

NYT FALLS FOR TRUMP'S LIMITED HANGOUT

Charlie Kirk and the President's failson are very impressed with President Trump's order that Pam Bondi seek to release grand jury transcripts.



Trump gave the order in response to a WSJ report describing a birthday letter, signed by Trump, included in a book that Ghislaine Maxwell made for Jeffrey Epstein's 50th birthday in 2003.

It isn't clear how the letter with Trump's signature was prepared. Inside the outline of the naked woman was a typewritten note styled as an imaginary conversation between Trump and Epstein, written in the third person.

"Voice Over: There must be more to life than having everything," the note began.

Donald: Yes, there is, but I won't tell you what it is.

Jeffrey: Nor will I, since I also know what it is.

Donald: We have certain things in common, Jeffrey.

Jeffrey: Yes, we do, come to think of it.

Donald: Enigmas never age, have you noticed that?

Jeffrey: As a matter of fact, it was clear to me the last time I saw you.

Donald: A pal is a wonderful thing. Happy Birthday – and may every day be another wonderful secret.

WSJ describes that this book was examined by Epstein and Maxwell investigators.

Pages from the leather-bound album—assembled before Epstein was first arrested in 2006—are among the documents examined by Justice Department officials who investigated Epstein and Maxwell years ago, according to people who have reviewed the pages. It's unclear if any of the pages are part of the Trump administration's recent review.

But while there are titillating allusions in the letter, such as the reference to a new secret every day, there's is not any conceivable reason why *this letter* would be presented as evidence against either Epstein or Maxwell. It does not overtly describe trafficking minor women at all.

The order that Bondi unseal grand jury materials will do nothing but impress people like Kirk and Don Jr, designed to create a likely unsuccessful drawn out legal fight in which, even if the transcripts were released, would not include this book.

SQUIRREL! Trump yelled, when cornered.

And it worked not just for Charlie Kirk, but also for NYT's Glenn Thrush, a politics reporter who survived a Me Too scandal repurposed to cover DOJ. It took him 11¶¶ before he explained that a judge was unlikely to release any transcripts, and another paragraph before he explained that the vast bulk of the evidence is in FBI custody.

Mr. Trump's stated desire to address the "ridiculous" publicity around the case may not be enough to convince the judge to release the transcripts. Grand jury transcripts are, under federal guidelines, kept secret to protect crime victims and witnesses. They are typically released only under narrowly defined circumstances.

Even if the transcripts are made public, which might involve months of legal wrangling, **the evidence represents a fraction of material collected in the investigation.** Over the past several months, dozens of F.B.I. agents and prosecutors with the Justice Department's national security division were diverted from other assignments to review thousands of documents and a vast trove of video evidence, including footage from video cameras in the prison. [my emphasis]

If the grand jury evidence is a subset of the larger FBI stash, Glenn, then Bondi could release the letter herself, on her own authority, today. At least tell your readers that, Glenn, even if you don't make the entire story, "Cornered by WSJ story, Donald Trump attempts a limited hangout."

Thrush quotes Goldman making a point that there's more in FBI custody, but doesn't explain the import of it—that Bondi could release whatever copy of this letter the FBI has immediately.

Donald Trump is sufficiently concerned about this that he's attempting to distract dim-witted people.

Including, apparently, NYT reporters.

Update: On Xitter, Thrush claimed this, in the third paragraph, alerted readers that Trump was affirmatively chasing data that would not have the letter.

The president cited "the ridiculous amount of publicity given to Jeffrey Epstein" for his directive, which falls far short of demands from some congressional Republicans to make public all investigative files collected by the department and the F.B.I., not just testimony presented in federal court.