



**JUST THE FACTS!**

**TITLE: "AND THEY'RE OFF!"**

**EPISODE #: 21**

**HOST**

Welcome back to Just the Facts, the weekly vid-cast from FactCheck.org, I'm Emi Kolawole, and this week we're going to dive, head first, into the general election. We start with Sen. John McCain. During a speech he gave to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee he criticized Sen. Barack Obama for failing to vote for an amendment that would have called on the State Department to designate Iran's revolutionary guard as a terrorist organization:

**VIDEO: MCCAIN AIPAC SPEECH**

**SEN. JOHN MCCAIN**

Over three quarters of the Senate supported this obvious step, but not Senator Obama. He opposed this resolution...

**HOST**

McCain makes it sound as though Obama opposes labeling Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps as a terrorist organization. But that's false.

**GRAPHIC: OBAMA BILL**

**HOST**

In fact, Obama was one of 72 co-sponsors on an earlier bill to label the Revolutionary Guard "a foreign terrorist operation."

**GRAPHIC: KYL-LEIBERMAN AMENDMENT**

**HOST**

McCain also failed to mention that the resolution Obama did not support would do more than just slap a label on the Revolutionary Guard. The amendment also sought to express the sense that it is "a critical national interest" to prevent Iran from "turning Shi'a militia extremists in Iraq into a Hezbollah-like force."

**SEN. JOHN MCCAIN**

Some Democrats said that could put the U.S. on the road to war. Virginia Senator Jim Webb said it:

**GRAPHIC: JIM WEBB QUOTE**

**HOST**

“Could be read as a back-door method of gaining congressional validation for military action, without one hearing and without serious debate.”

Obama was one of 19 Democrats who voted against the measure, but 2 Republicans also voted against it, including Richard Lugar of Indiana the GOP ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

**VIDEO: JOHN MCCAIN FOX NEWS INTERVIEW**

**HOST**

We stay with Sen. McCain but switch gears to a comment he made regarding Hurricane Katrina:

**REPORTER:**

My understanding is you have voted twice against the creation of a commission to investigate the levee failures in New Orleans. And my question is, why have you voted against that?

**SEN. JOHN MCCAIN:**

I’ve supported every investigation and ways of finding out what caused the tragedy.

**HOST**

As far as this exchange is concerned: Reporter 1; McCain 0. McCain is wrong to say he “supported every investigation” into Hurricane Katrina, since he voted against two amendments that would have set up an independent commission to look into the government’s actions before and after the hurricane. At the time, McCain sided with his party in straight party-line votes against amendments, introduced by Hillary Clinton

**GRAPHIC: MCCAIN QUOTE**

**HOST**

At the news conference, McCain went on to say

**VIDEO: JOHN MCCAIN FOX NEWS INTERVIEW**

**SEN. JOHN MCCAIN**

I also voted against one of the bills that came down that was loaded with pork barrel projects that had nothing to do with New Orleans.

**HOST**

McCain never makes it clear what that one bill was, but Sen. Clinton's amendments only had one line item: \$3 million for the investigation, and that's it. We're going to take a quick detour to the mailbag to address this oft-repeated claim from Sen. McCain:

**GRAPHIC: MCCAIN QUOTE**

**SEN. JOHN MCCAIN**

I think it's obvious that the lowest-income Americans drive the furthest.

**HOST**

That's false. Affluent families drive twice as much as low-income families, according to the Energy Information Administration. McCain often makes this claim in support of his gas tax holiday proposal, which he claims will lessen the burden of the regressive tax. But he has it backward. Lower-income families aren't hit harder by the gas tax because they drive more, they're hit harder because they make less money.

And that's it for this episode of Just the Facts! For more on all of these claims, as well as a transcript of Sen. McCain's statements and our research sources be sure to check out our website at [www.factcheck.org](http://www.factcheck.org). I'm Emi Kolawole, thanks for watching and see you next week.