GOVERNOR KEAN'S FIFTH ANNUAL MESSAGE

GOVERNORS of ALL the STATES

R 4 1990 Neb. Ray A. Orr
R 4 1990 Neb. Ray A. Orr
R 4 1990 Neb. Ray A. Orr
R 4 1990 Neb. Richard H. Bryan
D 4 1990 N.H. John H. Sununu
R 4 1990 N.Y. Thomas H. Kean
D 4 1990 N.Y. Mario M. Cuomo
R 4 1990 N.Y. Mario M. Cuomo
R 4 1990 N.D. George A. Sinner
D 4 1990 Okla. Henry L. Bellmon
D 4 1990 Ore. Neil E. Goldschmidt
R 4 1990 Ore. Neil E. Goldschmidt
R 4 1990 S.C. Carroll A. Campbell Jr.
R 4 1990 S.C. Carroll A. Campbell Jr.
R 4 1990 S.D. George S. Mickelson
D 4 1990 S.D. George S. Mickelson
D 4 1990 Vt. Madeleine Kunin
D 4 1990 Vt. Madeleine Sunin
D 4 1990 Vt. Norman Bangerter
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Alaska Steve Cowper
Atiz. Guy Hunt
Alaska Steve Cowper
Atiz. Evan Mecham
Ark. Bill Clinton
Calif. George Deukmejian
Colo. Roy Romer
Colo. William A. O'Neill
Michael N. Castle
Fla. Bob Martinez
Ga. Joe Frank Harris
Hawaii John D. Waihee III
Idaho Cecil D. Andrus
III. James R. Thompson
Ind. Robert D. Orr
Iowa Terry Branstad
Kans. Mike Hayden
Marha Layne Collins
La. Edwin W. Edwards
Marha John R. McKernan
Md. William D. Schaefer
Mass. Michael Dukakis
Mich. James J. Blanchard
Mich. James J. Blanchard
Mich. James J. Blanchard
Mich. James J. Blanchard
Miss. William A. Allaine
Miss. William A. Allaine

FIFTH ANNUAL MESSAGE

Governor Kean delivered his Fifth Annual Message to the Second Session of the 202nd Legislature on the afternoon of its organization, Jan. 13, 1987. The Assembly chamber, the traditional setting for the annual message, was unavailable because of the extensive restoration work under way in the State House. Accordingly, the event was moved to the State Museum Auditorium.

The text from which the governor delivered the address, frequently departing as he spoke, appears below. The boldface headings were inserted by the Manual editors as reference aids for the reader.

The printed version of the message is much longer than the text the governor used for the speech.

MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE:

IT IS MY HONOR and constitutional duty to report to you on the condition of the state.

The state of the state is good—we have never been in better shape. While our friends in other states are in trouble, we are creating record numbers of jobs.

While other governors are preaching the "politics of less," we find new ways to share more with our children, the elderly, and the poor.

Continuing economic strength

Today New Jersey is a leader.

We have the third highest standard of living. We open new businesses at more than twice the rate of the rest of the country. We have the lowest unemployment in 16 years.

A newspaper in Dallas called us, "the economic jewel of the Northeast." We sparkle as a beacon of growth and opportunity.

Our success is not accident. The Bible tells us, "you reap what you sow." You and I have worked hard for our achievement.

New Jersey government in the Eighties is a tale of promises made, and promises kept.

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We promised to cut taxes. We returned almost three quarters of a billion dollars to the people.

We promised to rebuild our roads. The bulldozers and steamrollers

haven't stopped moving.

We promised to improve our schools. We launched a program that

is now a blueprint for the nation.

We promixed to be diligent and creative in protecting the environment; we watch our air and water get cleaner every year.

Together we put aside partisan wrangling and rhetoric and made

1986 our most productive year.

With the leadership of Senator Matty Feldman. Assemblymen John Rocco and Joe Doria, we gave our colleges freedom to pursue excellence.

Under the guidance of Senator Dan Dalton and Assemblyman John Bennett and Assemblyman Kathleen Donovan, we set our toxic waste cleanup on the fast track for another five years.

With the tireless work of Assemblyman Doc Villane and Senators Jerry Cardinale and Frank Pallone, we did what legislators have tried

to do for forty years: we reformed civil service.

Finally, we made sure that no one will ever be denied medical service because of their inability to pay, an idea promoted by Senator Richard Codey and Assemblyman Harold Colburn.

These are our glory days.

Yet, this is not the time to bask in the warm sunshine of success. In the shadows lurk dangers that threaten our continued prosperity.

I have been doing a great deal of thinking the past year about our state, and its future. About the opportunities and the dangers that lie ahead.

Today I lay before you a plan—I call it an opportunity agenda. I believe it is the way to pass our prosperity on to our children.

Its purpose is not to expand government, rather it is to use government wisely.

The opportunity agenda is a roadmap. From the very good state we

are today we can become the very best.

This agenda begins with one of the few issues left from last year's agenda.

Liability insurance

The cost of insurance is an albatross around our economy's neck. It is a greedy pickpocket that steals from working people their hardearned pay, and raises property taxes.

This fall, I received a letter from Maureen Dicker, a Middlesex

County woman who runs a dance studio for pre-school children.

Three years ago, Maureen paid \$900 for liability insurance. Two years ago it cost her \$1,500. Last year her bill was \$3,500. "If I raised my tuitions the way insurance companies raise their rates," wrote Maureen, "I would be out of business in a day."

Businesses aren't the only one feeling the pain. Our towns and cities

stagger under the liability burden.

In Toms River, general liability rose from \$261,000 in 1985, to over 1 million dollars in 1986—a staggering 311 percent increase for the same amount of coverage.

In Camden, the cost of liability insurance has gone up \$800,000 the

last two years. Who pays these costs? The property taxpayer.

We are going after the insurance companies. We adopted the toughest regulations in the country to control the way they set rates and cancel policies.

Now we must go further. We must find a way to limit the often exorbitant court settlements that force people like Maureen Dicker and towns like Camden and Toms River to pay outrageous rates. To

do this, we need two things.

First, we need to change joint and several liability. Second, we need to put a cap on outrageous awards for pain and suffering as suggested by Assembly Speaker Chuck Hardwick, Majority Leader Chuck Haytaian and Assemblyman Ralph Loveys.

Remember the magic formula: lower insurance rates mean lower

property taxes.

Auto insurance

Last year my two sons received their driver's licenses. I received the insurance bill.

For 10 years our motorists have waited for relief from the highest auto insurance premiums in the country. For 10 years the special interests have blocked the way.

The special interests have had their way too long. There is only one way to really reduce automobile insurance rates. The Assemly has already acted in the public interest. Now it is the Senate's turn.

This one bill will save New Jersey motorists over \$200 million dollars. That's like cutting the income tax or the sales tax. Let's take that money from the insurance companies and the lawyers and give it back to the people. Pass the verbal threshold.

Insurance is a front page issue. It slows the immediate pace of our economy. There are other, less-obvious, long-term threats to our

prosperity.

Job training and preparation

Our dynamic economy should create 600,000 new jobs in the next decade; good paying jobs, with bright futures.

But who will fill these jobs?

Will they be the graduates of our urban schools?

Will they be the workers who have lost their jobs because the

factory closed?

Or will businesses, confronted with labor shortages and high retraining costs, simply take their jobs to Korea...or Japan...or Brazil ...where the workforce is prepared?

This is the critical question of our time. New Jersey is going to find

the answer.

We need action in three areas.

First, job training. We have already done a good job here. But it is not good enough. Government and private industry must roll up their

sleeves and get to work.

I will form a task force to study our entire job training system. I want to bring labor, management and government together in a common purpose. Within six months I want specific recommendations on what it's going to take to keep New Jersey working.

Reform of the welfare system

Job training alone is not enough. We must get productive citizens off the welfare rolls. What's wrong with welfare? Ask a woman named Eileen.

Eileen is 18. She lives in Newark. She dropped out of high school in her senior year. She had to take care of her baby when she was abandoned by her husband.

Eileen's mother was on welfare. Eileen wants a better life.

She wants to finish school and become a nurse's aide—but if she goes to work, who will look after her baby?

And who will pay her baby's hospital bills until she gets health care coverage?

Eileen wants to work. The system won't allow her to.

Our welfare system treats work as an afterthought.

Today I propose a new welfare program that will given people like Eileen what they want and what they need: economic independence.

We call the program REACH. We plan a bargain with the welfare recipient.

REACH will provide child care, medical support, and transporta-

tion. In return, REACH participants will sign a written contract, requiring them to work or go to school.

When we offer that contract, we are saying to people like Eileen: You are valuable—we need you on the job. Our economy can't work

without you.

REACH goes beyond any other welfare reform program that you have read about. It goes beyond Massachusetts. It goes beyond California. It will be the first welfare reform to touch every welfare recipient.

It will cost some money. But if we can reduce welfare rolls by only

15 percent, the program pays for itself.

If you support this program, New Jersey can prove what other states only talk about—the very best welfare program is a job.

Improvement of the schools

Basic to our opportunity agenda is education. For five years we have worked together to improve our schools. We have made great progress.

But there is not yet cause for celebration.

A majority of students in a very few schools still cannot meet the basic requirements of a ninth grade education. I won't tolerate that and neither should you. We must not rest until every single student who holds a diploma is able to read and to write.

Then a New Jersey diploma can really be a ticket to a better life. But kids must understand that if they work hard in school, there is a

good job waiting.

Today I am recommending a new program—called 10,000 jobs/10,000 graduates—to help place 10,000 graduates of city schools in full-time private sector jobs by 1992. It will say to city kids—"If you can stick it out, if you can beat the city streets, if you can graduate, there is a job with a future waiting."

As you know, a handful of school districts, mostly urban, have deep-rooted problems. Their failure—our failure—is robbing children

of a chance for a better life.

Year after year, these schools warehouse children. Finally they let them out after 10 or 12 years, condemmed to a dead-end job and a dead-end life.

Last year I told you that we need the power to intervene in these schools when it is absolutely necessary, so that children receive a thorough and efficient education.

Assemblyman Joe Palaia, Assemblyman Joe Doria and Assem-

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blyman Frank Gargiulo, with Senator Jack Ewing, have bravely led on this issue.

This year, make it a top priority. Save the children—pass the

school-intervention legislation.

School is the center of our young people's lives. It is the one place where they all gather. And they talk. Too often their talk is about pregnancy, drugs, alcohol or an unstable home life.

We can help them.

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If we provide counseling about jobs; if we give them a shoulder to cry on; if we can help them to say "No" to drugs; if we can teach them the responsibilities of being an adult; then we can end those horrible midnight phone calls from police to parents, and save a lot of heartache and lives.

So I will propose a new school-based program to provide help for

our troubled teenagers.

New challenges for the colleges

Education is now a life-long enterprise. Colleges and universities have replaced the factory as the engine of economic growth.

Two years ago I dared our campus leaders to reach for excellence

through the Challenge Grant program.

They responded. A panel of national experts recently concluded that, "Higher education in New Jersey is substantially stronger as a result of the challenge." They said, "High school graduates have more reason than ever to stay in the Garden State..."

In my budget message next month, I will ask you to approve a third year of the Challenge Grant program. And I will continue to challenge Rutgers, NJIT, and our county colleges to reach ever higher until they

become the best at what they do.

There are no "spare" people in our economy. Within 20 years, one out of three children in New Jersey's schools will be from a minority background.

These children must go to college. They must graduate with high

standards. If they do not, our state will suffer.

I therefore ask our colleges to redouble their efforts to recruit minority students and to help them to graduate.

The Transportation Trust Fund, and a gasoline tax

Think of this state as a human being. Education, welfare reform and job training programs invest in the mind, but our body needs attention as well.

We need to keep our roads, highways and mass transit in top condition.

The Transportation Trust Fund will be out of money this June. Without this money, our roads, bridges, buses, and trains will suffer.

I ask you therefore to look ahead, to add that nickel to the price of gasoline, and dedicate it to New Jersey's future.

We need to renew the Transportation Trust Fund.

In the past, our roads have led from the cities to the suburbs. We now must reverse direction.

Help and self-development for the cities

"We will neglect our cities to our peril," John Kennedy once said,

"for in neglecting them we neglect the nation."

New Jersey's cities are being reborn. Newark, Camden, Plainfield, and New Brunswick are bursting with private investment. And some of the world's most impressive development will rise this summer on the waterfront in Hudson County.

But this new urban growth is tenuous. Federal aid is ending and the

cities need our help.

In the days ahead I will work with you to try to provide more financial help for troubled cities. But we must understand-more state aid is only a stopgap measure. Cities must not remain subject to the vagaries of state and federal budgets.

We must make the cities self-sufficient again. Only then can they avoid the annual budget crises. Only then can our cities say to businesses, homeowners and parents—"This is a solid community.

Plant your roots here."

We must take a page from Abraham Lincoln. The first law Lincoln signed as president was the Homestead Act. It offered a free tract of western land to any settler who had the will to develop it.

The idea was simple: Give people ownership and they will work to

protect and improve what they own.

I propose we put the same principle to work in our city neighbor-

hoods. Too many of our urban poor own nothing.

Give city residents a stake in their neighborhood development. Give them the power to build housing and own businesses. Let's make them a proposition.

They create a corporation and serve as shareholders. We find them business leaders to invest in their project. Everyone-rich and poor, residents and non-residence—has a share in the project. And everyone has a stake in the neighborhood's survival.

Residents would decide what their neighborhood needed—a groc-

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ery, for example. With help from the state and investors, the corporation would build the grocery.

People take care of something they own. And when the grocery prospered, so would the neighbors who own the stock.

For 20 years too often we have tried to do something for our cities, and we have ended up doing something to them instead. Let's break the chain of dependency. Let's give the neighborhoods the tools they

need to help themselves.

And I am tired of 70 different programs all claiming they are doing

something for our cities.

I will therefore create an Urban Affairs Cabinet Council to review all our urban aid programs. I will ask them which ones should be improved, which ones should be consolidated, and which ones should be eliminated.

Clarifying state regulations

As Assemblymen Bob Franks and Art Albohn have argued, state regulations are confusing. They frustrate farmers. They stifle small businessmen. They bedevil our volunteers.

For instance, I found this passage in Title 8 of the New Jersey

Administrative Code.

"The labeling of a cosmetic which contains two or more ingredients may be misleading by reason (among other reasons) of the designation of such cosmetic in such labeling by a name which includes or suggests the name of one or more but not all such ingredients, even though the names of all such ingredients are stated elsewhere in the labeling."

I want to appoint one person—a chief of regulatory efficiency—to review all proposed regulations to make sure they are necessary, as well as concise, unambiguous and written in plain English.

I want action on other priorities.

I renew my call for reform of our campaign financing laws. For initiative and referendum. And for a better means of congressional redistricting.

I again ask you to approve two constitutional amendments to help our police fight the criminals who prey on our elderly and other vulnerable citizens.

Preventive detention and suppression of evidence

If a police officer conducts a search in good faith, that evidence discovered ought to be used in court; otherwise you can have people literally getting away with murder.

And thugs who repeatedly attack innocent people do not belong on our streets. Approximately one out of six crimes is committed by someone out on bail. The Senate should pass Senator Frank Graves's and Assemblyman Water Kern's legislation giving judges the power to hold these dangerous criminals in prison awaiting trial.

Pollution and hazardous waste

I have said it over and over: we can't maintain a strong economy without a clean environment.

We have set the pace in protecting the environment for the rest of

the nation. Now we must do more.

It is time to reduce the production of toxic waste at the source. Therefore, I will propose a system of fees so that those who produce less, pay less.

A handful of companies flagrantly defy our environmental laws. They spill hazardous waste along our highways. They release dangerous chemicals into our air. They dump pollutants in our rivers and the ocean.

Wetlands, beaches, and flood plains

I am recommending a new pollution control bill to take the profit out of pollution. I propose to fine polluting companies up to one million dollars for each offense and if the fines don't work...to throw the executives in jail.

As I speak, our wetlands are being destroyed. Common sense and the future of our children dictate that our remaining wetlands be

preserved.

Time is running out. I ask you to make this a priority. I want a strong wetlands bill on my desk by the time you break for appropriations.

Our environmental needs are so great. We need 50 million dollars a year to preserve open space, to prevent flooding, and to protect our beaches. There is only one proposal that does all this. Pass the Gormley-Villane bill.

An authority to fight ocean pollution

As governor, it pays to keep an eye on the mail.

This summer, my mailbag was filled with letters on one topic: The shore.

The shore means a lot to New Jerseyans. How many children have spent their fondest summer at Belmar, Long Beach Island, Point 500

Pleasant, Ocean City, or Cape May? How many of us have sat

transfixed by the sunrise off Barneget Bay?

The letters I received this summer didn't talk about relaxing vacations or beautiful sunsets. They wrote about garbage in the water. They wrote about beautiful views that had disappeared into the concrete walls of condominiums.

One lady who wrote me was Mrs. Anne Sarnowski of West Orange. She wrote to tell me that after 30 years of wonderful vacations on the shore, her family was going to spend their vacation in Cape Cod.

"When is New Jersey going to do something?", she asked.

Well, Mrs. Sarnowski, the truth is that we are doing something.

We are building new sewage treatment plants and our ocean water is getting cleaner; we can prove it. Many towns are controlling development. The federal government is moving sludge dumping 100 miles off our shores. And we are now suing New York to stop their garbage from falling into our ocean.

But, problems still exist...problems that seem to be too much for

municipal, county and even state government to handle.

Too many governments and too many agencies try to protect the shore. When something goes wrong, no one is accountable.

For this reason, I ask you to take a dramatic step this year.

I ask you to create a New Jersey Clean Ocean Authority to protect

the shore for us and for future generations.

The authority would have power to work with local governments to plan growth along the shore. It would be a strong voice against other states dumping sludge and garbage in our waters. Finally, it could raise money to help clean the ocean and restore the beaches.

The Clean Ocean Authority would include the very best features of successful ocean protection agencies from California to Florida, It

would be our ocean's quality control.

The shore is New Jersey. It has captured the imagination of artists from Winslow Homer to Bruce Springsteen. It has thrilled millions. Let us not allow it to be despoiled in our generation.

So let's put an end to the finger pointing and the ruined vacations. This is important for our state. For our children. For our grandchildren and great grandchildren. Create a Clean Ocean Authority.

So this is our opportunity agenda. I ask you to lower insurance rates. To change our welfare system. To provide incentives in our poorest cities. And to create an authority to keep our ocean clean.

It is not a simple agenda. It will not be favored by the special interests. It will take political courage. I am sure we will summon that courage to make this state better in the year ahead.

Thank you.

The JUDICIARY

This Section of the Manual covers the State court system. It does not include material on the federal court system, which appears in the section on the Federal Government near the end of the book. Entries in this section, in order, deal with:

- Justices' and judges' salaries
- Terms of justices and Superior Court judges
- Tax Court
- Joint municipal courts
- Court administrative personnel
- Bar examiners
- Vicinage officials and addresses
- Supreme Court biographies
- Administrative personnel biographies
- Former justices
- Superior Court retirements in 1986