



**JUST THE FACTS!**

**TITLE: "QUANTUM OF FACT"**

**EPISODE #: 24**

**HOST**

Welcome back to Just the Facts, the weekly vid-cast from FactCheck.org, I'm Emi Kolawole, and this week we spy on a web-ad from John McCain that features a series of claims about Barack Obama's energy policy:

**VIDEO: MCCAIN WEB AD**

**HOST**

It's not the real Bond theme, but it gets the Odd Job done. The ad claims Obama is The "Dr. No" of energy saying "No" to innovation and the electric car, and "no" to clean, safe nuclear energy.

**HOST**

The ad's claim that Obama said "no" to the electric car and to innovation stems from his criticism of McCain's proposal to offer a cash prize to anyone who invents a battery pack for an electric or hybrid car for a fraction of the current cost. But Obama didn't say "no," he just said McCain didn't go far enough:

**VIDEO: BARACK OBAMA SPEECH, LAS VEGAS**

**SEN. BARACK OBAMA**

I commend him for his desire to accelerate the search for a battery that can power the cars of the future. I've been talking about this myself for the last few years. But I don't think a \$3 million prize is the way to go.

**HOST**

The prize McCain is offering is actually \$300 million, but Obama's right to say that he, himself has been on the clean energy bandwagon, since he offered a \$150 billion spending package over 10 years for clean coal, wind and solar technologies. He actually offered that plan eight months before McCain pitched his \$300 million prize. But what about nuclear energy?

**VIDEO: MCCAIN AD**

**HOST**

The McCain ad claims Obama said no to “clean, safe nuclear energy.” But the truth is the exact opposite. The quote featured in the ad is only a partial one:

**SEN. BARACK OBAMA**

I start off with the premise that nuclear energy is not optimal. I am not a nuclear energy proponent.

**HOST**

McCain should know better since this is the same tactic – an out of context quote – that Democrats use against him when they claim he wants to keep U.S. troops in Iraq for 100 years. Here’s the rest of Obama’s quote on nuclear energy:

**VIDEO: OBAMA SPEECH NEWTON, IA****SEN. BARCK OBAMA:**

...I have not ruled out nuclear as part of that package, but only so far as it is clean and safe.

**HOST**

So Obama says “yes” to nuclear if it’s clean and safe. But hold on to your laser wrist-watch, there’s more! In his energy plan, released in October 2007, Obama also said,

**GRAPHIC: OBAMA ENERGY PLAN****HOST**

“It is unlikely that we can meet our aggressive climate goals if we eliminate nuclear power from the table.”

Before you think this McCain ad is just firing blanks, there parts of it that are accurate. For example, it claims that Obama is against opening new areas for off-shore drilling, which he is. And that he opposes McCain’s proposal for a gas tax holiday, which he does. Now, as a side note: If you’ve already seen the original Bond film “Dr. No” you already know that the film is far from a nuclear power commercial and the villain is far from a nuclear power poster boy. If you haven’t seen the film, consider this a spoiler alert.

**VIDEO: “DR. NO” TRAILER****HOST**

Ian Fleming’s No was an overeager cheerleader of nuclear energy, to put it mildly, who plunges into a nuclear cooling vat, shortly before an explosion

vaporizes his private island. Ouch. And did we mention he'd already lost both hands in a radiation accident?

And that's it for this episode of Just the Facts! For more on McCain and Obama's policies on various types of energy, be sure to check out our website at [www.factcheck.org](http://www.factcheck.org). I'm Kolawole, Emi Kolawole, and have a happy and safe Fourth of July weekend. Thanks for watching and see you next week.