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Democratic Party, New Jersey



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DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM - 1973

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PREAMBLE

There are, perhaps, no more appropriate words to summarize the critical but exciting challenge that now lies before New Jersey than these: "It is time for us to cease fleeing from reality and begin changing it".

The Democratic Party has always sought to be a force for affirmative action in the interests of all the people. We have recognized that current problems require current solutions; that the demands of the people cannot safely be suppressed or ignored by applying the cliches of yesterday.

We reject the philosophy that the past was better; that the future will be worse, and that the present should be used to plan an orderly retreat.

Almost four years ago, a new Republican administration came to Trenton armed with bold rhetoric and shining promises. With the Governor's office and with strong control of both houses of the Legislature, it had all the means necessary for real accomplishment. If failed; and failed even in the eyes of its own voters. They were forced to nominate, as their only alternative, a disappointed office-seeker who contributed to the failure by sniping at the Republican administration's every effort almost from the first day that it took office.

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Trenton, N. J.

JUL 17 1973

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In the years since 1970, our Party has had the responsibility of rebuilding and renewing itself. After four years of Republican failure, New Jersey needs new leadership, new vigor, new ideas---the new beginning Brendan Byrne has called for.

There are complex and difficult problems confronting New Jersey which we must face or ignore at our peril. To summarize but a few:

The restoration of public confidence in our institutions of government and in the officials responsible for their operations is a first priority. The Watergate scandal and the scandals exposed within the present State Republican administration have caused a loss of confidence in government which will require restoration before we can move ahead to solve the problems of our state. We pledge ourselves to achieve this restoration and accept the mission of conducting the public business at the highest ethical level.

The reform of our public school financing system can no longer be avoided or evaded. The New Jersey Supreme Court has mandated that every child in our state is entitled to a thorough and efficient

education---a concept so fundamentally fair and essentially sound that it should be endorsed by all. We do not merely support this ruling as the law of the State, but welcome it as a unique opportunity to reshape our educational institutions so that they are responsible to the needs of our children.

The oppressive tax burden upon our homeowners and tenants by the local property tax must not be merely lamented, but affirmative steps must be devised, considered and adopted to afford meaningful tax relief. Local taxes will have increased by approximately \$600 million during the term of the present Republican administration without any substantial steps taken by that administration to slow this tax spiral. Homeowners' taxes are increasing at a greater rate than property taxes on businesses and industries. We reject as a solution greater overall tax burdens on our people so that business can achieve a tax reduction as proposed by the Republican Administration. Tax reform must not be used as a mask for preferential treatment, but as a lever to produce a fairer and more equitable distribution of the inevitable tax burden.

Fiscal Reform

No issue in the forthcoming campaign will command greater attention than that of fiscal reform. The Democratic Party rejects the proposal of the present administration of a personal income tax that would have been in effect, a tax relief windfall for businesses.

At the same time, our party accepts the challenge posed by the State Supreme Court's decision requiring reform of our school financing programs. We pledge to review all possible means of complying with this court decree without further burdening the homeowner and tenant.

Any comprehensive program of tax reform must also meet these tests:

It must guarantee relief for the residential tax payer & tenant;

It must prevent windfalls for commercial and industrial property owners;

It must avoid any sales tax on food and clothing;

It must pay for the programs we offer the people of New Jersey;

Above all, it must be proposed by an Administration which demonstrates fiscal responsibility and moral integrity.

Without these ingredients, there can be no practical hope for public acceptance of tax reform.

reasonable financial limits. Ever-increasing costs cannot be passed through to the people unless there are clear assurances that the people, in return, are receiving full value for their taxes; that the taxes are applied to the highest priority needs of the people and that every effort has been made to obtain available financial support from the Federal Government and our self-supporting agencies to minimize the burden on the taxpayer. We reject the excuses of the Republican administration for the failure to obtain a fair share of Federal aid. Our taxpayers are entitled to a better return from Washington and we pledge ourselves to get it. New Jersey is the most urban state in the nation and its communities cannot survive without wholehearted support from Federal and State Government, but no effective voice in New Jersey's present Republican government has been raised against the Republican Nixon administration's disastrous cutoff of funds for housing, sewer and water, mass transit, education and legal services, and other vital aid programs.

We must maximize the resources available to us and insure that these resources are applied in a way that produces the best possible life for our citizens. There is a responsibility in government to recognize developing crises and prepare for them. We are greatly concerned by the present administration's failure to prepare this state for the energy crisis that is now upon us, and for the lack of an overall approach to the use of the great physical and human resources that are available to us to meet these problems in an orderly fashion.

We must develop a greater sensitivity to the rights and the legitimate aspirations of our people, men and women, regardless of race, ethnic, cultural or religious backgrounds. The emerging demands from many groups which have traditionally been uninvolved in public decision making must be recognized for the healthy sign that it is and for the valuable contribution that it promises.

The Democratic Party pledges itself to take affirmative action to insure full participation of minority citizens in the elective and administrative positions of the party and the new state administration.

We endeavor, in this platform, to set forth the statement of principles to which the Democratic Party is committed, coupled with a program of ideas that will insure the implementation of these principles. The Democratic Party is proud to unite behind Brendan Byrne, a man who will inspire confidence and who can provide the affirmative and imaginative leadership needed to guarantee the progressive government that New Jersey demands.

INTEGRITY IN GOVERNMENT

The overriding issue in this campaign must be the restoration of integrity and confidence in State government. Every citizen has read with dismay and shock of the numerous convictions of some of our highest public officials. This dismal display must not be repeated.

A first and paramount step must be the reform of campaign financing. Our candidate, Brendan Byrne, has proposed public financing of gubernatorial campaigns and a limitation on the amount of money that can be spent by the major candidates. Senator J. Edward Crabel, Democratic Minority Leader, introduced a bill in the New Jersey Senate on June 18, 1973 that would implement Brendan Byrne's proposal. We regret the Republican party's refusal to co-sponsor this measure but we pledge to seek early enactment of this needed reform.

The Democratic Party further proposed that consideration be given to:

The establishment of an independent State Ethics Commission appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the legislature. This commission would have authority to review all conflicts of interest matters and would supersede the authority of the existing "in-house" legislative and executive ethics committee.

The inclusion under the law of all elected and appointed officials and all employees above clerical rank in all branches and at all levels of government.

The requirement that cabinet officials and unclassified state employees publicly disclose, prior to their seeking or assuming office, and annually thereafter, a statement of their income and financial interests.

A flat ban on public officials using their official position to obtain financial gain for themselves, any member of their household or any business or political organization of which they or a member of their household is associated or for any client.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PUBLIC SAFETY

The Criminal Justice System

The right of every citizen to walk the streets of our State in safety must once again be made a reality. Half of all the arrests in the United States are for "victimless crimes" such as drunkenness, vagrancy, gambling and the like. We have overloaded our criminal justice system to the point that we have diluted its ability to protect us where we most need it . . . against violence, and depredations of our property.

The Democratic party believes that our police and prison system should be utilized on a priority basis solely for the control of law breakers who pose a clear and present danger to the lives and property of our citizens. A Commission on Criminal Justice Reform, broadly representative of the citizenry of this State, should be created to recommend revisions of the criminal justice system to achieve these goals.

The Law Enforcement System

It is essential that all law enforcement agencies be better organized and coordinated, and that their efficiency and morale be increased. We must repair the relationships and achieve cooperative coordination between Federal and State and local law enforcement agencies. A permanent task force, co-chaired by the U.S. Attorney and the

N. J. Attorney General should be formed to unite the various levels of government in their common mission.

The Attorney General should create, within his office, a special unit devoted solely to the investigation and eradication of corruption at all levels of state and local government. Each cabinet officer at the direction of the Governor, will develop and activate an affirmative action program to insure the open, fair and ethical operation of every state agency under his jurisdiction.

There should be established a permanent state Law Enforcement Coordinating Conference comprised of Federal, State and local enforcement officers, and representatives of the courts, penal institutions, and citizens to develop and coordinate a strategy of crime control and deterrence on a state-wide basis. The Conference should review all Federal law enforcement funding to assure that projects focus their impact upon crime.

The conference will immediately address itself to the following issues.

Establish a long range master plan for deterring crime in New Jersey, including the establishment of priorities with target dates for their achievements, the projection of manpower needs, and the means and costs of upgrading enforcement techniques.

Establish police recruitment standards, emphasizing upgraded requirements for education, intelligence

and character and the relaxing of them in respect to height, weight, and other non-essential areas.

Develop a revised penal code.

Develop methods of concentrating the activities of uniformed policemen in the area of crime control and allocating important but peripheral activities such as traffic control, research, crime reporting and communications, to trained non-police personnel.

Improve uniformed police salary and benefit programs and enhance police career opportunities.

Develop low cost means of personal protection, including residential alarm systems, better street lighting; improved communication and police response.

Develop standards for personnel training and equipment for the urban, suburban and rural police departments. Departments with a high incidence of violent crime, and those confronted with the problems of rapid growth each have unique requirements.

The burgeoning number of investigative agencies throughout state government should be consolidated under one central control effectively placed under the Attorney General.

Drug Abuse

Strict and vigorous enforcement of all Drug Laws is mandated by the current statutes. Any further decriminalization of drugs must be approached with caution and should be the end product of thorough research, rather than transient popular attitudes. The search for improved techniques of rehabilitation must be continued and successful programs implemented. Individuals in need of treatment for drug problems should be sent to specialized treatment centers whenever possible. This specialized treatment is not presently being provided on a large scale for inmates in state penal institutions and correctional institutions.

We must enact stiffer penalties for major distributors of hard drugs. We must achieve a balance between sympathy for the addict seeking to free himself from his habit through participation in drug treatment programs, and the need to protect the lives and safety and property of our citizens.

Court Reform

A management study commissioned by the Supreme Court concluded that the municipal court functions should be incorporated into the State Court system with forty districts established to hear such matters. Justice and economy would be better served by the abolition of the present municipal court system. Pending that massive reform, we recommend that municipal courts be continued for the

purposes of hearing traffic court matters, violations of municipal ordinances and other minor matters which do not entail the probability of a jail sentence. All other more serious matters should be disposed of either in the county or county district courts.

Forty-five out of every one-hundred criminal cases tried in New Jersey last year resulted in jury verdicts of not guilty. To prevent this abhorrent situation, the filing of all formal charges should be approved by the prosecutor.

Fewer unsuccessful prosecutions would result from a greater use of formal diversion projects which take selected offenders out of the criminal process and put them into drug treatment, alcoholic treatment and employment programs. The effectiveness of diversion programs should be monitored carefully, and those programs which prove to be successful should be implemented statewide.

We recommend an establishment of an Appellate Sentencing Review Tribunal. Such a court would correct a clearly unfair sentence; would eliminate regional differences in sentencing practices and would serve to educate trial judges.

Prison Reform

Our present system of rehabilitation is failing and the citizen is paying the price. The issue is not one of "coddling criminals" but rather of wasting taxpayers' dollars on a system which does

not improve the safety of our citizens.

We recommend the establishment of a Governor's conference on the employment of former inmates which would attract the leaders of government, business, industry and labor in an effort to devise a comprehensive program to provide employment to former offenders. If a job is available to a person being released from prison, the chances of his repeating his criminal behavior is substantially reduced.

We recommend the creation of smaller penal institutions housing no more than 400 inmates. Such institutions would permit segregation of less dangerous individuals from those persons who have established a pattern of violent criminal behavior.

We are committed to recognition of the constitutional rights of inmates in the form of religious freedom, uncensored mail, due process in connection with disciplinary proceedings and administrative transfers and the like. It is apparent that inmates who are treated in a dehumanized fashion are more dangerous upon their release than those who are treated in a rational, civilized manner.

Probation

The cost of supervising an individual on probation for one year - \$200.00 - is far less than the \$4,500.00 it costs to incarcerate an offender for the same period, to say nothing of the cost of providing welfare benefits to the inmate's family. Moreover, by

being placed on probation, an individual is enabled to maintain close ties to his family, school, job, and community. Convicted offenders should be placed on probation whenever such disposition does not pose a threat to society.

Increased efforts must be made to provide intensive services to the 50,000 persons who are now placed on probation each year.

Rehabilitation

Although many offenders can best be rehabilitated through dispositions other than imprisonment, dangerous offenders clearly must be placed in the state's penal or correctional institutions. If society is to be protected from these serious offenders when they are released, effective rehabilitation programs must be provided at the institutions. We recommend the following:

All operations in the area of correction and parole must be continuously evaluated so that periodic assessments can be made of the effectiveness of various policies and programs.

Correctional officers should receive proper training, and efforts should be made to reduce the high turnover rate among correctional personnel.

Vocational training programs should be geared to the realities of the job market, and assistance should be provided to inmates in obtaining suitable employment upon release.

Juvenile Delinquency

Youthful offenders account for 35% of all the arrests in New Jersey. The handling of delinquents and the programs for them are designed primarily for criminal delinquents. Children judged delinquent because of home, psychological or retardation problems do not receive the help they require and deserve.

Mixing the two types of delinquents in one institution has the inevitable effect of introducing non-criminal delinquents into a life of crime.

Although the New Jersey State Bar Association submitted proposed revisions of the juvenile code to the Governor's Office in the Fall of 1971, no action was taken on this important reform measure until the final weeks of the last legislative session. At that time the State Senate passed a bill embodying many of these vital reforms. We urge immediate passage of Senate Bill 2141 as an important first step in this area.

New approaches for the future lie in the direction of in-community corrections, halfway houses and intensive probation programs. The State may choose to create these structures and programs themselves or may encourage counties to do so.

GAMBLING:

Weighing expert testimony on the issue of legalized casino gambling lends more to confuse than clarify the question. Distinguished law enforcement officials within the State and elsewhere citing the same statistics offer opposing viewpoints, while revered churchmen argue differing moral conclusions and social scientists dispute the probable outcome on needed spendable income.

Out of the morass several points can be made without major exception. First, most believe that adults have the right to decide whether or not new forms of legalized gambling should be permitted. Secondly, should gambling be legalized stringent regulations must be adopted to safeguard the State from the influences of organized crime. Lastly, gambling to be properly controlled must be restricted after local referendum to specific sites, which are operated by the State and which limit admissions.

With these conditions, the Democratic Party favors placing on the ballot a referendum on the question of casino gambling.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Education, the cornerstone of human growth and development, will receive our utmost support, with new emphases on:

Maintenance of Low Tuition at our State & University Colleges to preserve equal educational opportunities for all, regardless of wealth.

Adult continuing education, particularly mid-career retraining to combat the increasing pace of skill obsolescence.

Programs for the early identification and development to their full potential of both gifted and handicapped students in our population.

The development of accountability systems supported by all elements of the educational community designed to improve the quality of education and increase achievement for all our children.

Special programs for the bilingual/bicultural child whose learning problems are compounded.

Construction of another medical and dental school to meet the needs of our state.

Robinson V. Cahill has mandated that the State Legislature create a nondiscriminatory method of funding the education of all children in New Jersey.

Inequities in the quality of education across district lines resulting from variables in community taxable wealth have produced quality differences affecting unfairly the residents of certain communities in our State.

THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY PROPOSES:

That the mandate of Robinson V. Cahill be implemented by Legislative action rather than by court imposed plans.

That control over local school policy remain at the local level under whatever funding plan may be approved by the Legislature.

That a panel of legislators, school board members, and educators convened for the purpose of devising an equitable funding formula which would be submitted to the Legislature.

Improvement in rehabilitation programs, including psychological and vocational counseling and relevant educational offerings.

Existing drug abuse education legislation and materials may impede rather than facilitate the prevention and education objectives of the schools. The incidence of drug problems suggest the need for renewed emphasis on the role of the school in this important effort.

THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY PROPOSES:

That State health and education agencies design and conduct studies on drug education programs and materials, and clarify and revise where necessary, the laws affecting the school's responsibility and authority in rehabilitation of known users.

Energy, Environment and the Future

New Jersey faces a deepening energy shortage, and parallels a growing concern to protect our environment and natural resources. The policies of the next Governor and Legislature in dealing with these issues will have far reaching consequences for the future of our State and its citizens.

The continued development of the State must be carried out in a manner which will assure the preservation of vital environmental resources. The present administration was fortunate in having the benefit of great beginnings in the area of environmental control, which had been developed by the former Democratic Administration.

Air pollution takes its toll on human health, and life; the direct links between pollutants in the air and the rising incidence of respiratory illnesses, cancer and heart disease are increasingly evident.

Pollution of our waterways have reached catastrophic proportions. All major and most of our secondary waterways now fail to meet established minimum water quality standards. New Jersey has the dubious distinction of being the only state with more than one waterway among the ten most polluted in the nation -- the Passaic River and the Arthur Kill.

The beauty of New Jersey's countryside is rapidly being ravaged by the unplanned spread of highways and residential and commercial developments. Noise pollution is taking a heavy toll on the quality of life, particularly in our cities.

The environmental program and policies of the next Governor and Legislature will have far-reaching consequences for the future of our State and its citizens.

New Jersey has tough anti-pollution and environmental control laws on the books. But strong laws mean nothing without a strong, determined administration in Trenton to enforce them. A new Democratic administration will be committed to the vigorous enforcement of anti-pollution laws and to the assistance of industry and local government in complying with them.

Consideration must be given to the need to revamp our present water supply and distribution systems throughout the State. With the abundance of recent rainfall, it is easy to forget the years of drought that we experienced in the early 1960's. Although the drought was frightening, not a single new reservoir or water supply system has been developed in its aftermath.

More manageable, practical and constructive Flood Plain protection Programs must be implemented along with collateral Stream Maintenance Activities.

Despite the vast wealth and knowledge, our State is still using antiquated methods of solid waste disposal; methods, which were developed many years ago and have not changed appreciably since their inception. As a consequence, the handling of solid waste in the State has reached crisis proportions. Vast powers were provided to the State in 1970 under the Solid Waste Management Act to meet this crisis. Therefore, steps must be taken to provide for new methods of solid waste handling incorporating available technology. The tools have been provided to meet the solid waste crisis; all that remains to be done is creative and aggressive utilization of the tools provided.

Air pollution problems still persist in New Jersey despite available stringent controls. This is partially due to the fact that practical approaches to the problem have been set aside for the sake of establishing ideal goals. Spending has occurred far beyond the benefits sought to be achieved. Positive and constructive steps to solve the air pollution problem are required. In this important area, it is incumbent upon government to assist in providing constructive and reasonable solutions toward achieving the improvement in our air quality.

Steps must be taken to streamline government offices and procedures in order to be more responsive to environmental matters. Consideration should be given to the decentralization of the functions of the Department of Environmental Protection to provide regional offices for local environmental problems and to provide for adequate funding and staffing of environmental programs. In making decisions on environmental matters, all appropriate factors should be weighed including costs, benefits to be derived, and what is best for the public at large.

The proposed Tocks Island Dam and Recreational Project and all projects affecting the environment that will face the next State administration must be considered in the light of their far reaching consequences to the future of our state and its citizens.

We must assure that the highest standards are met in the distribution to the public of our natural resources, in particular, gas and electricity. Sound reason exists for re-evaluating the traditional concept within the utility industry that the largest users of gas and electric should receive the most favorable rates. We must also carry forward a program whereby means for generating power at the source of the resource were developed. For example, under the "mine mouth" concept, coal mined in Pennsylvania, is converted into energy there then transmitted to our state.

We must develop an energy policy which guarantees the most efficient use of our present energy fuel supply.

We presently require that electric and telephone lines be placed underground in new developments. We must plan for the day when all existing electric and telephone lines are installed underground.

There should be a constant monitoring of the quality of service to the consumer of all utilities. The public is entitled to the highest standards of service and must be guaranteed that such standards be not sacrificed or compromised.

Government and industry must work together in solving this problem; they must take action to help one another. Although there are vast programs available for governmental agencies to obtain funds and assistance, none is available to industry. A reconsideration must be given to the present federal tax structure to provide incentives for industry to help itself. Aid must also be given to enable the industrial communities to obtain low cost monies for pollution control apparatus.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

The Democratic Party believes we can hope to regulate the diverse needs of the utilities and the consumer by means of the existing administrative system.

We propose:

1. FULL TIME COMMISSION. The scope and complexity of issues confronting the Public Utility Commission of this State require that commission be a full-time office.
2. RATE COUNSEL. The public should be represented in hearings for rate increases by a full-time professional staff independent of the Public Utility Commission.
3. CATV. This is a vital area which in many respects is as new and filled with potential as was radio at the time of its initial development. We must assure that regulation of CATV be given high priority and attention.

TRANSPORTATION

The Republican's Administration record in transportation is one of broken promises, excuses and inaction. In the 1969 election campaign the people of New Jersey were promised improved mass transportation. But what has happened?

After nearly four years in office the commitment to modernize the New York and Long Branch Line has been broken. Not a single new car has been ordered for that critical transportation corridor even though the present Administration has at its disposal tens of millions of dollars in bond funds which it is unable to spend effectively.

Despite the pretense of action, not a single new car has been ordered for the Morris and Essex Lines of the Erie-Lackawana Railroad. The equipment of this Railroad is more than 50 years old and in danger of collapse.

While the level of public subsidies to railroads has more than tripled in the past four years from \$10 million to more than \$30 million a year and railroad fares have been increased several times, the level of service on our rail carriers has shown no appreciable improvement.

The bus subsidy program, which amounted to less than \$1 million 3 years ago, has multiplied many times with capital and operating subsidies without any blueprint or comprehensive program to assure proper ex-

penditure of those funds.

The highway construction program, which reached record levels under the momentum provided by Governor Hughes' Transportation Act of 1968 has come virtually to a halt.

The present situation was perhaps best described in January of this year in a report submitted to the Commissioner of Transportation which stated:

"Transportation in New Jersey is now in a state of crisis." This crisis was reflected in the resounding defeat of the transportation bond act presented to the voters last November.

The vote on that bond issue was a vote of no confidence in the present administration. In the space of three years, it dissipated the confidence and respect that the people had in the State's transportation programs, as was manifested by the overwhelming approval of the transportation bond issue in 1968.

No transportation program in the future can possibly hope to succeed unless we restore the public's confidence in the State's ability to build and operate our essential transportation systems. As a first step towards restoring New Jersey's commitment to better transportation, action must be taken in the 5 following areas:

a) There must be greater Port Authority involvement in mass transportation including expanded operating responsibilities for the commuter railroads.

b) A permanent executive director of the Port Authority must be appointed who is responsive to the needs of mass transportation and the Port Authority's involvement in this area.

c) The State's commuter rail improvement program must be carried to completion as rapidly as possible.

d) A comprehensive bus program which will provide expanded public transportation opportunities throughout New Jersey must be developed and implemented.

e) We must recast the present hodge-podge of highway projects into a meaningful 5 year construction program at specifically the top priority projects of the State.

essential to the growth and development of our citizens is an effective and affordable system of health services. Our present health care delivery system is characterized by inadequate numbers of medical personnel, prohibitive costs, an underutilization of technology, and poor coverage and accessibility. While there are a number of specific problems requiring immediate attention, we must undertake fundamental and comprehensive planning for an overhaul of the health care system resulting in reduced costs and duplication. The following measures will receive the most emphasis in health care redesign:

New methods of financing health care.

New health care sites, such as community ambulatory hospitals and the utilization of school facilities.

Programs to significantly increase the numbers of medical personnel, including various "practitioner" programs.

De-institutionalization of the retarded and mentally ill, providing a greater role for the voluntary agencies and purchase of care.

Increased use of technology.

New programs of prevention and early identification.

YOUTH

Young people are our most precious resource. In recognition of this fact, the Democratic Party has always stood behind the advancement of young people to become more meaningfully involved in the affairs of government at all levels of government in the State of New Jersey.

The Democratic Party in both 1969 and 1970 lead the effort to lower the minimum voting age from 21 to 18 which contributed to the ultimate passage of the 26th Amendment to the United States Constitution.

The Democratic Party also lead the efforts that resulted in the successful passage of legislation lowering the age of legal majority and consent to 18.

Now that the fight for youth rights have been successful, the Democratic Party pledges itself to continue the efforts to ensure, maintain and secure the proper role and functions of youth in our State.

The Democratic Party favors placing on the ballot a referendum on the question of lowering the minimum age requirement for service in the State Assembly from 21 to 18.

SENIOR CITIZENS

Senior citizens, throughout their lives, have made important contributions to our economy and our culture, yet many today languish in the harshest poverty and lack of dignity, respect and security they deserve. Therefore, the Democratic Party subscribes to the following views:

The Division of Aging should be restored to its former major status in the Department of Community Affairs.

Social security and health benefits for older citizens should be increased. This will be a priority task urged on our Congressional Delegation. The Republican candidate has in the past opposed Social Security benefits and otherwise demonstrated a lack of understanding for older Americans.

Programs of adult continuing education should be made available at reduced rates for all senior citizens.

Federal income supplement programs for the aging, such as RSVP, Green Thumb and Foster Grandparents, should all be expanded in New Jersey.

Our participation in federal food programs should be greatly expanded.

Legislation should be enacted for a reduction in rates in recreation and transportation for the elderly.

HEALTH:

THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY PROPOSES:

That all Senior Citizens, not only those on the poverty levels, be eligible for State Medicaid.

That State Medicaid should be expanded to cover drugs and prescriptions, dental care, hearing aids, eye examinations and eyeglasses and nursing home care which Medicare does not cover.

That the Nixon Administration cut-backs in the areas of Medicare cease immediately and that funds be reinstituted to provide fully for the medical care of the elderly.

That State and County Health Mobile Units travel to Senior Citizen housing complexes and other strategic locations which are easily accessible to the elderly. These mobile health units can administer yearly health checkups, give flu shots and perform other routine health care for the Senior Citizens who would not ordinarily receive this basic care.

Medicare insurance premiums should be frozen at present levels.

EMPLOYMENT:

THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY PROPOSES:

That industry be encouraged to promote adequate pension plans so that citizens can be financially able to retire at age 65, and not be solely dependent on social security income.

That individual's pension rights be protected through re-insurance and early vesting.

HOUSING:

THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY PROPOSES:

Rent deductions to Senior Citizen tenants in porportion to the property tax deduction that Senior Citizen homeowners receive.

Rent leveling action to limit rent increases to the Cost of Living Index in those units rented to Senior Citizens.

TRANSPORTATION:

THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY PROPOSED:

That free mini-bus service be provided by the municipalities at certain times of the week to aid the Senior Citizen with shopping and doctor's appointments, etc.

WELFARE:

Despite four years of rhetorical "reform" of the welfare system, the Republican administration has failed the public. It has failed to stem the rising cost of public assistance, failed to reform the inefficient and fragmented administration of welfare, and failed to give dignity to thousands of broken families, elderly, and disabled who depend on the welfare system for survival.

The Democratic Party of New Jersey recognizes that there is no substitute for work, yet there is the inescapable fact that many children, women and disabled persons require our support in order to survive. Participation in welfare programs is generally demeaning to all. For some persons--young children, the badly disabled--there appears to be no alternative Public Assistance, but for others there are alternatives. Every able-bodied adult welfare recipient should have an individualized plan for rehabilitation and a time table for either getting off welfare or for subsidy-reduction. The programs we support for facilitating this are as follows:

Daycare programs for working mothers, including cooperative day care programs.

Conventional manpower training programs.

Matching the unemployed with job vacancies in each community.

New Career training programs in human and public services for both full-time and part-time employment.

The present welfare system pleases no one: recipient, official or taxpayer.

In 1968, the last year of Democratic administration, total public assistance costs amounted to \$187 million. Today, we spend over \$456 million--an increase of over 140% during Republican control of the Statehouse and White House. State and county taxpayers had to bear nearly \$240 million of this cost.

We believe that welfare is a national problem. In the absence of National Welfare Reform, however, initiatives must be taken at the state level to reorganize the welfare system. The goals of this reorganization must be fiscal relief, efficient administration and equity for recipients. To achieve these goals, we will initiate the following actions:

Until the federal government accepts its responsibility, the state must take on the responsibility for administering and funding income maintenance programs.

To administer statewide public assistance programs, a centralized administration unit should be created, which will eliminate costly duplication.

The Republican administration's "Aid to the Families of the Working Poor" program--misnamed since it aids almost no working families--should be replaced with a federally-funded program aiding unemployed, intact families and a state program aiding those who work but cannot bring themselves above the poverty level.

Together, these three steps will give local taxpayers relief, reform the inefficient and fragmented administration of welfare, and restore equity to the welfare system.

CITIZEN'S RIGHTS:

Women historically have been denied a full voice in the evolution of the political and social institutions of this country. Even obtaining the right to vote did not guarantee them equal stature with men. Women should be guaranteed unabridged rights to gainful employment, to education opportunities and to the right to obtain credit. The areas in which discrimination due to sex now exist must be eliminated. In every aspect, women must be allowed to realize their talents, abilities and responsibilities.

THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY PROPOSES:

That Legislation be enacted to bar credit discrimination due to sex or marital status and to prohibit discrimination in public accommodations and housing.

That treble damages be levied on employers found guilty of salary discrimination.

That sufficient funds be appropriated to staff administrative offices charged with the responsibility of enforcing laws governing sex and salary discrimination.

That Legislation be enacted to include domestic workers in unemployment compensation.

That all efforts be made to resist pressures to repeal New Jersey's ratification of the federal ERA.

That the State of New Jersey pass an Equal Rights Amendment for women to guarantee that their rights will not be abridged.

That women be given equal consideration for paid political appointments.

That political parties actively seek out qualified women for appointments to boards and commissions.

That the State allot appropriate funding for the Office of Women to allow it to operate effectively.

That the Talent Bank be given enough staff and funding to allow it to operate more effectively.

VETERANS:

No one group has receive more praise and less action than returning veterans who face a bleak future devoid of job and educational opportunities. To undertake a program commensurate with the sacrifices these men and women have made will require civilian and governmental mobilization rivaling the output of a war effort. It is not sufficient either to merely catalogue the problems let us rather commit to their solution.

8% of the veterans are employed, in part because the state has not bolstered its training, counseling and placement facilities and we can lower that outrageous unemployment figure by concentrating our efforts there. Further our veterans must be encouraged to seek state and other government jobs... Incentives for further education rejected by the Republican administration is a minimum necessity. We pledge the passage of a State 6 1 Bill (A-999) so our veterans regain the opportunity for a college education. At the same time let us discourage the come-on of make-shift vocational mills which matriculate match-book cover successes.

Finally we will establish a veterans committee whose first obligation will be to measure the efficiency of the present programs and explore the feasibility of tax incentives to businesses which train and hire veterans such as the successful National Alliance of Businessman programs.

PRIVATE PENSION REFORM:

A multitude of private pension plans, contributory and noncontributory, have been developed within the private sector of our economy as a supplement to Social Security benefits in the retirement planning of many New Jersey workers. These pension plans are essential to the ability of retired workers to enjoy with dignity their retirement years.

Unfortunately, some employers have failed to fund adequately their pension plans. In these cases workers have been left without any recourse if the employer becomes bankrupt or otherwise fails financially. A few other highly solvent employers have moved to other states leaving behind large numbers of employees approaching retirement age but who are not yet protected with respect to vested rights.

Accordingly, the Democratic Party of New Jersey and its candidates hereby call for the adoption of legislation:

Which will require the financial solvency of all private pension plans either through required deposits or insurance of such plans.

Which will require vesting of pension rights after reasonable periods of employment.

Which will allow reasonable portability or the transfer of pension rights from one employer to another.

BUSINESS/INDUSTRY/JOB:

Our efforts to achieve a balanced growth and development for New Jersey will be of little avail if our State's citizens are unable to earn an adequate living.

According to a recent report of the U. S. Department of the Treasury, New Jersey has lost 26,000 manufacturing jobs. The Democratic Party is pledged to maintain a favorable business and industrial climate within a framework of the controlled growth of our State's economy. We can and must make a special effort to attract:

Quality enterprises that will be a match for our highly trained labor force.

Industries with a low environmental degradation factor.

Business and industries with a commitment to New Jersey and willing to enter into partnerships with the State in a mutual effort to solve some of our problems including training of the unemployed.

Investment measures that will result in social improvement, such as urban renewal and low and middle income housing.

Business and industries that create new jobs.

We should take advantage of our State's unique strategic position and resources, harbors, rail, airport, and other facilities--in order to generate economic development to provide an expanding tax base and needed employment.

TO PROTECT THE WORKING MAN

The Democratic Party continues to be cognizant of the need to protect the gains for labor and to enable the average working man to meet the increased difficulties of providing adequately for his family in normal times and in times of adversity.

To this end, the Democratic Party pledges that it will continue to work as it has for forty years ---

To expand benefits for unemployment compensation, temporary disability insurance and workmen's compensation.

To launch a full scale attack on hardships caused by plant closing and transfers.

To increase resources and available manpower for the enforcement of health and safety laws.

TECHNOLOGICAL RESOURCES

New Jersey, through its research and industrial corporate resources, has access to technological expertise in the private sector and in our Universities and Colleges that is recognized and envied throughout the World.

Democratic Administration in Trenton will seek out this expertise through the creation of a technological task force of volunteers from private industry and our public & private Universities & Colleges.

This task force will address itself to the difficult technological problems of air and water pollution control, public transportation, an adequate supply of energy sources, disposal of solid waste, administrative management, applications of electronic data collection and processing and other areas of vital importance to the improvement of the quality of life in our State.

Corporations who are located in our state and their employees who have chosen to live here will thus be permitted to apply their skills and expertise for the betterment of their state.

CITIES

There must be a recognition that most of our cities lack the ability to provide the basic services of government without assistance.

The costs of many social services essential to our city residents - education, welfare, job training, health services and others - must be assisted by the State and Federal Governments and financed by revenue sources other than the local property tax. We pledge our support to the proposals to remove from local governments the financial burden of financing these programs.

HOUSING

A vital area of immediate concern in our cities is preservation and improvement of housing. We must expand present code enforcement efforts - insuring compliance with existing codes through upgraded inspection and assistance to homeowners so that they will be able to improve their homes.

For the majority of people in New Jersey, it is becoming more and more difficult to afford a decent home. For 35 years, the Federal Government took the lead in stimulating housing. The Republican National Administration has reversed this policy.

A Democratic Administration will do everything it can to revive a progressive Federal Housing Program and, most important, will restore to activity and vigor state housing programs like the Housing Finance Agency which have lost their initial momentum and will better focus the resources of the Mortgage Finance Agency so that it helps the family of moderate means rather than the wealthy. This agency must be redirected to service people who seek housing, rather than banks seeking cheap money.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT

County government now has the opportunity to pursue implementation of the Optional County Charter Law enabling basic structural reform designed to improve its effectiveness. Any assignment of new duties and powers to county government should therefore, be contingent upon a given county's acceptance of the need to adapt its operations to better meet modern challenges.

In our populous urban counties the need to improve the operations of county government is so great that the Democratic Party would consider offering significant incentives to those counties which undertake restructuring. One such incentive might be seeking legislation permitting assumption by the State on a selective basis of the welfare and judicial costs currently shouldered by counties.

When counties have upgraded their administrative capabilities, they will be able to undertake the kinds of services and regional assistance so necessary to our local government system. As John Kennedy said in 1961 "Counties should do those things which cities & towns cannot do for themselves and which state and federal government should not do for them." To achieve these goals we propose an incentive system to insure rapid change, reform and improvement in county governments.

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

Many problems are common to all local governments. They share the burden of property taxation. They all increasingly depend upon aid from the state and federal governments. Almost all of them lack adequate skills training for employees and the lack of on-going training to insure that the people who administer municipal government services are fully competent. Many local units also maintain relations between the municipal government and other local agencies such as school districts, utilities authorities, etc. We favor the following steps to assisting the local government:

A complete reform and revision of the property tax system providing for assessment and collection on a uniform basis.

Restructuring, improving, and staffing the Department of Community Affairs to insure that it meets local government real needs and acts as an honest broker and mediator between municipal governments on one hand and state and federal authorities on the other.

Expand and improve the new Public Service Institutes' training facilities so that local government employees will have access to courses at every level in their service area.

We must undertake a serious study of school districts to determine if there is not some way that all the agencies serving the local needs of people can undertake a joint planning process so that they view things not only from their own specialized stance, but also from the viewpoint of the taxpayer who ultimately pays for all of their activities.

E CIVIL SERVICE

Political appointments and political reprisals have so weakened the civil service system, that employee morale is at an all time low. We pledge to restore integrity to the civil service system.

PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS

Public employee relations have been allowed to decay to such a state of chaos that it has become a source of needless controversy affecting the morale of public employees from the State Policeman to the State College professor. A Democratic administration will establish a meaningful bargaining relationship which takes negotiation seriously and shows respect for viewpoints on the other side of the table. This does not mean that public employees can expect to get everything they ask for. It does mean that important decisions will not be made unilaterally with no respect for bargaining rights.

In particular, a Democratic administration will undertake a complete revision of the Public Employment Relations Act. Because of decisions eliminating its unfair labor practice jurisdiction, this Board has never been able to function as originally intended. We pledge specifically to work for the restoration of unfair labor practice jurisdiction for the Board.

We pledge to explore and expand the use of mediation and arbitration as a means to settle disputes peaceably and constructively.

We pledge to make the process of judicial review of impasses more meaningful.

We pledge to take every action consistent with prudent fiscal management to assure that public employee pensions keep pace with the rising cost of living.

We also pledge to strive for equity in benefits and administration of the several public employee pension systems which cover New Jersey public employees, teachers and professors.

AGRICULTURE

Agriculture in New Jersey operates in the most densely populated area in the nation and hence has both problems and opportunities. Farmland has declined rapidly in New Jersey from 1,700,000 acres in 1950 to 1,100,000 today.

Due largely to forces external to itself, Agriculture in New Jersey is operating under the influence of an impermanence syndrome which leads to short term decision making, less investment in agricultural enterprises and slower technological adaptation.

This can be corrected by creating a permanent land preserve for agricultural production and by making it feasible for farmers to farm this land and make a profit. The Blueprint Commission on the future of New Jersey agriculture addresses itself to the needs of permanent agriculture and preservation of the environment.

We intend to give the objectives and recommendations of this report careful consideration for we must keep New Jersey the Garden State.

TO FEED THE HUNGRY

In these times of agricultural abundance, it makes no sense for malnourishment to exist in our State. The hungry school child must battle internal obstacles to learning before he can even begin to come to grips with the subject matter presented to him.

Presently, 500,000 children in New Jersey still have no access to school lunch programs. Of these, 114,000 are needy children. Only 25,000 children in our state are reached by the all-important school breakfast program.

Therefore, we recommend greatly increased participation in federal food programs, such as school lunch (New Jersey is fourth lowest in participation among the states), food stamps and commodities.

CONSUMER PROTECTION

The Democratic Party believes that every product purchased must perform as intended; that every product be fairly and accurately advertised; that every product work effectively whether a written guarantee accompanies the product or not; that written guarantees cover the essential operation and use of all products; that the consumer have immediately accessible procedures to redress grievances; that foods and perishable items be fresh, wholesome, clearly labeled and sold at a fair price; that services be performed and completed in an efficient and competent manner by qualified personnel and at reasonable prices.

We propose:

That the New Jersey Consumer Fraud Act (N.J.S.A. 56:3-1 et seq.) be stringently enforced.

That any manufacturer, wholesaler, or retailer who deliberately fails to comply with the provisions of this act shall be guilty of a criminal as well as a civil offense.

That an adequate number of hearing officers be appointed to implement the provisions of the Act and to provide an easily accessible administrative forum to handle complaints pertaining to the violations of the Act.

TENANTS' RIGHTS

We should enact legislation to enable tenants of residential properties to protect themselves from undue and unreasonable increases in rent while at the same time permitting investors in such income properties a potential rate of return on investment which is commensurate with what in past real estate history has been considered reasonable. It should be designed to achieve the above mentioned purposes in the most efficient manner possible minimizing expensive court arbitration and the expenditure of extensive governmental funds.

The legislation should:

1. Leave no questions for debate, relate the economics of inflation and income property to mathematical formulas fair to the tenant and fair to the landlord.
2. Provide uniformity of the law throughout the State.
3. Guarantee that the law will not interfere with the businessman's right to make reasonable profits.
4. Provide rent leveling.

TO SAFEGUARD OUR CIVIL RIGHTS

We must strengthen existing legislation against blockbusting in the sale of real property and other discriminatory practices.

OUT OF STATE TAXATION OF NEW JERSEY RESIDENTS

New Jersey houses hundreds of thousands of commuters who because of employment in Philadelphia and New York pay double and triple taxation on wages. Meaningful tax reform must seriously weigh the impact of change upon these large groups and negotiations with our sister states and the federal government undertaken immediately to offset obvious inequities.

SUPPORT FOR THE ARTS:

We pledge that a Democratic administration will encourage and expand the work of the State Arts Council. We recognize the valuable contribution the Arts make to government, education, business and our personal lives; and believe that the support of the Arts is in the interest of our State.

PARTY STRUCTURE AND OPERATIONS:

The New Jersey Democratic Party renews its commitment to the restructuring and reform of its operations.

The Democratic State Committee is awaiting the recommendations of the Committee on Party Structures chaired by Senator Guarini and pledges prompt consideration of its recommendations.

Election Law Reform

In our representative democracy, it is essential to the good health of our political system that the people have the broadest possible opportunity to participate in the selection of their representatives at all levels of government through the electoral process. The present confused conglomeration of unclear and sometimes contradictory election statutes does not now meet this test. The Legislature should undertake a complete revision of Title 19 along the following lines.

- Voter registration must be made easier. Door to door mobile registration should be made mandatory and registration by mail should be established.
- Residency requirements should be reduced to three months in the State and 30 days in the county.
- Polls should remain open until 9:00 p.m.

The Democratic Party proposes that the newly created Election Law Enforcement Commission vigorously enforce the New Jersey Campaign Contributions and Expenditure Reporting Act.

The Democratic Party continues to pledge itself to the conduct of Open Primaries for nomination of candidates for State Office as put forward by the Grossi Commission Report.