

Boris Johnson once compared Hillary Clinton to 'a sadistic nurse in a mental hospital'

Mayor of London hastily tries to make amends for comparing the potential next president of the United States to Lady Macbeth



Boris Johnson said Hillary Clinton represented "an all-round purse-lipped political correctness". Photo: AFP

By Raf Sanchez, Washington

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Boris Johnson today attempted to make sheepish amends for once comparing Hillary Clinton to "a sadistic nurse in a mental hospital" and alluding to conspiracy theories she was involved in a friend's death.

A day before he was due to meet Mrs Clinton in New York, the Mayor of London was **reminded** that he had once said she represents "everything I came into politics to oppose" including "an all-round purse-lipped political correctness".

Writing in the Daily Telegraph in November 2007, when Mrs Clinton looked the favourite to win the 2008 presidential election, Mr Johnson mused about whether he could support her candidacy.

"She's got dyed blonde hair and pouty lips, and a steely blue stare, like a sadistic nurse in a mental

hospital," he noted.

Perhaps more damaging than his colourful remarks about her appearance was Mr Johnson's conclusion that he thought Mrs Clinton should win in 2008 because it would bring Bill Clinton back to the White House:

“ *For all who love America, it is time to think of supporting Hillary, not because we necessarily want her for herself but because we want Bill in the role of First Husband. And if Bill can deal with Hillary, he can surely deal with any global crisis.*

Mr Johnson also made a reference to conspiracy theories surrounding the death of Vince Foster, a close friend of Mrs Clinton's who killed himself with a gun in 1993.

Some opponents of the Clintons have suggested that he may have been killed and they had a hand in his death - a theory refuted by multiple official investigations.

In his column, Mr Johnson referred to "worrying allegations" about "the anomalies in the position of poor Vince Foster's gun".



He also said Mrs Clinton appeared to have spent her eight years as First Lady behaving like "a mixture between Cherie Blair and Lady Macbeth, stamping her heel, bawling out subordinates and frisbeeing ashtrays at her erring husband".

When reminded about his eight-year-old comments by ITV News, Mr Johnson said: "I'm delighted to be able to meet Senator Clinton. I'm sure that whatever I've said in the past will be taken by the Senator who is a very distinguished politician in the light hearted spirit in which it was intended."

Even his efforts to make amends may cause new issues.

While Mrs Clinton was once a senator from New York, and therefore entitled to be called "Senator Clinton", that title was overtaken by her work as US Secretary of State.

Americans universally refer to her as "Secretary Clinton", which may have been the title Mr Johnson

was grasping for.

The mayor is due to meet Mrs Clinton, who is expected to run for president in 2016, in New York on Wednesday for talks expected to focus on foreign policy.

The flap over his past comments is the latest in a series of hiccups to befall Mr Johnson's US trip.

He had been due to meet with Bill de Blasio, the mayor of New York, on Tuesday but his Big Apple counterpart pulled out of the meeting citing illness.

While Mr de Blasio cancelled his meeting with Mr Johnson - and several other engagements during the day - he was apparently well enough to give a speech at the premiere for a television documentary later in the evening.

Parts of Mr Johnson's scheduled visit to Boston also had to be called off as the northeastern city was inundated by historic snowstorms.

He is due to travel to Washington on Thursday.

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