

REVISED

OPENING REMARKS OF
GOVERNOR THOMAS H. KEAN

AT THE

GUBENATORIAL DEBATE

SPONSORED BY

THE NEW JERSEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

BIRCHWOOD MANOR

WHIPPANY, NEW JERSEY

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1985

GOOD EVENING.

I'D LIKE TO THANK THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR
SPONSORING TONIGHT'S DEBATE.

FOUR YEARS AGO, I STOOD AT THIS SAME PODIUM AS A
CANDIDATE FOR GOVERNOR.

THIS STATE ONCE TURNED ITS BACK ON NEW JOBS -- AND ON BUSINESS. DURING THESE PAST FOUR YEARS, WE HAVE WELCOMED THEM.

WE ELIMINATED THE CORPORATE NET WORTH TAX, WHICH WAS KILLING SMALL BUSINESS.

WE PAID BACK AN UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DEBT OF OVER \$600 MILLION WHICH HAD BEEN LEFT BY THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION -- AND IN DOING SO, GOT RID OF ANOTHER TAX.

WE BEGAN REPAIRING THE ROADS AND BRIDGES WHICH HAD BEEN NEGLECTED IN THE PAST -- SO THAT BUSINESSES COULD MOVE THEIR PRODUCTS, AND FAMILIES COULD TRAVEL MORE SAFELY.

AND WE OFFERED ASSISTANCE -- TO BIG COMPANIES IN FINDING LOCATIONS FOR THEIR JOBS, AND TO SMALL COMPANIES IN GETTING STARTED.

THE RESULTS OF OUR NEW ATTITUDE ARE CLEAR: NEW JERSEY HAS CREATED OVER 350,000 NEW JOBS IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS.

OUR UNEMPLOYMENT RATE TODAY IS 4.4% -- LESS THAN HALF WHAT IT WAS -- AND FAR BELOW THE NATIONAL AVERAGE.

TODAY, WE'VE TAKEN ACTION AT 292 TOXIC WASTE SITES.

WE'VE SIGNED A LAW WHICH FORCES COMPANIES TO CLEAN UP SITES BEFORE THEY LEAVE THEM.

WE'VE SIGNED A RIGHT TO KNOW LAW TO PROTECT WORKERS, FIREMEN, AND FAMILIES.

AND WE'VE CREATED AN ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST TO HELP US KEEP OUR WATER CLEAN AND DISPOSE OF GARBAGE SAFELY.

TODAY, OTHER STATES ARE LOOKING AT NEW JERSEY AS A MODEL -- AND ASKING US FOR ADVICE ON HOW TO HANDLE THEIR ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS.

CRIME, WHICH HAD GONE UP FOR A DECADE, IS DOWN FOR THREE YEARS IN A ROW.

THE BUDGET IS IN SURPLUS. AND WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO SIGN TAX CUTS. IN THE INHERITANCE TAX. IN THE INCOME TAX. AND IN OTHER AREAS AS WELL.

NEW JERSEY IN 1985 IS A CHANGED PLACE.

A GROWING STATE.

A HEALTHIER STATE.

A PROUDER STATE.