

**SAFE Sponsoring McTigue, Jerry Martin, SAFE Newsletter, Spring 2001** - Have you ever had the thought, "Why can't our government operate more like a business?" Well, now there is legislation that requires federal departments to operate using many of the same principles that businesses have adopted to become more efficient and effective.

In 1993, Congress passed the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA). The purposes of the Act are to 1) improve the confidence of the American people in the capability of the federal government by systematically holding federal agencies accountable for achieving program results; 2) initiate program performance reforms; 3) improve federal program effectiveness and public accountability; and 4) help federal managers improve service delivery. We are now seeing some early benefits as the government transforms from a "hide and seek" government to a transparent and accountable one. All departments had to have their programs in place by March 31, 2001.

The GPRA programs are successful largely due to the influence of the Honorable Maurice P. McTigue, who is a distinguished visiting scholar at the Mercatus Center located on the campus of George Mason University. McTigue, a New Zealander, played a key role in transforming the New Zealand government. He was Chairman of the powerful Expenditure Control Committee, a cabinet-level position. McTigue applied results-based criteria to help clarify the organizations mission, analyze performance, and prioritize activities accordingly.

McTigue's techniques work. They helped transform the NZ government from a "failed government" to one that is now a model of efficiency and effectiveness. In a ceremony at Buckingham Palace in 1999, Queen Elizabeth II bestowed upon McTigue the prestigious Queen's Service Order (QSO), in recognition of his public service. The Mercatus Center, established in the mid-1970s, conducts training programs for federal employees to teach them how to meet the requirements of the GPRA for their respective departments.

McTigue will be the guest speaker at the Retired Men's Luncheon Club, Wilmington, Delaware on May 18th. His visit is sponsored by SAFE. He will be introduced at the luncheon by Bill Morris. We are fortunate to have the opportunity to have McTigue share with us some of his secrets of success and what he and the Mercatus Center are doing to bring some of the same techniques to the U.S. Government as were adopted in New Zealand. This information will also be shared with Delaware state legislators with the hope that they will adopt some of the same techniques

**McTigue Visit a Huge Success, SAFE Newsletter, Summer 2001** - Maurice McTigue received a standing ovation after his May 18 talk before approximately 200 members of the Retired Men's Luncheon Club of Wilmington, Delaware. We received unsolicited comments that his talk was the best ever given in the last several years of monthly meetings.

McTigue talked about how the New Zealand government was turned around by making government agencies accountable for results. For example, he explained how complaints about long lines at post offices were solved. They required that customers waiting more than five minutes be given five dollars. To minimize the five-dollar giveaways, Post Offices required workers to have either an early or late lunch period.

Deer imported to provide big game hunting had become a nuisance. The New Zealand

government repealed regulations against raising deer for venison. Soon farmers were going after deer with airplanes and helicopters. McTigue witnessed a "cowboy" drop from a helicopter onto the back of a deer, then wrestle it to the ground and tie it up.

Starting as a sheep farmer, McTigue was elected to the New Zealand Parliament and appointed minister of employment. He eliminated most of the programs, concentrating on those that were successful. With 40% fewer employees, the rate of people moving into the private sector was increased by 300%.

McTigue later served as Ambassador to Canada, and after retirement he joined the Mercatus Center at George Mason University in Virginia. He consults with agencies of the U.S. government and with governments of other countries. Application of the New Zealand experience can help governments become smaller. For that reason, the SAFE Board decided to sponsor the McTigue visit to talk to the Retired Men's Luncheon Club.

While in Delaware, McTigue visited with staff members of the two U.S. Senators and one U. S. Representative. (Senators Biden and Carper, and Representative Castle were in Washington, DC.) He also had breakfast with two Delaware state representatives and SAFE Director Jerry Martin.

In sum, we believe the McTigue visit was a very worthwhile use of SAFE assets.