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MAY 1, 1975

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON, D. C.

EXCERPTS OF REMARKS BY THE VICE PRESIDENT
AT THE MEETING OF THE
NATIONAL URBAN COALITION STEERING COMMITTEE
SHERATON-CARLTON HOTEL
WASHINGTON, D. C.

May 1, 1975

Two recent developments demonstrate the Ford Administration's shared commitment to the issues which concern the National Urban Coalition, the Administration's action on Revenue Sharing and on the Domestic Council.

Last week, the President sent a message to the Congress urging prompt renewal of the Revenue Sharing program, which expires next year. Under the present Revenue Sharing program, municipal governments, those of greatest interest to your organization, have received \$6.7 billion to date; and cities over 100,000 population have received nearly 20 per cent of all Revenue Sharing funds.

The renewal program proposed by the Ford Administration will not only increase Revenue Sharing funds, but will also raise the current ceiling on the amount of this aid which can go to hard-pressed urban areas. At present, these areas cannot get more than 45 per cent of the average Revenue Sharing grant per person in that state. The President has asked for a sharp increase in that ceiling to 75 per cent.

The Administration proposal also gives the Secretary of the Treasury stronger authority to prevent uses of Revenue Sharing funds which discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex or national origin. And, the Administration proposal requires greater effort by local governments to involve private citizen groups in planning the use of Revenue Sharing funds.

As for the Domestic Council, in February, President Ford clearly put his own stamp on the Council's role and responsibility under his Administration. At the President's direction, the Domestic Council is charged with preparing for the President's review a list of national needs and recommending alternative ways for meeting them; coordinating the setting of national priorities and the allocation of resources; and reviewing and evaluating present programs for his consideration. It was my privilege to be named by the President as Vice Chairman of the Domestic Council charged with the responsibility of overseeing the Council's work.

Naturally, the problems concerning the National Urban Coalition closely parallel those concerning the Domestic Council. We look forward to your cooperation and participation in meeting and solving these problems.

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