



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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STATEMENT BY SENATOR BOB DOLE -- WASHINGTON, D.C.

SUPPORT REVENUE SHARING

Although innovative and forward-looking approaches to the problems of government sometimes seem few and far between in American history, in the past three years the Nixon Administration has proposed program after program of fundamental government reform and renewal to cure present shortcomings and meet future needs. Of all these programs, however, none has been more enthusiastically and widely received than Revenue Sharing. At all levels and in every region of the country support for this concept has come forth as more and more individuals realize that it is one of the greatest opportunities ever presented to improve the functioning and effectiveness of state and local governments.

Taxpayers have recognized the value of Revenue Sharing and solidly supported it, but one of the most persuasive and valuable sources of support has been the Mayors, City Managers and other local officials who are feeling the greatest pressure in the revenue/expenditure squeeze plaguing all levels of government. These officials have made a strong and heartfelt case for Revenue Sharing. Because they are close to the people, they know how much must be done to fulfill their responsibilities and realize how little in terms of financial resources they have to work with.

EXPENDITURES INCREASE 1200 PERCENT

State and local expenditures totaled \$11 billion in 1946. They were \$132 billion by 1970--a staggering increase of 1200 percent. During the same period, state taxes increased dramatically. On a per capital basis, state taxes have risen at a rate

of nearly 50 percent in the last 14 years. On 450 separate occasions during the last dozen years, states have raised taxes or have instituted new taxes.

But even by adding to the taxpayers' already heavy burden, state and local governments have not been able to meet their ever-growing expenses. The plain fact of the matter is that they are dealing with a contracting tax base--a tax base that has nearly been squeezed dry.

In response to this problem, President Nixon proposed his Revenue Sharing measures to restore confidence and responsibility in local and state governments and at the same time give them the fiscal resources needed to solve their money problems.

RETURNING POWER TO THE PEOPLE

Returning power and responsibility to the people--this concept is truly in the spirit of the American Revolution. It stands out in stark contrast to the programs of those whose idea of improving government is taking even more power and money away from the states and cities and creating bigger and still less efficient programs in Washington. It answers the doubts and fears of many Americans who have lost their faith in our ability to respond to change and to grow as a free people.

President Nixon has said:

"The time has now come in America to reverse the flow of power and resources from the states and communities to Washington, and to start power and resources flowing back from Washington to the states and communities, and more important, to the people all across America."

I agree with this goal. I believe most Americans agree with it. And I believe that the President's Revenue Sharing proposals hold the key to reversing this flow of power --- to restoring a just measure of independence and self-determination to the citizens of America, and the communities in which they live.

I am hopeful that the Congress will complete its deliberations on the President's revenue sharing plans this year and pass the legislation which will bring them into effect. Three years is ample time for study of these proposals, and the public's support for them places upon Congress the responsibility to act.