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Date: 2/10/2016 12:45:47 PM
Subject: RE: National Journal interview request

When Gov. Haley says in that interview that she should do "something" before the primary, what did she mean?

Thanks.

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National Journal
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From: Adams, Chaney [mailto:ChaneyAdams@gov.sc.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 11:02 AM
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Subject: National Journal interview request

Shirish,

Here is a sit down the governor did with the Wall Street journal last week ahead of the SC primary.

Wall Street Journal: Haley Says Experience, Vision Key to Winning South Carolina
Popular two-term governor is on the short list for vice president on GOP ticket
By Valerie Bauerlein
<http://www.wsj.com/articles/haley-says-experience-vision-key-to-winning-south-carolina-1454705101>

COLUMBIA, S.C.—South Carolina is the first state in the presidential nominating calendar to embody a full spectrum of the Republican Party, with Chamber-of-Commerce types, blue-collar whites and evangelical Christians.

GOP Gov. Nikki Haley has some tips on how to bridge the gaps between the factions, win her state -- and perhaps gain her endorsement.

A winning candidate must be able to have the mindset of an outsider, yet command the respect of insiders, she said. "Establishment means, to me, complacent," she said in an interview. "There are no excuses for not getting anything done."

Similarly, a successful candidate needs to be forward looking, so that voters are able to "see that life has been pretty awful the last eight years, but we can self-correct pretty quick," she said "That means not just being negative, but finding that positive place."

South Carolina is shaping up to be a pivotal state this election season and a last stand for some candidates, including former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, whose brother credits South Carolina for handing him the nomination in 2000. Candidates and their backers are regularly seeking out Ms. Haley.

A two-term governor, the 44-year-old Indian-American holds an 84% approval rating among Tea Party supporters, and an 81% rating among Republicans, according to a December poll from Winthrop University in Rock Hill, S.C. She is also on the vice-presidential short list.

She is likely to announce her endorsement by, or soon after, Tuesday's New Hampshire primary, in time to shake up the Feb. 20 race here. "Obviously by the time we get to South Carolina, I should do something," she said.

Her allies predict she will back Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, like her, a one-time Tea Party star with cross-cultural appeal, who is now seen by Republicans as relatively mainstream. There are "multiple people out there" to choose from, Ms. Haley said Wednesday, pointing out that she might not endorse anyone.

She began her own political career in 2004, when she was 32 years old, a businesswoman and a married mother of two little children in suburban Columbia. In short order, she beat the longest-serving Republican House member, was elected

president of her freshman class and became majority whip.

She was stripped of her committee post after she pushed for on-the-record voting, something she said would give transparency. Republicans leaders thought it would gum up the legislative works. That demotion was “one of the best things that ever happened to me,” she said, because it removed the option of climbing up the ladder in politics the traditional way.

She allied herself with the growing Tea Party movement and ran for governor, which showed her the importance of building on-the-ground support across the relatively small state. “It was 8 people, 10 people,” she said. “After I spoke, we would pass the basket” to collect campaign contributions.

On the stump, Ms. Haley campaigned on a promise of ethics reform. She jumped from the bottom to the top of the polls a few weeks before the 2009 primary after former GOP vice presidential nominee Sarah Palin flew to Columbia for a joint rally.

In office, Ms. Haley said initially she had few friends in the predominantly white male Republican legislature: “Because of all things, ‘It’s a girl, and she’s a minority,’ and so I knew I needed to build respect with them.”

She focused on tasks she could do without much legislative help, like recruiting suppliers producing “Made in America” goods for Wal-Mart Stores Inc., a task she said she could do without legislative help. She began lining the walls of her first-floor State House office with shovels and hard hats from company groundbreakings. “As the jobs started coming in, it started increasing my value to the guys upstairs,” she said, seated in her first-floor office, gesturing toward the legislative chambers.

The state was in a funk coming out of the Great Recession, so she did something she acknowledges seems completely corny. She required state employees to answer phone calls with, “It’s a great day in South Carolina.”

“I thought of it in the shower,” she said. “They hated that because it seemed hokey, right?” But it helped improve the culture of state government, she said, and is now her catchphrase.

Ms. Haley, who talks regularly about her Christian faith, became the face of a grieving state after nine black worshipers were slain at Charleston’s Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church last summer. She attended all nine funerals and, reversing an earlier position, worked with the legislature to remove the Confederate flag from the Statehouse grounds.

Some of her former supporters call her a traitor, or worse, on her Facebook page. “Their flag had been taken from them,” she said. “It no longer meant what they thought.” She monitors the comments on her page closely.

Legislators still chafe at Ms. Haley’s practice of shaming them by name in speeches when things don’t go her way. But they say she is collaborating with them more since her 2014 re-election and especially since the Charleston shootings last summer and massive floods last fall.

“I think mutual respect of each other has improved,” said Rep. James Smith, a long-serving Columbia Democrat. “Our state has gone through some tremendous tragedies and she responded well. It’s helped to transcend some of the differences that were there in the past.”

Ms. Haley campaigned for Mitt Romney in 2012, but he lost 40% to 28% to Newt Gingrich in the South Carolina primary and 51% to 47% to President Obama in the general election. In retrospect, Ms. Haley said the Romney campaign should have focused on “what we were for,” and should have been inclusive to a fault.

When the GOP asked Ms. Haley to give the response to President Obama’s State of the Union earlier this year, she took the chance “to say what I’ve always thought,” she said. She asked Republicans to own up to having some responsibility for the dysfunction in government and warned of the danger of listening to the “angriest voices.”

“(Donald) Trump was one of the people I was talking to, meaning, ‘Be careful how you say things,’” she said, adding that the Republican Party needs to attract diverse groups of people, not alienate them.

“It’s more than just you, it’s about our party, it’s about our country, and you have to be responsible with that.”

Mr. Trump said polls continue to show his popularity in South Carolina, where many people agree the U.S. should build a wall on the Mexican border to prevent illegal immigration.

“When I go into a group of Indian-Americans, they see me as their daughter,” Ms. Haley said. “When I start talking about policies, they agree with everything I say. So why do they vote Democrat?”

“They vote Democrat because people don’t ask them what they think,” she said. “It’s not just Indian-Americans, it’s Hispanics, it’s Jewish-Americans. At what point do we not get out of our comfortable space, and go to the spaces that are uncomfortable?”