



Obama's Top Aides Help Fund Priorities USA Ad

*Obama Administration, Campaign Officials "Help Fill The Coffers" Of
His Super PAC*

**TODAY, WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY JAY CARNEY WORKED HARD TO AVOID
RESPONDING TO THE LATEST PRIORITIES USA ATTACK AD**



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**THE PRIORITIES USA AD HAS BEEN WIDELY DISCREDITED AS "INACCURATE" AND
"DISGUSTING"**

Priorities USA Has An Ad Featuring A Former Steelworker Who "Appears To Blame Romney For the Death Of His Wife." "Joe Soptic, a former steelworker, makes yet another appearance in a pro-Obama ad, this time for the Super PAC Priorities USA Action. We have examined this case before, and for the benefit of readers we repeat our main points from an earlier column that awarded the Obama campaign One Pinocchio for the use of this case study against presumptive GOP nominee Mitt Romney. Most controversially, Soptic this time appears to blame Romney for the death of his wife after he lost his health insurance when the steel plant closed." (Glen Kessler, "New Anti-Romney Ad: Same Steelworker, Tougher Message," The Washington Post's

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["The Fact Checker."](#) 8/7/12)

- ***The Washington Post's The Fact Checker: "Four Pinocchios."*** (Glen Kessler, "New Anti-Romney Ad: Same Steelworker, Tougher Message," The Washington Post's ["The Fact Checker."](#) 8/7/12)
- **Former Bill Clinton Adviser Lanny Davis: Priorities USA's Ad Is "Disgusting."** "On @WMALMornings, Lanny Davis calls PrioritiesUSA cancer ad 'disgusting,' says Obama should repudiate it." (Steven Portnoy, [Twitter Feed](#), 8/9/12)
- **MSNBC's Joe Scarborough: "This Is So Short-Sighted And Stupid."** "This is s so short-sighted and stupid that I can't believe an organization that is this good has allowed themselves to be caught in such petty lies over the last 24 hours." (MSNBC's ["Morning Joe."](#) 8/9/12)
- **CNN's Brianna Keilar: "It's Not Accurate."** "A new attack ad by a Super PAC backing President Obama appears to blame Mitt Romney for a woman's death from cancer after his company, Bain Capital, shut down the steel mill where the woman's husband worked. ... It's a very heart-wrenching story, but it's not accurate. Here is the actual timeline..." (Brianna Keilar, "Ad Linking Romney To Death Of The Wife Of A Laid Off Steelworker Not Accurate," [CNN](#), 8/7/12)
- **Time's Michael Crowley: "The Ad Is Scurrilous."** "It is at once the most dishonest and substantive ad of the summer. Narrowly judged, the ad is scurrilous." (Michael Crowley, "That Priorities USA Ad: Dishonest But Important," [Time](#), 8/8/12)

CARNEY REFUSES TO DISCUSS AN AD BUT OBAMA OFFICIALS SHOWED NO HESITATION IN OFFERING TO PROMOTE PRIORITIES USA

At Least Four Of Obama's Cabinet Members Answered His Call To "Help Fill The Coffers" Of Super PACs. "At least four Cabinet members appear ready and willing to answer President Barack Obama's call to help fill the coffers of Democratic outside spending groups, which have to date been badly outgunned by better-funded Republican organizations." (Michael Beckel, "Fundraising Activities Are Limited, But Star Power Brings In The Bucks," [iWatch News](#), 2/13/12)

- **White House Officials Offered To Appear At PAC Events With Donors – "Some Likely To Have Substantial Business Interests Before The Administration."** "Under the plan, White House officials will appear at events with donors — some likely to have substantial business interests before the administration — for a super PAC that is legally required to be independent of Mr. Obama's campaign." (Nicholas Confessore, "Unleashed, Democrats Hunt For 'Super PAC' Donors," [The New York Times](#), 2/7/12)
- **"Big Corporate Donors, Unions And Other Wealthy Individuals" Will Have Access To Key Administration Officials That They Haven't Had Since 2002.** "The shift gives big corporate donors, unions and other wealthy individuals time with policymakers, lawmakers and key administration aides that they haven't had since McCain-Feingold took effect in 2002." (Michael Beckel, "Fundraising Activities Are Limited, But Star Power Brings In The Bucks," [iWatch News](#), 2/13/12)

Interior Secretary Salazar, Energy Secretary Chu, Education Secretary Duncan And U.S. Trade Rep. Kirk Will Attend Fundraising Events For Democratic Super PACs. "Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, Energy Secretary Steven Chu, Education Secretary Arne Duncan and U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk have all indicated they would be open to participation in activities designed to help the nascent Democratic super PACs, like 'Priorities USA Action,' raise money." (Michael Beckel, "Fundraising Activities Are Limited, But Star Power Brings In The Bucks," [iWatch News](#), 2/13/12)

“Officials Tapped To Participate Include Health And Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, Education Secretary Arne Duncan, White House Senior Adviser David Plouffe And Mr. Messina, A Campaign Official Said.” (Laura Meckler, “In A Shift, Obama Campaign Moves To Support Outside ‘Super PAC’” [The Wall Street Journal](#), 2/7/12)

Obama Spokesman Ben LaBolt: “Campaign And White House Officials Have Participated In And Will Continue To Participate In” Super PAC Events. “And the Obama campaign made clear that it still fully supports the political action committee. ‘We have been crystal clear in expressing our support for Priorities USA Action and its mission: re-electing the President,’ campaign spokesman Ben LaBolt said. ‘Campaign and White House officials have participated in and will continue to participate in their events across the country.’” (Steven T. Dennis, “Cabinet Members A Super PAC No-Show,” [Roll Call](#), 7/10/12)