



Written by [Bob Adelman](#) on January 16, 2017

Clintons Shutter Global Initiative as Donations Dry Up

The Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) [filed a WARN](#) — Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification — with New York State’s Department of Labor on Thursday, announcing that, effective April 15, 2017, it would be closing its doors and laying off 22 employees. The CGI’s stated reason: “Discontinuation of the Clinton Global Initiative.”



Following the election, foreign governments that had been regular donors began cutting their contributions to the Clinton Foundation, some severely. For example, [news.com.au noted](#) that the Australian government “has not renewed any of its partnerships with the scandal-plagued Clinton Foundation, effectively ending 10 years of taxpayer-funded contributions worth more than \$88 million.” The government of Norway, which had been contributing as much as \$20 million a year to the foundation, cut its contribution by nearly 90 percent.

As noted by the *New York Observer*, these cuts indicate that “the organization’s clout was predicated on donor access to the Clintons, rather than its philanthropic work.”

Suggestions that the CGI, which called itself a “networking” adjunct to the Clinton Foundation, was primarily an influence-peddling scheme to enrich the Clintons in exchange for “access” arose in October. That’s when the anti-secrecy group WikiLeaks published e-mails from Doug Band, a co-founder of CGI, indicating how the “pay for access” scheme worked. The *Washington Post*, a supporter of the Clinton candidacy for president, laid bare the details:

“The memo, made public Wednesday [October 26] by the anti-secrecy group WikiLeaks, lays out the aggressive strategy behind lining up consulting contracts and paid speaking engagements for Bill Clinton that added tens of millions of dollars to the family’s fortune, including during the years that Hillary Clinton led the State Department. It describes how Band help run what he called ‘Bill Clinton, Inc.’, obtaining ‘in-kind services for the President and his family — for personal travel, hospitality, vacations and the like.’”

The closing of CGI confirmed Peter Schweizer’s conclusions in his book *Clinton Cash: The Untold Story of How and Why Foreign Governments and Businesses Helped Make Bill and Hillary Rich*, that there are “serious and alarming questions of judgment, of possible indebtedness to an array of foreign interests, and ultimately, of [Hillary’s] fitness for high public office.”

As *Forbes* noted in its review of the book, “The timing of policy decisions or international deals relative



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to donations, transcends coincidence” while Harvard Law School professor Lawrence Lessig observed, “On any fair reading, the pattern of behavior that Schweizer has charged is corruption.”

As Schweizer reveals, the pattern is predictable and repeated frequently: “Introductions are made. A deal is struck — usually to exploit natural resources such as uranium, oil, or timber, on a large and highly profitable scale. Soon after that, enormous contributions are made to the Clinton Foundation from those who benefited from the deal, while Bill is commissioned to deliver a series of highly-paid speeches. Moreover, some of these deals require approval or review by the U.S. government [which] fall within the purview of a powerful senator [Hillary] or secretary of state [Hillary].”

Schweizer revealed how Hillary was involved in facilitating the transfer of nearly 50 percent of U.S. uranium output to Russia, benefiting large donors to her foundation. He revealed how Bill was paid enormous sums for speeches given to foreign governments and businesses which just happened to have matters pending before the State Department while Hillary was secretary. He exposed how a visit by the Clintons to Colombia was followed by the grant of lucrative logging rights to a Canadian billionaire who also happened to be a Clinton Foundation donor.

But the river of financial largesse in exchange for access has dried up. After all, when there’s no influence to peddle, what other reason would there be to contribute?

Photo: AP Images

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