

## The Commissioners of American Basketball and the Hong Kong Discussion

Preface: We here at Enemy of the 610 are not privy to the inner workings of the NBA. We do find it fascinating that this American institution which holds such strong moral stances on social justice and equality would simply stay mute when pressed on matters of severe human rights abuses within their largest global sales market. Hmmmm, perhaps we should ponder their motives and values more carefully.

Of course we have no inside information and therefore must make up wild assumptions and speculation. For instance, imagine if the professor of social theory at the DeVry State Technical Institute of Law conducted an exercise in which it asked our writers to formulate a theoretical moment of time that could explain the NBA's awkward silence regarding these challenging matters. Well, no need to go on any further. In pure satirical form, we've done just that....

## ring-ring ring-ring

- Stern: Hello
- Silver: David, it's Adam.
- Stern: Adam, I'm in the middle of something right now.
- Silver: It's falling apart.
- Stern: (muffled tone) Guys can you give me a minute thanks...
- Stern: ... What's falling apart Adam?
- Silver: Umm... lots of pressure....from both sides.
- Stern: Uhuh.
- Silver: We have to come out and say something.
- Stern: And what is it that you want to say?
- Silver: I don't know....that we stand up for freedom.
- Stern: We stand up for freedom all the time, we are the National Basketball Association.
- Silver: I don't want to fire Daryl.
- Stern: Nobody is saying anything about firing anyone.
- Silver: I don't know what I'm supposed to do.
- Stern: You don't need to do anything, just keep quiet, and let things move forward. We have things in motion. We will get everything back running smoothly.
- Silver: We are getting torched on social media.
- Stern: It will pass Adam, it always does. The 24 hour news cycle moves quickly. Nobody will give a shit about any of this in a few weeks.
- Silver: I don't know...I've given this a lot of thought. We should make a stand on this.
- Stern: (frustrated/angered) We all want to take a stand on important issues Adam. But you have to put this situation in perspective. You are the NBA commissioner. It is not your job to interfere with things of this nature, or take a stance on the morality of another countries law. It is your job to make money for the league. Pretty fucking simple really.
- Silver: I'm sorry David, but I am going to do something.
- Stern: (severe frustration/muffled anger) You're not going to do a goddam' thing Adam! Sitting down and shutting the fuck up is what you're going to do. You start dicking around with this issue, and you're going to get us all burned.
- Silver: You're being selfish.
- Stern: I built this league from a money-less piece of shit to a billion dollar global brand, and I'm not about to have you fuck it all up.
- Silver: They got a million Uighurs locked up David.
- Stern: We're fucking Jewish Adam, remember the fucking holocaust, don't give me this human rights justice shit, I know all about it. You want to be a social hero, focus on Americans, Black Lives Matter, Green New Deal, whatever the fuck comes out of that bitch AOC's mouth. Nobody in America knows what the fuck a Uighur is and nobody in America is going to give a fuck.
- Silver: I give a fuck.
- Stern: Well you're a fucking pussy.
- Silver: At least I give a shit.
- Stern: Goddammit Adam, listen to me. Listen to me now. It is not your role to get involved in any of this horseshit. You start making this a problem, all you do is hurt American basketball. You will not change anything for the good over there. You think you have power, that the Chinese respect you. That if you somehow stand up to communism, all of the sudden they turn into a liberal society and





hug each other, singing Kum-ba-ya. You're not John-F-fucking -Kennedy, you're Adam-fucking-Silver. Nobody cares about you or gives a shit about you. You think any of the other leagues are doing anything? How about every goddam' company that gets their shit made in China. Nope, Nope, Nope. Jesus, their government fucking killed their own students during Tiananmen Square, and nobody in the US did shit about it, it was just business as usual. The world is full of a bunch of greedy fucks Adam, were are just one of them.

lver: (a sigh and a long pause)

- (calming down) Jesus. I'm not trying to overreact, I know what you're going through, it's not easy and you're in the weeds. You're not seeing clearly, and I know you have a conscience, and I know you want to do what's right. But this is a big problem, a complicated problem, much bigger than we can ever understand. We start dipping into something we know nothing about, we don't just bring ourselves into it, we bring the owners, the players, all the teams, all of our partners, sponsors, apparel contracts, shit the list goes on and on. You know this, it would be a complete shit show and one we would not be able to recover from. We need to focus on what we can control, promote our values the best we can, promote US basketball to the world, and maybe one day they will understand that we are better people for it.
- Silver: We are good people right?
- Stern: Damn right we are.
- Stern: Now listen, we will get all of this straightened out. We got lots of friends, and friends of friends, and friends of friends of friends, all working together on the back end. China wants the NBA, the NBA wants China, it's a solid relationship and in the end, this will be just a little blip in a long successful history. The legislators aren't stopping anything. We got half the house bankrolled on our side. I mean shit, we get a few of them over for a dinner party with LeBron and Harden, and these fucking guys start cumming in their pants like a couple of school boys fingering their girlfriend. Now I know some of the republicans are a pain in the ass, but the media hates them, and most of our players hate them. Just keep plugging the racism and social justice card like we always do, and their off our back and this whole saga is buried in a month okay.
- Silver: Okay
- Stern: I've been through this. I know how to navigate it. I've got your back, but you have to listen to me. Everybody knows the money train is China, so you just need to get everyone to shut up about Hong Kong. And don't mention China politics, ever.
- Stern: Okay?
- Silver: Okay.
- Stern: So you're cool?
- Silver: I'm cool.
- Stern: Alright, that's my guy. Listen, it's been a tough day. Why don't you get yourself into your pajamas, and get yourself to bed, we have a big day tomorrow.
- Silver: Okay David.
- Stern: I'll come over tomorrow morning and check on you, maybe even make you breakfast. Sound like a plan champ?
- Silver: Pancakes!?!
- Stern: You got it bub.
- Silver: With cherry toppings and extra whipped cream?
- Stern: With all the whipped cream you can handle.
- Silver: David?
- Stern: Yes Adam.
- Silver: I love you.
- Stern: I love you too, kiddo. Now go get some rest.