

RELEASE IN FULL

CONFIDENTIAL

October 5, 2012

For: John Martilla
From: Sidney Blumenthal
Re: Biden Debate (Memo 2)

1. Biden should adopt a divide and conquer strategy in the debate with Paul Ryan that keeps him on the defensive and undermines Romney's motives while staying substantive. At the same time, Biden should force Ryan to admit his differences with Romney *and* that Romney embraces his right-wing panaceas. Ryan must be made into the instrument to define Romney as two-faced, hypocritical *and* dangerously far right. Biden can make Ryan do this work. Turn him into the witness against Romney.
2. Biden should force Ryan to admit that Romney's statement about Obama cutting Medicare by \$716 million is not only false but that Ryan knows better and Romney should, too. That exact figure is, of course, in Ryan's budget. He knows that Obama has not cut Medicare, but is cutting waste, fraud, abuse and overcharging from providers. Biden: Why did Romney five times misrepresent that figure in the debate that appears in your own proposal? Have you never discussed this important proposal of yours with him? Does he not know where you stand? Does he agree or disagree with you? If he agrees with you, why did he attack your policy to try to damage the President? Is Romney completely unfamiliar with this policy, or is he misrepresenting it? Do you think you should bring your position to his attention perhaps again so he doesn't commit that mistake again?
3. Romney stayed on taxes as much as possible during the first debate because he believed that issue most favored him and the Republicans. On Romney's claim that he doesn't have a tax cut for the wealthy that will blow a \$5 trillion hole in the budget, Biden can push Ryan to the wall. Biden: You know and I know that the nonpartisan, independent Tax Policy Center reported that Romney's tax cut that would benefit the upper, upper bracket will blow a \$5 trillion hole in the budget. You're the policy wonk; you've read the report. It's OK. You're among serious policy people up here. (Ryan will try to interrupt; don't let him.) And you know and I know that Romney says he'll fill this crater by closing loopholes and deductions, but that he hasn't said which ones. Come on, Paul, it's just the two of us up here. You can tell me: Is it the mortgage deduction he's going to get rid of? The charitable deduction? We know it's not that loophole for the windfall royalties for the big oil companies because he opposes that, right? But if Romney hasn't

shared this information about which deductions he'll eliminate with you maybe you should tell us that right now. You're the policy guy, so you can tell us. Let me get this straight: You are saying that Romney claimed before the whole country in the last debate that he has a well thought out plan but that in fact he has no actual hard numbers at all. Or is there a secret plan? Now, you've said you read that Tax Policy Center report on the \$5 trillion Romney budget buster. So you also know that the Tax Policy Center experts, lacking any numbers from Romney, who won't provide them, tried to fill that immense \$5 trillion hole by coming up with potential deductions that might be eliminated. And you know what? They couldn't do it. The numbers don't add up. It can't be done. The experts can't do it. Now, you have read that report, Paul? Have you told Governor Romney that his big tax plan just doesn't compute? Have you mentioned that report to Romney? How did that discussion go? Or did you not mention that the central policy of the entire Romney economic approach just doesn't add up?

4. Stay on Medicare as much as possible, as much as Romney kept his debate on taxes. Biden: Exactly when did Romney agree with your plan to turn Medicare into a voucher system? Tell us about that conversation. Did you convince him or was he already in favor of dismantling Medicare? Go through exactly who will pay more and how much under the Romney voucher plan that tears apart Medicare. Ryan will contest this. Throw Romney's quote at Ryan: "You aren't entitled to your own facts."
5. Romney's falsehoods during the first debate provide a road map for the second debate to use policies at Ryan. See: <http://thinkprogress.org/politics/2012/10/04/958801/at-last-nights-debate-romney-told-27-myths-in-38-minutes/>
6. Go at Ryan's extreme positions, but always in the context of Romney, never in isolation. Biden: Romney is aware of your extreme position on women's rights, he vetted your positions, and he agrees with them, doesn't he? Enumerate Ryan's extreme positions on women's right and ask if Romney agrees with each one, starting with Ryan's sponsorship of the Personhood Amendment that would criminalize abortion, some forms of contraception and in-vitro fertilization.
7. Dream Act. Biden: Now, Paul, I know you admired Ronald Reagan and I watched your tireless support for George W. Bush. Ronald Reagan was for the equivalent of the Dream Act in his time. George W. Bush was for the Dream Act. But you and Romney think Reagan and Bush were wrong, don't you?
8. In foreign policy, Ryan will run through the talking points about U.S. weakness and decline under Obama. Biden: You know, I was a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which I chaired, for decades before I became Vice President. And I want to say as strongly as I can, demagoguery about domestic policy is dishonest but demagoguery about foreign policy is dangerous.