

White House staff, salaries, benefits cut to set example

WASHINGTON — President Clinton ordered cuts in the White House staff, salaries and privileges Tuesday, saying he could not ask Americans to make economic sacrifices unless government shares the pain.

"The government must do more and make do with less," Clinton said, announcing a reduction of 350 full-time employees borrowed from other agencies. Most of the cuts will be achieved without layoffs.

Other steps announced by Clinton:

- Restrictions on the use of chauffeur-driven limousines to three officials: the chief of staff, national security adviser and his deputy.
• Transformation of the White House mess to a cafeteria open to all employees.
• Salary reductions of 6 percent to 9 percent for senior officials.
• Cuts in White House subscriptions to newspapers and magazines.

Clinton's announcement was part of the process of preparing Americans to dig deeper into their pockets for higher taxes to shrink the huge federal deficit, and pay for highway and bridge construction and other projects. Another warmup step will be a televised town meeting Wednesday in Detroit.

The president will announce his program Feb. 17 in an address to Congress.

The slimmed-down White House staff will total 1,044, when fully effective on Oct. 1. White House chief of staff Thomas McLarty said the cuts would save \$10 million.

"The real promise the American people want President Clinton to keep is slashing in half the federal deficit in the next four years," said Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole.

Clinton said the staff cuts fulfilled his promise for a 25 percent reduction. He attained the 25 percent figure by exempting 800 employees in the

budget and trade offices, and by ignoring hundreds of military support personnel detailed to the White House.

"Economic renewal will require tough choices from every American," the president said. "But we have to ask the most of those who got the most and gave the least during the last decade.

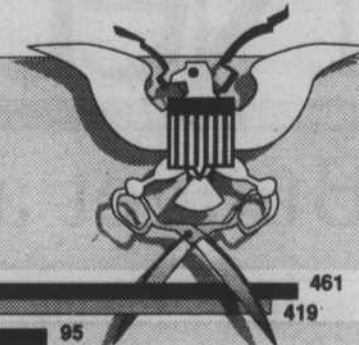
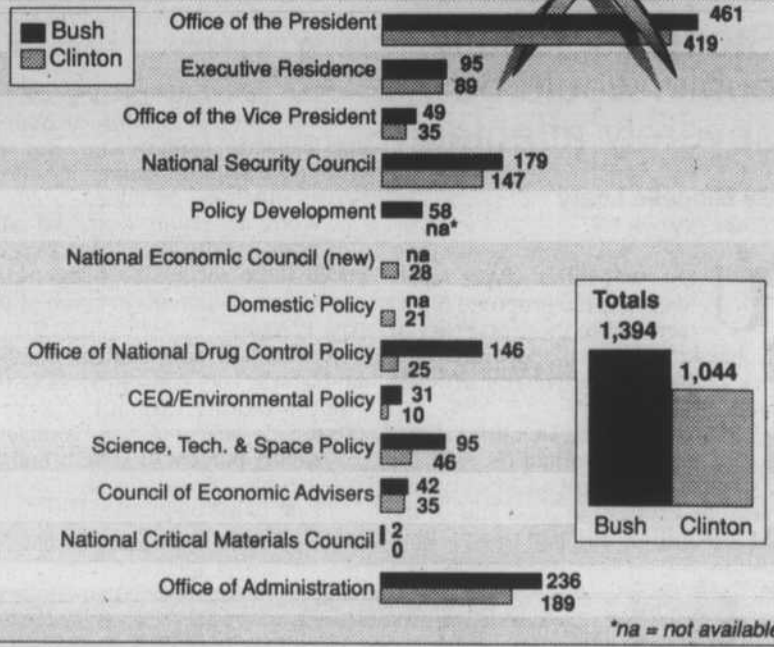
"We in government cannot ask the American people to change if we will not have to do the same," Clinton said. Asked if he was giving up any pay or privileges, Clinton said, "I gave up 350 staff members, which is a remarkable accomplishment."

Seventy of the 350 were temporarily detailed to the White House from other agencies.

McClarty noted Clinton's \$200,000 salary was exempt because it was set by statute. McClarty, though eligible for limousine service, "is not accepting it at this point," Mark Gearan, his deputy, said.

Shrinking executive staff

Where President Clinton wants to cut White House staff from the levels of the Bush administration:



Official: Bosnian rape victims being killed by disgraced kin

WASHINGTON — The number of rapes has diminished in Bosnia but more Muslim rape victims are now being killed by relatives who feel disgraced, an American relief official said Tuesday.

"A sister who is raped brings shame to the family," said Karel Zelenka, in charge of the U.S. Catholic Relief Services office in Zagreb, Croatia.

"Even brothers will kill a sister if she's been raped," he said. "And nobody really knows how to handle it because these women do not want to be contacted because of the shame."

Zelenka said the number of rapes by Serbs has declined because of the world outcry but the killings of the raped women has increased as more pregnancies become evident.

He provided no numbers on such deaths.

The relief official said at a news conference that large-scale rape had been an unprecedented attempt by Serbs to dilute an ethnic group, the Bosnian Muslims.

"It may not be a written policy but there must have been some acceptance because it spread very rapidly," he said.

"The lowest estimate is 20,000," Zelenka, an American of Czech origin, said there also may have been isolated rapes by Croats.

He gave a pessimistic picture of the situation in the former Yugoslavia, saying that the continuing negotiations make the fighting worse as each side tries to improve its military position.

Budget office: Solely taxing the rich won't reduce the nation's deficit much

WASHINGTON — President Clinton has plenty of options for taxing the rich but will find it tough to shrink the budget deficit without other taxes and spending cuts that could anger the public, new congressional estimates show. The Congressional Budget Office's annual menu of ways to trim the shortfall shows that billions of dollars can be raised by boosting the top income tax rate, raising the minimum tax the rich pay and limiting their deductions.

Clinton has repeatedly spoken of making the wealthy "pay their fair share" of deficit reduction.

The budget office's list, made available Tuesday, also illustrates that such levies would probably raise little money compared to the size of the deficit. The middle class might also

have to share in the sacrifice, too.

Clinton is thinking about trying to reduce federal red ink by \$145 billion in fiscal 1997. Getting there will likely require a phased-in, four-year budget-cutting package, starting next year, containing total savings of much more than that.

Clinton is further constrained by White House budget chief Leon Panetta's comments that for every \$1 in tax increases, he would like to find \$2 in spending cuts. Many congressional Democrats have complained that the formula emphasizes spending cuts too heavily, and the president has made no final decision on the ratio.

In the face of such daunting figures, the budget office's options show that deficit-reduction pain will have

to be borne by more than just the rich:

• Boosting the top income-tax rate for individuals from its current 31 percent to 33 percent would raise \$24 billion over the next four years. Clinton is expected to try to raise the top rate, paid by the most affluent Americans, to 36 percent.

• Raising the top rate on corporations from 34 percent to 35 percent would garner \$11.3 billion for the government over four years. Clinton is considering a 36 percent upper rate.

• Increasing the alternative minimum tax paid by the wealthy from 24 percent to 28 percent would raise \$17.1 billion over four years. The tax is designed to ensure that well-to-do people pay some tax, no matter how many legitimate deductions they have.

Public to question Clinton at first 'town hall'

SOUTHFIELD, Mich. — When it comes to Bill Clinton, Margot Wecks will admit to being more than a little confused.

"I think he's really smart and has good ideas. But he's on a path to break every promise he's made," Wecks said. "It's good to hear him talk about needing to make tough decisions. But I think he'll straddle the bridge because he's a grandstander."

She added: "But I hope he does well."

It's that good will Clinton hopes to tap Wednesday night through the first televised town hall of his presidency.

Conversations this week with a diverse group of Americans suggest public opinion remains deeply fragmented when it comes to Clinton.

Ask Betty Brown of Spokane,

Wash., what Clinton has done wrong so far and she doesn't hesitate.

"The way he addressed the issue of gays in the military right out of the barrel," Brown said. "That was really stupid."

Count Roslyn Wilkins of Los Angeles likes the "new energy and the change from an old style" Clinton brings to the White House, but worries he's lost his focus.

"I'd like to see a 10-point list on how he will create new jobs," Wilkins said.

"They would like to see this focus on the economy like a laser approach that he talked about," acknowledged Clinton pollster Stanley Greenberg. He'll try to sell his message of shared sacrifice Wednesday night from the WXYZ-TV studios in suburban Detroit.

The president's town meeting. President Clinton will address the nation in the form of a town meeting Wednesday night. Map showing locations: Seattle, Wash.; WXYZ, an ABC affiliate in Detroit, Michigan, will host; Studio audiences in three other cities will participate via satellite; Atlanta, Georgia; Miami, Florida; CNN, C-SPAN and some ABC affiliates will carry the program.

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Proposed cut spurs planned resolution

By Andrea Kaser Staff Reporter

ASUN President Andrew Sigerson intends to push for an emergency resolution at tonight's meeting urging members to fight the State Legislature Appropriation Committee's proposed 5 percent cut from the NU budget.

"This resolution will say how crazy we think it is for them to cut the university by such a substantial amount," he said.

The committee proposed the cut in the 1992-93 budget at an executive

session Monday. The \$13.98 million cut would apply to the entire University of Nebraska.

Sigerson said members of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska needed to increase their efforts in protecting the university's interests at the Capitol.

"We need to start working the Legislature harder and faster," he said.

The university benefits the state more than anything else, Sigerson said, naming outreach, students and agricultural contributions. But the Appropriations Committee doesn't seem to see those benefits, he said.

In other business, ASUN members will vote on a resolution calling for an emergency snow removal plan.

A Daily Nebraskan article on how students who use wheelchairs face snowy and icy campus pathways brought Patrick Kroese, senator for the College of Agriculture and member of the Human Rights Committee, to sponsor the resolution, he said.

After reading the article, Kroese said he discussed the idea for a better snow removal plan with Christy Horn, director of Services for Students with Disabilities, who also works with the Affirmative Action and Diversity Office.

If the resolution is approved, the schedules and routes of students who use wheelchairs would be researched to find the busiest routes, he said.

WORLD WIRE

Sears loses record \$3.93 billion

CHICAGO — Sears, Roebuck and Co. reported losing \$3.93 billion last year, the worst performance in its history, as its retail sales barely improved and Hurricane Andrew walloped its insurance business.

The loss reported Tuesday was the fourth largest in U.S. corporate history, though at least two other publicly held companies are expected to show worse 1992 results because of companies are expected to show worse 1992 results because of changes in how they must ac-

count for retiree benefits. Sears' loss reflected a \$1.9 billion provision for that rules change.

The company also had a \$1.7 billion charge to cover the costs of its latest retail restructuring, including the closing of 113 stores and its big catalog operation. Sears estimates it will cut 50,000 jobs and save about \$300 million a year.

The 1992 losses also reflected lackluster operating results in retailing, where sales edged up just 1.7 percent last year.