

SIXTH ANNUAL MESSAGE

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JANUARY 8, 1980

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE SEVENTIES

NEW JERSEY IS A BETTER PLACE AT THE END OF THE SEVENTIES THAN IT WAS TEN YEARS AGO. IT TOOK SOME DOING, WITH HELP FROM EVERYBODY: THE LEGISLATURE, THE PEOPLE, AND THE GOVERNOR.

I CAN SAY HONESTLY THAT THE OUTGOING LEGISLATURE DEVELOPED AN OUTSTANDING RECORD AND WAS PROBABLY THE BEST IN NEW JERSEY HISTORY. THAT DOESN'T MEAN IT HASN'T LEFT SOME PROBLEMS FOR YOU.

THE LEGISLATURE ALREADY HAS TACKLED AND RESOLVED MANY OF THE PROBLEMS WHICH THE NEW YORK LEGISLATURE, FOR EXAMPLE, IS STILL FACING THIS YEAR; LIKE PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCING, PROPERTY TAX REFORM, PUBLIC FINANCING OF ELECTION CAMPAIGNS, CASINO GAMBLING, COURT REFORM, MEDICAID FUNDING OF ABORTION, AND TRANSPORTATION FUNDING.

AND NEW JERSEY CAN BE AN EVEN BETTER PLACE AT THE END OF THE EIGHTIES.

WE SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF KNOWING THAT NEW JERSEY IN THE NEXT DECADE WILL LARGELY BE WHAT WE WANT IT TO BE. WE POSSESS THE TOOLS TO BUILD, TO PLAN AND TO PRESERVE. AND WE HAVE BEGUN TO USE THOSE TOOLS.

IN THE PRINTED COPY OF MY MESSAGE WHICH YOU HAVE BEFORE YOU, I HAVE PRESENTED A FULLER PICTURE OF MY HOPES FOR THE STATE'S FUTURE. MOST OF YOU THINK I MAKE BETTER READING THAN LISTENING, SO I'D JUST LIKE TO SKETCH BRIEFLY SOME OF THE PROBLEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES WHICH ARE BEFORE US. I URGE YOU TO READ THE ENTIRE TEXT, OR AT LEAST LOOK AT THE PICTURES.

I DO NOT ADVOCATE THAT EVERYTHING CHANGE IN THE NEXT TEN YEARS.

IN 1990:

-- WE WILL STILL HAVE PINELANDS WHICH ARE PRISTINE AND UNPAVAGED.

-- AND CLEAN WATER AND CLEANER WATER.

-- WE WILL HAVE AIR WE CAN BREATHE, AND NOT AIR WE CAN SEE.

-- AND OFFICIALS WE CAN TRUST.

AND STANDARDS TO INSIST ON CONTINUED HIGH PERFORMANCE LEVELS BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS. AND PUBLIC FUNDING OF CRITICAL CAMPAIGNS TO PROMOTE INDEPENDENCE FROM SPECIAL INTERESTS.

OUR COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION ALSO WILL BE GREATER. ALREADY IN THIS ADMINISTRATION WE HAVE COMMITTED OVER ONE BILLION STATE DOLLARS MORE TO EDUCATION, FOR A TOTAL OF \$1.5 BILLION DOLLARS.

BUT WE WHO SUPPORT QUALITY EDUCATION AS ESSENTIAL TO OUR FUTURE SHOULD RECOGNIZE THAT WE CAN BE MORE EFFICIENT IN MAKING OUR MASSIVE DOLLAR COMMITMENT WORK FOR OUR CHILDREN.

WHERE THERE IS WASTE WHICH CAN BE ELIMINATED, I ASK YOU TO LOOK HARD AT THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.

UNLESS WE CAN SHOW THE PUBLIC THAT OUR SPENDING BRINGS RESULTS IN THE FORM OF BETTER EDUCATION, THE NEW DECADE WILL SEE A GROWING CYNICISM FROM TAXPAYERS AND PARENTS WHO SEE COSTS RISE WHILE THE NUMBERS OF STUDENTS AND THEIR TEST SCORES FALL.

IN THE SEVENTIES WE HAVE SEEN MORE COLLEGES IN NEW JERSEY EDUCATING MORE NEW JERSEY PEOPLE. WE HAVE A FLOURISHING MEDICAL SCHOOL, ONE OF THE FINEST IN THE COUNTRY. AND WE HAVE A COMMITMENT TO MEDICAL EDUCATION IN SOUTH JERSEY AND A PROGRAM TO MAKE MEDICAL SERVICES AVAILABLE IN ALL AREAS OF THE STATE.

NEW JERSEY HAS ADVANCED DRAMATICALLY IN THE PAST TEN YEARS.

WHETHER THE GIANTS WIN OR LOSE, THEY DO IT IN NEW JERSEY.
AS DO THE COSMOS,
AS DO THE NETS,
AS WILL A HOCKEY TEAM, CIRCUS, AND OTHER POPULAR ATTRACTIONS
IN THE NEW ARENA.

THE GLAMOUR OF ATLANTIC CITY GROWS EACH DAY.

OUT-OF-STATE TOURISTS ATTRACTED FIRST TO ATLANTIC CITY HAVE A CHANCE TO SEE THE REST OF NEW JERSEY AND REALIZE WHY WE TAKE A BACK SEAT TO NO ONE, OR TO NO PLACE.

WE NOW SEE NEW JERSEY WORKING CLOSELY WITH A PRESIDENT WHO HAS SHOWN CONCERN FOR OUR CITIES AND WHO HAS HELPED US WITH HOUSING, SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS, MASS TRANSIT FUNDING, CANCER PROGRAMS, AND ENERGY ALTERNATIVES.

WE HAVE WORKED WITH PRESIDENT CARTER AND PRESIDENT CARTER HAS WORKED WITH US.

I AM OPTIMISTIC ABOUT NEW JERSEY.

AND TOGETHER WE FACE A NEW DECADE, WITH NEW CHALLENGES, AND STILL DISTANT HORIZONS.

OUR ABILITY TO MEET OUR FUTURE GOALS IS THREATENED MOST CRITICALLY BY THE RELATED PROBLEMS OF INFLATION AND ENERGY.

UNLESS WE CAN CONTROL THESE RISING COSTS, IT WILL BECOME INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO FIND THE RESOURCES WE NEED TO BUILD HOUSING FOR OUR FAMILIES, NEW OFFICES AND STORES IN OUR CITIES AND NEW PLANTS FOR OUR BUSINESSES.

THIS DECADE WILL SEE GREATER USE OF COGENERATION, BETTER INSULATION, GREATER USE OF SOLAR AND STRONGER EFFORTS TO CONSERVE. I ENCOURAGE LEGISLATIVE INCENTIVES TO ENCOURAGE THESE GOALS.

WE HAVE UNKNOWN QUANTITIES OF TOXIC WASTE DANGEROUSLY INSULTING OUR ENVIRONMENT, AND WE HAVE BEGUN THE HUNT AND THE PROCESS OF CLEANING UP AND SEEKING OUT THE RESPONSIBLE CULPRITS.

NO CRIME ON OUR BOOKS IS MORE DASTARDLY THAN THE POISONING OF OUR SOIL, OR OUR AIR, OR OUR WATERS.

WE HAVE IN OUR STATE A CORPS OF SENIOR CITIZENS WHO CAN, AND SHOULD BE, A VITAL AND USEFUL PART OF OUR COMMUNITY -- RECYCLED TEENAGERS, ONE TOLD ME HE WANTED TO BE CALLED.

OUR SENIORS ARE ENTITLED TO BE PROTECTED FROM THE RAVAGES OF INFLATION IN HOUSING, ENERGY COSTS, AND TRANSPORTATION. YOU HAVE CREATED A PHARMACEUTICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR THE AGED, A UTILITY "LIFELINE" CREDIT PROGRAM, A SPECIAL HOMESTEAD REBATE, AND OTHER PROGRAMS.

NOW COMMISSIONER GAMBACCINI MUST FIND A WAY TO ALLOW OUR SENIORS TO USE HIS SOON-TO-BE-ACQUIRED NEW BUSES FARE FREE.

OUR STREETS MUST BE MADE SAFER IN THE EIGHTIES. A SPEEDY TRIAL AND SWIFT PUNISHMENT FOR SERIOUS CRIMES ARE BOTH RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF OUR SOCIETY.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND THE CHIEF JUSTICE HAVE DEVELOPED AN INNOVATIVE SPEEDY TRIAL PROGRAM WHICH WE WILL IMPLEMENT THIS YEAR WITH THE AID OF SOPHISTICATED COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY TO INSURE THE PROMPT ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

IF WE CAN GUARANTEE FAIR AND SPEEDY TRIALS, AND CERTAIN PUNISHMENT FOR THE CRIMINAL, WE WILL GO FAR TOWARD OUR GOALS OF MAKING OUR CITIES, TOWNS AND HOMES SAFE AND SECURE FOR THE NEW DECADE.

I AM CONFIDENT THAT NEW JERSEY'S YOUNG PEOPLE WILL CONTINUE TO WARRANT OUR PRIDE DURING THE 1980'S, BUT THOSE WHO UNDERSTAND THEIR OBLIGATIONS TO SOCIETY AND STILL CONTINUE TO COMMIT VIOLENT CRIMES MUST BE DEALT WITH FIRMLY.

THE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE SUFFER THE SAME PAIN REGARDLESS OF THE AGE OF THEIR ATTACKER.

I SUPPORT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S EFFORTS TO TREAT AS ADULT OFFENDERS THE FEW JUVENILES WHO ARE INCAPABLE OF BEING DETERRED FROM REPEATED ACTS OF VIOLENCE.

THE BEST MINDS IN LAW ENFORCEMENT WITH FULL CITIZENS' COOPERATION HAVE GOT TO MAKE FREEDOM FROM FEAR A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT OF NEW JERSEY CITIZENS AND CITIZENS MUST BE MADE PART OF THE LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORT.

GOOD POLICE MORALE AND DECENT POLICE WAGES ARE CORNERSTONES OF ANY PROGRAM. AND POLICE MUST FACE THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO MERIT PUBLIC RESPECT.

WE START WITH A GOOD NEW CRIMINAL CODE AND A PAROLE REFORM LAW. I NEED YOUR HELP IN FIGHTING THOSE PEOPLE WHO DO NOT THINK WE NEED MORE PRISON SPACES.

NO JUDGE IN NEW JERSEY SHOULD EVER HAVE TO LET ANYONE OUT OF JAIL JUST BECAUSE WE DON'T HAVE THE ROOM TO KEEP HIM IN.

IN THE 1980'S, WE MUST BE ABLE TO GET WHERE WE WANT TO GO IN NEW JERSEY.

OUR PREDECESSORS BELIEVED THAT PEOPLE FROM NEW JERSEY ONLY WANTED TO GO TO NEW YORK AND PHILADELPHIA, AND OUR TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM WAS SO DESIGNED.

IN BERGEN COUNTY TODAY, THE FASTEST WAY TO GO BY BUS FROM ONE COMMUNITY TO ANOTHER IS THROUGH NEW YORK CITY.

WE ARE GOING TO REDESIGN OUR TRANSIT SYSTEM SO THAT PEOPLE CAN GO FROM NEW JERSEY TO NEW JERSEY FOR A CHANGE.

LET'S LOOK IN THIS DECADE AT THE IRRATIONAL BURDEN WE HAVE PLACED ON THE MUNICIPALITIES, ESPECIALLY OUR URBAN AREAS.

IN NEWARK, WE'VE TAKEN TWO-THIRDS OF THE LAND OFF THE TAX ROLLS, MADE THE CITY RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS WELFARE LOAD AND CAPPED ITS SPENDING.

I SUGGEST WE LOOK TO ALL OUR STATE AID FORMULAS AND MAKE THEM RATIONALLY CORRESPOND TO NEED, AND I SUGGEST THAT THE WELFARE BURDEN BELONGS TO ALL OF US, NOT JUST TO THOSE OF US WHO OWN PROPERTY IN A CITY. AND OUR CAP LAWS SHOULD PROMOTE EFFICIENCY IN OUR COMMUNITIES BUT NOT CHOKe THEM TO DEATH.

EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES:

HERE ARE SOME INITIATIVES FOR THE EIGHTIES:

- A NEW STATE OFFICE BUILDING IN NEWARK.
- ACTION ON THE HUDSON WATERFRONT STUDY COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH ARE DUE SHORTLY.
- CAREFUL AND ORDERLY DEVELOPMENT OF THE MEADOWLANDS CONSISTENT WITH THE NEEDS OF OUR OLDER CITIES.
- CONSIDERATION OF A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BOND ISSUE OR OTHER EFFORTS TO ASSIST FINANCIALLY IN DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENTS.

TO HELP MAKE NEW JERSEY MORE APPEALING AND ENTERTAINING,
WE NEED TO:

- EXPAND THE JURISDICTION OF THE SPORTS AND EXPOSITION AUTHORITY TO UNDERTAKE MORE VARIED PROJECTS.
- MAKE A FINAL JUDGMENT ON REBUILDING THE GARDEN STATE RACETRACK.
- IMPROVE ENTERTAINMENT AND CULTURAL FACILITIES, INCLUDING WINTERIZATION OF THE GARDEN STATE ARTS CENTER.
- PROMOTE A MOVIE AND TELEVISION PRODUCTION COMPLEX.

TO MEET THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY, WE MUST:

- IMPROVE STATE AND LOCAL EFFORTS TO MEET THE NEEDS FOR HOUSING, TRANSPORTATION, AND OTHER FACILITIES IN ATLANTIC CITY.
- FINALIZE DECISIONS CONCERNING EXPANSION OF THE PATCO HIGH SPEED LINE.
- PROMOTE THE REDEVELOPMENT OF NAFEC AS AN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.
- SOLVE PROBLEMS SUCH AS TRANSPORTATION IN ATLANTIC CITY ON A REGIONAL, NOT A LOCAL, BASIS.

IN ORDER TO MAKE NEW JERSEY GOVERNMENT MORE EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT, I RECOMMEND:

- SPENDING CAPS ON INDEPENDENT MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES AND OTHER INDEPENDENT AGENCIES SPENDING TAXPAYERS' MONEY.
- LEGISLATION TO STRENGTHEN THE CREDIT RATING OF LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS AS WE ALREADY HAVE WITH THE MUNICIPAL QUALIFIED BOND ACT.

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-- CONTINUED CONSOLIDATION AND ELIMINATION OF EXCESS BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND AUTHORITIES.

-- REORGANIZATION OF THE STATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, TO TARGET THAT PROGRAM TO AREAS OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION NEED.

I URGE THAT NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANTS WHICH HAVE BEEN FOUND TO BE SAFE SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO OPERATE. WHERE ENVIRONMENTALLY POSSIBLE, MORE COAL SHOULD BE USED IN ELECTRIC GENERATING.

FURTHER, WE MUST TAKE ACTION PROMPTLY TO DIVERT MUCH OF THE GROWTH IN THE UTILITIES GROSS RECEIPTS TAX FOR STATEWIDE USES. WE HAVE DELAYED LONG ENOUGH IN TAKING THAT STEP.

THE SENATE HAS APPROVED A REASONABLE PLAN FOR REVISING THE UTILITIES GROSS RECEIPTS TAX.

I LOOK FOR EARLY ACTION BY BOTH HOUSES ON SUCH A PROPOSAL, SO MUNICIPALITIES CAN ADEQUATELY PLAN THEIR BUDGETS FOR THIS YEAR.

ALSO I AM DISAPPOINTED THAT WE HAVE NOT COME TO FINAL AGREEMENT ON A MEANINGFUL AUTO INSURANCE REFORM PROGRAM. THIS CAN AND SHOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED NOW ON A PRIORITY BASIS.

PEOPLE ARE PAYING HIGHER PREMIUMS; FEWER AND FEWER COMPANIES ARE WRITING POLICIES, AS WE LET THE SITUATION GO FROM WORSE TO "WORSER."

I DON'T BELIEVE THE LEGISLATIVE EFFORT THIS PAST WEEK
ADEQUATELY ADDRESSED THE PROBLEM, AND I WILL NOT APPROVE LEGISLATION
WHICH PRETENDS A SOLUTION WHICH IT DOES NOT REALLY ACCOMPLISH.

IN OTHER WORDS, IT DOESN'T DO THE JOB.

THE OUTGOING LEGISLATURE MADE AN EFFORT TO ADDRESS A VERY REAL SHORTFALL IN THE UPCOMING STATE BUDGET. I HAVE SIGNED THE CORPORATE TAX INCREASE.

THE ACTION TAKEN SO FAR, HOWEVER, IS NOT ADEQUATE TO MEET THE NEEDS OF OUR STATE AND WE FACE TOUGH DECISIONS IN THE UPCOMING BUDGET PROCESS.

I WILL ADDRESS THAT ISSUE IN THE BUDGET MESSAGE AT THE END OF THIS MONTH.

IN THE PAST, NEW JERSEY HAD A REPUTATION FOR FAILING TO COME TO GRIPS WITH ITS PROBLEMS.

THE STATE GOVERNMENT AND THE LEGISLATURE PROCRASTINATED AND FOUND EXCUSES FOR INACTION WHILE THE STATE LACKED ADEQUATE HOSPITALS, COLLEGES, AND OTHER FACILITIES.

THE STATE'S SENSE OF IDENTITY - AND OUR CONFIDENCE IN OURSELVES - SUFFERED AS WE SAW OUR RESIDENTS AND OUR CHILDREN GO OUT-OF-STATE FOR ESSENTIAL SERVICES.

YET IN THE LAST FEW YEARS WE HAVE DEALT WITH - AND TO A GREAT EXTENT - SOLVED PROBLEMS OF BASIC FISCAL REFORM, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, CRIMINAL LAW REVISION, WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION AND OTHER ISSUES WHICH FOR TOO LONG HAD BEEN DEFERRED.

I BELIEVE THAT THE DEBATE WHICH WE HAVE JUST EXPERIENCED IN THE CLOSING HOURS OF THE LAST LEGISLATURE SESSION NOW GIVES US A CRITICAL CHOICE.

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THIS LEGISLATURE MUST CHOOSE WHETHER YOU WISH TO RETURN TO THE YEARS OF INACTION ON ESSENTIAL PROBLEMS WHILE WE ARGUE ABOUT FINANCES, OR DEAL WITH THESE ISSUES PROMPTLY AND DECISIVELY.

WE HAVE WORK TO DO ON PROBLEMS MORE IMPORTANT THAN TAXES.

NEW JERSEY HAS A CONTINUING CONCERN FOR THE POOR, THE ILL, AND THE YOUNG WHO HAVE NOT YET SHARED IN THE BENEFITS OF OUR SOCIETY. WE INITIATED THE LIFELINE PROGRAM IN 1979 WITH THE USE OF CASINO REVENUES TO HELP SENIOR CITIZENS AND HANDICAPPED CITIZENS STAY WARM IN THE WINTER.

IN 1980, I WILL SUPPORT A STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT WHICH WILL ALLOW MORE FLEXIBLE USE OF CASINO REVENUES SO THAT THE FULL RANGE OF LEGITIMATE NEEDS OF SENIOR CITIZENS AND THE HANDICAPPED CAN BE ADDRESSED IN THE NEW DECADE.

AND FINALLY, NEW JERSEY NEEDS A TELEVISION STATION, WE NEED A VHF TELEVISION STATION IN THIS STATE.

THE CAVALIER ATTITUDE OF THE FCC ON THIS ISSUE BORDERS ON ARROGANCE. NEW JERSEY SHOULD BE SERVED BY A NEW JERSEY VHF TELEVISION STATION. PERIOD.

CONCLUSION:

OUR JOURNEY IS A COMMON ONE.

LET'S DECIDE TOGETHER WHAT WE WANT FOR NEW JERSEY AND
WHAT WE DON'T.

LET'S SELECT AND EVALUATE PROGRAMS AND WORK TO PUT THEM
IN PLACE.

THERE IS NOTHING MORE CRUEL AND MEANINGLESS FOR A LEGISLATURE
TO DO THAN TO GIVE ME GOOD PROGRAMS AND THEN REFUSE TO PAY FOR THEM.

LET'S GIVE PEOPLE HOPE, BUT NOT FALSE HOPE.

WE CAN BOAST ABOUT NEW JERSEY TODAY BECAUSE TOGETHER WE'VE
COME A LONG WAY.

AND AS DIZZY DEAN ONCE SAID,
"IT AIN'T BRAGGING, IF YOU DONE IT."

THANK YOU.