



**“Challenging People to Shape a Better Future Now”**

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## Republican Lies on Small Businesses

Two things always happen when there is a debate about whether Congress and the president should extend the George W. Bush tax cuts: 1) Republicans drag out the tired and misleading argument that any effort to return the tax rate to the pre-2001 levels amounts to “a job-killing tax hike.” and 2) The corporate media fails to cite evidence that the popular GOP talking point is, in fact, a lie.

President Obama has reignited the debate by proposing yet again that we return to the pre-Bush tax rates. Individuals earning up to \$200,000 and couples making \$250,000 would be exempt from returning to the higher rate. If implemented, only the top 2 percent of taxpayers would see a tax increase.

But Republicans are opposing Obama’s proposal because they are doing what they always do best – protect the wealthy. But instead of acknowledging the truth, they prefer to use the disguise that they acting on behalf of small business owners, although we know their main interest is protecting big business.

There’s a reason the GOP takes this approach. As the Los Angeles Times reported, “Polls also show that Republicans do better when they frame upper-income tax increases as a threat to small businesses, a group that voters tend to like.”

There is nothing wrong with reporters quoting Republican talking points. But there is something wrong with the corporate media, in an effort to appear fair and bal-

### THE CURRY REPORT

George E. Curry



anced, giving equal weight to dueling claims when one is demonstrably false.

Fairness & Accuracy in Reporting, the media watchdog group, stated: “The corporate media’s bias toward giving credence to official claims from both political

USA Today (7/10/12) – Headline: “Obama Seeks to Extend Tax Cuts to Middle Class; GOP Critics Say Plan Will Hurt Small Business.”

Washington Post (7/10/12) – Reported that Republicans “charged that the president’s plan would raise taxes on small-business owners.” It also said, “Obama said his plan would cover 98 percent of the working public and 97 percent of small-business owners.”

Los Angeles Times (7/11/12) – Said Obama’s plan “would extend George W. Bush-era tax cuts for those making up to \$250,000 a year but not for upper-income

said on Fox and Friends when the issue was being debated in 2010 that returning to the pre-Bush levels “aren’t just tax cuts for the so-called wealthy. It’ll hit 50 percent of all small business income.”

According to the Congressional Budget Office, the two large tax cuts under George W. Bush resulted in a loss of \$1.5 trillion in federal revenue. Obama agreed to a deal with Republicans to extend them until the end of this year, which will bring the total to \$2.8 trillion. Now, he’s proposing another, more limited extension. If the Bush tax rates are allowed to expire, the top two income brackets will rise from the current levels of 33 percent and 35 percent to 36 and 39.6 percent.

Media Matters said, “And according to PolitiFact, the Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) has projected that in 2011, ‘Only 3 percent of all taxpayers who reported having positive business income will see their taxes go up under the proposed Democratic initiative’ of letting the Bush tax cuts for the wealthy expire.”

In its report on the small business smokescreen, FAIR summed it up correctly in its headline: “Small Business Baloney.”

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parties means you have to treat that question of facts as a matter of opinion – which, of course, is a problem, if you think that separating fact from misinformation is a key part of a journalist’s job.”

FAIR added, “And the failure to challenge Republican distortions gives them no reason to stop making them...This is especially true when media don’t tell the public that the claim is almost entirely bogus.”

Among the examples cited by FAIR:

Americans.” As FAIR noted, “That is incorrect; wealthy Americans will also receive a tax cut on income they earn up to the \$250,000 level.”

As Media Matters, another media watchdog group, pointed out, Fox News makes a habit of letting hosts and guests impart inaccurate information about the plan to let the Bush tax cuts expire on the richest 2 percent of Americans.

For example, Alex Cortes of the Restore the Dream Foundation

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## Romney and NAACP: Missed Opportunity

As anyone who has followed me knows, I have been extremely critical of President Obama’s non-engagement with the Black community. Obama has deliberately ignored the plight of the Black community while giving preferential treatment to the homosexual and Hispanic communities.

But I can’t in good conscience criticize Obama and then give the Republicans a pass when they display similar behavior towards the Black community. I can’t excoriate Black Democrats for following Obama blindly and then remain silent when Black Republicans do the same towards Romney.

Yesterday, as I watched Mitt Romney address the NAACP, I tried to force myself to be optimistic about what he would say. But my years of being an avid Republican prepared me for the worst. And that’s exactly what I saw.

Romney had a golden opportunity to make a credible argument for Blacks to support him. But because he doesn’t have experienced Blacks in his inner circle, he thoroughly embarrassed himself and deserved to be roundly booed. For Romney to speak before a Black audience and not talk about the Black entrepreneur is like going to church and not mentioning God.

This is what happens when you don’t have the right people around

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Raynard Jackson

you, people who understand communications, messaging and the nuances of the audience being addressed.

Contrary to what the White media thinks, the preachers and politicians are not the leaders in the Black community – businessmen and businesswomen are. That Black business person is typically

else, business leaders understand the cost of capital issues and therefore are more likely to support a reduction or total abolition of the capital gains tax. He or she is more likely to support school choice and vouchers, all topics the NAACP members can relate to.

So, the point is, the Black business leaders are the most important entry point to the Black community and Republicans, of all people, are totally ignorant of this fact. And they will remain ignorant of what’s important to the

on the candidate’s calendar or arrange a private meeting with the candidate.

Am I the only one who noticed the optics of Romney not having photos of any Black Republicans on his campaign Web site? Am I the only one who is puzzled as to why Romney has never met with a group of Black entrepreneurs?

I was stunned to learn that Romney had chosen a recent Democrat-turned-Republican, Ashley Bell, to be one of his surrogates and to help him craft his speech to the NAACP. Bell is a decent guy, but am I to believe that Romney couldn’t find any veteran Black Republicans who have both party credentials and relevant presidential campaign experience to help him craft the speech that would define his relationship with Black America?

Does his staff know people such as Shannon Reeves, Allegra McCullough, David Byrd, Aaron Manaigo, Francis Johnson, Ada Fisher or James House? If they don’t, I will be happy to put them in touch. For Romney to pick a Republican-come-lately over Party vets who have taken all kind of criticism for supporting the Grand Old Party is a grand old insult to those Black Republicans who have toiled for years in the vineyard of Republican politics.

For Romney to speak before a Black audience and not talk about the Black entrepreneur is like going to church and not mentioning God

head of the board of trustees or the deacon board of the church. So, if you get the business leader on your side, he or she will bring along the minister and the congregation.

Business leaders have a vested interest in having an educated Black community because they have to hire people in order to grow their business. Like everyone else, those leaders care about crime and don’t want employees to be victims as they travel to and from work. More than anyone

Black community until they have campaign staffs that look like America.

Like Jeremiah in the Bible, I have been labeled as one crying in the wilderness. And I am not about to surrender that label now. Am I the only one who is offended that Romney has fewer than five Blacks on his national campaign staff and none in top decision-making positions? I am talking about someone who controls a budget, has the final say on hiring, and has the ability to put an event

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