The original documents are located in Box 34, “6/3/76 - Remarks at Meeting with the "New Coalition" on General Revenue Sharing including Governors, Mayors, County Officials, and Congressional Leaders” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS AT MEETING WITH THE
"NEW COALITION" ON GENERAL REVENUE SHARING
ON THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 1976
AT THE REQUEST OF THE LEADERS
OF THE NATION'S GOVERNORS, MAYORS,
AND COUNTY OFFICIALS, I AM PLEASED TO CONVENE THIS MEETING
WITH THE LEADERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO REVIEW
WHAT URGENT STEPS THE CONGRESS CAN TAKE TO ENSURE THAT
MILLIONS OF AMERICANS WILL NOT BE SUBJECT TO AN INCREASE
IN STATE AND LOCAL TAXES IF GENERAL REVENUE SHARING LEGISLATION
IS NOT EXTENDED IMMEDIATELY.

GENERAL REVENUE SHARING IS A PROVEN, SUCCESSFUL,
AND VERY IMPORTANT PART OF MY EFFORTS TO RETURN MORE OF
THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES
TO LOCAL UNITS OF GOVERNMENT.
IF GENERAL REVENUE SHARING IS NOT EXTENDED,

THE FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MANY STATES AND LOCAL

COMMUNITIES WILL BE SEVERE. I AM ENCOURAGED THAT ACTION

BY THE HOUSE NOW APPEARS TO BE IMMINENT. HOWEVER,

THE DELAY TO DATE IN ENACTMENT OF THIS LEGISLATION HAS ALREADY

CAUSED SERIOUS PROBLEMS. THE EVIDENCE INDICATES THAT

THE FAILURE OF THE CONGRESS TO EXTEND THIS PROGRAM,

OR THE ADOPTION OF DRASTIC PROGRAM REVISIONS -- WOULD LEAD

TO INCREASED STATE AND LOCAL PROPERTY TAXES, SALES TAXES

AND EVEN NEW TAXES IN MANY AREAS.
ADDITIONAL DELAY OR FAILURE TO ENACT THIS EXTENSION

WOULD ALSO REDUCE THE LEVEL AND QUALITY OF VITAL PUBLIC SERVICES

WHICH ARE PROVIDED. THERE WOULD BE LESS POLICE AND

FIRE PROTECTION, REDUCTIONS IN HEALTH, EDUCATION AND

OTHER ESSENTIAL PROGRAMS, AND DELAYED CONSTRUCTION OF

URGENTLY NEEDED PUBLIC FACILITIES.

DURING THE PAST FOURTEEN MONTHS, I HAVE WORKED

WITH THE NATION'S GOVERNORS, MAYORS AND COUNTY OFFICIALS

AND THE CONGRESS TO ACHIEVE THE ADOPTION OF SOUND LEGISLATION

EXTENDING THIS PROVEN REVENUE SHARING PROGRAM.

I WILL CONTINUE TO WORK WITH YOU TO ACHIEVE THAT GOAL.
I KNOW THAT MANY OF YOU SHARE MY CONCERNS.

I HOPE THAT WE CAN EMERGE FROM OUR DISCUSSION TODAY UNITED

IN OUR SUPPORT FOR GENERAL REVENUE SHARING AND WORK TOGETHER

FOR THE ADOPTION OF A BILL WHICH WILL CONTINUE THE GOOD RESULTS

ALREADY ACHIEVED BY THE EXISTING PROGRAM.

END OF TEXT

BOB, AS LEADER OF THE GROUP WHO HAS REQUESTED THIS
MEETING, WOULD YOU LIKE TO MAKE SOME OBSERVATIONS ------