

WAPO ENTHUSIASTICALLY JOINS TRUMP'S ATTACK ON RULE OF LAW

One reason why Trump managed to win the election in spite of his four felony prosecutions is because self-imagined journalists never fact-checked him when he falsely claimed his prosecutions – all of them – were partisan witch hunts.

This article, from WaPo, is a remarkable example.

It confirms what was already clear – that Trump will attempt to fire everyone who worked on his own criminal prosecutions – and adds that Trump also intends to use DOJ to investigate his claims of voter fraud that his own DOJ already debunked in late 2020. It describes this fascist project to politicize DOJ as evidence of his “intention to dramatically shake up the status quo in Washington.”

The post notes that Trump, “lost to Joe Biden but continues to insist [the election] was stolen from him in key battlegrounds,” and describes that, “neither the president-elect nor his allies have ever provided evidence to prove their claims of voter fraud.”

But it doesn't mention that Bill Barr's DOJ already did investigate Trump's claims of election fraud. And although Josh Dawsey is bylined, the story mentions none of Dawsey's several stories on contractors whom Trump hired in 2020, who looked for – but could not find – any evidence to back these claims (one two three).

More tellingly, WaPo's four journalists don't bother to correct Karoline Leavitt's objectively false claim that, “President Trump won the election in a landslide,” a claim that could be

easily debunked by pointing out that Trump won't break 50% of the popular vote and won by less than 2%.

They just let Leavitt lie.

Worse still, they repeated Trump's claims of grievance over and over, saying only that it is a frequent claim, not a false one.

[1] a Trump spokeswoman echoed the president-elect's frequent claim that the Justice Department cases against him were politically motivated.

"President Trump campaigned on firing rogue bureaucrats who have [2] engaged in the illegal weaponization of our American justice system, and the American people can expect he will deliver on that promise," press secretary Karoline Leavitt said in a statement. "One of the many reasons that President Trump won the election in a landslide is Americans are sick and tired of seeing their tax dollars spent on [3] targeting the Biden-Harris Administration's political enemies rather than going after [a] real violent criminals in our streets."

[snip]

And he has [4] maintained from the start that Smith's investigations into his efforts to reverse his defeat – as well as his alleged mishandling of classified documents after he left the White House – are examples of the weaponization of government against him that must be avenged.

[snip]

"For too long, the partisan Department of Justice [5] has been weaponized against me and other Republicans," Trump wrote when announcing his new pick, longtime ally Pam Bondi, in a post on

Truth Social. "Not anymore. Pam will refocus the DOJ to its intended purpose of fighting Crime, [b] and Making America Safe Again."

There are plenty of ways people who chose to engage in journalism could debunk these false claims: to point out that Joe Biden was *also* investigated for retaining classified documents, to describe that a former Trump US Attorney, Robert Hur, found characteristics that distinguished Trump's case from Biden's, to explain what those distinctions were – Trump's year-long effort to hide documents from DOJ. Regarding January 6, a journalist might explain that hundreds of other people were charged with the same main crime – obstructing the vote certification – as Trump was, but in his case the fraudulent certificates made the evidence even stronger.

At the very least, describe – in detail! – what Trump was charged with! WaPo chooses not to do that.

On the claims of politicization, the laziest reporter might note at least that Joe Biden's *own son* was prosecuted on two coasts, along with three high profile Democrats – Bob Menendez, Henry Cuellar, and Eric Adams.

Trump's claim that Biden's DOJ targeted Republicans is laughable, and yet four self-imagined journalists repeated the claim as if it were true.

Trump's claims that Biden's DOJ didn't prosecute violent criminals in the streets bears special focus, since hundreds of the January 6ers – people Trump has suggested he'll pardon – are just that: people convicted of violently assaulting cops.

And his claim that Pam Bondi will fight crime as if Merrick Garland did not? For fuck sake, people, mention that crime rates came down under Biden.

WaPo packages up all this unrebutted propaganda as a process story. Twelve paragraphs in, it addresses the question of *whether* Trump will be able to fire career employees. In ¶15, it describes the make-up of Jack Smith's team.

But it's all buried under dumb repetition of Trump's attack on rule of law, as if the attack were true. WaPo just couldn't be bothered to conduct the least little act of journalism on that point, and so simply repeated Trump's false claims of grievance with no correction.

And as such, the article itself becomes part of precisely the outrageous abuse it describes: the creation of a false myth of grievance by burying (literally in Trump's case and figuratively in the case of four people calling themselves journalists) the reality about rule of law.