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9-17-1981

### Federal Block Grants System, September 17, 1981

Vern Riffe

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# INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

*Speech*



TO Mr Speaker DATE 9-16-81  
FROM: Don Roberts  
SUBJECT: Information for speech to meeting of Southwest Ohio County  
Commissioners and Engineers Association dinner meeting.

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Event: Dinner meeting Southwest Ohio County Commissioners and Engineers Regional Meeting.

Date: Thursday, **September 17, 1981** Time: 6:30 Cocktails, 7:30 Dinner

Location: The Ramada Inn, Portsmouth

Contact Person: Paul Griffith, Portsmouth (614) 353-5111

Note: I have prepared and attached to the speech an outline on the federal block grants system in case you want to comment on that or have questions on the subject.

REMARKS BY  
HOUSE SPEAKER VERN RIFFE  
TO THE  
SOUTHWEST OHIO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
AND ENGINEERS REGIONAL MEETING  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1981, 7:30 P.M.  
RAMADA INN, PORTSMOUTH, OHIO

OPENING

COMMISSIONER GRIFFITH, COMMISSIONERS, ENGINEERS, SPOUSES AND  
GUESTS.

THANK YOU FOR ASKING ME TO SPEAK THIS EVENING. THE PLEASURE  
IS DOUBLED BECAUSE WE ARE MEETING HERE IN SCIOTO COUNTY AND PORTSMOUTH.

PURPOSE OF THIS TALK

IN THESE FEW COMMENTS THIS EVENING I WILL REPORT TO YOU MOST  
RECENT ACTION IN THE STATE HOUSE ON SEVERAL MATTERS OF DIRECT CONCERN  
TO YOU AS COUNTY OFFICIALS.

FIRST, I AM VERY PLEASED TO REPORT THAT THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION WILL OPEN BIDS ON OCTOBER 17 AND NOVEMBER 24 ON THE

LAST THREE REMAINING UNFINISHED PARTS OF THE APPALACHIAN HIGHWAY SYSTEM THROUGH SOUTHERN OHIO.

DIRECTOR WEIR HAS, AS I INSISTED, MOVED TOWARD GETTING THESE ROADWAYS UNDER CONSTRUCTION. BIDS ON CONSTRUCTION FOR THE 5.6 MILE STRETCH NEAR SARDINIA BETWEEN SR 134 AND US 62 AND ON A 3.8 MILE PIECE FROM SR 136 AT WINCHESTER TO SEAMAN HAVE BEEN CALLED FOR AND WILL BE OPENED ON THE DATES I MENTIONED.

OFFICIALS OF THE ADMINISTRATION HAVE PLEDGED TO ME THAT THESE HIGHWAYS WILL BE COMPLETED, HOPEFULLY BY LATE 1983.

THE THIRD AND FINAL PROJECT OF STATE ROUTE 32 WILL BE ADVERTISED FOR BIDS SOMETIME IN 1982. THAT 5.5 MILE LINK FROM FINCASTLE TO SR 136 AT WINCHESTER SHOULD BE COMPLETED DURING 1984.

AS YOU KNOW THE COMPLETED APPALACHIAN HIGHWAY WILL SERVE TO LINK SOUTHERN OHIO IN A WAY THAT WILL BOOST THE ECONOMY AND BENEFIT THE PEOPLE.

IT WILL BE A FINE DAY WHEN THE SECTIONS OF THE HIGHWAY IN BROWN AND ADAMS COUNTIES ARE OPENED FOR TRAFFIC,

I AM ESPECIALLY PLEASED WITH DIRECTOR WEIR'S ANNOUNCEMENT ON THESE BID OPENINGS. IT HAS BEEN A LONG HARD FIGHT. I MUST SAY I HAVE HAD TO CALL UPON ALL 23 YEARS OF MY HOUSE EXPERIENCE AS WELL AS UPON NUMEROUS OTHER EXPERIENCES IN ORDER TO WIN THESE BATTLES FOR THE PEOPLE OF SOUTHERN OHIO.

MAJOR LEGISLATION PASSED DURING THE 114TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY (1981) OF SPECIAL INTEREST FOR YOU

H.B. 101 STANDARDIZES PETITION REQUIREMENTS FOR CHANGING COUNTY OR TOWNSHIP ZONING REGULATIONS.

H.B. 235-REQUIRES ALL SPECIAL ELECTIONS TO BE HELD ON THE FIRST TUESDAY AFTER THE FIRST MONDAY IN FEBRUARY, APRIL OR AUGUST OR ON THE DAY OF THE PRIMARY OR GENERAL ELECTION.

S.B. 114-AMENDS OR REPEALS OUTDATED OR OBSOLETE SECTIONS OF THE REVISED CODE PERTAINING TO COUNTIES AND TOWNSHIPS

THE STATE OF OHIO HAS A NEW DEATH PENALTY LAW TO BECOME EFFECTIVE NEXT OCTOBER 19TH. (SB 1) WE BELIEVE THAT IT WILL PREVENT A NUMBER OF MURDERS AND OTHER TERRIBLE CRIMES.

WE HAVE PASSED A BILL THAT PROVIDES FUNDS FOR THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (HB 102). THE NEW LAW INCLUDES AN INCREASE IN THE GASOLINE TAX TO PRODUCE REVENUE FOR HIGHWAY AND BRIDGE REPAIR. COUNTIES WILL RECEIVE ADDITIONAL REVENUE FROM THE INCREASED FUEL TAX. AT THE SAME TIME A HOUSE TASK FORCE ON BRIDGES HAS BEEN BUSY EXAMINING EVERY ASPECT OF THE BRIDGE REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT PROBLEM IN THE STATE.

LEGISLATION PASSED BY THE HOUSE AND NOW IN THE SENATE AWAITING ACTION

H.B. 373- WOULD PERMIT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO LEVY A SALES AND USE TAX AT THE RATE OF ONE QUARTER PERCENT; THREE QUARTERS PERCENT OR ONE PERCENT OF PRICE. THE BILL WOULD ENTITLE VENDORS COLLECTING A COUNTY OR A TRANSIT AUTHORITY SALES AND USE TAX TO RECEIVE AN ADDITIONAL CREDIT OF ONE EIGHTH PERCENT.

ALSO, THE BILL WOULD REQUIRE ANY REFERENDUM ON THE REPEAL OF AN INCREASE IN THE RATE OF A COUNTY SALES AND USE TAX ADOPTED AS AN EMERGENCY MEASURE MUST BE VOTED ON AS A SEPARATE QUESTION FROM THE REPEAL OF THE TAX IN EFFECT PRIOR TO THE INCREASE.

THIS BILL, IF PASSED BY THE SENATE, COULD MEAN ADDITIONAL SIGNIFICANT REVENUE FOR THE COUNTY OPERATIONAL BUDGETS.

H.B. 84-WOULD ESTABLISH A FINANCIAL AND PLANNING COMMISSION AND PROCEDURES FOR THOSE COUNTIES AND TOWNSHIPS IN WHICH A FINANCIAL EMERGENCY IS DETERMINED TO EXIST.

H.B. 91-WOULD RECOGNIZE THE VALIDITY OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING CONTRACTS BETWEEN PUBLIC EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATIONS.

H.B. 188-WOULD REQUIRE THAT ALL TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES BE PAID ANNUAL SALARIES SET BY THE BOARDS AND WOULD SET CEILINGS ON THOSE SALARIES BASED ON THE SIZE OF THE TOWNSHIP BUDGET.

~~230~~ 6

H.B. 230-WOULD PERMIT INTEREST EARNED ON MONEY INCLUDED IN A PUBLIC DEPOSIT BY A COUNTY TREASURER TO BE CREDITED TO THE COUNTY GENERAL FUND. IT RELIEVES OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR INVESTING PUBLIC MONEYS FROM ANY LIABILITY FOR A LOSS RESULTING FROM AN INVESTMENT RISK OR FROM A SUBORDINATE'S ACTION UNLESS THE OFFICIAL KNEW OF THE ACTION AND NEGLECTED HIS/HER DUTIES. THE BILL WOULD CHANGE THE COUNTY'S INVESTING AUTHORITY FROM THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO THE COUNTY TREASURER. THERE ARE OTHER PROVISIONS IN THE BILL.

H.B. 375-REQUIRES A COUNTY BOARD OF MENTAL RETARDATION AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES TO HOLD AT LEAST 10 MEETINGS A YEAR AND REQUIRES REMOVAL OF A MEMBER WHO IS ABSENT FROM FOUR REGULAR MEETINGS WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

H.B. 399-WOULD INCREASE THE AMOUNT TO \$300 - THAT A BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COULD APPROPRIATE TO EACH LOCAL UNIT OF VARIOUS VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS FOR OFFICIAL CELEBRATIONS OF MEMORIAL DAY.



THE NEW BUDGET BILL

HB 694 IS THE NEW STATE PERMANENT BUDGET BILL AS PROPOSED BY THE GOVERNOR. THE HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE STARTED HEARINGS ON THIS BILL TUESDAY AND WILL CONTINUE WORKING ON IT THROUGH NEXT WEEK.

THE BILL WOULD INCREASE SALES TAXES, WINE AND BEER TAXES, ADD CIGARETTES TO THE TAXES LIST, ADD A 15 PERCENT SURCHARGE TO CORPORATE FRANCHISE TAXES AND ACCELERATE THE PAYMENT OF 10 PERCENT OF THE TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX PAID BY INTER-COUNTY CORPORATION.

IT'S PROPONENTS SAY IT WILL PRODUCE AN ADDITIONAL \$774 MILLION FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND AN ADDITIONAL \$309 MILLION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION. AND THAT IT WILL ELIMINATE POSSIBLE CUTBACKS IN OTHER STATE AGENCY SPENDING.

YOU MAY BE SURE THAT WE WILL EXAMINE THIS PROPOSAL IN EVERY DETAIL. WE WILL MAKE THE BEST JUDGMENT THAT WE CAN.

I HAVE SAID THAT I SUPPORT THE CONCEPT OF THIS BUDGET BILL BECAUSE

I KNOW THAT WE MUST ACT TO KEEP SCHOOLS FROM CLOSING AND THAT  
TAKES ADDITIONAL TAX REVENUE.

CLOSING

I HAVE GIVEN YOU THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MOST CURRENT LEGISLATIVE  
ACTION THAT IS OF VITAL CONCERN TO ALL OF US.

AGAIN, THANK YOU FOR HAVING ME WITH YOU THIS EVENING. IT IS  
INDEED A FINE HONOR.

## NOTES ON BLOCK GRANTS

On July 28th Congress passed a Reconciliation Bill establishing nine block grants. There is still much confusion about the legislation because administrative, planning and citizen participation provisions vary from program to program.

The chart below shows the 1981 program appropriations, the nine block grants and their authorization levels, and some consolidated programs. It also shows the reduction percentages of Federal funds. (Authorizations are in millions).

Social Services -- Consolidates Title XX Day Care, Services, and Training. 1982 authorization: \$2,400 (-20%).

Community Services -- Consolidates Community Action Programs, local initiative, senior opportunities and services, state economic opportunity offices, community food and nutrition, energy conservation services, youth sports programs, training and technical assistance, program administration. 1982 authorization: \$389 (-20%)

Alcohol, Drug Abuse, Mental Health -- Consolidates community mental health and special grants to states. 1982 authorization: \$491.

Preventive Health and Health Services -- Consolidates health incentives grants, rat control, fluoridation, risk reduction and health education, hypertension control, home health services, emergency medical services, rape crisis. 1982 authorization: \$95 (-23%).

Maternal and Child Health -- Consolidates lead-based paint, sudden infant death syndrome, hemophilia, genetic diseases, adolescent pregnancy, crippled children's services, disabled children program, maternal and child health care. 1982 authorization: \$373 (-18%).

Primary Health Care -- Community Health Centers. 1982 authorization: \$303 (-7%).

Education -- Consolidates 33 programs and continues existing Title I, education for disadvantaged. 1982 authorization: \$3.4 billion for Title I, \$475 million for other consolidated programs.

Home Energy Assistance -- Low income energy assistance. ~~1982~~ authorization: \$1,875 (+1%).

Community Development -- Existing legislation not repealed, but several other programs consolidated. Gives states a block grant for communities under 50,000 population. 1982 authorization: \$4,167.

Director Richard Sheridan of the Legislative Budget Office has estimated that Ohio could lose as much as \$90 million dollars in federal aid because of the proposed new federal block grant system of releasing federal dollars to state and local governments.