

Correspondence between Michael Flynn (Right Web) and Michael Rubin (American Enterprise Institute), November 5, 2009

On March 13, 2011, Michael Rubin wrote on *Commentary Magazine's* blog *Contentions*, "When challenged about inaccuracies on the dossiers he compiles of 'right wing militarists,' the editor of Right Web e-mailed that even when no evidence supports his allegations, corrections of his slanders would require proving his allegations wrong, an impossible standard that is also embraced by conspiracy theorists like the LaRouchies, 9/11 revisionists, and Birthers."

Mr. Rubin was apparently referring to the following correspondence with Michael Flynn, director of Right Web, which is the only direct correspondence Right Web has had with him:

On Thu, Nov 5, 2009 at 2:54 PM, Michael Rubin:

In your dossier about me, http://www.rightweb.irc-online.org/profile/Rubin_Michael, you write: "Along with the likes of neoconservative progenitor Norman Podhoretz, Rubin has been a leading advocate of increased U.S. military intervention in the Middle East, including attacking Iran." I have never advocated attacking Iran. Indeed, I have dismissed the idea in public speaking, writing, and on television over the past decade. I am not confident your goal is honesty, but if it is, you will support your statement and, when you find support lacking, issue a correction immediately.

On Thu, Nov 5, 2009 at 4:24 PM, Michael Flynn wrote:

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your note. In our humble opinion, suggesting assassinating a country's leader is tantamount to attacking that country. We do aim to be honest and factually correct, despite your misgivings. If you have some other reason to call this into question, by all means, do share. Regards

On Thu, Nov 5, 2009 at 4:26 PM, Michael Rubin wrote:

In the context of preventing a larger war, yes. But I see you want to paint me as a proponent of military action on Iran – when I speak against that regularly and criticized Podhoretz's position -- and this simply convinces me that your aim is dishonest. So be it. It certainly reflects on your values, your honesty, and what progressivism represents today.

On Thu, Nov 5, 2009 at 11:01 PM, Michael Flynn wrote:

As you like sir. You asked a question, I provided a reasonable answer. If from that discrete correspondence you want to draw grand conclusions about what "progressivism represents today" (is Right Web progressive?) and our sense of honesty, that is of course your prerogative. Still, you do raise a good point. That dossier was produced in 2007. If you'd like to share with us the article/speech/etc in which you criticize Podhoretz's view on Iran, we'd be happy to include that in an updated version of the profile and also take a closer look at your recent discourse on the subject. Frankly, we haven't paid much attention to you in some time. Nor do we don't "want to paint" you as anything in particular. Your track record speaks for itself, and the to extent our assertions stray from that, then indeed we should take a second look.