MESSAGE OF GOVERNOR ELBERT N. CARVEL
to the
EMERGENCY MEETING
of the
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY
March 14, 1962

MR. PRESIDENT, MR. SPEAKER and MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

The invasion of natural forces which devastated the Eastern Coast of our State last Tuesday and Wednesday has resulted in great personal loss of life, property and income. The courage, the heroism, the valiant spirit of Delawareans -- National Guard, State Police, Volunteer Firemen, Red Cross, State and local officials and employees and private citizens -- will be long remembered. The sincere feeling of concern for the desperate plight of our fellowman, displayed by individuals and groups during these trying days, provided a magnificent demonstration of kindness and neighborliness.

The tragedy began to unfold late Tuesday afternoon, March 6th. As we traveled home from Wilmington in my automobile I noted an unusual number of emergency calls on the two-way police radio telephone concerning the coastal area. At that time, Civil Defense Headquarters at Delaware City was radioed from the car, alerting these officials and requesting weather information. By 10:30 p.m. I informed the Adjutant General of the impending crisis and requested emergency help for the ocean front area. The efficient machinery of Delaware's men and equipment were promptly put into action.

Anxious hours passed as the storm grew in intensity. The fury of wind and water battered our coastline, and the true mettle of Delaware men and women was demonstrated over and over. Untold acts of bravery went unrecorded.

The succeeding hours and days were filled with surveys, meetings, foot tours, and conferences involving State and Federal officials, civic groups and private citizens. At 8:50 p.m. on the evening of March 7th, I sent an appeal to President

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On March 8th, I met with Federal officials of the Office of Emergency Planning, and representatives from State, Municipal and private agencies for a briefing. After laying the groundwork for immediate action, I issued a Proclamation of

Emergency in accordance with Chapter 31, Title 20, Delaware Code. At the same time, I appointed Secretary of State, Elisha C. Dukes, as Coordinator of the Disaster Recovery and Rehabilitation Agency.

President Kennedy responded on March 9th by declaring a major disaster in those areas of Delaware adversely affected by the severe storm, high tides and flooding beginning on or about March 6, 1962.

Between March 9th and March 12th, the Delaware Agency for Disaster Recovery and Rehabilitation completed a preliminary estimate of the damage created by the storm, amounting to $42.8 million dollars. Equipped with this information, plus the President's declaration of Delaware as a disaster area, we were then ready to present our recommendations to the General Assembly.

We need Federal disaster funds for recovery and rehabilitation at once, but before Delaware can qualify for these funds in accordance with Public Law 875, we must provide at least $500,000 of State and local funds as our minimum contribution of self help.

In order to meet this requirement at the earliest possible date, I conferred with the leaders of the General Assembly. The President Pro-Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House both agreed to convene this meeting of the 121st General Assembly for the purpose of receiving and considering this emergency legislation.

The legislation will be introduced today to appropriate the $500,000 necessary as a prerequisite for Federal disaster assistance. After making a careful review of the agency expenditures to date, and the demands upon the contingency appropriations, I have revised my previous estimate of reversions for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1962, upward from $1,500,000 to $1,750,000. This revision makes available an unappropriated balance of $523,822. Based on this review, we can initiate this emergency program with the funds currently available.

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Every Delawarean is aware of the serious need for prompt bi-partisan action to meet this crisis. The flood of generous offers of assistance and cooperation we have received from Delaware citizens and officials, regardless of party affiliation, has been heart warming. This is a matter of serious urgency for all of us, and I have an abiding faith that every Delawarean will do his dedicated part to help

restore, reconstruct and rehabilitate these devastated areas.

I urge all State agencies to exercise extreme restraint in their expenditures for routine operations during the balance of the fiscal year, so that all possible resources can be conserved and diverted to this monumental task. In this hour of need, when so many have suffered so much, I am confident that each State agency will strive to make its helpful and sacrificial contribution of conserving funds for the emergency.

My personal appreciation is gratefully expressed to the many members of the General Assembly who worked directly with our State agencies during the emergency, and to all of you for your prompt response in scheduling this emergency session on such short notice.

May God continue to shower us with the heroic qualities of courage, strength, vision and patience as we join together, one great united people, to rebuild our beloved Delaware.

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STATE OF DELAWARE

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
DOVER

PROCLAMATION OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, within the past seventy-two hours extensive areas of the State of Delaware have been subjected to storm conditions of extraordinary violence, including gale force winds and abnormally rising waters, both of ocean and inland origins; and

WHEREAS, by reason of such extraordinary storm conditions, winds and rising waters, there has been loss of life and widespread devastation to personal and real property in various portions of our State, particularly along the coastal areas abutting on the Atlantic Ocean, the Delaware Bay, the Delaware River and other inland waterways and their tributaries; and

WHEREAS, as the result thereof, a condition of disaster by flood and other causes appears to exist in the areas affected; and

WHEREAS, by Chapter 31, Title 20, Delaware Code, as amended in 1955, upon the Governor's declaration that an emergency exists, the term "Civil Defense" is defined to include functions to prevent, minimize and repair injury and damage resulting from disasters caused by flood or other causes; and

WHEREAS, in performing his duties under the said Statute, the Governor is authorized "to utilize the services and facilities of existing officers and agencies of the State and of the political sub-divisions thereof; and all such officers and agencies shall perform such services and supply such facilities as the Governor may request;" and

WHEREAS, it is now deemed necessary and advisable to declare an emergency to exist under the said Statute in order adequately to deal with the disaster and emergency which has developed and generally to better protect the public peace, health and safety, and to preserve the lives and property of the people of this State:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Elbert N. Carvel, Governor of the State of Delaware, do hereby proclaim and declare that an emergency exists within the scope and meaning of Chapter 31, Title 20, Delaware Code, as amended in 1955; and

FURTHER, I call upon all Delaware citizens, public officers, public agencies and volunteer organizations to exert every effort to assist in relieving and overcoming the losses sustained and the burdens thrust upon the unfortunate victims of this terrible catastrophe.

WHEREAS, by reason of such extraordinary storm conditions, winds and rising waters, there has been loss of life and widespread devastation to personal and real property in various portions of our State, particularly along the coastal areas abutting on the Atlantic Ocean, the Delaware Bay, the Delaware River and other inland waterways and their tributaries; and

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(GREAT SEAL)

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, Elbert N. Carvel, Governor of the State of Delaware, have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the said State to be hereunto affixed at Dover this 8th day of March in the year of our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and sixty-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the one hundred and eighty-sixth.

/s/ ELBERT N. CARVEL
Governor

/s/ ELISHA C. DUKES
Secretary of State

File

4-9 (a)

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a fast message unless its deferred character is indicated by the proper symbol.

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

Dossier

W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

1220 (R 11-54)

SYMBOLS

DL=Day Letter

NL=Night Letter

LT=International Letter Telegram

The filing time shown in the date line on domestic telegrams is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

:P P WA264 RX PD=THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC 9 153P EST=

:HONORABLE EDBERT N CARVEL, GOVERNOR OF DELAWARE

REPORT DELIVERY= DOVER DEL=

:AS YOU REQUESTED, I HAVE DECLARED A "MAJOR DISASTER" UNDER AUTHORITY OF PUBLIC LAW 875 IN THOSE AREAS OF DELAWARE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THE SEVERE STORM, HIGH TIDES, AND FLOODING BEGINNING ON OR ABOUT MARCH 6, 1962.

THE AUTHORIZATION OF A SPECIFIC ALLOCATION OF FEDERAL FUNDS WILL AWAIT YOUR FURTHER REQUEST AND JUSTIFICATION FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF DETAILED SURVEYS OF THE DAMAGE.

I WANT TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO COMMEND THE VIGOROUS EFFORTS OF YOURSELF, THE AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS AND EVERYBODY WHO HAS WORKED TO PREVENT THE LOSS OF LIFE AND REDUCE THE HAVOC CAUSED BY THIS DISASTER=

JOHN F KENNEDY=:

Rec'd. 3/9/62

=875 6 1962.

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

4-9(a)

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COPY

THE PRESIDENT
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHDC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:FOR THE PAST FOURTEEN HOURS I HAVE PERSONALLY BEEN SURVEYING THE AWFUL DESTRUCTION ON OUR DELAWARE COAST CAUSED BY THE MOST DEVASTATING AND DISASTROUS STORM IN THE MEMORY OF LIVING DELAWAREANS. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT FIFTY MILLION DOLLARS OF DAMAGE HAS BEEN CAUSED TO DELAWARE PROPERTIES AND THE END IS NOT YET IN SIGHT. ABNORMALLY HIGH WINDS, OF GALE VELOCITY AND HIGH TIDES AVERAGING FIVE FEET ABOVE NORMAL CONTINUE TO WREAK A TERRIBLE TOLL OF DESTRUCTION. THOUSAND OF HOMES HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY DESTROYED AND MANY THOUSANDS MORE ARE PARTIALLY UNDER WATER.

I URGENTLY REQUEST THAT YOU PROCLAIM THE COASTAL AREA OF DELAWARE FROM FENWICK ISLAND TO DELAWARE CITY FOR A DEPTH OF FIVE MILES WESTWARD FROM THE COAST LINE AS A DISASTER AREA AND SUBJECT TO ALL OF THE ASSISTANCE WHICH THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES PROVIDE FOR SUCH A CONDITION. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE HELP BEING RENDERED TO US BY THE SECOND ARMY AND THE OFFICE OF CIVIL DEFENSE IN THIS EMERGENCY

ELBERT N CARVEL, GOVERNOR.

RECEIVED
MAR 9 1962
Governor's Office

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE