

JONASSON *for Governor*

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JONASSON BLASTS VENTURA

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA (CRAP: Canadian Regional Associated Press) – Former Minnesota governor Jesse Ventura should “mind his own business and butt out of California’s affairs” according to gubernatorial candidate Stefan Jonasson. “The people of California don’t need outsiders like Ventura turning the current political contest into some sort of circus. They can do that on their own.” Jonasson was commenting on Ventura’s public remarks about the gubernatorial recall election that is currently underway in the Pacific coast state.

While he agreed with the former professional wrestler’s assessment that the recall election was “absurd,” Jonasson wondered why absurdity had suddenly become a problem for Ventura and then went on to denounce him for offering campaign advice to his rival. “What could have been more absurd than a right-wing wrestler as governor of Minnesota, a state that was once progressive enough to be part of Canada?”



Former Minnesota governor and professional wrestler Jesse Ventura seems unphased by the harsh criticism of Stefan Jonasson, who is campaigning to succeed Gray Davis as governor of California, a state that is reputedly warmer than Minnesota.

Noting Ventura’s observation that the current governor, Gray Davis, “hasn’t committed an act of malfeasance or a felony,” Jonasson demanded to know whether or not this was an endorsement of the governor. “Jesse seems to be speaking out of both sides of his mouth,” he said. “On the one hand, he gives campaign advice to Mr. Schwarzenegger, while on the other, he offers up a ringing endorsement of the incumbent. Well, which is it, Mr. Ventura? I haven’t committed any felonies either, but you haven’t had a kind word to say about me! And I’m as much of an outsider as you and Arnold, but you haven’t offered any advice to help my campaign. Play fair, Mr. Ventura, or butt out!”

“If Jesse Ventura thinks he has something to contribute to this contest, then let him meet the other candidates in the wrestling ring,” said a

Jonasson supporter. "In fact, let's make it a tag-team match – our candidate and the current governor taking on Schwarzenegger and Ventura. Then everyone will be able to see that those two are nothing more than a couple of second-rate actors. They may have brawn but our guy has brains ... and that matters more, even in the ring!" The suggestion of a tag-team match has led some astute political observers to think that a deal may be in the works between the Davis and Jonasson camps. The speculation is that Davis, disappointed by Lieutenant Governor Cruz Bustamante's decision to add his name to the list of possible successors, may throw his support behind Jonasson, should the recall vote go against him. There was no comment from the Davis campaign but a spokesperson for Jonasson insisted there was no deal in place and hinted that there had not even been talks between the two camps. "We would be happy to talk with Mr. Davis's people," she said, "although we don't really think that will prove necessary."

-- 30 --



A respected clinical psychologist has conjectured that the intensity of Jonasson's reaction to Jesse Ventura is grounded in an unresolved rivalry between the candidate and his late brother, Eric (above), who bore a striking physical resemblance to the former Minnesota governor. Their biographies are also remarkably similar: Ventura was a Navy Seal, while the elder Jonasson's middle name was given in honor of his uncle, an air force gunner killed in World War II. Ventura was a pro wrestler; Jonasson wrestled with his children when they were young. Ventura was a talk show host; Jonasson liked to talk at family dinners. Ventura became governor in a surprise election; Jonasson's mother was surprised when he was elected to the local school board. Both authored books while in office. The physical resemblance between the infant Jonasson and Ventura is even more remarkable (see below).

