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"The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present. The
occasion is piled high with difficulty and we must rise to the occasion. As our
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American people, declaring:

"In these troubled years [just past], America has been going through a long
nightmare of war and division, of crime and inflation. Even more deeply, we have
gone through a long, dark night of the American spirit. But now that night is
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eager to get on with the quest for new greatness. They see challenges, and they
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Will the Democratic-controlled Congress meet that challenge? Will the
Congress ride the winds of change with the Republican Party? Or will the masters
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The times change, and political parties and governments must change with
them.

I find that change has swept through the Republican Party, ripping away the
cobwebs of reaction and the resistance to reform.

Who would have thought just a few short years ago that the Republican Party
would be championing the first major overhaul of the welfare system in four decades?

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The Democratic Party has become the party of the status quo, merely seeking to graft new growth onto old programs. The New Deal and the Fair Deal have become the American people's ordeal.

Despite Democratic Party roadblocks to change, the Republican Party has brought great progress to the American people in the past two years.

Despite the fact that Richard Nixon was the first President since Zachary Taylor to enter office with Congress firmly in control of the opposition party, the wheels of progress have been steadily turning and the record is there to prove it.

It was a Republican Administration that reversed the course of the war in Vietnam and wound it down.

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When a Republican President's proposals prevail with a Democratic Congress it is because popular support for the legislation is so apparent it cannot be ignored. The Democrats then try to steal the credit for the legislation—as they did with tax reform in 1969—and seek to amend the legislation beyond all recognition.

In spite of such tactics, Republicans can point to a formidable list of accomplishments in the last Congress—among them postal reform, draft reform, the Occupational Health and Safety Act, the Unemployment Compensation Amendments of 1970, the Organized Crime Control Act, and the Comprehensive Drug Control Act.

Now we look to the future. We look for more progress—progress toward peace, and progress toward prosperity in peacetime.

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With one stroke, the President has challenged the Nation to scrap what has failed and to turn instead toward meeting the needs of tomorrow in tomorrow's terms.

He has taken dramatic new initiatives on social legislation and on the structure of government—and the response among the people makes it clear he has captured the imagination of the nation.

What the President is asking for is a chance to prove that government can work.

He is seeking to do this by moving to replace the present scandalous welfare system, to establish work incentives and work requirements, to aid the working as well as the non-working poor with an income floor, to bolster state and local governments, to overhaul job training and job placement programs, to share Federal...
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Republicans want to reform government itself—so that instead of sliding further into musclebound ineffectiveness it at last can deliver the services it promises and bridge the gap between promise and performance.

As the first Republican President, Abraham Lincoln, said: "The legitimate object of government is to do for people what needs to be done, but which they cannot by individual effort do at all or do so well for themselves."

Through Federal revenue sharing, by putting the money where the problems are, we will be returning government to the people. And, as Lincoln so well expressed it: "We hold to the true Republican position. In leaving the people's business in their hands, we cannot be wrong."

There will be great opposition to revenue sharing and to overhaul of the Federal departments. We all know that old Federal programs never die; they don't even fade away. Their supporters are legion, and lobbyists are a determined breed.

But the American people will be heard—and they should be heard, at all levels of government. What man has made, man can change. And we must have the courage to change what should be changed.

We must tear away the tangle of red tape. We must find our way out of the bureaucratic maze. We must return government to the people.

The problems of New York are not the same as those of Michigan. The problems of Albany are not identical with those of Grand Rapids. That is why we need Federal revenue sharing.

Money is power. Moving money back to the states and cities means a flow of power back to the people. This is where the power belongs.

If Republicans succeed in returning power to the people, the people will turn to the Republican Party.

The people will turn to Republicanism because it is the Republican Party which seeks to make the people—young, middle-aged and old—a part of participatory democracy. It is the Republican Party which seeks to involve the people in building through better government a better life for all of us on this planet.

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