The original documents are located in Box 30, "4/27/76 - Remarks to State and Local Government Officials at the Barksdale Air Force Base Officers' Club, Bossier City, LA" of the President's Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

BARKSDALE AFB OFFICERS CLUB

BOSSIER CITY, LOUISIANA

TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 1976

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS -- ELECTED OFFICIALS MEETING

THANK YOU, CONGRESSMAN JOE WAGGONNER

GOVERNOR EDWARDS

CONGRESSMAN BREAUX

MAYOR ALLEN

MAYOR CATHY

GENERAL HOBAN (PH: HO-BIN)

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE FOR ME TO MEET

WITH SO MANY LOCAL OFFICIALS FROM THROUGHOUT

THE GREAT STATE OF LOUISIANA.

AS ALL OF US KNOW, THE FRAMERS OF THE CONSTITUTION

CAREFULLY CONSTRUCTED A SYSTEM IN WHICH AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY WERE TO BE SHARED BY DIFFERENT LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT, AS WELL AS BY THE THREE BRANCHES OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

THAT SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHED

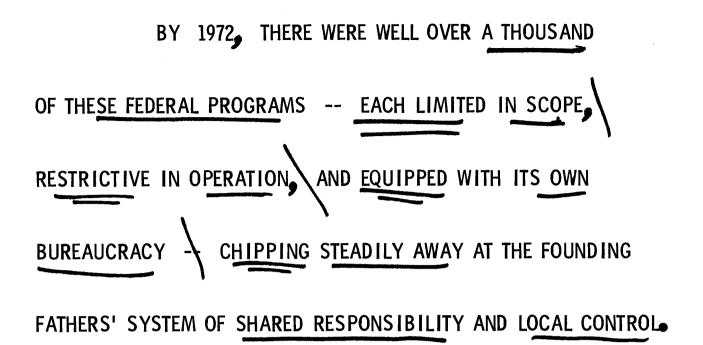
BY THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION TWO CENTURIES AGO CAN BE

EFFECTIVELY REAFFIRMED BY THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS

THIS YEAR -- AND IT MUST BE.

FOR TOO LONG, THE <u>REINS OF POWER IN THIS COUNTRY</u> HAVE BEEN GATHERED + TIGHTER AND TIGHTER + INTO THE <u>HANDS OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT</u>. FOR TOO LONG, PROGRAMS OF <u>NARROW CATEGORICAL</u> AID <u>MULTIPLIED</u> -- AT GREAT AND <u>GROWING EXPENSE</u> TO THE FEDERAL BUDGET AND THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER.

-4-



WITH THE ENACTMENT OF THE REVENUE SHARING PROGRAM IN 1972, THE CONGRESS MADE AN IMPORTANT AND HISTORIC BREAK WITH THIS UNWISE AND UNHEALTHY TREND.

AS REPUBLICAN LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

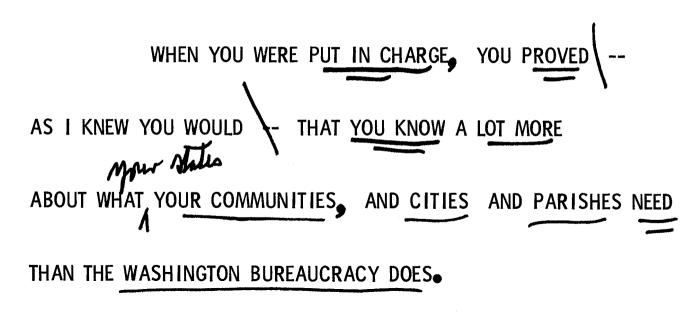
I WAS A STAUNCH SUPPORTER OF THE REVENUE SHARING CONCEPT --

AND I HAVE BEEN PROUD OF IT EVER SINCE.

IN THE FOUR YEARS SINCE THE REVENUE SHARING

PROGRAM BEGAN, STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS HAVE PROVEN BEYOND DOUBT THE MERIT OF LOCAL CONTROL OVER LOCAL CONCERNS ---

AND I CONGRATULATE YOU FOR IT.



THAT BUREAUCRACY HAS BEEN HELD AT AN ABSOLUTE

MINIMUM IN THE OPERATION OF REVENUE SHARING.

ONLY ABOUT ONE-EIGHTH OF ONE PENNY OF EVERY DOLLAR SPENT FOR REVENUE SHARING GOES TO THE WASHINGTON BUREAUCRACY. THAT'S AN AMAZING STATISTIC, AND IT'S A VERY ENCOURAGING SIGN THAT BUREAUCRATIC OVERHEAD NEED NOT ROB THE TAXPAYER BLIND, NOR BIND YOUR CITIES AND PARISHES IN A MAZE OF RED TAPE, IN ORDER FOR A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROGRAM TO SUCCEED.

LAST APRIL
$$4$$
 A YEAR AGO 1 - I PROPOSED
A FIVE-YEAR, NINE-MONTH EXTENSION OF THE GENERAL REVENUE

SHARING PROGRAM.

THIS PROPOSAL REPRESENTED AN INCREASE IN FUNDING

OF ALMOST ONE BILLION DOLLARS, 39,850 FOR A TOTAL OF 39 BILLION, 850 MILLION DOLLARS --544,4 WITH 861 MILLION, 400 THOUSAND DOLLARS OF THAT TO GO TO LOUISIANA. A YEAR AGO, I URGED THE CONGRESS TO TAKE PROMPT ACTION ON THIS PROPOSAL

WELL, JUST A FEW WEEKS AGO, A HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE FINALLY STARTED MARKING UP A REVENUE SHARING RENEWAL BILL. THEY'RE STILL TINKERING WITH IT ON CAPITOL HILL, AND PUTTING IN JEOPARDY THE PLANNING OF 50 STATES AND 39 THOUSAND UNITS OF GOVERNMENT THROUGHOUT AMERICA. BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU OF ONE THINGS

I INTEND TO KEEP THE PRESSURE ON THE CONGRESS UNTIL THEY SEND ME A REVENUE SHARING BILL THAT WILL DO AS GOOD A JOB AS THE ONE THAT EXPIRES DECEMBER 31st. YOU WILL ALSO BE <u>INTERESTED TO KNOW THAT IN THE</u> LAST 20 MONTHS, WE HAVE MADE A GOOD DEAL OF PROGRESS TOWARD REDUCING GOVERNMENT RED TAPE, TOO. THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

IS A GOOD EXAMPLE.

ON MY ORDERS, FEDERAL REGULATIONS

FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT HAVE BEEN SIMPLIFIED AND REDUCED 2,600 FROM TWO THOUSAND, SIX HUNDRED PAGES TO JUST 25 PAGES. INSTEAD OF FILLING OUT FIVE APPLICATIONS TOTALLING 1,400 ONE THOUSAND, FOUR HUNDRED PAGES, A COMMUNITY NOW HAS TO COMPLETE ONLY ONE 50-PAGE APPLICATION.

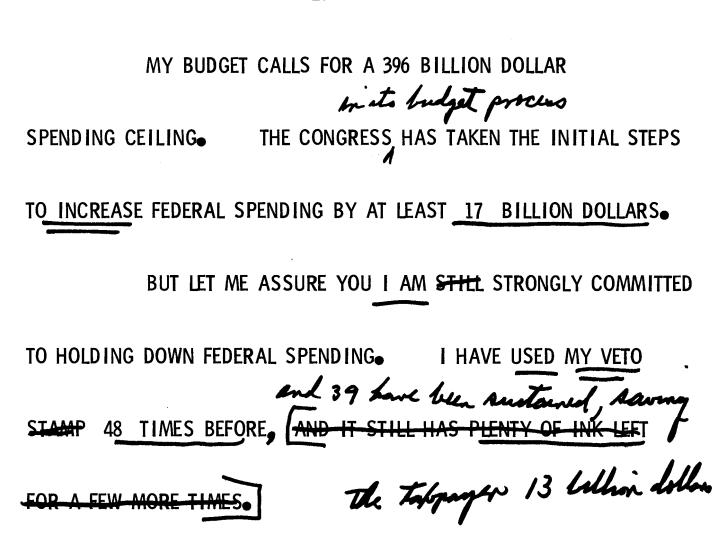
WHILE PROCESSING AND APPROVAL OF THESE APPLICATIONS USED TO AVERAGE MORE THAN TWO YEARS, WE HAVE REDUCED THAT TIME TO LESS THAN TWO MONTHS. WHEN I SAY I WANT TO GET GOVERNMENT OFF YOUR BACK

AND OUT OF YOUR HAIR, BELIEVE ME, IT'S MORE THAN JUST CAMPAIGN

RHETORIC. WE'VE ALREADY STARTED, AND WE HAVE A LOT MORE

IMPROVEMENTS PLANNED FOR THE FUTURE.

ONE OF MY FOREMOST PLANS FOR THE FUTURE IS TO BALANCE THE FEDERAL BUDGET -- AND BY THE FUTURE I MEAN NO LATER THAN FISCAL 1979. THE BUDGET I SUBMITTED IN JANUARY FOR FISCAL YEAR 1977 REPRESENTS WHAT I BELIEVE WILL BE A MAJOR TURNING POINT IN THE COURSE FOLLOWED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AS IT WORKS FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. THIS BUDGET DOES NOT HOLD OUT ANY FALSE PROMISE THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL IMMEDIATELY SOLVE EVERY PROBLEM OR ACHIEVE EVERY GOAL OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. INSTEAD, IT REFLECTS A COMMON SENSE BALANCE BETWEEN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INITIATIVES, AND BETWEEN THE VARIOUS LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT, WHICH I REFERRED TO IN MY STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS EARLIER THIS YEAR. WE HAVE <u>HALTED</u> SPENDING TRENDS THAT INCREASINGLY THREATENED OUR NATIONAL SECURITY AND OUR <u>NATIONAL ECONOMIC</u> STABILITY. I AM COMMITTED TO KEEPING THE LEVEL OF FEDERAL SPENDING WITHIN REASONABLE AND AFFORDABLE LIMITS, BUT I AM ALSO <u>COMMITTED</u> TO AC<u>HIEVING A BETTER</u> AND <u>MORE BOUNTIFUL LIFE FOR ALL AMERICANS</u>.



I BELIEVE WE HAVE STRUCK A WORKABLE, REASONABLE AND HONEST BALANCE WITH THE BUDGET I HAVE PROPOSED. THIS BUDGET PROMISES ONLY WHAT WE KNOW WE CAN DELIVER, AND I CAN ASSURE YOU WE WILL DELIVER EVERYTHING WE PROMISE -- THIS YEAR AND IN THE YEARS AHEAD. WITH THOSE GENERAL COMMENTS, I WILL BE GLAD NOW

TO RESPOND TO YOUR QUESTIONS.

END OF TEXT