
Two British comedians are threatening to sue US election candidate Chris Christie. The pair say he used part of their TV show without their permission in his campaign. *Maddy Savage reports:*

Voters in the American states of New Jersey and Virginia will be **going to the polls** to choose new state governors. **This row's over** a campaign advert used by a Republican candidate in New Jersey. But it's not his rival politicians who are getting angry, it's the comedians who've had a starring role, **without giving their permission**.

The advert features part of a Michael Palin **sketch** from Monty Python's Flying Circus. He asks viewers if they've ever suffered from **deja vu**... then repeats the question again... and again... and... **you get the idea**.

The campaign plan was **to show up** Chris Christie's rival candidate Jon Corzine, who's got a reputation for repeated attempts to impose higher charges on motorways. But Michael Palin's called the whole thing a 'terrible mistake', and his former co-star, Terry Jones, described it as 'totally outrageous'. They're **threatening legal action**, pointing out Christie himself's a former lawyer who **should have done his copyright homework**. Michael Palin couldn't resist **cracking a joke** though, saying Christie had picked the wrong Palin, and should have been after the backing of US politician Sarah Palin.

Despite all the comic drama, Chris Christie is expected to win the vote in New Jersey, even though President Obama made two campaign stops there on Sunday.

Maddy Savage, BBC News

Vocabulary and definitions

going to the polls	voting in an election
this row's over	this disagreement is about
without giving their permission	they didn't agree that Chris Christie could use a part of their TV show
sketch	short, funny drama (one of many in a longer TV comedy show)
deja vu	(from the French expression 'already seen') the experience of thinking that a new situation has occurred before
you get the idea	(informal) you understand the meaning of what is being explained or talked about
to show up	to expose or reveal someone's true character
threatening legal action	saying they might take Christie to court to try to resolve this issue
should have done his copyright homework	ought to have done enough research (to know that he needed legally to get their permission first)
cracking a joke	making light of the situation, saying something funny

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