

EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 69

WHEREAS, The history of the people of Eastern Europe, of various nationalities existing within the Soviet Union, and other captive nations existing under the oppression of the Soviet Union is an integral part of our public school curriculum; and

WHEREAS, Representatives of the people of Eastern Europe, various nationalities existing within the Soviet Union, and other captive nations existing under the oppression of the Soviet Union have indicated that their history as presented in public school curriculums is often inaccurate and misleading; and

WHEREAS, It is desirous and beneficial to educate our children about the true and accurate historical events concerning the people of Eastern Europe, various nationalities existing within the Soviet Union, and other captive nations existing under the oppression of the Soviet Union; and

WHEREAS, A comprehensive study of the history of the people of Eastern Europe, various nationalities existing within the Soviet Union, and other captive nations existing under the oppression of the Soviet Union, conducted by knowledgeable members of these ethnic groups, could ensure that this history is presented accurately in public school curriculums;

Now, THEREFORE, I, Thomas H. Kean, Governor of the State of New Jersey, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and statutes of this State, do hereby ORDER and DIRECT that:

1. There is hereby created a Governor's Commission on Eastern European and Captive Nation History.

2. The Commission shall consist of no more than 20 members. The members of the Commission shall be the Commissioner of Education or his designee; the Director of the Office of Ethnic Affairs within the Department of State or his designee and 18 public members to be appointed by the Governor. The public members to be appointed shall be representatives of the various ethnic groups of Eastern Europe, nationalities existing within the Soviet Union, and other captive nations existing under the

oppression of the Soviet Union, as well as eminent historians and educators who have distinguished records of knowledge and involvement concerning the history and culture of their respective ethnic group.

3. The Governor shall designate a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Commission from among the public members of the Commission. The Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and public members shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

4. Commission vacancies shall be filled by the Governor for the remainders of the unexpired terms.

5. It shall be the duty of the Governor's Commission on Eastern European and Captive Nation History to conduct a thorough study of public school curriculum, including textbooks and all other pertinent materials, dealing with the history of the people of Eastern Europe, various nationalities existing within the Soviet Union, and other captive nations existing under the oppression of the Soviet Union, and to examine such materials for veracity and historical accuracy. In the course of its study, the Commission shall determine whether the history of these people is fairly and accurately presented in our public schools and their curriculums.

6. The Commission is authorized to call upon the Department of Education to supply such data, program reports, and other information as it deems necessary to discharge its responsibilities under this Order. The Department of Education is authorized and directed, to the extent not inconsistent with law, to cooperate with the Commission and to furnish it with such information and assistance as is necessary to accomplish the purpose of this Order and the Commission.

7. The Commission shall submit a report of its findings to the Governor and to the State Board of Education on or before January 1, 1986, accompanying the report with any recommendations it deems appropriate. The Commission may issue interim reports concerning its study as it shall determine.

8. The report of the Commission shall be made available to all disseminators of educational materials.

9. This Order shall take effect immediately.

Issued April 10, 1984.