

MCCAIN HEARTS RENZI

Not only is Rick Renzi unwilling to step down from the House, but John Straight Talk for Lobbyists McCain is unwilling to kick him out of his campaign.

Asked in Ohio today, however, McCain said "it doesn't matter" if Renzi stays on his campaign or not. Watch it:

McCain has been staunchly loyal to his fellow Arizonian. After the FBI investigation into Renzi was first reported in October 2006, McCain vouched for Renzi's "integrity" in a robo-call to Arizona voters:

This is Senator John McCain. I'm calling to urge you to support my friend, Representative Rick Renzi for Congress. Rick has represented the first district of Arizona with tenacity, honesty and integrity beyond reproach.

Perhaps the several AZ folks who hang around these parts will help me out. But isn't Renzi one of the best known carpet-baggers in Congress? Further, don't most of the ethical, um, exuberances that were not charged, but should have been, associated with him bringing pork to Daddy's (RIP) boondoggle in Huachuca—outside of Renzi's district. That is, Renzi's been a great second Congressman for AZ's 8th CD, but a piss poor one for its first district, the one that elected him.

Someone ought to confirm with McCain that he meant to invoke the first district in this statement.

Or even better, folks ought to ask McCain why it is that he's so loyal to a spooked up Congressman who is so obviously violating the

trust of his constituents (regardless of whether he committed a crime or not). I imagine this support for Renzi will grow more embarrassing for Mr. Straight Talk for Lobbyists, as he goes forward.

So why is he risking that embarrassment now?