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# On Today: NBC's Vieira Hits Tim Pawlenty for Daring to Call Obama a Fiscal Chicken

By **Geoffrey Dickens** | February 10, 2011 | 13:35

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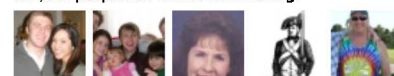
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NBC's Meredith Vieira, on Thursday's Today show, challenged former Minnesota Republican Governor and potential presidential candidate Tim Pawlenty for daring to call Barack Obama a fiscal "chicken" as she (citing his Democratic successor Mark Dayton) accused him of not being a fiscal conservative. After Vieira initially questioned if Pawlenty had the requisite "star quality" to run for President, she then threw the words of the current Democratic governor of Minnesota in his face, as seen

in the following question:

VIEIRA: Let's talk about, you know you're a self-proclaimed fiscal conservative and you criticized the President after his State of the Union Address. You basically called him a chicken, that's the word you used, for failing to address real fiscal issues in this country. But your successor in Minnesota, Governor Mark Dayton, has criticized you for leaving a \$6.2 billion deficit. Last night in his State of the State Address, he said that he was left with a horrendous fiscal mess and state agencies poorly managed. So what makes you better-equipped to run the nation's economy, if you left your own house in such disarray?

For his part, Pawlenty responded that the Cato Institute had just given him a grade of "A" for his financial stewardship of Minnesota, to which Vieira followed up by asking if the GOP was in need of reconciliation because of the Tea Party's demands for "even more severe budget cuts."

VIEIRA: Finally, Tea Party supporters in Washington put a lot of pressure on the Republican leadership to make even more severe budget cuts than the leadership had planned. It's an indication that they may be trying to run the agenda in Washington. You are emerging as a Republican leader. How would you reconcile those two sides of the party?

The following is a complete transcript of the segment as it was aired on the February 10 Today show:

MEREDITH VIEIRA: The annual Conservative Political Action Conference, better known as CPAC, gets under way in Washington today, and it features a who's/who of presidential contenders, including former Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty. Governor Pawlenty, good morning to you.

[On screen headline: "Conservative Voice, Pawlenty On Palin, Obama And 2012"]

TIM PAWLENTY: Good morning to you, Meredith.

VIEIRA: C-PAC is sort of the unofficial start of the 2012 Republican presidential nominating contest. And you have made it clear that you're seriously considering running. You've said that you're gonna make up your mind between now and maybe March, April time. But at this point, what would keep you from running?

PAWLENTY: My wife.

VIEIRA: Is she hesitant? Is she saying, don't do it?

PAWLENTY: No, really I'm just teasing. But it comes down to two things, really. What are the needs of the country and what do I bring to that?

VIEIRA: Well you've figured that out by now, right?

PAWLENTY: Yeah, and secondly, it is a deeply personal decision, because the burdens it places on a family are not insignificant and she is fully supportive. I love her very much. But it is, it is a burden on a family.

VIEIRA: So, again, what would keep you from running? If she supports you and you know what you need to do?

PAWLENTY: Well we're just making sure we've got everything in line, get the ducks in a row, so to speak. And that's not an easy thing to do. There's a lot of work there. And we've been traveling around the country, working for conservative candidates and we'll finalize the decision in the next month or so.

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## Comments

### #1 → Sorry Geoffrey

Submitted by [Cool Arrow](#) on Thu, 02/10/2011 - 1:52pm.

I must have misread your story. ;-)

I feel so stoopid now.

→ Does Elena Kagan believe "No" means "Yes" on ObamaCare?

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### #2 Call them Out.

Submitted by [dan victori](#) on Thu, 02/10/2011 - 1:52pm.

Again, conservatives/republicans need to stop whining about the media bias and confrontational questions from the lamestream media until they have the balls to call them out on their liberal bias. You want votes Palenty, call Veira out on her bias. Ask her why she does not act like a journalist instead of a democratic shill.

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### #3 For some reason, they go into McCain mode

Submitted by [Blonde](#) on Thu, 02/10/2011 - 2:18pm.

...and just go along to get along, hoping to get a little love from the MsM.

It's absurd.

*They know **the truth**. **The facts** are a cover-up. ~ motherbelt, on liberals & the MsM*

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### #4 star

Submitted by [forest](#) on Thu, 02/10/2011 - 2:12pm.

"After Vieira initially questioned if Pawlenty had the requisite "star quality" to run for President..."

I hope he hit that hanging slider out of the park: "We elected a "star" to the presidency in 2008, and look where we are now..."

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### #5 Oh

Submitted by [forest](#) on Thu, 02/10/2011 - 2:16pm.

I see above we went back to that in the transcript:

"PAWLENTY: No, no. I'm just talking. You know we, we elected a president who had soaring rhetoric and a lot of great speeches, but a lot of people are disappointed in his performance..."

A little on the nice side, but I guess he can't insult people who voted for the guy seeing as he'll need some of them.

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### #6 Pawlenty was asked tough

Submitted by [jdhawk](#) on Thu, 02/10/2011 - 2:37pm.

Pawlenty was asked tough questions (of course, he is a Republican) and had good solid answers that not only threw it back at the interviewer, but liberals as well.

What conservatives need to do because they get a fraction of the time in front of the cameras that liberals do, is get out the message of limited government, less taxes, less government solutions and more market based solutions to issues.



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In other words, always have an agenda of teaching, wooing, getting our message out. Don't waste an opportunity. Force your views on the interviewer whether they want to hear them or not.

Take a page out of duhbama's playbook. When he is asked a question, you can't get him to shut up. He will do what I am suggesting above for 20 minutes at time - that is if the TOTUS has a full charge!!!

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