.

AND NOW, WHEN 40 OTHER STATES FACE FEDERAL COURT-ORDERS TO RELEASE PRISON OVERCROWDING, NEW JERSEY DOES NOT. WE DON'T HAVE TO TURN CRIMINALS INTO THE STREETS BECAUSE WE DON'T HAVE THE PRISON CELLS FOR THEM TO SERVE OUT THEIR SENTENCES.

WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED ALL THIS BECAUSE THE MAN I AM ABOUT TO INTRODUCE IS A MAN OF HIS WORD.

HE SAID HE'D FIGHT CRIME -- AND HE HAS DONE IT. WITH ALL HIS HEART, AND WITH ALL THE RESOURCES AT HIS DISPOSAL.

SO IT'S A PLEASURE TO INTRODUCE, HERE IN SOUTH JERSEY, A MAN WHO HAS GAINED A REPUTATION AS A CRIME FIGHTER. HE'S ALSO GIVEN NEW JERSEY A NEW REPUTATION -- NOT ONLY AS A CRIME FIGHTER, BUT AS A STATE THAT LEADS THE COUNTRY IN MANY OTHER AREAS AS WELL.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY: TOM KEAN.