

Cheney Says Palin Was Not Ready to Be Vice President
The New York Times
July 29, 2012
By Michael D. Shear

Former Vice President Dick Cheney said that Sarah Palin was not ready to be his successor and that picking her was "a mistake" that Mitt Romney should seek to avoid in making his choice.

Speaking to Jonathan Karl of ABC News in his first interview since undergoing heart transplant surgery in March, Mr. Cheney said Senator John McCain's choice of Ms. Palin, then governor of Alaska, clearly reflected considerations other than her ability to serve as vice president.

Mr. Karl asked whether a presidential candidate should consider how well a vice presidential nominee might appeal in a particular state or to a demographic group.

"Those are important issues, but they should never be allowed to override that first proposition. That was one of the problems McCain had," Mr. Cheney said.

"I like Gov. Palin. I've met her. I know her," Mr. Cheney said, calling Ms. Palin an "attractive candidate" in 2008. "But based on her background, she had only been governor for, what, two years? I don't think she passed that test of being ready to take over. And I think that was a mistake."

Mr. Cheney has been an outspoken critic of President Obama, but has been silent amid health troubles in the past year. He received a heart transplant in March and has been recovering at his home in Jackson Hole, Wyo. Mr. Karl interviewed him there. The full interview will be shown Monday on ABC news programs.

In the brief excerpt shown on Sunday, Mr. Cheney did not criticize Mr. Obama. But Mr. Karl hinted that the former vice president does not hold back in the rest of the interview.

"No question: Cheney is back. He feels much better," Mr. Karl said on ABC's "This Week" program. "He says he hasn't felt this good for years. And he is certainly not holding back. You'll hear what he said about Obama — some of his harshest criticism yet tomorrow."

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