



Written by [C. Mitchell Shaw](#) on April 1, 2022

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## Hunter's Laptop Now Recognized as Genuine

When a laptop belonging to President Biden's son Hunter was abandoned at a Delaware computer-repair shop, it could have been the biggest story of the 2020 election. E-mails on that laptop evidenced corruption on the part of Joe Biden when he was Obama's vice president. One e-mail in particular was about Hunter Biden inviting Vadym Pozharskyi, the number-three man on the board of Burisma Holdings, the Ukrainian company that employed Hunter, to Washington "and giving an opportunity to meet" Vice President Biden so they could spend "some time together." That e-mail seemed to be a follow-up to an earlier one showing Pozharskyi asking Hunter for "advice on how you could use your influence" to help Burisma.



AP Images

That should be news.

But with the prospect of President Trump being reelected to another four years in the Oval Office looming on the horizon, the mainstream media were busily running whatever interference they could for Joe Biden, including the tired, old, false narrative of Trump/Russia collusion. A story about Hunter Biden's corrupt dealings in Ukraine — and with implications that Joe Biden was involved — simply wouldn't do.

So, it wasn't news.

But that was then and this is now. And while the mainstream media dismissed the laptop story then, it has come back with such a vengeance that even those same mainstream-media outlets can't continue to dismiss it. Now, even *The New York Times* has reported that the contents of the laptop have been "authenticated" and are genuine. Perhaps with Biden already elected and tanking in the polls, the establishment is reevaluating the cost/benefit analysis of keeping a lid on Hunter's laptop.

But it wasn't just the mainstream media dismissing Hunter's laptop. The U.S. intelligence community played its part as well. This cooperation has the appearance of a concerted effort by the establishment to protect Joe Biden from the fallout while picking up a few bonus points for branding President Trump and his supporters as "conspiracy theorists."

## Mainstream-media Lies

When the *New York Post* broke the story in October 2020 that Hunter's laptop contained damning information implicating the Biden family in corrupt — and possibly *illegal* — overseas business dealings, the liberal mainstream-media establishment — including MSNBC, CNN, and CBS — labeled the story "Russian disinformation."



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While the ink was still wet on the *New York Post* article, MSNBC's Ali Velshi told viewers, "We start this hour with the tale of international espionage connected to a close confidante of the President of the United States," adding, "The president was reportedly warned that his personal attorney, former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani, was the target of a Russian intelligence operation, a story that is unraveling to reveal allegations of disinformation, dirty tricks, and a federal probe over Russian efforts to disparage Joe Biden."

Five days later, Biden campaign advisor Symone Sanders appeared on the network, unabashedly stating that any action on President Trump's part to bring awareness of the story was just Trump spreading "Russian misinformation." And — to put in the for-what-it's-worth column — Sanders is now an MSNBC contributor.

And Jason Johnson — who was already an MSNBC contributor at the time — characterized the story as "so obviously a Russian operation."

When President Trump appeared on CBS' *60 Minutes*, anchor Lesley Stahl flatly stated that the laptop could not be verified, even as Trump attempted to educate her on the subject. She held her ground, continuing to argue with her presidential guest that "the laptop" and its contents "can't be verified."

CNN's Brian Stelter joined in the fray, saying, "U.S. authorities are seeing if those emails we just talked about are connected to an ongoing Russian disinformation effort." This writer will come back to those "U.S. authorities" taking the "Russian disinformation" angle — because that notion was bogus and recent reporting shows that those *alleged* "U.S. authorities" likely knew it at the time.

Between *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, and *Politico*, the Hunter Biden laptop story was called "Trump's fake new Biden scandal," "laughably weak," "a right-wing conspiracy theory," and — with no effort at originality — "Russian disinformation."

## **Intel-community Propagandists**

The *Politico* piece — published just days after the *New York Post* broke the story — was based in part on a letter signed by "more than 50 former senior intelligence officials" claiming the damning e-mails on the laptop bore "all the classic earmarks of a Russian information operation." The word "disinformation" was not actually used in the letter, though this is what was described.

While 51 "former intelligence officials" — including former Director of National Intelligence James Clapper (who famously lied to Congress about NSA surveillance of the communications of Americans) — found "earmarks" of "Russian information," they did not claim to *know* that they were Russian disinformation. In fact, their letter stated, "We do not know if the emails ... are genuine or not."

So, without any knowledge of the legitimacy of the e-mails — and with the *Post* in possession of the laptop and having interviewed the owner of the shop where Hunter Biden abandoned the laptop — these 51 professional propagandists were happy to sign their names to a letter that exonerated Joe Biden and painted Donald Trump and his supporters as conspiracy kooks. Why? Could it be because the election was a mere three weeks away? If so, this begins to look like a bad sequel to the Hillary Clinton e-mail scandal just before the 2016 election.

If those "more than 50 former senior intelligence officials" are the same as Stelter's "U.S. authorities" who were "seeing if those e-mails" were part of "an ongoing Russian disinformation effort," Stelter



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mischaracterized them by leaving out the salient fact that “former” officials are not officials. If, on the other hand, Stelter’s “U.S. officials” are made up of *current* officials, where is the corroboration that the e-mails on Hunter’s laptop were Russian disinformation? Why have no other intelligence officials come forward with the same claim? For that matter, after 17 months, why hasn’t *any* information come to light to prove that assertion? Where is the report from *any* intelligence agency corroborating that audacious claim?

Instead, the facts — coming to light in recent reporting by even *The New York Times* — show that the claim that the laptop story was “Russian disinformation” is a left-wing conspiracy theory that is now completely debunked. But in the fall of 2020 — with the presidential election a mere three weeks away — that left-wing conspiracy theory was given an assist not only by the legacy media, but also by Big Tech and social media.

## Big Tech Lies

As soon as the *New York Post* reported on Hunter Biden’s laptop and e-mails, an orchestrated effort to discredit or silence the story went into effect. While the mainstream legacy media worked feverishly to spin the story and fling it at Trump as an example of his being little more than an agent of Russian disinformation, social media went to kill the *New York Post*’s reporting of real news. Twitter deleted the article from its platform and banned the *Post*.

Let that sink in.

Twitter *banned* a newspaper that was founded in 1801 by Alexander Hamilton and was — in 2019 — the fourth-most-read paper in the United States. And the ban was to prevent the *Post* from sharing the story that Hunter Biden was hired to a \$50,000-per-month job for which his only qualification was that his father was the vice president of the United States and Hunter could “use his influence” to help a foreign company.

Of course, Twitter *claimed* the reason was that the laptop was “hacked” and its contents “leaked.” But as the *Post* points out, there was no hacking and Twitter did not ban *The New York Times* for publishing Trump’s tax returns, though the leaking of tax returns is a crime.

And while Facebook did not outright ban the *Post*, the social-media giant *did* say it would not allow the sharing of the *Post*’s story until it was “fact-checked” by a third party. Spoiler: That check never took place.

## The Truth Comes Out

Now — 17 months later — *The New York Times* has confirmed the authenticity of the laptop and its contents. In a March 16 article about Hunter Biden’s ongoing legal problems (the Department of Justice has an “active” and “ongoing” investigation into Hunter’s “tax affairs” and “international business dealings”), the *Times* slipped this little nugget into the 24th paragraph:

People familiar with the investigation said prosecutors had examined emails between Mr. Biden, Mr. Archer and others about Burisma and other foreign business activity. Those emails were obtained by The New York Times from a cache of files that appears to have come from a laptop abandoned by Mr. Biden in a Delaware repair shop. The email and others in the cache were authenticated by people familiar with them and with the



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investigation.

After stating — without any hint at an apology for actively burying the story for almost a year and a half — that “the email and others in the cache were authenticated by people familiar with them and with the investigation,” the *Times* moves on to report much of what the *Post* was excoriated for reporting before the election.

And just like that, the Hunter Biden laptop story is news — *legitimate* news, even.

## **The White House’s Refusal to Answer**

But news or no, the White House is still pretending that Hunter Biden’s laptop — and the information it contains — can simply be ignored. On multiple occasions, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki has refused to answer questions about the story even after *The New York Times* reported that the laptop and its e-mails had been “authenticated.” Her dodges include either outright refusing to answer the questions or sidestepping them. For instance, when asked during a press briefing on March 17 whether President Biden “stand[s] by [his previous] assessment” that the *New York Post* story was “a bunch of garbage” and that it was “a Russian plant,” Psaki said, “I’d point you to the Department of Justice and also to Hunter Biden’s representatives,” adding, “He doesn’t work in the government.” And then, she simply turned to another reporter and took another question.

But later in that same press briefing, she was asked, “You were asked about Hunter Biden’s laptop. You also, in October 2020, dismissed it as ‘Russian disinformation.’ Do you stand by that assessment?” She replied almost verbatim, “Again, I’d point to the Department of Justice and Hunter Biden’s representatives. I’m a spokesperson for the United States; he doesn’t work for the United States.”

Hunter Biden not working for the United States didn’t keep Psaki or her boss from calling the laptop story “Russian disinformation” and “garbage,” but it does keep her from answering whether she (or he) would still say those things.

Psaki repeated this scenario multiple times. The point is clear: The White House still wants to ignore Hunter’s laptop and doesn’t seem to understand why everyone else won’t do so.

But — the White House’s efforts to ignore the story duly noted and set aside — now that the story of Hunter Biden’s laptop *is* news, some are calling for accountability for those who worked to keep it quiet long enough for Biden to become the putative president of the United States.

## **Accountability, at Last?**

Senator Ron Johnson (R-Wis.) — who serves as chairman of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee — has demanded an apology from the 51 former U.S. intelligence experts who signed the letter casting doubt on information they likely knew to be true. As the *New York Post* reported, Johnson told host John Catsimatidis on WABC 770 AM’s *The Cats Roundtable* that the FBI knew the laptop story was true:

“The FBI had to know that [the information on the laptop was genuine]. They wouldn’t tell us when we were offered the laptop. I couldn’t take it because I had to do my due diligence. The FBI knew,” Johnson said in the interview that aired Sunday.



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“We reached out to the FBI. They wouldn’t tell us it was genuine. They should have. But they didn’t. People should be outraged,” he said.

Johnson added, “What they really said was that the laptop had all the hallmarks of Russian disinformation. I had absolutely no information whatsoever, no evidence that this was Russian disinformation.... So, you have all these intelligence operatives confirming ... a false story.... It was obvious very early on that the Hunter Biden laptop was genuine.” He went on to say, “They never should have tainted the process with that letter, but they did. Are they going to apologize for it? I’m not holding my breath.”

Johnson’s frustration with former and current members of the intelligence community for their failure to confirm the legitimacy of the laptop and its contents is understandable. So is his frustration at their assist to the mainstream media in painting the story as a fanciful conspiracy theory.

His committee investigated Hunter Biden’s \$50,000-a-month job with Burisma and his other dealings in Ukraine and issued a report in conjunction with the Senate Finance Committee in December 2020. That report said that the Obama administration ignored “glaring warning signs” that something was amiss when Hunter Biden joined the board of Burisma. That overpaid job for the underqualified Hunter Biden was “problematic and did interfere in the efficient execution of policy with respect to Ukraine.”

Johnson is not alone in calling for accountability. Representative Claudia Tenney (R-N.Y.) told the *Post* that Congress needs to “rein in Big Tech censors.” And Senator Ted Cruz (R-Texas) said, “Big Tech leaders who participated in censoring the truth should answer to Congress and the American people in sworn testimony.”

What the intelligence community, the mainstream media, and Big Tech social media did was two-fold: They worked in concert to discredit any reporting about the laptop while simultaneously using the story to paint Trump and his supporters as conspiracy kooks. And it appears for all the world that they did so in order to sway the 2020 election.

But with the truth finally coming out and Hunter Biden under criminal investigation, perhaps there will be some measure of accountability. It may be a long shot, but one can hope. At the very least, it is now obvious to any honest observer that the establishment bent over backward to keep the truth about the corrupt and possibly illegal overseas activities of Hunter Biden and his father from coming to light during an election year.

*C. Mitchell Shaw, a freelance writer, is a strong advocate of both the free market and privacy. He addresses a wide range of issues related to the U.S. Constitution and liberty.*



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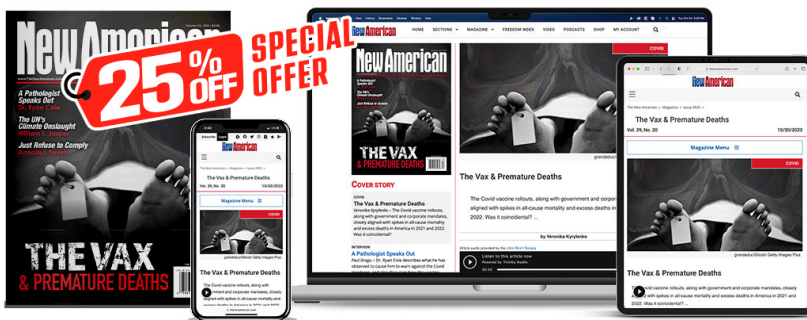
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