

Brad Warthen's Blog

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Friday, 11 July 2008

If you're one of Howie Rich's GOP targets, how do you feel about Katon Dawson right about now?

For a very short news item in today's paper, this one raised more than its share of questions and observations:

The New Yorker pouring money into South Carolina's political races in a push for school choice says he won't give up anytime soon.

"I am not going away, and my groups are not going away," real estate investor Howard Rich says in a video released Thursday by South Carolinians for Responsible Government.

The Rich-funded school choice group taped the conversation at the Columbia home of state Republican Party chairman Katon Dawson on Monday. The GOP has written into its platform support for school choice, vouchers and tax credits.

Of course, we all knew about what the first sentence says -- this is one New Yorker who doesn't give a flying flip what people in South Carolina think or want; he's determined to make us do what he wants. His way of doing that is to finance misleading campaigns ostensibly based on other issues, since his issue

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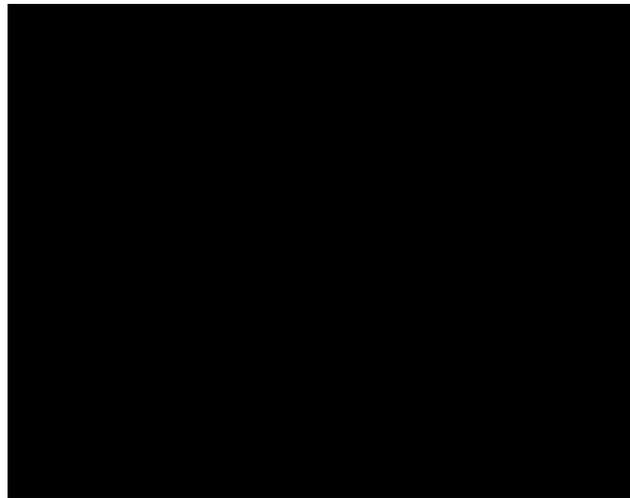
Recent Posts

If you're one of Howie Rich's GOP targets, how do you feel about Katon Dawson right about now? WHAT 'gay beaches'? Wouldn't World Population Day be a lot more fun without all these darned PEOPLE? Not that there's anything wrong with that...
 The Three Amigos in Colombia
 8 out of 10 respondents agree that they're Lee
 Big Brother is 'helping' me (Did I mention that I love Big Brother?)
 Well, I got two out of three
 Obama's cutting out some nuts, all right...
 What if such energy were used for Good?
 T. Boone Pickens' plan for energy independence
 Bye-Bye to Hillary
 About Brad Warthen's Blog
 The troubles with ethanol
 Depends on what you mean by 'all of the above,' Joe
 Hearing on Santee Cooper's coal-fired power plant
 USC president: They're doing it again
 Samuel notes progress on 55 mph
 Charlotte's success with light rail
 I'm on Keven Cohen's show NOW!
 Energy Party: Mayor Bob says don't forget hydrogen
 Last of the Cosmic Ha-Has
 Robert's great Energy Party cartoon
 Apparently, Hillary supporters still really ticked
 A colleague's goodbye note
 What you get for griping about my specs
 What stuff is really worth

doesn't sell with the voters, until he gets enough people in the Legislature to back his boy Mark Sanford, and he can remake South Carolina to his liking.

As for the other two grafs:

- Does this sort of behavior remind you of anybody? You know, a guy with deep pockets, an extreme vision of how the world ought to be, and the willingness to go to extreme lengths to make it so? A guy you never see, except that periodically he puts out these videos through his faithful followers, and the message in the videos is along the lines of "I'm still alive, and still committed to the cause, and I'm not going away?" *Isn't there somebody that reminds you of?*
- This was taped, not in a cave on the Upper East Side, but at [Katon Dawson's](#) house? Katon, the chairman of the same party that most of Howard Rich's targets are in -- the very lawmakers he wants to take out -- is part of the Howard Rich conspiracy? If I'm one of a number of GOP officeholders this guy has paid for lying ads about, I've got a lot of questions to ask Katon right about now. I don't have a lot of respect for political parties anyway, but even I thought they didn't do stuff like this to each other. If you're chairman of a party that is split between Mark Sanford and Jim DeMint on one side, and Lindsey Graham and the majority of legislative incumbents on the other, in what way is it considered kosher to do something like this?
- Howard Rich was in town, and he didn't drop by to see me or even call? Kidding aside, there are a lot more straightforward ways to get your message out than funneling money through surrogate entities and taping subterranean videos. That is, if you are at all interested in open, honest political debate. Which some people aren't.
- How come I can't find [the video](#) on the SCRG Web site? Am I looking in the wrong places?



Posted by Brad Warthen at 02:13 PM in [2008 S.C.](#), [Blogsphere](#), [Elections](#), [Mark Sanford](#), [Parties](#), [South Carolina](#), [The Nation](#), [Video](#)
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Sales tax polar opposites (heads-up, Paulistas: This post mentions Ron Paul!)

S.C. reform site seeks constitutional convention

Neither Obama nor McCain meets Energy Party standard

Jeanette McBride's underwhelming endorsement interview performance

Boy, don't I feel morally superior!

Ahmadinejad and libertarian think-tanker: Separated at birth?

Why we went to war in Iraq

Colombians now have their own Entebbe

Where will the Starbucks ax fall?

Dixie Lee field peas

Happy REAL Independence Day!

Jim Clyburn begs to differ on earmarks

The party's over

Yessirree bobtail!

A mixed day for democracy in the Midlands

Get into the blues -- WAY into the blues

Yo! City council? WHO do ya think MADE it 'fail'?

Mississippi Burning up the road

Will these fare better than 'Nailed?' Let's hope so

Updating how our endorsees fared

Sanford? Jake? No Republicans here

'Boogie Man: The Lee Atwater Story'

'Now away the walking blood bank!'

The real Room 101

Democrats officially write off the xenophobe vote

5 minutes, 28 seconds! Can I bleed or WHAT?

'The Russert Miracles:' Hitchens is one peeved atheist

NOW DeMint's making things LESS clear

'Top of the world, Ma!'

The 'Jewish lobby'

More about the 'good old boy' system

Does anyone remember this movie?

What's a 'Good Old Boy' to you?

Apparently, black folks don't have 'biographies'

More good energy news

What the Knotts endorsement is really about

DeMint helps clarify things

Hillary's diehards: For them, fight goes on

How much do YOU spend on gas?

Speaking of Russert, let's talk media bias

Media stats

Promising sign at the bus stop

Nothing like fan mail, is there?

Like pulling teeth: Interviewing Gwen Kennedy

Desirée Jaimovich, Argentine journalist

Lawmaker to level charges at police chief

Classy response to defeat

Excuse my language, but doggone it, I'm ticked

Still fired up, 12 months on

Excerpt from Hollings' book

Bloody well right -- just ask Her Majesty

Can we drive 55? OK, how about 70?

What is 'our community?'

Hey, Lindsey, if you thought THAT guy was a nativist, wait until the fall

Purple rain: Indian riot cops are far OUT!

How our endorsees fared Tuesday

Rob Miller's victory speech

Does the New England Journal of Medicine know about this

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Comments

Are you seriously comparing a political philanthropist to a militant terrorist? That is really embarrassing. Are you going to compare George Soros to Saddam next?

Posted by: [Sven Thompson](#) | Jul 11, 2008 2:40:45 PM

I'm sure you'll play it down, but comparing Howie Rich and this video to Osama bin Laden absolutely crosses the line. Unbelievable.

Posted by: [Daniel](#) | Jul 11, 2008 3:49:57 PM

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