

RELEASE IN PART B6

From: H

Sent: 9/26/2010 2:41:25 AM +00:00

To: Oscar Flores

Subject: Fw: To appear on Huffpo hopefully either tomorrow on Mon...

B6

Pls print 2 copies.

----- Original Message -----

From:
To: H
Sent: Sat Sep 25 20:06:34 2010
Subject: To appear on Huffpo hopefully either tomorrow on Mon...

Hope ur well...D

President Jimmy Carter's Mistake by David Helfenbein

As you likely already know, former President Carter made a pretty outlandish comment this past week that happened to coincide with a nearly weeklong event of another former Democratic President's in New York City.

On NBC, President Carter said: "

I feel that my role as a former president is probably superior to that of other presidents." Originally reading this on CNN's Political Ticker, but also knowing this myself: in a club of only 44, this is a huge no-no.

Presidential history and legacies are both somewhat fascinating to me. What can be front-page news for one day or a month during a presidency can be entirely left out of a legacy completely.

For years, history has been kind to President Carter as a former president. The saying for him always has been: "bad president, great ex-president." For example, as an ex-president, Carter has done outstanding work with Habitat for Humanity. (As president, well, that's another story.)

But then along came Bill Clinton, the first Democrat since FDR to win two terms and Carter's first piece of his legacy was moved into the background. For the first time in years, the Democrats had a great president again. It's okay, Carter probably thought: "I can still be the great ex-president." But then, Bill Clinton did it again: he became a great ex-president. And simultaneously, Carter started sinking, by his own mistakes as an ex-president. Like with basic economics, this devalued Carter somewhat as an ex-president and boosted Clinton. It didn't have to happen this way: both could have been great ex-presidents. Yet, time after time in recent years Carter has either made questionable comments that has either upset large communities or has been offensive to other former presidents or he has entered gray areas where he either wasn't invited or asked either politically or diplomatically.

And so, in a band of brothers (and eventually, I hope, brothers and sisters) of only 44, you do not insult your fellow brothers. They have earned the top spots. You do not decide whether or not you are better than them; that is for history to decide.

And in creating and making history this past week, the only other living former Democratic president continued on his path of post-presidential history-making by raising more than six billion dollars at the Clinton Global Initiative and collecting more than 291 pledges – raising a total of more than \$63 billion over the last six years.

In his nearly ten years since leaving office, former President Clinton has been an advocate for combating HIV and AIDS, eradicating childhood obesity, and implementing energy efficiency projects, among many other causes. He has worked both domestically and worldwide.

Let me make one point clear: overall, President Carter, I thank you for your service to this nation. But, I do not think, subconsciously, accidentally or whatever, think it was appropriate for you to compare yourself to other presidents. Again, let history do this.

Sometimes a person's feeling of inferiority leads them to state their own superiority; this is basic psychology. In your case, I don't know why you did it. Nobody is perfect, especially in remarks that they make. As you well know, these remarks are benign for a political misstatement. But they are nonetheless politically unwise.

I am a watchdog for polarization. Don't polarize yourself in your own club. You've done it so many times before. Why do it again?

Message Headers:

[Redacted]

From: H <HDR22@clintonemail.com>
To: Oscar Flores [Redacted]
Date: Sat, 25 Sep 2010 22:41:25 -0400
Subject: Fw: To appear on Huffpo hopefully either tomorrow on Mon...

[Redacted]

B6



PR_RIM_PAGER_TX_FLAG: true
PR_RIM_MSG_REF_ID: 1912554872
PR_RIM_MSG_FOLDER_ID: -3
PR_RIM_DELETED_BY_DEVICE: true
PR_RIM_MSG_ON_DEVICE_3_6: true
PR_RIM_MSG_STATUS: 1