



JUST THE FACTS!

TITLE: "IF ONLY OUR CARS RAN ON BUNK"

EPISODE #: 23

HOST

Welcome back to Just the Facts, the weekly vid-cast from FactCheck.org, I'm Emi Kolawole, and it was a busy week here at FactCheck this week. Sens. Barack Obama and John McCain found themselves just shy of one hundred percent accuracy. So we start with an ad from Barack Obama, where, in the process of polishing his resume he scratched off some important facts:

VIDEO: OBAMA AD

SEN. BARACK OBAMA

That's why I passed laws moving people from welfare to work, cut taxes for working families and extended health care for wounded troops who'd been neglected.

HOST

Here's the problem. Two of the three bills Obama mentions were passed in the Illinois state legislature, not the U.S. Senate. So, If you're not an Illinois resident, you not going to benefit from either those bills. And, on one of the bills, Obama was one of five original sponsors, on the other he was one of 35 co-sponsors. Now, on the third federal-level bill involving healthcare for the troops, Obama was neither a sponsor nor a cosponsor but some of the elements of his past proposals landed in the bill. And now we switch to Sen. John McCain:

VIDEO: JOHN MCCAIN 2008 AD

HOST

We're not worried so much about what McCain is saying here. It's the pictures we care about. A lazy-eyed look at this ad might leave you thinking McCain whole-heartedly supports the development of wind and solar energy.

But that assumption would be false. McCain has been a less than enthusiastic supporter of wind and solar energy to the point where they get very little

mention on his website, until recently. Rather, McCain is a strong support of nuclear power, but nuclear cooling stacks don't make for pretty political spots.

VIDEO: OBAMA CAMPAIGN FINANCE VIDEO

HOST

You've probably seen a lot of this video lately and heard a lot about Sen. Obama's having rejected public financing, which he did:

VIDEO: OBAMA CAMPAIGN FINANCE VIDEO

SEN. BARACK OBAMA:

We've made the decision not to participate in the public financing system for the general election.

HOST

Even though he had earlier voiced his support for it:

VIDEO: ILLINOIS NETWORK FOOTAGE

SEN. BARACK OBAMA:

I strongly support Public Financing.

HOST

But, aside from that, here's what caught our eye:

VIDEO: OBAMA CAMPAIGN FINANCE VIDEO

SEN. BARACK OBAMA:

John McCain's campaign and the Republican National Committee are fueled by contributions from Washington lobbyists and special interest PACs.

HOST

This is more than just slight hyperbole. This is a pretty gross overstatement. In fact, PAC and lobbyist contributions account for less than 1.7 percent of McCain's total campaign donations and less than 1.1 percent of the RNC's incoming contributions. Now, we switch back to John McCain and this statement he made on June 16 regarding his support for cap-and-trade:

GRAPHIC: MCCAIN QUOTE

HOST

"I believe in the cap-and-trade system, as you know. I would not at this time

make those – impose a mandatory cap at this time. But I do believe that we have to establish targets for reductions of greenhouse gas emissions over time...”

There’s just a small snag here, and by small we mean huge. The caps on emissions that McCain supports are, by their very nature, mandatory. A cap is just that, a cap – not a suggestion. And that’s it for this episode of Just the Facts! For more on McCain and Obama’s forays onto thin-to-nonexistent factual limbs be sure to check out our website at www.factcheck.org. I’m Emi Kolawole, thanks for watching and see you next week.