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SUMMARY OF POSITIONS TAKEN BY

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On September 19, 1968 then Presidential candidate Richard Nixon discussed The Nature of the Presidency. The role of the Federal Government received special attention. In that speech the candidate said:

For years now, the trend has been to sweep more and more authority to Washington. Too many decisions that would better have been made in Seattle or St. Louis have wound up on the President's desk.

I plan a streamlined Federal system, with a return to the States, cities and communities of decision-making powers rightfully theirs.

The purpose of this is not only to make government more effective and more responsive but also to concentrate Federal attention on those functions that can be handled on the Federal level.

The Presidency is a place where priorities are set, and goals determined.

We need a new attention to priorities, and a new realism about goals.

We are living today in a time of great promise -- but also of too many promises. We have had too much wishful imagining that all the ills of man could be set right overnight, merely by making a national commitment.

In keeping with the philosophical statement of the candidate, President Nixon has embarked on a systematic reform of the domestic programs of the Federal Government.

This summary contains major statements by the President on the process of reform and actions taken to achieve meaningful implementation.

The New Federalism

On August 8, 1969 the President on national television announced the New Federalism -- pulling together his major domestic policy recommendations.

My purpose tonight, however, is not to review the past record, but to present a new set of reforms -- a new set of proposals -- a new and drastically different approach to the way in which government cares for those in need, and to the way the responsibilities are shared between the State and Federal Government.

He described the three "purposes" of the New Federalism.

The purpose of all these reforms is to eliminate unfairness; to make government more effective as well as more efficient; and to bring an end to its chronic failure to deliver the service that it promises.

Revenue Sharing

Revenue Sharing is a basic component of the Administration's domestic program.

This week, I am sending to Congress for its approval for Fiscal Year 1971, legislation asking that a set amount of Federal revenues be returned annually to the States to be used as the States and their local governments set fit -- without Federal strings. (August 13, 1969)

The President said revenue sharing "marks a turning point in Federal-State relations."

Our ultimate purposes are many: To restore to the States their proper rights and roles in the Federal system with a new emphasis on and help for local responsiveness; to provide both the encouragement and the necessary resources for local and State officials to exercise leadership in solving their own problems; to narrow the distance between people and the government agencies dealing with their problems; to restore strength and vigor to local and State governments; to shift the balance of political power away from ^Washington and back to the country and the people. (Aug. 13, 1969)

Welfare

The President stressed the link between revenue sharing and his program for basic structural reform of welfare.

It is integrally related to the national welfare reform. Through these twin approaches we hope to relieve the fiscal crisis of the hard-pressed State and local governments and to assist millions of Americans out of poverty and into productivity. (August 11, 1969)

In his message to Congress on the Administration's proposed Family Assistance Plan on August 11, 1969, three days after the New Federalism^{statement,} the President said:

I propose a new approach that will make it more attractive to go to work than to go on welfare, and will establish a nationwide minimum payment to dependent families with children.

The new plan rejects a policy that undermines family life. It would end the substantial financial incentives to desertion. It would extend eligibility to all dependent families with children, without regard to whether the family is headed by a man or a woman. The effects of these changes upon human behavior would be an increased will to work, the survival of more marriages, the greater stability of families. We are determined to stop passing the cycle of dependency from generation to generation.

Reform of Manpower Programs

President Nixon's proposed Manpower Training Act of 1969 is a third part of what he has called his "new direction in making Federalism work".

Manpower training, in order to work on all rungs of the ladder, requires the efficient allocation by private enterprise and government of these human resources. We must develop skills in a place, in a quantity and in a way to ensure that they are used effectively and constantly improved.

We can answer a national need by decentralizing power, setting national standards, and assigning administrative responsibility to the States and localities with community needs. (Manpower Message, August 12, 1969)

OEO

The restructuring of OEO to perform tasks appropriate to the Federal Government is another important domestic program reform.

From the experience of OEO, we have learned the value of having in the Federal Government an agency whose special concern is the poor. We have learned the need for flexibility, responsiveness, and continuing innovation. We have learned the need for management effectiveness. Even those most thoroughly committed to the goals of the anti-poverty effort recognize now that much that has been tried has not worked. (August 11, 1969)

OEO's greatest value is as an initiating agency -- devising new programs to help the poor, and serving as an "incubator" for these programs during their initial, experimental phases. One of my aims is to free OEO itself to perform these functions more effectively, by providing for a greater concentration of its energies on its innovative role. (August 11, 1969)

Reform of the Delivery System

April 14 President Nixon enumerated his legislative program and described what he called the "hodge-podge of programs".

In the field of social legislation, we now have a hodge-podge of programs piled on programs, in which too often the pressure to perpetuate ill-conceived but established ones has denied needed resources to those that are new and more promising.

We have learned that too often government's delivery systems have failed: though Congress may pass a law, or the President may issue an order, the intended services never reach the intended recipients.

Council of Urban Affairs

In his March 27, 1969 statement on restructuring Government service systems, the President stressed the role of the new Urban Affairs Council.

I have established both the Urban Affairs Council and the Office of Intergovernmental Relations in part so that the government could be better advised on additional improvements in service systems.

Reducing Grant Proliferation

Reducing 'grant-in-aid "proliferation" has been singled out as a priority objective.

In the administration of Federal programs, one of the principal needs today is to improve the delivery systems: to ensure that the intended services actually reach the intended recipients, and that they do so in an efficient, economical and effective manner. (April 30, 1969)

Consolidation

One solution is grant-in-aid consolidation authority which ~~the~~ the President proposed to the Congress on April 30, 1969.

As a major step toward improved administration of these programs, I urge that Congress enact a Grant Consolidation Act.

The legislation I propose would be patterned in part after procedures used successfully for the past 20 years to reorganize Executive Branch functions. It would give the President power to initiate consolidation of closely related Federal assistance programs, and to place consolidated programs under the jurisdiction of a single agency. However, it would give either House of Congress the right to veto a proposed consolidation within 60 days, and it would establish stringent safeguards against possible abuse.

Regional Boundaries

To set the Federal Government's own house in order, the President has directed the establishment of common regional boundaries and common regional office locations for the major service delivery agencies.

In his March 27 statement the President said:

The performance of the men in the field is directly linked to the administrative structures and procedures within which they work. It is here that the government's effectiveness too often is undermined. The organization of federal service has often grown up piece-meal -- creating gaps in some areas, duplications in others, and general inefficiencies across the country. Each agency, for example, has its own set of regional offices and regional boundaries; if a director of one operation is to meet with his counterpart in another

branch of the government, he often must make an airplane trip to see him. Or consider two federal officials who work together on poverty problems in the same neighborhood, but who work for different Departments and, therefore, find themselves in two different administrative regions, reporting to headquarters in two widely separated cities.

Coordination cannot flourish under conditions such as that. Yet without real coordination, intelligence and efficient government is impossible; money and time are wasted and important goals are compromised.

The first concern is to rationalize the way our service delivery systems are organized. I have therefore issued a directive which streamlines the field operations of five agencies by establishing -- for the first time -- common regional boundaries and regional office locations. This instruction affects the Department of Labor, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Office of Economic Opportunity, and the Small Business Administration. The activities of these agencies -- particularly in serving disadvantaged areas of our society -- are closely related.