



## ‘Give President Bush His Due’ for His Efforts on AIDS, Former President Bill Clinton Said Today

### ‘He Got More Money for AIDS Out of That Republican Congress Than I Could Have,’ Clinton Said

### Two Things Clinton Would Have Done Differently, He Would Buy More U.S.-Approved Generic Drugs and Not Be Anti-Condom

### ‘It Ought To Be Abstinence Plus, Not Abstinence Only,’ Clinton Said

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NEW YORK – Former President Bill Clinton said today at the TIME Global Health Summit that the country should “give President Bush his due” for his efforts on global health. “He got more for AIDS out of that Republican congress than I could have,” Mr. Clinton said at a discussion moderated by TIME Managing Editor Jim Kelly at the TIME Global Health Summit in New York.

Clinton and Bill Gates took the stage this afternoon for a Q&A with TIME’s Jim Kelly. This was a rare opportunity to explore a wide range of questions--many of them posed in writing by conference attendees.

Asked by Mr. Kelly what he would do differently than President Bush, the former president prefaced his comments by saying, “I am grateful for what he has done.”

Clinton said: “I’d do some things differently. I would support the use of generic drugs [in U.S. AIDS programs] that have been approved by the U.S. Second, I wouldn’t be anti-condom. I wouldn’t be against these programs that work with sex workers. It ought to be abstinence plus, not abstinence only.”

The full Q&A is on a webcast on [www.time.com/globalhealth](http://www.time.com/globalhealth), and a transcript will be posted tomorrow morning. Photos will be available on the site later this evening.

Some other highlights from the discussion:

--On the intolerability of global epidemics, Clinton charged the audience to “Demand that your government pay more attention. It’s immoral that people in Africa die like flies of diseases that no one dies of in the United States. And the more disease there is, the more political unrest there will be, leading to more Darfurs, which the U.S. will have to pay to fix.” Gates added that, “This is a humanitarian issue,” he said. “It’s time to start the moral cycle.”

--Kelly began to ask Gates what he’d do if he were the leader of the World Health Organization, but the question elicited some inadvertent laughter, when it sounded as if Kelly were asking about an even higher office:

KELLY: Mr. Gates, if you were president...

GATES (Laughing): Not interested

CLINTON: I’m for it. I’d endorse him. But he’d have less power than he has now.

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November 1 - 3, 2005

New York City

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--Clinton lauded Bush for pushing food aid and farming policies that got more food to more people at better prices. But he gave a stern critique on Bush's foreign policy, noting that the Iraq war hasn't helped the U.S. image among Muslims.

"It hasn't done much good in the Muslim world in the short term," Clinton said about the Iraq war. He noted that when the U.S. provided assistance in the wake of the tsunami, "in the largest Muslim country in the world [Indonesia] our approval rating goes from 36 to 60, and Bin Laden's goes from 58 to 28 [percent]."

Clinton said of supporting global health and humanitarian efforts, "This is a form of foreign policy that is powerful because it is humanitarian, because it is out of politics, and it turns out that doing right is also good for your country," he continued.

--On whether the drug companies are being unfairly demonized, Clinton and Gates agreed that big pharma must indeed turn a profit, but that it's wrong for 10% of the world's R&D to be spent on drugs afflicting 90% of the world. Clinton did add, "Of course, a guy like me who's living on Lipitor is in a hard place to criticize the drug companies."

--There was more laughter when Kelly pointed out that Clinton and Gates do not necessarily fit the demographic of the people they're helping:

KELLY: You're both male, you're both white, you're both well-off.

CLINTON (glancing toward the richest man in the world): That's a relative term.

GATES: On average, yes.

On other topics:

--Clinton seemed warm to the idea of creating a health corps within the peace corps for people who want to volunteer.

--Gates applauded Pres. Bush's avian flu initiative but did acknowledge that it's perhaps no surprise that money is forthcoming for a disease that "could actually kill rich people."

--Clinton disclosed that he does clip stories about global health from the papers to lobby his senator--that would be his wife--about them, then added that he believes that one of the ways he serves Hillary best is by accompanying her to New York State's county fairs once a year. "Not a lot of people in New York know one end of a cow from another," he said. "I'm sort of her token redneck."

Asked why he has devoted his post presidency to global health, Mr. Clinton noted his mother was a nurse and that when he first became Governor of Arkansas, the state was faced with a number of serious health issues he set out to solve.

Clinton endorsed "Medical Peace Corps": The Peace Corps should start a medical division to fight global disease, Clinton said.

"We should maybe create a medical service corps inside the peace corps," Clinton said. "We could make it part of the service."

Clinton said the Peace Corps could provide more positions for health workers, noting that Americorps, which puts people into service in poor areas of the U.S., deployed 400,000 Americans into service in the last ten years -- many more times than the Peace Corps did because the Corps didn't provide enough positions.

"If you create the slots, people will fill them," he said.

Clinton endorsed the idea in response to a question by Dr. Fitzhugh Mullan of George Washington University, whose recent study in the New England Journal of Medicine revealed the U.S. as a major source of medical "brain drain" --

attracting doctors from poor countries and thus reducing their already low numbers.

Mr. Gates, who as also on the panel, praised vaccinations developed by drug manufacturers as the best answer to common diseases killing people in underdeveloped countries, but said "We've got to have a better drug delivery infrastructure."

Gates sees progress on Public-Private Partnerships: Noting the flurry of new partnership announcements in global health, Gates said the new public-private partnerships are critical to the development of new tools to fight global disease.

Gates singled out several recent innovative partnerships:

--GlaxoSmithKline's TB and malaria vaccine development;

--Johnson & Johnson, Merck and Bristol-Myers Squibb's donation of compounds for development into on microbicides, which could be applied topically to ward off HIV;

--Bayer's announcement that it would provide its top-selling antibiotic for trials to improve TB treatment.

"The last two months have been great in terms of public private partnerships," said Gates. "These are fantastic because you can bring in the expertise of the drug companies to develop new tools."

For more information about the TIME Global Health Summit, or for webcasts, transcripts, downloadable photos and breaking news, log on to [www.time.com/globalhealth](http://www.time.com/globalhealth).

TIME.com features ongoing coverage of the summit, and this particular posting is online at [http://time.blogs.com/global\\_health/2005/11/the\\_bills\\_take\\_.html](http://time.blogs.com/global_health/2005/11/the_bills_take_.html)

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