

Mitt Romney Will Push Elimination Of Some Departments

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Campaign: Mitt Romney has often been caricatured as a "plain vanilla" corporate hack lacking in imagination in his economic thinking. But in recent weeks, as he's fleshed out his policies, Americans see a far bolder vision.

In recent remarks, the GOP's presumed nominee surprised many by saying that he would eliminate or consolidate several federal Cabinet-level agencies to slash spending.

That includes two formerly sacred cows: the Departments of Education and of Housing and Urban Development, which together this year will spend \$155 billion.

"I'm going to take a lot of departments in Washington, and agencies, and combine them," NBC News quotes Romney saying. "Some eliminate, but I'm probably not going to lay out just exactly which ones are going to go."

He did hint that HUD "might not be around later" and vowed he would "consolidate" Education or "make it a heck of a lot smaller."

This is bold — bolder even than President Reagan, in some respects. It would not only slow spending, but also shrink the size of government, making it less intrusive and smothering — the kind of limited government envisioned in the Constitution.

The wailing and whining should start shortly. Democrats will call Romney heartless, a tool of the 1%. But the case for eliminating both agencies is powerful.

The Department of Education, despite its name, educates not a single child. What it does is waste billions of dollars while interfering with local school districts' efforts to educate children.

As for HUD, it's been a disaster from the start. Today, as a recent Cato Institute report notes, we spend nearly \$1 trillion a year on welfare of different kinds — a big chunk of it administered or overseen by HUD.

And yet poverty in America based on official figures has never been higher. Worse, HUD, starting in the late 1990s under Bill Clinton, got heavily involved in the federal effort to force banks to lend to uncreditworthy borrowers — a major cause of the financial meltdown.

It would be a fitting end for two such incompetent agencies, saving taxpayers nearly \$600 billion over the next five years out of just over \$20 trillion in spending.

This along with Romney's embrace of Rep. Paul Ryan's sensible spending reduction plan, shows he's anything but plain vanilla when it comes to the budget.

And compared with Obama, who in 39 months has piled on \$5 trillion in new debt and whose party has flouted U.S. law by refusing to pass a budget for three years running, Romney is downright revolutionary.