



FRIENDS OF THE MIDDLE NEWSLETTER #201 — AUG. 10, 2012

Welcome to always lively political discussion and whatever else comes up.
<http://www.FriendsOfTheMiddle.org> FriendsOfTheMiddle@hotmail.com

INDEX: Click here.

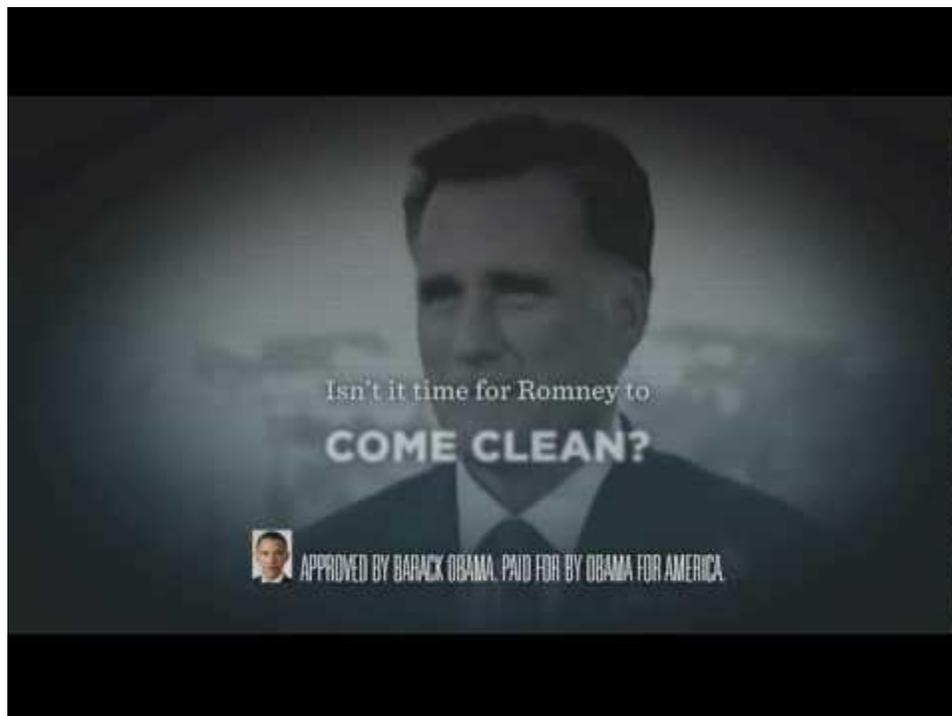
Mitt the Tax Cheater?

(posted by Steven W. Baker / SteveB, Aug. 10, 2012)

You know...all the dude has to do is tell the truth and produce his tax returns. The new FOX polls show President Obama opening a 9 point lead on R0mney. Maybe the reason is that people are fed-up with R0mney's "raping and pillaging" style of capitalism? Maybe people are fed-up with the fat cats avoiding paying the taxes the middle-class has to pay? If Republicans think this is going to go away...LOL!

"Obama Campaign Ad Speculates Mitt Romney Might Have Paid Nothing in Taxes" by Luke Johnson, Huffington Post
Aug. 9, 2012, (http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/08/09/obama-ad-mitt-romney-taxes_n_1761784.html)

Video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DABbkpHzg3o&feature=player_embedded



A new ad released by the Obama campaign Thursday suggests that Mitt Romney might have paid nothing in taxes at some point. The ad plays a clip of a recent interview in which Romney said he was "happy to go back and look" to see if he had paid a rate lower than 13.9 percent -- but he never did get back to the voters on that.

"Did Romney pay 10 percent in taxes? 5 percent? Zero?" asks a narrator. "We don't know."

The campaign says the ad is "following" Romney through Virginia, North Carolina, Florida and Ohio next week.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) recently ignited a firestorm of criticism by saying, in an interview with The Huffington Post, that a Bain investor had told him that Romney paid no taxes for 10 years. The presumptive GOP nominee has refused to release his tax returns for the years before 2010 despite bipartisan calls for him to do so.

"Did Romney Enable a Company's Abusive Tax Shelter?" by Peter C. Canellos and Edward D. Kleinbard, CNN

Aug. 9, 2012, (<http://edition.cnn.com/2012/08/08/opinion/canellos-kleinbard-romney-taxes/index.html>)

When Mitt Romney was audit chair at Marriott International, the company engaged in a series of abusive tax shelter activities.

(Editor's note: Peter C. Canellos, a lawyer, is former chair of the New York State Bar Association Tax Section. Edward D. Kleinbard is a professor at Gould School of Law at the University of Southern California. He is the former chief of staff of Congress's Joint Committee on Taxation.)

Mitt Romney's refusal to release tax returns in the critical years of his income accumulation has done little to dispel the legitimate concern that arises from hints buried in his scant disclosure to date: Did he augment his wealth through highly aggressive tax stratagems of questionable validity?

One relevant line of inquiry, largely ignored so far, is to examine what exists in the public record regarding his attitude toward tax compliance and tax avoidance. While this examination is hampered because his dealings through his private equity company, Bain Capital, are kept shrouded, there are other indicators.

A key troubling public manifestation of Romney's apparent insensitivity to tax obligations is his role in Marriott International's abusive tax shelter activity, as previously reported by Jesse Drucker in Bloomberg.

Romney has had a close, long-standing, personal and business connection with Marriott International and its founders. He served as a member of the Marriott board of directors for many years. From 1993 to 1998, Romney was the head of the audit committee of the Marriott board.

During that period, Marriott engaged in a series of complex and high-profile maneuvers, including "Son of Boss," a notoriously abusive prepackaged tax shelter that investment banks and accounting firms marketed to corporations such as Marriott. In this respect, Marriott was in the vanguard of a then-emerging corporate tax shelter bubble that substantially undermined the entire corporate tax system.

Son of Boss and its related shelters represented perhaps the largest tax avoidance scheme in history, costing the U.S. many billions in lost corporate tax revenues. In response, the government initiated legal challenges that resulted in complete disallowance of the losses claimed by Marriott and other corporations.

In addition, the Son of Boss transaction was listed by the Internal Revenue Service as an abusive transaction, requiring specific disclosure and subject to heavy penalties. Statutory penalties were also made more stringent to deter future tax shelter activity. Finally, the government brought successful criminal prosecutions against a number of individuals involved in Son of Boss and related transactions not associated with Marriott, including principals at major law and accounting firms.

In his key role as chairman of the Marriott board's audit committee, Romney approved the firm's reporting of fictional tax losses exceeding \$70 million generated by its Son of Boss transaction. His endorsement of this stratagem provides insight into Romney's professional ethics and attitude toward tax compliance obligations.

Like other prepackaged corporate tax shelters of that era, Marriott's Son of Boss transaction was an entirely artificial transaction, bearing no relationship to its business. Its sole purpose was to create a gigantic tax loss out of thin air without any economic risk, cost or loss -- other than the fee Marriott paid the promoter.

The Son of Boss transaction was vulnerable to attack on at least two grounds.

First, the transaction's promoters and consumers relied on a strained technical statutory analysis. Second, the Son of Boss deal violated the fundamental tax principle that the tax law ignores transactions unless they have a motivating business purpose and a substantial nontax economic effect.

In the Marriott case, the IRS raised both arguments and won on the first interpretive issue.

The Court of Claims (affirmed by the Court of Appeals) rejected Marriott's technical analysis, finding no reliable argument or authority to support it. The court therefore did not need to reach the issue of business purpose and economic substance. In subsequent decisions, involving similar transactions but other parties, the courts have sustained the second line of attack as well, finding the claimed losses to be fictitious.

The complete judicial rejection of the Son of Boss tax scheme was entirely predictable. In mid-1994, for example, roughly contemporaneously with Marriott's execution of its Son of Boss trade and well before Marriott filed its return claiming the artificial loss, the highly respected Tax Section of the New York Bar Association filed a public comment with the U.S. Treasury and IRS urging rejection of the technical claims made by promoters of such schemes.

In his key position as head of the board's audit committee, Romney was required under the securities laws and his fiduciary duties to review the transaction. In fact, it has been publicly reported that Romney was the Marriott Board member most acquainted with the transaction and to whom the other board members turned for advice. This makes sense because aggressive tax-driven financial engineering was a large part of what Romney (and Bain) did for a living. For these reasons, it is fair to hold him accountable for Marriott's spurious tax reporting.

Romney's campaign staff has attempted to deflect responsibility, arguing that he relied on Marriott's tax department and advisers.

This claim is disingenuous. In a transaction of this magnitude, sensitivity and questionableness, the prudent step would be to secure advice to the audit committee and the board from experienced and independent tax counsel, who would certainly have cautioned that the Marriott position was risky and not supported by precedent or proper statutory interpretation.

Moreover, on the key issue of the business purpose and economic substance, Romney was, or should have been, aware of the facts that the transaction had its genesis solely in tax avoidance and was a "marketed" tax shelter.

He had an insider's perspective on the motivation and lack of substance in the transaction, as well as the financial sophistication to understand the tax avoidance involved. Romney failed in his duties to Marriott and its shareholders and acted to undermine the fairness of the tax system.

No one could accuse Romney of lacking the intelligence and analytical skills to have dealt with this transaction appropriately. Indeed, his strengths in this regard were the reason the other board members relied on him.

What emerges from this window into corporate tax compliance behavior is the picture of an executive who was willing to go to the edge, if not beyond, to bend the rules to seek an unfair advantage, and then hide behind the advice of so-called experts to deflect criticism when a scheme backfires.

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20120809-01	11:33	SteveB	Fw: Daily Kos Petition: Ask Democrats in 'Safe' Districts to Help Other Democrats!
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from Daily Kos:

Join with Daily Kos and Democracy for America by signing our petition telling the House Democrats in ultra-safe districts who have stockpiled more than \$63 million to start sending some of that money to progressive Democrats in swing districts.

Democrats have a good chance to retake the House of Representatives, with eight polls in the last month showing them either ahead or tied. Still, the current Democratic lead is tenuous because negative ads from Republican Super PACs will only increase as the election approaches.

Fortunately, there is a way to counter this coming onslaught of corporate cash. There are nearly 100 House Democrats in very safe districts who collectively have more than \$63 million in their campaign bank accounts. If these Democrats started sending some of that money to campaigns in swing districts, they would provide the financial support needed to send John Boehner and the tea party packing.

We know pushing these Democrats can work, because we've done it before. Back in 2006, our grassroots pressure resulted in ultra-safe Democrats sending millions of dollars to battleground districts, thus playing an important role in Democrats retaking the House that year.

We can do it again in 2012, but we need to start now. **Please, click here to tell ultra-safe House Democrats to stop hoarding cash and step up their support for progressive Democrats in swing districts:**

<http://democracyforamerica.com/activities/815?t=dkos>

Keep fighting, Chris Bowers Campaign Director, Daily Kos

20120809-02

13:12

SteveM

"Obama Campaign Aide Accused of Lying Over Anti-Romney Ad, Ties to Steelworker"

"Obama Campaign Aide Accused of Lying Over Anti-Romney Ad, Ties to Steelworker" by Judson Berger, FOX News

Aug. 8, 2012, (<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2012/08/08/obama-campaign-aide-accused-lying-over-controversial-anti-romney-ad/>)

A top Obama campaign official is being accused of lying over what she knew about the man at the center of a damning super PAC ad tying his wife's death to Mitt Romney.

Deputy Campaign Manager Stephanie Cutter appeared on CNN Wednesday morning to say, among other things, that "I don't know the facts" about the case of Joe Soptic, a steelworker who appeared in a controversial ad for the pro-Obama super-PAC Priorities USA. In the ad, Soptic, recounts how his wife died of cancer after he lost his health insurance when his plant was shuttered after a takeover by Bain Capital and other companies working with the private equity firm.

Cutter said she didn't know when Soptic's wife fell ill, or about his health insurance.

Yet in May of this year, Cutter herself hosted a conference call in which Soptic detailed his case to reporters. During the call, as he did in the ad, Soptic explained how his wife fell ill after he lost his job, and how he lost his health insurance. The call took place as Soptic began appearing in Obama campaign ads, and was featured in a profile on the Obama campaign website.

The campaign profile listed Soptic as one of the "faces of Romney economics."

Cutter wasn't the only Obama campaign official caught up in the controversy.

"This is an ad by an entity that's not controlled by campaign. I certainly don't know the specifics of this man's case," campaign adviser Robert Gibbs said on MSNBC. Another Obama campaign spokeswoman separately told reporters that the campaign had no knowledge of the family involved.

Super PACs and the presidential campaigns are technically separate organizations, or are supposed to be. Both presidential campaigns have in the past cited that separation whenever challenged on super PAC ads. Obama campaign spokesman Ben LaBolt again stressed Wednesday, in response to the criticism, that "we can't coordinate with super PACs and didn't produce" the ad.

In an email to FoxNews.com, LaBolt also acknowledged the conference call but suggested that was beside the point. The email did not address the allegation that anybody had lied.

"Joe Soptic suffered when he lost his job in the aftermath of the GST Steel plant closing, and no one is denying that he discussed that when he appeared in a campaign advertisement and on a conference call. The important point here is that Mitt Romney's campaign is based solely on his experience as a corporate buyout specialist, and while he has been quick to claim he created jobs, he refuses to accept responsibility for the jobs that were lost and workers that were impacted," he said.

Romney's campaign, after decrying the ad on Tuesday, accused Obama's team Wednesday of flat-out "lying" about their familiarity with the case.

"President Obama and his campaign are willing to say and do anything to hide the President's disappointing record. But they're not entitled to repeatedly mislead voters," Romney campaign spokesman Ryan Williams said in a statement Wednesday afternoon.

Speaking to Fox News, Romney spokeswoman Andrea Saul also called the ad "disgusting" and "despicable." She said the ad "just shows the depth to which the Obama campaign and their allies will go to try to smear Mitt Romney."

[Gee! "Disgusting"? "Despicable"? The President's campaign must have hit pretty close to home, huh? –SteveB]

The ad did not reveal key details about the timeline of Soptic's case. First, Soptic's wife initially had her own health insurance after her husband lost his job. Second, Soptic's wife died in 2006, five years after her husband's company, GST, filed for bankruptcy. And long after Romney had left Bain Capital.

[None of this FOX "stuff" matters much. The point of the ad is that this is the kind of tragic thing that happens when a nation's government doesn't care if its people have the health care they need or not. That is a fact! That is the truth! It's just another losing point for Republicans this year. The old lies are wearing pretty thin. –SteveB]

20120809-03	15:35	SteveB	Re: "Obama Campaign Aide Accused of Lying Over Anti-Romney Ad, Ties to Steelworker" (reply to SteveM, above) & "The Scandal Behind Romney's New Attack Ad"
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Here's something from a source consistent with yours.

"It's important to realize this is as dishonest an ad as you'll ever see -- in 2012 or in any other campaign cycle."

"The Scandal Behind Romney's New Attack Ad" by Passing by,

Aug. 7, 2012,

(<http://beefarts.us.com/forum1/viewtopic.php?f=10&p=130575&sid=39e9e4481167c30e3b140f75af1f3985>)

Mitt Romney's presidential campaign has presented the political world with an important test. I'm eager to see whether we pass or fail.

First, a little background. Some Republican governors this year asked the Obama administration for some new flexibility on welfare standards -- the governors had some ideas about moving folks from welfare to work and needed the White House to sign off. Obama agreed -- existing work requirements would stay in place, but states, if they want to, can take advantage of new flexibility when it comes to experimenting with existing law.

This is the sort of shifting-power-to-the-states policy that Republicans are supposed to love. As of this morning, however, it's the basis for a new Mitt Romney attack ad.

It's important to realize this is as dishonest an ad as you'll ever see -- in 2012 or in any other campaign cycle.

For those who can't watch clips online, the ad shows President Clinton signing welfare reform into law in 1996, "requiring work for welfare." The spot then argues, however, that President Obama "quietly announced a plan to gut welfare reform by dropping work requirements." The voiceover tells viewers, "Under Obama's plan, you wouldn't have to work and wouldn't have to train for a job. They just send you your welfare check.... and welfare to work goes back to being plain old welfare."

We then learn, "Mitt Romney will restore the work requirement because it works."

Romney's lying. He's not spinning the truth to his advantage; he's not hiding in a gray area between fact and fiction; he's just lying. The law hasn't been "guttled"; the work requirement hasn't been "dropped." Stations that air this ad are disseminating an obvious, demonstrable lie.

All Obama did is agree to Republican governors' request for flexibility. That's it. Indeed, perhaps the most jaw-dropping aspect of this is that Romney himself, during his one gubernatorial term, asked for the same kind of flexibility on welfare law that Obama agreed to last month. **Romney, in other words, is attacking the President for doing what Romney asked the executive branch to do in 2005.**

The entire line of attack is simply insane.

How are we to respond to a campaign that deliberately deceives the public without shame? This lie about welfare policy comes on the heels of Romney's lie about voting rights in Ohio, which came on the heels of Romney's lies about the economy; which came on the heels of Romney's lies about health care; which came on the heels of Romney's lies about taxes.

The Republican nominee for president is working under the assumption that he can make transparently false claims, in writing and in campaign advertising, with impunity. **Romney is convinced that there are no consequences for breathtaking dishonesty.**

The test, then, comes down to a simple question: is he right?

The cynical response to an ad like this is that the lies are routine -- it's just something "everybody" in politics does. That's wrong. **An ad this dishonest is a genuine scandal** and it's time for political observers treat it as such. Reporters within earshot of the candidate shouldn't ask, "What about the gaffes?" They should ask, "Why are you lying about welfare policy?"

Also note the larger context: if Obama were as awful a president as Romney claims, the Republican attack machine wouldn't have to make stuff up -- the truth would be so brutal that voters would recoil and flock to the GOP candidate naturally. **What does it say about Romney's strength as a candidate that he has to make up garbage and hope voters don't know the difference?**

[20120809-04](#)

15:56

SteveM

Re: "Obama Campaign Aide Accused of Lying..." etc. (reply to SteveB, above) & Video: "Dennis Prager Q & A at University of Denver"

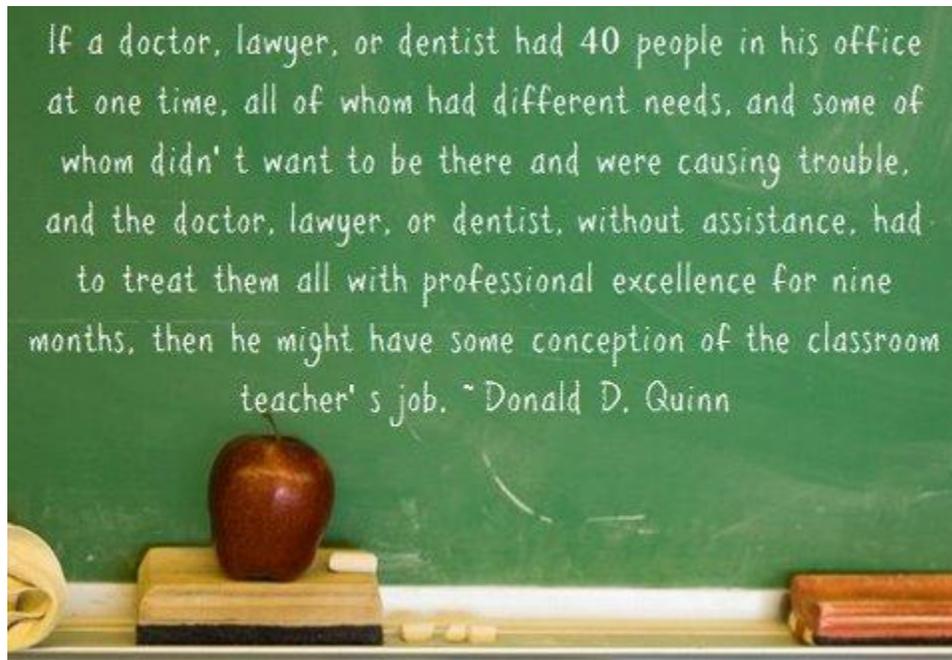
[Video: "Dennis Prager Q & A at University of Denver"](#)

http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=XNUc8nuo7HI

20120809-05

16:40 Jim

Quote: Donald D. Quinn on a Teacher's Job



20120809-08

19:46 SteveB

Re: Quote: Donald D. Quinn on a Teacher's Job (reply to Jim, above)

A very good one indeed. Thanks, Jim.

Praying for rain.

20120809-06

17:17 Art

Re: What Love Can Do (reply to SteveB, FotM Newsletter #200)

Great doggie stories!!!! Really liked your 1999 poem. Rescued three Golden Retrievers today.

Talking to my Doctor during an appointment and we both wondered why some people treat dogs as throw aways while others of us just love them and treat them like family. Two different classes of humans and I can almost guarantee that same difference extends into other areas.

[But surely not politics? –SteveB]

Thanks. Newsletter made my day! [Thank you, Art!]

20120809-07

17:34 Art

Re: "Preparing to Fail" (reply to all, FotM Newsletter #200)

Slow on this one but good stuff and this just the tip of the iceberg. The Osprey tilt wing another example of a system the military didn't want or need but got jammed down our throats. There are many more. All these so called patriotic politicians are really just shilling for more government expenditures regardless of the need. Been going on for a very long time. Think the latest is the jerk from Oklahoma, Coburn, insisting we spend more for small arms. He probably has a stake in some gun company.

There are legitimate defense needs and, as someone who spent 30 years going into these little adventures other politicians got us into, I appreciated having good equipment, but the whole defense program is pretty much a joke and it is really just all about money and ripping off more and more from the taxpayer. Good soldiers, and there are still many, who try to insert reason, are quickly shuffled aside.

20120809-09 19:59 SteveB "Obama Leads Romney by 7 Points as Negative Ads Take Toll"

It might be R0mney's lack of transparency and fat-cat attitude hurting him, rather than Mr. Obama's negative ads, more than matched in kind by the opposition. Maybe it's R0mney's own LYING ads that are hurting him?

Maybe he should throw a Hail Mary and release his cheating tax forms? What's he got to lose at this point?

"Obama Leads Romney by 7 Points as Negative Ads Take Toll" by Sam Stein, Huffington Post

Aug. 9, 2012, (http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/08/09/obama-romney-poll_n_1761713.html)

President Barack Obama is leading Mitt Romney by 7 points among registered voters -- 52 percent to 45 percent -- in a just-released CNN/ORC International poll.

The margin echoes those of other polls released in recent days, and suggests that the barrage of tough advertisements against the presumptive Republican nominee has taken a toll. As CNN notes:

While Romney's favorable rating has remained steady (47% now compared to 48% in July), his unfavorable rating has jumped from 42% last month to 48% now ... Among independents, the poll indicates Romney's image has taken a beating. In May, only 40% of independents had an unfavorable view of Romney. Now, 52% of independents have a negative view of him.

These polls are, of course, just snapshots in time. But they underscore the problem that Romney's campaign now has on its hands. His image among the public has been largely defined by his opponent. And while Romney has plenty of cash to run ads of his own, time is running out for him to reverse this trend.

Take, for example, the following findings within the poll:

Sixty-four percent of all Americans, and 68% of independents, think Romney favors the rich over the middle class. And 63% of the public thinks Romney should release more tax returns than he has already made public, a figure which rises to 67% among independents.

UPDATE: 6:15 p.m. -- The recent trend of generally good news for the president continued on Thursday afternoon, with the release of a new poll by Fox News that showed Obama besting Romney by a 49 to 40 percent margin among registered voters. His lead has increased since last month's poll, when he enjoyed a 45 to 41 percent margin.

As with the CNN poll, the primary factor appears to be the barrage of negative ads directed Romney's way.

The Obama campaign has spent heavily on advertising attacking Romney's time at Bain Capital and his tax returns. And it appears to be working. Romney's favorable rating dropped six percentage points since last month and now sits at 46 percent, down from 52 percent in mid-July. At the same time his unfavorable rating went up five points. Romney's favorable rating has held steady among his party faithful, but it's down eight percentage points among independents and seven points among Democrats.

20120809-10 20:15 SteveB "Shouldn't Mitt Romney Be Ahead by Now?"

Perhaps the electorate is not so stupid as the GOP has assumed? Boy, that would be nice for a change!

"Shouldn't Mitt Romney Be Ahead by Now?" by Roger Simor, Politico

Aug. 9, 2012, (<http://dyn.politico.com/printstory.cfm?uuid=3A286244-59CB-43DF-BB69-D43653750DCD>)

Mitt Romney was speaking in a slow, measured cadence from a packed and steamy auditorium at Des Moines Central Campus High School on Wednesday. "We're worried about the drought," Romney said, "and are looking for more rain."

It is an open question whether presidential candidates have a special relationship with the Almighty, but at least Romney was in "gaffe-free" territory, it being unlikely that there were many pro-drought activists ready to pounce.

And Romney soon ended the "localizing" of his remarks and reverted to his stump speech.

"President Obama came in with a lot of promises," he said. "But it is now 42 straight months with unemployment above 8 percent."

The unemployment rate under Obama hit a high of 10 percent in October 2009 and has never done better than 8.1 percent during any full month of his presidency. (It was 7.6 percent in January 2009, but Obama didn't become president until the 20th of that month.)

And as has been pointed out many times, no president since FDR has been reelected with unemployment greater than 7.2 percent.

Further, more than 60 percent of Americans feel the nation is on the "wrong track" under Obama.

I could list other gloomy figures for Obama, but they all leave me with one question: So why is Obama still ahead in the polls? And not just in national polls, but also in key states that are needed for an Electoral College victory.

Shouldn't Romney be wiping the floor with Obama? By the measurements Romney uses again and again in his speeches — prolonged high unemployment, a failed economy and the unpopularity of "Obamacare" — shouldn't Americans be rallying around Romney by a significant majority by now?

After all, how long can Romney wait to catch fire? The election is only about three months away. True, Romney gets the opportunity to make a stirring convention speech — but so does Obama. True, Romney gets the opportunity to make an invigorating choice for his running mate, but Obama has already selected Joe Biden, who has shown himself to be a vigorous and popular campaigner.

True, the events that, in my opinion, actually could turn things around — the presidential debates — lie ahead in October. But there is little to suggest that Romney will be a dead-bang winner in those.

In the Republican primary debates Romney did win, he usually won by appearing more presidential than the others in the very weak and sometimes wacky Republican field. And now Romney will be standing on stage with a real president with almost four years of experience in that office, making it difficult for Romney to lay back and pull off the "more presidential" ploy.

Obama has had the advantage of taking national security — usually a Republican strong point — off the table with the killing of Osama bin Laden and America's weariness for more lengthy wars of occupation.

But Romney is running on prosperity and lunch-bucket issues, and just about every analyst I have read believes domestic issues will determine the outcome of the November election.

"A lot of people in the middle class are falling into poverty," Romney warns. And President Obama, Romney says, just doesn't know how to change that.

But what do the Great Gods of Politics, the opinion polls, show?

They show a country that still likes Obama more than it likes Romney. And by quite a bit.

As I have written for years, I have a simple — OK, simple-minded — way of determining who is going to win the presidency: The more likable candidate wins. Not always, but almost always.

On Aug. 2, a survey published by the well-respected Pew Research Center for the People & the Press found Obama was leading Romney by 51-41 percent for the presidency, the eighth time in a row since January that Obama has led Romney by between 4 and 12 percentage points.

But more importantly by my Simple Simon standard of likability, Romney's favorable/unfavorable rating was 37/52 compared with Obama's 50/45. Which means Romney had a net unfavorable rating of 15 points while Obama had a net favorable of 5 points.

On Wednesday, the *Washington Post* and ABC News released a poll showing 40 percent of voters approving of Romney and 49 percent disapproving. When it came to Obama, 53 percent of voters approved and 43 percent disapproved.

Which gave Romney a net disapproval of 9 points and Obama a net approval of 10 points.

Two different polls don't exactly establish a solid pattern, but the Romney people must be very, very worried.

Romney said in that Des Moines auditorium, "The American people are tired of being tired."

But if the recent polls are correct, the American people also may be tired of Mitt Romney.

[20120809-11](#)

20:29

SteveM

Re: "Shouldn't Mitt Romney Be Ahead by Now?" (reply to SteveB, above)

Romney has been ahead by 4 points for a week, unless you read the Huff Post. What does that Kool aid taste like?

[20120809-12](#)

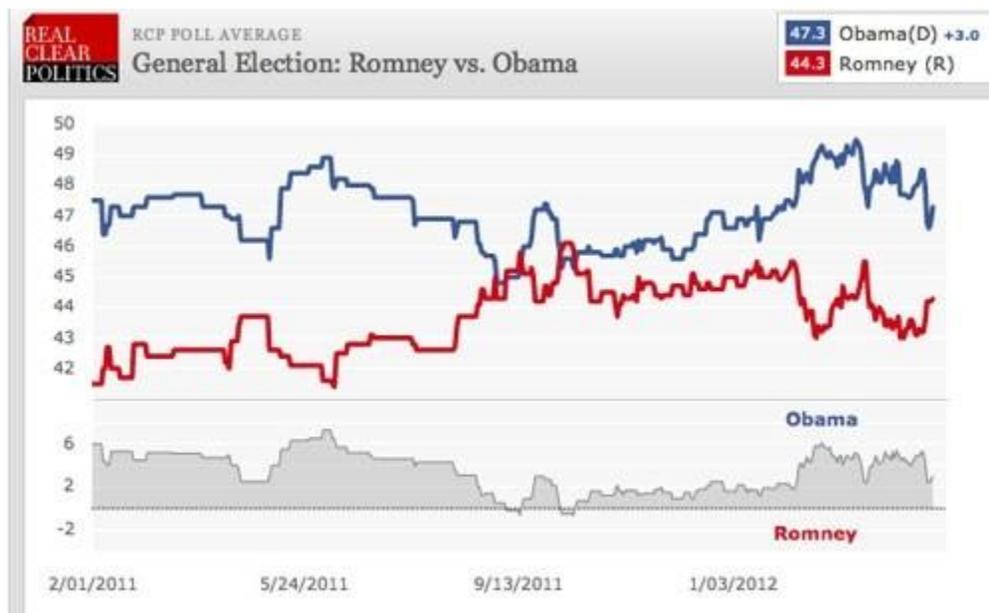
21:33

SteveB

Re: "Shouldn't Mitt Romney Be Ahead by Now?" (reply to SteveM, above)

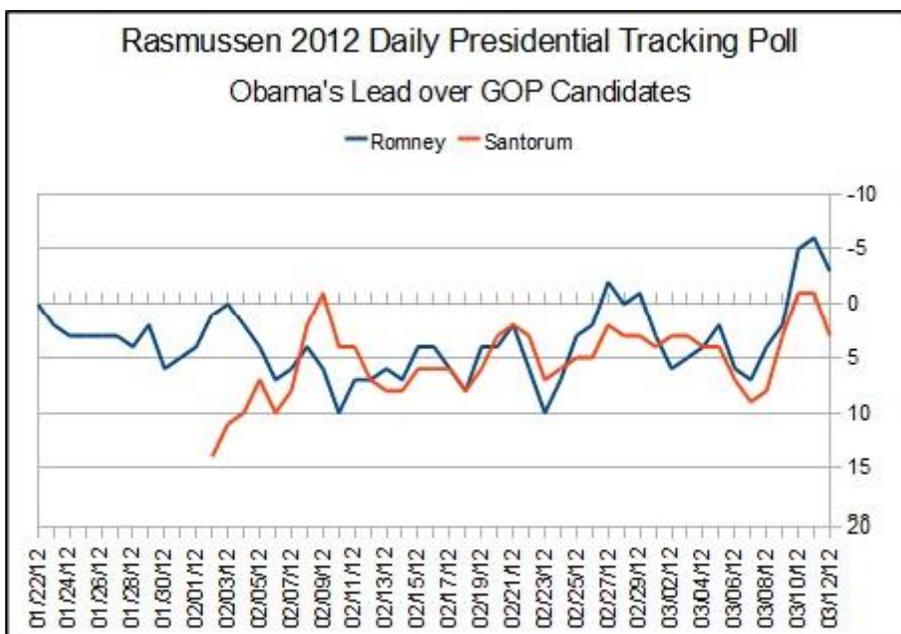
Read the article (UPDATE). FOX says he's ahead by 9!

No polls I know, of any repute, have had Romney ahead by 4 this entire year. Here's the *Washington Post*:



What a loser your guy is, again! I can't believe you would like somebody that fake.

Maybe you're thinking (dreaming?) of Romney vs. Stinky Santorum (whom R0mney barely beat, and the gay-hating Catholic is definitely NOT presidential material):



DID IT EVER OCCUR TO YOU

THAT UNION WORKERS AREN'T OVERPAID...
MAYBE YOU'RE JUST UNDERPAID?

WHERE ARE THE GAINS GOING?

FROM 1970 TO 2010, IN INFLATION-ADJUSTED DOLLARS,
INCOME OF PRIVATE SECTOR WORKERS
FELL FROM \$32,000 TO \$29,000,
WHILE INCOME AMONG "JOB CREATORS"
ROSE FROM \$2-MILLION TO \$16-MILLION.

FIGURES ROUNDED

SOURCE: <http://nyti.ms/saez-and-piketty-on-inequality>

So let me get this straight...

The plan was to move factories and manufacturing overseas, open strip malls on every corner, make it near impossible for our small businesses to compete, force most of us into the service industry, THEN cut our wages, give us little or no health insurance, take away regulations that protect us, and our right to bargain collectively?

Um, Yeah....NO!

www.facebook.com/serviceworkers

I thought maybe cats hadn't been getting their due in these pages lately...so...

http://theoatmeal.com/comics/cat_know

<http://facts.randomhistory.com/interesting-facts-about-cats.html>



—Friends of the Middle,
Steven W. Baker (SteveB), Editor/Moderator

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