

From: Olsen, Matthew (NSD)
Subject: Re: Call Tomorrow
To: Bratt, Jay (NSD)
Cc: Newman, David (NSD); Lausch, John (USAILN); Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
Sent: November 15, 2022 3:28 PM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: [EXTERNAL] Sensitive NARA Matter.eml, Call with Gary Stern.eml, 11_10_2022 Bauer Letter.pdf, [EXTERNAL] Re_ Correspondence.eml

Thanks, Jay.

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 15, 2022, at 11:09 AM, Bratt, Jay (NSD) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> wrote:

To give John some background, I am attaching the following: the referral from NARA's OIG, an email I sent to Matt last week setting out the timeline on how NARA learned of the existence of the records, the letter I sent to Bob Bauer, and his email in response. NARA is now in possession of all the boxes that were at the Penn Biden Center, including those related to Beau Biden and to the President's prior campaigns. There is a total of 42 boxes, nine of which are in Boston at NARA's facility at the JFK library. Nine classified records have been recovered. For John's awareness, Gary Stern is NARA's general counsel.

Jay

From: Newman, David (NSD) (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 10:26 AM
To: Bratt, Jay (NSD) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); Lausch, John (USAILN) (b) (6); Olsen, Matthew (NSD) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Cc: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Call Tomorrow

After 6:30 ET (or later) would also work for me. Defer to others' schedule. Matt Olsen will likely still be in transit during that time.

--David

From: Bratt, Jay (NSD) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) >
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 8:35 AM
To: Lausch, John (USAILN) (b) (6); Olsen, Matthew (NSD) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Cc: Newman, David (NSD) (b) (6); Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Call Tomorrow

To clarify, I land around 4 CST. To be safe, I can do 5:30 CST/6:30 EST or any time afterwards. Thanks.

From: Lausch, John (USAILN) (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 12:30 AM
To: Olsen, Matthew (NSD) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Cc: Bratt, Jay (NSD) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); Newman, David (NSD) (b) (6)
Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Call Tomorrow

I can make late afternoon work. Thanks.

On Nov 14, 2022, at 10:30 PM, Olsen, Matthew (NSD) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) wrote:

I defer to Jay's schedule.

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From: Bratt, Jay (NSD) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2022 9:30:20 PM
To: Olsen, Matthew (NSD) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Cc: Newman, David (NSD) (b) (6) >; Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) (b) (6)
(b) (6) >; Lausch, John (USAILN) (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Call Tomorrow

I get into Dallas around 4. Later is better.

On Nov 14, 2022, at 9:20 PM, Olsen, Matthew (NSD) (b) (6) > wrote:

All -

4:00 is better for me if that works. I have a flight at 5:15.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Newman, David (NSD) (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2022 9:13:08 PM
To: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) (b) (6)
Cc: Lausch, John (USAILN) (b) (6) >; Bratt, Jay (NSD) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); Olsen, Matthew (NSD) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Re: Call Tomorrow

4pm good with me. 5pm ok too if needed.

On Nov 14, 2022, at 8:59 PM, Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) wrote:

Hey all,

Apologies for the delay, but would folks be free around 4 PM or 5 PM for a call tomorrow?

Best,
Rush

L. Rush Atkinson

Associate Deputy Attorney General

Office of the Deputy Attorney General

(b) (6) (cell); (b) (6) (office)



U.S. Department of Justice

National Security Division

Counterintelligence and Export Control Section

Washington, D.C. 20530

November 10, 2022

Bob Bauer, Esq.
New York University Law School
40 Washington Square South
New York, New York 10012

VIA EMAIL

Dear Mr. Bauer:

Late last week, the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) advised the Department of Justice that it had recently taken possession of three boxes containing government records that had been stored at the Penn Biden Center in Washington, D.C. and that documents with classification markings were found within those boxes. I have been advised that you were in contact with NARA on behalf of President Biden following the discovery of such boxes and documents. As a result, I am sending this letter to you, but please immediately advise if it needs to be directed to others.

Based on engagement over the past week with NARA, it is our initial understanding that the records and documents relate to the period during which President Biden served as Vice President and that they were maintained until last week at an office at the Penn Biden Center formerly used by President Biden (in the period between his Vice Presidency and Presidency). We have been further advised by NARA that additional boxes of materials were transferred to NARA by representatives of Mr. Biden on November 9, and that further boxes that had been transported from the Penn Biden Center to Boston were retrieved by NARA yesterday. Furthermore, we are alert to the possibility that additional boxes with records may remain at the Penn Biden Center.

The prospect that classified material may have been stored in an unsecure location over a prolonged period may have national security implications. At this early stage and pending further action, it is imperative the following steps be taken (including steps that we understand may already have been requested of you by NARA):

- those with authority to act on behalf of the Penn Biden Center and the post-Vice Presidential Office in this matter must immediately ensure that rooms and locations that

contain any additional potential government records and materials from President Biden's time as Vice-President are secured;

- beyond preserving the status quo, refrain from moving or reviewing any such materials until we understand what materials exist, where they are located, and we make any necessary arrangements to retrieve and review such materials;
- preserve all available video footage, visitor logs, and other access records from the Penn Biden Center (and any other location where materials may be or have been stored);
- provide a list of any and all locations where materials relating to the period during which President Biden served as Vice President have been or are now stored since his Vice Presidency ended; and
- give express consent for FBI and Department of Justice personnel to review any and all government records and other materials at NARA that were previously stored at the Penn Biden Center (including the materials transported to Boston).

If there is any objection to taking these steps, please advise me by 5:00pm tomorrow, November 11, 2022. If you have any questions, let's set up a time to talk at your earliest availability.

Very truly yours,



Jay I. Bratt
Chief

Counterintelligence and Export Control Section
National Security Division
U.S. Department of Justice
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

From: Bob Bauer
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Correspondence
To: Bratt, Jay (NSD)
Cc: Moore, M. Patrick
Sent: November 11, 2022 3:07 PM (UTC-05:00)

Dear Mr. Bratt:

I am in receipt by email of your letter of November 10, 2022. You have correctly directed it to me; I am also copying my colleague Pat Moore.

We have no objection to any of the steps that you have outlined in your letter. We have cooperated with the National Archives ("NARA") since we notified them of the discovery of the documents; and we will continue to cooperate fully with the Department and, as directed by the Department, with NARA.

We think it would be useful to share with you steps that have already been taken, so that you can determine any additional necessary steps.

Certain materials with classification markings were located on November 2, 2022 by the President's personal counsel in the course of reviewing materials at the Penn Biden Center in Washington. Upon identifying the materials, counsel immediately notified White House Counsel of the discovery, who in turn notified officials at NARA and sought their direction, which we committed to follow. NARA retrieved the documents the following morning.

Earlier this week, NARA returned to the Penn Biden Center to review and catalogue materials remaining there, certain of which NARA removed, and certain of which remain. We will work with you expeditiously to facilitate the Department's review of that remaining material. In addition, we have worked with NARA to facilitate its possession of materials that had been transferred from the Penn Biden Center to counsel's offices.

We will work, subject to your direction, with the Penn Biden Center to ensure the additional materials there are secure; and to facilitate your access to them if and as needed.

We do not know of any rooms or locations that contain additional potential government records and materials from President Biden's time as Vice President, but will immediately acknowledge and act as directed in the event we learn of any, as we did here.

In response to your request, as the President's personal counsel, we give our client's express consent for FBI and DOJ personnel to review "any and all government records and other materials at NARA that were previously stored at the Penn Biden Center (including materials transported to Boston)."

I think it would be helpful to have a phone call so that we may discuss next steps. I am available at your convenience for such a call, but I wanted to respond with this email today to confirm receipt of your letter and convey our commitment to cooperation.

Best,
Bob Bauer

On Thu, Nov 10, 2022 at 6:28 PM Bratt, Jay (NSD) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) > wrote:

Dear Mr. Bauer:

Please see the attached letter. Thank you.

Jay

Jay I. Bratt

Chief

Counterintelligence and Export Control

Section

National Security Division

U.S. Department of Justice

950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, D.C. 20530

(b) (6), (b) (7)
(C)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Sensitive NARA Matter
To: Bratt, Jay (NSD); (b)(3)
Cc: Brett Baker; Jason Metrick
Sent: November 4, 2022 7:17 PM (UTC-04:00)

Good evening,

NARA OIG seeks your guidance on a sensitive matter involving classified records related to President Biden's time as Vice President.

NARA OIG was notified that on November 2nd, NARA's Office of General Counsel (NGC) received information from President Biden's White House Counsel concerning boxes of records and other items related to President Biden's tenure as Vice President dating to approximately 2013-2019. Specifically, NGC reported the following information to NARA OIG:

- Approximately 50 to 60 boxes of records were located in an office previously used by President Biden at the Penn Biden Center office in Washington, DC. It was reported that during a precursory inspection of those boxes, some records containing classified markings were identified.
- 3 boxes that were identified as containing these classified materials and other potential PRA records were retrieved by NARA on November 3rd. NARA completed a review of the documents in those boxes and identified 9 classified records totaling 44 pages (Confidential and TSCI classifications). These records are currently maintained in a NARA SCIF.
- 8 to 10 boxes of records were identified as containing personal effects and were retrieved by an attorney working with President Biden for additional review (not in NARA custody).
- 15 boxes contained materials related to Beau Biden's death (not in NARA custody).
- 10 boxes contained materials related to the DNC Campaign (from President Biden's previous campaign efforts - not in NARA custody).
- Approximately 30 additional boxes remain at the Penn Biden Center office in Washington, DC, awaiting further review. NARA anticipates retrieval of these boxes as early as Monday, and the exact contents of these boxes is not yet known. (b)(5) per NARA

Given the sensitive nature of this matter we seek guidance from DOJ and DNI, and would appreciate coming together to discuss further.

Please feel free to respond and let us know when would be a good time to schedule a meeting (preferably by Monday).

Thank you,

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

NARA-OIG

o: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

m: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

INSPECTOR GENERAL SENSITIVE INFORMATION

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From: Bratt, Jay (NSD)
Subject: Call with Gary Stern
To: Olsen, Matthew (NSD)
Cc: Toscas, George (NSD)
Sent: November 7, 2022 7:07 PM (UTC-05:00)

Matt:

I spoke with Gary Stern, who clarified for me the timeline and which counsel were involved in notifying NARA of the records at the Biden Center. Gary said he received a call around 8 pm last Wednesday evening, 11/2, from Dick Sauber and Stuart Delery from White House Counsel's Office (WHCO). Sauber informed Gary that the POTUS' private counsel, Pat Moore, had been going through records in POTUS' former office in the Biden Center and came across three boxes that had records with classification markings. Sauber asked whether NARA could retrieve the boxes that evening, but Gary wasn't able to get people there until the next morning, Thursday, 11/3. That morning, NARA retrieved the boxes and took them back to NARA. A review confirmed that there were nine documents with classification markings. Gary called Sauber on Friday to advise him of the review of the boxes. Sauber connected Gary with POTUS' private counsel, Bob Bauer and Pat Moore. They explained that Moore was reviewing the records as part of an effort to clear out the office that POTUS had been using at the Biden Center until he ran for president. Moore had been in the WHCO in the Obama Administration and said he was familiar with PRA records. According to Moore, who works for Hemenway and Barnes in Boston, he had been to the Biden Center in October and had sent to Boston some records related to POTUS' earlier campaigns. During his latest visit, he sent the remaining campaign boxes back to Boston. According to Gary, Moore has represented that he has secured the boxes in a space to which only he has access and that he has not opened any of the boxes since sending them back. I have asked Gary to confirm with Moore that boxes remain secured and in the same condition as when they were shipped. NARA will be returning to the Biden Center tomorrow to retrieve the remaining boxes of records. Approximately fifteen boxes with condolence cards from the passing of Beau Biden also remain at the Biden Center. NARA does not plan to take those boxes.

Jay

Jay I. Bratt
Chief
Counterintelligence and Export Control
Section
National Security Division
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20530
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

From: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
Subject: SC
To: Miller, Marshall (ODAG)
Sent: January 9, 2023 9:20 AM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: 2023.01.08 - Remarks v05a.docx, 2023.01.08 SC Order v2.docx

From: Gaston, Molly (ODAG)
Subject:
To: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
Sent: January 9, 2023 12:49 PM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: appt letter.docx

Molly Gaston
Associate Deputy Attorney General
Office of the Deputy Attorney General
(b) (6) (cell); (b) (6) (office)

From: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
Subject: 2023.01.09 - SC Appointment Letter
To: Miller, Marshall (ODAG)
Cc: Gaston, Molly (ODAG)
Sent: January 9, 2023 3:19 PM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: 2023.01.09 - SC Appointment Letter.docx

From: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
Subject: 2023.01.09 - Remarks v06
To: Miller, Marshall (ODAG)
Cc: Gaston, Molly (ODAG)
Sent: January 9, 2023 3:41 PM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: 2023.01.09 - Remarks v06.docx

From: Coley, Anthony D. (PAO)
Subject: FW: Statement
To: Miller, Marshall (ODAG); Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG); Klapper, Matthew B. (OAG)
Cc: Iverson, Dena (PAO)
Sent: January 9, 2023 6:06 PM (UTC-05:00)

From: Dilanian, Ken (NBCUniversal) (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, January 9, 2023 6:04 PM
To: Coley, Anthony D. (PAO) (b) (6)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Statement

Statement of Richard Sauber, Special Counsel to the President:

“The White House is cooperating with the National Archives and the Department of Justice regarding the discovery of what appear to be Obama-Biden Administration records, including a small number of documents with classified markings. The documents were discovered when the President’s personal attorneys were packing files housed in a locked closet to prepare to vacate office space at the Penn Biden Center in Washington, D.C. The President periodically used this space from mid-2017 until the start of the 2020 campaign. On the day of this discovery, November 2, 2022, the White House Counsel’s Office notified the National Archives. The Archives took possession of the materials the following morning.

“The discovery of these documents was made by the President’s attorneys. The documents were not the subject of any previous request or inquiry by the Archives. Since that discovery, the President’s personal attorneys have cooperated with the Archives and the Department of Justice in a process to ensure that any Obama-Biden Administration records are appropriately in the possession of the Archives.”

Ken Dilanian
Justice Correspondent
NBC News
@KenDilanianNBC
(b) (6)

From: Thomas, Tina M. (ODAG)
Subject: RE: CBS Biden Docs Article
To: Suero, Maya A. (ODAG); Pietranton, Kelsey (PAO)
Cc: Chandler, Adam (ODAG); Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG); Gaston, Molly (ODAG)
Sent: January 9, 2023 6:22 PM (UTC-05:00)

Molly pulled this up during our last meeting.

Tina M. Thomas

Deputy Chief of Staff and Counsel
Office of the Deputy Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
(o) (b) (6) | (m) (b) (6)

From: Suero, Maya A. (ODAG) (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, January 9, 2023 5:51 PM
To: Pietranton, Kelsey (PAO) (b) (6)
Cc: Chandler, Adam (ODAG) (b) (6); Thomas, Tina M. (ODAG) (b) (6);
Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) (b) (6); Gaston, Molly (ODAG) (b) (6)
Subject: RE: CBS Biden Docs Article

Will do.

Best,

Maya Suero

Special Assistant
Office of the Deputy Attorney General
Phone: (b) (6)

From: Pietranton, Kelsey (PAO) (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, January 9, 2023 5:43 PM
To: Suero, Maya A. (ODAG) (b) (6)
Cc: Chandler, Adam (ODAG) (b) (6); Thomas, Tina M. (ODAG) (b) (6);
Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) (b) (6); Gaston, Molly (ODAG) (b) (6)
Subject: FW: CBS Biden Docs Article

Mind printing and providing after the 5:30 wraps?

From: Morris, Catherine (PAO) (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, January 9, 2023 5:35 PM
To: Coley, Anthony D. (PAO) (b) (6); Klapper, Matthew B. (OAG)
(b) (6); Miller, Marshall (ODAG) (b) (6); Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
(b) (6); Uriarte, Carlos F. (OLA) (b) (6); Gaston, Molly (ODAG)
(b) (6); Evers, Austin (ODAG) (b) (6); Iverson, Dena (PAO)
(b) (6); Hornbuckle, Wyn (PAO) (b) (6); Pietranton, Kelsey (PAO)
(b) (6); Rossello, Luis (PAO) (b) (6); Dulaney, Emma (PAO)
Subject: CBS Biden Docs Article

Hi everyone,

See below for the CBS story that just posted:

CBS News: [U.S. attorney reviewing classified documents from Joe Biden's vice presidency found at Biden think tank](#) by *Adriana Diaz, Andres Triay, Arden Farhi*

Attorney General Merrick Garland has assigned the U.S. attorney in Chicago to review classified documents found at the Penn Biden Center for Diplomacy and Global Engagement in Washington, two sources with knowledge of the inquiry told CBS News. The roughly 10 documents are from President Biden's vice-presidential office at the center, the sources said.

The classified material was identified by personal attorneys for Mr. Biden on Nov. 2, the day before the midterm elections, Richard Sauber, special counsel to the president confirmed. The documents were discovered when Mr. Biden's personal attorneys "were packing files housed in a locked closet to prepare to vacate office space at the Penn Biden Center in Washington, D.C.," Sauber said in a statement to CBS News. The documents were contained in a folder that was in a box with other unclassified papers, the sources said. The sources revealed neither what the classified documents contain nor their level of classification. A source familiar told CBS News the documents did not contain nuclear secrets.

Sauber also said that on the same day the material was discovered, Nov. 2, the White House counsel's office notified the National Archives, which took possession of the materials the following morning.

"The discovery of these documents was made by the President's attorneys," Sauber said. "The documents were not the subject of any previous request or inquiry by the Archives. Since that discovery, the President's personal attorneys have cooperated with the Archives and the Department of Justice in a process to ensure that any Obama-Biden Administration records are appropriately in the possession of the Archives."

A source familiar with the matter said representatives from the National Archives then notified the Justice Department.

Garland assigned U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois John Lausch to find out how the classified material ended up at the Penn Biden Center. The review is considered a preliminary step, and the attorney general will determine whether further investigation is necessary, including potentially appointing a special counsel. At this point, the FBI and director of national intelligence are aware of the classified documents but not involved in the investigation.

Lausch was nominated to be U.S. attorney by former President Donald Trump, and he is one of only two current Trump-era U.S. attorneys still serving. The other is Delaware U.S. Attorney David Weiss, who is leading an investigation into the president's son, Hunter Biden.

Lausch recently briefed the attorney general and will eventually submit a final report to Garland. The review is expected to conclude soon.

The Penn Biden Center is a think tank about a mile from the White House, in Washington, D.C., that is affiliated with the University of Pennsylvania and named for the sitting president.

The Presidential Records Act requires all presidential and vice-presidential documents be turned over to the National Archives. There are special protocols to keep classified information secure.

President Biden learned about the presence of the classified documents when his lawyer reported them to the White House counsel's office in November. A source familiar said the president is unaware of their contents. The documents are believed to be currently held in a secure location in Washington.

Lauch's review will examine, in part, how the documents got from Mr. Biden's vice-presidential office to the Penn Biden Center.

The Penn Biden Center and the University of Pennsylvania did not respond to a request for comment. The National Archives declined to comment. Attorneys assigned to oversee Biden's vice presidential records, Robert Lenhard, James Garland and Dana Remus, did not reply to voice messages and an email seeking comment. The FBI declined to comment.

A source familiar said the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) is aware of the Justice Department inquiry.

The Penn Biden Center case has parallels to the Justice Department's pursuit of Donald Trump's presidential records – but the scope and scale are materially different. In August, the FBI executed a search warrant at Mar-a-Lago that yielded hundreds of documents marked classified.

That unprecedented search followed more than a year of tussling between Trump's representatives, the National Archives, and the Justice Department. The search warrant was sought and executed in August after multiple failed attempts by the federal government to retrieve what it considered to be sensitive documents at the former president's personal residence that should have been turned over to Archives under law.

The trove at Mar-a-Lago contained, among other material, secrets about nuclear capabilities and correspondence between Trump and North Korean dictator Kim Jung-un. An initial batch of 15 boxes was returned in January 2022, but Archives officials believed some records were still unaccounted for, prompting the agency to refer the matter to the Justice Department in February 2022.

The Trump investigation is now under the control of recently appointed special counsel Jack Smith.

In September, President Biden appeared on "60 Minutes" and was asked for his reaction to a photo showing the documents recovered at Mar-a-Lago. "How that could possibly happen? How anyone could be that irresponsible," the president said. "And it just — totally irresponsible."

In all, federal officials have recovered more than 300 classified documents that were once in Trump's possession.

Retaining classified information after leaving government service does not necessarily result in criminal charges. The FBI determined that former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton had classified material on her private email server for several years after she left the State Department in 2013. FBI investigators concluded that sloppiness, not ill intent, was to blame.

"Although there is evidence of potential violations of the statutes regarding the handling of classified information, our judgment is that no reasonable prosecutor would bring such a case." FBI Director James Comey said at the time.

The Penn Biden Center gives the Philadelphia-based University of Pennsylvania a foothold in the nation's capital. The think tank, which opened in 2018, hosts academic programming and events focusing on foreign policy.

Mr. Biden used the office space from mid-2017 until the spring of 2019, when he declared his candidacy for the presidency.

The center's sixth-floor offices sit at the foot of Capitol Hill and floor-to-ceiling windows provide a panoramic view of the Capitol. The center's staff largely comprises former Obama administration officials, many of whom have left the center to serve in the Biden administration.

Secretary of State Anthony Blinken, for example, was the center's managing director in 2018. Steve Richetti, who now serves as a top White House aide to Mr. Biden, was managing director of the center in 2019.

The university named Mr. Biden a Benjamin Franklin Presidential Practice Professor in 2017 and has paid him \$917,643 for speeches and for heading his eponymous center between 2017 and 2019, according to the president's

financial disclosures. He is currently on leave from the university.

Mr. Biden's connections to the University of Pennsylvania run deep. His late son Beau and granddaughter Naomi have undergraduate degrees from the university. Biden's daughter Ashley got her master's degree at Penn, and his granddaughter Natalie is currently an undergraduate there. Then-Vice President Biden launched the Obama administration's "cancer moonshot" at Penn in 2016.

The president discussed how he manages classified information at home in a Q-and-A session with reporters last August. "I have, in my home, a cabined-off space that is completely secure. I'm taking home with me today today's [Presidential Daily Briefing]. It's locked. I have a person with me — military with me. I read it, I lock it back up, and give it to the military."

Asked whether it was ever appropriate for a president to bring home classified material, Mr. Biden said, "It depends on the document, and it depends on how secure the room is."

Best,
Catherine

Catherine Morris
Special Assistant to the Director, Office of Public Affairs
U.S. Department of Justice
(m) (b) (6)
(b) (6)

From: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
Subject: 2023.01.06 Draft Letter to SJC HJC (to OLA) v2
To: Uriarte, Carlos F. (OLA)
Sent: January 9, 2023 7:17 PM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: 2023.01.06 Draft Letter to SJC HJC (to OLA) v2.docx

From: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
Subject: 2023.01.09 Draft Letter to SJC HJC (to OLA) v3
To: Uriarte, Carlos F. (OLA)
Sent: January 9, 2023 7:23 PM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: 2023.01.09 Draft Letter to SJC HJC (to OLA) v3.docx

From: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
Subject: 2023.01.09 - Remarks v06 - alt
To: Miller, Marshall (ODAG); Gaston, Molly (ODAG)
Sent: January 9, 2023 7:51 PM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: 2023.01.09 - Remarks v06 - alt.docx

From: Iverson, Dena (PAO)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Question !
To: Klapper, Matthew B. (OAG)
Sent: January 9, 2023 8:44 PM (UTC-05:00)

Thx

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 9, 2023, at 7:38 PM, Klapper, Matthew B. (OAG) <(b) (6)> wrote:

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Klapper, Matthew B. (OAG)" (b) (6)
Date: January 9, 2023 at 5:23:54 PM CST
To: "Coley, Anthony D. (PAO)" (b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Question !

Sent from my iPhone

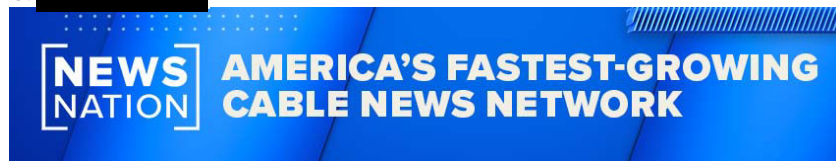
Begin forwarded message:

From: Kellie Meyer (b) (6)
Date: January 9, 2023 at 5:03:21 PM CST
To: "Klapper, Matthew B. (OAG)" (b) (6)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Question !

Hi Matt!
Hope you're well!
I was curious if you could confirm that the AG is looking into the classified papers and how they ended up at the Penn Biden Center.
Not sure how much you can share.
But in any case, would love to catch up soon!
Hope you had a nice holiday!
Best,
Kellie

Kellie Meyer
Washington Correspondent
Washington Bureau
NewsNation
(b) (6)

C: (b) (6)



From: Evers, Austin (ODAG)
Subject: TPs
To: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG); Uriarte, Carlos F. (OLA)
Sent: January 10, 2023 11:43 AM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: odni tps.docx

An initial cut. It would be helpful to discuss.

Austin R. Evers

Office of the Deputy Attorney General

(b) (6)

From: Evers, Austin (ODAG)
Subject: Turner letter
To: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG); Miller, Marshall (ODAG)
Sent: January 10, 2023 11:54 AM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: 2023.01.10 - letter_to_odni_01.10.23.pdf

FYSA

Press Releases

Turner requests national security damage assessment of highly classified information recovered at unsecure non-government office used by then Vice President Joe Biden

Washington, January 10, 2023

WASHINGTON, DC– Today, Congressman Mike Turner (OH-10), top Republican of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, sent a letter to the Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines requesting an immediate review and damage assessment following reports that then Vice-President Joe Biden removed, and then retained highly classified information at an undisclosed and unsecure non-government office in Washington, D.C. for a period of at least six years. This discovery of classified information would put President Biden in potential violation of laws protecting national security, including the Espionage Act and Presidential Records Act.

The full text of the letter sent can be found [here](#) or below:

Dear Director Haines:

I write to request an immediate review and damage assessment following numerous reports that then Vice-President Biden removed, and then retained highly classified information at an undisclosed and unsecure non-government office in Washington, D.C., for a period of at least six years. It has been reported that a portion of the materials at issue were marked “sensitive compartmented information,” indicating the highest classification and most sensitive intelligence information in our government. This discovery of classified information would put President Biden in potential violation of laws protecting national security, including the Espionage Act and Presidential Records Act. Those entrusted with access to classified information have a duty and an obligation to protect it. This issue demands a full and thorough review.

Under Intelligence Community (IC) directives issued by your office, damage assessments are used “to evaluate actual or potential damage to national security resulting from the unauthorized disclosure or compromise of classified national intelligence.” IC Directive 732 states: In cases where the unauthorized disclosure or compromise involves classified national intelligence originating from or otherwise affecting more than one IC element or U.S. Government department or agency, there will be a Community damage assessment. Such damage assessments shall include participation and support from the affected IC elements and other representatives as directed by the DNI.

The Directive charges DNI’s National Counterintelligence Executive to “[o]versee and coordinate equity reviews and formal damage assessments within the IC” and “[l]ead, when designated by the DNI, or facilitate damage assessment teams when the unauthorized disclosure or compromise involves classified national intelligence affecting more than one IC element or U.S. Government department or agency.”

We request that you instruct the National Counterintelligence Executive, in consultation with the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community and other Inspectors General as appropriate, to conduct a damage assessment. In addition, we ask that you commit to providing, as soon as possible, this Committee with an appropriate classified briefing on the conduct of the damage assessment.

###

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 10, 2023

The Honorable Avril Haines
Director of National Intelligence
Office of the Director of National Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20511

Dear Director Haines:

I write to request an immediate review and damage assessment following numerous reports that then Vice President Biden removed, and then retained highly classified information at an undisclosed and unsecure non-government office in Washington, D.C., for a period of at least six years. It has been reported that a portion of the materials at issue were marked “sensitive compartmented information,” indicating the highest classification and most sensitive intelligence information in our government. This discovery of classified information would put President Biden in potential violation of laws protecting national security, including the Espionage Act and Presidential Records Act. Those entrusted with access to classified information have a duty and an obligation to protect it. This issue demands a full and thorough review.

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We request that you instruct the National Counterintelligence Executive, in consultation with the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community and other Inspectors General as appropriate, to conduct a damage assessment. In addition, we ask that you commit to providing, as soon as possible, this Committee with an appropriate classified briefing on the conduct of the damage assessment.

Sincerely,



Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress

From: Antell, Kira M. (OLA)
Subject: Turner Letter to DNI
To: Evers, Austin (ODAG); Uriarte, Carlos F. (OLA)
Cc: Benson, Adrienne (ODAG)
Sent: January 10, 2023 1:02 PM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: govdoc20230110-245310.pdf

Attached is an incoming from Turner to DNI sent to me by FBI. It seeks a briefing on the Biden classified documents.

Thanks,
Kira

Kira Antell
Office of Legislative Affairs
Department of Justice

o: (b) (6)
c: (b) (6)

From: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Re: Draft Proposed NARA Statement
To: Lausch, John (USAILN)
Sent: January 10, 2023 2:25 PM (UTC-05:00)

Begin forwarded message:

From: William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>
Date: January 10, 2023 at 2:22:27 PM EST
To: "Evers, Austin (ODAG)" (b) (6) >, "Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)" (b) (6) >
Cc: "Stern, GaryM" <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Draft Proposed NARA Statement

Austin and Lawrence,

With apologies - please see the below thread, which I likely should have sent to you.

Many thanks,

Jay

On Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 2:15 PM Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov> wrote:

Jay, these are not the people I spoke with -- it's Austin Evers (b) (6) and Rush Atkinson (b) (6)

On Tue, Jan 10, 2023, 12:50 PM William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov> wrote:

Good afternoon. I understand that you just spoke with Gary. (b) (5)

(b) (5), (b) (6)

Thanks,

Jay

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

The page contains two large rectangular areas of text that have been completely redacted with black ink. The first redaction is at the top, below the header, and the second is below it. Both redactions span most of the width of the page.

From: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Re: Draft Proposed NARA Statement
To: Coley, Anthony D. (PAO); Miller, Marshall (ODAG)
Sent: January 10, 2023 2:26 PM (UTC-05:00)

Begin forwarded message:

From: William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>
Date: January 10, 2023 at 2:22:27 PM EST
To: "Evers, Austin (ODAG)" (b) (6) >, "Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)" (b) (6) >
Cc: "Stern, GaryM" <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Draft Proposed NARA Statement

Duplicative Material



From: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Draft Proposed NARA Statement
To: Miller, Marshall (ODAG); Coley, Anthony D. (PAO)
Sent: January 10, 2023 2:53 PM (UTC-05:00)

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Lausch, John (USAILN)" <(b) (6)>
Date: January 10, 2023 at 2:46:53 PM EST
To: "Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)" <(b) (6)>
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Draft Proposed NARA Statement

FYSA.

From: Lausch, John (USAILN)
Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2023 1:47 PM
To: 'William Bosanko' <william.bosanko@nara.gov>; (b) (6) (USAILN) <(b) (6)>
Cc: Stern, GaryM <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Draft Proposed NARA Statement

Jay –

(b)(5) per EOUSA

Thanks,

John

From: William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2023 12:50 PM
To: Lausch, John (USAILN) <(b) (6)>; (b) (6) (USAILN) <(b) (6)>
Cc: Stern, GaryM <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Draft Proposed NARA Statement

Duplicative Material

From: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
Subject: RE: Following up on your question about order numbers
To: Hart, Rosemary (OLC)
Sent: January 10, 2023 2:58 PM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: 2023.01.09 SC Order v3.docx

No updates on timing. Word attached.

L. Rush Atkinson

Associate Deputy Attorney General

Office of the Deputy Attorney General

(b) (6) (cell); (b) (6) (office)

From: Hart, Rosemary (OLC) (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2023 2:57 PM
To: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Following up on your question about order numbers

Rush: Can you send us a Word version so we can edit it? And do you have any updates on timing?

RH

From: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2023 1:27 PM
To: Hart, Rosemary (OLC) <(b) (6)>
Subject: RE: Following up on your question about order numbers

Fantastic, and thanks as always.

L. Rush Atkinson

Associate Deputy Attorney General

Office of the Deputy Attorney General

(b) (6) (cell); (b) (6) (office)

From: Hart, Rosemary (OLC) (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2023 12:50 PM
To: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) (b) (6)
Subject: Following up on your question about order numbers

Happy to coordinate on the numbering, and we'll have some minor edits to the order.

Rosemary

Rosemary Hart

Special Counsel

Office of Legal Counsel

U.S. Department of Justice

(o) (b) (6)

(cell) (b) (6)

From: Hornbuckle, Wyn (PAO)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Draft Statement Regarding Biden Records
To: Coley, Anthony D. (PAO); Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
Sent: January 10, 2023 3:58 PM (UTC-05:00)

FYI. They are also in contact with NDIL

From: John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2023 3:27 PM
To: Hornbuckle, Wyn (PAO); (b) (6)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Draft Statement Regarding Biden Records

Wyn,

Following up on our conversation, here's a revised draft statement we are considering:

(b) (5)



Jay Bosanko is sharing it with other DOJ POCs.

Please let me know if you have additional suggestions.

Thanks,
John

John Valceanu
Director, Communications and Marketing
U.S. National Archives and Records Administration
office: 202-357-5238
cell: (b) (6)
john.valceanu@nara.gov



From: Dulaney, Emma (PAO)
Subject: RE: HR 12 debate
To: Evers, Austin (ODAG)
Cc: Benson, Adrienne (ODAG); Zdeb, Sara (OLA)
Sent: January 10, 2023 4:12 PM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: 2023-01-10 Transcript of Floor Debate on HR 12 .docx

I am sharing the transcript attached. At the top, it includes points that were repeated by Members multiple times.

From: Dulaney, Emma (PAO)
Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2023 2:02 PM
To: Evers, Austin (ODAG) (b) (6)
Cc: Benson, Adrienne (ODAG) (b) (6); Zdeb, Sara (OLA) (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: HR 12 debate

Hi Austin,

Absolutely, will do.

Emma

From: Evers, Austin (ODAG) (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2023 1:35 PM
To: Dulaney, Emma (PAO) <(b) (6)>
Cc: Benson, Adrienne (ODAG) (b) (6); Zdeb, Sara (OLA) (b) (6)
Subject: HR 12 debate

Hi Emma –

Welcome aboard. The House is currently debating H Res 12, the select subcommittee resolution. Can you pull the transcript when it's done and highlight any key points?

Austin

Austin R. Evers
Office of the Deputy Attorney General
(b) (6)

Floor Debate: House Resolution 12, Establishing the Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of Federal Government

January 10th, 2023

MEMBERS' KEY POINTS

- **Planned Investigations**

- First Amendment:
 - "TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S ROLE IN SUPPRESSING INFORMATION ON TWITTER"
 - "MANIPULATE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE BY DECLARING HUNDREDS BIDEN'S LAPTOP AS RUSSIAN DISINFORMATION."
 - "THEY CONTINUE TO SILENCE CRITICISM OF COVID POLICIES AND VACCINE MANDATES TO THE HARM OF EVERYDAY AMERICANS."
 - "THE RIGHT TO SPEAK IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ... WE HAVE HAD DOZENS OF WHISTLEBLOWERS TALK TO US. WE WANT TO FOCUS ON THAT BECAUSE WE WANT IT TO STOP. WE WANT THE DOUBLE STANDARD TO STOP. IF YOU ARE A PRO-LIFE ACTIVIST YOU ARE GOING TO GET YOUR DOOR KICKED IN, ARRESTED AND HANDCUFFED IN FRONT OF YOUR SEVEN KIDS AND SPOUSE FOR PRAYING IN FRONT OF AN ABORTION CLINIC AND TELLING YOUR GUY WHO WAS HARASSING YOUR SON TO KNOCK IT OFF. THE PROTEST THAT WENT ON, AT SUPREME COURT JUSTICES HOMES IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE LEAK OF THE DOBS OPINION, NO PROBLEM THERE."
- FBI:
 - "AND TO THE REVOLUTIONS REGARDING THE F.B.I.'S ABUSE OF ITS FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE AND SURVEILLANCE ACT AUTHORITY."
- Ongoing Investigations:
 - "WHY IS PRESIDENT BIDEN WHO HAS REPEATEDLY KEPT CLASSIFIED MATERIALS IN AN UNSECURE LOCATION FOR YEARS NEVER BASED ON A RAID? IS IT BECAUSE WE HAVE A TWO-TIER SYSTEM JUSTICE?"
- Memo:
 - "RANGING FROM A FATHER BEING LABELED A, QUOTE, DOMESTIC TERRORIST, UNQUOTE, FOR CONFRONTING A SCHOOL BOARD OVER THE SEXUAL ASSAULT OF HIS DAUGHTER."
- NSA:
 - "IN 2013 THE FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE, JAMES CLAPPER, LIED TO CONGRESS ABOUT THE N.S.A. COLLECTING DATA ON MILLIONS OF AMERICANS. HE'S ESCAPED A RECKONING."

- **Rebuttals**

- Attacks on Law Enforcement:
 - "REPUBLICANS CLAIM TO CARE ABOUT LAW ENFORCEMENT BUT THIS NEW COMMITTEE IS ABOUT ATTACKING LAW ENFORCEMENT."
- Interference in Ongoing Investigations:
 - "LET'S CALL IT WHAT IT REALLY IS THE REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE TO OBSTRUCT JUSTICE."

- "THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THIS SPECIAL SUBCOMMITTEE IS TO INTERFERE WITH THE SPECIAL KOWBL'S ONGOING INVESTIGATION INTO A CONSPIRACY TO OVERTURN THE 2020 ELECTION."
- "WHAT IT'S REALLY INTENDED TO DO IS TO UNDERMINE THE LEGITIMATE INVESTIGATION OF PRESIDENT TRUMP'S INCITEMENT OF A VIOLENT ATTACK ON THIS BUILDING, ON THIS CAPITOL, ON THIS CITADEL OF DEMOCRACY, AN INVESTIGATION THAT IMPLICATES SOME OF THE VERY MEMBERS OF THE BODY WHO WANT TO SIT ON THAT COMMITTEE."
- Extremism:
 - "THE MAGA EXTREMIST FRINGE OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY WILL USE THIS PUSH QANON THEORIES. USE IT FOR FAKE INVESTIGATIONS INTO NONEXISTENT SCANDALS."
 - "I RISE IN STRONG OPPOSITION TO THE REPUBLICAN SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE DEEP STATE CONSPIRACY THEORIES."
- Priorities:
 - "THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT US TO ROLL UP OUR SLEEVES AND GET TO WORK. THEY WANT US TO MAKE PROGRESS AND DELIVER RESULTS THAT HELP THEM IN THEIR DAY-TO-DAY LIVES. THEY DON'T NEED CONGRESS TO BEND AND BREAK TO THE WILL OF MAGA EXTREMISTS, AND THEY DEFINITELY DON'T WANT US TO PUSH CRAZY CONSPIRACY THEORIES AND GO ON WITCH-HUNT TO GET POLITICAL SCORES."

TRANSCRIPT

01:26:15

THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER. MR. SPEAKER, I RISE TODAY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE RESOLUTION 12, RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE WEAPONIZATION OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. THIS SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE IS MODELED ON THE FAMOUS CHURCH COMMITTEE WHICH INVESTIGATED THE AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY IN THE 1970'S AND UNCOVERED AND EXPOSED A WIDE VARIETY OF ABUSES INCLUDE MANAGE DIRECTIVES AGAINST -- DIRECTED AGAINST AMERICAN CITIZENS. SIMILAR TO THE SITUATION THAT CONFRONTED AMERICA IN THE 1970'S, IN RECENT YEARS WE HAVE WITNESSED ABUSES OF THE CIVIL LIBERTIES OF AMERICAN CITIZENS COMMITTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH. THIS SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE WILL OPERATE AS A SELECT INVESTIGATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE AND WILL BE TASKED WITH STUDYING AND REPORTING ON THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH'S AUTHORITY TO COLLECT INFORMATION ON OR OTHERWISE INVESTIGATE CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES. IT WILL INVESTIGATE HOW THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH AGENCIES WORK WITH AND EXCHANGE INFORMATION WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND

OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO FACILITATE ACTION AGAINST AMERICAN CITIZENS. HOW THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH AGENCIES SELECT, COMPILE, ANALYZE, USE OR DISSEMINATE INFORMATION ABOUT CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES, THE LAWS, PROGRAMS AN ACTIVE TOIFS THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH AS THEY RELATE TO THE COLLECTION OF INFORMATION ON CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES, AND ANY OTHER ISSUES RELATED TO THE VIOLATION OF CIVIL LIBERTIES OF AMERICAN CITIZENS. MR. SPEAKER, IT IS UNDENIABLE IN RECENT YEARS THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS ABUSED ITS AUTHORITY AND VIOLATED THE CIVIL LIBERTIES OF AMERICAN CITIZENS, OFTEN FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES. THERE ARE MANY EXAMPLES TO POINT TO, RANGING FROM A FATHER BEING LABELED A, QUOTE, DOMESTIC TERRORIST, UNQUOTE, FOR CONFRONTING A SCHOOL BOARD OVER THE SEXUAL ASSAULT OF HIS DAUGHTER. TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S ROLE IN SUPPRESSING INFORMATION ON TWITTER. TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY'S PLANS TO CREATE A DISINFORMATION GOVERNANCE BOARD. AND TO THE REVOLUTIONS REGARDING THE F.B.I.'S ABUSE OF ITS FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE AND SURVEILLANCE ACT AUTHORITY. ALL THESE EXAMPLES AND MANY MORE DEMONSTRATE HOW PREVALENT SUCH ABUSIVE ACTIONS HAVE BECOME. MR. SPEAKER, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DESERVE TO HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THEIR GOVERNMENT. THEY DESERVE TO KNOW THAT THE BROAD POWERS GRANTED TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE F.B.I., TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, AND TO THE INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES ARE NOT BEING ABUSED. THEY DESERVE TO KNOW THAT THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH IS NOT POSITIONING ITSELF AS THE FINAL ARBITER OF WHAT CONSTITUTES TRUTH. AND THEY DESERVE TO KNOW THAT THEY WILL NOT BE LABELED A DOMESTIC TERRORIST FOR ADVOCATING FOR THEIR CHILDREN IN FRONT OF A SCHOOL BOARD. MR. SPEAKER, IT WAS SUPREME COURT JUSTICE LOUIS BRAN DICE WHO STATED, QUOTE -- BRANDEIS WHO STATED, QUOTE, SUNLIGHT IS THE BEST DISINFECTANT. THIS WILL BRING ABUFFS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT INTO THE LIGHT FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND ENSURE THAT CONGRESS HAS THE -- AS THEIR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES CAN TAKE APPROPRIATION ACTION TO REMEDY THEM. I HAVE CONFIDENCE THAT THIS SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE WILL ACCOMPLISH THAT GOAL. THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER, AND I RESERVE THE BALANCE OF MY TIME.

Show Less Text

01:29:34	THE GENTLEMAN RESERVES. THE GENTLEMAN FROM MASSACHUSETTS IS RECOGNIZED.
01:29:40	I YIELD MYSELF SUCH TIME AS I MAY CONSUME.
01:29:42	THE GENTLEMAN IS RECOGNIZED.
01:29:44	<p>TODAY WE WILL CONSIDER THE CREATION OF A NEW SUBCOMMITTEE HERE MONTANA HOUSE THAT REPUBLICANS CALL THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON WEAPON IDESSING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. I CALL IT THE MCCARTHY COMMITTEE. AND I'M NOT TALK ABOUT KENN, I'M TALKING ABOUT JOE. BECAUSE MR. SPEAKER, THIS COMMITTEE IS NOTHING MORE THAN A THE RANGED PLOY BY THE MAGA EXTREMIST WHO WAS HIJACKED THE PARTY AND WANT TO USE TAXPAYER MONEY TO PUSH THEIR FAR-RIGHT CONSPIRACY NONSENSE. LET'S START WITH THE SUBCOMMITTEE'S MANDATE WHICH IS RECKLESSLY BROAD. SPEAKER MCCARTHY IS ESSENTIALLY HANDING MR. JORDAN THE POWER TO TARGET ANYONE AND ANYTHING HE DOESN'T LIKE. ANYTHING AND ANYONE HE DEEMS UNCONSTITUTIONAL, ILLEGAL OR UNETHICAL. AND WHO DECIDES WHAT'S UNCONSTITUTIONAL, ILLEGAL OR UNETHICAL? MR. JORDAN DOES. SO WHY DON'T WE JUST BE BLUNT HERE. REPUBLICANS CLAIM TO CARE ABOUT LAW ENFORCEMENT BUT THIS NEW COMMITTEE IS ABOUT ATTACKING LAW ENFORCEMENT. IT'S ABOUT GOING AFTER PEOPLE. IT'S ABOUT KY DESTROYING PEOPLE'S CAREERS AND LIVES. IT'S ABOUT UNDERMINING THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. DEFUNDING THE POLICE. AND SETTLING SCORES ON BEHALF OF THE TWICE-IMPEACHED AND DISGRACED FORMER OCCUPANT OF THE OVAL OFFICE. THE THE MAGA EXTREMIST FRINGE OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY WILL USE THIS PUSH QANON THEORIES. USE IT FOR FAKE INVESTIGATIONS INTO NONEXISTENT SCANDALS. I THINK WE NEED TO CALL THIS THE TINFOIL HAT COMMITTEE. SPEAKER MCCARTHY EVEN CHANGED THE LANGUAGE AT THE LAST MINUTE TO PROVIDE UNPRECEDENTED AUTHORITY FOR THE SUBCOMMITTEE TO INTERFERE IN ONGOING CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS. LET ME REPEAT, THE REPUBLICAN PARTY, PARTY THAT CLAIMS TO CARE ABOUT LAW AND ORDER, HAS CREATE ADD COMMITTEE NOT JUST TO DEFUND THE POLICE BASED ON THEIR WACKY CONSPIRACY THEORIES, BUT TO SHUT DOWN ONGOING INVESTIGATIONS. INCLUDING INTO DOMESTIC</p>

TERRORISTS, PHONY ELECTORS, INSURRECTIONISTS, PEOPLE WHO ARE ON TRIAL FOR SEDITION BECAUSE THEY TRIED TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT, AND EVEN DISGRACED FORMER PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP. THIS IS OUTRAGEOUS. WE ARE A COUNTRY OF LAWS. BUT THIS COMMITTEE SEEKS TO UNDERMINE THE LAW, UNDERMINE THE POLICE, AND MAKE A COMPLETE MOCKERY OF THE INVESTIGATIVE AND OVERSIGHT POWERS OF THE HOUSE. AS SEEN ON THIS WEEK'S SUNDAY SHOWS, SOME SITTING REPUBLICANS BEING INVESTIGATED RIGHT NOW BY THE F.B.I. AND THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE WANT TO SERVE ON THIS COMMITTEE. WHAT? COME ON, GIVE ME A BREAK. I KNOW MY REPUBLICAN FRIENDS HAVE SOME ETHICALLY CHALLENGED MEMBERS WHO ASKED FOR PARDONS FROM THE FORMER PRESIDENT, BUT THIS IS BEYOND THE PALE. THIS IS UNCONSCIONABLE. THIS IS A CONFLICT OF INTEREST. FIRST, THEY CUT OUT THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS. NOW THEY GIVE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS THE ABILITY TO INVESTIGATE AND TO TRY TO SHUT DOWN CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS THAT THEY ARE SUBJECTS IN. ONE SET OF RULES FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. ANOTHER SET OF RULES FOR REPUBLICAN MEMBERS OF CONGRESS. IT IS INCREDIBLY OFFENSIVE. ON THE FIRST REAL WEEK IN THE MAJORITY, THIS IS WHAT MY REPUBLICAN FRIENDS ARE PUSHING THROUGH? NOT A BILL TO FIGHT INFLATION. NOT A BILL TO RAISE WAGES FOR PEOPLE. BUT A BILL FOR REPUBLICAN MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO SHUT DOWN INVESTIGATIONS INTO THEIR OWN WRONGDOINGS. WHAT IS WRONG WITH THESE PEOPLE? AND ON TOP OF ALL OF THAT, THIS SUBCOMMITTEE EXPECTS TO USE THE POWER OF THE SUBPOENA TO ADVANCE THEIR DELUSIONAL QANON CONSPIRACY THEORIES AND HARASS FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENTS. I WOULD SAY -- HARASS FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENTS. I WOULD SAY IF NOT HYSTERICAL THAT MR. MCCARTHY AND MR. JORDAN REFUSED TO COMPLY WITH BIPARTISAN SUBPOENAS ISSUED BY THE JANUARY 6 COMMITTEE. FOR THEM IT'S DO AS I SAY NOT AS I DO. IN MY MIND, IT SPEAKS VOLUMES THAT HOUSE REPUBLICANS ARE CHOOSING TO PRIORITIZE THIS KIND OF DANGEROUS PARTISAN GARBAGE INSTEAD OF ACTUALLY TRYING TO HELP EVERYDAY AMERICANS. WHATEVER HAPPENED TO REPUBLICANS' COMMITMENT TO AMERICA? THEY PROMISED TO TACKLE INFLATION. AND THE OPIATE CRISIS. REDUCE THE NATIONAL DEBT. AND MORE. NONE OF THOSE ISSUES ARE ADDRESSED IN THEIR FIRST 12 BILLS. IN FACT, THE VERY FIRST BILL THEY PASSED LAST NIGHT DOESN'T REDUCE THE DEFICIT, IT ADDS \$114 BILLION TO THE DEFICIT BY MAKING IT EASIER FOR BILLIONAIRES TO CHEAT ON

THEIR TAXES. BUT THIS IS WHERE WE ARE. WEEK TWO OF THE 118TH CONGRESS. AND WE ARE CREATE AGO WITCH-HUNT COMMITTEE -- CREATING A WITCH-HUNT COMMITTEE WHERE REPUBLICANS PLAN TO ADVANCE THEIR CRAZY THEORIES FROM THE INTERNET AT THE TAXPAYERS' EXPENSE. SENATOR JOSEPH MCCARTHY WOULD BE PROUD OF WHAT THE REPUBLICANS ARE DOING TODAY. PUTTING THEIR OWN PERSONAL POWER AND PARTISAN POLITICS OVER THE NEEDS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. JUST LIKE SENATOR MCCARTHY LOOKING FOR IMAGINARY COMMUNISTS, THEY ARE GOING TO FIND QANON CONSPIRACIES EVERYWHERE THEY LOOK BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT THEY WANT TO FIND. AND JUST LIKE THE MCCARTHY COMMITTEE, THIS WILL BECOME ANOTHER SHAMEFUL, DISGRACEFUL MOMENT FOR THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES. THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE RULE OF LAW. NOTHING TO DO WITH PROPER OVERSIGHT OF GOVERNMENT. IT'S SIMPLY ABOUT REVENGE. IT'S ABOUT DISRUPTING AND DESTROYING RATHER THAN COLLABORATING AND CREATING. IT'S ABOUT PUTTING POLITICS OVER PEOPLE INSTEAD OF PUTTING PEOPLE OVER POLITICS. TO BUILD A BETTER FUTURE FOR AMERICA. THIS SUBCOMMITTEE IS AN AWFUL IDEA. AND I URGE MY COLLEAGUES IN THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE TERMS TO VOTE NO ON THIS MONSTROSITY THAT WILL FURTHER EMPOWER THE EXTREMISTS AT THE EXPENSE OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. WITH THAT I RESERVE MY TIME.

Show Less Text

01:35:49

THE GENTLEMAN RESERVES. THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA IS RECOGNIZED.

01:35:51

THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER. I YIELD FOUR MINUTES TO MY VERY GOOD FRIEND, THE DISTINGUISHED INCOMING CHAIRMAN OF THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, MR. JORDAN OF OHIO.

01:35:59

THE GENTLEMAN FROM OHIO IS RECOGNIZED FOR FOUR MINUTES.

01:36:02

THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER. I APPRECIATE THE GENTLEMAN YIELDING. A PLOY? IT'S NOT A PLOY WHEN THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TREATS PARENTS AS TERRORISTS. MOMS AND DADS SIMPLY SHOWING UP AT A SCHOOL BOARD MEETING TO ADVOCATE FOR THEIR SON OR DAUGHTER. IT'S NOT ALLY WHEN THE F.B.I. PLAY PAYS TWITTER \$3 MILLION. NOT ONE, NOT TWO, \$3 MILLION TO

CENSOR AMERICAN CITIZENS. IT'S NOT A PLOY WHEN THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY TRIES TO SET UP A DISINFORMATION GOVERNANCE BOARD BECAUSE WE ALL KNOW THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY CAN TELL WHAT'S GOOD SPEECH AND WHAT IS BAD SPEECH. WHAT'S -- YOU GOT TO BE KIDDING ME. I'LL TELL YOU WHAT. DOZENS OF WHISTLEBLOWERS HAVE COME TALKED TO REPUBLICAN STAFF ON THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE DOESN'T THINK THIS IS A PLOY. THAT'S WHY THEY TALKED TO US. THEY KNOW HOW SERIOUS THIS IS. THE FORMER DEMOCRAT CHAIR OF THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE IS IN THE PRESS TODAY WE ARE GOING TO FIGHT THIS TOOTH AND NAIL. MEANWHILE THE FORMER DEMOCRAT CHAIR OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE PRESSURED TWITTER TO CENSOR A JOURNALIST. YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME. THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT -- THIS IS ABOUT THE FIRST AMENDMENT. SOMETHING YOU GUYS USED TO CARE ABOUT. I WOULD HOPE WE COULD GET BIPARTISAN AGREEMENT ON PROTECTING THE FIRST AMENDMENT. THE FIVE RIGHTS WE ENJOY AS AMERICANS UNDER THE FIRST AMENDMENT. YOUR RIGHT TO PRACTICE YOUR FAITH, ASSEMBLE, RIGHT TO PETITION THE GOVERNMENT, FREEDOM OF PRESS, FREEDOM OF SPEECH. EVERY SINGLE ONE'S BEEN ATTACKED IN THE LAST TWO YEARS. THE GOVERNMENT WAS TELLING PEOPLE THEY COULDN'T GO TO CHURCH A FEW YEARS AGO. YOU'RE TRITE ASSEMBLE. PETITION THE GOVERNMENT. THE DEMOCRATS KEPT THE CAPITOL CLOSED. A CITIZEN COULDN'T COME TO YOUR CAPITOL THAT YOU PAY FOR TO ADDRESS YOUR MEMBER OF CONGRESS BECAUSE NANCY PELOSI WOULDN'T LET YOU IN. FREEDOM OF THE PRESS, I JUST TOLD YOU WHAT THE HEAD OF THE INTEL COMMITTEE TRIED TO DO TO A JOURNALIST. THE MOST IMPORTANT RIGHT WE HAVE, YOUR RIGHT TO TALK. BECAUSE IF YOU CAN'T TALK, YOU CAN'T PRACTICE YOUR FAITH. YOU CAN'T SHARE YOUR FAITH. YOU CAN'T PETITION YOUR GOVERNMENT. THE RIGHT TO SPEAK IS THE MOST IMPORTANT. THAT'S WHAT THEY ARE GOING A THAT'S WHY WE HAVE HAD DOZENS OF WHISTLEBLOWERS TALK TO US. WE WANT TO FOCUS ON THAT BECAUSE WE WANT IT TO STOP. WE WANT THE DOUBLE STANDARD TO STOP. IF YOU ARE A PRO-LIFE ACTIVIST YOU ARE GOING TO GET YOUR DOOR KICKED IN, ARRESTED AND HANDCUFFED IN FRONT OF YOUR SEVEN KIDS AND SPOUSE FOR PRAYING IN FRONT OF AN ABORTION CLINIC AND TELLING YOUR GUY WHO WAS HARASSING YOUR SON TO KNOCK IT OFF. THE PROTEST THAT WENT ON, AT SUPREME COURT JUSTICES HOMES IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE LEAK OF THE DOBS OPINION, NO PROBLEM THERE. AMERICANS ARE SICK AND TIRED OF T WHAT WE WANT, WE DON'T WANT TO GO

AFTER ANYONE. WE JUST WANT IT TO STOP. WE WANT TO RESPECT THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION THAT THE GREATEST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD HAS. THAT'S WHAT THIS COMMITTEE IS ALL ABOUT. THAT'S WHAT WE ARE GOING TO FOCUS ON. THAT'S WHAT WE ARE GOING TO DO. I YIELD BACK TO THE GENTLEMAN.

Show Less Text

01:38:48

THE GENTLEMAN YIELD. THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA RESERVES. THE GENTLEMAN FROM MASSACHUSETTS IS RECOGNIZED.

01:38:54

I ASK UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO INSERT INTO THE RECORD AN ARTICLE FROM THE HILL ENTITLED JANUARY 6 PANEL NAMES SIX HOUSE G.O.P. LAWMAKERS WHO ASKED FOR PARDONS. MR. SPEAKER, THERE ARE AT LEAST SIX HOUSE MEMBERS WHO SOUGHT PARDONS FROM PRESIDENT TRUMP FOLLOWING JANUARY 6 INSURRECTION INSURRECTION. MANY OF THEM WOULD LIKE TO BE ON THIS COMMITTEE.

Show Less Text

01:39:12

WITHOUT OBJECTION.

01:39:14

I YIELD TWO MINUTES TO THE GENTLEMAN FROM NEW YORK, MR. NADLER.

01:39:17

THE GENTLEMAN FROM NEW YORK IS RECOGNIZED.

01:39:20

I THANK THE GENTLEMAN. MR. SPEAKER, I RISE IN STRONG OPPOSITION TO THIS RESOLUTION. WHICH APPEARS DESIGNED TO LAUNCH A DANGEROUS AND UNPRUS DENTED ATTACK ON OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES. LAST WEEK AMERICANS ACROSS THE COUNTRY WATCHED THE REPUBLICAN PARTY MELT DOWN THE MOMENT IT ENCOUNTERED ITS FIRST TEST. FOR DAYS THE EXTREMIST WING OF THE PARTY HELD THE REST OF THEIR CAUCUS HOSTAGE. AS THEY DEMANDED A STEEP PRICE FOR THEIR SUPPORT. AND TODAY WE HAVE THE FIRST OF THEIR MANY DEMANDS ON DISPLAY. AN OPEN-ENDED INVESTIGATION INTO WHATEVER CONSPIRACY THEORIES MAY BE HEADLINING THE

RIGHT WING ECHO CHAMBER AT THE MOMENT. WITH UNCHECKED AUTHORITY TO UNDERMINE ONGOING CRIMINAL AND INTELLIGENCE INVESTIGATIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, THE SELECT COMMITTEE CAN USE ITS EXPANSIVE AUTHORITIES TO PROTECT DONALD TRUMP. THOSE WHO PERSECUTED -- PERPETRATED FAKE ELECTOR SCREAMS TO OVERTURN THE 2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. INSURRECTIONISTS FACING TRIALS, AND OTHER DOMESTIC TERRORISTS. IT AIMS TO UNDERMINE THE SAFEGUARDS OF OUR DEMOCRACY AND TO EMBOLDEN MAGA EXTREMISTS WHO WOULD RATHER SEE OUR INSTITUTIONS FAIL THAN TO SEE DEMOCRATS AND PRESIDENT BIDEN SUCCEED. MAKE NO MISTAKE, THE DESTROYED DEMOCRACY SUBCOMMITTEE WILL ENABLE THE HOUSE REPUBLICANS TO INTERFERE WITH THE FREE OPERATION OF BUSINESSES THEY DO - - OPERATION OF BUSINESSES THAT NOT LIKE. TO SETTLE POLITICAL SCORES ON BEHALF OF THE DONALD TRUMP. THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE HAS SERIOUS WORK TO DO. RATHER THAN TRYING TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, THIS NEW SUBCOMMITTEE WILL EXPEND UNTOLD TIME AND MONEY UNDERMINING OUR NATION'S LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, OUR JUSTICE SYSTEM, AND OUR INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY. ALL FOR A POLITICAL STUNT CATERING TO THE EXTREMIST WING OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY. I OPPOSE THIS RESOLUTION. I ENCOURAGE MY COLLEAGUES TO DO THE SAME. I YIELD BACK THE BALANCE OF MY TIME.

Show Less Text

01:41:12

THE GENTLEMAN YIELDS BACK THE BALANCE OF HIS TIME. THE GENTLEMAN FROM MASSACHUSETTS RESERVES. THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA IS RECOGNIZED.

01:41:17

THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER. MR. SPEAKER, I YIELD TWO MINUTES TO MY VERY GOOD FRIEND, THE INCOMING CHAIRMAN OF THE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE, MR. COMER OF KENTUCKY.

01:41:25

THE GENTLEMAN FROM KENTUCKY IS RECOGNIZED FOR TWO MINUTES

01:41:27

MR. SPEAKER, I RISE TODAY IN SUPPORT OF THE CREATION OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE WEAPONIZATION OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EXISTS TO SERVE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. ADMINISTER THE LAW IMPARTIALLY. AND PROTECT OUR CHERISHED FREEDOMS

ENSHRINED IN THE CONSTITUTION. HOWEVER, SOME UN-ELECTED, UNACCOUNTABLE FEDERAL BUREAUCRATS HAVE ABUSED THEIR POSITIONS OF POWER. THE OTHER SIDE OF THE AISLE LIKES TO TALK ABOUT, QUOTE, THREATS OF DEMOCRACY. BUT THEY REFUSE TO DO ANY SONG KONGAL OVERSIGHT AS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WEAPONIZED ITS AUTHORITY, INFLUENCE, AND POWER TO TARGET AMERICAN GROUPS AND CITIZENS WASTED ON THEIR POLITICAL AND IDEA LOCAL VIEWS. JUST YESTERDAY, WE LEARNED THAT CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS FROM JOE BIDEN'S TIME AS VICE PRESIDENT WERE STASHED IN AN UNSECURED CLOSET. THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES KNEW ABOUT THESE DOCUMENTS SEVERAL MONTHS AGO. BEFORE THE ELECTION. BUT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WERE JUST INFORMED YESTERDAY THANKS TO SOME INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING. MEANWHILE, THE F.B.I. CONDUCT ADD RAID ON FORMER PRESIDENT TRUMP'S MAR-A-LAGO RESIDENTS FOR THE SAME VIOLATION. WHY IS PRESIDENT BIDEN WHO HAS REPEATEDLY KEPT CLASSIFIED MATERIALS IN AN UNSECURE LOCATION FOR YEARS NEVER BASE FACE ADD RAID? IS IT BECAUSE WE HAVE A TWO TIER SYSTEM JUSTICE? THE LEFT ALSO CONTINUES TO PUSH FOR AN EXPANDED I.R.S., EAST BOUND THOUGH THE AGENCY HAS A HISTORY OF TARGETING CONSERVATIVE POLITICAL GROUPS. THEY PUSH FOR MORE AUDITS OF MIDDLE CLASS AMERICANS INSTEAD OF BETTER CUSTOMER SERVICE. IN ANOTHER EXAMPLE, PRESIDENT BIDEN'S DIRECTION THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FORMED A DISTAUPIAN DISINFORMATION BOARD TASKED WITH POLICING AMERICAN SPEECH ONLINE. WHILE THIS BOARD HAS BEEN DISBANDED, WE CONTINUE TO LEARN MORE ALMOST EVERY DAY ABOUT HOW THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION PRESSURES BIG TECH TO CENSOR AND SUPPRESS AMERICAN'S VIEWS ONLINE CONTRARY TO THEIR POLITICAL NARRATIVE. THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION'S JUSTICE DEPARTMENT ALSO ACTIVELY TARGETED PARENTS' CONCERNED ABOUT WOKE CURRICULA IN THEIR CHILDREN'S SCHOOLS AND LABELED MANY AS DOMESTIC TERRORISTS. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY WANT ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THESE ABUSES. WE -- MR. COLE: ADDITIONAL 30 SECONDS.

Show Less Text

01:43:41

WE CANNOT DELAY ACCOUNTABILITY ANY LONGER. WE NEED TO GET TO WORK NOW. WE MUST EXPOSE THE ABUSES COMMITTED BY THE UN-ELECTED FEDERAL BUREAUCRACY AND ENACT SOLUTIONS TO PREVENT SIMILAR ABUSES FROM HAPPENING IN THE FUTURE. I LOOK FORWARD AS CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE

OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THIS NEW
SELECT COMMITTEE. I YIELD BACK.

Show Less Text

01:44:01

THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA RESERVES. THE GENTLEMAN
FROM MASSACHUSETTS INVESTIGATED IS RECOGNIZED.

01:44:08

I INSERT INTO THE RECORD A CNN ARTICLE THERE ARE CLEAR
DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN TRUMP AND BIDEN'S TWO CASES. MR.
SPEAKER, THE DIFFERENCE IS CLEAR UNLIKE IN...

Show Full Text

01:45:02

THE GENTLEMAN FROM NEW YORK INVESTIGATED FOR ONE MINUTE.

01:45:05

THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER. I RISE TODAY TO MAKE
SOMETHING CRYSTAL CLEAR, THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THIS SPECIAL
SUBCOMMITTEE IS TO INTERFERE WITH THE SPECIAL KOWBL'S
ONGOING INVESTIGATION INTO A CONSPIRACY TO OVERTURN THE
2020 ELECTION. THIS IS A SHOCKING ABUSE OF POWER. BUT IT'S NOT
JUST THE USUAL EFFORTS BUT IT'S NOT JUST THE USUAL EFFORTS BY
MEMBERS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE AISLE TO DO TRUMP'S DIRTY
WORK, THIS TIME THEY'RE TRYING TO PROTECT THEMSELVES. ONE OF
THEM, A MEMBER FROM PENNSYLVANIA, HAD HIS CELL PHONE SEIZED
PURSUANT TO A COURT ORDER FINDING PROBABLE CAUSE THAT
HE COMMITTED A CRIME. YET HE'S INDICATED THAT HE WANTS TO BE
ON THIS SUBCOMMITTEE SO HE CAN UNDERMINE A CRIMINAL
INVESTIGATION INTO HIMSELF. MY REPUBLICAN COUNTERPARTS CAN
DRESS UP THE SUBCOMMITTEE WITH AMENACING NAME BUT
LET'S CALL IT WHAT IT REALLY IS THE REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE
TO OBSTRUCT JUSTICE. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DON'T WANT
THAT. THEY DON'T WANT YET ANOTHER FRONT OF THE
REPUBLICAN WAR ON DEMOCRACY AND THE RULE OF LAW. I
WILL VOTE NO AND URGE EVERYONE TO DO SO. THANK YOU, I YIELD
BACK.

Show Less Text

01:46:14

THE GENTLEMAN YIELDS BACK. THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA IS
RECOGNIZED.

01:46:18	THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER. I YIELD TWO MINUTES TO MY VERY GOOD FRIEND, THE DISTINGUISHED INCOMING CHAIRMAN OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE, MR. TURNER OF OHIO.
01:46:26	THE GENTLEMAN IS RECOGNIZED FOR TWO MINUTES.
01:46:29	<p>THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER. THANK YOU, CHAIRMAN COLE. LAST CONGRESS I SERVED AS RANKING MEMBER OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE. CHAIRMAN JORDAN AND I HAVE BEEN WORKING TO ENSURE THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, INCLUDING THE F.B.I., ARE NOT VIOLATING THE CIVIL RIGHTS OF LAW-ABIDING AMERICANS. SADLY, WE ALREADY HAVE VERY TROUBLING EVIDENCE TO BEGIN OUR INVESTIGATION TO ENSURE THAT OUR INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES ARE NOT VIOLATING AMERICANS' CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS. SOME OF THIS INFORMATION IS SIMILAR TO WHAT'S BEEN PUBLICLY DISCLOSED BY THE TWITTER FILES, WHICH IS A SMALL PORTION OF THE INFORMATION THAT WE HAVE GRAVELY CONCERNING ABOUT IMPROPER USE OF GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY THAT THIS COMMITTEE WILL BE FOCUSING ON. THIS SUBCOMMITTEE IS ABOUT PROTECTING RIGHTS. A TASK THAT EVERYONE IN THIS BODY JUST TOOK AN OATH TO PROTECT LAST WEEK. OUR COMMITTEE WILL BE ASSISTING THIS SUBCOMMITTEE, WE LOOK FORWARD TO BE WORKING WITH CHAIRMAN JORDAN ON THIS IMPORTANT ISSUE AND WE KNOW THAT THIS IS IMPORTANT TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. I YIELD BACK.</p> <p>Show Less Text</p>
01:47:34	THE GENTLEMAN YIELDS BACK. THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA RESERVES. THE GENTLEMAN FROM MASSACHUSETTS IS RECOGNIZED.
01:47:41	<p>I ASK UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO INSERT INTO THE RECORD AN ARTICLE FROM THE GUARDIAN, CALLED IT'S GOING TO BE DIRTY: REPUBLICANS GEAR UP TO ATTACK HUNTER BIDEN. AND AN ARTICLE FROM "POLITICO" ENTITLED, "IT'S NOT JUST HUNTER</p> <p>Show Less Text</p>
01:47:58	PREPARE FOR A PACT WITH HOUSE G.O.P. INVESTIGATIONS." WITHOUT A DOUBT MR. JORDAN WILL USE THIS

COMMITTEE TO GO AFTER PEOPLE MAGA REPUBLICANS SEE AS THEIR OPPONENTS. ALL THEY WANT TO DO IS PUSH CONSPIRACY THEORIES. AND SETTLE SCORES. THEY WANT TO GO ON FOX, INVESTIGATE HUNTER BIDEN'S LAPTOP, TRY TO STEAL ELECTIONS AND THEY WANT TO SHUT DOWN THE GOVERNMENT IF THEY DON'T GET THEIR WAY. WE'RE AT A VERY DANGEROUS MOMENT IN THIS COUNTRY. IT'S ONE OF THE REASONS WHY MANY OF US WERE SO STUNNED THAT THE NEW SPEAKER GAVE AWAY SO MUCH OF HIS AUTHORITY TO A GROUP OF EXTREMISTS IN THE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE WHO HAVE SPENT THEIR ENTIRE CAREERS TRYING TO BLOW THIS PLACE UP. THE BOTTOM LINE IS THIS COMMITTEE IS BASICALLY AN ASSURANCE THAT WE'RE GOING TO SEE THESE VERY PARTISAN POLITICAL MAGA-DRIVEN INVESTIGATIONS GO FORWARD AND AGAIN, I URGE MY COLLEAGUES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE AISLE TO VOTE NO I WANT TO NOW YIELD TWO MINUTES TO THE GENTLEMAN FROM ARIZONA, MR. GRIJALVA. THE GENTLEMAN IS RECOGNIZED FOR TWO MINUTES.

Show Less Text

01:49:10

THANK YOU, AND THANK YOU MR. MCGOVERN FOR THE TIME.

01:49:20

AS THE GENTLEMAN SAID, THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO INJECT EXTREMIST POLITICS INTO OUR JUSTICE SYSTEM AND SHIELD MAGA REPUBLICANS FROM THEIR ACTION INCLUDING JANUARY 6 AND THE FOLLOWUP AND INVESTIGATIONS ONGOING NOW. HE'S RIGHT ABOUT THAT REPUBLICAN STRATEGY. H.R. 12 IS BOTH POLITICAL COVER AND A POLITICAL WEAPON. LIKE ANY LEGISLATION, H.R. 12 IS DRIVEN BY THE MOTIVATION OF ITS SPONSORS, THE REPUBLICAN MAJORITY IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. FOR EXAMPLE, LEGISLATIVE ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE IS MOTIVATED BY URGENCY AND OUR COLLECTIVE HEALTH AND LIFE. H.R. 12 IS INTENDED TO INTIMIDATE, TO SCARE, AND TO ULTIMATELY COWER REPUBLICAN INSTITUTIONS TO STANDING DOWN AS OUR DESCENT INTO DIVISION AND FASCISM CONTINUES. POWER FOR THE SAKE OF POWER IS TRULY DANGEROUS. H.R. 12 IS JUST THAT. I URGE A NO VOTE AND I YIELD BACK.

Show Less Text

01:50:24

THE GENTLEMAN FROM MASSACHUSETTS RESERVES. THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA IS RECOGNIZED.

01:50:28	THANK YOU VERY MUCH, MR. SPEAKER. I YIELD TWO MINUTES TO MY VERY GOOD FRIEND, THE DISTINGUISHED VETERAN WHO SERVED THE UNITED STATES IN A VARIETY OF CAPACITIES... Show Full Text
01:50:40	THE GENTLEMAN IS RECOGNIZED FOR TWO MINUTES.
01:50:45	I RISE TODAY TO SUPPORT THE REPPIZATION -- THE COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATION THE ZEPP SARGES OF THE GOVERNMENT. DESPITE THE DEEP STATE'S ATTEMPTS TO REPEATEDLY... Show Full Text
01:52:34	THE GENTLEMAN YIELDS BACK. THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA RESERVES. THE GENTLEMAN FROM MASSACHUSETTS IS RECOGNIZED.
01:52:41	HERE'S A CURIOUS THING. THE LEGISLATION THAT CREATES THIS SELECT COMMITTEE, WE WERE FIRST GIVEN THIS ON JANUARY 2. BUT THEN IT CHANGED. ON JANUARY 6. AND WE DIDN'T GET THAT UNTIL 10:00 P.M. ON JANUARY 6 AFTER 13 SPEAKER VOTES. WHAT CHANGED IN THIS LEGISLATION, AND THIS IS REALLY CURIOUS, IS THEY EXPANDED THE -- THE SELECT COMMITTEE'S AUTHORITY TO INVESTIGATION -- TO INVESTIGATE ONGOING CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS. THINK ABOUT THAT. IN AN UNPRECEDENTED WAY. I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY VOTES THAT GOT, BUT CLEARLY IT WAS IMPORTANT. WE WENT THROUGH 13 SPEAKER VOTES BEFORE WE GOT TO THIS. THE REASON WHY THIS IS INCLUDED AND I, YOU KNOW, I'M SAD TO SAY THIS, IS BECAUSE WE HAVE MEMBERS IN THIS CHAMBER WHO THEMSELVES MAY BE SUBJECTS OF INVESTIGATION. THERE ARE ONGOING INVESTIGATIONS AGAINST THE FORMER PRESIDENT. AND SO THIS WAS ADDED. WHY WAS THIS ADDED? TO TRY TO FRUSTRATE THOSE INVESTIGATIONS. SO WHEN WE TALK ABOUT CORRUPTION, YOU KNOW, WHEN WE TALK ABOUT UNDERMINING THE RULE OF LAW, LET'S UNDERSTAND WHAT JUST OCCURRED HERE. MR. SPEAKER, I YIELD 2 1/2 MINUTES TO THE GENTLEMAN FROM CALIFORNIA, MR. SCHIFF. Show Less Text
01:54:00	THE GENTLEMAN FROM CALIFORNIA IS RECOGNIZED.

01:54:03

MR. SPEAKER, I RISE IN STRONG OPPOSITION TO THE REPUBLICAN SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE DEEP STATE CONSPIRACY THEORIES. AND IF YOU HAD ANY DOUBT ABOUT WHAT THIS COMMITTEE IS REALLY ABOUT, ABOUT ITS TRUE FOCUS, MY COLLEAGUE FROM MONTANA JUST CONFIRMED. THIS IS ALL ABOUT DEEP STATE NONSENSE. REPUBLICANS CLAIM WITHOUT MERIT THAT THIS SUBCOMMITTEE WILL INVESTIGATE THE SO-CALLED WEAPONIZATION OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. BUT WHAT IT'S REALLY INTENDED TO DO IS TO UNDERMINE THE LEGITIMATE INVESTIGATION OF PRESIDENT TRUMP'S INCITEMENT OF A VIOLENT ATTACK ON THIS BUILDING, ON THIS CAPITOL, ON THIS CITADEL OF DEMOCRACY, AN INVESTIGATION THAT IMPLICATES SOME OF THE VERY MEMBERS OF THE BODY WHO WANT TO SIT ON THAT COMMITTEE. MAKE NO MISTAKE, THIS INVESTIGATION, THIS INVESTIGATE THE INVESTIGATORS COMMITTEE, WILL DO DEEP DAMAGE TO OUR NATIONAL SECURITY AND ONLY BREED DISTRUST WITH OUR NATIONAL SECURITY PROFESSIONALS WHO WILL BE RELUCTANT TO SHARE WITH CONGRESS THE INFORMATION POLICYMAKERS NEED TO PROTECT OUR CLINT. THE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO SEEK TO DISCREDIT LAW ENFORCEMENT LIKE THE F.B.I. WHO ARE SO IMPORTANT IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENT EXTREMISM. REPUBLICANS IN CONGRESS JUST DON'T CARE. THE GREATEST THREAT, THE GREATEST TERRORIST THREAT TO OUR COUNTRY COMES FROM VIOLENT RIGHT WING MILITIA GROUPS AND THEIR SYMPATHIZERS AND REPUBLICANS IN CONGRESS JUST DON'T CARE. LAST TIME REPUBLICANS WERE IN CHARGE OF THE HOUSE, KEVIN MCCARTHY PUSHED TO FORM ANOTHER BOGUS SELECT COMMITTEE, THAT ONE ON BENGHAZI. HE DID SO AS HE ADMITTED TO TEAR DOWN HILLARY CLINTON'S NUMBERS, A PATENTLY POLITICAL EXERCISE. NOW MCCARTHY IS AT IT AGAIN. PUSHED INTO FORMING THIS BOGUS SUBCOMMITTEE BY THE QANON MEMBERS OF HIS OWN CONFERENCE. HE SACRIFICED A LOT IN HIS BID FOR SPEAKER, THAT WAS HIS CHOICE. NOW THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE GOING TO PAY THE PRICE IN THE FORM OF A BODY BLOW TO OUR NATIONAL SECURITY. VOTE NO ON THIS ILL-CONSIDERED MEASURE. THIS IS NO CHURCH COMMITTEE. NOT A BIPARTISAN EFFORT TO REFORM GOVERNMENT. BUT A PARTISAN EFFORT TO TEAR IT DOWN AND DAMN THE COPS QUEENSES. VOTE NO.

Show Less Text

01:56:30

THE GENTLEMAN RESERVES. THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA.

01:56:35	THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER. I YIELD ONE MINUTE TO MY VERY GOOD FRIEND, THE DISTINGUISHED LADY IF COLORADO, MRS. BOEBERT.
01:56:42	THE LADY FROM COLORADO IS RECOGNIZED.
01:56:46	THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER. IN RESPONSE TO THE BLUE-ANON RHETORIC I RISE IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 12 TO ESTABLISH A SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE WEAPONIZATION OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. THE AUTHORITARIAN LEFT HAS USED THE FULL MIGHT AND AUTHORITY OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO FORCE ITS AGENDA ON THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN WEAPONIZED TO PRESSURE PRIVATE COMPANIES TO CENSOR CONSERVATIVES, TARGET PARENTS AS DOMESTIC TERRORISTS, JUST SIMPLY FOR CARING ABOUT THEIR CHILDREN AND THEIR EDUCATION. MANIPULATE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE BY DECLARING HUNDREDER BIDEN'S LAPTOP AS RUSSIAN DISINFORMATION. EVEN FAILING TO INFORM THE AMERICAN CITIZENS ABOUT CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS A FORMER VICE PRESIDENT HAD IN HIS POSSESSION AND LAUNCH AND UNWARRANTED INVESTIGATION INTO PRESIDENT TRUMP'S PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN. MR. SPEAKER, OUR CONSTITUTION IS A CONTRACT WITH THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND OUR GOVERNMENT, THAT CONTRACT, IS DESIGNED TO PRODUCE MAXIMUM FREEDOM AND MINIMUM TYRANNY FOR THIS GREAT COUNTRY. SADLY THE F.B.I. AND THE D.O.J. AND MANY OTHER AGENCIES -- Show Less Text
01:57:54	THE GENTLELADY'S TIME HAS EXPIRE.
01:57:57	I YIELD THE GENTLELADY 30 SECONDS.
01:57:58	THE GENTLELADY IS RECOGNIZED FOR 30 SECONDS.
01:58:01	SADLY THE F.B.I. AND D.O.J. AND MANY OTHER AGENCIES ARE VIOLATING THIS CONTRACT AND WORKING TO MAKE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE SUBJECTS RATHER THAN

FREE CITIZENS. THIS COMMITTEE IS ESSENTIAL AND I ENCOURAGE THE CREATION AND ADOPTION OF THIS RESOLUTION. I YIELD.

Show Less Text

01:58:20 THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA RESERVES. THE GENTLEMAN FROM MASSACHUSETTS.

01:58:27 OK. MR. SPEAKER, I AM HAPPY TO YIELD TWO MINUTES TO THE GENTLEMAN FROM GEORGIA, MR. JOHNSON.

01:58:32 THE GENTLEMAN FROM GEORGIA IS RECOGNIZED.

01:58:35 I THANK THE GENTLEMAN FOR YIELDING. I RISE IN STRONG OPPOSITION TO H.RES. 12. THE INSURRECTION PROTECTION COMMITTEE. WHICH SPEAKER MCCARTHY, THE 21ST CENTURY MCCARTHYISM, HAD TO AGREE TO LAST WEEK IN ORDER TO GAIN THE SPEAKERSHIP. SO M A, GA EXTREMIST REPUBLICANS FORCED AS A CONS AGAIN OF GETTING THEIR VOTE THE SPEAKER TO PROMISE TO CREATE THIS SELECT COMMITTEE AND DONALD TRUMP HAD HIS HANDS IN IT. DONALD TRUMP HAD HIS HANDS IN IT LAST WEEK. DURING THIS CIRCULAR FIRING SQUAD. HE WAS CALLING THE SHOTS. AND THIS WILL BENEFIT HIM. THIS INSURRECTION PROTECTION COMMITTEE IS SET UP TO INSULATE THE EX-PRESIDENT ALONG WITH VARIOUS MAGA REPUBLICANS WHO ARE STILL SERVING HERE IN THE HOUSE WHO ARE UNDER INVESTIGATION. IT'S HERE TO PROTECT THEM FROM THAT INVESTIGATION. IT'S HERE TO DISRUPT THE FLOW OF JUSTICE. IN THIS COUNTRY. THIS IS A DANGEROUS, EXTREME COMMITTEE THAT IS PUT IN THE HANDS OF SOMEONE WHO, A GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO EVEN DEFIED CONGRESSIONAL SUBPOENAS AND REFUSED TO COME AND TESTIFY BEFORE THE JANUARY 6 COMMITTEE. NOW THEY'RE TRYING TO INTERFERE WITH NOW THEY ARE TRYING TO INTERFERE WITH JUSTICE DEPARTMENT DELIBERATIONS WHETHER OR NOT THEY SHOULD BE CHARGED WITH COMMITTING CRIMINAL OFFENSES WITH THE LEAD UP TO ON JANUARY 6 AND THEREAFTER. THIS IS A VERY DANGEROUS PIECE OF LEGISLATION. MAGA REPUBLICANS ARE BEHIND IT. LED BY THE HEAD ELECTION DENIER IN THIS COUNTRY WHO, BY THE WAY, INSTITUTED SOMETHING DOWN IN BRAZIL THIS WEEKEND. IT'S A WORLDWIDE AFFAIR. THIS IS

DANGEROUS. WE MUST STOP T VOTE NO ON H.RES. 12. WITH THAT I YIELD BACK.

Show Less Text

02:00:48 THE GENTLEMAN FROM MASSACHUSETTS RESERVES. RECOGNIZE THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA.

02:00:53 THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER. I YIELD TWO MINUTES TO MY VERY GOOD FRIEND, THE GENTLEMAN FROM NORTH CAROLINA, MR. BISHOP.

02:00:58 THE GENTLEMAN FROM NORTH CAROLINA IS RECOGNIZED.

02:01:02 WITH GREAT POW --

02:01:04 WITH GREAT POWER COMES GREAT RESPONSIBILITY. WE ENTRUST OUR DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, F.B.I., AND INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY WITH GREAT POWER TO KEEP US SAFE. YET AS LONG AS THESE AGENCIES HAVE EXISTED, THEY VIOLATED AMERICANS' CIVIL RIGHTS. EVERYDAY AMERICANS. THE SECURITY STATE BELIEVES ITSELF TO BE ABOVE THE CONSTITUTION AND THE LAWS PASSED BY CONGRESS. OR PERHAPS THE BELIEF IS ONLY TACIT. IT IS AWARE ONLY OF POWER. NOT AUTHORITY, POWER. THE F.B.I. SPIED ON FRANK SIN GNAT A, JOHN LENON, DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, AND MUHAMMAD ALI BECAUSE THEY WERE NATIONAL SECURITY THREATS. CELEBRITIES. BUT EVERY DAY AMERICANS AS TO THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS. THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY ABUSED POWER TO SPY ON PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES, SITTING PRESIDENT, AND MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND THEIR STAFFS. THE F.B.I. CONTINUE JOUSTLY -
- CONTINUOUSLY COORDINATED WITH SOCIAL MEDIA COMPANIES TO MODERATE SOCIAL CONTENT. THE PUBLIC SQUARE, SO CONTEMPTUOUS ARE THEY AND OUT OF TOUCH WHEN CONFRONTED WITH THIS JUST WEEKS AGO, THEY SAID, WE WERE MERELY ENGAGED IN -- ENGAGING WITH OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS. LEADING UP TO THE 2020 ELECTION, THE F.B.I. WORKED HAND IN HAND WITH TWITTER AND FACEBOOK TO SILENCE THE HUNTER- BIDEN LAPTOP STORY. CONCEALMENT FROM EVERYDAY AMERICANS. THEY CONTINUE TO SILENCE CRITICISM

OF COVID POLICIES AND VACCINE MANDATES TO THE HARM OF EVERYDAY AMERICANS. IN 2013 THE FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE, JAMES CLAPPER, LIED TO CONGRESS ABOUT THE N.S.A. COLLECTING DATA ON MILLIONS OF AMERICANS. HE'S ESCAPED A RECKONING. THE N.S.A. SPIED ON GROUPS, INCLUDING HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, OTHER N.G.O.'S. F.B.I. CONTRACTORS CONDUCTED THOUSANDS OF SEARCHES ON N.S.A. DATABASES. THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY SPIED ON JOURNALISTS AND POLITICAL OPPONENTS. IN CLEAR VIOLATION OF THE FIRST AMENDMENT.

Show Less Text

02:03:14

YIELD ADDITIONAL 30 SECONDS.

02:03:18

THAT'S NOT ALL JUST ILLEGAL. IT'S UN-AMERICAN. AND IT CANNOT CONTINUE. THE GOVERNMENT'S MASSIVE SURVEILLANCE APPARATUS IS WELL DOCUMENTED. THERE IS STILL MUCH MORE THAT WE DO NOT KNOW. WE OWE IT TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO REVEAL THE ROT WITHIN OUR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND CUT IT OUT. SO THAT IT CAN NO LONGER HARM EVERYDAY AMERICANS. MR. SPEAKER, TODAY, WE ARE PUTTING THE DEEP STATE ON NOTICE. WE ARE COMING FOR YOU ON BEHALF OF EVERYDAY AMERICANS. I YIELD BACK.

Show Less Text

02:03:53

THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA RESERVES. THE GENTLEMAN FROM MASSACHUSETTS IS RECOGNIZED.

02:03:57

MR. SPEAKER, I YIELD TWO MINUTES TO THE GENTLEWOMAN FROM TEXAS, MS. JACKSON LEE.

02:04:00

THE GENTLEWOMAN FROM TEXAS IS RECOGNIZED FOR TWO MINUTES.

02:04:05

I THANK THE GENTLEMAN VERY MUCH. MR. COLE, I REMEMBER AFTER 9/11 WHEN WE ALL WORKED TOGETHER TO ENSURE THE PROTECTION OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THROUGH THE PATRIOT ACT AND DEALING WITH THE FISA COURTS. WE WORKED TOGETHER. BECAUSE TRUTH IS IMPORTANT. I JUST WANT TO SIMPLY

BE ON THE FLOOR TODAY TO SPEAK ABOUT TRUTH. I WORK WITH MY SCHOOL BOARDS ACROSS MY DISTRICT. I KNOW THAT THERE IS NOT ONE SCHOOL BOARD THAT DOES NOT WELCOME A PARENT TO HEAR THEIR VOICES. BECAUSE OBVIOUSLY THEY ARE PARTNERS IN THE EDUCATION OF OUR PRECIOUS CHILDREN. BUT IN SEPTEMBER, 2021 THE NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARD ASSOCIATION SENT MR. BIDEN A LETTER POINTING TO A TREND OF VIOLENCE AND THREATS AGAINST SCHOOL OFFICIALS. IT INCLUDED A BRIEF REFERENCE TO MR. SMITH'S ARREST INCIDENT AND EXAMPLES WITH A FOOTNOTE TO A NEWS ACCOUNT OF THE MEANING THAT MENTIONED THE ARREST IN PASSING BUT WITHOUT DETAILS LIKE THE DAUGHTER'S ACTION, ASSAULT. BUT THE POINT IS, IS THAT THIS CAME ABOUT. BECAUSE THERE WERE THREATS AGAINST SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS. SO CAN WE HAVE TRUTH HERE? THAT'S WHAT I RISE TO BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF THIS BODY AS RELATES TO THIS COMMITTEE AND SELECT COMMITTEE. IS IT GOING TO BE TRUTH FINDING OR IS THIS GOING TO BE A COMMITTEE THAT IS GOING TO COLLECT INFORMATION OR OTHERWISE INVESTIGATE CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES AND GIVES THE MOST RIGHT-WING MEMBERS WHO MAY HAVE AN AX TO GRIND TO PARTICIPATE? OR IS IT GOING TO BE FAIR? IS IT GOING TO BE A GROSS MISUSE OF POWER WITH DANGEROUS IMPLICATIONS, UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES, AND COULD POTENTIALLY EXPOSE GENERAL OPERATIONS OF OUR NATIONAL SECURITY INFRASTRUCTURE WHICH WILL AMERICAN LIVES AT RISK. LET ME BE VERY CLEAR. RUSSIA'S ONE OF OUR MOST DANGEROUS ADVERSARIES. WE ARE IN THE MIDDLE OF A NATIONAL SECURITY QUAGMIRE. AND TO UNDERMINE THAT THROUGH INVESTIGATIONS OF THE F.B.I. AND CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE IS GOING TO BE EXTREMELY DANGEROUS. THE PASSAGE OF THIS RESOLUTION WOULD ALSO GIVE MAGA REPUBLICANS THE ABILITY TO INTERFERE IN ONGOING CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS. INCLUDING THOSE INVESTIGATING THE EXTREMISTS --

Show Less Text

02:06:17

YIELD ADDITIONAL ONE MINUTE.

02:06:19

THE LADY IS RECOGNIZED FOR 60 SECONDS.

02:06:22

INCLUDING THOSE INVESTIGATING THAT DAY THAT SOME DECLARED WAS JUST A BUNCH OF TOURISTS ON JANUARY 6, 2021. I WORKED WITH MY FRIENDS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE AISLE. I HAVE WORKED WITH MR. ROY. BUT IS THIS A QUESTION OF TRUTH? THAT IS THE ISSUE THAT WE STAND HERE TODAY. IN THIS COUNTRY, NO ONE IS ABOVE THE LAW. AND TO SUGGEST THAT SOME PEOPLE SHOULD BE BECAUSE THEY DON'T AGREE WITH THE FORCE OF LAW BEING APPLIED TO THE ACTIVITIES IS CONTRARY TO THE VERY FABRIC OF FAIRNESS, JUSTICE, AND EQUALITY THAT AMERICA WAS FOUNDED ON. LET ME AS AN ASIDE INDICATE THAT WE KNOW WHAT HAS BEEN IN THE HEADLINES. 10 DOCUMENTS FOUND IN A LOCKED CLOSET THAT MR. BIDEN MAY HAVE HAD. YOU KNOW WHAT, MR. SPEAKER, THE PROCESS OF THE LAW IS PROCEEDING. THE CALL WAS MADE. THE DOCUMENTS WERE SURRENDERED, IF YOU WILL. AND THE PROCESS GOES FORWARD. UNDER THE LAWS OF THIS LAND. NO ONE DENIED IT. NO ONE REJECTED IT. NO ONE DID NOT IN ANY WAY COME TO SAY ANYTHING OTHER THAN FOLLOW THE LAW. ON THE OTHER HAND, IN MARA MAR-A-LAGO, NO LAW WAS FOUND.

Show Less Text

02:07:29

THE LADY'S TIME HAS EXPIRED. THE GENTLEMAN FROM MASSACHUSETTS WILL RESERVE. THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA IS RECOGNIZED.

02:07:36

THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER. MR. SPEAKER, I YIELD TWO MINUTES TO MY VERY GOOD FRIEND, THE DISTINGUISHED GENTLEMAN FROM TEXAS, MR. ROY.

02:07:41

THE GENTLEMAN FROM TEXAS IS RECOGNIZED FOR TWO MINUTES.

02:07:45

I THANK THE SPEAKER. I THANK THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA. LISTEN, WITH INTEREST TO MY LEAGUE FROM TEXAS. AS WE RECOUNTED SOME OF THE REALITIES TALKING ABOUT SCHOOL BOARDS. I HAVE COME TO KNOW SCOTT SMITH OF LOUDOUN COUNTY, I CONSIDER HIM A FRIEND. I HAVE BEEN TALKING TO HIM SINCE THE ACTIONS AGAINST HIS FAMILY IN RESPONSE TO HIS DARING TO GO TO THE SCHOOL BOARD TO QUESTION THE ABUSE OF HIS DAUGHTER. RESULTED IN HIS NAME BEING PUT OUT AS THE POSTER CHILD FOR THE WEAPONIZATION OF GOVERNMENT AGAINST PARENTS WHO DARE QUESTION SCHOOL BOARDS. YES, IN

FACT, THE NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARD ASSOCIATION SENT A LETTER, BUT WHAT BECAME INCREASINGLY CLEAR IS THAT IT WAS IN COLLUSION WITH THE WHITE HOUSE SEEKING THE LETTER. THAT HAS BECOME READILY CLEAR FROM THE EMAILS THAT WE HAVE GOTTEN THROUGH FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUESTS. THAT THE BIDEN WHITE HOUSE WAS SEEKING THE NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARD ASSOCIATION TO HAVE THAT KIND OF A LETTER REQUEST IN ORDER THAT THEY, THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION, BE ABLE TO TARGET SCOTT SMITH AND OTHER PARENTS AROUND THIS COUNTRY. EVERY AMERICAN SHOULD SHUDDER AT THE POWER OF THE GOVERNMENT, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, BEING TARGETED AT PARENTS FOR DARING TO STAND UP AND DEFEND A DAUGHTER WHO IS ABUSED IN A PATH ROOM IN THE LOUDOUN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS. BY THE WAY, THE SUPERINTENDENT IN LOUDOUN HAS BEEN INDICTED. THIS IS THE TRUTH. YET THIS ADMINISTRATION WANTED TO MAKE SCOTT SMITH THE BAD GUY. NOT THE RAPIST. NOT THE SCHOOL BOARD THAT ALLOWED THIS TO OCCUR IN THE SCHOOLS IN LOUDOUN COUNTY. IT'S NOT JUST PARENTS. WHAT ABOUT BUNNY POUNDS AND THE CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATION, THE I.R.S. WAS TARGETING THEIR NONPROFIT STATUS BECAUSE THEY HAPPENED TO BE RELIGIOUS. THIS IS POUTER OF THE I.R.S. HOW ABOUT THE POWER OF OUR PUBLIC HEALTH ELITE WHO MADE DECISIONS AND PUT OUT MISINFORMATION THAT UNDERMINED THE ABILITY OF AMERICANS TO STAND UP --

Show Less Text

02:09:56

YIELD ADDITIONAL 15 SECONDS.

02:09:59

THE GENTLEMAN IS RECOGNIZED FOR 15 SECONDS.

02:10:01

TO STAND UP AND TO CONTINUE THEIR JOBS AND CONTINUE GOING TO SCHOOL. INSTEAD THEY WERE MASKED AND HAD NEEDLES PUT IN THEIR ARMS. NOW WE WANT TO KNOW THE TRUTH. NOT JUST ORIGINS, THE TRUTH. THIS COMMITTEE IS CRITICALLY IMPORTANT AND WE ARE GOING TO FIND THE TRUTH. WE ARE GOING TO DEFEND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AGAINST THE WEAPONIZATION --

Show Less Text

02:10:20	THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: THE GENTLEMAN'S TIME HAS EXPIRED. THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA RESERVES. RECOGNIZE THE GENTLEMAN FROM MASSACHUSETTS.
02:10:25	<p>I WOULD SIMPLY SAY IN RESPONSE TO THAT, MR. SPEAKER, THAT THERE ARE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEES THAT -- THAT ARE EQUIPPED AND READY TO LOOK INTO ALL THE ISSUES THAT THE GENTLEMAN JUST RAISED AND INTO ALT CONSPIRACY THEORIES THEY WANT TO RAISE. THEY WENT AHEAD AND CREATED THIS ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE. AND THERE IS A REASON FOR IT. AND THIS NEW COMMITTEE THEY ARE CREATING HAS THE AUTHORITY TO BASICALLY INVESTIGATE ONGOING CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS. IT'S UNPRECEDENTED. BUT IN ANY EVENT, I REMIND THE GENTLEMAN YOU HAVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEES, ARE YOU IN CHARGE, YOU CAN DO WHATEVER YOU WANT TO DO. THERE IS A REASON FOR THIS COMMITTEE. THERE IS A REASON WHY AFTER 13 ROLL CALL VOTES FOR SPEAKERSHIP THEY ADDED AN ADDITIONAL LINE GIVING THIS COMMITTEE THE AUTHORITY TO LOOK INTO ONGOING INVESTIGATIONS. I RESERVE MY TIME.</p> <p>Show Less Text</p>
02:11:22	THE GENTLEMAN FROM MASSACHUSETTS RESERVES. THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA RECOGNIZE.
02:11:28	I YIELD ONE MINUTE TO MY VERY GOOD FRIEND WHO SERVED THE COUNTRY IN AND OUT OF UNIFORM, DISTINGUISHED GENTLEMAN, MR. PFLUGER FROM TEXAS.
02:11:36	THE GENTLEMAN FROM TEXAS IS RECOGNIZED FOR ONE MINUTE.
02:11:38	<p>I THANK THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA. I RISE TODAY BECAUSE AMERICANS ARE COMPLETELY FED UP. THEY ARE FED UP FROM BEING TARGETED AND THE ASSERTION I JUST HEARD THAT MAGA REPUBLICANS ARE DOMESTIC TERRORISTS, THE ASSERTION THAT THIS IS HAPPENING THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, I MUST TELL MY 90-YEAR-OLD GRANDMOTHER -- I WILL NOT.</p> <p>Show Less Text</p>

02:12:00 WHO SAID THAT?

02:12:03 THIS ASSERTION HAS BEEN MADE TIME AND TIME AGAIN FROM SPEAKERS THROUGHOUT, THIS ASSERTION HAS BEEN MADE THAT MAGA REPUBLICANS WILL BLOW SOMETHING UP. THAT MAGA REPUBLICANS ARE TERRORISTS. THAT MAGA REPUBLICANS -- LISTEN. WE HAVE SEEN CENSORSHIP AND MEDDLING BY FORMER INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY EXPERTS AND CURRENT FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AGAINST REPUBLICANS AND PREVENTING MEDIA STORIES FROM ACTUALLY COMING TO LIGHT. THIS IS A FACT. MY FRIEND FROM TEXAS JUST TALKED ABOUT THE I.R.S. AND OTHER AGENCIES THAT HAVE DONE THIS. WE ARE NOT STANDING IDLY BY. IT'S TIME THAT THE TRUTH COMES OUT. WHEN WE SAY THINGS LIKE MAGA REPUBLICANS, I THINK WE SHOULD ALL BE VERY CAREFUL AND NOT BE DISINGENUOUS BECAUSE THERE ARE PLENTY OF GOOD AMERICANS AND PATRIOTS THAT ARE WILLING TO STAND UP -- WILLING TO STAND UP --

Show Less Text

02:12:52 THE GENTLEMAN IS RECOGNIZED FOR 15 SECONDS.

02:12:54 THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT FREE SPEECH BE UPHELD. PROTECTING FREE SPEECH BE UPHELD. NOT LIBEL. NOT SLANDER. AND NOT ANY SORT OF ASSERTION THAT ALL MAGA REPUBLICANS, THAT ALL MAGA REPUBLICANS ARE BAD. WE KNOW THAT THAT IS NOT TRUE. IN FACT, THERE ARE MANY GOOD AMERICANS THAT ARE STANDING UP FOR THEIR RIGHTS. WITH THAT I YIELD BACK.

Show Less Text

02:13:18 THE GENTLEMAN RESERVES. THE GENTLEMAN FROM MASSACHUSETTS IS RECOGNIZED.

02:13:22 THE GENTLEMAN JUST GOT UP AND MADE ALL KINDS OF ASSERTIONS THAT THINGS WERE JUST SAID THAT WEREN'T SAID. I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE HELL HE'S TALKING ABOUT. I WILL AGAIN URGE MY COLLEAGUES TO VOTE NO AGAINST THIS -- CREATION OF THIS COMMITTEE BECAUSE -- THIS IS UNPRECEDENTED. THIS IS A WITCH-HUNT. THIS IS A COMMITTEE DESIGNED BASICALLY TO

PROTECT THOSE WHO, QUITE FRANKLY, ARE UNDER INVESTIGATION RIGHT NOW. I RESERVE MY TIME.

Show Less Text

02:13:47

THE GENTLEMAN FROM MASSACHUSETTS RESERVES. THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA IS RECOGNIZED.

02:13:51

THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER. I YIELD TWO MINUTES TO MY VERY GOOD FRIEND, DISTINGUISHED GENTLEMAN FROM CALIFORNIA, MR. MCCLINTOCK.

02:13:57

THE GENTLEMAN FROM CALIFORNIA IS RECOGNIZED.

02:14:00

MR. SPEAKER, IN ORDER TO ENFORCE OUR LAWS WE HAVE GIVEN TERRIFYING POWERS TO SUCH AGENCIES AS THE F.B.I., THE I.R.S., AND THE C.I.A., AMONG OTHERS. THE MISUSE OF THESE POWERS TO EFFECT POLITICAL OUTCOMES WOULD BE FATAL TO FREEDOM AND IT'S THE HALLMARK OF ANY DICTATORSHIP. THIS OUR CONSTITUTION WAS WRITTEN TO PREVENT WHOEVER IS IN POWER. IN RECENT YEARS WE WATCHED THE I.R.S. TARGET INDIVIDUALS BECAUSE OF THEIR POLITICAL BELIEFS. WE HAVE SEEN A GLARING DOUBLE STANDARD IN THE ENFORCEMENT OF OUR LAWS BY OUR JUSTICE DEPARTMENT BASED ON THE POLITICAL BELIEFS OF THEIR TARGETS. WE HAVE SEEN THEIR POWERS USED TO INTIMIDATE CITIZENS INTO SILENCE WHETHER THE TEA PARTY OR PARENTS QUESTIONING THEIR SCHOOL BOARDS. MOST ALARMINGLY, WE HAVE SEEN THE USE OF THE F.B.I. AND OUR INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES TO SUPPRESS POLITICAL VIEWPOINTS DISAGREEABLE TO THOSE IN POWER OR TO MANUFACTURE OR PROPAGATE ONE OF THE GREATEST SCANDALS IN AMERICAN HISTORY, THE RUSSIAN COLLUSION HOAX. WHEN A GOVERNMENT CAN INTERFERE WITH THE ELECTIONS THAT GOVERN IT, AND WHEN AGENCIES CAN ACT INDEPENDENTLY OF THE OUTCOME OF THESE ELECTIONS, DEMOCRACY WILL DIE. THIS SELECT COMMITTEE IS DESIGNED TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THESE ALARMING ALLEGATIONS AND I WOULD HOPE THE DEMOCRATS WOULD BE JUST AS EAGER TO SORT THIS OUT AS THE REPUBLICANS. AFTER ALL, IT WAS NOT THAT LONG AGO THESE POWERS WERE TURNED AGAINST THE LEFT AND COULD BE AGAIN IF WE DO NOTHING. . IN A PERIOD OF DEMOCRACY, 51% OF

THE PEOPLE CAN VOTE ANYTIME TO THROW THE OTHER 49% IN JAIL. THAT'S WHY WE HAVE A CONSTITUTION, WHICH LIMITS THE POWERS OF GOVERNMENT THROUGH CHECKS AND BALANCES LIKE THIS CONGRESS, LIKE OUR BILL OF RIGHTS, AND WHY EACH OF US TAKES AN OATH TO SUPPORT AND DEFEND IT. LET US ALL HONOR THAT OATH TODAY. I YIELD BACK.

Show Less Text

02:16:00

THE GENTLEMAN YIELDS BACK. THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA RESERVES. THE GENTLEMAN FROM MASSACHUSETTS IS RECOGNIZED.

02:16:05

SO MR. SPEAKER, LET ME JUST MAKE CLEAR TO MY COLLEAGUES. A CHANGE WAS MADE IN THIS LEGISLATION, AND IT WAS NOT JUST TO ALLOW THE COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ONGOING CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS, WHICH IS QUITE NEFARIOUS IN AND OF ITSELF, ORIGINALLY IT WAS ONLY SUPPOSED TO BE ABLE TO HAVE AUTHORITY OVER THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, D.H.S., AND THE F.B.I. THE C.I.A. AND THE I.R.S. WERE ADDED. THIS WAS ALL DONE AFTER 13

Show Less Text

02:16:36

SPEAKER VOTES AT 10:00 AT NIGHT, CLEARLY IN AN ATTEMPT TO WIN MORE VOTES, BUT THE PEOPLE WHO ARE ASKING FOR THESE CHANGES ARE THE PEOPLE WHO ARE, YOU KNOW, WHO ARE THE SAME PEOPLE WHO WANT TO INVESTIGATE THE PEOPLE WHO ARE INVESTIGATING THEM. THIS IS REALLY, REALLY UNPRECEDENTED. I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE, BUT THIS ISN'T RIGHT. THIS ISN'T OPENNESS. THIS ISN'T TRANSPARENCY. MY FRIENDS TALK ABOUT CORRUPTION. THIS IS CORRUPTION. THIS IS - - THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE, AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE OUGHT TO KNOW IT AND REASONABLE COLLEAGUES ON THE REPUBLICAN SIDE OUGHT TO SAY NO TO THIS. I RESERVE MY TIME.

Show Less Text

02:17:23

THE GENTLEMAN FROM MASSACHUSETTS RESERVES. THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA IS RECOGNIZED.

02:17:27

THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER. MR. SPEAKER, I YIELD TWO MINUTES TO MY GOOD FRIEND FROM THE GREAT STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA, MR. PERRY.

02:17:33	THE GENTLEMAN FROM PENNSYLVANIA IS RECOGNIZED FOR TWO MINUTES.
02:17:36	I THANK MY FRIEND FROM OKLAHOMA. AND I WONDER IF MY FRIENDS ON OTHER SIDE OF THE AISLE SO CONCERNED ALL THE TIME ABOUT CIVIL RIGHTS, HAVING MAJORITY... Show Full Text
02:19:50	MEMBERS ARE REMINDED TO DIRECT THEIR COMMENTS TO THE CHAIR AND NOT TO OTHER MEMBERS IN THE CHAMBER. THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA RESERVES. THE GENTLEMAN FROM MASSACHUSETTS IS RECOGNIZED. Show Less Text
02:19:59	YEAH, I'LL SAY WHAT THE GENTLEMAN JUST SAID WAS TERRIBLE BUT THIS COMMITTEE HAS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO DO WITH THAT. I RESERVE THE BALANCE OF MY TIME.
02:20:07	THE GENTLEMAN FROM MASSACHUSETTS RESERVES. THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA IS RECOGNIZED.
02:20:10	THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER. I YIELD TWO MINUTES TO MY VERY GOOD FRIEND, THE GENTLEMAN FROM KENTUCKY, MR. MASSIE.
02:20:16	THE GENTLEMAN FROM KENTUCKY IS RECOGNIZED FOR TWO MINUTES.
02:20:18	I THANK THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA. THE VERY WORDS EXPRESSED BY THOSE OPPOSED TO THIS COMMITTEE DEMONSTRATE THE DIRE NEED FOR THIS COMMITTEE. WE'VE GONE FOUR YEARS WITHOUT OVERSIGHT. AND TO QUOTE SHAKESPEARE, THE LADY PROTEST TOO MUCH, ME THINKS. THOSE THAT ARGUE AGAINST TRANSPARENCY MAY HAVE SOMETHING TO HIDE. SO I LISTENED VERY CLOSELY WHEN I HEARD THE FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE GIVE THE REASON THAT MAYBE WE SHOULDN'T ASK FOR THIS INFORMATION FROM THESE -- FROM THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY. HE SAID THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY, AFTER THIS COMMITTEE, MAY BE RELUCTANT TO SHARE INFORMATION WITH CONGRESS, THAT CONGRESS NEEDS

TO CRAFT LEGISLATION. I WOULD SUGGEST IF THEY ARE RELUCTANT, THEY ARE DISQUALIFIED FROM HOLDING THESE POSITIONS. IF THEY HAVE GROWN SO BIG THAT THEY ARE NO LONGER ACCOUNTABLE TO THE BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT THAT CREATED THEM, THAT FUNDS THEM, AND THAT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR OVERSIGHT, THEN THEY NEED TO BE HEMMED IN. I IMPORE MY COLLEAGUES ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE AISLE TO POPULATE THIS COMMITTEE WITH SERIOUS DEMOCRATS. I KNOW THERE ARE SOME OVER THERE. I WORKED WITH THEM. WE CO-SPONSORED AMENDMENTS ON PRIVACY OVER THE PAST DECADE. SOME OF THEM HAVE PASSED. PLEASE POPULATE IT WITH SERIOUS MEMBERS. PLEASE, TO MY COLLEAGUES ON THIS SIDE OF THE AISLE, GIVE US THE RESOURCES WE NEED TO DO THIS JOB. AND IF I MAY REBUT SOMETHING THAT'S BEEN SAID ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE AISLE, IT'S UNPRECEDENTED THAT CONGRESS WOULD INVESTIGATE SOMETHING THAT INVOLVES AN ONGOING CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION. WHAT WAS THE JANUARY 6 COMMITTEE? THIS IS NOT UNPRECEDENTED. IT'S WHAT YOU WASTED MILLIONS OF DOLLARS ON IN THE PAST TWO YEARS. I URGE ADOPTION OF THIS RULE AND SUPPORT FOR THE COMMITTEE THAT IT WILL CREATE, AND I YIELD BACK THE BALANCE OF MY TIME.

Show Less Text

02:22:10

THE GENTLEMAN YIELDS BACK. THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA RESERVES. THE GENTLEMAN FROM MASSACHUSETTS IS RECOGNIZED.

02:22:17

I WOULD SAY HE HOPES WE POPULATE THIS COMMITTEE WITH SERIOUS DEMOCRATS THAT HE POP POPULATES THE COMMITTEE WITH REPUBLICANS WHO DID NOT ASK FOR A PARDON, WHO DID NOT HAVE THEIR PHONE SEIZED BY THE F.B.I. I RESERVE MY TIME.

Show Less Text

02:22:33

THE GENTLEMAN FROM MASSACHUSETTS RESERVES. THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA IS RECOGNIZED.

02:22:37

THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER. I YIELD 90 SECONDS TO MY VERY GOOD FRIEND, THE DISTINGUISHED GENTLEMAN FROM GEORGIA, MR. CLYDE.

02:22:44

THE GENTLEMAN FROM GEORGIA IS RECOGNIZED FOR 1 1/2 MINUTES.

02:22:47

THANK YOU, SPEAKER. I THANK THE GENTLEMAN FOR YIELDING. LAST WEEK AS I FOUGHT AS ONE OF THE 20 CONSERVATIVE MEMBERS TO DISMANTLING THIS INSTITUTION'S BROKEN SYSTEM AND RESTORING THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE SHOULD BE, PART OF THE STATUS QUO IN WASHINGTON WHICH WE FOUGHT TO CHANGE IS POLITICIANS MAKING EMPTY PROMISES OF ACCOUNTABILITY. BUT BELIEVE ME IN THIS, WHEN WE VOW ACCOUNTABILITY WAS COMING, WE MEANT IT. ESTABLISHING THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE WEAPONIZATION OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HANDS THE HOUSE A POWERFUL TOOL TO UNCOVER THE TWO-TIER JUSTICE SYSTEM THAT'S ROTTING OUR REPUBLIC. IT'S NO SECRET THAT ALPHABET AGENCIES HAVE BEEN DANGEROUSLY WEAPONIZED AGAINST THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. AS AN ALARMING EXAMPLE, THE F.B.I. HAS COERCED CITIZENS TO RELINQUISH THEIR SECOND AMENDMENT RIGHTS AND USE BIG TECH COMPANIES AS PRIVATE SECTOR PROXIES TO SILENCE AMERICANS' FREE SPEECH. IT'S TIME TO THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATE OUR GOVERNMENT AGENCIES' ATROCIOUS BEHAVIOR AND ABUSIVE POWER AND DISREGARDING AND DESTORING AMERICA'S PRECIOUS FREEDOMS. AND THIS SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE WILL HAVE THE TEETH TO DO JUST THAT. I WANT TO THANK SPEAKER McCARTHY AND CHAIRMAN COLE FOR THEIR INVALUABLE SUPPORT IN BRINGING THIS RESOLUTION TO THE FLOOR FOR A VOTE. AND I URGE ALL OF MY COLLEAGUES TO JOIN ME IN VOTING FOR THIS RESOLUTION SO WE MAY DELIVER TRANSPARENCY, ANSWERS AND, YES, ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AS WE HAVE PROMISED. THANK YOU AND I YIELD BACK THE BALANCE OF MY TIME.

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02:24:16

THE GENTLEMAN FROM GEORGIA YEELGDZ BACK. -- YIELDS BACK. THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA RESERVES. THE GENTLEMAN FROM MASSACHUSETTS IS RECOGNIZED.

02:24:24

MR. SPEAKER, I ASK UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO INSERT AN ARTICLE, PERRY WON'T STAY OFF COMMITTEE INVESTIGATING HOUSE PROBES. I RESERVE THE BALANCE OF MY TIME.

02:24:37	WITHOUT OBJECTION. THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA IS RECOGNIZED.
02:24:40	I'D ADVISE MY FRIEND THAT I AM PREPARED TO CLOSE WHENEVER HE IS.
02:24:44	MR. SPEAKER, I YIELD MYSELF THE REMAINING TIME.
02:24:47	THE GENTLEMAN FROM MASSACHUSETTS IS RECOGNIZED.
02:24:49	MR. SPEAKER, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT US TO ROLL UP OUR SLEEVES AND GET TO WORK. THEY WANT US TO MAKE PROGRESS AND DELIVER RESULTS THAT HELP THEM IN THEIR DAY-TO-DAY LIVES. THEY DON'T NEED CONGRESS TO BEND AND BREAK TO THE WILL OF MAGA EXTREMISTS EXTREMISTS, AND THEY DEFINITELY DON'T WANT US TO PUSH CRAZY CONSPIRACY THEORIES AND GO ON WITCH-HUNT TO GET POLITICAL SCORES. THEY GUTTED THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS AND HERE THEY ARE WITH THIS NEW SUBCOMMITTEE WHICH THREATENS OUR SAFETY, OUR SECURITY, AND OUR FREEDOM. IT'S AN UNPRECEDENTED ATTACK ON OUR NATION'S LAWS -- ON OUR NATION'S LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, OUR JUSTICE SYSTEM, AND OUR INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY. I WOULD JUST SAY TO MY COLLEAGUES WHO SPOKE BEFORE ABOUT THE INTELLIGENCE OVERSIGHT, WE HAVE AN ENTIRE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE THAT DOES -- THAT HAS OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITIES ON THOSE MATTERS. AND I'M SORRY THE GENTLEMAN WHO DOESN'T SPOKE DOESN'T HAVE CONFIDENCE IN WHO THE REPUBLICANS ARE GOING TO PROPOSE AS CHAIR. SO LOOK, THIS COMMITTEE IS DERANGED. IT'S A BAD IDEA. AND IT WILL GO DOWN IN HISTORY AS ONE OF THE WORST COMMITTEES THAT A CONGRESS HAS EVER PUT FORWARD. IT WILL IN THE SAME CATEGORY AS THE JOSEPH McCARTHY ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES OR BENGHAZI COMMITTEE WHICH NOW SPEAKER McCARTHY SAID IT WAS A SET UP TO TRY TO TAKE DOWN SECRETARY CLINTON. HERE'S THE DEAL AND HERE'S WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT. THERE ARE SIX ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE AISLE WHO ASK FOR A -- ASKED FOR A PARDON FROM PRESIDENT TRUMP. THEY DID HIS DIRTY WORK, BUT TRUMP LEFT THEM HANGING. HE DID NOT GIVE THEM A PARDON. SO

NOW THEY'RE EFFECTIVELY TRYING TO PARDON THEMSELVES WITH THE CREATION OF THIS SELECT COMMITTEE. THIS IS UNCONSCIONABLE. IT IS SO BLATANT. AND, AGAIN, THE CHANGES THAT WERE MADE TO GIVE THEM THE ABILITY TO PARDON THEMSELVES WERE DONE AFTER THE 13th SPEAKER VOTE IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT TO TRY TO WIN THEIR VOTES OVER. THIS IS NOT THE WAY THIS CONGRESS SHOULD RUN. THIS IS NOT THE WAY REPUBLICANS OR DEMOCRATS OR ANY MAJORITY SHOULD BEHAVE. PEOPLE SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF THEMSELVES THAT THIS IS IN THE RULES PACKAGE, THAT THIS IS WHAT MY FRIENDS ARE PUSHING RIGHT NOW. WE ARE BETTER THAN THIS. WE SHOULD NOT BE GOING DOWN THIS ROAD. MY FRIENDS TALKED -- SAID THEY WANT TO COMBAT INFLATION, THEY WANT TO MAKE THE LIVES OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE BETTER. LET'S FOCUS ON THOSE THINGS. LET'S FOCUS ON AREAS THAT ACTUALLY IMPROVE THE LIVES OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. THIS IS A COLOSSAL WASTE OF TIME. BUT EVEN WORSE, IT IS TO ME THE EPITOME OF WHAT CORRUPTION IS ALL ABOUT. AND WITH THAT, MR. SPEAKER, I YIELD BACK THE BALANCE OF MY TIME AND I URGE A NO VOTE.

Show Less Text

02:27:35

THE GENTLEMAN FROM MASSACHUSETTS YIELDS BACK. THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA IS RECOGNIZED.

02:27:44

MR. SPEAKER, I YIELD MYSELF THE BALANCE OF THE TIME. IN CLOSING, I URGE ALL MY COLLEAGUES TO SUPPORT THIS RESOLUTION, CREATING THE SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE WEAPONIZATION OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. IN THE 1970'S, IT WAS APPARENT FROM REVELATIONS IN THE POPULAR PRESS THAT THE AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY HAD COMMITTED ABUSES AS PART OF THEIR ACTIVITIES. IN RESPONSE, CONGRESS CREATED THE CHURCH COMMITTEE WHICH INVESTIGATED THESE ABUSES AND BROUGHT THEM INTO THE LIGHT. TODAY, IT IS, AGAIN, APPARENT THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN WEAPONIZED FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES. LIKE THE CHURCH COMMITTEE, WHICH THIS SUBCOMMITTEE IS MODELED ON, THE SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE WEAPONIZATION OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL INVESTIGATE THE ABUSE OF AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES AND BRING THEM INTO THE LIGHT. I'M CONFIDENT THAT THIS SUBCOMMITTEE WILL DO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE A GREAT SERVICE. THEY DESERVE TO HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THEIR GOVERNMENT, AND THAT

CONFIDENCE STARTS WITH ENSURING THAT THE VAST POWERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH ARE NOT ABUSED. MR. SPEAKER, I YIELD BACK THE BALANCE OF MY TIME AND URGE ALL MEMBERS TO VOTE YES ON THIS RESOLUTION.

Show Less Text

02:28:53

THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA YIELDS BACK. PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 5, THE PREVIOUS QUESTION IS ORDERED ON THE RESOLUTION. THE QUESTION IS ON AGREEING TO THE RESOLUTION. THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. THOSE OPPOSED, NO. IN THE OPINION OF THE CHAIR, THE AYES HAVE IT.

Show Less Text

02:29:13

MR. SPEAKER, ON THAT I ASK FOR THE YEAS AND NAYS.

02:29:16

THE YEAS AND NAYS ARE REQUESTED. THOSE FAVORING A VOTE BY THE YEAS AND NAYS WILL RISE. A SUFFICIENT NUMBER HAVING ARISEN, THE YEAS AND NAYS ARE ORDERED. PURSUANT TO CLAUSE 8 OF RULE 20, FURTHER PROCEEDINGS ON THIS QUESTION WILL BE POSTPONED. PURSUANT TO CLAUSE 12-A OF RULE 1, THE CHAIR DECLARES THE HOUSE IN RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR.

Show Less Text

From: William Bosanko
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Letter from Chairman James Comer
To: Lausch, John (USAILN); Evers, Austin (ODAG); Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
Cc: Stern, GaryM
Sent: January 10, 2023 5:04 PM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: 2023-01-10 - Letter - NARA - Biden classified docs.pdf

FYI

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Debra Wall** <debra.wall@nara.gov>
Date: Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 4:57 PM
Subject: Fwd: Letter from Chairman James Comer
To: Stern, GaryM <garym.stern@nara.gov>, William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>, Hamilton, John <john.hamilton@nara.gov>, Stanwich, Maria <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>, John Valceanu <john.valceanu@nara.gov>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Vinyard, Ashlee** <(b) (6)>
Date: Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 4:54 PM
Subject: Letter from Chairman James Comer
To: debra.wall@nara.gov <debra.wall@nara.gov>
Cc: congress.affairs@nara.gov <congress.affairs@nara.gov>, john.hamilton@nara.gov <john.hamilton@nara.gov>, Mandolfo, James <(b) (6)>, Greenberg, Jake <(b) (6)>

Ms. Wall,

Please see the attached letter from Congressman James Comer, Chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability. We appreciate your assistance and look forward to hearing from you. Please acknowledge receipt of this letter.

Thank you,

Ashlee

Ashlee Vinyard Director of Operations

Committee on Oversight and Accountability Chairman James Comer

2157 Rayburn Washington, DC 20515 (202) 225-5074

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074
MINORITY (202) 225-5051

<https://oversight.house.gov>

January 10, 2023

Ms. Debra Steidel Wall
Acting Archivist of the United States
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408

Dear Ms. Steidel Wall:

The Committee on Oversight and Accountability is investigating whether there is a political bias at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For months, NARA failed to disclose to Committee Republicans or the American public that President Biden—after serving as Vice President—stored highly classified documents in a closet at his personal office.¹ NARA learned about these documents days before the 2022 midterm elections and did not alert the public that President Biden was potentially violating the law. Meanwhile, NARA instigated a public and unprecedented FBI raid at Mar-a-Lago—former President Trump’s home—to retrieve presidential records. NARA’s inconsistent treatment of recovering classified records held by former President Trump and President Biden raises questions about political bias at the agency.

In the aftermath of the FBI’s August 8, 2022, raid of Mar-a-Lago, NARA attempted to both minimize its role in the matter and explain that the Obama-Biden Administration’s handling of documents was proper and complete. In an October 11, 2022, statement, NARA claimed it had assumed physical custody of all Obama-Biden Administration records when the President and Vice President left office.² NARA claimed, “[r]eports that indicate or imply that those Presidential records were in the possession of the former Presidents or their representatives, after they left office, or that the records were housed in substandard conditions, are false and misleading.”³ NARA’s statement was apparently false and never corrected after learning that President Biden stored classified documents at Penn Biden Center.⁴

On November 2, 2022, a week before the midterm elections, President Biden’s personal attorneys—whose level of security clearance remains unknown—“discovered” classified Obama-Biden Administration documents that were quietly handed off to the U.S. Department of

¹ Shawna Chen, *Classified docs from Biden’s VP days found in private office*, AXIOS (Jan. 9, 2023).

² *Statement*, NATIONAL ARCHIVES (Oct. 11, 2022), available at <https://www.archives.gov/press/press-releases/2022/nr22-001>.

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*

Justice without executing a residential search warrant.⁵ The documents retrieved from President Biden’s personal office included documents designated as “sensitive compartmented information . . . which is used for highly sensitive information obtained from intelligence sources.”⁶

NARA’s public enforcement of the Presidential Records Act against former President Trump while failing to disclose violations by President Biden to Committee Republicans and the American public raises concerns about inconsistent policy and procedures at the agency that creates the appearance of political bias. As such, please provide the following documents and information as soon as possible, but no later than January 24, 2023:

1. All documents and communications between NARA and the White House related to classified documents at the Penn Biden Center;
2. All documents and communications between and among NARA employees, including Gary Stern and John Hamilton related to classified documents at the Penn Biden Center;
3. All documents and communications between NARA and the Department of Justice related to classified documents at the Penn Biden Center; and
4. All documents and communications between NARA and any outside entity, including President Biden’s attorneys, related to classified documents at the Penn Biden Center.

Additionally, we request that you make Gary Stern, NARA General Counsel, and John Hamilton, NARA Director of Congressional Affairs, available for transcribed interviews with Committee staff regarding this matter. Please schedule these interviews no later than January 17, 2023.

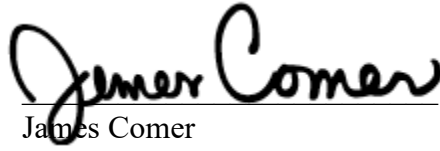
The Committee on Oversight and Accountability has specific jurisdiction over NARA under House Rule X. Additionally, the Committee on Oversight and Accountability is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. If you have any questions about this request, please contact Committee on Oversight and Accountability staff at (202) 225-5074.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important investigation.

⁵ Jamie Gangel, Marshall Cohen, Evan Perez & Phil Mattingly, *Classified documents from Biden’s time as VP discovered in private office*, CNN.COM (Jan. 9, 2023).

⁶ *Id.*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Comer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

James Comer

Chairman

Committee on Oversight and Accountability

cc: The Honorable Jamie B. Raskin, Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Accountability

From: Lausch, John (USAILN)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: Revised Draft Proposed NARA Statement
To: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG); Evers, Austin (ODAG)
Sent: January 10, 2023 5:22 PM (UTC-05:00)

(b)(5) per EOUSA

Call if there is anything we need to discuss. Thanks,

John

From: Lausch, John (USAILN)
Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2023 3:34 PM
To: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) (b) (6); Evers, Austin (ODAG) (b) (6) >
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Re: Revised Draft Proposed NARA Statement

(b)(5) per EOUSA

Let me know what you think. Thanks,

John

DRAFT

(b) (5)

From: William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2023 3:24 PM
To: Evers, Austin (ODAG) (b) (6); Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) <(b) (6)>;
Lausch, John (USAILN) (b) (6)
Cc: Stern, GaryM <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Revised Draft Proposed NARA Statement

Good afternoon. I just spoke with our agency head. (b) (5)

Thanks,

Jay

On Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 4:00 PM William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov> wrote:

Adding in USA Lausch.

Thanks,

Jay

On Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 3:26 PM William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov> wrote:

Austin and Rush,

Below is a revised draft based on a

(b) (5)

Thanks,

Jay

William J. Bosanko
Chief Operating Officer
National Archives & Records Administration
(b) (6)

(b) (5)

From: William Bosanko
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Revised Draft Proposed NARA Statement
To: Lausch, John (USAILN)
Cc: Evers, Austin (ODAG); Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG); Stern, GaryM
Sent: January 10, 2023 5:25 PM (UTC-05:00)

Many thanks. No rush, just looking to be certain we do not lose sight of next steps.

Jay

On Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 5:23 PM Lausch, John (USAILN) (b) (6) > wrote:

Jay –

(b)(5) per EOUSA . Thanks,

John

From: William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2023 4:03 PM
To: Evers, Austin (ODAG) (b) (6) >; Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) (b) (6) >; Lausch, John (USAILN) (b) (6) >
Cc: Stern, GaryM <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Revised Draft Proposed NARA Statement

(b) (5)

Please let Gary and I know if you need anything as this develops and will likewise alert you if anything out of the ordinary arises.

The one question that remains unanswered is whether or not the materials in Boston can/should be moved to DC so that we can review for potential PRA materials. We would like to resolve that in the near future. In the meantime, we believe we have finished our review of the materials in DC with regard to PRA status and we are glad to share that with you to the extent it might be helpful.

Jay

On Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 4:23 PM William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov> wrote:

Duplicative Material



From: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
Subject: FW: a few edits from OLC on the SC order
To: Gaston, Molly (ODAG); Miller, Marshall (ODAG)
Sent: January 10, 2023 5:57 PM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: 2023.01.09 SC Order v3 + OLC 1.10.docx

L. Rush Atkinson

Associate Deputy Attorney General

Office of the Deputy Attorney General

(b) (6) (cell); (b) (6) (office)

From: Hart, Rosemary (OLC) <(b) (6)>

Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2023 5:22 PM

To: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) (b) (6)

Cc: Schroeder, Christopher H. (OLC) (b) (6)

Subject: a few edits from OLC on the SC order

Rush: This looked good to us. We had just a few suggested edits, reflected in the attached redline.

Let us know if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Rosemary

Rosemary Hart

Special Counsel

Office of Legal Counsel

U.S. Department of Justice

(o) (b) (6)

(cell) (b) (6)

From: Antell, Kira M. (OLA)
Subject: Letter from Comer to NARA
To: Uriarte, Carlos F. (OLA); Benson, Adrienne (ODAG); Evers, Austin (ODAG)
Sent: January 10, 2023 6:04 PM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: 2023-01-10 - Letter - NARA - Biden classified docs.pdf

Attaching the letter from Comer to NARA.

Thanks,
Kira

Kira Antell
Office of Legislative Affairs
Department of Justice

o: (b) (6)

c: (b) (6)

From: Dulaney, Emma (PAO)
Subject: RE: HR 12 debate
To: Benson, Adrienne (ODAG); Evers, Austin (ODAG)
Cc: Zdeb, Sara (OLA)
Sent: January 10, 2023 6:42 PM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: 2023-01-10 Transcript of Floor Debate on HR 12 .docx

Yep, updated version attached.

From: Benson, Adrienne (ODAG) (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2023 5:45 PM
To: Dulaney, Emma (PAO) (b) (6); Evers, Austin (ODAG) (b) (6)
Cc: Zdeb, Sara (OLA) <(b) (6)>
Subject: RE: HR 12 debate

Hi Emma, thank you, this is very helpful. Do you also have access to a version that identifies the speakers? This one has time stamps but not the names.

From: Dulaney, Emma (PAO) (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2023 4:12 PM
To: Evers, Austin (ODAG) (b) (6)
Cc: Benson, Adrienne (ODAG) (b) (6); Zdeb, Sara (OLA) (b) (6)
Subject: RE: HR 12 debate

Duplicative Material



Floor Debate: House Resolution 12, Establishing the Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of Federal Government

January 10th, 2023

MEMBERS' KEY POINTS

- **Planned Investigations**

- First Amendment:
 - "TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S ROLE IN SUPPRESSING INFORMATION ON TWITTER" -- Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK)
 - "MANIPULATE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE BY DECLARING HUNDREDS OF BIDEN'S LAPTOP AS RUSSIAN DISINFORMATION." -- Rep. Lauren Boebert (R-CO)
 - "THEY CONTINUE TO SILENCE CRITICISM OF COVID POLICIES AND VACCINE MANDATES TO THE HARM OF EVERYDAY AMERICANS." -- Rep. Dan Bishop (R-NC)
 - "THE RIGHT TO SPEAK IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ... WE HAVE HAD DOZENS OF WHISTLEBLOWERS TALK TO US. WE WANT TO FOCUS ON THAT BECAUSE WE WANT IT TO STOP. WE WANT THE DOUBLE STANDARD TO STOP. IF YOU ARE A PRO-LIFE ACTIVIST YOU ARE GOING TO GET YOUR DOOR KICKED IN, ARRESTED AND HANDCUFFED IN FRONT OF YOUR SEVEN KIDS AND SPOUSE FOR PRAYING IN FRONT OF AN ABORTION CLINIC AND TELLING YOUR GUY WHO WAS HARASSING YOUR SON TO KNOCK IT OFF. THE PROTEST THAT WENT ON, AT SUPREME COURT JUSTICES HOMES IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE LEAK OF THE DOBS OPINION, NO PROBLEM THERE." -- Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH), Chairman, Judiciary Committee
- FBI:
 - "AND TO THE REVOLUTIONS REGARDING THE F.B.I.'S ABUSE OF ITS FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE AND SURVEILLANCE ACT AUTHORITY." -- Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK)
- Ongoing Investigations:
 - "WHY IS PRESIDENT BIDEN WHO HAS REPEATEDLY KEPT CLASSIFIED MATERIALS IN AN UNSECURE LOCATION FOR YEARS NEVER BASED ON A RAID? IS IT BECAUSE WE HAVE A TWO-TIER SYSTEM JUSTICE?" -- Rep. James Comer (R-KY)
 - Chairman, Oversight Committee
- Memo:
 - "RANGING FROM A FATHER BEING LABELED A, QUOTE, DOMESTIC TERRORIST, UNQUOTE, FOR CONFRONTING A SCHOOL BOARD OVER THE SEXUAL ASSAULT OF HIS DAUGHTER." -- Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK)
- NSA:
 - "IN 2013 THE FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE, JAMES CLAPPER, LIED TO CONGRESS ABOUT THE N.S.A. COLLECTING DATA ON MILLIONS OF AMERICANS. HE'S ESCAPED A RECKONING." -- Rep. Dan Bishop (R-NC)

- **Rebuttals**

- Attacks on Law Enforcement:

- “REPUBLICANS CLAIM TO CARE ABOUT LAW ENFORCEMENT BUT THIS NEW COMMITTEE IS ABOUT ATTACKING LAW ENFORCEMENT.” -- Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA)
- Interference in Ongoing Investigations:
 - “LET’S CALL IT WHAT IT REALLY IS THE REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE TO OBSTRUCT JUSTICE.” -- Rep. Daniel Goldman (D-NY)
 - “THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THIS SPECIAL SUBCOMMITTEE IS TO INTERFERE WITH THE SPECIAL KOWBL’S ONGOING INVESTIGATION INTO A CONSPIRACY TO OVERTURN THE 2020 ELECTION.” -- Rep. Daniel Goldman (D-NY)
 - “WHAT IT’S REALLY INTENDED TO DO IS TO UNDERMINE THE LEGITIMATE INVESTIGATION OF PRESIDENT TRUMP’S INCITEMENT OF A VIOLENT ATTACK ON THIS BUILDING, ON THIS CAPITOL, ON THIS CITADEL OF DEMOCRACY, AN INVESTIGATION THAT IMPLICATES SOME OF THE VERY MEMBERS OF THE BODY WHO WANT TO SIT ON THAT COMMITTEE.” -- Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA)
- Extremism:
 - “THE MAGA EXTREMIST FRINGE OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY WILL USE THIS PUSH QANON THEORIES. USE IT FOR FAKE INVESTIGATIONS INTO NONEXISTENT SCANDALS.” -- Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA)
 - “I RISE IN STRONG OPPOSITION TO THE REPUBLICAN SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE DEEP STATE CONSPIRACY THEORIES.” -- Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA)
- Priorities:
 - “THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT US TO ROLL UP OUR SLEEVES AND GET TO WORK. THEY WANT US TO MAKE PROGRESS AND DELIVER RESULTS THAT HELP THEM IN THEIR DAY-TO-DAY LIVES. THEY DON’T NEED CONGRESS TO BEND AND BREAK TO THE WILL OF MAGA EXTREMISTS, AND THEY DEFINITELY DON’T WANT US TO PUSH CRAZY CONSPIRACY THEORIES AND GO ON WITCH-HUNT TO GET POLITICAL SCORES.” -- Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA)

TRANSCRIPT

Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK)
01:26:15

THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER. MR. SPEAKER, I RISE TODAY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE RESOLUTION 12, RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE WEAPONIZATION OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. THIS SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE IS MODELED ON THE FAMOUS CHURCH COMMITTEE WHICH INVESTIGATED THE AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY IN THE 1970’S AND UNCOVERED AND EXPOSED A WIDE VARIETY OF ABUSES INCLUDE MANAGE DIRECTIVES AGAINST -- DIRECTED AGAINST AMERICAN CITIZENS. SIMILAR TO THE SITUATION THAT CONFRONTED AMERICA IN THE 1970’S, IN RECENT YEARS WE HAVE WITNESSED ABUSES OF THE CIVIL LIBERTIES OF AMERICAN CITIZENS COMMITTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH. THIS SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE WILL OPERATE AS A SELECT INVESTIGATIVE

SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE AND WILL BE TASKED WITH STUDYING AND REPORTING ON THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH'S AUTHORITY TO COLLECT INFORMATION ON OR OTHERWISE INVESTIGATE CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES. IT WILL INVESTIGATE HOW THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH AGENCIES WORK WITH AND EXCHANGE INFORMATION WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO FACILITATE ACTION AGAINST AMERICAN CITIZENS. HOW THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH AGENCIES SELECT, COMPILE, ANALYZE, USE OR DISSEMINATE INFORMATION ABOUT CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES, THE LAWS, PROGRAMS AN ACTIVE TOIFS THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH AS THEY RELATE TO THE COLLECTION OF INFORMATION ON CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES, AND ANY OTHER ISSUES RELATED TO THE VIOLATION OF CIVIL LIBERTIES OF AMERICAN CITIZENS. MR. SPEAKER, IT IS UNDENIABLE IN RECENT YEARS THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS ABUSED ITS AUTHORITY AND VIOLATED THE CIVIL LIBERTIES OF AMERICAN CITIZENS, OFTEN FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES. THERE ARE MANY EXAMPLES TO POINT TO, RANGING FROM A FATHER BEING LABELED A, QUOTE, DOMESTIC TERRORIST, UNQUOTE, FOR CONFRONTING A SCHOOL BOARD OVER THE SEXUAL ASSAULT OF HIS DAUGHTER. TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S ROLE IN SUPPRESSING INFORMATION ON TWITTER. TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY'S PLANS TO CREATE A DISINFORMATION GOVERNANCE BOARD. AND TO THE REVOLUTIONS REGARDING THE F.B.I.'S ABUSE OF ITS FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE AND SURVEILLANCE ACT AUTHORITY. ALL THESE EXAMPLES AND MANY MORE DEMONSTRATE HOW PREVALENT SUCH ABUSIVE ACTIONS HAVE BECOME. MR. SPEAKER, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DESERVE TO HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THEIR GOVERNMENT. THEY DESERVE TO KNOW THAT THE BROAD POWERS GRANTED TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE F.B.I., TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, AND TO THE INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES ARE NOT BEING ABUSED. THEY DESERVE TO KNOW THAT THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH IS NOT POSITIONING ITSELF AS THE FINAL ARBITER OF WHAT CONSTITUTES TRUTH. AND THEY DESERVE TO KNOW THAT THEY WILL NOT BE LABELED A DOMESTIC TERRORIST FOR ADVOCATING FOR THEIR CHILDREN IN FRONT OF A SCHOOL BOARD. MR. SPEAKER, IT WAS SUPREME COURT JUSTICE LOUIS BRAN DICE WHO STATED, QUOTE -- BRANDEIS WHO STATED, QUOTE, SUNLIGHT IS THE BEST DISINFECTANT. THIS WILL BRING ABUFFS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT INTO THE LIGHT FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND ENSURE THAT CONGRESS HAS THE -- AS THEIR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES CAN TAKE APPROPRIATION

ACTION TO REMEDY THEM. I HAVE CONFIDENCE THAT THIS SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE WILL ACCOMPLISH THAT GOAL. THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER, AND I RESERVE THE BALANCE OF MY TIME.

Show Less Text

01:29:34

THE GENTLEMAN RESERVES. THE GENTLEMAN FROM MASSACHUSETTS IS RECOGNIZED.

01:29:40

I YIELD MYSELF SUCH TIME AS I MAY CONSUME.

01:29:42

THE GENTLEMAN IS RECOGNIZED.

Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA)

01:29:44

TODAY WE WILL CONSIDER THE CREATION OF A NEW SUBCOMMITTEE HERE MONTANA HOUSE THAT REPUBLICANS CALL THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON WEAPON IDESSING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. I CALL IT THE MCCARTHY COMMITTEE. AND I'M NOT TALK ABOUT KENN, I'M TALKING ABOUT JOE. BECAUSE MR. SPEAKER, THIS COMMITTEE IS NOTHING MORE THAN A THE RANGED PLOY BY THE MAGA EXTREMIST WHO WAS HIJACKED THE PARTY AND WANT TO USE TAXPAYER MONEY TO PUSH THEIR FAR-RIGHT CONSPIRACY NONSENSE. LET'S START WITH THE SUBCOMMITTEE'S MANDATE WHICH IS RECKLESSLY BROAD. SPEAKER MCCARTHY IS ESSENTIALLY HANDING MR. JORDAN THE POWER TO TARGET ANYONE AND ANYTHING HE DOESN'T LIKE. ANYTHING AND ANYONE HE DEEMS UNCONSTITUTIONAL, ILLEGAL OR UNETHICAL. AND WHO DECIDES WHAT'S UNCONSTITUTIONAL, ILLEGAL OR UNETHICAL? MR. JORDAN DOES. SO WHY DON'T WE JUST BE BLUNT HERE. REPUBLICANS CLAIM TO CARE ABOUT LAW ENFORCEMENT BUT THIS NEW COMMITTEE IS ABOUT ATTACKING LAW ENFORCEMENT. IT'S ABOUT GOING AFTER PEOPLE. IT'S ABOUT KY DESTROYING PEOPLE'S CAREERS AND LIVES. IT'S ABOUT UNDERMINING THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. DEFUNDING THE POLICE. AND SETTLING SCORES ON BEHALF OF THE TWICE-IMPEACHED AND DISGRACED FORMER OCCUPANT OF THE OVAL OFFICE. THE THE MAGA EXTREMIST FRINGE OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY WILL USE THIS PUSH QANON THEORIES. USE IT FOR FAKE INVESTIGATIONS INTO NONEXISTENT SCANDALS. I THINK WE NEED TO CALL THIS THE TINFOIL HAT COMMITTEE. SPEAKER MCCARTHY EVEN CHANGED THE LANGUAGE AT THE LAST MINUTE TO PROVIDE UNPRECEDENTED AUTHORITY FOR THE SUBCOMMITTEE TO INTERFERE IN

ONGOING CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS. LET ME REPEAT, THE REPUBLICAN PARTY, PARTY THAT CLAIMS TO CARE ABOUT LAW AND ORDER, HAS CREATE ADD COMMITTEE NOT JUST TO DEFUND THE POLICE BASED ON THEIR WACKY CONSPIRACY THEORIES, BUT TO SHUT DOWN ONGOING INVESTIGATIONS. INCLUDING INTO DOMESTIC TERRORISTS, PHONY ELECTORS, INSURRECTIONISTS, PEOPLE WHO ARE ON TRIAL FOR SEDITION BECAUSE THEY TRIED TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT, AND EVEN DISGRACED FORMER PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP. THIS IS OUTRAGEOUS. WE ARE A COUNTRY OF LAWS. BUT THIS COMMITTEE SEEKS TO UNDERMINE THE LAW, UNDERMINE THE POLICE, AND MAKE A COMPLETE MOCKERY OF THE INVESTIGATIVE AND OVERSIGHT POWERS OF THE HOUSE. AS SEEN ON THIS WEEK'S SUNDAY SHOWS, SOME SITTING REPUBLICANS BEING INVESTIGATED RIGHT NOW BY THE F.B.I. AND THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE WANT TO SERVE ON THIS COMMITTEE. WHAT? COME ON, GIVE ME A BREAK. I KNOW MY REPUBLICAN FRIENDS HAVE SOME ETHICALLY CHALLENGED MEMBERS WHO ASKED FOR PARDONS FROM THE FORMER PRESIDENT, BUT THIS IS BEYOND THE PALE. THIS IS UNCONSCIONABLE. THIS IS A CONFLICT OF INTEREST. FIRST, THEY CUT GUT THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS. NOW THEY GIVE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS THE ABILITY TO INVESTIGATE AND TO TRY TO SHUT DOWN CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS THAT THEY ARE SUBJECTS IN. ONE SET OF RULES FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. ANOTHER SET OF RULES FOR REPUBLICAN MEMBERS OF CONGRESS. IT IS INCREDIBLY OFFENSIVE. ON THE FIRST REAL WEEK IN THE MAJORITY, THIS IS WHAT MY REPUBLICAN FRIENDS ARE PUSHING THROUGH? NOT A BILL TO FIGHT INFLATION. NOT A BILL TO RAISE WAGES FOR PEOPLE. BUT A BILL FOR REPUBLICAN MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO SHUT DOWN INVESTIGATIONS INTO THEIR OWN WRONGDOINGS. WHAT IS WRONG WITH THESE PEOPLE? AND ON TOP OF ALL OF THAT, THIS SUBCOMMITTEE EXPECTS TO USE THE POWER OF THE SUBPOENA TO ADVANCE THEIR DELUSIONAL QANON CONSPIRACY THEORIES AND HARASS FATHERLY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENTS. I WOULD SAY -- HARASS FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENTS. I WOULD SAY IF NOT HYSTERICAL THAT MR. MCCARTHY AND MR. JORDAN REFUSED TO COMPLY WITH BIPARTISAN SUBPOENAS ISSUED BY THE JANUARY 6 COMMITTEE. FOR THEM IT'S DO AS I SAY NOT AS I DO. IN MY MIND, IT SPEAKS VOLUMES THAT HOUSE REPUBLICANS ARE CHOOSING TO PRIORITIZE THIS KIND OF DANGEROUS PARTISAN GARBAGE INSTEAD OF ACTUALLY TRYING TO HELP EVERYDAY AMERICANS. WHATEVER HAPPENED TO REPUBLICANS' COMMITMENT TO AMERICA? THEY PROMISED TO

TACKLE INFLATION. AND THE OPIATE CRISIS. REDUCE THE NATIONAL DEBT. AND MORE. NONE OF THOSE ISSUES ARE ADDRESSED IN THEIR FIRST 12 BILLS. IN FACT, THE VERY FIRST BILL THEY PASSED LAST NIGHT DOESN'T REDUCE THE DEFICIT, IT ADDS \$114 BILLION TO THE DEFICIT BY MAKING IT EASIER FOR BILLIONAIRES TO CHEAT ON THEIR TAXES. BUT THIS IS WHERE WE ARE. WEEK TWO OF THE 118TH CONGRESS. AND WE ARE CREATE AGO WITCH-HUNT COMMITTEE -- CREATING A WITCH-HUNT COMMITTEE WHERE REPUBLICANS PLAN TO ADVANCE THEIR CRAZY THEORIES FROM THE INTERNET AT THE TAXPAYERS' EXPENSE. SENATOR JOSEPH MCCARTHY WOULD BE PROUD OF WHAT THE REPUBLICANS ARE DOING TODAY. PUTTING THEIR OWN PERSONAL POWER AND PARTISAN POLITICS OVER THE NEEDS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. JUST LIKE SENATOR MCCARTHY LOOKING FOR IMAGINARY COMMUNISTS, THEY ARE GOING TO FIND QANON CONSPIRACIES EVERYWHERE THEY LOOK BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT THEY WANT TO FIND. AND JUST LIKE THE MCCARTHY COMMITTEE, THIS WILL BECOME ANOTHER SHAMEFUL, DISGRACEFUL MOMENT FOR THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES. THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE RULE OF LAW. NOTHING TO DO WITH PROPER OVERSIGHT OF GOVERNMENT. IT'S SIMPLY ABOUT REVENGE. IT'S ABOUT DISRUPTING AND DESTROYING RATHER THAN COLLABORATING AND CREATING. IT'S ABOUT PUTTING POLITICS OVER PEOPLE INSTEAD OF PUTTING PEOPLE OVER POLITICS. TO BUILD A BETTER FUTURE FOR AMERICA. THIS SUBCOMMITTEE IS AN AWFUL IDEA. AND I URGE MY COLLEAGUES IN THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE TERMS TO VOTE NO ON THIS MONSTROSITY THAT WILL FURTHER EMPOWER THE EXTREMISTS AT THE EXPENSE OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. WITH THAT I RESERVE MY TIME.

Show Less Text

01:35:49

THE GENTLEMAN RESERVES. THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA IS RECOGNIZED.

01:35:51

THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER. I YIELD FOUR MINUTES TO MY VERY GOOD FRIEND, THE DISTINGUISHED INCOMING CHAIRMAN OF THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, MR. JORDAN OF OHIO.

01:35:59

THE GENTLEMAN FROM OHIO IS RECOGNIZED FOR FOUR MINUTES.

Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH)
Chairman, Judiciary
Committee
01:36:02

THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER. I APPRECIATE THE GENTLEMAN YIELDING. A PLOY? IT'S NOT A PLOY WHEN THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TREATS PARENTS AS TERRORISTS. MOMS AND DADS SIMPLY SHOWING UP AT A SCHOOL BOARD MEETING TO ADVOCATE FOR THEIR SON OR DAUGHTER. IT'S NOT ALLY WHEN THE F.B.I. PAY PAYS TWITTER \$3 MILLION. NOT ONE, NOT TWO, \$3 MILLION TO CENSOR AMERICAN CITIZENS. IT'S NOT A PLOY WHEN THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY TRIES TO SET UP A DISINFORMATION GOVERNANCE BOARD BECAUSE WE ALL KNOW THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY CAN TELL WHAT'S GOOD SPEECH AND WHAT IS BAD SPEECH. WHAT'S -- YOU GOT TO BE KIDDING ME. I'LL TELL YOU WHAT. DOZENS OF WHISTLEBLOWERS HAVE COME TALKED TO REPUBLICAN STAFF ON THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE DOESN'T THINK THIS IS A PLOY. THAT'S WHY THEY TALKED TO US. THEY KNOW HOW SERIOUS THIS IS. THE FORMER DEMOCRAT CHAIR OF THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE IS IN THE PRESS TODAY WE ARE GOING TO FIGHT THIS TOOTH AND NAIL. MEANWHILE THE FORMER DEMOCRAT CHAIR OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE PRESSURED TWITTER TO CENSOR A JOURNALIST. YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME. THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT -- THIS IS ABOUT THE FIRST AMENDMENT. SOMETHING YOU GUYS USED TO CARE ABOUT. I WOULD HOPE WE COULD GET BIPARTISAN AGREEMENT ON PROTECTING THE FIRST AMENDMENT. THE FIVE RIGHTS WE ENJOY AS AMERICANS UNDER THE FIRST AMENDMENT. YOUR RIGHT TO PRACTICE YOUR FAITH, ASSEMBLE, RIGHT TO PETITION THE GOVERNMENT, FREEDOM OF PRESS, FREEDOM OF SPEECH. EVERY SINGLE ONE'S BEEN ATTACKED IN THE LAST TWO YEARS. THE GOVERNMENT WAS TELLING PEOPLE THEY COULDN'T GO TO CHURCH A FEW YEARS AGO. YOU'RE TRITE ASSEMBLE. PETITION THE GOVERNMENT. THE DEMOCRATS KEPT THE CAPITOL CLOSED. A CITIZEN COULDN'T COME TO YOUR CAPITOL THAT YOU PAY FOR TO ADDRESS YOUR MEMBER OF CONGRESS BECAUSE NANCY PELOSI WOULDN'T LET YOU IN. FREEDOM OF THE PRESS, I JUST TOLD YOU WHAT THE HEAD OF THE INTEL COMMITTEE TRIED TO DO TO A JOURNALIST. THE MOST IMPORTANT RIGHT WE HAVE, YOUR RIGHT TO TALK. BECAUSE IF YOU CAN'T TALK, YOU CAN'T PRACTICE YOUR FAITH. YOU CAN'T SHARE YOUR FAITH. YOU CAN'T PETITION YOUR GOVERNMENT. THE RIGHT TO SPEAK IS THE MOST IMPORTANT. THAT'S WHAT THEY ARE GOING A THAT'S WHY WE HAVE HAD DOZENS OF WHISTLEBLOWERS TALK TO US. WE WANT TO FOCUS ON THAT BECAUSE WE WANT IT TO STOP. WE WANT THE DOUBLE STANDARD TO STOP. IF YOU ARE A PRO-LIFE ACTIVIST YOU ARE GOING TO GET YOUR DOOR KICKED IN, ARRESTED AND HANDCUFFED IN

FRONT OF YOUR SEVEN KIDS AND SPOUSE FOR PRAYING IN FRONT OF AN ABORTION CLINIC AND TELLING YOUR GUY WHO WAS HARASSING YOUR SON TO KNOCK IT OFF. THE PROTEST THAT WENT ON, AT SUPREME COURT JUSTICES HOMES IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE LEAK OF THE DOBS OPINION, NO PROBLEM THERE. AMERICANS ARE SICK AND TIRED OF T WHAT WE WANT, WE DON'T WANT TO GO AFTER ANYONE. WE JUST WANT IT TO STOP. WE WANT TO RESPECT THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION THAT THE GREATEST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD HAS. THAT'S WHAT THIS COMMITTEE IS ALL ABOUT. THAT'S WHAT WE ARE GOING TO FOCUS ON. THAT'S WHAT WE ARE GOING TO DO. I YIELD BACK TO THE GENTLEMAN.

Show Less Text

01:38:48

THE GENTLEMAN YIELD. THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA RESERVES. THE GENTLEMAN FROM MASSACHUSETTS IS RECOGNIZED.

01:38:54

I ASK UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO INSERT INTO THE RECORD AN ARTICLE FROM THE HILL ENTITLED JANUARY 6 PANEL NAMES SIX HOUSE G.O.P. LAWMAKERS WHO ASKED FOR PARDONS. MR. SPEAKER, THERE ARE AT LEAST SIX HOUSE MEMBERS WHO SOUGHT PARDONS FROM PRESIDENT TRUMP FOLLOWING JANUARY 6 INSURRECTION INSURRECTION. MANY OF THEM WOULD LIKE TO BE ON THIS COMMITTEE.

Show Less Text

01:39:12

WITHOUT OBJECTION.

01:39:14

I YIELD TWO MINUTES TO THE GENTLEMAN FROM NEW YORK, MR. NADLER.

01:39:17

THE GENTLEMAN FROM NEW YORK IS RECOGNIZED.

Rep. Jerry Nadler (D-NY)
Ranking Member,
Judiciary Committee
01:39:20

I THANK THE GENTLEMAN. MR. SPEAKER, I RISE IN STRONG OPPOSITION TO THIS RESOLUTION. WHICH APPEARS DESIGNED TO LAUNCH A DANGEROUS AND UNPRUS DENTED ATTACK ON OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES. LAST WEEK AMERICANS ACROSS THE COUNTRY WATCHED THE REPUBLICAN PARTY MELT DOWN

THE MOMENT IT ENCOUNTERED ITS FIRST TEST. FOR DAYS THE EXTREMIST WING OF THE PARTY HELD THE REST OF THEIR CAUCUS HOSTAGE. AS THEY DEMANDED A STEEP PRICE FOR THEIR SUPPORT. AND TODAY WE HAVE THE FIRST OF THEIR MANY DEMANDS ON DISPLAY. AN OPEN-ENDED INVESTIGATION INTO WHATEVER CONSPIRACY THEORIES MAY BE HEADLINING THE RIGHT WING ECHO CHAMBER AT THE MOMENT. WITH UNCHECKED AUTHORITY TO UNDERMINE ONGOING CRIMINAL AND INTELLIGENCE INVESTIGATIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, THE SELECT COMMITTEE CAN USE ITS EXPANSIVE AUTHORITIES TO PROTECT DONALD TRUMP. THOSE WHO PERSECUTED -- PERPETRATED FAKE ELECTOR SCREAMS TO OVERTURN THE 2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. INSURRECTIONISTS FACING TRIALS, AND OTHER DOMESTIC TERRORISTS. IT AIMS TO UNDERMINE THE SAFEGUARDS OF OUR DEMOCRACY AND TO EMBOLDEN MAGA EXTREMISTS WHO WOULD RATHER SEE OUR INSTITUTIONS FAIL THAN TO SEE DEMOCRATS AND PRESIDENT BIDEN SUCCEED. MAKE NO MISTAKE, THE DESTROYED DEMOCRACY SUBCOMMITTEE WILL ENABLE THE HOUSE REPUBLICANS TO INTERFERE WITH THE OPERATION OF BUSINESSES THEY DO - - OPERATION OF BUSINESSES THAT NOT LIKE. TO SETTLE POLITICAL SCORES ON BEHALF OF THE DONALD TRUMP. THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE HAS SERIOUS WORK TO DO. RATHER THAN TRYING TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, THIS NEW SUBCOMMITTEE WILL EXPEND UNTOLD TIME AND MONEY UNDERMINING OUR NATION'S LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, OUR JUSTICE SYSTEM, AND OUR INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY. ALL FOR A POLITICAL STUNT CATERING TO THE EXTREMIST WING OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY. I OPPOSE THIS RESOLUTION. I ENCOURAGE MY COLLEAGUES TO DO THE SAME. I YIELD BACK THE BALANCE OF MY TIME.

Show Less Text

01:41:12

THE GENTLEMAN YIELDS BACK THE BALANCE OF HIS TIME. THE GENTLEMAN FROM MASSACHUSETTS RESERVES. THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA IS RECOGNIZED.

01:41:17

THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER. MR. SPEAKER, I YIELD TWO MINUTES TO MY VERY GOOD FRIEND, THE INCOMING CHAIRMAN OF THE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE, MR. COMER OF KENTUCKY.

01:41:25

THE GENTLEMAN FROM KENTUCKY IS RECOGNIZED FOR TWO MINUTES

Rep. James Comer (R-KY)
Chairman, Oversight
Committee
01:41:27

MR. SPEAKER, I RISE TODAY IN SUPPORT OF THE CREATION OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE WEAPONIZATION OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EXISTS TO SERVE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. ADMINISTER THE LAW IMPARTIALLY. AND PROTECT OUR CHERISHED FREEDOMS ENSHRINED IN THE CONSTITUTION. HOWEVER, SOME UN-ELECTED, UNACCOUNTABLE FEDERAL BUREAUCRATS HAVE ABUSED THEIR POSITIONS OF POWER. THE OTHER SIDE OF THE AISLE LIKES TO TALK ABOUT, QUOTE, THREATS OF DEMOCRACY. BUT THEY REFUSE TO DO ANY SONG KONGAL OVERSIGHT AS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WEAPONIZED ITS AUTHORITY, INFLUENCE, AND POWER TO TARGET AMERICAN GROUPS AND CITIZENS WASTED ON THEIR POLITICAL AND IDEA LOCAL VIEWS. JUST YESTERDAY, WE LEARNED THAT CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS FROM JOE BIDEN'S TIME AS VICE PRESIDENT WERE STASHED IN AN UNSECURED CLOSET. THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES KNEW ABOUT THESE DOCUMENTS SEVERAL MONTHS AGO. BEFORE THE ELECTION. BUT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WERE JUST INFORMED YESTERDAY THANKS TO SOME INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING. MEANWHILE, THE F.B.I. CONDUCT ADD RAID ON FORMER PRESIDENT TRUMP'S MAR-A-LAGO RESIDENTS FOR THE SAME VIOLATION. WHY IS PRESIDENT BIDEN WHO HAS REPEATEDLY KEPT CLASSIFIED MATERIALS IN AN UNSECURE LOCATION FOR YEARS NEVER BASE FACE ADD RAID? IS IT BECAUSE WE HAVE A TWO TIER SYSTEM JUSTICE? THE LEFT ALSO CONTINUES TO PUSH FOR AN EXPANDED I.R.S., EAST BOUND THOUGH THE AGENCY HAS A HISTORY OF TARGETING CONSERVATIVE POLITICAL GROUPS. THEY PUSH FOR MORE AUDITS OF MIDDLE CLASS AMERICANS INSTEAD OF BETTER CUSTOMER SERVICE. IN ANOTHER EXAMPLE, PRESIDENT BIDEN'S DIRECTION THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FORMED A DISTAUPIAN DISINFORMATION BOARD TASKED WITH POLICING AMERICAN SPEECH ONLINE. WHILE THIS BOARD HAS BEEN DISBANDED, WE CONTINUE TO LEARN MORE ALMOST EVERY DAY ABOUT HOW THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION PRESSURES BIG TECH TO CENSOR AND SUPPRESS AMERICAN'S VIEWS ONLINE CONTRARY TO THEIR POLITICAL NARRATIVE. THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION'S JUSTICE DEPARTMENT ALSO ACTIVELY TARGETED PARENTS' CONCERNED ABOUT WOKE CURRICULA IN THEIR CHILDREN'S SCHOOLS AND LABELED MANY AS DOMESTIC TERRORISTS. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY WANT ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THESE ABUSES. WE -- MR. COLE: ADDITIONAL 30 SECONDS.

Show Less Text

01:43:41

WE CANNOT DELAY ACCOUNTABILITY ANY LONGER. WE NEED TO GET TO WORK NOW. WE MUST EXPOSE THE ABUSES COMMITTED BY THE UN-ELECTED FEDERAL BUREAUCRACY AND ENACT SOLUTIONS TO PREVENT SIMILAR ABUSES FROM HAPPENING IN THE FUTURE. I LOOK FORWARD AS CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THIS NEW SELECT COMMITTEE. I YIELD BACK.

Show Less Text

01:44:01

THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA RESERVES. THE GENTLEMAN FROM MASSACHUSETTS INVESTIGATED IS RECOGNIZED.

01:44:08

I INSERT INTO THE RECORD A CNN ARTICLE THERE ARE CLEAR DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN TRUMP AND BIDEN'S TWO CASES. MR. SPEAKER, THE DIFFERENCE IS CLEAR UNLIKE IN...

Show Full Text

01:45:02

THE GENTLEMAN FROM NEW YORK INVESTIGATED FOR ONE MINUTE.

Rep. Daniel Goldman (D-NY)

01:45:05

THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER. I RISE TODAY TO MAKE SOMETHING CRYSTAL CLEAR, THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THIS SPECIAL SUBCOMMITTEE IS TO INTERFERE WITH THE SPECIAL KOWBL'S ONGOING INVESTIGATION INTO A CONSPIRACY TO OVERTURN THE 2020 ELECTION. THIS IS A SHOCKING ABUSE OF POWER. BUT IT'S NOT JUST THE USUAL EFFORTS BUT IT'S NOT JUST THE USUAL EFFORTS BY MEMBERS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE AISLE TO DO TRUMP'S DIRTY WORK, THIS TIME THEY'RE TRYING TO PROTECT THEMSELVES. ONE OF THEM, A MEMBER FROM PENNSYLVANIA, HAD HIS CELL PHONE SEIZED PURSUANT TO A COURT ORDER FINDING PROBABLE CAUSE THAT HE COMMITTED A CRIME. YET HE'S INDICATED THAT HE WANTS TO BE ON THIS SUBCOMMITTEE SO HE CAN UNDERMINE A CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION INTO HIMSELF. MY REPUBLICAN COUNTERPARTS CAN DRESS UP THE SUBCOMMITTEE WITH AMENACING NAME BUT LET'S CALL IT WHAT IT REALLY IS THE REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE TO OBSTRUCT JUSTICE. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DON'T WANT THAT. THEY DON'T WANT YET ANOTHER FRONT OF THE REPUBLICAN WAR ON DEMOCRACY AND THE RULE OF LAW. I WILL VOTE NO AND URGE EVERYONE TO DO SO. THANK YOU, I YIELD BACK.

Show Less Text

01:46:14 THE GENTLEMAN YIELDS BACK. THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA IS RECOGNIZED.

01:46:18 THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER. I YIELD TWO MINUTES TO MY VERY GOOD FRIEND, THE DISTINGUISHED INCOMING CHAIRMAN OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE, MR. TURNER OF OHIO.

01:46:26 THE GENTLEMAN IS RECOGNIZED FOR TWO MINUTES.

Rep. Mike Turner (R-OH)
01:46:29

THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER. THANK YOU, CHAIRMAN COLE. LAST CONGRESS I SERVED AS RANKING MEMBER OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE. CHAIRMAN JORDAN AND I HAVE BEEN WORKING TO ENSURE THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, INCLUDING THE F.B.I., ARE NOT VIOLATING THE CIVIL RIGHTS OF LAW-ABIDING AMERICANS. SADLY, WE ALREADY HAVE VERY TROUBLING EVIDENCE TO BEGIN OUR INVESTIGATION TO ENSURE THAT OUR INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES ARE NOT VIOLATING AMERICANS' CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS. SOME OF THIS INFORMATION IS SIMILAR TO WHAT'S BEEN PUBLICLY DISCLOSED BY THE TWITTER FILES, WHICH IS A SMALL PORTION OF THE INFORMATION THAT WE HAVE GRAVELY CONCERNING ABOUT IMPROPER USE OF GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY THAT THIS COMMITTEE WILL BE FOCUSING ON. THIS SUBCOMMITTEE IS ABOUT PROTECTING RIGHTS. A TASK THAT EVERYONE IN THIS BODY JUST TOOK AN OATH TO PROTECT LAST WEEK. OUR COMMITTEE WILL BE ASSISTING THIS SUBCOMMITTEE, WE LOOK FORWARD TO BE WORKING WITH CHAIRMAN JORDAN ON THIS IMPORTANT ISSUE AND WE KNOW THAT THIS IS IMPORTANT TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. I YIELD BACK.

Show Less Text

01:47:34 THE GENTLEMAN YIELDS BACK. THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA RESERVES. THE GENTLEMAN FROM MASSACHUSETTS IS RECOGNIZED.

01:47:41 I ASK UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO INSERT INTO THE RECORD AN ARTICLE FROM THE GUARDIAN, CALLED IT'S GOING TO BE DIRTY: REPUBLICANS GEAR UP TO ATTACK HUNTER BIDEN. AND AN ARTICLE FROM "POLITICO" ENTITLED, "IT'S NOT JUST HUNTER

Show Less Text

Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA)

01:47:58

PREPARE FOR A PACT WITH HOUSE G.O.P. INVESTIGATIONS." WITHOUT A DOUBT MR. JORDAN WILL USE THIS COMMITTEE TO GO AFTER PEOPLE MAGA REPUBLICANS SEE AS THEIR OPPONENTS. ALL THEY WANT TO DO IS PUSH CONSPIRACY THEORIES. AND SETTLE SCORES. THEY WANT TO GO ON FOX, INVESTIGATE HUNTER BIDEN'S LAPTOP, TRY TO STEAL ELECTIONS AND THEY WANT TO SHUT DOWN THE GOVERNMENT IF THEY DON'T GET THEIR WAY. WE'RE AT A VERY DANGEROUS MOMENT IN THIS COUNTRY. IT'S ONE OF THE REASONS WHY MANY OF US WERE SO STUNNED THAT THE NEW SPEAKER GAVE AWAY SO MUCH OF HIS AUTHORITY TO A GROUP OF EXTREMISTS IN THE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE WHO HAVE SPENT THEIR ENTIRE CAREERS TRYING TO BLOW THIS PLACE UP. THE BOTTOM LINE IS THIS COMMITTEE IS BASICALLY AN ASSURANCE THAT WE'RE GOING TO SEE THESE VERY PARTISAN POLITICAL MAGA-DRIVEN INVESTIGATIONS GO FORWARD AND AGAIN, I URGE MY COLLEAGUES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE AISLE TO VOTE NO I WANT TO NOW YIELD TWO MINUTES TO THE GENTLEMAN FROM ARIZONA, MR. GRIJALVA. THE GENTLEMAN IS RECOGNIZED FOR TWO MINUTES.

[Show Less Text](#)

01:49:10

THANK YOU, AND THANK YOU MR. MCGOVERN FOR THE TIME.

Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ)

01:49:20

AS THE GENTLEMAN SAID, THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO INJECT EXTREMIST POLITICS INTO OUR JUSTICE SYSTEM AND SHIELD MAGA REPUBLICANS FROM THEIR ACTION INCLUDING JANUARY 6 AND THE FOLLOWUP AND INVESTIGATIONS ONGOING NOW. HE'S RIGHT ABOUT THAT REPUBLICAN STRATEGY. H.R. 12 IS BOTH POLITICAL COVER AND A POLITICAL WEAPON. LIKE ANY LEGISLATION, H.R. 12 IS DRIVEN BY THE MOTIVATION OF ITS SPONSORS, THE REPUBLICAN MAJORITY IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. FOR EXAMPLE, LEGISLATIVE ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE IS MOTIVATED BY URGENCY AND OUR COLLECTIVE HEALTH AND LIFE. H.R. 12 IS INTENDED TO INTIMIDATE, TO SCARE, AND TO ULTIMATELY COWER REPUBLICAN INSTITUTIONS TO STANDING DOWN AS OUR DESCENT INTO DIVISION AND FASCISM CONTINUES. POWER FOR THE SAKE OF POWER IS TRULY DANGEROUS. H.R. 12 IS JUST THAT. I URGE A NO VOTE AND I YIELD BACK.

[Show Less Text](#)

01:50:24 THE GENTLEMAN FROM MASSACHUSETTS RESERVES. THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA IS RECOGNIZED.

01:50:28 THANK YOU VERY MUCH, MR. SPEAKER. I YIELD TWO MINUTES TO MY VERY GOOD FRIEND, THE DISTINGUISHED VETERAN WHO SERVED THE UNITED STATES IN A VARIETY OF CAPACITIES...

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01:50:40 THE GENTLEMAN IS RECOGNIZED FOR TWO MINUTES.

Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-MO)
01:50:45 I RISE TODAY TO SUPPORT THE REPPIZATION -- THE COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATION THE ZEPP SARGES OF THE GOVERNMENT. DESPITE THE DEEP STATE'S ATTEMPTS TO REPEATEDLY...

Show Full Text

01:52:34 THE GENTLEMAN YIELDS BACK. THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA RESERVES. THE GENTLEMAN FROM MASSACHUSETTS IS RECOGNIZED.

Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA)
01:52:41 HERE'S A CURIOUS THING. THE LEGISLATION THAT CREATES THIS SELECT COMMITTEE, WE WERE FIRST GIVEN THIS ON JANUARY 2. BUT THEN IT CHANGED. ON JANUARY 6. AND WE DIDN'T GET THAT UNTIL 10:00 P.M. ON JANUARY 6 AFTER 13 SPEAKER VOTES. WHAT CHANGED IN THIS LEGISLATION, AND THIS IS REALLY CURIOUS, IS THEY EXPANDED THE -- THE SELECT COMMITTEE'S AUTHORITY TO INVESTIGATION -- TO INVESTIGATE ONGOING CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS. THINK ABOUT THAT. IN AN UNPRECEDENTED WAY. I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY VOTES THAT GOT, BUT CLEARLY IT WAS IMPORTANT. WE WENT THROUGH 13 SPEAKER VOTES BEFORE WE GOT TO THIS. THE REASON WHY THIS IS INCLUDED AND I, YOU KNOW, I'M SAD TO SAY THIS, IS BECAUSE WE HAVE MEMBERS IN THIS CHAMBER WHO THEMSELVES MAY BE SUBJECTS OF INVESTIGATION. THERE ARE ONGOING INVESTIGATIONS AGAINST THE FORMER PRESIDENT. AND SO THIS WAS ADDED. WHY WAS THIS ADDED? TO TRY TO FRUSTRATE THOSE INVESTIGATIONS. SO WHEN WE TALK ABOUT CORRUPTION, YOU KNOW, WHEN WE TALK ABOUT UNDERMINING THE RULE OF LAW, LET'S UNDERSTAND WHAT JUST OCCURRED HERE. MR. SPEAKER, I YIELD 2 1/2 MINUTES TO THE GENTLEMAN FROM CALIFORNIA, MR. SCHIFF.

Show Less Text

01:54:00

THE GENTLEMAN FROM CALIFORNIA IS RECOGNIZED.

Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA)

01:54:03

MR. SPEAKER, I RISE IN STRONG OPPOSITION TO THE REPUBLICAN SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE DEEP STATE CONSPIRACY THEORIES. AND IF YOU HAD ANY DOUBT ABOUT WHAT THIS COMMITTEE IS REALLY ABOUT, ABOUT ITS TRUE FOCUS, MY COLLEAGUE FROM MONTANA JUST CONFIRMED. THIS IS ALL ABOUT DEEP STATE NONSENSE. REPUBLICANS CLAIM WITHOUT MERIT THAT THIS SUBCOMMITTEE WILL INVESTIGATE THE SO-CALLED WEAPONIZATION OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. BUT WHAT IT'S REALLY INTENDED TO DO IS TO UNDERMINE THE LEGITIMATE INVESTIGATION OF PRESIDENT TRUMP'S INCITEMENT OF A VIOLENT ATTACK ON THIS BUILDING, ON THIS CAPITOL, ON THIS CITADEL OF DEMOCRACY, AN INVESTIGATION THAT IMPLICATES SOME OF THE VERY MEMBERS OF THE BODY WHO WANT TO SIT ON THAT COMMITTEE. MAKE NO MISTAKE, THIS INVESTIGATION, THIS INVESTIGATE THE INVESTIGATORS COMMITTEE, WILL DO DEEP DAMAGE TO OUR NATIONAL SECURITY AND ONLY BREED DISTRUST WITH OUR NATIONAL SECURITY PROFESSIONALS WHO WILL BE RELUCTANT TO SHARE WITH CONGRESS THE INFORMATION POLICYMAKERS NEED TO PROTECT OUR CLINT. THE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO SEEK TO DISCREDIT LAW ENFORCEMENT LIKE THE F.B.I. WHO ARE SO IMPORTANT IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENT EXTREMISM. REPUBLICANS IN CONGRESS JUST DON'T CARE. THE GREATEST THREAT, THE GREATEST TERRORIST THREAT TO OUR COUNTRY COMES FROM VIOLENT RIGHT WING MILITIA GROUPS AND THEIR SYMPATHIZERS AND REPUBLICANS IN CONGRESS JUST DON'T CARE. LAST TIME REPUBLICANS WERE IN CHARGE OF THE HOUSE, KEVIN MCCARTHY PUSHED TO FORM ANOTHER BOGUS SELECT COMMITTEE, THAT ONE ON BENGHAZI. HE DID SO AS HE ADMITTED TO TEAR DOWN HILLARY CLINTON'S NUMBERS, A PATENTLY POLITICAL EXERCISE. NOW MCCARTHY IS AT IT AGAIN. PUSHED INTO FORMING THIS BOGUS SUBCOMMITTEE BY THE QANON MEMBERS OF HIS OWN CONFERENCE. HE SACRIFICED A LOT IN HIS BID FOR SPEAKER, THAT WAS HIS CHOICE. NOW THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE GOING TO PAY THE PRICE IN THE FORM OF A BODY BLOW TO OUR NATIONAL SECURITY. VOTE NO ON THIS ILL-CONSIDERED MEASURE. THIS IS NO CHURCH COMMITTEE. NOT A BIPARTISAN EFFORT TO REFORM GOVERNMENT. BUT A PARTISAN EFFORT TO TEAR IT DOWN AND DAMN THE COPS QUEENSES. VOTE NO.

Show Less Text

01:56:30 THE GENTLEMAN RESERVES. THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA.

01:56:35 THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER. I YIELD ONE MINUTE TO MY VERY GOOD FRIEND, THE DISTINGUISHED LADY IF COLORADO, MRS. BOEBERT.

01:56:42 THE LADY FROM COLORADO IS RECOGNIZED.

Rep. Lauren Boebert (R-CO)
01:56:46

THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER. IN RESPONSE TO THE BLUE-ANON RHETORIC I RISE IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 12 TO ESTABLISH A SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE WEAPONIZATION OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. THE AUTHORITARIAN LEFT HAS USED THE FULL MIGHT AND AUTHORITY OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO FORCE ITS AGENDA ON THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN WEAPONIZED TO PRESSURE PRIVATE COMPANIES TO CENSOR CONSERVATIVES, TARGET PARENTS AS DOMESTIC TERRORISTS, JUST SIMPLY FOR CARING ABOUT THEIR CHILDREN AND THEIR EDUCATION. MANIPULATE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE BY DECLARING HUNDREDER BIDEN'S LAPTOP AS RUSSIAN DISINFORMATION. EVEN FAILING TO INFORM THE AMERICAN CITIZENS ABOUT CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS A FORMER VICE PRESIDENT HAD IN HIS POSSESSION AND LAUNCH AND UNWARRANTED INVESTIGATION INTO PRESIDENT TRUMP'S PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN. MR. SPEAKER, OUR CONSTITUTION IS A CONTRACT WITH THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND OUR GOVERNMENT, THAT CONTRACT, IS DESIGNED TO PRODUCE MAXIMUM FREEDOM AND MINIMUM TYRANNY FOR THIS GREAT COUNTRY. SADLY THE F.B.I. AND THE D.O.J. AND MANY OTHER AGENCIES --

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01:57:54 THE GENTLELADY'S TIME HAS EXPIRE.

01:57:57 I YIELD THE GENTLELADY 30 SECONDS.

01:57:58 THE GENTLELADY IS RECOGNIZED FOR 30 SECONDS.

Rep. Lauren Boebert (R-CO)

01:58:01

SADLY THE F.B.I. AND D.O.J. AND MANY OTHER AGENCIES ARE VIOLATING THIS CONTRACT AND WORKING TO MAKE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE SUBJECTS RATHER THAN FREE CITIZENS. THIS COMMITTEE IS ESSENTIAL AND I ENCOURAGE THE CREATION AND ADOPTION OF THIS RESOLUTION. I YIELD.

Show Less Text

01:58:20

THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA RESERVES. THE GENTLEMAN FROM MASSACHUSETTS.

01:58:27

OK. MR. SPEAKER, I AM HAPPY TO YIELD TWO MINUTES TO THE GENTLEMAN FROM GEORGIA, MR. JOHNSON.

01:58:32

THE GENTLEMAN FROM GEORGIA IS RECOGNIZED.

Rep. Hank Johnson (D-GA)

01:58:35

I THANK THE GENTLEMAN FOR YIELDING. I RISE IN STRONG OPPOSITION TO H.RES. 12. THE INSURRECTION PROTECTION COMMITTEE. WHICH SPEAKER MCCARTHY, THE 21ST CENTURY MCCARTHYISM, HAD TO AGREE TO LAST WEEK IN ORDER TO GAIN THE SPEAKERSHIP. SO M A, GA EXTREMIST REPUBLICANS FORCED AS A CONS AGAIN OF GETTING THEIR VOTE THE SPEAKER TO PROMISE TO CREATE THIS SELECT COMMITTEE AND DONALD TRUMP HAD HIS HANDS IN IT. DONALD TRUMP HAD HIS HANDS IN IT LAST WEEK. DURING THIS CIRCULAR FIRING SQUAD. HE WAS CALLING THE SHOTS. AND THIS WILL BENEFIT HIM. THIS INSURRECTION PROTECTION COMMITTEE IS SET UP TO INSULATE THE EX-PRESIDENT ALONG WITH VARIOUS MAGA REPUBLICANS WHO ARE STILL SERVING HERE IN THE HOUSE WHO ARE UNDER INVESTIGATION. IT'S HERE TO PROTECT THEM FROM THAT INVESTIGATION. IT'S HERE TO DISRUPT THE FLOW OF JUSTICE. IN THIS COUNTRY. THIS IS A DANGEROUS, EXTREME COMMITTEE THAT IS PUT IN THE HANDS OF SOMEONE WHO, A GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO EVEN DEFIED CONGRESSIONAL SUBPOENAS AND REFUSED TO COME AND TESTIFY BEFORE THE JANUARY 6 COMMITTEE. NOW THEY'RE TRYING TO INTERFERE WITH NOW THEY ARE TRYING TO INTERFERE WITH JUSTICE DEPARTMENT DELIBERATIONS WHETHER OR NOT THEY SHOULD BE CHARGED WITH COMMITTING CRIMINAL OFFENSES WITH THE LEAD UP TO ON JANUARY 6 AND THEREAFTER. THIS IS A VERY DANGEROUS PIECE OF LEGISLATION. MAGA REPUBLICANS ARE

BEHIND IT. LED BY THE HEAD ELECTION DENIER IN THIS COUNTRY WHO, BY THE WAY, INSTITUTED SOMETHING DOWN IN BRAZIL THIS WEEKEND. IT'S A WORLDWIDE AFFAIR. THIS IS DANGEROUS. WE MUST STOP T VOTE NO ON H.RES. 12. WITH THAT I YIELD BACK.

Show Less Text

02:00:48

THE GENTLEMAN FROM MASSACHUSETTS RESERVES. RECOGNIZE THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA.

02:00:53

THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER. I YIELD TWO MINUTES TO MY VERY GOOD FRIEND, THE GENTLEMAN FROM NORTH CAROLINA, MR. BISHOP.

02:00:58

THE GENTLEMAN FROM NORTH CAROLINA IS RECOGNIZED.

02:01:02

WITH GREAT POW --

Rep. Dan Bishop (R-NC)
02:01:04

WITH GREAT POWER COMES GREAT RESPONSIBILITY. WE ENTRUST OUR DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, F.B.I., AND INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY WITH GREAT POWER TO KEEP US SAFE. YET AS LONG AS THESE AGENCIES HAVE EXISTED, THEY VIOLATED AMERICANS' CIVIL RIGHTS. EVERYDAY AMERICANS. THE SECURITY STATE BELIEVES ITSELF TO BE ABOVE THE CONSTITUTION AND THE LAWS PASSED BY CONGRESS. OR PERHAPS THE BELIEF IS ONLY TACIT. IT IS AWARE ONLY OF POWER. NOT AUTHORITY, POWER. THE F.B.I. SPIED ON FRANK SIN GNAT A, JOHN LENON, DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, AND MUHAMMAD ALI BECAUSE THEY WERE NATIONAL SECURITY THREATS. CELEBRITIES. BUT EVERY DAY AMERICANS AS TO THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS. THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY ABUSED POWER TO SPY ON PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES, SITTING PRESIDENT, AND MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND THEIR STAFFS. THE F.B.I. CONTINUE JOUSTLY -
- CONTINUOUSLY COORDINATED WITH SOCIAL MEDIA COMPANIES TO MODERATE SOCIAL CONTENT. THE PUBLIC SQUARE, SO CONTEMPTUOUS ARE THEY AND OUT OF TOUCH WHEN CONFRONTED WITH THIS JUST WEEKS AGO, THEY SAID, WE WERE MERELY ENGAGED IN -- ENGAGING WITH OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS. LEADING UP TO THE 2020 ELECTION, THE F.B.I. WORKED

HAND IN HAND WITH TWITTER AND FACEBOOK TO SILENCE THE HUNTER- BIDEN LAPTOP STORY. CONCEALMENT FROM EVERYDAY AMERICANS. THEY CONTINUE TO SILENCE CRITICISM OF COVID POLICIES AND VACCINE MANDATES TO THE HARM OF EVERYDAY AMERICANS. IN 2013 THE FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE, JAMES CLAPPER, LIED TO CONGRESS ABOUT THE N.S.A. COLLECTING DATA ON MILLIONS OF AMERICANS. HE'S ESCAPED A RECKONING. THE N.S.A. SPIED ON GROUPS, INCLUDING HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, OTHER N.G.O.'S. F.B.I. CONTRACTORS CONDUCTED THOUSANDS OF SEARCHES ON N.S.A. DATABASES. THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY SPIED ON JOURNALISTS AND POLITICAL OPPONENTS. IN CLEAR VIOLATION OF THE FIRST AMENDMENT.

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02:03:14

YIELD ADDITIONAL 30 SECONDS.

02:03:18

THAT'S NOT ALL JUST ILLEGAL. IT'S UN-AMERICAN. AND IT CANNOT CONTINUE. THE GOVERNMENT'S MASSIVE SURVEILLANCE APPARATUS IS WELL DOCUMENTED. THERE IS STILL MUCH MORE THAT WE DO NOT KNOW. WE OWE IT TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO REVEAL THE ROT WITHIN OUR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND CUT IT OUT. SO THAT IT CAN NO LONGER HARM EVERYDAY AMERICANS. MR. SPEAKER, TODAY, WE ARE PUTTING THE DEEP STATE ON NOTICE. WE ARE COMING FOR YOU ON BEHALF OF EVERYDAY AMERICANS. I YIELD BACK.

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02:03:53

THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA RESERVES. THE GENTLEMAN FROM MASSACHUSETTS IS RECOGNIZED.

02:03:57

MR. SPEAKER, I YIELD TWO MINUTES TO THE GENTLEWOMAN FROM TEXAS, MS. JACKSON LEE.

02:04:00

THE GENTLEWOMAN FROM TEXAS IS RECOGNIZED FOR TWO MINUTES.

Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee
(D-TX)

I THANK THE GENTLEMAN VERY MUCH. MR. COLE, I REMEMBER AFTER 9/11 WHEN WE ALL WORKED TOGETHER TO ENSURE THE

02:04:05

PROTECTION OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THROUGH THE PATRIOT ACT AND DEALING WITH THE FISA COURTS. WE WORKED TOGETHER. BECAUSE TRUTH IS IMPORTANT. I JUST WANT TO SIMPLY BE ON THE FLOOR TODAY TO SPEAK ABOUT TRUTH. I WORK WITH MY SCHOOL BOARDS ACROSS MY DISTRICT. I KNOW THAT THERE IS NOT ONE SCHOOL BOARD THAT DOES NOT WELCOME A PARENT TO HEAR THEIR VOICES. BECAUSE OBVIOUSLY THEY ARE PARTNERS IN THE EDUCATION OF OUR PRECIOUS CHILDREN.

BUT IN SEPTEMBER, 2021 THE NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARD ASSOCIATION SENT MR. BIDEN A LETTER POINTING TO A TREND OF VIOLENCE AND THREATS AGAINST SCHOOL OFFICIALS. IT INCLUDED A BRIEF REFERENCE TO MR. SMITH'S ARREST INCIDENT AND EXAMPLES WITH A FOOTNOTE TO A NEWS ACCOUNT OF THE MEANING THAT MENTIONED THE ARREST IN PASSING BUT WITHOUT DETAILS LIKE THE DAUGHTER'S ACTION, ASSAULT. BUT THE POINT IS, IS THAT THIS CAME ABOUT. BECAUSE THERE WERE THREATS AGAINST SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS. SO CAN WE HAVE TRUTH HERE? THAT'S WHAT I RISE TO BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF THIS BODY AS RELATES TO THIS COMMITTEE AND SELECT COMMITTEE. IS IT GOING TO BE TRUTH FINDING OR IS THIS GOING TO BE A COMMITTEE THAT IS GOING TO COLLECT INFORMATION OR OTHERWISE INVESTIGATE CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES AND GIVES THE MOST RIGHT-WING MEMBERS WHO MAY HAVE AN AX TO GRIND TO PARTICIPATE? OR IS IT GOING TO BE FAIR? IS IT GOING TO BE A GROSS MISUSE OF POWER WITH DANGEROUS IMPLICATIONS, UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES, AND COULD POTENTIALLY EXPOSE GENERAL OPERATIONS OF OUR NATIONAL SECURITY INFRASTRUCTURE WHICH WILL AMERICAN LIVES AT RISK. LET ME BE VERY CLEAR. RUSSIA'S ONE OF OUR MOST DANGEROUS ADVERSARIES. WE ARE IN THE MIDDLE OF A NATIONAL SECURITY QUAGMIRE. AND TO UNDERMINE THAT THROUGH INVESTIGATIONS OF THE F.B.I. AND CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE IS GOING TO BE EXTREMELY DANGEROUS. THE PASSAGE OF THIS RESOLUTION WOULD ALSO GIVE MAGA REPUBLICANS THE ABILITY TO INTERFERE IN ONGOING CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS. INCLUDING THOSE INVESTIGATING THE EXTREMISTS --

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02:06:17

YIELD ADDITIONAL ONE MINUTE.

02:06:19

THE LADY IS RECOGNIZED FOR 60 SECONDS.

Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee
(D-TX)
02:06:22

INCLUDING THOSE INVESTIGATING THAT DAY THAT SOME DECLARED WAS JUST A BUNCH OF TOURISTS ON JANUARY 6, 2021. I WORKED WITH MY FRIENDS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE AISLE. I HAVE WORKED WITH MR. ROY. BUT IS THIS A QUESTION OF TRUTH? THAT IS THE ISSUE THAT WE STAND HERE TODAY. IN THIS COUNTRY, NO ONE IS ABOVE THE LAW. AND TO SUGGEST THAT SOME PEOPLE SHOULD BE BECAUSE THEY DON'T AGREE WITH THE FORCE OF LAW BEING APPLIED TO THE ACTIVITIES IS CONTRARY TO THE VERY FABRIC OF FAIRNESS, JUSTICE, AND EQUALITY THAT AMERICA WAS FOUNDED ON. LET ME AS AN ASIDE INDICATE THAT WE KNOW WHAT HAS BEEN IN THE HEADLINES. 10 DOCUMENTS FOUND IN A LOCKED CLOSET THAT MR. BIDEN MAY HAVE HAD. YOU KNOW WHAT, MR. SPEAKER, THE PROCESS OF THE LAW IS PROCEEDING. THE CALL WAS MADE. THE DOCUMENTS WERE SURRENDERED, IF YOU WILL. AND THE PROCESS GOES FORWARD. UNDER THE LAWS OF THIS LAND. NO ONE DENIED IT. NO ONE REJECTED IT. NO ONE DID NOT IN ANY WAY COME TO SAY ANYTHING OTHER THAN FOLLOW THE LAW. ON THE OTHER HAND, IN MARA MAR-A-LAGO, NO LAW WAS FOUND.

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02:07:29

THE LADY'S TIME HAS EXPIRED. THE GENTLEMAN FROM MASSACHUSETTS WILL RESERVE. THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA IS RECOGNIZED.

02:07:36

THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER. MR. SPEAKER, I YIELD TWO MINUTES TO MY VERY GOOD FRIEND, THE DISTINGUISHED GENTLEMAN FROM TEXAS, MR. ROY.

02:07:41

THE GENTLEMAN FROM TEXAS IS RECOGNIZED FOR TWO MINUTES.

Rep. Chip Roy (R-TX)
02:07:45

I THANK THE SPEAKER. I THANK THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA. LISTEN, WITH INTEREST TO MY LEAGUE FROM TEXAS. AS WE RECOUNTED SOME OF THE REALITIES TALKING ABOUT SCHOOL BOARDS. I HAVE COME TO KNOW SCOTT SMITH OF LOUDOUN COUNTY, I CONSIDER HIM A FRIEND. I HAVE BEEN TALKING TO HIM SINCE THE ACTIONS AGAINST HIS FAMILY IN RESPONSE TO HIS DARING TO GO TO THE SCHOOL BOARD TO QUESTION THE ABUSE OF HIS DAUGHTER. RESULTED IN HIS NAME BEING PUT OUT AS THE POSTER CHILD FOR THE WEAPONIZATION OF GOVERNMENT AGAINST PARENTS WHO DARE QUESTION SCHOOL BOARDS. YES, IN

FACT, THE NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARD ASSOCIATION SENT A LETTER, BUT WHAT BECAME INCREASINGLY CLEAR IS THAT IT WAS IN COLLUSION WITH THE WHITE HOUSE SEEKING THE LETTER. THAT HAS BECOME READILY CLEAR FROM THE EMAILS THAT WE HAVE GOTTEN THROUGH FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUESTS. THAT THE BIDEN WHITE HOUSE WAS SEEKING THE NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARD ASSOCIATION TO HAVE THAT KIND OF A LETTER REQUEST IN ORDER THAT THEY, THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION, BE ABLE TO TARGET SCOTT SMITH AND OTHER PARENTS AROUND THIS COUNTRY. EVERY AMERICAN SHOULD SHUDDER AT THE POWER OF THE GOVERNMENT, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, BEING TARGETED AT PARENTS FOR DARING TO STAND UP AND DEFEND A DAUGHTER WHO IS ABUSED IN A PATH ROOM IN THE LOUDOUN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS. BY THE WAY, THE SUPERINTENDENT IN LOUDOUN HAS BEEN INDICTED. THIS IS THE TRUTH. YET THIS ADMINISTRATION WANTED TO MAKE SCOTT SMITH THE BAD GUY. NOT THE RAPIST. NOT THE SCHOOL BOARD THAT ALLOWED THIS TO OCCUR IN THE SCHOOLS IN LOUDOUN COUNTY. IT'S NOT JUST PARENTS. WHAT ABOUT BUNNY POUNDS AND THE CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATION, THE I.R.S. WAS TARGETING THEIR NONPROFIT STATUS BECAUSE THEY HAPPENED TO BE RELIGIOUS. THIS IS POUTER OF THE I.R.S. HOW ABOUT THE POWER OF OUR PUBLIC HEALTH ELITE WHO MADE DECISIONS AND PUT OUT MISINFORMATION THAT UNDERMINED THE ABILITY OF AMERICANS TO STAND UP --

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02:09:56

YIELD ADDITIONAL 15 SECONDS.

02:09:59

THE GENTLEMAN IS RECOGNIZED FOR 15 SECONDS.

Rep. Chip Roy (R-TX)
02:10:01

TO STAND UP AND TO CONTINUE THEIR JOBS AND CONTINUE GOING TO SCHOOL. INSTEAD THEY WERE MASKED AND HAD NEEDLES PUT IN THEIR ARMS. NOW WE WANT TO KNOW THE TRUTH. NOT JUST ORIGINS, THE TRUTH. THIS COMMITTEE IS CRITICALLY IMPORTANT AND WE ARE GOING TO FIND THE TRUTH. WE ARE GOING TO DEFEND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AGAINST THE WEAPONIZATION --

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02:10:20

THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: THE GENTLEMAN'S TIME HAS EXPIRED. THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA RESERVES. RECOGNIZE THE GENTLEMAN FROM MASSACHUSETTS.

Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA)

02:10:25

I WOULD SIMPLY SAY IN RESPONSE TO THAT, MR. SPEAKER, THAT THERE ARE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEES THAT -- THAT ARE EQUIPPED AND READY TO LOOK INTO ALL THE ISSUES THAT THE GENTLEMAN JUST RAISED AND INTO ALT CONSPIRACY THEORIES THEY WANT TO RAISE. THEY WENT AHEAD AND CREATED THIS ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE. AND THERE IS A REASON FOR IT. AND THIS NEW COMMITTEE THEY ARE CREATING HAS THE AUTHORITY TO BASICALLY INVESTIGATE ONGOING CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS. IT'S UNPRECEDENTED. BUT IN ANY EVENT, I REMIND THE GENTLEMAN YOU HAVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEES, ARE YOU IN CHARGE, YOU CAN DO WHATEVER YOU WANT TO DO. THERE IS A REASON FOR THIS COMMITTEE. THERE IS A REASON WHY AFTER 13 ROLL CALL VOTES FOR SPEAKERSHIP THEY ADDED AN ADDITIONAL LINE GIVING THIS COMMITTEE THE AUTHORITY TO LOOK INTO ONGOING INVESTIGATIONS. I RESERVE MY TIME.

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02:11:22

THE GENTLEMAN FROM MASSACHUSETTS RESERVES. THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA RECOGNIZE.

02:11:28

I YIELD ONE MINUTE TO MY VERY GOOD FRIEND WHO SERVED THE COUNTRY IN AND OUT OF UNIFORM, DISTINGUISHED GENTLEMAN, MR. PFLUGER FROM TEXAS.

02:11:36

THE GENTLEMAN FROM TEXAS IS RECOGNIZED FOR ONE MINUTE.

Rep. August Pfluger (R-TX)

02:11:38

I THANK THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA. I RISE TODAY BECAUSE AMERICANS ARE COMPLETELY FED UP. THEY ARE FED UP FROM BEING TARGETED AND THE ASSERTION I JUST HEARD THAT MAGA REPUBLICANS ARE DOMESTIC TERRORISTS, THE ASSERTION THAT THIS IS HAPPENING THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, I MUST TELL MY 90-YEAR-OLD GRANDMOTHER -- I WILL NOT.

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02:12:00

WHO SAID THAT?

Rep. August Pfluger (R-TX)

02:12:03

THIS ASSERTION HAS BEEN MADE TIME AND TIME AGAIN FROM SPEAKERS THROUGHOUT, THIS ASSERTION HAS BEEN MADE THAT MAGA REPUBLICANS WILL BLOW SOMETHING UP. THAT MAGA REPUBLICANS ARE TERRORISTS. THAT MAGA REPUBLICANS -- LISTEN. WE HAVE SEEN CENSORSHIP AND MEDDLING BY FORMER INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY EXPERTS AND CURRENT FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AGAINST REPUBLICANS AND PREVENTING MEDIA STORIES FROM ACTUALLY COMING TO LIGHT. THIS IS A FACT. MY FRIEND FROM TEXAS JUST TALKED ABOUT THE I.R.S. AND OTHER AGENCIES THAT HAVE DONE THIS. WE ARE NOT STANDING IDLY BY. IT'S TIME THAT THE TRUTH COMES OUT. WHEN WE SAY THINGS LIKE MAGA REPUBLICANS, I THINK WE SHOULD ALL BE VERY CAREFUL AND NOT BE DISINGENUOUS BECAUSE THERE ARE PLENTY OF GOOD AMERICANS AND PATRIOTS THAT ARE WILLING TO STAND UP -- WILLING TO STAND UP --

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02:12:52

THE GENTLEMAN IS RECOGNIZED FOR 15 SECONDS.

Rep. August Pfluger (R-TX)

02:12:54

THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT FREE SPEECH BE UPHELD. PROTECTING FREE SPEECH BE UPHELD. NOT LIBEL. NOT SLANDER. AND NOT ANY SORT OF ASSERTION THAT ALL MAGA REPUBLICANS, THAT ALL MAGA REPUBLICANS ARE BAD. WE KNOW THAT THAT IS NOT TRUE. IN FACT, THERE ARE MANY GOOD AMERICANS THAT ARE STANDING UP FOR THEIR RIGHTS. WITH THAT I YIELD BACK.

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02:13:18

THE GENTLEMAN RESERVES. THE GENTLEMAN FROM MASSACHUSETTS IS RECOGNIZED.

Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA)

02:13:22

THE GENTLEMAN JUST GOT UP AND MADE ALL KINDS OF ASSERTIONS THAT THINGS WERE JUST SAID THAT WEREN'T SAID. I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE HELL HE'S TALKING ABOUT. I WILL AGAIN URGE MY COLLEAGUES TO VOTE NO AGAINST THIS -- CREATION OF THIS COMMITTEE BECAUSE -- THIS IS UNPRECEDENTED. THIS IS A WITCH-HUNT. THIS IS A COMMITTEE DESIGNED BASICALLY TO

PROTECT THOSE WHO, QUITE FRANKLY, ARE UNDER INVESTIGATION RIGHT NOW. I RESERVE MY TIME.

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02:13:47

THE GENTLEMAN FROM MASSACHUSETTS RESERVES. THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA IS RECOGNIZED.

02:13:51

THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER. I YIELD TWO MINUTES TO MY VERY GOOD FRIEND, DISTINGUISHED GENTLEMAN FROM CALIFORNIA, MR. MCCLINTOCK.

02:13:57

THE GENTLEMAN FROM CALIFORNIA IS RECOGNIZED.

Rep. Tom McClintock (R-CA)

02:14:00

MR. SPEAKER, IN ORDER TO ENFORCE OUR LAWS WE HAVE GIVEN TERRIFYING POWERS TO SUCH AGENCIES AS THE F.B.I., THE I.R.S., AND THE C.I.A., AMONG OTHERS. THE MISUSE OF THESE POWERS TO EFFECT POLITICAL OUTCOMES WOULD BE FATAL TO FREEDOM AND IT'S THE HALLMARK OF ANY DICTATORSHIP. THIS OUR CONSTITUTION WAS WRITTEN TO PREVENT WHOEVER IS IN POWER. IN RECENT YEARS WE WATCHED THE I.R.S. TARGET INDIVIDUALS BECAUSE OF THEIR POLITICAL BELIEFS. WE HAVE SEEN A GLARING DOUBLE STANDARD IN THE ENFORCEMENT OF OUR LAWS BY OUR JUSTICE DEPARTMENT BASED ON THE POLITICAL BELIEFS OF THEIR TARGETS. WE HAVE SEEN THEIR POWERS USED TO INTIMIDATE CITIZENS INTO SILENCE WHETHER THE TEA PARTY OR PARENTS QUESTIONING THEIR SCHOOL BOARDS. MOST ALARMINGLY, WE HAVE SEEN THE USE OF THE F.B.I. AND OUR INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES TO SUPPRESS POLITICAL VIEWPOINTS DISAGREEABLE TO THOSE IN POWER OR TO MANUFACTURE OR PROPAGATE ONE OF THE GREATEST SCANDALS IN AMERICAN HISTORY, THE RUSSIAN COLLUSION HOAX. WHEN A GOVERNMENT CAN INTERFERE WITH THE ELECTIONS THAT GOVERN IT, AND WHEN AGENCIES CAN ACT INDEPENDENTLY OF THE OUTCOME OF THESE ELECTIONS, DEMOCRACY WILL DIE. THIS SELECT COMMITTEE IS DESIGNED TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THESE ALARMING ALLEGATIONS AND I WOULD HOPE THE DEMOCRATS WOULD BE JUST AS EAGER TO SORT THIS OUT AS THE REPUBLICANS. AFTER ALL, IT WAS NOT THAT LONG AGO THESE POWERS WERE TURNED AGAINST THE LEFT AND COULD BE AGAIN IF WE DO NOTHING. . IN A PERIOD OF DEMOCRACY, 51% OF

THE PEOPLE CAN VOTE ANYTIME TO THROW THE OTHER 49% IN JAIL. THAT'S WHY WE HAVE A CONSTITUTION, WHICH LIMITS THE POWERS OF GOVERNMENT THROUGH CHECKS AND BALANCES LIKE THIS CONGRESS, LIKE OUR BILL OF RIGHTS, AND WHY EACH OF US TAKES AN OATH TO SUPPORT AND DEFEND IT. LET US ALL HONOR THAT OATH TODAY. I YIELD BACK.

Show Less Text

02:16:00

THE GENTLEMAN YIELDS BACK. THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA RESERVES. THE GENTLEMAN FROM MASSACHUSETTS IS RECOGNIZED.

Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA)

02:16:05

SO MR. SPEAKER, LET ME JUST MAKE CLEAR TO MY COLLEAGUES. A CHANGE WAS MADE IN THIS LEGISLATION, AND IT WAS NOT JUST TO ALLOW THE COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ONGOING CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS, WHICH IS QUITE NEFARIOUS IN AND OF ITSELF, ORIGINALLY IT WAS ONLY SUPPOSED TO BE ABLE TO HAVE AUTHORITY OVER THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, D.H.S., AND THE F.B.I. THE C.I.A. AND THE I.R.S. WERE ADDED. THIS WAS ALL DONE AFTER 13

Show Less Text

02:16:36

SPEAKER VOTES AT 10:00 AT NIGHT, CLEARLY IN AN ATTEMPT TO WIN MORE VOTES, BUT THE PEOPLE WHO ARE ASKING FOR THESE CHANGES ARE THE PEOPLE WHO ARE, YOU KNOW, WHO ARE THE SAME PEOPLE WHO WANT TO INVESTIGATE THE PEOPLE WHO ARE INVESTIGATING THEM. THIS IS REALLY, REALLY UNPRECEDENTED. I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE, BUT THIS ISN'T RIGHT. THIS ISN'T OPENNESS. THIS ISN'T TRANSPARENCY. MY FRIENDS TALK ABOUT CORRUPTION. THIS IS CORRUPTION. THIS IS - - THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE, AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE OUGHT TO KNOW IT AND REASONABLE COLLEAGUES ON THE REPUBLICAN SIDE OUGHT TO SAY NO TO THIS. I RESERVE MY TIME.

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02:17:23

THE GENTLEMAN FROM MASSACHUSETTS RESERVES. THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA IS RECOGNIZED.

02:17:27

THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER. MR. SPEAKER, I YIELD TWO MINUTES TO MY GOOD FRIEND FROM THE GREAT STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA, MR. PERRY.

02:17:33

THE GENTLEMAN FROM PENNSYLVANIA IS RECOGNIZED FOR TWO MINUTES.

Rep. Scott Perry (R-PA)

02:17:36

I THANK MY FRIEND FROM OKLAHOMA. AND I WONDER IF MY FRIENDS ON OTHER SIDE OF THE AISLE SO CONCERNED ALL THE TIME ABOUT CIVIL RIGHTS, HAVING MAJORITY FOR THE LAST FEW YEARS, NOT INTERESTED, NOT INTERESTED IN WHAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, THE LITTLE GUYS THAT HAVE BEEN ENDURING EVERY DAY WHEN YOU COME HOME FROM A HARD DAY'S WORK, YOU WATCH THE TV. HOW MANY TIMES DO WE HAVE TO SAY, OH, I TOLD YOU SO? WE JUST HAD SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS OF THE TARGETS OF THE SO-CALLED J 6 INVESTIGATION RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC. NO SURPRISE THERE. WHAT ABOUT THE SCHOOL BOARD ASSOCIATION WORKING IN COLLABORATION WITH THE WHITE HOUSE, WORKING IN COLLABORATION WITH THE WHITE HOUSE AND THE D.O.J. TO INTIMIDATE AMERICAN CITIZENS? 30 MILES FROM HERE. JUST A LITTLE DRIVE FROM HERE A YOUNG LADY WAS RAPED, A SCHOOLGIRL WAS RAPED AND HER FATHER WAS CONCERNED ABOUT HER SAFETY AND HAD THE GALL TO QUESTION THE SCHOOL BOARD AND WHAT DOES HE GET, PERSECUTION AND INTIMIDATION BY HIS OWN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. I TOLD YOU SO. WE ALL TOLD YOU SO. PEOPLE ON IMPORTANT COMMITTEES IN THIS INSTITUTION LIE ON NATIONAL TV OVER AND OVER AND OVER AGAIN. NO CONSEQUENCE. COME HOME AND YOU SAY, YEAH, I TOLD YOU SO. THAT'S NOT A BIG SURPRISE HERE. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT COLLABORATING WITH BIG TECH TO SILENCE AMERICANS' VOICES. WHERE ARE THEIR CIVIL LIBERTIES? THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT COLLABORATING WITH BIG TECH, THE HEALTH AGENCIES TO SILENCE INFORMATION THAT CONCERNS THE HEALTH OF EVERY SINGLE AMERICAN CITIZEN. YEAH, I TOLD YOU SO. HOW MANY MORE TIMES, I ASK THE MINORITY, HOW MANY MORE TIMES DO WE HAVE TO SAY I TOLD YOU SO BEFORE YOU'LL RECOGNIZE THE OVERWHELMING POWER AND THE ABUSE OF POWER BY THIS FEDERAL GOVERNMENT? AND WILL YOU EVER DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT? YOU KNOW WHEN YOU WANT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT, WHEN YOU THINK YOU HAVE THE PRESIDENCY IN 2024 AND TRY TO REGAIN THE HOUSE, THEN YOU WILL BE ALL INTO IT INVESTIGATING ALL YOUR ENEMIES. THAT'S NOT WHAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS SUPPOSED TO BE FOR. IT'S SUPPOSED TO PROTECT OUR CIVIL RIGHTS SO WE DON'T SERVE IT, IT SERVES US.

02:19:50

MEMBERS ARE REMINDED TO DIRECT THEIR COMMENTS TO THE CHAIR AND NOT TO OTHER MEMBERS IN THE CHAMBER. THE

GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA RESERVES. THE GENTLEMAN FROM MASSACHUSETTS IS RECOGNIZED.

Show Less Text

Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA)
02:19:59

YEAH, I'LL SAY WHAT THE GENTLEMAN JUST SAID WAS TERRIBLE BUT THIS COMMITTEE HAS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO DO WITH THAT. I RESERVE THE BALANCE OF MY TIME.

02:20:07

THE GENTLEMAN FROM MASSACHUSETTS RESERVES. THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA IS RECOGNIZED.

02:20:10

THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER. I YIELD TWO MINUTES TO MY VERY GOOD FRIEND, THE GENTLEMAN FROM KENTUCKY, MR. MASSIE.

02:20:16

THE GENTLEMAN FROM KENTUCKY IS RECOGNIZED FOR TWO MINUTES.

Rep. Thomas Massie (R-KY)
02:20:18

I THANK THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA. THE VERY WORDS EXPRESSED BY THOSE OPPOSED TO THIS COMMITTEE DEMONSTRATE THE DIRE NEED FOR THIS COMMITTEE. WE'VE GONE FOUR YEARS WITHOUT OVERSIGHT. AND TO QUOTE SHAKESPEARE, THE LADY PROTEST TOO MUCH, ME THINKS. THOSE THAT ARGUE AGAINST TRANSPARENCY MAY HAVE SOMETHING TO HIDE. SO I LISTENED VERY CLOSELY WHEN I HEARD THE FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE GIVE THE REASON THAT MAYBE WE SHOULDN'T ASK FOR THIS INFORMATION FROM THESE -- FROM THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY. HE SAID THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY, AFTER THIS COMMITTEE, MAY BE RELUCTANT TO SHARE INFORMATION WITH CONGRESS, THAT CONGRESS NEEDS TO CRAFT LEGISLATION. I WOULD SUGGEST IF THEY ARE RELUCTANT, THEY ARE DISQUALIFIED FROM HOLDING THESE POSITIONS. IF THEY HAVE GROWN SO BIG THAT THEY ARE NO LONGER ACCOUNTABLE TO THE BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT THAT CREATED THEM, THAT FUNDS THEM, AND THAT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR OVERSIGHT, THEN THEY NEED TO BE HEMMED IN. I IMPORE MY COLLEAGUES ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE AISLE TO POPULATE THIS COMMITTEE WITH SERIOUS DEMOCRATS. I KNOW THERE ARE SOME OVER THERE. I WORKED WITH THEM. WE CO-SPONSORED AMENDMENTS ON PRIVACY OVER THE PAST DECADE.

SOME OF THEM HAVE PASSED. PLEASE POPULATE IT WITH SERIOUS MEMBERS. PLEASE, TO MY COLLEAGUES ON THIS SIDE OF THE AISLE, GIVE US THE RESOURCES WE NEED TO DO THIS JOB. AND IF I MAY REBUT SOMETHING THAT'S BEEN SAID ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE AISLE, IT'S UNPRECEDENTED THAT CONGRESS WOULD INVESTIGATE SOMETHING THAT INVOLVES AN ONGOING CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION. WHAT WAS THE JANUARY 6 COMMITTEE? THIS IS NOT UNPRECEDENTED. IT'S WHAT YOU WASTED MILLIONS OF DOLLARS ON IN THE PAST TWO YEARS. I URGE ADOPTION OF THIS RULE AND SUPPORT FOR THE COMMITTEE THAT IT WILL CREATE, AND I YIELD BACK THE BALANCE OF MY TIME.

Show Less Text

02:22:10

THE GENTLEMAN YIELDS BACK. THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA RESERVES. THE GENTLEMAN FROM MASSACHUSETTS IS RECOGNIZED.

02:22:17

I WOULD SAY HE HOPES WE POPULATE THIS COMMITTEE WITH SERIOUS DEMOCRATS THAT HE POP POPULATES THE COMMITTEE WITH REPUBLICANS WHO DID NOT ASK FOR A PARDON, WHO DID NOT HAVE THEIR PHONE SEIZED BY THE F.B.I. I RESERVE MY TIME.

Show Less Text

02:22:33

THE GENTLEMAN FROM MASSACHUSETTS RESERVES. THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA IS RECOGNIZED.

02:22:37

THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER. I YIELD 90 SECONDS TO MY VERY GOOD FRIEND, THE DISTINGUISHED GENTLEMAN FROM GEORGIA, MR. CLYDE.

02:22:44

THE GENTLEMAN FROM GEORGIA IS RECOGNIZED FOR 1 1/2 MINUTES.

Rep. Andrew Clyde (R-GA)

02:22:47

THANK YOU, SPEAKER. I THANK THE GENTLEMAN FOR YIELDING. LAST WEEK AS I FOUGHT AS ONE OF THE 20 CONSERVATIVE MEMBERS TO DISMANTLING THIS INSTITUTION'S BROKEN SYSTEM AND RESTORING THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE SHOULD BE, PART OF THE STATUS QUO IN WASHINGTON WHICH WE FOUGHT TO CHANGE IS POLITICIANS MAKING EMPTY PROMISES OF ACCOUNTABILITY. BUT BELIEVE ME IN THIS, WHEN WE VOW ACCOUNTABILITY WAS

COMING, WE MEANT IT. ESTABLISHING THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE WEAPONIZATION OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HANDS THE HOUSE A POWERFUL TOOL TO UNCOVER THE TWO-TIER JUSTICE SYSTEM THAT'S ROTTING OUR REPUBLIC. IT'S NO SECRET THAT ALPHABET AGENCIES HAVE BEEN DANGEROUSLY WEAPONIZED AGAINST THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. AS AN ALARMING EXAMPLE, THE F.B.I. HAS COERCED CITIZENS TO RELINQUISH THEIR SECOND AMENDMENT RIGHTS AND USE BIG TECH COMPANIES AS PRIVATE SECTOR PROXIES TO SILENCE AMERICANS' FREE SPEECH. IT'S TIME TO THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATE OUR GOVERNMENT AGENCIES' ATROCIOUS BEHAVIOR AND ABUSIVE POWER AND DISREGARDING AND DESTORING AMERICA'S PRECIOUS FREEDOMS. AND THIS SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE WILL HAVE THE TEETH TO DO JUST THAT. I WANT TO THANK SPEAKER McCARTHY AND CHAIRMAN COLE FOR THEIR INVALUABLE SUPPORT IN BRINGING THIS RESOLUTION TO THE FLOOR FOR A VOTE. AND I URGE ALL OF MY COLLEAGUES TO JOIN ME IN VOTING FOR THIS RESOLUTION SO WE MAY DELIVER TRANSPARENCY, ANSWERS AND, YES, ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AS WE HAVE PROMISED. THANK YOU AND I YIELD BACK THE BALANCE OF MY TIME.

Show Less Text

02:24:16

THE GENTLEMAN FROM GEORGIA YEELGDZ BACK. -- YIELDS BACK. THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA RESERVES. THE GENTLEMAN FROM MASSACHUSETTS IS RECOGNIZED.

Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA)

02:24:24

MR. SPEAKER, I ASK UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO INSERT AN ARTICLE, PERRY WON'T STAY OFF COMMITTEE INVESTIGATING HOUSE PROBES. I RESERVE THE BALANCE OF MY TIME.

02:24:37

WITHOUT OBJECTION. THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA IS RECOGNIZED.

02:24:40

I'D ADVISE MY FRIEND THAT I AM PREPARED TO CLOSE WHENEVER HE IS.

02:24:44

MR. SPEAKER, I YIELD MYSELF THE REMAINING TIME.

02:24:47

THE GENTLEMAN FROM MASSACHUSETTS IS RECOGNIZED.

Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA)

02:24:49

MR. SPEAKER, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT US TO ROLL UP OUR SLEEVES AND GET TO WORK. THEY WANT US TO MAKE PROGRESS AND DELIVER RESULTS THAT HELP THEM IN THEIR DAY-TO-DAY LIVES. THEY DON'T NEED CONGRESS TO BEND AND BREAK TO THE WILL OF MAGA EXTREMISTS EXTREMISTS, AND THEY DEFINITELY DON'T WANT US TO PUSH CRAZY CONSPIRACY THEORIES AND GO ON WITCH-HUNT TO GET POLITICAL SCORES. THEY GUTTED THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS AND HERE THEY ARE WITH THIS NEW SUBCOMMITTEE WHICH THREATENS OUR SAFETY, OUR SECURITY, AND OUR FREEDOM. IT'S AN UNPRECEDENTED ATTACK ON OUR NATION'S LAWS -- ON OUR NATION'S LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, OUR JUSTICE SYSTEM, AND OUR INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY. I WOULD JUST SAY TO MY COLLEAGUES WHO SPOKE BEFORE ABOUT THE INTELLIGENCE OVERSIGHT, WE HAVE AN ENTIRE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE THAT DOES -- THAT HAS OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITIES ON THOSE MATTERS. AND I'M SORRY THE GENTLEMAN WHO DOESN'T SPOKE DOESN'T HAVE CONFIDENCE IN WHO THE REPUBLICANS ARE GOING TO PROPOSE AS CHAIR. SO LOOK, THIS COMMITTEE IS DERANGED. IT'S A BAD IDEA. AND IT WILL GO DOWN IN HISTORY AS ONE OF THE WORST COMMITTEES THAT A CONGRESS HAS EVER PUT FORWARD. IT WILL IN THE SAME CATEGORY AS THE JOSEPH McCARTHY ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES OR BENGHAZI COMMITTEE WHICH NOW SPEAKER McCARTHY SAID IT WAS A SET UP TO TRY TO TAKE DOWN SECRETARY CLINTON. HERE'S THE DEAL AND HERE'S WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT. THERE ARE SIX ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE AISLE WHO ASK FOR A -- ASKED FOR A PARDON FROM PRESIDENT TRUMP. THEY DID HIS DIRTY WORK, BUT TRUMP LEFT THEM HANGING. HE DID NOT GIVE THEM A PARDON. SO NOW THEY'RE EFFECTIVELY TRYING TO PARDON THEMSELVES WITH THE CREATION OF THIS SELECT COMMITTEE. THIS IS UNCONSCIONABLE. IT IS SO BLATANT. AND, AGAIN, THE CHANGES THAT WERE MADE TO GIVE THEM THE ABILITY TO PARDON THEMSELVES WERE DONE AFTER THE 13th SPEAKER VOTE IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT TO TRY TO WIN THEIR VOTES OVER. THIS IS NOT THE WAY THIS CONGRESS SHOULD RUN. THIS IS NOT THE WAY REPUBLICANS OR DEMOCRATS OR ANY MAJORITY SHOULD BEHAVE. PEOPLE SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF THEMSELVES THAT THIS IS IN THE RULES PACKAGE, THAT THIS IS WHAT MY FRIENDS ARE PUSHING RIGHT NOW. WE ARE BETTER THAN THIS. WE SHOULD NOT BE GOING DOWN THIS ROAD.

MY FRIENDS TALKED -- SAID THEY WANT TO COMBAT INFLATION, THEY WANT TO MAKE THE LIVES OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE BETTER. LET'S FOCUS ON THOSE THINGS. LET'S FOCUS ON AREAS THAT ACTUALLY IMPROVE THE LIVES OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. THIS IS A COLOSSAL WASTE OF TIME. BUT EVEN WORSE, IT IS TO ME THE EPITOME OF WHAT CORRUPTION IS ALL ABOUT. AND WITH THAT, MR. SPEAKER, I YIELD BACK THE BALANCE OF MY TIME AND I URGE A NO VOTE.

Show Less Text

02:27:35

THE GENTLEMAN FROM MASSACHUSETTS YIELDS BACK. THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA IS RECOGNIZED.

Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK)
02:27:44

MR. SPEAKER, I YIELD MYSELF THE BALANCE OF THE TIME. IN CLOSING, I URGE ALL MY COLLEAGUES TO SUPPORT THIS RESOLUTION, CREATING THE SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE WEAPONIZATION OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. IN THE 1970'S, IT WAS APPARENT FROM REVELATIONS IN THE POPULAR PRESS THAT THE AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY HAD COMMITTED ABUSES AS PART OF THEIR ACTIVITIES. IN RESPONSE, CONGRESS CREATED THE CHURCH COMMITTEE WHICH INVESTIGATED THESE ABUSES AND BROUGHT THEM INTO THE LIGHT. TODAY, IT IS, AGAIN, APPARENT THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN WEAPONIZED FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES. LIKE THE CHURCH COMMITTEE, WHICH THIS SUBCOMMITTEE IS MODELED ON, THE SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE WEAPONIZATION OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL INVESTIGATE THE ABUSE OF AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES AND BRING THEM INTO THE LIGHT. I'M CONFIDENT THAT THIS SUBCOMMITTEE WILL DO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE A GREAT SERVICE. THEY DESERVE TO HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THEIR GOVERNMENT, AND THAT CONFIDENCE STARTS WITH ENSURING THAT THE VAST POWERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH ARE NOT ABUSED. MR. SPEAKER, I YIELD BACK THE BALANCE OF MY TIME AND URGE ALL MEMBERS TO VOTE YES ON THIS RESOLUTION.

Show Less Text

02:28:53

THE GENTLEMAN FROM OKLAHOMA YIELDS BACK. PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 5, THE PREVIOUS QUESTION IS ORDERED ON THE RESOLUTION. THE QUESTION IS ON AGREEING TO THE RESOLUTION. THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. THOSE OPPOSED, NO. IN THE OPINION OF THE CHAIR, THE AYES HAVE IT.

Show Less Text

02:29:13

MR. SPEAKER, ON THAT I ASK FOR THE YEAS AND NAYS.

02:29:16

THE YEAS AND NAYS ARE REQUESTED. THOSE FAVORING A VOTE BY THE YEAS AND NAYS WILL RISE. A SUFFICIENT NUMBER HAVING ARISEN, THE YEAS AND NAYS ARE ORDERED. PURSUANT TO CLAUSE 8 OF RULE 20, FURTHER PROCEEDINGS ON THIS QUESTION WILL BE POSTPONED. PURSUANT TO CLAUSE 12-A OF RULE 1, THE CHAIR DECLARES THE HOUSE IN RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR.

Show Less Text

From: Uriarte, Carlos F. (OLA)
Subject: RE: 2023.01.09 Draft Letter to SJC HJC (to OLA) v3
To: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
Sent: January 10, 2023 7:42 PM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: 2023.01.09 Draft Letter to SJC HJC (to OLA) v3.docx

Confidential/Deliberative

Updated draft, attached.

From: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) [REDACTED] (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, January 9, 2023 7:23 PM
To: Uriarte, Carlos F. (OLA) [REDACTED] (b) (6)
Subject: 2023.01.09 Draft Letter to SJC HJC (to OLA) v3

From: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Points/Q&A for Review
To: Christopher Fonzone
Cc: Matthew Rhoades; Evers, Austin (ODAG); Uriarte, Carlos F. (OLA); (b)(3), (b)(6) per ODNI
Sent: January 11, 2023 8:02 AM (UTC-05:00)

Sure. We can try you then.

On Jan 11, 2023, at 7:53 AM, Christopher Fonzone (b)(3) per ODNI > wrote:

OK – Austin, Rush, do you want to just call me at my desk at 9:15 am? I’m at (b)(3) per ODNI

From: Matthew Rhoades (b)(3) per ODNI
Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2023 10:39 PM
To: Evers, Austin (ODAG) (b) (6) >; Christopher Fonzone (b)(3) per ODNI >
Cc: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) (b) (6) >; Uriarte, Carlos F. (OLA) (b) (6); (b)(3), (b)(6) per ODNI
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Points/Q&A for Review

I’m out of the office most of the morning but can get caught up after. Thanks

From: "Evers, Austin (ODAG)" (b) (6)
Date: Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 7:29:46 PM
To: "Christopher Fonzone" (b)(3) per ODNI >
Cc: "Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)" (b) (6), "Uriarte, Carlos F. (OLA)" (b) (6) >, "Matthew Rhoades" (b)(3) per ODNI, (b)(3), (b)(6) per ODNI
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Points/Q&A for Review

Agreed. Let’s talk tomorrow. I can do 9:15. Booked at 11 but could be late probably.

Austin R. Evers
(b) (6) (m)

On Jan 10, 2023, at 6:55 PM, Christopher Fonzone (b)(3) per ODNI > wrote:

OK – thanks, Austin, and understood. (b) (5) (b)(5) per ODNI

But perhaps we can reconnect tomorrow (b)(5) per ODNI

I think it’s thus going to be important for us to stay in communication and linked up, so we’re

all on the same page.

To that end, would 9:15 am work for folks again? If not, I could probably do 11 am.

Many thanks,

Chris

From: Evers, Austin (ODAG) (b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2023 6:02 PM
To: Christopher Fonzone (b)(3) per ODNI
Cc: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) (b) (6); Uriarte, Carlos F. (OLA) (b)(3), (b)(6) per ODNI
(b) (6); Matthew Rhoades (b)(3) per ODNI
(b)(3), (b)(6) per ODNI
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Points/Q&A for Review

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

Austin R. Evers
(b) (6) (m)

On Jan 10, 2023, at 4:37 PM, Christopher Fonzone
(b)(3) per ODNI wrote:

Rush, all – I’m sorry to bother, but I was just wondering if you had any
feedback on the points below. (b)(5) per ODNI

(b)(5) per ODNI

Many thanks, and please let us know if a conversation will be helpful, Chris

From: Christopher Fonzone
Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2023 11:14 AM
To: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) (b) (6); 'Evers,
Austin (ODAG)' (b) (6); Uriarte, Carlos F. (OLA)
(b) (6)
Cc: Matthew Rhoades (b)(3) per ODNI; (b)(3), (b)(6) per ODNI
(b)(3), (b)(6) per ODNI
Subject: Points/Q&A for Review

Rush, Austin –

As discussed this morning, below please find the points/Q&A we would
propose to use to respond to questions from Congress on the news that broke
last night.

If it would be possible to provide us with even an initial indication of whether you would be fine by these by 4 pm today, we would very much appreciate it, (b)(5) per ODNI.

Many thanks, and please let us know if you have any questions,

Chris

* * * * *

(b) (5)

(b)(3), (b)(5) per ODNI

(b) (5)

(b)(3), (b)(5) per ODNI

(b) (5)

(b)(3), (b)(5) per ODNI

(b)(3), (b)(5) per ODNI

(b) (5)

(b)(3), (b)(5) per ODNI

(b) (5)

(b)(3), (b)(5) per ODNI

From: Kohlman, Abby K. (OLA)
Subject: FW: Correspondence from Sen. Josh Hawley
To: Evers, Austin (ODAG)
Sent: January 11, 2023 8:14 AM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: 2023-01-11 Letter from Sen. Hawley to AG Garland.pdf

Abigail Kay Kohlman
Chief of Staff / Senior Counsel
U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Legislative Affairs
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

From: DOJ Correspondence (SMO) <Ex_DojCorrespondence@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 8:13 AM
To: Uriarte, Carlos F. (OLA) (b) (6); Kohlman, Abby K. (OLA) (b) (6);
Zdeb, Sara (OLA) (b) (6); Bond, Slade (OLA) (b) (6); Calce, Christina M. (OLA)
(b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: Correspondence from Sen. Josh Hawley

FYI

From: Ehrett, John (Hawley) (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 7:57:36 AM
To: Hyun, Peter (OLA) (b) (6); DOJ Correspondence (SMO)
<Ex_DojCorrespondence@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Correspondence from Sen. Josh Hawley

Dear Mr. Hyun,

Please see the attached letter to Attorney General Garland from Sen. Hawley. Thanks very much.

Best,

John Ehrett | GENERAL COUNSEL
U.S. Senator for Missouri, Josh Hawley

Phone: (b) (6)
Email: (b) (6)



January 11, 2023

The Honorable Merrick Garland
Attorney General
United States Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Garland:

On January 9, news broke that classified documents dating back to the Obama Administration had been located in President Biden's former office at the Penn Biden Center for Diplomacy and Global Engagement in Washington, D.C. These facts uncannily echo another recent scandal involving the Department. In August of last year, FBI agents raided the Mar-a-Lago residence of former President Donald Trump, supposedly to secure classified documents dating back to President Trump's time in office. President Biden appears to have done exactly what President Trump did—only he didn't get his home raided by the FBI over it.

The double standard here is astounding. The underlying behavior at issue—a President's retention of old classified documents dating back to a past presidency—is materially the same in both cases. But in President Trump's case, that retention triggered an unprecedented raid on the home of a former president, rationalized with a thicket of partisan doublespeak. President Biden has not experienced anything remotely similar.

To make matters worse, it's taken until January of 2023 for this news to surface, even though the documents were found on November 2, 2022—just days before a hotly contested midterm election. Clearly, the Biden Administration and its allies in the media did their best to bury the story.

Your Department's apparent disparate treatment of these two cases thus far isn't especially surprising, because today's FBI leadership is growing more partisan by the day. We know from an Inspector General report that the FBI fabricated evidence to justify spying on President Trump's campaign in 2016. Now the FBI is once again up to the same tricks, putting its thumb on the scales to punish the Democratic Party's political opponents. We shouldn't forget, after all, that you also unleashed the FBI on parents who challenged critical race theory at school board meetings in the fall of 2021. Evidence of the Department's internal rot is piling up everywhere.

During your confirmation hearings, you assured me—and the rest of the Judiciary Committee—that if confirmed, you would take the high road. In particular, you said in your responses to my questions for the record, "I have spent my whole professional life looking up to Ed Levi and the other post-Watergate Attorneys General who stood up on behalf of the Department against impermissible pressure and influence. If I am confirmed as Attorney General, I intend to do the same." But on your watch, the Department's conduct has clearly failed to live up to this standard.

Please respond to me immediately with full responses to the following questions:

1. Will you appoint a special counsel to investigate President Biden's alleged retention of classified records, as you did for President Trump?
2. At what point were you notified that these documents existed?
3. Please provide a full explanation of the Department's decision not to dispatch FBI agents to search the Penn Biden Center for Diplomacy and Global Engagement for classified documents dating back to the Obama Administration.
4. Did you personally direct Department personnel or FBI agents not to engage in a broader search of the Penn Biden Center for Diplomacy and Global Engagement?
5. What communications did you have with personnel at the White House, the National Archives and Records Administration, President Biden's campaign team, or members of the press regarding these classified documents?
6. Why was the fact that President Biden apparently improperly retained classified documents from a prior administration not divulged until long after the 2022 midterm elections?

I await your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Hawley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Josh" being more prominent and the last name "Hawley" written in a more compact, connected style.

Josh Hawley
United States Senator

CC: FBI Director Christopher Wray

From: Antell, Kira M. (OLA)
Subject: Correspondence from Sen. Josh Hawley - Biden Documents
To: Benson, Adrienne (ODAG); Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG); Evers, Austin (ODAG)
Cc: Uriarte, Carlos F. (OLA)
Sent: January 11, 2023 9:14 AM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: 2023-01-11 Letter from Sen. Hawley to AG Garland.pdf

FYSA – another incoming re classified documents at Penn Biden Center. This one from Hawley.

Kira Antell
Office of Legislative Affairs
Department of Justice

o: (b) (6)
c: (b) (6)

From: Iverson, Dena (PAO)
Subject: FW: Flagging - Sen. Hawley Letter
To: Coley, Anthony D. (PAO); Klapper, Matthew B. (OAG)
Cc: Uriarte, Carlos F. (OLA)
Sent: January 11, 2023 9:35 AM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: 2023-01-11 Letter from Sen. Hawley to AG Garland.pdf

FYI

Dena Iverson
Principal Deputy Director, Office of Public Affairs
U.S. Department of Justice

(b) (6) - Office
(b) (6) - Cell
(b) (6)

From: Kohlman, Abby K. (OLA) (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 9:27 AM
To: Dulaney, Emma (PAO) (b) (6) >; Uriarte, Carlos F. (OLA) (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) Iverson, Dena (PAO) (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Flagging - Sen. Hawley Letter

Yes we did – attached.

Abigail Kay Kohlman
Chief of Staff / Senior Counsel
U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Legislative Affairs
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

From: Dulaney, Emma (PAO) (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 9:26 AM
To: Uriarte, Carlos F. (OLA) (b) (6) >; Kohlman, Abby K. (OLA) <(b) (6)>
Cc: (b) (6) Iverson, Dena (PAO) (b) (6)
Subject: Flagging - Sen. Hawley Letter

Good morning,

Flagging we got a media inquiry from Fox News regarding a letter Sen. Hawley sent to the AG. Did we receive the letter?

Here is the inquiry:

We're publishing a story on the letter from Sen. Josh Hawley to AG Merrick Garland regarding the Obama-era classified documents found at the Penn Biden Center in Washington, D.C., where President Biden worked between 2017 — when he left the vice presidency — to 2020, when he ran for the White House.

Sen. Hawley wrote there is a "double standard" regarding the documents, as former President Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate was raided by the FBI in August of last year, which found classified documents. The senator also accused the Biden administration of trying to "bury the story" ahead of the midterm elections when the documents were found on November 2, 2022.

Emma Dulaney

Press Secretary, Office of Public Affairs

U.S. Department of Justice

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

From: Lausch, John (USAILN)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] NARA Draft Staff Communication
To: Evers, Austin (ODAG); Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
Sent: January 11, 2023 11:01 AM (UTC-05:00)

(b)(5) per EOUSA

I am also in the building, by the way.

From: William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 9:57 AM

To: Evers, Austin (ODAG) (b) (6); Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) (b) (6)

Lausch, John (USAILN) (b) (6)

Subject: [EXTERNAL] NARA Draft Staff Communication

Good morning. NARA would like to send the below message to all staff ASAP today. This is a very typical action for us (communicating with staff via "NARA Notices").

However, pushing something out to all of our staff is akin to a public release as we can't control what individuals might do with a notice once it is sent. So, we are touching base with you first to see if DOJ might have any concerns with our intended action.

Please let me know of any questions or concerns. We are glad to adjust if any of the language is problematic.

Thanks,

Jay

NARA Notice

All Employees

Subject: Biden Vice Presidential Records

You have most likely seen media reports this week about the National Archives and our actions relating to records from President Joseph Biden's term as Vice President.

We are unable to comment on the specifics of the matter. I will share information with you if and when I can.

Under the Presidential Records Act (PRA), Vice-Presidential records are treated in the same way as Presidential records. The PRA mandates the preservation of records by each administration so that a complete set of Presidential records is transferred to NARA at the end of an administration.

The PRA, like the Federal Records Act (FRA), is critical to our democracy, in which the government is held accountable by the people. Our fundamental interest is always in ensuring that government records are properly managed, preserved, and protected to ensure access to them for the life of the Republic.

We will continue to carry out our mission in a diligent and non-political manner.

If you receive inquiries or comments from the media or members of the public, please forward the messages to NARA's Public Affairs staff at public.affairs@nara.gov.

DEBRA STEIDEL WALL

Acting Archivist of the United States

From: Lausch, John (USAILN)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] NARA Draft Staff Communication
To: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG); Evers, Austin (ODAG)
Sent: January 11, 2023 11:03 AM (UTC-05:00)

Thanks.

From: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 10:02 AM
To: Lausch, John (USAILN) (b) (6); Evers, Austin (ODAG) (b) (6)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] NARA Draft Staff Communication

I can handle. Thanks.

L. Rush Atkinson
Associate Deputy Attorney General
Office of the Deputy Attorney General
(b) (6) (cell); (b) (6) (office)

From: Lausch, John (USAILN) (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 11:02 AM
To: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) (b) (6); Evers, Austin (ODAG) (b) (6)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] NARA Draft Staff Communication

(b)(5) per EOUSA ?

From: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 10:00 AM
To: Evers, Austin (ODAG) (b) (6); Lausch, John (USAILN) (b) (6)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] NARA Draft Staff Communication

(b) (5)

L. Rush Atkinson
Associate Deputy Attorney General
Office of the Deputy Attorney General
(b) (6) (cell); (b) (6) (office)

From: William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 10:57 AM
To: Evers, Austin (ODAG) (b) (6); Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) (b) (6)
Lausch, John (USAILN) (b) (6) >
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NARA Draft Staff Communication

Duplicative Material

From: William Bosanko
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] NARA Draft Staff Communication
To: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
Cc: Evers, Austin (ODAG); Lausch, John (USAILN)
Sent: January 11, 2023 11:06 AM (UTC-05:00)

Rush,

Many thanks. I really appreciate the quick response.

Jay

On Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 11:03 AM Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) (b) (6) > wrote:

Thanks, Jay. No concerns here.

L. Rush Atkinson

Associate Deputy Attorney General

Office of the Deputy Attorney General

(b) (6) (cell); (b) (6) (office)

From: William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 10:57 AM

To: Evers, Austin (ODAG) (b) (6); Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) (b) (6); Lausch, John (USAILN) (b) (6) >

Subject: [EXTERNAL] NARA Draft Staff Communication

Duplicative Material

From: Matthew Rhoades
Subject: [EXTERNAL] letters
To: Uriarte, Carlos F. (OLA)
Cc: Evers, Austin (ODAG); Christopher Fonzone
Sent: January 11, 2023 5:22 PM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: Haines_SSCI_11JAN23.pdf, letter_to_odni_01.10.23.pdf

Carlos – as mentioned, attached are the Warner/Rubio and Turner letters.

I also understand that the HASC Chairman sent DOD a letter today as well. We've strongly encouraged them to get in touch with DOJ prior to responding. I'm not aware of any others at this time but will let you know if I hear otherwise.

Thanks,
Matt

MARK R. WARNER, VIRGINIA, CHAIRMAN
MARCO RUBIO, FLORIDA, VICE CHAIRMAN

DIANNE FEINSTEIN, CALIFORNIA
RON WYDEN, OREGON
MARTIN HEINRICH, NEW MEXICO
ANGUS S. KING, JR., MAINE
MICHAEL F. BENNET, COLORADO
ROBERT P. CASEY, JR., PENNSYLVANIA
KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND, NEW YORK

RICHARD BURR, NORTH CAROLINA
JAMES E. RISCH, IDAHO
SUSAN M. COLLINS, MAINE
ROY BLUNT, MISSOURI
TOM COTTON, ARKANSAS
JOHN CORNYN, TEXAS
BEN SASSE, NEBRASKA

United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6475

CHARLES SCHUMER, NEW YORK, EX OFFICIO
MITCH MCCONNELL, KENTUCKY, EX OFFICIO
JACK REED, RHODE ISLAND, EX OFFICIO
JAMES M. INHOFE, OKLAHOMA, EX OFFICIO

MICHAEL CASEY, STAFF DIRECTOR
BRIAN W. WALSH, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR
KELSEY S. BAILEY, CHIEF CLERK

January 11, 2023

The Honorable Avril D. Haines
Director of National Intelligence
1500 Tyson's McLean Boulevard
McLean, VA 22102

Dear Director Haines:

We write to request that you provide to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence information regarding classified documents that were discovered at the *Penn Biden Center for Diplomacy and Global Engagement*. According to a statement by President Biden's special counsel, Richard Sauber, the documents were discovered when the President's personal attorneys were packing files housed in a locked closet to prepare to vacate office space at the Center and were turned over to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).

Our Committee is charged with overseeing counterintelligence matters, including the handling and mishandling of classified information. In light of the substantial public interest in this matter, the need for bipartisan and responsible oversight is at its highest.

Consistent with our oversight duties, we request that you provide to the Committee within 10 days of your receipt of this letter, consistent with federal legal obligations and in a manner compliant with the need to protect any ongoing investigation, all classified documents related to this incident that have been turned over to NARA, as well as an assessment of the risk to national security if those classified documents were to be exposed in public or to a foreign adversary.

Finally, the Committee requests that you provide as soon as possible the classified documents and a risk assessment relating to the potential mishandling of classified information identified during the search of Mar-a-Lago, which the Committee requested on August 14, 2022.

Sincerely,



Mark R. Warner
Chairman



Marco Rubio
Vice Chairman

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 10, 2023

The Honorable Avril Haines
Director of National Intelligence
Office of the Director of National Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20511

Dear Director Haines:

I write to request an immediate review and damage assessment following numerous reports that then Vice President Biden removed, and then retained highly classified information at an undisclosed and unsecure non-government office in Washington, D.C., for a period of at least six years. It has been reported that a portion of the materials at issue were marked “sensitive compartmented information,” indicating the highest classification and most sensitive intelligence information in our government. This discovery of classified information would put President Biden in potential violation of laws protecting national security, including the Espionage Act and Presidential Records Act. Those entrusted with access to classified information have a duty and an obligation to protect it. This issue demands a full and thorough review.

Under Intelligence Community (IC) directives issued by your office, damage assessments are used “to evaluate actual or potential damage to national security resulting from the unauthorized disclosure or compromise of classified national intelligence.” IC Directive 732 states: In cases where the unauthorized disclosure or compromise involves classified national intelligence originating from or otherwise affecting more than one IC element or U.S. Government department or agency, there will be a Community damage assessment. Such damage assessments shall include participation and support from the affected IC elements and other representatives as directed by the DNI.

The Directive charges DNI’s National Counterintelligence Executive to “[o]versee and coordinate equity reviews and formal damage assessments within the IC” and “[l]ead, when designated by the DNI, or facilitate damage assessment teams when the unauthorized disclosure or compromise involves classified national intelligence affecting more than one IC element or U.S. Government department or agency.”

We request that you instruct the National Counterintelligence Executive, in consultation with the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community and other Inspectors General as appropriate, to conduct a damage assessment. In addition, we ask that you commit to providing, as soon as possible, this Committee with an appropriate classified briefing on the conduct of the damage assessment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Michael R. Turner".

Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress

From: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
Subject: 2023.01.09 SC Order v4
To: Hart, Rosemary (OLC); Schroeder, Christopher H. (OLC)
Sent: January 11, 2023 5:40 PM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: 2023.01.09 SC Order v4.docx

This is not final, but ready for the number. Please do not share on.

From: Suero, Maya A. (ODAG)
Subject: FW: ODNI letters
To: Simms, Donna Y. (ODAG); Gamble, Nathaniel (ODAG)
Sent: January 11, 2023 5:45 PM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: letter_to_odni_01.10.23.pdf, Haines_SSCI_11JAN23.pdf

From: Evers, Austin (ODAG) (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 5:44 PM
To: Suero, Maya A. (ODAG) (b) (6)
Cc: Thomas, Tina M. (ODAG) (b) (6); Benson, Adrienne (ODAG) (b) (6);
Chandler, Adam (ODAG) (b) (6); Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
(b) (6); Gaston, Molly (ODAG) (b) (6); Miller, Marshall (ODAG)
(b) (6)
Subject: ODNI letters

For the DAG's awareness – Turner letter to ODNI from yesterday and SSCI letter to ODNI from today.

Austin R. Evers
Office of the Deputy Attorney General
(b) (6)

From: Hart, Rosemary (OLC)
Subject: RE: 2023.01.09 SC Order v4
To: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
Cc: Schroeder, Christopher H. (OLC)
Sent: January 11, 2023 6:38 PM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: 2023.01.09 SC Order v4 + AGO number.docx

Rush: Order number added, and I flagged the one open question.

I have Chris's approval paperwork ready to go when needed. We'll need the final of the order before we can execute our approval.

Thanks,
Rosemary

From: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) (b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 5:40 PM
To: Hart, Rosemary (OLC) (b) (6) >; Schroeder, Christopher H. (OLC)
(b) (6) >
Subject: 2023.01.09 SC Order v4

Duplicative Material

From: Lederman, Martin (OLC)
Subject: RE: Comer to NARA
To: Evers, Austin (ODAG); Schroeder, Christopher H. (OLC); Colborn, Paul P (OLC); Watzel, Ryan (OLC); Benson, Adrienne (ODAG); Anderson, Trisha (OLC)
Cc: Kinkopf, Neil (OLC)
Sent: January 11, 2023 6:55 PM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: 2023-01-10 - Letter - NARA - Biden classified docs.pdf

+ Neil

Marty Lederman
Deputy Assistant Attorney General
Office of Legal Counsel
Department of Justice
(b) (6) cell)
(b) (6) (office)

From: Evers, Austin (ODAG) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 6:40 PM
To: Lederman, Martin (OLC) (b) (6)>; Schroeder, Christopher H. (OLC) (b) (6); Colborn, Paul P (OLC) <(b) (6)>; Watzel, Ryan (OLC) (b) (6); Benson, Adrienne (ODAG) (b) (6)>; Anderson, Trisha (OLC) (b) (6)>
Subject: Comer to NARA

Austin R. Evers
Office of the Deputy Attorney General
(b) (6)

From: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
Subject: 2023.01.11 SC Order v5
To: Hart, Rosemary (OLC)
Sent: January 11, 2023 7:14 PM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: 2023.01.11 SC Order v5.docx

Good news—OLC grammar prevails. Here's a version with the clause moved back. Still need to confirm this is final.

From: (b) (6) (OLA)
Subject: OLA Incoming Correspondence 1/11/23
To:
Sent: January 11, 2023 7:43 PM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: 2023-01-11 Letter from Sen. Hawley to AG Garland.pdf, 2023-01-11-IN-Info Only-Warren- Letter to FCC re Standard General - Tegna.pdf

Good evening,

Please find today's incoming congressional correspondence attached and summarized below:

1. **Letter from Senator Hawley to AG Garland (Director Wray copied)** – Alleging that the Department has applied a double standard in its responses to the discoveries of classified documents at the President's former office at the Penn Biden Center and classified documents at former President Trump's residence, and requesting that the Department provide information about its response to the discovery of classified documents at the Penn Biden Center.
2. **Letter from Senator Warren to FCC Chair Rosenworcel (AAG Kanter copied)** – Expressing concerns that Standard General's proposed acquisition of broadcaster Tegna Inc. does not serve "the public interest, convenience, and necessity" and could facilitate collusion in violation of antitrust laws, and requesting that the FCC use its full statutory authority to block this acquisition and address increasing consolidation in the media industry.

(b) (6)
Congressional Affairs Specialist
Office of Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Justice
(b) (6)

From: Suero, Maya A. (ODAG)
Subject: FW: Correspondence from Sen. Josh Hawley - Biden Documents
To: Simms, Donna Y. (ODAG); Gamble, Nathaniel (ODAG)
Sent: January 11, 2023 8:01 PM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: 2023-01-11 Letter from Sen. Hawley to AG Garland.pdf

From: Evers, Austin (ODAG) (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 7:03 PM
To: Suero, Maya A. (ODAG) (b) (6) >
Cc: Miller, Marshall (ODAG) (b) (6) >; Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
(b) (6); Gaston, Molly (ODAG) (b) (6) >; Thomas, Tina M. (ODAG)
(b) (6); Chandler, Adam (ODAG) (b) (6) >; Benson, Adrienne (ODAG)
(b) (6) >
Subject: FW: Correspondence from Sen. Josh Hawley - Biden Documents

Letter for the DAG's awareness.

From: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Revised, Shorter Near-Term Holding Points/Q&A for Review
To: Christopher Fonzone
Cc: Evers, Austin (ODAG); Matthew Rhoades; Uriarte, Carlos F. (OLA); (b)(3), (b)(6) per ODNI
Sent: January 11, 2023 10:41 PM (UTC-05:00)

Thanks, Chris. Have a great night.

On Jan 11, 2023, at 9:03 PM, Christopher Fonzone (b)(3) per ODNI > wrote:

Austin, Rush – So you have it, below is what I pushed forward. On reflection, (b)(5) per ODNI

the below gives you any heartburn, let me know, and I'll let you know if I get any feedback. Many thanks again for all of the help, Chris

(b)(5) per ODNI

From: Christopher Fonzone
Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 8:44 PM
To: 'Evers, Austin (ODAG)' (b)(6) >; Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
(b)(6) >
Cc: Matthew Rhoades (b)(3) per ODNI >; Uriarte, Carlos F. (OLA)
(b)(6) ; (b)(3), (b)(6) per ODNI
Subject: RE: Revised, Shorter Near-Term Holding Points/Q&A for Review

Thanks, Austin – I really appreciate the response.

(b)(5) per ODNI

Many thanks, and let's try to connect either tomorrow afternoon or Friday morning, Chris

From: Evers, Austin (ODAG) (b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 5:43 PM
To: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) (b) (6) >; Christopher Fonzone
(b)(3) per ODNI
Cc: Matthew Rhoades (b)(3) per ODNI; Uriarte, Carlos F. (OLA)
(b) (6); (b)(3), (b)(6) per ODNI
Subject: RE: Revised, Shorter Near-Term Holding Points/Q&A for Review

I continue to recommend (b) (5)

A few suggestions here:

- (b)(5) per ODNI

(b) (5)

From: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 5:27 PM
To: Christopher Fonzone (b)(3) per ODNI; Evers, Austin (ODAG)
(b) (6)
Cc: Matthew Rhoades (b)(3) per ODNI; Uriarte, Carlos F. (OLA)
(b) (6); (b)(3), (b)(6) per ODNI >
Subject: RE: Revised, Shorter Near-Term Holding Points/Q&A for Review

Defer to Austin, but these look fine to me for tomorrow.

L. Rush Atkinson
Associate Deputy Attorney General
Office of the Deputy Attorney General
(b) (6) (cell); (b) (6) (office)

From: Christopher Fonzone (b)(3) per ODNI
Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 5:13 PM
To: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) (b) (6) >; Evers, Austin (ODAG) (b) (6)
Cc: Matthew Rhoades (b)(3) per ODNI Uriarte, Carlos F. (OLA) (b) (6) > (b)(3), (b)(6) per ODNI
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Revised, Shorter Near-Term Holding Points/Q&A for Review

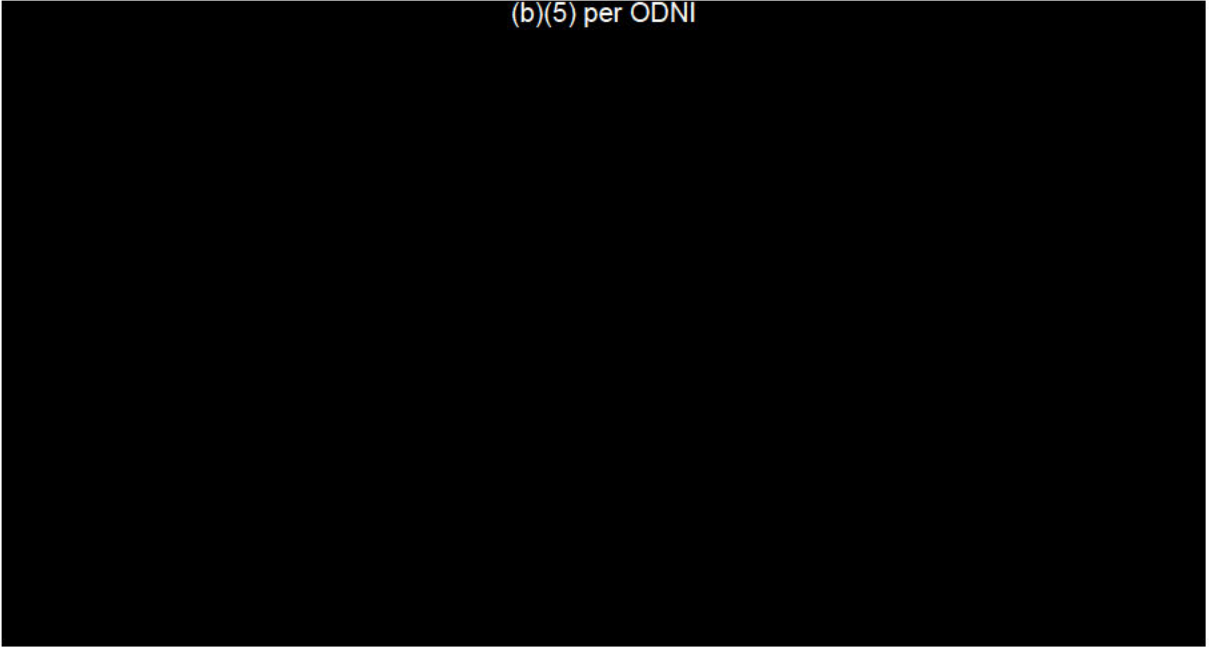
Hey, Rush/Austin – I know you are probably juggling a million other things today, but I just wanted to check in on the two points below (which would be used as response to questions from Congress in private conversations), as I know I will be asked about them later tonight or tomorrow. Many thanks, Chris

From: Christopher Fonzone
Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 10:56 AM
To: 'Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)' (b) (6) >; Evers, Austin (ODAG) (b) (6) >
Cc: Matthew Rhoades (b)(3) per ODNI Uriarte, Carlos F. (OLA) (b) (6) > (b)(3), (b)(6) per ODNI
Subject: Revised, Shorter Near-Term Holding Points/Q&A for Review

Rush, Austin –

Thanks for the call this morning. As discussed, here are the two near-term holding lines we would propose to use with the Hill, leaving anything further to our responses to the incoming letters we've received or will likely receive:

(b)(5) per ODNI



If it would be possible to let us know today if these would work, we'd very much appreciate it. We can then huddle tomorrow afternoon for a more detailed discussion on a path forward.

Many thanks for everything,

Chris

From: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 8:02 AM
To: Christopher Fonzone <(b)(3) per ODNI>
Cc: Matthew Rhoades <(b)(3) per ODNI>; Evers, Austin (ODAG) <(b) (6)>; Uriarte, Carlos F. (OLA) <(b) (6)>; <(b)(3), (b)(6) per ODNI>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Points/Q&A for Review

Duplicative Material



From: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
Subject: 2023.01.12 Draft Letter to SJC HJC (to OLA) v3
To: Uriarte, Carlos F. (OLA); Evers, Austin (ODAG)
Sent: January 12, 2023 7:13 AM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: 2023.01.12 Draft Letter to SJC HJC (to OLA) v3.docx, 2023.01.11 SC Order v5.docx

Updated based on draft remarks and order.

ORDER NO. 5588-2023

APPOINTMENT OF ROBERT K. HUR AS SPECIAL COUNSEL

By virtue of the authority vested in the Attorney General, including 28 U.S.C. §§ 509, 510, 515, and 533, in order to discharge my responsibility to provide supervision and management of the Department of Justice, and to ensure a full and thorough investigation of certain matters, I hereby order as follows:

(a) Robert K. Hur is appointed to serve as Special Counsel for the United States Department of Justice.

(b) The Special Counsel is authorized to conduct the investigation of matters that are the subject of the initial investigation, pursuant to 28 C.F.R. § 600.2(b), led by United States Attorney John R. Lausch, Jr., including possible unauthorized removal and retention of classified documents or other material discovered at the Penn Biden Center for Diplomacy and Global Engagement, and the Wilmington, Delaware private residence of President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., as well as any matters that arose from the initial investigation or may arise directly from the Special Counsel's investigation or that are within the scope of 28 C.F.R. § 600.4(a).

(d) The Special Counsel is authorized to prosecute federal crimes arising from the investigation of these matters. The Special Counsel is also authorized to refer to the appropriate United States Attorney discrete prosecutions that may arise from the Special Counsel's investigation.

(e) Sections 600.4 to 600.10 of Title 28 of the Code of Federal Regulations are applicable to the Special Counsel.

Date

Merrick B. Garland
Attorney General

From: Weinsheimer, Bradley (ODAG)
Subject: Fwd: (b) (5)
To: Lauria, Jolene A. (JMD)
Cc: Gary, Arthur (JMD)
Sent: January 12, 2023 7:58 AM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: (b) (5)

Jolene: I will give you a call later this morning about this. Essentially, I have talked to Cindy Shaw and she and I very much agree on an ethics analysis contained in the attached. It's actually fairly straightforward because we have dealt with the same issue previously. Given your role as the DAEO. I just wanted to run it by you.

Thanks, Brad.

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Weinsheimer, Bradley (ODAG)" (b) (6)
Date: January 11, 2023 at 6:11:00 PM EST
To: "Shaw, Cynthia K. (JMD)" (b) (6)
Subject: (b) (5)

As discussed.

Thanks, Brad.

From: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
Subject: Operative Drafts
To: Miller, Marshall (ODAG); Klapper, Matthew B. (OAG)
Cc: Gaston, Molly (ODAG)
Sent: January 12, 2023 8:21 AM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: 2023.01.12 Draft Letter to SJC HJC (to OLA) v3.docx, 2023.01.09 - SC Appointment Letter.docx, 2023.01.11 SC Order v5.docx, 2023.01.10 - Remarks v13 - clean.docx

L. Rush Atkinson

Associate Deputy Attorney General

Office of the Deputy Attorney General

(b) (6) (cell); (b) (6) (office)

From: Uriarte, Carlos F. (OLA)
Subject: RE: 2023.01.12 Draft Letter to SJC HJC (to OLA) v3
To: Evers, Austin (ODAG); Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
Sent: January 12, 2023 8:48 AM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: 2023.01.12 Draft Letter to SJC HJC (to OLA) v4.docx

Yes, though I would [REDACTED] (b) (5)

[REDACTED]

Have also confirmed the addresses, and updated the address line to reflect the OLA style guide.

Carlos

From: Evers, Austin (ODAG) [REDACTED] (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2023 8:36 AM
To: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) [REDACTED] (b) (6) >; Uriarte, Carlos F. (OLA) [REDACTED] (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: 2023.01.12 Draft Letter to SJC HJC (to OLA) v3

To the best of my knowledge, these addressees are correct. Grassley remains listed as the SJC ranking member and the Senate has not yet met to reassign memberships this year.

From: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) [REDACTED] (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2023 7:13 AM
To: Uriarte, Carlos F. (OLA) <[REDACTED] (b) (6)>; Evers, Austin (ODAG) [REDACTED] (b) (6)
Subject: 2023.01.12 Draft Letter to SJC HJC (to OLA) v3

Updated based on draft remarks and order.

From: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
Subject: 2023.01.12 Draft Letter to SJC HJC (to OLA) v3
To: Uriarte, Carlos F. (OLA)
Sent: January 12, 2023 10:00 AM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: 2023.01.12 Draft Letter to SJC HJC (to OLA) v3.docx

From: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
Subject: 2023.01.12 SC Order v6
To: Watson, Theresa (OAG)
Sent: January 12, 2023 10:11 AM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: 2023.01.12 SC Order v6.docx

ORDER NO. 5588-2023

APPOINTMENT OF ROBERT K. HUR AS SPECIAL COUNSEL

By virtue of the authority vested in the Attorney General, including 28 U.S.C. §§ 509, 510, 515, and 533, in order to discharge my responsibility to provide supervision and management of the Department of Justice, and to ensure a full and thorough investigation of certain matters, I hereby order as follows:

(a) Robert K. Hur is appointed to serve as Special Counsel for the United States Department of Justice.

(b) The Special Counsel is authorized to conduct the investigation of matters that are the subject of the initial investigation, pursuant to 28 C.F.R. § 600.2(b), led by United States Attorney John R. Lausch, Jr., including possible unauthorized removal and retention of classified documents or other records discovered at the Penn Biden Center for Diplomacy and Global Engagement, and the Wilmington, Delaware private residence of President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., as well as any matters that arose from the initial investigation or may arise directly from the Special Counsel's investigation or that are within the scope of 28 C.F.R. § 600.4(a).

(d) The Special Counsel is authorized to prosecute federal crimes arising from the investigation of these matters. The Special Counsel is also authorized to refer to the appropriate United States Attorney discrete prosecutions that may arise from the Special Counsel's investigation.

(e) Sections 600.4 to 600.10 of Title 28 of the Code of Federal Regulations are applicable to the Special Counsel.

Date

Merrick B. Garland
Attorney General

From: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
Subject: 2023.01.12 SC Order FINAL
To: Hart, Rosemary (OLC); Schroeder, Christopher H. (OLC)
Sent: January 12, 2023 10:18 AM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: 2023.01.12 SC Order FINAL.docx

This is final. Thanks.

ORDER NO. 5588-2023

APPOINTMENT OF ROBERT K. HUR AS SPECIAL COUNSEL

By virtue of the authority vested in the Attorney General, including 28 U.S.C. §§ 509, 510, 515, and 533, in order to discharge my responsibility to provide supervision and management of the Department of Justice, and to ensure a full and thorough investigation of certain matters, I hereby order as follows:

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(b) The Special Counsel is authorized to conduct the investigation of matters that are the subject of the initial investigation, pursuant to 28 C.F.R. § 600.2(b), led by United States Attorney John R. Lausch, Jr., including possible unauthorized removal and retention of classified documents or other records discovered at the Penn Biden Center for Diplomacy and Global Engagement, and the Wilmington, Delaware private residence of President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., as well as any matters that arose from the initial investigation or may arise directly from the Special Counsel's investigation or that are within the scope of 28 C.F.R. § 600.4(a).

(d) The Special Counsel is authorized to prosecute federal crimes arising from the investigation of these matters. The Special Counsel is also authorized to refer to the appropriate United States Attorney discrete prosecutions that may arise from the Special Counsel's investigation.

(e) Sections 600.4 to 600.10 of Title 28 of the Code of Federal Regulations are applicable to the Special Counsel.

Date

Merrick B. Garland
Attorney General

From: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
Subject: 2023.01.12 - Remarks v14 - clean
To: Lausch, John (USAILN)
Sent: January 12, 2023 10:30 AM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: 2023.01.12 - Remarks v14 - clean.docx

From: Uriarte, Carlos F. (OLA)
Subject: Fwd: 2023.01.12 Draft Letter to SJC HJC (to OLA) v3
To: Watson, Theresa (OAG)
Sent: January 12, 2023 11:41 AM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: 2023.01.12 Draft Letter to SJC HJC (to OLA) v3.docx

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)" <(b) (6)>
Date: January 12, 2023 at 11:03:40 AM EST
To: "Uriarte, Carlos F. (OLA)" <(b) (6)>
Subject: 2023.01.12 Draft Letter to SJC HJC (to OLA) v3

January 12, 2023

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jim Jordan
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jerrold L. Nadler
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Durbin, Representative Jordan, Senator Grassley, and Representative Nadler:

The Department is investigating the possible unauthorized removal and retention of classified documents or other records discovered at the Penn Biden Center for Diplomacy and Global Engagement, and the Wilmington, Delaware private residence of President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

On November 14, 2022, pursuant to Section 600.2(b) of the Special Counsel regulations, I assigned U.S. Attorney John R. Lausch, Jr. to conduct an initial investigation to inform my decision whether to appoint a Special Counsel. Based on Mr. Lausch's initial investigation and under these extraordinary circumstances, I concluded that it was in the public interest to appoint a Special Counsel. On January 12, 2023, I appointed Robert K. Hur to serve as Special Counsel. A copy of Attorney General Order No. 5588-2023 is attached.

Sincerely,

Merrick B. Garland
Attorney General

Enclosure

From: Klapper, Matthew B. (OAG)
Subject: Fwd: 2023.01.12 - Remarks v16 - clean
To: Watson, Theresa (OAG)
Sent: January 12, 2023 11:45 AM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: 2023.01.12 - Remarks v16 - clean.docx

Please print.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)" (b) (6)
Date: January 12, 2023 at 11:43:58 AM EST
To: "Klapper, Matthew B. (OAG)" (b) (6), "Brogger, Marissa J. (PAO)"
(b) (6) >
Subject: 2023.01.12 - Remarks v16 - clean

Good afternoon.

I am here today to announce the appointment of Robert Hur as a Special Counsel, pursuant to Department of Justice regulations governing such matters. In keeping with those regulations, I have today notified the designated members of each House of Congress of the appointment.

I am joined today by John Lausch, the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, who conducted the initial investigation into the matter that I will describe today.

On the evening of November 4, 2022, the National Archives Office of Inspector General contacted a prosecutor at the Department of Justice. It informed him that the White House Counsel had notified the Archives that documents bearing classification markings were identified at the office of the Penn Biden Center for Diplomacy and Global Engagement, located in Washington, DC. That office was not authorized for storage of classified documents. The prosecutor was also advised that those documents had already been secured in an Archives facility.

On November 9th, the FBI commenced an assessment, consistent with standard protocols, to understand whether classified information had been mishandled in violation of federal law.

On November 14th, pursuant to Section 600.2(b) of the Special Counsel regulations, I assigned U.S. Attorney Lausch to conduct an initial investigation to inform my decision whether to appoint a Special Counsel.

Mr. Lausch has served as the U.S. Attorney in Chicago since 2017. Before that, he spent more than a decade as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in that same office. I selected him to conduct the initial investigation because I was confident his experience would ensure that it would be done professionally and expeditiously.

On December 20th, President Biden's personal counsel informed Mr. Lausch that additional documents bearing classification markings were identified in the garage of the President's private residence in Wilmington, Delaware. President Biden's counsel informed Mr. Lausch that those documents were among other records from the period of the President's service as Vice President. The FBI went to the location and secured those documents.

On January 5, 2023, Mr. Lausch briefed me on the results of his initial investigation and advised me that further investigation by a Special Counsel was warranted. Based on Mr. Lausch's initial investigation, I concluded that, under the Special Counsel regulations, it was in the public interest to appoint a Special Counsel. In the days since, while Mr. Lausch continued the investigation, the Department identified Mr. Hur for appointment as Special Counsel.

This morning, President Biden's personal counsel called Mr. Lausch and stated that an additional document bearing classification markings was identified at the President's personal residence in Wilmington, Delaware.

###

When I first contacted Mr. Lausch about this matter, he said he could lead the initial investigation but would be unable to accept any longer term assignment because he would be leaving the Department in early 2023 for the private sector. U.S. Attorney Lausch and his team of prosecutors and agents have conducted this initial investigation with the professionalism and speed that I had anticipated. I am grateful to them.

###

Earlier today, I signed an order appointing Robert Hur as Special Counsel for the matter I have just described. The order authorizes him to investigate whether any person or entity violated the law in connection with this matter. The Special Counsel will not be subject to the day-to-day supervision of any official of the Department, but he must comply with the regulations, procedures, and policies of the Department.

Mr. Hur has a long and distinguished career as a prosecutor. In 2003, he joined the Department's Criminal Division, where he worked on counterterrorism, corporate fraud, and appellate matters. From 2007 until 2014, Mr. Hur served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Maryland, where he prosecuted matters ranging from violent crime to financial fraud. In 2017, Mr. Hur rejoined the Department as the Principal Associate Deputy Attorney General. In 2018, he was nominated and confirmed to serve as the U.S. Attorney for the District of Maryland. As U.S. Attorney, he supervised some of the Department's more important national security, public corruption, and other high-profile matters.

I will ensure that Mr. Hur receives all the resources he needs to conduct his work.

As I have said before, I strongly believe that the normal processes of this Department can handle all investigations with integrity. But, under the regulations, the extraordinary circumstances here require the appointment of a Special Counsel for this matter.

Such an appointment underscores for the public the Department's commitment to both independence and accountability in particularly sensitive matters, and to making decisions indisputably guided only by the facts and the law.

I am confident that Mr. Hur will carry out his responsibility in an even-handed and urgent manner, and in accordance with the highest traditions of this Department.

From: Lauria, Jolene A. (JMD)
Subject: (b) (5)
To: Weinsheimer, Bradley (ODAG)
Cc: Gary, Arthur (JMD)
Sent: January 12, 2023 11:48 AM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: (b) (5)

Thank you for sharing this. Art and I talked through this. I have other comments for discussion only, but- knowing the deadline, these are the document edits suggested. Also, CFR is different throughout C.F.R. –not sure if that matter given time crunch.

From: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
Subject: 2023.01.12 - Remarks v16 - clean
To: Lausch, John (USAILN)
Sent: January 12, 2023 12:36 PM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: 2023.01.12 - Remarks v16 - clean.docx

Looks like this will be final. The only addition is the highlighted:

(b)(5) per EOUSA



From: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
Subject: FW: For prompter practice
To: Gaston, Molly (ODAG)
Sent: January 12, 2023 1:49 PM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: 01.12.2023 remarks v16.docx

L. Rush Atkinson

Associate Deputy Attorney General

Office of the Deputy Attorney General

(b) (6) (cell); (b) (6) (office)

From: Brogger, Marissa J. (PAO) (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2023 12:37 PM
To: Iverson, Dena (PAO) (b) (6); Coley, Anthony D. (PAO) (b) (6);
Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) (b) (6) >
Subject: Fwd: For prompter practice

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Rodgers, Nicholas (JMD) (CTR)" (b) (6)
Date: January 12, 2023 at 12:35:46 PM EST
To: "Brogger, Marissa J. (PAO)" (b) (6)
Subject: RE: For prompter practice

This is the updated copy of the AG's script for today's press conference.

From: Brogger, Marissa J. (PAO) (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2023 11:48 AM
To: Rodgers, Nicholas (JMD) (CTR) (b) (6)
Subject: For prompter practice

Hi Nick,

Please see attached. Thank you

Good afternoon.

I am here today to announce the appointment of Robert Hur as a Special Counsel, pursuant to Department of Justice regulations governing such matters. In keeping with those regulations, I have today notified the designated members of each House of Congress of the appointment.

I am joined today by John Lausch, the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, who conducted the initial investigation into the matter that I will describe today.

On the evening of November 4th, 2022, the National Archives Office of Inspector General contacted a prosecutor at the Department of Justice. It informed him that the White House Counsel had notified the Archives that documents bearing classification markings were identified at the office of the Penn Biden Center for Diplomacy and Global Engagement, located in Washington, DC. That office was not authorized for storage of classified documents. The prosecutor was also advised that those documents had been secured in an Archives facility.

On November 9th, the FBI commenced an assessment, consistent with standard protocols, to understand whether classified information had been mishandled in violation of federal law.

On November 14th, pursuant to Section 600.2(b) of the Special Counsel regulations, I assigned U.S. Attorney Lausch to conduct an initial investigation to inform my decision whether to appoint a Special Counsel.

Mr. Lausch has served as the U.S. Attorney in Chicago since 2017. Before that, he spent more than a decade as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in that same office. I selected him to conduct the initial investigation because I was confident his experience would ensure that it would be done professionally and expeditiously.

On December 20th, President Biden's personal counsel informed Mr. Lausch that additional documents bearing classification markings were identified in the garage of the President's private residence in Wilmington, Delaware. President Biden's counsel informed Mr. Lausch that those documents were among other

records from the period of the President's service as Vice President. The FBI went to the location and secured those documents.

On January 5th, 2023, Mr. Lausch briefed me on the results of his initial investigation and advised me that further investigation by a Special Counsel was warranted. Based on Mr. Lausch's initial investigation, I concluded that, under the Special Counsel regulations, it was in the public interest to appoint a Special Counsel. In the days since, while Mr. Lausch continued the investigation, the Department identified Mr. Hur for appointment as Special Counsel.

This morning, President Biden's personal counsel called Mr. Lausch and stated that an additional document bearing classification markings was identified at the President's personal residence in Wilmington, Delaware.

###

When I first contacted Mr. Lausch about this matter, he said he could lead the initial investigation but would be unable to accept any longer term assignment because he would be leaving the Department in early 2023 for the private sector. U.S. Attorney Lausch and his team of prosecutors and agents have conducted this initial investigation with professionalism and speed. I am grateful to them.

###

Earlier today, I signed an order appointing Robert Hur as Special Counsel for the matter I have just described. The order authorizes him to investigate whether any person or entity violated the law in connection with this matter. The Special Counsel will not be subject to the day-to-day supervision of any official of the Department, but he must comply with the regulations, procedures, and policies of the Department.

Mr. Hur has a long and distinguished career as a prosecutor. In 2003, he joined the Department's Criminal Division, where he worked on counterterrorism, corporate fraud, and appellate matters. From 2007 until 2014, Mr. Hur served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Maryland, where he prosecuted matters ranging from violent crime to financial fraud. In 2017, Mr. Hur rejoined the Department as the Principal Associate Deputy Attorney General. In 2018, he was nominated and confirmed to serve as the U.S. Attorney for the District of Maryland. As U.S. Attorney, he supervised some of

the Department's more important national security, public corruption, and other high-profile matters.

I will ensure that Mr. Hur receives all the resources he needs to conduct his work.

As I have said before, I strongly believe that the normal processes of this Department can handle all investigations with integrity. But, under the regulations, the extraordinary circumstances here require the appointment of a Special Counsel for this matter.

This appointment underscores for the public the Department's commitment to both independence and accountability in particularly sensitive matters, and to making decisions indisputably guided only by the facts and the law.

I am confident that Mr. Hur will carry out his responsibility in an even-handed and urgent manner, and in accordance with the highest traditions of this Department.

From: Suero, Maya A. (ODAG)
Subject: FW: Letter
To: Brinkley, Winnie (ODAG); Gamble, Nathaniel (ODAG)
Sent: January 12, 2023 2:02 PM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: letter to ODNI 01.12.23.pdf

Maya Suero

Special Assistant

Office of the Deputy Attorney General

Phone: (b) (6)

From: Evers, Austin (ODAG) (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2023 1:14 PM
To: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) (b) (6); Miller, Marshall (ODAG)
(b) (6); Thomas, Tina M. (ODAG) (b) (6); Benson, Adrienne (ODAG)
(b) (6); Chandler, Adam (ODAG) (b) (6); Suero, Maya A. (ODAG)
(b) (6); Gaston, Molly (ODAG) (b) (6)
Subject: Letter

New letter to ODNI for the DAG's awareness.

Austin R. Evers

Office of the Deputy Attorney General

(b) (6)

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 12, 2023

The Honorable Avril Haines
Director of National Intelligence
Office of the Director of National Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20511

Dear Director Haines,

The recent media reports that highly classified documents from the Obama presidency have been discovered in at least two locations: one being the Penn-Biden Center, a private, unsecured, non-governmental office space in Washington, D.C., and the other being an unknown location. News of these discoveries raise significant questions regarding the handling and safeguarding of classified intelligence materials. The one location we do know about, the Penn-Biden Center, was the Washington, D.C.-based office for operations of then-Vice President Biden's private partnership with the University of Pennsylvania.

The presence of classified information at these separate locations could implicate the President in the mishandling, potential misuse, and exposure of classified information. It raises significant questions as to why then-Vice President Biden maintained custody of such highly classified documents, who had access to them, and for what purposes. The question of further dissemination of these documents, and potential use by those involved in the business of the unknown location and the Penn-Biden Center, or any other possible use, must be fully examined.

In its oversight role, Congress has a responsibility to investigate and to evaluate the actions of Executive Branch agencies to ensure they are accountable to the people. The information I seek will further my understanding of both the enforcement and application of federal law and policy concerning the handling of classified intelligence information. It will enable me to determine the sufficiency and impartiality of federal law enforcement, as well as the propriety of Executive Branch actions. As such, I request that you provide a classified briefing to me no later than January 26, 2023. During this briefing, be prepared to answer the following questions concerning documents found at all locations:

- Has the ODNI determined whether there has been an actual or suspected unauthorized disclosure or compromise of classified national intelligence?
- Which Intelligence Community element(s) produced them and how widely disseminated were they?
- Why and exactly when were the documents provided to Vice President Biden, in what context, and for what purpose?

- Why did then-Vice President Biden maintain copies of these documents and was the originating element of the Intelligence Community aware of the retention?
- Were there any efforts made by the originating elements of the Intelligence Community to have the documents returned to their possession once then-Vice President Biden's term had ended?
- Who authorized these documents to be moved outside of government control and what was the chain of custody in their movement from government facilities to non-government facilities?

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress

From: Simms, Donna Y. (ODAG)
Subject: FW: ECATS-2023-149157 - OLA - Ltr from MC Josh Hawley dtd 01/11/2023
To: Evers, Austin (ODAG); Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG); Miller, Marshall (ODAG); Benson, Adrienne (ODAG)
Sent: January 12, 2023 3:02 PM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: ECATS-2023-149157 - ES Summary Sheet.docx, ECATS-2023-149157 - Incoming - AG Garland from Senator Josh Hawley.pdf

FYI.

Respectfully,

Donna Y. Simms

Department of Justice • Office of the Deputy Attorney General

950 Pennsylvania Ave, NW | 4208 | Washington, DC 20530 | (b) (6)

☎: (b) (6) Desk; (b) (6) Mobile

From: Bodger, Pricillia (JMD) (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2023 2:29 PM
To: InfoCopies <(b) (6)> ODAG INFO COPIES (b) (6)
Subject: ECATS-2023-149157 - Ltr from MC Josh Hawley dtd 01/11/2023

Respectfully Submitted,



Pricillia Bodger ([she/her](#))
Correspondence Management Analyst
U.S. Department of Justice
Justice Management Division
Office of the Executive Secretariat

Desk: (b) (6)
Mobile: (b) (6)
Email: (b) (6)

To access OES's Intranet, please click [HERE](#).
Please click [HERE](#) to provide customer service feedback.

From: Watson, Theresa (OAG)
Subject: RE: 2023.01.12 - SC Appointment Letter v3
To: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG); Klapper, Matthew B. (OAG)
Sent: January 12, 2023 5:04 PM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: 2023.01.12 - SC Appointment Letter v3.docx

FINAL LETTER.

From: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2023 4:51 PM
To: Watson, Theresa (OAG) (b) (6) >; Klapper, Matthew B. (OAG)
(b) (6) >
Subject: 2023.01.12 - SC Appointment Letter v3

I think we need this put on AG letterhead and given for signature.

January 12, 2023

Mr. Robert K. Hur
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Hur:

You are appointed as a Special Attorney pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 509, 510, 515 and 533. You are authorized to conduct the investigation of matters that are the subject of the initial investigation led by United States Attorney John R. Lausch, Jr. pursuant to 28 C.F.R. § 600.2(b), including possible unauthorized removal and retention of classified documents or other records discovered at the Penn Biden Center for Diplomacy and Global Engagement, and the Wilmington, Delaware private residence of President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., as well as any matters that arose from the initial investigation or may arise directly from the Special Counsel's investigation or that are within the scope of 28 C.F.R. § 600.4(a).

Please execute the enclosed Appointment Affidavit (Standard Form 61), which contains the oath of office, and return it to me no later than January 31, 2023. This appointment is effective upon the execution of the required oath of office.

You must file a copy of this letter and the enclosed oath of office with the Clerk of the United States District Court where you make an appearance to evidence this authorization.

Sincerely,

Merrick B. Garland
Attorney General

Enclosure

I agree to and accept the foregoing terms and conditions:

Robert K. Hur

From: (b) (6) (OLA)
Subject: OLA Incoming Correspondence 1/12/23
To:
Sent: January 12, 2023 7:27 PM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: 2023-01-12-IN-OLA-Banks et al- Biden Classified Docs.pdf, 2023-01-12-IN-OLA-Turner-Biden Classified Docs.pdf, 2023-01-12-IN-OLA- Foxx-July 22, 2022 DOL and DOJ oversight request follow up letter.pdf

Good evening,

Please find today's incoming congressional correspondence attached and summarized below:

1. **Letter from Representative Alford and 43 other Representatives to AG Garland** – Expressing concern that the President mishandled classified documents when he served as Vice President, and requesting that the Department appoint a special counsel to investigate the matter and provide information regarding the Administration's response to the discovery of the documents.
2. **Representative Turner to AG Garland** – Expressing concern about the President's alleged mishandling of classified information and requesting that the Department provide a briefing to Congress regarding the discovered classified documents and the perceived risk to national security.
3. **Representative Foxx to AG Garland** – Reminding the Department that it has an obligation to provide timely and complete responses to inquiries and requests made by the House Education and Workforce Committee, and requesting a response to her July 22, 2022, letter (included within) that requested information about the Department's work with the Department of Labor (DOL) on a directive which would have purportedly required federal contractors to provide information protected by attorney-client privilege to DOL's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs.

(b) (6)
Confidential Assistant
Office of Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Justice
(b) (6)

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2504

January 12, 2023

Merrick Garland
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Garland:

We write with extreme concern of recent reports that President Biden directly mishandled classified documents as Vice President of the United States and request your office fully investigate this matter by appointing a special counsel with the utmost urgency.

As you know, classified documents were discovered at the Penn Biden Center on November 2, 2022¹, only six days prior to the midterm elections, which decided the balance of power for the 118th Congress. Biden attorneys found the documents locked in a closet that then Vice President Biden used in his office from 2017 to 2020².

This discovery occurred shortly before you appointed special counsel, Jack Smith, to criminally investigate President Trump as part of the Mar-a-Lago raid, a central issue in the midterms for both Congressional Democrats and Joe Biden.

Further, in an interview with 60 Minutes on September 18, 2022³, President Biden criticized President Trump's handling of classified documents saying, "How could that possibly happen? How could anyone be that irresponsible? What data was in there that would maybe compromise sources and methods? And it's just – totally irresponsible." This totally hypocritical and reckless behavior from President Biden must be investigated by a neutral, non-partisan, special counsel.

Therefore, we request your response to the following questions immediately:

- Did the White House request to withhold this information prior to the midterm elections?

¹ Classified docs from Biden's VP days found in private office
<https://www.axios.com/2023/01/09/biden-classified-records-national-archives>

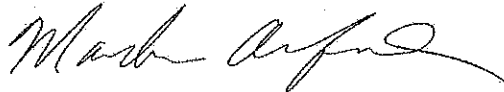
² Classified documents from Biden's time as vice president discovered at Penn Biden Center, White House says
<https://www.foxnews.com/politics/classified-documents-bidens-time-vice-president-discovered-penn-biden-center-white-house-says>

³ Biden Calls Trump 'Irresponsible' Over Mar-a-Lago Documents
<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/09/18/us/politics/biden-trump-covid.html>

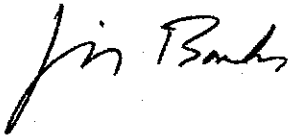
- Why did the Biden administration and your Department of Justice fail to disclose this information publicly?
- Why was a special counsel not appointed and will you appoint a special counsel to investigate President Biden?
- Was Congress ever notified? If yes, when were they notified?

The fact that President Trump is being criminally investigated for mishandling classified documents, while President Biden is not receiving the same level of scrutiny for his mishandling of classified documents, leads us to believe that the Justice Department's investigation of President Trump is nothing more than a partisan and politically motivated attack on President Trump. For the reasons outlined above, we urge your response to this letter immediately.

Sincerely,



Mark Alford
Member of Congress



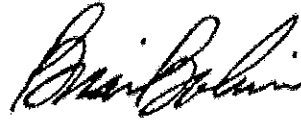
Jim Banks
Member of Congress



Ron Estes
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



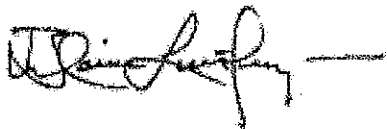
Brian Babin
Member of Congress



Guy Reschenthaler
Member of Congress



Darrell Issa
Member of Congress



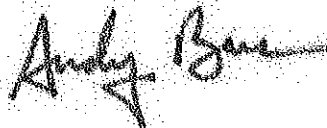
Blaine Luetkemeyer
Member of Congress



Michael Waltz
Member of Congress



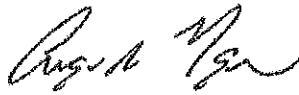
Dan Crenshaw
Member of Congress



Andy Barr
Member of Congress



Michael Guest
Member of Congress



August Pfluger
Member of Congress



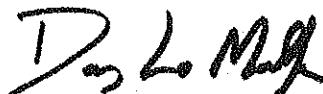
Joe Wilson
Member of Congress



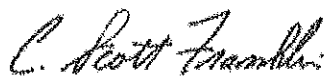
Daniel Webster
Member of Congress



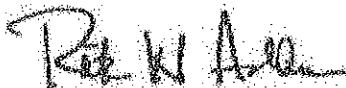
Russell Fry
Member of Congress



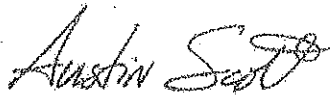
Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress



Scott Franklin
Member of Congress



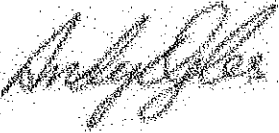
Rick Allen
Member of Congress



Austin Scott
Member of Congress



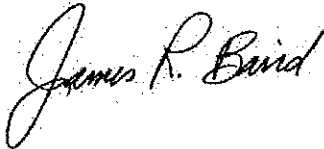
Mike Kelly
Member of Congress



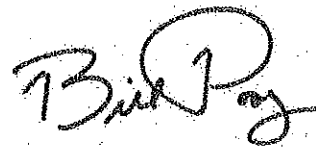
Andy Ogles
Member of Congress



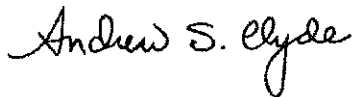
Eric Burlison
Member of Congress



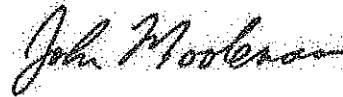
Jim Baird
Member of Congress




Bill Posey
Member of Congress



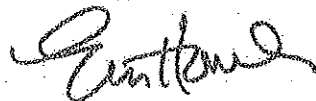
Andrew S. Clyde
Member of Congress



John R. Moolenaar
Member of Congress



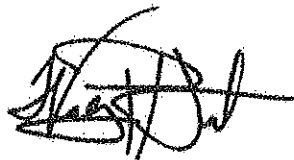
Monica De La Cruz
Member of Congress



Erin Houchin
Member of Congress



Troy E. Nehls
Member of Congress



Wesley Hunt
Member of Congress



Morgan Luttrell
Member of Congress



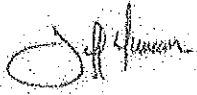
Nathaniel Moran
Member of Congress

/S/

Diana Harshbarger
Member of Congress

/S/

Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress



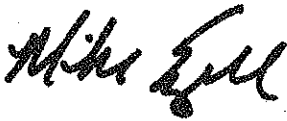
Tracey Mann
Member of Congress



Keith Self
Member of Congress

/S/

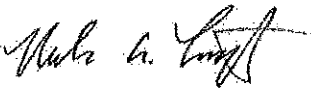
Anthony D'Esposito
Member of Congress



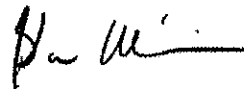
Mike Ezell
Member of Congress



Burgess Owens
Member of Congress



Nick Langworthy
Member of Congress



Brandon Williams
Member of Congress

/S/
Rich McCormick
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 12, 2023

The Honorable Merrick Garland
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Garland:

The recent media reports that highly classified documents from the Obama presidency have been discovered in at least two locations, one being the Penn-Biden Center, a private, unsecured, non-governmental office space in Washington, D.C., and the other being an unknown location. News of these discoveries raise significant questions regarding the Biden Administration's handling and safeguarding of classified intelligence materials. The one location we do know about, the Penn-Biden Center was the Washington, D.C.-based office for operations of former Vice President Biden's private partnership with the University of Pennsylvania.

The presence of classified information at these separate locations could implicate the President in the mishandling, potential misuse, and exposure of classified information. It raises significant questions as to why then-Vice President Biden maintained custody of such highly classified documents, who had access to them, and for what purposes. The question of further dissemination of these documents, and potential use by those involved in the business of the unknown location and the Penn-Biden Center, or any other possible use, must be fully examined.

In its oversight role, Congress has a responsibility to investigate and to evaluate the actions of Executive Branch agencies to ensure they are accountable to the people. The information I seek will further our understanding of both the enforcement and application of federal law and policy concerning the handling of classified intelligence information. It will enable me to determine the sufficiency and impartiality of federal law enforcement, as well as the propriety of Executive Branch actions. This includes the suppression of the fact that classified information was discovered at two separate locations and the apparent disparate treatment by the Department of Justice.

I request a briefing by you no later than January 26, 2023, concerning your perceived risk to national security. Additionally, I will expect you to provide a detailed description of the materials and documents found at the unknown location and the Penn-Biden Center on November 2, 2022, and a determination of, during the six-year period, who had knowledge and access to these documents, whether the documents were provided to anyone else, and whether the information contained therein was disseminated to persons without the proper security clearance or need to know.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress

From: Evers, Austin (ODAG)
Subject: RE: Warner/Rubio
To: Zdeb, Sara (OLA); Benson, Adrienne (ODAG)
Cc: Gao, Greta G. (OLA)
Sent: January 13, 2023 11:46 AM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: 2023.01.10 - Letter - NARA - Biden classified docs.pdf, 2023.01.10 - letter_to_odni_01.10.23.pdf, 2023.01.10 Letter-WHCO-Biden-confidential-docs.pdf, 2023.01.11 - Haines_SSCI_11JAN23.pdf, 2023.01.11 Letter from Sen. Hawley to AG Garland.pdf, 2023.01.12 - Letter to DOJ 01.12.23.pdf, 2023.01.12 - letter to ODNI 01.12.23.pdf, 2023.01.12 N-OLA-Banks et al- Biden Classified Docs.pdf, 2023.01.12-IN-OLA-Turner-Biden Classified Docs.pdf, 2023.01.13-Letter-WHCO-Biden-confidential-docs.pdf

New letter library attached. Also see new letter from Comer to WHC.

From: Zdeb, Sara (OLA) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2023 11:44 AM
To: Benson, Adrienne (ODAG) (b) (6); Evers, Austin (ODAG) (b) (6)
Cc: Gao, Greta G. (OLA) (b) (6)
Subject: Warner/Rubio

We've checked and are pretty sure this letter didn't come to OLA – can you send if you have handy? Thanks.

Sara Zdeb
Deputy Assistant Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Legislative Affairs
(b) (6) (o)
(b) (6) (c)

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074
MINORITY (202) 225-5051
<https://oversight.house.gov>

January 10, 2023

Mr. Stuart Delery
White House Counsel
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Delery:

The Committee on Oversight and Accountability is investigating President Biden's failure to return vice-presidential records—including highly classified documents—to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in violation of the Presidential Records Act. The President has previously called the mishandling of presidential records “totally irresponsible.”¹ Recent reports reveal that classified documents in the custody of then-Vice President Biden were discovered in a closet at a Washington, D.C. office.² The Committee requests documents and information related to the White House's handling of this matter.

In a recent *60 Minutes* interview, President Biden spoke candidly regarding his assessment of former President Trump's handling of presidential records.³ He asked, “What data was in there that may compromise sources and methods?”⁴ Reporting indicates documents retrieved from the personal office of Joe Biden included documents designated as “sensitive compartmented information . . . which is used for highly sensitive information obtained from intelligence sources.”⁵ The Committee is concerned that President Biden has compromised sources and methods with his own mishandling of classified documents.

Under the Biden Administration, the Department of Justice and NARA have made compliance with the Presidential Records Act a top priority. President Biden has claimed he was not going to “get myself in the middle of whether or not the Justice Department should move or not move on certain actions they could take.”⁶ The Committee expects President Biden will receive equal treatment under the law given that he maintained classified documents in his unsecured office for several years with access to an unknown number of people. President Biden

¹ Brett Samuels, *Biden: Trump retention of sensitive documents ‘totally irresponsible’*, THE HILL (Sep. 18, 2022).

² Shawna Chen, *Classified docs from Biden's VP days found in private office*, AXIOS (Jan. 9, 2023).

³ *Supra*, n. 1.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ Jamie Gangel, Marshall Cohen, Evan Perez & Phil Mattingly, *Classified documents from Biden's time as VP discovered in private office*, CNN.COM (Jan. 9, 2023).

⁶ *Supra*, n. 1.

and his son, Hunter Biden, also planned to share an office with an individual affiliated with the Chinese Communist Party, which raises questions about who else had access to these highly sensitive documents because of President Biden's "totally irresponsible" actions.⁷

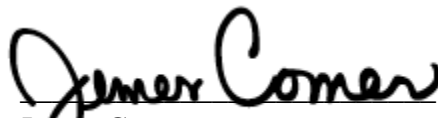
To assist Committee Republicans in investigating President Biden's recent mishandling of classified information, please provide the following documents and information no later than January 24, 2023:

1. All documents retrieved from President Biden's personal office at the Penn Biden Center;
2. All internal documents and communications regarding the documents retrieved from President Biden's personal office at the Penn Biden Center;
3. A list of all people who had access to President Biden's personal office at the Penn Biden Center;
4. All documents and communications related to the handling of the classified material by President Biden's personal lawyers—including but not limited to their security clearance status; and
5. All documents and communications between or among the White House and the Department of Justice or NARA regarding the documents retrieved from President Biden's personal office at the Penn Biden Center.

The Committee on Oversight and Accountability is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate "any matter" at "any time" under House Rule X.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important investigation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Comer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" and last name "Comer" clearly distinguishable.

James Comer

Chairman

Committee on Oversight and Accountability

cc: The Honorable Jamie B. Raskin, Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Accountability

⁷ Email on file with the Comm. Email from R. Hunter Biden (Sep. 21, 2017) ("please have keys made available for new office mates: Joe Biden [and] Gongwen Dong (Chairman Ye CEFC emissary)").

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

Majority (202) 225-5074
Minority (202) 225-6051
<https://oversight.house.gov>

January 13, 2023

Mr. Stuart Delery
White House Counsel
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Delery:

Three days ago, the Committee on Oversight and Accountability wrote you to inform the White House that the Committee has initiated an investigation into President Biden's possession of highly classified documents from his time as vice president in violation of the Presidential Records Act.¹ The Committee requested information about classified documents discovered in an unsecure closet at President Biden's former office in Washington, D.C. Recent reporting indicates that President Biden's aides discovered more classified documents at his home.² Thus, the Committee supplements its request from January 10, 2023, to include further information.

Following the discovery of the first classified documents at the Penn Biden Center, reports indicated "Biden aides [had] been searching for any additional classified materials that might be in other locations [President Biden] used."³ The White House has since confirmed that Biden aides discovered another batch of classified documents in multiple rooms at his Wilmington, Delaware home—including the garage.⁴ Documents on file with the Committee reveal the same address appeared on Hunter Biden's driver's license as recently as 2018.⁵ The Committee is concerned President Biden stored classified documents at the same location his son resided while engaging in international business deals with adversaries of the United States.

To assist the Committee in investigating President Biden's pattern of mishandling classified materials, please provide the following documents and information no later than January 27, 2023:

¹ Letter from Hon. James Comer, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Accountability, to Stuart Delery, White House Counsel, White House (Jan. 10, 2023).

² Carol E. Lee & Ken Dilanian, *Biden aides find second batch of classified documents at new location*, NBC NEWS (Jan. 11, 2023).

³ *Id.*

⁴ Kathryn Watson, Arden Farhi, Adriana Diaz & Andres Triay, *White House confirms second set of Biden documents found in his Wilmington garage*, CBS NEWS (Jan. 12, 2023).

⁵ Documents on file with the Comm. staff.


1. All classified documents retrieved by Biden aides or lawyers at any location;
2. A complete list of President Biden aides or lawyers tasked to search through President Biden's documents—including his or her security clearance status and job title;
3. A complete list of locations where President Biden's aides or lawyers have searched and/or discovered classified documents; and
4. All documents and communications between or among the White House and the Department of Justice or NARA regarding classified documents retrieved from all locations searched by President Biden's aides or lawyers.

To schedule delivery of responsive documents or ask any follow-up questions, please contact Committee on Oversight and Accountability staff at (202) 225-5074.

The Committee on Oversight and Accountability is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate "any matter" at "any time" under House Rule X.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important investigation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Comer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "C".

James Comer

Chairman

Committee on Oversight and Accountability

cc: The Honorable Jamie B. Raskin, Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Accountability

From: Hornbuckle, Wyn (PAO)
Subject: FW: Press inquiry on special counsel appointment
To: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG); Coley, Anthony D. (PAO)
Sent: January 13, 2023 11:53 AM (UTC-05:00)

Planning to decline to comment. FYSA

From: Hur, Robert K. <RHur@gibsondunn.com>
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2023 11:51 AM
To: Piatt, Pearl J. <PPiatt@gibsondunn.com>; Hornbuckle, Wyn (PAO) (b) (6)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Press inquiry on special counsel appointment

Robert K. Hur

GIBSON DUNN

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
[1050 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20036-5306](https://www.gibsondunn.com/1050-Connecticut-Avenue-N.W.-Washington-DC-20036-5306)
Tel [+1 202.887.3674](tel:+12028873674) • Fax [+1 202.530.9671](tel:+12025309671)
RHur@gibsondunn.com • www.gibsondunn.com

Begin forwarded message:

From: Chuck Ross <(b) (6)>
Date: January 13, 2023 at 11:48:43 AM EST
To: "Hur, Robert K." <RHur@gibsondunn.com>
Subject: Press inquiry on special counsel appointment

[WARNING: External Email]

Mr. Hur,

How are you? I'm a reporter with the Washington Free Beacon where I've been covering the Biden classified documents issue. We're preparing a story about your involvement as PDAG in the Trump-Russia probe, with particular focus on your role in responding to the so-called Nunes Memo. Our story relies on DOJ records obtained through FOIA that show you were involved in responding to Nunes's controversial memo about FISA abuse and the Steele dossier.

Nunes has provided a statement to us calling you a "fixer" for Democrats. Our story notes that many of the allegations from the Nunes Memo have been validated by the DOJ inspector general and other investigators.

We'd like to include any response you'd like to provide for the story.

Thanks in advance,

Chuck Ross
Senior Investigative Reporter
The Washington Free Beacon
(b) (6)

This message may contain confidential and privileged information for the sole use of the intended recipient. Any review, disclosure, distribution by others or forwarding without express permission is strictly prohibited. If it has been sent to you in error, please reply to advise the sender of the error and then immediately delete this message.

Please see our website at <https://www.gibsondunn.com/> for information regarding the firm and/or our privacy policy.

From: Dulaney, Emma (PAO)
Subject: RE: New Comer Request to Biden
To: Uriarte, Carlos F. (OLA); Antell, Kira M. (OLA); Zdeb, Sara (OLA); Kohlman, Abby K. (OLA); Bond, Slade (OLA); (b) (6) (OLA); Iverson, Dena (PAO); Evers, Austin (ODAG); Benson, Adrienne (ODAG); Coley, Anthony D. (PAO)
Sent: January 13, 2023 12:23 PM (UTC-05:00)

Letter: <https://oversight.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/2023-01-13-Letter-WHCO-Biden-confidential-docs.pdf>

Article: <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/politics/house-oversight-chairman-demands-list-names-locations-biden-document-searches>

House Oversight Committee Chairman James Comer (R-KY) pressed President [Joe Biden's](#) legal team on Friday for more details about how the president's staff handled classified documents in the run-up to a public controversy over the records.

Comer [demanded](#) a list of the classified papers recovered so far from multiple private locations in Biden's home and office. He also asked for a list of the names, security clearance levels, and job titles of any aide or attorney assigned by Biden to search for government documents among his personal records.

From: Dulaney, Emma (PAO)
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2023 11:11 AM
To: Uriarte, Carlos F. (OLA); (b) (6) >; Antell, Kira M. (OLA); (b) (6) >; Zdeb, Sara (OLA); (b) (6) >; Kohlman, Abby K. (OLA); (b) (6) >; Bond, Slade (OLA); (b) (6); (b) (6) (OLA); (b) (6); Iverson, Dena (PAO); (b) (6); Evers, Austin (ODAG); (b) (6) >; Benson, Adrienne (ODAG); (b) (6); Coley, Anthony D. (PAO); (b) (6)
Subject: New Comer Request to Biden

https://twitter.com/maxpcohen/status/1613928844674621441?s=20&t=Ho-_2hJzR33yC0TcHr1UjA



Max Cohen ✓
@maxpcohen



New: House Oversight Cmte Chair James Comer requests more information from Biden's lawyer, given the classified documents reporting from this week:

1. All classified documents retrieved by Biden aides or lawyers at any location;
2. A complete list of President Biden aides or lawyers tasked to search through President Biden's documents—including his or her security clearance status and job title;
3. A complete list of locations where President Biden's aides or lawyers have searched and/or discovered classified documents; and
4. All documents and communications between or among the White House and the Department of Justice or NARA regarding classified documents retrieved from all locations searched by President Biden's aides or lawyers.

Emma Dulaney

Press Secretary, Office of Public Affairs

U.S. Department of Justice

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

From: Simms, Donna Y. (ODAG)
Subject: FW: ECATS-2023-149282 – OLA - Letter from Congressman Michael Turner – dtd 01/12/2023
To: Evers, Austin (ODAG); Benson, Adrienne (ODAG); Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
Sent: January 13, 2023 12:41 PM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: Control Sheet (ECATS-2023-149282).docx, ECATS-2023-149282 - Incoming - AG Garland from Senator Michael Turner.pdf, FW_ Letter for Attorney General Garland .pdf

FYI.

Respectfully,

Donna Y. Simms

Department of Justice • Office of the Deputy Attorney General

950 Pennsylvania Ave, NW | 4208 | Washington, DC 20530 | (b) (6)

☎: (b) (6) Desk; (b) (6) Mobile

From: Pham, Thanh (JMD) (b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2023 11:38 AM
To: InfoCopies (b) (6); ODAG INFO COPIES (b) (6)
Subject: ECATS-2023-149282 – Letter from Congressman Michael Turner – dtd 01/12/2023

Respectfully submitted,



Thanh “Tang” Pham
U.S. Department of Justice
Justice Management Division
Office of the Executive Secretariat

Desk: (b) (6)
Front Desk: (b) (6)
Email: (b) (6)

To access OES’s Intranet, please click [HERE](#).
Please click [HERE](#) to provide customer service feedback.

From: [DOJ Correspondence \(SMO\)](#)
To: [DOJExecSec \(JMD\)](#)
Cc: [EXECSEC Quality Control; Zdeb, Sara \(OLA\)](#)
Subject: FW: Letter for Attorney General Garland
Date: Thursday, January 12, 2023 6:54:28 PM
Attachments: [Letter to DOJ 01.12.23.pdf](#)

Please assign to OLA (Zdeb), thank you.

Best,

— (b) (6)
Office of Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Justice

From: Ciarlante, Nick (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2023 10:26 AM
To: DOJ Correspondence (SMO) <Ex_DOJCorrespondence@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Cc: Ciarlante, Nick <(b) (6)>; Aston, Madison
(b) (6); Howard, Adam (b) (6); Calcagni,
Michael <(b) (6)>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Letter for Attorney General Garland

Good morning,

Attached, please find a letter for Attorney General Garland.

Many thanks for your confirmation of receipt.

Best,
Nick

Nicholas A. Ciarlante
United States House of Representatives
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
HVC-304, U.S. Capitol
Desk: (b) (6)
Cell: (b) (6)

From: Zdeb, Sara (OLA)
Subject: Jordan letter
To: Benson, Adrienne (ODAG); Evers, Austin (ODAG)
Cc: Gao, Greta G. (OLA)
Sent: January 13, 2023 1:32 PM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: 2023-01-13 JDJ MJ to Garland re Biden classified docs.pdf

Sara Zdeb
Deputy Assistant Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Legislative Affairs

(b) (6) o)

(b) (6) (c)

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 13, 2023

The Honorable Merrick B. Garland
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Garland:

We are conducting oversight of the Justice Department's actions with respect to former Vice President Biden's mishandling of classified documents, including the apparently unauthorized possession of classified material at a Washington, D.C. private office and in the garage of his Wilmington, Delaware residence.¹ On January 12, 2023, you appointed Robert Hur as Special Counsel to investigate these matters.² The circumstances of this appointment raise fundamental oversight questions that the Committee routinely examines. We expect your complete cooperation with our inquiry.

On November 2, 2022, days before the midterm elections, President Biden's personal attorneys reportedly discovered classified documents at the Penn Biden Center for Diplomacy and Global Engagement, a Washington, D.C. think tank that President Biden opened in February 2018.³ According to reports, President Biden's attorneys found several documents with classified markings—some documents even marked “sensitive compartmented information”—in an unsecure space, suggesting the mishandling of the most sensitive intelligence information in the U.S. government.⁴ Subsequent reports indicate that the classified documents included “US intelligence memos and briefing materials that covered topics including Ukraine, Iran and the

¹ Dan Mangan, *Federal prosecutor reviewing classified documents found at former Biden office*, CBS NEWS (Jan. 10, 2023); Shawna Chen & Sophia Cai, *Classified docs from Biden's VP days found in private office*, AXIOS (Jan. 9, 2023); Kelly Hooper, *Additional documents marked classified found in Biden's Wilmington garage*, POLITICO (Jan. 12, 2023).

² Sadie Gurman, *Garland Names Robert Hur Special Counsel to Investigate Biden Documents*, WALL ST. J. (Jan. 12, 2023).

³ Shawna Chen & Sophia Cai, *Classified docs from Biden's VP days found in private office*, AXIOS (Jan. 9, 2023). Public reports indicate that the University of Pennsylvania has received tens of millions of dollars in anonymous foreign donations from our foreign adversaries, to include China. Reports also indicate that the Penn Biden Center for Diplomacy and Global Engagement is affiliated with the University of Pennsylvania. *See e.g.*, Isabel Vincent and Melissa Klein, *\$54M in Chinese gifts donated to UPenn, home of Biden Center*, N.Y. POST (Apr. 9, 2022).

⁴ Jaime Gangel, Marshall Cohen, Evan Perez, & Phil Mattingly, *Classified documents from Biden's time as VP discovered in private office*, CNN (Jan. 9, 2023).

United Kingdom.”⁵ The classified documents were dated between 2013 and 2016, which suggests that they were stored at the Penn Biden Center for years.⁶ Subsequently, a second set of classified documents were reportedly found in the Biden family private residence in Wilmington, Delaware.⁷

It is unclear when the Department first came to learn about the existence of these documents, and whether it actively concealed this information from the public on the eve of the 2022 elections. It is also unclear what interactions, if any, the Department had with President Biden or his representatives about his mishandling of classified material. The Department’s actions here appear to depart from how it acted in similar circumstances. In fact, on August 8, 2022, despite the publicly available evidence of President Trump’s voluntary cooperation, you personally approved the decision to seek a warrant for excessive and unprecedented access to his private residence.⁸ On August 15, 2022, Committee Republicans wrote to you and FBI Director Christopher Wray requesting documents and information related to the FBI’s raid of President Trump’s residence.⁹ The Department and FBI have failed to sufficiently comply with this request. Our requests remain outstanding.

The American people deserve transparency and accountability from our most-senior executive branch law enforcement officials. Accordingly, please produce the following:

1. All documents and communications referring or relating to the appointment of Robert K. Hur as Special Counsel, including but not limited to any memoranda regarding his appointment;
2. All documents and communications referring or relating to the selection of John R. Lausch, Jr. to examine matters relating to President Biden’s mishandling of classified material, including but not limited to any memoranda regarding his selection;
3. All documents and communications between or among the Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, or the Executive Office of the President referring or relating to material with classified markings found at the Penn Biden Center and the Biden residence in Wilmington, Delaware;
4. All documents and communications between or among the Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, or attorneys or representatives of President Biden, including but not limited to White House attorney Richard Sauber, referring or

⁵ Jaime Gangel, Marshall Cohen, Evan Perez, & Paula Reid, *Exclusive: US intelligence materials related to Ukraine, Iran and UK found in Biden’s private office, source tells CNN*, CNN (Jan. 10, 2023).

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ Kelly Hooper, *Additional documents marked classified found in Biden’s Wilmington garage*, POLITICO (Jan. 12, 2023).

⁸ Press Release, U.S. Dep’t of Justice, *Attorney General Merrick Garland Delivers Remarks* (Aug. 11, 2022) (“First, I personally approved the decision to seek a search warrant in this matter.”).

⁹ See Letter from Rep. Jim Jordan, *et al.*, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, to Hon. Merrick B. Garland, Atty Gen., U.S. Dep’t of Justice (Aug. 15, 2022); Letter from Rep. Jim Jordan, *et al.*, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, to Hon. Christopher A. Wray, Dir., Fed. Bureau of Investigation (Aug. 15, 2022).

relating to material with classified markings found at the Penn Biden Center and the Biden residence in Wilmington, Delaware;

5. All documents and communications referring or relating to the physical storage of material with classified markings found at the Penn Biden Center and the Biden residence in Wilmington, Delaware; and
6. All documents and communications referring or relating to the discovery of material with classified markings found at the Penn Biden Center and the Biden residence in Wilmington, Delaware, including the circumstance of how President Biden's personal attorneys came to discover classified material in unsecure settings.

Please provide this material as soon as possible, but no later than 5:00 p.m. on January 27, 2023. The Committee on the Judiciary has jurisdiction to oversee the activities of the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation pursuant to Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives. Please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-6906 if you have any questions about this matter.

Sincerely,



Jim Jordan
Chairman



Mike Johnson
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Jerrold L. Nadler, Ranking Member

From: Evers, Austin (ODAG)
Subject: letter from jordan
To: Berger, Christine (OAG)
Sent: January 13, 2023 1:45 PM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: 2023.01.13 JDJ MJ to Garland re Biden classified docs.pdf

From: Suero, Maya A. (ODAG)
Subject: FW: Jordan letter
To: Brinkley, Winnie (ODAG)
Cc: Gamble, Nathaniel (ODAG)
Sent: January 13, 2023 1:49 PM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: 2023.01.13 JDJ MJ to Garland re Biden classified docs.pdf

Maya Suero

Special Assistant
Office of the Deputy Attorney General
Phone: (b) (6)

From: Evers, Austin (ODAG) (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2023 1:45 PM
To: Suero, Maya A. (ODAG) (b) (6)
Cc: Miller, Marshall (ODAG) (b) (6); Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
(b) (6); Gaston, Molly (ODAG) (b) (6); Benson, Adrienne (ODAG)
(b) (6); Chandler, Adam (ODAG) (b) (6); Thomas, Tina M. (ODAG)
(b) (6)
Subject: Jordan letter

New letter from Chairman Jordan.

From: Uriarte, Carlos F. (OLA)
Subject: Incoming
To: Klapper, Matthew B. (OAG); Berger, Christine (OAG)
Cc: Kohlman, Abby K. (OLA); Zdeb, Sara (OLA); Evers, Austin (ODAG)
Sent: January 13, 2023 3:09 PM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: 2023-01-13 JDJ MJ to Garland re Biden classified docs.pdf

From: Hornbuckle, Wyn (PAO)
Subject: WH statement
To: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
Sent: January 14, 2023 12:55 PM (UTC-05:00)

Hey Rush,

Declining to comment. Flagged for Rob.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2023/01/14/biden-classified-documents-timeline-release/?itid=hp-top-table-main_p001_f002

Wyn Hornbuckle
Deputy Director, Office of Public Affairs
U.S. Department of Justice
O: (b) (6)
M: (b) (6)

From:
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: The Washington Times - Request for comment
To: Gary Stern; Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG); Zdeb, Sara (OLA)
Cc: Bosanko, William; Hamilton, John
Sent: January 14, 2023 5:20 PM (UTC-05:00)

Thanks, Gary.

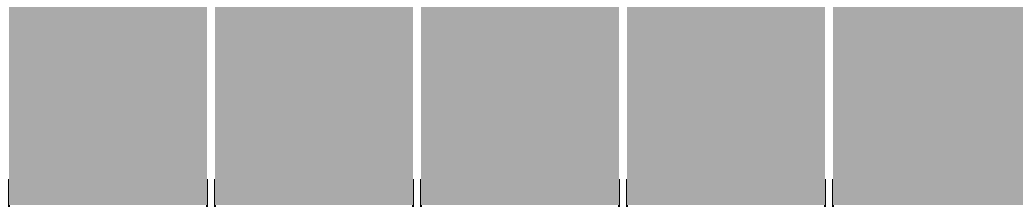
From: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Sent: Saturday, January 14, 2023 3:27 PM
To: Evers, Austin (ODAG) (b) (6); Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) (b) (6);
Zdeb, Sara (OLA) (b) (6)
Cc: Bosanko, William <william.bosanko@nara.gov>; Hamilton, John <john.hamilton@nara.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: The Washington Times - Request for comment

Resending to include Sara as well.

FYI, (b) (5)
(b) (5). Let me know if you don't have a copy, and if you would like to discuss further.

Thanks,
Gary

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740
(b) (6) (cell)
301-837-3026 (office)
301-837-0293 (fax)
garym.stern@nara.gov

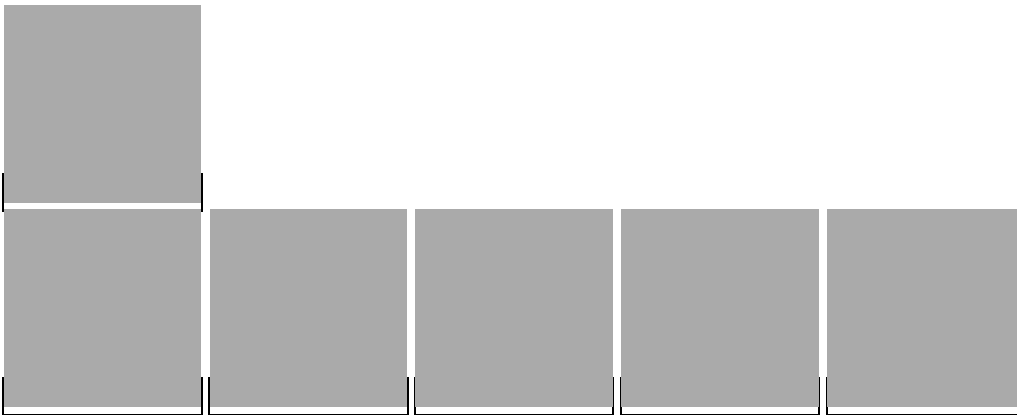
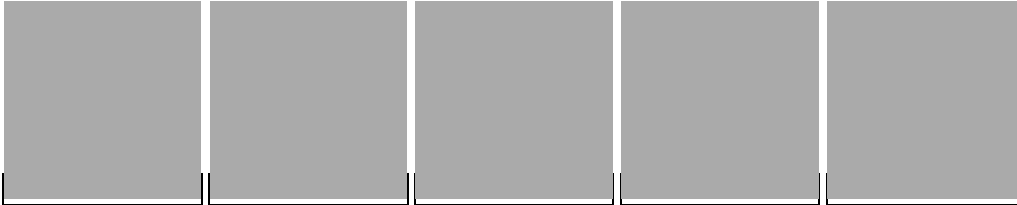


On Sat, Jan 14, 2023 at 2:56 PM Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov> wrote:

fyi

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740

(b) (6) (cell)
301-837-3026 (office)
301-837-0293 (fax)
garym.stern@nara.gov



----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Joseph Clark** (b) (6) >
Date: Sat, Jan 14, 2023 at 2:16 PM
Subject: The Washington Times - Request for comment
To: <public.affairs@nara.gov>

Good afternoon,

Requesting comment on Rep. James Comer's comments today on Fox News' Cavuto Live regarding his request for a briefing from the National Archives concerning the classified documents found at President Biden's office and residence.

Mr. Comer said:

Well, unfortunately, I do not know more than you. And that's very concerning because I have jurisdiction over the National Archives. This agency is supposed to do a briefing any time something like this happens. They have not. Not only have they not given us a briefing, even though we've requested one, they haven't answered any of our simple requests for information. This is very concerning. We are going to deal with the National Archives as this mess progresses. But right now, we have a lot of concerns who had access to these documents. It's hard for us to believe, as Joe Biden said, that his team of

lawyers were moving boxes around and they discovered it. I mean, no one believes that lawyers are in charge of the of the moving team. And I wonder, did all the documents end up at the same place initially, like, let's say, the Biden Center and then someone at the Biden center took some boxes to the House and we're looking through the information at the House. I mean, there are a lot of questions here. Unfortunately, we don't have any answers.

Joseph Clark

The Washington Times | Capitol Hill Reporter

Cell: (b) (6) | Desk: (b) (6)

The information contained in this electronic transmission is intended for the exclusive use of the individuals to whom it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged and confidential, the disclosure of which is prohibited by law. If the reader of this transmission is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. In addition, any unauthorized copying, disclosure or distribution of the material in this e-mail and any attachments is strictly forbidden.

From: Lederman, Martin (OLC)
Subject: FW: Letters from Congress
To: Lederman, Martin (OLC); Schroeder, Christopher H. (OLC); Kinkopf, Neil (OLC)
Cc: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG); Anderson, Trisha (OLC)
Sent: January 14, 2023 8:49 PM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: 2023.01.10 - Letter - NARA - Biden classified docs.pdf, 2023.01.10 - letter_to_odni_01.10.23.pdf, 2023.01.10 Letter-WHCO-Biden-confidential-docs.pdf, 2023.01.11 - Haines_SSCI_11JAN23.pdf, 2023.01.11 Letter from Sen. Hawley to AG Garland.pdf, 2023.01.12 - Letter to DOJ 01.12.23.pdf, 2023.01.12 - letter to ODNI 01.12.23.pdf, 2023.01.12 N-OLA-Banks et al- Biden Classified Docs.pdf, 2023.01.12-IN-OLA-Turner-Biden Classified Docs.pdf, 2023.01.13 JDJ MJ to Garland re Biden classified docs.pdf, 2023.01.13-Letter-WHCO-Biden-confidential-docs.pdf

+ Trisha

Marty Lederman
Deputy Assistant Attorney General
Office of Legal Counsel
Department of Justice
(b) (6) (cell)
(b) (6) (office)

From: Evers, Austin (ODAG) (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, January 14, 2023 6:13 PM
To: Lederman, Martin (OLC) (b) (6) >; Schroeder, Christopher H. (OLC)
(b) (6) >; Kinkopf, Neil (OLC) (b) (6)
Cc: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) (b) (6)
Subject: Letters from Congress

Austin R. Evers
Office of the Deputy Attorney General
(b) (6)

From: Gary Stern
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: The Washington Times - Request for comment
To: Evers, Austin (ODAG); Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG); Zdeb, Sara (OLA)
Cc: Bosanko, William; Hamilton, John
Sent: January 15, 2023 10:18 AM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: Wall Response to 01.10.23 Comer Letter.draft.docx

(b) (5), attached is a draft letter providing an initial response to Comer. Please review as soon as you can, as we would like to send this out on Tuesday.

Feel free to call me anytime over the long weekend, at (b) (6)

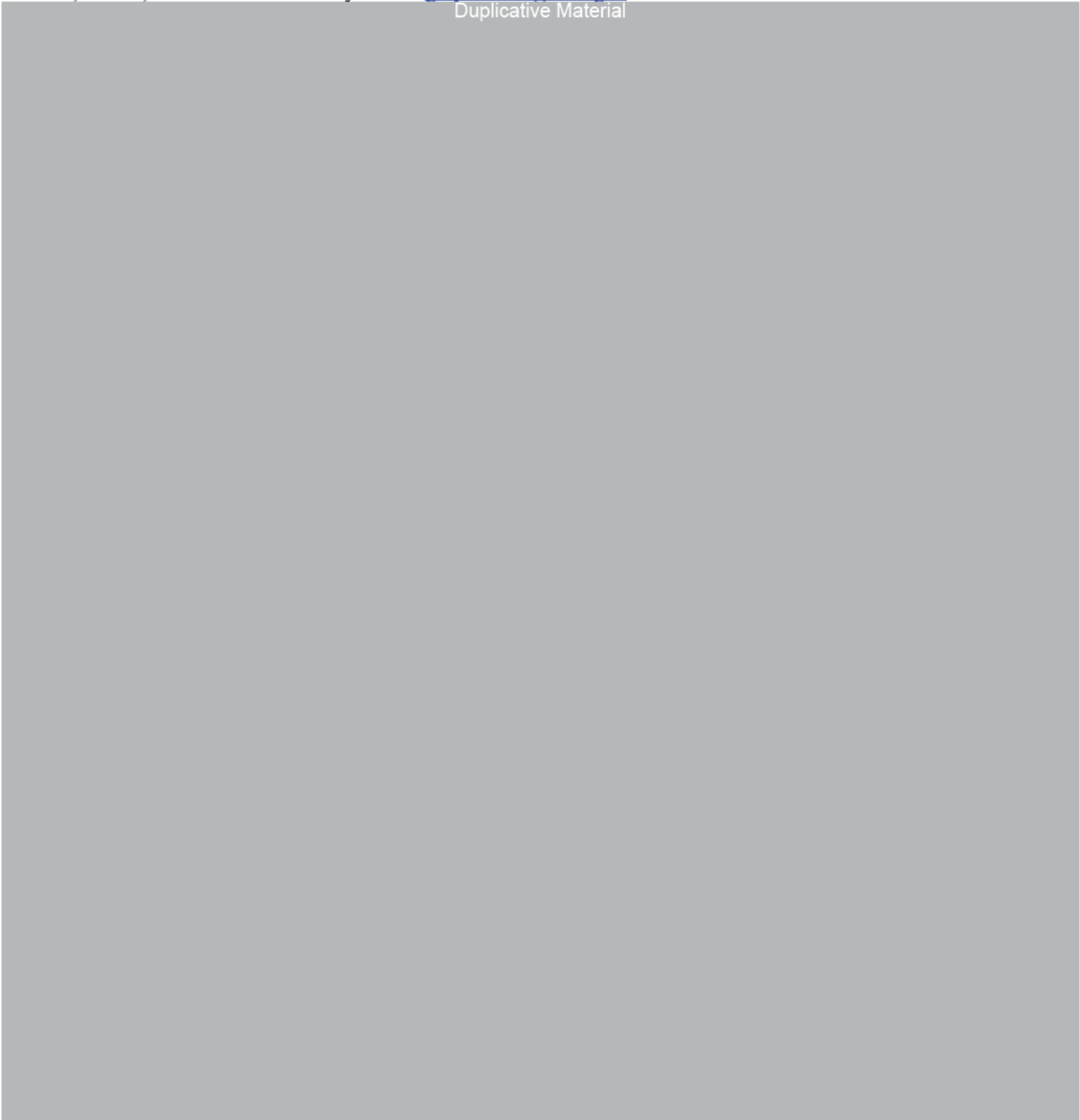
Thanks,
Gary

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740
(b) (6) (cell)
301-837-3026 (office)
301-837-0293 (fax)
garym.stern@nara.gov





On Sat, Jan 14, 2023 at 3:26 PM Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov> wrote:
Duplicative Material



From: Zdeb, Sara (OLA)
Subject: Draft / Deliberative -- Draft response to Jordan et al.
To: Evers, Austin (ODAG); Benson, Adrienne (ODAG)
Cc: Uriarte, Carlos F. (OLA); Gao, Greta G. (OLA)
Sent: January 15, 2023 10:26 AM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: 2023.01.15 Draft Letter to Jordan.docx

Hi Austin and Adrienne:

Here's our current draft response to the Jordan incoming, which should also work as a response to (b) (6)
FYI, the first (b) (5)

We continue to think that (b) (5)
is the preferable approach, for a few reasons. Let's discuss Tuesday?

Thanks,
Sara

From: Evers, Austin (ODAG)
Subject: RE: Draft / Deliberative -- Draft response to Jordan et al.
To: Zdeb, Sara (OLA); Benson, Adrienne (ODAG)
Cc: Uriarte, Carlos F. (OLA); Gao, Greta G. (OLA)
Sent: January 15, 2023 11:49 AM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: 2023.01.15 Draft Letter to Jordan.docx

My edits. Adrienne, as you appear logged in, feel free to take the next pen.

From: Zdeb, Sara (OLA) (b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, January 15, 2023 10:26 AM
To: Evers, Austin (ODAG) (b) (6) >; Benson, Adrienne (ODAG) (b) (6)
Cc: Uriarte, Carlos F. (OLA) (b) (6); Gao, Greta G. (OLA) <(b) (6)>
Subject: Draft / Deliberative -- Draft response to Jordan et al.

Duplicative Material



From: Evers, Austin (ODAG)
Subject: NARA response
To: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG); Zdeb, Sara (OLA)
Sent: January 15, 2023 12:25 PM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: Wall Response to 01.10.23 Comer Letter.draft.docx

DOJ only – some suggestions I’d like to consider passing back to NARA.

(b) (5)

. For example,

(b) (5)

Rush,

(b) (5)

From: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>

Sent: Sunday, January 15, 2023 10:18 AM

To: Evers, Austin (ODAG) (b) (6) >; Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) (b) (6)
Zdeb, Sara (OLA) (b) (6) >

Cc: Bosanko, William <william.bosanko@nara.gov>; Hamilton, John <john.hamilton@nara.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: The Washington Times - Request for comment

Duplicative Material

From: Gary Stern
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: The Washington Times - Request for comment
To: Evers, Austin (ODAG)
Cc: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG); Zdeb, Sara (OLA); Bosanko, William; Hamilton, John
Sent: January 16, 2023 7:39 AM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: Wall Response to 01.10.23 Comer Letter.draft.2.docx

See a slightly updated draft for your review.

Thanks,
Gary

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740
(b) (6) (cell)
301-837-3026 (office)
301-837-0293 (fax)
garym.stern@nara.gov



On Sun, Jan 15, 2023 at 12:25 PM Evers, Austin (ODAG) <(b) (6)> wrote:

Thank you, Gary. We will consult internally and get back to you.

From: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>

Sent: Sunday, January 15, 2023 10:18 AM

To: Evers, Austin (ODAG) <(b) (6)>; Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) <(b) (6)>; Zdeb, Sara (OLA) <(b) (6)>

Cc: Bosanko, William <william.bosanko@nara.gov>; Hamilton, John <john.hamilton@nara.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: The Washington Times - Request for comment

Duplicative Material



From: Evers, Austin (ODAG)
Subject: RE: Draft / Deliberative -- Draft response to Jordan et al.
To: Zdeb, Sara (OLA); Benson, Adrienne (ODAG)
Cc: Uriarte, Carlos F. (OLA); Gao, Greta G. (OLA)
Sent: January 16, 2023 10:16 AM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: 2023.01.15 Draft Letter to Jordan.docx

Further edits from us.

I'm going to set a meeting for this afternoon so we can frameup a plan for the week. We should be ready to provide our best, if preliminary, advice about how to proceed tomorrow – I have little doubt we will be asked for it.

From: Zdeb, Sara (OLA) (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, January 16, 2023 9:33 AM
To: Evers, Austin (ODAG) (b) (6) >; Benson, Adrienne (ODAG) (b) (6) >
Cc: Uriarte, Carlos F. (OLA) (b) (6) >; Gao, Greta G. (OLA) (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Draft / Deliberative -- Draft response to Jordan et al.

Happy to discuss today. Not sure of other OLA availability but I'm tied up until 2:00, happy to talk thereafter.

From: Evers, Austin (ODAG) (b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, January 15, 2023 12:26 PM
To: Zdeb, Sara (OLA) (b) (6) >; Benson, Adrienne (ODAG) (b) (6) >
Cc: Uriarte, Carlos F. (OLA) (b) (6) >; Gao, Greta G. (OLA) (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Draft / Deliberative -- Draft response to Jordan et al.

Happy to chat – though I will probably try to organize a discussion tomorrow so we are of one mind going into Tuesday.

From: Zdeb, Sara (OLA) (b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, January 15, 2023 12:09 PM
To: Evers, Austin (ODAG) (b) (6) >; Benson, Adrienne (ODAG) (b) (6) >
Cc: Uriarte, Carlos F. (OLA) (b) (6) >; Gao, Greta G. (OLA) (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Draft / Deliberative -- Draft response to Jordan et al.

Thanks, Austin. Once Adrienne has weighed in, let's find time to discuss a few aspects of the letter, (b) (5)

Let's connect on Tuesday, sometime before our 2:00 pm meeting?

From: Evers, Austin (ODAG) (b) (6) >
Sent: Sunday, January 15, 2023 11:49 AM
To: Zdeb, Sara (OLA) (b) (6) >; Benson, Adrienne (ODAG) (b) (6) >
Cc: Uriarte, Carlos F. (OLA) (b) (6) >; Gao, Greta G. (OLA) (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Draft / Deliberative -- Draft response to Jordan et al.

Duplicative Material

From: Evers, Austin (ODAG)
Subject: RE: NARA response
To: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG); Zdeb, Sara (OLA)
Sent: January 16, 2023 12:02 PM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: Wall Response to 01.10.23 Comer Letter.draft.2.docx

Gary sent a new version. I added the suggestions to it. Rush, (b) (5)
[REDACTED] ?

From: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) (b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, January 16, 2023 12:20 AM
To: Evers, Austin (ODAG) <(b) (6)>; Zdeb, Sara (OLA) (b) (6)
Subject: RE: NARA response

Seem good to me.

L. Rush Atkinson
Associate Deputy Attorney General
Office of the Deputy Attorney General
(b) (6) (cell); (b) (6) (office)

From: Evers, Austin (ODAG) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Sunday, January 15, 2023 12:25 PM
To: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) <(b) (6)>; Zdeb, Sara (OLA) (b) (6)
Subject: NARA response

Duplicative Material



From: Zdeb, Sara (OLA)
Subject: RE: NARA response
To: Evers, Austin (ODAG); Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
Sent: January 16, 2023 2:06 PM (UTC-05:00)

This is fine by OLA.

From: Evers, Austin (ODAG) <(b) (6)>

Sent: Monday, January 16, 2023 12:02 PM

To: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) (b) (6); Zdeb, Sara (OLA) (b) (6)

Subject: RE: NARA response

Duplicative Material



n

From: Zdeb, Sara (OLA)
Subject: RE: Draft / Deliberative -- Draft response to Jordan et al.
To: Evers, Austin (ODAG); Benson, Adrienne (ODAG)
Cc: Uriarte, Carlos F. (OLA); Gao, Greta G. (OLA)
Sent: January 16, 2023 5:36 PM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: 2023.01.15 Draft Letter to Jordan (OLA v2).docx

Further OLA edits attached. The draft became impossible to read once Carlos's and my redlines were interlineated with Austin and Adrienne's, so for ease of review I accepted all ODAG edits from earlier today – and then added OLA's in redline.

If the attached draft works for everyone, I'll send to OLC/OCA per our discussion.

From: Evers, Austin (ODAG) (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, January 16, 2023 10:16 AM
To: Zdeb, Sara (OLA) <(b) (6)>; Benson, Adrienne (ODAG) (b) (6) >
Cc: Uriarte, Carlos F. (OLA) (b) (6); Gao, Greta G. (OLA) (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Draft / Deliberative -- Draft response to Jordan et al.

Duplicative Material



From: Evers, Austin (ODAG)
Subject: RE: Draft / Deliberative -- Draft response to Jordan et al.
To: Zdeb, Sara (OLA); Benson, Adrienne (ODAG)
Cc: Uriarte, Carlos F. (OLA); Gao, Greta G. (OLA)
Sent: January 16, 2023 6:38 PM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: 2023.01.15 Draft Letter to Jordan (OLA v2).docx

Great. We salvaged/edited a couple things but otherwise we're good. This is fine to send to OCA and OLC.

From: Zdeb, Sara (OLA) (b) (6) >

Sent: Monday, January 16, 2023 5:36 PM

To: Evers, Austin (ODAG) (b) (6); Benson, Adrienne (ODAG) (b) (6)

Cc: Uriarte, Carlos F. (OLA) (b) (6); Gao, Greta G. (OLA) (b) (6)

Subject: RE: Draft / Deliberative -- Draft response to Jordan et al.

Duplicative Material



From: Zdeb, Sara (OLA)
Subject: Draft/Deliberative -- Draft Response to Jordan Letter
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) per FBI (OGC) (FBI); Dunham, Christopher G. (OCA) (FBI)
Cc: Evers, Austin (ODAG); Benson, Adrienne (ODAG); Gao, Greta G. (OLA)
Sent: January 17, 2023 6:18 AM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: 2023.01.17 Draft Letter to Jordan.docx, 2023-01-13 JDJ MJ to Garland re Biden classified docs.pdf

Hi (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) and Chris:

FYSA, we've drafted the attached response to the recent Jordan letter on Biden documents (also attached for your reference). Sending to you for awareness so you have a sense of how we're likely to address the (b) (5)
(b) (5) Once we've finalized this draft we'll use it as the basis for responses to (b) (5)
(b) (5). If you have any questions or comments, happy to discuss.

Thanks,
Sara

Sara Zdeb
Deputy Assistant Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Legislative Affairs
(b) (6) (o)
(b) (6) (c)

From: Evers, Austin (ODAG)
Subject: Fwd: Draft/Deliberative -- Draft Jordan Response
To: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
Sent: January 17, 2023 8:52 AM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: 2023.01.17 Draft Letter to Jordan.docx, 2023-01-13 JDJ MJ to Garland re Biden classified docs.pdf

This is our working draft of a response to Chairman Jordan. Can you share with the Hur team? (b) (5)

The goal is to share with leadership in the next day or so.

Relatedly, (b) (5)

?

Austin R. Evers
(b) (6) (m)

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Zdeb, Sara (OLA)" (b) (6) >
Date: January 17, 2023 at 6:14:19 AM EST
To: "Lederman, Martin (OLC)" (b) (6) >, "Kinkopf, Neil (OLC)" (b) (6)
Cc: "Evers, Austin (ODAG)" (b) (6) >, "Benson, Adrienne (ODAG)" (b) (6) >, "Gao, Greta G. (OLA)" (b) (6) >
Subject: Draft/Deliberative -- Draft Jordan Response

Marty and Neil:

Attached is a draft response to the letter we received from Chairman Jordan last Friday (also attached). Please let us know if you have any comments. Once we finalize the letter we'll use it as the basis for

(b) (5)

Thanks,
Sara

Sara Zdeb
Deputy Assistant Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Legislative Affairs
(b) (6) (o)
(b) (6) (c)

From: Suero, Maya A. (ODAG)
Subject: FW: OLA Weekly Report - Week of January 17
To: Brinkley, Winnie (ODAG); Gamble, Nathaniel (ODAG)
Sent: January 17, 2023 9:51 AM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: OLA Weekly Report 1-17-23.pdf

Maya Suero

Special Assistant
Office of the Deputy Attorney General
Phone: (b) (6)

From: (b) (6) (OLA) (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 9:43 AM
Subject: OLA Weekly Report - Week of January 17

Good morning,

Please find the OLA Weekly Report attached.

Best,
(b) (6)

(b) (6)
Confidential Assistant
Office of Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Justice
(b) (6)



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

January 17, 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL & DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

FROM: Carlos Felipe Uriarte, Assistant Attorney General

SUBJECT: Report for the Week of January 17, 2022

Not Responsive by Agreement

OLA Weekly Report, January 17, 2023
Page 1

0303

Not Responsive by Agreement



Not Responsive by Agreement



Not Responsive by Agreement

K. Congressional Priority Correspondence

Incoming

Not Responsive by Agreement

Letter from Senator Josh Hawley to the Attorney General (FBI Director Chris Wray copied) alleging that the Department has applied a double standard in its responses to the discovery of classified documents at President Biden's former office at the Penn Biden Center and classified documents at former President Trump's residence and requesting that the Department provide information about its response to the discovery of classified documents at the Penn Biden Center. (January 11, 2023)

Not Responsive by Agreement

Letter from Representative Mark Alford and 43 other Representatives to the Attorney General expressing concern that President Biden mishandled classified documents when he served as Vice President and requesting that the Department appoint a special counsel to investigate the matter and provide information regarding the Administration's response to the discovery of the documents. (January 12, 2023)

Representative Michael Turner to the Attorney General expressing concern about President Biden's alleged mishandling of classified information and requesting that the Department provide a briefing to Congress regarding the discovered classified documents and the potential risk to national security. (January 12, 2023)

Not Responsive by Agreement

Letter from Representatives Jim Jordan and Mike Johnson to the Attorney General requesting that the Department provide documents and communications pursuant to its response to the discovery of classified materials allegedly mishandled by President Biden, its decision to appoint Robert Hur as Special Counsel, and the storage and discovery of classified documents at the Penn Biden Center and the President's private residence. (January 13, 2023)

Not Responsive by Agreement

Not Responsive by Agreement

Letter to Senators Dick Durbin and Chuck Grassley and Representatives Jim Jordan and Jerry Nadler informing Congress of the appointment of Richard Hur to serve as Special Counsel in the Department's investigation of the possible unauthorized removal and retention of classified documents or other records discovered at the Penn Biden Center and the Wilmington, Delaware private residence of President Biden. (January 12, 2023)

Not Responsive by Agreement

From: Lebowitz, Jason M. (ODAG)
Subject: Fwd: OLA Weekly Report - Week of January 17
To: Tran, Elizabeth H. (ODAG)
Sent: January 17, 2023 9:53 AM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: OLA Weekly Report 1-17-23.pdf

Begin forwarded message:

From: (b) (6) (OLA)" (b) (6)
Date: January 17, 2023 at 9:42:44 AM EST
Subject: OLA Weekly Report - Week of January 17

Good morning,

Please find the OLA Weekly Report attached.

Best,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)
Confidential Assistant
Office of Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Justice
(b) (6)

From: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
Subject: FW: NARA response
To: Lausch, John (USAILN)
Cc: Evers, Austin (ODAG)
Sent: January 17, 2023 10:50 AM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: Wall Response to 01.10.23 Comer Letter.draft.2.docx

John, when you have a couple of minutes, can we chat about this?

L. Rush Atkinson

Associate Deputy Attorney General

Office of the Deputy Attorney General

(b) (6) (cell); (b) (6) (office)

From: Evers, Austin (ODAG)
Subject: FW: Draft/Deliberative -- Draft Jordan Response
To: Lausch, John (USAILN); Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
Sent: January 17, 2023 12:08 PM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: 2023.01.17 Draft Letter to Jordan.docx, 2023-01-13 JDJ MJ to Garland re Biden classified docs.pdf

From: Zdeb, Sara (OLA) (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 6:14 AM
To: Lederman, Martin (OLC) (b) (6) >; Kinkopf, Neil (OLC) (b) (6) >
Cc: Evers, Austin (ODAG) (b) (6); Benson, Adrienne (ODAG) (b) (6) >; Gao, Greta G. (OLA) (b) (6)
Subject: Draft/Deliberative -- Draft Jordan Response

Duplicative Material



From: Pietranton, Kelsey (PAO)
Subject: RE: Quick Review: Off-Topic Q&A
To: Hornbuckle, Wyn (PAO); Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG); Gaston, Molly (ODAG)
Cc: Iverson, Dena (PAO)
Sent: January 17, 2023 1:32 PM (UTC-05:00)

I caught that just now and deleted!

From: Hornbuckle, Wyn (PAO) (b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 1:28 PM
To: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) <(b) (6)>; Pietranton, Kelsey (PAO) (b) (6) >; Gaston, Molly (ODAG) (b) (6) >
Cc: Iverson, Dena (PAO) (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Quick Review: Off-Topic Q&A

I would also just delete the (b) (5)

From: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) (b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 1:26 PM
To: Pietranton, Kelsey (PAO) (b) (6); Hornbuckle, Wyn (PAO) <(b) (6)>; Gaston, Molly (ODAG) (b) (6)
Cc: Iverson, Dena (PAO) (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Quick Review: Off-Topic Q&A

Good with Wyn's edit.

L. Rush Atkinson

Associate Deputy Attorney General

Office of the Deputy Attorney General

(b) (6) (cell); (b) (6) (office)

From: Pietranton, Kelsey (PAO) (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 1:25 PM
To: Hornbuckle, Wyn (PAO) (b) (6) >; Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) (b) (6) >; Gaston, Molly (ODAG) (b) (6)
Cc: Iverson, Dena (PAO) (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Quick Review: Off-Topic Q&A

Copy, ty.

From: Hornbuckle, Wyn (PAO) (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 1:23 PM
To: Pietranton, Kelsey (PAO) (b) (6); Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) (b) (6) >; Gaston, Molly (ODAG) (b) (6)
Cc: Iverson, Dena (PAO) <(b) (6)>
Subject: RE: Quick Review: Off-Topic Q&A

(b) (5), I would back that up a bit, but defer to ODAG on the precise wording. Suggestion below in blue

From: Pietranton, Kelsey (PAO) <(b) (6)>

Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 1:08 PM

To: Hornbuckle, Wyn (PAO) (b) (6) >; Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
(b) (6); Gaston, Molly (ODAG) (b) (6)

Cc: Iverson, Dena (PAO) <(b) (6)>

Subject: Quick Review: Off-Topic Q&A

Importance: High

DRAFT / DELIBERATIVE / PREDECISIONAL

Pls take a quick look at potential off-topic Q&A for tomorrow. Wyn, questions in red are new and bullets in italics are ones I drafted (as opposed to previously cleared). In my office/on my phone.

Special Counsels Robert Hur / Jack Smith

(b) (5)



(b) (5)



Kelsey Pietranton
Office of Public Affairs
Department of Justice

(o) (b) (6)

(m) (b) (6)



OPA Hot Topic Q&A

Special Counsels Robert Hur / Jack Smith

Note: Reviewed by Rush.

(b) (5)





(b) (5)



Congressional Oversight Requests

Note: Cleared by OLA

(b) (5)



Not Responsive by Agreement





Not Responsive by Agreement



Not Responsive by Agreement



Not Responsive by Agreement

DRAFT / DELIBERATIVE / PREDECISIONAL

5
1/17/2023 12:01 PM

From: Gary Stern
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: The Washington Times - Request for comment
To: Evers, Austin (ODAG)
Cc: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG); Zdeb, Sara (OLA); Bosanko, William; Hamilton, John
Sent: January 17, 2023 2:02 PM (UTC-05:00)

Please let me know asap if you have any questions or concerns about this letter, which we very much want to get out today. Note that over the weekend Chairman Comer apparently stated:

"This agency is supposed to do a briefing anytime something like this happens. They have not," Comer told Fox in a recent interview. "Not only have they not given us a briefing, even though we've requested one, they have not answered any of our simple requests for information."

And in a tweet Comer said: "The Archives isn't being transparent with the American people" and that he would use the "power of the gavel to get answers."

Thanks,
Gary

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740
(b) (6) (cell)
301-837-3026 (office)
301-837-0293 (fax)
garym.stern@nara.gov





On Mon, Jan 16, 2023 at 7:38 AM Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov> wrote:
Duplicative Material



From: Lausch, John (USAILN)
Subject: RE: NARA response
To: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
Cc: Evers, Austin (ODAG); (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (NSD)
Sent: January 17, 2023 3:04 PM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: Wall Response to 01.10.23 Comer Letter.draft.2+(b)(6), (b)(7).docx

(b)(5) per EOUSA

We would also be happy to discuss further. Thanks,

John

John Lausch
U.S. Attorney, NDIL
(b) (6) (o)
(b) (6) (m)

From: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 9:50 AM
To: Lausch, John (USAILN) (b) (6) >
Cc: Evers, Austin (ODAG) (b) (6)
Subject: FW: NARA response

Duplicative Material

From: William Bosanko
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Revised Draft Proposed NARA Statement
To: Lausch, John (USAILN)
Cc: Evers, Austin (ODAG); Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG); Stern, GaryM; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) per FBI (WF) (FBI); (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (b)(6) NSD
Sent: January 17, 2023 3:21 PM (UTC-05:00)

John,

Thank you. We were just looking to be absolutely certain all were on the same page.

On a related note, (b) (5)
(b) (5)

Thanks,

Jay

On Tue, Jan 17, 2023 at 2:51 PM Lausch, John (USAILN) (b) (6) wrote:

Jay –

(b)(5) per EOUSA; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) per FBI
Please let me know if you have any questions or need anything from us.

Thanks,

John

From: William Bosanko <william.bosanko@nara.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2023 4:25 PM
To: Lausch, John (USAILN) (b) (6)
Cc: Evers, Austin (ODAG) (b) (6); Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) (b) (6); Stern, GaryM <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Revised Draft Proposed NARA Statement

Duplicative Material

From: Dulaney, Emma (PAO)
Subject: RE: White House Briefing Transcript
To: Uriarte, Carlos F. (OLA); Antell, Kira M. (OLA); Zdeb, Sara (OLA); Kohlman, Abby K. (OLA); Bond, Slade (OLA); (b) (6) (OLA); Iverson, Dena (PAO); Evers, Austin (ODAG); Benson, Adrienne (ODAG); Hornbuckle, Wyn (PAO); Gao, Greta G. (OLA); Hanson, Matthew B. (OLA)
Cc: Morris, Catherine (PAO)
Sent: January 17, 2023 3:51 PM (UTC-05:00)

Reporter: On Friday, you stood here though and were asked about these documents issued by our counsel 18 times. At that point, the President's lawyers had found these five additional classified documents. Did you not now on Friday that those documents had been found when you were at the podium, or are you being directed by someone not to be forthcoming on this issue?

Jean-Pierre: I have been forthcoming from this podium. What I said yes to was the statement at the time that we all had. You all had the statement, and I was repeating what the Counsel was sharing that that time.

Reporter: We had that statement, so we knew what was in it

Jean-Pierre: Exactly.

Reporter: So you knew. Did you not know that

Jean-Pierre: I'm telling you. I just answered your question. I just said that I was repeating what the information was that we had at that time, right, that you all had. I was confirming from what the Special Counsel had provided to all of you and what we knew as well from here. So just to be very very clear. And look, I've also been very clear about being prudent from here. I've also been very clear about being consistent from here and not going beyond what is currently happening. And again, this is an ongoing, I also said this is an ongoing review with the Department of Justice and as we know with the Special Counsel. I've been very consistent about that as well. And that's one of the reasons, your question to me, is one of the reasons that we are being very very careful and very mindful to not interfere and to make sure that the Department of Justice has their independence. Your question actually proves that, and that's why we're going continue to refer you to the Department of Justice and refer you to the Special Counsel or my colleagues at White House Counsel.

Reporter: Does President Biden have confidence in the way his team is handling this with this trickle out of information and the documents being found day after day?

Jean-Pierre: I can tell you this, that the President has confidence. I can tell you this, that the President and his team rightfully took action when they learned that the documents existed. They reached out the Arvchives. They reached out the Department of Justice. That is the steps. We have been very clear about that, the steps and the process that we took here. And look, we are going to continue to, as we've said, we're going to fully cooperate with the Department of Justice, the President's team is. We're going to fully cooperate with the Special Counsel. that does not stop, and that will just continue. Again, we are going to respect the independence of the Department of Justice.

###

Reporter: Can you describe his mood to us in the conversations you've had with him?

Jean-Pierre: His mood has been very clear. I saw him this morning. He's very focused. I traveled with him this weekend. He wants to make sure he is continuing and we are continuing is continuing to deliver for the American people. And we've been pretty consistent on that. If you think about last week, you heard from him about how his economic plan is working. How we have seen inflation go down for six months straight. How we've seen unemployment numbers at its lowest level in 50 years. That matters. That is also the things that this country – the people in this country – are also very, very concerned about and want to hear what this president is doing every day. And that's his focus, and that's what he's going to continue to talk about.

From: Dulaney, Emma (PAO)

Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 3:12 PM

To: Uriarte, Carlos F. (OLA) <(b) (6)>; Antell, Kira M. (OLA) <(b) (6)>; Zdeb, Sara (OLA) <(b) (6)>; Kohlman, Abby K. (OLA) <(b) (6)>; Bond, Slade (OLA) <(b) (6)>; <(b) (6)> <(b) (6)> <(b) (6)> <(b) (6)>; Iverson, Dena (PAO) <(b) (6)>; Evers, Austin (ODAG) <(b) (6)>; Benson, Adrienne (ODAG) <(b) (6)>; Hornbuckle, Wyn (PAO) <(b) (6)>; Gao, Greta G. (OLA) <(b) (6)>

Cc: Morris, Catherine (PAO) <(b) (6)>

Subject: FW: White House Briefing Transcript

From: Morris, Catherine (PAO) <(b) (6)>

Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 3:06 PM

To: Iverson, Dena (PAO) <(b) (6)>; Hornbuckle, Wyn (PAO) <(b) (6)>; Dulaney, Emma (PAO) <(b) (6)>

Subject: White House Briefing Transcript

Reporter: Regarding the discovery of classified and official documents in the President's residence and former office, last week, you told us that we all can assume, that the American people can assume that the searches are complete, that all the documents had been recovered. On Saturday, the White House Counsel's Office said five additional classified documents had been found. Is it safe to assume now that all the documents have been recovered, all the official records, all the classified documents are back in the custody of the National Archives, or are more sort of searches underway to find out if there's anything else there?

Jean-Pierre: Look, I understand your question. We have addressed multiple questions from here. Multiple questions have been answered by the President. I know that you all have just spend some about, some of you, some of your colleagues, maybe you yourself, was on the phone with my colleague for about 45 minutes that addressed a lot of your questions. I'm just going to continue to be prudent here. I'm just going to let this ongoing review that is happening, this legal process that is happening, and let that process continue under the Special Counsel. We're not, I'm not going to comment from here. I'm not. One of the things that we have said for the last two years is when it comes to the Department of Justice, when it comes to legal matters, when it comes to legal issues, we have been very clear that we are not going to comment. We are not going to politically interfere and that continues with this also, with this legal issue. So, I would defer you to the Department of Justice, refer you to the Special Counsel as it relates to specifics on this issue, and also my White House Counsel colleagues are engaging with all of you and will certainly continue to have conversation on this. I will say that we are consistent with what we have said on cooperating fully with the Department of Justice on this issue, and we will continue to cooperate fully with the Special Counsel.

Catherine Morris

Special Assistant to the Director, Office of Public Affairs

U.S. Department of Justice

(m) <(b) (6)>
<(b) (6)>

From: Hornbuckle, Wyn (PAO)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Hello from Ryan at WSJ/Couple questions
To: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
Sent: January 17, 2023 5:00 PM (UTC-05:00)

Justice Department Considered but Rejected Role in Biden Documents Search

Officials opted for hands-off approach to leave special counsel's probe uncompromised

By [Aruna Viswanatha](#), [Sadie Gurman](#)
[C. Ryan Barber](#)

Jan. 17, 2023 4:36 pm ET

WASHINGTON—The Justice Department considered having FBI agents monitor a search by President Biden's lawyers for [classified documents](#) at his homes but decided against it, both to avoid complicating later stages of the investigation and because Mr. Biden's attorneys had quickly turned over a first batch and were cooperating, according to people familiar with the matter.

After Mr. Biden's lawyers [discovered documents marked as classified](#) dating from his term as vice president at an office he used at a Washington-based think tank on Nov. 2, the Justice Department opened an inquiry into [why and how they got there](#). Mr. Biden's legal team prepared to search his other properties for any similar documents, and discussed with the Justice Department the prospect of having FBI agents present while Mr. Biden's lawyers conducted the additional searches.

Instead, the two sides agreed that Mr. Biden's personal attorneys [would inspect the homes](#), notify the Justice Department as soon as they identified any other potentially classified records, and arrange for law-enforcement authorities to take them.

Those deliberations, which haven't previously been reported, shed new light on how the Biden team's efforts to cooperate with investigators have thus far helped it avoid more aggressive actions by law enforcement.

In the week since news reports first surfaced about the documents, the incident has drawn parallels to the discovery of a much larger number of documents at former President [Donald Trump](#)'s Mar-a-Lago home in Florida, which federal agents [obtained a warrant to search in August](#) after more than a year of negotiations between Mr. Trump's lawyers, the National Archives and the Justice Department and after Mr. Trump's lawyers said all documents had been returned.

Mr. Trump's supporters have accused the Justice Department of a double standard in treatment; Mr. Biden's supporters have pointed to the president's legal team's cooperation and swift moves to inform the Justice Department of the documents' discovery as a key difference. Mr. Biden has said he doesn't know what the documents are or how they wound up in those places.

The discussions and the Justice Department's willingness to let the Biden lawyers do the searches unsupervised also suggest federal investigators are girding for a monthslong inquiry that could stretch well into Mr. Biden's third year in office.

One reason not to involve the FBI at an early stage: That way the Justice Department would preserve the ability to take a tougher line, including executing a future search warrant, if negotiations ever turned hostile, current and former law-enforcement officials said.

Representatives of the FBI and Justice Department declined to comment. White House spokesman Ian Sams said the president and his team were cooperating fully with the special counsel review "so that it can proceed swiftly and thoroughly."

The White House revealed on two separate days last week that [documents had been located](#) at the president's Delaware residence, on top of those found at a garage there in December. Part of the reason the new documents were revealed

separately is that Mr. Biden's personal attorneys don't have security clearances to handle classified documents and had to set aside any material that could qualify as such. Richard Sauber, special counsel to Mr. Biden, who has that clearance, accompanied Justice Department personnel to retrieve documents, when they discovered additional pages with classification markings.

Attorney General Merrick Garland last week assigned a former top prosecutor in the Trump administration, Robert Hur, [to serve as special counsel](#) investigating the discovery of the documents in the locales associated with Mr. Biden. Justice Department officials were concerned that an FBI presence as the Biden team hunted for documents could complicate investigators' ability to execute search warrants or subpoena documents as the investigation proceeds, some of the people said, in a sign that investigators are considering the possibility of a grand jury investigation into the matter.

Advertisement - Scroll to Continue

Mr. Hur is expected to begin his job as special counsel by the end of the month, after he winds down his work as a defense lawyer at the law firm Gibson Dunn, people familiar with his appointment said.



Robert Hur has been appointed special counsel in the Biden documents investigation. PHOTO: MICHAEL MCCOY/REUTERS
Soon after the initial discovery in November, Mr. Garland tasked the Trump-appointed U.S. attorney in Chicago, John Lausch, with reviewing the documents, with an eye toward determining whether a special counsel should be appointed.

Mr. Lausch told Mr. Garland on Jan. 5 that he thought a special counsel was warranted given the many unanswered questions about the documents, and Mr. Garland quickly agreed, the people said.

Mr. Hur is expected to grapple with legally and politically thorny considerations that could be reminiscent of those from the last special counsel related to a sitting president, potentially including whether to pursue in-person testimony from Mr. Biden. During the 2017-19 special counsel inquiry led by Robert Mueller into Russia's interference in the 2016 campaign and any links between that effort and the Trump campaign, investigators tried for more than a year to interview then-

President Trump before ultimately settling for written testimony.

Mr. Sams declined to say whether Mr. Biden would sit for an interview with the special counsel if asked.

Legal experts said an open-book strategy could help shorten Mr. Hur's inquiry and keep it from dragging out over Mr. Biden's presidency.

"My goal would be to get everybody interviewed by Robert Hur as quickly as possible—not throw up roadblocks, not assert privileges, and get this thing over with," said Neil Eggleston, who served as White House counsel in the Obama administration.

The Justice Department investigation into the Biden documents comes as [another special counsel](#) is already deep into a parallel inquiry into the classified documents at Mr. Trump's Florida home.

The FBI in August executed a search warrant at the property, believing more such documents remained there based on witness interviews and security-camera footage. They removed dozens of boxes containing additional documents, many of which were mixed in with clothing and news clippings. Prosecutors later disclosed they were investigating [whether anyone sought to obstruct their inquiry](#), in addition to whether anyone should be prosecuted for mishandling the documents. Mr. Trump has called the Justice Department's moves a witch hunt and said he did nothing wrong.

The Justice Department has sought to keep the two inquiries separate by assigning them to different teams, according to people familiar with the matter. The Biden White House has highlighted differences between the two inquiries, stressing in particular how their cooperative stance compares to the Trump team's resistance to turn over records to the National Archives after repeated requests. Mr. Trump's legal team later [clashed](#) with the Justice Department over the appointment of an outside arbiter, known as a special master, to review documents seized from Mar-a-Lago.

Yet the Biden team's bumpy rollout of its discoveries—it only confirmed the document discoveries after news reports and has offered few new details—complicates its attempt to draw a hard distinction between Mr. Biden's actions and those of Mr. Trump, said John Fishwick, who served as the U.S. attorney for the Western District of Virginia during the Obama administration.

"He is the sitting president, there's no reason for him to hold back anything about this," Mr. Fishwick said. "It makes it harder to say it's apples and oranges, and it undercuts the argument that you were different."

—Sabrina Siddiqui contributed to this article.

From: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 11:53 AM
To: Hornbuckle, Wyn (PAO) (b) (6)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Hello from Ryan at WSJ/Couple questions

Thanks.

L. Rush Atkinson
Associate Deputy Attorney General
Office of the Deputy Attorney General
(b) (6) (cell); (b) (6) (office)

From: Hornbuckle, Wyn (PAO) (b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 11:51 AM
To: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) (b) (6) >

Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Hello from Ryan at WSJ/Couple questions

Fysa

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Barber, Ryan" (b) (6)
Date: January 17, 2023 at 10:52:00 AM EST
To: "Hornbuckle, Wyn (PAO)" (b) (6)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hello from Ryan at WSJ/Couple questions

Hi Wyn -- Ryan here, hope you're doing well and enjoyed the long weekend. And thanks for getting back to me on Saturday.

My colleagues and I are preparing to report today that the Justice Department at one point considered having FBI agents monitor the search of President Biden's homes for classified records but decided against it, both for its own legal reasons and because of the Biden team's cooperative stance. I was wondering if anyone at the Justice Department could speak later today about that consideration.

Also, I'm told that Rob Hur is wrapping up at Gibson Dunn for the next week or two and not starting as special counsel until the end of the month. Is there a firm start date, or can you give me a more specific sense of when he'll begin his work at the Justice Department?

Lastly, do you know who the point-person is at the FBI for press inquiries on the Biden documents matter? We want to make sure we're contacting the right people there.

Thanks, and I can be reached at this email and at (b) (6)

-Ryan

--
C. Ryan Barber
WASHINGTON BUREAU

M: (b) (6)
E: (b) (6) | T: @cryanbarber
A: 1025 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 800 | Washington, D.C. 20036

From: Evers, Austin (ODAG)
Subject: RE: NARA response
To: Zdeb, Sara (OLA); Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
Sent: January 17, 2023 5:09 PM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: Wall Response to 01.10.23 Comer Letter.draft.2+NOH.docx

We received only nit edits from the SCO team. Are folks ok with me setting a call with NARA tomorrow to discuss?

From: Zdeb, Sara (OLA) (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, January 16, 2023 2:06 PM
To: Evers, Austin (ODAG) (b) (6); Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: NARA response

Duplicative Material



From: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
Subject: RE: NARA response
To: Evers, Austin (ODAG); Zdeb, Sara (OLA)
Sent: January 17, 2023 5:16 PM (UTC-05:00)

Fine.

L. Rush Atkinson

Associate Deputy Attorney General

Office of the Deputy Attorney General

(b) (6) (cell); (b) (6) (office)

From: Evers, Austin (ODAG) (b) (6) >

Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 5:09 PM

To: Zdeb, Sara (OLA) (b) (6) >; Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) <(b) (6)>

Subject: RE: NARA response

Duplicative Material



From:
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: The Washington Times - Request for comment
To: Gary Stern
Cc: Evers, Austin (ODAG); Zdeb, Sara (OLA); Bosanko, William; Hamilton, John
Sent: January 17, 2023 5:45 PM (UTC-05:00)

L. Rush Atkinson

Associate Deputy Attorney General

Office of the Deputy Attorney General

(b) (6) (cell); (b) (6) (office)

From: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 5:42 PM

To: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) (b) (6)

Cc: Evers, Austin (ODAG) (b) (6); Zdeb, Sara (OLA) <(b) (6)>; Bosanko, William <william.bosanko@nara.gov>; Hamilton, John <john.hamilton@nara.gov>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: The Washington Times - Request for comment

Still need to hear back from you.

Thanks,

Gary

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740
(b) (6) (cell)
301-837-3026 (office)
301-837-0293 (fax)
garym.stern@nara.gov



■ ■ ■ ■ ■

On Tue, Jan 17, 2023 at 2:26 PM Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) (b) (6) > wrote:

Thanks, Gary. The team is reviewing it for any concerns. We're trying to get back to you today.

L. Rush Atkinson

Associate Deputy Attorney General

Office of the Deputy Attorney General

(b) (6) (cell); (b) (6) (office)

From: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 2:02 PM

To: Evers, Austin (ODAG) (b) (6)

Cc: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) (b) (6); Zdeb, Sara (OLA) (b) (6)
Bosanko, William <william.bosanko@nara.gov>; Hamilton, John <john.hamilton@nara.gov>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: The Washington Times - Request for comment

Duplicative Material

From:
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: The Washington Times - Request for comment
To: Gary Stern
Cc: Evers, Austin (ODAG); Zdeb, Sara (OLA); Bosanko, William; Hamilton, John
Sent: January 17, 2023 5:46 PM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: Wall Response to 01.10.23 Comer Letter.draft.2+NOH.docx

Some thoughts for consideration. Might be helpful for Austin (and to a lesser extent me) to walk you through these.

L. Rush Atkinson

Associate Deputy Attorney General

Office of the Deputy Attorney General

(b) (6) (cell); (b) (6) (office)

From: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 5:42 PM

To: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) (b) (6) >

Cc: Evers, Austin (ODAG) (b) (6); Zdeb, Sara (OLA) (b) (6); Bosanko, William <william.bosanko@nara.gov>; Hamilton, John <john.hamilton@nara.gov>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: The Washington Times - Request for comment

Duplicative Material



From: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: The Washington Times - Request for comment
To: Evers, Austin (ODAG); Zdeb, Sara (OLA)
Sent: January 17, 2023 5:56 PM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: Wall Response to 01.10.23 Comer Letter.draft (DOJ).docx

(DOJ Only). Here's the version with all track changes and comments anonymized.

L. Rush Atkinson

Associate Deputy Attorney General

Office of the Deputy Attorney General

(b) (6) (cell); (b) (6) (office)

From: Evers, Austin (ODAG) (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 5:54 PM
To: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>; Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) (b) (6)
Cc: Zdeb, Sara (OLA) (b) (6); Bosanko, William <william.bosanko@nara.gov>; Hamilton, John <john.hamilton@nara.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: The Washington Times - Request for comment

Can we do a call tomorrow – would the 12-2 window work?

From: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 5:42 PM
To: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) <(b) (6)>
Cc: Evers, Austin (ODAG) (b) (6); Zdeb, Sara (OLA) <(b) (6)>; Bosanko, William <william.bosanko@nara.gov>; Hamilton, John <john.hamilton@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: The Washington Times - Request for comment

Duplicative Material





OPA Hot Topic Q&A

Special Counsels Robert Hur / Jack Smith

Note: Reviewed by Rush.

(b) (5)





(b) (5)



Congressional Oversight

Note: Cleared by OLA

(b) (5)



Not Responsive by Agreement





Not Responsive by Agreement



Not Responsive by Agreement



Not Responsive by Agreement

From: Evers, Austin (ODAG)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: The Washington Times - Request for comment
To: Gary Stern
Cc: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG); Zdeb, Sara (OLA); Bosanko, William; Hamilton, John
Sent: January 17, 2023 6:42 PM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: Wall Response to 01.10.23 Comer Letter.draft.2 (003).docx

Gary –

Here are our suggestions. We would like to discuss them when you can. Perhaps we can do a call in the morning? As you will see, our suggestions focus on areas that discuss DOJ equities to make sure they are fairly and accurately described. (b) (5)

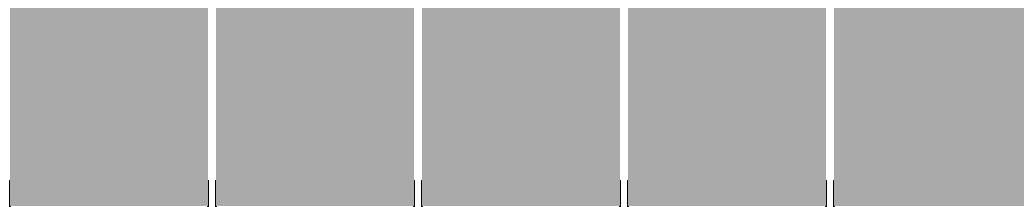
We were not tracking that you need to respond to the Committee by today as we had understood the staff had generally accepted the idea of sequencing interviews (which they had hoped to find dates for by today) until the delivery of documents and information (which the letter seeks by January 24). In any event, we'll try to be as responsive as we can. You can call me tonight if you would like to check in.

Austin

From: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 6:04 PM
To: Evers, Austin (ODAG) (b) (6)
Cc: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) (b) (6); Zdeb, Sara (OLA) (b) (6) Bosanko, William <william.bosanko@nara.gov>; Hamilton, John <john.hamilton@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: The Washington Times - Request for comment

Yes, but can you we have a very quick call right now, since we owe something to Comer today. Please call me at (b) (6).

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740
(b) (6) (cell)
301-837-3026 (office)
301-837-0293 (fax)
garym.stern@nara.gov



On Tue, Jan 17, 2023 at 5:54 PM Evers, Austin (ODAG) (b) (6) > wrote:

Duplicative Material



From: Evers, Austin (ODAG)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: The Washington Times - Request for comment
To: Zdeb, Sara (OLA); Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG)
Sent: January 17, 2023 6:44 PM (UTC-05:00)

I fixed this.

From: Zdeb, Sara (OLA) (b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 6:06 PM
To: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) <(b) (6)>; Evers, Austin (ODAG) (b) (6)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: The Washington Times - Request for comment

(b) (5)

From: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) (b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 5:56 PM
To: Evers, Austin (ODAG) (b) (6); Zdeb, Sara (OLA) (b) (6)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: The Washington Times - Request for comment

Duplicative Material

From:
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: The Washington Times - Request for comment
To: Gary Stern
Cc: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG); Zdeb, Sara (OLA); Bosanko, William; Hamilton, John
Sent: January 18, 2023 9:01 AM (UTC-05:00)

To keep it easy, you can send them to me, which I will then route to the right people here.

From: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2023 8:58 AM
To: Evers, Austin (ODAG) (b) (6)
Cc: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG) (b) (6); Zdeb, Sara (OLA) (b) (6); Bosanko, William <william.bosanko@nara.gov>; Hamilton, John <john.hamilton@nara.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: The Washington Times - Request for comment

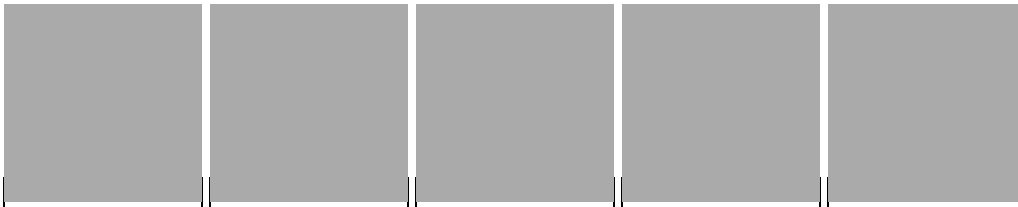
Thanks again for reviewing the letter, which we sent out last evening. It appears that the Committee has already released the letter, since [CNN is reporting](#) on it.

Our intent was already to post our letter and Comer's incoming on our website, just as we routinely did with Hill correspondence last year re the Trump records -- we've received lots of media inquiries, so can point them all to the website.

Also, later today or tomorrow we will be ready to start sending over our records that are responsive to the Comer request. Please let me know to whom we should send them (which we will do via SFTP)?

Thanks,
Gary

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740
(b) (6) cell)
301-837-3026 (office)
301-837-0293 (fax)
garym.stern@nara.gov



On Tue, Jan 17, 2023 at 7:05 PM Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov> wrote:

Austin, thanks so much for getting us these notes and edits, and sorry for not making clear our desire to get this letter out today.

If we're okay with all of your edits, would it be okay for us to send this out this evening?

Gary

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740
(b) (6) (cell)
301-837-3026 (office)
301-837-0293 (fax)
garym.stern@nara.gov



On Tue, Jan 17, 2023 at 6:43 PM Evers, Austin (ODAG) <(b) (6)> wrote:

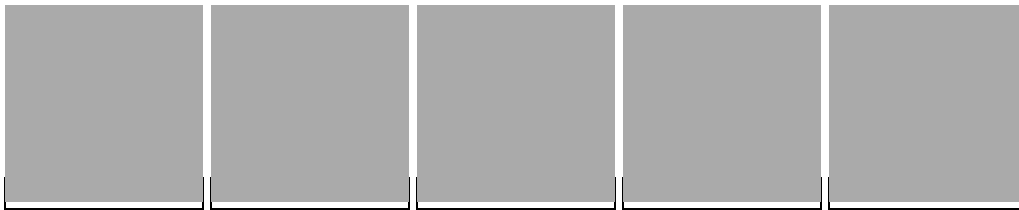
Duplicative Material

From: Evers, Austin (ODAG)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Re: Letter copy
To: Atkinson, Lawrence (ODAG); Zdeb, Sara (OLA); Gaston, Molly (ODAG); Benson, Adrienne (ODAG)
Sent: January 18, 2023 9:04 AM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: Wall Response to 1.10.2023 Comer Letter.01.17.2023.pdf

FYI, final version of NARA's letter.

From: Gary Stern <garym.stern@nara.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2023 9:01 AM
To: Evers, Austin (ODAG) (b) (6)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Letter copy

Gary M. Stern
General Counsel
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740
(b) (6) (cell)
301-837-3026 (office)
301-837-0293 (fax)
garym.stern@nara.gov



On Wed, Jan 18, 2023 at 8:59 AM Evers, Austin (ODAG) (b) (6) > wrote:

Could you share the final you sent to the Hill?

Austin R. Evers
Office of the Deputy Attorney General
(b) (6)



Archivist of the
United States

January 17, 2023

The Honorable James Comer
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Accountability
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6143
By Email

Dear Chairman Comer:

Thank you for your letter of January 10, 2023, and for the opportunity to clarify some facts in regard to the role of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in relation to the recovery of Presidential Records in January of 2022 from former President Trump, and of Vice-Presidential records in November of 2022 from an office of former Vice President Joe Biden, which in both instances involved the discovery of classified records prompting a referral to the Department of Justice (DOJ). In your letter, you have specifically requested documents and interviews concerning the discovery of classified records at former Vice President Biden's private offices. I want to express my commitment to working cooperatively with you and your staff on this and all matters of concern to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability. Our desire to provide you with as much information as we can, however, must also be balanced with the need to protect Executive branch equities, particularly as they relate to ongoing criminal law enforcement investigations by DOJ.

As you are aware, on January 13, 2023, your staff met with my Director of Congressional Affairs, John Hamilton, and my General Counsel, Gary M. Stern, to discuss our response to your letter. They explained that we had begun the search for responsive records, and that we would have to consult with DOJ regarding the release of any such records. DOJ has advised it will need to consult with the newly appointed Office of Special Counsel (SCO) in DOJ, to assess whether information can be released without interfering with the SCO's investigation.

NARA expects to get those records to DOJ within the next few days, and we have asked that they expedite their review so that we can respond to you as close to your January 24 due date as possible. DOJ is committed to working with NARA to facilitate your discussions with the Committee. However, DOJ was not able to provide us with a specific date by which they will

complete their review because they have not yet received the materials and because the SCO was only established on January 12.

It is my understanding that you would like to interview Mr. Stern and Mr. Hamilton on the same topics that are addressed in your document request. I respectfully request that you agree to postpone the scheduling of any interviews until DOJ completes its review of the documents, since any restrictions that apply to the documents will necessarily apply to the interviews.

In this initial response to you, I would like to address the concerns you have raised about NARA conducting its work with a political bias. You stated: “NARA’s public enforcement of the Presidential Records Act against former President Trump while failing to disclose violations by President Biden to Committee Republicans and the American public raises concerns about inconsistent policy and procedures at the agency that creates the appearance of political bias.”

As my General Counsel explained to your staff, NARA treats all of its communications with the White House, DOJ, and the representatives of the former Presidents (and Vice Presidents) as presumptively confidential. For this reason, NARA did not affirmatively discuss or disclose to our oversight committees or to the public our activities concerning the return to our custody of either the Biden Vice Presidential records or the Trump Presidential records, or our referral of both matters to DOJ because we found classified information. Only when those topics were subsequently reported publicly in the press (approximately nine months after communications began on the Trump matter, and two and a half months on the Biden matter), did NARA begin to respond to queries from you and your predecessor chairwoman – and only then in a manner that would not harm the integrity of the DOJ’s investigations. Accordingly, our actions and responses with respect to both of these matters have been entirely consistent and without any political bias.

Additionally, and as I noted to you in my August 16, 2022, response to your August 10, 2022, letter, NARA had no knowledge of and played absolutely no role in the FBI’s August 2022 search of President Trump’s Mar-a-Lago estate, nor of the prior subpoena that DOJ had issued.

I would also like to address the concern you raised about our October 11, 2022, press statement in response to incorrect statements by former President Trump and others that NARA’s transfer of the Obama Presidential records to a NARA storage facility in the Chicago suburb of Hoffman Estates, IL, was somehow under the personal control of former President Obama. Please note that at the end of every Presidential administration, NARA receives only the Presidential and Vice Presidential records that the departing administration provides us; we are never able to know whether we have “all” such records. Until November 2022, we were not aware that any Obama-Biden records were missing. For the reasons noted above, our policy was not to comment publicly about the recovery of the Biden Vice-Presidential records in November.

I hope this letter helps to address some of your concerns. I will respond further regarding the document production you have requested.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debra Steidel Wall".

Debra Steidel Wall
Acting Archivist of the United States

cc: The Honorable Jamie B. Raskin, Ranking Member

From: Evers, Austin (ODAG)
Subject: 2023.01.17 - Wall Response to 1.10.2023 Comer Letter.01.17.2023.pdf
To: Berger, Christine (OAG)
Sent: January 18, 2023 9:05 AM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: 2023.01.17 - Wall Response to 1.10.2023 Comer Letter.01.17.2023.pdf

FYI

From: Iverson, Dena (PAO)
Subject: DRAFT Off Topic Q&A
To: Klapper, Matthew B. (OAG); Berger, Christine (OAG)
Sent: January 18, 2023 3:35 PM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: 01.18.22 DRAFT Off Topic Q&A.docx

Attached

Dena Iverson
Principal Deputy Director, Office of Public Affairs
U.S. Department of Justice

(b) (6) - Office

(b) (6) - Cell

(b) (6)



OPA Hot Topic Q&A

Special Counsels Robert Hur / Jack Smith

(b) (5)





(b) (5)

A large, solid black rectangular redaction box covers the majority of the page content, starting below the header and ending above the footer. The text "(b) (5)" is printed in white at the top center of this redacted area.



(b) (5)



Congressional Oversight

(b) (5)



Not Responsive by Agreement





Not Responsive by Agreement



Not Responsive by Agreement



Not Responsive by Agreement

From: Tran, Elizabeth H. (ODAG)
Subject: RE: OLA Weekly Report - Week of January 17
To: Lebowitz, Jason M. (ODAG)
Sent: January 18, 2023 7:50 PM (UTC-05:00)
Attached: 2022-01-18 WH Weekly.docx

Hi Jason,

Apologies for the delay with this week's suggestions. Please see attached.

Have a good evening!

From: Lebowitz, Jason M. (ODAG) (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 9:53 AM
To: Tran, Elizabeth H. (ODAG) (b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: OLA Weekly Report - Week of January 17

Begin forwarded message:

From: "(b) (5) (OLA)" (b) (6)
Date: January 17, 2023 at 9:42:44 AM EST
Subject: OLA Weekly Report - Week of January 17

Good morning,

Please find the OLA Weekly Report attached.

Best,

(b) (5)

(b) (5)
Confidential Assistant
Office of Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Justice
(b) (6)

Press releases:

Not Responsive by Agreement

- **Special Counsel Appointment:** On January 12th, Attorney General Merrick B. Garland [announced](#) the appointment of a former career Justice Department prosecutor and former U.S. Attorney for the District of Maryland Robert K. Hur to serve as special counsel to conduct the investigation of matters that were the subject of the initial investigation by U.S. Attorney John R. Lausch Jr. related to the possible unauthorized removal and retention of classified documents or other records discovered at the Penn Biden Center for Diplomacy and Global Engagement and the Wilmington, Delaware, private residence of President Joseph R. Biden Jr. On the same day, Special Counsel Robert K. Hur [provided](#) a statement.

Not Responsive by Agreement

Not Responsive by Agreement

Speeches:

Not Responsive by Agreement

Scheduled briefings:

Not Responsive by Agreement

Not Responsive by Agreement





Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D. C. 20530

January 12, 2023

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jim Jordan
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jerrold L. Nadler
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Durbin, Representative Jordan, Senator Grassley, and Representative Nadler:

The Department is investigating the possible unauthorized removal and retention of classified documents or other records discovered at the Penn Biden Center for Diplomacy and Global Engagement, and the Wilmington, Delaware private residence of President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

On November 14, 2022, pursuant to Section 600.2(b) of the Special Counsel regulations, I assigned U.S. Attorney John R. Lausch, Jr. to conduct an initial investigation to inform my decision whether to appoint a Special Counsel. Based on Mr. Lausch's initial investigation and under these extraordinary circumstances, I concluded that it was in the public interest to appoint a Special Counsel. On January 12, 2023, I appointed Robert K. Hur to serve as Special Counsel. A copy of Attorney General Order No. 5588-2023 is attached.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Merrick Garland", is positioned above the typed name.

Merrick B. Garland
Attorney General

Enclosure



Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D. C. 20530

ORDER NO. 5588-2023

APPOINTMENT OF ROBERT K. HUR AS SPECIAL COUNSEL

By virtue of the authority vested in the Attorney General, including 28 U.S.C. §§ 509, 510, 515, and 533, in order to discharge my responsibility to provide supervision and management of the Department of Justice, and to ensure a full and thorough investigation of certain matters, I hereby order as follows:

(a) Robert K. Hur is appointed to serve as Special Counsel for the United States Department of Justice.

(b) The Special Counsel is authorized to conduct the investigation of matters that are the subject of the initial investigation, pursuant to 28 C.F.R. § 600.2(b), led by United States Attorney John R. Lausch, Jr., including possible unauthorized removal and retention of classified documents or other records discovered at the Penn Biden Center for Diplomacy and Global Engagement and the Wilmington, Delaware, private residence of President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., as well as any matters that arose from the initial investigation or may arise directly from the Special Counsel's investigation or that are within the scope of 28 C.F.R. § 600.4(a).

(d) The Special Counsel is authorized to prosecute federal crimes arising from the investigation of these matters. The Special Counsel is also authorized to refer to the appropriate United States Attorney discrete prosecutions that may arise from the Special Counsel's investigation.

(e) Sections 600.4 to 600.10 of Title 28 of the Code of Federal Regulations are applicable to the Special Counsel.

Date

1/12/23



Merrick B. Garland
Attorney General



Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D. C. 20530

January 12, 2023

Mr. Robert K. Hur
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Hur:

You are appointed as a Special Attorney pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 509, 510, 515 and 533. You are authorized to conduct the investigation of matters that are the subject of the initial investigation led by United States Attorney John R. Lausch, Jr. pursuant to 28 C.F.R. § 600.2(b), including possible unauthorized removal and retention of classified documents or other records discovered at the Penn Biden Center for Diplomacy and Global Engagement, and the Wilmington, Delaware private residence of President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., as well as any matters that arose from the initial investigation or may arise directly from the Special Counsel's investigation or that are within the scope of 28 C.F.R. § 600.4(a).

Please execute the enclosed Appointment Affidavit (Standard Form 61), which contains the oath of office, and return it to me no later than January 31, 2023. This appointment is effective upon the execution of the required oath of office.

You must file a copy of this letter and the enclosed oath of office with the Clerk of the United States District Court where you make an appearance to evidence this authorization.

Sincerely,

Merrick B. Garland
Attorney General

Enclosure

I agree to and accept the foregoing terms and conditions:

Robert K. Hur