

# THE FIRST STAGE IS DENIAL

And then they go on to anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance that John McCain will never be President.

Christy sent along this article catching McCain's lobbyist friends denying that their lobbying interests have any importance on the campaign.

McCain's campaign manager, Rick Davis, co-founded a lobbying firm though Davis on leave from the firm at the moment. Charlie Black, an unpaid senior adviser to McCain, is chairman of the Washington lobbying firm BKSH & Associates. Both of their firms have represented telecommunications companies whose business falls under the jurisdiction of the Senate Commerce Committee on which McCain is the senior Republican member.

[snip]

A McCain campaign aide who asked not to be identified said Davis has not been a registered lobbyist for two years. The aide said Black "is an unpaid volunteer and does not and will not lobby Senator McCain."

John McCain would have you believe that lobbyists are in the business of donating their time for worthy causes, with no strings attached. And that Black's promise not to lobby "Senator McCain" will extend to complete disinterest in policy issues that affect his clients if McCain were to be President. And that Davis' two-year leave from lobbying with a firm he still has financial ties to somehow frees him of all interest in the success of that lobbying firm—or its clients' interests.

This is why it's so important to point out how

false similar claims were when Bush cronies made them. Telecom lobbyist Ed Gillespie came in—refusing to recuse himself outright from issues pertaining to Quinn Gillespie's clients. And voila, just weeks later, the Administration was awkwardly and belatedly weighing in against net neutrality. To say nothing of the fact that they're now willing to let entire surveillance programs lapse in an effort to make sure Gillespie's clients get immunity for having illegally wiretapped Americans.

The Bush Administration's lobbyist-in-chief has made sure his clients' interests take precedence over the privacy and free speech of Americans. And there's no reason to think it would work differently with McCain's lobbyists-in-chief.