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New York Newsday - February 7, 1994

## **Rudy Scarcely Lays a Glove on Government**

Rudy Giuliani didn't go far enough. New Yorkers didn't elect a Republican mayor just to balance the budget. Any Democrat can do that - and must, by law. A Republican mayor has a special obligation to go the extra mile, since no Democrat can successfully govern without the support of the "special interests" that drain the city treasury. A Republican must go beyond creative accounting and the rhetoric of privatization; a Republican has a once-in-a-generation opportunity to shrink the goiters of government and undo agreements with the state legislature that hurt the city. So, rather than just criticize what is in the mayor's fiscal plan, let's look at what the mayor left out. The real story of the mayor's fiscal plan is in the opportunities it misses for seriously modernizing New York City government.

Since crime is the top priority for every elected official, the mayor's first challenge is to put more police on the street. The key obstacle to that goal is not the PBA but the city-state memorandum that requires a municipal police force of 31,351. Unfortunately, this number has become the municipal equivalent of the "gold standard" by which we measure our capacity to fight crime. During the past three years, we have been recruiting and training cops to meet this goal while simultaneously reducing the number of civilians in the police department who answer the phones, do clerical work and provide administrative support. Rather than use civilians to replace police for office tasks a key element of the "Safe City, Safe Streets" plan we are doing just the opposite.

The City of Los Angeles has approximately one civilian for every two police officers. In New York City, we have about one civilian for every four cops. To put cops on the street, the mayor can either hire more civilians or revise the city-state memorandum so that the target number is not the total number of police but the actual number of police on effective patrol. Mayor Giuliani is uniquely positioned to get the Republicans in the State Senate to agree to such a change, for no one can challenge his commitment to law enforcement.

Much attention has been given to the mayor's proposal to cut 2,500 employees from the Board of Education. Rather than tackle the high cost of evaluators and busing for special-education students and challenge the affordability of year-round special-ed programs, the mayor has chosen to use body counts - a technique that failed already in Vietnam. Furthermore, the fiscal plan fails even to address school governance, the source of the over-staffed central bureaucracy at 110 Livingston Street.

Although murders have gone up in New York over the past 40 years, the number of fires has gone down, a tribute to strict building codes, smoke detectors, the decline of arson in already burnt-out neighborhoods, and the development of housing on the prairies of Staten Island. The

system of firehouses - initially created during the era of the horse-drawn carriage needs to be drastically cut back. Today, our firefighters spend most of their time in the firehouse, and when they leave, it's frequently for a non-fire emergency. Surely the city can save real dollars by consolidating fire companies. The place to start is on Staten Island, where the brushfire - once an everyday occurrence - has become history - and the mayor cuts a quasi-religious figure.

Of course, no Republican mayor can run for, vice-president in 1996 without a proven track record as a tax cutter. And this mayor has shown that he's no George Bush: He has fulfilled his campaign promise of tax reduction. But upgrading our subway stations is more important to job creation than symbolic tax cuts. If the city's transit infrastructure doesn't work and no one can get to the office, no one will do business here. If the mayor genuinely wants New York to be competitive with other cities, he should give up the gimmicks and invest in our infrastructure. In doing so, he would be investing in his own future as well as ours.

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