

Power Line Blog: John Hinderaker, Scott Johnson, Paul Mirengoff

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THE TIMES VENDETTA CONTINUES

April 10, 2011 Posted by John at 5:29 PM

The New York Times is carrying out a vendetta against Charles and David Koch, two of the very few rich people who support conservative and libertarian causes. The Times is offended, apparently, that the Left does not quite have a monopoly on big money. The paper's editorialists flat-out lied about the Koch brothers, and had to [issue a retraction](#). But that editorial attack was just the tip of the iceberg.

Times reporter Eric Lipton [misrepresented his interview](#) with Tim Phillips, who heads Americans For Prosperity, a grass-roots organization that the Kochs have supported. That misrepresentation has not yet resulted in a correction, but it should. We have also asked Arthur Brisbane, the Times's Public Editor, to explain whether the paper's editorials are fact-checked, or whether they simply republish rumors that they pick up on left-wing web sites. Brisbane has not responded to my emails, and today's paper--his column appears on Sundays--did not address the issue.

A week ago today, the Times printed an op-ed by David Callahan, a senior fellow at [Demos](#), a left-wing "non-partisan public policy research and advocacy organization." Callahan's op-ed is a plea for greater transparency with respect to 501(c)(4) organizations. There are, of course, thousands of such organizations. Some support liberal causes, some conservative; most are not political. However, given that Callahan is himself the employee of a left-wing advocacy organization and is writing for the New York Times, he mentions only two contributors to such entities: Charles and David Koch. The point of Callahan's op-ed is that federal law should be amended to "require all nonprofit organizations that engage in political advocacy to reveal their donors." Callahan writes:

In many cases, organizations have both 501(c)3 and a 501(c)4 arms that work closely together in the same building to shape government policy. One such group is FreedomWorks, which has received significant amounts of money from the Koch brothers and is a force behind both the Tea Party political movement and the conservative libertarian policy agenda it espouses.

Actually, the Koch brothers have never donated any money to FreedomWorks. Once again, one wonders: is there any fact-checking at all at the New York Times?

Callahan's left-wing perspective comes out in this claim:

[T]he tax rules treat the brothers' giving to medical research or modern art museums exactly the same as their gifts to ideologically driven organizations like the Cato Institute. All are classified as "charity."

This is an unfair use of public tax subsidies.

From a far-left perspective, every tax deduction is a "public tax subsidy." All of your money really

belongs to the government; any amount that the government generously allows you to keep is a "tax subsidy."

What is most striking about Callahan's piece is its rampant hypocrisy. He himself is an employee of a left-wing organization that prefers not to abide by the transparency standards that Callahan advocates. At [Philanthropy Daily](#), Scott Walter sums up the disconnect:

4. Callahan's current "advocacy organization" -- which goes unmentioned in his op-ed's argument -- lists no private donors in its latest annual report, but only foundations that are already required to disclose their giving.

5. Nor does Callahan mention that the online donation portal for his advocacy organization has a button that explicitly allows each donor to "Provide none of my personal information (anonymous)."

6. This anonymous giving is possible because every single donation at Demos's online portal goes through a donor-advised fund, Network for Good. (Cato, by the way, lacks this ingenious innovation in online anonymity.)

7. It goes without saying that Demos is supported by the Open Society Institute, the premier institutional giving vehicle of billionaire George Soros, whose political and advocacy funding is easily in the same league as the two Koch brothers' combined....

So the whole thing is a massive exercise in hypocrisy--typical for the New York Times, and for the Left. More to come tomorrow, since the Times's bizarre obsession continues.



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**Steve White**

Suggestion: the Koch Brothers should buy the NYT. That would settle things down rather quickly.

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**Glenn P Morris** · Gulfport, Mississippi

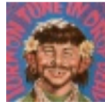
And where would we go to get intel on the Left?

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**Stephen Thomas** · ★ Top Commenter · Poughkeepsie, New York

I read a lengthy bio of the Koch brothers, and came away thinking that the left had found the perfect bogey men. The Koch brothers are producers, businessmen and entrepreneurs. And, they are in the petrochemical biz in a serious way. The left hates productive business men, and it loathes the petrochemical biz. So, putting aside the sanity of the attack on the Koch brothers, the left has seized upon the very embodiment of everything it hates in the Koch brothers.

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**P Aaron Jones** · Realtor at Century 21 Town & Country

The petro-chemical tech applies to printing ink, which the Times needs. But I agree with Mr. White. The Koch Brothers should just buy the Times and we'd wipe out a 3rd of the left's billboard plus their springboard for 70% of their propoganda. Smart investors however, don't buy losers.

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**Michael Kennedy**

The left does a much better job of money laundering and concealing donors. The champion of this is, of course, the president and his campaign which turned off all identity checking for credit card donations in 2008. This allowed foreign and anonymous contributions which no doubt exceeded federal legal limits.

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**John Hinderaker** · ★ Top Commenter

Good point. The Obama campaign enabled rampant criminality, and got away with it.

1 · Like · Reply · 12 hours ago

**Kathryn Werdal** · Anchorage, Alaska

Question: Does anyone really care what the New York Times says? Aren't they just preaching to the choir? They certainly have no credibility in my mind and I suspect that unless one is of their ilk, their promulgations and lies just tick people off. At this point how influential is the New York Times beyond those taking part in the left wing jihad on America.

3 · Like · Reply · 12 hours ago

**Gary Thorkelson** · ★ Top Commenter

Great point Kathryn. They're sinking so fast in the serious news business that we might soon see the rag at the checkout stand at the grocery store next to The SUN with its stories about Bat Boy and aliens with Elvis.

I see it like this. The NYT reflects the typical liberal view...it's not possible that they are losing in the marketplace of political leanings. They don't lose elections, they're stolen from them. They didn't get the story wrong, they just haven't found enough evidence, yet. The american people aren't capable of rationally choosing conservative ideas, we're being tricked by the illegal and sneaky back door tactics of the Koch's and big oil. Gas is not expensive, you drive the wrong car. Taxes are not too high, Europe pays more. And on it goes.

I would think the worse thing for a paper is not criticism, but total indifference from the readers. People are caring less and less about the NYT.

