

**CORY WILSON**

## Lost equity

There was a rare sighting this past weekend, very rare indeed. Many had thought this species to be extinct. But one was found, and interviewed on NBC News, of all places. You may have missed it. Team Obama will want you to miss it completely.

The exotic creature? An intellectually honest Democrat (classification: *democratis intelligentis*).

Against the much more common species of Democrat (classification: *liberalis extremis*) now inhabiting the White House, the Senate, and in hiding in the GOP House, this rare bird stands out as a relic of days gone by. Very seldom do they actually hold office, though I count a few as friends, so they do exist.

This one, Newark, NJ Mayor Cory Booker, was a guest on NBC's Meet the Press on Sun-

day. One of the most candid and perhaps damning moments for Obama 2012 occurred as Mayor Booker discussed the attacks on Mitt Romney now being unleashed by the Obama campaign:

"... we're getting to a ridiculous point in America, especially that I know I live in a state where pension funds, unions and other people are investing in companies like Bain Capital. If you look at the totality of Bain Capital's record, they've done a lot to support businesses, to grow businesses."

Calling Obama's disingenuous attack against Romney for the demagoguery that it is, Booker was just getting warmed up:

"This kind of stuff is nauseating to me on both sides. It's nauseating to the American public.

Enough is enough. Stop attacking private equity, stop attacking Jeremiah Wright. This stuff has got to stop because what it does is it undermines, to me, what this country should be focused on. It's a distraction from the real issues. It's either going to be a small campaign about this crap or it's going to be a big campaign ... about the issues that the American public cares about."

In one succinct moment, Booker laid bare the lie behind the whole Obama reelection effort. Joe Biden, though he is often off script, has never been so common sense, or lucid.

Booker, who is an avowed "surrogate" for Obama (they wanted him on the show as their spokesman), demolished and diminished Team Obama's self-righteous class warfare. Booker

See **WILSON**, page A7

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# Wilson

Continued from page A4

equated Obama's effort to define Romney as Daddy Warbucks with some conservatives' fixation on Rev. Jeremiah Wright, which is likewise not what the American people are worried about.

What is striking about Mayor Booker's comments, which are in line with what I suspect is the view of the great majority of Americans, is that his honesty is out of place in today's Democratic Party.

Booker is a more authentic version of what people thought Obama was four years ago. Booker was a year or so behind me at Yale Law School. I did not know him well, but we both tell our "Cory's" the same way correctly, with no "e"). He must be a great guy, then. I remember Booker as a smart fel-

low who was well regarded and well spoken. Mayor Booker's Newark sits across the river from all those evil equity firms in Manhattan; many of the bloodsucking capitalists even live in New Jersey, so Booker may have more firsthand experience with actual capitalists than the President.

None of that has deterred the Campaigner-in-Chief. By Sunday afternoon, Mayor Booker was backpedaling, and by Monday, Obama was doubling down on "private equity" versus public "fairness." "This is not a distraction," the President said about criticizing Mitt Romney's time at Bain Capital. "This is what this campaign is going to be about."

Translation: called out by one of his own, Obama wants this to be a "small campaign," about "distraction from the real issues" that most Americans will find "nauseating." Of course, where Booker spoke candidly, Obama's campaign will continue its

incoherent hypocrisy: the campaign says Obama is not attacking "equity firms," just Mitt Romney's "values." All the while, Obama will continue to shake down those same equity firms (on Wall Street!) to raise money for his small distractions.

Speaking of Jeremiah Wright: in a new book about Obama, *The Amateur* by Edward Klein, Rev. Wright himself claims that an Obama ally offered Wright hush money to stay quiet during the 2008 elec-

tion. Wright also says Obama personally asked him to stay quiet, though Obama did not offer cash. According to Wright, Obama did tell Wright something revealing: "Do you know what your problem is? You have to tell the truth." Cory Booker must have the same problem.

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# Perry

Continued from page A4

his first term, Barbour noted funding for community colleges increased 29 percent (\$50 million) with a 16 percent increase for universities (\$93 million).

Conventions serve a party organizing function and provide

opportunity for rhetoric and messaging. They're fun for political junkies but a poor substitute for the Neshoba County Fair which is just under ten weeks away.

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