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LOUISIANA STATE LEGISLATURE, MONDAY, MAY 13, 1974



IT IS AN HONOR AND PRIVILEGE TO ADDRESS THIS JOINT SESSION
OF THE LOUISIANA STATE LEGISLATURE. I KNOW FROM MY SERVICE AS
MINORITY LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND NOW AS
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, THAT LOUISIANA HAS A LONG AND REVERED
TRADITION OF ABLE REPRESENTATION IN CONGRESS.

*Gov. Edwards -
Lt. Gov. Fitzmorris -
Speaker Henry -
Distinguished members of Legislature*

THE LOUISIANA DELEGATION IS LED IN WASHINGTON BY TWO OF
THE STRONGEST AND ABLEST MEN IN THE CONGRESS--MY FRIEND OF 25 YEARS
STANDING AND ~~33~~⁴ YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE HOUSE, CONGRESSMAN F. EDWARD
HEBERT, CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE, AND MY
ESTEEMED ASSOCIATE IN THE SENATE, RUSSELL B. LONG, CHAIRMAN OF THE
SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE. A SENSE OF PARTISAN PRIDE MOVES ME TO
NOTE THAT CONGRESSMAN DAVID TREEN SERVES LOUISIANA AS THE FIRST
REPUBLICAN MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM YOUR STATE IN THIS CENTURY.

known
I am proud of the
1 *Senator Bennett Johnston*
Otto Passmore
Joe Waggoner
John Rarick
John Breaux
Kellie Long
Lindy Boggs.



MANY OF YOUR NATIONAL LEGISLATORS HAVE RISEN TO PROMINENCE
FROM THIS BODY. THIS LEGISLATURE AND YOUR STATE HAS A PROUD TRADITION
OF INDEPENDENCE OF THOUGHT AND ACTION. AS WE APPROACH THE 200TH
ANNIVERSARY OF OUR INDEPENDENCE AS A NATION, I THINK IT IMPORTANT
TO RECALL THAT THE COURSE OF OUR HISTORY HAS NOT BEEN EASY OR
In a complicated & controversial world
UNTUMULTUOUS. AS A NATION WE HAVE NOT BEEN WITHOUT SERIOUS PROBLEMS.



SOME ARE SAYING TODAY THAT WE IN AMERICA ARE OVERINDULGING
OURSELVES IN EXAGGERATION--PARTICULARLY THE OVEREXAGGERATION OF OUR
PROBLEMS--WHILE AT THE SAME TIME WE ARE FAILING TO PUT INTO
PERSPECTIVE OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND WHAT IS RIGHT IN AMERICA.



I DO NOT COME BEFORE YOU TODAY AS THE VICE PRESIDENT OF A
NATION SUFFERING FROM THE PLAGUES OF SLAVERY, PESTILENCE, FAMINE,
REVOLUTION OR WAR. THAT WE HAVE SEEN PROBLEMS IN OUR TIME IS
WITHOUT QUESTION. WE HAVE HAD RIOTS, ASSASSINATIONS, EMBARGOES AND
WARS AND HAVE IN LARGE MEASURE DEALT WITH THESE OCCURRENCES FAIRLY
AND CREDITABLY.



BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, IT IS MY BELIEF THAT WHEN THE
HISTORIANS OF THE EBB AND FLOW OF POWER IN THE AMERICAN SYSTEM WRITE
ABOUT THESE TIMES FROM A QUIETER FUTURE VANTAGE POINT, THEY WILL
RECORD THAT SOME GREAT DEEDS HAVE BEEN DONE AND GREAT GOALS ACCOMPLISHED:

--WE HAVE BROUGHT WARS TO JUST ENDS,

--SAVED ENTIRE NATIONS FROM STARVATION,

--ASSERTED AND PROTECTED THE CIVIL RIGHTS OF ALL OF OUR
CITIZENS,

--BEGUN TO CREATE A LASTING PEACE BY ENDING THE THREAT OF
FUTURE WARS; AND



--AFTER FOUR DECADES OF THE CENTRALIZATION OF POWER IN
WASHINGTON, WE HAVE BEGUN TO ESTABLISH A NEW PATTERN
UNDER WHICH POWER AND RESOURCES ARE RETURNED TO THE
GRASS ROOTS, REESTABLISHING THE BALANCE OF OUR FEDERAL,
STATE AND LOCAL RELATIONSHIPS.

*Govt big enough to give us everything
we want is a Govt big enough to take
from us everything we have.*



ONE POINT THIS OUGHT TO DRIVE HOME TO ALL OF US IS THAT OUR
INSTITUTIONS HAVE NOT LOST THEIR ABILITY TO MOVE FORWARD IN SOLVING
OUR NATION'S PROBLEMS. OUR INSTITUTIONS ARE SOUND; THEY ARE STRONG;
AND, OUR COURSE IS STEADY AND OUR CAUSE IS JUST.

IF YOU WERE TO INVENTORY TODAY EVERYTHING THAT IS RIGHT IN
THE WORLD, AMERICA'S CONTRIBUTIONS WOULD LEAD THE LIST.



AMERICA TRULY HAS BECOME THE PRIMARY AGENT FOR PEACE IN
THE WORLD, ~~AND I THINK THE BEST EVIDENCE OF THIS~~ IS IN THE MIDDLE
EAST. BECAUSE WE ENJOY THE CONFIDENCE OF BOTH SIDES ~~THERE~~, WE ARE
ABLE TO BE CONFIDENT THAT WE CAN HELP IN ESTABLISHING A PERMANENT
PEACE IN AN AREA OF THE WORLD WHICH HAS KNOWN WAR FOR A QUARTER
CENTURY.



TO ESTABLISH PEACE WE MUST HAVE A STRONG NATIONAL DEFENSE
TO DETER AGGRESSION. AND IT ALMOST GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT OUR
INDUSTRIAL STRENGTH IS THE BACKBONE OF OUR NATIONAL DEFENSE.
INDUSTRIAL STRENGTH IS DEPENDENT UPON THE AVAILABILITY OF ENERGY
AND NATURAL RESOURCES.



AS WE PASSED THROUGH A NATIONAL AND WORLD-WIDE ENERGY
CRISIS THIS YEAR, WE REALIZED HOW IMPORTANT THE ENERGY WE PRODUCE AT
HOME, AND PARTICULARLY, THAT WHICH YOU PRODUCE IN SUCH LARGE QUANTITIES
HERE IN LOUISIANA, IS TO OUR BASIC ECONOMIC AND MILITARY STRENGTH.
THAT IS ONE REASON WHY THE ADMINISTRATION IS SEEKING TO DEREGULATE
NATURAL GAS TO ALLOW THE PRICE OF NEW NATURAL GAS TO BE SET IN THE
MARKETPLACE RATHER THAN BY FEDERAL REGULATION. FOR UNLESS WE MAINTAIN
OUR ECONOMIC AND MILITARY STRENGTH, THERE WILL BE LITTLE INCENTIVE
FOR OTHER WORLD POWERS TO KEEP THE PEACE.



BUT, RATHER THAN TALK ABOUT OUR ROLE IN THE WORLD, I
WANTED TODAY TO TALK ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS AT HOME--DEVELOPMENTS WHICH
RELATE TO THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO THE STATES
AND OUR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.

SINCE I LEARNED HOW BIG THE DEMOCRATIC MAJORITIES ARE IN
BOTH HOUSES OF THIS LEGISLATURE I DECIDED I HAD BETTER BE PREPARED
TO QUOTE A LEADING DEMOCRAT. I COULD FIND NO ONE BETTER THAN THOMAS
JEFFERSON. IT IS ENCOURAGING TO REALIZE THAT WHAT HE SAID MANY YEARS
AGO MAKES AS MUCH GOOD SENSE TODAY AS IT DID THEN.



JEFFERSON ONCE NOTED THAT THE FEDERAL SYSTEM~~M~~ IS LIKE
THE SOLAR SYSTEM--EVERYTHING MUST BE IN PROPER BALANCE--AND THAT
"THE ENLIGHTENED STATESMEN, THEREFORE, WILL ENDEAVOR TO PRESERVE
THE WEIGHT AND INFLUENCE OF EVERY PART ^(Pause) AS TOO MUCH GIVEN TO ANY MEMBER
OF IT WOULD DESTROY THE GENERAL EQUILIBRIUM."



IN THE COMING DECADES, NOTHING IS MORE IMPORTANT TO OUR
SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT THAN RESTORING THE BALANCE THAT HAS BEEN LOST
AS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND THE FEDERAL BUREAUCRACY HAVE TAKEN
AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY AWAY FROM STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.
RESTORING BALANCE IS THE PRIMARY OBJECT OF THE NEW FEDERALISM AND
ITS GENERAL REVENUE SHARING PROGRAM. GENERAL REVENUE SHARING IS AS
BASIC TO THE NEW FEDERALISM AS IS SHRIMP TO CREOLE.



AS FEDERALLY COLLECTED REVENUES ARE RETURNED TO MORE
THAN 38,000 UNITS OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, THE FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT IS RETURNING TO COMMUNITIES OF ALL SIZES AND DESCRIPTION,
THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, THE RIGHT TO DETERMINE HOW AND WHERE TO USE
THESE DOLLARS.

NO LONGER WILL BUILDINGS FULL OF BUREAUCRATS IN
WASHINGTON, D.C., PRESUME TO HAVE THE ANSWER TO PROBLEMS IN
COMMUNITIES THEY HAVE NEVER SEEN--WHOSE NAMES THEY MAY NOT EVEN
RECOGNIZE.



EACH LOCAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT IS DECIDING ITS OWN USE OF THE FUNDS, AND THE CITIZENS ARE HOLDING THEIR LOCAL AND STATE OFFICIALS ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE DECISIONS MADE.

BY JUNE 30 OF THIS YEAR, ALMOST \$329 MILLION WILL ALREADY HAVE BEEN SHARED WITH THE STATE AND MORE THAN 350 LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN LOUISIANA. OF THIS, THE STATE GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE RECEIVED ONE-THIRD, ABOUT \$112 MILLION. IN FISCAL YEAR '75, LOUISIANA STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS WILL RECEIVE ANOTHER \$139 MILLION.



NO LONGER WILL ADMINISTRATORS ON THE BANKS OF THE
POTOMAC RIVER TRY TO CHOOSE BETWEEN AND AMONG STATES, COUNTIES,
CITIES AND TOWNS, TO DETERMINE WHICH OF THEM WILL RECEIVE FEDERAL
FUNDS.

GENERAL REVENUE SHARING PAYMENTS ARE MADE OBJECTIVELY,
AND REGULARLY, USING THE MOST ADVANCED COMPUTER TECHNIQUES TO ALL
GENERAL PURPOSE UNITS OF GOVERNMENT.



FROM REPORTS OF THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT, WE KNOW THAT LOUISIANA GOVERNMENTS HAVE SPENT SUBSTANTIAL FUNDS, PARTICULARLY FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, USING THEIR EARLY REVENUE SHARING PAYMENTS. IN ST. JAMES PARISH, FOR EXAMPLE, WE KNOW THAT THE DOLLARS WERE USED TO MAKE EMERGENCY ROAD REPAIR AFTER THE SEVERE STORMS AND FLOOD DAMAGE OF LAST YEAR. THIS USE OF REVENUE SHARING FUNDS WILL ALSO COMPLEMENT AN ADMINISTRATION-SUPPORTED SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$100 MILLION FOR FLOOD CONTROL~~S~~ PROJECTS ALONG THE LOWER MISSISSIPPI AND TRIBUTARIES.



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MOREOVER, PARISH OFFICIALS HAVE CREDITED GENERAL REVENUE SHARING WITH SAVING AT LEAST 25% OF LAST YEARS' SUGAR CANE CROP SINCE, WITHOUT THE ROADS, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE TO HAUL THE CANE FOR PROCESSING.

IN THE NEW ORLEANS AREA, REVENUE SHARING FUNDS HAVE BEEN DEVOTED TO ESSESTIAL POLICE AND FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES. IN BATON ROUGE, RECREATION AND PARK NEEDS HAVE BEEN ACCORDED A HIGH PRIORITY.



AS THESE EXAMPLES PROVE, SHIFTING THE FOCUS OF
RESPONSIBILITY AND AUTHORITY FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF FEDERALLY
COLLECTED REVENUES ALREADY IS HELPING TO STRENGTHEN THE STATE AND
LOCAL PARTNERS IN OUR FEDERAL SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT. GENERAL REVENUE
SHARING IS REBALANCING POWER AMONG LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERN-
MENTS AS THE FOUNDING FATHERS OF THIS GREAT COUNTRY OF OURS INTENDED
THAT POWER TO BE SHARED.



SO, AS WE BUILD FOR A GENERATION OF PEACE ABROAD, LET US
BUILD FOR A GENERATION OF PROGRESS AT HOME. ABROAD WE ARE LEARNING
TO DIVIDE THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROGRESS AMONG OUR PARTNERS, AND AT
HOME WE MUST DIVIDE THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROGRESS AMONG THE
DIFFERENT LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT. BOTH ABROAD AND AT HOME, IN SHORT,
OUR POLICIES DEPEND ON PARTNERSHIP.



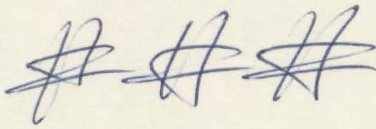
SEVERAL YEARS FROM NOW WHEN WE LOOK BACK ON THESE TIMES,
IT IS MY SINCERE AND HIGHEST HOPE THAT THE REFLECTION WE SEE WILL
BE ONE OF A NEW "FRAMEWORK FOR PEACE" AND A RESTORED "FRAMEWORK FOR
DOMESTIC PROGRESS" THAT WE WERE ABLE TO BUILD TOGETHER.



THE BIBLE TELLS US THAT "TO EVERY THING THERE IS A
SEASON, AND A TIME TO EVERY PURPOSE UNDER THE HEAVEN.....A TIME
TO BREAK DOWN, AND A TIME TO BUILD."

I STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT THIS IS THE TIME TO BUILD. WE
HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY, THE ABILITY, AND THE METHOD TO REACH NEW
HEIGHTS OF ACHIEVEMENT IN THE GENERATION AHEAD.

LET US WORK TOGETHER.



ADDRESS BY VICE PRES.

GERALD R. FORD TO THE ~~2ND DEPT~~
LOUISIANA STATE LEGISLATURE
MON. MAY 13, 1974

FOR RELEASE
ON DELIVERY 12 NEW

It is an honor and privilege to address this Joint Session of the Louisiana

State Legislature. I know from my service as Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, and now as President of the Senate, that Louisiana has a long and revered tradition of able representation in Congress.



The Louisiana delegation is led in Washington by two of the strongest and ablest men in the Congress--my friend of 25 years standing and 33 years of service in the House, Congressman F. Edward Hebert, Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, and my esteemed associate in the Senate, Russell B. Long, Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee.

A sense of partisan pride moves me to note that Congressman David Treen serves Louisiana as the first Republican Member of Congress from your State in this century.

Many of your national legislators have risen to prominence from this body.

This legislature and your state has a proud tradition of independence of thought and action. As we approach the 200th Anniversary of our independence as a Nation, I think it important to recall that the course of our history has not been easy or untumultuous. As a Nation we have not been without serious problems.

Some are saying today that we in America are overindulging ourselves in exaggeration --particularly the overexaggeration of our problems-- while at the same time we are failing to put into perspective our accomplishments and what is right in America.

I do not come before you today as the Vice President of a nation suffering from the plagues of slavery, pestilence, famine, revolution or war. That we have seen problems in our time is without question. We have had riots, assassinations, embargoes and wars and have in large measure dealt with these occurrences fairly and creditably.

But more importantly, it is my belief that when the historians of the ebb and flow of power in the American system write about these times from a quieter future vantage point, they will record that some great deeds have been done and great goals accomplished:

- We have brought wars to just ends.
- Saved entire nations from starvation.
- Asserted and protected the civil rights of all of our citizens.
- Begun to create a lasting peace by ending
the threat of future wars; and
- After four decades of the centralization of power in Washington, we have begun to establish a new pattern under which power and resources are returned to the grass roots, [] reestablishing the balance of our Federal, State and local relationships.



One point this ought to drive home to all of us is that our institutions have not lost their ability to move forward in solving our nation's problems. Our institutions are sound; they are strong; and, our course is steady and our cause is just.

If you were to inventory today everything that is right in the world, America's contributions would lead the list.

America truly has become the primary agent for peace in the world, and I think the best evidence of this is in the Middle East. Because we enjoy the confidence of both sides there, we are able to be confident that we can help in establishing a permanent peace in an area of the world which has known war for a quarter century.

To establish peace we must have a strong national defense to deter aggression. And it almost goes without saying that our industrial strength is the backbone of our national defense. Industrial strength is dependent upon the availability of energy and natural resources.

As we passed through a national and world-wide energy crisis this year, we realized how important the energy we produce at home, and particularly, that which you produce in such large quantities here in Louisiana, is to our basic economic and military strength. That is one reason why the Administration is seeking to deregulate natural gas to allow the price of new natural gas to be set in the marketplace rather than by Federal regulation. For unless we maintain our economic and military strength, there will be little incentive for other world powers to keep the peace.

But, rather than talk about our role in the world, I wanted today to talk about developments at home--developments which relate to the relationship of the Federal Government to the States and our local governments.



Since I learned how big the Democratic majorities are in both houses of this legislature I decided I had better be prepared to quote a leading Democrat. I could find no one better than Thomas Jefferson. It is encouraging to realize that what he said many years ago makes as much good sense today as it did then.

Jefferson once noted that the Federal system is like the solar system--everything must be in proper balance--and that "The enlightened statesmen, therefore, will endeavor to preserve the weight and influence of every part as too much given to any member of it would destroy the general equilibrium."

In the coming decades, nothing is more important to our system of government than restoring the balance that has been lost as the Federal Government and the Federal bureaucracy have taken authority and responsibility away from State and local governments. Restoring balance is the primary object of the New Federalism and its General Revenue Sharing Program. General Revenue Sharing is as basic to the New Federalism as is shrimp to creole.

As Federally collected revenues are returned to more than 38,000 units of State and local governments, the Federal Government is returning to communities of all sizes and description, throughout the country, the right to determine how and where to use these dollars.

No longer will buildings full of bureaucrats in Washington, D.C. presume to have the answer to problems in communities they have never seen --whose names they may not even recognize.

No longer will Administrators on the banks of the Potomac River try to choose between and among States, counties, cities and towns, to determine which of them will receive Federal funds.

General Revenue Sharing payments are made objectively, and regularly using the most advanced computer techniques to all general purpose units of government.

Each local and State government is deciding its own use of the funds and the citizens are holding their local and state officials accountable for the decisions made.



By June 30 of this year, almost \$329 million will already have been shared with the State and more than 350 local governments in Louisiana. Of this the State government will have received one-third, about \$112 M. In FY 75, Louisiana State and local governments will receive another \$139 M.

From reports of the Treasury Department, we know that Louisiana governments have spent substantial funds, particularly for public transportation, using their early revenue sharing payments. In St. James Parish for example, we know that the dollars were used to make emergency road repair after the severe storms and flood damage of last year. This use of Revenue Sharing Funds will also complement an Administration supported supplemental appropriation of \$100 million for flood controls projects along the Mississippi, ~~and~~ ^{Lower} ^{AND TRIBUTARIES} ~~and~~

~~_____~~

Moreover, Parish officials have credited General Revenue Sharing with saving at least 25% of last years' sugar cane crop since, without the roads, it would have been impossible to haul the cane for processing.

In the New Orleans, Revenue Sharing funds have been devoted to essential police and fire protection services. In Baton Rouge, recreation and park needs have been accorded a high priority. Jefferson Parish has planned to use its early Revenue Sharing funds for among other things, a juvenile detention home and environmental facilities. In Vernon Parish, as in many other communities, vital local needs are being met, using these new federal funds while holding in check local tax rate increases.



As these examples prove shifting the focus of responsibility and authority for the expenditure of federally collected revenues already is helping to strengthen the State and local partners in our federal system of government, General Revenue Sharing is rebalancing power among local State and Federal governments as the founding fathers of this great country of ours intended that power to be shared.

So, as we build for a generation of peace abroad, let us build for a generation of progress at home. Abroad we are learning to divide the responsibility for progress among our partners and at home we must divide the responsibility for progress among the different levels of government. Both abroad and at home, in short, our policies depend on partnership.

Several years from now when we look back on these times, it is my sincere and highest hope that the reflection we see will be one of a new "framework for peace" and a restored "framework for domestic progress" that we were able to build together. ~~We are working with the leaders of the world community, regardless of their politics,~~

~~These~~ The Bible tells us that " To every ~~xxxxxxxx~~ thing there is a season and a ~~xxxxxxx~~
time to every purpose under the heavena time to bre k down, and a time to build."

I strongly believe that this IS the time to build. ~~That~~ We ~~must~~ have
the opportunity ~~xxxx~~ the ability and the method to reach new heights of achievement
~~xxxxxxx~~ in the
generation ahead.

Let us worktogether.



ADDRESS BY VICE PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD
LOUISIANA STATE LEGISLATURE
MONDAY, MAY 13, 1974

FOR RELEASE ON DELIVERY 12 NOON

It is an honor and privilege to address this Joint Session of the Louisiana State Legislature. I know from my service as Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, and now as President of the Senate, that Louisiana has a long and revered tradition of able representation in Congress.

The Louisiana delegation is led in Washington by two of the strongest and ablest men in the Congress--my friend of 25 years standing and 33 years of service in the House, Congressman F. Edward Hebert, Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, and my esteemed associate in the Senate, Russell B. Long, Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. A sense of partisan pride moves me to note that Congressman David Treen serves Louisiana as the first Republican Member of Congress from your State in this century.

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But more importantly, it is my belief that when the historians of the ebb and flow of power in the American system write about these times from a quieter future vantage point, they will record that some great deeds have been done and great goals accomplished:

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But more importantly, it is my belief that when the historians of the ebb and flow of power in the American system write about these times from a quieter future vantage point, they will record that some great deeds have been done and great goals accomplished:

- We have brought wars to just ends.
- Saved entire nations from starvation.
- Asserted and protected the civil rights of all of our citizens.
- Begun to create a lasting peace by ending the threat of future wars; and
- After four decades of the centralization of power in Washington, we have begun to establish a new pattern under which power and resources are returned to the grass roots, reestablishing the balance of our Federal, State and local relationships.

One point this ought to drive home to all of us is that our institutions have not lost their ability to move forward in solving our nation's problems. Our institutions are sound; they are strong; and, our course is steady and our cause is just.

If you were to inventory today everything that is right in the world, America's contributions would lead the list.

America truly has become the primary agent for peace in the world, and I think the best evidence of this is in the Middle East. Because we enjoy the confidence of both sides there, we are able to be confident that we can help in establishing a permanent peace in an area of the world which has known war for a quarter century.

To establish peace we must have a strong national defense to deter aggression. And it almost goes without saying that our industrial strength is the backbone of our national defense. Industrial strength is dependent upon the availability of energy and natural resources.

As we passed through a national and world-wide energy crisis this year, we realized how important the energy we produce at

home, and particularly, that which you produce in such large quantities here in Louisiana, is to our basic economic and military strength. That is one reason why the Administration is seeking to deregulate natural gas to allow the price of new natural gas to be set in the marketplace rather than by Federal regulation. For unless we maintain our economic and military strength, there will be little incentive for other world powers to keep the peace.

But, rather than talk about our role in the world, I wanted today to talk about developments at home--developments which relate to the relationship of the Federal Government to the States and our local governments.

Since I learned how big the Democratic majorities are in both houses of this legislature I decided I had better be prepared to quote a leading Democrat. I could find no one better than Thomas Jefferson. It is encouraging to realize that what he said many years ago makes as much good sense today as it did then.

Jefferson once noted that the Federal system is like the solar system--everything must be in proper balance--and that "the enlightened statesmen, therefore, will endeavor to preserve the weight and influence of every part as too much given to any member of it would destroy the general equilibrium."

In the coming decades, nothing is more important to our system of government than restoring the balance that has been lost as the Federal Government and the Federal bureaucracy have taken authority and responsibility away from State and local governments. Restoring balance is the primary object of the New Federalism and its General Revenue Sharing Program. General Revenue Sharing is as basic to the New Federalism as is shrimp to creole.

As Federally collected revenues are returned to more than 38,000 units of State and local governments, the Federal Government is returning to communities of all sizes and description, throughout the country, the right to determine how and where to use these dollars.

No longer will buildings full of bureaucrats in Washington, D. C. presume to have the answer to problems in communities they have never seen--whose names they may not even recognize.

No longer will Administrators on the banks of the Potomac River try to choose between and among States, counties, cities and towns, to determine which of them will receive Federal funds.

General Revenue Sharing payments are made objectively, and regularly using the most advanced computer techniques to all general purpose units of government.

Each local and State government is deciding its own use of the funds and the citizens are holding their local and state officials accountable for the decisions made.

By June 30 of this year, almost \$329 million will already have been shared with the State and more than 350 local governments in Louisiana. Of this the State government will have received one-third, about \$112M. In FY 75, Louisiana State and Local governments will receive another \$139M.

From reports of the Treasury Department, we know that Louisiana governments have spent substantial funds, particularly for public transportation, using their early revenue sharing payments. In St. James Parish for example, we know that the dollars were used to make emergency road repair after the severe storms and flood damage of last year. This use of Revenue Sharing Funds will also complement an Administration supported supplemental appropriation of \$100 million for flood controls projects along the Lower Mississippi and tributaries.

Moreover, Parish officials have credited General Revenue Sharing with saving at least 25% of last years' sugar cane crop since, without the roads, it would have been impossible to haul the cane for processing.

In the New Orleans, Revenue Sharing funds have been devoted to essential police and fire protection services. In Baton Rouge, recreation and park needs have been accorded a high priority. Jefferson Parish has planned to use its early Revenue

Sharing funds for among other things, a juvenile detention home and environmental facilities. In Vernon Parish, as in many other communities, vital local needs are being met, using these new federal funds while holding in check local tax rate increases.

As these examples prove shifting the focus of responsibility and authority for the expenditure of federally collected revenues already is helping to strengthen the State and local partners in our federal system of government, General Revenue Sharing is rebalancing power among local State and Federal governments as the founding fathers of this great country of ours intended that power to be shared.

So, as we build for a generation of peace abroad, let us build for a generation of progress at home. Abroad we are learning to divide the responsibility for progress among our partners and at home we must divide the responsibility for progress among the different levels of government. Both abroad and at home, in short, our policies depend on partnership.

Several years from now when we look back on these times, it is my sincere and highest hope that the reflection we see will be one of a new "framework for peace" and a restored "framework for domestic progress" that we were able to build together.

The Bible tells us that "To every thing there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven.....a time to break down, and a time to build."

I strongly believe that this IS the time to build. We have the opportunity, the ability, and the method to reach new heights of achievement in the generation ahead.

Let us work together.

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