

The original documents are located in Box 23, “2/13/76 - Remarks at Briefing on the Budget, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MAYOR SHAW

CONGRESSMAN FREY

CONGRESSMAN YOUNG

CONGRESSMAN BAFALIS

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

TALKING POINTS: BUDGET BRIEFING

FT. LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA

FEBRUARY 13, 1976

LET ME SAY HOW GOOD IT IS TO BE BACK IN FLORIDA.●

I'M ESPECIALLY GLAD TO HAVE THIS CHANCE TO TALK WITH YOU,
BECAUSE MY 27 YEARS IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAVE MADE ME
VERY AWARE OF THE COMMUNICATIONS GAP THAT SOMETIMES
EXISTS BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND THE OTHER PARTS OF THE
UNITED STATES.●

TOO MANY AMERICANS HAVE DIFFICULTY MAKING
THEIR VIEWS AND THEIR WISHES KNOWN TO THE PEOPLE
WITH WHOM THEY MUST COMMUNICATE IN WASHINGTON●
THIS DIFFICULTY WAS PROBABLY BEST SUMMED UP ON AN
ENVELOPE THAT I RECEIVED AT THE WHITE HOUSE ONE DAY●

IT WAS PLAINTIVELY ADDRESSED:

" TO PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD, OR /

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON ROCKEFELLER, OR /

SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER --

OR / JUST PLAIN ANYBODY WHO WILL LISTEN. "

TODAY I AM HERE TO LISTEN TO YOUR QUESTIONS

ABOUT MY BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 1977 -- AND ANSWER THEM
AS COMPLETELY AS POSSIBLE.

AS CITIZENS OF FLORIDA, I THINK YOU HAVE A
SPECIAL UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT MY BUDGET IS ALL ABOUT.

THE STORY OF YOUR STATE IS A STORY OF

SPECTACULAR GROWTH.

NO ONE KNOWS BETTER THAN YOU

THE OPPORTUNITIES MADE POSSIBLE BY SUCH GROWTH.

AT THE SAME TIME, NO ONE KNOWS BETTER THAN YOU

THE PROBLEMS GROWTH CAN BRING.

THE STORY OF THE FEDERAL BUDGET IS A SIMILAR ONE.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS SERVED AMERICANS AND

MADE OUR LIVES MORE SECURE IN MANY WAYS, FROM A

STRONG NATIONAL DEFENSE TO SOCIAL SECURITY.

BUT UNCHECKED GROWTH IN FEDERAL SPENDING POSES A THREAT

TO OUR ECONOMY, AND TO THE VERY PEOPLE WHOM THE

GOVERNMENT IS SUPPOSED TO PROTECT.

WE MUST KEEP FEDERAL SPENDING WITHIN REASONABLE

AND AFFORDABLE LIMITS● AT THE SAME TIME,

IT'S PLAIN FOOLISH TO JUNK GOOD FEDERAL PROGRAMS

ALONG WITH THE BAD●

AS AN EXAMPLE, THE GENERAL REVENUE SHARING

PROGRAM HAS PROVED AN EFFECTIVE WAY TO SERVE

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. AS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS,

THEY ARE JUST ONE-TWELFTH OF ONE CENT ON EVERY DOLLAR

THAT IS HANDLED.

REVENUE SHARING COMBINES THE EFFICIENCY

OF THE FEDERAL REVENUE SYSTEM WITH THE ON-THE-SPOT

JUDGMENTS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS●

AS YOU CAN SEE FROM THE CHART ON MY RIGHT,

FLORIDA WILL HAVE RECEIVED OVER 900 MILLION DOLLARS IN GENERAL

REVENUE SHARING FUNDS UNDER THE CURRENT PROGRAM ENDING

THIS YEAR. THIS MONEY HAS GONE DIRECTLY -- WITH A

MINIMUM OF RED TAPE -- TO YOUR STATE GOVERNMENT, COUNTY

AND CITY GOVERNMENTS.

Local & state

THAT MONEY HAS HELPED HOLD DOWN TAXES.

↑

IT HAS HELPED FIGHT CRIME.

IT HAS HELPED EDUCATE

CHILDREN.

IF THIS MONEY WERE CUT OFF, THE INEVITABLE

RESULT WOULD BE HIGHER LOCAL TAXES, OR REDUCED SERVICES,

OR BOTH.

REVENUE SHARING IS AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF A

COMMON SENSE WAY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CAN HELP THE PEOPLE.

THAT'S THE SORT OF STRENGTH I WANT TO DRAW ON•

THAT IS WHY I PROPOSE EXTENDING AND INCREASING GENERAL

REVENUE SHARING PAYMENTS•

AS YOU CAN SEE, UNDER MY BUDGET PROPOSALS
FLORIDA WOULD RECEIVE ALMOST ONE AND A QUARTER BILLION
DOLLARS FROM 1977 TO 1982. BRINGING IT CLOSER TO HOME,
OVER THAT PERIOD, BROWARD COUNTY WOULD RECEIVE OVER
15 MILLION DOLLARS AND THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
WOULD RECEIVE 12 MILLION DOLLARS.

THAT'S ALMOST 50 PERCENT MORE REVENUE SHARING MONEY

THAN THEY WILL HAVE GOTTEN UNDER THE FOUR YEAR PROGRAM

ENDING THIS YEAR●

IN MY BUDGET I HAVE ALSO PROPOSED TAX INCENTIVES

TO SPUR CAPITAL INVESTMENT IN AREAS OF HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT.

I WANT TO ENCOURAGE INDUSTRY TO BUILD NEW FACILITIES, TO

CREATE LASTING NEW JOBS. SUCH INVESTMENT WILL HELP TO

BUILD A BROADER, MORE DIVERSIFIED ECONOMIC BASE IN HARD HIT

AREAS, LIKE YOUR OWN.

WE ARE ALREADY ON THE RIGHT TRACK●

THE RATE OF INFLATION HAS BEEN CUT ALMOST IN HALF, AND

NEARLY ALL THE JOBS LOST DURING THE RECESSION HAVE

BEEN RECOVERED●

TO STAY ON THE RIGHT TRACK, I WANT TO HOLD DOWN

THE COST OF LIVING, BY HOLDING DOWN THE COST OF GOVERNMENT.

AND I WANT TO FOSTER A CLIMATE OF SENSIBLE ECONOMIC GROWTH

WHERE JOBS WILL BE CREATED BY THE DEMANDS OF OUR ECONOMY.

THIS BUDGET REPRESENTS MY VIEW OF WHAT THE

GOVERNMENT CAN DO. WHEN I SPEAK TO YOU OF MILLIONS

OR BILLIONS OF DOLLARS, I SEE MORE THAN A SERIES OF ZEROES.

I SEE THOSE FIGURES IN TERMS OF PEOPLE,
AND IN TERMS OF WHAT THIS MONEY -- WHICH COMES FROM
THE PEOPLE -- CAN DO FOR THE PEOPLE.

WE MUST CAREFULLY CONTROL FEDERAL SPENDING.

BUT WE MUST DO THIS BY ELIMINATING FEDERAL PROGRAMS THAT

DON'T WORK -- AND IMPROVING FEDERAL PROGRAMS THAT DO WORK.

WE JUST CAN'T DUMP THEM WHOLESALÉ INTO THE LAPS OF LOCAL

GOVERNMENT AND SAY, "OKAY, FELLAS. YOU FIND THE

TAX MONEY TO PAY FOR THEM."

WITH A REALISTIC AND RESPONSIBLE APPROACH,

WE CAN PROVIDE A NEW BALANCE BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND

THE INDIVIDUAL CITIZEN --- A NEW BALANCE BETWEEN STATE AND

LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT --- A NEW

BALANCE BETWEEN THOSE WHO PAY TAXES, AND THOSE WHO

BENEFIT FROM THEM.●

MY BUDGET IS MY COMMITMENT TO CONSTRUCTIVE
ACTION. I WANT TO ACHIEVE A BETTER, BRIGHTER LIFE
FOR ALL AMERICANS -- THE SORT OF LIFE THAT BROUGHT
SO MANY AMERICANS TO FLORIDA.

AND NOW I WILL BE GLAD TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS.

END OF TEXT