

## NewsRoom

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### Biden Takes Off For Trip To St. Croix Amid Multiple Major Crises

GREGG JARRETT, FOX NEWS HOST: Aloha, and congrats to your parents. That's so wonderful.

TULSI GABBARD, FORMER U.S. CONGRESSWOMAN: Thank you. It is wonderful.

JARRETT: Good to see you, Tulsi. Thanks so much.

GABBARD: I know. Thank you.

JARRETT: All right. Welcome to this special edition of HANNITY. I'm Gregg Jarrett, in for Sean tonight.

Chaos at the southern border, deadly winter storms across the United States, and our economy certainly on the brink. But Joe Biden is once again on vacay, this time at a very sunny tropical lush destination. A full report straight ahead.

But, first, let's begin with Joe Biden's unyielding commitment to free speech. He loves the First Amendment.

Here is Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre with more. Take a look at this.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

KARINE JEAN-PIERRE, WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY: Our support for free speech and free press is well-documented. Just Twitter as you know is a private company and they will make their own decision. So -- on content moderation, but our support again for free press and free speech has been well-documented and so, I'll leave it there.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

JARRETT: Okay, that's laughable, obviously. In reality, the documents tell a dramatically different story and a new batch of internal Twitter files published by David Zweig show that the Biden White House frequently attempted a strong-armed social media platform into censoring speech especially surrounding COVID-19.

Here's a quote: The Biden team was very angry that Twitter had not been more aggressive in deplatforming multiple accounts. They wanted Twitter to do more.

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And while Twitter did not accommodate every demand from Biden's staffers, the company did, quote, suppress views, many from doctors and scientific experts that conflicted with the official positions of the White House. As a result, legitimate findings and questions that would have expanded the public debate went missing.

Zweig continues, quote, legitimate content was labeled as misinformation in the accounts of doctors and others were suspended but for tweeting opinions and demonstrably true information.

Twitter even took action against a Harvard epidemiologist who tweeted an expert opinion about vaccines that was at odds with the Biden administration.

As Congressman James Comer explains, this kind of government derived censorship is concerning. Watch.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

REP. JAMES COMER (R-KY): This is very concerning. No government agency has the authority to censor free speech. I want to know if this is a direct result of President Biden's orders or is this a result of the deep state government agencies acting on their own as a result of a weak president. Either way, this needs to be stopped and people need to be held accountable.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

JARRETT: All right. Here now with reaction, FOX News contributors Joe Concha and Charlie Hurt.

Guys, good to see you.

Joe, let me begin with you. Given what we now know, it's utterly absurd for Karine Jean-Pierre who you've described as Baghdad Bob in disguise, to brag about well-documented efforts to preserve free speech. No, didn't they toss the First Amendment in the trash can and light it on fire, Joe?

JOE CONCHA, FOX NEWS CONTRIBUTOR: It went in the circular fire, Gregg. No question about that. And again, it's funny to hear Karine Jean-Pierre talking about how the Biden administration is for a free and open press and accessibility to the administration when you have a president that did five solo press conferences this year. Donald Trump in his final year in office did 35. So seven times as many.

But we look at this Twitter files dump, Gregg, and it's remarkable. You see Alex Berenson, for example, he once tweeted that the COVID vaccine, quote, doesn't stop infection or transmission, don't think of it as a vaccine. And Berenson was banned for what proved to be accurate, as we've seen breakthrough cases do occur. Those who are vaccinated can transmit the virus.

And President Biden meanwhile, you may recall, declared on national television, a CNN town hall that if you get the vaccine, you will not get COVID. So who exactly is spreading disinformation again?

And now these Twitter files which is one of the biggest stories of the year that almost nobody outside this network is covering, Gregg, as has shown that the FBI is working in concert with Twitter, to silence the Hunter Biden laptop story, and now, the Biden administration was also looking to control the narrative using the kind of tactics you would see in in Pyongyang or Beijing, suppression, de-amplification, outright censorship.

And the American media simply yawns and says nothing to see here. I mean, WTF, Gregg.

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JARRETT: Yeah, WTF is a good way to put it. Before the lockdowns, at the outset of the pandemic and the shutdowns, I argued against them, not just a violation of personal freedoms and civil rights, but counterproductive. They would prove to be wrong and would do more harm than good, ruining lives and livelihoods.

And, of course, that's exactly what happened. I recall the pushback I got was incredibly severe. But, Charlie, we now see through these Twitter files that if you dared offer a contrary opinion, even demonstrable evidence that something that the government was saying that Biden was saying was wrong, you were vanished from social media. You were absolutely finished. They shut down the pandemic debate, didn't they?

CHARLIE HURT, FOX NEWS CONTRIBUTOR: Yeah, they really did and it's remarkable to sort of step back and look at all of this and sort of remember that the big picture principles on which the country was founded in the first place like free speech, it actually works out in good times and in bad times. Free speeches is -- helps no matter what and I remember very, very early in the pandemic, along about June or Feb -- January, February of 2020, my newspaper printed what I think was the first story fingering the Wuhan lab of virology and pointing out that there were security intelligence sources who were looking at the Wuhan lab as a potential spot where the virus might have come out from.

We were banned. We -- the story was vanished. They sicced every major media outlet you can find after us and went after us to try to disprove us and claim that we had made up the story and that it was -- you know, that it was disinformation or whatever. And, of course, two years on, we now realize that actually all of the intelligent informed people now believe that that really may have been the potential source of it.

But it's too late to actually track down what was going on in that lab and what might have been in that lab that might have helped us save -- I don't know -- hundreds thousands, maybe millions of lives if people had taken that theory seriously at the time. But that they weren't interested in that. They were interested in controlling the debate and silencing people, but most importantly silencing enemies, even if they were peddling as you point out, Gregg, actual science and legitimate concerns about these efforts that wound up actually doing far more damage than would have if the government hadn't even gotten involved.

JARRETT: You know, it -- Joe, it appears that the FBI deliberately infiltrated social media dozens of CIA, FBI agents left their agencies and went to work for social media companies, including Twitter. At the same time, the FBI assigned up to 80 FBI agents to spy on Americans and their social media accounts to gather a list, a master list of people to be blacklisted.

And, you know, talk about coercion and pressure, you know, they basically convince Twitter, for example, to ban people, that they whose opinions they simply didn't like and they were always one-sided in favor of liberals and against conservatives. Given the background of the FBI during the Russia hoax and what they did there, their misfeasance and malfeasance and wrongdoing, it doesn't surprise me, does it you?

CONCHA: Not anymore. It would have maybe a couple years ago but now, Gregg, we look at it in aggregate, right? 2016, you had the FBI before that election whether it be James Comey over Fourth of July weekend, basically clearing Hillary Clinton only to then reopen the investigation just a couple days before the election, both sides hated that. What's the FBI doing so involved in this and doing things that seem to be more based on their own opinions than following the law, right? And then, 2020, same thing with the Hunter Biden laptop story and then we see it even afterwards.

So there should be a reckoning from the American media that that should say, you know what, there needs to be serious, serious investigations and serious things that we look at revamping and recreating all the intelligence agencies from the inside out, just like we did after Watergate back in the '70s. Instead, we're not seeing that, are we?

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We see the American media, and I'm talking about ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN, "Washington Post", "New York Times", PBS, NPR, you would think the free press would be interested in exploring the story based on these Twitter dumps. But again, it's silence of the lambs. I just -- it's unbelievable to me, sir.

JARRETT: You know, what's so insidious, Charlie, I've only got a minute left, is we now know that the things that the CDC were saying and Anthony Fauci were flat out wrong. But Joe Biden and his cronies in the White House made the American public go along with it. My colleague here, Dr. Marc Siegel said, this is government censorship on the road to totalitarianism. He's right, isn't he?

HURT: You know, he absolutely is right and I get it Twitter is a different sort of media company but it's still a media company, and the government knew what they were doing, the FBI knew what it was doing, the administration knew what it was doing when it infiltrated Twitter and it -- and it put the thumb on the scale and did everything they could to squelch the free speech of their opponents and promote their own stuff.

But Joe's exactly right. You know, I -- you know, I get it Twitter's a little bit different. I still think it's disgusting and it's clearly disgusting of the administrative state and the administration. But my goodness, after the fact, where is the New York Times? Where is "The Washington Post"? You know, democracy dies in darkness I thought where are they on this story they're just leaving the lights off because they don't care about darkness or democracy or apparently anything.

JARRETT: They're on board, the Biden team, don't you know?

Charlie Hurt, Joe Concha, thank you very much.

Another key development from their Twitter files involves a former deep state lawyer named Jim Baker. After playing a critical nefarious role in the Russia-gate hoax at the FBI, suddenly, Baker landed a very cushy job with Twitter. He has since been fired by Elon Musk. But according to the Twitter files, Baker was a strong internal advocate of censorship at the company, quote.

In a surreal exchange, Jim Baker, at the time Twitter's deputy general counsel, asked why telling people to not be afraid of COVID wasn't a violation of Twitter's misinformation policy. Really, Jim?

Baker wanted to censor then-President Trump for telling people to have hope, to remain optimistic.

Here now with more, former Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi.

Pam, good to see you.

Jim Baker, I wrote about him extensively in two books about the Russia hoax. This is a guy with knee-deep in line to the FISA court, crafting the phony warrant applications. He was peddling the dossier knowing full well that it was a fiction. So it's no surprise that he's involved in all of this, is it?

PAM BONDI (R), FORMER FLORIDA ATTORNEY GENERAL: No, not at all, and, Gregg, also, he left the FBI when they were investigating him for all the leaks. They all knew that the leaks were coming from Jim Baker. So that's when he left the FBI and thank goodness for Elon Musk for firing him, getting him out of Twitter after Dorsey hired him.

And then knowing that we all saw -- you know, the beginning of COVID, everyone was scared. We were all scared. We didn't know what was happening, and then President Trump delivers this message of hope and optimism.

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When he gets COVID, leaves Walter Reed Hospital, thanks them for their great work and said, you can beat this. This is fine. You can you can overcome this.

Yet, he wanted to censor that and take that off Twitter and it took a Twitter employee overruling Baker saying, you can't do this. I mean that's how bad the guy is. He's been -- we know he's been bad for a long time, but to do that and as a former FBI agent, to continue working with the FBI, to censor everyday Americans is truly outrageous, and every tax-paying citizen in this country should be really disturbed and infuriated right now that that happened, because they were trying to censor everyday Americans.

What we were hearing, what we were reading on Twitter and it's outrageous what they were doing. It really is. And you know, you said there were 80 FBI agents, 80, just at Twitter. I wonder how many were censoring Facebook and Google, too.

JARRETT: Yeah. You know what is so despicable but yet predictable about the FBI is now they're trying to cover it up, they're trying to cover it up with lies. They're saying, oh gosh, you know, in the name of national security, we were just being good people and you know notifying social media companies including Twitter about concerns we had about Russian disinformation.

No, there we didn't direct anybody to eliminate tweets or stories. Now, that's a lie. They did. They manipulated, they coerced, they engineered, they groomed.

I talked to Michael Shellenberger, one of the journalists who analyzed the Twitter files, and he said -- he said to me, he said, you know, Gregg, they were running a psy-ops campaign, equivalent to brainwashing in advance of the Hunter Biden laptop story. They knew it was coming out because they had been spying on Rudy Giuliani and they knew he was going to peddle it to "The New York Post". So they were prepared and they were warning Twitter, you got to kill this story the moment it comes out. It's Russian disinformation and the Twitter files show that both Twitter and uh the FBI knew it was the real deal. They had the original that they seized in December of 2019.

BONDI: That's right. That's exactly right. And thanks to Elon Musk, we know that at Twitter, one Twitter employee -- think about this -- received a hundred and fifty emails from the FBI, just one Twitter employee.

So these FBI agents who are out there doing this, Gregg, you know, as a career prosecutor and you as an attorney, they could be out there helping people. The FBI weaponized and deployed their own agents to censor, to violate our First Amendment rights in this country continuously with Twitter, and I also believe with Facebook and Google.

But we know about Twitter, of course, because of Elon Musk. So that they were doing this is outrageous and that it continued for so long without them getting caught is really unbelievable and we know that, you know, we say this and it's so true, 95 percent of the men and women of the FBI are great people and they're out there trying to save lives. I've watched them firsthand and investigate kidnappings, notify families on mass shootings help investigate the most serious crimes that are happening in our country, yet the leadership of the FBI chose to weaponize agents and put them censoring everyday Americans and its outrageous.

JARRETT: Yeah, this was the brass in Washington, Christopher Wray, the director, was responsible. He should be fired. He should resign in disgrace and I do hope that Congress investigates it and calls him to testify under oath. Let's see him lie yet again.

Pam Bondi, thank you very much.

BONDI: Oh, Gregg, thank you, can you wait --

JARRETT: Go ahead.

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BONDI: I can't wait to see Jim Jordan have these people under oath very soon.

JARRETT: Yeah. Bring your popcorn. Pam, thanks so much. Good to see you.

Straight ahead, Biden's border crisis continues. We'll get a live reaction from the scene. Plus, an important update with Sara Carter and Congressman Byron Donalds.

And later, stay tuned for Adam Schiff's Christmas wish.

This special edition of HANNITY continues.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

JARRETT: Welcome back to this special edition of HANNITY.

Big breaking news from the U.S. Supreme Court where in a five to four ruling, the high court agreed to keep title 42 in place for now until the justices make a final decision. They'll have a hearing come February.

Now, this comes as Biden's border disaster hit yet another low point last month. A record 233,000 illegal immigrants apprehended in November. That doesn't count the people who got away with it.

And get this, it's getting so bad that even Biden's adoring fans in the media are being forced to face reality. Look at this clip from NBC earlier this month. Watch.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

REPORTER: But really what we're seeing here is a city that is overwhelmed and in chaos. These families behind me here, these are some of the lucky ones. We're inside a shelter, but a lot of shelters are overwhelmed.

I just came from the streets this morning. There are hundreds of people sleeping in the airports, at bus stations, on the streets, and it's actually really cold here. It was 33 degrees, we woke up this morning. Migrants were huddling together under blankets for warmth.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

JARRETT: Lovely, but where is the outrage been over the migrant crisis, in the overcrowding, the media endlessly covered under Donald Trump's administration? Where's the outrage over Biden's border failures?

Because one thing's for certain. The border is worsening. The policy is failing. Joe Biden is to blame.

And it's not just in south Texas. Recent video from San Diego, California, shows migrants being dropped off by Border Patrol at local bus stops as communities across the country grapple with just how to handle the migrant influx.

Here now for reaction, San Diego County Supervisor Jim Desmond.

Jim, thanks for being with us.

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So I know, I grew up in California. I know San Diego quite well. Very close to the border.

How bad is it getting in San Diego?

JIM DESMOND, SAN DIEGO COUNTY SUPERVISOR: Well, for the last four days, the Border Patrol has dropped off almost a thousand asylum seekers at transit centers throughout San Diego County. And these people are bewildered. They don't have any money for tickets or means of figuring out the system to get to family or get in touch with loved ones. You know, they're just dropping them off.

The border patrol can only hold them for so long and our shelters are full. I mean, 'tis the season. There's no room at the inn, and we are we -- we're at max capacity. And so, they're just dropping people at transit centers and saying, see you later, good luck.

And you know, the ironic -- irony or even hypocrisy of it, you know, they used to -- they were the same administration has been criticizing Governors Abbott and Governors DeSantis for, you know, taking people to sanctuary cities throughout the country, and yet here's the federal government just dropping them at transit centers with no means of getting -- you know, taking the transit or giving them money or anything else. They're just dropping them.

Luckily, many of them are finding or getting together with families eventually, but just dropping them off at transit centers is not the answer, especially here in San Diego County.

JARRETT: Real quick question. Your governor there, Gavin Newsom, seems to have had a sudden epiphany. I mean, this is the guy who hours after his inauguration invited everybody to come into California. We're a sanctuary. He said, sanctuary for all who seek it. Then he signed several bills, one of which gave them a free state ID card and free health care courtesy of taxpayers.

Now, all of a sudden, he says, oh, this is really bad, but it's not my fault, it's Joe Biden's fault. What do you think of that?

DESMOND: Well, yeah, there's some truth to that and that it is Biden's fault and the federal government for having open porous borders and then just dumping people without giving us the resources or the housing or anything to help, you know, these people to be on their way. But you're right, Governor Newsom has invited them all. So we got them but we're and we're not getting any help from the state government either.

JARRETT: Yeah.

DESMOND: So, we're at capacity and it just -- it's just a, you know, terrible for these people. I feel sorry for them actually. They're seeking asylum and then they just get dumped on the streets here, and see you later, good luck, you're on your own.

JARRETT: Yeah. Well, Gavin Newsom, Joe Biden, Abbott and Costello, Laurel and Hardy, pick your comparison.

Supervisor Desmond, thanks so much for joining us.

Here now with more reaction, FOX News contributor Sara Carter, Florida Congressman Byron Donalds.

Congressman, your reaction to the U.S. Supreme Court decision to keep Title 42 in place. Is it going to make any difference, really?

REP. BYRON DONALDS (R-FL): Well, first of all, it's a good decision to have because it'll frankly keep an avalanche of people seeking asylum illegally by, mind you, they're seeking asylum at an illegal point of entry which is actually against a



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federal law that allowed to do that but Joe Biden is doing it anyway. So it's a reprieve on these border -- these border towns and border states and all the resources that are that need to be done.

But the real problem is not title the real problem is Joe Biden reversed course after he was inaugurated because he didn't want to manage the border the way Donald Trump had managed to border, i.e., he didn't want it to -- he didn't want to manage it successfully. He wanted it wide open southern border to allow migrants and illegal immigrants to come into the United States ad nauseam. This is the plan from the White House.

So I'm glad that the Supreme Court is holding up Title 42 for now, while they heal -- while they hear the full case. But what the Supreme Court needs to understand is that Joe Biden is not following immigration law on purpose because he and the Democrats want in wide open border here in the United States.

JARRETT: Sara, you've spent more time at the border than anybody I know. Your intrepid work has really been admirable, and you know you're kind of the lone ranger down there for the last couple of years.

You know, NBC, ABC, CBS, that was toxic. We don't go down there, where, you know, we're BFF with Joe, and so we can't cover his biggest crisis. Now, all of a sudden, because of title 42, they just say, well, let's go take a look see, and they're shocked, shocked that there's gambling going on down here and a whole lot more.

You got to laugh at these knuckleheads, right?

SARA CARTER, FOX NEWS CONTRIBUTOR: Well, Gregg, yeah, you're right. Look, this is -- I've been covering the border actually for almost 20 years. I started on the border in the early 2000s. I've never seen it quite like this. This is unheard of what we're seeing and we were reporting on it.

You're right, Gregg, I was down at the border. I was saying, hey, look, look at what's going on. We have other colleagues like Bill Melugin and others from FOX News that are down there also showing what's going on at the border. And when you think about it, this is an open sieve that is not only harming the American people, the national security of our nation, Gregg, when we see an influx, not only of migrants that aren't being vetted, there are so many young people being trafficked into the United States by these cartels.

And I was just in Mexico City. I visited two shelters where children had been rescued from human traffickers, some as young as six years old were being trafficked by these predators for unimaginable things. I don't even want to talk about them on television with you right now because it's horrific. You can't even imagine what they've been through.

And here we have a government that leaves the border wide open, wide open and the only people benefiting from this other than them I think because there has to be a reason why the Biden administration is not abiding by the law or allowing our federal law enforcement to abide by the law, but are the human traffickers and the drug cartels in Mexico who is going to stand up to them, who is going to protect our children from the fentanyl and who is going to protect the children and the people being trafficked into our country.

JARRETT: Right.

CARTER: This is no longer just numbers. This is about human beings, people that are literally losing their lives.

JARRETT: Well, and I'm glad --



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CARTER: I think that's what's so frustrating.

JARRETT: I'm glad -- I'm so very glad, Sara, that you brought up the fentanyl because I want to ask you about that, Congressman Donalds.

According to the CDC, a hundred thousand overdose fentanyl synthetic drug deaths all of it coming from the border in these cartels. So a hundred thousand a year, that's 275 people per day who are being murdered by these illegal drugs coming across our southern border. And Joe Biden won't even bother to go to the border to see the crisis that his incompetence has created.

What would you say to him about that?

DONALDS: Well, first of all, to the president -- I know he doesn't care because he doesn't bother to go. It's outrageous. Americans are losing their lives, You haven't even visited the border not once.

The news media -- I'm going to go back. Sara didn't want to talk about it, I will. There are young girls who are being raped by the cartels and the coyotes in the journey to our southern border. That's happening right now.

But number two, back to Joe Biden, he don't care about this. He wants this policy and the news media that's down there covering -- covering it now, where were they two months ago during the elections? Nowhere to be found, but they're there now to cover their butts.

It's a joke and it's disgusting, and Joe Biden has the authority to change it and he won't because he's following his radical Democrat policy. Listen, this is awful of the people who are going to lose their lives. It is awful for the people who overdose and the families that have to deal with it.

But for the families in America who have to deal with this problem first and foremost, look no further than the president of the United States. He doesn't care about protecting you. He only cares about his political agenda. That's why he won't go to the border, that's why he doesn't answer questions, that's why the media won't bother asking him.

And that's why in this omnibus bill that they just passed, they've refused to have the money go to actually secure the border. It's ridiculous.

JARRETT: Congressman Donalds, thank you for being so candid. Sara Carter, as always, your outstanding reporting at the border has really been important to us. So thank you for that as well.

Coming up next on this special edition of HANNITY, Joe Biden's poorly timed luxury beach vacay in the Caribbean Sea, Saint Croix, don't you know?

Mark Penn and David Webb are here to break it all down. So stick around for that.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

JARRETT: Tonight, as the border crisis rages, the economic warning signs pile up. As Americans deal with a fallout of another travel nightmare, your president is off to beautiful Saint Croix until New Year's. Of course, relaxing vacations nothing new for old Joe as he routinely spends the weekends in Delaware regardless of what chaos is brewing in Washington and beyond.

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Now, the White House claims, well, the president is working no matter where he is. Yeah, given Biden's history of bizarre behavior and blunders, it's really hard to believe that Joe is doing much work at all.

Here's a quick trip down memory lane.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

JOE BIDEN, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: The first frost, you know what was happening, it had to put on your windshield wipers to get literally the oil slick off the window. That's why I had so damn many other people I grew up have cancer.

And so I -- I was sort of raised in the Puerto Rican community at home.

We hold these truth to be self-evident, all men and women created by -- oh, you know this -- you know the thing.

I want to thank you the former general -- I keep calling in general -- my - - my -- the guy who runs that outfit over there.

Job -- jobs, the jobs, they're going to be created here.

The joke, think about it, think about what you'd think about. This is an extraordinary story being written today in America by this administration as I step all over my coat, good thing my mom's not around. But look --

It's the United States of America (ph) for God's sake. This is who we are.

You know how much -- you know how much I'm going to do with the deficit this year.

I used to drive a tractor-trailer.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Oh, awesome.

BIDEN: So I'm little bit about driving big trucks.

(END VIDEO CLIPS)

JARRETT: Living in his own little world.

Joining us now, pollster Mark Penn, along with FOX News contributor David Webb.

Gentlemen, good to see you.

Mark, let me begin with you. Mark Knoller at -- he's sort of the unofficial statistician in the press corps at the White House -- says Biden has spent more than four -- a fourth of his presidency, you know, in his vacation homes. Others have it as a full 40 percent, almost half. I don't know who to believe.

But has any sort of adapted this let them cake attitude, fueling the image that he is utterly oblivious to the crises that have enveloped his presidency or he just doesn't give a damn? Which is it?

Mark, can you hear me?

MARK PENN, FOX NEWS CONTRIBUTOR: Well, yeah, definitely. Yeah, definitely.

Definitely, this is not the kind of look that I would advocate for any president, particularly when he hasn't visited the border and the border is you know in the condition that it is when there's the controversy over title 42. To go down to a Caribbean island, even one where your brother had bought some land in a transaction and raised questions about that, and to go to a U.S. territory, you know, if you're running for re-election, usually you'd go to one of the key states, have your vacation, show that you're encouraging tourism, within you know the United States itself.

So the whole thing is very odd. If he's going down to figure out whether or not to run in and of itself, it gives a very bad look for any president.

JARRETT: You know, David, we've got this deadly winter storm. I -- the last count I think is people have been killed thousands are freezing, they're stranded, rescues are still underway, looting is spreading, you know, and then of course there's the humanitarian and drug crisis at the border that escalates day by day.

You know, this is a president who's got a lot of nicknames, sleepy Joe, clueless Joe, bungling Joe, maybe he's got a new one, vacay Joe. What do you think?

DAVID WEBB, FOX NEWS CONTRIBUTOR: You know, a part of me wants to follow just going after Biden for his absence and the numbers you mentioned being gone for a quarter of this. But in a way to what Mark said, this is about not only the optics but the leadership. What we have going on right now is a big natural disaster effect in a hundreds of millions of Americans much in the way when you look at a hurricane, say, Hurricane Ian recently, remember Katrina, 2007, you look at other natural fires, earthquakes.

This is a broad national disaster and the leader of the country regardless of party should be there standing up and reassuring the people, the numbers that die, the 46-car pileups, the threats to the economy that come from slowed down supply delivery in our supply chain, all of this and more requires a presence of a president.

But then I remember that you know this is a man who has stood in the U.S. Senate from day one since he's been there and all he's done is tell people whatever they want to hear in the room but not lead whether it's his state or a nation or his constituents. So this is not surprising to me that Joe Biden does this, no more than his gaffes.

And, Mark, you and I, you know, watched this for quite some time. You know there are many out there defending Joe Biden and his actions and his misstatements and his gaps and his confused statements who were at the same time attacking Ronald Reagan falsely decades ago for having Alzheimer's while in office.

But now, you have a man who shows concern at least that I won't diagnose him. But I think he deserves at least a cognitive test, the Montreal cognitive assessment test would be a good start. And when you look at that, you know, as Americans, as the world stage that we lead or we should lead, I'm concerned.

JARRETT: Yeah. You know, Mark, given the raging inflation, Americans are counting their pennies, my goodness. You know, I mean, they're having trouble this Christmas paying for things, and juxtapose an American president who, you know, flies off courtesy of American taxpayers on his luxury Air Force One jet to beautiful Saint Croix, Thanksgiving was in tony Nantucket. In August, he went to Kiowa Island, the seat of wealth in America. I think it has the number one take-home pay in America the most wealthy population in America.

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You know, Americans are freezing right now and there's Joe Biden sunning himself in beautiful Saint Croix. I think it was 84 degrees. I mean, it's not just terminally myopic, but it's tone deaf, isn't it?

PENN: Well, look, this is a president who's not well-liked by the country. I mean, he was once well-liked by the country. He had a 60 percent rating that sunk to a 40 percent rating. They're unhappy with how he's handling inflation, immigration, crime. I mean, so he's getting -- he's getting away from the problems.

But, yes, this is a very bad image for a president, any president to go to the beach in the middle of an economic problem related to inflation, in the middle of these border issues. You know, just before the turnover of Congress, when you've got to show that your leadership, you're in command, it's not where you hold a kind of a getaway to decide whether or not you're going to run for something.

It's a very bad look. I can't imagine that that we would have -- we would have suggested that President Clinton that, oh, let's go to the beach now. It's frankly idiotic.

JARRETT: Yeah, idiotic is a good way of putting it.

Mark Penn, David Webb, many thanks, gentlemen, for being with us on this special edition of HANNITY.

Coming up, Adam Schiff's big plans for the New Year. Plus, Douglas Murray and Deroy Murdock are here to talk about it.

So stick around. We'll be back in a moment.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

JARRETT: Welcome back.

Now, we turn to the state of California where there is growing pressure on Dianne Feinstein to retire amid her decades-long tenure in the U.S. Senate. But if you thought the Democrats were looking for a fresh face or looking for somebody with a credible record to replace her, prepared to be disappointed because according to California Congressman Adam Schiff, he is basically being begged, begged don't you know, to run for the seat. Take a look.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

INTERVIEWER: Is there any reason why you would not run for the Senate?

REP. ADAM SCHIFF (D-CA): Well, I am not usually asked the question in that form. You know, look, I am getting encouragement to run for the Senate from people in California and colleagues here at Congress. If Senator Feinstein retires, then I will give it serious consideration. You know, at this point, I think we are waiting to see what Senator Feinstein has to say about her plans. But, yes, it is something I am giving serious consideration to.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

JARRETT: Oh, please. The only people that want him to run are his wife and kids.

Now, as I've documented, it was Adam Schiff who was caught over and over again pushing the Russia hoax, falsely claiming he had evidence of collusion, absolute proof. And it was Schiff who fueled the lies surrounding the debunked Steele dossier.

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And, don't forget, Schiff also lied when he claimed his office did not have any contact with the infamous whistleblower, the center of the first impeachment sham.

It's a record of deceit, delusion and disgrace. That's Adam Schiff.

Here for reaction, FOX News contributors, Derooy Murdock and Douglas Murray.

Derooy, a year ago, I wrote a column entitled, "Adam Schiff's disgraceful legacy", and described him as a remorseless liar who fed the feeding frenzy over the phony dossier, promoted and he defended it. You know, even read it, believe it or not, into the congressional record, the entire dossier, which we know was a complete fabrication. And, you know, also, I have seen proof of collusion, well, he just made that up.

I find it hard to believe that anybody in California would ever think this guy is senatorial timber. What do you think?

DEROY MURDOCK, FOX NEWS CONTRIBUTOR: Gregg, I will try to put this as politely as possible. Adam Schiff is a pathological liar and should be kept as far away from the U.S. Senate as his California district is from Washington, D.C.

This isn't just an exaggeration or something he said once or twice. For three long years, he dragged this country through the Russian collusion hoax. He said he had absolute evidence, it was incontrovertible, smoking gun evidence.

I actually called his office three times and sent emails three times. I said, I would love to see this evidence. I would love to write about it. Would you please provide me the smoking evidence that Donald J. Trump is colluding with the Kremlin? And guess what? They never got back to me.

And the last time I contacted him, and I said, listen, if you don't send me that evidence, I'll just have to write that there is no evidence and it was all made up. And guess what? They never got back to me. There is no such evidence because there is no such evidence.

Adam Schiff lied about this to the American people for 3 years and made us a more acrimonious and divided country. And for that reason alone, he ought to be kept as far away from the Senate as humanly possible.

JARRETT: You know what, Douglas, there are so many shameful episodes associated with Adam Schiff. That's hard to choose the greatest hit. But I wrote about one in my book "The Russia Hoax".

During a congressional hearing, he falsely accused Carter Page of being a Russian spy. He was cross-examining page. I mean, it's really laughable stuff.

His premise was that because Page shook the hand of a Russian as he was leaving the stage after giving a speech at a university, he is therefore a Russian operative. Of course, Bob Mueller's report exonerated Carter Page completely.

But Schiff never had the decency to apologize for that. This guy doesn't belong in the senate, does he?

DOUGLAS MURRAY, FOX NEWS CONTRIBUTOR: No, that's right. By the way, I'm just going to say, first of all, I mean, I'm not sure I see why Dianne Feinstein has to retire. At the age of a mere 89, she is one of the striplings of the Democrat Party. She's one of the youngest members. She was one of the up and coming go-getters in the party.

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Most of the Democrats around that age, I don't see any reason why you're going to retire just because you're 89. Her best years are still ahead of her, I'm sure.

But as for Schiff, you're quite right. He has spent his career lying. He doesn't at all mind doing it. He is one of those absolutely transparent politicians, as Deroy just said. He just lies in order to further his own career opportunities, to further his own agenda.

He's quite good at it, you know, to give him some credit. That's the one thing he is good at, is just fibbing and pretending he's sort of actual pharaoh-like figure in the Russia collusion stuff. Never shows any evidence, never shows any remorse, just moves on and hopes he will move up. And I think it's in all of our interests he doesn't stand a chance of doing so.

JARRETT: Yeah, and he's all in favor of the censorship. Isn't it always the propagandists who love censorship?

Deroy and Douglas, thank you both. Appreciate it.

We're going to have more of this special edition of HANNITY after the break. Stick around for that.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

JARRETT: And welcome back to this special edition of HANNITY. Unfortunately, that's all the time we have left for this evening. As always, thank you for tuning in.

Before we go, I want to wish you all a very happy New Year. I'm Greg Jarrett in for Sean.

Jason Chaffetz filling in for Laura, and he takes it from here -- Jason.

END

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