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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *9.8.*

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.

SOME OF YOU HERE TODAY MET WITH ME LAST YEAR. IT
WAS ONE OF MY FIRST MEETINGS AS PRESIDENT -- JUST TWENTY DAYS
AFTER MOVING INTO THE WHITE HOUSE.

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.

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