

**Romney uses Carr to berate Obama**  
**National Times**  
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**By Daniel Flitton**

AUSTRALIA has scored another cameo in a US presidential race after the Foreign Affairs Minister, Bob Carr, told the Republican candidate, Mitt Romney, the world saw "America in decline".

Mr Romney leapt on the statement - which Senator Carr's office insists has been misinterpreted - in an apparent effort to shame the President, Barack Obama, over his economic management.

This produced a fleeting burst of interest in Australian attitudes towards the US election, similar to the time in 2007 when former prime minister John Howard claimed terrorist mastermind Osama bin Laden would be barracking for Mr Obama.

After meeting Senator Carr in San Francisco yesterday, Mr Romney said: "I met today with the foreign minister of Australia. He said something, and I said 'Can I quote you?' and he said yes. He said, 'America is just one budget deal away from ending all talk of America being in decline'," the Politico website reported Mr Romney saying.

"And this idea of America in decline, it was interesting he said that, he led the talk of America being in decline. See that's not talk we hear about here as much as they're hearing there. And if they're thinking about investing in America, entrepreneurs putting their future in America, if they think America's in decline they're not gonna do it."

Senator Carr had previously made the same remark in April during a speech at a Washington think tank.

A spokesman yesterday said Mr Romney's interpretation was not correct. "Senator Carr was arguing the case that America's economy is stronger than it is given credit for," he said.

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