

Text 2

Schiffer: All right Let's go to the next topic and you – we may want to get back into some of this during this next discussion I want to ask both of you about the people that you're going to bring into the government And our best insight yet is who you have picked as your running mates Schiffer: So I'll begin by asking both of you this question, and I'll ask you to answer first, Senator Obama Why would the country be better off if your running mate became president rather than his running mate?

Obama: Well, Joe Biden, I think, is one of the finest public servants that has served in this country It's not just that he has some of the best foreign policy credentials of anybody And Democrats and Republicans alike, I think, acknowledge his expertise there But it's also that his entire life he has never forgotten where he came from, coming from Scranton, fighting on behalf of working families, remembering what it's like to see his father lose his job and go through a downward spiral economically And, as a consequence, his consistent pattern throughout his career is to fight for the little guy That's what he's done when it comes to economic policies that will help working families get a leg up That's what he's done when it comes to, for example, passing the landmark 1994 crime bill, the Violence Against Women's Act Joe has always made sure that he is fighting on behalf of working families, and I think he shares my core values and my sense of where the country needs to go Because after eight years of failed policies, he and I both agree that what we're going to have to do is to re-prioritize, make sure that we're investing in the American people, give tax cuts not to the wealthiest corporations, but give them to small businesses and give them to individuals who are struggling right now, make sure that we finally get serious about energy independence, something that has been languishing in Washington for 30 years, and make sure that our kids get a great education and can afford to go to college So, on the key issues that are of importance to American families, Joe Biden's always been on the right side, and I think he will make an outstanding president if, heaven forbid, something happened to me

Schiffer: Senator?

McCain: Well, Americans have gotten to know Sarah Palin They know that she's a role model to women and other – and reformers all over America She's a reformer She is – she took on a governor who was a member of her own party when she ran for governor This can't go on She's given money back to the taxpayers She's cut the size of government She negotiated with the oil companies and faced them down, a \$40 billion pipeline of natural gas that's going to relieve the energy needs of the United – of what they call the lower 48 She's a reformer through and through And it's time we had that bresh of freth air (sic) – breath of fresh air coming into our nation's capital and sweep out the old-boy network and the cronyism that's been so much a part of it that I've fought against for all these years She'll be my partner She understands reform And, by the way, she also understands special-needs families She understands that autism is on the rise, that we've got to find out what's causing it, and we've got to reach out to these families, and help them, and give them the help they need as they raise these very special needs children She understands that better than almost any American that I know I'm proud of her And she has ignited our party and people all over America that have never been involved in the political process And I can't tell how proud I am of her and her family Her husband's a pretty tough guy, by the way, too

Schiffer: Do you think she's qualified to be president?

Obama: You know, I think it's – that's going to be up to the American people I think that, obviously, she's a capable politician who has, I think, excited the – a base in the Republican Party And I think it's very commendable the work she's done on behalf of special needs I agree with that, John I do want to just point out that autism, for example, or other special needs will require some additional funding, if we're going to get serious in terms of research That is something that every family that advocates on behalf of disabled children talk about And if we have an across-the-board spending freeze, we're not going to be able to do it That's an example of, I think, the kind of use of the scalpel that we want to make sure that we're funding some of those programs

Schieffer: Do you think Senator Biden is qualified?