

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 REINS OF POWER IN THIS COUNTRY
HAVE BEEN GATHERED -\ TIGHTER AND TIGHTER -/
INTO THE HANDS OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

FOR TOO LONG, PROGRAMS OF NARROW CATEGORICAL
AID MULTIPLIED -- AT GREAT AND GROWING EXPENSE
TO THE FEDERAL BUDGET AND THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER.

BY 1972, THERE WERE WELL OVER A THOUSAND
OF THESE FEDERAL PROGRAMS -- EACH LIMITED IN SCOPE,
RESTRICTIVE IN OPERATION, AND EQUIPPED WITH ITS OWN
BUREAUCRACY - CHIPPING STEADILY AWAY AT THE FOUNDING
FATHERS' SYSTEM OF SHARED RESPONSIBILITY AND LOCAL CONTROL.

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.

WHEN YOU WERE PUT IN CHARGE, YOU PROVED --

AS I KNEW YOU WOULD -- THAT YOU KNOW A LOT MORE

your states
ABOUT WHAT YOUR COMMUNITIES, AND CITIES AND PARISHES NEED

THAN THE WASHINGTON BUREAUCRACY DOES.

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 / A YEAR AGO / - 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,

FOR A TOTAL OF ^{39,850} 39 BILLION, 850 MILLION DOLLARS --

WITH ⁸⁶⁴ 861 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 THING:

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 INTERESTED TO KNOW THAT IN THE

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

FROM TWO THOUSAND, ^{2,600} 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 HALTED SPENDING TRENDS THAT INCREASINGLY
THREATENED OUR NATIONAL SECURITY AND OUR NATIONAL ECONOMIC
STABILITY. I AM COMMITTED TO KEEPING THE LEVEL
OF FEDERAL SPENDING WITHIN REASONABLE AND AFFORDABLE LIMITS,
BUT I AM ALSO COMMITTED TO ACHIEVING A BETTER AND
MORE BOUNTIFUL LIFE FOR ALL AMERICANS.

MY BUDGET CALLS FOR A 396 BILLION DOLLAR

in its budget process

SPENDING CEILING. THE CONGRESS HAS TAKEN THE INITIAL STEPS

TO INCREASE FEDERAL SPENDING BY AT LEAST 17 BILLION DOLLARS.

BUT LET ME ASSURE YOU I AM STILL STRONGLY COMMITTED

TO HOLDING DOWN FEDERAL SPENDING. I HAVE USED MY VETO

and 39 have been sustained, saving
~~STAMP~~ 48 TIMES BEFORE, AND IT STILL HAS PLENTY OF INK LEFT

~~FOR A FEW MORE TIMES.~~

The taxpayer 13 billion dollars

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