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Obama's Blueprint for Every Community

By: **Mike Honda**, Oct 25, 2008

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With only 11 days left before the presidential election, the Asian American and Pacific Islander community has a historic opportunity to play a key role in the most important election in our lifetime, and we have the opportunity to support an extraordinary presidential candidate with deep ties and commitment to our community: Sen. Barack Obama.

As a native son of Hawai'i, with Asian American family members and experience living abroad in Indonesia, Sen. Obama knows that the compelling issues facing our communities — immigration, health care, education, and small business, for instance — must be part of the national dialogue. He knows our nation's diversity is our strength, and he will ensure all communities are visible and included in our nation's policy-making.

Barack stands side by side with the AAPI community. And we Asian American and Pacific Islanders have a large part to play in getting him elected. A comprehensive new national survey, the National Asian American Survey (naasurvey.com), shows that Asian American voters could play a key role in the outcome of the presidential election: Over one-third of Asian American voters are still undecided. I see this as a great opportunity because it positions our community as a key swing vote. Senator Obama understands this, and is working hard to earn that vote.

As vice-chair of the Democratic National Committee, I have been traveling the country talking to thousands of AAPIs about the issues that affect our communities and the change Barack Obama will bring if elected president of the United States. Earlier this month, Barack released "The Blueprint for Change" (my.barackobama.com/aapiblueprint), which is the most comprehensive position paper a presidential candidate has ever assembled for our community. The Blueprint presents solutions to some critical challenges facing our country in a way that is directly responsive to AAPIs.

Barack Obama understands that AAPIs own an estimated 1.1 million small businesses and employ more than 2 million Americans. His Blueprint contains proposals for how the Obama/Biden Administration will jumpstart the economy by strengthening the middle class and by supporting minority-owned businesses.

As a former teacher and principal, I can also tell you Barack understands our community's educational needs. He is committed to providing greater support for English-language learners and making college more affordable for low-income students. The Blueprint also outlines a plan to fix our broken immigration system in a way that keeps our families together and provides affordable options for families currently without health insurance. Under Barack's plan, a typical American family will save \$2,500 on health care every year.

These are all priorities that I have been fighting hard for as chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus.

We, as Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, have a large part to play in getting Barack elected. We are one of the fastest growing communities in America, and we are the only ethnic community that has voted increasingly Democratic in every presidential election since 1992. Nationally, about two-thirds of all Asian Americans who are registered to vote are Democrats.

The NAAS survey found that 41 percent of Asian Americans are likely to favor Barack Obama, while 24 percent support John McCain. In battleground states, where either candidate could win on Election Day, Obama leads with 43 percent of Asian Americans; 22 percent favor McCain.

We need to walk precincts and help with language access and voter protection. We need to get out the vote in battleground states such as Nevada, Colorado, Virginia and Ohio. I urge you to join me in reaching out to these undecided voters to vote for Barack Obama. Let us stand united to advance our community and our country by electing Barack as the next president of the United States, as he will stand with us to advance our community and our country.

Mike Honda is a Congressman representing Silicon Valley. He is also vice-chair of the Democratic National Committee and chairman of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus.

Comments

1. Imagine for a few moments that you are the human resources director of a major multi-billion dollar corporation. You are sitting in your large, luxurious office when you receive a phone call from the Chairman of the Board of Directors.

He tells you that the board is considering a candidate for a high-level executive position. He advises you to complete a thorough background investigation and have it to him within 10 days.

You immediately call the private detective agency you have used for years and give them the name and address of the prospective candidate, along with the deadline for a high level security clearance.

Your next move is to call your assist in to your office, giving him/her the candidate's personal information along with instructions to 'do your standard beginning background checks.'

Preliminary findings begin landing in your fax machine on the third day.

Your candidate has used more than one name.

His original birth certificate is unavailable

He was mentored during his youth by a high level communist in Hawaii.

You receive a 3 page 'dossier' on Frank Marshall Davis.

You also learn the candidate was proctored into an elite Eastern private university by a Middle Eastern Muslim.

You receive a short dossier on Khalid al-Mansour.

You learn the candidate has terrorist organization 'Nations of Islam' employees on his current staff, and one of his advisor's is a member of the global terrorist group 'Muslim Brotherhood.'

On day four, you receive in the mail from the security agency two books the candidate has written.

You read both books, highlighting the anti-American, anti-white racist passages.

You note the admissions of drug use.

You also receive in the packet a copy of the bitter anti-white thesis his wife wrote as a college undergraduate.

You receive a 4 page fax on the candidate's relative, Raila Odinga, who is connected with brutal Muslim politics in Africa, and background information on the candidate's estranged father who was part of Kenya's most corrupt regime.

The fifth day brings to your special delivery mail

The complete background on Bill Ayers; his association with your candidate, his FBI criminal record, and

A copy of the book 'Rules for Radicals' written by communist Saul Alinsky.

You are advised your candidate used tactics from 'Rules for Radicals' at his previous employment.

You are advised the candidate's wife used an excerpt from this book during a recent speech.

You receive by fax, a background on A.C.O.R.N. and an alert

That this group is being watched by the U.S. Department of Justice and other state and local law enforcement agencies.

You learn your candidate is endorsed by every Muslim terrorist organization on Earth; that he holds Muslim beliefs.

His friend, Louis Farrakhan, is head of Nations of Islam. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdtirp4XdGs&feature>

You learn that the candidate's pastor met with global terrorist Mohmmar Gaddafi in Libya, along with their mutual friend and anti-American Louis Farrakhan.

You receive printed transcripts of his pastor's anti-White, anti-American 'sermons' and are advised your candidate has been close personal friends with this 'pastor' for two decades.

Your candidate has referred to this radical pastor as his 'personal spiritual advisor,' and in fact, the title of one of your candidate's memoirs was inspired by a line from this pastor's 'sermons.'

In your fax machine on the sixth morning is

a file on one Tony Rezko; his friendship, associations and business transactions with your candidate, as well as high level 'people' of middle eastern origin, and his federal conviction.

You will spend most of day seven compiling a file on the candidate, The Obama File , complete with footnotes and cross references.

Additional information is arriving regarding the candidate's friends and acquaintances during college, and you learn that

He did not run with a mainstream crowd, but chose radicals and communist agitators for his social group.

The morning of the eighth day has arrived and you and your assistant have placed a small mountain of background information into manageable 'piles' including

Photographs of the candidate's family in Africa ,
He and George Soros (including a brief file on the Soros 'Open Society Institute'),
Photos of the candidate and Louis Farrakhan and anti-Israel Arafat advisor Edward Said.

You begin to outline and write your 'Summary Evaluation' to the Chairman of the Board of Directors:

This candidate has a tissue thin work experience resume.

He has not managed large groups of personnel, departments, material, or P&L statements.

This candidate's own writing exhibits a deep-seeded anger and resentment towards people of the Caucasian race over the issue of slavery.

His emotional gravitas is centered upon his African heritage, and his belief that the white man is responsible for global poverty and unequal sharing of wealth.

The candidate's personal associations since childhood have been mostly with radical African Americans, Muslims, and communists; those who harbor anger towards The United States of America.

Particularly disturbing is his lengthy relationship with Bill Ayers, an unrepentant Weatherman radical who bombed government buildings and abdicated the overthrow of the United States.

Given the current global situation of nearly twelve thousand Muslim acts of terrorism since 911, it is disturbing to find his close associations with Muslim groups <http://www.mafo2008.com/>

I have highlighted passages in both books and find one particularly disturbing: 'Should the political winds shift in an ugly direction I will side with the Muslims.'

The candidate has surrounded himself with anti-American grievance mongers, and appears to manipulate 'typical white people' by appealing to their guilt about slavery.

He is a socialist, and totally disenfranchised from the history of 'root America.'

The candidate refuses to discuss his years at Columbia University, although he lived off campus and made few friends.

He will not release his application to the state bar notes which raises questions on several issues including the use of drugs.

Very little is available about his experience with the Chicago Annenberg Challenge, a foundation that spent \$100 million with no discernable benefit for the schools and students that it was putatively designed to help.

Now, would you hire him?

–MudHead in Asia on Oct 25, 2008

2. Obama is so busy being African, he's even forgotten he's 1/2 white or American. So I seriously doubt he cares about the Asians. Nice try.

–Jenny on Oct 25, 2008

3. The title and tone of your article are misleading. You make it out that he has plan for the Asian community when in fact he doesn't. The plans you list are general plans he's set out for the campaign pitch, which he might not even keep since he hasn't kept a single promise he's made to the people of Illinois when he was running to be their Senator. Out of the 3 years as Senator, he's only worked 304 days. The rest of the time, he's running for president. I'm a Bay Area Dem who voted for both Gore & Kerry and I've been following this election closely, I've concluded that Obama is an unaccomplished politician who would befriend anyone to further his career regardless of how shady they are. The media may have glossed over all of his questionable behavior and dismiss them as things of the past, but all it's shown is shady pattern of behavior or at the very least bad judgement. In the Bay Area business community, we wouldn't trust someone like that to run a company, so why would we trust them to run the country?

–Michael Takahashi on Oct 25, 2008

4. So, moderator, did you delete my submission to this article because it was not in line with the author's views? Seems a bit "censor-ial" to me. Not very "free press"-ish. Not very copacetic on asianweek.com's part, either.

I couldn't see anything out of line with content.

–Mudhead Tokyo on Oct 25, 2008

5. So a vote for Obama is a race vote. Right?

That's how you are marketing this campaign. Its not all inclusive. Its exclusive. And its all about race. That's the point from this blather. Obama has never worked in any "minority owned" company. He has never done much (check out his resume). He says what any group wants to hear. And it changes from group to group.

It would be nice if the democrat party would leave race out of the campaign, but it perpetually resurfaces as seen fit to anyone's circumstances, of course, only to get that all important vote. Hold onto your hat when he's elected. If you aren't a government employee, you get to work hard and pay for somebody else's proclaimed entitlement, as Karl Marx liked to promote. Distribute the wealth.

That's just not right. Issues of race and injustice have their place, so call it what it is when you're talking about it.

What you're doing isn't straight talk, its mire in the muck.

Otherwise, address all Americans with the SAME message. The Democrat platform Obama message gets a little corrupted/polluted when you're really just begging for votes, like every politician.

–Mudhead Tokyo on Oct 25, 2008

6. "Let us stand united to advance our community and our country by electing Barack as the next president of the United States, as he will stand with us to advance our community and our country."

dude, do u have any prove to backup that kind of crazy statement?

–Nixk on Oct 25, 2008

7. I see you all have not lost your fight :

GOOD! Because we have a lot to do. You! (the American people) are going to have to take back control of your elected government at every level, and set your government back on the right path of service to you, and the greater good of the World.

Barack Obama and the democrats are your best hope of doing that now. Tell your family, friends, and everyone you know to support them as best they can. Because the Bush McCain vote fraud, vote cheating, vote buying, vote manipulation machine is already hard at work to cheat you again. And we all know what a disaster that has been the past 8 years of Bush McCain.

Barack Obama and the democrats will need all the power you can give them at every level of government (Federal, State, County, and local City elected governments). Obama and the democrats will have an enormous mess to fix for the American people, and the rest of the World. A mess caused by the corrupt Bush McCain administration.

You see, starting back in 2000, and before 911, it was mostly the Republican governors, Republican legislatures, and county elected Republican officials that conspired with the corrupt Bush McCain administration to raise college, and university tuitions by the fastest, and highest rate increases in American history. Some state tuitions went up by as much as a WHOPPING! 30% in one year.

The reason the Bush McCain administration did this was to force struggling working class kids into

the military to pay for the sudden jump in tuition. Which was forced on them by the corrupt Bush McCain administration, and their corrupt Republican Governors, and republican controlled state legislatures.

See, Bush McCain had plans to get us into all these immoral, foolish, criminal, and unnecessary wars from the start. So they could use these wars to seize power, and later to get reelected. But, for their evil plan to work they needed more volunteer soldiers struggling to pay for an education whose blood they could spill to help them seize more power. Remember Bush McCain's "MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!" theatrics.

The exploitation, and lost lives of these finest Americans is despicable, disgusting, immoral, corrupt and criminal. And it makes me SICK, and ANGRY!

You will have to vote for Obama, and the democrats in overwhelming numbers to overcome the Bush McCain vote fraud machine. Vote early if you can. Then help your fellow Americans cast their votes now, and on through election day. Vote for Obama, and the democrats like your life, and the lives of your loved ones depends on it. Because it does. You will not survive 4 more years of "Let Them Eat Cake" Bush McCain, and their republican allies.

Just look at the mess we have now.

You can fix this mess with your votes for Obama, and the democrats. And REMEMBER, no matter which of us may stumble or fall, the rest of you must continue to surge forward for Barack Obama, and the democrats, and for your-selves most of all. The children, and the World are counting on us.

It's in your hands now. And I know you will get it done.

God bless all of you.

JACK SMITH - WORKING CLASS... :-)

-jacksmith on Oct 25, 2008

8. Socialism is already a part of America. Socialist Roosevelt got us out of the Great Depression with his "New Deal". We are applying socialist measures now to get us out of this Financial Crisis. Socialist measures have saved Capitalism so many times and should not even be used by the Republicans "Fear" tactics.

If the Republicans wants some fears all they have to do is look in the mirror. When McCain found Palin "she needed clothes at that time". \$150,000 worth of clothing to be donated at the end of the campaign. Wow, some expensive costumes. You can only imagine what they will do with our tax dollars. The common people will break our back trying to put bread on the table, while the elites lavish themselves in luxury.

If McCain gets elected, Joe the plumber won't have to pay more taxes. He may not have to pay any taxes at all, because nobody can afford his service. Business increase from bottom up not top down. Who cares if he hires 500 people. When business dries up, everybody loses.

McCain does not realize that our economy is built on consumption. Poor people spend more money

then rich people. When poor people have some money, the economy moves and the rich will prosper, they expand their business to service the poor. When more money gets to the rich, it stays in the bank. They are not going to expand a business without demand. Obama understands this, that's why he is trying to take care of the group that is making less than \$250,000.

I am not an Obama fan, however I know we need another "New Deal". When you vote like Bush more than 90% of the time, you're not a "Maverick".

–Huang Fong on Oct 25, 2008

9. anybody read the new Rolling Stone? it opened my eyes about the so-called "maverick".

–S&T on Oct 25, 2008

10. Mudhead:

Meet Huang Fong.

You were allotted considerably more space and spewing than anyone else, including the author of the piece you deride.

Aside from the obvious fact, since you haven't the guts, like Jack Smith, well, at least he says he's one Jack Smith, to append your own name, my guess is you are a paid provocateur of the GOP and are simply spouting every "talking point":the oligarchs have marshalled, assembled, and projected onto the MSM screens as scripture, as indeed it is, the Scripture of the identical scripters who produced nonexistent weaponry in Iraq and a two-term very lower-case "president" their current nominee is trying to distance himself from.

Sorry, Mudhead, and you're not nearly as true OR as comical as the mudheads of the pueblo dances, but your input here will not avail any more than Art Hu has to date.

Personally, I have held some doubts about Obama, chiefly the drumbeat of his Iran/Israeli/Afghani stances, but your diatribe has convinced me that he must NOT be subservient to the transnational oligarchs who are even now quaking in their boots at what appears to be shaping into an authentic "landslide," a people's "mandate" — for "change," however you define it, and I don't mean SMALL change as in the ups and downs of the Dow

And to get back on track of this loco-motive, all your specious and tortured conjectures are as tinkling tympani in the face of Huang Fong's authentic populist brass wisdoms.

Your guys have gulled the globe into a scam and con of literally fantastic proportions, but the people, the 6 billions plus you seek to exploit and enslave one way or another, are ON TO YOU.

And there should be no return to your imperious, greedy, and totally irrational ways.

Frank Eng

P.S.: Wanna bet the touted 34% who are "undecided" will "break" the same 2-to-1 ratio come Nov. 4?

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–Frank Eng on Oct 25, 2008

11. Obama's strategy has been to paint McCain as a continuation of Bush and it seems like you guys ate it up. It's apparent that your votes are not votes for Obama, but votes against Bush. Sorry to break it to you, Bush isn't running in this election. If you're justifying your votes against Bush now by saying that McCain is Bush, then let me point something out to you... the only reason you don't have records of Obama voting with Bush is because he's been voting "Present" most of the time. He couldn't even

make up his mind to vote “yay” or “nay” and has not passed any legislation during his time as Senator. The moment he became a Senator, he started to run for President. His only accomplishment so far is to play on people’s craving for change even though he doesn’t even have a good solution for change. A vote for Obama to spite Bush is a vote to go from Dumb to Dumber.

–Ruby on Oct 26, 2008

12. What kind of “Change” when a simple citizen gets smeared and clobbered for asking Obama a question that points out the flaw of his tax plan? Or when a news station in Orlando, Florida gets punished by the Obama camp for asking Joe Biden tough questions during an interview? We’re now “spreading the wealth around” and can’t ask our government questions without being slaughtered, is that the “Change” we’re heading to?

Obama and his campaign isn’t as great as people think. They’ve been handed this election by the media, but when left to themselves, they can’t handle being on the defensive line. I’d like to see where Obama really stands in the polls if he’s given the same scrutiny by the media like McCain.

–Li C. on Oct 26, 2008

13. The \$250K cut off Obama suggests, you all seem to think that it only applies to individual income. For individuals, a \$250K salary seems a lot, but for businesses, it’s nothing. A small business like a regular restaurant maybe making \$250K in gross, but they still have to pay their employees, rent, re-stock inventory, etc.. What do you think will happen to it when 40% of its gross is now being taken away? What do you think will happen to the economy then? What happens if your own boss can’t afford to keep you? Would you still think the \$250K cut off can’t hurt you?

The only way the \$250K can’t hurt is if you’re on welfare already, so now the “tax cut” would give you another check, but you can’t be any more laid off than you already are.

–M. Liu on Oct 26, 2008

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