

12-13-1977

Federal Grants Conference

Max S. Baucus

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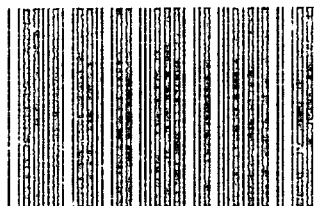
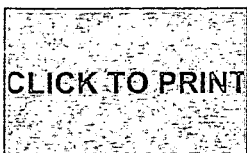
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(2) Subject* **Federal Grants Conference**

DOCUMENT DATE*: **12/13/1977**

(Example: 01/12/1966)

* "required information"



BAUCUS

AN ADDRESS BY
CONGRESSMAN MAX BAUCUS
FEDERAL GRANTS CONFERENCE
UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA
DECEMBER 13, 1977

GOOD MORNING!

I WOULD LIKE TO SAY A FEW WORDS ABOUT THE PURPOSE OF THIS CONFERENCE. TO BEGIN WITH, IT STEMMED FROM THE MYRIAD REQUESTS I'VE RECEIVED FROM MONTANANS, LIKE YOU, WHO WANT TO OBTAIN FEDERAL FUNDS.

THE SUCCESS OF THE FEDERAL GRANT SYSTEM IS REFLECTED BY ITS TREMENDOUS GROWTH NATIONALLY OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS. GOVERNMENT FUNDING IS OFTEN NEEDED TO AID LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS, PROVIDE BETTER HOUSING, OFFER SERVICES TO OUR SENIOR CITIZENS AND PROVIDE AID TO OUR SMALL BUSINESSMEN, RANCHERS, AND FARMERS.

MANY COMMUNITIES LACK VITAL SOCIAL SERVICES, AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS THE RESOURCES TO PROVIDE THESE SERVICES.

YET MANY MONTANA TOWNS AND COUNTIES HAVE NOT KEPT UP. WHY? BECAUSE THEY LACK THE RESOURCES TO ENGAGE IN MAJOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

YES, FEDERAL AID IS NOT FREE. MANY LONG HOURS ARE OFTEN NEEDED TO PREPARE ACCEPTABLE GRANT PROPOSALS. IT TAKES TIME TO PREPARE THESE GRANT APPLICATIONS, AND IT TAKES MORE TIME TO IMPLEMENT THE PROPOSED PROGRAM.

IT IS OFTEN DIFFICULT FOR MONTANANS TO ENTER THE COMPLEX FEDERAL GRANTS SYSTEM AND SUCCESSFULLY COMPETE WITH EXPERIENCED GRANT COORDINATORS FROM LARGE URBAN CENTERS. I BELIEVE THIS IS THE MAJOR REASON WHY RURAL COMMUNITIES OFTEN HAVE DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING THEIR SHARE OF GRANT MONIES.

WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO DEVELOP TODAY IS A BASIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE FEDERAL AIDS SYSTEM. IT SOMETIMES IS COMPLEX, OFTEN INEFFICIENT, PERHAPS AT TIMES IT CAN BE TERMED IRRATIONAL. BUT THE GRANTS-IN-AID SYSTEM CAN PROVIDE ENORMOUS BENEFITS TO THOSE WHO SEEK ITS AID. RULES AND REGULATIONS CAN BE FRUSTRATING, BUT THE SYSTEM CAN BE MASTERED AND IT SHOULD BE IMPROVED.

THIS MORNING WE WILL DISCUSS THE GENERAL ASPECTS OF GRANTMANSHIP. THE SPEAKERS THAT WE HAVE HERE TODAY ARE VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE AND EXPERIENCED GRANTS PEOPLE THAT ARE EXCITED ABOUT SHARING THEIR TIME WITH YOU. THEY ARE HERE TO HELP YOU -- TO GIVE YOU TIPS ON APPROACHING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WITH GRANT APPLICATIONS AND TO GIVE YOU INFORMATION ON PREPARING COMPETITIVE APPLICATIONS AND THE NECESSARY FOLLOW-UP TO GET THEM FUNDED.

THE AFTERNOON SESSION WILL BE DEVOTED TO A HEARING. I HOPE YOU CAN HELP ME PINPOINT SPECIFIC PROBLEMS THAT YOU HAVE ENCOUNTERED WITH THE FEDERAL GRANTS SYSTEM. I WOULD LIKE TO HEAR YOUR COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS. I NEED YOUR COOPERATION TO IDENTIFY APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR YOU TO DEAL WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO ASK QUESTIONS. NO QUESTION IS TOO
ELEMENTARY NOT TO DESERVE AN ANSWER. WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOU.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENDANCE. I HOPE THIS CONFERENCE
WILL BE USEFUL TO YOU.

ALSO, I HOPE YOU WILL FIND TIME TO FILL OUT THE QUESTIONNAIRE
AND RETURN IT TO THE REGISTRATION DESK OR TO ONE OF MY ASSISTANTS.