The original documents are located in Box 44, folder "1975/04/25 - State Legislative Leaders" of the James M. Cannon Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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MEETING WITH STATE LEGISLATIVE LEADERS

Friday, April 25, 1975
The East Room
2:00 p.m.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 24, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JIM CANNON

FROM:

jim falk \mathcal{G}

SUBJECT:

Briefing on State Legislative Leaders Meeting

As we have discussed, we are expecting approximately 125 State Legislative Leaders representing 42 States. Presidential participation will begin at 2:00 p.m. in the East Room, however, you should plan to be in the East Room by 1:50 p.m. and on the platform prior to the President's arrival.

I have prepared some talking points for you which appear at Tab A which you indicated last evening you would like to get to a writer this morning.

Attached at Tab B is a Sequence of Events for your guidance. At Tab C is a draft of the Press Release made by the organization, which is the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Attached at Tab D is a list of confirmed attendees for the session.

Attachments

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TALKING POINTS For TAMES M. CANNON

- I really do hate to come before this distinguished audience right after the President and the Secretary of State. From my point of view that makes this the toughest spot on the program. I will, however, try to be brief -- to the point -- and allow as much time as possible for your questions.
 - I would like to start with a few notions that I regard as basic assumptions in the area of Domestic Policy.
 - Every President would like to be able to come before you with visionary programs and policies that would:
 - -- eliminate poverty, hunger, disease and ignorance and;
 - -- that would at the same time assure stable economic conditions and bright hopes for the future.
 - Every President would not only like to go to the people with such programs --but would also like to be sure they would work and be sure that success could be promised immediately -- right now.
 - While that kind of program has attractions that are impossible to deny -Everyone finds that it is almost as impossible to deliver -- because of
 the constraints of the times whether they be embargoes, or rising energy
 costs beyond our immediate control or the costs of dealing with some other
 essential and immediate goals.
- The President is faced with budget constraints that are real -- just as every President is. Paul O'Neill will talk about this with you in a few minutes, but there is one point that must be made.
 - . That is that while the resources the Federal Government can spend in helping people solve problems and live a better life are by definition limited resources -- there are therefore, limits on how much you can do.
 - . But, even that restraint does not mean that there are not a multitude of ways and means to use our resources better. To get better results from the same resources.
- As the President said a few minutes ago, General Revenue Sharing is one of those ways that we feel strongly will be a better way to make our taxpayers dollars produce better results for the people who will be served.

- We are making considerable progress in other areas as well. There are now on the books five major pieces of block grant legislation in the areas of:
 - -- Manpower (CETA)
 - -- Community Development (Housing & Community Development)
 - -- Education (ESEA)
 - -- Law Enforcement (LEAA)
 - -- Transportation (Highway Bill)
- We are now spending 1 out of every 6 federal dollars in the form of aid to State and Local Government.
- More progress is needed in the areas of:
 - -- Energy
 - -- Rural Development
 - -- Transportation
 - -- Social Services, etc.

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SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Meeting with State Legislative Leaders
The East Room
Friday, April 25, 1975 2:00 p.m.

2:00 - 2:15 p.m.	THE PRESIDENT General Revenue Sharing Remarks and Departs (15 min.)
2:15 - 2:30 p.m.	The Secretary of State Foreign Policy Remarks and Departs
2:30 - 2:45 p.m.	James Cannon Domestic Policy Remarks and Remains
2:45 - 3:00 p.m.	Paul O'Neill The Budget Remarks and Remains
3:00 - 3:30 p.m.	Questions and Answers Moderator: Jim Falk

Meeting Adjourns

3:30 p.m.

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FINAL DRAFT PRESS RELEASE (BEING REDRAFTED IN PART, BELOW *)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE April 22, 1975

Contact: Carol Steinbach

Eugene Brown 202/785-5614

State legislative leaders from throughout the country have been invited to attend a special leadership conference in Washington, D.C. on April 25 and 26. The group will meet with President Ford and attend briefings with top executive department officials and congressional leaders.

The meeting, to be held at the Washington Hilton Hotel, is sponsored by the National Conference of State Legislatures, a nationwide public interest group which works to improve the effectiveness of the state legislatures.

The state leaders will have breakfast Friday morning with Congressional leaders, including Speaker of the House Carl Albert (Okla.), Sen. Edmund Muskie (Maine), and House Majority Leader Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill (Mass.). Later that morning, Sen. Henry Jackson (Wash.) will brief the group on national energy policies. Sen. J. Glenn Beall (Md.), a member of the newly created Senate Budget Committee, will address the luncheon session.

President Ford and key domestic and foreign policy advisors will meet with the state leaders at a 2:00 White House meeting. That afternoon the group will visit the State Department for a briefing on U.S. foreign policy by Charles W. Bray III, Assistant Secretary of State.

Members of the President's Domestic Council, leaders of Congress and former state legislators who are now new members of Congress will attend a reception and buffet dinner honoring the state leaders. The dinner will be held on Friday evening at the historic Woodrow Wilson House, where the nation's 28th President lived from the time he left the White House until his death in 1924.

Saturday morning will be devoted to an examination of several major issues facing a large number of States — including medical malpractice insurance, energy policy, and public employee collective bargaining. The leaders will also discuss ways in which the National Conference of State Legislatures can better serve the legislative leaders.

The National Conference of State Legislatures represents the 7,600 state legislators and their staffs in all 50 States. The NCSL — with offices in Denver and Washington — has as one of its key functions the dissemination of information to and from the state legislatures in an effort to foster better communications between the States and the federal government and among the States themselves. It was formed in January, 1975, with the merger of three previously existing state legislative organizations—The National Legislative Conference, The National Conference of State Legislative Leaders and the National Society of State Legislators. Senator Kevin B. Harrington of Massachusetts is President of the Conference and Eugene Farnum, Director of the Michigan Legislative Fiscal Agency is Staff Vice President.

State Legislative Leaders Conference Schedule

Friday, April 25, 1975

8:30 a.m. Breakfast, 1202 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., with

Congressional Leaders

9:30 a.m. Energy Briefing with Senator Henry Jackson, 1202

Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.

X 11:00
12:00 noon Luncheon, B 338, Rayburn House Office Bldg.

Sen. J. Glenn Beall

2:00 p.m. White House - meeting with President Ford and advisors

4:00 p.m. State Dept., Assistant Secretary of State, Charles

W. Bray, III

6:00 p.m. Reception and Buffet Dinner, Woodrow Wilson House,

2340 S St., N.W.

Saturday, April 26, 1975

9:00 a.m. - noon Washington Hilton Hotel, Examination of Major Issues

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Office of State Federal Relations 1150 Seventeenth Street, N.W. Suite 602 Washington, D. C. 20036 202/785-5614 Earl S. Mackey, Executive Director

SEMINAR FOR LEGISLATIVE LEADERS

April 25 - 26, 1975

ATTENDANCE LIST

ARKANSAS

Representative Cecil L. Alexander Representative Preston Bynum Representative G. W. Turner, Jr. Speaker of the House Minority Leader Majority Leader

CALIFORNIA

Assemblyman Howard L. Berman Assemblyman Robert G. Beverly Assemblyman Julian C. Dixon Mr. Jack Johnson Assemblyman Leo T. McCarthy Majority Floor Leader Minority Floor Leader Majority Caucus Chairman Staff - Speaker Leo T. McCarthy Speaker of the Assembly

COLORADO

Senator Fred E. Anderson Senator Ray Kogovsek Senator Richard H. Plock, Jr.

President of the Senate Minority Leader Majority Leader

CONNECTICUT

Representative James J. Kennelly Representative Alan H. Nevas Representative Gerald F. Stevens Speaker of the House Deputy Minority Leader Minority Leader

GEORGIA

Senator Paul D. Coverdell Representative Gerald T. Horton

Minority Leader Chmn., Industry Committee

1DAHO

Senator James Ellsworth
Representative Allan F. Larsen
Representative Walter Little
Representative Patricia L. McDermott

President Pro Tem Speaker of the House Majority Leader Minority Leader

ILLINOIS

Senator William C. Harris Senator Cecil A. Partee Minority Leader President of the Senate

INDIANA

Representative Richard E. Shank

Minority Caucus Chairman

IOWA

Representative Dale M. Cochran Senator Minnette F. Doderer Representative Floyd H. Millen

Speaker of the House President Pro Tem Minority Leader

KANSAS

Senator Joseph C. Harder Representative R. C. "Pete" Loux Senator Jack Steineger Majority Leader Minority Leader Minority Leader

MAINE

Senator Peter Danton Representative John L. Martin Representative Linwood E. Palmer, Jr. Representative Neil Rolde Asst. Minority Floor Leader Speaker of the House Minority Floor Leader Majority Leader

MARYLAND

Senator Clarence W. Blount Senator Steny H. Hoyer Delegate William M. Linton Senator Edward J. Mason Delegate Steven V. Sklar

Majority Whip President of the Senate Minority Leader Minority Leader

MASSACHUSETTS

Mr. John Abbott
Senator Joseph J. C. DiCarlo
Mr. William Dimento
Senator Kevin B. Harrington
Mr. John Nestor

Staff - Senator Kevin B. Harrington Majority Leader Staff - Senator Kevin B. Harrington President of the Senate Dir., Senate Ways & Means Committee

MICHIGAN

Senator Gilbert E. Bursley

Associate President Pro Tem

MINNESOTA

Representative Irvin N. Anderson Senator Robert O. Ashbach Representative Martin O. Sabo Representative Henry J. Savelkoul Majority Leader Minority Leader Speaker of the House Minority Leader

MISSISSIPPI

Representative James Morrow, Jr.

Senator Bob G. Perry

Chmn., Joint House & Senate Comm. on Post-Audit, Perf. Eval., & Inv. President Pro Tem

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Representative Robert O. Snyder

Minority Floor Leader

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Senator Jules W. Burbach Senator Jack Mills

Speaker of the Legislature

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Representative Marshall French
Representative Ruth Griffin
Senator Alf E. Jacobson
Representative George B. Roberts, Jr.

Majority Leader
Majority Whip
President of the Senate
Speaker of the House

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Assemblyman William J. Hamilton, Jr. Assemblyman Robert Smartt

Asst. Majority Leader Deputy Director of Assembly

NEW MEXICO

Senator Jack M. Morgan

NEW YORK

Senator Manfred Ohrenstein Assemblyman William F. Passannante Minority Leader

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Senator John T. Henley

President Pro Tem

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OREGON

Senator Jason Boe
Representative Paul A. Hanneman
Senator Fred Heard
Representative Philip D. Lang
Representative Ed Lindquist
Representative Roger Martin
Senator Robert Smith
Senator George Wingard

President of the Senate Asst. Minority Leader Majority Leader Speaker of the House Majority Leader Minority Leader

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Chmn., Calendars Committee

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Representative Earl F. McEssy Representative Terry A. Willkom

Majority Leader

WYOMING

Senator Percy Davis
Senator David N. Hitchcock

Democratic Floor Leader



National Conference of State Legislatures

Office of State Federal Relations

1150 Seventeenth Street, N.W. Suite 602 Washington, D. C. 20036 202/785-5614 Earl S. Mackey, Executive Director

SEMINAR FOR LEGISLATIVE LEADERS

April 25 - 26, 1975

ATTENDANCE LIST

ADDENDUM

COLORADO

Senator Richard H. Plock

Majority Leader

IOWA

Senator Berl Priebe Senator Bass VanGillst

Asst. Majority Floor Leader Asst. Majority Floor Leader

KENTUCKY

Representative Norbert Blume

Speaker of the House

LOUISIANA

Representative J. Kenneth Leithman

Speaker Pro Tem

MARYLAND

Delegate John Arnick
Delegate Martin S. Becker
Delegate Benjamin L. Cardin
Delegate John R. Hargraves
Delegate Charles J. Krysiak
Delegate Joseph Owens

Chmn., Environmental Matters Committee Chmn., Economic Matters Committee Chmn., Ways & Means Committee

Chmn., House Appropriations Committee Chmn., Constitional & Adm. Law Committee

Chmn., Judiciary Committee

MICHIGAN

Senator Donald E. Bishop

Minority Whip

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Representative Russell C. Chase Representative Earnest Coutermarsh Republican Caucus Chairman

NEW YORK

Ms. Kay Parker Mr. Albert Roberts Adm. Asst. to Senate Majority Leader Staff - Assy. Perry B. Duryea, Jr.

NORTH CAROLINA

Senator Kenneth Royall, Jr.

OREGON

Senator Keith Burbidge Senator Jack Ripper Asst. Majority Leader Chmn., Ways & Means Committee

SOUTH CAROLINA

Ms. Sylvia W. Orange

Clerk of the House

TEXAS

Representative John Bryant

VIRGINIA

Delegate Robert E. Washington

WISCONSIN

Senator Walter John Chilsen

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES STAFF LIST

Earl S. Mackey Executive Director

Karl T. Kurtz Director of Operations

James Edgar Director of State Services

Everett Grass Special Assistant for State Services

Carl Tubbesing Special Assistant for State Services

Eugene Brown Director of Communications

Jerome H. Sohns Director of State-Federal Relations

Paul Sweet Special Assistant for Government Operations

Richard E. Merritt Special Assistant for Human Resources

Carol Steinbach Special Assistant for Communications

Jeffrey Esser Special Assistant for Law Enforcement and

Criminal Justice

Robert MacDougall Special Assistant for Natural Resources

Joseph Mullin Special Assistant for Community Affairs

John J. Callahan Project Director, Legislators' Education

Action Project

Susan Wiley Research Assistant " "

R. G. Jones Project Director, Energy Policy Project

Helen Sramek Research Assistant, " "

Charles Whitmire CSH Staff for Commerce and Transportation

PROPOSED PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS TO STATE LEGISLATIVE LEADERS, FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 1975

I want to welcome you all to what I hope will be a very informative and productive session.

I also want to personally let you know that I understand -- and sympathize with -- the enormous problems you are wrestling with in trying to revitalize State government, especially in the legislative branch.

As a former legislative leader myself -- for twenty-five years in the United States Congress -- I have the scars to prove it.

Actually, they were wonderful years, despite the occasional frustrations and the sure knowledge that -- no matter how long and hard you worked -- there would always be more problems than there were solutions.

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I'm sure you must have found/similarity at the State level. And

I'm sure you agree that -- despite the frustrations -- it's worth it.

There's nothing more satisfying than the knowledge that -- even in a small way -- you may have made life a little better for the people you were elected to serve. But I don't need to tell you that. You wouldn't be here if you didn't feel exactly the same way.

The purpose of this meeting today is to let you know some of the things we are trying to do at the Federal level to help you make State government as vital and responsive as possible. I hope it will also serve to keep up the close, personal relationship I have tried to develop with State legislative leaders since I became President.

Some of you here today met with me last year. It was one of my first meetings as President -- less than two weeks after moving into the White House.

Since then I have sought to keep our dialogue alive. I have met with State legislators and legislative bodies both in Washington and around the country and I expect to meet with many more.

But I am interested in more than dialogue. Actions are just as important as words. For too long power, expertise, initiative and -- most important of all -- revenues, have been drained away from your State capitals to the national capital in Washington.

With this in mind, I have an announcement to make. Immediately before meeting with you, I signed the transmittal letters for a Message to Congress and a draft bill to extend and revise General Revenue Sharing.

In a nutshell, this legislation will:

- -- Retain the present revenue sharing formula;
- -- Authorize funds for five and three-quarters years;
- -- Increase some cities' share by easing per capita restraints;

Improves the protection of endudual neghts; Strengthen Civil Rights protection in the program;

(MORE)

- -- Increase citizen participation;
- -- Permit a more flexible system of reports, and;
- -- Require renewal consideration two years prior to expiration.

I am convinced that this legislation is in the best interests not only of State governments, but of the American people. It takes a good concept -- Revenue Sharing -- and extends it, at the same time including some important improvements and refinements.

In proposing this legislation, I am doing my part for State and local government. I hope I can count on you, on State legislative leaders, on governors, mayors and county officials, to do your part -- to get behind this program and make your voices heard in the Congress.

As I said, I understand the importance of State government and I know the problems you face. I am doing everything I can to help. But I will need your help to succeed. Together, we can get the job done.

Thank you very much.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON April 24, 1975

MEETING WITH STATE LEGISLATIVE LEADERS

Friday, April 25, 1975 The East Room 2:00 p.m.

From: Jim Cannoi

I. PURPOSE

To address a group of State legislative leaders while they are in Washington for a leadership seminar and to announce your Message to Congress seeking to expand and improve the General Revenue Sharing program.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS AND PRESS PLAN

A. Background

This group represents 7,600 State Legislators and their staffs in all 50 States. The National Conference of State Legislatures was formed in January, 1975 with the merger of three previously existing State Legislative organizations.

Now that all three organizations of Legislatures are unified, they are making a special effort to have their voices heard in Washington and have expressed particular interest in working with the Administration on Domestic legislative goals, particularly General Revenue Sharing.

The group is bipartisan and comprised of President of the State Senates, Speakers of the State Houses and their Majority and Minority Leadership.

Both the Speaker of the House, George B. Roberts and President of the Senate, Alf Jacobson of New Hampshire, who you met with last week during your address, will be present in the audience. The Majority leader of the Kansas Senate, Joseph C. Harder, and also the Minority Leadership, Senator Jack Steineger, and Representative R. C. "Pete" Loux will be present.

Following your address, Secretary Kissinger will speak on foreign policy, Jim Cannon on domestic policy and Paul O'Neill on the budget, after which Jim Falk will moderate a Question and Answer session. (A complete Sequence of Events is attached at Tab A.)

B. Participants

See Tab B.

C. Press Plan

Full coverage of your address.

III. SPEECH MATERIAL

To be submitted under separate cover.

IV. FURTHER BACKGROUND

The booklet printed by Treasury containing your Message to Congress and details of the Legislation is attached for your information at Tab C.

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Meeting with State Legislative Leaders
The East Room
Friday, April 25, 1975 2:00 p.m.

2:00 - 2:15 p.m.

THE PRESIDENT

General Revenue Sharing

Remarks and Departs (15 min.)

2:15 - 2:30 p.m.

The Secretary of State

Foreign Policy

Remarks and Departs

2:30 - 2:45 p.m.

James Cannon

Domestic Policy

Remarks and Remains

2:45 - 3:00 p.m.

Paul O'Neill

The Budget

Remarks and Remains

3:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Questions and Answers

Moderator: Jim Falk

3:30 p.m.

Meeting Adjourns



National Conference of State Legislatures

Office of State Federal Relations 1150 Seventeenth Street, N.W. Suite 602 Washington, D. C. 20036 802/785-5614 Earl S. Mackey, Executive Director

SEMINAR FOR LEGISLATIVE LEADERS

April 25 - 26, 1975

ATTENDANCE LIST ADDENDUM

COLORADO

Senator Richard H. Plock

Majority Leader

IOWA

Senator Berl Priebe Senator Bass VanGillst Asst. Majority Floor Leader Asst. Majority Floor Leader

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Research Assistant

R. G. Jones

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Helen Sramek

Research Assistant, "

" "

Charles Whitmire

 ${\bf CSH} \ {\bf Staff} \ {\bf for} \ {\bf Commerce} \ {\bf and} \ {\bf Transportation}$



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April 25 - 26, 1975

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Senator William C. Harris Senator Cecil A. Partee

Minority Leader President of the Senate

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Senator Bob G. Perry

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Assemblyman William J. Hamilton, Jr. Assemblyman Robert Smartt

Asst. Majority Leader Deputy Director of Assembly

NEW MEXICO

Senator Jack M. Morgan

NEW YORK

Senator Manfred Ohrenstein Assemblyman William F. Passannante Minority Leader

NORTH CAROLINA

Senator John T. Henley

President Pro Tem

OHIO

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OKLAHOMA

Representative Charles R. Ford Senator Gene C. Noward Senator Jim E. Lane Representative Mandell Matheson Representative Charles O. Morgan Representative Ron Shotts Representative Jerry L. Smith Minority Floor Leader President Pro Tem Majority Leader Asst. Majority Floor Leader Asst. Majority Floor Leader Asst. Minority Floor Leader Minority Whip

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Senator Jason Boe Representative Paul A. Hanneman Senator Fred Heard Representative Philip D. Lang Representative Ed Lindquist Representative Roger Martin Senator Robert Smith Senator George Wingard President of the Senate Asst. Minority Leader Majority Leader Speaker of the House Majority Leader Minority Leader

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RHODE ISLAND

Representative Frank L. Nunes Senator John A. Romano Senator Erich A. O'D. Taylor Deputy Minority Leader Deputy Minority Leader President Pro Tem

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TENNESSEE

Representative Tom Jensen Representative J. Stanley Rogers Minority Leader Majority Leader

TEXAS

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Chmn., Calendars Committee

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Representative Timothy O'Connor

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WASHINGTON

Representative Alan Thompson

Asst. Majority Floor Leader

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Senator William T. Brotherton Representative Lewis N. McManus

President of the Senate Speaker of the House

WISCONSIN

Representative Earl F. McEssy Representative Terry A. Willkom

Majority Leader

WYOMING

Senator Percy Davis Senator David N. Hitchcock

Democratic Floor Leader

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

State Legislative Leaders
The East Room
Friday, April 25, 1975 2:00 p.m.

1:58 p.m. Welcome and outline of Program

2:00 - 2:15 p.m. President Ford (15 minutes) - FULL PRESS COVERAGE

Introduce Paul O'Neill - Deputy Director, OMB

2: 15 - 2: 30 p.m. Paul O'Neill - Budget

2:30 - 2:33 p.m. Brief remarks - Jim Cannon

- --role of Vice President as Vice Chairman
- --Responsibilities long range planning as well as day to day operation
- --Rather than extensive remarks and to leave enough time for Dr. Kissinger, we'd like to hear what's on your mind. So let's move quickly to question and answers.
- -- A distinguished panel has gathered:
 - -Budget: Paul O'Neill will remain
 - -Revenue Sharing: Ed Schmultz, Acting Secretary of the Treasury
 - -Economic: Sid Jones, Counselor to the Secretary of the Treasury
 - -Energy: Mike Duval, Associate Director,
 Domestic Council
 - -A friend to many of you, Jim Falk, my Associate Director involved with State and local elected officials on a day to day basis, and the one who has put this program together today.
- 2:33 3:15 p.m. Q&A session (Jim Cannon moderates)

Introduce Secretary Henry Kissinger

3:15 - 3:30 p.m. Secretary Henry Kissinger

3: 30 p.m. Adjournment

NATIONAL CONTENENT JAKES MANAGES

Friday, April 25, 1975 The East Room 2:00 p.m.

BERNARD HILLENBRAND - Exec. Director, National Association of Counties

ALLEN PRITCHARD - Exec. Vice President, National League of Cities

PATRICK DELANEY - Assistant Director, Domestic Council

REPRESENTATIVE TOM JENSEN - Minority Leader, Tennessee

RICHARD DUNHAM - Deputy Director, Domestic Council

REPRESENTATIVE CHARLES F. KURFESS - Minority Leader, Ohio

JAMES CAVANAUGH - Deputy Director, Domestic Council

SENATOR KEVIN HARRINGTON - President of Senate, Massachusetts

SENATOR ALF JACOBSON - President of Senate, New Hampshire

ROBERT HARTMANN - Counsellor to the President

REPRESENTATIVE GEORGE B. ROBERTS - Speaker of House, New Hampshire

REPRESENTATIVE ALLAN F. LARSEN - Speaker of House, Idaho

SENATOR JAMES ELLSWORTH - President Pro Tem, Idaho

GRAHAM WATT - Director, Office of Revenue Sharing

JOHN GUNTHER - Exec. Director, U.S. Conference of Mayors

CHARLES BYRLEY - Exec. Director, National Governors' Conference

MARK KEANE - Exec. Director, International City Management Association

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS

TO STATE LEGISLATIVE LEADERS

FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 1975

I WANT TO WELCOME YOU ALL TO WHAT I HOPE WILL BE A VERY INFORMATIVE AND PRODUCTIVE SESSION.

I ALSO WANT TO PERSONALLY LET YOU KNOW THAT I

UNDERSTAND -- AND SYMPATHIZE WITH -- THE ENORMOUS PROBLEMS

YOU ARE WRESTLING WITH IN TRYING TO REVITALIZE STATE GOVERNMENT,

ESPECIALLY IN THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH.

AS A FORMER LEGISLATIVE LEADER MYSELF -- FOR

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS IN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS -- I HAVE THE

SCARS TO PROVE IT.

ACTUALLY, THEY WERE WONDERFUL YEARS, DESPITE THE OCCASIONAL FRUSTRATIONS AND THE SURE KNOWLEDGE THAT -- NO MATTER HOW LONG AND HARD YOU WORKED -- THERE WOULD ALWAYS BE MORE PROBLEMS THAN THERE WERE SOLUTIONS.

I'M SURE YOU MUST HAVE FOUND THIS SIMILARITY AT THE

STATE LEVEL. AND I'M SURE YOU AGREE THAT -- DESPITE THE

FRUSTRATIONS -- IT'S WORTH IT.

THERE'S NOTHING MORE SATISFYING THAT THE KNOWLEDGE

THAT -- EVEN IN A SMALL WAY -- YOU MAY HAVE MADE LIFE A LITTLE

BETTER FOR THE PEOPLE YOU WERE ELECTED TO SERVE. BUT I DON'T

NEED TO TELL YOU THAT. YOU WOULDN'T BE HERE IF YOU DIDN'T

FEEL EXACTLY THE SAME WAY.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS MEETING TODAY IS TO LET YOU KNOW

SOME OF THE THINGS WE ARE TRYING TO DO AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL TO

HELP YOU MAKE STATE GOVERNMENT AS VITAL AND RESPONSIVE AS

POSSIBLE. I HOPE IT WILL ALSO SERVE TO KEEP UP THE CLOSE,

PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP I HAVE TRIED TO DEVELOP WITH STATE

LEGISLATIVE LEADERS SINCE I BECAME PRESIDENT.

WAS ONE OF MY FIRST MEETINGS AS PRESIDENT -- JUST TWENTY DAYS

AFTER MOVING INTO THE WHITE HOUSE.

SOME OF YOU HERE TODAY MET WITH ME LAST YEAR.

SINCE THEN, I HAVE SOUGHT TO KEEP OUR DIALOGUE ALIVE.

I HAVE MET WITH MEMBERS OF STATE LEGISLATIVE BODIES BOTH IN

WASHINGTON AND AROUND THE COUNTRY AND I EXPECT TO MEET WITH

MANY MORE.

BUT I AM INTERESTED IN MORE THAN DIALOGUE.

ACTIONS ARE JUST AS IMPORTANT AS WORDS. FOR TOO LONG

POWER, EXPERTISE, INITIATIVE AND -- MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL -
REVENUES, HAVE BEEN DRAINED AWAY FROM YOUR STATE CAPITALS

TO THE NATIONAL CAPITAL IN WASHINGTON.

WITH THIS IN MIND, I HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT TO MAKE.

IMMEDIATELY BEFORE MEETING WITH YOU, I SIGNED THE TRANSMITTAL LETTERS FOR A MESSAGE TO CONGRESS AND A DRAFT BILL TO EXTEND AND REVISE GENERAL REVENUE SHARING.

IN BRIEF, THIS LEGISLATION WILL:

- -- RETAIN THE PRESENT REVENUE SHARING FORMULA;
- -- AUTHORIZE FUNDS FOR FIVE AND THREE-QUARTERS

YEARS;

-- INCREASE SOME CITIES' SHARE BY EASING PER CAPITA

RESTRAINTS;

-- IMPROVE THE PROTECTION OF INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS;

- -- INCREASE CITIZEN PARTICIPATION;
- -- PERMIT A MORE FLEXIBLE SYSTEM OF REPORTS, AND;
- -- REQUIRE RENEWAL CONSIDERATION TWO YEARS PRIOR

TO EXPIRATION.

I AM CONVINCED THAT THIS LEGISLATION IS IN THE BEST
INTERESTS NOT ONLY OF STATE GOVERNMENTS, BUT OF THE AMERICAN
PEOPLE. IT TAKES A GOOD CONCEPT -- REVENUE SHARING -- AND
EXTENDS IT, AT THE SAME TIME INCLUDING SOME IMPORTANT
IMPROVEMENTS AND REFINEMENTS. AND IT PROVIDES THE
TAXPAYER WITH A STRONG VOICE IN HOW HIS TAX MONEY IS SPENT
LOCALLY.

IN PROPOSING THIS LEGISLATION, I AM DOING MY PART

FOR STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT. I HOPE I CAN COUNT ON YOU

ON STATE LEGISLATIVE LEADERS, ON GOVERNORS, MAYORS AND

COUNTY OFFICIALS, TO DO YOUR PART -- TO GET BEHIND THIS

PROGRAM AND MAKE YOUR VOICES HEARD IN THE CONGRESS.

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AS I SAID, I UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF STATE
GOVERNMENT AND I KNOW THE PROBLEMS YOU FACE. I AM

DOING EVERYTHING I CAN TO HELP. BUT I WILL NEED YOUR

HELP TO SUCCEED. TOGETHER, WE CAN GET THE JOB DONE.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

END OF TEXT

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Dear	
Dear	•

I am a strong believer in the Federal system of shared sovereignty which protects freedom of action and promotes creativity at all levels of government. This Federal system was designed to enable all Americans to be served by that level of government closest to them and best able to act in the public interest.

In 1972, we made an historic decision to support and advance our Federal system with the passage of General Revenue Sharing. I am proud to be one of the bipartisan group of leaders and Members of the House and Senate who worked together to pass Revenue Sharing.

Since that time, I have had numerous meetings with State and local officials, who have told me that their number one priority in Federal programs was the continuation of General Revenue Sharing. In these discussions, I emphasized that I would be a strong advocate for reenactment for this essential program.

Today, I sent to the Congress a message and a proposed bill which would continue General Revenue Sharing in substantially its present form for an additional 5 3/4 years.

In addition, I am proposing that Congress continue to increase the amount by \$150 million each year, so that the total program over the full extended period will be \$39.85 billion.

I have asked the Domestic Council to provide you with a copy of my message to the Congress as well as the draft bill.

I am confident that you and the citizens you represent will benefit from this information and explanation of a program in which every American has a vital stake.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford