

Clinton Slams Obama Tactics

By Julie Bosman
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CINCINNATI – Accusing the Obama campaign of using tactics “that are right out of Karl Rove’s playbook,” Senator Hillary Clinton angrily denounced Senator Barack Obama on Saturday for sending fliers to Ohio voters that she called misleading and false.

“Shame on you, Barack Obama,” Mrs. Clinton said at a news conference after a morning rally, holding the fliers and shaking them in the air as she spoke. “It is time you ran a campaign consistent with your messages in public. That’s what I expect from you. Meet me in Ohio. Let’s have a debate about your tactics and your behavior in this campaign.”

The fliers were handed to Mrs. Clinton by a woman who attended the rally and then approached her on the rope line after her speech.

It was not the first time the Clinton campaign had seen the flier, which cites an article from Newsday that says Mrs. Clinton believed the North American Free Trade Agreement was a “boon” to the economy. Mrs. Clinton said the newspaper has since corrected the article.

(Editors from Newsday responded on its Web site last week, stopping short of a correction but saying that “Obama’s use of the citation in this way does strike us as misleading.”)

“Time and time again,” said Mrs. Clinton, of New York, “you hear one thing in speeches and then you see a campaign that has the worst kind of tactics, reminiscent of the same sort of Republican attacks on Democrats.”

Bill Burton, a spokesman for Mr. Obama, of Illinois, said in an e-mail message, “Everything in those mailers is completely accurate.”

“We look forward to having a debate this Tuesday on the facts,” Mr. Burton added, “and the facts are that Senator Clinton was a supporter of Nafta and the China permanent trade treaties until this campaign began.”

Mrs. Clinton was at the beginning of a frenetic day of campaigning that will take her from Ohio to New Orleans to Houston and back to Washington, D.C.

She is making a push to win Ohio and Texas, after nearly a dozen straight defeats to Mr. Obama. Speaking to reporters Saturday morning, Mrs. Clinton said that she is confident about the upcoming primaries in Ohio and Texas on March 4, despite having lost a long string of nominating contests to Mr. Obama.

“My campaign is doing very well in both Ohio and Texas,” she said. “You know, three of our biggest states have not been heard from yet.”

At the end of this week, her campaign unveiled four new television ads that are running in Ohio and Texas. In the ads, Mrs. Clinton promises to deliver universal health care and better schools, while changing “trade deals like Nafta.”

The issue of trade is particularly sensitive in Ohio, where many people believe that trade agreements like Nafta have cost the state thousands of jobs.

As president, Bill Clinton was a vigorous supporter of Nafta, lobbied Congress to pass it and signed it into law despite objections from fellow Democrats, who believed it would cost the country jobs.

Mrs. Clinton strenuously distanced herself from that position on Saturday, saying Mr. Clinton did not negotiate the agreement.

“The agreement was negotiated in the Bush administration,” she said. “It was passed in the Clinton administration.”