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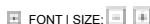
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Romney follows Obama's footsteps to Solyndra

Friday, June 1, 2012



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Justin Sullivan / Getty Images

FREMONT, CA - MAY 31: Republican presidential candidate and former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney speaks during news conference in front the shuttered Solyndra solar power company's manufacturing facility May 31, 2012 in Fremont, California. The company filed for bankruptcy in 2011 after receiving \$535 million in federal loan money. (Photo by Justin Sullivan/Getty Images) *** BESTPIX ***

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Mitt Romney came to stand on a weed-infested patch of dirt in front of the shuttered Solyndra plant on Thursday. If you stood at the right angle, you could look past Romney's shoulder and see a big red "for sale" sign draped on the building, dubbed by Romney the "the Taj Mahal of corporations."

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Two years ago, President Obama came to Solyndra under very different circumstances. The solar-power corporation was completing a second factory that created about 3,000 temporary construction jobs and was expected to provide 1,000 permanent production jobs. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger was on the scene. The large crowd of hard-hats and preening capitalists buzzed in the glow of presidential power.

"It's here that companies like Solyndra are leading the way toward a brighter and more prosperous future," said the president as he lauded companies like Solyndra as "the true engine of economic growth." Robust words rolled off his tongue - "ingenuity,"

"dynamism," "entrepreneurial spirit."

If you go to the White House website, the president's May 26, 2010, speech is billed as "remarks on the economy." For some reason, Obamaland had chosen to showcase how the administration was boosting economic recovery by staging an event at a corporation that had never turned a profit and was building the new plant with the help of a \$528 million federal loan.

A month after Obama came to Fremont, Solyndra canceled its \$300 million public offering. The day after the November 2010 election, Solyndra announced it would shutter one of its plants. On Aug. 31, 2011, Solyndra closed shop and laid off most of its workers.

Secretary of Energy Steven Chu quietly restructured the deal to put private investors who plunked an extra \$75 million into Solyndra ahead of taxpayers in the event of a

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