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NATIONAL GOVERNORS CONFERENCE  
MARCH 6, 1974  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

THIS IS THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY I HAVE  
HAD TO WELCOME THE NATION'S GOVERNORS TO  
WASHINGTON SINCE TAKING ON THE RESPONSIBILITIES  
OF BEING THE FIRST "INSTANT VICE PRESIDENT"  
IN OUR HISTORY. IT IS AN HONOR AND A  
PLEASURE TO DO SO.



HOWEVER, I AM NO JERRY-COME-LATELY IN THE MATTER OF MEETING WITH GOVERNORS. I HAVE BEEN DOING IT FOR YEARS, ON MY OWN INITIATIVE AS WELL AS AT YOUR KIND INVITATION, AND I HAVE NEVER FAILED TO LEARN FROM YOU OR TO BENEFIT FROM EXCHANGING IDEAS WITH YOU -- WHETHER THEY HAD TO DO WITH DEFENDING YOUR STATES FROM THE OUTRAGEOUS INTRUSIONS OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OR SHARING WITH YOU AN APPROPRIATE AMOUNT OF THE FEDERAL REVENUE.



AS A MEMBER OF CONGRESS AND AS  
MINORITY LEADER IN THE HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES, MY DOOR HAS BEEN OPEN FOR  
THE PAST 25 YEARS AND I LIKE TO THINK THAT  
MY EARS HAVE BEEN OPEN AND MY MIND HAS BEEN  
OPEN AS WELL. I ADMIT, OF COURSE, TO  
CERTAIN PREJUDICES OF LONG STANDING. ONE OF  
THESE IS THAT LOCAL PEOPLE CAN SOLVE LOCAL  
PROBLEMS BETTER AND WITH LESS WASTE THAN THE  
PEOPLE IN WASHINGTON, HOWEVER WELL-MEANING  
AND OF WHATEVER PARTY THE FEDERAL OVERSEERS  
MAY BE.



I AM HERE THIS MORNING NOT ONLY TO WELCOME YOU BUT TO REASSURE YOU THAT I HAVE NOT CHANGED THIS CONVICTION NOW THAT I HAVE ONE FOOT IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH AS WELL AS ONE FOOT IN THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH. I STILL BELIEVE THAT YOU GOVERNORS CAN SOLVE STATE PROBLEMS BETTER THAN ANY FEDERAL BUREAUCRAT IN WASHINGTON -- EVEN A HALF-BUREAUCRAT LIKE THE VICE PRESIDENT.



SO I STILL FEEL VERY MUCH AMONG FRIENDS. I HAVE HAD THE GOOD FORTUNE OF MEETING WITH A NUMBER OF YOU INDIVIDUALLY SINCE TAKING ON MY NEW JOB, EITHER HERE OR DURING BRIEF VISITS TO YOUR STATES, AND I APPRECIATE BOTH YOUR COLLECTIVE AND INDIVIDUAL HOSPITALITY. AFTER READING THE ELECTION RETURNS THIS MORNING, I OBVIOUSLY INTEND TO GIVE THIS BIPARTISAN AUDIENCE A THOROUGHLY NON-PARTISAN SPEECH.



I ONLY HOPE THAT YOUR SENSE OF HOSPITALITY PREVENTS YOU FROM DRAWING ANY CONCLUSIONS FROM THE FACT THAT I HAVE CAMPAIGNED RECENTLY IN CINCINNATI BUT NOT IN CALIFORNIA.



- 7 -

SERIOUSLY, FROM MY CONVERSATIONS WITH SEVERAL GOVERNORS SINCE BECOMING VICE PRESIDENT, I AM VERY MUCH AWARE THAT THE UPPERMOST QUESTION ON YOUR MINDS WITH RESPECT TO ME IS WHAT MY ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES WILL BE WITH RESPECT TO YOU AND TO OTHER STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS.





AS FAR AS I AM CONCERNED, I HAVE ALWAYS HAD AN OPEN DOOR POLICY AND MY DOOR IS STILL OPEN AS VICE PRESIDENT. YESTERDAY, BEFORE COMING TO THIS MEETING, I SAT DOWN WITH PRESIDENT NIXON AND WE TALKED FOR SOME TIME ABOUT MY FUTURE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE GOVERNORS AND THE IMPORTANCE WE BOTH ATTACH TO THIS CHANNEL FOR COOPERATION AND COMMUNICATION.



DURING MY CONFIRMATION HEARINGS I TOLD THE SENATE COMMITTEE THAT I WILL ALWAYS UPHOLD TRUTH AND INTELLIGENT COMPROMISE. I SAID THAT TRUTH IS THE GLUE THAT HOLDS GOVERNMENT TOGETHER, AND THAT COMPROMISE IS THE OIL THAT MAKES GOVERNMENT GO. I AM DETERMINED THAT WE SHOULD NOT EXPERIENCE EVEN TEMPORARY SHORTAGES IN EITHER OF THESE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS.



THE PRESIDENT AND I SEE EYE-TO-EYE ON THE KEY ROLE OF GOVERNORS IN THE FEDERAL SYSTEM. YOU ARE CLOSER TO THE PEOPLE WHO ELECTED YOU. YOU ARE THE LEADERS WE RELY UPON IN OUR GOAL OF RESTORING POWER TO THE PEOPLE AND REDUCING RELIANCE ON WASHINGTON.



AS HE HAS FROM THE VERY FIRST DAY I BECAME VICE PRESIDENT, THE PRESIDENT REITERATED YESTERDAY: "JERRY, MY DOOR IS ALWAYS OPEN TO YOU."

THE PRESIDENT WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE WANTED ME TO HAVE THE SAME ACCESS HE HAS TO THE DOMESTIC COUNCIL AND THE OMB, IN KEEPING WITH MY DUTIES AS VICE PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE DOMESTIC COUNCIL. HE VERY GENEROUSLY POINTED OUT, IN THE CONTEXT OF MY INVOLVEMENT IN INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS, THAT BOTH <sup>OF</sup> THESE STAFFS WILL BE AS FULLY ACCESSIBLE AND RESPONSIVE TO ME AS THEY ARE TO HIM.



I TOLD THE PRESIDENT THAT I PROPOSED TO TELL YOU THAT JUST AS HIS DOOR IS OPEN TO ME, MY DOOR IS ALWAYS OPEN TO YOU. MY DOOR WILL BE OPEN ON A NON-PARTISAN BASIS. I WELCOME YOUR IDEAS WITHOUT REGARD TO THE REGION OR THE POLITICS OF THE GOVERNOR. YOU ARE GOVERNING AMERICA. AND I WANT TO BE ACCESSIBLE TO AMERICA. I WOULD HOPE WE CAN DISCUSS POLICIES IN FORMATION AT THEIR EARLIEST STAGE. THE FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONSHIP MUST BE A TWO-WAY STREET.



JUST AS I INTEND TO BE A READY CONCILIATOR AND CALM COMMUNICATOR BETWEEN THE WHITE HOUSE AND CAPITOL HILL, I NOW OFFER YOU MY PERSONAL ATTENTION AND PERSONAL ASSISTANCE.



IT IS TRUE THAT I AM NEW IN THIS OFFICE BUT I HAVE HAD EXPERIENCE IN TACKLING THE PROBLEMS OF STATE AND FEDERAL RELATIONSHIPS. I BELIEVE WE CAN DEAL WITH DIRECTNESS AND CANDOR IN MUTUAL AWARENESS OF OUR DIFFERENCES BUT ALSO OF OUR COMMON DUTY TO THE PEOPLE OF THIS GREAT REPUBLIC.

AS MINORITY LEADER OF THE HOUSE, I SUPPORTED PRESIDENT NIXON'S EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A NEW KIND OF FEDERALISM. I FELT THE TIME HAD COME TO REVERSE THE TREND TOWARD A MASSIVE FEDERAL BUREAUCRACY AND TO START MOVING POWER OUT OF WASHINGTON AND BACK TO THE STATES --- AND TO THE PEOPLE WHERE THEY LIVE, AND WORK, AND PAY THEIR TAXES.

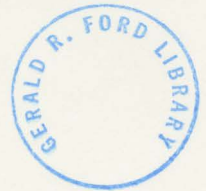


THE NEW FEDERALISM, AS YOU KNOW, TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE NECESSARY FEDERAL FUNCTIONS REQUIRED FOR A NATION OF 211 MILLION PEOPLE. BUT JUST LIKE THE FEDERALISM OF THE NATION'S FOUNDERS, WE SEEK NEW WAYS OF LETTING PEOPLE HAVE A MORE DIRECT SAY IN DECIDING THE NEEDS AND PRIORITIES OF THE FIFTY STATES.





WHEN I WAS IN THE CONGRESS, WE ACHIEVED THE PASSAGE OF GENERAL REVENUE SHARING. THIS REPRESENTS A MAJOR DOMESTIC LEGACY. GENERAL REVENUE SHARING HAS ALREADY PUT \$11 BILLION OF NEW MONEY TO WORK IN THE MANY UNITS OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.



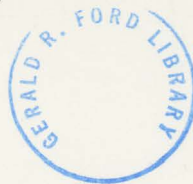


I AM PROUD OF THIS ACHIEVEMENT BECAUSE I VIVIDLY RECALL THE EFFECTIVE TEAMWORK AND SUPPORT BY YOU GOVERNORS WHICH WAS REQUIRED TO MAKE CONGRESS MOVE AWAY FROM THE OLD CATEGORICAL GRANTS TOWARD MORE FLEXIBLE FUNDING. NEW FEDERALISM IS NOW A REALITY.

LET ME DISCUSS WITH YOU BRIEFLY ANOTHER  
NEW RESPONSIBILITY THAT HAS JUST BEEN GIVEN  
ME, THAT OF CHAIRMAN OF A SPECIAL COMMITTEE  
OF THE DOMESTIC COUNCIL ON THE RIGHT OF  
PRIVACY. THIS HAS, I THINK, A SPECIAL  
RELEVANCE TO YOU GOVERNORS AND TO STATE  
GOVERNMENTS.



THIS COMMITTEE IS MADE UP OF THE SECRETARIES OF TREASURY, DEFENSE, COMMERCE, LABOR, HEW AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL -- SIX CABINET OFFICERS MOST IMMEDIATELY CONCERNED WITH PRIVACY QUESTIONS -- PLUS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION AND THE DIRECTORS OF OMB, TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS WITHIN THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, PLUS MYSELF. THE PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED THIS IN A RADIO ADDRESS TWO WEEKS AGO. HE CHOSE ME AS CHAIRMAN, I GUESS, BECAUSE MY OWN PRIVACY HAD JUST BEEN INVESTIGATED MORE THOROUGHLY THAN ANYBODY'S SINCE EVE ATE THE APPLE.



I HAVE NEVER BEEN ONE TO DUCK DEBATE, AND SINCE MY RIGHT TO DEBATE HAS BEEN SHARPLY CURTAILED AS PRESIDING OFFICER OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE, MAY I USE THIS FORUM TO EXPRESS MY DISAPPOINTMENT THAT MY OLD FRIEND FROM MICHIGAN, SENATOR PHIL HART, CHOSE, ON THE BASIS OF EQUAL TIME, TO MAKE A PARTISAN NETWORK REPLY TO THE PRESIDENT'S PRIVACY SPEECH LAST SATURDAY ON BEHALF OF THE MAJORITY LEADERSHIP OF THE CONGRESS.



I SAY THIS NOT ON THE BASIS OF WHAT THE SENATOR SAID -- HE MAY BE SURPRISED TO KNOW THAT I HAVE READ HIS FULL SPEECH AS WELL AS THE PRESIDENT'S AND FIND MUCH IN BOTH THAT I CAN AGREE WITH -- INDEED A GREAT DEAL OF SIMILARITY -- BUT BECAUSE IN MOVING TO ESTABLISH COMMON-SENSE SAFEGUARDS FOR THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT OF PRIVACY I DON'T THINK WE HAVE THE TIME FOR POLITICKING OR THE LEISURE TO LOOK BACK AND TALLY UP ABUSES WHICH HAVE BEEN PERPETRATED IN THE PAST DURING THIS ADMINISTRATION OR THAT ADMINISTRATION OR BY THIS OR THAT OFFICIAL, HIGH OR LOW.



MY PRIVACY COMMITTEE IS NOT GOING TO COMPILE  
LISTS OF PRIVACY HORROR STORIES AND  
APPORTION BLAME OVER FOUR-YEAR PERIODS OF  
OUR POSTWAR HISTORY. NEITHER AM I GOING TO  
COVER UP OR MAKE SMOKE ~~SCREENS~~<sup>SCREENS</sup> FOR ANYTHING OR  
ANYBODY. WHAT WE ARE GOING TO DO AS LONG AS  
I AM CHAIRMAN IS TO TRY TO PUT A STOP TO  
UNWARRANTED FUTURE INVASIONS OF INDIVIDUAL  
PRIVACY BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OR ITS  
AGENTS, PERIOD.

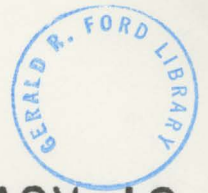


OUR MANDATE IS NOT FOR JUST ANOTHER LEISURELY STUDY. WE HAVE FOUR MONTHS TO COME UP WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION.

I DO NOT YET KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT THE SUBJECT TO POP OFF WITH ANY PROFOUND CONCLUSIONS, BUT I PROMISE YOU HERE AND NOW THIS IS GOING TO BE VERY SERIOUS BUSINESS AND BY NO MEANS A NARROW OR POLITICALLY PARTISAN ONE.







THE LEGAL BULWARK OF OUR PRIVACY IS, OF COURSE, IN THE BILL OF RIGHTS. THESE WERE ADDED AS THE FIRST 10 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AT THE INSISTENCE OF THE GOVERNORS AND LEGISLATURES OF THE 13 ORIGINAL STATES AS A CONDITION OF RATIFICATION. THUS IT WAS FROM THE STATES THAT THE RIGHT OF PRIVACY AND OTHER INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE INDIVIDUAL CAME, AND IT IS STILL IN THE STATES THAT THEY MUST BE SAFEGUARDED.

~~so~~ I APPEAL TO YOU GOVERNORS TO HELP ME IN THIS JOB OF ENSURING THE PRIVACY OF EVERY AMERICAN. I DO NOT WANT THIS TO GET STARTED AS A PARTISAN VENTURE. WHILE THE DOMESTIC COUNCIL COMMITTEE IS COMPOSED, TO BE SURE, OF PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTEES I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT A BROAD SPECTRUM OF VIEWS ON THE SUBJECT ALREADY EXISTS THERE. BUT I INTEND TO SOLICIT AN EVEN BROADER EXPRESSION OF OPINIONS -- AS I DO FROM YOU GOVERNORS -- FROM CITY AND COUNTY OFFICIALS, LABOR UNIONS, BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS, THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY AND THE NEWS MEDIA -- YES, EVEN FROM THE IVORY TOWERED EASTERN INTELLECTUAL ESTABLISHMENTS, AS WELL AS FROM THE WESTERN AND SOUTHERN AND MIDDLEWESTERN INTELLECTUAL ESTABLISHMENTS.



PRESERVATION OF THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY IS NOT MERELY A FEDERAL PROBLEM. IT HAS CERTAINLY BEEN COMPLICATED BY THE IMMENSE GROWTH OF FEDERAL POWER AND ITS CONCENTRATION HERE IN WASHINGTON. THE REMEDY WILL NOT BE FOUND BY MORE FEDERAL INTERFERENCE IN THE GUISE OF POLICING AGAINST ABUSES. MUCH OF THE REMEDY, I THINK, MUST BE FOUND AT THE STATE LEVEL AND IN THIS I ASK YOUR HELP.

AMONG MY PREJUDICES WHICH I PREVIOUSLY  
ACKNOWLEDGED IS AN OLD-FASHIONED PREJUDICE IN  
FAVOR OF THE DECENT, LAW-ABIDING, HARD-  
WORKING, LONG-SUFFERING, TAXPAYING CITIZEN.  
WE MUST BE CAREFUL TO ENSURE THAT IT IS HIS  
AND HER PRIVACY WE PROTECT AND NOT THAT OF  
CRIMINALS, KIDNAPPERS, AND HIGH JACKERS.  
YOU GOVERNORS AS THE CHIEF LAW ENFORCEMENT  
OFFICERS OF THE NATION CAN HELP US MAINTAIN  
PERSPECTIVE IN THIS REGARD.



I AM AWARE THAT MUCH FEDERAL LEGISLATION HAS BEEN PROPOSED IN THIS AREA. THERE HAVE BEEN SOME EXCELLENT STUDIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS MADE IN THE PAST BY THIS AND OTHER ADMINISTRATIONS. BUT I BELIEVE IN LOOKING FORWARD RATHER THAN BACKWARD. I DON'T BELIEVE IN REPLAYING LAST SATURDAY'S GAME BUT IN CONCENTRATING ON THE NEXT ONES.



WE MUST KEEP CONTROL OF THE BALL. ONE REAL DANGER LIES IN CONTROL OF THE COMPUTER SYSTEM THAT NOW CONTAINS THE NAMES OF OVER 150 MILLION AMERICANS IN COMPUTER BANKS LOCATED ACROSS THE COUNTRY. EVEN THE BEST-INTENTIONED GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRACIES THRIVE ON INFORMATION COLLECTION. THAT INFORMATION IS NOW STORED IN OVER 7,000 GOVERNMENT COMPUTERS.



SINCE THERE IS NO WAY TO INSTALL A CONSCIENCE IN EACH COMPUTER, WE MUST DEVELOP SAFEGUARDS THAT PREVENT COMPUTERS FROM BECOMING ROBOTS THAT DEPRIVE US OF OUR ESSENTIAL LIBERTIES. RECORD-KEEPING SYSTEMS UNFORTUNATELY AFFECT PEOPLE MORE THAN PEOPLE CAN AFFECT THE SYSTEMS.



OUR COMMITTEE WILL BUILD ON THE  
EXCELLENT WORK ALREADY CARRIED OUT. WE WILL  
SEEK RESPONSIBLE VIEWS FROM EVERY QUARTER.

I SINCERELY INVITE THE GOVERNORS'  
CONFERENCE TO DESIGNATE AN APPROPRIATE LIAISON  
GROUP TO WORK WITH US.





ALSO, I RESPECTFULLY URGE YOU AS CHIEF EXECUTIVES OF YOUR OWN STATES TO CONSIDER INSTITUTING SIMILAR STUDIES AT <sup>THE</sup> STATE LEVEL. SOME STATES ARE ALREADY AT WORK ON THIS.



KEY AREAS OF CONCERN ARE THE COLLECTION, STORAGE, AND USE OF PERSONAL DATA. WE WILL EXAMINE HOW THE FEDERAL ESTABLISHMENT COLLECTS INFORMATION ON INDIVIDUALS AND HOW THAT INFORMATION IS PROTECTED; PROCEDURES TO PERMIT CITIZENS TO INSPECT AND CORRECT DATA HELD BY PRIVATE OR PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS; REGULATIONS OF THE USE AND DISSEMINATION OF MAILING LISTS; AND WAYS THAT WE CAN SAFEGUARD PERSONAL INFORMATION AGAINST IMPROPER ALTERATION OR DISCLOSURE.



WHEN GOVERNMENT MUST INTERVENE IN THE LIVES OF PEOPLE, IT IS THE STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT WHICH IS USUALLY IN THE BEST POSITION TO JUDGE ITS LIMITS. AS GOVERNORS, YOU ALSO AMASS DATA. THAT DATA BRINGS WITH IT A RESPONSIBILITY TO GUARD AGAINST ABUSES. THIS EMPHASIZES THE NEED FOR US TO WORK TOGETHER.



BY MIDSUMMER OUR COMMITTEE WILL BEGIN  
TO PROVIDE <sup>*proposals for*</sup> ~~A SERIES OF~~ DIRECT, ENFORCEABLE  
MEASURES -- INCLUDING REGULATIONS, EXECUTIVE  
ACTIONS, POLICY CHANGES, LEGISLATION, WHERE  
NECESSARY, AND VOLUNTARY RESTRAINTS.



I WELCOME YOUR COOPERATION IN THIS AGENDA FOR ACTION ON PRIVACY. AND I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING TOGETHER WITH YOU IN MANY OTHER AREAS THAT HAVE TOO LONG GONE NEGLECTED. WE MUST TOGETHER HARVEST THE RESOURCES AND SKILLS AND RESOLVE OF AMERICA SO THAT OUR PUBLIC EXISTENCE AS A NATION AS WELL AS OUR PRIVATE EXISTENCE AS INDIVIDUALS WILL FLOURISH.



I HAVE FAITH IN THIS NATION --- IN  
ITS PEOPLE, IN ITS GOVERNORS, ITS  
ADMINISTRATORS, ITS LEGISLATORS. AND I  
HOPE THAT AS OUR COOPERATION AND FRIENDSHIP  
DEVELOP, I WILL CONTINUE TO MERIT YOUR  
TRUST.

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Last Copy

REMARKS BY VICE PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD  
AT THE OPENING PLENARY SESSION  
OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNORS' CONFERENCE  
WASHINGTON HILTON HOTEL, WASHINGTON, D.C.  
9:00 A.M. WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 1974



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

This is the first opportunity I have had to welcome the Nation's Governors to Washington since taking on the responsibilities of being the first "instant Vice President" in our history. It is an honor and a pleasure to do so.

However, I am no Jerry-come-lately in the matter of meeting with Governors. I have been doing it for years, on my own initiative as well as at your kind invitation, and I have never failed to learn from you or to benefit from exchanging ideas with you -- whether they had to do with defending your States from the outrageous intrusions of the Federal government or sharing with you an appropriate amount of the Federal revenue.

As a Member of Congress and as Minority Leader in the House of Representatives, my door has been open for the past 25 years and I like to think that my ears have been open and my mind has been open as well. I admit, of course, to certain prejudices of long standing. One of these is that local people can solve local problems better and with less waste than the people in Washington, however well-meaning and of whatever party the Federal overseers may be.

I am here this morning not only to welcome you but to reassure you that I have not changed this conviction now that I have one foot in the Executive Branch as well as one foot in the Legislative Branch. I still believe that you Governors can solve State problems better than any Federal Bureaucrat in Washington -- even a half-bureaucrat like the Vice President.

So I still feel very much among friends. I have had the good fortune of meeting with a number of you individually since taking on my new job, either here or during brief visits to your States, and I appreciate both your collective and individual hospitality. After reading the election returns this morning, I

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obviously intend to give this bipartisan audience a thoroughly non-partisan speech.

I only hope that your sense of hospitality prevents you from drawing any conclusions from the fact that I have campaigned recently in Cincinnati but not in California.

Seriously, from my conversations with several Governors since becoming Vice President, I am very much aware that the uppermost question on your minds with respect to me is what my role and responsibilities will be with respect to you and to other State and local officials.

As far as I am concerned, I have always had an open door policy and my door is still open as Vice President. Yesterday, before coming to this meeting, I sat down with President Nixon and we talked for some time about my future relationship with the Governors and the importance we both attach to this channel for cooperation and communication.

During my confirmation hearings I told the Senate committee that I will always uphold truth and intelligent compromise. I said that truth is the glue that holds government together, and that compromise is the oil that makes government go. I am determined that we should not experience even temporary shortages in either of these essential elements.

The President and I see eye-to-eye on the key role of Governors in the Federal system. You are closer to the people who elected you. You are the leaders we rely upon in our goal of restoring power to the people and reducing reliance on Washington.

As he has from the very first day I became Vice President, the President reiterated yesterday: "Jerry, my door is always open to you."

The President went on to say that he wanted me to have the same access he has to the Domestic Council and the OMB, in keeping with my duties as Vice President and Vice-chairman of the Domestic Council. He very generously pointed out, in the context of my involvement in intergovernmental relations, that both of these staffs will be as fully accessible and responsive to me as they are to him.

I told the President that I proposed to tell you that just as his door is open to me, my door is always open to you. My door will be open on a non-partisan basis. I welcome your ideas without

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regard to the region or the politics of the Governor. You are governing America. And I want to be accessible to America. I would hope we can discuss policies in formation at their earliest stage. The Federal-State relationship must be a two-way street.

Just as I intend to be a ready conciliator and calm communicator between the White House and Capitol Hill, I now offer you my personal attention and personal assistance.

It is true that I am new in this office but I have had experience in tackling the problems of state and federal relationships. I believe we can deal with directness and candor, in mutual awareness of our differences but also of our common duty to the people of this great Republic.

As Minority Leader of the House, I supported President Nixon's efforts to achieve a new kind of Federalism. I felt the time had come to reverse the trend toward a massive Federal bureaucracy and to start moving power out of Washington and back to the States -- and to the people where they live, and work, and pay their taxes.

The New Federalism, as you know, takes into account the necessary Federal functions required for a Nation of 211 million people. But just like the Federalism of the Nation's founders, we see new ways of letting people have a more direct say in deciding the needs and priorities of the fifty States.

When I was in the Congress, we achieved the passage of General Revenue Sharing. This represents a major domestic legacy. General Revenue Sharing has already put \$11 billion of new money to work in the many units of State and local government.

I am proud of this achievement because I vividly recall the effective teamwork and support by you Governors which was required to make Congress move away from the old categorical grants toward more flexible funding. New Federalism is now a reality.

Let me discuss with you briefly another new responsibility that has just been given me, that of Chairman of a special Committee of the Domestic Council on the Right of Privacy. This has, I think, a special relevance to you Governors and to State Governments.

This committee is made up of the Secretaries of Treasury, Defense, Commerce, Labor, HEW and the Attorney General -- six

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cabinet officers most immediately concerned with privacy questions -- plus the Chairman of the Civil Service Commission and the Directors of OMB, Telecommunications Policy and Consumer Affairs within the Executive Office of the President, plus myself. The President announced this in a radio address two weeks ago. He chose me as chairman, I guess, because my own privacy had just been investigated more thoroughly than anybody's since Eve ate the apple.

I have never been one to duck debate, and since my right to debate has been sharply curtailed as Presiding Officer of the United States Senate, may I use this forum to express my disappointment that my old friend from Michigan, Senator Phil Hart, chose, on the basis of equal time, to make a partisan network reply to the President's privacy speech last Saturday on behalf of the majority leadership of the Congress.

I say this not on the basis of what the Senator said -- he may be surprised to know that I have read his full speech as well as the President's and find much in both that I can agree with -- indeed a great deal of similarity -- but because in moving to establish common-sense safeguards for the fundamental right of privacy I don't think we have the time for politicking or the leisure to look back and tally up abuses which have been perpetrated in the past during this Administration or that Administration or by this or that official, high or low. My privacy committee is NOT going to compile lists of privacy horror stories and apportion blame over four-year periods of our postwar history. Neither am I going to cover up or make smokescreens for anything or anybody. What we are going to do as long as I am chairman is to try to put a stop to unwarranted future invasions of individual privacy by the Federal government or its agents, period.

Our mandate is not for just another leisurely study. We have four months to come up with recommendations for action.

I do not yet know enough about the subject to pop off with any profound conclusions, but I promise you here and now this is going to be very serious business and by no means a narrow or politically partisan one.

The legal bulwark of our privacy is of course in the Bill of Rights. These were added as the first 10 amendments to the

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Constitution at the insistence of the Governors and Legislatures of the 13 original States as a condition of ratification. Thus it was from the States that the right of privacy and other inalienable rights of the individual came and it is still in the States that they must be safe-guarded.

So I appeal to you governors to help me in this job of ensuring the privacy of every American. I do not want this to get started as a partisan venture. While the Domestic Council Committee is composed, to be sure, of Presidential appointees, I can assure you that a broad spectrum of views on the subject already exists there. But I intend to solicit an even broader expression of opinions -- as I do from you Governors -- from city and county officials, labor unions, business organizations, the academic community and the news media -- yes, even from the ivory towered eastern intellectual establishments, as well as from the western and southern and midwestern intellectual establishments.

Preservation of the right to privacy is not merely a Federal problem. It has certainly been complicated by the immense growth of Federal power and its concentration here in Washington. The remedy will not be found by more Federal interference in the guise of policing against abuses. Much of the remedy, I think, must be found at the State level and in this I ask your help.

Among my prejudices which I previously acknowledged is an old-fashioned prejudice in favor of the decent, law-abiding, hard-working, long-suffering, taxpaying citizen. We must be careful to ensure that it is his and her privacy we protect and not that of criminals, kidnapers and highjackers. You Governors as the Chief law enforcement officers of the nation can help us maintain perspective in this regard.

I am aware that much Federal legislation has been proposed in this area. There have been some excellent studies and recommendations made in the past by this and other Administrations.

But I believe in looking forward rather than backward. I don't believe in replaying last Saturday's game but in concentrating on the next one.

We must keep control of the ball. One real danger lies in control of the computer system that now contains the names of over

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150 million Americans in computer banks located across the country. Even the best-intentioned government bureaucracies thrive on information collection. That information is now stored in over 7,000 government computers.

Since there is no way to install a conscience in each computer, we must develop safeguards that prevent computers from becoming robots that deprive us of our essential liberties. Record-keeping systems unfortunately affect people more than people can affect the systems.

Our Committee will build on the excellent work already carried out. We will seek responsible views from every quarter. I sincerely invite the Governors' Conference to designate an appropriate liaison group to work with us.

Also, I respectfully urge you as chief executives of your own States to consider instituting similar studies at the State level. Some states are already at work on this.

Key areas of concern are the collection, storage, and use of personal data. We will examine how the federal establishment collects information on individuals and how that information is protected; procedures to permit citizens to inspect and correct data held by private or public organizations; regulations of the use and dissemination of mailing lists; and ways that we can safeguard personal information against improper alteration or disclosure.

When government must intervene in the lives of people, it is the State and local government which is usually in the best position to judge its limits. As Governors, you also mass data. That data brings with it a responsibility to guard against abuses. This emphasises the need for us to work together.

By midsummer our Committee will begin to provide a series of direct, enforceable measures -- including regulations, executive actions, policy changes, legislation, where necessary, and voluntary restraints.

I welcome your cooperation in this agenda for action on privacy. And I look forward to working together with you in many other areas that have too long gone neglected. We must together harvest the resources and skills and resolve of America so that our public existence as a nation as well as our private existence as

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individuals will flourish.

I have faith in this nation -- in its people, in its Governors, its administrators, its legislators. And I hope that as our cooperation and friendship develop, I will continue to merit your trust.

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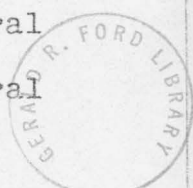
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most immediately concerned with privacy questions -- plus the Chairman of the Civil Service Commission and the Directors of OMB, Telecommunications Policy and Consumer Affairs within the Executive Office of the President, plus myself. The President announced this in a radio address two weeks ago.

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Our mandate is not for just another leisurely study. We have four months to come up with recommendations for action.

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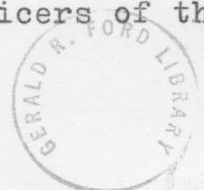
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Thus I appeal to you governors to help me in this job of ensuring the privacy of every American. I do not want this to get started as a partisan venture. While the Domectic Council committee is composed, to be sure, of Presidential appointees I can assure you that a broad spectrum of <sup>views on the subject already exists</sup> ~~viewpoints already exists~~ there. But I intend yo solicit an even broader expression of opinions -- as I do from you Governors -- from city and county officials, labor unions, business organizations, academic community news the ~~media~~ and the/media -- yes, even from the ivory towers of eastern ~~intellectual establishments~~ intellectual establishments, as well as from the western and southern and midwestern intellectual establishments.

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Privacy is not merely a Federal problem. It has certainly been complicated by the immense growth of Federal power and its concentration here in Washington. The remedy will not be found by more Federal interference in the guise of policing against abuses. Much of the remedy, I think, must be found at the State level and in this I ask your help.

Among <sup>my</sup> ~~the~~ prejudices which I previously acknowledged is an old-fashioned <sup>prejudice</sup> ~~one~~ in favor of the decent, law-abiding, hard-working, long-suffering, taxpaying citizen. We must be careful to ensure that it is his and her privacy we protect and not that of criminals, kidnapers and highjackers. You Governors as the Chief law enforcement officers of the nation can help us maintain perspective in this regard.



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Since there is no way to install a conscience in each computer, we must develop safeguards that prevent computers from becoming robots that deprive us of our essential liberties. Record-keeping systems *unfortunately* affect people more than people can affect the systems.

Our Committee will build on the excellent work already carried out. We will seek *responsible* ~~the~~ views *from every quarter* ~~not only of the~~ legislative and ~~judicial branches but also the private sector including~~



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Also, I ~~would~~ respectfully urge you as chief executives  
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~~As our implementation group moves toward decisions~~ *Committee* *specific recommendations*  
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~~The three~~ *K* key areas of concern are the collection, storage,  
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~~Our first task is to put the Federal house in order. But attention will also be directed toward areas outside Federal concern.~~ When government must intervene in the lives of people, it is the State and local government which is usually in the best position to judge <sup>its limits:</sup> ~~our needs.~~ As Governors, you <sup>also</sup> amass data. That data brings with it a responsibility to guard against abuses. ~~E~~

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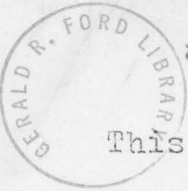
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Remarks by VP President Gerald R. Ford  
at the Opening Plenary Session  
of the National Governors' Conference  
Washington Hilton Hotel, Washington, D.C.  
9:00 AM - Wednesday, March 6, 1974

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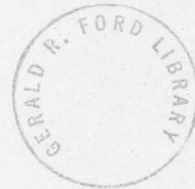
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in the State and local Government which is ~~usually~~ <sup>usually</sup> the best  
of them. When Government must intervene in the lives of people,  
it is not with a hand ~~that~~ <sup>that</sup> ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> ~~not~~ <sup>not</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~be~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~used~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~control~~ <sup>control</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~people~~ <sup>people</sup> ~~in~~ <sup>in</sup> ~~order~~ <sup>order</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~bring~~ <sup>bring</sup> ~~about~~ <sup>bring</sup> ~~change~~ <sup>change</sup> ~~in~~ <sup>in</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~country~~ <sup>country</sup>.

*R*