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## Crist's first radio spot gets slapped around by conservatives

posted by Aaron Deslatte on Oct 16, 2009 3:31:48 PM

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By Josh Hafenbrack, Tallahassee Bureau

TALLAHASSEE -- The governor is going full guns on the campaign trail, but there's one problem: The shots are missing the mark a bit.

Ten months before the primary election his 2010 U.S. Senate campaign, the Republican Gov. **Charlie Crist** is airing his first paid advertisement touting a conservative record, a radio spot running in one of the state's conservative strongholds, Fort Myers. The ad comes at a critical time for Crist: his once-bulletproof popularity is showing cracks. And he is losing momentum in his primary race against former Republican House Speaker **Marco Rubio**, a favorite among conservatives.

The Crist ad is airing in the same city where Crist's relationships with the Republican base began to seriously unravel. Crist appeared with Obama at a Feb. 10 rally in Fort Myers, providing full-throated support for the president's \$787-billion stimulus plan that was almost universally opposed by Republicans in Congress.

Despite his role pushing for the stimulus program, Crist complained about Obama's spending in the ad and presented himself as a penny-pinching conservative.

"Washington is out of control, yet the president has the same tired answer for every problem, to spend more of your money," the governor intones in the ad. "Washington needs a dose of Florida common sense."

In perhaps a sign of how nervous the Crist camp has become, the governor's ad makes some dubious claims. He takes credit for cutting state spending by \$7 billion -- even though the lousy economy and declining tax receipts forced the spending reduction. In fact, the Legislature trimmed the governor's proposed budgets the last two years, when the cuts took place. And in May, Crist signed into law more than \$2 billion in tax and fee increases.

On spending in Washington, the Crist ad faults Obama for being a big spender, but does not mention that federal spending rose faster under his Republican predecessor, **George W. Bush**, than at any time since the 1960s, according to the conservative Cato Institute. Also, expensive bailouts of banks, financial institutions and auto manufacturers began under Bush.

On the Fort Myers radio station on which the ad ran, WINK News Radio, conservative host **Mandy Connell** blasted Crist's claims.

"Oh my god, my head is going to explode," she said. "I cannot stand people to take credit for things that they didn't do. We can't spend our way to prosperity? What the hell was your standing on stage begging Barack Obama for stimulus money, then?"

The Crist ad also takes credit for the "biggest tax cuts in Florida history." Crist was referring to property tax cuts in 2007 and 2008, which rolled back local tax rates and doubled the homestead exemption to \$50,000. It was the sharp decline in property values, though, that had the biggest impact on tax bills.

Listen to the [ad here](#).

### COMMENTS

Crist is a total whore. Embracing Obamaman when Obama is soaring, blasting him when he declines in the polls. Charlie has no principles at all. He's all show for the media. You can fool some idiots all of the time, Chuckles, but you cannot fool all of us. Rubio for Senate!

Posted by: swampdog in fl | [October 16, 2009 at 09:50 PM](#)

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