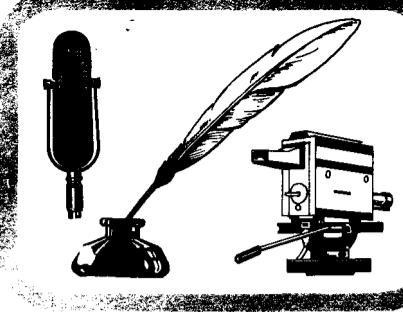


**The original documents are located in Box D35, folder “Western States Republican Conference, Seattle, WA, October 6, 1973” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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CONGRESSMAN  
**GERALD R. FORD**  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE ON DELIVERY--

Expected at 10:30 a.m. October 6, 1973

Excerpts from a Speech by Rep. Gerald R. Ford at the Western States Republican Conference at the Olympic Hotel in Seattle, Washington, 10:30 A.M. PST, Saturday, Oct. 6, 1973.

There is a new spirit at work in this country today, and it promises to strengthen and revitalize America.

Republicans call it the New Federalism.

You know what had been going on in this country in the past--the uninterrupted flow of power and decision-making from the states and local communities to the bureaucrats in Washington. There has been a mushrooming growth in funds and authority which have resulted in an overcentralized and bureaucratized Federal Government.

Worst of all, much of the power--and with it the initiative and the creativity--of our local government had been allowed to atrophy. And although the Federal establishment was growing by leaps and bounds, it was largely failing in its attempts to solve some of the nation's most pressing social and economic problems.

This is changing. Under the present Administration with its concept of revenue sharing, the flow of power and resources is being reversed. It is flowing back to the states and local communities.

Listen now to the philosophy of the New Federalism. Instead of alienation, people back home will experience the power that a real sense of purpose gives. Instead of the much-discussed feeling of rootlessness, they will rediscover the sense of community and pride of place that were once a primary source of America's greatness.

Instead of the "I-just-don't-want-to-get-involved" attitude, our people will find their instincts for democratic action and obligation whetted by the feeling that they can indeed exercise some real, effective control over the forces that shape their lives.

We have enacted general revenue sharing to give states and local communities more financial muscle. But something else needs to be provided if

(more)

we are to revitalize local government the way it should be.

We should also enact special revenue sharing legislation which would help bring decision-making closer to home in the fields of education, law enforcement, manpower training and urban redevelopment.

We must do more than simply return power and revenue to our cities and states. We must also insure that, given the power and the money, they develop the leadership and the decision-making machinery to use that power and money wisely in managing change, in reaching our great goals.

The key to meeting that need is local involvement, the kindling of a desire on the part of people at the local level to be a part of problem-solving in this country, to become a part of the leadership that is always required if we are to achieve our national goals.

What is needed now is firm faith in the American system of government and in our two-party political system.

What is needed now, at all levels of government, is strong Republican leadership aimed at getting on with the people's business.

We in the Congress must work together to find the answers to the questions that are plaguing the American people.

We must find ways to stabilize our economy so that the price of food comes down.

We must care for our elderly and our veterans.

We must reduce unemployment.

We must strengthen our foreign policy through trade, educational and cultural exchanges, building on the strong new base of our friendship with Mainland China and the Soviet Union that has been a great initiative of the Nixon Administration.

We must solve the energy crisis.

We must improve our schools and make our cities livable again.

There are some 30 important bills pending before the Congress. Among them are reforms in trade, pensions and taxes; disaster relief; and aid to the schools and communities. I urge bipartisan support for these major efforts to improve the economy and the quality of life in America.

We Republicans must look to tomorrow. We must work at the local level, the state level and the national level to strengthen our party and to work toward the solution of our national problems. We must shape and structure in this country a new destiny, and the leadership which will emerge to provide new solutions to the problems we face.

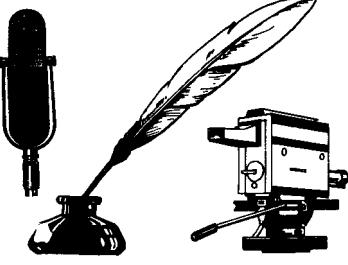
I think many of those solutions will come through the New Federalism, the movement now afoot to decentralize the Federal Government and return dollars, power and decision-making to the local level.

Meantime, don't let anyone tell you this country is stalled on dead center. The wheels of progress are beginning to turn again. We are making progress toward fighting inflation, difficult though that may be to see. We are making progress toward peace throughout the world. We are making progress toward genuine prosperity--prosperity without war.

So let us lift ourselves up and have faith and belief in ourselves--and faith and belief in the Republican Party. If we all work together, we can prevail. ####

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