

WHERE IS THIS KILLER INSTINCT IN GOVERNANCE?

[youtube]Ud3mMj0AZZk[/youtube]

I confess I am thoroughly enjoying the Obama campaign's attack on Mitt Romney's Bain experience. Contrary to DC pundits' beliefs, the outsourcing story really really resonates in those parts of the country where outsourcing has devastated the country—which just happen to include a bunch of swing states. Yet with the squabble over when Mitt left, the pundits have catnip to keep them interested while the Obama campaign really builds the narrative about Mitt. If the economy crashes again—which is, I think, the biggest threat to Obama's reelection—he will have already cemented the idea that financial vultures like Mitt are the problem, not the solution. And heck, the campaign's focus on tax havens like Bermuda and Cayman Islands might actually get society to focus on them generally.

Plus, as ads like this show, the Obama campaign is showing a wonderful cutthroat instinct rarely seen among Democrats.

But as big a mystery as who ran Bain Capital for the three years when Mitt was legally CEO but purportedly doing nothing with the company is this: where has this killer instinct been the last 3 years?

Imagine how effective such ads would be targeted at the obstructionists in the Senate? Mocking the 33rd time House Republicans repeal ObamaCare rather than doing something about jobs? And while I understand that such killer attacks are more effective directed against one villain who personifies evil, the GOP has villainized Pelosi effectively—there are ways to do it.

Obama's right: Corporatist vultures like Mitt are part of the problem (though Obama's fondness for trade deals is too). But so are the people

in Congress who would rather see the economy fail just to have the President fail too.

Republicans in Congress truly are villains (many Democrats are too, of course). It's time to start treating them like it.