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THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AND
QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

PEORIA AIRPORT

5:45 P.M. CST

THE PRESIDENT: It is great to be in Peoria. I have been here a number of times. In fact, Bob Michel reminded me of the time quite a few years ago -- I won't tell you how long, but it was a great occasion, and it is nice to be back in 1976.

QUESTION: What is your current stand on the right to life amendment in the Constitution?

THE PRESIDENT: My stand today is the same as it has been for some time. I think the Supreme Court went too far. I think the amendment that bans all abortion goes too far. I think there is a reasonable and responsible middle ground, and that is the position I take.

QUESTION: Mr. President, if you win the primary, will you be able to beat out either Teddy Kennedy or Hubert Humphrey?

THE PRESIDENT: I think our chances in November are very good regardless of the Democratic candidates.

QUESTION: How about the current status of revenue sharing as far as you are concerned? Are you satisfied with the progress of that bill in Congress?

THE PRESIDENT: Not at all. I have recommended to Congress a five and three-quarter year extension of general revenue sharing--last July, as I remember. Congress has not gotten the legislation out of subcommittee yet. Congress has been very, very dilatory. The majority party does not seem to have much inspiration to pass the legislation. Of course, with the help of Governors, Mayors and county officials, this legislation can be vitally important to all units of Government.

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QUESTION: Do you think it is going to pass?

THE PRESIDENT: I am always optimistic, but the time delay is very bothersome. All I can say is we are working very hard to get some Congressional action before it is too late.

QUESTION: Are you going to win in Central Illinois? Is it going to play in Peoria?

THE PRESIDENT: I am very optimistic as far as my prospects in Peoria. Illinois has always been a good State. I had many opportunities to visit it. I have virtually been all over the State. I think I have a friend or two, and I think they will be helpful.

THE PRESS: Thank you very much.

END (AT 5:53 P.M. CST)