

The original documents are located in Box 34, “6/3/76 - Remarks at Meeting with the "New Coalition" on General Revenue Sharing including Governors, Mayors, County Officials, and Congressional Leaders” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS AT MEETING WITH THE
"NEW COALITION" ON GENERAL REVENUE SHARING
ON THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 1976

AT THE REQUEST OF THE LEADERS

[REDACTED] OF THE NATION'S GOVERNORS, MAYORS,

AND COUNTY OFFICIALS, I AM PLEASED TO CONVENE THIS MEETING

WITH THE LEADERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO REVIEW

WHAT URGENT STEPS THE CONGRESS CAN TAKE TO ENSURE THAT

MILLIONS OF AMERICANS WILL NOT BE SUBJECT TO AN INCREASE

IN STATE AND LOCAL TAXES IF GENERAL REVENUE SHARING LEGISLATION

IS NOT EXTENDED IMMEDIATELY.

GENERAL REVENUE SHARING IS A PROVEN, SUCCESSFUL,

AND VERY IMPORTANT PART OF MY EFFORTS TO RETURN MORE OF

THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES

TO LOCAL UNITS OF GOVERNMENT.

IF GENERAL REVENUE SHARING IS NOT EXTENDED,
THE FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MANY STATES AND LOCAL
COMMUNITIES WILL BE SEVERE. I AM ENCOURAGED THAT ACTION
BY THE HOUSE NOW APPEARS TO BE IMMINENT. HOWEVER,
~~THE DELAY TO DATE IN ENACTMENT OF THIS LEGISLATION HAS ALREADY~~
CAUSED SERIOUS PROBLEMS. THE EVIDENCE INDICATES THAT
THE FAILURE OF THE CONGRESS TO EXTEND THIS PROGRAM,
OR THE ADOPTION OF DRASTIC PROGRAM REVISIONS -- WOULD LEAD
TO INCREASED STATE AND LOCAL PROPERTY TAXES, SALES TAXES
AND EVEN NEW TAXES IN MANY AREAS.

ADDITIONAL DELAY OR FAILURE TO ENACT THIS EXTENSION
WOULD ALSO REDUCE THE LEVEL AND QUALITY OF VITAL PUBLIC SERVICES
WHICH ARE PROVIDED. THERE WOULD BE LESS POLICE AND
FIRE PROTECTION, REDUCTIONS IN HEALTH, EDUCATION AND
OTHER ESSENTIAL PROGRAMS, AND DELAYED CONSTRUCTION OF
URGENTLY NEEDED PUBLIC FACILITIES.

DURING THE PAST FOURTEEN MONTHS, I HAVE WORKED
WITH THE NATION'S GOVERNORS, MAYORS AND COUNTY OFFICIALS
AND THE CONGRESS TO ACHIEVE THE ADOPTION OF SOUND LEGISLATION
EXTENDING THIS PROVEN REVENUE SHARING PROGRAM.

I WILL CONTINUE TO WORK WITH YOU TO ACHIEVE THAT GOAL.

I KNOW THAT MANY OF YOU SHARE MY CONCERNS●

I HOPE THAT WE CAN EMERGE FROM OUR DISCUSSION TODAY UNITED
IN OUR SUPPORT FOR GENERAL REVENUE SHARING AND WORK TOGETHER
FOR THE ADOPTION OF A BILL WHICH WILL CONTINUE THE GOOD RESULTS
ALREADY ACHIEVED BY THE EXISTING PROGRAM●

END OF TEXT

BOB, AS LEADER OF THE GROUP WHO HAS REQUESTED THIS
MEETING, WOULD YOU LIKE TO MAKE SOME OBSERVATIONS -----