

REMARKS OF GOVERNOR THOMAS H. KEAN

ELECTION NIGHT

HOLIDAY INN

LIVINGSTON, NEW JERSEY

NOVEMBER 5, 1985

THANK YOU.

I JUST RECEIVED A PHONE CALL FROM PETER SHAPIRO. AND IT
LOOKS LIKE THE RESULTS ARE CLEAR.

BEFORE I GO ANY FURTHER, LET ME SAY A WORD ABOUT PETER
SHAPIRO. HE WAGED A GOOD CAMPAIGN. A TOUGH CAMPAIGN. AND I
THINK THIS STATE HAS A LOT MORE TO HEAR FROM PETER SHAPIRO IN
THE FUTURE.

ON A NIGHT LIKE TONIGHT, YOU REALIZE THAT THERE ARE MANY
PEOPLE TO WHOM YOU OWE AN AWFUL LOT -- BECAUSE WITHOUT THEM,
THIS VICTORY WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE.

FIRST, I'D LIKE TO THANK MY FAMILY. THEY HAVE STOOD WITH ME, THEY HAVE SUPPORTED ME THROUGHOUT THESE PAST FOUR YEARS. IT HASN'T ALWAYS BEEN EASY, BUT THEY HAVE BEEN PATIENT.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK MY CHIEF OF STAFF, GREG STEVENS, FOR HELPING TO GUIDE THIS SHIP OF STATE SO ABLY, AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE FRIENDS OF TOM KEAN, BILL PALATUCCI, FOR RUNNING WHAT I BELIEVE WAS THE BEST CAMPAIGN THIS STATE HAS EVER SEEN.

AND FINALLY, I WANT TO SAY A SPECIAL WORD OF THANKS TO SOMEONE WHO IS WATCHING FROM A HOSPITAL BED TONIGHT -- THAT'S ANDY CONSOVOY, MY POLITICAL DIRECTOR, WHO DID A GREAT JOB.

MOST OF ALL, I WANT TO THANK EVERY PERSON IN THIS ROOM FOR ALL THAT YOU DID TO BUILD THIS GREAT VICTORY TONIGHT.

I KNOW THAT THIS CAMPAIGN DIDN'T BEGIN THIS YEAR. IT
BEGAN FOUR YEARS AGO, WHEN WE FIRST SET ABOUT TO TURN THIS
STATE AROUND.

IT BEGAN WITH ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE WORKED WITH ME IN
TRENTON AND ALL AROUND THIS STATE TO CREATE JOBS, TO IMPROVE
OUR SCHOOLS, AND TO CLEAN UP THE ENVIRONMENT.

IT BEGAN WITH ALL OF YOU WHO WORKED, IN EVERY TOWN IN
NEW JERSEY, TO BUILD A REPUBLICAN PARTY, FROM THE GRASSROOTS
LEVEL, THAT WAS STRONG ENOUGH TO WIN TONIGHT, BRAVE ENOUGH TO
EMBRACE NEW IDEAS, AND SMART ENOUGH TO INCLUDE EVERYONE IN
THE COMMUNITY.

THAT IS THE MESSAGE OF THIS ELECTION. THAT IF WE
INCLUDE PEOPLE INSTEAD OF EXCLUDING THEM, WE CAN DO ANYTHING.

IT APPLIES TO US AS NEW JERSEYANS. AS AMERICANS. AND
AS REPUBLICANS.

THAT JUST AS WE HAVE TURNED NEW JERSEY'S ECONOMY AROUND,
TURNED OUR SCHOOLS AROUND, AND TURNED OUR IMAGE AROUND, WE
CAN TURN ANY PROBLEM AROUND.

THAT JUST AS WE -- THE REPUBLICAN PARTY -- ARE A
MAJORITY TONIGHT, WE CAN BE THE MAJORITY PARTY IN THIS STATE
-- AND IN THIS NATION.

THAT THE PARTY THAT CREATES OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PEOPLE
WILL BE GIVEN OPPORTUNITY BY THE VOTERS.

YOU KNOW, TOMMORROW IS AN ANNIVERSARY THAT SHOULD MEAN
SOMETHING TO ALL OF US.

ONE-HUNDRED AND TWENTY FIVE YEARS AGO TOMMORROW, THE
CANDIDATE OF A BRAND NEW POLITICAL PARTY WAS ELECTED
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

THAT PARTY WAS THE REPUBLICAN PARTY, AND THAT MAN WAS
ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN PRACTICED THE POLITICS OF INCLUSIVENESS.
IN FACT, HE WENT TO WAR TO KEEP THIS COUNTRY TOGETHER.

HE TAUGHT US A LESSON THAT WAS UNDERLINED HERE TONIGHT.

THAT IT DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER YOU COME FROM NORTH OR SOUTH, WHETHER YOU'RE BLACK OR WHITE -- THAT WE ARE STRONGEST, AS A STATE, AS A NATION, AND AS A PARTY, WHEN WE ARE UNITED.

THAT, AS LINCOLN SAID, IF WE ARE EVER DESTROYED, IT WILL NOT BE FROM WITHOUT, BUT FROM WITHIN.

WELL, NEW JERSEY IS UNITED TONIGHT AS NEVER BEFORE. I'M PROUD TO HAVE BEEN THE CATALYST FOR IT.

BUT NOW, TONIGHT, I WANT TO ASK ALL OF YOU TO USE OUR NEWFOUND STRENGTH IN THESE NEXT FOUR YEARS.

I ASK YOU TONIGHT TO JOIN ME IN MAKING NEW JERSEY ALL THAT IT CAN BE IN THIS AGE OF PRIDE.

I THINK WE CAN BE A STATE THAT IS STRONG ENOUGH TO
ATTRACT JOBS, AND COMPASSIONATE ENOUGH TO PROVIDE FOR THOSE
WHO -- FOR WHATEVER REASON -- CANNOT WORK.

I THINK WE CAN BE A STATE THAT IS SMART ENOUGH TO INVEST
IN THE YOUNG, AND WISE ENOUGH TO PROTECT THE OLD AND INFIRM.

I THINK WE CAN BE A STATE THAT LOOKS FORWARD ENOUGH TO
PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT, AND LOOKS BACK ENOUGH TO REMEMBER
OUR PROUD HERITAGE.

AND I THINK WE CAN BE A STATE THAT IS THE ENVY OF ALL
AMERICA; THAT CITY ON A HILL THAT BECKONS ALL WHO HAVE
ENOUGH FORESIGHT TO FOLLOW ITS LIGHT.

YES, WE DID PROVE SOMETHING TONIGHT.

THIS ELECTION PROVES THAT PEOPLE OF ALL BACKGROUNDS, ALL POLITICAL PERSUASIONS, AND ALL AGES WILL COME TOGETHER IF THE CAUSE IS WORTHY AND EVIDENCE SOLID. OUR CAUSE IS BUILDING PRIDE IN NEW JERSEY, AND OUR RECORD SPEAKS FOR ITSELF.

THIS ELECTION PROVES THAT PEOPLE OF ALL RACES WILL SUPPORT A REPUBLICAN IF THAT REPUBLICAN REPRESENTS PEOPLE OF ALL RACES. WELL, OURS IS A VICTORY OF ALL THE PEOPLE -- AND OURS WILL BE A GOVERNMENT OF ALL THE PEOPLE.

THIS ELECTION PROVES, MOST OF ALL, THAT NEW JERSEY CANNOT BE STOPPED. THAT OUR POTENTIAL IS LIMITED ONLY BY OUR IMAGINATION. OURS IS A VICTORY THAT SAYS TO EVERYONE WHO WROTE OFF NEW JERSEY: "AIN'T NO STOPPIN' US NOW!"

I MENTIONED ABRAHAM LINCOLN, AND I WANT TO CLOSE WITH A FAVORITE STORY OF HIS.

ONE CLEAR NOVEMBER NIGHT, HE AND A FRIEND WATCHED WHEN A SHOWER OF METEORS FELL FROM THE SKY. LINCOLN'S YOUNG FRIEND WAS FRIGHTENED, BUT LINCOLN SAID: "LET'S NOT MIND THE FALLING METEORS, BUT LET'S KEEP OUR EYES ON THE STARS."

FOR TOO LONG, PEOPLE'S EYES WERE FOCUSED ON NEW JERSEY'S SUPPOSEDLY FALLING STAR -- THE SINKING METEOR.

TONIGHT, WE'VE GOT FOUR MORE YEARS OF OPPORTUNITY.

LET'S REACH FOR THE STARS!

THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH.