Osg1 2012-08-23 ROMNEY

TOF

It’s clear now that Todd Akin is NOT going away, he’ll continue his senate campaign in Missouri – but even worse from Mitt Romney’s point of view, Akin’s campaign has morphed from a relatively obscure Missouri race into a national anti-abortion rights crusade -- the last thing Mitt Romney wants to talk about.

So he’s decided to grab the wheel.

More after this from Charlie:

((SPOT))

The challenge for Mitt Romney – move the national debate away from that Missouri Senate race, and back to the President’s weak spot: jobs. So when he granted an interview to CBS Affiliate KCNC in Denver, there was a condition: NO questions about Todd Akin. Not that he wouldn’t talk about womens’ issues – he’s more than happy to talk about womens issues:



In Hobbs New Mexico the issue was also – say it with me JOBS! Right. And in particular a promise of three million jobs by opening up more oil drilling off the mid-atlantic coast and in Alaska:



He would make sure that regulations are about safety… not a backdoor attempt to limit oil production.

And I think he was also trying to tap into a secret wish among Americans – that one day we wake up and realize – we don’t need the Middle East anymore! Not Saudi Arabia, not Iraq, not Iran – because all the oil we need will finally be in friendly hands.

Need I say that White House spokesman Jay Carney was skeptical:



And he had a point there – Romney said he would end subsidies for wind and solar, but would NOT end subsidies for oil.

Which would seem to be inconsistent.

But we can have a vigorous debate about that -- a debate which I think Mr Romney will welcome – just as long as the word Akin doesn’t come up.