

**The original documents are located in Box 35, “6/30/76 - Remarks Upon the Establishment of the President's Committee on Urban Development and Neighborhood Revitalization” of the President's Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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ALL INFORMATION HAS BEEN . . .

SOME EIGHT WEEKS AGO, I HAD THE PLEASURE OF MEETING  
IN THE ROSE GARDEN WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF MANY ETHNIC  
ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN HOLDING PERIODIC GATHERINGS  
HERE AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

IN MY REMARKS THAT DAY, I ASKED THOSE LEADERS IF THEY  
WOULD TELL US WHAT THEY THINK NEEDS TO BE DONE TO BRING NEW  
LIFE AND VITALITY TO OUR URBAN NEIGHBORHOODS.

2.

THEIR NUMBER ONE RECOMMENDATION, PASSED ALONG TO ME BY BILL BAROODY OF MY STAFF, WAS THAT WE NEEDED TO SET UP SOME SORT OF TASK FORCE WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT TO REVIEW ALL MAJOR FEDERAL PROGRAMS THAT HAVE AN IMPACT UPON OUR URBAN NEIGHBORHOODS.

TODAY I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT I AM APPOINTING A BLUE-RIBBON CABINET TASK FORCE TO CARRY OUT EXACTLY THAT MISSION. THE CHAIRMAN WILL BE SECRETARY CARLA HILLS AND THE MEMBERS WILL INCLUDE CABINET OFFICERS, SEVERAL AGENCY HEADS, AND OTHERS.

3.

I HAVE JUST COMPLETED MY FIRST MEETING WITH THE GROUP AND I HAVE DIRECTED THEM TO FOCUS THEIR ATTENTION ON WAYS THAT WE CAN MAKE ALL OF OUR FEDERAL PROGRAMS BEST SERVE THE INTERESTS OF THE MANY MILLIONS OF AMERICANS WHO LIVE IN URBAN NEIGHBORHOODS.

I AM PROUD OF MANY OF THE PROGRAMS WE ALREADY HAVE ON THE BOOKS, AND AS YOU KNOW, I AM PUSHING HARD FOR THE RE-ENACTMENT OF PROGRAMS SUCH AS GENERAL REVENUE SHARING.

YET I ALSO RECOGNIZE THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO DO FAR MORE TO ENCOURAGE A GREATER SENSE OF COMMUNITY, A SENSE OF BELONGING WITHIN OUR HUGE, MASSIVE METROPOLITAN AREAS.

4.

IT IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT THAT DURING OUR BICENTENNIAL  
WE SEEK TO ENHANCE THE VALUES OF FAMILY, OF COMMUNITY, AND OF  
CULTURAL DIVERSITY THAT HAVE BEEN THE STRENGTH AND RICHNESS  
OF AMERICA FOR SO MANY YEARS.

THE TASK FORCE THAT I AM APPOINTING TODAY WILL PERFORM  
A GREAT SERVICE FOR THE COUNTRY IF IT CAN ADVANCE US TOWARD  
THESE GOALS.

THANK YOU.

END OF TEXT