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BARACK OBAMA NEEDS HILLARY TO WIN THE WHITE HOUSE, SAYS CLINTON CAMPAIGN FINANCE COMMITTEE VP

Also assails Jewish community mistrust of presidential candidate based on religious inferences

August 14, 2008 (Fort Lee, NJ) -- Asserting that "He needs to pick her to win," Jill Iscol, a vice president of Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign finance committee, weighs in on Barack Obama's vice presidential selection process in an exclusive interview with Shalom TV.



"She had eighteen million voters," Ms. Iscol reminds viewers of America's national Jewish cable television network. "He needs that sector--which is more of a working class sector, non-college educated. Once called 'Reagan Democrats,' [they] are back in the Democratic party because of Hillary, and we don't want to lose them again. That's why it's so significant for him to pick her. He needs those votes in order to win the White House."

Recognizing that Barack Obama ran "a brilliant primary campaign," as "a fabulous candidate," Ms. Iscol feels it "a shame if his campaign does not embrace Hillary and honor the voters who supported her and energized the party. They need to bring those people to the table, and therefore they need to bring Hillary."

While acknowledging that some Democrats are already firmly behind the party's presidential candidate, Jill Iscol envisions an unmatched level of excitement, and voter response, to an Obama/Clinton ticket.

"Imagine waking up one morning and hearing that Barack Obama has chosen Evan Bayh or Tim Kaine as his running mate," Ms. Iscol proffers. "It'll be 'Hmm...politics as usual.' Kind of flat. [Now] compare the feeling to the announcement that Barack Obama has selected Hillary Clinton as his running mate. The party, and the country, will be absolutely electrified."

Ms. Iscol is also quick to dismiss concerns that, as the husband of the vice president, President Bill Clinton adds an extra, and unwanted, dimension to the executive branch power structure.

"Knowing Bill Clinton, the thing he wants to do most is address the issue of global poverty," she relays. "That's where his heart is. He doesn't want to be hanging around the White House. [But] he would be a tremendous asset to the next administration, an unofficial ambassador around the world supporting the whole administration."

When questioned by Shalom TV's Mark S. Golub about Barack Obama and Jewish issues, Ms. Iscol replies that she is "not concerned about his commitment to finding a solution in the Middle East that would please advocates of Israel."

However, she does have harsh words for the negative portrayal of Obama in some Jewish circles.

"[Jewish] people are hysterical that Barack Obama may be a Muslim, may not be a Muslim, is a Christian, whatever," she notes. "It is absolutely anathema that people are not standing up and saying, 'So what.' If this was about somebody being any other religion, we would be very upset--particularly if it was somebody who was a Jew."

"The Jewish community has its antenna up when they don't really know somebody, and so are somewhat suspect until proven otherwise. Let's not forget that, at some point, the Jewish community was anti-Hillary as well."

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