



Jimmy Carter Library & Museum News Release

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For Immediate Release

Date: March 24, 2008

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NEWS08-09

New York Times Reporter Adam Clymer to Discuss His New Book on Panama Canal *“Drawing the Line at the Big Ditch: The Panama Canal Treaties & the Rise of the Right”*

Atlanta, GA. Former New York Times Washington correspondent Adam Clymer will discuss his new book “Drawing the Line at the Big Ditch: The Panama Canal Treaties and the Rise of the Right” at the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library on Monday, April 7th at 7:00 p.m. This free public lecture and book signing is one of a limited number of appearances Clymer will make to discuss the role the Panama Canal played in the growth of Conservatism and the re-election defeat of President Jimmy Carter.

Presidential historian Richard Norton Smith says, *“Long acknowledged to be a top-flight journalist\ Clymer turns out to be a thoughtful and probing historian as well. Above all, he is a gifted storyteller, whose colorful cast includes dictators and diplomats, politicians in search of an issue, and presidents in search of a legacy.”*

Author and former NBC News anchor Tom Brokaw calls the book, *“A fascinating political whodunit about the place of the Panama Canal in the conservative campaign to sink the ship of congressional liberals.”*

Adam Clymer is the former chief Washington correspondent for the New York Times and is author of Edward M. Kennedy: A Biography. His writing has also appeared in the Nation, the New Republic, the Progressive, Washington Monthly, and elsewhere.

In his book, Clymer explores how the uproar over the Canal episode foreshadowed perennial partisan attacks over intense, emotional issues from abortion to gun control to same-sex marriage. He also shows that people who hated the idea of giving up the canal gave birth to the NCPAC approach of beating up on an incumbent long before an election, often assisted by independent spending and outside advertising.

As Clymer argues, *“The Panama Canal no longer divides Panama. But the fissures it opened 30 years ago have widened; they divide the United States.”* His even-handed account offers new insight into the “Reagan Revolution” and highlights an overlooked turning point in American political history.

Clymer’s lecture and book signing is co-sponsored by the Georgia Center for the Book and will be recorded by CSPAN for airing on Book TV.

No reservations are needed. Copies of Clymer’s book will be for sale at the lecture.

For more information, call 404-865-7109 or visit www.jimmycarterlibrary.gov.