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RUDY READY TO 'ENLIST'

Mayor mulls his task after Jan. 1

By TOM TOPOUSIS, DAVID SEIFMAN and KIRSTEN DANIS

With the city's prayers offered for the World Trade Center victims and the cleanup task well under way, Mayor Giuliani said yesterday he's ready to think about his life after City Hall.

"*Maybe, you know, right after* the prayer service ... I will start focusing my attention on those things and do it in a concentrated way," Giuliani said in an interview with Fox News Channel.

His popularity at an all-time high, Giuliani has been mentioned *for everything from the* city's reconstruction czar to governor to CIA director.

The mayor did not rule out taking a major federal role in the anti-terrorism effort, such as a job as a special prosecutor.

"I told the president right after [his] speech, maybe out of *emotion, 'I enlist. Whatever you* need me for,'" said Giuliani, who was No. 3 man in the Reagan Justice Department before becoming U.S. Attorney for the Southern District in Manhattan.

"What they did makes any decent human being angry, and I'm willing to do anything that *is necessary to defend us,*" he said.

In the hectic, high-emotion days after the attack, Giuliani seemed tempted by calls to scuttle term limits, allowing him to run for a third term.

Last week, a behind-the-scenes political scramble — involving *Giuliani's top aide,* Joseph Lhota — briefly gave life to the idea. But the state Legislature, City Council and Gov. Pataki couldn't be rallied, so the rescheduled primary will go on tomorrow, as planned.

That leaves Giuliani out of a *job on Jan. 1* — at a time when an unthinkable disaster has driven his political capital and popularity up to unprecedented heights.

"He's worked very hard for eight years. I'm sure he'd like to take a deep breath and look inside himself and say, 'How much more do I want to do?'" GOP mayoral candidate Michael Bloomberg said yesterday on WCBS/Channel 2.

Giuliani could take a break, but the mayor has never been one to quietly back away from a challenge.

The possibilities for Citizen *Rudy include:*

■ Reconstruction czar.

Four mayoral candidates — Peter Vallone, Alan Hevesi, Herman Badillo and to a lesser extent, Bloomberg — have said they would enlist the mayor to help rebuild the city in the terror aftermath.

Giuliani could head up a redevelopment agency or a commission to coordinate spending of the massive influx of cash and organize the disparate opinions over how to rebuild.

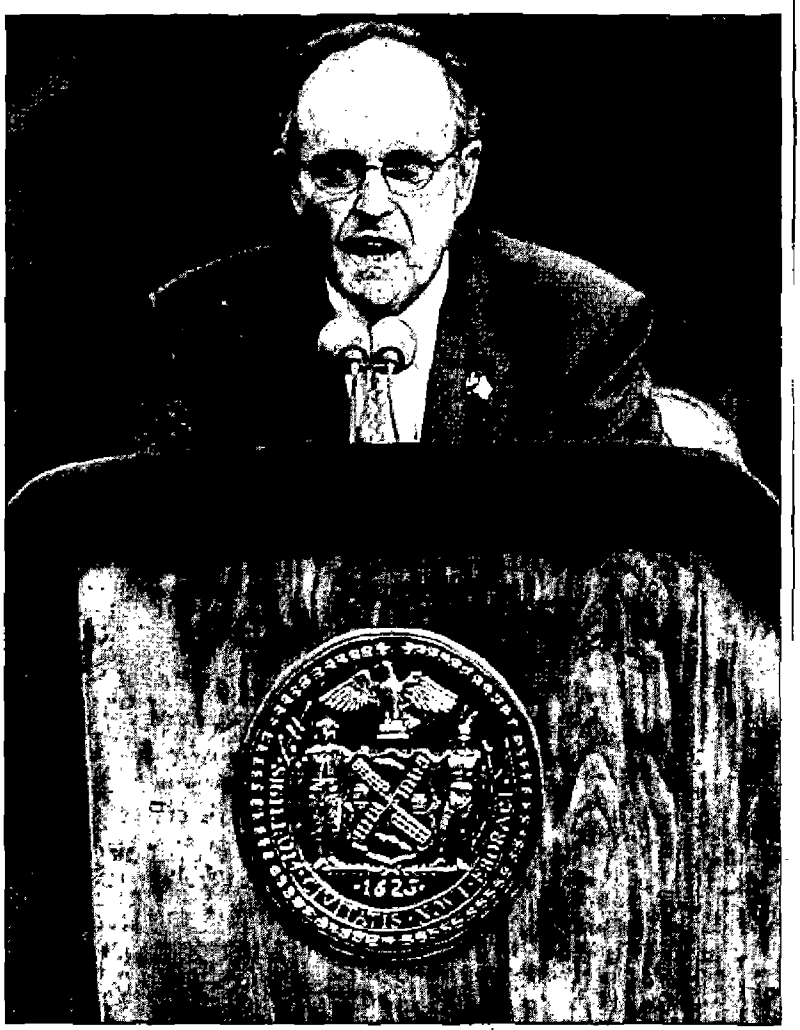
■ Special federal prosecutor.

Giuliani seems less likely to be handed a federal job, especially *after President Bush overlooked* him when putting together a Cabinet and passed over him for the new Homeland Security office, which went to Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge.

But the role of special prosecutor heading up an anti-terrorism squad would fit Giuliani's *temperament and experience.*

■ A run for higher office.

Giuliani, who still has $3 million in his election coffers, has long coveted the Governor's Mansion. He could aim for the 2006 race.



'CZAR' APPARENT? Mayor Giuliani, speaking at the Yankee Stadium service yesterday, just might fill the job of city reconstruction czar or special terror prosecutor. N.Y. Post: Charles Wenzelberg

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