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The Arena

Did Biden slip with 'back in chains' comment?

David Boaz | Cato Institute | August 15, 2012

In 2008, when Biden was named Barack Obama's running mate, the major media completely ignored Biden's long record of misstating the facts of his own life.

If you know what to Google for, you can find old stories about his plagiarism, from college to the presidential campaign trail. (How come a Time columnist gets suspended for plagiarism, but a vice president doesn't?) But there was more to it than appropriating the details of British Labor Party leader Neil Kinnock's life in his speeches. During his 1988 presidential campaign he also falsely claimed to have three college degrees, and boasted of a much higher rank in his law school class than he actually achieved. When he was asked by a voter about his law school grades, he responded, "I think I have a much higher IQ than you do."

If the major media didn't think those effusions were worthy of note, then surely telling an African-American audience that the Republicans are "going to put y'all back in chains" is just typical Joe Biden.