



**JUST THE FACTS!**

**TITLE: "FOUR TIMES THE FUN!"**

**EPISODE #: 27**

**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 try and squeeze in four ads for you, so let's get started with this ad from John McCain:

**AUDIO/VIDEO: MCCAIN AD "PUMP"**

**ANNOUNCER**

Who can you thank for rising prices at the pump?

**CHANT**

Obama, Obama

**HOST**

This is like saying one person alone is responsible for entire disaster that was 80's fashion. But, McCain, said earlier this month that our dependence on foreign oil was "thirty years in the making." Obama's been in the Senate 3-and-a-half years. Compare that with McCain's 26 years in the Senate and you see why this line of attack doesn't come within even a respectable distance of the mark.

**VIDEO: MCCAIN AD "PUMP"**

The ad claims Obama's responsible because he opposes lifting the ban on domestic oil drilling.

**AUDIO/VIDEO: MCCAIN AD "PUMP"**

**ANNOUNCER**

Gas prices - \$4, \$5, no end in sight, because some in Washington are still saying no to drilling in America. No to independence from foreign oil.

**HOST**

But Obama is joined by a number of his Senate colleagues. And, according to the Energy Information Administration, changes in cost and supply as a result of domestic off-shore drilling aren't likely to take effect until after 2030 – and even then, quote, “any impact on average...prices is expected to be insignificant. This next ad from the Obama campaign offers up another energy mislead:

**AUDIO/VIDEO: OBAMA AD “CHANGING WORLD”****ANNOUNCER**

... And fast-track alternatives so we stop spending billions on oil from hostile nations.

**HOST**

The claim Obama would “fast-track” alternative fuel sources is misleading. Obama’s plan is to spend \$150 billion over 10 years on research and development for renewable fuels – a spending plan that likely won’t be implemented until late 2009. That doesn’t sound very “fast” to us. And spending more money on R&D that may or may not pan out won’t necessarily mean we’ll be able to reverse the growth of oil imports.

**VIDEO: VETS FOR FREEDOM AD “SOME IN WASHINGTON”**

Next, we look at an ad from the self-professed non-partisan group Vets for Freedom. But keep your eyes on the text:

**AUDIO/VIDEO: VETS FOR FREEDOM AD “SOME IN WASHINGTON”****VETERAN**

Al Qaeda has been decimated, and the Iraqi government grows stronger each day.

**HOST**

The quote on screen is actually a paraphrase of a quote from Bush-appointed CIA chief Michael Hayden, not an actual quote from the Washington Post editorial staff, as this ad’s non-existent attribution would imply.

This next ad comes from the McCain campaign attacking Barack Obama:

**AUDIO/VIDEO: MCCAIN AD “TROOP FUNDING”**

**ANNOUNCER**

He voted against funding our troops.

**HOST**

It's true Obama voted against a war funding bill once last year. But, prior to that, he voted for every single war spending bill to come before the Senate since he was sworn in. He even voted in favor of one war spending bill that contained a measure that had a non-binding call to withdraw all troops from Iraq. McCain wasn't present for the vote at the time, but he urged the President to veto bill. So, using the ad's line of argument, one could claim that McCain urged the President to veto funding for the troops. But we wouldn't advise that, since it would be just as misleading as the McCain ad's claim that Obama "voted against funding our troops."

**VIDEO: MCCAIN AD "TROOP FUNDING"**

Here's another claim from the same ad:

**AUDIO/VIDEO: MCCAIN AD "TROOP FUNDING"****ANNOUNCER**

Barack Obama never held a single Senate hearing on Afghanistan.

**HOST**

The claim in the ad is true, but both Obama and McCain have been side-tracked by the election and neither has a stellar record when it comes to attending hearings on Afghanistan. Obama has attended one hearing of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Afghanistan, while McCain, the ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, has attended none of that committee's seven hearings on Afghanistan that it's held over the last two years. And that's it for this episode of Just the Facts. For more on all four of these ads, 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.