

Gore: Plan to Streamline Government, Save \$108 Billion Over 5 Year Period

WASHINGTON — Vice President Al Gore said Monday the administration's "rock 'em, sock 'em, shake 'em up" plan to change the federal bureaucracy would make the government work better and cost less. Government as it exists is "failing the American people," Gore said.

The vice president, point man on the proposal to make sweeping changes in the federal government, will unveil the blueprint in a Tuesday White House ceremony with President Clinton at his side.

The White House estimates savings at \$108 billion over five years, according to administration officials who spoke on condition of anonymity. Slightly more than half the proposals require congressional approval. The plan eventually would put 252,000 federal employees out of work, their services no longer needed in the streamlined government envisioned by the White House.

That would reduce the federal work force by 12 percent, bringing it below the 2-million mark for the first time since 1966.

Layoffs, although not expected, are possible, Gore said. The White House plans to offer displaced workers buyouts, early retirements, transfers and training for other public- and private-sector jobs.

"I think that the ground has shifted, and many who are traditionally cynical about the prospect for system changes are going to be surprised by the amount of support

for rock 'em, sock 'em, shake 'em up, sweeping changes of this kind," Gore said in an interview with The Associated Press.

"That's what the American people want and the American people are dead right in wanting it. This government has grown stale, wasteful, inefficient, bureaucratic and is failing the American people."

Some key recommendations would cut wasteful and duplicative programs.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, once a prospect for merger with the FBI, is safe for now, but could be in trouble down the road, said a government official familiar with the report.

The report also suggested that the government treat taxpayers like customers. Other suggestions included getting more technology involved in government operations. Also, government should cut "pork barrel" projects, according to the report. For example, the government could urge Congress to reduce the number of restrictions it puts on agencies.

The report also suggested finding ways to collect more money, such as changing the law to allow agencies such as the IRS to hire collection agencies to go after delinquent taxes and fees.

Also, the report suggested giving managers more power to hire and fire employees, decentralizing the current system.

Many of the changes would upset labor groups and step on the toes of legislators whose influence would be diminished by

changing the budget, personnel and purchasing systems they now oversee. Gore said he was ready for the backlash.

"The way the government operates presently steps on the toes of the American people. We're trying to lift that dead weight off their toes," Gore said.

Asked if he could guarantee that the plan would not force layoffs of federal employees, Gore said, "There is no iron-clad guarantee but there is an iron-clad commitment to do everything possible to manage this transition extremely well so that those who are affected have other jobs and any exceptions to that rule will be few and far between."

The report is the first step in a slow process to "reinvent" the government, Gore said. "Any effort to change the culture of a large organization will take time, perhaps eight to 10 years," he said.

Following Tuesday's announcement, the White House begins a week-long effort to promote the recommendations. Gore will travel to New York on Wednesday to tape "The Late Show" with David Letterman.

St. Augustine's Applications Now Include Criminal Records Request

BY GREGORY RAY
STAFF WRITER

A new admissions criterion faces students applying to Raleigh's St. Augustine's College: a letter from their hometown police department. Students seeking to attend the small, traditionally black college must get police to write a profile detailing any past criminal history.

Tracey Todd, college spokesperson for St. Augustine's, said the program had started with this year's freshman class and the school had not encountered any major difficulties. "We haven't had a problem with it," he said. "Ninety-five percent of the students have complied."

"This alone is not the determining factor," Todd added. For those who do not follow the new guideline, there is a "special committee that reviews the record."

The policy came about after an outbreak of violence on the campus. One St. Augustine's student was murdered and another charged with murder last year.

Alan McSurely, a Chapel Hill civil rights attorney, said the new policy was a response to growing levels of turbulence not only on college campuses, but within the general population.

"All institutions are reacting to the increasing amount of violence that is in our society. The institutions are, in one sense, somewhat helpless. (They) are circling their wagons trying to protect themselves."

"It seems to me to be going at it the wrong way," McSurely said of the policy. "(What) the institutions need to do is get the students out in the real world and solving problems."

McSurely said the policy was "a suspicious approach to young people."

He said he thought some applicants would take issue with what they saw as an invasion of their privacy. "Some parent or student will say it's nobody's business."

Sherry Scoggins, secretary for Raleigh Police Chief Frederick Heineman, said she had not received any requests for criminal profiles from St. Augustine's applicants.

"I haven't seen anything come through the office yet," she said.

Jim Walters, UNC director of undergraduate admissions, said the university had no plans to enact such a policy. "We certainly don't plan to do it," he said.

UNC has a yes-or-no question on its application asking the applicant if he or she has been convicted of a crime, he said.

Walters said a proposal similar to St. Augustine's underwent a trial-by-fire at the University of New York at Albany almost 10 years ago. "It was tested at (the) state university at Albany," he said.

A student sued the university because he wasn't admitted as a result of the new policy. The N.Y. courts ruled in favor of the college and set a legal precedent, Walters said. In light of the earlier case, the St. Augustine's policy probably is lawful.

Susan Sigmon, guidance counselor at Raleigh's Athens Drive High School, said she had not received any instructions about the policy. "We haven't gotten any directives. That's privileged information."

Cases Heard by Undergraduate Court (August 17, 1992-August 3, 1993)

Total heard 43
Guilty verdicts 30

Sanctions Imposed

- 21 definite suspension
- 7 definite probation
- 2 with waiver of automatic F
- 3 with community service
- 2 with prohibition from practice in organized groups/activities
- 2 indefinite probation
- 1 with prohibition from practice in organized groups/activities

Appeal Modifications to Cases

- 8 guilty verdicts reversed for insufficient evidence
- 1 sanction modified for severity of sentence
- 1 case remanded for new hearing for violation of basic rights

HONOR COURT

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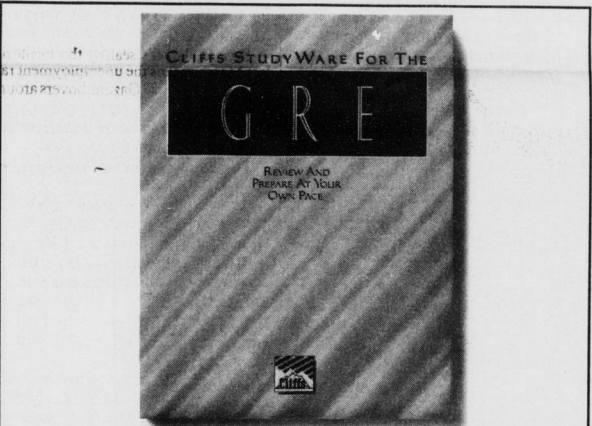
Adler said the goal of the University should be to reduce cheating rather than to try to eliminate it totally.

"I don't think it would be possible to reduce the number of incidences to zero," Adler said. "The best way to go about it is to create awareness."

"The consequences of violating the Honor Code can be severe," Adler said. "I think students in the back of their minds know this. But when they are under stress such as when taking an exam, they tend to blot it out from their minds."

Barrett said the Office of the Dean of Students and the chancellor's office would be working closely with the student judicial system to ensure that students were aware of the severity of punishments for violating the Honor Code.

Those punishments could range from academic probation to expulsion, that followed Honor Code violations, he said.



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