more tables, more debris
Years later, Sam Fox is at another table. It's a Senate table. John Kerry is seated across the table. Barack Obama sits to the side. That day Barack Obama is in charge of the tables. His Chairman Kerry the failed 2004 Presidential candidate is asking the questions. Bush W. the 2004 winner wanted Fox to be an ambassador. And that's why they're all gathered together around tables. But Swift Boat is in the way, or Swift Boat Veterans for Truth as it was called. Fox was the big money behind Swift Boat.
Here's my transcript of John Kerry questioning Sam Fox, George W. Bush's nominee to be U.S. ambassador to Belgium—and a major 2004 donor to Swift Boat Veterans for Truth—before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee last week. The question comes about three minutes after the start of Kerry's segment but is the part where Kerry questions Fox about being involved with such notorious similar enterprises.

Kerry: Let me ask a few questions that go to something that I think is important, which is a question of both a commitment of citizenship and judgment. If you will, in the way I might phrase it. And want to try to ask these questions as far as possible, and not try to play some kind of politics game here, I assure you. But it's important to me to be thinking through the issue of judgment to explore this a little bit. I assume that you believe that the truth in public life is important.

Fox: Yes, sir.

Kerry: And I might ask you what your opinion is with respect to the state of American politics, as regards the politics of personal destruction?

Fox: Senator, I am on record more than one time, several times, being interviewed by the press and publicly the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. And I am very concerned with the amount of money that's going into politics and I'm more concerned about the fact that politics has become mean and vicious and outrageous. I think that was very... I was for campaign finance reform because I felt that if less money was going into politics, it would turn the whole system a little bit cleaner. If I was in the Senate, of course, I'd try to stop that from coming down, I would hope there would be less meanness and destructiveness.

When Swift came along, I had the very same thing to say about them. So that's the way I feel and, Senator, let me just say this: I'm against Swift. I've always been against Swift. I think, again, they're mean and destructive. I think they're hurt a lot of good, decent people. And, Senator Kerry, I very much respect your dedicated service to this country. I know that you were not drafted—your volunteerism. You want to go to Vietnam. You were wounded, disabled. Senator, you're a hero. And there isn't a goddamn thing that you could say to me on this...
Kerry: You are a hero. And there's nothing anybody or anything is going to take that away from you.

Johnson: We could have taken patronage to the other side. Under the old system, 527s, 527s, 527s went so far as to claim the president of the United States was lying to the American people, and you're going against 527s because all the mainstream and I've been reading every word, every sentence, and I'm reading for you. I'm reading the entire thing. In fact, the entire thing is not too long. Not once but twice, three or four times. And I would just say this, and I think that Congress could find a way to either ban 527s or at least at a level where we're not going to have a serious amount of money in October to a group called Swift Boat Veterans for Truth, for example.

Fox: Correct.

Kerry: Why would you do that when you know what just said about how much money they had? You have to tell me why.

Johnson: Well, Senator, I have to put it in the proper context and bear in mind that, Senator, you have been in the Senate for 12 years. Senator, I have talked to many different political scientists and bear in mind that these 527s are not just some, you know, random, small group of people who are going to try to make a name for themselves. They are trying to make a name for themselves. They are trying to make a name for themselves. They are trying to make a name for themselves.

Kerry: I certainly appreciate the comments you just made, Mr. Fox. I do not know who you're referring to when you say this.

Johnson: Well, I think it would be very unusual for anyone to come and talk to me. I think that most people would say that there are not enough people who are interested in what we're doing. And I think that it's very unfortunate that we're not out there doing anything. But yes, I do think that Congress could find a way to ban 527s or at least at a level where we're not going to have a significant amount of money in October to a group called Swift Boat Veterans for Truth. That's what I'm saying.

Johnson: Correct.

Kerry: So, why did you ask me to give you the money?

Johnson: Well, Senator, I have to tell you that I think it's important that every citizen, if they don't like what Swift Boat Veterans for Truth is doing, take the money and use it for something else.

Kerry: Well, thank you, Mr. Fox. I appreciate that. You're a good person to talk to.

Johnson: Yes, Senator, I think it's important that every citizen knows what Swift Boat Veterans for Truth is doing and what they're doing for the country.

Kerry: And do you think that's important?

Johnson: Yes, Senator, I think that every citizen should know what Swift Boat Veterans for Truth is doing.

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is truth in contemplation

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