

DRAFT

February 17, 1966

Opening campaign statement by Leo P. Carlin, candidate for Mayor of Newark in 1966.

What is at stake in this year's mayoralty campaign is no less than the survival of our city.

I am a candidate for the office of Mayor of Newark because I want to restore to this city the working partnership of business, labor, and government that holds the key to Newark's future.

And I want to give the government of Newark back to its people. Somehow, somewhere along the line in the last four years, the two have become separated.

I have found widespread fear that what many of us set out to do several years ago in Newark is being destroyed by men who have seized the reins of Newark's government and are running it as a very private club.

The people of Newark are losing their government to politicians and to the political machine, which is concerned only with self-preservation and self-aggrandizement.

There is no other way to explain what has been happening in our city. In just four short years, the people of Newark have become estranged from City Hall and their government.

The record written by the present city administration is non-existent. The plans and achievements of the previous

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administration, which I was privileged to lead, have been appropriated -- and misappropriated -- and used to conceal stagnant years of "business as usual" at City Hall.

We are confronted now with a city government that is resting on its oars. But these are oars pulled by another administration.

We are being treated each day to the sorry spectacle of government by announcement and pronouncement, of evasion and procrastination, of the failure to face up to the very real problems of people in all sections and at all social and economic levels in our city.

The reality of action to meet these problems is cloaked in appearance that is carefully contrived and delivered for public consumption through the limited communications channels available to our people.

The impression is being created almost hourly that there is a "new Newark" in the making. There was -- four years ago. Then, these two words were much more than just a slogan. Then our city government was alive -- planning, developing, consulting, motivating, moving ahead with vigor and the questing, restlessness necessary to achieve. Then, our government was leading and doing -- not talking. People -- and the problems of people -- were paramount.

Today, "New Newark" is on the shoulder patch and fancy stationery throughout our city. But what of the arm, and the muscle, beneath the shoulder patch?

Today, playing the game of politics is paramount at City Hall, and the people are just spectators.

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Just four years ago the heart of city government was a vibrant center, where skilled, trained, and dedicated public servants joined with all of our city leadership to chart new directions for Newark, and how to get there.

Now we have one, vast political clubhouse, from which all around the clock is thrown up over the city an immense smokescreen of public relations, publicity, and self-promotion gimmickry.

This is a smokescreen intended to conceal fiscal hocus-pocus, political dishonesty and equivocation, and just plain bad government.

For some time Newark has faced a tax and fiscal crisis. The current and continuing raid on the city's budget surplus funds is just the latest piece of evidence in a growing indictment of the present city administration.

This blatant, fiscal juggling act has failed to fool observers of the Newark scene. It won't fool our people, either.

In what must surely stand as one of the supreme ironies in Newark history, our city fathers have seen fit to designate "Pride in Newark" as the theme for this 300th anniversary year. Surely, they are not serious.

Pride -- in avenues and streets that remain filthy and choked hour after hour?

Pride -- in crime that remains unchecked and is driving more and more people and their activities to neighboring communities?

Pride -- in a city government where waste, inefficiency, fix and favor, and fiscal mismanagement threaten to lead us all to

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civic disaster?

Pride -- in political leadership that from the start stopped listening to the people who put it into power?

Pride -- in a city that is plainly tired, that has faltered on the steps of progress, that today still gropes for new solutions to meet ever growing problems?

I again seek the office of Mayor because there is unfinished business before this city.

I ask the people of Newark, who have not been truly represented in a long, long time, to join me in what can well prove the most crucial election fight in our city's history. For Newark, there is no more important date on the calendar than Tuesday, May 10.

In the weeks ahead, I shall have much to say about the role of a new Carlin administration in moving Newark forward. As before, I shall call on the people of Newark for their suggestions, their inspiration, and their strong hands. And I shall again ask for the reformation of that great working partnership of business, labor, and government ~~at~~ all levels, which apparently has been dissolved under the crushing weight of increasing political indifference and machine rule in our city.

^{only}
For/when this partnership is restored, can any of us take real pride in Newark -- and mean it.

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