Clinton Outpaces Bush, Perot

By Robert Shogan

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WASH1NGTON - Postmaster General Marvin T. Runyon moved Thursday to curb speculation that he might seek a cut in residential mail service, telling an audience that he had no plans to do so.

Runyon had raised the possibility of reducing residential deliver-

ies to four days a week during a meeting with Wall Street analysts. He said Thursday that he had not made any decision on the subject.

In a press release Thursday, Runyon explained that his comments were designe
d to "open up discussion" about his agency's management to explore every program or process in terms of customer improvement and cost savings.

The Postal Service, which is in the midst of a Runyon-ordered reorganiza
tion, said its request for a study of the possibility of elimini
ing residential mail service.

To the extent that the Postal Service is planning on any "formal study" at all, it did not place any urgency on the request.

In an appearance before an advisory committee composed of mailers, Runyon declared he was committed to improving "every level of the postal service," and said the commission would order an investigation into the agency's operations.

The group attributed the problem to an era of complacency dating back to the late 1960s, when many public officials believed that the war on infectious diseases had been won, and shifted their attention to other issues.

But in fact, "infectious microbes have been around all along" and will continue to create public health crises, the panel said in its report.

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