

USA TODAY: GOP members ding Issa for Carney 'liar' comment

David Jackson, USA TODAY

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(Photo: Charles Dharapak, AP)

White House press secretary Jay Carney is declining to respond to a Republican's claim that he is a "paid liar" for President Obama, but others are denouncing the phrase -- including some other Republicans.

"Let's not make it a personal," said [Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C.](#), on Fox News Radio, responding to the "liar" charge made by Rep. Darrell Issa, R-Calif., over the Internal Revenue Service targeting of conservative groups.

"Jay Carney is not the issue here," Graham said. "He's the spokesman for the White House."

Issa, who is investigating the White House and the IRS as chairman of the [House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform](#), used the "paid liar" comment to denounce White House statements that the IRS review of conservative groups was confined to an office in Cincinnati.

"This is a problem that was coordinated in all likelihood right out of Washington headquarters and we're getting to proving it," Issa told CNN on Sunday.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., told CBS he doesn't like the use of the word "liar."

"I think that we should let these investigations take their course," McCain said. "Let the facts come out. ... I think these hearings are what we should rely on to a significant degree."

And Carney himself?

"I'm not going to get into a back and forth with Chairman Issa," he said, adding that "I think that what our focus is -- and has been -- is the need to find out all the inappropriate activity that occurred" at the IRS.