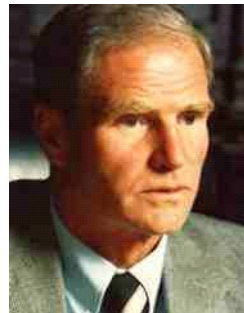




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Brendan T. Byrne Archive-Timeline

(under development, for complete version in the draft Finding Aid to the Brendan T. Byrne Papers prepared by Special Collections and University Libraries of the Rutgers University Libraries click [here](#))



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1976

- *On January 23, controversial actor, singer and civil rights activist Paul Robeson, a Rutgers valedictorian and All-American football player, dies at age 77 in Philadelphia.*
- *On January 30, New Jersey Supreme Court upholds constitutionality ("assuming it is fully funded") of Public Education Act of 1975 (Chapter 212, Laws of 1975) co-sponsored by Senator Stephen Wiley and Assemblyman Albert Burstein enacted prior year setting school funding formula.*
- *On March 31, New Jersey Supreme Court issues unanimous opinion in landmark "definition of death" case of [In re Quinlan](#), 70 N.J. 10, 355 A.2d 647 (1976), first major judicial decision in nation to hold that life-sustaining medical treatments may be discontinued in appropriate circumstances, even if the patient is unable or incompetent to make the decision. In reversing lower court, Supreme Court directed that father of comatose Karen Ann Quinlan had right to be appointed guardian with authority to order removal of life-sustaining respirator. Attorney General William Hyland argued in behalf of the State against the father's petition. Despite the removal of the respirator in May, she continued to live until dying in July 1985.*
- *On April 1, Stephen Wozniak and Steven Jobs found\ Apple Computer.*
- *In May, BTB joins other U.S. governors on a trip to Ireland in celebration of the United States' Bicentennial.*
- *On May 13, New Jersey Supreme Court In [Robinson v. Cahill VII](#), orders officials to stop expending funds for public elementary and secondary education on July 1 if the Legislature has not acted to reform school funding formula consistent with earlier Court decisions.*
- *On June 8, despite support of BTB, Jimmy Carter loses presidential primary in New Jersey to a delegate slate pledged to California Governor Jerry Brown, Carter also loses in California while winning in Ohio*
- *On June 14, BTB presides over ceremony opening Liberty State Park in Jersey City--1,122 acre park with views of the Statue of Liberty, lower Manhattan, and Ellis Island*
- *On June 17, United States Supreme Court issues decision in [Pennsylvania v. New Jersey](#), 426 U.S. 660 (1976), upholding constitutionality of New Jersey Transportation Benefits Tax under which New Jersey does not tax its residents' domestic income, but does tax nonresidents' New Jersey-derived income and imposes an equivalent tax on residents' income earned outside the State except that such income is exempted to the extent it is taxed by the State in which it is earned.*
- *On June 30, Federal district court meets to review the constitutionality of the [Robinson v. Cahill](#) decision*
- *On July 1, New Jersey schools close for eight days in accordance with order of Supreme Court.*
- *On July 2, the latest tax plan fails in Assembly by 40 to 39 vote.*
- *On July 2, US Supreme Court rules in case of [Gregg v. Georgia](#), 428 U.S. 153 (1976), that the death penalty was not inherently cruel or unusual and allows states to resume capital punishment.*
- *On July 4, BTB and family participate in celebration of US Bicentennial with fireworks displays off Liberty State Park and Statue of Liberty. Commemorations include a special "Bicentennial Lottery" sponsored by NJ*

Lottery Commission with winner awarded \$1,776 a week (before taxes) for 20 years, or total of \$1,847,040.

- On July 8, BTB signs into law Assembly Bill 1513 (Chapter 47 of the Laws of 1976) imposing first NJ State income tax and writes to NJ Supreme Court requesting that the Court withdraw its injunction issued in the *Robinson v. Cahill* litigation barring expenditures of funds for public schools.
- On July 9, Legislature passes other bills in New Jersey school funding and tax package, including homestead rebates to homeowners and renters and caps on rates of increase in government and school district spending.
- On July 15, Jimmy Carter accepts Democratic Presidential nomination at Democratic National Convention in New York City (see [speech transcript](#))
- On August 19, President Ford accepts Republican presidential nomination at Republican National Convention in Kansas City (see [speech transcript](#))
- On September 3, first income taxes are withheld from workers' paychecks
- On September 1, Meadowlands Racetrack holds its inaugural harness race.
- On September 10, anti-income tax leaders organize rally at Trenton State House attracting 10,000 to 20,000 protestors seeking to present 570,000-signature petition demanding immediate repeal of income tax. At conclusion of Trenton rally, hundreds travel to Princeton to Governor's Mansion at Morven to dump used tea bags and call for Governor's immediate resignation.
- On October 6, in second of three presidential debates after polls showed declining Democratic lead, President Ford states "there is no Soviet domination of Eastern Europe, and there never will be under a Ford administration", provoking questions over his competency and contributing to renewed voter support for Carter-Mondale ticket.
- October 10, New York Giants play their inaugural game before 76,042 fans at Giants Stadium in the Meadowlands, losing 24-14 to the Dallas Cowboys.
- On October 13, at a [campaign stop](#) in Union, President Gerald Ford remarks: "...The people of New Jersey have already heard four sides of the tax issue—two from Governor Carter and two from Governor Byrne. You know firsthand how risky it is when a candidate says one thing about taxes on the campaign trail and then does something else when he gets into office...."
- On November 2, Jimmy Carter is elected as President by 50-48% margin over President Ford, with Carter losing New Jersey by 50.1 to 47.9%. New Jersey voters approve State constitutional amendment allowing for casino gambling in Atlantic City, with approximately 1.5 million voters in favor and 1.14 million opposed.

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