

THREE DATA POINTS FROM THE PADILLA ASSAULT

I want to call out three data points regarding the assault of Senator Alex Padilla yesterday.

First, in media appearances and on this video, Senator Padilla explained that he was in the Federal building for a scheduled briefing on the Federal response in Los Angeles. There was a delay so he asked to go to the presser. As he describes it, a Guard *and an FBI Agent* escorted him to the presser.

While I was waiting for the briefing, I learned that just down the hall from where I was, Secretary Noem from the Department of Homeland Security was having a press conference, Now Secretary Noem and the Department – we have been calling on and we have been sending letters to since the beginning of the year requesting more information as to what and why they are doing, with little to no response. And so I thought let me go over there, listen in on the press conference, maybe they're sharing some important information. And while I did that, escorted over there by a National Guardsman and an FBI agent, ...

This makes Dan Bongino's description of the event entirely deceptive.



Dan Bongino  
@FBIDDBongino



With regard to the incident in LA this afternoon, the Senator in question was not wearing a security pin and physically resisted law enforcement when confronted. Our FBI personnel acted completely appropriately while assisting Secret Service and we are grateful for their professionalism and service.

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If the FBI brought him to the presser, it doesn't matter whether he had his Senate pin.

The FBI knew his identity. And yet an FBI agent was involved in the assault on Padilla regardless.

Secondly, in a presser, Gavin Newsom returned to comments about his call, last Friday night, with Donald Trump.

Oh, I would love to share the readout but I revere the office of presidency so I'll keep it in confidence. He has quite literally made up components of that conversation. Um, he's been a stone cold liar about what he said we talked about. He never discussed the National Guard, period, full stop. I would love to share with you what we actually talked about. That would send shivers up your spine.

[snip]

We discussed for a nanosecond Los Angeles and he immediately zigged and zagged to seven or eight other topics. Some extraordinarily familiar. And some extraordinarily remarkable considering the world we're living in.

Again, after a hearing before Charles Breyer on the lawsuit, at which the substance of that call – whether Trump actually raised the Guard – was an issue, Newsom accused Trump of making up components of the conversation and then said the actual content of the call “would send shivers up your spine” but he wasn’t sharing it because “I revere the office of the presidency.”

I don’t doubt that some deference to the Office of the President is one reason Newsom hasn’t told us what Trump said. After all, he no doubt still harbors ambitions to one day *occupy* that office. The tenor of the lawsuit challenging Trump adopts a sober legal approach, avoiding some things – like Whiskey Pete’s apparent ignorance of basic facts about the deployment (such as whether the Marines would come from Camp Pendleton or, as is the case, Twentynine

Palms and when they finished training for the deployment) – that would be great politically but shift the focus away from Trump and onto Hegseth’s incompetence. In the lawsuit (as distinct from his public messaging, including this presser) Newsom has been making a constitutional argument, not a political one.

The government seems to understand it is vulnerable to Newsom’s claim that Trump fabricated parts of the conversation. As I noted, in their response to the lawsuit they relied on an erroneous Fox News report on the timing of the call, not the readout of the call that the White House presumably has.

At approximately 10:23pm PT that night, President Trump called Governor Newsom. The President informed Governor Newsom of the dangers that federal personnel and property were being subjected to and directed him to take action to stop the violence.⁴

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<https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-brings-receipts-he-called-newsom-amid-larriots-california-gov-claims-wasnt-even-voicemail.amp>; see also <https://www.gov.ca.gov/2025/06/09/watch-governor-newsom-discusses-donald-trumps-mess-inlos-angeles/> (Governor Newsom concurring that the call took place)

They do not include any other source to substantiate the claim that “the President informed Governor Newsom,” and in the hearing yesterday DOJ did not back the specific claims Trump and Steve Cheung made to Fox (though Brett Shumate did claim that something about the call led Trump to conclude the laws were not being executed, one basis DOJ relied on to claim the usurpation was legal).

And so, Newsom hinted at more, but claimed he couldn’t share it – as if threatening to share the real content of the call would damage Trump

(or make his depravity clear).

I mean, it's clear Trump said something. After all, before the call, Trump threatened to cut off all funding to CA (a threat that has not yet manifested, even though it was presented as imminent). After the call, Newsom came out with two messages: Trump is a "Stone cold liar" and "there's no working *with* the President. There's only working *for* him. And I will never work for Donald Trump."

I suspect Newsom is daring Trump to make him share the content of the call (and, likely, testing to see what kind of records Trump is willing to show). I suspect Newsom that call is important not just because of what Trump didn't say, about the Guard deployment, but what he did say before he invaded California.

I suspect Trump tried to make a deal. Trump tried to get Newsom to work for him. And when Newsom refused, Trump invaded.

Which brings me to the last data point. In one clip of the NBC footage from the Padilla assault – which, of course, came just as Kristi Noem claimed she was going to liberate Los Angeles from government by their duly elected Governor and Mayor – Peter Hamby spied Corey Lewandowski overseeing the aftermath of the assault.



Lewandowski, of course, has a history of assaulting people as he removed them from Trump events.

What gets made of the Padilla assault remains

very much contested. Right wing propagandists – from Noem and her staffers to Bongino to members of Congress – are trying to claim that a Latino man obviously couldn't be assumed to be a Senator elected by 6.6 million Californians, not even if an FBI agent escorted him into that room. That response gives up the game, of course: this was Trump's racist Administration treating one of the most powerful Latino's in the country just like they're treating the day laborers and farmworkers they're chasing down fields.

But it comes amid a larger context – the context in which Gavin Newsom and Donald Trump are directly combatting whether Trump may be king.

Update: Corrected the timing of Newsom's comment. It happened after Breyer issued his ruling.

Update: NYT quotes Padilla claiming Lewandowski came running down the hall telling people to let him go.

On the videos, Mr. Padilla appeared stunned but repeatedly said he was a U.S. senator. In an interview hours later, Mr. Padilla said that he had demanded to know why he had been detained and where he was being escorted “when of all people, Corey Lewandowski” – a combative former Trump campaign aide and adviser to Ms. Noem – “comes running down the hall and he starts yelling, ‘Let him go! Let him go!’”

Update: In response to James Comer and Clay Higgins' excitement about targeting Newsom and Karen Bass for investigation, Newsom's office promises, “some highly unusual communications from the White House” and then, in the next tweet, highlights Newsom's comment.



So, yeah, he was hoping someone would force him to turn this over and two of the dumbest members of Congress complied.