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I'LL GIVE GOP LEFT HOOK: MIKE

Says he'll show right how it's wrong

By VINCENT MORRIS
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WASHINGTON — Mayor-elect Mike Bloomberg said yesterday he'll butt heads with America's conservative Republican leadership to help right-wing GOPers see the "error" of their ways.

Bloomberg, who defended his decision last week to reach out to the Rev. Al Sharpton, also acknowledged the he "probably" would not have won election without Mayor Giuliani's endorsement.

"I do think that his endorsement certainly made an enormous difference with people," said Bloomberg, making his maiden voyage onto the Sunday political chat shows after his stunning election a week ago.

Appearing on NBC's "Meet the Press," the same format that Giuliani chose eight years ago following his victory, Bloomberg signaled to the "inside the Beltway" crowd that watches Sunday shows that he's no true-blue Republican.

"There are things that I believe in that I would like to have the Republican Party follow," Bloomberg said.

"My views have been pretty well known," added Bloomberg, who noted that he's pro-choice, pro-gun control, pro-gay rights and opposed to the death penalty — all issues that place him firmly out of step with the vast majority of the party.

Even many liberal Democrats, including Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, are strong supporters of the death penalty.

"I will try to convince others the error of their ways if they disagree. They have a right to their views, but this is what I believe in, and this is what I would support," Bloomberg said.

At one point, Bloomberg was asked if he intends to follow Giuliani's lead in speaking out not strictly on New York issues but on a variety of national topics — even if it means trying to "reshape" the national GOP policy.

"Absolutely," said Bloomberg, who was also quizzed on his backing of the Boston Red Sox. Bloomberg said he would henceforth back all New York teams equally.

He also promised to balance the budget without layoffs, if possible, and said he'd try to convince President Bush to support an effort to tack a special $11 billion package of aid for New York onto a new bill.

Most congressional Republicans, and Bush, are opposing the effort, arguing that New York has already gotten enough money this year and will get more in March or later.

"I have lots of hope that he'll listen again," Bloomberg said.

The challenge of prying money out of the federal government will almost certainly emerge as one of Bloomberg's toughest assignments.

The Post first reported more than a month ago that New York's congressional delegation had decided that Giuliani — given his lame-duck status — should take a smaller public role advocating for the city in Washington.

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