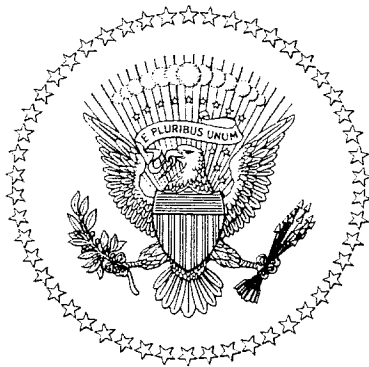


PUBLIC PAPERS OF THE PRESIDENTS
OF THE
UNITED STATES

Ronald Reagan



1983

(IN TWO BOOKS)

BOOK II—JULY 2 TO DECEMBER 31, 1983

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knew what the people of Dixon needed, and they were able to meet those needs with efficiency and imagination.

Local government meeting local needs—that's a fundamental principle of good government. Many government workers here in Washington are diligent and dedicated; I've found that out. And yet they can't know the American people as well as you or Congressmen or mayors, county and local officials.

If those at the grassroots are to get their jobs done and get them done right, we must give them the resources they need. This bill will send \$4.6 billion from Washington back to our cities, counties, and towns. The money will not be spent as Washington dictates, but as local officials choose. It will support police and fire protection, libraries, street maintenance, and other basic local services. And since less than 1 percent of the total will be used for administration, the general revenue sharing program will set a superb example of government efficiency for other Federal programs.

It took a lot of doing to hammer this bill together. But funding a program at this

level will enable us to continue our partnership with local governments without fueling deficits.

My heartfelt thanks to all who helped build the wide and bipartisan support that this bill enjoyed. For my part, signing this bill represents a great personal pleasure. I pledged my support for revenue sharing to the United States Conference of Mayors back in 1980, and since then, I've repeated my—or restated my support before the National League of Cities, the National Association of Counties, the National Association of Towns and Townships, and many others.

The Federal Government never spent money more wisely than by devoting it to general revenue sharing. Today I'm delighted to reaffirm my support with a pen—two pens. Pens only write one word—government pens do. *[Laughter]*

So, I thank you all, and God bless you. I will now get my name on that piece of paper.

Note: The President spoke at 3:14 p.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House.

As enacted, H.R. 2780 is Public Law 98-185, approved November 30.

Statement on Signing the United States Commission on Civil Rights Act of 1983

November 30, 1983

I have signed today H.R. 2230, establishing a new Commission on Civil Rights. I believe that the birth of this Commission can serve as another milestone in our long struggle as a nation to assure that individuals are judged on the basis of their abilities, irrespective of race, sex, color, national origin, or handicap.

I take this opportunity to reaffirm this administration's commitment to these ideals, which the civil rights laws of the United States were designed to implement and which it will be the central mission of this Commission to articulate and defend.

The bill I have signed today is, of course, a product of negotiation and compromise. While, as noted, I am pleased that the Com-

mission has been re-created so that it may continue the missions assigned to it, the Department of Justice has raised concerns as to the constitutional implications of certain provisions of this legislation. I have appended a recitation of these reservations.

During the preceding 6 months there has been considerable debate on the past and the future of the Commission on Civil Rights, but all seem to agree that the Commission's best and most productive years were its earlier ones. I believe that it is no coincidence that those years were characterized by open debate and a devotion to the principle of equal treatment under the law. With the bill I have signed today and the quality of appointments that can be

made to the Commission, there is cause for confidence that the Commission's best years are yet to come.

Statement by the Department of Justice

Under the terms of H.R. 2230, four members of the Commission will be appointed by the President, two members by the President pro tempore of the Senate, and two members by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Commission itself is not placed clearly within any of the three branches of government created by the United States Constitution, and restrictions have been placed upon the power of the President to remove members of the Commission.

Agencies which are inconsistent with the tripartite system of government established by the Framers of our Constitution should not be created. Equally unacceptable are proposals which impermissibly dilute the powers of the President to appoint and remove officers of the United States. The Civil Rights Commission is, however, unique in form and function and should therefore not become a precedent for the creation of similar agencies in the future.

The new appointment procedure created by the Congress has effectively imposed constitutional limitations on the duties that the Commission may perform. The basic

purpose of the old Commission on Civil Rights—to investigate, study, appraise, and report on discrimination—would be maintained, and most of its current authorities would remain intact. However, because half of the members of the Commission will be appointed by the Congress, the Constitution does not permit the Commission to exercise responsibilities that may be performed only by "Officers of the United States" who are appointed in accordance with the Appointments Clause of the United States Constitution (Article II, Section 2, clause 2). Therefore, it should be clear that although the Commission will continue to perform investigative and informative functions, it may not exercise enforcement, regulatory, or other executive responsibilities that may be performed only by officers of the United States.

Note: On the same day, the White House announced that the President appointed Clarence M. Pendleton, Jr., of California, to be a member of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights for a term of 6 years and designated him as Chairman. The President also appointed Linda Chavez Gersten, of the District of Columbia, as Staff Director of the Commission.

As enacted, H.R. 2230 is Public Law 98-183, approved November 30.

Statement on Signing the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1984
November 30, 1983

In signing this appropriation legislation, which includes funding for the Multilateral Development Banks, I would like to clarify one point. While I firmly believe that we must continue the valuable and productive unofficial relations with the people of Taiwan, and I strongly support efforts to ensure their continued participation in the Asian Development Bank, certain terminology used in the amendment to the bill concerning this issue is not consistent with United States Government policy, which

recognizes the People's Republic of China as the sole, legal Government of China. I want to make clear that my signing of this bill does not reflect any change in the position of four successive Presidents with respect to China, nor should it be interpreted as any shift in the United States Government's recognition policy.

Note: As enacted, H.R. 3959 is Public Law 98-181, approved November 30.