

The original documents are located in Box 39, “10/12/76 - Remarks About Neighborhood Revitalization, Brooklyn, NY” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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BOROUGH PARK AND BAY RIDGE TALKING POINTS

NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

The problems facing America's cities cannot be solved by local government alone. Solutions imposed from Washington usually do not work either. Yet the federal government can help local governments to meet those problems in at least three ways.

First, it can provide funds to ease the pressure on overburdened local tax systems.

Second, it can enforce laws to prevent any kind of discrimination in the use of those funds.

Third, it can act as a catalyst to encourage local initiative in dealing with local problems.

Revenue sharing does all of these.

Revenue sharing is not just a transfer of funds, but a transfer of power -- power that can give a new vitality to neighborhoods and community institutions.

That is why I am very proud that tomorrow morning in Yonkers, I will sign a bill which extends revenue sharing into the year 1980 and will provide 25.6 billion dollars for State and local governments.

I have also urged the Congress to consolidate the great mass of complicated and overlapping federal programs dealing with education, health care, child nutrition, and community social services into four simple, straightforward block grant programs.

Additionally, I have created a Cabinet-level Committee on Urban Development and Neighborhood Revitalization. That committee is charged with eliminating those features of current programs which undermine the efforts of community, neighborhood, and voluntary associations. I have also asked the members of this committee -- whose report is due next week -- to find ways to strengthen and support the voluntary activities of neighborhoods groups.

This Administration strongly believes that solutions to social programs require the continued involvement of families, churches, and neighborhood associations.

Government can -- and must -- assist these institutions. But it can never take their place.

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Brooklyn, New York)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
TO THE CROWD IN
BORO PARK

2:30 P.M. EDT

Let me say a word for just a minute, if I might. It is a great privilege and a very high honor to have the opportunity of being in Brooklyn with Senator Javits and Senator Buckley and to have an opportunity to thank you all for the very warm reception.

Over the years I have had many opportunities to come to this great city and know intimately many of the fine people in Brooklyn, New York City. We have a great country. We must keep strong within our country by making certain that we spend your tax dollars in a responsible and a proper way.

We must make certain that we find the best way, the fairest way for the Federal Government to tax all of you. I happen to believe very strongly that the middle income taxpayer of this country has been shortchanged and that the middle income taxpayer needs a tax reduction in the way that I proposed by increasing the personal exemption from \$750 to \$1,000, and we are going to get it in the next session of Congress.

But, it is also important that we find the best answer to making America prosperous again, and we can do that by the right tax policies that give more tax reduction to the taxpayers and hold a reasonable restraint on the expenditure of Federal funds.

Let me say this: I will never be satisfied until everybody who wants to work can find a job, period. Let me in conclusion make this observation. America is strong; America is secure. There is not a single young American boy fighting or dying on foreign soil today. We are at peace, and we should be proud of it.

We have the military capability and the diplomatic skills to keep the peace. So, I pledge to each and every one of you that we will have a strong and prosperous economy. We will have a peace that is secure and you can trust your President, who has restored trust in the White House.

Thank you very, very much.

END

(AT 2:35 P.M. EDT)

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Brooklyn, New York)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
TO THE CROWD IN
BAY RIDGE

3:00 P.M. EDT

Let me say just a few words.

I think we can say with pride, we can say with the fullest, complete conviction, that we are doing the right thing for this country. I am the first President in 20 years who can go before the American people and say that our Nation is at peace. There is not a single young American fighting or dying on any foreign soil today, and we should be proud of it. And we have the military capability and the diplomatic skill to keep the peace, and we will under a Ford Administration.

But we have to have a healthy economy at home, and that means a job for everybody who wants a job, a home for everybody who will work for it, and that means we have to get rid of the crime on the streets so that you and your children will be free of any terrorism, either at home or abroad. It means that you have to have the best education, the kind of health care that you need, and that you can afford.

So, we want only good health, better education, a better tax system, responsible action in meeting the problems of crime, equality of life in America.

Let me conclude by one final comment: I think the middle income taxpayer of this country is getting shortchanged, and the best way to give him the right kind of tax relief is to increase the personal exemption from \$750 to \$1,000. That is what we need and that is what we will get.

Thank you all very much.

END (AT 3:03 P.M. EDT)