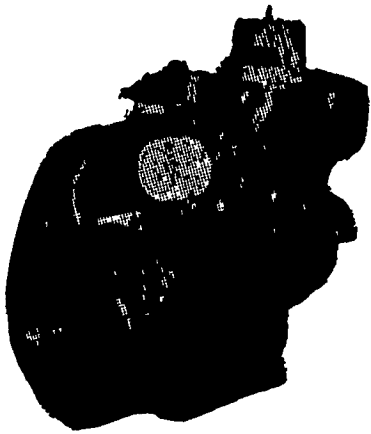


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**ED ESHLEMAN'S
WASHINGTON REPORT**

Recently, I was able to announce just how much revenue sharing would mean to my District in dollars and cents. The 16th Congressional District will get over \$6 million of Federal money if the revenue sharing plan now before Congress is passed.

That's a substantial sum of cssh and goes a long way toward explaining why some of us have long favored this kind of plan for relieving the financial burden of state and local governments. Ever since coming to Congress in 1967, I have viewed revenue sharing as one way of putting an end to the upward climb of state and local taxes. It is these taxes that have become such a problem for Americans, and yet little could be done about the problem until another way of helping finance vital projects at the local level was developed.

Revenue sharing means that states and municipalities will have money available to do things that need doing without having to ask for additional taxes. Federal dollars will be available to meet locally-determined priorities in states, cities, counties, villages, towns

and townships throughout the country.

The legislation before the House of Representatives would put no restrictions on how state governments could spend these Federally-shared funds. The states would be free to use the money to meet pressing needs in all fields.

The money channeled to local governments would have certain limitations on how it could be used. Local governments would be required to put the shared revenue into law enforcement, transportation and environmental protection programs. They would have rather broad leeway in determining how to best spend their funds within those three areas, but would not have the complete latitude given the states.

One of the chief beliefs behind the whole idea of revenue sharing is that state and local governments are capable of handling the Federal funds wisely and well. Sharing money makes no sense unless problems and priorities can be met better at the state and local level than they can be met from Washington.

Therefore, the real test of revenue sharing will be whether

the money is used responsibly by those who receive it. If much of the \$5.3 billion that is to be shared nationally ends up being used for mere political gain rather than to meet real needs, the program will be a bust. But if the funds give local areas an opportunity to meet challenges they were previously unable to tackle, then revenue sharing will become a positive means of giving power back to people.

I believe that state and local governments can be responsive. That's why I have supported the revenue sharing concept. But to respond, those governments must know what their citizens need and want. That's why I have supported the revenue sharing concept. But to respond, those governments must know what their citizens need and want. That part will be up to you. And it will be to your advantage to do your part, for if revenue sharing is a success, you may find that your state and local tax bill will become somewhat more realistic.

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