

July 27, 2012

This week, Mitt Romney traveled overseas, and saw it as a chance to distract from bad campaign news at home. But the trip didn't go according to plan. On his very first day he insulted the city of London as well as the London Olympics and then publicly acknowledged meeting the director of the United Kingdom's intelligence service.

On Monday, the President traveled to Reno, Nevada and spoke at the 113th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. On Wednesday, President Obama traveled to New Orleans to speak to the National Urban League where he discussed the mutual goals of his Administration with that of the Urban League.

This week the Obama for America campaign released a series of new campaign ads and videos. The first ad titled "[The Choice](#)" lays out the choice for voters in November. The President's campaign also released a video and an ad, "[Tamped](#)" and "[Always](#)," that highlight how Mitt Romney has distorted President Obama's recent comments on how our nation creates a good business climate where small businesses can grow and prosper. The DNC held events hosted by small business owners that slammed Romney on his small business policies, as well as a national press conference call with U.S. Rep. Chris Van Hollen and two business owners who support the President's policies for small businesses and are concerned about the devastating effect a Romney presidency would have on small businesses.

Mitt Romney Travels to London: Trip Does Not Go According to Plan

It's easy to see why Mitt Romney would want to get out of the country for a few days. As one reporter wrote, the trip could be "a welcome respite from perhaps his roughest patch yet of the general election." ([Politico](#), 7/21/12)

Unfortunately for Romney that's not how it's worked out...

Romney under fire for comments about London Olympics ([ABC/Yahoo](#), 7/26/12)

Romney goes to Europe, causes stir ([AP](#), 7/26/12)

Romney's Remarks on Olympics Cause Stir in London ([New York Times](#), 7/26/12)

Romney Trip Off to Inauspicious Start ([National Journal](#), 7/26/12)

Mitt Romney questions whether Britain is ready for Olympic Games ([Telegraph](#), 7/26/12)

Mitt Romney questions London's enthusiasm for Olympics ([The Week](#), 7/26/12)

Olympics: David Cameron rejects Mitt Romney's suggestion Britain is not ready ([Telegraph](#), 7/26/12)

David Cameron 'angered US conservatives' with 'unprecedented' election-year embrace of Barack Obama ([Telegraph](#), 7/25/12)

"And another Mitt Romney blunder: confirmed outside No 10 he met head of MI6. Aspiring US presidents not meant to say that" - [Nicholas Watt](#), [Guardian's chief political correspondent](#)

Let's take stock of Romney's European misadventures thus far.

He arrives in London on Wednesday, insults the city of London as well as the London games and then publicly acknowledges meeting the director of the United Kingdom's intelligence service.

Of course, Romney's trip to London doesn't have to be a total loss. He was able to carve out time for some of his most ardent and generous supporters:

Romney's London fundraisers will take him to heart of scandal-plagued banking industry([Washington Post](#), 7/18/12)

Why are London's bankers so eager to give to Romney's campaign? Maybe it's because he's made it clear he would let Wall Street write its own rules again.

Mitt Romney wanted this trip to showcase his foreign policy chops, but the trip so far has been far from a success.

Meanwhile, back home...

Romney's taxes: Why do they matter?

New Hampshire Union Leader

"But there is no place for secrecy or, indeed, privacy in a Presidential campaign. If you want the job, you have to subject yourself to the scrutiny. You have to be prepared to stand and explain, indeed, justify, your actions. If they are legal, then so be it... Surely he could not have arrogantly believed that he could withstand any storm that developed by bluffing his way through it? If so, it hasn't worked.

"If Romney intends to win, he is going to have to make the tax forms public."

President Obama Speaks at the VFW

On Monday, the President traveled to Reno, Nevada and spoke at the 113th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. In his speech, he thanked the men and women of the VFW for their service and renewed his commitment to ensuring Congress passes his Veterans Job Corps, designed to assist returning veterans finding private employment, and also extending the Returning Heroes and Wounded Warrior tax credit program, which gives those credits to businesses hiring veterans.

The President expressed his deep appreciation for those who serve and their families, saying that their service doesn't end when they come back home from war: "Even after you took off the uniform, you never stopped serving. You took care of each other -- fighting for the benefits and care you had earned. And you've taken care of the generations that followed, including our newest veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan. On behalf of all our men and women in uniform, and on behalf of the American people, I want to thank you, VFW. Thank you for your outstanding work."

The President also announced the redesign of the transition assistance program, which is designed to aid veterans returning from service into the private workforce.

"We're going to set up a kind of 'reverse boot camp' for our departing service members. Starting this year, they'll get more personalized assistance as they plan their careers. We'll provide the training they need to find that job, or pursue that education, or start that business. And just as they've maintained their military readiness, we'll have new standards of "career readiness."

Read the President's entire remarks [here](#).

President Obama Travels to New Orleans to Address the National Urban League

On Wednesday, President Obama traveled to New Orleans to speak to the National Urban League where he discussed the mutual goals of his Administration with that of the Urban League.

The President said, "That idea that everybody should have a fair shot, not just some -- that this country is special because it has grown this magnificent middle class and has provided ladders of access for those striving to get into the middle class -- that's the idea that drove me. That's the idea that has driven the Urban League, That idea that everyone should have equal opportunity -- that's what brought me to Chicago. That belief that this country works best when we are growing a strong middle class and prosperity is broad-based -- that's what led me into politics. And it is those values that have guided every decision that I have made as President of the United States."

Furthermore, the President announced an Executive Order to improve the outcomes and advance educational opportunities for African Americans. The President emphasized that improving educational outcomes for African American children will substantially help our country by increasing college graduation rates and employment rates, which in turn provides a stronger workforce for the entire country.

For the President's remarks, click [here](#). For more on the initiative, click [here](#).

Holding Republicans Accountable

This week the Obama for America campaign released a new television ad called "[The Choice](#)," which lays out the choice facing the American people in November on how to grow the economy, create middle-class jobs, and pay down the debt.

The President's campaign also released a web video and a television ad, "[Tampered](#)" and "[Always](#)" that shine a light on how Mitt Romney has distorted President Obama's recent comments he made on the best way to create an advantageous business climate for our country. Despite the Romney campaign's attempts to distort President Obama's words, the President has always believed in the drive and ingenuity of America's entrepreneurs and workers. He believes the only way to create an economy built to last is to build it from the middle out, not the top down. Ensuring a strong economy starts with investments in education, energy, innovation and infrastructure, continuing to help our entrepreneurs and workers grow our economy and the middle class. Even independent fact-checkers have said repeatedly that Romney's attacks clearly take the President's remarks out of context.

On Wednesday, the DNC held a press conference call with U.S. Rep. Chris Van Hollen and two Americans who started small businesses, Scott Baetz and Ken Levine, to highlight the out of context attacks Mitt Romney has made against the President. While Mitt Romney has consistently misrepresented his own record on the economy and small

businesses, President Obama continues to aggressively pursue policies to support and invest in the growth of small businesses.

U.S. Rep. Chris Van Hollen said:

"Mitt Romney doesn't want to discuss his record, so he'd rather distract and distort than have an honest discussion of the issues facing our country. But there's no way around it - Romney and his campaign are spreading false attacks, and the American people and business owners can see right through it. The truth is that President Obama has always believed in the drive and ingenuity of America's entrepreneurs and workers. He believes that when hardworking entrepreneurs turn their dreams or ideas into profitable enterprises, they've helped lift our economy and made the United States the envy of the world. He also believes that if you talk to businesses owners, they'd say that it's helped them succeed when they can hire workers with the right skills and education for the job; ship and sell their products across the country and world; access cutting-edge technology and sell their products to a strong, vibrant, and growing middle class. Unlike Mitt Romney, the President knows that we can't simply cut our way to prosperity. He believes that when we are all in it together, we will succeed because we didn't build this country on our own. We built it together."

Ken Levine, founder and CEO of NitroSecurity, joined the call saying:

"Romney failed to create an economic environment that attracted entrepreneurs or encouraged business owners to grow and hire. In fact, the opposite happened. If you lived in Massachusetts while Romney was governor, it became harder to start up a business. Under his leadership, small business start-ups declined, hitting their lowest point in his last year in office. Under Romney, business starts fell by 10 percent, hitting their lowest point in his last year in office. Each year Romney was in office, start-up growth in Massachusetts lagged behind the national average. When he took office, more entrepreneurs were starting small businesses than shutting them down. But by his last year in office, Romney's failed policies had reversed that trend."

Scott Baetz, founder of Admin Internet, took part and said:

"My clients are small businesses owners themselves, so the President's initiatives to put more capital into these small businesses helps me grow my business because I truly rely on their success to build my clients. Because my business is thriving, I've hired more workers in the last three months alone, and the Affordable Care Act helps me now attract workers because I can afford the health coverage my employees need. And when my employees are healthy, my business operates better. On top of it, he's cut my taxes many times over. All of which have given me the confidence and capital to improve my business and hire more workers, and on a national level, they have helped create good middle class jobs. All of these steps forward are vital to building a thriving middle class in this country. That's the difference between President Obama and Mitt Romney - small businesses are supported under President Obama, and folks didn't see the same thing from then-Governor Romney."

In addition, small business owners across the country slammed Romney as he tried to peddle his distorted attacks against the President. Small business owners talked about the differences in leadership and have made it clear they don't want the brand of Romney Economics that Romney is selling, which would be disastrous for their companies. On the other hand, President Obama's support of small businesses has helped them grow their companies and be successful.

See below for how Romney's failed agenda for small businesses is playing in the states:

IOWA

"Alta business owner Rob Hach came to Sioux City to speak on behalf of the Obama administration on the need to extend wind energy production tax credits that expire at the end of 2012. Hach was asked about Obama's remarks, and said people have missed the full meaning of the president's point that everyone is aided by others as they go through life. Hach said people who run businesses were aided by a parent who pushed them to succeed in school, while his Anemometry Specialists business was helped through a Small Business Administration loan to buy a building." - Sioux City Journal

NEW HAMPSHIRE

"The battle between Barack Obama and Mitt Romney's campaigns over the role of government in private business continued Tuesday, with small business owners who support Obama calling Romney the candidate of big business and the Romney camp saying Obama is the candidate who is attacking small business owners. Tim Stone, owner of StoneHill Environmental consulting firm, said on an Obama campaign conference call the choice in the election is "supporting middle class folks like myself and small businesses or continuing to provide tax breaks and loopholes for the wealthiest and big businesses." - Union Leader

OHIO

"Elizabeth Lessner, whose growing empire of seven eateries includes Surly Girl Saloon in Columbus' Short North, an entertainment district located between Downtown and The Ohio State University on High Street, pushed back hard on Mitt Romney today, making her case that while business owners like her directly contribute to the growth of their own business in many ways, help from government, whether in the form of public investments in infrastructure likes roads and bridges or from the federal Small Business Administration can not be disputed." -Columbus Examiner

VIRGINIA

"Del. Jennifer McClellan, D-Richmond, was outside the McDonnell event to present the Obama side, and told reporters that she thinks Obama's policies have been helpful to businesses. Of the Obama quote in question, McClellan said Obama "might have stated it differently, but the point that he made is a valid one.... We are a community where you need infrastructure to be successful. While they have the entrepreneurial spirit to get things started, they had help." -Fredericksburg Star

MICHIGAN

"I just think that it's important that when you look at the words that are being distorted here today by Mitt Romney and his surrogates, you keep in mind that the president's record is really passionately, strongly behind Michigan families and workers,' said Oakland County Democratic Party Chairman Frank Houston. 'A real clear example between Mitt Romney and President Obama is where Mitt Romney would move us backward and push for tax cuts for millionaires, President Obama's record is that he's cut taxes for small businesses 18 times.'" - Oakland Press

PENNSYLVANIA

"Rob Teplitz, the Democratic nominee in the 15th District state senate race, volleyed back on the Romney campaign claims. 'If the Romney campaign is going to distort the president's record, and distort what he said, then we're out here trying to tell the truth,' said Teplitz. 'And the truth is that he has fought for small businesses and middle class families in a way that few other presidents have and that a president Romney certainly would not.'" - Harrisburg Patriot-News

NORTH CAROLINA

"In an email to an Observer reporter, Jamie Crain, a spokeswoman for the North Carolina Democratic Party, called the "We Did Build This" campaign events Wednesday a "desperate attempt to change the topic from his failing record as Governor of Massachusetts, his 'business experience' outsourcing American jobs overseas and his continued refusal to be transparent with voters and release his tax returns. If Mitt Romney applied Romney Economics to the nation like he did in Massachusetts, it would hurt North Carolina's small businesses and stifle their growth."-Charlotte Observer

Key Issues in the News and Background

WEEKEND OF ACTION: 100 Days before Election Day, Obama for America is Holding More Than 4,200 Events Nationwide to Engage Supporters and Help Reelect the President

Key Point: This weekend the Obama campaign is holding more than 4,200 events to mark the 100-day milestone before Election Day, engaging supporters and helping reelect President Obama to keep America moving forward.

- **Election Day is just 100 days away**, and it's going to take every single person to make a difference in this election. It could come down to just a few votes in a single state, and even one conversation could make the difference between moving forward with President Obama and falling backward with Mitt Romney.
 - Mitt Romney's economic scheme is familiar and troubling: more budget-busting tax cuts for the wealthiest and fewer rules for Wall Street - the same formula that benefitted a few, but crashed our economy and devastated the middle class.
 - President Obama has a vision for a job-creating economy built to last and built from the middle out - where hard work pays off, responsibility is rewarded, and everyone gets a fair shot, does their fair share and plays by the same rules.

- **Weekend of Action:** This weekend we're holding more than 4,200 events across the country, rallying volunteers at field offices and speaking with supporters in their neighborhoods, at barber shops, restaurants and churches.
 - We're asking folks to get the word out in communities across America and get supporters fired up about the President's vision for moving our country forward.
 - All these rallies, visits and conversations will help engage every supporter and ensure they commit to helping grow our organization at the grassroots level.
 - No one should ever underestimate the impact their voice can have on our future. This campaign's strength has always come from the millions of grassroots supporters nationwide who are organizing their communities every day.
- **It Takes One:** We're also asking supporters to start by doing one thing to help grow our campaign - from registering one new voter to recruiting one more volunteer to be bringing one more friend to the next campaign event. It's part of the campaign's It Takes One initiative, which First Lady Michelle Obama launched last week.
 - *For more information, go to www.barackobama.com/one. For information about getting registered to vote, go to www.gottavote.org.*
- **Moving America Forward:** If we all commit to doing at least one thing to organize our communities, the combined impact will ensure that President Obama can keep moving this country forward for another four years.

SMALL BUSINESSES: New Video Highlights President Obama's Belief in the Drive and Ingenuity of American Entrepreneurs and Workers; Romney Is Deliberately Twisting the President's Words

Key Point: Mitt Romney is deliberately distorting President Obama's words. The President has always believed in the drive and ingenuity of America's entrepreneurs and workers. He believes we should stand behind them as we always have - by investing in education and training, building roads and bridges and keeping our edge in research and technology.

- **Mitt Romney has been deliberately twisting President Obama's words around** to falsely suggest that the President doesn't value small businesses or the entrepreneurial spirit that built this country. His distortions and accusations are flat-out wrong.
 - *Please see [this new campaign video](#) on the subject.*
- **President Obama believes the drive and ingenuity of our entrepreneurs and workers make American businesses successful.** When hardworking entrepreneurs turn their dreams or ideas into profitable enterprises, they've helped lift our economy and made the United States the envy of the world. He also believes that if you talk to any business owner, they'll tell you that what also helps them succeed is the ability to:

- Hire workers with the right skills and education.
- Ship and sell their products across the country and around the world with the help of new roads, bridges, ports and wireless networks.
- Access cutting-edge technology - which, like the Internet, can get a jumpstart from publicly-funded research and development.
- Sell their products to a strong and growing middle class.
- **For two centuries, we've made those investments to help give our entrepreneurs the foundation to start and grow their businesses.** President Obama believes we need to keep betting on American workers and American ingenuity, but Mitt Romney disagrees.
 - Romney's plan would gut those investments so he can give more tax breaks to millionaires like himself and companies that ship jobs overseas.
 - Romney thinks that's best way to grow our economy and help small businesses - but he's dead wrong.
- **We didn't build this country on our own. We built it together.** If Romney doesn't understand that, then he doesn't understand what it takes to build an economy where everyone has a shot to succeed - from the worker on a factory floor to the entrepreneur who wants to take a chance on a new idea.
- **Forward vs. Backward:** This election is a choice between two fundamentally different economic visions for how to grow our economy, create jobs and pay down the debt.
 - Romney's plan won't grow our economy for the long run. We tried his formula for the past decade - it crashed our economy and punished the middle class.
 - President Obama has a vision for an economy built to last and built from the middle out. It starts with investments in education, energy, innovation and infrastructure, continuing to help our entrepreneurs and workers grow our economy and the middle class.

MITT ROMNEY AND SMALL BUSINESSES: Mitt Romney Stifled Start-Up Creation and Growth by Gutting Critical Investments in Massachusetts; He Would Do the Same If Elected President

Key Point: Mitt Romney claimed his business skills and experience would accelerate the economy, but small business activity slowed dramatically in Romney's Massachusetts. He's making identical promises today, but his policies would do the same thing - stifle small businesses instead of helping them grow and create jobs.

- **As governor, Romney stifled start-up creation in Massachusetts.** He claimed his business experience would help Massachusetts small businesses, but he failed to create an economic environment that would attract entrepreneurs and encourage small business owners to grow and hire. Instead small business activity slowed dramatically.

- Higher Taxes and Fees: Romney hiked taxes and raised or created more than 1,000 fees on consumers and small businesses, including electricians, plumbers, dentists, pharmacists, real estate brokers and even barbers and hairdressers.
 - Gutting Critical Investments: Romney slashed more than \$100 million of critical investments in economic development, including job training, high-tech manufacturing and education in science, technology, engineering and math.
 - Start-Ups Fell: Under Romney, business starts fell by 10 percent, hitting their lowest point in his last year in office. Each year Romney was in office, start-up growth in Massachusetts lagged behind the national average.
 - Going Out of Business: When Romney took office, more entrepreneurs were starting small businesses than shutting them down. When he left, the opposite was true - the number of small businesses shrank during his term.
- **If elected President, Romney would stifle America's small businesses.** He's making the same claim he made in Massachusetts, but his policies would do the same thing - stifle small businesses instead of helping them grow and create new jobs.
 - Tax Cuts Skewed to Big Businesses, Not Small Ones: Small businesses are the backbone of our communities, creating two out of three net new jobs a year. Lower taxes help them grow and create those jobs. But 90 percent of Romney's trillion-dollar corporate tax cuts would go to the largest 0.6 percent of corporations.
 - Fewer Small Business Loans: Romney endorsed a budget that could gut the Small Business Administration by nearly 20 percent, making it harder for small businesses to get loans that can be critical to helping them grow and create jobs.
 - Gutting Critical Investments: Romney would gut investments critical to small businesses, like education, training, innovation, manufacturing and infrastructure, so he can cut taxes for millionaires and corporations that ship jobs overseas.

VETERANS: President Obama Speaks to the VFW, Continuing to Honor Our Sacred Trust with Those Who Serve and Sacrifice for Our Nation

Key Point: Today President Obama is speaking to the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) about his strong commitment to honoring our sacred trust with those who serve and sacrifice for our nation. It's a commitment that begins at when they take their oath, and it must never end.

- **Today President Obama is speaking to the VFW in Nevada** and announcing a major overhaul of our transition assistance programs for departing servicemembers to give veterans more personalized help as they return to civilian life. It will help transitioning veterans apply for college, get job skills training and starting their own business.

- **Fulfilling Our Duty to America's Veterans and Military Families:** President Obama believes that as millions of our servicemen and women return home from war, now more than ever we must keep fulfilling our duty to them and their families for their service. We owe all our veterans and their families the care they were promised and the benefits they earned.
 - Please see [this new campaign video](#), "Welcoming Home Our Veterans."
- **President Obama knows we need an economy built to last and built from the middle class out that helps veterans and other middle-class families.** He's committed to helping veterans find work when they return home, get the health care and benefits they've earned, and be able to go to college:
- **Jobs:** He's helping returning veterans find good jobs by giving businesses tax credits for hiring unemployed veterans and wounded warriors.
 - **Health Care:** He secured the largest increase in VA funding in decades to ensure our veterans get the care and benefits they earned, like treatment for PTSD and traumatic brain injury. He believes we must keep improving health care for all veterans, no matter where or when they served.
 - **Education:** He expanded and improved the Post-9/11 GI Bill so those who serve and their spouses can get help paying for college.
- **President Obama continues to keep his promises to our veterans and their families:**
 - He brought the Iraq war to a responsible end.
 - He took the fight to al-Qaeda and authorized the mission that killed Bin Laden.
 - He has a plan to end the war in Afghanistan by the end of 2014 and bring our troops home to their families at a steady pace.
 - He banned torture, restored our reputation abroad and ended "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," so we live up to the values we fight for and represent.