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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.....

TALKING POINTS:

MEETING WITH MAYORS ON

GENERAL REVENUE SHARING

THURSDAY, JULY 10, 1975

MAYORS' ADDRESS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MR. VICE PRESIDENT

MAYOR LANDRIEU (PHON: LAN-DRU)

DISTINGUISHED MAYORS AND GUESTS

OPTIONAL OPENING

AT THE OUTSET, LET ME CONGRATULATE MAYOR LANDRIEU
ON HIS ELECTION YESTERDAY AS PRESIDENT OF THE U.S.
CONFERENCE OF MAYORS.

OPTIONAL CLOSING

I HOPE THAT YOU WILL ALL FIND THESE BRIEFINGS USEFUL
AND INFORMATIVE AND I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING EACH OF
YOU LATER THIS AFTERNOON AT THE RECEPTION.

I NOW TAKE PLEASURE IN INTRODUCING TO YOU THE VICE PRESIDENT.

(YOU TAKE A SEAT ON THE PLATFORM WHILE THE VICE PRESIDENT
DELIVERS BRIEF REMARKS - 3 MINUTES- THEN YOU AND THE VICE
PRESIDENT DEPART TOGETHER.)

TOD

1. I AM PLEASED TO SEE SO MANY OF YOU HERE TODAY.

AND I LOOK FORWARD TO A FULL, OPEN AND FRUITFUL EXCHANGE

OF IDEAS ON A PROGRAM WHICH IS VITAL -- NOT JUST TO YOU

AS MAYORS -- BUT TO THE WHOLE NATION.

2. FIRST OF ALL, LET ME INVITE YOU TO JOIN
SOME OF MY CABINET MEMBERS AND STAFF AND ME IN A
RECEPTION AT THE CONCLUSION OF THIS PROGRAM IN THE
STATE DINING ROOM. I LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING AND
TALKING WITH EACH OF YOU AT THAT TIME.

3. LET ME REASSURE YOU AT THIS POINT THAT I AM NOT GOING TO PREACH TO YOU ABOUT FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY. YOU HAVE TOUGH DECISIONS AND HARD CHOICES TO MAKE EACH DAY, JUST AS I DO, AND WE ALL KNOW THE CONSTRAINTS UNDER WHICH WE AS ELECTED PUBLIC SERVANTS MUST OPERATE. ALTHOUGH I AM AWARE OF YOUR CONCERN OVER THE DEFENSE BUDGET, I THANK YOU FOR EASING YOUR STAND AGAINST IT AT THIS TIME. WE NEED AN ADEQUATE DEFENSE AND THIS BUDGET PROVIDES IT.

4. I RECOGNIZE THAT THE CITIES HAVE UNIQUE PROBLEMS AND DIFFICULT CHALLENGES, PARTICULARLY IN THE DIFFICULT ECONOMIC PERIOD WE HAVE BEEN PASSING THROUGH. BUT BY WORKING TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE PROGRESS.

5. I WOULD LIKE TO MENTION TWO SPECIFIC PROBLEMS

WHICH I URGE YOU TO SUPPORT: BOTH OF THEM WILL HELP YOUR
CITIES AND THE WHOLE COUNTRY. THE FIRST IS FOR AN
EXTENSION OF THE GENERAL REVENUE-SHARING PROGRAM, WHICH
I CONSIDER TO BE THE FOUNDATION FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE TO
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.

6. AS A MEMBER OF CONGRESS, I VOTED FOR
GENERAL REVENUE SHARING; I SUPPORTED IT AS VICE PRESIDENT.
AS PRESIDENT, I ADVOCATED RE-ENACTMENT OF THE GENERAL
REVENUE-SHARING BILL IN A MESSAGE TO CONGRESS IN APRIL
OF THIS YEAR.

7. YOU KNOW BETTER THAN I DO HOW THE PROGRAM
WORKS IN YOUR OWN CITIES. BUT IT'S APPARENTLY WORKING
WELL, BECAUSE I'VE HEARD CONSISTENTLY SINCE MY FIRST DAYS
AS PRESIDENT THAT THE MAYORS, ALONG WITH THE GOVERNORS,
STATE LEGISLATORS AND COUNTY OFFICIALS ACROSS THE COUNTRY,
REGARD CONTINUATION OF THE GENERAL REVENUE-SHARING
PROGRAM AS ONE OF THEIR HIGHEST PRIORITIES.

8. ALTHOUGH GENERAL REVENUE SHARING IS A SOUND PROGRAM, YOUR HELP IS NEEDED TO MAKE SURE IT IS CONTINUED. YOU HAVE WORKED TOGETHER IN THE PAST TO PURSUE A COMMON GOAL. I ASK YOU TO WORK WITH ME AND ON THE CONGRESS TO REACH A GOAL WHICH WE ALL SEEK -- A RESPONSIBLE AND EFFECTIVE REVENUE-SHARING PROGRAM.

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9. THE REVENUE-SHARING RESOLUTION ADOPTED

AT YOUR RECENT CONVENTION IS A POSITIVE STEP IN THAT

DIRECTION. AS A MEMBER OF CONGRESS WHO HELPED

WRITE THE ORIGINAL FORMULA, I APPLAUD YOUR DECISION

IN ASKING FOR ITS CONTINUATION IN SUBSTANTIALLY ITS

PRESENT FORM.

10. A SECOND PROPOSAL I WANT TO DISCUSS

WITH YOU IS MY NEW HIGHWAY BILL. EARLIER THIS WEEK,
I SENT TO THE CONGRESS PROPOSALS TO MODIFY THE HIGHWAY
TRUST FUND, AND CONSOLIDATE 30 FEDERAL HIGHWAY PROGRAMS
UNDER THREE BROADLY-BASED CATEGORIES DEALING, RESPECTIVELY,
WITH URBAN AND SUBURBAN TRANSPORTATION, RURAL
TRANSPORTATION AND HIGHWAY SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS.

11. THE HIGHWAY PROGRAM IS A CLASSIC EXAMPLE OF A FEDERAL PROGRAM THAT HAS EXPANDED OVER THE YEARS INTO AREAS OF STATE AND LOCAL RESPONSIBILITY, DISTORTING THE PRIORITIES OF THOSE GOVERNMENTS.

12. THE LEGISLATION I PROPOSED WOULD REFOCUS
FEDERAL ATTENTION ON THE INTERSTATE SYSTEM, WHICH IS CLEARLY
OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE, AND PROVIDE FLEXIBLE AID
FOR OTHER HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION IN A MANNER WHICH
FULLY RESPECTS STATE AND LOCAL DECISION-MAKING ROLES.

13. THIS IS CONSISTENT WITH MY GENERAL
PHILOSOPHY THAT WE SHOULD NOT, AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL,
EXTEND OUR INFLUENCE INTO AREAS WHICH OTHER LEVELS OF
GOVERNMENT CAN HANDLE BETTER.

14. THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR COMING.

I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING EACH OF YOU LATER THIS AFTERNOON.

END OF TEXT