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CRAIN'S, NOVEMBER 4-10, 2001

Early advice for the mayor

I STUDIED AMERICAN HISTORY IN COLLEGE, SO I KNOW ALL about being "Trumanized" or "Tribunized." For those of you who need a refresher, the *Chicago Tribune* has never lived down its 1948 headline "Dewey defeats Truman," and as a result, journalists are instructed never to embarrass themselves by assuming they know the outcome of an election.

That can make life difficult for weekly newspapers that hit the newsstand on Monday, like this one. But since *Crain's* controversial endorsement of Mark Green for mayor has given me some influence—at least temporarily—with the Democratic candidate, I've decided to risk Tribunization to give Mr. Green a piece of advice: Go slow on staffing your administration.

(If Michael Bloomberg wins, I am hoping he'll decide it's time for a clean slate. We will certainly give him one. And while he doesn't forgive easily—if you resign from his company you can never, ever be hired back—he'll need to change his thinking to be a good mayor.)

Back to Mark Green. When Mr. Green met with the *Crain's* editorial board six weeks ago, we asked him whether he would consider keeping some of the more respected people in the Giuliani administration. "A select few," he said tartly. "There is a lot of Democratic talent out there to tap."

A story in this week's issue of *Crain's* details what we have learned about Mr. Green's plans for staffing. He will act quickly to name deputy mayors and the police commissioner with the idea that these key officials would help staff and shape the rest of the Green administration. The deputy mayors would come from Mr. Green's inner circle of advisers. But beyond former police commissioner Bill Bratton, they aren't exactly household names in the city.



That's a problem. *Crain's* endorsed Mr. Green because we believe that he has thought more deeply about and advanced better policies for rebuilding downtown and reviving the rapidly faltering New York economy. But let's be honest. It's a leap of faith on our part, since we have rarely supported Mr. Green in the past.

The first test for Mayor Green—and it is a very important one—will be his appointments. Bill Bratton as police commissioner or maybe deputy mayor for public safety will assure New Yorkers that crime will be attacked as aggressively as ever. Business executives in New York will need similar reassurance about fiscal policies, the city budget, economic development and relations between the city and the business community.

No one mentioned in our Page 4 story can do that. While many of the apparatchiks who are on Mr. Green's list to fill posts like planning commissioner or budget director would probably do a good job, they won't build confidence in Mayor Green or in the city's future.

I think Mr. Green needs to recruit someone of stature from the private sector for a job like the one he will offer Mr. Bratton. With the city's need so great, I think it will be possible to find the right person.

I also think that if Mayor Green doesn't, his honeymoon with the business community could be much too short.

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