

FRED JOHNSON TAKES ON BLACKWATER IN ERIK PRINCE'S HOME TOWN

Fred Johnson is the Democratic candidate for Congress in MI's 2nd Congressional District.

When his opponent—Crazy Pete Hoekstra lackey Bill Huizenga—claimed to want to cut costs in a debate the other day, Johnson called him on his hypocrisy regarding cutting spending on military contractors, starting with Blackwater. [my transcript]

Johnson: When that one question [about Blackwater] came up [in an earlier debate], we have a private corporation, that is taking taxpayer dollars to basically making profit off of war, they all agree that yeah, they should keep on using those kind of entities. If we're going to have everything on the table—if you're really serious about spending, if you're really serious about cutting back, trimming the budget—those kind of things have to go too. Not to mention that those kind of corporations are beyond the purview of the US Constitution, the US Code of Military Justice, and they often times present as much a headache when it comes to diplomacy and when it comes to good relations, some of those countries being our defense partners.

So it's kind of disingenuous to say, you know, we have a prioritization. I'm talking about, not just talking about it, I'm talking about actually doing it. I'm talking about going down there with the vision and the courage to make those cuts.

Johnson's call on Huizenga's hypocrisy is interesting for two reasons. First, MI-2 includes Holland (where Johnson lives). That's Erik Prince's home town.

But just as interesting—the reason why Huizenga and other Republicans in this part of the world are particularly vulnerable to this claim of hypocrisy—since they're reliant on funding from Prince's sister Betsy and her hubby, Dick DeVos, and boast about being high school friends with Prince.

Mind you, Republicans nationally are dependent on DeVos cash. But at a local level this hypocritical demand from Republicans that we keep paying more for security services that make us less safe so that their donors' families can keep getting rich is palpable.

Help Fred Johnson.