

REMARKS OF GOVERNOR THOMAS H. KEAN

AT THE

PRESS CONFERENCE

CONCERNING THE ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST PROGRAM

STATE HOUSE

TRENTON, NEW JERSEY

SEPTEMBER 11, 1985

GOOD AFTERNOON.

EARLIER TODAY, THE LEADERS OF THE LEGISLATURE ANNOUNCED THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE KEY COMPONENTS OF MY ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST PROGRAM.

I WELCOME THAT SUPPORT.

I HAVE BEEN SAYING FOR SOME TIME NOW THAT WE NEED AN ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST TO TREAT OUR SEWAGE IN ORDER TO KEEP OUR WATER CLEAN, AND TO PROVIDE FOR A SAFE, LONG-TERM SOLUTION TO THE QUESTION OF GARBAGE DISPOSAL.

NOW, IT APPEARS THAT WE WILL HAVE AN ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST.

THE PROGRAM THE LEGISLATURE AGREED TO TODAY INCLUDES A PROPOSED BOND ISSUE OF \$275 MILLION -- THE SAME SIZE AS THAT WHICH I RECOMMENDED IN MY PROGRAM.

SIGNIFICANTLY, THE PROGRAM INCLUDES A "TRUST" REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM -- ONE WITH THE LEVERAGED FINANCING THAT I HAVE PROPOSED.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT THE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM HAS LEFT THE DOOR OPEN TO APPROPRIATE OTHER MONEY TO THE TRUST AT A LATER DATE -- THEREFORE THE PROPOSAL WOULD ALLOW THE TRUST TO BE EXPANDED WITHOUT GOING BACK TO THE VOTERS TO AMEND THE BOND ISSUE.

THE PROPOSAL OUTLINED TODAY HAS EXACTLY THE SAME IMPACTS ON USER FEE INCREASES AS MY PLAN.

IN FACT, WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO REDUCE LOCAL USER FEES EVEN MORE IF WE CONSIDERED A STABLE FUNDING SOURCE FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT. I AM WILLING TO MEET WITH THE LEGISLATIVE LEADERS AT ANY TIME TO DISCUSS THIS.

IN VIRTUALLY ALL RESPECTS, THE LEGISLATURE'S PLAN IS SIMILAR TO MINE.

THE ONE NEW ADDITION IS \$30 MILLION IN CASH FOR LANDFILL CLOSURE ACTIVITIES. AS YOU KNOW, I HAD PROPOSED TO INCLUDE \$50 MILLION IN BOND MONIES FOR THIS PURPOSE.

I REMAIN SOMEWHAT CONCERNED ABOUT THIS PROVISION, BECAUSE IT FURTHER REDUCES THE SURPLUS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1986.

THAT SURPLUS IS ALREADY BELOW THE LEVEL RECOMMENDED BY THE STATE TREASURER, SO WE WILL HAVE TO TAKE A CLOSE LOOK AT THAT PROVISION AND DISCUSS WITH HIM WHETHER THIS ADDITION TO THE BUDGET CAN BE ACCOMODATED.

BUT, IN MOST OTHER RESPECTS, MY QUICK REVIEW OF THIS MORNING'S PROPOSAL INDICATES THAT IT CAN GET THE JOB DONE.

THERE MAY BE SOME ADJUSTMENTS THAT NEED TO BE MADE IN LANGUAGE, AND MY COUNSEL AND I WILL BE CONSULTING WITH THE LEGISLATIVE LEADERS ON THESE, BUT I AM ENCOURAGED THAT, AFTER YEARS OF DISCUSSION, THE LEGISLATURE NOW APPEARS READY TO ACT ON MY PROPOSAL.

INDEED, I AM VERY HAPPY THAT THE LEGISLATURE IS NOW PREPARED TO PROCEED WITH AN ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST.

CLEARLY, ACTION IS CALLED FOR.

THE NEED FOR CLEAN WATER DEMANDS IT.

THE NEED TO PROTECT OUR OCEAN DEMANDS IT.

THE NEED TO DISPOSE OF GARBAGE SAFELY DEMANDS IT.

THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF OUR CITIZENS DEMANDS IT.

AND IT NOW APPEARS THAT THE TIME FOR ACTION IS AT HAND.

WHEN I WROTE THE LEGISLATURE THIS SUMMER WITH MY CONDITIONAL VETO MESSAGE, I SAID THAT "WE CAN SHARE THE CREDIT OR WE CAN ARGUE ABOUT THE BLAME."

APPARENTLY, WE HAVE DECIDED TO SHARE THE CREDIT, AND I CONGRATULATE THE LEGISLATURE FOR ACTING ON THIS VITAL PROGRAM.

THANK YOU.