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Glenn Beck Gets First Scalp: Van Jones Resigns

First Posted: 09- 6-09 01:02 AM | Updated: 09- 7-09 01:33 AM

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UPDATE: On "This Week" with George Stephanopoulos, Gibbs told Stephanopoulos that Obama thanks Jones for his service but doesn't endorse his views or object to his resignation.

"What Van Jones decided was that the agenda of this president was bigger than any one individual. The president thanks Van Jones for his service in the first eight months," Gibbs said.

Before Gibbs came on his show, Stephanopoulos [tweeted](#) ominously:

Van Jones resigns [Hardly Saturday Night Massacre](#), but when's last time WH official let go at midnight? Clearing deck pre Gibbs on [This Week](#)

Van Jones, under fire from the extremist television show host for his background in radical activism, has resigned from the administration.

Jones was Special Adviser for Green Jobs at the Council on Environmental Quality - the so-called 'Green Jobs' Czar. Jones' 2008 book, *The Green Collar Economy*, was a New York Times best-seller.

The saga began with Glenn Beck, a talk show host for Fox News, who hammered at Jones relentlessly the last several weeks for his radical past.

Jones never denied his past affiliation with the radical left. In the '90s, he was involved with the group Standing Together to Organize a Revolutionary Movement (STORM), which sympathized with Maoist-inspired peasant movements throughout the world and was organized to protest police brutality.

Jones, however, left radical politics and made the decision to work within the system, rather than try to overthrow it. For Beck, however, Jones' past statements were evidence that Obama is secretly marshaling a cadre of lieutenants pushing an agenda that is "radical, revolutionary and in some cases Marxist." (Meanwhile, in reality, Obama is backing away from even including a public health insurance option as part of health care reform. How that squares with Obama's Marxist agenda Beck has yet to explain.)

Story continues below ↓

Before Beck mentioned Jones in the last few weeks on his Fox News television show, Jones remained an obscure figure in the administration. After Beck mentioned him, protesters at town hall meetings made Jones a staple of their complaints.

Jones, in a statement, said he no longer wanted to be a distraction.

"On the eve of historic fights for health care and clean energy, opponents of reform have mounted a vicious smear campaign against me. They are using lies and distortions to distract and divide. I have been inundated with calls - from across the political spectrum -- urging me to 'stay and fight.' But I came here to fight for others, not for myself. I cannot in good conscience ask my colleagues to expend precious time and energy defending or explaining my past. We need all hands on deck, fighting for the future."

It's exceedingly unlikely that Beck will be satisfied by Jones' resignation, seeing in it evidence that he was correct in his assessment of Obama's supposed radical lieutenants. "Jones is the tip of the iceberg," Beck has said.

Once Beck made Jones a target, a series of revelations put him in political danger. Asked in February of this year why Republicans were able to block Democratic legislation despite being wildly outnumbered, he said, "The answer to that is, they're assholes."

Jones went on: "And Barack Obama is not an asshole. So, now, I will say this: I can be an asshole, and some of us who are not Barack Hussein Obama, are going to have to start getting a little bit uppity."

It also emerged that Jones had signed a "truther" petition back in 2004. Truthers insist that there are unanswered questions about what U.S. officials knew about the Sept. 11th terrorist attacks before they occurred and want further investigations.

There's nothing inherently left-wing about 9/11 conspiracy theorists or right-wing about birthers, though backers of each theory tend to fall on opposite ideological extremes because of mistrust of the president in question, be he Bush or Obama. But the birther movement includes prominent Republicans, including members of Congress, while connection to the truther movement can help cost a relatively obscure administration official his job.

There's a lesson to be learned. "If you want to say batsh*t-crazy stuff and still be treated as a respectable participant in the national debate, you'd better be a Republican," gauged blogger Mark Kleiman after hearing the news of Jones' resignation. "Suggesting that President Bush invited the 9/11 attacks in order to start a war is really no crazier than suggesting that President Obama wants to let terrorists loose in the United States, or that he plans to kill old people and disabled children, or that there's something sinister about his encouraging schoolkids to study hard."

Those latter three charges, of course, have been leveled recently by elected Republican members of Congress.

A Jones remark about environmental justice also landed him in trouble. He was accused of race-baiting for suggesting that "[t]he white polluters and the white environmentalists are essentially steering poison into the people of color's communities because they don't have a racial justice frame."

During the presidential campaign, Obama repeatedly threw aides overboard who became political liabilities; White House observers saw Jones' departure more as a matter of when rather than if.

His fate was sealed when Obama spokesman Robert Gibbs declined to defend him at a recent press conference.

QUESTION: Van Jones. I know he has issued an apology for his proctological remarks, but apparently there is also video of him accusing white polluters of poisoning people of color communities. Does the president still have confidence in this guy?

GIBBS: He continues to work in the administration, and I would refer you to the statement that CEQ put out last night about this.

QUESTION: CEQ?

GIBBS: That's the Council on Environmental Quality

QUESTION: Yeah, but Robert is that as far as you are going to go with this?

GIBBS: That is the statement that has been put out last night.

QUESTION: The stories on television have been pretty offensive.

GIBBS: And I think if you refer to the statement, he apologized.

[snip]

QUESTION: Van Jones. His name appears on a 2004 petition, demanding to know the truth about 9/11, whether or not the Bush Administration played a role in 9/11 so as to justify a war for oil. He said in his statement yesterday that he doesn't agree with that, and an administration source said he didn't fully read it before he signed it, he agreed to have his name signed to it. Now it comes out today that in 2002 he was on an organizing committee for a 9/11 Truther march. Your administration has been very active in knocking down the so-called Birthers, the people who allege without any evidence, and despite all evidence to the contrary, that the president was not born in the United States. How can the administration tolerate somebody who subscribes to a different insane conspiracy theory, as a senior adviser?

GIBBS: Again, it is not something that the president agrees with, and again I would point you to the statement from CEQ.

QUESTION: How many past statements have to emerge before he no longer has the confidence of the president?

GIBBS: A good question for next time.


Jones' resignation, coming around midnight on the Saturday of a three-day weekend, minimizes the amount of time Beck and his allies can spend celebrating.


"It has been a great honor to serve my country and my President in this capacity. I thank everyone who has offered support and encouragement. I am proud to have been able to make a contribution to the clean energy future. I will continue to do so, in the months and years ahead," Jones said.


UPDATE: TWI's Dave Weigel [has the tick-tock](#) on the Beck Effect.


Ryan Grim is the author of [This Is Your Country On Drugs: The Secret History of Getting High in America](#)


Read more from Huffington Post bloggers:


 [Arianna Huffington: Thank You, Glenn Beck!](#)
Thank you, Glenn Beck. By helping force the resignation of Van Jones, you have done a great service to your country. But in the exact opposite way than you intended.


 [Jeff Chang: The New Shape of the Culture War: Glenn Beck, Yosi Sergant, Van Jones, and Hip-Hop](#)
Yosi Sergant worked at what the Obama campaign thought were the margins: to use the creative power of artists to ignite the imagination of the people.

 [James Rucker: A Line in the Sand Against Beck](#)
Beck, in league with big business groups, is seeking to derail the president's agenda, and taking out Van Jones is the vehicle for undermining clean energy and green jobs.

 [Joseph A. Palermo: Glenn Beck vs. Van Jones: McCarthyism Enters the 21st Century](#)
If you serve a right-wing Republican president you can write or say anything you want. But if you serve a liberal Democratic president, like the "pinks" who fell to McCarthyism, you can be taken down.

 [Karl Frisch: Glenn Beck's "Deep-Seated Hatred" for Obama and Why Fox News Won't Budge](#)
If Bill O'Reilly has the "no-spin zone," Glenn Beck seems to have the "sponsor-free zone" of late. In fact, at least 62 companies have ceased advertising on his Fox News program in recent weeks.

 [Michael Kieschnick: Who Is Next After Van Jones?](#)
The Obama administration has lost more than a brilliant advocate. By failing to stand up and to call out Beck for his smears, it has lost power at a time when it needs every ounce of power.

 [Harvey Wasserman: Obama Has Fed His Green Jones to King CONG](#)
As an informed, exciting and compelling presenter, Van Jones made clear that the "green collar economy" is tangible and terrific. With Jones gone we have to worry that Obama might now repeat history.

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[Controversy over fiery remarks fells Obama adviser - Yahoo! News](#)

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- [Barbara Schuckers](#) I'm a Fan of [Barbara Schuckers](#) [5 fans](#) [permalink](#)



Great guy, Glenn Beck. Keep up the good work. You are the only one fighting all these "czars" and all the corruption. On to acorn.

[Reply](#) [Favorite](#) [Flag as abusive](#) Posted 03:29 PM on 09/17/2009
- [sealeygibson](#) I'm a Fan of [sealeygibson](#) [permalink](#)

Nice title given our gruesome past.....don't you think?

[Reply](#) [Favorite](#) [Flag as abusive](#) Posted 04:02 PM on 09/15/2009
- [respectingothers](#) I'm a Fan of [respectingothers](#) [15 fans](#) [permalink](#)



Van Jones, and Barney Frank... my heroes

[Reply](#) [Favorite](#) [Flag as abusive](#) Posted 07:24 AM on 09/14/2009
- [Smellthecoffee1954](#) I'm a Fan of [Smellthecoffee1954](#) [permalink](#)

You give Glenn Beck too much credit. He didn't get Van Jones fired, Van Jones got himself fired. As the president has said many times, "Look to my associates and then you will know me." Van Jones has been a radical for a long time and it also has nothing at all to do with the Democrats or the Republicans. Wake up people and stop playing these dangerous, yet very childish games. What happened to Van Jones and subsequent ACCORN personnel should be as plain as the nose on your face.

[Reply](#) [Favorite](#) [Flag as abusive](#) Posted 07:59 AM on 09/12/2009
- [Ifticar](#) I'm a Fan of [Ifticar](#) [17 fans](#) [permalink](#)



Update. Beck got ACORN fired from Census job.

[Reply](#) [Favorite](#) [Flag as abusive](#) Posted 06:30 PM on 09/11/2009
- [Independence Hwy](#) I'm a Fan of [Independence Hwy](#) [permalink](#)

Go Glenn... (aka Pillsbury Doughboy) - Don't stop collecting scalps until your walls are covered and this administration is free of this debris. However, next time, can you go after one of them with more hair than Van Jones!

[Reply](#) [Favorite](#) [Flag as abusive](#) Posted 06:12 PM on 09/11/2009
- [Zeppelin00](#) I'm a Fan of [Zeppelin00](#) [5 fans](#) [permalink](#)

I find it interesting how the most idiotic statements are allowed to get posted here by whoever moderates this site, yet, in many cases, coherent, intelligent statements that point out the sheer idiocy and explain the truth in an insightful manner are often rejected. Why is that? I'd like an explanation.

[Reply](#) [Favorite](#) [Flag as abusive](#) Posted 01:01 AM on 09/11/2009
- [adamnb](#) I'm a Fan of [adamnb](#) 2 fans [permalink](#)

Jones was only one small part of the target. It is Obama's green energy program that big oil is after, and Van is only the opening shot in the battle. You think you've seen the right's propaganda machine in action on healthcare; you ain't seen nothing till we get to cap and trade policies.

[Reply](#) [Favorite](#) [Flag as abusive](#) Posted 12:43 AM on 09/10/2009
- [peaceonearth88](#) I'm a Fan of [peaceonearth88](#) 10 fans [permalink](#)

Van, please come back to CA right away, where you are appreciated and can get back to work. We miss you.

[Reply](#) [Favorite](#) [Flag as abusive](#) Posted 06:16 PM on 09/09/2009
- [centerdweller](#) I'm a Fan of [centerdweller](#) 2 fans [permalink](#)

I love how all of the folks sticking up for V Jones have posted at least 2500 comments in the last year. When you live in your mothers basement and blog all day, you get disconnected from reality.

[Reply](#) [Favorite](#) [Flag as abusive](#) Posted 04:26 PM on 09/09/2009
- [Zeppelin00](#) I'm a Fan of [Zeppelin00](#) 5 fans [permalink](#)

Nice.

[Reply](#) [Favorite](#) [Flag as abusive](#) Posted 07:20 PM on 09/09/2009
- [adamnb](#) I'm a Fan of [adamnb](#) 2 fans [permalink](#)

who's mama's basement are you blogging in?

[Reply](#) [Favorite](#) [Flag as abusive](#) Posted 12:44 AM on 09/10/2009
- [FreeSpeechFlyoverCountry](#) I'm a Fan of [FreeSpeechFlyoverCountry](#) 3 fans [permalink](#)

C'mon now, we all know that any opposition to Jones, Obama, Obamacare, etc. is all basically racists at its core. For a good laugh on thi, read "You're Surely a Racist, If..." at <http://firebreathingchristian.wordpress.com/2009/09/03/youre-surely-a-racist-if/>

[Reply](#) [Favorite](#) [Flag as abusive](#) Posted 03:03 PM on 09/09/2009
- [Zeppelin00](#) I'm a Fan of [Zeppelin00](#) 5 fans [permalink](#)

How dare you. I could care less what race he is. Its disgusting how people label opposing viewpoints as racist. Obama clearly stated that he was hoping to push America past race. That can never happen if people continue labeling others as racists like this. Drop the racial comments. Everyone, drop it. It demeans us all and makes us less. Use sense, not slurs. It sounds like you are the racist ands like racist jokes, no less. Democrats and liberals posting here should be embarrassed by your comments, as should you.

[Reply](#) [Favorite](#) [Flag as abusive](#) Posted 07:19 PM on 09/09/2009
- [wutangfan85](#) I'm a Fan of [wutangfan85](#) [permalink](#)

There is another story about this on altnet.org that really is the back story behind this. Glenn Beck was just a pawn for Big Oil in a game of chess with Obama. Here is the story: http://www.altnet.org/politics/142481/big_business%27s_hidden_hand_in_the_smear_job_on_van_jones/

[Reply](#) [Favorite](#) [Flag as abusive](#) Posted 01:26 PM on 09/09/2009
- [bicommutter](#) I'm a Fan of [bicommutter](#) [permalink](#)

I did a google search to see what exactly Rupert Murdoch owns so I can boycott every. single. thing. i found this link. boycotting becks show alone is not enough. boycott fox and EVERYTHING Murdoch owns. <http://www.ketupa.net/murdoch1.htm>

[Reply](#) [Favorite](#) [Flag as abusive](#) Posted 12:34 PM on 09/09/2009
- [snickeroos](#) I'm a Fan of [snickeroos](#) [permalink](#)

Are you afraid of dissenting voices? What happened to freedom of the press? Are you afraid of the truth? Our government needs to be held accountable! I am tired of both parties spending my money! This country is BROKE--our money is being devalued--even China is getting worried--and they own us! Stand up for liberty and freedom and the people that love this country!

[Reply](#) [Favorite](#) [Flag as abusive](#) Posted 04:59 PM on 09/09/2009
- [sleepingcobra](#) I'm a Fan of [sleepingcobra](#) 4 fans [permalink](#)

To the two comments above this one: do you really think Murdoch prioritizes people over profit?

[Reply](#) [Favorite](#) [Flag as abusive](#) Posted 02:28 AM on 09/11/2009
 - [Heisenberg I'm a Fan of Heisenberg](#) 3 fans [permalink](#)

I don't see what the big deal about Van Jones's views are. I personally like Van Jones. Further, I believe that "Brown Eyed Girl" and "Dancin in the Moonlight" were two of the greatest songs of my parents generation, thank you Van Jones.

[Reply](#) [Favorite](#) [Flag as abusive](#) Posted 11:39 AM on 09/09/2009
 - [Zeppelin00 I'm a Fan of Zeppelin00](#) 5 fans [permalink](#)

Funny. I really do hope that was a joke.

[Reply](#) [Favorite](#) [Flag as abusive](#) Posted 06:21 PM on 09/09/2009
 - [VSamuels I'm a Fan of VSamuels](#) 58 fans [permalink](#)

Glenn Beck didn't get any scalps, as he is only a pawn like so many other ignorant, uninformed white guys who do the bidding for the unknown and unseen 1%ers who are actually running the country. One could take Van Jones and transport him back in time to the victim of a lynching, with loudmouths like Beck getting the larger crowd stirred up and agitated and it would be an accurate picture of just how far we still have failed to move.

Van Jones, will be O.K. in today's world, but he is still affected by the existence of a certain segment of the white population which judges non-whites by the standards of which they themselves do not observe and can not themselves meet and achieve, but overlook when some of their members are involved. The large presence of the republican base is real and it is destructive, unable to check its own members while falsely believing 'democracy' is only when their team is in charge.

Many who post here about the evils of the republicans, still benefit from the lies and deceptions themselves, which makes the prospects of actually destroying 'white privilege' such a daunting task in the years ahead.

[Reply](#) [Favorite](#) [Flag as abusive](#) Posted 11:25 AM on 09/09/2009
 - [alexdog I'm a Fan of alexdog](#) 9 fans [permalink](#)

You my friend should buy a mirror before the word "racist" ever crosses your lips again. Also please define 'white privilege'. Is that just white skin or a white in a particular station in life. In the year 2009 your last statement is sad for the hatred and venom that you project.

[Reply](#) [Favorite](#) [Flag as abusive](#) Posted 05:54 PM on 09/09/2009

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