

Walter Cronkite, Conspiracy Theorist?

Yesterday Walter Cronkite, the veteran CBS anchorman, became the latest public figure to replace political analysis by **conspiracy-theory** lunacy. Interviewed on CNN by Larry King, he **said**:

So now the question is basically right now, how will this affect the election? And I have a feeling that it could tilt the election a bit. In fact, I'm a little inclined to think that Karl Rove, the political manager at the White House, who is a very clever man, he probably set up bin Laden to this thing. The advantage to the Republican side is to get rid of, as a principal subject of the campaigns right now, get rid of the whole problem of the al Qaqa explosive dump.

Let's assume he was joking (which is by no means obvious). Even so, let's not laugh. The **position of the enemy** in the current war consists essentially of that sort of explanation of current affairs and history, and its spread into the mainstream is poisoning political discourse in the West.

Sat, 10/30/2004 - 21:17 | [digg](#) | [del.icio.us](#) | [permalink](#)

Karl Rove as the "clever man"

Surely Walter C. you are joking. However not to make light of K. Rove. The guy stops at nothing. He is master of conspiracy and uses the blinders of others to spin his political schemes. No way that his tentacles could reasonably extend beyond borders and he doesn't mess with things he can't spin. Be glad it was old newscaster Walter C. doing the talking and not K. Rove conspiracy theory spinner. Conspiracy theory Walter? Bah. Good joke. K. Rove likely chuckled.

by a reader on Sat, 10/30/2004 - 23:10 | [reply](#)

Re: Karl Rove as the "clever man"

"The guy stops at nothing. He is master of conspiracy and uses the blinders of others to spin his political schemes."

Is this a conspiracy that everyone knows about? If so, why call it a

'conspiracy'?

by **David Deutsch** on Sun, 10/31/2004 - 13:36 | [reply](#)

"clever man"

Right to the point and gets to what is a conspiracy v.s. conspiracy theory. K. Rove has spun fantastic political tales and rumors to get his candidate elected. Disprove that. K. Rove is a political conspiracist and technically not a conspiracy theorist. He conspires to spin particles of truth and untruth alike to mold opinion to bias the particular electorates. The evidence abounds for this despite the fact that K. Rove covers most of his trails. He distances himself from questions of morality in a strategy that results cover means. Confusion trumps rationality. That is part of his game. McCain campaign in South Carolina is only one obvious example. Karl Rove likely chuckles as he applies his clever bag of tricks.

by a reader on Sun, 10/31/2004 - 14:27 | [reply](#)

Re: "clever man"

"K. Rove covers most of his trails"

How do we know that?

by **David Deutsch** on Sun, 10/31/2004 - 14:42 | [reply](#)

LOL

LOL this is priceless. Do keep replying, reader. Tell us more of what you know about Rove's secret schemes. --Blix

by a reader on Sun, 10/31/2004 - 18:29 | [reply](#)

my Theory

Personally I think Cronkite said this stuff *because Rove wanted him to*. (Brainwashed?) You see, on the face of it, Cronkite's spewings are idiotic. They make Cronkite seem like an addled moron. This will discredit the content of what he is saying (being made to say? controlled by computer chip?).

And the thing is, what Cronkite is saying is 100% true, of course.

It's reverse psychology!

That diabolical genius Rove. As we all know, he will stop at nothing. NOTHING!

--Blix

by a reader on Sun, 10/31/2004 - 20:44 | [reply](#)

Rove LOL

Rove got us to change the subject did he not? Diabolical spin

specialist. Humor added by Walter Cronkite.

Secret schemes? As for that only the mind of Karl Rove deduces the extent of public gullibility. At the moment he is not telling.

by a reader on Sun, 10/31/2004 - 21:42 | [reply](#)

Nicholas Lemann interviews Karl Rove

Fair and concise question from Nicholas Lemann (New Yorker article, May 2003)to Karl Rove and a fair and concise answer:

Lemann: "But do you weaken a political party, either by turning what they see as assets into liabilities, and/or by taking issues they consider to be theirs, and raiding them?" The thought brought to his round, unlined, guileless face a boyish look of pure delight. "Absolutely!"

by a reader on Sun, 10/31/2004 - 22:08 | [reply](#)

Re: Nicholas Lemann interviews Karl Rove

A reader writes:

Lemann: "But do you weaken a political party, either by turning what they see as assets into liabilities, and/or by taking issues they consider to be theirs, and raiding them?" The thought brought to his round, unlined, guileless face a boyish look of pure delight. "Absolutely!"

Oh my God! It's almost like he gives arguments about why his opponents' positions are wrong and so changes people minds about them! And to think I thought America was a democracy?! After all, a real democracy wouldn't allow representatives of political parties to say things that might make other political parties seem less attractive, that's just not cricket.

by [Alan Forrester](#) on Mon, 11/01/2004 - 01:19 | [reply](#)

cynicism

Alan,

i honestly read that guys post as pro karl rove.

-- Elliot Temple

<http://www.curi.us/>

by [Elliot Temple](#) on Mon, 11/01/2004 - 01:24 | [reply](#)

Correct!

The post was intended as pro Karl Rove. Pure and simple politics.

"But do you weaken a political party, either by turning what they

see as assets into liabilities, and/or by taking issues they consider to be theirs, and raiding them?" ----"Absolutely!"

Political assets hinge on funding as any good political conspiracist knows. The assets that Rove referred to were in context to a Lemann scenario regarding a tripartite consortium of key funders, "trial lawyers, Jews, and labor unions":

Lemann: "The Party has three key funding sources: trial lawyers, Jews, and labor unions. One could systematically disable all three, by passing tort-reform legislation that would cut off the trial lawyers' incomes, by tilting pro-Israel in Middle East policy and thus changing the loyalties of big Jewish contributors, and by trying to shrink the part of the labor force which belongs to the newer, and more Democratic, public-employee unions."

Politics ala Rove. After all American democracy is no morality play. Or is it?

by a reader on Mon, 11/01/2004 - 02:23 | [reply](#)

My bad

My bad.

by [Alan Forrester](#) on Tue, 11/02/2004 - 15:55 | [reply](#)