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Former Xerox Chairwoman Digs at Whitman, Fiorina

By Jerry Hagstrom
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Former Xerox Chairwoman and CEO **Anne Mulcahy**, who is often mentioned as a possible high-level appointee in the Obama administration, took a couple of digs today at fellow CEOs **Meg Whitman** and **Carly Fiorina**, the Republicans running for governor and senator from California, respectively.

"I am the former woman CEO that is not running for public office in California," Mulcahy said in a speech to the Women's Foreign Policy Group. She added that there are "a few great women and not so great women running in tomorrow's election." But Mulcahy said that her comment did not mean that she opposes CEOs running for office in general, adding that she is "a huge fan" of New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

Mulcahy, a Democrat who has been mentioned as a possible successor to Lawrence Summers as director of the National Economic Council or for other administration jobs, said Obama administration officials "need to do a better job of listening [to the business community] with an intention to be responsive." But she added that the business community, which has been critical of Obama, should not be "totally parochial about business."

Mulcahy said she has not been approached for the NEC job, but that "informally or formally I hope to play a role between government and business." Mulcahy described the speculation about her becoming director of the NEC as a "media frenzy" prompted by the fact that she is one of the few Democratic women who has been a CEO, and because White House insiders have indicated they want a woman business leader for the post. The administration, she said, can be more responsive to business "but not be blind to the underserved in this country" and not "grant" business all it wants. "It's jobs, jobs, jobs ... but we can't be naïve about pulling back from our global responsibilities," she added.

In her role as chairwoman of the international charity Save the Children, Mulcahy said she has learned that so many of the world's problems, such as poor nutrition and lack of sanitation, are "solvable." She also noted that she recently returned from Iraq and said that military victories in Iraq and Afghanistan will be short lived if there are not proper schools to educate the next generations in those countries. Such issues cannot be addressed by "silos" separating government and business, she said.

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