Right-wingers remain convinced that ACORN is part of a nefarious plot to destroy America, and they'll use any means they can to prove it.
find an easy "scapegoat" for the country's troubles typical of "right-wing ideologues to attribute the financial crisis to an article in a low-circulation magazine in 1966 regularly blames for many of America's problems, including the current financial crisis.

In the third segment, Piven remarks that the current wave of foreclosures could trigger mass protest. She explains that if "millions of people refuse to go along with foreclosure procedures and refuse to pay off those mortgages that are underwater," political leaders would have to respond by making it harder for banks to evict families, as occurred during the Depression. Spliced between Piven's observations is footage of ACORN activists removing locks from a foreclosed home and moving the evicted family back in.

In the third clip, Olson asks Piven about Glenn Beck's persistent attacks on her Nation article, which the Fox News host regularly blames for many of America's problems, including the current financial crisis. "Can you think of anything sillier than to attribute the financial crisis to an article in a low-circulation magazine in 1966?", Piven responds. She calls Beck's efforts to find an easy "scapegoat" for the country's troubles typical of "right-wing ideologues."
These same right-wing ideologues have cast Piven and her late collaborator as Marxist
Machiavellis whose ideas have spawned a radical movement intent on destroying
capitalism and capable of advancing Obama's "socialist" agenda. Conservatives have
attacked Cloward and Piven for decades, but the demonization of the duo has
escalated since Obama's election. Since March of last year, Beck has mentioned the
Cloward-Piven strategy 33 times on his Fox News program. On Sept. 18, he used his
trademark chalkboard to connect Cloward and Piven to Woodrow Wilson, Che
Guevara, Bill Ayers, ACORN, the SEIU, George Soros, Van Jones, the Apollo Alliance, the
Tides Foundation, Valerie Jarrett, and of course Obama -- some of the right's favorite
villains. Last Thursday, Beck said that Obama's health-care proposal followed the
Cloward-Piven strategy to "melt the system down and have it collapse into a new
system."

Conservative radio jockeys Rush Limbaugh and Mark Levin have, on multiple occasions, warned their listeners that what they
call the "Cloward-Piven strategy" will destroy America. Stanley Kurtz, a frequent National Review contributor and anti-ACORN
crusader, has been digging into Piven's papers, according to Smith College's library. FrontPage editor David Horowitz called
Cloward and Piven the "architects" of "radical change." The American Spectator, The Washington Times, the American Thinker,
Free Republic, NewsMax, and WorldNetDaily have all warned their audiences that the Cloward-Piven strategy has infected
society like a dangerous left-wing virus.

At February's Tea Party convention, WorldNetDaily editor Joseph Farah devoted eight minutes of his speech to the
Cloward-Piven strategy. He told the crowd that Cloward and Piven's ideas have influenced Democratic Party prescriptions since
George McGovern's 1972 presidential candidacy. Farah also credited the sociologists with ACORN's rise, the community-
organizing group's strategy of expanding voter registration, and Obama's work with Project Vote in Chicago. "Obama is still
employing the Cloward-Piven strategy, not as a community organizer but today as the community organizer in chief," Farah
explained. "He's still creating crises as a means of empowerment."

It isn't clear whether these conservative rabble-rousers actually believe what they preach about the Cloward-Piven strategy or
simply use it to whip up their followers' anger and resentment. What's obvious is that this tactic is intended to discredit
Obama's liberal policy agenda and to destroy the progressive movement that pushes the president and the Democratic Party to
be bolder, as they did in the recent health-care battle. This maneuver is hardly new. As far back as Joseph McCarthy and
Richard Nixon, Republican politicians and hired strategists -- like Ed Meese, Karl Rove, Pat Buchanan and Frank Luntz -- have
perfected the art of linking liberal Democrats to communists, socialists, radicals, subversives, "welfare queens," and terrorists.

It is this world of right-wing opinion-shapers to which Olson aspires. Using similar tactics to James O'Keefe, Olson deceived
Piven with the goal of filming something sensational. But unlike O'Keefe, Olson has not succeeded in generating any
mainstream controversy with his tapes. That's because, watching Piven answer his questions, most viewers would be
hard-pressed to disagree with her basic analysis of America's current condition: Big corporations have too much power, the
concentration of wealth has gotten out of hand, and only an outraged and organized movement for change among the poor and
the middle class is likely to bring about significant reform.

Piven admits to being "unnerved" by Olson's alleged misrepresentation in order to get her to agree to the interview.

"He interviewed me under false pretenses," Piven says. "If I'd known he was a right-wing operative, I wouldn't have let him
into my apartment. I might have talked to him in my office or over the phone."

Contacted by phone at his Michigan office, Olson hung up as soon as he was asked about his interview with Piven. When called
again for comment, his colleague, Steve Gunn, answered for him. "He doesn't have any interest in talking with you. He doesn't
care anything about you," Gunn said. "If you call again, I'll call 911. You have a miserable day."