

BP Oil Spill Disaster: Democrats Turn on Obama

In the week leading up to the Memorial Day holiday, President Obama’s treasonous malfeasance in the handling of BP’s Gulf Coast oil spill, provoked a round of acrimonious condemnation of the President from a wide range of Democrats. Here is a sampling.

Louisiana Sen. Mary Landrieu (to *Politico*, May 27): “The President has not been as visible as he should have been on this, and he’s going to pay a political price for it.”

Democratic Strategist James Carville, (to CNN’s Campbell Brown, May 27): “I know I’m not a Harvard law ... guy, professor of law at the University of Chicago. People down here [on the Gulf Coast] know what they’re seeing. It seems the President is madder at his critics than he is at BP...”

(To CNN’s John King, May 27): “BP is not the equal of the United States government. This President needs to tell BP ‘I’m your daddy, I’m in charge, you’re going to do what we say. You’re a multinational company that is greedy, and you may be guilty of criminal activity.’ It’s time that we understand, BP does not wish this thing well. They have been negligent. They need to whip out their checkbook and start moving into action and the President needs to push them.”

(To CNN’s Anderson Cooper, May 27): “I think they actually believe that BP has some kind of a good motivation here. They’re naive! BP is trying to save money, save everything they can. ... They won’t tell us anything, and oddly enough, the government seems to be going along with it! Somebody has got to, like shake them and say, ‘These people don’t wish you well! They’re going to take you down!’...”

“I’m as good a Democrat as most people, and I think this administration has done some good things. They are risking everything by this ‘go along with BP’ strategy they have that seems like, lackadaisical on this....



Good Morning America videograb

[T]hey seem like they’re inconvenienced by this; this is some giant thing getting in their way and somehow or another, if you let BP handle it, it’ll all go away. It’s not going away. It’s growing out there. It is a disaster of the first magnitude, and they’ve got to go to Plan B....

“Franklin Roosevelt would have jumped out of his wheelchair and been down here running this thing.... He could be commandeering tankers and making BP bring tankers in and clean this up. They could be deploying people to the coast right now. He could be with the Corps of Engineers and the Coast Guard ... doing something about these regulations.

‘Not Worth Spit’

California Rep. George Miller (to the House Natural Resources Committee hearing, May 26): “These assurances [from Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, who was testifying before the committee—ed.] aren’t worth spit. They’re made all of the time, and if you read the internal documents, as I’m going back through the history, the companies refuse to buy the equipment.”

(To the same committee hearing, May 27): “BP has a history of cost-cutting. They have a history of workers dying on the job. They have a history of failing to maintain their equipment that has led to environmental disasters. What were seeing in the Gulf of Mexico and along the coast today is just the latest example of BP playing Russian roulette with the lives of their workers, our precious environment, and local economies—all in the name of increasing profit at what is already one of the most profitable corporations in the world.”

Florida Sen. Bill Nelson (to CNN, May 26): “If this thing is not fixed today, the President doesn’t have any choice and he better go in and completely take over, perhaps with the military in charge. The military has an apparatus, the organization by which it can bring together the civilian agencies of government and get this thing done.”

Louisiana Rep. Charlie Melancon (who represents six coastal parishes most threatened by the spill, broke down in tears while presenting testimony May 27 to the Energy and Commerce Committee hearing): “Having flown over this disaster, I can tell you it’s greater than anyone can ever imagine. My constituents are watching a slow-motion tragedy unfold in front of them. Our culture is threatened, our coastal economy is threatened, and everything I know and love is at risk.”