

**The original documents are located in Box 29, “4/23/76 - Remarks at a Public Forum at the Vanderburgh County Auditorium and Convention Center, Evansville, Indiana” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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- THANK YOU GOVERNOR BOWEN
- MAYOR LLOYD
- REV. HEADY
- DISTINGUISHED GUESTS
- LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN. . . .

PUBLIC FORUM IN EVANSVILLE, INDIANA

FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 1976

IT'S A VERY GREAT PLEASURE TO BE HERE THIS MORNING

IN EVANSVILLE.

AS YOU KNOW, I'M SOMETHING OF A SPORTS FAN,

*no 2 congratulate all you Hoosiers on that point*

*also recognize*  
SO LET ME ~~START BY RECOGNIZING~~ YOUR CITY'S CONTRIBUTION

TO SOME OF AMERICA'S GREAT PROFESSIONAL TEAMS.

YOU GAVE BOB GRIESE (GREASY) TO THE DOLPHINS, JERRY SLOAN

TO THE BULLS -- AND YOU GAVE A HOME TO THE TIGERS' TRIPLETS!

I UNDERSTAND THEIR FIRST HOME GAME OF THE SEASON

IS THIS EVENING, AND I WISH THEM A LOT OF LUCK.

BUT JUDGING BY THEIR RECORD LAST YEAR, I DON'T THINK

THEY ARE GOING TO NEED MUCH LUCK.

PEOPLE WITH TALENT AND ENERGY CREATE THEIR OWN

GOOD FORTUNE.

AND EVANSVILLE ITSELF IS A GOOD EXAMPLE.

THE PEOPLE OF EVANSVILLE HAVE KNOWN HARD TIMES•

BUT THE PEOPLE OF EVANSVILLE HAVE SHOWN THEY HAVE THE DRIVE

AND THE INITIATIVE TO OVERCOME THEIR SETBACKS AND TO BUILD

FOR A BETTER FUTURE•

THE PROGRESS YOU HAVE MADE OVER THE YEARS,  
THROUGH THE COOPERATION OF YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT,  
CITIZENS AND BUSINESS COMMUNITY IS A FINE EXAMPLE  
OF HOW AMERICANS CAN SOLVE THEIR OWN PROBLEMS AT THE  
LOCAL LEVEL. YOU ARE RIGHT TO BE PROUD OF YOUR  
ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

IT IS ALSO RIGHT THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

HELPED YOU IN YOUR EFFORTS. BECAUSE THAT IS EXACTLY

WHAT I FEEL THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD DO -- NOT TAKE RESPONSIBILITY

AWAY FROM THE PEOPLE, BUT GIVE THEM THE FREEDOM TO USE

THEIR OWN ENERGIES.





A LITTLE LATER THIS MORNING WE ARE GOING TO VISIT

THE WALKWAY, AND I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING THAT.

BECAUSE THE WALKWAY WAS YOUR IDEA - IT WAS YOUR PROJECT -

AND CITY AND PRIVATE FUNDS PAID FOR 30 PERCENT OF ITS COST.

BUT THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

ALSO MADE FUNDS AVAILABLE, SO YOU COULD REALIZE THAT IDEA --

SO YOU COULD BE FREE TO DO WHAT WAS RIGHT FOR YOU.

JUST RECENTLY, WE'VE SEEN ANOTHER EXAMPLE  
OF YOUR LOCAL INITIATIVE, AND OF HOW THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT  
HELPED YOU TO HELP YOURSELVES•

WITH THE COOPERATION OF YOUR CITY GOVERNMENT, UNDER THE  
FINE LEADERSHIP OF MAYOR RUSS LLOYD, WITH THE COOPERATION  
OF UNIONS AND MANAGEMENT, YOU'VE PUT TOGETHER A  
LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE THAT IS GOING TO PLAY  
A VERY IMPORTANT PART IN YOUR COMMUNITY'S ECONOMIC FUTURE.

*Mayor Lloyd  
or Mrs. Brown  
Evansville*

I AM GLAD TO ANNOUNCE THAT NEXT MONTH THE COMMITTEE

WILL BE FEATURED AT A NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON

SPONSORED BY THE FEDERAL MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION SERVICE.

AT THAT CONFERENCE, THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE WILL HAVE

THE CHANCE TO TELL THE EVANSVILLE STORY TO INTERESTED GROUPS

FROM ALL OVER THE NATION.

ONCE AGAIN, THAT COMMITTEE WAS A LOCAL IDEA.

ONCE AGAIN, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WAS ABLE TO HELP YOU

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE. THE FEDERAL MEDIATION AND

CONCILIATION SERVICE MADE MANPOWER AVAILABLE TO HELP YOU

IN YOUR TASK.

LATELY WE HAVE HEARD A LOT OF TALK ABOUT WHAT

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CAN'T DO. BUT AS A CONGRESSMAN

FOR 25 YEARS, AND AS PRESIDENT FOR 20 MONTHS, I HAVE COME

TO KNOW WHAT THE GOVERNMENT CAN DO -- AND WHAT IT SHOULD DO.

ONE THING WE SHOULD DO IS TO EXTEND GENERAL

REVENUE SHARING.

AS WE ARE ALL AWARE, THE FEDERAL

GOVERNMENT IS VERY GOOD AT COLLECTING TAXES. AND AT THE

LOCAL LEVEL, <sup>now run</sup> PEOPLE ARE VERY GOOD AT MAKING DECISIONS.

SO I HAVE PROPOSED THAT WE EXTEND THE REVENUE SHARING PROGRAM,

AND CHANNEL EVEN MORE OF THAT TAX MONEY BACK TO YOU,

THROUGH YOUR STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.

SINCE REVENUE SHARING BEGAN IN 1972,

THE CITY OF EVANSVILLE HAS RECEIVED ALMOST TEN MILLION DOLLARS

IN REVENUE SHARING FUNDS. THAT MONEY HELPED TO PAY

FOR PUBLIC SERVICES.



IT ENABLED YOU TO IMPROVE YOUR CITY BY REPAVING HALF  
THE STREETS, AND BY UPGRADING FIRE-FIGHTING EQUIPMENT.  
RIGHT NOW THOSE REVENUE SHARING FUNDS ARE BEING USED  
TO PROTECT YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES FROM CRIME.

REVENUE SHARING IS A MATTER OF COMMON SENSE•

AND ON ANOTHER FRONT, MY ADMINISTRATION HAS USED COMMON  
SENSE AND TAKEN A STEADY, STABLE APPROACH TO OUR ECONOMY•

AND WE CAN SEE THE RESULTS• EVERYTHING THAT'S SUPPOSED  
TO BE GOING UP IS GOING UP; AND EVERYTHING THAT IS SUPPOSED  
TO BE COMING DOWN IS COMING DOWN•

IN THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF 1976, WE HAD OUR  
SMALLEST QUARTERLY INFLATION RATE IN ALMOST FOUR YEARS.  
AND IN THOSE SAME THREE MONTHS, OUR NATIONAL PRODUCT GREW  
AT AN ANNUAL RATE OF SEVEN AND ONE-HALF PERCENT. THAT  
SHOWS WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A HEALTHY ECONOMIC RECOVERY,  
AND THAT'S GOOD NEWS FOR EVERY AMERICAN.

THE SOUND AND STEADY POLICIES OF THIS ADMINISTRATION

HAVE RESTORED CONFIDENCE TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

OUR POLICIES HAVE CREATED AN ECONOMIC CLIMATE

THAT GIVES AMERICANS THE FREEDOM TO WORK, TO EARN,

TO BUY AND TO INVEST THE WAY THEY WANT TO.

I BELIEVE IN A BALANCED BUDGET.

BUT I BELIEVE IT SHOULD BE BALANCED BY CUTTING THE GROWTH OF  
GOVERNMENT SPENDING, NOT BY INCREASING YOUR TAXES•

AS A MATTER OF FACT, WE CUT YOUR TAXES LAST YEAR,  
SO YOU WOULD HAVE MORE BUYING POWER• AND I HAVE PROPOSED  
AN ADDITIONAL TAX CUT AS OF JULY 1st, THAT I HOPE THE CONGRESS  
DOESN'T DENY TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE•

WE COMBINED THOSE TAX PROPOSALS WITH  
STRONG EFFORTS TO HOLD DOWN GOVERNMENT SPENDING, AND I'D  
SAY WE HAVE BEEN PRETTY SUCCESSFUL THERE. SINCE I'VE BEEN  
PRESIDENT, I HAVE USED MY VETO TO SAVE 13 BILLION DOLLARS IN  
FEDERAL SPENDING.

THEY SAY 13 IS AN UNLUCKY NUMBER, BUT I'D SAY 13 BILLION  
IS PRETTY LUCKY FOR YOU AND FOR ALL AMERICAN TAXPAYERS,  
WHEN IT'S IN YOUR POCKET INSTEAD OF THE GOVERNMENT'S.

WE ARE GOING TO KEEP HOLDING DOWN THE COST OF  
LIVING, BY HOLDING DOWN THE COST OF GOVERNMENT. WE ARE  
*make certain*  
GOING TO ~~KEEP MAKING SURE~~ THAT YOUR TAX DOLLARS WORK AS  
HARD FOR YOU, AS YOU DID FOR THEM.

AND ONE THING I PROMISE YOU - WE'RE GOING TO

KEEP SLICING AWAY AT FEDERAL PAPERWORK AND RED TAPE.

MY ADMINISTRATION HAS MADE A GOOD START ALREADY.

I HAVE MADE A SERIES OF CONCRETE, CONSTRUCTIVE PROPOSALS

TO REFORM OUR REGULATORY AGENCIES. I HAVE APPOINTED

YOUR GOVERNOR, OTIS BOWEN, TO THE FEDERAL PAPERWORK

COMMISSION.



AND I HAVE DIRECTED ALL FEDERAL AGENCIES AND  
DEPARTMENTS TO REDUCE THE BURDEN OF PAPERWORK THEY PUT ON  
THE AMERICAN PUBLIC BY AT LEAST TEN PERCENT BY JUNE 30TH.

~~I TOLD THEM~~ I EXPECT PROMPT RESULTS -- AND I MEAN IT.

I DON'T BELIEVE AMERICA'S GOVERNMENT SHOULD  
WASTE ITS PEOPLE'S TIME OR MONEY.

BUT NEITHER SHOULD IT BE STINGY WITH COMMON SENSE•

AMERICA NEEDS A GOVERNMENT THAT PROTECTS ITS PEOPLE'S

FREEDOM, \ THAT RESPECTS THEIR INDEPENDENCE, \ AND THAT

RESPONDS TO THEIR NEEDS•

THAT'S THE KIND OF GOVERNMENT I'VE BEEN WORKING

FOR, FOR THE LAST 20 MONTHS•

AND WITH YOUR SUPPORT ON MAY 4TH AND NEXT NOVEMBER,

THAT'S THE KIND OF GOVERNMENT WE'LL HAVE FOR THE NEXT FOUR

YEARS AS WELL.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

NOW LET ME ANSWER SOME OF YOUR QUESTIONS.

END OF TEXT