The original documents are located in Box 39, “10/13/76 - Remarks Upon the Signing of H.R. 13367: State and Local Fiscal Assistance Amendments of 1976, Yonkers, NY” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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TODAY MARKS A MAJOR MILESTONE IN OUR CONTINUING EFFORT TO MAKE GOVERNMENT WORK BETTER FOR THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER.

IN JUST A MOMENT, I WILL SIGN INTO LAW A BILL EXTENDING THE GENERAL REVENUE SHARING PROGRAM FOR ANOTHER THREE AND THREE-QUARTER YEARS.
MANY OF YOU HERE THIS MORNING PLAYED LEADING ROLES IN THE PASSAGE OF THE ORIGINAL REVENUE SHARING BILL IN 1972.

NO ONE HAD A MORE SIGNIFICANT ROLE THAN TWO FORMER GOVERNORS OF THE GREAT STATE OF NEW YORK -- VICE PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER AND MALCOLM WILSON. IN 1972, AS REPUBLICAN LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, I LED THE FIGHT FOR THE REVENUE SHARING CONCEPT.
IN 1976, AS PRESIDENT, I LED THE FIGHT FOR RENEWAL OF THE REVENUE SHARING PROGRAM.

IN 1980, AS PRESIDENT, I WILL STILL LEAD THE FIGHT FOR CONTINUATION OF REVENUE SHARING.

MY STRONG SUPPORT FOR REVENUE SHARING STEMS FROM ONE SIMPLE FACT: IT IS A "PEOPLE" PROGRAM THAT WORKS VERY WELL.
BY THE END OF THIS YEAR, THIRTY-NINE THOUSAND
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS WILL HAVE RECEIVED MORE THAN
30 BILLION DOLLARS IN REVENUE SHARING FUNDS FROM THE

FEDERAL TREASURY.

HERE IN YONKERS, ALMOST EIGHT MILLION DOLLARS
IN REVENUE SHARING FUNDS HAVE BEEN USED FOR MAJOR
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS, BETTER FIRE AND POLICE
PROTECTION AND OTHER ESSENTIAL PUBLIC SERVICES.
THROUGHOUT AMERICA, REVENUE SHARING HAS BEEFED UP LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS, MADE HEALTH SERVICES MORE ACCESSIBLE, EXPANDED PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, HELD LOCAL PROPERTY TAXES IN CHECK, AND HELPED PROMOTE ECONOMIC GROWTH IN THOUSANDS OF COMMUNITIES.

REVENUE SHARING'S SUCCESS GOES WELL BEYOND THESE EXCELLENT SERVICES. THIS PROGRAM HAS REVERSED THE DANGEROUS TREND TOWARD CENTRALIZED, UNACCOUNTABLE POWER IN WASHINGTON, D.C.
FOR DECADES, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PILED PROGRAMS OF NARROW CATEGORICAL AID ON TOP OF ONE ANOTHER. BY 1972, THERE WERE MORE THAN A THOUSAND SEPARATE FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAMS -- EACH EQUIPPED WITH ITS OWN BUREAUCRACY, ITS OWN SET OF RULES AND REGULATIONS.

WITH REVENUE SHARING, WE HAVE BEGUN TO RESTORE THE NECESSARY BALANCE AMONG FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL UNITS OF GOVERNMENT, TO RESTORE LOCAL CONTROL OVER LOCAL CONCERNS.
FEWER THAN 100 FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ARE INVOLVED IN THE ENTIRE REVENUE SHARING PROGRAM. FOR EVERY 800 DOLLARS IN THE REVENUE SHARING BUDGET, ONLY ONE DOLLAR GOES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE OVERHEAD -- THE BEST RECORD IN GOVERNMENT.

DESPITE THE OBVIOUS SUCCESS OF REVENUE SHARING, IT HAS Faced STRONG OPPOSITION FROM WITHIN THE DEMOCRATIC MAJORITYS OF CONGRESS.
THE REASONS FOR THIS OPPOSITION FROM DEMOCRATIC CONGRESSMEN IN WASHINGTON ARE CLEAR AND SIMPLE:

-- BECAUSE DEMOCRATS IN WASHINGTON DON'T TRUST LOCAL GOVERNMENT;

-- BECAUSE DEMOCRATS IN WASHINGTON WANT TO TELL YOU HOW TO RUN YOUR STATE AND LOCAL AFFAIRS;

-- BECAUSE DEMOCRATS IN WASHINGTON CREATED BIG GOVERNMENT. THEY HAVE A STAKE IN PRESERVING IT. THEY ARE FIRMLY COMMITTED TO IT, AND WITHOUT A PRESIDENT WHO IS WILLING TO SAY "NO", THEY WOULD MAKE IT EVEN BIGGER, MORE POWERFUL AND MORE EXPENSIVE.
I AM WILLING TO SAY "NO" -- NOT ONLY BY EXERCISING THE PRESIDENTIAL VETO BUT BY CALLING FOR POSITIVE, IMAGINATIVE ALTERNATIVES TO GOVERNMENT BY WASHINGTON DECREES -- ALTERNATIVES LIKE REVENUE SHARING.

GOVERNOR CARTER HAS STATED HIS OPPOSITION TO REVENUE SHARING IN ITS PRESENT FORM, CALLING IT A "BIG HOAX, AND A MISTAKE."
HE SAYS HE OPPOSES SHARING FEDERAL REVENUES WITH STATE GOVERNMENTS. BUT HE APPARENTLY HAD NO TROUBLE AT ALL FINDING USES FOR MORE THAN 120 MILLION REVENUE SHARING DOLLARS DURING HIS ONE TERM AS GOVERNOR OF GEORGIA.

AS FAR AS I KNOW, HE DIDN'T SEND A SINGLE PENNY OF THAT "BIG HOAX" REVENUE SHARING MONEY BACK TO WASHINGTON. HE KNEW IN HIS HEART, AS MOST GOVERNORS KNOW, THAT REVENUE SHARING IS A VITALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCE OF STATE GOVERNMENTS AS WELL AS LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.
WE KNOW THAT REVENUE SHARING HAS BEEN A MAJOR SUCCESS AT EVERY LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT. THE LEGISLATION I AM SIGNING INTO LAW TODAY WILL MAKE THE PROGRAM AN EVEN GREATER SUCCESS.

IT WILL:

-- EXTEND REVENUE SHARING FOR ANOTHER THREE YEARS AND NINE MONTHS;

-- PROVIDE 25.6 BILLION DOLLARS TO STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, AND
-- GIVE LOCAL CITIZENS AN EVEN GREATER VOICE

IN DECIDING HOW REVENUE SHARING FUNDS SHOULD BE SPENT

IN THEIR OWN COMMUNITIES.

THE CITY OF YONKERS IS A PARTICULARLY APPROPRIATE

SITE FOR THIS BILL SIGNING. THIS CITY, ITS 204 THOUSAND

RESIDENTS, AND ITS DISTINGUISHED GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, ARE

COMMITTED TO SOLVING YOUR OWN PROBLEMS IN YOUR OWN WAY,

WITH YOUR OWN IMAGINATION AND HARD WORK.
I CONGRATULATE YOU FOR YOUR VERY RECENT BREAKTHROUGH IN SELLING MANY MILLION DOLLARS IN YONKERS BONDS ON THE PUBLIC MARKET.

THIS IS AN ENCOURAGING SIGN OF HEALTH, ONE WHICH THOUSANDS OF CITIES AND TOWNS THROUGHOUT AMERICA PROUDLY SHARE BECAUSE OF THE SUCCESS OF REVENUE SHARING.
WITH CONFIDENCE THAT THIS LEGISLATION WILL MAKE A GOOD PROGRAM EVEN BETTER, I SHALL NOW SIGN INTO LAW THE GENERAL REVENUE SHARING EXTENSION ACT OF 1976.

END OF TEXT