The original documents are located in Box 11, “7/10/75 - Talking Points - Meeting with Mayors On General Revenue Sharing” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice
The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.
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.)
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.
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