

Washington Report

— By —
CONGRESSMAN WALTER B. JONES

Last week most of the Governors of our fifty states visited Washington to prevail upon the Congress to approve President Nixon's revenue-sharing proposal.

This is a new concept of returning tax funds from the Federal Government to the states and local municipalities, as well as county governments.

There are two parts of the President's proposal: one would provide in the first year a distribution of \$5 billion, known as "general revenue sharing;" the second part would provide an additional \$11.1 billion,

labeled "special revenue-sharing."

This section would reallocate current Federal funds in bloc grants which would in the broadest sense give the State Legislatures the right to appropriate these monies for whatever purpose they saw fit.

On Thursday, most Members of the North Carolina delegation met with Governor Bob Scott and several members of Boards of County Commissions, as well as representatives from municipalities.

It developed at the Governor's conference an

overwhelming endorsement of the \$5 billion general revenue-sharing, but no agreement on the \$11 billion special revenue-sharing.

Their reluctance was based on the threat of the abolition of the worthwhile existing programs, an example in the state of North Carolina being the Appalachian and Coastal Plains Development Commissions; and also a lack of specifics as to the Administration's plans to divide the \$11.1 billion.

I believe most Members of Congress feel that Federal funds should be diverted back to the state and local governments, but with no restrictions or regulations, and this feature is the one which is causing many of us some concern. We all are aware of the financial problems confronting certain municipalities and counties to provide the necessary services demanded by most of our citizens, and even if the President's proposal is not approved by the Congress.

I am confident that efforts will be made to find an alternative to provide financial assistance to the local level.

When we speak of revenue-sharing, one should not conclude that this is entirely new, for in the last fiscal year the Federal government returned to the state and local governments in excess of \$30 billion.

This included water and sewerage, hospital, education, welfare, highways, conservation practices and many others. Most of these funds were in the form of categorical grants and went for specific purposes.

Even though the President's proposal originally provides for "bloc" grants with the local level having the authority to utilize the funds at their own discretion, some of us question how long this would be permitted to continue void of Federal regulation and direction.

In a Conversation with the attorney for the Ways & Means Committee, who has held that position since 1944, I asked the question, if all Federal grants which began as bloc grants with no restrictions were still in existence today; and his answer was, "only very few."

I have attempted to explain some of the problems that will confront this proposal as it goes through the legislative processes.

The House has yet to begin the consideration of much legislation, but by now all Committees are organized and consideration of legislation is in full progress.

MIRROR MORSELS

set us a - dancing till over the midnight came stealing the morn.--Nora Perry.

It is extraordinary how many emotional storms one may weather in safety if one is ballasted with ever so little gold.--William McFee.

Know then thyself, presume not God to scan; the proper study of mankind is man.--Alexander Pope.

I know I am but summer to your heart, and not the full four seasons of the year.--Edna St. Vincent Millary.

He is one of those wise philanthropists who in a time of famine would vote for nothing but a supply of toothpicks.--Douglas Jerrold.

I know of no method to secure the repeal of bad or obnoxious laws so effective as their stringent execution.--Ulysses S. Grant.

But I've never known a sorrow that could with that compare, when off the blue Canaries I smoked my last cigar.--Joseph Warren Fabens.

Defer not till tomorrow to be wise, tomorrow's sun to thee may never rise.--William Congreve.

I would make a list against the evil days of lovely things to hold in memory.--Richard Le Gallienne.

Human status ought not to depend upon the changing demands of the economic process.--William Temple.

If there's a heaven upon the earth, a fellow knows it when he's been away from home a week, and then gets back again.--Will Carlton.

The power of words is such that they have prevented our learning some of the most important events in the world's history.--Sir Norman Angell.

I met at eve the Prince of Sleep, his was a still and lovely face, he wandered through a valley steep, lovely in a lonely place.--Walter Dela Mare.

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