

The original documents are located in Box 31, “5/3/76 - Remarks at Briefing on General Revenue Sharing for State-Wide Local Officials, Indianapolis, Indiana” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

REMARKS AT GENERAL REVENUE SHARING BRIEFING

FOR STATE-WIDE LOCAL OFFICIALS,

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA, MAY 3, 1976

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THANK YOU MAYOR BILL HUDNUT,

-- GOVERNOR BOWEN,

-- LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR ORR

-- LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

I APPRECIATE VERY MUCH THE INVITATION
OF BILL HUDNUT -- MY GOOD FRIEND AND FORMER
COLLEAGUE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES --
TO MEET WITH THIS DISTINGUISHED GROUP OF
FELLOW GOVERNMENT EXECUTIVES.

OUR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT WAS FOUNDED
ON THE CONCEPT OF SHARED RESPONSIBILITY.
WORKING PROPERLY, THIS SYSTEM LETS YOU SOLVE
YOUR OWN PROBLEMS, RATHER THAN LOOKING TO
WASHINGTON FOR EVERY ANSWER.

AFTER DECADES IN WHICH MORE AND MORE POWER
ACCUMULATED IN WASHINGTON, THE FLOW HAS BEEN REVERSED.
WE ARE ON THE ROAD TO RESTORING THE BALANCE BETWEEN
FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

THE REASON IS SIMPLE. IT IS THE
SUCCESS THAT YOU HAVE MADE OF THE GENERAL REVENUE
SHARING PROGRAM SINCE 1972. AS REPUBLICAN
LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
I WAS A STRONG AND EARLY SUPPORTER OF THE
REVENUE SHARING CONCEPT.

IF THERE IS ONE THING THE FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT IS GOOD AT, IT'S COLLECTING TAXES.
IT HAS BEEN CLUMSY AND UNSUCCESSFUL IN DEALING
WITH LOCAL PROBLEMS.

SINCE 1972, NEARLY 25 BILLION DOLLARS
IN REVENUE SHARING FUNDS HAVE BEEN RETURNED TO
THE FIFTY STATES AND SOME 39 THOUSAND LOCAL UNITS
OF GOVERNMENT -- SEVEN BILLION DOLLARS IN THE
LAST YEAR ALONE.

TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE FUNDS WERE SPENT
ON PUBLIC SAFETY. NEARLY 22 PERCENT WAS USED FOR
EDUCATION, AND OTHER SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNTS WENT FOR
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND
HEALTH SERVICES.

AND THE GREATEST SUCCESS OF REVENUE
SHARING IS THIS: WASHINGTON INVOLVEMENT IS
HELD TO AN ABSOLUTE MINIMUM IN THE OPERATION
OF THE PROGRAM.

ONLY ABOUT ONE-EIGHTH OF ONE PENNY OF EVERY
REVENUE SHARING DOLLAR GOES TO THE BUREAUCRACY IN
WASHINGTON. LESS THAN ONE HUNDRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES
ARE INVOLVED IN THE ENTIRE PROGRAM.

BECAUSE GENERAL REVENUE SHARING HAS BEEN
SUCH A MAJOR SUCCESS, LAST APRIL I PROPOSED
A FIVE-YEAR, NINE-MONTH EXTENSION OF THE PROGRAM.

THIS PROPOSAL WOULD INCREASE FUNDING BY ALMOST
ONE BILLION DOLLARS, FOR A TOTAL OF 39 BILLION,
850 MILLION DOLLARS -- WITH MORE THAN
808 MILLION DOLLARS OF THAT GOING TO INDIANA.

A YEAR AGO, I URGED THE CONGRESS TO ACT QUICKLY ON THIS PROPOSAL TO ENSURE THAT MONEY WILL CONTINUE TO BE AVAILABLE FOR VITAL SERVICES.

UNFORTUNATELY, THE CONGRESS HAS BEEN WORKING

IN SLOW MOTION, *That's putting it mildly.*

FINALLY, LAST WEEK, A HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE TOOK
THE FIRST ACTION ON REVENUE SHARING. THE FULL
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS WILL
CONSIDER THE MATTER THIS WEEK.

BUT THIS IS ONLY A FIRST STEP.

WE NEED TO KEEP THE PRESSURE ON THE CONGRESS UNTIL THEY PASS

A REVENUE SHARING BILL THAT WILL DO AN EVEN BETTER JOB

THAN THE ONE THAT EXPIRES DECEMBER 31st.

THIS IS WHERE I NEED YOUR HELP !!!

IT IS A LITTLE HARD TO UNDERSTAND THE
OPPOSITION TO REVENUE SHARING. MANY SEEM
TO RESENT THE FACT THAT THE PROGRAM ALLOWS LOCAL
OFFICIALS RATHER THAN WASHINGTON BUREAUCRATS
TO DECIDE HOW TAX DOLLARS WILL BE SPENT.

YOU KNOW BETTER. THINK FOR A MOMENT

WHAT THIS PROGRAM OF RETURNING TAX FUNDS TO

YOUR STATE AND YOUR LOCALITIES HAS MEANT.

IN INDIANA, AS OF ONE MONTH AGO, FEDERAL REVENUE
SHARING TOTALED 528 MILLION DOLLARS PLUS,
AND BY THE END OF THIS CALENDAR YEAR, SOME
629 MILLION DOLLARS WILL HAVE BEEN PAID TO THE
STATE, TO THE COUNTIES, CITIES AND TO THE
TOWNSHIPS.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THE CRITICS

OF REVENUE SHARING HAVE THEIR WAY?

HERE IN FRANKLIN COUNTY, IT COULD MEAN
CUTBACKS IN THE COUNTY'S HIGHWAY, LAW
ENFORCEMENT AND MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS,
AMONG OTHERS.

IF THE 16 MILLION DOLLARS WHICH INDIANAPOLIS
IS GETTING BACK IN THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR

WERE ELIMINATED THE CITY WOULD HAVE TO CURTAIN
POLICE AND FIRE PROTECTION, SANITATION,
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, HEALTH AND EDUCATION,
TO NAME JUST A FEW.

REVENUE SHARING IS WORKING.

LET'S GET THE PROGRAM EXTENDED, AND GO ON
FROM THERE.

ANOTHER PROGRAM THAT IS HELPING REDUCE

GOVERNMENT RED TAPE IS THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM.

AT MY DIRECTION, FEDERAL REGULATIONS

FOR THIS PROGRAM HAVE BEEN REDUCED FROM

26 HUNDRED PAGES TO JUST 25 PAGES.

APPLICATION FORMS HAVE BEEN REDUCED FROM

14 HUNDRED PAGES TO ONLY 50. AND THE WHOLE

PROCESS BETWEEN APPLICATION AND APPROVAL HAS

BEEN REDUCED FROM TWO YEARS TO LESS THAN

TWO MONTHS.

SO OUR GOALS ARE THE SAME:

-- TO RESTORE MORE RESPONSIBILITY

TO LOCAL AND STATE LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT; AND

-- TO REDUCE THE INTERFERENCE AND

RED TAPE OF THE WASHINGTON BUREAUCRACY;

WE HAVE MADE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS
TOWARD THOSE GOALS IN THE LAST 21 MONTHS,
AND WE CAN MAKE A LOT MORE IN THE NEXT FOUR
YEARS.

NOW LET'S GET TO YOUR QUESTIONS.

END OF TEXT

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Mr. Cheney,

Per Jack Marsh, the attached speech has been changed last night. Make sure Messrs Cavanaugh and O'Neil review it. A copy has been forwarded to each.

MARSH
Situation Room
~~Hyland~~
~~is~~

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN...

I APPRECIATE VERY MUCH THE INVITATION
OF BILL HUDNUT -- MY GOOD FRIEND AND FORMER
COLLEAGUE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES --
TO MEET WITH THIS DISTINGUISHED GROUP OF
FELLOW GOVERNMENT EXECUTIVES.

OUR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT WAS FOUNDED
ON THE CONCEPT OF SHARED RESPONSIBILITY.

WORKING PROPERLY, THIS SYSTEM LETS YOU SOLVE
YOUR OWN PROBLEMS, RATHER THAN LOOKING TO
WASHINGTON FOR EVERY ANSWER.

AFTER DECADES IN WHICH MORE AND MORE
POWER ACCUMULATED IN WASHINGTON, THAT SYSTEM
IS BEGINNING TO WORK -- AS THE FRAMERS OF THE
CONSTITUTION INTENDED IT TO WORK.

THE REASON IS SIMPLE. . . IT IS THE
SUCCESS THAT YOU HAVE MADE OF THE GENERAL REVENUE
SHARING PROGRAM SINCE 1972. . . AS REPUBLICAN
LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
I WAS A STRONG AND EARLY SUPPORTER OF THE
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IN REVENUE SHARING FUNDS HAVE BEEN RETURNED TO
THE FIFTY STATES AND SOME 39 THOUSAND LOCAL UNIT
OF GOVERNMENT -- SEVEN BILLION DOLLARS IN THE
LAST YEAR ALONE.

THIS MONEY HELPS PAY FOR BUSES YOUR
PEOPLE RIDE, PURE WATER THEY DRINK, SCHOOLS
FOR THEIR CHILDREN, HEALTH FOR THEIR FAMILIES
AND SAFETY IN THE STREETS.

AND THE GREATEST SUCCESS OF REVENUE
SHARING IS THIS: WASHINGTON INVOLVEMENT IS
HELD TO AN ABSOLUTE MINIMUM IN THE OPERATION
OF THE PROGRAM.

ONLY ABOUT ONE-EIGHTH OF ONE PENNY
OF EVERY REVENUE SHARING DOLLAR GOES TO THE
BUREAUCRACY IN WASHINGTON. ABOUT ONE HUNDR
FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ARE INVOLVED IN THE ENTIRE
PROGRAM.

BECAUSE GENERAL REVENUE SHARING HAS BEEN
SUCH A MAJOR SUCCESS, LAST APRIL I PROPOSED
A FIVE-YEAR, NINE-MONTH EXTENSION OF THE PROGRAM.

THIS PROPOSAL WOULD INCREASE FUNDING BY ALMOST
ONE BILLION DOLLARS, FOR A TOTAL OF 39 BILLION,
850 MILLION DOLLARS -- WITH MORE THAN
808 MILLION DOLLARS OF THAT GOING TO INDIANA.

A YEAR AGO, I URGED THE CONGRESS TO ACT QUICKLY ON THIS PROPOSAL TO ENSURE THAT MONEY WILL CONTINUE TO BE AVAILABLE FOR VITAL SERVICES. UNFORTUNATELY, THE CONGRESS HAS BEEN WORKING IN SLOW MOTION.

FINALLY, LAST WEEK, A HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE TOOK
THE FIRST ACTION ON REVENUE SHARING. THE FULL
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS WILL
CONSIDER THE MATTER THIS WEEK.

BUT THIS IS ONLY A FIRST STEP.

WE NEED TO KEEP THE PRESSURE ON THE CONGRESS UNTIL

THEY PASS A REVENUE SHARING BILL THAT WILL DO AN

EVEN BETTER JOB THAN THE ONE THAT EXPIRES

DECEMBER 31st.

IT IS A LITTLE HARD TO UNDERSTAND THE
OPPOSITION TO REVENUE SHARING. MANY SEEM
TO RESENT THE FACT THAT THE PROGRAM ALLOWS LOCAL
OFFICIALS RATHER THAN WASHINGTON BUREAUCRATS
TO DECIDE HOW TAX DOLLARS WILL BE SPENT.

MY OPPONENT FOR THE REPUBLICAN NOMINATION
IS CONFUSED ABOUT REVENUE SHARING. HE HAS
STATED HIS OPPOSITION TO REVENUE SHARING ON
THE GROUNDS THAT IT IS SIMPLY ANOTHER FEDERAL
PROGRAM PILED ON TOP OF ALL THE OTHERS --
A VIEW WHICH IS DIRECTLY CONTRARY TO THE FACTS.

YOU KNOW BETTER. THINK FOR A MOMENT

WHAT THIS PROGRAM OF RETURNING TAX FUNDS TO

YOUR STATE AND YOUR LOCALITIES HAS MEANT.

IN INDIANA, AS OF ONE MONTH AGO, FEDERAL REVENUE SHARING TOTALED 528 MILLION DOLLARS PLUS, AND BY THE END OF THIS CALENDAR YEAR, SOME 629 MILLION DOLLARS WILL HAVE BEEN PAID TO THE STATE, TO THE COUNTIES, CITIES AND TO THE TOWNSHIPS.

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OF REVENUE SHARING HAVE THEIR WAY?

HERE IN FRANKLIN COUNTY; IT COULD MEAN
CUTBACKS IN THE COUNTY'S HIGHWAY, LAW
ENFORCEMENT AND MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS,
AMONG OTHERS.

IF THE 16 MILLION DOLLARS WHICH INDIANAPOLIS
IS GETTING BACK IN THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR
WERE ELIMINATED THE CITY WOULD HAVE TO CURTAIL
POLICE AND FIRE PROTECTION, SANITATION,
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, HEALTH AND EDUCATION,
TO NAME JUST A FEW.

REVENUE SHARING IS WORKING.

LET'S GET THE PROGRAM EXTENDED, AND GO ON
FROM THERE.

ANOTHER PROGRAM THAT IS HELPING REDUCE
GOVERNMENT RED TAPE IS THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM.

AT MY DIRECTION, FEDERAL REGULATIONS FOR THIS PROGRAM HAVE BEEN REDUCED FROM 26 HUNDRED PAGES TO JUST 25 PAGES. APPLICATION FORMS HAVE BEEN REDUCED FROM 14 HUNDRED PAGES TO ONLY 50. AND THE WHOLE PROCESS BETWEEN APPLICATION AND APPROVAL HAS BEEN REDUCED FROM TWO YEARS TO LESS THAN TWO MONTHS.

SO OUR GOALS ARE THE SAME:

-- TO RESTORE MORE RESPONSIBILITY

TO LOCAL AND STATE LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT; AND

-- TO REDUCE THE INTERFERENCE AND

RED TAPE OF THE WASHINGTON BUREAUCRACY;

WE HAVE MADE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS
TOWARD THOSE GOALS IN THE LAST 21 MONTHS,
AND WE CAN MAKE A LOT MORE IN THE NEXT FOUR
YEARS.

NOW LET'S GET TO YOUR QUESTIONS.

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NOT USED

REMARKS AT GENERAL REVENUE SHARING BRIEFING

FOR STATE-WIDE LOCAL OFFICIALS,

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA, MAY 3, 1976

I AM DELIGHTED TO MEET WITH SUCH A FINE GROUP
OF LOCAL OFFICIALS FROM THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF INDIANA●

IN PARTICULAR, LET ME PAY MY RESPECTS TO OUR HOST --

AND MY FORMER COLLEAGUE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES --

MAYOR BILL HUDNUT. I APPRECIATE VERY MUCH BILL'S INVITATION

TO DISCUSS HOW THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CAN BEST WORK TOGETHER

WITH THE STATE OF INDIANA, ITS COUNTIES AND ITS CITIES.

AS YOU ALL KNOW, THE KEYSTONE OF OUR FORM
OF GOVERNMENT IS THE FEDERAL SYSTEM OF SHARED RESPONSIBILITY.
THIS SYSTEM PROMOTES CREATIVITY AND FREEDOM OF ACTION
AT ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT. WHEN IT WORKS PROPERLY,
FEDERALISM ENABLES OUR PEOPLE TO APPROACH THEIR PROBLEMS
THROUGH THE GOVERNMENTS CLOSEST TO THEM, RATHER THAN
LOOKING TO AN ALL-POWERFUL CENTRAL BUREAUCRACY FOR EVERY ANSWER.

THE REASON IS SIMPLE. GENERAL REVENUE SHARING

HAS, SINCE ITS ENACTMENT IN 1972, PROVED AGAIN AND AGAIN

THE MERIT OF LOCAL CONTROL OVER LOCAL CONCERNS.

AS REPUBLICAN LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

I WAS A STRONG SUPPORTER OF THE INITIAL REVENUE SHARING CONCEPT.

THE RESULTS HAVE JUSTIFIED MY SUPPORT.

IF THERE IS ONE THING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

IS GOOD AT, IT'S COLLECTING TAXES. IF THERE IS ONE THING

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS TERRIBLE AT, IT IS MAKING LOCAL

DECISIONS ON LOCAL PROBLEMS.

TO DATE, NEARLY 25 BILLION DOLLARS IN REVENUE SHARING FUNDS HAVE BEEN RETURNED TO THE FIFTY STATES AND SOME 39 THOUSAND LOCAL UNITS OF GOVERNMENT. IN THE LAST FISCAL YEAR ALONE, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS USED MORE THAN SEVEN BILLION REVENUE SHARING DOLLARS ON A VARIETY OF NEEDED PUBLIC SERVICES.

AND THE MOST IMPORTANT POINT OF ALL ABOUT

REVENUE SHARING IS THIS; THE FEDERAL BUREAUCRACY HAS BEEN

HELD AT AN ABSOLUTE MINIMUM IN THE OPERATION OF THE PROGRAM.●

ONLY ABOUT ONE-EIGHTH OF ONE PENNY OF EVERY DOLLAR

SPENT FOR REVENUE SHARING GOES TO THE BUREAUCRACY IN

WASHINGTON. ABOUT ONE HUNDRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

ARE INVOLVED IN THE ENTIRE PROGRAM.

CLEARLY, GENERAL REVENUE SHARING IS ONE

GOVERNMENT PROGRAM THAT IS A MAJOR SUCCESS.

LAST APRIL, OVER A YEAR AGO, I PROPOSED A FIVE-YEAR,

NINE-MONTH EXTENSION OF THE PROGRAM.

THIS PROPOSAL CALLED FOR AN INCREASE IN FUNDING OF ALMOST

ONE BILLION DOLLARS, FOR A TOTAL OF 39 BILLION,

850 MILLION DOLLARS -- AND INDIANA WILL GET 808 MILLION,

700 THOUSAND DOLLARS AS ITS SHARE OF THE PROGRAM.

A YEAR AGO, I URGED THE CONGRESS TO ACT QUICKLY
ON THIS PROPOSAL SO THAT THE STATES, COUNTIES AND CITIES
COULD BE ASSURED THAT MONEY WILL CONTINUE TO BE AVAILABLE
FOR VITAL SERVICES. YET, THE CONGRESS HAS MOVED
WITH PONDEROUS SLOWNESS.

FINALLY, JUST LAST WEEK, A HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE TOOK THE
FIRST ACTION ON REVENUE SHARING, AND I UNDERSTAND THE
FULL HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS WILL CONSIDER
THE MATTER THIS WEEK.

BUT THIS IS ONLY A FIRST STEP. I ASK EACH

OF YOU TO JOIN WITH ME IN KEEPING THE PRESSURE ON THE CONGRESS

UNTIL THEY PASS A REVENUE SHARING BILL THAT WILL DO

AN EVEN BETTER JOB AS THE ONE THAT EXPIRES DECEMBER 31st.

OTHERS, INCLUDING MY OPPONENT FOR THE REPUBLICAN
NOMINATION, SIMPLY SEEM CONFUSED. HE HAS STATED
HIS OPPOSITION TO REVENUE SHARING ON THE GROUNDS THAT
IT IS SIMPLY ANOTHER FEDERAL PROGRAM PILED ON TOP OF ALL
THE OTHERS -- A VIEW WHICH IS DIRECTLY CONTRARY TO THE FACTS.

IT IS A LITTLE HARD TO UNDERSTAND THE OPPOSITION
TO REVENUE SHARING. MANY SEEM TO RESENT THE FACT THAT
THE PROGRAM DOES ALLOW LOCAL OFFICIALS RATHER THAN
WASHINGTON BUREAUCRATS TO MAKE THE DECISIONS ON HOW
TAX DOLLARS WILL BE SPENT.

YOU KNOW BETTER. THINK FOR A MOMENT WHAT

THIS PROGRAM OF RETURNING TAX FUNDS TO YOUR STATE AND YOUR

LOCALITIES HAS MEANT. IN INDIANA, AS OF ONE MONTH AGO,

FEDERAL REVENUE SHARING TOTALED 528 MILLION DOLLARS PLUS,

AND BY THE END OF THIS CALENDAR YEAR, SOME 629 MILLION DOLLARS

WILL HAVE BEEN PAID TO THE STATE, TO THE COUNTIES, CITIES

AND TO THE TOWNSHIPS.

THIS MONEY HAS BEEN USED TO EDUCATE CHILDREN●

IT HAS HELPED PROVIDE BETTER HEALTH CARE AND HOSPITALS●

ABOVE ALL, IT HAS HELPED HOLD DOWN LOCAL AND STATE TAXES●

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THE CRITICS OF REVENUE SHARING

HAVE THEIR WAY? FRANKLIN COUNTY, FOR EXAMPLE,

RECEIVED MORE THAN 107 THOUSAND DOLLARS AS ITS SHARE

UNDER THE PROGRAM IN FISCAL 1975.

THIS MONEY WAS USED IN THE COUNTY'S HIGHWAY AND SHERIFF'S

DEPARTMENTS AS WELL AS IN COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

WITHOUT GENERAL REVENUE SHARING FUNDS, FRANKLIN COUNTY

OFFICIALS REPORT THAT THEY WILL BE FORCED TO CUT BACK SERVICES,

LAY-OFF EMPLOYEES AND RAISE TAXES.

BY THE END OF 1976, THE CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS

WILL HAVE RECEIVED MORE THAN 60 MILLION DOLLARS IN

REVENUE SHARING FUNDS.

OF THE 16 MILLION DOLLARS INDIANAPOLIS IS GETTING BACK DURING
THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR, SIX MILLION, 400 THOUSAND DOLLARS
IS HELPING PROVIDE POLICE AND FIRE PROTECTION, OVER FOUR MILLION
DOLLARS IS BEING USED FOR GENERAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES, AND
ANOTHER ONE MILLION, 800 THOUSAND DOLLARS IS PROVIDING
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION. IF REVENUE SHARING IS ELIMINATED,
SOME SERVICES WILL BE CUT SEVERELY, AND OTHERS WILL BE
DISMANTLED COMPLETELY.

REVENUE SHARING IS NOW ESSENTIAL TO VIABLE

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT. IT IS WORKING.

LET'S GET THE PROGRAM EXTENDED, AND GO ON FROM THERE.

REVENUE SHARING IS ONLY ONE WAY WE ARE MOVING
TO LIFT THE HEAVY HAND OF FEDERAL BUREAUCRACY FROM LOCAL
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS. IN THE LAST 20 MONTHS, SUBSTANTIAL
PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN REDUCING GOVERNMENT RED TAPE TOO.
THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM IS A GOOD
EXAMPLE.

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

WHILE IT USED TO TAKE MORE THAN TWO YEARS
TO PROCESS ONE OF THESE APPLICATIONS, WE HAVE REDUCED
THE AVERAGE TIME TO LESS THAN TWO MONTHS.

AS YOU CAN SEE I MEAN IT WHEN I SAY I WANT
TO GET GOVERNMENT OFF YOUR BACK AND OUT OF YOUR HAIR.
MY RECORD BACKS MY WORDS.

AND THE RECORD ON THE NATION'S ECONOMY SPEAKS

LOUDER THAN ANY WORDS. WE REFUSED TO LISTEN TO THE
POLITICAL QUICK-FIX ARTISTS WHO TOLD US THAT MASSIVE
GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION WAS THE ONLY WAY OUT OF THE RECESSION.

AS A RESULT, THE GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT,
PERSONAL INCOME AND CONSUMER CONFIDENCE ARE ALL RISING.
THE RATE OF INFLATION HAS BEEN REDUCED BY 75 PERCENT
AND THE RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT, ALTHOUGH STILL TOO HIGH,
IS COMING DOWN STEADILY, AS WELL.

IN ADDITION, I HAVE PROPOSED A TAX REDUCTION
OF TEN BILLION DOLLARS TO BEGIN ON JULY FIRST OF THIS YEAR.
I PLAN TO BALANCE THE FEDERAL BUDGET BY FISCAL YEAR 1979.
AND, IF EVENTS MOVE AS I EXPECT THEM TO, FURTHER TAX REDUCTIONS
MAY ALSO BE POSSIBLE.

IN SHORT, EVERYTHING THAT IS SUPPOSED TO BE
GOING UP IS GOING UP, AND EVERYTHING THAT IS SUPPOSED TO
BE GOING DOWN IS GOING DOWN. AMERICA'S FUTURE LOOKS
BRIGHTER DAY BY DAY.

WITH THOSE GENERAL COMMENTS, I WILL BE GLAD NOW
TO RESPOND TO YOUR QUESTIONS.

END OF TEXT