

Set 1: republican, democrat, togeth, commiss, polit, done, bipartisan, senat

Set 2: bad, mani, disast, great, lie, ever, actual, deal

Set 3: point, mention, import, obvious, face, critic, situat, hand

Set 4: campaign, word, apolog, anyth, fact, never, foreign, week

JOHN MCCAIN Yes, real quick. Mr. Ayers, I dont care about an old washed- up terrorist. But as Senator Clinton said in her debates with you, we need to know the full extent of that relationship. We need to know the full extent of Senator Obamas relationship with ACORN, who is now on the verge of maybe perpetrating one of the greatest frauds in voter history in this country, maybe destroying the fabric of democracy. The same front outfit organization that your campaign gave \$832, 000 for “lighting and site selection.” So all of these things need to be examined, of course.

MODERATOR All right. Im going to let you respond and well extend this for a moment.

BARACK OBAMA Bob, I think its going to be important to just — Ill respond to these two particular allegations that Senator McCain has made and that have gotten a lot of attention. In fact, Mr. Ayers has become the centerpiece of Senator McCains campaign over the last two or three weeks. This has been their primary focus. So lets get the record straight. Bill Ayers is a professor of education in Chicago. Forty years ago, when I was 8 years old, he engaged in despicable acts with a radical domestic group. I have roundly condemned those acts. Ten years ago he served and I served on a school reform board that was funded by one of Ronald Reagans former ambassadors and close friends, Mr. Annenberg. Other members on that board were the presidents of the University of Illinois, the president of Northwestern University, who happens to be a Republican, the president of The Chicago Tribune, a Republican- leaning newspaper. Mr. Ayers is not involved in my campaign. He has never been involved in this campaign. And he will not advise me in the White House. So thats Mr. Ayers. Now, with respect to ACORN, ACORN is a community organization. Apparently what theyve done is they were paying people to go out and register folks, and apparently some of the people who were out there didnt really register people, they just filled out a bunch of names. It had nothing to do with us. We were not involved. The only involvement Ive had with ACORN was I represented them alongside the U. S. Justice Department in making Illinois implement a motor voter law that helped people get registered at DMVs. Now, the reason I think that its important to just get these facts out is because the allegation that Senator McCain has continually made is that somehow my associations are troubling. Let me tell you who I associate with. On economic policy, I associate with Warren Buffett and former Fed Chairman Paul Volcker. If Im interested in figuring out my foreign policy, I associate myself with my running mate, Joe Biden or with Dick Lugar, the Republican ranking member on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, or General Jim Jones, the former supreme allied commander of NATO. Those are the people, Democrats and Republicans, who have shaped my ideas and who will be surrounding me in the White House. And I think the fact that this has become such an important part of your campaign, Senator McCain, says more about your campaign than it says about me.

JOHN MCCAIN Well, again, while you were on the board of the Woods Foundation, you and

Mr. Ayers, together, you sent \$230, 000 to ACORN. So — and you launched your political campaign in Mr. Ayers living room.

BARACK OBAMA Thats absolutely not true.

JOHN MCCAIN And the facts are facts and records are records.

BARACK OBAMA And thats not the facts.

JOHN MCCAIN And its not the fact — its not the fact that Senator Obama chooses to associate with a guy who in 2001 said that he wished he had have bombed more, and he had a long association with him. Its the fact that all the — all of the details need to be known about Senator Obamas relationship with them and with ACORN and the American people will make a judgment. And my campaign is about getting this economy back on track, about creating jobs, about a brighter future for America. And thats what my campaign is about and Im not going to raise taxes the way Senator Obama wants to raise taxes in a tough economy. And thats really what this campaign is going to be about.