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SARAH PALIN MUST EXPLAIN HER VIEWS ON "JEWS FOR JESUS," PER JOHN MCCAIN CO-CHAIR FOR JEWISH OUTREACH

VP choice called "a cipher" by American University professor

September 16, 2008 (Fort Lee, NJ) -- Fred Zeidman, a Houston businessman serving as the co-chair of Jewish Outreach for the John McCain campaign, acknowledged that Sarah Palin must answer questions about her feelings on "Jews for Jesus," and other attempts to convert Jews to Christianity, if she is to maintain credibility with the Jewish and general American community.



Zeidman's comment relates to a sermon at Wasilla Bible Church in which Sarah Palin heard the executive director of "Jews for Jesus" preaching that Palestinian terrorism against Israelis is God's way of exacting judgment against Jews for not accepting Jesus.

Shalom TV host Mark S. Golub suggested that just as Jews had wanted clarification of Barack Obama's relationship to Reverend Jeremiah Wright, they also have the right to know how Sarah Palin feels about "Jews for Jesus," and the notion that the Jewish People are estranged from God.

"I'll go further than that," Zeidman immediately told Golub. "I think she needs to answer that to have any credibility for all [American] citizens. I don't think there's any question about that. And if the answers are not to the liking of the Jewish community, I think that becomes problematic."

When asked if Sarah Palin has an understanding of issues underlying the Middle East conflict, Zeidman noted, "She obviously has a lot to learn in that area. She is surrounded by some very bright people, primarily led by Senator Lieberman, who are trying to get her up to speed. Her basic set of values, with regard to the State of Israel, and the security of the State of Israel, is 100%."

However, American University History Professor Allan J. Lichtman, also a guest on the Shalom TV program, contended that Sarah Palin is "far off the charts when it comes to social policy, especially with the humane views of the great majority of the Jewish community.

"On every issue of importance to the Jewish community--and that are also American issues--Sarah Palin is either out of step, or is a cipher with no thought-through, developed, or established position.

"I have no idea of what her views of Israel are because she has never expressed (in her political career) any views on Israel," Lichtman continued. "I am very frightened that in a couple of weeks of

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cram coursing you can somehow give her the knowledge and understanding to enable her to figure out what's going on in the world and make reasoned decisions."

Zeidman, who has worked on the past two Bush campaigns and who has been a strong supporter of John McCain throughout the Republican primaries, responded that John McCain, atop the Republican ticket, has a proven record on Israel that is far superior to that of any of the other candidates.

And, as one who was privy to many of the conversations preceding John McCain's choosing Sarah Palin as his VP running mate, he has been told that Sarah Palin is "exceptionally positive in her support of the State of Israel," in addition to possessing personal qualities Americans look for to lead the country.

"She is very decisive," Zeidman maintained. "She has shown incredible leadership. She has certainly shown her willingness to stand up when she thinks something is right or wrong."

Zeidman and Lichtman also sparred on whether the Supreme Court would move far right if John McCain is elected. Zeidman explained that the Democratic-controlled Senate could block any nomination that might be too far right, but held that McCain would only pick good judges for the high court. Lichtman disagreed, finding irony in a Republican's assertion that a Democratic Senate would protect America from the poor nominations of a McCain administration.

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