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REMARKS OF GOVERNOR THOMAS H. KEAN
ANNUAL MESSAGE TO THE NEW JERSEY STATE LEGISLATURE
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY
TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 1984

TWO YEARS AGO I STOOD BEFORE YOU ON A COLD AND BLUSTERING DAY AND RAISED MY HAND SO THE CHIEF JUSTICE COULD SWEAR ME INTO THIS GREAT OFFICE.

ON THAT OCCASION I TOLD YOU THAT WE WOULD FACE TOGETHER "A TIME OF GREAT TESTING FOR NEW JERSEY AND ITS GOVERNMENT."

WE FEARED A HOST OF PROBLEMS LED BY THE WORST ECONOMIC TIMES TO FACE THIS NATION SINCE THE GREAT DEPRESSION.

NOW IN THIS MY SECOND REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE STATE I CAN TELL YOU NOT ONLY THAT WE HAVE WEATHERED THE STORM BUT THAT WE HAVE EMERGED WITH A FRESH NEW BREEZE IN OUR SAILS. WE ARE MATCHING OR SURPASSING OUR NEIGHBORING STATES. BUT BEING FIRST TODAY IS NOT ENOUGH FOR TOMORROW.

WE NOW HAVE A FURTHER TASK WE MUST PLAN FOR OUR FUTURE PROSPERITY. THE STATE OF THE STATE IS GOOD. WE HAVE BUILT THE FOUNDATION. IT IS TIME TO SET OUR SIGHTS ON THE HORIZON.

TODAY I CAN REPORT TO YOU THAT MORE NEW JERSEYANS ARE EMPLOYED THAN AT ANY OTHER TIME IN OUR STATE'S HISTORY. THAT OUR UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IS 3 POINTS LOWER THAN IT WAS AND IS WELL BELOW THAT OF THE NATION AS A WHOLE --- THAT CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS ARE UP 50 PERCENT FROM A YEAR AGO AND THAT HOME BUILDING IS RUNNING 104 PERCENT AHEAD OF LAST YEAR'S PACE.

MOST IMPORTANTLY --- NEW BUSINESS INCORPORATIONS, THE BEST SIGN OF CONFIDENCE IN OUR STATE'S FUTURE ARE RUNNING ALMOST 20 PERCENT AHEAD.

ALL THIS DIDN'T HAPPEN BY ACCIDENT --- BRINGING JOBS TO NEW JERSEY --- AND KEEPING THOSE WE ALREADY HAVE --- HAS BEEN THE TOP PRIORITY OF MY ADMINISTRATION FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS.

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TO BRING JOBS TO THIS STATE WE HAVE REDUCED TAXES ON BUSINESS, OFFERD LOW INTEREST LOANS AND PROMOTED THE STATE AGGRESSIVELY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OUR HISTORY.

AS PART OF OUR EFFORT WE HAVE LAUNCHED TWO MAJOR PROGRAMS TO TRAIN DISPLACED WORKERS, THE ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED AND THE WORKING POOR.

IN ADDITION WE HAVE LAUNCHED THE LARGEST HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION AND REPAIR PROGRAM IN OUR STATE'S HISTORY. THIS YEAR WE HAVE DEMONSTRATED THAT THE YEARS OF STANDING BEHIND OTHER STATES FOR FEDERAL HIGHWAY FUNDS ARE OVER, AND THAT THE TIME HAS PASSED WHEN ROADS REMAIN UNBUILT --- WHILE FEDERAL FUNDS ALLOCATED TO NEW JERSEY REMAIN UNCLAIMED.

IN THIS FISCAL YEAR WE ARE SPENDING \$451 MILLION TO IMPROVE OUR ROADS --- PROJECTS WHICH HAD BEEN DELAYED FOR YEARS. I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ASSURE BUSINESSMEN --- JOB CREATORS --- THAT IF THEY LOCATE OR EXPAND IN NEW JERSEY THEY WILL BE ABLE TO MOVE THEIR GOODS.

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TRANSPORTATION HOLDS THE KEY TO OUR STATE'S ECONOMIC FUTURE,
THE KEY TO FUTURE JOBS.

BY MAINTAINING AN EXCELLENT TRANSPORTATION NETWORK, WE
ATTRACT AND KEEP INDUSTRY AND WE DISTRIBUTE OUR PRODUCTS MORE
EFFICIENTLY.

IN THE LAST LEGISLATIVE SESSION, YOU FAILED TO SET UP A
STABLE SOURCE OF FUNDING FOR TRANSPORTATION.

LAST YEAR'S PROGRAM WHICH I HAVE DESCRIBED WAS BASED ON
FUNDS FROM THE 1979 BOND ISSUE. AFTER JULY, WE WILL STILL BE
ELIGIBLE FOR MILLIONS OF FEDERAL DOLLARS, --- MORE THAN EVER
BEFORE --- BUT WE WILL NOT HAVE THE STATE FUNDS REQUIRED TO MATCH
THEM UNLESS YOU ACT. WE CANNOT RETURN TO A POLICY OF PUTTING OFF
UNTIL TOMORROW WHAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN DONE YESTERDAY.

THE INFRASTRUCTURE BANK STILL DOES NOT EXIST, DESPITE THE CRYING NEED FOR SUCH A FUND, DESPITE THE NATIONAL PRAISE FOR MY PROPOSAL, DESPITE THE FACT THAT SEVERAL LEADERS OF THIS GOVERNMENT HAVE TESTIFIED IN WASHINGTON ABOUT ITS MANY BENEFITS, AND DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING A BILL TO EMULATE IT.

I CHALLENGE THIS LEGISLATURE EITHER TO IMPROVE ON THE INFRASTRUCTURE BANK, OR TO APPROVE IT. BUT DON'T SIT ON IT. THE FURTHER YOU ALLOW OUR ROADS, BRIDGES, WATERWAYS AND SEWERS TO DETERIORATE, THE MORE IT WILL COST TO REPAIR THEM. AND IF YOU CHOOSE TO IGNORE THE PROBLEM AND BURY YOUR HEADS IN THE SAND, YOU ARE LIKELY TO FIND THE INFRASTRUCTURE CRUMBLING ABOUT YOUR EARS.

A SOUND PHYSICAL FOUNDATION IS A BASIC REQUIREMENT FOR A SOUND ECONOMY.

TO HELP CREATE THAT FOUNDATION I HAVE RECENTLY MADE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE ATLANTIC CITY EXPRESSWAY TO PROVIDE US WITH SURPLUS REVENUE FOR VITAL SOUTH JERSEY TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS. SENATOR RAND IS PLANNING TO INTRODUCE THE REQUIRED LEGISLATION --- I URGE YOUR SUPPORT. I AM ALSO NEGOTIATING WITH THE NEW JERSEY TURNPIKE AUTHORITY AND THE NEW JERSEY HIGHWAY AUTHORITY IN AN EFFORT TO REACH SIMILAR AGREEMENTS. THE AGREEMENTS WE HOPE TO REACH WITH ALL THREE AUTHORITIES WILL PROVIDE US A SOURCE OF FUNDING FOR PROJECTS THAT WOULD OTHERWISE BE NEGLECTED.

THERE IS ANOTHER URGENT MATTER WHICH WE CAN NO LONGER IGNORE: UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE REFORM. THE CURRENT DEBT IMPERILS THE FUNDS FUTURE. AT THE SAME TIME IT SERVES AS A MAJOR DISINCENTIVE TO NEW COMPANIES WHO WOULD OTHERWISE LOCATE IN OUR STATE. I HAVE APPOINTED A COMMISSION COMPOSED OF DISTINGUISHED REPRESENTATIVES OF BUSINESS AND LABOR. I HOPE FOR THEIR REPORT IN THE NEAR FUTURE. I STAND READY TO WORK WITH YOU FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REFORMS THEY PROPOSE.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE REMEMBER THAT IN SPITE OF THE CONTINUING RECOVERY, THERE ARE STILL THOSE IN OUR STATE WHO WANT TO WORK AND WHO STILL CANNOT FIND JOBS.

WE WILL NEVER BE SATISFIED UNTIL EVERY NEW JERSEY CITIZEN WILLING TO WORK IS ABLE TO GET A DECENT JOB AND EARN A DECENT SALARY. IF THIS IS TO HAPPEN WE MUST TURN OUR ATTENTION TO OUR CITIES. THEY HAVE NOT SHARED IN MUCH OF OUR ECONOMIC GROWTH AND YET I BELIEVE THAT IF WE ARE TO PROSPER AS A STATE WE CANNOT ABANDON OUR CITIES SEVERAL OF LAST YEAR'S INITIATIVES WERE AIMED PARTICULARLY AT OUR CITIES. IN PARTICULAR I CONGRATULATE YOUR PASSAGE OF THE URBAN ENTERPRISE ZONE BILL. I WOULD URGE OUR UNITED STATES' CONGRESS TO FOLLOW NEW JERSEY'S LEAD.

IN THIS ADMINISTRATION WE HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH OUR VARIOUS CITIES TRYING TO MAXIMIZE THEIR STRENGTHS. IN NEWARK WE OUR MAKING PROGRESS ON DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT CENTERED AROUND THE GATEWAY COMPLEX. IN CAMDEN AND JERSEY CITY WE ARE WORKING WITH THE WATERFRONTS.

IN ALL OUR CITIES WE ARE WORKING TO DEVELOP AROUND TRANSPORTATION CENTERS. BUT TO DATE, THERE HAS BEEN NO OVERALL EFFORT TO COORDINATE OUR URBAN INITIATIVES --- NO SINGLE ENTITY TO FORMULATE AN OVERALL URBAN STRATEGY.

THEREFORE, TODAY I WOULD LIKE TO PROPOSE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STATEWIDE URBAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION TO DEVELOP AND COORDINATE OUR PROGRAM FOR REBUILDING THE CITIES. I DO NOT ENVISION A GREAT COST BEING ASSOCIATED WITH SUCH A CORPORATION. ITS DIRECTIVES COULD BE CARRIED OUT BY EXISTING PROGRAM STAFF IN THE STATE'S EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES. ITS CHARGE WOULD NOT BE TO DEMAND NEW RESOURCES FROM THE STATE, BUT MORE EFFECTIVELY TO USE THOSE WE ARE NOW DEVOTING TO THE CITIES . ITS PURPOSE WOULD NOT BE TO SPEND MORE MONEY, BUT TO TARGET AND COORDINATE WHAT WE ARE SPENDING ALREADY.

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THE CORPORATION WOULD BE MADE UP OF BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE MEMBERS, MEMBERS WHO HAVE EXPERIENCE IN WORKING WITH THE PROBLEMS OF OUR CITIES AND WHO CAN BRING SOME UNDERSTANDING TO THESE PROBLEMS.

BY ESTABLISHING SUCH A CORPORATION, WE COULD TURN OUR COLLECTION OF GOOD FAITH EFFORTS TO SOLVE URBAN PROBLEMS INTO A FORCEFUL, COMPREHENSIVE URBAN DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY --- A STRATEGY TARGETED TO MEET THE PARTICULAR NEEDS OF INDIVIDUAL CITIES.

FINALLY THERE IS ONE CITY WITH SPECIAL URBAN PROBLEMS. CASINO GAMBLING WITH ITS IMMENSE PROFITS HAS YET TO FULFILL ITS PROMISE TO ATLANTIC CITY. I URGE YOU TO ACT PROMPTLY ON OUR REINVESTMENT CREDIT PROPOSAL SO THAT PROMISE CAN BE KEPT. LEGAL GAMING DOES NOT MEAN THAT ANY OF US MAY TRIFLE OR PLAY GAMES WITH THE LIFE OF A CITY AND ITS PEOPLE.

I AM WILLING TO COMPROMISE ON VARIOUS PORTIONS OF MY PROPOSAL BUT ON THESE AREAS I FEEL STRONGLY. FIRST --- THAT 15 PERCENT OF THE MONIES REINVESTED BE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR HOUSING FOR LOW AND MIDDLE INCOME RESIDENTS. SECOND --- THAT THE MONIES GO EXCLUSIVELY TO THE EIGHT COUNTIES COMPRISING SOUTH JERSEY. THIRD --- THE CURRENT HOUSING CONDITIONS IN THE CITY MUST BE IMPROVED. SOUTH JERSEY PRIORITIES HAVE BEEN NEGLECTED BY THIS STATE IN MANY WAYS IN THE PAST. THIS IS ONE WAY TO MAKE UP FOR THIS PAST NEGLECT.

IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT FOR ALL OUR CITIZENS THAT OUR GOVERNMENT OPERATE EFFECTIVELY AND THAT THOSE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES WHO ARE TRULY EXCEPTIONAL BE SINGLED OUT AND REWARDED.

IN THAT REGARD I HOPE TO WORK IN THE COMING YEAR WITH OUR PUBLIC EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVES TO INCREASE THE INCENTIVE FOR EXCELLENT JOB PERFORMANCE. LET ME APPEAL TO YOU AGAIN FOR CIVIL SERVICE REFORM. THE LAWS HAVE NOT CHANGED SUBSTANTIALLY SINCE 1908. THIS IS NOT A PARTISAN ISSUE GOVERNORS MEYNER, HUGHES, CAHILL AND BYRNE ALL AGREE. WE CAN RUN GOVERNMENT BETTER AND WE CAN SAVE TAXPAYERS MONEY --- BUT WE NEED THE BILL.

SINCE CIVIL SERVICE LAWS WERE WRITTEN WE HAVE FOUGHT TWO WORLD WARS, EMERGED AS A SUPER POWER, AND GROWN DRAMATICALLY AS A STATE. THIS STAGNATION IN CIVIL SERVICE IS A DISGRACE. IT IS ALSO RIDICULOUS. THIS LEGISLATURE CAN BE THE AGENT OF REFORM. IT WOULD BE A LASTING GIFT TO NEW JERSEY.

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WHEN I TOOK OFFICE NEW JERSEY'S PRISON SYSTEM WAS TEETERING ON THE BRINK OF CHAOS. A DECADE OF NEGLECT HAD LEFT OUR STATE INSTITUTIONS AND NEARLY EVERY COUNTY JAIL FILLED TO THE BURSTING POINT.

QUICK AND EFFECTIVE ACTION SPARED NEW JERSEY THE SPECTER OF PRISON RIOTS THAT STRUCK SO MANY OTHER STATES. WE WERE ALSO SPARED THE CHILLING NEWS HEARD ELSEWHERE THAT VIOLENT CRIMINALS RELEASED BY COURT ORDER FROM OVERCROWDED JAILS HAD FOUND NEW VICTIMS, SOMETIMES WITHIN HOURS OF THEIR RELEASE.

THIS STATE WILL NOT TOLERATE CRIMINAL AGGRESSION AGAINST THE INNOCENT. THE STATE'S PURPOSE IS NOT TO AVENGE FOR VENGEANCE'S SAKE, BUT TO PREVENT AND DETER FUTURE HARM TO ITS MEMBERS.

WE WILL CAPITALIZE ON THIS PROGRESS THIS YEAR. OUR SECOND NEW PRISON, SOUTHERN STATE TWO, WILL OPEN NEXT MONTH. WORK WILL CONTINUE ON THE NEW MEDIUM SECURITY PRISON IN CAMDEN, AND GROUND WILL BE BROKEN AFTER A DECADE OF DELAY FOR A 1,000-BED FACILITY IN NEWARK THAT WILL HOUSE MANY URBAN INMATES CLOSER TO THEIR HOMES, WHILE PROVIDING A SUBSTANTIAL ECONOMIC BOOST FOR THE CITY AND FOR THE NEWARK RESIDENTS WHO WILL RECEIVE PREFERENCE FOR THE JOBS THAT PRISON WILL CREATE.

CRIME WAS DOWN IN NEW JERSEY LAST YEAR FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW.

I BELIEVE THE LEGISLATURE DESERVES SUBSTANTIAL CREDIT FOR THAT FACT, BECAUSE I BELIEVE THE TOUGHER LAWS YOU ENACTED ACCOUNT FOR PART OF THAT DROP. PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT ARE THE PACKAGE OF BILLS YOU PASSED, AND I SIGNED TO DEAL MORE STERNLY WITH JUVENILE CRIMINALS.

THE CREATION OF THE NEW FAMILY COURT WAS A DISTINGUISHED
ACHIEVEMENT. AND SENATOR GRAVES' BILL TO DETER CRIME AGAINST THE
ELDERLY AND DISABLED SENDS A CLEAR SIGNAL TO THE CRIMINALS IN OUR
SOCIETY THAT WE WILL NOT TOLERATE THE SINGLING OUT OF THE WEAK
AND THE VULNERABLE AS THEIR VICTIMS.

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I MUST SAY, HOWEVER, THAT I AM SADLY DISSAPPOINTED AT YOUR ACTIONS OR LACK OF THEM, LAST NIGHT, THAT SPELLED DEFEAT FOR SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT LEGISLATION TO BE CONSIDERED DURING THE LAST LEGISLATIVE TERM.

DRUNK DRIVING IS ONE OF THE DEADLIEST AFFLICTIONS TO PLAGUE OUR SOCIETY.

YOU BEGAN TO DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM LAST YEAR. POSITIVE ACTION ON BILLS TO PROHIBIT OPEN CONTAINERS OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IN AUTOMOBILES, AND TO MAKE A BLOOD ALCOHOL LEVEL OF POINT-ONE-OH (.10) PROOF OF "PER SE" DRUNKENESS WERE EXCELLENT FIRST STEPS.

I HAD HIGH HOPES BEFORE LAST NIGHT THAT 200TH SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE WOULD END WITH A TRULY DISTINGUISHED RECORD ON DEALING WITH THIS TERRIBLE SOCIAL ILL.

HOWEVER, YOUR FAILURE LAST NIGHT TO PASS LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING THE DRUNK DRIVING ENFORCEMENT FUND IS A REAL DISSERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF OUR STATE. IT IS BAD ENOUGH THAT WE NOW LACK THE ENFORCEMENT FUND, WHICH WOULD HAVE PROVIDED AN IMPORTANT NEW SOURCE OF REVENUE TO FUND THE EFFORTS OF LOCAL POLICE TO ENFORCE THE DRUNK DRIVING LAWS.

BUT WHAT IS WORSE, THIS FAILURE HAS ALSO DOOMED THE LIQUOR TAX WHICH WOULD HAVE PROVIDED FINANCING FOR IMPORTANT ALCOHOL-RELATED REHABILITATION PROGRAMS, AND THE INTOXICATED DRIVER RESOURCE CENTERS WHICH MANY OF YOU SAW AS AN IMPORTANT ENFORCEMENT TOOL IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING.

I CANNOT OVER-EMPHASIZE MY HOPE THAT YOU WILL MAKE THESE BILLS YOUR VERY FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS IN THE NEW TERM.

THE TOLL TAKEN BY DRUNK DRIVERS IN THIS STATE AND IN THE COUNTRY IS A TRAGEDY. BUT IT IS A TRAGEDY WE CAN TAKE ACTION TO PREVENT. PLEASE. DON'T LET THESE BILLS FALL VICTIM TO PARTISAN WRANGLING. THEY ARE FAR TOO IMPORTANT.

I WANT NEW JERSEY TO BE KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE NATION AS THE
STATE WHICH WILL NOT, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, TOLERATE THE
DRUNKEN DRIVER.

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I THINK ONE OF THE SADDEST EVENTS WE EXPERIENCE IN TODAY'S SOCIETY IS TO PICK UP THE MORNING NEWSPAPER AND READ OF SOME POOR INNOCENT PERSON WHO HAS BEEN MURDERED, RAPED, BEATEN OR ROBBED OF THEIR LIFE SAVINGS AND THE SUBSEQUENT ARREST OF A CONVICTED CRIMINAL ONLY TO FIND OUT THAT HE IS OUT ON BAIL AWAITING TRIAL ON A SIMILAR VIOLENT CRIME.

DURING THE LAST SESSION I URGED YOU TO ACT ON LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD LEAD TO THE DETENTION WITHOUT BAIL OF CONVICTED VIOLENT CRIMINALS CHARGED WITH SIMILAR VIOLENT CRIMES. THAT BILL MADE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS BUT WAS NOT PASSED.

I URGE YOU AGAIN TO CONSIDER THIS MEASURE.

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I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT, WORKING TOGETHER, WE CANNOT DEVISE A SYSTEM WHICH WILL PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF THE INNOCENT AT LEAST AS WELL AS THE RIGHTS OF THE CRIMINAL!

FINALLY, IN THIS AREA, I WANT TO URGE YOU TO CAREFULLY CONSIDER A PROPOSAL TO UNDERTAKE A GREATER DEGREE OF LONG-TERM PLANNING TO MEET THE NEEDS OF OUR CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM.

I BELIEVE THAT THE CRIMINAL DISPOSITION COMMISSION COULD HELP IN THIS PLANNING. THE COMMISSION COULD HELP THE GOVERNOR, AND THE LEGISLATURE, IDENTIFY CRITICAL ISSUES FACING THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM IN A COORDINATED BUT BROAD-BASED FASHION. IT COULD PERFORM THE KIND OF ANALYSIS THAT LEADS TO BETTER DECISION-MAKING AND BETTER INTERNAL PLANNING.

AT PRESENT THE CRIMINAL DISPOSITION COMMISSION LACKS THE
BUDGET, AND THE STAFF, TO EXECUTE SUCH A MANDATE. IF WE PROVIDE
IT WITH DIRECTION AND STRENGTH, THE COMMISSION CAN HELP IMPROVE
THE FUNCTIONING OF OUR CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM.

I BELIEVE WE SHOULD ASK IT TO PLAY THIS NEW, STRENGTHENED
ROLE.

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IN 1983, AFTER A LOT OF HARD WORK AND COMPROMISE, WE MADE THE FIRST PROGRESS IN YEARS IN THE AREA OF AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE REFORM. THE BILLS SIGNED INTO LAW ARE EXPECTED TO SAVE THE AVERAGE MOTORIST AS MUCH AS \$150 WHEN ALL THE PROVISIONS TAKE EFFECT.

THERE REMAINS, HOWEVER, MUCH TO BE DONE IF WE ARE REALLY INTERESTED IN SERVING THE BEST INTERESTS OF NEW JERSEY MOTORISTS. I ASKED YOU LAST YEAR FOR A MEDICAL FEE SCHEDULE TO CONTROL THE UNLIMITED MEDICAL COSTS NOW ASSOCIATED WITH AUTO INSURANCE. I ASK YOU AGAIN TO PASS SUCH A LAW.

I ASKED YOU, AS DID MY PREDECESSOR, FOR A VERBAL THRESHOLD ON TORT LIABILITY, AND I ASK FOR IT AGAIN.

LAST YEAR WE PROVED THAT THE PUBLIC INTEREST CAN WIN OUT OVER PRIVATE INTERESTS. THIS YEAR I WILL ASK YOU TO EXTEND THAT LESSON AND COMPLETE THE BUSINESS OF AUTO INSURANCE REFORM.

WHILE THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE ECONOMY ARE OFTEN PRESENTED AS COMPETING INTERESTS, I HAVE KNOWN FOR A LONG TIME THAT IN NEW JERSEY THE TWO ARE INEXTRIABLY BOUND. A HEALTHY ECONOMY DEPENDS ON A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT. IN THAT REGARD LET ME CONGRATULATE YOU AND ESPECIALLY SENATOR DAN DALTON ON LAST YEAR'S PASSAGE OF THE WORKER AND COMMUNITY RIGHT TO KNOW ACT. IT HAS PUT NEW JERSEY IN THE FOREFRONT OF WORKER AND COMMUNITY SAFETY. I BELIEVE SAFE JOBS ARE THE BEST JOBS FOR NEW JERSEY.

THE PROBLEM OF TOXIC WASTE WILL NOT GO AWAY AND CANNOT BE IGNORED. WHILE NEW JERSEY HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED FOR ITS NATIONAL LEADERSHIP ON THIS FRONT, WE STILL HAVE MUCH TO DO.

WHEN THE CONGRESS PASSED THE LAW AUTHORIZING SUPERFUND IN 1980, IT UNDERESTIMATED THE SIZE AND COMPLEXITY OF THE PROBLEM. THE EXISTENCE OF SUPERFUND HAS BEEN PIVOTAL IN IDENTIFYING THE SIZE AND SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM, AND IN PREPARING PLANS FOR CONTROLLING AND CLEANING UP SITES.

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BUT IF WE ARE TO COMPLETE THE ACTUAL CLEANUP OF THE NATION'S AND THE STATE'S WORST SITES, WE MUST BOTH REAUTHORIZE AND ENLARGE SUPERFUND. NOW THAT WE HAVE A CLEARER IDEA OF THE TASK BEFORE US, THIS IS A MORE URGENT PRIORITY THAN EVER.

NEW JERSEY'S U.S. SENATORS, BILL BRADLEY AND FRANK LAUTENBERG, HAVE INTRODUCED A BILL THAT WOULD EXTEND THE LIFE AND INCREASE THE SIZE OF SUPERFUND. ALL OF US WHO CALL OURSELVES NEW JERSEYANS SHOULD UNITE BEHIND THIS BILL AND WORK FOR ITS PASSAGE. PERSONALLY, I COMMEND OUR TWO SENATORS FOR TAKING THE LEAD ON THIS LEGISLATION, AND I STAND READY TO ASSIST THEM IN ANY WAY I CAN IN WORKING FOR ITS PASSAGE.

IN THE MEANTIME, WE HAVE PLENTY OF WORK FOR US HERE IN THE STATE. WE MUST APPROACH THE SITING OF NEW HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITIES IN THE MOST PROFESSIONAL AND DISPASSIONATE WAY, WITH THE SAFETY OF THE PUBLIC OUR PRIMARY CONCERN. IN THIS REGARD, I WOULD ASK YOUR FURTHER SUPPORT FOR THE HAZARDOUS WASTE SITING COMMISSION.

I WILL ALSO ASK YOU TO SUPPORT A NEW INITIATIVE --- ONE THAT WILL ENABLE US TO PAY GREATER ATTENTION TO THE HEALTH EFFECTS OF EXPOSURE TO TOXIC MATERIALS AT VARIOUS SITES AROUND THE STATE. THE PROGRAM I PROPOSE WILL ALLOW US TO CONDUCT COMPREHENSIVE MEDICAL SCREENING PROGRAMS AT SITES THROUGHOUT NEW JERSEY. IT WILL ALSO TO CREATE A TOXIC SUBSTANCE REGISTRY THAT WILL GIVE MEDICAL EXPERTS THE ABILITY TO TRACK THE HEALTH STATUS OF NEW JERSEY CITIZENS, TO HELP THEM DETERMINE THE CAUSES OF CANCER AND OTHER DISEASES. AND IT WILL PROVIDE FOR THE UPGRADING OF LABORATORY SERVICES TO GIVE ANALYTICAL SUPPORT TO THE TECHNICAL STUDIES WE WILL CONDUCT.

BUT A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM TO ADDRESS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AND PUBLIC HEALTH RISKS MUST DO MORE: IT MUST ACTIVELY SEEK TO PREVENT OVEREXPOSURE TO TOXIC SUBSTANCES.

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ACCORDINGLY, IN THE COMING YEAR, I PROPOSE THAT WE UNDERTAKE SEVERAL INITIATIVES TO PREVENT UNSAFE LEVELS OF EXPOSURE.

FIRST, DESPITE RECENT FEDERAL ACTIVITY THAT HAS RAISED THE QUESTION OF PRE-EMPTION OF STATE STATUTES, WE MUST FOLLOW THROUGH ON THE ACTION WE TOOK LAST YEAR IN PASSING NEW JERSEY'S RIGHT TO KNOW LAW AND MOVE FORWARD STRONGLY TO IMPLEMENT AND PERFECT OF THAT RIGHT. AS YOU KNOW, WE RECENTLY FILED SUIT WITH OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES IN FEDERAL COURT TO CHALLENGE THE RIGHT OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO ADOPT REGULATIONS WHICH ARE WEAKER THAN OURS.

IN THE TIME PRECEDING THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE LABELING REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH IN THE LEGISLATION, WE SHOULD WORK WITH ALL INTERESTED PARTIES TO DEVELOP SOUND, EFFECTIVE REGULATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE LAW, AND TO RESOLVE ANY SPECIFIC PROBLEMS THAT REMAIN OUTSTANDING.

SECOND, I WILL SHORTLY ESTABLISH A COMMISSION ON RISK ASSESSMENT TO RECOMMEND TOXIC CONTAMINANT EXPOSURE LEVELS. OUR CITIZENS FACE THE POSSIBILITY OF EXPOSURE TO A RANGE OF TOXIC CONTAMINANTS IN A VARIETY OF SITUATIONS. WHAT IS NEEDED IS A GENERIC APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM OF EXPOSURE --- BASED ON SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE AND THE MOST CURRENT MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE. THE COMMISSION ON RISK ASSESSMENT WILL BE CALLED UPON TO DEVELOP SUCH AN APPROACH: TO MAKE SURE WE UNDERSTAND THE EXACT NATURE OF RISKS TO PUBLIC HEALTH, AND TO MINIMIZE THOSE RISKS.

THIRD, WE WILL PROCEED WITH THE EFFORT TO SET STANDARDS TO ENSURE THAT THE WATER OUR CITIZENS DRINK IS SAFE. AS YOU KNOW, AT THE END OF THE LAST SESSION YOU PASSED AND I SIGNED LEGISLATION DEVELOPED BY OUR DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION WHICH CALLS FOR SUCH AN EFFORT. CLEAN DRINKING WATER IS THE MOST VITAL OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES. IN MANY WAYS, IT IS OUR LIFE BLOOD. WE MUST ACT NOW TO ENSURE ITS CONTINUED SUPPLY, AND THE CONTINUED INTEGRITY OF THAT SUPPLY.

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SOME ENVIRONMENTAL CRISES, SUCH AS HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL, ATTRACT ATTENTION AND LITERALLY DEMAND A RESPONSE. IN NEW JERSEY, WE HAVE A RECORD OF PROGRESS ON THESE ISSUES BOTH AT THE LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE LEVEL.

ON SOME ISSUES, HOWEVER, WE HAVE NO CAUSE FOR SELF-CONGRATULATION. SOLID WASTE IS SUCH AN ISSUE. FOR YEARS WE HAVE RUN AWAY FROM THE HARD CHOICES REQUIRED FOR A SOLUTION. SOLID WASTE HAS BEEN IN CRISIS IN NEW JERSEY FOR TEN YEARS. IN THE LAST ONE AND A HALF YEARS, WE'VE HAD TO MAKE A SERIES OF HARD DECISIONS TO COME TO GRIPS WITH THE CRISIS. BUT WE'VE ALSO BEEN WORKING IN A BI-PARTISAN EFFORT ON SOLUTIONS.

THESE SOLUTIONS ARE NOW MORE VITAL THAN EVER. IN JUST A FEW YEARS, THE ISSUE WILL NO LONGER BE WHICH COUNTY TAKES WHICH GARBAGE; INSTEAD, IT WILL BE WHERE TO FIND ROOM TO PUT ANY OF THE GARBAGE --- EVEN IF WE ALL AGREE TO SHARE THE BURDEN EQUALLY.

LEGISLATION DESIGNED TO PREPARE US FOR THE NEXT PHASE OF SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AND TO CLEAR THE WAY FOR RESOURCE RECOVERY IS NOW READY FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION. I HOPE IT WILL BE FORTHCOMING EARLY THIS SESSION.

THE LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE I WILL BE SUBMITTING TO YOU WILL DO SEVERAL THINGS. FIRST, IT PROVIDES FOR PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF RESOURCE RECOVERY FACILITIES. SECOND, IT CALLS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT FUND IN EACH COUNTY THROUGH A MANDATED SURCHARGE ON GARBAGE DISPOSAL WHICH WILL BE USED TO DEVELOP RESOURCE RECOVERY AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES. THE TIPPING-FEE INCREASE TO FINANCE THESE INDIVIDUAL DEDICATED COUNTY FUNDS WOULD BE PHASED IN. THIRD, THE LEGISLATION ATTEMPTS TO EXPEDITE THE CONTRACTING PROCESS BETWEEN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS, AND TO MAXIMIZE THE USE OF AVAILABLE TAX INCENTIVES FOR RESOURCE RECOVERY DEVELOPMENT. FINALLY, IT PROVIDES FOR THE PAYMENT OF PENALTIES TO THOSE COUNTIES WHICH ARE FORCED TO ACCEPT GARBAGE EXTERNAL TO THEIR BOUNDARIES.

GARBAGE IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEMS OF THE 80'S IN NEW JERSEY. WE CAN NO LONGER WALK AWAY FROM THE PROBLEM; IT HAS ARRIVED ON OUR DOORSTEP. THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT THERE WILL BE A HIGH COST TO TAKING A RESPONSIBLE APPROACH TO SOLID WASTE AND RESOURCE RECOVERY. MY CONTENTION IS THAT WE MUST BE PREPARED TO BEAR IT, FOR THE COSTS OF TAKING AN IRRESPONSIBLE APPROACH WILL BE MUCH GREATER. NOBODY LIKES GARBAGE. EVERYONE CREATES IT. EVERYONE MUST COPE WITH IT.

INCREASINGLY I WORRY ABOUT THE CAPABILITIES OF THE OCEAN TO ABSORB ADDITIONAL DREDGE SPOILS. THE SHORE IS ONE OF NEW JERSEY'S TREASURES; WE CANNOT IGNORE THE CONSEQUENCES OF THIS DUMPING FOR THE FUTURE OF AN AREA THAT MEANS SO MUCH TO SO MANY. AS ASSEMBLYMAN VILLANE HAS POINTED OUT SO OFTEN --- OUR FISHING AND TOURISM INDUSTRIES ARE FAR TOO IMPORTANT TO THE PEOPLE OF THIS STATE AND TO OUR ECONOMY TO BE PUT AT RISK. THE E.P.A. IS CONSIDERING A MOVE TO REQUIRE THAT MATERIAL FROM NEW YORK HARBOR BE DUMPED AT A SITE 106 MILES OUT. THIS IS ESSENTIAL TO THE CONTINUED HEALTH OF THE JERSEY SHORE, AND I CALL UPON THE E.P.A. TO ADOPT THIS RULE.

FINALLY I CONTINUE TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT A MENACE BEYOND OUR BORDERS. ACID RAIN IS NOW AFFECTING OUR CROPS, OUR PINELANDS, THE LAKES OF OUR NORTHWEST AND OUR PUBLIC BUILDINGS. I CALL ON OUR CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO TAKE THE LEAD IN SUPPORTING A NATIONAL SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM --- BEFORE OUR ECONOMY OR OUR ENVIRONMENT IS DAMAGED ANY FURTHER.

IT IS AN AXIOM THAT ANY DECENT SOCIETY IS JUDGED BY THE WAY IT CARES FOR ITS LESS FORTUNATE MEMBERS. AS JOHN KENNEDY REMINDED US AS HE BEGAN HIS ALL TOO BRIEF TERM IN OFFICE, "IF A FREE SOCIETY CANNOT HELP THE MANY WHO ARE POOR, IT CANNOT SAVE THE FEW WHO ARE RICH."

NEW JERSEY HAS A LONG AND WELL-DESERVED REPUTATION FOR CARING FOR ITS SICK, ITS ELDERLY AND ITS HANDICAPPED. I AM PROUD THAT DURING MY ADMINISTRATION WE HAVE EXTENDED THIS TRADITION AND I INTEND TO CONTINUE IT AS LONG AS I AM GOVERNOR.

SINCE I TOOK OFFICE THE LIFELINE UTILITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM HAS BEEN INCREASED 25 PERCENT TO \$200. PHARMACEUTICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE AGED AND DISABLES HAS RISEN 53 PERCENT IN THE LAST TWO YEARS. AND THE PROPERTY TAX DEDUCTION FOR SENIOR CITIZENS HAS INCREASED FROM \$225 TO \$250 DURING THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR.

MONEY IS IMPORTANT FOR THESE PROGRAMS, BUT EQUALLY VITAL IS THE ELEMENT OF HUMANITY --- THE HEART AND THE SOUL WITH WHICH WE PROVIDE THAT HELP.

I BELIEVE WE NEED A NEW APPROACH. ONE THAT WILL PREVENT OUR SOCIAL AND PHYSICAL ILLS RATHER THAN JUST TREAT THEM. ONE THAT WILL VIEW INSTITUTIONS AS A LAST RESORT RATHER THAN AN EASY SOLUTION. ONE THAT WILL KEEP OUR NEEDY IN THEIR COMMUNITIES, AND INVOLVE THE COMMUNITIES IN CARING FOR THEIR NEEDY.

SOME OF OUR PREVENTION PROGRAMS ARE ALREADY UNDERWAY. THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES WILL SPEND \$2.7 MILLION THIS YEAR TO PREVENT FAMILY VIOLENCE THROUGH GREATER INVOLVEMENT IN AND BY THE COMMUNITY.

MY 19-MEMBER TASK FORCE ON CHILD ABUSE IS ALREADY AT WORK STUDYING METHODS TO PREVENT ALL FORMS OF CHILD ABUSE.

IT IS MY HOPE THAT THESE TWO GROUPS WILL BE AS "CATCHERS IN THE RYE" --- CATCHING CHILDREN AT THE TOP OF THE CLIFF INSTEAD OF STRETCHING OUT A SO-CALLED SAFETY NET AFTER THEY FALL.

OUR DIVISION ON MENTAL RETARDATION IS WORKING WITH PRIVATE GROUPS, DEVELOPING STRATEGIES TO PREVENT RETARDATION THROUGH BETTER NUTRITION, EDUCATION AND TREATMENT. I WILL SOON APPOINT AN ADVISORY COUNCIL ON MENTAL RETARDATION TO DEVELOP A STATEWIDE PREVENTION PLAN TO REDUCE THE INCIDENCE OF MENTAL RETARDATION.

ONE OF THE LEAST HUMANE ASPECTS OF THE MANNER IN WHICH WE HAVE, IN THE PAST, AIDED THE NEEDY, IS THAT WHICH TORE FAMILIES APART AND FORCED THOSE RECEIVING OUR ASSISTANCE TO LEAVE THEIR HOMES AND THEIR LOVED ONES AND MOVE INTO INSTITUTIONS.

THIS YEAR I BEGAN TO CHANGE THAT DIRECTION WITH THE CREATION OF THE COMMUNITY CARE WAIVER PROGRAM, IT WILL ALLOW THE AGED, THE HANDICAPPED AND THE MENTALLY RETARDED TO REMAIN IN THEIR HOMES AND IN THEIR COMMUNITIES, WHILE STILL RECEIVING THE MEDICAID ASSISTANCE THEY NEED AND DESERVE.

WE ARE MOVING NOW TOWARD THE DAY WHEN FAMILIES WILL NO LONGER BE FACED WITH THE AGONIZING CHOICE OF PLACING THEIR LOVED ONES IN AN INSTITUTION OR BEING FORCED TO FOREGO THE FINANCIAL AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE THEY MUST HAVE.

IN THE COMING YEAR I INTEND TO CARRY THIS IDEA A STEP FURTHER.

ONE OF THE CRUELEST ASPECTS OF LONG-TERM INSTITUTIONAL CARE IS THE PRIVATE PAY CONTRACT, WHICH FORCES FAMILIES OF SENIOR CITIZENS WHO WANT TO ENTER A NURSING HOME, AND WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FOR MEDICAID, TO SIGN CONTRACTS WITH MUCH HIGHER PRIVATE PATIENT RATES.

THESE HIGHER RATES, IN SOME CASES AS MUCH AS \$2,000 A MONTH, ARE EXACTED AS THE PRICE OF MEDICAID ADMISSION.

IT IS A VICIOUS PRACTICE, AND SHOULD BE STOPPED.

ACCORDINGLY, I WILL ASK YOUR SUPPORT THIS COMING YEAR FOR LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD MAKE IT A CRIME FOR A NURSING HOME OPERATOR TO REQUIRE A MEDICAID-ELIGIBLE PATIENT OR THAT PATIENT'S FAMILY, TO SIGN A PRIVATE PAY CONTRACT AS A CONDITION OF ADMISSION. FAMILIES MUST NO LONGER BE PUSHED TO THE BRINK OF FINANCIAL RUIN IN ORDER TO OBTAIN CARE FOR THEIR LOVED ONES.

THIS PAST YEAR I CREATED A SPECIAL CABINET COMMISSION APPROACH TO THE PROGRAMS WHICH AID OUR OLDER CITIZENS. THE SUCCESS OF THIS SPECIAL COMMISSION IN DRAWING TOGETHER ALL THE VARIOUS RESOURCES WHICH WE CAN TARGET TOWARD THE NEEDS OF OUR SENIORS HAS LED ME TO DIRECT THAT THE COMMISSION CONTINUE TO MEET ON A REGULAR BASIS.

AND, IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT OUR PROGRAMS ARE CARRIED OUT IN A COORDINATED FASHION THAT MAKES THE MOST OF OUR RESOURCES, I INTEND THIS YEAR TO NAME A SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE AGING IN THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE. THIS STAFF MEMBER WILL REPORT DIRECTLY TO ME ON OUR PROGRESS IN SERVING OUR SENIOR CITIZENS, AND WILL WORK WITH THE SPECIAL CABINET COMMISSION IN CARRYING OUT ITS RECOMMENDATIONS.

NEW JERSEY HAS A CONTINUING COMMITMENT TO FINANCE THE STUDY AND TREATMENT OF A VARIETY OF ILLNESSES AND CONDITIONS.

I BELIEVE THAT A CLEAR COROLLARY OF THIS IDEA IS OUR OBLIGATION TO FINANCE TREATMENT OF CONDITIONS THAT ARISE FROM CIRCUMSTANCES THAT PRODUCE TAX REVENUES FOR THE STATE.

FOR EXAMPLE, I RECENTLY SUPPORTED LEGISLATION TO ALLOW FUNDS FROM A TAX ON ALCOHOL TO BE USED TO PROVIDE TREATMENT AND EDUCATION ON ALCOHOLISM.

SIMILARLY, I SUPPORTED AND SIGNED LEGISLATION TO FUND CANCER RESEARCH FROM CIGARETTE TAX MONIES.

NOW, I BELIEVE THE TIME HAS COME TO EXTEND THIS PRINCIPLE INTO ANOTHER AREA FROM WHICH THE STATE DERIVES SUBSTANTIAL MONIES: CASINO GAMBLING. COMPLUSIVE GAMBLING IS A DISEASE WITH PERSONAL AND SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS EVERY BIT AS TERRIBLE AS ALCOHOLISM. IT CAN DESTROY FAMILIES, DESTROY INDIVIDUALS AND WEAKEN THE FABRIC OF OUR SOCIETY.

AS YOU KNOW, OUR CONSTITUTION CURRENTLY DOES NOT ALLOW CASINO REVENUES TO BE USED FOR THIS PURPOSE. I BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT SUCH PROGRAMS ARE A LEGITIMATE USE OF THOSE FUNDS, AND, CONSEQUENTLY, I WILL PROPOSE THIS YEAR AN AMENDMENT TO OUR CONSTITUTION TO ALLOW A PORTION OF THE CASINO REVENUE FUND TO BE USED FOR THE TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION OF COMPULSIVE GAMBLERS, AND I STRONGLY URGE YOUR SUPPORT FOR THIS PROPOSAL.

NINETEEN EIGHTY-THREE WAS A YEAR THAT PRODUCED AN UNPRECEDENTED AMOUNT OF ATTENTION IN UPGRADING THE QUALITY OF TEACHING IN OUR SCHOOLS AND OF THE SKILLS OF OUR STUDENTS. IT WAS A YEAR THAT PRODUCED A NUMBER OF NATIONAL REPORTS, ALL OF WHICH DECRIED THE DECLINING PERFORMANCE OF OUR SCHOOLS AND OF OUR STUDENTS. AS ONE REPORT PUT IT, "IF AN UNFRIENDLY FOREIGN POWER HAD ATTEMPTED TO IMPOSE ON AMERICA THE MEDIOCRE EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE THAT EXISTS TODAY, WE MIGHT WELL HAVE VIEWED IT AS AN ACT OF WAR."

I SERVED ON ONE OF THE TASK FORCES WHICH ISSUED THOSE REPORTS. I SERVE ON THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE EDUCATION COMMISSION OF THE STATES AND I SIT ON THE ASSESSMENT POLICY COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS. I SPOKE AT THE PLENARY SESSION OF NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION. AND I HAVE VISITED A NUMBER OF SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT THE STATE. FROM THESE FIRSTHAND EXPERIENCES, I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT OUR ATTENTION ON EDUCATION IS WARRANTED.

I HAVE TOLD YOU MANY TIMES WHY IT MUST BE OUR PRESSING CONCERN --- ONE WHICH WE IGNORE AT OUR OWN PERIL. MOST NEW JERSEYANS AGREE WITH ME THAT THERE ARE PROBLEMS IN OUR SCHOOLS. SOME SAY THERE ARE NONE.

I ASK IF THEY ARE WILLING TO STAKE THE FUTURES OF THEIR CHILDREN ON THE STATUS QUO.

THIS FALL, I GAVE YOU MY BLUEPRINT FOR EDUCATIONAL REFORM, WITH A THREE-POINT PROGRAM TO REVISE TEACHER CERTIFICATION, TEACHER SALARIES AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR TEACHERS. THE PROGRAM HAS BEEN PRAISED AROUND THE COUNTRY, AS A SOUND APPROACH TO EDUCATION. NEW JERSEY IS NOW REGARDED AS A NATIONAL LEADER. THE CURRENT SECRETARY OF EDUCATION ENDORSES OUR PROPOSALS, AND A FORMER SECRETARY OF EDUCATION WILL LEAD ONE OF OUR EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT THEM.

WE HAVE A NEW TESTING SYSTEM, A NEW GRADUATION TEST, AND A TOTALLY NEW APPROACH TO "THOROUGH AND EFFICIENT EDUCATION," COMMISSIONER COOPERMAN HAS NOT RESTED IN HIS CAMPAIGN TO PROVIDE THE BEST EDUCATION POSSIBLE FOR OUR STUDENTS.

I WILL MAKE SURE THAT THE BEST EDUCATION POSSIBLE INCLUDES THE CHILDREN OF THE CITIES. WE HAVE A NEW URBAN ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR EDUCATION, AND WE ARE READY TO LAUNCH A MAJOR DRIVE TO REFORM URBAN SCHOOLS.

THE PROGRAM I AM PROPOSING RECOGNIZES THE MANY ELEMENTS OF THE DIFFICULTY FACING URBAN EDUCATORS. IT RECOGNIZES THE NEED TO SET AND ADHERE TO THE SAME RIGOROUS STANDARDS FOR URBAN STUDENTS AS FOR ALL OTHERS. AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, IT WILL HELP US DESIGN AND CREATE THE KIND OF SUPPORT STRUCTURE THAT WILL BETTER HELP URBAN YOUNGSTERS DEVELOP ALL OF THE RICH POTENTIAL THAT THEY POSSESS. AND IT WILL HELP US DEAL DIRECTLY WITH SOME OF THE SOCIAL PROBLEMS, SUCH AS DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE, WHICH, ALTHOUGH A PROBLEM IN EVERY SCHOOL DISTRICT, ARE A PARTICULARLY DESTRUCTIVE FORCE IN A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF URBAN SCHOOLS AND

I HAVE DIRECTED THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO COME FORWARD WITH A WORKABLE PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTING THIS IMPORTANT URBAN INITIATIVE NO LATER THAN MARCH OF THIS YEAR, SO WE CAN BEGIN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

THIS WILL BE AN AMBITIOUS PROPOSAL, BECAUSE I BELIEVE THAT WE MUST FACE DIRECTLY THE PROBLEMS OF URBAN SCHOOLS. THERE ARE MODELS OF SUCCESSFUL URBAN PROGRAMS AROUND THE COUNTRY, LESSONS WHICH WE CAN APPLY HERE IN NEW JERSEY. THE POINT IS THAT URBAN EDUCATION DESERVES OUR ATTENTION. AND IT WILL GET IT.

WHILE EDUCATION HAS BEEN AT THE CENTER OF ATTENTION IN THE PAST YEAR, FOR FAR TOO MANY YEARS HIGHER EDUCATION HAS BEEN RELEGATED TO THE BOTTOM OF NEW JERSEY'S LIST OF PRIORITIES. IN BUDGET AFTER BUDGET, HIGHER EDUCATION HAS BEEN FORCED TO STAND IN LINE BEHIND ALL OF THE OTHER DEPARTMENTS.

THIS POLICY HAS BEEN FOOLISH, AND IF IT WERE TO CONTINUE, IT WOULD SURELY DAMAGE THE STATE'S FUTURE. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NEW JERSEY'S ECONOMIC WELL-BEING AND THE QUALITY OF ITS SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION IS INDISPUTABLE. TO ATTRACT STUDENTS WE MUST BE ABLE TO ATTRACT JOBS, AND TO ATTRACT JOBS WE MUST BE ABLE TO ATTRACT STUDENTS. IF WE ARE TO PREVENT NEW JERSEY'S BEST MINDS FROM BEING LURED OUT OF STATE, WE MUST STRENGTHEN THE BONDS BETWEEN HIGHER EDUCATION AND PRIVATE INDUSTRY.

LAST YEAR, THIS ADMINISTRATION BEGAN TO REDRESS THE YEARS OF NEGLECT FROM WHICH THE STATE'S SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION HAD SUFFERED. HIGHER EDUCATION WAS ONE OF ONLY THREE DEPARTMENTS TO BE RECOMMENDED FOR AN INCREASE EVEN IN THAT TIME OF RECESSION.

TODAY, LET US BUILD ON THE PROGRESS WE BEGAN LAST YEAR.
TODAY, LET US PLOT A STRATEGY FOR THE FUTURE.

WE MUST BEGIN BY FORMING A NEW PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN HIGHER EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. INDUSTRY AND ACADEMIA MUST COME TOGETHER. IN 1982 I APPOINTED THE GOVERNOR'S SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION, A BI-PARTISAN GROUP MADE UP OF LEADERS FROM OUR TOP COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, BUSINESS, LABOR AND GOVERNMENT.

LAST WEEK, THE COMMISSION FORWARDED ITS FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO ME. CHIEF AMONG THEM IS A CALL FOR THE APPROVAL OF AN \$80 MILLION HIGHER EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY BOND ISSUE TO HELP FINANCE THE INITIATIVES, REFORMS, AND IMPROVEMENTS NECESSARY TO CARRY NEW JERSEY WITH STRENGTH INTO THE AGE OF HIGH TECHNOLOGY.

I CALL UPON YOU TO ENACT LEGISLATION TO PLACE THIS BOND ISSUE ON THE BALLOT IN 1984.

THE COMMISSION ALSO RECOMMENDS, AND I SUPPORT, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FOUR ACADEMIC-INDUSTRIAL CENTERS FOR ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY.

I, THEREFORE, PROPOSE THAT WE CREATE:

--- A CENTER IN BIOTECHNOLOGY ON THE ADJOINING CAMPUSES OF RUTGERS UNIVERSITY AND THE UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY IN PISCATAWAY;

--- A CENTER IN HAZARDOUS AND TOXIC SUBSTANCE MANAGEMENT IN NEWARK THROUGH A CONSORTIUM OF INSTITUTIONS LED BY THE NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY;

--- A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY CENTER IN CERAMICS, AT RUTGERS UNIVERSITY; AND

--- A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY CENTER IN FOOD TECHNOLOGY AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE AT COOK COLLEGE OF RUTGERS UNIVERSITY.

CREATING THESE FOUR CENTERS NOT ONLY WILL THRUST NEW JERSEY INTO A NATIONAL LEADERSHIP ROLE IN EACH OF THESE RESEARCH AREAS, IT WILL SERVE AS THE KEY STIMULUS FOR THE CREATION OF JOBS IN AREAS OF EMERGING GROWTH.

IN ADDITION TO THESE CENTERS, I RECOMMEND A PROGRAM OF GRANTS TO STIMULATE RESEARCH ON SPECIFIC SUBJECTS OF CONCERN TO INDUSTRY.

I WILL PROPOSE IN MY FISCAL YEAR 1985 BUDGET THAT THE STATE FUND A SPECIAL PROGRAM FOR RETRAINING AND IMPROVING THE KNOWLEDGE OF TEACHERS ALREADY CERTIFIED IN MATH AND SCIENCE, AND FOR TRAINING TEACHERS CERTIFIED IN OTHER AREAS TO HELP US MEET THE MATH/SCIENCE TEACHER SHORTAGE. THESE FUNDS WOULD ALSO BE USED TO RETRAIN COLLEGE FACULTY TO TEACH COMPUTER SCIENCE, ANOTHER AREA IN WHICH A SEVERE SHORTAGE EXISTS.

I ALSO RECOMMEND THAT OUR COLLEGES RE-ALLOCATE RESOURCES TO DEVELOP A PROGRAM THAT WILL ENCOURAGE THE EXCHANGE OF FACULTY AND QUALIFIED PERSONNEL WITH INDUSTRY. RE-ALLOCATED FUNDS SHOULD BE USED TO PROVIDE STIPENDS TO FACULTY WHO WOULD LIKE TO GAIN SOME PRIVATE SECTOR EXPERIENCE, AND TO ALLOW EXPERTS FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO CONTRIBUTE TO EDUCATION ON OUR COLLEGE CAMPUSES.

I WILL ENDORSE THE USE OF FUNDS FROM THE PROPOSED HIGHER EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY BOND ISSUE TO BUILD NEW ENGINEERING AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION FACILITIES AT OUR TWO AND FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES. MOREOVER, I WILL ASK YOU TO PROVIDE STATE FUNDS TO CONTINUE OUR TECHNICAL/ENGINEERING EDUCATION PROGRAM BY PURCHASING STATE OF THE ART EQUIPMENT, SO THAT STUDENTS CAN RECEIVE TRAINING IN THE TYPE OF EQUIPMENT ALREADY IN USE IN NEW JERSEY'S INDUSTRIES. AND I WILL RECOMMEND THAT YOU PROVIDE FUNDING FOR A "COMPUTERS IN CURRICULA" PROGRAM TO FURTHER INCORPORATE COMPUTERS INTO OUR STATE'S HIGHER EDUCATION CURRICULA.

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FINALLY, I RECOMMEND THAT WE REQUIRE OF ALL COLLEGE STUDENTS, COURSES DESIGNED TO FOSTER TECHNOLOGICAL LITERACY AND TO ACHIEVE SOME MINIMUM LEVEL OF PROFICIENCY WITH COMPUTERS. TO COMPETE IN TOMORROW'S WORLD, OUR STUDENTS MUST BE TRAINED IN TOMORROW'S TECHNOLOGY.

THIS CANNOT BE THE LIMITS OF OUR EDUCATIONAL MISSION. THERE ARE OTHER OBJECTIVES NEEDED FOR SURVIVAL IN THIS COMPLEX WORLD --- PARTICULARLY THOSE WE SEEK IN A LIBERAL EDUCATION: TO DEVELOP CREATIVE, INDEPENDENT AND CRITICAL THOUGHT. WE MUST INCLUDE A HUMAN DIMENSION IN OUR LEARNING. IT IS THIS DIMENSION THAT JACQUES BARZUN WOULD SAY TURNS GRAMMAR INTO LITERATURE, A LIST OF DATES INTO HISTORY, AND A SHEET OF FORMULAS INTO THE NATIONAL SCIENCES.

SO, IN ADDITION TO A PROGRAM TO UPGRADE TECHNOLOGICAL TRAINING IN NEW JERSEY, I WOULD LIKE TO PROPOSE A PROGRAM TO ENHANCE EDUCATION IN THE HUMANITIES.

I WILL ASK YOU TO PROVIDE IN NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET AN ALLOCATION FOR A PROGRAM OF GRANTS FOR NEW JERSEY'S COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES TO STRENGTHEN THEIR HUMANITIES AND LIBERAL ARTS PROGRAMS.

THE PURPOSE OF THESE GRANTS WOULD BE SEVERAL-FOLD:

--- THEY WOULD BE USED TO ESTABLISH HONORS PROGRAMS TO STIMULATE THE INTEREST OF OUR BRIGHTEST STUDENTS IN THE HUMANITIES;

--- THEY WOULD HELP US BUILD THE EXCELLENCE OF ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS IN ENGLISH, FOREIGN LANGUAGES, COMPARATIVE LITERATURE, RELIGION, PHILOSOPHY, HISTORY, MUSIC, ART, THEATER AND OTHER LIBERAL ARTS AND HUMANITIES SUBJECTS. MANY OF THESE ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS AT NEW JERSEY SCHOOLS ARE ALREADY STRONG; THE ADDED SUPPORT WE GIVE THEM NOW COULD BOOST THEM TO NATIONAL PROMINENCE --- AND HELP ATTRACT SERIOUS STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS TO NEW JERSEY;

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--- THEY WOULD ASSIST OUR UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES IN BRINGING VISITING SCHOLARS AND ARTISTS TO THEIR CAMPUSES FOR A SEMESTER OR A YEAR, THEREBY ENRICHING THE INTELLECTUAL ENVIRONMENT AND EXPOSING STUDENTS TO LEADERS IN THEIR FIELDS OF STUDY;

--- THEY WOULD SUPPORT FOREIGN LANGUAGE STUDIES AND FOREIGN TRAVEL BY STUDENTS. TRAINING IN OTHER LANGUAGES AND IN UNDERSTANDING OTHER CULTURES IS SADLY LACKING IN AMERICAN EDUCATION; AND

--- THEY COULD BE USED TO SUPPORT THE ACQUISITION OF LIBRARY RESOURCES NEEDED TO MAKE POSSIBLE RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP OF WORLD SIGNIFICANCE.

WE ALSO MUST CONTINUE TO SUPPORT A PROGRAM TO RENEW AND RENOVATE THE CAPITAL PLANT AT NEW JERSEY'S HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS. MANY REPAIRS AND OUTSTANDING NEEDS HAVE BEEN DEFERRED FOR TOO LONG. NOW IS THE TIME TO MAKE SURE THAT THEY ARE SAFE, USABLE, AND ACCESSIBLE TO THE HANDICAPPED.

I BELIEVE THAT AN INVESTMENT IN THE HUMAN INFRASTRUCTURE ON OUR CAMPUSES IS ALSO CALLED FOR. PART OF THAT INVESTMENT IS OUR EFFORT TO ATTRACT NEW FACULTY, AND TO MAKE SURE THAT OUR INSTITUTIONS HAVE THE FISCAL ABILITY TO BRING THEM ON BOARD. THE STATE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION HAS ENDORSED A PLAN TO PROVIDE SPECIAL BENEFITS TO TENURED FACULTY WHO EXERCISE AN EARLY RETIREMENT OPTION. LATER THIS MONTH I WILL ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT FOR FUNDS TO PERMIT THE INSTITUTIONS TO MAKE IMMEDIATE REPLACEMENTS OF THE FACULTY WHO CHOOSE THIS OPTION.

FINALLY, WE MUST DEMAND MORE FROM THE STUDENTS AT OUR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING IF THEY ARE TO EARN THE REPUTATIONS WE FEEL THEY DESERVE. I MEAN BY THIS THAT WE SHOULD STIFFEN THE STANDARDS FOR REGULAR ADMISSION INTO OUR FOUR YEAR BACCALAUREATE PROGRAMS, THAT WE SHOULD ADOPT MORE RIGOROUS REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION FROM THESE PROGRAMS, AND THAT WE SHOULD BROADEN THE CURRICULUM WHICH MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE GRADUATION.

URBAN STUDENTS HISTORICALLY HAVE ALSO BEEN UNDER-REPRESENTED IN FIELDS REQUIRING A HIGH LEVEL OF PROFICIENCY IN SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS.

I ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN DEVELOPING PROGRAMS TO ENCOURAGE MINORITY STUDENTS TO PURSUE THESE FIELDS IN THE PRE-COLLEGIATE YEARS TO HELP ADDRESS THAT UNDER-REPRESENTATION.

MANY OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION INITIATIVES I HAVE OUTLINED ARE DESIGNED TO ENHANCE THE REPUTATION AND THE EXCELLENCE OF OUR INSTITUTIONS IN ORDER TO ATTRACT MORE NEW JERSEY STUDENTS TO OUR OWN INSTITUTIONS. I WOULD LIKE TO PROPOSE A FINAL PROGRAM TO ENCOURAGE OUR BEST STUDENTS TO ATTEND COLLEGE HERE IN NEW JERSEY: A GARDEN STATE MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, WHICH WOULD AWARD GRANTS OF \$1,000 A YEAR TO OUTSTANDING NEW JERSEY STUDENTS WHO ATTEND NEW JERSEY INSTITUTIONS. I WILL ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT FOR THIS PROGRAM WHEN I PRESENT MY FISCAL YEAR 1985 BUDGET TO YOU.

I BELIEVE THAT IT IS TIME TO REDRESS THE PAST NEGLECT OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN NEW JERSEY. THE PROGRAM I HAVE OUTLINED HERE WILL NOT ONLY IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF OUR INSTITUTIONS AND ENABLE US TO RETAIN MORE OF NEW JERSEY'S EMERGING TALENT, IT WILL HELP US BRING JOBS TO OUR STATE.

I AM SUGGESTING NOTHING LESS THAN THAT WE SHOULD HAVE AS OUR GOAL MAKING OUR SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION THE BEST IN THE NATION.

CONCLUSION

ONE OF THIS CENTURY'S GREATEST THINKERS, FLEEING PERSECUTION AND VIOLENCE, SOUGHT REFUGE ON OUR SHORES AND FOUND IT IN OUR STATE. HE MADE HIS HOME NOT FAR FROM HERE IN PRINCETON, WHERE HE WAS FREE TO THINK AND FREE TO SPEAK WHAT HE THOUGHT.

AND ON THE 300TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN AMERICA, THIS WISEST OF MEN SAID THAT "KNOWLEDGE MUST CONTINUALLY BE RENEWED IN CEASELESS EFFORT, IF IT IS NOT TO BE LOST."

THAT MAN WAS ALBERT EINSTEIN --- ONE OF THE GREATEST MINDS IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD. HE SAW THAT KNOWLEDGE STANDS LIKE A STATUE ON A DESERT CLIFF. IT IS IN CONSTANT PERIL OF BEING BURIED UNDER THE SANDS OF TIME. IT IS SAVED AND RENEWED ONLY BY WILLING HANDS, WHICH SERVE THAT THE MARBLE MAY SHINE, UNCOVERING KNOWLEDGE ANEW.

LET US PLEDGE, WITH EINSTEIN, THAT "TO THESE SERVING HANDS MINE ALSO SHALL BELONG." LET OUR SCHOOLS, COLLEGES, AND UNIVERSITIES ACT AS BEACONS TO GUIDE OUR VARIOUS JOURNEYS. LET THEM LIGHT OUR WAY INTO SAFE HARBORS OR ON TO NEW ADVENTURES.

EINSTEIN FOUND A SAFE HOME HERE. BUT TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO, THIS NATION'S SAFETY AND EXISTENCE WERE IN PERIL. ITS VERY FUTURE WAS A QUESTION OPEN TO DOUBT. THIS YEAR, I HELPED CELEBRATE THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE TREATY OF PARIS --- OUR COUNTRY'S FIRST ACT AS AN SOVEREIGN STATE. NEW JERSEY THEN HOUSED THE NATION'S CAPITAL AND CONGRESS, AND ONE OF THE TREATY'S AUTHORS JOHN JAY SENT THIS MESSAGE TO GOVERNOR LIVINGSTON: "THE EYES OF THE WORLD ARE UPON (AMERICA)....THEIR CONSIDERATION WILL DEPEND ON THE DIGNITY AND WISDOM OF HER CONDUCT."

I BELIEVE IN KEEPING NEW JERSEY FIRST AND FOREMOST. BUT FIRST PLACE IS A DEMANDING POSITION, AND THE EYES OF THE NATION WILL BE UPON NEW JERSEY AS SHE LEADS. LET US TOGETHER LEAD NEW JERSEY WITH WISDOM AND DIGNITY, TO A MORE PERFECT FREEDOM.

NOW IS NEW JERSEY'S TIME --- TO TAKE PRIDE IN HER PAST, TAKE ACTION IN THE PRESENT AND TAKE THOUGHT FOR HER FUTURE. JOIN ME IN MY DREAMS FOR OUR STATE! 1984 IS NO LONGER A THREATENING NIGHTMARE. TODAY, IT IS A PROMISE TO NEW JERSEY --- ABOUT TO BE FULFILLED.

THANK YOU.