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Democratic platform

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**A
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DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM

1965



A NEW ERA FOR NEW JERSEY
1965 DEMOCRATIC PARTY PLATFORM

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ENLARGING OPPORTUNITY FOR THE INDIVIDUAL

Education

In this age of rapidly growing technology and increasing competition for jobs, no area of public concern is of greater importance than educational opportunity. For these reasons, education is the cornerstone of this Democratic Party Platform. We are alarmed by the fact that our lack of adequate public college facilities forces half of New Jersey's high school graduates to seek a college education in other states. In the spring of 1965, our State colleges rejected 9,000 individual high school graduates while accepting 4,525. Rutgers, our State university, turned away 5,600 fully qualified high school graduates. This critical situation will become worse as each year we have more high school graduates and each year a larger percentage seek admission to colleges. We note with satisfaction that enrollment at the six State colleges over the last 10 years has grown from 3,784 to 15,076.

The Democratic Party pledges itself to alter this forced exodus of talent and intellectual capital by accelerating our program to **more than double the capacity of our colleges and our State university in the next decade.**

In 1963 and 1964, the Democratic Party campaigned for the approval of bond issues to provide funds for the expansion of public higher education facilities. Last year our efforts bore fruit when the people approved a **\$40 million bond issue** for the construction

of classrooms, laboratories and dormitories at the six State colleges. **This bond issue was opposed by the current Republican candidate for Governor.**

The Hughes Administration and the Democratic Party have secured an increase in the number of students receiving **State scholarships** from 3,303 in 1962 to 4,104 in 1965. New Jersey's State scholarship program is now the **second largest in the nation**. We cannot rest on these accomplishments, however, and we pledge to enact an **incentive scholarship program** to provide assistance to students who wish to attend private colleges or who cannot gain admission to State colleges due to lack of space. **This program was blocked by the Republican legislative caucus.**

In view of the increasing importance of a graduate degree in many job opportunities, especially in industries of great importance to the economy of our State, the Democratic Party urges the passage and implementation of a program of **incentive scholarships for New Jerseyans enrolled in graduate study programs.**

By this action, we seek to encourage graduate training for the benefit of the student as well as the employer, whose technological advances create the need for highly trained teachers, management trainees, agricultural specialists and research specialists.

In 1961, the Democratic Party Platform called for the establishment of **county community colleges**. In 1962, the Hughes Administration gained passage of the County Community College Act and plans for such colleges are now underway in 17 counties. The first such college will open in 1966. The

Democratic Party supports continued development in this field and the **continued expansion of accessible institutions of higher education.**

Recognizing the increasing need for higher educational facilities, and appreciating the distances between many areas and existing centers of higher education and the hardships this has worked, the Democratic Party of New Jersey pledges itself to study the establishment of higher educational institutions including a full four-year college within the framework of the State university system.

When this Democratic Administration took office, New Jersey had no public medical or dental schools. Today, the leadership of Governor Hughes has given the State **two public medical schools and a college of dentistry**. The Democratic Party pledges further advances in this vital area of higher education and urges consideration of **South Jersey as the site of a third medical school** to serve the needs of our growing population.

In the last four years, average elementary and secondary teacher salaries have risen yet we must continue to keep pace with other states to maintain high standards of teaching and education for our children. To accomplish this, the Democratic Administration of Governor Hughes has for the last three years, called for a substantial **increase in State aid to local school districts** to maintain and elevate our educational standards while at the same time providing some relief for the overburdened property taxpayer. All efforts to obtain an open vote on methods of obtaining the needed funds for such an expanded State aid program have been **blocked by the Republican legislative caucus.**

The recent federal aid to education program enacted by the national Democratic administration will provide substantial benefits to New Jersey. The Democratic administration in Trenton, working in partnership with Washington, has been developing a program for the use of these federal funds in New Jersey.

The Democratic Party pledges to maintain education as the first priority of public business in New Jersey.

Poverty

New Jersey can be proud of its national leadership under President Johnson's War on Poverty. Governor Hughes demonstrated his determination that all of New Jersey's citizens should have the full benefit of the Economic Opportunity Act. He established the **New Jersey Office of Economic Opportunity** the day the appropriation legislation was signed by the President. **New Jersey thus became the first State to take full advantage of this new legislation.**

To accomplish substantial improvement in the lives of the disadvantaged population requires an attack on many fronts. The groundwork for this was laid by Governor Hughes' commitment of October 8, 1964 and since then local programs have been established in virtually every area of the State. By June 1st more than 5,000 young people between the ages of 16 and 21 were at work in more than 40 New Jersey communities. Over 11,000 children from disadvantaged families who will be entering school for the first time in September will be enrolled in special summer pre-school programs in 380 centers across the state. **More than \$32 million in Federal funds have been committed**

to New Jersey under the Economic Opportunity Act.

The Economic Opportunity Act calls for a wide variety of programs of remedial education, health services, housing, legal services, and worker training. Other sections of this platform demonstrate the total commitment of the Democratic Party to implement these programs and to fulfill the promise of the War on Poverty.

Housing

In 1937 when the United States Housing Act was passed, its guiding principle was to help provide "a decent home in a decent neighborhood" for every American family.

After 30 years we have made great strides in that direction, but important segments of our population still cannot obtain housing suitable to their needs for two basic reasons: cost and lack of availability.

In the area of middle income housing in New Jersey, the present deficit in supply is estimated at 100,000 units. In 1961 we endorsed a five-point program which would have made new units of **middle income housing** available. After detailed analysis and study we introduced legislation to establish a program of low-interest long-term State financing to assist private developers in the construction of new middle income housing within the economic grasp of many of our citizens. **That proposal was blocked by the Republican-controlled Legislature.**

We urge the real estate community and the general housing industry to provide greater middle income housing opportunities. We are convinced that there is a great need to increase access to privately owned middle income housing for all New Jersey citizens.

New Jersey's older population has increased in the last decade to more than 650,000. Such individuals living often on modest pensions, and burdened with excessive medical and personal expenses, need more housing within their financial range. Although the State can be proud of the low-rent public housing and middle income **housing for senior citizens** which has increased during the past four years, more remains to be done. We pledge that State government will continuously evaluate new needs for all types of housing for the older citizen, and we pledge the State government will remain responsive to the just needs of our older citizens.

We urge a new look at **Urban Renewal** as it relates to residential housing. We again pledge, as we did in 1961, continued efforts to have the State financially assist municipalities desiring to launch urban renewal studies or action programs.

We shall stress in the coming years a re-evaluation of urban renewal, with emphasis on the development of new middle income and low-cost residential rental housing in renewed areas.

We shall stress greater private participation in the housing aspects of urban renewal programs.

We shall urge that Local Housing Authorities be authorized to construct rental housing for middle as well as low income families. We shall also urge municipalities which do not have local housing authorities to create them.

We shall urge the real estate community and homebuilders and industry to explore new housing opportunities being opened up

by the increased entry into the middle income market of minority groups.

We in the Democratic Party are proud that the housing needs of the American people were first recognized by a great Democratic President, Franklin D. Roosevelt. In his magnificent tradition, Presidents Truman, Kennedy and Johnson have also concerned themselves with this important problem. President Johnson has put forth an imaginative program to rehabilitate much of the nation's older housing and construct new housing where and as needed. He has also proposed establishment of a Federal department of housing and urban development. We support fully President Johnson's program and pledge our efforts to meet the housing needs of New Jersey's citizens.

Civil Rights

This year we observe the 20th anniversary of the passage of the first modern civil rights law in New Jersey's history—the Law Against Discrimination. That law began the long process of legally guaranteeing equal opportunity in employment, union membership, housing, education, public accommodations, and apprentice training programs for all the citizens of this State, regardless of race, creed, color, ancestry or national origin.

In 1961, we pledged to transfer the **Division on Civil Rights**—which administers the Law Against Discrimination—to the Department of Law and Public Safety to strengthen its law enforcement capabilities. That pledge was redeemed. We have sought through the Division on Civil Rights to encourage the establishment of community relations and race conferences and local public and private

human relations commissions throughout New Jersey.

In 1961, we pledged the adoption of a law forbidding discrimination in the **sale or rental of private housing**. That law was adopted.

We have made continued efforts for four years to have that law expanded to cover all housing, substantially including the recommendations of the Administration. Despite the recommendations of this Conference and widespread support throughout the State this measure has been **consistently blocked by the Republican legislative caucus**. They have masked their opposition to extension of this law by offering spurious compromises which they did not permit to come to the floor for a vote. **A Democratic Legislature will enact a comprehensive and equitable fair housing law for New Jersey.**

In 1962, State law was broadened to prohibit discrimination in **labor apprentice and other training programs**. Cooperation with contractors, building trade unions and civil rights organizations was furthered by the appointment in 1963 of a **Governor's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity**. This led to affirmative action to re-evaluate existing apprentice training programs in various trades throughout the State. Apprenticeship programs have been established by the State to provide information on available job opportunities. Continuing efforts will be made to expand these opportunities.

In 1963, the State Department of Education issued a series of the most far-reaching decisions on "**de facto**" **school segregation** in certain New Jersey schools. These decisions

are now being used as models for other states facing the same problem. Local implementation of those decisions is going forward. We pledge every effort to accelerate the speed of implementing these decisions at the local level.

In 1964, we and our Democratic Congressional delegation, gave unqualified support to President Lyndon B. Johnson's efforts to obtain passage of the historic Civil Rights Act. We hailed the passage of that Act, and we offer equally strong support today to the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Throughout the life of this administration we have insisted that laws against discrimination must be obeyed. We have also said that **voluntary community activity** on behalf of civil rights will have an equally lasting effect. We applaud the growing economic and social partnership which was developed between business, labor, civil rights and self-help organizations. For such partnerships will outlast the problems of the moment to become permanent instruments for better relations among all groups of our society.

In 1965, this administration issued a **Governor's Code of Fair Practices**, summing up in one public document the civil rights law, policies and regulations already in effect in New Jersey. That Governor's Code will continue to be the guiding and governing policy of the Executive Branch of this government.

Now the circle of law is almost complete. We must move aggressively to insure that the door to the American Way of Life always remains open to all people.

The Democratic Party of New Jersey—always the party of the people—pledges

itself to make the 1960's a decade of human rights fulfillment.

Labor

Since 1961, when the Democratic Party pledged to concern itself with the problem of automation, the administration of Governor Richard J. Hughes has sought to provide increasing opportunities for those workers who have been victims of industrial modernization and technological change. Under programs authorized by the Federal Manpower Development and Training and Area Redevelopment Acts, approximately 4,000 New Jersey working men and women have received training. In addition, a system of county community colleges has been authorized which will provide expanded opportunities for technical training. A worker training and skill center has been established in Newark to provide training in up to 25 different occupations for hundreds of men and women. Similar centers are planned in other areas of need throughout the State. To prevent the expansion in the labor force of those persons who are most susceptible to the drawbacks of automation, the State's Vocational Education Program has been accelerated.

Other progress for New Jersey working men and women is noted during the past four years, including the enactment of the first comprehensive revision of the State's **Construction Safety Laws** and the first New Jersey **Worker Health and Safety Law** for business and industrial concerns. An act requiring the payment of **prevailing wages and benefits** on government contract work was approved.

Much, however, remains to be done. Republican opposition has thwarted efforts

to enact a meaningful **minimum wage law** which will cover working men in addition to women and children. Despite the fact that the Democratic Party was able to win approval, in 1962, of a \$5 stop-gap increase in maximum weekly disability benefits for workmen's compensation, **the Republican Party has refused to permit the modernization of the basic Workmen's Compensation Law unless accompanied by a drastic and unwarranted reduction in coverage.** Moreover, the State's **Unemployment Compensation Law** remains inadequate for the 1960's.

We shall continue to explore all possible methods of reducing the impact of **automation and industrial relocation** and shall, indeed, work for the expansion of employment opportunities by increasing New Jersey's attractiveness to industry.

We note that **employment in New Jersey has risen by 170,000** since 1961 and unemployment is at its lowest level in almost 10 years. However, to keep pace with the growing demand for jobs, we feel it is necessary to enact Governor Hughes' recommendation of a program to stimulate the growth of job-creating industry by helping to defray the cost of **industrial site surveys** by potential investors. This imaginative program was **rejected by the Republican-controlled Legislature in 1965.** This is the worst kind of false economy, purchased at the expense of employment opportunities for New Jersey's working men and women.

The proposal of the State AFL-CIO to explore the possibility of establishing a community college is at once stimulating for its initiative and indicative of the unity of purpose which exists between the Democratic Party and the progressive labor movement

on so many vital issues in today's age of science and technology. We pledge to examine thoroughly all possible areas in which the State government can render assistance to such pioneer efforts.

The Democratic Party remains unalterably opposed to any so-called **right-to-work law**. We recognize such a law for what it is—a deceptive and meaningless title given to a vicious attempt to subvert the basic right of labor to organize and bargain collectively.

Veterans

In 1961, the Platform of the Democratic Party made three specific pledges to the veterans of New Jersey. All have been fulfilled, and more. A promise was made to solve the tax exemption problem affecting veterans by eliminating inequities caused by the revision of the State's **tax assessment policy**. This promise was carried out with the passage, in 1963, of a Constitutional amendment providing for a \$50 deduction from the property tax bill of New Jersey veterans.

A promise was made to provide the highest possible standard of care to our veterans at the **Soldiers' Homes** under the jurisdiction of the Department of Institutions and Agencies. This promise was fulfilled with the opening, in 1965, of a **200-bed addition** to the Soldiers' Home at Menlo Park and by the initiation of construction plans for **400 more beds** for geriatric veterans to be divided equally between the Soldiers' Homes at Vineland and Menlo Park. **This total of 600 beds comprises the greatest expansion of veterans' facilities in New Jersey history.**

A promise was made to continue just enforcement of all present laws providing

benefits and preferences to those who made great sacrifices for their country. This promise was fulfilled with the clarification of the cut-off date from Korean War service so as to prevent misuse of these privileges. In addition, the Hughes Administration has sought to secure additional medical-surgical facilities for New Jersey from the National Veterans Administration and supported passage of measures in the U. S. Congress to provide increased assistance for veterans nursing homes. We have sought and will continue to seek expansion of the **National Cemetery system** in New Jersey to furnish a final resting place for veterans and their families.

The Democratic Party pledges its continued concern for the just needs of New Jersey veterans and especially for those who face the problems of age.

Public Health

The Democratic Party believes that progressive government has a duty to protect the health of the community through enlightened preventive and corrective action. The present Democratic administration has fulfilled this duty in several areas.

● **AIR POLLUTION**—More than 6,000 initial and follow-up air pollution investigations have been conducted. In most instances voluntary compliance was achieved. But in over 2,000 cases compliance was secured through **enforcement action** by the Department of Health. In 1964, New Jersey provided the matching funds to become eligible for one of the largest federal grants ever awarded for air pollution control activities, enabling the State to **double its investigation staff**.

The Democratic Administration in 1965 introduced legislation to set **standards of emission of pollutants from motor vehicles**, the chief cause of air pollution, and to require that motor vehicles registered in New Jersey in the future be equipped with **pollution control devices**. **These programs were blocked by the Republican-controlled Legislature.**

● **WATER POLLUTION AND SEWER-AGE**—The Democratic Administration has proposed a \$5 million program of State financial grants and loans for engineering surveys as a needed first step to encourage the development of **regional and valley sewerage systems**. The funds needed to implement this program were reduced, in a burst of false economy, by 80% by the Republican-controlled Legislature. **The Democratic Party pledges to work for the restoration of these desperately needed funds.** And, in addition to explore the creation of a program of State financial aid for construction of regional and valley sewerage facilities for many localities in the State; the cost of building such facilities poses severe financial hardship.

● **HEALTH SERVICES**—The Democratic Hughes Administration has proposed a program of **State aid for local health services** based on the need and ability of municipalities to pay. This program to greatly improve existing health services at the local level was also **killed by the Republican Legislature**. A Democratic Legislature will approve this important program.

In cooperation with county medical societies and hundreds of citizen volunteers, the Hughes Administration, through its Department of Health, supplied both staff and material to help coordinate the greatest mass

inoculation program in New Jersey history. Ten million doses of **oral polio vaccine** were administered with the result that only two cases of polio were reported in 1964, reflecting the virtual elimination of the disease.

Through the efforts of the Hughes Administration, Rutgers University has been designated a water resources research institute. A Federal grant of \$52,000 has been made to Rutgers for **research into various aspects of water** and its uses.

This Administration has also seen the construction of new buildings to house the Department of Health, uniting the Department's facilities under one roof to improve efficiency and the quality of service to the public.

Senior Citizens

The 1961 Democratic Party Platform noted the creation, under a Democratic administration, of the **State Division on Aging**, the first State agency to concern itself with the full spectrum of problems of our older citizens. The intervening four years have witnessed a continual march toward a better life for our senior citizens.

Since 1961, Governor Hughes, U. S. Senator Harrison A. Williams, Jr., the New Jersey Democratic delegation to the House of Representatives and Democrats throughout New Jersey have lent their full support to the passage of a national program of **Medicare** which, today, under the leadership of a Democratic administration in Washington, stands on the threshold of enactment. Moreover, in fulfillment of a pledge to continue efforts toward a program of health care for those aged whose financial resources cannot

meet the costs of illness and disability, the Kerr-Mills program of **Medical Assistance for the Aged** was adopted in New Jersey in 1962 and has, since July, 1963, provided benefits for more than 13,000 needy senior citizens.

Also, in 1962, legislation was passed fulfilling the promise of the Democratic Party to outlaw discrimination in employment because of age. Other action has been taken, such as an intensive educational program on assistance available for the construction of housing for the elderly, which has led to an increase of more than 100% since 1962, in public housing units for the aged.

In 1963, by the approval of a Constitutional amendment, inequities in the **property tax exemption for senior citizens** were eliminated by providing for a flat \$80 deduction from property tax bills.

The Hughes Administration has proposed to strengthen the effectiveness of the Division on Aging through the addition of staff in several fields. This program was blocked by the Republican Legislature.

The Democratic Party pledges its firm support for a strengthening of the State Division on Aging to better serve our senior citizens and to an expanded benefit program of Medical Assistance for the Aged once the national Medicare program goes into effect to provide a firm foundation for greater State efforts.

Women

The Democratic Party recognizes and endorses the accomplishments of the Kennedy and Johnson Administrations in the placement of competent women in high govern-

mental positions. This Administration has taken a positive step forward in this tradition by the creation of a **Status of Women Commission** and pledges to continue to place qualified women in responsible positions at all levels of government.

The Democratic Hughes Administration has recognized the talents and abilities of New Jersey's women through the appointment to cabinet or sub-cabinet posts of **Mrs. Thelma P. Sharp**, President of the Civil Service Commission, and **Miss June Strelecki**, Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles.

We note with pride the recognition of New Jersey women manifested in the appointment by President Johnson of **Mrs. Katherine Elkus White** as United States Ambassador to Denmark.

Consumer Protection

Under three successive Democratic administrations, New Jersey has come to the forefront of those states which have adopted a progressive and enlightened approach to the problems of consumer protection. During the past four years Governor Hughes and the Democratic members of the Legislature have successfully fought for laws to eliminate deceptive practices in the sale of securities, and to protect the public from the abuses which an administration-ordered investigation found to exist in the field of "**second mortgage**" financing. A reasonable second mortgage bill in particular was enacted only after a determined struggle by the Democratic Party to defeat an attempt by the **Senate Republican caucus to enact a bill permitting interest of more than 20% on second mortgage.**

The administration also has introduced legislation to increase the penalty provisions of the Consumer Frauds Law; to require the posting of rental rates in hotels and motels; to require rent deposits to be treated as trust funds; and to revise and strengthen the existing New Jersey Weights and Measures Law, and the New Jersey Food and Drug Law. In addition, our consumer protection program has been enforced with vigor and vigilance. In 1964 alone, the **Consumers Fraud Bureau** processed nearly 5,000 complaints and obtained refunds for consumers totalling nearly \$400,000. We pledge ourselves to maintain this record, and to redouble our efforts in this vital area.

Extremism

As members of the Democratic Party, the oldest political party in the world, and a party which has flourished because of this Nation's devotion to freedom, we pledge ourselves to continued vigilance in the cause of freedom. We reject the absolutism of the right, as typified by the **John Birch Society** and its kindred organizations. Just as vigorously do we repudiate the sophistries of the left, as advanced by the **Communist Party** and its satellites. We also express our revulsion at the lamentable revival of the **Ku Klux Klan** and condemn those who support and defend it.

But the Democratic Party of New Jersey offers more than just negative condemnation. We pledge ourselves to work untiringly on behalf of a government of law and not of men. This means an **unswerving fidelity to the Constitutions of New Jersey and the United States**, as interpreted by the highest courts of this State and Nation, all of which

constitute the supreme law of the land. While we may not always agree as individuals with judicial rulings, we recognize that the Supreme Court of the United States is the ultimate arbitrator on Constitutional matters and that only by prescribed Constitutional procedure can its interpretation of the Constitution be amended. We shall not seek transitory popularity by flouting the courts and the Constitution, but we shall uphold the courts of this State and the Nation as bulwarks of the finest system of government yet devised by men.

The New Jersey Democratic Party believes with the United States Supreme Court that any legislator, executive or judge who makes war against the Constitution violates his oath to support it. We also feel that continuing attacks on the United States Supreme Court or its members, including imputations of treason and threats of impeachment, which often come from otherwise respectable sources, are at the root of a growing national disrespect for police and other law enforcement officials, often culminating in physical attacks on these officials during the performance of their duties. **We must never forget that law enforcement authorities constitute the thin line of protection between an orderly society and the evils of violence and disorder.** We urge an end to this disrespect, for the first duty of a citizen is to uphold the law.

The Democratic Party pledges that New Jersey will continue to be known as a State of fair but firm law enforcement and will fight with every means at its command to preserve law and order. The Democratic Party aims this pledge at the hoodlums who would abuse our freedoms, but not at those

participating in constitutionally guaranteed rights of free assembly and demonstrations.

Employment and Economic Opportunity

A growing population, the rapid pace of technological change, new patterns of defense expenditure and the attack on poverty all combine to confront us with the urgent need to enlarge every aspect of economic opportunity in New Jersey. The encouragement of enterprise and the creation of job opportunities have been and continue to be our primary aims. The effective use of human resources means that each of us must have a chance to strive toward his fullest potential.

The vigor and momentum of the New Jersey economy has enabled us to adjust to continuing change and yet to keep pace with national growth. From the 1957-58 recession through 1964 New Jersey matched the national expansion in non-farm payroll jobs, and in the Spring of 1965, this employment in New Jersey reached an all-time record of 2.2 million.

New Jersey must have the ability and determination to pay its way and to follow the guide of the prudent businessman who knows that he must invest in order to get a return. This investment in our future growth must be made so that all can share its fruits. Investment in research and in education to prepare all our young people for our highly competitive technological world will pay dividends in employment and general economic growth.

The Democratic Party has taken significant steps to insure our employment potential. We have established by law a new **Division of Economic Development** within the Depart-

ment of Conservation and Economic Development to concentrate on the attraction and expansion of industry. The Division of Employment Security in the Department of Labor and Industry has reorganized its functions so that cooperative Federal-State manpower programs can be carried out most effectively.

A **Manpower Services Unit** was established in 1963 in the Division of Employment Security to assist local employment offices, working men and employers with the problems of automation, obsolescence and relocation. Manpower retraining programs have already helped New Jersey workers to secure new job opportunities. We pledge expanded efforts to protect those workers dislocated by technological change through retraining in other skills.

The Democratic Party commits itself to a policy of ensuring a job for every man qualified and eager to work through measures designed to maintain current high levels of economic prosperity, and to encourage the location here of job-creating industry, through the encouragement of equal opportunity in employment and through an educational program to maintain the present high level of competence of our working force.

Institutions

We, as Democrats, believe that the degree of civilization any society possesses can be measured by the manner in which it cares for those who cannot care for themselves.

We believe that our Party has made an enviable record in helping New Jersey strive toward a high standard in this regard.

Our programs on behalf of the mentally ill, the retarded and other unfortunates have brought great gains to our State in the last decade. We note with pride that the cause of the weak and helpless has had no greater champion in recent years than the present Democratic Governor of New Jersey.

Under this administration, New Jersey has adopted a **\$50 million bond issue** for the construction of new institutional facilities with strong emphasis on those for the mentally ill and retarded.

The administration's "**Purchase of Care**" program for individuals for whom State residential facilities are not available has filled a great need for many families. We pledge to continue this important program for the relief of the mentally retarded.

We suggest a study of a comparable program for **emotionally disturbed youngsters** for whom space is not available in public facilities.

Within the structure of available revenue, we urge consideration of expansion of the **Day Care Program**, presently available only to the retarded, to a program providing services for children who cannot be accommodated in the public schools and who do not require placement in a residential facility.

The Democratic Party urges continued attention and greater public awareness of the needs of a dedicated, often forgotten group of New Jersey citizens who staff the State's institutions of care.

The recent raising of their **salaries** to \$3,500 per year by Governor Hughes barely lifts them above accepted poverty levels.

In the area of preventive action in the field of the handicapped, we note the progress made under this Democratic administration by the New Jersey Rehabilitation Commission and the program for the early detection of mental retardation by requiring immediate **PKU testing** of all newborn infants.

BUILDING THE MODERN COMMUNITY

Transportation

In 1961, the Democratic Party recognized the necessity for a balanced system of transportation to meet the needs of a growing and vital state. We have acted to fulfill this call.

In an effort to maintain and expand a highway system which carries the greatest density of traffic in the world, the Hughes Administration has initiated an extensive program of **highway construction**, totaling over **\$350 million in the last two years**. Yet even these record-breaking efforts are only a beginning. New Jersey must build more highways in response to the increasing requirements of our State. To achieve this, Governor Hughes has recommended since 1963, that the highway appropriations be increased. **This recommendation has been ignored by the Republican-controlled Legislature**. The Democratic Party is committed to continued development and maintenance of policies which will enable us to meet the intense demand for highways while preventing their construction from disrupting existing community patterns. To reach this goal we must **draw local residents into the planning of new highways**.

This Democratic Administration persuaded the Federal government to undertake extensive technical study of the Pinelands region as a possible **site of a jetport**. The administration also secured investigation by the Port of New York Authority of other sites and explored extensively with the military authorities the possible partial use of **McGuire Air Force Base**. The Democratic

Party will support further efforts by the administration for a suitable jetport location in New Jersey with the hope that technological changes or shifts in military needs will soon accommodate a jetport. **We renew our pledge to prevent the establishment of a jet airport in the Great Swamp of Morris County, Hunterdon County or in any other settled residential areas of the State.**

In 1961, the Democratic Party pledged the maintenance of **commuter rail service** in our State, and we have been true to our word even when faced with a nationwide crisis in the area of rail passenger service. The purchase and improvement of the **Hudson-Manhattan Tubes** by the New York Port Authority resulting in the only wholly air-conditioned rapid transit system in the Nation; the initiation of the high-speed **Kirkwood Transit Line** in the Camden-Philadelphia area; the development of the **Aldene Plan** for direct travel to Manhattan on the Jersey Central; and the introduction of flexible formulas for the distribution of **commuter subsidies—which now total more than \$7 million per year**—are current programs which have maintained commuter service in this State. Governor Hughes has been in the forefront of efforts to implement the imaginative proposals to assist the **Erie-Lackawanna Railroad**—proposals which include the active participation of the citizens and commuters of the communities affected.

The Democratic Party recognizes that maintaining existing rail commuter facilities is not enough in our increasingly urbanized society. Commuter transportation and intrastate freight operations constitute a lifeline of the New Jersey economy. Failure to expand and improve these services will result

in a continuing increase in highway traffic with its accompanying disruptive demands and large-scale expenditures.

The patterns of travel which have changed so drastically over the past several decades demand that we bring an imaginative and bold approach to the solution of the rail problem which, for so long, has caused ever-increasing hardships to the people and the economy of our State.

Department of Community Affairs

Four years ago in almost identical words we pledged to the people of this State the establishment of a cabinet-level State Department of Community Affairs, to **help New Jersey's 567 growing municipalities to cope with the complex problems related to their urban growth and development.** We repeat that pledge today and strongly urge the establishment of that department.

The new department is necessary in one of the fastest growing states in the Nation—6 million population in 1960; 9 million projected for 1980; 20 million in the 21st Century. Small in size, it is eighth in population in the country. With an increase of more than 125,000 people each year, New Jersey's growth is exceeded only by one other state in the last 15 years.

A series of inter-related problems accompany urban growth—air and water pollution, deteriorating schools, inadequate housing, in-harmonious land use, industrial development in rural areas, urban renewal, preservation of natural beauty, juvenile delinquency and crime. A bewildering number of Federal, State, regional and local programs arise to meet the problems. **A new agency is needed**

to coordinate these new and diverse programs.

The new Department of Community Affairs would bring together a small dedicated staff of experts and administrators knowledgeable in the technical areas of housing, local finance and local government, land use and development, State and regional planning, open space programs, inter-state cooperation, and the special problems of youth and the older citizen.

The new Department would strengthen local government by acting as an intermediary in programs sponsored by the Federal government, and would serve as a central clearing house for information, advice and technical guidance in areas of community development and improvement. It would be a giant step toward the best use of public resources, and would assure the local taxpayer full value for his tax dollars.

Crime and Law Enforcement

Since its beginning, this administration has pursued a program designed to strengthen law enforcement agencies in New Jersey and make their functioning more efficient and effective.

The 1961 Democratic Party platform called for a **statewide system of periodic crime reporting**, through which local police would furnish the Attorney General with lists of persons arrested and the crimes with which they are charged. Such a system would supplement statistics now available through the State Police and the FBI and would **provide the basis for an effective counter-attack against the rising tide of crime.**

The Republican Legislature has consistently refused to act on legislation to implement such a reporting system.

After years of urging by this administration, a program of **police training** has been established, providing training for local police personnel in the rapidly expanding technical areas of law enforcement.

An appropriation of \$25,000 for the establishment of a chair for a **course in police administration at Rutgers, the State University, has been repeatedly denied by the Republican Legislature.** The failure to provide the small sum of \$1.50 per year for each New Jersey policeman eligible for such a program has so far denied to the State and to law enforcement some 85 scholarships which would have been available over a five-year period through a private foundation.

Under this administration, the Attorney General has established a **Law Enforcement Intelligence Unit**, providing an effective network of communication and consultation among his office, county prosecutors, local police departments and Federal law enforcement agencies on enforcement of gambling laws and collecting information to combat organized crime.

In 1962, in fulfillment of a campaign pledge, this administration gained passage of a law making it a high misdemeanor to **commit assault and battery against any law enforcement officer** acting in the performance of his duties.

We pledge the support of legislation designed to reduce the danger of **indiscriminate possession of firearms** through laws to keep guns out of the hands of mental defec-

tives, narcotics addicts, convicted criminals and subversives.

We feel strongly that law enforcement should remain above partisan politics at all times and that politically motivated sniping at existing law enforcement agencies and officers contributes to public disrespect for these agencies.

The Democratic Party seeks to make our streets and homes and parks safe for the community. We seek to make all citizens safe from bodily assault and their property safe from damage, destruction or theft. We seek to make our youth safe from the living death of narcotics addiction. We seek to make our police objects of respect and stability in the community. We seek to deprive organized crime of the millions of dollars it now extorts from the public through all manner of loathsome activities. We seek the assurance to all citizens of their civil and constitutional rights before the law.

Traffic Safety

This administration has waged a spirited and enlightened campaign against traffic accidents, by seeking out their root causes through research and analysis by identifying the substantial hazards, and armed with this intelligence, by attacking the basic problems through fair but rigorous enforcement procedures and solid legislative programs.

One major hazard continues to be the fatal combination of **alcohol and automobiles.** (Approximately 57% of those killed on our highways had been drinking prior to the accident.) The administration's assault on this hazard has included strong support of **implied consent bills** which would make law-

ful the concept that persons securing driver's licenses have given their implied consent to taking a drunkometer test should they be arrested for a traffic violation and which would reduce the legal level of alcohol in the blood for purposes of determining what constitutes drunken driving.

We pledge to continue our support of this legislation and to persist in alerting our citizens to the extreme dangers involved.

Recognizing that law enforcement is one of the major deterrents to traffic accidents, this administration has, among other programs, **increased the size of the State Police** for the express purpose of establishing a **Highway Traffic Patrol Bureau**; it has stiffened the point system and increased suspension; installed **electronic data processing** equipment to efficiently record violations; strengthened State Police patrols on highways with high accident rates and established Uniform Police Training for municipal as well as State Police.

We pledge to continue and expand these efforts, and further, to sponsor and support legislation which would increase reciprocal cooperation between our Motor Vehicle Department and those of our sister states. This has so far been blocked by the Republican-controlled Legislature.

In the vital area of traffic safety and accident prevention this administration has moved forcefully by approving legislation requiring **seat belts** and other safety devices in all new automobiles registered in New Jersey; by expanding the motor vehicle **inspection system** and by making it more convenient for automobile owners; by approving legislation authorizing New Jersey to partici-

pate in interstate compacts aimed at standardizing automotive safety equipment and by the annual convening of the **Governor's Traffic Safety Conference**.

Obscenity

The Democratic Party is determined that the evils to our youth inherent in the distribution of obscene and pornographic literature must be eliminated from our society by every means, consistent with the preservation of the Constitutional right of free speech. Throughout his administration, Governor Hughes has worked continually with the Legislature to secure the enactment of new laws designed to tighten existing controls in this area. As a result of this effort, the Governor was able to sign three meaningful bills into law. One of these measures expressly incorporates into the criminal laws of this State a **Constitutional definition of the term "obscenity"**. Another sets forth an effective procedure to enable local prosecuting authorities to obtain **swift injunctive relief against the sale of such literature**. The third permits retail dealers to require distributors to **cease delivering any published material which the dealer finds objectionable**. Governor Hughes, and the Democratic Party, also support a bill now pending in the Senate which would establish a **commission to study obscenity in publications**.

As has been demonstrated by these positive actions on the part of the Governor and the Democratic members of the Legislature, this party is clearly committed to take every possible step to rid this State of the scourge of obscene literature.

Narcotics

Four years ago, the Democratic Party pledged to bring this State into the Twentieth Century in methods of dealing with the problem of narcotic addiction. We have attempted to bring enlightened legal and medical concepts to bear on the problem of narcotic addiction by the establishment of a **pioneer system of commitment procedures for drug addicts** which gives them a choice between psychiatric treatment and a jail sentence. Governor Hughes worked with the leaders of the Legislature to create a **Narcotic Drug Study Commission** to review all matters related to the cause, prevention and control of drug addiction. The work of this Commission, in part, has resulted in the broadening of the definition of narcotic drugs to include new synthetic products and the tightening of regulations regarding the use, possession and transportation of tranquilizers and so-called "goof-balls". The Democratic Party will continue to work towards the elimination of this source of both social problems and personal tragedy. The representatives of our Party will support legislation—previously ignored by the Republican legislative caucus—to **increase the penalties against persons who use children under the age of 18 to transport, carry, prepare or sell narcotics.**

Local, Regional and State Planning for New Jersey's Future

Under the Hughes Administration, New Jersey and its communities have entered a new era of orderly planning for the future. The Division of State and Regional Planning of the Department of Conservation and Economic Development has provided financial assistance to more than 300 New Jersey communities for the development of master plans.

This administration has provided funds to municipalities for the development of **community renewal programs** to designate blighted areas, study methods of redevelopment and study the needs and financial resources of the community available to meet the problem.

Regional planning efforts by the State have opened wide new horizons of opportunity in New Jersey's areas of greatest potential development. State impetus has led to the creation of the bi-county **Pinelands Regional Planning Board**. The report of this agency has been completed and will help determine how this great undeveloped area of central New Jersey can best be used in the interests of the people and economy of the region and the State.

The great **Northern New Jersey Meadowlands**—15,000 acres of undeveloped land in the center of the New York metropolitan region—offer perhaps the greatest potential for development of any land in the nation.

Under the State-initiated Meadowlands Regional Development Agency, a comprehensive plan for the Meadowlands is now being prepared. The Hughes Administration sought and received Federal aid funds for this study of the Meadowlands and is coordinating it with the work of the Army Corps of Engineers, who are studying reclamation and flood control techniques. Under State supervision, these two studies will lead to eventual development of this area in the fields of transportation, industry, residential, commercial and recreational uses and in the creation of natural areas and port facilities.

The Democratic Party opposes any giveaway of the State's legitimate interests in the

riparian lands of the Meadowlands, especially when the **Commission to Study the Meadowlands Development**, headed by former Governor **Robert B. Meyner**, is studying this problem and seeking a solution equitable to both the people of the State as a whole and the owners of land in that area.

The State has also joined hands with Morris and Sussex counties and local municipalities in planning for the long-range development and preservation of the **Lake Hopatcong area** in New Jersey's lakeland resort area for future recreational use by New Jerseyans.

Great strides have been made by this administration in the orderly planning of **State capital construction**. We also take pride in the fine new complex of State buildings, including the most extensive **State cultural center** in the nation, now being completed in the State Capital. The new **Health and Agriculture Building** in this group recently was granted an award for its architectural merit.

The **Governor's Interdepartmental Committee for State Planning** is preparing a State development plan to insure a unified set of policies in the areas of highway construction, institutional facilities, water supply and all other State functions. The same committee has, since 1963, prepared a long-range capital improvements program which sets forth a six-year development program to meet in an orderly and efficient manner the future needs of the State and to set priorities.

Only through continuous orderly planning such as has been undertaken by this administration at the local, regional and State level can the curse of urban chaos be prevented.

Conservation

We firmly believe that our natural resources, which once appeared limitless, must now be carefully treasured. We shall continue to meet our solemn obligation to develop fully our water supplies, to preserve our fields and woods and lakes, to develop green areas for the enjoyment of our urban multitudes and to reclaim for community development those valuable meadowlands that were bypassed in the earlier growth of our cities and towns.

The record of the last decade in New Jersey has been one of unparalleled achievement in the public interest for preservation and development of our natural resources.

Our State program of developing **water resources** is one of the most enlightened in the Nation. While beset with the temporary problems of a drought which has affected the entire northeastern United States, New Jersey is currently developing a water supply system for the State which will last well into the 21st century. As examples of this planning, the daily safe dependable yield of the **Spruce Run-Round Valley** Reservoir system has been increased by 70,000,000 gallons; acquisition of land has begun for the development of the Hackettstown Reservoir on the Upper Musconetcong River; preliminary work has been completed for a new reservoir system on the Manasquan River; a program has been developed for construction of a major reservoir in Millstone Valley; and, through participation in the Delaware River Basin Commission, the first financial commitment in the State's history has been made to share, on an interstate basis the cost of building water supply storage into the new Federal reservoir system.

taxes at existing levels—a considerable accomplishment in this age of mushrooming demands on State fiscal resources.

The Democratic Party pledges that its fiscal proposals and policies for the future will be based on similarly realistic appraisals of the fiscal needs and resources of New Jersey.

Public Employees

We recognize the importance of New Jersey's public employees to our State's economic vitality as well as to the operation of government. We are committed to maintaining salary, benefit, and security levels which will enable the State to compete effectively with private industries for the best available talent.

The Hughes Administration has moved toward this goal by two across-the-board salary improvement programs **increasing the average yearly salary of State employees.** Together with an intensification of recruiting on college campuses, these policies have led to an increase of 60% in the number of college graduates taking the State Classification Examinations. Governor Hughes has also made special efforts to upgrade salaries at the lower levels of the State pay scale.

The interest of the Hughes Administration in equitable retirement plans for teachers and other public employees was manifested by the Governor's approval of legislation to separate social security and pensions for certain disadvantaged elderly—thus fulfilling a 1961 campaign pledge. In 1963 this administration approved legislation extending to teachers and all public employees who are members of the retirement system the right to purchase supplemental retirement benefits

and in 1964 approved legislation extending hospitalization and medical-surgical coverage to teachers and local government employees. In 1965, legislation was approved permitting school districts to purchase tax-sheltered supplemental annuities. This concern for the welfare of State employees was further demonstrated by the subsequent study undertaken by the Democratic Administration toward the general separation of social security from the State pension funds. We propose the vigorous pursuit of these objectives within the framework of New Jersey's fiscal resources.

Conflicts of Interest

Throughout his Administration, Governor Hughes has repeatedly sought to persuade the Legislature that the enactment of a meaningful conflicts of interest law is indispensable to the maintenance of public confidence in the governmental process. **The Senate's Republican caucus has twice answered this urgent call by passing bills which have no effect whatever in their application to members of the legislative branch.** The Governor has returned both measures to the Senate with recommendations designed to strengthen them by assuring sure but impartial enforcement of a conflicts code in broad daylight, rather than the illusory sanction of secret self-judgement behind the closed doors of the legislative caucus room. **The Republican legislative caucus has seen fit to ignore the Governor's recommendations, and apparently is content to perpetuate an unwholesome atmosphere which could permit legislators to abuse their public office with impunity.**

The Democratic Party, continues to regard public office as a public trust, and repeats its

long-standing pledge to work toward the adoption of a truly effective conflicts of interest law. The elimination of the caucus system in November through the election of a Democratic legislature would soon convert this pledge into an accomplished fact.

The Senate Caucus

The Republican Legislative Caucus, a back-room club where the minority rules, has often been the graveyard of progressive measures advocated by the Democratic Party to meet the needs of a modern urban state.

The Democratic Party feels that such an outdated, clandestine system can no longer be permitted to block the will of the majority and hinder the progress of our State.

The Republican Legislative Caucus, acting under the dictates of a small group of party leaders including the current Republican candidate for Governor has:

- Blocked incentive scholarships for New Jersey college students
- Prevented State aid to local health services
- Killed measures to strengthen our fair housing law
- Blockaded the enactment of laws that would enable police more easily to determine drunk driving offenses
- Prevented enactment of a crime reporting law
- Stopped the creation of a Department of Community Affairs to help local communities in their dealings with State and Federal agencies.
- Prevented passage of air pollution control legislation

- Killed a business survey loan program to induce industry to locate their plants in New Jersey and provide more jobs and revenue
- Blocked consideration on the open floor of the Legislature of proposals to produce more revenue for New Jersey's needs
- Blocked enactment of a minimum wage law for working men
- Prevented passage of middle income housing legislation
- Killed legislation to define obscenity and to create a commission to study existing obscenity laws to shield our youth from this pernicious threat
- Stopped a State program of grants for urban renewal
- Denied action on legislation to implement the Federal Aid to Education Act
- Blockaded revisions of the State Food and Drug Law

These are but a few examples of progressive legislation strangled in the secret Republican Caucus in 1965.

The Democratic Party pledges reform of the insidious caucus system when it gains control of the Legislature and returns it to the people of New Jersey. The reforms include:

1. An active bipartisan committee system. Decisions on which bills are to be reported out of committee will be made by the members of the committee, not by a partisan majority caucus controlled by a minority of the people's representatives.

2. A committee can be relieved of control of a bill by the vote of a majority of all

elected Senators should a majority of the committee vote against reporting a bill to the floor.

3. The President of the Senate, not the secret Caucus Club, will have the responsibility for bringing bills to the Senate floor after they are released from committee.

4. Should the Senate President refuse to bring a bill to the floor, the bill may be brought up for an open vote by a majority vote of all the Senators. This would free individual Senators from the threats of party boss discipline and enable him to vote his own conscience instead of abdicating his vote—and the vote of his constituents—to a party caucus.

In short, the caucus pledge of the Democratic Party would restore the New Jersey Legislature to the people of New Jersey, whose voice it is—or should be.

We point out to the people of New Jersey that under Republican control, the committee system has become a mockery. Under their misrule, only the Judiciary and Appropriations committees of the 12 standing committees, have met to consider legislation.

In the Assembly, under Republican rule, committee meetings have become mere gestures and chairmen have openly admitted that no matters would be considered in committee unless approved by the Republican caucus.

We further point out that in recent years, under the secret Republican caucus system, as few as six senators, representing less than 10% of the State's six million people, could prevent the free and open consideration of legislation on the Senate floor, thus effectively perverting the democratic process.

The Courts

The Hughes Administration has been noted for its continuing effort to maintain and **preserve the quality of a court system** which has received world-wide acclaim, but is now imperiled by an unprecedented volume of litigation. The Governor has sought constantly, against Republican opposition, to **increase the number of judges**, to obtain confirmation by the Legislature of his nominations of highly qualified candidates for judgeships, and to **raise the level of judicial compensation** in order to attract the best available talent to the bench and to more realistically compensate the dedicated judges who already have made the financial sacrifices inherent in judicial service.

Although a substantial judicial salary increase has been accomplished through a self-supporting program of raising certain court fees, **only eight of the 16 new Superior Court judgeships requested by Governor Hughes have been authorized by the Legislature.** Certain Republican Senators have blatantly abused the prerogative of "**senatorial courtesy**" to arbitrarily block the Governor's nominations of outstandingly qualified individuals to fill judicial vacancies. Such violations of the constitution and irresponsible disregard for the right of the people to a speedy hearing in court cannot be condoned. The Democratic Party believes that the citizens of New Jersey are entitled to prompt redress of their legal grievances, and will redouble its efforts to secure this basic right and safeguard our system of justice.

Statute Revision

The passage of new legislation should be coupled with a review of the present law on

the books, thereby **sorting out obsolete and conflicting laws**. Our statutory law should be compiled in such a manner as to make the laws **readily accessible and understandable to our citizens**. In the last four years, two major revisions have been enacted—public utilities and food and drugs. We call attention to the need for further consideration of the laws relating to counties and municipalities, weights and measures, elections, motor vehicle and insurance law.

THE STATE ECONOMY

Attracting New Industry

The public officials of this State have an obligation to do all in their power to provide jobs for New Jersey's working people. The efforts of the Hughes Administration in this area were highlighted by the establishment of a **Division of Economic Development** within the Department of Conservation and Economic Development. This legislation also created an Economic Development Council to advise and assist the Division in its programs and activities.

The current budget of the Democratic administration proposed a \$200,000 fund to finance **Cooperative Economic Feasibility Studies** by the State and private industries considering location in New Jersey. These studies, we believe, would have demonstrated New Jersey's numerous advantages to industries without such devices as tax excusal and cheap credit which are employed by many competing states, but which are barred by the Constitution of New Jersey. **This forward-thinking program was killed by the Republican-controlled Legislature**; a blatant example of the false economy practice by that body.

In addition, Governor Hughes proposed a \$100,000 increase in the State's promotional activities, approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of which would have been earmarked for increased advertising and promotion to enhance our largest single industry, the resort, convention and tourist trade. Yet this modest increase, which left us considerably below the amounts

appropriated by many competitive states, was rejected by the Republican-controlled Appropriations Committee. The Democratic Party believes that these efforts must move ahead if the State is to keep pace with the unparalleled prosperity of the Nation as a whole.

New Jersey stands eighth in the nation in the export of manufactured goods abroad. In 1963, these exports reached a record annual rate of \$841,700,000. They provide direct employment for 145,000 New Jerseyans and 300,000 of our workers are employed in plants which engage in export trade. Despite the reluctance of the Republican Legislature to approve appropriations designed to promote the activities of our export-minded industries, the Democratic Party pledges to restore cuts in the present budget of the State's International Commerce Program and to increase our promotional activities in this field.

Our population grew by 25% during the period of 1950-60 and this high rate of increase has continued over the last five years. In the face of this growth, our present prosperity is a reason for satisfaction but not for a pause in our attempts to attract new industry and new jobs to this State.

The Need for New Revenue

This administration has demonstrated its consistent dedication to the fulfillment of the pledge on fiscal policy of the 1961 Democratic Party Platform. That pledge promised:

“ . . . continued opposition to any form of personal income or general sales tax unless it becomes clearly and irrevocably necessary to the maintenance of services essential to a modern and progressive state.”

It has become increasingly apparent that the needs of New Jersey's people in recent years have created demands for revenue greatly in excess of any available through existing sources.

Pursuant to that 1961 pledge to seek every honorable alternative to a broadbased tax, the Governor in 1963 proposed a **bond issue** to be paid off by the surplus revenues of the New Jersey Turnpike. This bond issue would have met obvious State needs in the areas of highways, institutions and colleges, aid to local school districts, and relief for local property taxpayers.

This bond issue was strongly opposed by the Republican Party organization and its current candidate for Governor and was defeated on referendum.

The Governor and the Democratic Party in 1964 supported a **\$40 million bond issue** for college construction and a **\$50 million bond issue** for institutional construction. **Both bond issues were opposed by the current Republican candidate for Governor but were approved by the people.**

Members of the Democratic Party in the State Legislature have proposed other revenue-raising measures. **Open votes on these measures have been barred by the Republican Legislative Caucus.**

The Governor proposed an income tax that would protect those least able to pay but has also stated that he would accept any other reasonable revenue measure adequate to meet the State's needs.

The Republican-controlled Legislature, acting through its secret caucus, has consistently prevented a free and open vote by the

elected representatives of the people on any measure designed to produce needed revenues.

In the face of such obstruction, the Democratic Party re-states its determination to pursue all reasonable means or combination of means of meeting the needs of the people of New Jersey and to provide the services demanded by the citizens of a modern, growing urban state. This obligation does not demand a dogmatic allegiance to any one method or form, but rather a resolve to consider openly and honestly all reasonable measures and to make a choice among alternatives.

The Democratic Party believes further that no responsible party can subordinate to considerations of political or personal advantage the needs of New Jersey's people in the vital areas of education, institutional care, highway construction and property tax relief.

In any case and in all events this party will do its full duty to fulfill the needs of the State and to obtain the revenues necessary to do so.

The Taxation of Business

Not only has the traditional New Jersey reliance on local tax revenue burdened the homeowner, but it has placed increasingly unreasonable demand on business.

This particular burden is manifested through the **business personal property tax**. The major weakness in this levy is the fact that it is not measured on the ability of a business enterprise to pay but is contingent on the type of equipment and inventory necessary in the conduct of the business. As a result, it is becoming increasingly diffi-

cult to attract to New Jersey the types of industry that require large investment in machinery and equipment or in inventory.

Governor Hughes has opened the way toward business tax reform through the appointment of an outstanding **Committee on Local Property Taxation**. We pledge ourselves to work with that Committee for a replacement of the business personal property tax with a levy that will protect the local revenue base while, at the same time, taking cognizance of the ability of business to pay and the necessity for attracting to New Jersey the job-creating industry essential to our expanding society.

**A NEW ERA
FOR NEW JERSEY**

**THE 1965
DEMOCRATIC PARTY
PLATFORM**

The past year was one of continued progress in the State's **Green Acres Open Space Land Conservation Programs**. During 1964, the State **doubled the acreage** acquired in the first two years of the program, thus bringing to 30,000 the number of acres of land purchased or contracted to purchase. Last year, the number and amounts of grants paid to counties and municipalities under the Green Acres Matching Assistance Program was more than doubled.

In fulfilling the mandate of the people, our State has demonstrated the leadership and foresight which has made our Green Acres Program a model for similar open space land conservation programs in the Nation.

During 1964 alone, we note the completion of new campsites and picnic facilities, construction of bathing facilities, development of historic areas, opening of new land for hunting and fishing, identification of historic sites as part of our continuing effort to provide parks and recreational facilities for the people of New Jersey.

Because of the continuing partnership between Trenton and Washington in the public interest, we have been able to acquire from the Federal Government 755 acres of **Sandy Hook State Park** since 1962. The development of this park for recreational purposes has already enabled us to serve over 1,150,000 people.

This fruitful partnership has also brought the designation of **Ellis Island** as an historical site by the Federal Government upon approval of New Jersey's plans for developing a new park on 480 acres of the Jersey City waterfront.

The continued interest and active support of the Hughes Administration in the preservation of natural areas resulted in the designation of the **Great Swamp** in Morris County as a National Wildlife Refuge by the Department of the Interior.

Agriculture

It is the firm conviction of the Democratic Party that we must insure the preservation of agriculture as a vital segment of the economic and social life of New Jersey. It is for this reason that the Democratic Party has always supported measures which we believe are truly in the interest of those engaged in agricultural pursuits.

Among these measures was a Constitutional amendment prepared by a committee appointed by Governor Hughes to permit the **assessment of farm land** for taxes on the basis of its use for agricultural purposes. The adoption of this referendum and passage of implementing legislation, which was also prepared by the Governor's committee, comprised a significant move to preserve the agricultural industry and the family farm in New Jersey.

Another legislative measure which we supported was the establishment of **fur farming**, a \$2 million annual business.

The reorganization of the Agriculture Department's structure has resulted in a streamlining of its entire operation for **greater efficiency** in serving the farmer of New Jersey. This Department has worked closely with the Department of Health in the establishment of **modern laboratory facilities** to provide another essential and important service for those engaged in every phase of agri-

culture. These programs have strengthened our agricultural industry, which is now a vital \$300 million a year business.

Today, New Jersey is the **first in the Nation in farm income per acre and fifth in income per farm.** We pledge to continue to support those policies which will assure that agriculture shall always prosper in New Jersey.

THE OPERATION OF GOVERNMENT

Economy

Four years ago the Democratic Platform reported with pride that under a Democratic administration the State government of New Jersey was operated with fewer employees and at a lower cost per capita than any other State government in the Nation. In 1965, we are again proud to report to the people that this record has been maintained under the administration of Governor Richard J. Hughes. **New Jersey ranks 50th out of the 50 states in total general revenue and in the number of employees per capita.**

This Administration reaffirms its commitment to this philosophy and pledges to continue the search for methods of reducing expenditures typified by the consolidation of the various state printing operations at a saving for the taxpayers of \$110,000 annually.

The urgency of New Jersey's needs and the demand for increased resources to meet them only reinforce our determination to maintain the canons of fiscal responsibility and prudence which have been a hallmark of the Hughes Administration and the Democratic administration of Governor Robert B. Meyner which preceded it.

New Jersey's budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1966, like the three Hughes Administration budgets preceding it, was a balanced one and called for no new taxes. Of the four budgets drafted by this administration, this is the third which maintained