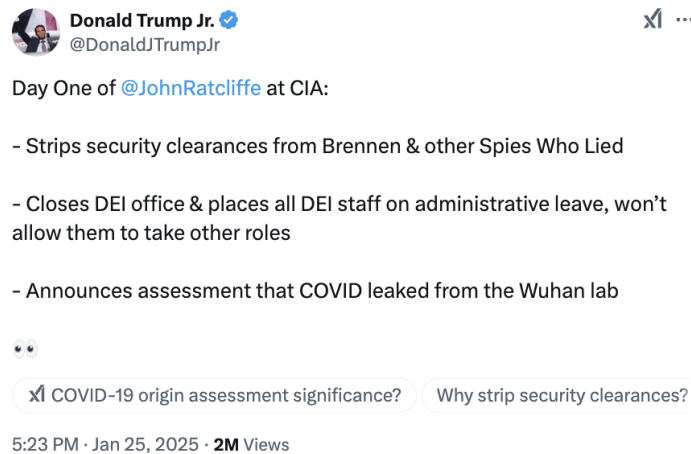


TRUMP'S SLOP AND OUCH FIRST WEEK

Trump's failson practically wet himself with a Tweet bragging about what CIA Director John Ratcliffe accomplished on his first day at the office.



Given John Brennan's 2023 testimony that stood by the opinion expressed in the letter, Jr's claim he "lied" may well be legally actionable (and Brennan said then, as he did the other day, that the only reason he retained his clearance was for intelligence officials to be able to consult with him). Plus, many if not most of the people from whom Ratcliffe "strip[ped] security clearances" didn't have them; the most impotent kind of signaling possible. But it worked for Trump's failson!

Jr also makes a big deal of the fact that John Ratcliffe, without explaining the meaning of a "low confidence" assessment, released a report that his predecessor, William Burns, ordered up.

Jr was, like mediocre men are wont to do, grading Ratcliffe on a curve. And that was his idea of a big win.

Trump has overtly pitched a claim he's engaged in Shock and Awe (and, given the widespread adoption of the term, seems to be pushing a similar campaign to the press). While the attention on Trump's attack on rule of law and

marginalized people is absolutely merited, in addition to wowing a captive press, Trump's declaration of Shock and Awe has shifted the focus away from ways that Trump has affirmatively hurt Americans, including, undoubtedly, a great number of his own supporters, what I'm dubbing his Slop and Ouch campaign.

Trump halt on NIH funding literally shut down cancer treatment already in process (ironically, since Trump claimed he was attacking Joe Biden's "cancer" when signing many of his Executive Orders). Cancer doesn't discriminate against MAGA's. Shutting down cancer trials may literally be taking away a Trump's supporter's latest hope of a cure.

Trump's attacks on Biden's efforts to lower drug prices may lead to higher costs for generic prices and could even lead to higher prices for diabetes drugs (setting aside any impact threatened tariffs on Denmark would have on Ozempic prices).

Trump reversed access to wind power, which has become cheaper than fossil fuels. This will force American consumers to pay more for dirtier fuel. Foreign competitors are already licking their lips about the competitive advantage it gives them.

Trump's attack on programs focused on environmental justice will harm poor rural communities.

And after spending four years declaring one after another infrastructure week only to have Joe Biden deliver it right away, Trump is threatening the funding for bridge and road projects already underway. He's taking away what he promised – but failed to deliver – during his first term.

His rescission of job offers throughout government (though Veterans groups were able to get a reversal on VA care) has left thousands stuck with their lives in limbo, with movers arriving but no job to move to on the other end.

Trump's attack on public health even as Avian Flu threatens to snowball will exacerbate the already increasing price of eggs – which Trump himself made a key campaign plank.

And because he is choosing to pursue his deportation policy in the stupidest way possible, it is creating problems. HCI detained three people in a Newark raid with out a warrant, reportedly including a Puerto Rican and a veteran. And Mexico refused a landing request for a deportation flight on a military plane (it accepted four others that were on chartered flights, which cost less to run and may have greater capacity; also, Colombia has since blocked a military transport flight); military flights to Guatemala avoided Mexican airspace, suggesting Mexico refused overflight requests as well. Trump is also claiming repatriation flights are instead deportation flights in false claims that he's delivering on his promise of mass deportation. And the single stay stats many are boasting about aren't higher than some days during 2022. Despite his claims of Shock and Awe, Trump has had to lie to support his claims he succeeded in doing the one thing he has prioritized most.

And all that's before the inflationary effect of deporting those who pick America's food and build her homes.

None of this takes away from the grave damage Trump did in his first week, particularly to those like Trans people and migrants he is trying to treat as unpersons.

I don't mean to minimize the ways this is going to get far worse. It will get far worse. It will devastate the lives of a lot of vulnerable people.

There's nothing good about the fact that, in addition to all the people Trump has deliberately targeted for cruelty, Trump has also inflicted real damage on his own supporters. But it's a sign of one direction where this could head, particularly as a dumbing

down of government hires in favor of sycophants starts degrading efficacy.

An ideology that places grievance above all else – an ideology that is willing to hurt America if that's what it takes to reverse the successes of the Biden Administration – is an ideology guaranteed to impose pain far beyond those targeted for spectacle and cruelty.

Underneath Trump's Shock and Awe that is doing grave damage to the Constitution and Trump's marginalized targets, there's a Slop and Ouch that targets everyone this side of his billionaire friends. And that needs to remain visible, too.