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POLITICS | ELECTION 2016

Bernie Sanders Gives Hillary Clinton a Pass Over Speech Excerpts

Former Democratic presidential hopeful had once pressed eventual nominee to release transcripts of her Wall Street remarks



Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders together during a campaign rally where the Vermont senator endorsed the former secretary of state in Portsmouth, N.H., in July. PHOTO: MARY SCHWALM/REUTERS

By **LAURA MECKLER**

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Sen. Bernie Sanders, who during the Democratic primaries had demanded Hillary Clinton release transcripts of her speeches to Wall Street firms, expressed no such concern after the publication of what appeared to be hacked

excerpts from those speeches.

The excerpts offer evidence for many of the charges he leveled during their contentious contest, but Mr. Sanders is supporting Mrs. Clinton's campaign and on Saturday passed up the chance to criticize her.

The organization that publishes secret information, WikiLeaks, on Friday released what it said was email correspondence of Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta, including what appeared to be excerpts from the Democratic presidential candidate's Wall Street speeches in recent years, which she had refused to release. The Clinton campaign declined to verify their authenticity.

All the speeches were from before Mrs. Clinton launched her current presidential campaign.

In the excerpts, Mrs. Clinton appears to be talking in private in a tone more favorable to free trade and to banks than she took on the campaign trail. For instance, the excerpts show that in a 2013 speech, she says, "My dream is a hemispheric common market, with open trade and open borders."

She also apparently praises Wall Street bankers and a budget proposal that included cuts to Social Security benefits. Mr. Sanders campaigned hard against Mrs. Clinton, saying she had supported damaging free trade agreements and was too close to Wall Street. He also questioned her commitment to protecting Social Security.

After he lost the nomination, though, Mrs. Clinton made some policy concessions to him and he endorsed her candidacy.

On Saturday, he focused on their shared policy agenda. "Whatever Secretary Clinton may or may not have said behind closed doors on Wall Street, I am determined to implement the agenda of the Democratic Party platform which was agreed to by her campaign," he said. He cited the platform's call to break up large financial institutions and prosecuting Wall Street executives who "engaged in illegal behavior."

Mr. Sanders also said he would continue fighting the pending Trans Pacific Partnership, a trade agreement Mrs. Clinton praised as it was being developed when she was secretary of state, but ultimately came out against. She has said she won't change her mind about the trade pact if she is elected, amid concern from some trade opponents that she would reverse course again.

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