



JUST THE FACTS!

TITLE: "THIS LITTLE PIGGY WENT TO THE MAKEUP COUNTER..."

EPISODE #: 35

HOST

Welcome back to Just the Facts!, the weekly vid-cast from FactCheck.org, I'm Emi Kolawole. And we have a full slate of articles this week. But first we're going to plug in The FactCheck Wire:

GRAPHIC: WIRE WRAP-UP

ANNOUNCER

We have an answer for those of you wondering if we'll do a candidate-comparison chart: No. We're not the "Tip of the Hat, Wag of the Finger"-types and besides, it could look like an endorsement. And we don't do endorsements. Next, we noticed a misleading e-mail from the McCain campaign that distorted our findings, falsely implying again that attacks on Sarah Palin were from camp Obama, when they were really a product of the internet rumor mill. Just think, in August, McCain said he didn't know what we were talking about:

VIDEO: MCCAIN FLORIDA PRESS AVAIL.

QUESTIONER:

Senator, Factcheck.org the nonpartisan fact-checking website has cited nine – or eight or nine of your recent ads as containing false or misleading information...

MCCAIN

I don't respond to websites that I have no idea what they're talking about.

VIDEO: MCCAIN AD "FACTCHECK" (NO AUDIO)

HOST

Now the campaign is quoting us in ads and e-mails. We wouldn't mind, if they got it right. But distorting our findings gets a "less-than-honest" in our book.

GRAPHIC: PALIN PHOTO

We also spoke with Alaska KTVA reporter Andrea Gusty this week, who sent us this photo taken in April showing Gusty standing alongside a very pregnant Gov. Sarah Palin about a week before Palin gave birth to her son Trig. This should bring an end (finally) to the false rumor that Trig is the son of Palin's 17-year old daughter Bristol.

HOST

We also addressed the claim that McCain's legislative efforts led to the invention of the Blackberry. That is practically impossible, considering that the BlackBerry was invented in Canada.

VIDEO: OBAMA AD "STILL"

And we looked into whether he can type *on* a Blackberry or a computer:

ANNOUNCER

He admits he still doesn't know how to use a computer.

HOST

Some say this Obama ad mocks McCain for his war injuries – injuries that make it uncomfortable to type for the former POW.

GRAPHIC: MCCAIN QUOTE

But McCain told the New York Times in July that he was "learning to get online myself, and I will have that down fairly soon."

Whether McCain can whip up a Java applet, we're not sure, but the fact is he's not as computer illiterate as he once was.

VIDEO: OBAMA AD "IT'S OVER"

We also tackle the claim that McCain has lobbyists working on his campaign:

ANNOUNCER

John McCain's chief advisor lobbies for oil companies.

HOST

He doesn't. He's a *former* lobbyist now that the McCain campaign has barred all current lobbyists from working on the campaign. And that's it for The Wire, but we continue to address misleading and false claims on our main site, starting with this ad from the Obama campaign:

VIDEO: OBAMA CAMPAIGN AD "WHAT KIND"

ANNOUNCER:

John McCain voted to cut education funding.

HOST

One of the five votes was actually in favor of increasing funding. It wasn't as much as Democrats wanted at the time, but that doesn't make it a vote for funding cuts. Three other votes were against additional funding, not for funding cuts. Only one vote fit the bill. But the ad goes on:

VIDEO: OBAMA CAMPAIGN AD "WHAT KIND"

ANNOUNCER

He even proposed abolishing the Department of Education.

HOST

It's true McCain said he was in favor of getting rid of the Department of Ed. back in 1994, when the GOP gained control of the House and the Senate. But he's never acted on the idea.

VIDEO: PALIN INTERVIEW WITH CHARLIE GIBSON

Next we take a look at this claim from Sarah Palin during her interview with ABC News' Charlie Gibson:

PALIN

Let me speak specifically about a credential that I do bring to this table, Charlie, and that's with the energy independence that I've been working on for these years as the governor of this state that produces nearly 20 percent of the U.S. domestic supply of energy...

HOST

That's way off. Alaska's share of U.S. *energy production* is 3.5 percent, and it accounts for only 2.4 percent of the energy we consume, according to official figures. The campaign says she meant to say Alaska produces 20 percent of the *oil and gas* produced in the U.S. But that's wrong, too. It accounted for only 14 percent of the domestic oil and less than 2 percent of the natural gas last year.

We've received a lot of questions about our methodology on this point. So, before you fire off your e-mail, we've popped the trunk and lifted the hood at The Wire at wire.factcheck.org so you can see our calculations.

VIDEO: MCCAIN AD "DISRESPECTFUL"

HOST

This next ad from McCain steps over the lip-liner:

ANNOUNCER

So they lashed out at Sarah Palin. Dismissed her as good looking.

VIDEO: BIDEN ON THE TRAIL

HOST

Actually, Biden was hamming it up for the crowd when he called Sarah Palin “good looking,” and the ABC story cited in the ad doesn’t characterize his remarks as disparaging at all. But, here, take a look for yourself:

BIDEN

There’s a gigantic difference between John McCain and Barack Obama and between me and I suspect my vice presidential opponent. And that is that –

AUDIENCE

(Laughter)

BIDEN

Well, there are obvious differences. She’s good looking. You know there’re obvious differences.

AUDIENCE MEMBER

You’re handsome too!

BIDEN

Where’s that person, who said that, who’s that person. Would you say that again for my wife...

AUDIENCE MEMBER

You are gorgeous.

HOST

Okay, okay. You get the idea. But the ad goes on to say:

ANNOUNCER

So they said she was doing what she was told.

HOST

That’s wrong. The Politico report cited in the ad quotes Obama chief strategist, David Axelrod, as saying:

GRAPHIC: AXELROD QUOTE

HOST

“She tried to attack Obama by saying he had no significant legislative accomplishments — maybe that’s what she was told.” Clearly Axelrod was talking about information conveyed to Palin, not what she was told to do.

GRAPHIC: OBAMANATION

Finally, you may have forgotten about this book, *Obamanation* by Dr. Jerome R. Corsi. Well, we haven’t and neither has the New York Times Bestseller List where it resides at number two behind *Stori Telling* by Tori Spelling.

We could have written a book of our own about the false and misleading claims in Dr. Corsi’s book. But, in the interest of time, we only took on a few – complete with footnotes -- on our website at www.factcheck.org. That’s it for this episode of Just the Facts! I’m Emi Kolawole, thanks for watching. And see you next week.