

**Governor Thornburgh's re-election campaign press
announcement, Johnstown, March 3, 1982 (23:26)**

>> Thornburgh: Hi, folks. Have a seat.

[Laughs]

Very glad to see you all have been kind enough to join us here today. I see a lot of familiar faces out there, folks that we've been able to work with on a number of problems. And I guess I better let the cat out of the bag, although it probably is the worst-kept secret in Pennsylvania, I'm here to announce that I'm going to be a candidate for a second term as governor of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

[Applause]

I'm proud of what we've been able to accomplish together in state government, and I have a strong commitment to what we have yet to achieve. We've made progress in turning things around in Harrisburg. I'm confident, as well, of the future of this great state as we continue that progress. We have restored integrity and respect to a government where corruption and mismanagement was too often a byword. We restored fiscal responsibility to a government where runaway taxing, spending, and borrowing had become the norm. And I think you all know that we've been able to propose four straight budgets to our general assembly that call for no increases in general-fund taxes. And that has to be good news for Pennsylvania. We've worked with business, labor, and community leaders, such as many of you here today, to try to restore a business climate that will offer a maximum opportunity to the working men and women of Pennsylvania to be employed. And I know what the impact of economic sluggishness and slowdown is in an area like this. Your unemployment rate, now 18.5%, is the highest in the commonwealth of Pennsylvania. And although we are to a great extent held hostage in Pennsylvania to national and even international economic conditions, we have done our level best and will continue to work with business and labor and folks around the state to keep Pennsylvania competitive. And the payoff I think will be that we'll be positioned, when the ultimate national upturn comes, to keep Pennsylvania in a competitive position to grow again.

During this administration, we've seen a PennDOT which we found riddled with corruption and inefficiency become nationally known and nationally acclaimed as one of the best-managed public works agencies in the nation. And I think you know the job that was done

last year on the potholes in this area. And I tell you, you ain't seen nothin' yet because we have been able to bring management change to that operation and, with bipartisan support, get the funding necessary to do the job. And when the springtime finally breaks here, you're going to see a record number of people out working on those highways and bridges. Through good management of the type that I've referred to, we've been able to devote over \$1 billion new state dollars to human-service programs in our state, as well -- programs designed to aid education, designed to help senior citizens, designed to help our veterans population, and, in particular, the mentally ill and mentally retarded in which Ginny and I have a particular interest. I'm seeking, as well, to provide for all Pennsylvanians that most basic of all civil rights -- the right for us to be secure in our homes and on our streets, the right against violent criminals who would commit the types of crimes that bring fear into our homes and into our communities. We have proposed and I will be signing into law next week the toughest sentencing package for violent criminals that this commonwealth has ever seen. And I think that's good news for all Pennsylvanians, as well.

I'm seeking a second term because I don't want to see the clock turned back on these reforms and on the progress that we've made. I'm seeking a second term because I want to finish the job that we've been able to start in this first four years. We're going to focus more on efforts to get the government off the back and out of the pockets of the people of Pennsylvania. We're going to exert ourselves to the utmost to get rid of an arrogant and inefficient monopoly in our state liquor store system and turn it over to private enterprise, where we can reap the greatest benefit. We're going to continue our efforts to get rid of an unnecessary twice-a-year automobile inspection program that costs so much to motorists and people who use our highways in Pennsylvania. And we're going to try to reach agreement on true welfare reform, one that benefits the 90% of the people on welfare today who are truly in need, people who have been deprived of the opportunity to hold a job because they're too old or too young or they're handicapped or disabled and, frankly, for whom we do not provide an adequate level of support in our commonwealth today. And we're going to include in this program an effort to take the other 10% of our welfare population, the able-bodied, young individual who can hold a job, and through enhancing our job training and job-placement programs, create new opportunities for them to break that welfare cycle. This is a terribly important thing for us to do to make sure that we're focusing and targeting our limited dollars in the best possible way we can.

Our heritage in Pennsylvania -- I think it's important to remind ourselves -- is one of leadership and responsibility, one of triumph and not of despair. So, I suggest that we beware those prophets of despair, who would ignore our heritage, heighten our problems for some short-term political gain. Let's beware of those who would substitute rhetoric for a record, diatribe for dialogue, and expedience for experience. As we confront the problems and challenges in Pennsylvania today, we have to remember that heritage. It's a heritage of courage in the face of danger, courage such as I have seen reflected across this state and which is exemplified by Johnstown and Cambria County, which it seems, more than its share, has to put up with natural and economic disaster. But the toughness is there. The desire is there. And if we retain the faith in ourselves and in our future, we will have our ultimate triumph again.

So, I'm asking that Pennsylvanians across this commonwealth join together and that we see that once again we enjoy a Pennsylvania of tolerance, patience, hard work, free and honest and enlightened self-government and see that this state in its 300th year resolves once more that we will not only endure, but that we will prevail over those problems. With your assistance and with your support, we can reach that goal. And I pledge to you today that we'll be conducting a campaign throughout this great commonwealth of Pennsylvania that will discuss the issues openly and fairly and bring the message to the nearly twelve million Pennsylvanians that it's my privilege to serve as governor of this commonwealth. Thank you all very much for joining us today. We look forward to seeing you soon and often, as this exciting campaign of 1982 gets under way. Most of you know my wife, Ginny, and I'm privileged to have her here today.

[Applause]

Somebody once said Ginny Thornburgh was the first lady of Pennsylvania long before her husband was elected governor, so I'm delighted to have -

[Applause]

Thank you. I suspect the members of the press here may have some questions, and I'll do my best to try to answer them. And if you folks want to chime in, feel free to do so. Yeah?

>> Questioner: Do you intend to approve the administration redistricting plan that should be on your desk by now?

>> Thornburgh: It'll be awaiting my signature when I return to Harrisburg, and I will sign it. I've been advised that it passes constitutional muster, and I think it's important to have it in effect as soon as possible.

>> Questioner: It's gonna be very expensive to this district.

>> Thornburgh: Those are decisions made by the congressional delegation and by the Legislature. I told them early on that if they were able to agree on a plan that it would have my signature, if it passed constitutional muster. I don't know that it is going to be troublesome for this district or any district to have a fair and equitable apportionment plan in effect. I think that there's been a lot of effort that's gone into this bill. It takes note of the fact that we have changing population patterns within the state, takes note of the fact that we must lose two congressional seats. And I think that whoever represents this district in this community is going to hear from his constituents or her constituents, as the case may be, and that that representation will still be there.

>> Questioner: Governor, you mentioned that we have the highest unemployment rate in the country. And this is an improvement in the economic conditions and a decline in the unemployment rate by next November. Won't that hurt all Republican candidates for Congress and for governor at the polls next November?

>> Thornburgh: Well, that's hard to say, Bob. I never would want to purport to speak for the voters. They have a chance to go to the polls and speak for themselves in November. But I think there's some important things to point out. One is that some of our Democratic opponents seem to look upon Pennsylvania as an island of unemployment in an otherwise prosperous nation or world. I think that most Pennsylvanians realize that our economic problems are national and international in their reach and that it's going to take a good deal of effort to turn those around. They didn't arise overnight. We've had 50 years of overindulgence and overtaxing and overactivity by the federal government, and we now have a president who's said, "Enough." And it's gonna take more than five months of that president's program to turn this situation around. I can't guarantee you that the president's economic-recovery program is going to work. I don't have a crystal ball. But I can guarantee it'll fail if it isn't given a chance to work. And I think that's the thing that we have to be aware of.

Now, as far as Pennsylvania voters are concerned, I think most of them are wise enough to recognize that they have a right to hold

this governor and this administration responsible for things over which we have control. But I don't think that they're going to hold us responsible for things over which we have no control. And by that, I mean the national economy and our international economic situation. We suffer in Pennsylvania today largely in two major industries -- coal and steel, both of which are dependent upon the fortunes of the auto industry. And the auto industry, as you know, Michigan has the highest unemployment rate in the country. And we're getting the ripple effect of that now. When interest rates begin to stabilize and -- The downside -- When that tax cut takes effect on July 1, in Pennsylvania, it'll pump over a billion and a quarter new dollars into consumer hands. We will certainly see some effect from that. But I believe that as far as the election goes, it's important for all of us to keep in mind that more spending, more taxing, more borrowing, more overindulgence in government is not going to solve our problems. And that's the only thing I've heard from the opposition. In fact, some of the opposition, it seems to me, almost wish for hard times to continue so they can get some short-term political advantage. I don't think the voters of Pennsylvania are gonna stand for that.

>> Questioner: I've heard you say the federal government is responsible for it all, within the commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

>> Thornburgh: What's your name, sir?

>> Howard Bertrill.

>> Thornburgh: And what do you do?

>> Howard Bertrill: I said the commonwealth of Pennsylvania --

>> Thornburgh: I'm sorry. Wait, what do you do, sir?

>> Howard Bertrill: Oh. I work right now, but I'm worried 'cause -
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>> Thornburgh: Where do you work?

>> Howard Bertrill: The unemployment rate for this area is one of the highest.

>> Thornburgh: Yeah. How do you think it got that way?

>> Howard Bertrill: How did it get that way?

>> Thornburgh: Yeah.

>> Howard Bertrill: I want to know what your proposals are. How are you going to help with the problem?

>> Thornburgh: Well, if you'll listen, I'll tell you. I'll tell you what we've done for the last three years in this commonwealth. We've stabilized our tax rate. There's been no increase in corporate taxes or individual taxes for three years. It's the first time in 30 years in Pennsylvania that an administration's been able to accomplish that. We've been able to keep our rate of growth in state government spending well below the rate of inflation, and you know what that means -- that we've been cutting. We've cut 5,000 unnecessary jobs out of a bloated payroll that I found in Harrisburg. And that means tax savings for you, and it means tax savings for industry. We've quadrupled the amount of dollars that have gone into the Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority, which is the organization that grants loans to businesses to begin to start up. And you folks know what it's done here in this area. We've undertaken to completely remake the map of the state as far as highways go. We found a PennDOT that was bankrupt and corrupt, and it's now an operation that is moving in the right direction and adequately funded. We've opened five new overseas offices to promote international trade. And last year, we were the fourth highest state in the nation as far as attracting new foreign investments into manufacturing in Pennsylvania, which means jobs. We've undertaken the tripling of the capacity of the coal port in Philadelphia, which means we're gonna be shipping more Pennsylvania coal overseas. These are the kinds of things we're doing in Pennsylvania. But they're not gonna solve the problem overnight, not when you're dealing with a legacy of overspending, overtaxing, overgoverning that was left to us by the Democratic administration in Harrisburg and the Democratic administration in Washington. And that's gonna end.

[Applause]

Yes, sir?

>> Questioner: Governor, I'd like you to elaborate on [undistinguishable subject] Do you think it's a good idea for ex-governor Shapp to have a change? And do you think that it should go on as it is now or should it be changed again? Now, years ago when we had JP, everybody that was a JP knew the condition of every home in the community. When you got in trouble and you went to his office or her office, they knew your circumstances. They knew what you could do to pay a fine and what you couldn't do. Now, I understand that some of our state police drive sometimes as

far as 75 and 80 miles to take a man that's been under arrest to a JP office or a magistrate office. And they talk about saving energy. Is that saving energy, governor, driving a car that far? Why can't they wait till the next morning and take him to a local JP?

>> Thornburgh: Well, fortunately I haven't been before a JP recently, so I don't have that kind of expertise it sound's like you have.

[Laughing]

It sounds like you have. I don't know. Yeah, I'm sorry to answer - - I can't give you the particulars with respect to individual cases. If you want to discuss them, raise them with me, drop me a line, and we'll get back to you. Okay, good. Okay. Yeah.

>> Questioner: Would you care to briefly comment on the relationship between you and the lieutenant governor?

>> Thornburgh: The lieutenant governor and I appeared together at a dinner last night. Having just announced my candidacy yesterday, I was pleased to welcome him on board the team. We ran as a team in '78. We've governed effectively, I think, as a team, and we're gonna be running as a team in 1982.

[Applause]

>> Questioner: Waste.

>> Thornburgh: Terrible problem.

>> Questioner: Somerset County has been plagued with a modern earth mine company that was brought in. And if anybody has read the articles of Chris Crosby, we're finding out the background of this company is very shaky. Why does Pennsylvania, since we're known as the big dumping ground, have to be having people -- there's one coming in, in Blair County -- talking to the people about bringing these plants in to get of them -- haven't we got enough? And what can we do in Somerset to undo the damages these modern earth mine that we're finding out now? We cannot remove the chemicals. There was a young lady who was thrown out to the Somerset commissioners who were monitoring this under the program of the monitoring because she came to the county commissioners and told them there was too many chemicals that were wrong for the health of the people. Instead of it being brought out in the open,

it was kept under wraps, and the woman was thrown out of Somerset County.

>> Thornburgh: Help. Obviously I can't address the specifics of the situation. But again, if you'll drop us a line, I'll see that it's looked into. But let me talk about toxic waste.

>> Questioner: We have things out of the paper.

>> Thornburgh: You look like a lady of your word. I expect to hear from you. Let me talk a minute about toxic waste because it's one of the biggest problems we're gonna have to deal with in the 1980s, not just in your area, not just in Pennsylvania, but across the nation. Nobody wants a toxic-waste dump next door. And somebody always lives next door to where a proposed toxic-waste dump is. It's going to take some hard decisions, some good judgment in order to deal with this problem. Now, you know in this state, under the sponsorship of this administration, we have one of the toughest hazardous-waste laws in the United States. You know as well that we're not able to nor inclined to impose a toxic-waste or hazardous-waste facility on any community against their will. It's going to require a cooperative effort on the part of many of the local government officials who are here today and state government and the federal government to get the job done.

But you know, I'm interested in something called the New Federalism that President Reagan has proposed. And you know what that means? It means bringing government back closer to the people. We've had so darn many decisions made out of Washington for the last 50 years. Everything has to be cleared with Washington. Want to dot an "i," cross a "t," you go down to Washington. Well, I reject the notion that all the wisdom in this country is in Washington D.C. I think when you've got local government officials like Mayor Herb Pfuhl, who's here, like T.T. Metzger and Don Templeton, and, frankly, like Dick Thornburgh, who knows a lot more about Pennsylvania than some bureaucrat down in Washington, we're the ones that ought to be making those decisions, bringing government back closer to the people who elected us in the first place. And those kinds of decisions are going to have to be made here. It isn't gonna be easy. But nobody ever said democracy was easy, and that's what we're really talking about.

>> Questioner: How can you accept those additional programs without more money?

>> Thornburgh: The president committed to the National Governor's Association meeting last week that no programs are going to be involved in the swamp without adequate funding and that there would be no winners and no losers among the states -- a commitment that was overlooked by a lot of the critics of the president's program. I think it's an extremely important change in direction for this country to begin the process of bringing government back closer to the people, where I think it belongs.

>> Questioner: This fall, Pennsylvania's monopoly on selling coal to the American foreign military installations was ended by President Reagan. Are you doing anything to get that business back?

>> Thornburgh: We have undertaken a massive program to increase coal exports from this state. Our coal pier in Philadelphia, through the cooperation of the state and Conrail, will be tripled in its capacity. We've had trade missions to the Far East, to Western Europe, to New England, where they really are interested in our coal. Our whole effort to redesign and update our coal-haul highways, our rail systems is designed to move Pennsylvania coal to where the markets are. And a lot of those markets are overseas. We're still using more and more coal in Pennsylvania. We will have converted eight state office buildings in Pennsylvania from oil-fired to coal-fired facilities. And we're gonna continue to do everything we can to help the coal industry grow and develop the markets that are gonna be necessary to use what we have in Pennsylvania.

>> Questioner: Thank you very much.

>> Questioner: May I add, most honorable governor --

>> Thornburgh: Yes, sir. A man in a red coat always deserves a chance to speak.

>> Questioner: I'm Edward Davinsky of the concerned citizens from Adams Township. We represent 3,000, 4,000 people. Now we have a problem with that sludge. We have problems, but the officials won't listen to us. We need the help of the governor to come in and straighten out those crooked officials. In other words, you indict them in court. Mr. Miller is Attorney General's office. Mr. Zimmerman -- he indicted the one. We come in there where they bought the property for \$19,000, sold it for \$75,000, then, in another minute, sold it for \$375,000, and we can't even find it in our taxes. Then the school system -- our older people up there, they're telling me, "We don't have a hot-lunch program, even, in

the area for our people -- 53 miles because we don't talk good enough to them." Believe me, they wanted to go up to the township --

>> Thornburgh: You have a large sheaf of papers there, and I don't want to interrupt you, but we have a couple more stops to make today.

>> Questioner: Okay, Governor.

>> Thornburgh: And I don't want you to give a longer speech than I did, you see? That's my main -- But you give me that material, and we'll see that it gets to Attorney General Zimmerman and the proper people in our administration.

>> Questioner: That's real thoughtful, Governor. You know I like you.

>> Thornburgh: Ahh, good. God bless you. Thanks a lot.