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NEW JERSEY DEMOCRATIC PARTY PLATFORM - 1977



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Democratic  
State Committee



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Delegates to the State Convention

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Senator Harrison A. Williams

Richard J. Coffee, Chairman of the Democratic State Committee

Carolyn Holmes, Vice Chairman of the Democratic State Committee

New Jersey Democratic Congressmen

James Florio

William Hughes

James Howard

Frank Thompson

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Peter Rodino

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Steven P. Perskie	Anthony E. Russo
Victor Fatcher	John T. Gregorio
Charles B. Yates	Harry P. Pappas
Charles H. Ryan	Stephen B. Wilev
Arthur Goldzweig	Norma K. Herzfeld
Peter J. Bearse	Lewis J. Paper
Joseph J. Keslo	Francis E. Rodgers
Frank R. Nero	Walter N. Sheil
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Francis X. Herbert	Frank X. Graves, Jr.
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PREAMBLE

Four years ago, the Democratic Party in its platform promised action on four fronts.

Democrats pledged to restore integrity and public confidence in government, to reform the school financing system, to reduce the property tax burden and to control public spending.

This Democratic Administration under Governor Brendan Byrne, and this Democratic Legislature have fulfilled those promises.

During the last four years of Democratic leadership, the confidence of the people of New Jersey in their State government has been restored.

During this brief time, New Jersey's reputation within the family of states has changed from that of the butt of jokes about corrupt public officials to general respect for its efforts to cleanse itself of corruption, to restore integrity to its daily operations and to face up to the difficult challenge of fiscal reform.

During the past four years, New Jersey residents have gotten their government back.

It is a government that fights for people, rather than watches out for special interests.

It is a government that fights for the interests of the consumer, the middle-income taxpayer, the senior citizens, the poor, the disabled and the young.

It is government that has fought, for the public, against unjustifiable rate increases sought by electric and gas utilities, by insurance companies, by the telephone company, by hospitals. It has fought for the consumer -- for the public and not for the special interests -- and it intends to do more.

And it is a government that has made New Jersey proud of itself again.

During the last four years, the confidence of the business community in the fiscal soundness and fiscal responsibility of the State government has been restored.

The barometer of this growing confidence is the recent restoration of the State's triple-A bond rating, an action that will save taxpayers many millions of dollars over the life of our bond issues.

During the past four years, the people of New Jersey have seen a demonstration of the fact that it takes tough action, not words, to bring government spending under control.

The last four years of Republican control in Trenton -- in both the Legislature and the Administration -- were years of mushrooming budgets with increases averaging 15 per cent a year. Under the Democratic Administration since 1974, New Jersey's State budget increases have been the lowest in the nation and the lowest rate in modern New Jersey history.

The people of New Jersey have also seen a responsible Democratic Legislature impose strict limitations on municipal and county spending. This was not achieved without difficulty. But it was achieved, and this courageous action has been reflected in the reduction or stabilization of local property taxes in most of our 567 municipalities.

This demonstration of fiscal responsibility was essential to the restoration of public confidence and public acceptance of the tax reform package based on the income tax.

The tax program enacted in 1976 is not perfect.

The Democratic Party promises a thorough review in anticipation of changes to make it fairer.

The tax program was put together in the midst of the most serious fiscal and constitutional crisis ever faced by our State in the face of the court-ordered closing of our entire public school system.

School children and their educational programs were placed in gravest jeopardy.

New Jersey overcame that crisis -- and not with the patchwork schemes recommended by the Republican Party, but with a permanent solution that represented the first major effort of tax reform.

The schools are now open and operating.

School boards are able to plan their budgets and programs within the spending limitations imposed by the Legislature.

Local property taxes have been stabilized and, in many cases, reduced for the first time in memory.

Individual property taxpayers have received tax rebates, and the property tax burden has been eased for senior citizens and the disabled.

Certainly, all of our problems have not been solved.

Budgets must still be carefully watched and expenditures curtailed, but it is accurate to say that we have weathered the worst financial crisis in our State's history and that we are establishing long-term solutions to the fiscal problems that have plagued us for so many years.

During the past four years, the Republican Party in New Jersey has consistently worked against any solution to the school financing crisis.

Even more, the Republican Party and its candidate for Governor would plunge New Jersey back into the fiscal chaos of 1974-76.

That would be damaging for our State, for our educational system and for confidence in our fiscal soundness and responsibility.

The Democratic Party has traditionally been the party of hope, the party of the future, the party of the people. We Democrats do not want to reopen the crises of the past and reargue debates that have divided our State for decades, poisoned New Jersey's political atmosphere and stalemated its decision-making process.

We New Jerseyans need all of our energies to meet the problems that confront our State. The income tax may need improvement and modification.

Let's discuss that.

As Democrats and taxpayers, let's discuss how to make it more fair and equitable. Let's discuss how to further ease the tax burden on the middle income homeowner trying to raise and educate a family and earn a reasonable living.

Let us, as Democrats and working people, discuss how to create more jobs for New



Jersey citizens -- how to clean up the air and water without driving out industry and how to employ our construction industry in this massive clean-up.

Let us, as Democrats and parents, talk about how we can work together to improve the quality of the education of our children -- the single largest and most important expenditure we make as a State and as individual families.

Let us, as Democrats and as citizens, discuss the real problems of New Jersey.

The Republican Party and its candidate for Governor think that by exploiting the income tax issue, they will find a short cut to election in November. They prefer to mortgage the vital interests of our State to the short-term interests of their political party.

Democrats in New Jersey enter the 1977 campaign confident that the voters know that the easy answers are not answers at all, and that the politicians who promise easy solutions to our State's problems cannot easily produce on those empty promises if elected.

The Republican program amounts to nothing more than doubletalk and deception.

The Democratic Party has shown it is willing to face up to our problems and respond decisively.

Democrats inherited a State government that lacked fundamental integrity. The public believed the awarding of contracts could be influenced for the price of a contribution to the right political party at the right time. State officials were not required to reveal their financial situations and were too often allowed to operate in serious conflicts of interest. The people were excluded when important State business was done by key committees, boards and commissions. Who could be proud of this kind of government?

Democrats came into office pledged to run an open government and return integrity to the State House. And our record shows we have fulfilled this most fundamental of all the promises we made to the people of New Jersey.

We now have a law to provide for the public financing of gubernatorial campaigns to stem the flow of private wealth into political hands, and this law is being enforced. We should now extend public financing and campaign spending limits to primary campaigns.

The shades of government have been raised so the public may view the internal workings of public bodies at all levels of government. Our Sunshine Law requires public notification of the time, place, and nature of business to be conducted by any governmental agency for the first time in State history. The sunshine of public scrutiny helps insure the integrity of State and local government.

The Byrne Administration is conducting the State's business professionally, not politically. The state's revenue raising and spending practices are conducted openly for all to see.

Democrats have acted, not only to prevent conflicts of interest, but also to avoid any conduct that might create the appearance of a conflict.

We have acted, as well, to substantially increase penalties for public officials who participate in corrupt activities -- and for those who would encourage and assist corrupt public officials.

Democrats have made changes to encourage citizen participation in the electoral

process. The cornerstone of our program is postcard registration, an unqualified success. This program with adequate safeguards has made it easier and more convenient for over 600,000 qualified voters to register since August 1974.

This Democratic Administration has taken other unparalleled steps to insure the integrity of the governmental process, including institution of the requirement that some 275 top officials in the Executive Branch disclose their personal finances.

Democrats also broke new ground by making it easier for the public to view the decision-making process in the Legislature. The Democrats adopted rules requiring open public committee meetings and public reporting of committee votes. The impact of these changes can better be understood if one realizes that much of the real legislative work is done in committee and not on the floor. Under the rules which governed the Legislature under Republican control, legislators were able to secretly kill legislation in committee while publicly promising their support.

The Legislature also took a more active role in overseeing the operation of the Executive Branch. For example, the Assembly's new Legislative Oversight Committee has the responsibility for making sure legislation is implemented within the proper intent of the law. In addition, the Legislature has undertaken a major oversight role in the important area of energy development and planning.

We must take further steps to strengthen the ability of the Legislature to fulfill its constitutional responsibilities by ensuring the proper and effective functioning of the Executive Branch of government.

We are involved in an election campaign. There are those who, whatever their motives, will belittle the record of achievement compiled by this Legislature and this Administration.

But the people will know that this Administration and this Legislature have brought new integrity and openness to State government in New Jersey.

Sometimes it is embarrassing to run an open government, and sometimes the sunshine we have let into State government exposes our blemishes along with everything else.

But the record is there for all to see.

Democrats are proud to be judged on that record.

The most significant and far-reaching accomplishment of this or any recent Administration and Legislature has been adoption of the comprehensive Democratic tax and spending reform package.

The tax and spending reform package has given New Jersey a sound fiscal foundation which has won broad acclaim in the financial community. That acclaim has been demonstrated by the recent restoration of New Jersey's Triple A bond rating -- the only industrial state in the Northeast to enjoy such confidence in the money market.

The fact is -- the present tax and spending reform program is working.

It has reversed the trend of rising local property taxes by using revenue to replace funds from local property taxes for the operation of schools and local government.

It has imposed spending limits on all levels of government.

It mandates, by a Constitutional amendment, that all income from the tax be used for property tax relief. No income from the tax can be used for the general operation of State government.

It is providing real property tax relief through a system of rebates and lower property tax bills resulting from the spending caps and increased State aid.

It is helping to preserve the integrity of the local tax base by assuming the financial responsibility for senior citizen and veteran exemptions.

It is improving the economic climate of the State by eliminating business taxes that have discouraged investment.

It is shifting the burden of supporting government at all levels from low and lower middle income families to those with higher incomes.

If those who issue glib, self-serving statements about governing New Jersey for four years without an income tax have their way -- the results will be devastating.

Without some type of progressive tax as the foundation of the State's revenue program, we will once again be plunged into a grave Constitutional confrontation with



the Supreme Court over school financing. We will have to eliminate the innovative restraints imposed by the Legislature on government spending. We will be forced to end homestead rebates -- a program of benefit to all homeowners, especially senior citizens and others on fixed incomes.

The end of the income tax would also mean the elimination of the new municipal and proposed county revenue sharing programs, the increased aid to public schools and the recently adopted in-lieu of tax program for our municipalities.

Added together, the loss of these new State aid programs, coupled with the elimination of the caps on local, county and school board spending, will result in the kind of soaring local property tax rates that plagued most New Jersey municipalities and counties until this year. For the first time in 37 years, local property tax collections will be less than in the previous year. This year, the tax reform program has meant a reduction in local property taxes in most of the State's 567 municipalities.

But the impact of the income tax's demise would go much deeper. It would cut to the very heart of New Jersey's ability to remain a viable political and economic entity in this era of vigorous competition from states in the Sun Belt.

Expiration of the tax would force the reimposition of the unincorporated business tax, the sales tax on business machinery and equipment, the gross receipts tax on retail businesses and the tax on unearned income.

In short, the death of the income tax eventually will mean the economic death of New Jersey because it will again reintroduce the kind of tax uncertainty and tax lightning that has driven industry elsewhere over the years.

The Democratic Party is pledged to local property tax reform and tax relief. It made that promise in 1973, and it has kept that promise. And to those who would change or improve the tax program we have enacted we say:

If you would replace the present program, you must propose an alternative tax program that is fair, progressive and broad-based; that insures the continuation of our beginnings of property tax relief, including homestead rebates, revenue sharing, in-lieu of tax payments, and State assumption of the total cost of senior citizen and veteran

deductions; that does not discourage needed economic growth; that is adequate for the support of public education; that is coupled with rational limits on the growth of government spending at all levels and does not ignore the special needs of our urban centers.

The Democratic Party recognizes that the present program may need to be modified, and we support Governor Byrne's decision to appoint a Blue Ribbon Committee to examine the workings of the present tax and spending reform program. We believe that this approach represents the soundest way of making government and tax reform work better in New Jersey.

#### Spending Reform

The Democratic Party firmly and wholeheartedly believes that true fiscal reform cannot come to New Jersey without spending reform.

But, unlike the political opportunists who make empty and unspecific promises to cut spending and reform government operations, Democrats have shown that we mean business.

In addition to passing the nation's first legislation imposing strict spending limits on all governmental units, Democrats have succeeded in reversing a 20-year trend of soaring spending at the State level.

Starting with the first Democratic budget, three years ago, a Democratic Legislature and Governor Byrne gave the people of New Jersey the nation's only State budget with reduced spending -- a remarkable achievement during a era of double digit inflation.

The operating budget for State government increased a total 32% during the four years of Democratic control. During the previous four Republican years, the general State operations budget mushroomed 114%.

Not even counting the funds dedicated to property tax relief, the total State budget has risen only 6.9% a year with a Democratic Administration since 1974. Under Republican rule it soared at an annual rate averaging 15.6%.

In fact, if Democrats were to continue the free spending policies instituted by the Republicans, the recently adopted State budget would have been \$700 million higher even without the Property Tax Relief Fund.

In short, while Republicans make pious pronouncements about their ability to curb spending, Democrats have been performing.

The Democratic Party is pledged to continue this policy of supporting fiscal restraint. We shall continue to endorse and protect the legislatively imposed spending caps for all levels of government. Democrats recognize that revenue sources to operate all government are not unlimited, and that the best way to preserve these limited resources is to sharply curtail unnecessary and wasteful spending to require that all levels of government live within their means.

JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

When the Democratic Administration and Legislature took office, New Jersey's economy was in critical condition.

In April, 1973, the State Economic Policy Council had reported that New Jersey lagged behind the rest of the nation in recovering from the recession and that this lag reflected major problems in the State's economic structure -- particularly its manufacturing sector.

By the start of 1974, the O.P.E.C. oil embargo was simultaneously driving inflation higher and triggering another recession that would soon put many more New Jerseyans out of work. Although emergency measures during the first months of the Administration helped New Jersey through the immediate gasoline crisis, the State was left with a badly damaged economic structure which would clearly require years of hard work to repair.

Democrats have put people back to work. Available bond funds for capital construction have been injected into the economy on an accelerated basis. We have attracted new private enterprises and responded effectively to the energy crisis. We also have increased our share of federal funding and international investment in jobs for New Jerseyans. And we have increased the minimum wage to permit the State's workers to keep pace with rising costs.

The record for the past four years is the groundwork on which we promise new initiatives in the next four.

Today New Jersey has an Economic Development Authority which has stimulated over \$500 million of new economic investment in less than three years, creating more than 20,000 permanent jobs and an additional 5,000 construction jobs. The Division of Economic Development in the Department of Labor and Industry has been reorganized to provide a wide range of services to business firms. More than 25,000 new jobs have been created and another 17,000 jobs saved by retaining firms that were considering moving from the State.

The Democrats have taken a disorganized sewer construction program from the Republicans and revamped it in three years to commit over \$1 billion for new construction --producing some 70,000 jobs.



The Republicans let Atlantic City fall into decay. They did not have the vision to see regulated casino gambling as a redevelopment tool to revive what was America's premiere resort. Governor Byrne and the Democratic Party had that vision. They put casino gambling before the people and have enacted a law with structured incentives for continuing economic redevelopment of Atlantic City.

The Democrats build and opened Giants Stadium. And we did it on New Jersey's terms.

When Governor Byrne was elected, the stadium proposal was virtually dead.

Even before taking office, Governor-elect Byrne conducted hard negotiations to revamp the terms so that the stadium would bring a fair return to the State and attract other teams and events.

Thanks to this hard bargaining, we have a Sports Complex that is the sports showcase of the nation.

The Hackensack Meadowlands Development Commission is well along on plans for a new industrial and office park complex which will generate up to \$50-\$100 million in capital investment and thousands of new jobs. A full-time Motion Picture and Development Commission was created, and the EDA was authorized to include motion picture and television projects in its financing activities.

And Democrats will continue their efforts to make New Jersey a year-around tourist showcase offering recreation, leisure and entertainment opportunities for all four seasons of the year.

The Democratic Administration and Legislature have long recognized the importance of urban redevelopment to our overall development plans. Democrats have enacted legislation which enables the Economic Development Authority to undertake the studies required to initiate the development of urban industrial parks, and we have empowered urban municipalities to designate urban growth zones in which EDA-sponsored construction projects will be exempt from zoning and other land use regulations. We have empowered urban municipalities to grant property tax abatements for commercial and industrial development. And we have succeeded in prodding the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and the Delaware River Port Authority to take a more active role in planning new urban industrial parks and in bringing international trade to New Jersey.

An Office of State Economic Planning, supported by federal funds, is developing a comprehensive planning process and coordinating economic policies designed to renew the economy.

The new Capital Budgeting and Planning Commission is developing the critical assessments of capital needs required to attain voter approval of State bond issues.

During the first year of its operation, the Commission was instrumental in developing approval for \$210 million in State bonds for mortgage and housing assistance, environmental facilities, State institutions, and badly needed correctional facilities. These bonds will provide for essential capital construction and renovations and will create employment for more than 22,000 people.

Every dollar available for capital improvements has been spent expeditiously to reduce unemployment, especially in the hard-hit construction trades. Even during the State's unprecedented fiscal crises, New Jersey was able to secure, and in most cases has expended, more than \$2.8 billion in State, federal and private funds for capital improvements after January, 1974.

Four years ago, we were concerned about governmental bureaucracy which slowed construction plans to a snail's pace and resulted in prohibitive costs. Complaints were numerous about unreasonable delays in obtaining approvals from relevant state and municipal agencies and the needless expenses caused by varying municipal ordinances governing construction.

Today, our Department of Environmental Protection is required by law to respond to permit applications within 90 days.

Recently, Governor Byrne extended the successful 90-day rule by institution of a one-step procedure which would guarantee applicants prompt answers on every necessary permit within specified deadlines.

We have enacted, as well, a Municipal Land Use Law which encourages "one stop" decision making and eliminates the practice of bouncing a developer back and forth between one board and another. Where others have failed, we have finally put into place a Uniform Construction Code which brings more uniformity to municipal ordinances in the construction area and has resulted in the elimination of over \$2,000 from the average price of a new home.

Tax reform is critical to the improvement of our economic prospects.

The 1976 tax program included substantial business tax reform, guided by the principle that business taxes should not be levied against capital investment, only on profits. Accordingly, we have repealed the sales tax on business machinery and the business personal property tax on new equipment. A major burden on the small business operator has been eliminated by repeal of the gross receipts taxes on unincorporated businesses and retail stores, which bore no relation to profitability.

During the next four years, we will pursue the following policies:

-- We will seek continuation of fiscal stability and tax policies which help attract and retain business.

-- We will make government more responsive by fixing specific deadlines and by designating specific officials to assume responsibility for the prompt, efficient and coordinated review of major construction projects by State agencies; and by consolidation of redundant forms and public hearings for major construction projects.

-- We will enact legislation which would permit the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to finance urban economic development projects in Port cities without erosion of the local tax base.

-- We will continue to pressure the Port Authority to follow through on hard-won commitments to improve access to and utilization of Newark International Airport, renovate Newark's Penn Station, and become more active in the search for new industry.

-- We will seek creation of an Office for the Promotion of Technical Innovation, to help New Jersey inventors find the capital and other resources needed to translate their ideas into job-producing realities.

-- We will continue to fight to maintain New Jersey's fair share of military and civilian jobs associated with military installations in New Jersey.

The pending proposal to create an Armed Forces Liaison Council is one way in which this objective can be met.

-- We will seek creation of a State Science Advisory Council which, with a small federally-funded staff, would examine the variety of scientific and technical questions bearing on economic development.

-- We will seek creation through CONEG of a Regional Energy Development Corporation which would issue federally-backed bonds to finance projects improving the supply of energy to the region and providing other incentives for job-producing industry to locate here.

-- We will expand our newly-created manpower training program which trains workers for jobs in new or expanding businesses.

-- We will utilize our existing taxing powers ever more effectively to stimulate economic growth.

-- We will continue to examine our environmental review procedures to determine if they can be further simplified to promote economic development.

-- We will work with our congressional delegation to develop federal tax incentives for business and industry to locate in New Jersey and the Northeast.

In addition, we will continue to pursue policies which enhance New Jersey's image as a desirable place to work and live. Business will locate and remain in New Jersey only if it believes that this State provides a healthy environment; reduced crime; a superior educational system; decent housing; and honest, fiscally responsible government.



## Energy

From the first days of this Administration, Governor Byrne and the Legislature have made the tough decisions needed to confront our energy problems.

In 1974, New Jersey's response to the gasoline shortages provoked by the Arab oil embargo through the implementation of the "even-odd" system and the creation of a State Energy Office was a national model for decisive leadership. Again, in 1977, the State was guided through the worst winter in a century by the Governor's extraordinary conservation measures -- steps which prevented the evacuation of a single home and which kept the bulk of the State's industries running during severe natural gas shortages.

Democratic leadership has recognized that an effective energy policy does not need Republican proposals which would sacrifice the consumer's interest to the profit of the oil and utility companies. Governor Byrne has supported the cautious and controlled development of offshore oil and gas resources, but has opposed proposals to allow the development of those resources without concern for an adequate return to the public treasury, strict controls over the risks to our ocean and coastal resources and full disclosure of data concerning the extent of oil and gas deposits.

The State has backed the comprehensive national energy program of President Carter to develop new energy supplies, but has fought Republican efforts to allow exorbitant profits to private energy companies by removing all controls over the price paid for scarce public resources. The Byrne Administration has succeeded in making the Public Utilities Commission and the Department of the Public Advocate vigorous agencies with a commitment to protect the consumer.

In the past four years, the Byrne Administration and the Democratic Legislature have made significant progress in coping with critical energy problems. That positive record of leadership and accomplishment includes:

- Creation of the nation's first cabinet-level department to deal with energy planning and regulation.

- Protection of the consumer's interest in obtaining adequate energy at fair prices through the creation of the Public Advocate Department as a guardian for the consumer and the transformation of the Public Utilities Commission into a consumer-oriented body without equal among State Public Utility agencies.

- Promulgation of a comprehensive State Energy Conservation Plan.

- Creation of the Cabinet Energy Committee to coordinate State actions on energy policy.

- Support of the cautious and controlled development of offshore oil and gas resources off in the Mid-Atlantic, but with insistence upon adequate environmental controls and more effective legislation to open up the market to companies other than the oil giants.

- Research into the potential for the use of new energy conservation and supply resources in New Jersey, including cogeneration and solar power. Creation of the New Jersey Energy Research Institute to coordinate governmental and private industry's efforts in the development of innovative energy proposals.

- Receipt of a Federal grant to assist homeowners in the purchasing of solar energy heating equipment.

- Development of methods to assist in the financing of additional insulation for homes through low interest loans and utility loans to homeowners.

- Implementation of a Uniform Building Code setting standards for insulation to insure sufficient heating.

In the next four years, the Democratic Party will act decisively in the following energy-related areas.

- Implementation of the State's Comprehensive Energy Conservation Plan.

- Reliance on a strong and effective State Department of Energy to guide the State energy policy, and to obtain necessary data from energy companies for the continued development of energy planning.

- Development of alternative energy supplies, such as the increased burning of coal consistent with environmental standards, the expansion of solar energy in homes and businesses and the implementation of cogeneration in industrial and other commercial processes.

- Additional assistance to the homeowner and apartment dweller to meet the increased costs caused by skyrocketing energy prices through tax incentives, low interest loans and other financing mechanisms.

- Creation of a "lifeline" rate for energy to protect the basic needs of senior citizens, the disabled and others who unfairly suffer from high energy prices.

- Support of President Carter's leadership in proposing a national energy policy, and particularly for his opposition to deregulation of price controls for natural gas supplies.

- Support for elimination of the automatic pass through of increased energy costs from utility to customer, including careful examination of the need for any increase through regular public hearings mandated by the Public Utilities Commission.

- Strict regulation of existing nuclear facilities, and insistence of comprehensive and thorough reviews before any new nuclear plants are authorized.

### Agriculture

Agriculture, the oldest industry in New Jersey, remains a vital force in the economy of the state and provides for a better way of life for all New Jersey residents in other ways as well.

Agriculture produces a large share of the foods required to nurture New Jersey's growing population and contributes to the preservation and enhancement of the environment through a variety of soil and water conservation measures practiced on more than one million acres, providing a vast resource of tax-paying open space.

A truly remarkable person, the New Jersey farmer, a shrewd businessman and working conservationist, given adequate incentive and reasonable independence of operation, will produce the food needed at home and abroad.

We must continue to address ourselves to the needs of permanent agriculture and preservation of the environment. Towards this objective, the Democratic Administration has:

- Maintained a leadership role in animal and plant disease control and integrated pest management programs.

- Created the innovative Farmland Preservation Program being tested in four municipalities in Burlington County to make New Jersey a leader in the preservation of farmland.

- Fought for tax policies which recognized the farmer's concerns for equitable property tax structures and assessments.

- Slowed the loss of farmland through tax and land use policies.

In the coming years, we must:

- Achieve reasonable environmental standards and controls which will allow the continuance and further development of agriculture as well as provide for adequate environmental protection.

- Actively pursue marketing opportunities for New Jersey farm products in marketing fresh produce directly to consumers and encouraging food processors to make use of the state's fruit and vegetable crops.

- Develop a major central wholesale food distribution facility in New Jersey and attract major new food processing units.

- Provide for the continued support of agricultural research and education.

- Insure continued first-rate help for the farmer and protection for farmer and consumer alike through support of the State Department of Agriculture and its programs, a Department and programs marked by stability and remarkable continuity of effort.

nsurance

The Democratic Party supports a tough regulation of the insurance industry. We recognize that stop-gap measures are not enough to reverse alarming national trends in the price and availability of automobile insurance. We will strive to accomplish permanent reform of the insurance system so that every motorist in this State can obtain coverage at a fair and affordable price.

We propose that the State retain and refine its powers to regulate rates. As long as State law requires every New Jersey motorist to obtain insurance, the State must assure to every motorist that the price of insurance is reasonable.

The only sure promise of the open rating system advocated by the Republican Party -- the elimination of the State's power to approve rate increases -- is immediate and repeated price increases. The experiences of states who have chosen open rating must not be repeated here.

The importance of rate regulation to the consumer does not mean that our system of regulation should not be refined and made more efficient. We must increase the statistical capacity of the Department of Insurance by making it the collection agent for claims and loss data in the industry, and by providing the Department with appropriate electronic data processing systems. We must also streamline procedures for the presentation of evidence and the conduct of hearings.

Too many people have been relegated to "assigned-risk" status for reasons entirely unrelated to risk or fault. Today, the majority of persons the industry classifies as assigned risks -- in New Jersey and elsewhere -- are considered clean risks by their own standards. In fairness, these persons should not have to pay higher rates than other clean risks merely because companies are not able or willing to insure them.

The Democratic Party proposes the abolition of assigned-risk and the creation of a mechanism which would guarantee insurance coverage to every motorist without unfair discrimination.



The Democratic Party also supports measures which will help contain the many other costs which affect insurance rates, especially in the areas of medical treatment and auto repair. As a first step, we propose the creation of a monitoring system which can identify the real causes of escalating costs. It is essential that proposals for reform be based on informed judgments, not isolated examples of abuse or popular prejudice. Known abuses and inefficiencies in the loss-adjustment process must be stopped; but comprehensive reform should not amount to change for its own sake.

The shrinking availability of reasonably priced coverage is not unique to the automobile insurance market. Only two years ago the market in medical malpractice insurance was in complete turmoil.

The Democratic Administration worked to help the Hospital Association establish its own company; and the Democratic Administration and Legislature promptly enacted a law creating a Medical Malpractice Reinsurance Facility, to spread losses which the fledgling company could not absorb. Because the Reinsurance Facility was also designated to cover doctors, it today guarantees the availability of malpractice insurance to every hospital, physician and surgeon in the State.

The Medical Society of New Jersey recently followed the lead of the Hospital Association and, with the assistance of the Administration, established a physician-owned insurance company. These mutual companies hold substantial long-term promise for the reduction of malpractice insurance rates.

The problems of price and availability have also surfaced in the areas of school and municipal liability insurance. Data is now being gathered to determine the extent of the problem and to identify alternative solutions.

The Democratic Party pledges to exhaust every effort to devise fair and feasible solutions for the price and availability problems which threaten every line of liability insurance.

## EDUCATION

When Democrats assumed the responsibilities of office four years ago, the public system of education in New Jersey was marred by inequitable and, in some instances, inadequate financing, runaway costs, wasteful spending and a lack of accountability to taxpayers and parents.

Many school districts were not providing taxpayers with real educational value for their tax dollars.

In addition, the previous Republican Administration had failed to comply with a Supreme Court ruling that the State was not meeting its constitutional obligations to school children.

In short, public confidence in education was at an all-time low.

Today, the Public School Education Act of 1975 -- the T & E law -- is forcing the difficult process of change. It is the diagnostic tool to determine what and where problems exist so they can be corrected.

Under the leadership of a Democratic Administration and Legislature, New Jersey has embarked upon the most extensive program of public school reform of any state in the nation.

School boards are being forced to re-examine priorities; waste and inefficiency are being rooted out; parental involvement is being encouraged; accountability is being imposed through a new program of statewide testing and, most importantly, the tax resources behind each child are being equalized.

The T & E law does not seek to change the entire school system overnight. It prescribes no curriculum or budget which districts must adopt. It supplants no local school board. In fact, it encourages the local control of education.

But the T & E law prescribes a process by which teachers, parents

and the community must reexamine the capacity of local schools to serve the needs of community school children; it provides the financial means by which all communities -- all children -- will have an improved chance for a meaningful education; and it establishes educational and fiscal accountability for the entire education establishment.

The T & E law also has narrowed gaps in the education spending power of school districts by raising the average State share of local school costs from 29% in 1975-76 to 38% in 1976-77 and 40% in 1977-78 and subsequent years. This increase is having a beneficial impact on all local tax bills. The new law, for the first time, also increases State funding for local capital construction and debt service, for pupil transportation and for special education programs.

T & E holds local education officials to stringent standards of performance. The new law requires the testing of student skills against statewide minimum standards and mandates the remedial services necessary to bring all students up to standard. The law, for the first time, also imposes caps on local school spending, forces districts to establish priorities and requires the elimination of waste and inefficiency.

The ultimate key to reform is renewed public confidence in local schools - a fact that is now becoming reality as exemplified by the record number of school budgets recently approved by the voters. This confidence depends in large measure on the effectiveness of teachers and administrators and the continued vitality of local control. And we are taking a number of steps to insure this effectiveness -- including a long needed review of the tenure system.

Like all major reform legislation, implementation of the T & E law has not been without its problems. The process of assessing pupil needs,

setting goals, and scrutinizing school programs and budgets is new to all concerned. To many, it is a painful process, especially to those who may have to change their ways. With time, and with a willingness on the part of the public and the education establishment to make reform work, any real problems can be resolved. A Democratic Administration and Legislature will commit every resource to helping solve real problems and to supporting local districts in making T & E work.

In the coming years, the State must act to assure adequate capital facilities for New Jersey schools. Although the T & E law has increased equalization aid for debt service and the qualified bond program has improved credit ratings, the Administration's detailed statewide survey of school building needs confirms that additional help is required in new suburban and older urban areas where capital needs are greater than in other areas of the State.

With this in mind, the Democratic Party will support legislation providing for the financing of debt service for school construction in older urban areas and in growing suburban communities.

In conjunction with efforts to rehabilitate facilities and revitalize programs in older urban areas, it is imperative that we address longer range, bolder approaches to the chronic problems -- bureaucracy, high dropout rates, low attendance levels, vandalism, violence and low aspiration levels -- which characterize education in the older urban areas.

The Democratic Party finds promise in the community school concept which would reinvolve the community in its schools, possibly offering neighborhood health services; day care, recreational and nutritional programs; and adult and consumer education programs.

The Democratic Party also is pledged to finding ways of reducing the

paperwork connected with the new T & E law without destroying the means to evaluate the effectiveness of the educational process.

The Democratic Party is pledged to making the education aid distribution formula more equitable by making local assessment procedures more uniform.

The Democratic Party is pledged to requiring school systems to operate under the same type of stringent budget procedures now imposed on municipalities and counties -- specifically in the area of budget transfers.

The Democratic Party is pledged to imposing a maximum level for school surpluses -- an action which will mean a smaller school bill for local homeowners.

The Democratic Party firmly believes that the parochial school system plays a vital and necessary role in the overall process of educating New Jersey's students.

The Democratic Party recognizes that it has a major responsibility to the thousands of students in New Jersey attending non-public school. Democrats met this responsibility by enacting legislation providing textbooks, transportation aid, lunches and new auxiliary and diagnostic services to non-public schools.

The Democratic Party has historically been the political force for innovation and development of our higher education system. Ten years ago, over Republican opposition, it established the Department of Higher Education with a nonpolitical chancellor. Our state colleges -- once dedicated to the preparation of teachers -- have become multi-purpose institutions offering programs in the arts and sciences, the professions, business administration, allied health fields and the emerging technological fields.



Democrats have recognized that the state colleges are not only for the recent high school graduate, but also should be for persons interested in mid-career changes, for those desiring supplemental education, for persons in need of retraining and for senior citizens and others looking for educational enrichment.

In the past four years, enrollment in New Jersey public colleges increased 21 per cent. Some of this increase is in response to special programs developed by this Administration to meet the demand for part-time, non-traditional programs.

Democrats established the Hudson County Community College Commission, a unique institution, to provide residents of Hudson County the educational opportunities traditionally provided by a community college without incurring the capital and operating costs usually associated with the creation of a regular community college.

In addition, a South Jersey medical education program, established under Democratic leadership, will begin operation this fall.

The Democratic Party reaffirms its belief that everyone who is able should have access to quality higher education without suffering financial hardship. To this end this Administration has initiated a new Public Tuition Aid Grant Program which will eradicate the past tuition increases including those initiated by the Republican Party in 1973 in the public sector and will aid 15% more college students in 1978-79.

For the first time, Viet Nam veterans will be receiving tuition grants. In addition, aid for disadvantaged persons has been increased.

The State will increase aid from \$600 to \$700 per full-time equivalent student thereby providing significant relief to counties.

The Democratic Party also is pledged to continuing support for our

State's independent colleges, and to continuing to encourage those independent institutions which enjoy State support to increase the number of New Jersey students they enroll.

QUALITY OF LIFE

Democrats are concerned about how people live. They are concerned about the air they breathe, the water they drink and the land on which they play.

Democrats also are concerned about people's ability to move easily between home and work and to walk without fear on their streets.

In short, improving the quality of life should be the most important responsibility of government at all levels.

Criminal Justice

Every citizen of this state has the right to walk the streets, without fear. They have the right to feel secure in their homes. And they have the right to demand a system of criminal justice which effectively fights to reverse the problem of rising crime. This Democratic Administration has responded to preserve these fundamental rights.

In 1974, violent crime was increasing at an annual rate approaching five per cent. This Administration reversed that trend. By 1976 the violent crime rate had actually dropped, by 3/4 per cent. Murders last year were 24 per cent fewer than the year before, and in the early months of this year that improvement is accelerating -- overall violent crime is down an additional 3.7%.

This Democratic Administration and the Legislature have worked hard to achieve these results by funding the Safe and Clean Neighborhoods Act to increase the number of policemen on the streets, by enacting stiffer penalties for major pushers of hard drugs and by increasing the number of full-time prosecutors.

Governor Byrne, as a former prosecutor and judge, has campaigned vigorously for a completely revised penal code to remove antiquated and inconsistent laws from the books, provide definite rather than indeterminate sentences and to narrow judicial discretion to achieve more uniformity in sentencing. This would remove from the streets those convicted of violent crimes.

The Legislature also has passed legislation which prescribes mandatory sentencing for those convicted of possessing a firearm during the commission of certain violent street crimes. The Democrats support this kind of tough approach to violent crimes and to the criminals who menace our society.

This Administration also has created special offices to fight corruption of all forms. The Medicaid Investigation Unit within the Office of the Attorney General coupled with strong administrative measures, has given New Jersey one of the best records in the nation in curbing medicaid fraud.

Democrats also have established an effective screening method to prevent payment of improper Medicaid claims, resulting in savings of more than \$73 million.

A Drug Diversion unit to track the flow of drugs to illicit channels was created by this Administration. That unit, composed of professionals from the Division of Criminal Justice and the Department of Health, has successfully brought indictments against 39 individuals for illegal sales and transfers of prescription drugs.

This Administration supports the concept of a unified judicial system under the supervision of the Chief Justice and financed by the State and including a separate family court division, whereby juvenile justice and other matters aimed at reinforcing the concept of the family could become a reality. There is a need for a dual approach to our increasing youthful offenders problem with emphasis on providing compassionate and rehabilitative treatment of young first offenders on the one hand, while dealing promptly and effectively with minors who repeatedly commit adult crimes.

In the area of motor vehicle legislation, this Administration has implemented legislation designed to improve driver safety and reduce auto accidents. The effect of these laws is to put a more competent driver on the road by developing a motor vehicle system aimed at rehabilitating drivers instead of merely punishing them.

Finally, in an effort to face squarely all facets of the criminal justice problems in our State, a Department of Corrections was created by this Administration, to deal with the need for prison and parole reform.

Environment

The Democratic Party recognizes that there is no basic conflict between our environment and our economy. We must maintain clean air and water resources if New Jersey is to remain an attractive place for business to locate and for employees to work and live.

Under Democratic leadership, New Jersey has taken a chaotic, inefficient and disorganized environmental administration left by the Republicans and transformed it into a model for effective environmental organization. We have taken the following significant steps:

We have established the best record in the nation in utilizing Federal funding for sewer construction projects to improve water quality, committing the full \$1.3 billion of Federal funds available to the State for sewer construction.

We have revived the dormant, disorganized programs left by the Republicans and have funded projects creating thousands of jobs, with concentration on existing pollution problems in densely populated urban areas.

We have given New Jersey a modern and comprehensive legislative program to clean up our environment, and to compensate businesses and individuals for damage caused by pollution, through the enactment of the Water Pollution Planning Act, the Water Pollution Control Act, the Spill Compensation and Control Act. Wild and Scenic Rivers legislation is pending, and Green Acres and Clean Waters Bond Issues have been approved.

We have constructed and opened the long-discussed pipeline to link the Round Valley Reservoir with the State's population centers, adding 80 million gallons per day of water supplies for protection against drought.

We have undertaken a comprehensive program to develop a water supply master plan to define engineering and environmental costs of alternative water supply projects, with emphasis on implementing alternatives to the costly and environmentally incompatible Tocks Island Dam.

We have implemented the nation's pioneering auto emission control program, resulting in positive improvement in the State's air quality and have undertaken efforts to



decrease the emissions from oil and chemical storage tanks.

We have fought for regional and national standards in Federal air quality legislation, such as the "Byrne Amendment" to the Federal Clean Air Act which would seek national standards for industries such as the glass industry.

We have opened to the public the long-proposed Liberty State Park, created a commission to guide the future development of the park and implemented boat services to the park from Ellis Island.

We have made important strides to protect and strengthen our fish and wildlife resources through the monitoring of potential pollutants and other threats, the creation of new open space areas and the reintroduction of fish and wildlife to New Jersey's air, lands and water.

In the next four years, the Democratic Party will continue the job which it has begun to protect and strengthen New Jersey's diverse environment. In the coming years, we will:

- Press for new and expanded Federal funding to maintain the State's highly successful sewer construction program so that the momentum we have gained in cleaning up our waters is not lost.

- Obtain additional federal and regional recognition of the State's air quality problems through national and regional standards and agreements, support strict auto emission controls to clean the State's air and encourage needed industrial growth.

- Protect the unique environmental resources of the Pine Barrens, with due recognition of the regional, State and local interests involved in the preservation of this vital area.

- Fight for the end of all ocean dumping as quickly as possible, opposing any extension of the current 1981 deadline.

- Develop resource recovery facilities and sludge disposal methods to confront the State's solid waste problems.

- Expand the State's successful program to acquire and develop lands and waters for recreation and conservation, with emphasis on promoting parks within or with easy

access to urban areas.

-Implement a comprehensive ocean and beach program, including support of the Beaches and Harbors Bond Act, the coastal planning program and marine fishing resources.

-Focus environmental standards and regulations on risks to health, particularly the incidence of cancer among our citizens.

-Promote environmental awareness and activities in our urban areas, with concentration on problems of the urban environment and education of schoolchildren in our cities.

-Assist industry and others in confronting pollution problems through technical and financial aid.

-Seek development of recreational facilities in the Tocks Island area which provide for the enjoyment of area residents and visitors without imposing undue burdens for support and services on neighboring communities.

## Health Care

This Legislature and Administration have made substantial progress in improving the quality of life in this State; in preventing illness and accidents; and in controlling the steep increases in health costs.

The Democratic record on health care includes action in the areas of prevention and treatment.

In 1975, the Alcoholism Treatment and Rehabilitation Act was enacted. This law provided that alcoholics would no longer be treated as criminals, but as persons who need treatment.

Clinical laboratories play a crucial role in the early detection of serious disease. The Democratic Legislature enacted and Governor Byrne signed the Clinical Laboratories Improvement Act to ensure that the services provided by these laboratories will be effective and timely.

In the area of treatment, New Jersey has recognized that hospitalization should be a last resort in the health care arsenal. And when it is necessary, the length of stay should be minimized, for there is no more costly mode of health treatment.

This Administration has been the first to take on the task of containing hospital costs by curbing needless proliferation of health care facilities and demanding that a need be shown for such costly facilities and equipment before they are built.

The health care facility rate setting program of the Department of Health has been impressive. This Administration has held annual hospital cost increases to 9 per cent over previous years while the national average has been 15 per cent. The figures simply speak for themselves -- New Jersey is in the forefront in hospital cost containment.

Pending legislation would expand the authority of the Department of Health to contain hospital costs for all patients, and not merely for those who receive Blue Cross and Medicaid benefits. That legislation should be enacted so that we can make further progress in our efforts to contain hospital costs in this state.

The commitment of the Democratic Legislature and this Democratic Administration

to expanding the facilities of the College of Medicine and Dentistry has resulted in the impressive development of that institution. In the summer of 1976, the Legislature quickly raised ceilings on medical school loans, and a bill now before the Legislature would encourage new physicians to serve in under-serviced areas by giving medical school loans in return for service in such areas.

In addition to personnel, we need the facilities to provide services when they are needed, as determined by our certificate of need program. The Health Care Facilities Financing Authority has been more active in the past two years than ever before in helping finance needed health care facility construction and expansion.

New Jersey has one of the highest mortality rates from a variety of types of cancer. In May of 1976, Governor Byrne created a Cabinet level Committee on Cancer Control and charged it with developing a comprehensive cancer control plan.

Even before the creation of the Cabinet Committee, this Democratic Administration's efforts in controlling pollution contributed to the effort to rid New Jersey of some of the factors which most probably contribute to its high cancer rate.

But in the long run, we must develop comprehensive research programs to track down the real causes of cancer in this state and eliminate those causes.

We must be ready to wage a persistent, often frustrating and often difficult campaign against the causes of cancer. This Administration has begun that campaign. The Democratic Party will continue to explore each and every avenue available to diminish the threat of cancer.

## Transportation

Under four years of Democratic leadership, the State has made significant progress toward meeting critical transportation needs.

The Republican Administration left office with few highway projects ready for construction with adequate design and engineering plans. Confronted with the inaction of the lame-duck Republican Administration in keeping the highway program moving, the Democrats revamped the moribund program, completed the necessary planning and engineering and have progressed toward construction of necessary highway links to eliminate bottlenecks and connect our urban centers. Democratic leadership has recognized, however, that new highway development must be justified on sound transportation principles and must respond to concerns of local communities and residents.

In the area of mass transportation, the Byrne Administration has succeeded in obtaining more federal funding for public transportation projects than any other Administration in New Jersey's history. We have used this money to purchase more new buses than any other state, and to rehabilitate our deteriorated rail system. Significant proposals to reform the inefficient subsidy program and to reorganize the public transit regulatory framework have been advanced.

During the past four years, the Democratic Governor and Legislature have:

- Secured more than \$400 million in federal funding for new public transit projects, including such long-delayed projects as the rehabilitation of the Erie Lackawanna and New York and Long Branch railroads.

- Completed and opened to traffic major segments of Interstates 195, 295, 287 and 78, and made further progress toward completing engineering and environmental reviews for other interstate segments.

- Fought for a more aggressive role by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey in meeting the State's transportation needs, succeeding in obtaining funding from the Authority for significant improvements in access to Newark Airport.

- Opened the Meadowlands Sports Complex to the public without major traffic



problems, completing on schedule necessary access roads, parking facilities, and rail and bus terminals.

- Implemented and expanded reduced fare programs on the Newark City Subway, resulting in substantial increases in passengers.

- Proposed comprehensive legislation to reorganize the State's public transit organization and to revamp the administration of subsidies to private carriers.

- Created an Office of Community Involvement as a focus for public participation in transportation decisions, placing an advocate for community concerns within the bureaucracy.

In the next four years, we will:

- Act to complete our State and interstate highway system by lobbying to cut unnecessary red tape in Washington, identify and finish needed new highways, develop an efficient network of highways and meet transportation safety needs by removing hazards and bottlenecks.

- Complete the rehabilitation of our aging railroads, making the Erie Lackawanna, the New York and Long Branch and the Pennsylvania Reading Seashore Line modern and efficient carriers.

- Rehabilitate Newark's Penn Station to become a safe, clean and convenient terminal for bus and rail passengers.

- Fight for more adequate recognition of the State's needs for additional air service, particularly for greater utilization of Newark Airport.

- Develop new public transit programs in conjunction with the State's energy conservation plan.

Arts and Leisure

During four years of Democratic Administration, New Jersey has taken important steps to promote the State's identity as an independent center for arts and leisure activities.

Under the leadership of the State Arts Council appointed by Governor Byrne, diverse programs such as the Newport Jazz Festival, opera and symphony concerts have been held throughout the State. The opening of Liberty State Park, the development of the Meadowlands, the rehabilitation of Atlantic City as an entertainment center and the preservation of Newark's Symphony Hall are only some of the projects for which Democrats can be proud, and which promise to make the next four years a period of continued excitement.

In sports, New Jersey's Meadowlands is the most successful and attractive complex in the country. We can be proud that both professional and college teams compete for the chance to play in New Jersey's new stadium. We have brought minor league baseball back to Jersey City. Rutgers, the State University, has become nationally recognized for its fine athletic program, and is soon to open a modern gymnasium.

In tourism, the commencement of gambling in Atlantic City promises to restore the city to a preeminent place in attracting both classical and popular entertainment, as well as maintaining the State's important stake in tourism. The State already has taken important steps to plan for Atlantic City redevelopment, and we must attempt to ensure that other areas along the New Jersey shore and throughout the State also share in growth in tourism sparked by casino operations.

The challenge of the next four years will be met by a Democratic Party responsive to our citizens' needs for diverse leisure activities. We must carefully examine whether existing legislation and government programs are adequate to deal with these needs, including special review of proposals to create a Department of the Arts, new cultural facilities, and expanded park and recreation areas.

New Jersey stands at the threshold of a new era, and we look forward to the continued cultural and recreational development of our State.

## ADVOCACY FOR PEOPLE

Consumers, senior citizens, minorities, poor people, families yearning for clean air and water -- whatever their specific concern, citizens in 1973 needed a State government that would help fight their fights. They wanted a government that would stand with them when the chips were down, not against them.

Democrats were elected to provide that kind of active, involved, caring government. What is our record so far?

We have created the Department of the Public Advocate -- an agency unique among the 50 states. Its broad mandate enables the Public Advocate to truly represent citizens in their dealing with business, government at all levels, and organized interest groups.

The Advocate has fought for consumers in public utility and insurance rate setting processes, saving as much as \$1 billion in consumer costs. The Public Advocate has fought to help individuals subject to involuntary civil commitment procedures, the developmentally disabled, tenants in enforcing the Truth in Renting Act, and the general public in enforcing our new Sunshine Law. Since 1974, it has processed 15,000 individual citizen complaints.

Today, 38 other states are using our Public Advocate as a model as they design similar agencies.

Democrats have fought for people, and have acted as advocates for people in State government.

### Senior Citizens

The Democratic Party traditionally has recognized the special needs

and desires of the 1.1 million senior citizens in New Jersey. The record of the Party during the past four years clearly demonstrates this.

For example, the major beneficiaries of the new tax reform package are senior citizens. For the first time in our history, reliance on the indiscriminate property tax to support government has been reduced. The burden of paying for government now has been tilted away from property and toward one's ability to pay.

With new amendments to the income tax law, approximately 90% of the persons on pension will not pay any state income tax, but will receive all the benefits inherent in the tax reform program. These benefits include homestead rebates, special tenant rebates, continued property tax exemptions and lower property taxes.

For the first time men and women who gave long hard years to maintain and keep their homes, now have a program in place to protect them from confiscatory local property taxes.

In addition, the Democratic Party is responsible for many other programs to ease the financial burden of the elderly, while providing those basic services that contribute to the comfort, security and enjoyment of seniors in their later years.

Health care is one of the basic needs of the elderly.

To contain health costs, the Legislature has adopted legislation supported by Governor Byrne that provides for the substitution of less expensive but equally effective drugs.

Democrats also support legislation promoting the advertising of prescription drugs and eyeglasses.

Legislation is now in place permitting older citizens to receive an 80% reimbursement of their cost of drugs.

Legislation also has been enacted that extends Blue Cross and Blue Shield coverage for more health care services. This important measure not only reduces the cost of convalescing, but more importantly, permits persons able to leave a hospital, to return to their families and homes without fear that they no longer can pay for health services.

Democrats have given senior citizens forced to reside in nursing homes new rights while cracking down on unscrupulous nursing home operators.

To meet another vital need of the elderly, Democrats have undertaken efforts to provide them with decent housing and fair energy rates. For example, in addition to the direct benefits elderly homeowners are receiving from the tax reform package, Democrats are supporting the concept of utility lifeline legislation. No senior citizen should be forced to live without gas and electricity because of its cost. In addition, Democrats agree that the automatic fuel adjustment pass through is no longer warranted. No adjustments should be approved without PUC authorization. Democrats also were responsible for passage of a \$25 million bond issue the is being used to construct low-rent senior citizen housing.

To help the elderly remain mobile, Democrats have approved legislation authorizing local school districts to use school buses to transport them. They also have initiated reduced fare programs for seniors on public transportation.

The Democrats are pledged to continuing this record of progress in the years ahead. By upgrading the Office of Aging to Division status, the State is now in a position to move forward on many new fronts.

For example, the Democratic Party should explore ways of assisting



the elderly to repair their homes. This will keep thousands in their homes and out of nursing or other institutions.

Special efforts must be made to find jobs for those who can and still want to work but who were forced to retire. The Democrats are pledged to working with the State's congressional delegation to increase the amount of income the elderly can earn without being penalized by Social Security.

150,000 of our elderly are outside of New Jersey's dental health care system either as shut-ins or chronically ill. These persons cannot be serviced through traditional methods. The Democratic Party supports the development of a pilot mobile dentistry program designed to reach some of these 150,000 persons.

#### Women

Great strides have been made during this Democratic Administration towards guaranteeing equal rights for women in New Jersey. But the battle has not been won, and the Democratic Party must remain ever-sensitive to the needs of 53.1% of its population.

There must be continued support for the principles of the State and Federal Equal Rights Amendments, and opposition to any attempt to rescind New Jersey's ratification of the Federal constitutional amendment.

This Administration has been a model for the country in appointing women to cabinet level positions. This policy must be continued at all levels of government.

The Division on Women in the Department of Community Affairs has been created as an advocate within the government for women. The Democratic Party supports the Division and its programs.

Laws banning discrimination in the issuance of credit to women must be vigorously enforced, and the Democratic Party supports such enforcement.

Incidences of physical abuse to women are becoming more widely known. The Democratic Party supports the creation of shelters for battered women as part of a comprehensive support network for these victims, and supports necessary changes in the legal and law enforcement system to recognize the battered woman's need for legal protection.

The Democratic Party recommends that proposed revisions in the New Jersey Penal Code be made with a sensitivity toward women, particularly in the chapter on sexual assault.

Displaced homemakers are women who have contributed many years to maintaining a home and family and then find themselves, due to divorce, separation or widowhood, without an income and suffering difficulties in securing employment. Current federal legislation calls for multi-purpose centers throughout the country which would offer job counselling, training, placement and assistance with health care, legal and financial problems. The Democratic Party supports the establishment of such centers in New Jersey.

The Democratic Party supports increased monitoring of the Affirmative Action Plan laid out in Governor Byrne's Executive Order 14 in order to continue to increase the percentages of women and minorities employed by the State.

The Democratic Party recognizes the need for quality day care centers for mothers who work and supports the continued expansion of day care slots including facilities for bilingual children.

Today most women work not as a luxury, but to support themselves

and their families.

Concerned that New Jersey women might be forced to sacrifice the right to bear children as a condition precedent to being employed, the Democratic Party supports the prohibition of discrimination in employment based on pregnancy.

### Consumers

The Democratic Party and the Byrne Administration have taken strong action to protect the interests of consumers. Through a vigorous Division of Consumer Affairs, the efforts on behalf of the consumer have been continuous, varied and energetic. A law enacted in 1975 also gave county and municipal consumer protection offices the power to enforce consumer protection laws. During the last two years, the State and local network of consumer offices have saved the public a total of \$7 million.

Steps have been taken or are proposed to permit the consumer to more easily and fairly deal with government. Perhaps no achievement in this respect has been more significant than the establishment of the Department of the Public Advocate which represents the public against both public agencies and private businesses. The Carter Administration is now waging the battle to establish a similar agency at the national level.

Public access to governmental processes is basic to any effort to improve consumers' impact upon government regulation. This Administration has strongly supported legislation to increase the number of public members on the professional boards. Also needed is legislation to make uniform the procedures of these boards so that their actions can

be understood by the public and better supervised by the Attorney General.

Citizens must also appear before hearing officers to receive administrative adjudications of issues. Legislation is pending to establish an independent office of hearing examiners to professionalize the process and to minimize any possibility of bias on behalf of the governmental agency.

In the areas of health, insurance, public utilities and housing, the Administration and the Legislature have consistently tried to improve the lot of the consumer.

The Public Utilities Commission has acted strongly to curb rate increases. The PUC instituted a modified lifeline program for telephone service, and has denied a \$41.5 million interim increase. Lifeline rates for other utilities are supported by the Governor and legislative leadership, and legislation is pending to implement such a program.

The Division of Consumer Affairs also has implemented a unit pricing system enacted by the Legislature which permits a consumer to know what he or she is paying per pound, quart or gallon.

### Tenants

Tenants represent some 40 per cent of the state's population. Historically, tenants were relegated to second class status because they could not be secure in their "homes". In all landlord-tenant matters, the landlord held the upper hand.

During the past four years, the Democrats have changed this. We enacted legislation prohibiting eviction without cause. Democrats adopted legislation requiring all landlords to obtain federal crime insurance to protect their tenants.

Democrats also approved legislation requiring landlords to register with the municipality in which their buildings are located, to post their names and addresses in all buildings and to provide tenants with this information and with the names and addresses of the landlord's agents at the commencement of a lease. Democrats also required landlords to place security deposits in interest bearing accounts.

In short, Democrats have attempted to place tenants on a more equal footing with landlords.

When the recent tax reform package was adopted, Democrats made a determined effort to give tenants a portion of the benefits, through a system of tax credits and rebates.

The Democratic Party pledges to continue to work closely with tenant organizations for the benefit of tenants. We support legislation prohibiting landlords from misrepresenting the availability of housing. The Democratic Party also supports legislation requiring landlords to provide tenants with legal notices involving action they undertake. Finally, the Democratic Party endorses legislation prescribing the conditions under which tenants can sublease their apartments.

#### Equal Opportunity

The Democratic Party is pledged to guarantee equal employment opportunities to all the people of New Jersey -- without regard to race, color, sex, religion, age, marital status, nationality or physical disability.

The New Jersey Law Against Discrimination provides firm authority for the Attorney General, the State Division of Civil Rights and the Department of the Public Advocate to enforce State laws against all



forms of discrimination.

And a Democratic Administration and Legislature have made sure those laws are enforced vigorously and fairly.

But Democrats have done even more to show we are serious about equal opportunity.

During this Administration, the Democratic Legislature approved and Governor Byrne signed an affirmative action law governing State employment and projects that is second to none in its ambition or its power. The Department of Treasury has now adopted rules and regulations which carry out the spirit of this law and which will enable State agencies and local governments to meet its mandates.

Early in his Administration, Governor Byrne determined that it was imperative for New Jersey to demonstrate its commitment to affirmative action in some of the State's major construction projects. As a result, the Meadowlands Sports Complex and the College of Medicine and Dentistry were the sites of two of the most successful affirmative action programs in this country. The Governor and Legislature maintained their commitment to affirmative action even during times of economic difficulty experienced by both of these projects. Furthermore, the Administration has now insured that an equally strong affirmative action program will apply to the almost half billion dollar Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission project underway in the Newark area.

There have been several important developments in the area of affirmative action during this Democratic Administration:

-- The Civil Service Commission, in following the Governor's directives has centralized all functions relating specifically to the monitoring of State affirmative action programs in a new staff unit which re-

ports directly to the President of the Commission.

-- There have been significant increases in the numbers of women and minorities hired and promoted within the State Civil Service program.

-- A concerted effort has been made by this Democratic Administration to see that minority contractors are given access to State contracts throughout New Jersey.

-- The Administration is enforcing laws which require every company seeking to bid on a public contract at the State, local or county level to observe affirmative action requirements.

-- The Democratic Party pledges to ensure that the benefits of casino gambling in Atlantic City are shared by all its residents, and that all the people of Atlantic City participate in efforts to restore its prosperity and vitality.

Special efforts, as well, have been made by the Democratic Party to ensure that language barriers do not serve to restrict equal access to employment and educational opportunities.

The Democratic Party established an Office of Hispanic Affairs in 1974 to provide better communication and liaison between the Hispanic community and the State government.

The Office serves as the central agency to coordinate and evaluate programs and services offered by the State to New Jersey's Hispanic population. The Office also acts as a planning agency for the development of new programs and services.

A wide range of services are being provided, including juvenile delinquency prevention, family planning, health care, transportation, and child day care programs.

## Mental Retardation

The Division of Mental Retardation now serves over 18,000 mentally retarded New Jersey residents. The services it provides are invaluable, but there is still much the Democratic Party will do.

The Democratic Party is committed to enacting and improving programs like Vocational Workshops for Pre-Trainables which will develop and increase the self-sufficiency and self-respect of mentally retarded citizens.

To help New Jersey's mentally retarded achieve their full potential, the Administration has made funds available which will increase staffing at the State's institutions for the retarded, allow more retarded individuals to participate in the State's day training programs and upgrade training activities in all State institutions.

In addition, the Governor signed legislation which will provide State aid to school districts which have a resource room program for handicapped children. The Administration also approved money which will allow the construction of a school building to serve the severely handicapped children within Bergen, Passaic, and northern Hudson Counties.

To ensure that persons with developmental disabilities obtain fundamental human rights, the Democratic Legislature enacted, and Governor Byrne signed, the Developmentally Disabled Rights Act. This will guarantee that services for the handicapped are offered in a manner which respects the dignity, individuality and constitutional, civil and legal rights of developmentally disabled citizens.

## Veterans

The past four years have seen a renewal of the State's commitment to

provide for the needs of our veterans.

In the face of intense competition from other states, the Democratic Administration, Legislature and Congressional delegation succeeded in convincing the federal government that the State should be the site of a major new hospital to serve our veterans. This hospital will improve the health services offered to our veterans while serving as an important economic stimulus to the redevelopment of Camden. Additional State facilities in Menlo Park and Vineland also have been opened, expanding the number of beds available in State homes.

A Democratic Governor and Democratic Legislature also have been responsible for providing a new college tuition program for Viet Nam veterans and for extending the war orphan scholarship program to children orphaned by the Viet Nam War.

Under the new tax reform program, Democrats assumed the cost of the present veterans local property exemption -- a move that preserves the exemption while shifting its cost from the homeowner to the state. In addition, legislation will be signed shortly permitting widows to keep the benefit following the veteran's death.

To continue the proper recognition veterans deserve, a Democratic Legislature preserved the traditional November 11 observance of Armistice Day.

Finally, State government under the Democrats is in a position to recognize the importance of veteran's problems through high-level administration. In 1975, a Division of Veterans Affairs was established. This Division gives the State, for the first time, the mechanism to ensure that veterans' issues and concerns receive priority attention within the State government.

In the next four years, we must take decisive action to confront the problems of unemployment among veterans and to provide them better educational services. We must guarantee that the State government and the Legislature are capable of responding to veterans' needs. We must also take steps to continue the progress which has been made to restore respect among all citizens for the military and for those who have served their country.



Federal and Regional Relations

The Byrne Administration and the Legislature consistently have recognized the need for cooperative action on a regional basis to reverse the decline of industry in our area of the nation. We have aggressively sought to advance the interests of our region, presenting our common goals forcefully in the national debate.

Active participation in the Coalition of Northeast Governors has provided a valuable mechanism for cooperative solutions to critical issues shared by the states of this region. One of the most important problems which CONEG has confronted is the issue of energy independence. The coalition has proposed the establishment of a federally chartered corporation which would provide financing needed to stimulate development of energy conservation, distribution and production technologies. By promoting our independence in securing domestic energy sources we not only reduce the region's growing dependence on foreign oil, but we also encourage the location of industry in our region through improved energy availability and pricing.

CONEG's goal, to reactivate and rebuild the depressed economy of the Northeast, is further accomplished through a united effort to present to Congress and the Administration our views and interests in remedying current federal expenditure imbalances. Specifically, CONEG has successfully fought for more equitable formulas in legislation for public works, countercyclical aid to state and local governments and the food stamp program. In particular, CONEG has led the fight for a redistribution of community development funds, redistributing over \$300 million in funds to the Northeast over the next three years.

We are pledged to continue our efforts as a State, and as a member of CONEG to redesign major federal program allocation formulas such as educational aid to disadvantaged children, housing and community development, mass transit and medicaid to target them more effectively and equitably to New Jersey and the Northeast in general.

We will continue our efforts to retain and expand federal programs that will stimulate our economy and provide more jobs like countercyclical aid, public works, housing assistance and mass transportation. These are major national programs in which New Jersey State and federal officials played a key role in initiating.

We will continue to advocate strong federal programs in the consumer protection and criminal justice area -- such as the development of a victims of crime program that will especially aid the elderly victims of violent crimes, the strengthening and improvement of the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, the implementation of State anti-trust enforcement activities with federal aid, and the development of a workable and effective consumer protection agency patterned after the consumer role we have provided in New Jersey with the cabinet-level Department of the Public Advocate.

We will continue to press for reform of unemployment compensation laws that will give more relief to employers, assist industry in remaining in New Jersey, give us fiscal relief and which will more equitably share the national burden of economic recessions

We will continue to press for full funding and utilization of federal funding for wastewater treatment construction grants, for the completion of Liberty Park and critical flood control projects.

We will renew efforts for the implementation and funding of the toxic substances and solid waste laws approved by Congress, based to a great extent on New Jersey programs, for a strong and balanced federal Clean Air Act that will allow reasonable industrial growth while reducing pollution, and for outer continental shelf legislation that will give New Jersey citizens more control over the development of their precious coastal resources.

We will fight for additional federal funds for health planning, preventive health programs, emergency medical services, prevention of lead-based paint poisoning, and a strong health cost program that will help to control the cost of medical care.

We will continue to lead the fight nationally for federal funding for education for the handicapped and for the full implementation of programs to aid disadvantaged students.

And we shall continue to pursue a federal-state comprehensive cancer control program.

Guided by our successful experiences in strengthened regional relationships, New Jersey has joined with four neighboring states in the Middle-Atlantic region in an application to establish a regional planning commission. If approved, the federal funding would allow these states to undertake a comprehensive planning and program effort which would address the states' common problems of aging industrial cities, the obsolete economic infrastructure, outmigration of labor and capital, and unemployment.

New Jersey has experienced significant improvement in the level of federal aid received since this Administration began. For example, in Fiscal Year '69, New Jersey ranked 49th in per capital federal aid received. In Fiscal Year '76, New Jersey moved to 34th, an increase of \$91.34 per New Jersey resident. It should be noted that many of the other northern industrial states experienced a decline during this period. Furthermore, New Jersey is 6th in the nation in the total amount of federal dollars spent within our state, receiving a total of \$13.2 billion.

We intend to maintain this impressive record through a continuation of our strong federal-state relations program involving our New Jersey congressional delegation, Congress, the Administration, the Legislature and the New Jersey State Washington Office.

#### Cities

The vitality of our cities is the vitality of our State. In 1973, the Democratic Party pledged extensive efforts to provide a firmer fiscal base for the cities of New Jersey. The Administration and Legislature have made the first real progress in this area in many years. The tax reform measures passed during this Administration have equalized the resources behind the education of each child and brought tax stability.

Other major steps taken to alleviate the unfavorable financial situation of our cities include;

- Creation of the Economic Development Authority and its priority to establish jobs in cities.

- Providing additional funds under the Safe and Clean Streets Act to allow more police to patrol the streets.

- The increase of categorical municipal aid and revenue sharing monies from the income tax to be used for the continuation and initiation of important urban programs.

- Revitalization of the Housing Finance Agency to initiate more housing starts in our urban areas. New starts in the past two years have exceeded substantially all public housing starts during the previous Republican administration.

- The improvement and expansion of public facilities in our cities to re-establish them as commercial, educational, and transportation centers of our State.

- Enactment of the long sought in-lieu of tax program for State-owned property.

The Democratic party recognizes that these efforts are only a beginning to restore full vitality to our cities. We are pledged to continue this record by taking further steps to insure a bright future for New Jersey's urban areas. Some of these efforts will include the following:

- The use of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to provide additional funding for mass transportation systems to our cities.

- A cooperative effort with the New Jersey members of the Congress to revise the federal funding formula to better benefit our urban areas.

- The continuation of State supported municipal bonds to insure a favorable interest rate for city loans.

- The continued emphasis on urban parks, such as at Liberty State Park, for the better enjoyment of urban residents.

- Use of the Economic Development Authority to develop urban industrial parks.

Public Employees

New Jersey's State government--which has fewer public employees per capita than 48 other states--is economical, efficient, effective and productive.

And its employees produce for the taxpayers for whom they work.

The Democratic Party believes that to provide the people of New Jersey with the best possible administration of the State's affairs, we must ensure fair working conditions and adequate compensation for public employees.

The Democratic Party reaffirms its pledge to keep public employee wages at a level that will permit workers in government service to keep pace with rising living costs and provide them necessary financial security.

The Democratic Party is committed to strive for equality in public employee benefits and in the administration of the several public employee pension systems which cover New Jersey public employees.

The Democratic Party has an outstanding record of accomplishment during this Administration in providing regular improvements in wages, benefits and working conditions for public employees.

And Democrats join public employees in our mutual determination to work together in attempting to further increase productivity levels and the effectiveness of State government to provide the basis for future improvements in working conditions and in the quality of service to the people of New Jersey.

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And with this record of accomplishments and program for goals, we are proud to take our record to the public.



