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REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

CENTER FOR ETHNIC AFFAIRS CONFERENCE ON THE EFFECT OF  
REVENUE SHARING

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

JULY 23, 1973

New Federalism: Revenue Sharing

The New Federalism

Heterogeneous Population  
The Challenge

REVENUE SHARING HAS BEEN AN INTEREST OF MINE SINCE THE  
EARLY 1960'S.

Common Cause  
a more perfect union

I ADVOCATED IT DURING THE JOHNSON-HUMPHREY ADMINISTRATION.

AND, WHEN I RETURNED TO THE SENATE IN 1971, A REVENUE  
SHARING BILL WAS THE FIRST LEGISLATION I INTRODUCED.

IN 1972, I JOINED WITH SENATOR HOWARD BAKER OF TENNESSEE  
TO REINTRODUCE THE REVENUE SHARING LEGISLATION THAT FINALLY  
BECAME LAW.

I FELT THEN -- AND I STILL FEEL NOW -- THAT REVENUE  
SHARING CAN BECOME THE FOUNDATION OF A NEW SYSTEM OF PUBLIC  
SERVICES IN OUR NATION -- A SYSTEM THAT PLACES A MINIMUM  
SERVICE FLOOR BENEATH EVERY INDIVIDUAL IN OUR COUNTRY.

THESE BASIC SERVICES OF EDUCATION, HEALTH CARE, RECREATIONAL  
FACILITIES, STREETS, CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, LAW ENFORCEMENT,  
FIRE PROTECTION, COMMUNITY CENTERS -- THESE ARE PART OF THE  
ANNUAL INCOME OF THE INDIVIDUAL AND THE FAMILY.

*The Mobile  
American!  
get the*

REVENUE SHARING WAS DESIGNED AS AN EFFORT TO HELP OUR Countries

*towns and*  
CITIES BEGIN THE LONG ROAD BACK TO VITALITY.

*to the New Federalism - the fuel to fire the engine of local Govts.*

REVENUE SHARING WAS SUPPOSED TO BE "NEW MONEY."

LISTEN TO THE PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS IN A FEBRUARY, 1971

SPECIAL MESSAGE, WHEN HE MADE IT PERFECTLY CLEAR THAT . . .

"ALL OF THIS WOULD BE NEW MONEY -- TAKEN FROM  
INCREASES IN OUR REVENUES WHICH RESULT FROM A GROWING  
ECONOMY. IT WOULD NOT REQUIRE NEW TAXES. NOR WOULD IT  
BE TRANSFERRED FROM EXISTING PROGRAMS."

*Yes, it was advanced as the beginning  
of a new Era of shared responsibility  
between the Federal Govt + State + Local  
Government - Power to the People*

NO SOONER HAD THE INK DRIED AT THE INDEPENDENCE HALL  
SIGNING CEREMONY THAN THE PRESIDENT AND HIS BUDGET SLICERS

WENT TO WORK,

*described as the new source of strength and responsiveness for Local Government,*  
L REVENUE SHARING BECAME AN EXCUSE FOR FEDERAL INACTION

AND A REASON FOR MASSIVE CUTS IN THE DOMESTIC BUDGET:

-- MODEL CITIES; CUT BACK

-- SEWER AND WATER GRANTS; CUT BACK AND IMPOUNDED

-- URBAN RENEWAL; CUT BACK

-- HOUSING; CUT BACK AND A MORATORIUM

-- SOCIAL SERVICES; MAKE EVERY ONE GO BACK ON WELFARE

*Environmental Protection - cut in half!*

"USE YOUR REVENUE SHARING MONEY TO FUND THESE PROGRAMS,"

THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION TOLD CITY AND STATE OFFICIALS.

Impoundment  
Delay - indecision

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out-right repeal  
of laws!

"BE A LITTLE BIT MORE SELF-RELIANT, WORK A LITTLE HARDER  
YOURSELVES," WAS THE WORD FROM THE SAN CLEMENTE AND KEY

BISCAYNE MANSIONS.

"The Urban Crisis is over,"  
Said the President!!

h BUT, FEDERAL CUTBACKS ARE ONLY PART OF THE PROBLEM.

L THE OTHER HALF OF THE PROBLEM IS THE USE OF REVENUE

SHARING FUNDS IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES. How was the  
"Revenue Sharing Dollar" used

and we find REVENUE SHARING FUNDS HAVE BEEN UTILIZED MAINLY FOR

CAPITAL BUILDING PROJECTS AND OTHER NON-RECURRING EXPENDITURES.

EXAMPLES ARE:

(X) Local Govt  
Pol. Action

-- REMODELING COURTHOUSES; new jails;

-- INSTALLING AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEMS - Parking Garages

-- CYCLE PATHS, VILLAGE HALLS, FIRE TRUCKS, BULLDOZERS, Transit

POLICE HELICOPTERS, AND TAX RELIEF

No Priorities. - Not all bad, but

→ ~~Min. of Youth Services Agency~~  
~~Community Development Agency~~  
-5- Model Cities suffer

To be sure,

MAYBE SOME COMMUNITIES NEEDED THESE PARTICULAR THINGS.

THE PLAIN FACT IS, THOUGH, THAT MANY SOCIAL AND PUBLIC

SERVICE PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN LEFT OUT.

*The Federal cut-backs have crippled many constructive efforts*

WE MUST ASK OURSELVES WHY.

WE KNOW THE FAULTS OF MANY OF THESE PROGRAMS: SOME ARE TOO

DIVISIVE -- SOME HAVE SET THE "HAVE LITTLES" AGAINST THE "HAVE

NOTS" -- SOME HAVE BEEN MISMANAGED OR HAVE PRODUCED MEAGER

RESULTS.

BUT WE ALSO KNOW THAT THERE HAVE BEEN MANY SUCCESSES --

PEOPLE WHO NEVER HAD A JOB OR ANY KIND OF TRAINING NOW HAD

OPPORTUNITY -- ELDERLY HAVE ACTIVITY CENTERS -- YOUNG CHILDREN

HAVE DAY-CARE CENTERS AND HEADSTART.

*Health centers have been started; Feeding programs under way; Student loans and medical research programs were working*

BUT, THE TIMES HAVE CHANGED, AND WHAT WAS GOOD ENOUGH IN  
1964 IS NOT NECESSARILY GOOD ENOUGH IN 1973.

WE MUST REJECT THE TUNNEL VISION THAT HAS CLOSED OUR  
SENSES TO THE ETHNIC NEEDS OF OUR PEOPLE -- THE LIFESTYLES OF  
THE YOUNG FACTORY WORKER, THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PLIGHT OF  
THE WORKING FAMILY, THE CULTURAL IDENTITIES THAT MUST BE  
NOURISHED AND PRESERVED.

AND, WE MUST RECOGNIZE THAT IF WE ARE TO CREATE THE SUPPORT  
NECESSARY FOR MODEL CITIES, YOUTH SERVICES, SOCIAL SERVICES, AND  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, THEN THESE PROGRAMS MUST INVOLVE AND  
SPEAK TO THE NEEDS OF A WIDER CROSS-SECTION OF THE URBAN  
POPULATION THAN HAS BEEN THE CASE IN THE PAST.

*Aid to Education must be designed and  
delivered as quality education for all children*

Government Services and assistance has  
all too often been arbitrarily limited to  
a certain income or racial group—  
failing to recognize the needs of others  
who also have need for healthcare, education,  
job training, housing and child care.  
PERHAPS THE TIME HAS COME TO RETHINK THE PURPOSE OF

CITIES AND TO DEVELOP GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS THAT ADDRESS THE

CRUCIAL ELEMENT OF ANY URBAN STRATEGY: THE FAMILY LIVING IN

THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

① Cities are ungovernable masses  
of people, without viable, developing  
neighborhoods.

WE HAVE NEGLECTED OUR NEIGHBORHOOD ALL TOO LONG. — Just as the  
family is the basic social institution, so the neighborhood  
is the foundation of the city.  
THE PLAIN FACT IS THAT TOO MUCH ATTENTION HAS BEEN PAID

TO THE COMMERCIAL DOWNTOWN PROJECTS -- THE OFFICE BUILDINGS,

THE SHOPPING MALLS, THE HOTELS -- WHILE OUR RESIDENTIAL

NEIGHBORHOODS, HOUSING PEOPLE WHO LACK THE POLITICAL CLOUT,

THE ECONOMIC RESOURCES, OR THE SOCIAL STATUS TO FIGHT BACK, ARE

BEING DEVASTATED BY THE PRACTICES OF REAL ESTATE SPECULATORS,

LENDING INSTITUTIONS, INSURANCE COMPANIES, AND A PARALYZING

FEAR OF CRIME, and official neglect & indifference.



WHAT HAS BEEN MISSING IN OUR URBAN STRATEGY IS A

RECOGNITION THAT IF RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS ARE DESTROYED,

EITHER PHYSICALLY OR IN SPIRIT, THEN THE WHOLE CLIMATE OF THE

CITY IS DESTROYED.

*People identify with a neighborhood  
+ feel they count - but in the huge  
city they feel left out.*

WHEN A RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD IS DESTROYED, FAMILY

LIFE IS DESTROYED, OUTMIGRATION IS PROMOTED, AND URBAN AMERICA

BECOMES A SHELL.

*(What are Neighborhoods)*

~~NEIGHBORHOODS~~ <sup>can</sup> ~~MUST~~ BE A SOCIAL STABILIZING FORCE.

NEIGHBORHOODS ARE PEOPLE:

*Neighborhoods must reflect the cultural,  
social, economic values  
and ethnic diversity of our  
people*

*Neighborhoods are* PEOPLE WHO WANT TO LIVE IN PEACE, SECURE IN THEIR BEING;

*Neighborhoods are* -- PEOPLE WHO PAY A DISPROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE TAX

<sup>See</sup> BURDEN AND ~~THEM~~ THEMSELVES AS FORGOTTEN BY THE POLITICIANS;

*yes, neighborhoods are*

-- PEOPLE WHO ARE TIRED OF BEING THE FOCAL POINT OF

SOCIAL EXPERIMENTATION BY OTHERS WHO LIVE IN BIG HOUSES FAR

AWAY FROM THE PROBLEMS;

*Neighborhoods are*

-- PEOPLE WHO WORK HARD AND PAY GOOD MONEY FOR THEIR SCHOOLS,

YET KNOW WELL THAT THEIR CHILDREN ARE NOT BEING PROPERLY OR

ADEQUATELY EDUCATED;

*neighborhoods are*

-- PEOPLE WHO KNOW THEY ARE VICTIMS OF THE MARKETPLACE,

OFTEN UNABLE TO OBTAIN CREDIT, AND PRICED OUT OF THE HOUSING

MARKET;

*Neighborhoods are*

PEOPLE WHO ARE TIRED OF SEEING THOUSANDS OF MEDIA HOURS

*Songs*  
~~OR ATTENTION~~ TO THE PROBLEMS OF THE COLLEGE STUDENT WHILE

NO ONE SEEMS ALARMED AT THE PROBLEMS OF THE YOUNG FACTORY

WORKER, NO ONE CONCERNED THAT MORE THAN 14,000 INDUSTRIAL

WORKERS ARE KILLED IN THE FACTORY EVERY YEAR;

-- PEOPLE WHO ARE TIRED OF WORKING MORE AND MORE, YET

HAVING LESS AND LESS TO SHOW FOR IT;

*Neighborhoods are*

~~ANY~~ PEOPLE, WHO, LIKE THE REST OF US, HAVE DREAMS,

WHO HAVE PRIDE, WHO LOVE THEIR COUNTRY, THEIR HOMES, THEIR

FAMILIES -- PEOPLE WHO MAKE THIS NATION RUN -- WHO SUFFER ITS

AGONIES AND GLORY IN ITS TRIUMPHS.

Heterogeneous -  
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yes, PEOPLE ARE NEIGHBORHOODS, AND NEIGHBORHOODS ARE PEOPLE.

↳ DIVERSE NEIGHBORHOODS -- DIVERSE PEOPLE -- WITH A HERITAGE,  
A STRENGTH, A SENSE OF VALUES. -- Pluralism - Mosaic

IT IS OUR CHALLENGE -- INDEED OUR DUTY -- TO PRESERVE AND  
SAVE THESE NEIGHBORHOODS - help to direct the forces of  
heritage; change, but not abandoning

AND, I BELIEVE THAT REVENUE SHARING CAN AND MUST PLAY A

MAJOR PART IN THIS ENDEAVOR.

↳ REVENUE SHARING CAN AND SHOULD BE A SOURCE OF HOPE FOR  
OUR PEOPLE, NOT A FINAL ANSWER OR A PANACEA, BUT AN AVENUE,  
AN APPROACH, PART OF A COMPREHENSIVE, BROAD-BASED STRATEGY FOR  
URBAN AMERICA.

REVENUE SHARING ~~MUST NOT BE COMPROMISED~~ MUST NOT  
BECOME THE ~~ADMIN~~ ADMINISTRATION'S ALL-PURPOSE "COP-OUT" FOR  
REDUCING AMERICA'S COMMITMENT TO ITS PEOPLE. !

WE HAVE GREAT STRENGTH IN THIS LAND.

WE HAVE NEVER BACKED AWAY FROM OUR PROBLEMS.

WORKING TOGETHER, GATHERING THE STRENGTH WITHIN OUR  
DIVERSITY, WE CAN FULFILL THE MANDATE SO ELOQUENTLY DEFINED  
YEARS AGO BY THOMAS WOLFE . . .

"TO EVERY MAN HIS CHANCE; TO EVERY MAN REGARDLESS  
OF HIS BIRTH, HIS SHINING GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY. TO  
EVERY MAN THE RIGHT TO LIVE, TO WORK, TO BE HIMSELF.  
AND TO BECOME WHATEVER THING HIS MANHOOD AND HIS VISION  
CAN COMBINE TO MAKE HIM. THIS . . . IS THE PROMISE OF  
AMERICA."

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