

Davis plans mandatory public service at state campuses

SCOTT LINDLAW
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — Gov. Gray Davis wants to require students at California's public colleges and universities to perform community service.

"One of the ethics of the World War II generation was a sense of obligation to the future, and an appreciation for what they inherited. That is getting away from us," Davis said Thursday.

"I will come up with a plan that will require every college student, as a condition of graduation, to provide some public service," he said.

The requirement would apply to all University of California, California State University and community college campuses, he said. Certain schools already mandate community service as a condition of graduation, including California State University, Monterey Bay, he added.

Asked how long students would be required to serve, Davis said he was still working out details.

It wasn't clear whether Davis would present his plan to the heads of the three college systems, or how he would implement it. Nor did he say what kind of community service he envisioned, or when the requirement would go into effect.

It also wasn't clear how the proposal would be received by college students, although one senior interviewed at California State University, Sacramento's student union on Thursday said it would instill the value of volunteerism in young adults.

"I think it's a good idea because I think a lot of the time at academic institutions we are separated from the community," said Natasha Clark, a social-work major.

Davis spoke at a news conference where he outlined his achievements as he approached his 100th day in office, a traditional milestone at which elected officials are judged on their early performance.

Reporters received a 21-page booklet reviewing his successes, replete with favorable quotes from everyone from President Clinton all the way down to an employee with the South Lake Tahoe Public Utility District.

Davis asserted that his accomplishments on public education,



AP Photo

Gov. Gray Davis gestures to make a point in answering a question during news conference where he outlined his plan to require public service from state college and university students.

California-Mexico relations, water quality and appointments added up to "more substantive achievements than any administration in the last 40 years."

Davis, who has focused most of his energy on fixing public schools, indicated that he would broaden his efforts in coming months to improve public safety, expand the state's economy, revamp health care and address California's aging infrastructure.

But he also made clear that education would remain his top priority. One of his near-term goals is to secure private funding for books and Internet access for public schools, which might encourage students to take advanced placement courses online when their high schools can't afford to offer such courses.

"The way you solve that problem and level the playing field is to offer these courses over the Internet, which all eight University of California campuses are now doing," he said. "That only works, however, if schools are wired to the Internet and these courses are available to students."

One such private investor is Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates, said Davis, who plans to ask Gates'

foundation to pay for the Internet access and books.

Davis backpedaled from a report Thursday in the Los Angeles Times that quoted him as saying he was "leaning" toward fighting in court for Proposition 187, the voter-approved measure that denied most state services to illegal immigrants but was struck down as unconstitutional.

Davis' predecessor, Gov. Pete Wilson, appealed the ruling; Davis, who opposed the ballot measure in 1994, must decide whether to pursue that appeal.

"The question is not whether I want to appeal, but whether I have to appeal in keeping with my constitutional obligation" to uphold the voters' will, Davis said, adding that he planned a series of meetings starting Friday with Attorney General Bill Lockyer and constitutional scholars to mull his legal options.

"I don't think it's useful to handicap a decision I might make."

Davis said his greatest frustration upon taking office was the enormous pressure that interest groups bring to bear, "demanding that I deal with their problem NOW."

After about three weeks in office, Davis said he complained to his wife, Sharon, who told him to stop feeling sorry for himself.

LOOK WHAT'S REPLACING OUR NATIONAL ARMY

.....A NATIONAL SERVICE PROGRAM!

UNIVERSAL PUBLIC SERVICE SYSTEM

By Paul Scott

A far-reaching proposal on President Nixon's desk that bears careful watching is a recommendation that he name a special committee to study the feasibility of establishing a Universal Public Service System.

The little-noticed recommendation was made recently by a White House Task Force headed by Mrs. Winthrop Rockefeller, wife of the Governor of Arkansas and a political power in liberal Republican circles.

The basic idea the new President's committee would explore is that "all Americans, probably beginning somewhere between ages of 17 and 19, serve their Country for two years in one of a variety of areas, including health and social welfare programs, and the military."

While similar plans for a Universal Public Service System have been surfaced from time to time in the past, what is significant about the new recommendation is its timing and the group making it. Drafted originally by the "Whiz Kids" of the Kennedy and Johnson Administrations, the new Universal Public Service proposal was proposed by former Defense Secretary Robert McNamara just before he became head of the World Bank. At the time, the plan received a cold reception in Congress and was shelved.

Now revived by the Rockefeller group, it comes at a time that President Nixon has ordered Defense Secretary Melvin Laird to phase out the military draft by 1973. . . .

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TO PERPETUATE GLOBAL GOVERNMENT

Hitler Youth Movement?

By Paul Scott
Washington, November 4 — A far-reaching proposal on President Nixon's desk that bears careful watching is a recommendation that he name a special committee to study the feasibility of establishing a Universal Public Service System.

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President Nixon has ordered Defense Secretary Melvin Laird to phase out the military draft by 1973.

Supporters of the proposed Universal Public Service System believe that the nation's manpower needs, especially in the health and social fields, will be so great by 1973 that a compulsory system of service will be needed to fill them.

By keeping the military option in their plan, the Rockefeller group believes Congress can be sold on the idea of requiring all American youth to give two years of public service to their country. One of the objectives of the proposed President's committee would be to highlight the manpower needs and to promote support for the new social army.

CLEARING THE WAY

In their report to the President, the Rockefeller Task Force noted that "acceptance of universal public service involves a major shift in values; for it puts social duty on a par with military duty and requires every citizen to make a contribution to his country and himself."

The President was told that the establishment of Universal Public Service would have a tremendous impact on the manpower situation in mental disability and other human service fields.

The Rockefeller Task Force claimed that "shortages in such areas as laboratory technicians,

nurses' aides, and child care personnel would virtually disappear. And many young people exposed to public service would choose to make some facet of it their life work."

"Though mechanisms of operation and other details are necessarily vague at this point," the Rockefeller Task Force pointed out, "work settings, except for volunteers for military service, are seen as completely civilian and predominantly non-federal."

Recruits for the new social army would be placed in "the school system, day care centers, mental health and mental retardation programs, general health facilities, community services, police, fire protection, environmental and urban renewal programs, VISTA, and Peace Corps."

The Rockefeller group stressed that the program would also change the outlook of millions of youth, stating:

"Even more important, perhaps, universal public service would enhance mental health by providing a period of social involvement, and options to military service, for all young people."

Other controversial claims made in support of Universal Public Service by the Rockefeller Task Force included:

"It would enhance the skills and broaden the outlook of our youth during the critical developmental period of late adolescence

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and youth adulthood;
"It would provide health and mental screening of all young people at a given age, approximately 18, with an opportunity for remedial programming in the following two years."

COST IN BILLIONS

The study by a Presidential committee is needed, the Rockefeller group states, because of the size and scope of any Universal Public Service System.

Their report pointed out that "a competent and complex administrative structure will have to be set up" to handle the three to four million youth that would be screened each year.

Although the costs would run into the billions, the Rockefeller

Task Force concluded that the spending would be worth the effort, stating:

"Moving the concept of universal service to reality will involve much thought, discussion and planning. The effort is worthwhile, the Task Force believes, in view of the contribution that universal service promises to the health of our society and the quality of life of our nation. Costs, though difficult to estimate, would be in the billions."

President Nixon has told GOP Senators inquiring about the Task Force's recommendation that he is "giving it serious consideration and believes that the whole question of universal public service ought to be thoroughly studied."

UNIVERSAL PUBLIC SERVICE

Modest start to national service unveiled

RON FOURNIER
Associated Press Writer

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. — President Clinton today unveiled a modest pilot of his campaign promise to allow students to pay for college with national service, and vowed to get the full plan in place within four years.

He said the national service program would "make higher education available to more people in return for the service they give to their community."

"We think we'll be able to accommodate, over the next four years, everybody who chooses to serve the community" in exchange for credit off their college loans, Clinton said. He left open the possibility that the administration has underestimated the number of students who will take advantage of the program.

Following passage of the bill by Congress, people will be able to repay their college loans with a small percentage of their income, Clinton said. It will take longer to phase in the community service aspect, he said.

He promised that the federal government will allow local communities to choose what community service projects get federal money.

"The last thing I want is another centralized bureaucracy telling people what to do," Clinton told reporters at a visit to a community center.

Clinton discussed the broad outlines of the program during a tour of the New Brunswick Public Schools Adult Learning Center in New Jersey, before heading to nearby Rutgers University

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for the formal announcement.

The president said his program would allow students either to pay off college loans with public service or to do the service first and accrue credits to attend college later. Borrowers who did not want to do service work would pay a percentage of their income back into the loan fund.

By setting the repayment at a percentage of income instead of a set amount, Clinton said he hoped to encourage graduates to take lower-paying public service positions such as in police and community health work.

He linked the program to his overall economic package, saying "an economic investment is not just building an airport or a road or investing in new technology, it is also investing in people."

Clinton's plan would get off to a modest start this summer with 1,000 or so summer community service positions and then grow over the next five years to more than 100,000 slots.

After the Rutgers speech, Clinton planned to promote the program in an interview for an MTV special to air tonight. Vice President Al Gore, Tipper Gore and three Clinton Cabinet members were staging events to promote the national service plan, as well.

Included in Clinton's economic stimulus package is a \$15 million pilot project to train community service leaders, the first stage of implementing the broader program.

In an essay published Sunday in The New York Times, Clinton said "national service is an idea as old as America." In addition to the Peace Corps, he compared his plan to Lin-

coln's Homestead Act, which gave pioneers title to land they settled, Truman's GI Bill and the Peace Corps.

Middle-class voters squeezed by skyrocketing college tuition costs rallied behind the proposal during the campaign.

The economic package Clinton unveiled earlier this month contains the first money for the program: \$9.5 billion over the next five years, starting at just \$98 million in the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1 and building to \$3.4 billion in the fiscal year the begins Oct. 1, 1997.

Critics say government should not try to force service on youth in

ment it," he said.

In his national radio address Saturday, Clinton said the program will give "hundreds of thousands of students ... a chance to pursue higher education."

"Everyone with the desire to serve will have the opportunity and will meet social needs that for too long have gone unaddressed," he said.

But the program he plans now would cover up to 150,000 youths a year at its peak, and one White House official said Sunday the figure probably would fall below 100,000. Either way, the program would cover only a fraction of the more than 5 million college students

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—President Clinton

return for college aid. Some labor unions worry that service jobs will take away public employee positions.

Denying that the program was falling short of his campaign promises, Clinton said last month that it would take six years before the number of young people choosing to repay their loans through community service peaks.

"Unless the mechanics are such that we can't implement the service program, which I don't believe is the case, I would expect us to be well beyond what you would call a pilot program as soon as we imple-

with college loans.

The loan amounts would be capped and tuition would not always be fully covered.

Clinton selected Rutgers University for his speech today because of its Civic Education and Community Service Program, which combines classroom instruction with volunteer work.

MTV's 30-minute special, called "Bill Clinton: Your Future, His Plan," was to include highlights of today's speech. The baby-boomer president broke new ground as a candidate by appearing on MTV to woo young voters.