

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE  
TOPEKA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
HOLIDAY INN DOWNTOWN  
TUESDAY, JULY 2, 1974

IT IS GOOD TO BE HERE WITH YOU TODAY. I WANT TO THANK THE TOPEKA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FIRST FOR ITS FINE PROFESSIONAL HELP AND COOPERATION IN COSPONSORING THE FEDERAL PROCUREMENT CONFERENCE LAST MAY. DALE WHITAKER AND DON HOGUE WERE MOST GENEROUS WITH THEIR TIME AND TALENTS AND JIM DE MARCO, OF THE CHAMBER STAFF DID A YEOMAN'S JOB IN HANDLING THE HUNDREDS OF DETAILS.

THIS WAS MY FIRST EFFORT IN SPONSORING SUCH A CONFERENCE. BY ALL REPORTS, IT WAS A GREAT SUCCESS AND I HAVE THE CHAMBER TO THANK FOR IT! AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, WE OUGHT TO MAKE IT AN ANNUAL AFFAIR.

I ALSO WANT TO THANK YOU FOR THE KIND INVITATION TO BE HERE AND, IF I MAY, BY WAY OF THANKS I'D LIKE TO SPEND MY FEW MINUTES TALKING ABOUT SOME OF THE GOOD NEWS WE DON'T HEAR TOO MUCH ABOUT THESE DAYS.

-2-

THE KANSAS WHEAT CROP IS NEARLY CUT. AND THERE SEEMS TO BE ENOUGH FUEL. THERE IS SOME GOOD NEWS, ESPECIALLY COMPARED TO LAST SUMMER -- BEFORE THE ENERGY CRISIS HIT WITH FULL FORCE -- WHEN WE REALLY HAD TO LOOK FOR IT.

A HEADLINE WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR, AND RECENTLY SAW "PEACE RUMORED TO BREAK-OUT SOON IN MID-EAST." AFTER 25 YEARS OF ALMOST CONSTANT FIGHTING, THE ARABS AND ISRAELI'S ARE CLOSER TO A REAL PEACE THAN THEY HAVE BEEN IN ALL THAT TIME.

I DON'T KNOW HOW OPEN AND CANDID HENRY KISSINGER WAS BEFORE THE FULLBRIGHT COMMITTEE'S CONFIRMATION HEARINGS, BUT I DO KNOW HE HAS DONE THE NEAR IMPOSSIBLE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

-3-

COLD WAR THAW NEAR TOTAL

AND ALSO, ALMOST 30 YEARS AFTER WORLD WAR II -- FULLY 25 OF WHICH HAVE BEEN CHARACTERIZED BY COLD WAR -- THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES HAS MET WITH THE LEADER OF THE SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY FOR THE THIRD TIME IN TWO YEARS TO TALK, OF ALL THINGS, ABOUT PEACE.

IN THE MIDST OF OUR WIDESPREAD CONFUSION, OUR LEGITIMATE CONCERNS, THERE ARE GROUNDS FOR HOPE AND CAUSES FOR PRIDE. WE HAVE A LOT OF PROBLEMS, BUT WE ARE SOLVING SOME OF THEM -- AND DOING A GOOD JOB OF IT.

AND THOSE WHO TELL YOU OTHERWISE, WHO THINK THIS COUNTRY AND ITS PEOPLE AND ITS SYSTEM ARE ON THEIR LAST LEGS ARE WRONG -- DEAD WRONG.

-4-

RECOGNIZING THE PEOPLE'S WISDOM

WE HAVE EVEN MADE SOME PROGRESS IN DISMANTLING THE OVERREACHING POWER OF OVER-CENTRALIZED GOVERNMENT IN THE LAST FEW YEARS. AND THAT -- NO ONE WILL DENY IT -- IS VERY GOOD NEWS INDEED.

ONE PIECE OF FEDERAL LEGISLATION, ENACTED 2 YEARS AGO, PROVIDES DRAMATIC PROOF. AND I WOULD LIKE TO TALK ABOUT IT.

GENERAL REVENUE SHARING -- REVERSING THE TREND

IT IS THE STATE AND LOCAL ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1972, MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS GENERAL REVENUE SHARING. UNDER GENERAL REVENUE SHARING MORE THAN \$30 BILLION IN FEDERAL INCOME TAX RECEIPTS ARE TO BE RETURNED TO STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS BETWEEN DECEMBER OF 1972, AND DECEMBER OF 1976, WITH NEARLY TOTAL LOCAL DISCRETION ALLOWED IN DETERMINING HOW THESE FUNDS ARE SPENT. OVER THE FIVE YEAR LIFE SPAN OF GENERAL REVENUE



-5-

SHARING, KANSAS GOVERNMENTS -- CITY, COUNTY AND STATE -- WILL RECEIVE OVER A QUARTER BILLION DOLLARS TO SPEND AS THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS SEE FIT -- WITHOUT THE HARASSMENT OF A MONOLITHIC BUREAUCRACY, THE HEADACHES OF A MULTI-PAGE FEDERAL APPLICATION, OR THE INCONVENIENCES OF MULTIPLE TRIPS TO WASHINGTON TO INSURE THEIR APPLICATION RECEIVES "DUE" CONSIDERATION.

FREE DECISIONS --LOCAL DECISIONS

NO FEDERAL BUREAUCRAT DECIDED YOU SHOULD SPEND \$150,000 FOR A PUBLIC HEALTH AND DRUG ABUSE PROGRAM. THE PEOPLE OF TOPEKA DID. AND THE MONEY IT TOOK DIDN'T RAISE YOUR TAXES OR REQUIRE A CUT IN SOME OTHER NEEDED PROGRAM.

IT CAME FROM REVENUE SHARING -- WITH NO STRINGS ATTACHED.

-6-

SPONSOR RENEWAL LEGISLATION

I WAS A SPONSOR OF THE ORIGINAL REVENUE SHARING BILL INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE IN 1972 AND SUPPORTED THE LEGISLATION DURING ITS FULL CONSIDERATION IN CONGRESS. AS A MEMBER OF THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE WHICH HAS JURISDICTION OVER REVENUE SHARING LEGISLATION, I CAN STATE NOW THAT I INTEND TO INTRODUCE EARLY NEXT YEAR LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD EXTEND THE REVENUE SHARING PROGRAM FOR AN ADDITIONAL FIVE YEAR PERIOD. I BELIEVE THE BENEFITS OF REVENUE SHARING AND THE NEW BALANCE IN THE FEDERAL SYSTEM IT HAS SPAWNED ARE JUST BEGINNING TO BE REALIZED. WE NEED TO EXTEND THE PROGRAM NOW SO THAT STATE, COUNTY AND CITY GOVERNMENT CAN BUDGET REVENUE SHARING ALLOCATIONS INTO THEIR LONG RANGE PLANS.

-7-

PHILOSOPHY BEHIND REVENUE SHARING

THE BASIS OF MY SUPPORT FOR GENERAL REVENUE SHARING CAN BE STATED VERY SIMPLY. I HAVE FAITH IN THE ABILITY OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO RESOLVE THEIR OWN PROBLEMS IF GIVEN THE AUTHORITY AND THE FINANCIAL MEANS. I BELIEVE LOCAL UNITS OF GOVERNMENT WHICH ARE MORE ACCESSIBLE TO THE PEOPLE CAN BE MORE RESPONSIVE TO THE UNIQUE AND PARTICULAR NEEDS OF A GIVEN COMMUNITY. THIS CONFIDENCE IN PEOPLE AND THE RESPECT I HAVE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO DEVELOP FLEXIBLE PROGRAMS ORIENTED TO THE PARTICULAR NEEDS OF THEIR CONSTITUENTS PROVIDES THE PHILOSOPHICAL BASIS FOR MY SUPPORT FOR GENERAL REVENUE SHARING.

-8-

ANTI-INFLATIONARY THROUGH BETTER PLANNING AND UTILIZATION

BUT I ALSO BELIEVE THAT GENERAL REVENUE SHARING CAN BE SUPPORTED AS PART OF AN ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM IF IT IS PROPERLY INCORPORATED IN A BALANCED FEDERAL BUDGET. GENERAL REVENUE SHARING FIGHTS INFLATION BECAUSE IT PERMITS THE MOST EFFICIENT USE OF OUR TAX DOLLARS AND THUS ASSURES THAT THE MOST BENEFIT IS DERIVED PER DOLLAR SO THAT LESS DOLLARS NEED TO BE SPENT. THIS EFFICIENCY OCCURS DUE TO THE BETTER PLANNING AND FUND UTILIZATION WHICH IS POSSIBLE UNDER GENERAL REVENUE SHARING BUT NOT UNDER CATEGORICAL FEDERAL PROGRAMS.

GREATER EFFICIENCY IN UTILIZATION IS POSSIBLE UNDER GENERAL REVENUE SHARING BECAUSE GENERAL REVENUE SHARING FUNDS CAN BE USED FOR SUCH A VARIETY OF LOCAL PROGRAMS. EACH COMMUNITY IS ABLE TO MOLD A PROGRAM



-9-

SUITED TO ITS LOCAL NEEDS AND CIRCUMSTANCES, AND THE WASTE THAT TRADITIONALLY RESULTS UNDER CATEGORICAL FUNDING PROGRAMS FROM TRYING TO FIT A ROUND NEED INTO A SQUARE FUNDING AUTHORITY IS AVOIDED.

REDUCING TAXES AND SOLVING PEOPLE PROBLEMS

BUT PROBABLY THE BEST TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GENERAL REVENUE SHARING COMES FROM THE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES THAT HAVE BEEN FINANCED WITH GENERAL REVENUE SHARING FUNDS. MUCH TO THE SURPRISE OF CONGRESSIONAL LIBERALS WHO OPPOSED THE PROGRAM BECAUSE THEY FELT LOCAL GOVERNMENT WOULD SPEND THE FUNDS ON BRICK AND MORTAR PROJECTS RATHER THAN PEOPLE PROGRAMS. THE FIRST YEAR OF GENERAL REVENUE SHARING DEMONSTRATED THAT MOST OF THE FUNDS WERE BEING SPEND FOR EDUCATION, PUBLIC SAFETY, PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION: 65% OF THE REVENUE SHARING FUNDS MADE AVAILABLE TO STATES WERE USED FOR EDUCATION: 44% OF ALL

-10-

UNITS OF GOVERNMENT INDICATED THAT GENERAL REVENUE SHARING FUNDS HAD REDUCED OR AVOIDED TAX INCREASES AND ABOUT A THIRD INDICATE THAT SUCH FUNDS HAD EITHER AVOIDED OR LESSENEED A DEBT INCREASE WITHIN THEIR JURISDICTION. THUS, REVENUE SHARING FUNDS HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN RELIEVEING THE TAX-PRESSURES AT THE LOCAL, AT THE SAME TIME ENABLING LOCAL UNITS OF GOVERNMENT TO MAINTAIN VITAL PEOPLE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.

REVENUE SHARING FLEXIBILITY

WITHOUT GENERAL REVENUE SHARING HERE IN TOPEKA YOU MIGHT EITHER HAVE HIGHER TAXES OR LOWER QUALITY AND NARROWER RANGE OF SERVICES.

YOU ITA TRANSIT SYSTEM MIGHT BE ON A LESS FIRM FINANCIAL FOOTING WITHOUT THE \$100,000 OPERATION SUBSIDY -- FROM REVENUE SHARING.

-11-

THE CONSUMER PROTECTION OFFICE --PART OF THE CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE -- MIGHT NOT BE THERE AT ALL WITHOUT REVENUE SHARING.

THE STORM SEWER MAINTENANCE HERE IN TOPEKA MIGHT STILL BE A FUTURE REQUIREMENT INSTEAD OF PRESENT REALITY, IF IT WEREN'T FOR REVENUE SHARING -- AND THE \$150,000 IT MADE AVAILABLE TO THE CITY FATHERS HERE.

THE ROAD IMPROVEMENTS OUT AT NORTH 46th AND AT WEST 29th AND URISH MAY NOT HAVE BEEN STARTED WITHOUT THE TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY-FIVE THOUSAND REVENUE SHARING DOLLARS THAT SHAWNEE COUNTY IS USING FOR THE PURPOSE.

AND THE AGED AND HANDICAPPED MIGHT STILL HAVE LIMITED ACCESS TO LAKE SHAWNEE WITHOUT THE SPECIALIZED FACILITIES THAT REVENUE SHARING MADE POSSIBLE.

-12-

PROGRAM OF THE PEOPLE

GENERAL REVENUE SHARING IS TRULY A PROGRAM OF THE PEOPLE. IT REST ON THE PHILOSOPHY THAT PEOPLE CAN BEST SOLVE THEIR OWN PROBLEMS IF THE AUTHORITY AND FINANCIAL ABILITY IS AVAILABLE. IT SAYS TO AMERICANS THAT YOU ARE THE BACKBONE OF THIS COUNTRY AND YOUR DECISION AND EFFORTS WILL DETERMINE ITS FATE. IT RECOGNIZES THAT THE STRENGTH OF THIS COUNTRY LIES IN ITS PEOPLE AND THAT WISE GOVERNMENT LISTENS TO ITS PEOPLE AND RESPONDS.

I BELIEVE STRONGLY IN THE PHILOSOPHY BEHIND GENERAL REVENUE SHARING AND WILL SUPPORT AN EXTENSION OF THE PROGRAM BEYOND THE CURRENT 1976 EXPIRATION DATE. THE PENDULUM HAS ONLY STARTED TO SHIFT AWAY FROM FEDERAL CENTRALIZATION TO MORE LOCAL CONTROL AND I WILL DO MY PART TO SEE THAT THIS IMPORTANT EFFORT IS MAINTAINED.