

## Report: Bloomberg mulls White House bid

*by UPI*

NEW YORK -- New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg reportedly is studying an independent bid for president. Sources close to the Democrat-turned-Republican-turned-independent said Bloomberg has begun a research effort to assess his chances and the viability of a campaign, but he has not yet begun reviewing it, CNN reported. Numerous times in the past year, Bloomberg denied reports he would consider running as an independent, saying he was not a candidate. Earlier this week at a group political discussion at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, the 65-year-old criticized the current U.S. political situation. "Government is dysfunctional. There is no collaboration and congeniality," Bloomberg said. "There is no working together and 'Let's do what's right for the country.' There is no accountability today ... no willingness to focus on big ideas." Bloomberg was elected mayor two months after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks and re-elected in 2005.

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