

REMARKS BY SENATOR ROBERT MORGAN  
DEDICATION OF POLICE AND FIRE STATION  
WAYNESVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA  
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First of all, I want to express my thanks to you all for having me down on this occasion. It sure is good to be here in the mountains of my home state, especially at this time of year.

You know, people ask if going back to North Carolina to see the people interferes with my work in Washington. But I have to say it's getting back home as often as I can which makes it possible to do that work, in the first place. Seeing these beautiful mountains, for example, ought to keep me going for a nice while.

It is especially good to get together with you for such

a purpose as this. The new police and fire station here in Waynesville was built with federal revenue sharing funds -- or to put it a better way, it was built with the people's taxes, which they managed to get back from Washington, and use as they pleased.

A lot of people have criticised revenue sharing. If we lived in a perfect world, I would agree with them. But we don't. As long as we have the federal system, we ought to make the best use of it we can.

Personally, I like the idea of localism -- local initiative and local recognition of needs. I believe the people nearest the situation know what the problem is, and are the most likely to solve it best. That's why revenue

sharing is such a good step in the right direction. It is a giant step away from big brother government in Washington, and it is a step toward local responsibility and local power.

You know, I was pleased to be a co-sponsor of the bill to continue the revenue sharing program beyond its original termination date. I do not co-sponsor bills at the drop of a hat. I don't believe in doing it unless I am directly involved with the legislation, or I think it is a really good idea.

What makes revenue sharing such a good idea is that it returns the decision-making process to the local level. It puts the federal government in the position of being a resource. Once local people have decided what they want,

the federal government should back that decision with as much help as possible and as little regulation as is consistent with good sense.

I think the federal government can be a resource for the people, especially in those communities with few sources of revenue or inflexible tax bases.

But what has been the history of the federal government's relationships with local governments? The government has, in a way, taken away with the left hand what it gave with the right. There have been many federal programs for specific purposes and many of them have had an impact where it was needed. But there have been too many strings attached to this money. You couldn't get it without committing yourself

to policies that were not appropriate to your local needs and values.

And you could not get it without a lot of red tape and regulation. The plain fact of the matter is that too often regulation means that the government does not trust you. With revenue sharing, the Congress has said, "Wait a minute. These people can be trusted. The people are the ultimate authority, and not us." And that new policy has worked.

Under revenue sharing, local people decide how they will spend a portion of their federal tax dollars, and they have decided well. They have built schools, sewer systems, and courthouses, and they have bought themselves fire trucks

and backhoes and garbage trucks. If there have been frivolous projects, there have been very few.

I'd like to say one last thing about revenue sharing which interests me very much. Every time revenue sharing funds can be used to build something like this fire and police station, it means that much less deficit financing of capital improvements, which effectively halves their cost, at least. This means the next generation here in Waynesville will not be saddled with paying for past investments.

This project is part of a program which means a great deal to my home state. As of the present time, North Carolina has received over half a billion dollars in revenue sharing funds. For once, the taxpayer ought to feel this is money

well spent.

Thank you for letting me be with you today. You have every reason to be proud of this new station you have built for yourselves, and I appreciate being invited to take part in the ceremonies. I hope to see you again soon.