

Fuzzy Logic From Obama And Axelrod

On October 10 White House political advisor David Axelrod appeared on CBS' *Face the Nation*, where he repeated Obama's (unfounded) allegation that organizations supporting Republican campaigns are being illegally financed with foreign funding. Axelrod stated, "Ed Gillespie and Karl Rove run one of them—tens of millions of dollars from undisclosed donors, under benign names like the American Crossroads fund." Axelrod is lying. Neither Gillespie nor Rove run or are employed by American Crossroads, a conservative group that is funding political advertisements and is a "non-profit political organization dedicated to renewing America's commitment to individual liberty, limited government, free enterprise and a strong national defense." (Rove has, however, encouraged people to donate to the organization.)

Axelrod continued: "Why not simply disclose where this money is coming from? And then all of these questions'll [sic] be answered. ...These interest groups ...are now the major force in some of these campaigns. ...This issue of this special-interest spending is very important. It's never happened before, that organizations are spending this kind of money." Of course, Democrats and Republicans alike rely on liberal and conservative organizations for support and welcome their issues-advertising. Axelrod's concern with "special-interest spending" is the epitome of the pot calling the kettle black. Left-leaning groups like the Sierra Club also have international affiliates collecting foreign money, but neither Obama nor Axelrod are demanding that they stop their advertising support of leftist causes. And they are certainly not going to ask labor unions to cut back their tens of millions of dollars in campaign spending—which is financed by the union dues of both Democrat and Republican workers who may not agree with how their money is being spent.

Host Bob Schieffer asked Axelrod if he has any evidence of foreign contributions. Axelrod answered, "Do you have any evidence that it's *not*, Bob? The fact is that the Chamber [of Commerce] has asserted that, but they won't release any information about where their campaign money is coming from." Obama and Axelrod are publicly charging that foreign interests are financing Republican campaigns in order to frighten disillusioned Democrats into showing up to vote on November 2. The charges are baseless, as even Axelrod illustrated with his "They are guilty until proven innocent" and "Evidence? We don't need no stinkin' evidence!" response to Schieffer's question.

Even the Obama-adoring *New York Times* wrote that "...a closer examination shows that there is little evidence that what the Chamber [of Commerce] does in collecting overseas dues is improper or even unusual, according to both liberal and conservative election-law lawyers and campaign finance documents." The shameless Axelrod knows full well what he is doing in making the unsubstantiated charges, of course. (He also knows that Obama's 2008 campaign collected millions of dollars in illegal foreign contributions.) Even the left-leaning Schieffer was astounded by Axelrod's response and asks, "Is that the best you can do?"

The Obama/Axelrod attack on the Chamber of Commerce is not simply a response to its funding of conservative ads. Obama is particularly angry with the Chamber because it fought his health care legislation—mostly by pointing out the truth: that it would make things worse rather than better, destroy jobs, and cause the cost of insurance to increase.

It is worth noting that the Chamber of Commerce has an annual budget of about \$200 million and collects a mere \$100,000 in membership dues from foreign countries. With the Chamber spending close to \$50 million on ads attacking Democrat anti-business policies in advance of the mid-term elections, no one can legitimately argue that those ads are being “funded by foreigners”—even if that \$100,000 were not being kept separate from general funds through strict bookkeeping controls.

The Obama/Axelrod logic is:

1. The Chamber of Commerce has an annual budget of \$200 million.
2. The Chamber of Commerce collects \$100,000 per year in dues from foreign members.
3. The Chamber of Commerce is spending \$50 million on ads attacking Democrat anti-business policies.
4. Therefore, foreigners are funding Republican ads.

Obama and Axelrod may each have received an “A” grade in the Saul Alinsky *Rules for Radicals* class, but they certainly flunked logic and math—assuming they even took classes in those subjects.

Maybe that’s why Obama is hiding his school records!

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October 10, 2010

P.S. The Democrats must think they have a “good issue” to campaign on. They have released a new ad (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hvm0cWgHp6A>) that states:

“Karl Rove, Ed Gillespie: They’re Bush cronies. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce: They’re shills for big business. And they’re stealing our democracy. Spending millions from secret donors to elect Republicans to do their bidding in Congress. It appears they’ve even taken secret foreign money to influence our elections. It’s incredible: Republicans benefiting from secret foreign money. Tell the Bush crowd and the Chamber of Commerce: Stop stealing our democracy. The Democratic National Committee is responsible for the content of this advertising.”

Needless to say, the ad does not reveal the names of DNC donors. Nor does it mention that the 2008 Obama campaign collected \$400 million in undisclosed outside sources,

much of it in illegal foreign contributions—some of it from Palestinians in Gaza. Nor does it mention that Obama’s favorite leftist think tank, the Center for American Progress—where former “green jobs czar” communist Van Jones now has a desk—does not disclose its donors.