

**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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94  
9:35 a.m.

~~THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.~~

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AT SIGNING OF  
GENERAL REVENUE SHARING BILL, YONKERS,  
NEW YORK, OCTOBER 13, 1976

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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

*Party*  
MAJORITIES OF CONGRESS.

*Majority*



THE REASONS FOR THIS OPPOSITION FROM DEMOCRATIC

*many*  
↑

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;

*Over the years*

-- ~~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 DECREE --  
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