

THE SUGAR MOMMA EXPRESS

So, apparently, in addition to riding around on the Straight Talk for Lobbyists Express, John McCain has also been flying around the Sugar Momma Express.

Given Senator John McCain's signature stance on campaign finance reform, it was not surprising that he backed legislation last year requiring presidential candidates to pay the actual cost of flying on corporate jets. The law, which requires campaigns to pay charter rates when using such jets rather than cheaper first-class fares, was intended to reduce the influence of lobbyists and create a level financial playing field.

But over a seven-month period beginning last summer, Mr. McCain's cash-short campaign gave itself an advantage by using a corporate jet owned by a company headed by his wife, Cindy McCain, according to public records. For five of those months, the plane was used almost exclusively for campaign-related purposes, those records show.

Mr. McCain's campaign paid a total of \$241,149 for the use of that plane from last August through February, records show. That amount is approximately the cost of chartering a similar jet for a month or two, according to industry estimates.

Nice. John McCain is flying around in his Sugar Momma Express to make speeches to struggling working Americans in which he tells them the economic woes of this country are all psychological—all in their head. In fact, when he likened carrying his own suitcase to the economic struggles of Youngstown, Ohio, what he

really meant was that he had to carry his own suitcase ... from his Sugar Momma Express.

In any case, this further solidifies the importance of allowing us to see Cindy McCain's tax returns. These subsidized plane flights were actually provided by Hensley & Company.

It is owned by Hensley & Company, through a holding company, King Aviation. Mrs. McCain is the chairwoman of Hensley, which is one of the country's biggest distributors of Anheuser-Busch products. Hensley was founded by Mrs. McCain's father, James Hensley, and her uncle.

It was her late father's fortune, which also includes real estate, that helped start Mr. McCain's political career. King Aviation is listed on Mr. McCain's Senate disclosure forms as one of his wife's assets.

If Hensley & Company subsidized those flights as a corporation, then McCain owes a whole bundle more in reimbursement. If Hensely & Company subsidized those flights because Cindy is John's Sugar Momma, then that means you cannot separate her finances from his.