

## Nothing funny about this

Written by Neil A. Davis, Gothenburg  
Friday, 20 April 2012 14:13 -

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Joe Knoedler (02-22-12) takes up argument against the premise that liberalism is turning young people's minds to mush. At Prince George's Community College in Maryland, President Obama told students "...every time prices start to go up...politicians dust off their 3-point plans for \$2.00 gas." (Laughter) "Been the same script for 30 years. It's like a bad rerun." (Laughter) While laughing at his jokes, students weren't thinking about the long-standing practice of stifling energy production as a root cause for many of our economic problems. The comedian in chief certainly won't enlighten them. I see no humor in it whatsoever.

He told them that drilling advocates say "...if we just drilled more for oil then gas prices would immediately come down..." Truthfully, advocates believe pursuing a more aggressive energy policy and cutting federal regulations 30 years ago would have brought about lower, more stable fuel prices long before now. Perhaps far fewer manufacturing companies would have left the country. Obama's effort (alchemy) is turning borrowed money into failed "green energy" companies and Democrat campaign funds. We have lost billion\$. Tell students that joke.

He repeated his diatribe that we have only 2% of the world's known oil reserves. This misleading figure doesn't include resources roped off by the government. According to industry experts, the U.S. has more than 1.4 trillion barrels of technically recoverable oil—enough to meet all U.S. needs for the next 200 years, without imports. Obama said, "Under my administration, America is producing more oil today than at any time in the last eight years." (Applause) This may be happening during his administration, but it is not because of anything he has done. The Bush blamer is taking credit for production on public lands (he couldn't stop) that was already approved by the previous administration. Drilling is occurring on private and state lands, in spite of Obama's moratoriums.

His administration claims that oil and gas leases on public land increased 20% in 2011. Leases issued in 2010 were at the lowest level since the Bureau of Land Management began publishing the data. A 20% increase from there is meaningless. Taxpayers collected 258 times less revenue (\$9.4 billion) from off-shore lease sales in 2011 than the last year of the Bush administration. He joked, if Republican presidential candidates "...were around when Columbus set sail (laughter) they must have been founding members of the Flat Earth Society." (Laughter) The irony is, if his anti-energy policies and military budget cuts are allowed to continue, our navy will be the Nina, the Pinta and the Santa Maria.

Obama told students there is no "quick fix" for high gas prices, he is "drilling at a record pace" and his opponents are against alternative energy sources. Students (and adults) laughed

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throughout the speech and applauded at the end. They most likely left there accepting what the snake oil salesman said as fact, not bothering to research the truth on their own. Is that Mensa, or is it mush? You decide.