

Programs, Allows for Unpaid Layoffs

Commerce Department, including the Technology Administration, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Economic Development Administration and the U.S. Travel and Tourism Administration.

There also were significant last-minute concessions to Vice President Gore aimed at protecting natural resource programs in the Interior Department appropriation, sources said. Congressional Republicans had initially planned to provide no floor for Interior Department funding but at the urging of Gore's office agreed to ensure that no cuts in the agency's programs would be deeper than 25 percent compared to 1995.

With the agreement of the adminis-

tration, Republicans also decided to kill fewer programs at the departments of Health and Human Services and Education, cutting back from 12 to 10. In some cases, the administration already had planned to end the programs or shift funding elsewhere. Programs that financed native Hawaiian and Alaska native cultural arts were cut, as were school dropout prevention efforts and education scholarships.

Programs strongly opposed by Republicans but supported by President Clinton, such as Americorps, the Commerce Department's Advanced Technology Program and "Cops on the Beat" would continue to operate, receiving 75 percent of the funding provided last year.

Last night, a number of agency offi-

cials were trying to sort out how the new formulas would affect their operations. "The bill would allow us to continue essential operations, but also imposes additional uncertainties on our planning," one department official said.

The departments of Commerce, State, Justice and Housing and Urban Development, for example, would be financed under the appropriations agreed to by House and Senate negotiators this year, but the money could only be spent under the terms and conditions that existed last year. That restriction would likely rule out any attempts to shuffle money among budget accounts, one official said.

Staff writer John Yang contributed to this report.