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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN . . .

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS:

NATIONAL GOVERNORS' CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 23, 1976

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

NATIONAL GOVERNORS' CONFERENCE WINTER MEETING

THANK YOU, GOVERNOR RAY.

GOVERNORS

GUESTS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

*Betty & I looking  
forward to Denver!*

DISTINGUISHED GOVERNORS AND ESTEEMED FELLOW

CANDIDATES:

*Betty + 2 - Dinner.*

I AM DELIGHTED TO GREET YOU ALL AT THIS HISTORIC

BICENTENNIAL WINTER MEETING OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNORS'

CONFERENCE.

THIS IS A MEMORABLE YEAR IN WHICH TO GIVE NEW BALANCE AND  
MEANING TO RELATIONS BETWEEN THE FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS.

I EAGERLY ANTICIPATE WORKING WITH YOU TO ACHIEVE BETTER

GOVERNMENT, AT ALL LEVELS, FOR ALL OF OUR PEOPLE.

IT HAS BEEN SAID BY SOME / THAT FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS

ARE THE MOST DEADLY BORING OF ALL POLITICAL ISSUES.

I DO NOT AGREE.

I FEEL A SENSE OF EXCITEMENT AND EAGER

ANTICIPATION AT THE PROGRESS WE ARE MAKING TO RESTORE TO YOU

AND TO YOUR STATES / MORE SAY ON DECISIONS AFFECTING THE

DAILY LIVES OF ALL CITIZENS.

THIS PROCESS DOES NOT BORE ME. IT REALLY  
URNS ME ON -- ESPECIALLY THE PROSPECT OF WORKING MORE  
CLOSELY WITH ALL 50 STATES TO RESTORE DURING THIS  
NATIONAL BICENTENNIAL, THE BALANCE AMONG US THAT WAS  
FIRST CONCEIVED BY OUR FOUNDING FATHERS 200 YEARS AGO.

GEORGE WASHINGTON WARNED AGAINST THE DANGER

OF THE MONOLITHIC, CENTRALIZED POWER OF THE FEDERAL

GOVERNMENT. IN RECENT YEARS, STATE AND LOCAL AUTHORITY

HAS ERODED AS THE FEDERAL ESTABLISHMENT HAS GROWN.



THIS TREND -- OF CATEGORICAL GRANTS AND DECISION-MAKING  
BY THE BUREAUS AND AGENCIES OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT --  
HAS NOT MADE LIFE EASIER FOR THE BENEFICIARY, / NOR HAS IT  
MADE GOVERNMENT MORE RESPONSIVE.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT NOW EMPLOYS

MORE PEOPLE THAN THE ENTIRE COMBINED POPULATION

OF THE THIRTEEN ORIGINAL STATES / WHEN OUR FOUNDERS

RESERVED TO STATE GOVERNMENTS / AND TO THE PEOPLE /

ALL POWER NOT BESTOWED UPON THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT.

WHEN YOUR STATE CONSTITUTIONS WERE ADOPTED,  
GREAT CARE WAS TAKEN TO PRESERVE THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF  
SELF-GOVERNMENT•

AMERICANS HAVE ALWAYS WANTED THE DECISIONS  
AFFECTING THEIR DAILY LIVES MADE AT HOME -- IN THEIR LOCAL  
COMMUNITIES AND THEIR OWN STATES•

BUT FREEDOM IS NOW MISINTERPRETED BY TOO MANY  
INDIVIDUALS TO MEAN FREEDOM FROM PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY /  
AND INSTANT GRATIFICATION OF ALL DESIRES BY THE RICH  
UNCLE SAM IN WASHINGTON. IN PURSUIT OF THAT QUEST /-  
AND THAT FANTASY -- / THE FEDERAL BUREAUCRACY HAS  
GROWN AND GROWN.

POWER IS DRAINED AWAY FROM YOUR STATES, YOUR COUNTIES,  
YOUR CITIES, AND YOUR TOWNS TO AN INCREASINGLY CENTRALIZED  
NATIONAL GOVERNMENT - ALWAYS BIGGER, ALWAYS MORE  
MEDDLESOME - BUT NOT ALWAYS MORE EFFICIENT NOR MORE  
RESPONSIVE TO LOCAL NEEDS.

THIS PROCESS HAS UNDERMINED INDIVIDUAL PRIDE AND

RESOURCEFULNESS. IT THREATENS OUR ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

AND DIMS OUR VISION OF A FUTURE IN WHICH EVERY CITIZEN

CAN HELP DETERMINE HIS OR HER FATE.

YOU AND I MUST MAKE SOME HARD DECISIONS

THIS YEAR.

IT IS ALL TOO EASY TO OFFER UNREALISTIC  
SUGGESTIONS IN THE HEAT OF AN ELECTION YEAR.  
BUT A PRESIDENT, OR A GOVERNOR IN OFFICE,  
HAS TO PROVIDE ACCOUNTABLE AND REALISTIC  
LEADERSHIP // WITH HONEST ANSWERS TO ALL  
CONSTITUENTS.

I WILL NEVER IRRESPONSIBLY TRANSFER

SERIOUS PROBLEMS FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

TO STATE GOVERNMENTS WITHOUT REGARD FOR HUMAN

NEEDS AND FISCAL REALITIES. I AM DETERMINED TO

PRESERVE A CONSTRUCTIVE PARTNERSHIP WITH THE

STATES ON ALL MUTUAL CONCERNS THROUGH COOPERATION

-- AND NOT THROUGH TREATMENT THAT IS WORSE

THAN THE DISEASE.



LET US COOPERATE TO MOVE THE DECISION-MAKING

PROCESS BACK TO THE STATES AND TO THE PEOPLE•

LET US WORK TO ASSURE THAT WE REALLY HELP THE NEEDY /

NOT THE GREEDY•

WE MUST CLARIFY AND SIMPLIFY THE COMPLEX, FRUSTRATING,  
AND INEFFICIENT REGULATIONS AND CATEGORICAL GRANT RIGIDITY  
THAT INVITE ABUSES AND RIP-OFFS. THOSE SWORN TO PROTECT  
THE PUBLIC INTEREST/MUST ASSURE THAT EVERY TAX DOLLAR IS USED  
HONESTLY AND EFFECTIVELY.

IN THE CAMPAIGN FOR GENERAL REVENUE SHARING,

I HAVE WORKED LONGER AND HARDER FOR THAT LEGISLATION

*almost*  
THAN ANY OTHER.  
1

*well*  
YOU ARE AWARE OF HOW THIS  
1

30.2 BILLION DOLLAR, FIVE-YEAR PROGRAM / IS NOW ADMINISTERED,  
1

*at the federal level*

AT A COST OF A TWELFTH OF A PENNY FOR EVERY DOLLAR SPENT.

YOU KNOW HOW OUR STATES ARE NOW MAKING STATE DECISIONS

ON THE LOCAL USE OF THEIR FEDERAL TAXES.

*vehemently*  
I AM NOW  
↓ ↑

SEEKING TO EXTEND THIS EXCELLENT PROGRAM FOR FIVE AND

THREE-QUARTER ADDITIONAL YEARS.

IT WAS LAST APRIL - | ALMOST A YEAR AGO - |

WHEN I ASKED THE CONGRESS TO RENEW REVENUE SHARING SO

THAT YOU COULD MAKE TIMELY PLANS FOR YOUR FISCAL 1977

STATE BUDGETS. *Regrettably* THE CONGRESS DID NOT SHARE MY SENSE

OF URGENCY. IT HAS FAILED TO ACT. THE NATION NEEDS

*very*  
YOUR HELP AND I AM PLEASED BY YOUR RESPONSE.

I HAVE SEEN YOUR WARNING OF HIGHER TAXES OR  
DRASTIC CURTAILMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES / IF FEDERAL REVENUE  
SHARING IS DISCONTINUED•

YOU ARE RIGHT IN SAYING THAT OUR PRESENT  
ECONOMIC RECOVERY WOULD BE ENDANGERED IF THE CONGRESS  
WERE TO END REVENUE SHARING. IT COULD FORCE  
THE STATES TO FIRE WORKERS, TO INCREASE STATE TAXES,  
AND EVEN TO INSTITUTE NEW TAXATION.

YOU KNOW AND I KNOW THAT WE MUST

JOIN FORCES TO KEEP REVENUE SHARING ALIVE.



I ASK YOU TODAY, AS THE CHIEF EXECUTIVES  
OF YOUR STATES, TO JOIN ME IN MOVING THE MOUNTAIN  
WHICH WE KNOW AS CAPITOL HILL. THE WHOLE CONCEPT  
OF BALANCED FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS IS AT STAKE.

YOU ARE MORE AWARE THAN ANYONE OF THE NEW REALITIES

IN YOUR STATES. IF WE FAIL THIS YEAR TO ASSURE CONTINUED

MOVEMENT TOWARD GENERAL REVENUE SHARING, THERE WILL BE

A NEW ESCALATION IN THE CATEGORICAL PROGRAMS OF AN

INCREASINGLY CENTRALIZED GOVERNMENT.

I AM DETERMINED TO SHAKE-UP AND SHAPE-UP,  
WITH YOUR HELP, THE WORTHWHILE AND PROVEN PROGRAMS  
WE NOW HAVE / RATHER THAN PERMIT A PROLIFERATION OF NEW AND  
UNTRIED PROGRAMS. CATEGORICAL GRANTS AND CATEGORICAL  
EXPECTATIONS HAVE CREATED MORE PROBLEMS THAN THEY HAVE SOLVED.

WHILE I EXPECTED SOME CRITICISM OF MY STATE OF THE UNION AND  
BUDGET MESSAGES, / I REGRET THE REVIVAL OF THE OLD KNEE-JERK  
RESPONSE - / THAT I FAILED TO PROPOSE ENOUGH NEW  
FEDERAL PROGRAMS.

WE ALREADY HAVE MORE THAN ENOUGH PROGRAMS /-

WHAT WE NEED IS QUALITY, NOT QUANTITY. MY MESSAGES

CONTAIN PROPOSALS THAT NOT ONLY IMPROVE QUALITY --

BUT ALSO REDUCE QUANTITY.

---

MESS CHARTS

---

I AM ENCOURAGED BY THE WAY STATES AND LOCALITIES  
ARE RESPONDING TO THE CHALLENGE OF BALANCED FEDERALISM.  
BEHIND THE BLOCK GRANT CONCEPT IS THE CONVICTION THAT YOU CAN  
DO A BETTER JOB IN MANY WAYS THAN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

YOUR PERFORMANCE GIVES ME NEW FAITH. BUT WE HAVE TO

DO EVEN MORE. THE STATES AND LOCALITIES CAN LEAD THE WAY.

THESE BLOCK GRANTS PROVIDE A DRAMATIC AND EFFECTIVE WAY

TO SERVE LOCAL PRIORITIES.

UNDER ONE SUCH BLOCK GRANT, THE COMMUNITY

*enacted in 1974 after long & controversial struggle.*

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM:

1

--- FEDERAL REGULATIONS WHICH A COMMUNITY MUST

FOLLOW/HAVE DECREASED FROM 2,600 PAGES UNDER THE CATEGORICAL

PROGRAMS/TO 25 PAGES FOR THE BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM.



--- A COMMUNITY NEED ONLY FILE ONE APPLICATION,  
CONSISTING OF 50 PAGES, / RATHER THAN THE PREVIOUS AVERAGE  
OF FIVE APPLICATIONS CONSISTING OF 1,400 PAGES•

--- PROCESSING AND APPROVAL OF A COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION AVERAGED 49 DAYS, /  
ALTHOUGH UNDER THE CATEGORICAL URBAN RENEWAL PROGRAM,  
PROCESSING TOOK OVER 2 YEARS•

DUE TO THE SUCCESS WE HAVE HAD IN SIMPLIFYING  
THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, I AM RECOMMENDING  
THAT WE USE THIS APPROACH IN OTHER FEDERAL PROGRAMS  
INVOLVING SOCIAL SERVICES, HEALTH, EDUCATION AND  
CHILD NUTRITION•

THEREFORE, TODAY I AM ASKING THE CONGRESS  
TO APPROVE THE COMMUNITY SERVICES ACT. IT WILL  
SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE THE FLEXIBILITY OF STATES  
IN DELIVERING SOCIAL SERVICES TO LOW INCOME FAMILIES.  
I REFER TO SUCH PROGRAMS AS DAY-CARE, FOSTER CARE  
AND HOME-MAKER SERVICES.

MANY OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES NOW PLACED  
BY LAW IN THE HANDS OF FEDERAL BUREAUCRATS WILL BE  
PASSED BACK TO ELECTED OFFICIALS.

THE BASIC RESPONSIBILITY ON HOW TO BEST MEET THE NEEDS

OF A STATE'S LOW INCOME FAMILIES WILL BE RETURNED TO EACH STATE●

THIS DETERMINATION CAN BEST BE MADE THROUGH AN OPEN PROCESS

OF LOCAL PLANNING THAT DIRECTLY INVOLVES ITS CITIZENS●

LATER THIS WEEK, I WILL TRANSMIT PROPOSALS  
CONSOLIDATING MEDICAID AND 15 OTHER CATEGORICAL HEALTH  
PROGRAMS INTO A SINGLE 10 BILLION DOLLAR BLOCK GRANT.  
WITH IT IS A COMMITMENT TO EACH OF YOU THAT YOUR STATE  
WILL RECEIVE MORE FEDERAL FUNDS FROM THIS SINGLE NEW  
PROGRAM IN FY 1977, THAN YOUR STATE RECEIVED IN 1976  
FROM THE 16 EXISTING PROGRAMS.

THE HARD CHOICES OF HOW BEST TO MEET THE  
HEALTH NEEDS OF YOUR STATE WILL NO LONGER BE DEFINED  
BY A COMPLICATED AND CATEGORICAL TANGLE OF FEDERAL  
REGULATIONS. THEY WILL BE FOR YOU AND YOUR CITIZENS  
TO DETERMINE / IN AN OPEN AND LOCALLY RESPONSIVE PROCESS.

I WILL VERY SOON SUBMIT TO THE CONGRESS

AN EDUCATION BLOCK GRANT PROPOSAL RECOGNIZING

NATIONAL CONCERNS THAT CALL FOR SPECIAL EMPHASIS.

IT WILL GIVE STATES MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY IN USING

FEDERAL DOLLARS TO MEET EDUCATIONAL NEEDS.



I KNOW THAT YOU HAVE BEEN IN THE FOREFRONT  
OF SUCH ISSUES AS SCHOOL FINANCE REFORM AND THE EDUCATION  
OF THE HANDICAPPED. IN THE LAST DECADE, YOU HAVE  
DEMONSTRATED THE ABILITY AND THE WILLINGNESS TO TACKLE  
EDUCATION PROBLEMS. THERE IS NO REASON WHATSOEVER  
FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO TREAT YOU / AS IF WE DOUBTED  
YOUR COMMITMENT TO GOALS SHARED BY ALL AMERICANS.

MY PROPOSALS WILL REDUCE THE ADMINISTRATIVE  
BURDENS ON STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS WHILE ASSURING  
A FEDERAL COMMITMENT TO ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY  
EDUCATION. NO STATE WILL RECEIVE LESS FEDERAL MONEY  
UNDER MY PROPOSAL / THAN IT DID IN FISCAL YEAR 1976  
UNDER ALL THE PROGRAMS TO BE CONSOLIDATED.

IN OFFERING THESE PROPOSALS, I DO NOT SUGGEST

A RETREAT FROM NATIONAL CONCERNS/NOR THE WHOLESALE

ELIMINATION OF FEDERAL FUNDING. I INTEND TO MAKE

FEDERAL DOLLARS AVAILABLE TO YOU FOR YOUR STATES.

BUT I WILL ALSO MINIMIZE OR ELIMINATE

THE REQUIREMENT THAT STATE FINANCIAL RESOURCES BE USED

TO QUALIFY FOR FEDERAL MATCHING FUNDS.

MY ADMINISTRATION WILL NOT DISMANTLE PROGRAMS

THAT REALLY WORK -- THAT REACH THE PEOPLE AND MEET

THEIR NEEDS. I WILL NOT RETREAT FROM MY COMMITMENT

TO WISE FEDERAL SPENDING TO MEET LOCAL NEEDS. BUT WE

INTEND TO IMPROVE THESE PROGRAMS AND, WHEREVER

APPROPRIATE, TO RETURN DECISION-MAKING POWER TO THE

STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL.

MY ACTIONS HAVE SHOWN MY WILLINGNESS

TO WORK WITH YOU. INDEED, I HAVE MADE IT A POINT

TO CONFER PERSONALLY WITH EVERY ONE OF THE 50 GOVERNORS

SINCE I ASSUMED THE PRESIDENCY.

AS A CONGRESSMAN, I LISTENED TO THE WARNINGS  
OF PRESIDENT EISENHOWER. HE SAID THAT UNLESS  
WE PRESERVE THE TRADITIONAL POWER AND BASIC RESPONSIBILITIES  
OF STATE GOVERNMENT, / WE WOULD NOT RETAIN THE KIND OF  
AMERICA PREVIOUSLY KNOWN. WE WOULD HAVE, / INSTEAD, /  
QUITE ANOTHER KIND OF AMERICA.

THE PENDULUM HAS SWUNG VERY FAR IN THE  
DIRECTION THAT PRESIDENT EISENHOWER FEARED. BUT I AM  
CONFIDENT THAT THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE, VOICED ALL ACROSS  
AMERICA, IS BEGINNING TO BRING THE PENDULUM OF POWER  
BACK TO A BALANCED CENTER.



THE PRESERVATION OF THE 50 STATES AS VIGOROUS

UNITS OF GOVERNMENT IS VITAL. WE MUST MAKE SURE

THAT EACH LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMS ITS PROPER

FUNCTION -- NO MORE AND NO LESS. WE MUST DO THIS

TO PRESERVE OUR SYSTEM AND TO DRAW NEW ENERGY FROM

THE SOURCE OF ALL GOVERNMENT POWER -- THE PEOPLE.

I BELIEVE IN THE VITALITY OF AMERICA•

I REAFFIRM MY FAITH IN THE UNIQUE VALUE OF A

GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM OF SHARED RESPONSIBILITY• I BELIEVE

IN OUR CAPACITY TO FOSTER DIVERSITY WITHIN UNITY,

TO ENCOURAGE INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY, BOTH PRIVATELY

AS WELL AS PUBLICLY, AND TO ACHIEVE A PROPER BALANCE BETWEEN

GOVERNMENT AND THE GOVERNED•

THE VISION OF 200 YEARS AGO REMAINS VALID•

IT IS A VISION OF STATES UNITED INTO A NATION -

THE UNITED STATES - WHERE THE GOVERNMENT SERVES

AND THE PEOPLE RULE•

IT IS A CHALLENGE TO THOSE OF US ENTRUSTED

WITH THE HIGH HONOR OF GOVERNING•

IT IS A CHALLENGE

THAT WILL BE MET•

THANK YOU VERY MUCH•

END OF TEXT

~~BUT IN A TIME OF CAREFUL BUDGETING AT ALL LEVELS OF~~

~~GOVERNMENT, WE MUST ASSIST THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST.~~

*members or Democrats*

*financial*

I WILL NOT ~~DICTATE~~ THE USE OF STATE RESOURCES TO MEET

*federal*  
*1*

MATCHING REQUIREMENTS.

THE BASIC RESPONSIBILITY FOR MEETING THE NEEDS  
OF A STATES' LOW INCOME FAMILIES WILL BE RETURNED  
TO EACH STATE. THIS DETERMINATION CAN BEST BE  
MADE THROUGH AN OPEN PROCESS OF LOCAL PLANNING  
THAT DIRECTLY INVOLVES ITS CITIZENS.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT NOW EMPLOYS MORE THAN

THREE MILLION PEOPLE.

THIS IS MORE THAN THE ENTIRE

COMBINED POPULATION OF THE 13 ORIGINAL STATES WHEN OUR

FOUNDERS RESERVED TO STATE GOVERNMENTS / AND TO THE PEOPLE /

ALL POWER NOT BESTOWED UPON THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT.