



JUST THE FACTS!

TITLE: "FROM SADDLEBACK TO AD ATTACKS"

EPISODE #: 31

HOST

Welcome back to Just the Facts, the weekly vid-cast from FactCheck.org, I'm Emi Kolawole and we have four stories for you again this week, from a misleading claim about a DHL deal to an overstatement about flat tires, to distorted quotes and a forum at a church called Saddleback.

VIDEO: OBAMA SADDLEBACK QUOTE

We start with August 16 Saddleback Church forum this quote from Obama:

OBAMA

The fact is that although we have had a president who is opposed to abortion over the last eight years, abortions have not gone down and that is something we have to address.

HOST

This is a three-year-old falsehood that's still wrong no matter how many times Democrats say it. The fact is abortions are on the decline. According to The Guttmacher Institute, home of the best figures available, abortions have come down from 1.31 million in 2000 to 1.21 million in 2005. Now we take a look at this new misled from John McCain:

VIDEO: MCCAIN SADDLEBACK QUOTE

MCCAIN

Let's give every family in America a \$7,000 tax credit for every child they have.

HOST

While that might be nice, it's not what McCain actually proposes to do. McCain proposes to gradually increase in the \$3,500 tax exemption until it reaches a maximum of \$7,000. The child tax credit, currently worth \$1,000) would actually decrease the amount of actual taxes owed, whereas an exemption would only decrease the amount

of income subject to taxes, which is more beneficial for higher-income earners because they end up in higher tax brackets.

VIDEO: OBAMA AD “OHIO JOBS”

This Obama campaign ad distorts the record when it comes to McCain’s involvement with Ohio jobs and a DHL merger:

ANNOUNCER

In Washington, John McCain helped pave the way for foreign-owned DHL to take over an American shipping company. McCain’s campaign manager was lead lobbyist for the deal. Now, thousands of Ohio jobs at risk.

HOST

It’s true McCain’s campaign manager lobbied on behalf of DHL back in 2003, but the ad’s claim that McCain “paved the way” for the deal is misleading.

GRAPHIC: MCCAIN & DHL

He objected to sticking an anti-DHL amendment into a spending bill, not to help grease the deal, but because he said the amendment didn’t belong there. On top of that, American-owned Airborne Express had been losing jobs, so its merger with German-owned DHL looked good at the time. The Wilmington Teamsters union applauded the deal, which eventually resulted in 1,000 new Wilmington jobs. Civic leaders agreed that the merger provided an economic boon. Only now are locals complaining, because DHL says economic conditions are forcing it to move air hub operations 150 miles away to Louisville, Kentucky.

So, Obama is trying to blame McCain for the business decisions of an independent company five years after a merger McCain had little to do with. But that doesn’t fly.

VIDEO: OBAMA AND TIRE INFLATION

HOST

We’ve received a number of questions about this next claim from Obama:

VIDEO: OBAMA AND TIRE INFLATION

OBAMA

Making sure your tires are properly inflated, simple thing, but we could save all the oil that they’re talking about getting off drilling, if everybody was just inflating their tires and getting regular tune-ups. You could actually save just as much.

HOST

We find Obama's assertion to be over inflated. According to official government estimates, expanded off-shore drilling could produce three times as much oil over the long haul than proper tire inflation, and maybe more. According to an estimate the industry prefers, it could produce ten times more. But while we found Obama's statement to be wrong, so was this one from McCain:

VIDEO: MCCAIN STURGIS RALLY SPEECH**MCCAIN**

My opponent doesn't want to drill, he doesn't want nuclear power, he wants you to inflate your tires.

HOST

Obama's plan involves a lot more than getting everyone tire gauges. And proper tire inflation could save over one billion gallons of gasoline a year, right now, before offshore oil drilling could produce even a drop.

VIDEO: OBAMA AD "FIX THE ECONOMY"

This next ad from the Obama campaign features a number of butchered quotes from John McCain, like this one:

MORRISSON:

The economy is in a rut.

MCCAIN:

We've had a pretty good prosperous time with low unemployment.

ROBERTSON:

The way the economy is it is the bleakest...

HOST

But that's not all McCain said. And to take that one snippet out of context is to mislead viewers. McCain went on to say:

VIDEO: MCCAIN CNN DEBATE**MCCAIN**

But let's have some straight talk. Things are tough right now. Americans are uncertain about this housing crisis. Americans are uncertain about the economy, as we see the stock market bounce up and down...But I think what we're trying to do to fix this economy is important. We've got to address the housing, subprime housing problem."

HOST

And the other quotes in the ad do the exact same thing. So if you see this ad flash on

your TV screen, feel free to turn down the volume, go grab a cup of coffee, read a book, or surf the internet and navigate to our website at www.factcheck.org. Thanks for watching. I'm Emi Kolawole, and see you next week.