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1.0 New Member of Trump's January 6 Willard Hotel "War Room" Revealed; Discovery Leads to Revelation of a National Security Scandal

Trump's legal team admits it had a "war room" in a hotel frequented by insurrectionist leaders Alex Jones and Roger Stone during the insurrection. Its roster of attendees could now become a scandal.



Thanks to an incredibly sharp *Proof* reader, *Proof* can now identify a *fifth* member of **Donald Trump**'s January 6 "war room" inside the **Willard InterContinental Hotel DC**.

The identification has led, moreover, to a large volume of disturbing information about that war room, including how many individuals were inside of it on Insurrection Day, what sort of information it was processing, and what its purpose was. The answers to all of these questions are below, and they demand immediate additional investigation by both Congress and the FBI.

As a brief preface to these answers, *Proof* notes that the four individuals previously identified as members of Trump's January 6 war room at the Willard Hotel include Trump-Ukraine scandal co-conspirator **Robert Hyde**, who allegedly plotted violence against the United States ambassador to Ukraine, Marie Yovanovitch, as

part of Trump’s plot to steal the 2020 presidential election via collusion with pro-Kremlin Ukrainian oligarchs and officials; Trump lawyers **John Eastman** and **Rudy Giuliani**, the latter of whom recently saw his home and office raided by the FBI; and **Michael Flynn**-associated cybersecurity firm owner **Russell Ramsland Jr.**, who was discussed by *Proof* in detail in a prior report here.

Proof can now add to these prior reports that there is overwhelming evidence of a fifth entrant to Trump’s “**communications**” center—as it has been described by Eastman—specifically far-right conspiracy theorist **Joe Oltmann** (pictured atop this article).

Oltmann in the Willard Hotel War Room

The photo from the war room used to identify Oltmann is below. It was originally published on Hyde’s **Instagram** feed, along with numerous pictures of Hyde with **Donald Trump**, **Donald Trump Jr.**, **Eric Trump**, **Ivanka Trump**, **Tiffany Trump**, former Vice President **Mike Pence**, House Minority Leader **Kevin McCarthy** (R-CA), Rep. **Jim Jordan** (R-OH), Giuliani, Flynn, and countless GOP members of Congress.



ABOVE: Trump’s “war room” at the Willard Hotel on the evening of January 6. Trump lawyer John Eastman is standing in a doorway at the rear of the photo.

{Note: For those who haven’t yet read *Proof of Corruption* (Macmillan, 2020), which contains a full chapter on Hyde’s ties to Trump and his inner circle, here’s a visual retrospective courtesy of some excellent research by Zach Everson, and here’s an article on Hyde from NBC News.}

An April 20, 2021 interview of Oltmann by far-right conspiracy theorist, attorney, and **New Mexico State University** professor **David Clement**—caught by the eagle eye of a *Proof* reader—led to the discovery and confirmation of Oltmann’s presence in Trump’s war room in the Willard Hotel, but also, as importantly, a series of critical and even harrowing revelations about what Team Trump was doing during the insurrection.

Eight major takeaways from the Oltmann-Clement interview are enumerated below, with (sometimes lengthy) interview transcript excerpts, as appropriate.

Revelations From the The Oltmann-Clement Interview

(1) Oltmann is a fake antifa activist.

According to Oltmann, he systematically “**infiltrated**” the loose-knit **antifa** movement as a far-right, politically motivated spy in the run-up to and after the 2020 presidential election.

Oltmann indicates that he attended meetings and was on conference calls between antifa members as part of a self-appointed sting operation intended to prove a massive left-wing conspiracy to steal the November election from Donald Trump.

Oltmann is now being sued (see below) by **Dominion Voting Systems** engineer **Eric Coomer** for defamatory statements Oltmann made about Coomer, including claims that Coomer was a secret antifa militant aiming to steal the 2020 election. As **NPR** reported after **Newsmax** (run by longtime Trump confidant **Chris Ruddy**) retracted all its allegations about Dominion and Coomer, “**Shortly after the election, Coomer became the subject of conspiracy theories that he had used his position at Dominion to manipulate votes for**

President Biden. He strongly denies those allegations. Coomer has been living in hiding for nearly six months after facing death threats. While he has dropped his suit against Newsmax, Coomer is still suing the Trump campaign and a number of campaign surrogates and pro-Trump media outlets, alleging defamation.”

Given that the key Trumpist conspiracy theory operative on January 6 was that antifa planned to show up to the U.S. Capitol in numbers to do pitched violent battle with both the **Proud Boys** and the **Oath Keepers**—an eventuality that many of the January 6 insurrectionists, per pending federal indictments, thought would be useful inasmuch as it arguably could justify then-President Trump invoking the **Insurrection Act of 1807** and declaring martial law—Oltmann’s claims that he infiltrated antifa prior to the attack on the Capitol raise questions about whether Trump’s Willard Hotel war room was feeding claims about antifa’s supposed plans to insurrectionists inside the **Stop the Steal** “movement.” Oltmann is the first member of Team Trump who has been identified as making claims of insider knowledge of antifa’s plans surrounding the 2020 presidential election and its aftermath. This topic was an obsession of Trump’s **FBI**, which worked with Proud Boy leader and **Roger Stone** “aide” **Enrique Tarrio** to gather intelligence about antifa; Trump himself, as, according to disputed claims by former acting Secretary of Defense **Chris Miller**, Trump was so confident that antifa would show up at the Capitol on January 6 that he told the **Pentagon** that it would need to call out “**10,000 troops**”; and the Proud Boys, whose primary chant prior to attacking the Capitol on January 6 was, “**Where’s antifa?**”—as captured in the now-infamous **Eddie Block** video.

(2) Before January 6, Oltmann was in contact with influential figures in Washington.

Oltmann tells Clement that he flew to Washington, D.C. on “**January 3 or January 4**” of 2021 for “**meetings**”, indicating that these meetings had (a) been previously scheduled, (b) the persons with whom these meetings had been scheduled knew that Oltmann would be coming to D.C., and thus, presumably, (c) the persons with whom these meetings had been scheduled had some

understanding of what Oltmann would say at any meeting, and believed this information important to have in Washington in early January. Given what we now know about who these meetings were with, *and* who Oltmann was scheduled to meet with who he never met with—see below for details—the fact that Oltmann had scheduled meetings with certain Team Trump agents prior to January 3, 2021 suggests there are digital or possibly telephonic communications available to be seized by the FBI regarding not just these meetings but plans by Team Trump to leverage the information allegedly held by Oltmann to bolster Trump’s plans for January 6. Indeed, as indicated below, Oltmann now claims that his contributions made it at least as far as the **White House Ellipse** stage on January 6—becoming part of the very Stop the Steal event that’s now accused of inciting an attack on the **Capitol**.

(3) Oltmann was a Stop the Steal associate who joined a Stop the Steal event in DC.

Oltmann spoke at the **Rally for Revival at Freedom Plaza** on January 5. He now says that at that event he gave a presentation of his “**model**” alleging election-rigging by Dominion. As noted below, Oltmann is being sued for claims he has made pursuant to this “model.” According to Oltmann, he spoke to “**25,000 people**” at Freedom Plaza; presumably, many of these individuals were the same ones who trespassed on federal grounds (in some instances, the Capitol building itself) approximately 18 hours later.

As previously reported by *Proof*, the Rally for Revival was as well-attended by high-profile insurrectionists as Trump’s speech at the Ellipse the next day. Among those who spoke alongside Oltmann were Flynn, Stone, **George Papadopoulos, Alex Jones, Owen Shroyer, Ali Alexander, and Rogan O’Handley**. *Proof* has also reported on (and videos have revealed) a “**VIP tent**” erected at Freedom Plaza for speakers and high-profile attendees of the event to mingle in. While we don’t yet know who Oltmann may have corresponded with in the VIP tent before he spoke, we do know that he would have had an opportunity to speak to nearly every major figure behind the planning of the march on the Capitol, and moreover that at least one of those figures (Handley) had just

been at a secret meeting at the White House, while another (Flynn) had attended a war council at Trump’s “**private residence**” at **Trump International Hotel** (a claim by **Charles W. Herbster** that Flynn now denies, despite photographic evidence placing him on-scene), while another (Alexander) had just spoken with top Trump presidential adviser **Kimberly Guilfoyle**.

While we don’t know exactly who Oltmann met with on January 5—because thus far he refuses to say—we *do* know the general category of Team Trump agent he met with.

According to the Oltmann-Clement interview, beginning on January 5 (the day of the Rally for Revival), Joe Oltmann says that he

*...started meeting with people, getting validated from **people that are in the government, that had served in the government**. They wanted to make sure that my math was good, that I wasn’t just some guy that was coming out with crazy ideas. And I told them—[regarding] the run-off election for Georgia [on January 5]—I told them what was going to happen. I told them, “**This is what’s going to happen, the [voting] system [in Georgia] is going to shut down, it has to shut down to come back up [with fraudulent data], here’s how the system works in order to basically take people they [the alleged election thieves] know didn’t vote and...[create] fake ballots or phantom ballots.**” And what do you think happened? The system went down, the system came back up, Republicans were in the lead, all of a sudden Republicans were not in the lead. And the Democrat wins.*

The notion that on Insurrection Eve a fake antifa activist was meeting with “**people in the government**” and people who “**had served in the government**” is very disturbing, especially as—the next day—Trump’s agents, including some still in the government and some who had formerly served in the government, would be claiming that they had inside information suggesting antifa had attacked the Capitol, and perhaps even that this had justified the anger, confusion, and chaos that had unfolded at the Capitol.

Just so, the fact that a man who was then falsely claiming, of an election that had not even concluded yet—the Georgia runoff election, in which counting continued

past midnight on January 5—that it was rife with election fraud, had access to the very individuals who would be inciting violence at the Capitol both that evening and on Insurrection Day is extremely concerning. While investigators don't yet know precisely what was done with Oltmann's information, Oltmann himself makes clear what the information was and the high level within Trump's inner circle to which it ascended.

*{Note: There is little purpose in trying to guess who Oltmann met with on January 5, especially as—see below—we know many of those with whom he met the following day, but it is worth noting that Trump's top national security adviser, Flynn, is both someone who “**had served in the government**” and was on January 5 working closely with the very individuals Oltmann was also in communication with, including Rudy Giuliani and **Sidney Powell**. **Michael Lindell** has said that he spent the three days prior to January 6 in the company of both Flynn and Giuliani, underscoring that the two men were consistently together during this period. As for Powell, she has now admitted that everything she told America and Trump about election fraud was a lie.}*

(4) On Insurrection Day, Joe Oltmann was deep inside Donald Trump's inner circle.

Whereas Oltmann is decidedly vague about who he met with on the day he spoke at the Rally for Revival—notably, an event that featured numerous insurrectionist leaders *now under federal investigation*—he is far more forthcoming about with whom he met on January 6, when his level of access to the corridors of power intensified to the point that he was conferring with people he seems to presume (and indeed many Americans presume) will neither be questioned by the **FBI** nor face any consequences for their actions prior to, during, and after the armed assault on the Capitol that they incited.

Oltmann says the following of his high-level-meeting “dance card” in the morning of January 6, prior to Trump's speech at the Ellipse:

I was meeting with everyone. I met with everyone. I met with [Rudy] Giuliani. I met with other people that wanted to go through [election] validation. [Trump

lawyer] John Eastman came up [to where the meeting was]. In fact, the things he [Eastman] said from the [Ellipse] stage after {NB: he actually spoke before} President Trump, were all things he got from me. All of it. The whole model, and what happened [in the 2020 election]. I gave that to him.

It should be underscored that Coomer sued Oltmann *and the Trump campaign* in 2020, meaning that the members of the Trump campaign who used Oltmann’s “model” for the purpose of (per Oltmann) further inciting those about to march on the Capitol did so knowing that model was currently the subject of a defamation case that remained unresolved as of January 6, but had already led to a public retraction by one far-right media outlet (Newsmax). While we do not yet know for certain what other purposes the information was put to, some of it can be easily guessed at, given that Giuliani, Alexander, certain of the attendees at the Trump International war council, and even Donald Trump himself spent January 5 and January 6 trying to convince U.S. senators to oppose the certification of **Joe Biden**’s victory. That Oltmann was permitted into Trump’s inner circle of advisers to spread information Trump’s own confidant Chris Ruddy had already backed away publicly many weeks earlier is truly extraordinary.

(5) By midday on Insurrection Day, Oltmann’s access had ascended to a new level.

With respect to the attack on the Capitol—whose first stage unfolded between 1PM and 2:15PM ET on January 6—Oltmann says this of what he was doing at the time:

*I was actually at the **State Department** meeting with—{NB: he momentarily stops himself}—in a Faraday box {NB: a Faraday “cage” is an enclosure used to block electromagnetic fields, and is often used to protect communications from intercept}. While everything was happening on the Capitol, I was nowhere near the Capitol. I was actually inside [Trump’s] government showing them models—that this is what happened [in the 2020 election]. And they said, “**Well, why would anyone have a [voting] system that doesn’t have to be validated?**” I said, “**Exactly.**” He [sic] couldn’t believe it. They could not believe what I was*

actually putting in front of them. And they said, “Well, if this is true, we are at—{NB: he momentarily stops himself}—in essence, this [Biden’s victory] is a coup.” And I was like, “Well, that’s what I would call it.”

If true, Oltmann’s account is deeply alarming. It suggests a component within the **U.S. Department of State** was willing to meet a conspiracy theorist in a secure location, and to do so *as the Capitol was under attack by a mob inspired in part by that man’s claims*.

It also means that, in the middle of a national emergency, key officials (both whoever the “**he**” Oltmann refers to was, and whoever the “**they**” were) were not at their posts helping to ensure the security of the federal government but were conspiring with those who considered the joint session of Congress then in a state of interruption at the Capitol to actually be a “**coup**.” It’s unclear what level of State Department official would have ready access to a Faraday cage or be of sufficient authority that Oltmann would agree to name two of Trump’s personal lawyers to Clement but not his contacts at State, but it is not difficult to imagine who among Trump’s high-ranking allies there may have agreed to take a meeting with Oltmann at the urging of Trump’s legal team.

An additional concern here is the matter of who *arranged* Oltmann’s meeting at State. After the spectacle and scandal of the Trump-Ukraine scandal, what State Department official would have the gall to secretly work with Giuliani (again) to try to fraudulently undermine a U.S. election? This is *exactly* what Trump had been impeached for the first time; in that case, Giuliani had worked with **Lev Parnas, Igor Fruman**, and—perhaps not coincidentally—the aforementioned Robert Hyde to try to interfere with the 2020 presidential election, and moreover had done so with the assistance of a State Department agent, **Kurt Volker**. The news that Rudy Giuliani and his contacts at State were reenacting the very events that had led to Donald Trump’s first impeachment in January 2020 *as the January 6 insurrection was still unfolding* is genuinely astonishing.

(6) In the evening of January 6, Oltmann returned to the Willard and Rudy Giuliani.

The photo of the Willard Hotel war room above appears to have been taken, if what Hyde says about it is accurate, in the evening of January 6, during what now appears to be Oltmann's second trip (at a minimum) to that space. Per Oltmann, after his trip to the State Department at midday on Insurrection Day,

I met with Giuliani again. I said [to Giuliani], “Listen...” There had already been reports that he [Trump] could sign the Insurrection Act. There's a lot of things that he could have done—[that] President Trump could have done—but I do think that the reason that he didn't do those things is because he does care deeply about the American people. If he would have signed the Insurrection Act, if he would have actually instituted a full investigation [of the 2020 election], if he would have signed an executive order making sure they looked into those things [the voting machines]—if he had, he would have destabilized financial markets [and] held people's jobs hostage. A lot of bad things could have happened in our society. So I think what President Trump did is he just lived to see another day and let it play out.

Now in hindsight, I wish he wouldn't have done that. But when I met with President—{NB: he momentarily stops himself}—when I met with Mayor Giuliani on [the evening of January] 6th, I was like, “Look, just put me in front of President Trump and I'll walk you through [everything]. Because I can walk through this very easily with President Trump.” And what's interesting about all this is that there were people that stopped me from having those meetings with President Trump on [January 7th]. So I was sticking around—which was the day after [the insurrection]—[and] they were literally standing in the way saying, “We definitely don't want Joe to get in front of President Trump.”

So on [January] 7th, I was set to—Mayor Giuliani and others had arranged for me to have a meeting with President Trump. I get a phone call [at] 11[PM] in the morning, 9[AM] Denver time {NB: Oltmann is from Colorado and his business is in Colorado} from someone I had hired at my [Colorado] company just as the election was wrapping up, around election time....[and I told him], “I have stuff I need to do in DC” ...I walked back into the room [Giuliani's suite of offices at the Willard], it was basically a command center, there were 25 to 30 people. They

were working on DNI [Office of the Director of National Intelligence] reports and making sure they were gathering all the intelligence on foreign interference. There was a rush at that point to get all of the information necessary to take the next step to prove all the election fraud. And by the way, there's so much proof it's—what I had was a small piece of a really big puzzle [that had been gathered in the Willard command center].

Note: What Oltmann describes here appears to be a serious national security breach.

The fact that Trump's agents erected a “**command center**” with 25 to 30 people in it—at a hotel hosting insurrectionist leader Roger Stone and (for a time) Michael Flynn and insurrectionist leader Alex Jones—and that, inside that center, during an armed attack on the U.S. Capitol, Giuliani was using State Department contacts to recreate the sort of election interference his client Donald Trump had already been impeached for once, is incredible enough. But here Oltmann seems to say that in this command center hosting 25 to 30 persons, including individuals with checkered pasts and no security clearance like Robert Hyde, was an array of “**DNI reports**” and “**intelligence on foreign interference.**” If true, it is a new and significant national security scandal.

Did Team Trump share classified intelligence with insurrectionists pre-insurrection as a means of inciting them—and those to whom they'd be speaking at Stop the Steal events—to storm the Capitol? If so, this could mean federal conspiracy charges (**18 U.S. Code § 371**) for (a) anyone in the **ODNI** who gave the reports to Trump's legal team, (b) anyone in the ODNI or outside of it (to include Donald Trump himself) who authorized the giving of such reports to people not entitled to see them without first declassifying them, (c) anyone in the Willard Hotel “war room” who accessed these records while knowing them to have a classification status they could not meet, and (d) anyone in the Willard who orally or otherwise shared such “reports” and “intelligence” with those leading the march on the Capitol in an effort to further embolden them to trespass on federal grounds and interrupt federal officials (members of Congress) in the midst of core constitutional duties (the certification of Joe Biden's election victory).

(7) The security breach Giuliani orchestrated got much worse as January 6 wore on.

It wasn't just that Hyde and Oltmann and 20 or more others—not including Giuliani, Eastman, and Russell Ramsland, Jr.—were in a nonsecure hotel room close by Roger Stone's hotel room with DNI “reports” and foreign “intelligence,” it's that some of the engagements Giuliani was secretly having with the Trump administration on January 6 were shared with (at a minimum) Joe Oltmann. As Oltmann told David Clement of his extensive interactions in the Willard Hotel war room on the evening of January 6, 2021,

*You have **Chad Wolf** [then-Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security]—they found out about, down in Georgia, that there was a shredder truck full of ballots, [and] they {NB: unclear who “they” refers to} took control of that shredder truck with those shredded ballots. They—I—{NB: he momentarily stops himself} the information we have on that is that that's credible and they [**Chris Krebs and CISA**] said it's not. We have pictures of it. But yet the woman that actually came forward and said “**I have the pictures**” had somebody knock at their front door literally within hours of having a conversation with me about how she's scared for her family. And Chad Wolf writes a text message to someone saying, “**There's nothing [DHS] can do about it [because] it's out of our jurisdiction.**”*

*We're talking about the election for the United States president. And yet they're having jurisdictional fights over, “**Well, it's not in our [jurisdiction]—I [Wolf] have to hand it over.**” And then they hand those ballots in Georgia back over to the [Georgia] Secretary of State [**Brad Raffensperger**], [who] does what with it? Destroys them [the ballots]. Even though the law states—in most states—that you have to keep ballots for twenty-four months. Election records.*

That Oltmann, a civilian and far-right conspiracy theorist, would be privy to likely-encrypted communications from the Secretary of Homeland Security in the midst of an attack on the U.S. Capitol is shocking—especially as Oltmann had, the night before, been an invitee of an insurrectionist group (Stop the Steal) and been in

contact with an unknown number of insurrectionists. Indeed, this further begs the question, “If Trump lawyer John Eastman says that the purpose of the Willard Hotel war room was to ‘**coordinate communications**’, precisely who were he and Giuliani receiving communications *from* and sending them *to*?” Oltmann here confirms at least *three* entities that Giuliani was receiving information from, which information he was then sharing with a fake antifa activist and a conspiracy theorist with no security clearance:

1. **The United States State Department**
2. **The United States Department of Homeland Security**
3. **The Office of the Director of National Intelligence**

In the midst of an armed insurrection against the government of the United States, these may well have been—the **Pentagon** excepted—the three federal entities one would *least* want leaking sensitive reports, intelligence, and/or texts to individuals with dodgy associations and no security clearance. But this appears to be at least part of what the Willard Hotel war room was set up to accomplish. In his comments above, Oltmann indicates that Giuliani shared multiple communications from the Secretary of Homeland Security with him—and indeed possibly all 25 to 30 people in the war room at that point, including Robert Hyde—and then shared an unknown number of communications between the war room’s occupants and the State Department.

Given the controversial installation of top Trump agents and longtime Giuliani allies at the Pentagon prior to January 6—namely **Kash Patel** and **Ezra Cohen-Watnick**, the former of whom was in Giuliani’s secretive “**BLT Prime Team**”, which sought to work with Ukrainian agents to steal the 2020 election for Trump (see *Proof of Corruption*)—raises the possibility that the Willard Hotel war room was also receiving intelligence from the **Department of Defense** on January 6. If any such information, whether from the Pentagon or the other departments mentioned above, was then distributed to any of those involved in the attack on the Capitol as it was happening, the odds of charges of seditious conspiracy against members of Trump’s inner circle rise significantly.

(8) Oltmann’s access to the levers of power in Washington only *increased* after the attack on the Capitol, as he was thereafter granted access to the president himself.

Given all of the foregoing, one might think that after the death of **Ashli Babbitt** and several other Trump voters on Capitol Hill, and after the death of U.S. Capitol Police officer **Brian Sicknick**, Oltmann’s access to highly sensitive government information and top federal officials would’ve been not just curtailed but eliminated. Instead, the opposite occurred. As Oltmann explains to Clement,

*On that Friday or Saturday [January 8th or 9th] I was supposed to meet with President Trump. I don’t know if it even would have happened, given that the people who work for President Trump had stepped in front of it [the meeting] and said, “No, we’re not going to let you meet with President Trump.” Namely, [Trump chief of staff] **Mark Meadows** [was trying to block the meeting].”*

That Oltmann had discussed dates for his meeting with President Trump, and says that it was “**supposed**” to happen—meaning it had been scheduled—strongly suggests that one of the figures with whom the Trump war room at the Willard was in contact was Trump himself, perhaps no surprise given that at least two members of his legal team were using the Willard as a “**command center**.”

How Radical Is Joe Oltmann?

The Oltmann-Clement interview gives many indications, beyond the core facts of the former’s absurd conspiracy theories, regarding how radical Oltmann was and is—and therefore how potentially dangerous it was for him to have had access to sensitive government communications during the January 6 insurrection. It is not merely that Oltmann calls the then-incoming president-elect “**an empty shell of a man**”, as he’s certainly entitled to that opinion; it’s not simply that Oltmann told Clement that, due to supposed election fraud in the 2020 election, America had by January 6 become a “**communist society**” (though this certainly indicates a desire for the radical overhaul of American society on the day of an armed rebellion against the U.S. government); and it’s not merely that Oltmann associates with a radical like David Clement, who during the interview called

animated **Disney** films “**communist stories**” and a “**form of idolatry**” so severe it required him to cancel his family’s **Disney+** subscription. Both Oltmann and Clement are entitled to their fringe opinions on politics or anything else.

Rather, what’s terrifying about the Oltmann-Clement interview is the exchange below, which concerns what the two men think *should* have happened before, during, and after the 2020 presidential election—and what they wish, in retrospect, had happened.

Keep in mind, as you read the text below, that Clement is a professor who teaches law and who refers to himself as a “**former prosecutor.**” {Note: Readers may have to read the below exchange twice or more to fully understand the enormity of what Clement is proposing here, without any pushback from Oltmann. Bolded, below, are the most shocking components.}

DAVID CLEMENT: *I think there was a way [for Trump] to sign off on the executive order [to prevent election fraud in 2020] in a way that didn’t feed the media narrative. And I think it had to be done [pre-election], quietly. I think it had to be done like November 4th or 5th. Because if we have the information—if we have the raw data, and I’m assuming someone has the raw data—then you’ve got foreign interference, you’ve got an act of war. And if at that point there was a way to surveil and run the [2020] elections in a way that was completely transparent, the information being provided [on the final vote tallies] wouldn’t be to the—in my opinion—CIA-backed media companies, but you [the White House] are the one providing information to the American people. And you [Trump] also have the ability to take over some of the communications systems [in the United States]. Now I know the optics of that would look terrible, but that’s only in the event that these media companies that have been compromised are still able to transmit.*

So I’ve kind of war-gamed this in the back of my head, as a former prosecutor, what would have been the best way. But I think, at some point, what you [Oltmann] mentioned was very accurate: there’s no way that you could change the

optics of “a desperate man trying to lay claim to a throne he wasn’t entitled to.” So I know I kind of threw a lot at you, but [is there] anything you can share with my listeners about—[in] 20/20 hindsight—whether it was contact with the president, or contact with people close to him?

JOE OLTMANN: Yes. So let me start this by saying that **my eyes were opened in January when I was in Washington, D.C.** Now, I’ve done some stuff, where I’ve worked in the Middle East and Africa...I understand what propaganda looks like. I understand what indoctrination looks like. But I’m going to tell you that it’s very difficult for President Trump to make those decisions when **the people around him are the most compromised.** And to be able to look on the inside—looking in—and on the outside looking in, and seeing so many bad actors, I’ll call them, in the GOP, “RINOs” instead of Republicans, right, people who stand up and say you’re a friend while you’re stabbing Caesar [Trump]. **That’s what we were dealing with in January.**

We were dealing with a compromised group of people that don’t understand what courage is.

I always say, courage is more contagious than fear. **I wish I would’ve gotten the opportunity to shake President Trump and say, “Listen, you have fought this fight for the last four years”,** but what happens is when he turns around...he doesn’t have the confidence of people around him, and you have media companies and tech companies that are able to weaponize against the American people, that are able to falsify [data] and create fact-checkers that are lying to the American people, that [are] able to de-platform [people] and take information down. When you start dealing with all of that—keep in mind, I was de-platformed by **Twitter.** And then [they] lied and said I had multiple accounts....I was one of the first people they [Twitter] shut down. I think two weeks after the [2020] election. It was the second week of November [2020].

....

So going through this process, we have a compromised [U.S.] society. We have a compromised environment. Tech companies are more powerful than the

government. And they are representing the interests in the government that are not the American people's interests. In other words, we [citizens] don't have a say....there is [sic] no ethical or moral standards [in America]. Our standard is to put a "heroin shoot-up station" on every corner and make sure people have a safe place to shoot up heroin....it's crazy. It's bizarro world.

To be clear, what you read above was an “officer of the court”—a bar-admitted lawyer—outlining a “**war-game**” scenario he believes President Trump should have followed prior to the election in 2020, which scenario would have ended American democracy and established a dictatorship in the United States (as well as the end of the free press). And in response to such a proposed plot, a man who was one of the few admitted into Trump’s Washington “command center” in the middle of an armed insurrection had nothing to say about it except the above, which can only be described as “approving.”

Conclusion

It is easy to think of Joe Oltmann as merely (a) a co-defendant, with Giuliani and the Trump campaign, in a lawsuit filed by Eric Coomer of Dominion Voting Systems, and (b) a man who somehow gained access to rooms, people, and intelligence he had no right to see, but who nevertheless isn't, finally, a proponent of violent action against the federal government. Indeed, when Clement closes his interview with Oltmann by asking a charged question—“**Where does the fight need to be taken?**”—Oltmann’s response, while extremist, does not include a suggestion of any violence whatsoever:

We [Trumpists] just don't understand the power that we have. We're like an elephant with a string tied to our foot that's tied to a fence that's not even in the ground, yet we stand still. There's the power of "no." "No, I'm not going to accept the election results. No, I'm not going to get a vaccine." We have a choice. That choice is not anything they can take from us. They can't force anything upon us if we decide to use the word "no." Second, you've got to start paying attention, because they [Democrats] have been doing this {NB: what "this" is remains

unclear} for decades. But we have muscle memory. It's not that hard to go back. We just have to stand up and recognize the things they [the Democrats] are doing in our society to destroy everything we represent as a country. Critical race theory. Gender fluidity. Letting 1% rule our country....we've allowed them to take away our voice. But we can get away from that. All's [sic] we have to do is buycott [sic] and boycott, on the business side. Use your dollars to tell a better story on what part of our society should survive.

And yet, a preliminary investigation into Oltmann's activities since the insurrection raises significant red flags. In this thirty-second video from last month, Oltmann says the following (emphasis in original):

*Step out! This weekend, step out and make your voice heard! Take ten of your friends, and step out. And if antifa shows up [at any rally you coordinate], mmmm—I'm not going to tell you what to do to antifa. I'm gonna tell you what **I** would do to antifa. But I'm not going to tell you what to do to antifa. But step out and do something. Finally stand up and take a stand. Let them see the three million people that showed up on January 6 to go against this fraud, this coup of our nation.*

Significant in the above is not only an impossible-to-miss public call for violence against antifa; not only an impossible-to-miss lauding of the events of January 6; not only the use of military terminology (“**coup**”) to describe the supposed illegitimacy of the Biden administration; it's not even the obvious fact that however radicalized Joe Oltmann is now, after the humbling experience of watching the Capitol be destroyed by an armed mob, he was probably *more* radicalized the morning of January 6, before that sobering event had occurred; it's that what Oltmann is discussing above is exactly what he would have been discussing in Trump's Willard Hotel war room on January 6:

1. A an alleged violent plot by antifa;
2. in support of a “coup” of the Trump administration;
3. that would prop up an illegitimate Biden administration;
4. requiring a violent response;

5. by an extremely large group of angry and determined Trump supporters.

It's difficult to believe that the messages coming out of the Willard command center on January 6 were much different in character, design, or philosophy from what we now hear from Joe Oltmann five months later. And given that between 20 and 25 other individuals were in that suite of offices on January 6, and that we have no idea who the people were—beyond knowing that Roger Stone, Alex Jones, Mark Finchem, Owen Shroyer, Michael Flynn, a number of since-indicted Oath Keepers, and up to “**fifty**” others of note (per Stone's suite-mate **Kristin M. Davis**) were at the Willard on January 6—one cannot feel sanguine about the future discoveries investigators are sure to make about what was going in Team Trump's nerve center as the Capitol was stormed.

2.0 The Troubling Associations of Insurrection-Week Trump "Command Center" Participant Joe Oltmann—the Man Who Tried to Convince the State Department to Overturn the 2020 Election on Insurrection Day

From Eric Trump to the State Department, paramilitaries to pro-Trump rappers, Trump lawyers to Stop the Steal, this portrait of the ties of an invitee to an Insurrection Week "war room" is telling.



Introduction

On March 13, 2020, a man named **Joe Otto** took to his podcast, **Conservative Daily**, to call COVID-19 a “fake story” and assure his listeners that the “real pandemic” was the “mental midget-ness” of a society that—he said—celebrates the idea that “everyone is a victim.”

Joe Otto—real name **Joe Oltmann**—has now spent the last year identifying himself as the victim of everyone from local Colorado politicians to “antifa journalists”, from mask mandates to the author of *Proof*, who Oltmann (communicating under his real name) has accused of lying about him in this *Proof* article, thereafter threatening to “sue [me]...out of existence.”

Sidebar: A Personal Note

When *Proof* gave Oltmann a chance to offer corrections, he said it was a “lie” to call **Rudy Giuliani**’s suite of offices at the **Willard Hotel** in DC a “war room”, though it was described as such by Oltmann associate and Trump lawyer **John Eastman**, who appears alongside Oltmann in the war room photo below:





{NB: In the three-photo series posted by Hyde, all individuals who appear in multiple of the three photos are wearing the same clothes, confirming that Hyde dates the series to January 6.}

According to Eastman, Trump’s legal team “**had a war room at the Willard Hotel [in Washington] kind of coordinating all of the communications [during the week of the insurrection in January 2021]....[it was in] a suite of offices.**”

Oltmann also calls it a “**lie**” to say that the above photograph was taken on January 6 (he contends that it was January 7). **Robert Hyde**, the Trump associate in the green oval above, dates the war room photo he posted to his **Instagram** on January 7 as being from “**last night**” (i.e., January 6):

But Joe Oltmann’s recent message to *Proof* did not merely confirm that Oltmann was in Trump’s war room at the Willard on *both* January 6 *and* January 7, it also included statements about U.S. domestic politics that give a good sense of the components of Oltmann’s political militancy. These include, apparently, **QAnon** adherence (“**women and children are in fact being**

trafficked because of the thirst of the radical left to victimize our society”; “The left represent the most vile part of our society...[t]hey are pedophiles, rapists and closet racists”); the implication that progressive politics can and should be criminalized (“The left are in fact terrorists....everything single thing they touch they destroy”); a fanatical commitment to Trump’s “Big Lie” alleging an international hacking and vote-rigging conspiracy that explains Joe Biden’s landslide election victory last November (“The [2020] election was in fact stolen, and Dominion [Voting Systems] is in fact a massive fraud on the American people and subverted the will of our nation”); and hostility to the free press (accusing *Proof* of “prop[ping] up...radical leftist terrorists” and “stir[ring] up leftist trash” by reporting on preparations for the events of January 6, 2021).

While some of Oltmann’s accusations were less militant and more juvenile than these—such as falsely accusing me of being an “atheist”, and telling this author (a longtime public interest attorney, public school teacher, anti-student-debt activist, voting-rights activist, presidential historian, indie journalist, and editor at a nonprofit press) “I have done more in my life to help others in impoverished and economically disadvantaged environments than you and fifty of your closest friends could even think of doing”—the undertone of threat in Oltmann’s language is unmistakable, including a mysterious promise of forthcoming “documentation on [Dr. Anthony] Fauci”, “election audit results” that will prove a murky global plot against Donald Trump, and a “reckoning” of uncertain dimensions that Oltmann will only say relates to “eighty million pissed off Americans...stand[ing] up.” Whether this last threat is a reference to violence is unclear, though given Joe Oltmann’s associations (see below), the possibility can’t be excluded. Indeed, at one point in his attacks against *Proof* Oltmann told me that I “need a muzzle”—a piece of equipment used to forcibly control an animal—and that I will soon *get* one if I don’t start parroting Trump’s version of “truth.”



Joe Oltmann

2 hrs · 🌐

...

"New Member of Trump's January 6th Willard Hotel 'War Room'.... 🤔🤔🤔

Seth Abramson is a dumbass. I came to DC to tell the truth about Dominion and Eric Coomer and stop the coup against the voice of the American people.

Leftist terrorists and the weaponized media need a muzzle... or a little bit of truth. You pick.

Oltmann has also indicated that, while he doesn't **"advocate"** for violence, if **"the [left-wing] propaganda [in America]"** doesn't **"stop"**—which term ("propaganda") Oltmann appears to use to refer to any reporting with which he personally disagrees—there will be **"violence"** and **"blood [will be] spilled."** You can watch this troubling remark below:

<https://youtu.be/QRBufmRFAQo?t=2>

Proof later discovered that some of what it had been sent by Otto/Oltmann was in fact boilerplate rage, as another recent **Facebook** message from the Coloradan includes identical language, indeed directing the same sentiments at the sitting President of the United States as to this **Substack** publication. After calling President Joe Biden **"a piece of trash"**, Oltmann says **"The left are liars"**, **"they are everything they say they are fighting against"**, and **"they [the left] are pedophiles, rapists and closet racists"**—all phrases sent to this author on the same day (see below). {NB: In speaking of Joe Biden, Oltmann did add, **"The shear [sic] amount of evil they [leftists] represent is unmeasurable."**}



Joe Oltmann

June 15 at 8:44 PM · 🌐

...

In case you missed the newest grifter plan! Biden is a piece of trash. The left are liars. They are pedophiles, rapists and closet racists. They are everything they say they are fighting against.

Let me see how these leftist sociopaths are going to talk about his paintings... "over here we have a rare work of a kangaroo humping a walrus, painted by a crack addicted, Parmesan cheese smoking pedophile.. it is a priceless piece. I paid \$500k for it. I bid it for \$5 but 'the big guy' had a \$499,995 fee he added for favors to be determined"

The shear amount of evil they represent is unmeasurable.

I am more than willing to slug this out in the public eye. I'm from the south side of heaven and I will not turn the other cheek. You and people like you stir up leftist trash and you perpetuate the lies. When I say the left are liars... that they are everything they say they are fighting against... that is truth, not hyperbole. The left represent the most vile part of our society. They are pedophiles, rapists and closet racists. You clowns make up stories and paint pictures that are meant to deceive....

So Who Is Joe Otto/Joe Oltmann?

So who is Joe Otto/Joe Oltmann, besides a Trump supporter who appears to—much like others involved in the Willard Hotel war room on January 6, including Eastman, Hyde, **Rudy Giuliani, Maria Ryan, Christina Bobb, Russell Ramsland Jr.**, and, per Oltmann, as many as twenty-three other people—accuse anyone who disagrees with him of being a secret member of what he calls a “terrorist” group (i.e., **antifa**)?

Joe Oltmann is a tech millionaire who resigned his position at **PIN Business Network** while he was in Washington working in Trump’s war room during Insurrection Week. More importantly for the investigation *Proof* is now conducting regarding wealthy, powerful, and or influential individuals in any way associated with any of the events of Insurrection Week, Oltmann is a co-founder of **FEC United** (“**Faith, Education, and Commerce United**”), which has in the past issued joint statements with—and presently shares a website with—the **United American Defense Force** (UADF), which advertises itself as “**offering protection and support when first responders are unwilling or unable to fulfill their civic duties.**”

In the event this sounds to you a little bit like an armed vigilante operation, it’s not precisely that—but certainly adjacent to it. In addition to providing an “**entirely volunteer-operated network of medical teams across the country who are able to provide urgent and necessary care to those injured in the midst of the chaos [caused by antifa]**” the UADF has a “**parallel mission...to create an entirely volunteer-operated network of individuals who are prepared and coordinated to defend and protect UADF medical units at all costs.**”

Lest you wonder if “at all costs” might include the use of force against antifa, it most certainly does: the UADF notes (emphasis supplied) that “**various levels of benefits of membership include insurance protection for use of force; discounts on ammunition; medical supplies; hard goods; soft goods; weapons, tactical, and CPR/first aid training, as well as public safety notifications.**”

On December 31, 2020, approximately 96 hours before arriving in Washington to stay at the Willard—the photo below is Oltmann’s view of **Freedom Plaza** from his room at the Willard on January 5—Oltmann posted on **Facebook** that “**the fight is on**”, an eerie presaging of the bloody rage that erupted at the Capitol on Oltmann’s third day in DC.



Joe Oltmann was live.

December 31, 2020 · 🌐



Happy New Year... the fight is on.

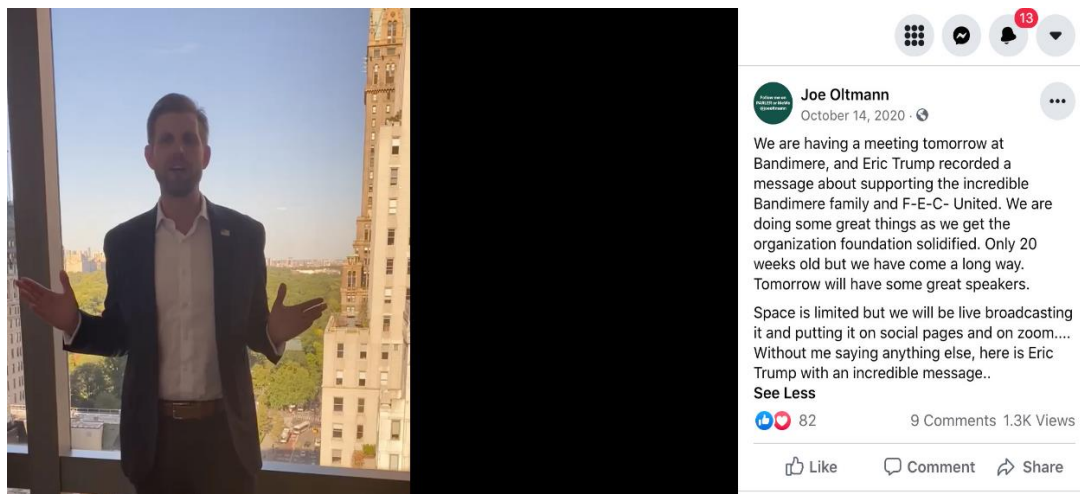


265

104 Comments 2.2K Views

After the domestic terrorists’ unsuccessful assault on the Capitol, Oltmann, by his own admission, headed to Trump’s war room the very next day (January 7). As Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani prepared his January 7 or January 8 address blaming the entirety of the Trumpist attack on the Capitol on antifa, Oltmann was apparently preparing to double down on his own crusade against the loose-knit anti-fascist movement, recording a video on January 26 in which he angrily asserted that **“I’m going to double down every single day until we eliminate antifa. Until we eliminate these leftist radicals that are terrorists.”** The irony of the fact that less than three weeks earlier Oltmann had been inside what he called the **“command center”** of an effort to overturn a democratic election—which broader effort, if not Oltmann’s efforts specifically, incited a domestic terror attack on the seat of our government—appears to have been lost on Oltmann.

While Oltmann did all he could to get close to President Trump during Insurrection Week, it wasn’t his first brush with the Trump family. In October 2020, Oltmann’s FEC United received a recorded message of support from Donald Trump’s son, **Eric Trump**:



The Radicalizing of Otto/Oltmann—and Why It Matters

While Oltmann’s recordings from spring 2020 are unsettling, his summer 2020 efforts to **“infiltrate”** antifa odd, and his fall 2020 support for Trump’s campaign unsurprising given his belief in the fraudulence of a COVID-19 pandemic that has

now—including the undercount measured by the *New York Times* and the **IHME**—killed approximately 1 million Americans in just 15 months, following Biden’s landslide victory in the 2020 presidential election Oltmann’s public postings took a far darker turn.

In a video Oltmann posted on December 31—the same day he declared publicly that “the fight is on,” and shortly before flying to Washington—he exhibits an irrational belief that “**on January 20th [2021], he [Trump] will be the next president**”, adding that “**We didn’t elect Joe Biden. Joe Biden was not the choice of the people.**” He also continues his attacks on science, questioning whether America has a pandemic—“**Do we? Do we?**” he taunts—even as he admits to having had COVID-19 and getting “**very, very ill.**” Nevertheless, Oltmann insists that, instead of a pandemic, what the United States is experiencing now is a large-scale “**manipulation of the American people.**”

Many Americans, including many religious Christians like Oltmann, had surprisingly little reaction to the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Americans throughout 2020. For Oltmann, the explanation for this apparent indifference to post-womb human life was easy enough to summarize, with the conspiracy theorist accusing “**Democrats**” of causing the deaths of “**220 million people globally**”—this is not a typo—by advocating for social distancing measures in the face of a pandemic. *{Note: Joe Oltmann’s accusation against the **Democratic Party** equates, mathematically, to a claim that his political opponents killed nearly 3% of all human life on Earth in just eight months. Oltmann does not explain in detail how social distancing measures could kill 220 million—or even a thousandth of that.}*

Lest it seem that Oltmann’s view of the pandemic is decidedly more radical than his view of alleged 2020 election fraud, it is not. In his December 31, 2020 video, Oltmann explains that the “**fight**” he is prepared for is akin to “**Normandy**” (a battle in which 6,603 Americans died) or the climactic scene from the movie *Braveheart*, which depicts **The Battle of Stirling Bridge** in 1297—a battle that resulted in over 6,000 men killed or wounded. And lest anyone doubt that Oltmann’s view of the violent battle that he saw coming days before the armed assault on the Capitool involved the federal government, in the same video Oltmann

declares the federal government “**more corrupt**” than any of the governments in the “**sixty-five countries**” he’s visited worldwide. “**As we go into 2021, I’m going to continue to fight. And I don’t care what the consequences are....I [am] willing to sacrifice everything.**” Oltmann’s implication that he is willing to die to try to keep Biden from office mirrors **Ali Alexander**’s January 5 “**Victory or death!**” chant. Both Alexander and Oltmann spoke at the **Rally for Revival** in Freedom Plaza on January 5.

Oltmann’s unsettling militarism *matters* because of where he spent Insurrection Day—at the heart of the **United States State Department**, trying to execute a preemptive coup of the incoming Joe Biden administration.

Joe Otto/Oltmann on Insurrection Day

Oltmann claims that Robert Hyde lied—for reasons Oltmann doesn’t elaborate on—about his photo of the Willard Hotel war room being from Insurrection Day, even though it was date-stamped “**January 7**” and Hyde said in his comment on the photo that (as he would presumably be in the best position to know) it was from “**last night.**” So where *will* Oltmann admit to being on Insurrection Day? The answer is no more reassuring.

In a January 11, 2021 livestream on Facebook, Joe Oltmann not only makes numerous apparently deliberate misstatements about the attack on the Capitol on January 6—alleging that only a “**couple dozen**” people breached the Capitol, despite the **United States Capitol Police** putting the number at approximately 800—but also gives new details about his actions on that day, some of which appear extremely significant.

Having arrived in Washington on Monday, January 4, Oltmann says that on January 6 he met with “**leadership**” at the United States State Department. Per Oltmann,

*We discussed and went through all of the proof [of election fraud], step by step, piece by piece. We built reports that could be used by the **National Security Director** [sic]. I was able to look and actually see all the raw files—all information*

*that came out of the **Antrim County** [MI] voting machines—for Dominion [Voting Systems]. I was able to analyze that information. I was able to send that information on to other “red teams,” [so] that they could analyze that information to prove that the information in the first group of people—again, this is the only time we got access to voting machines which [are] up in Antrim County, Michigan—to prove that what the first team actually discovered about the Dominion system is true. {NB: from **Google**: “a red team is a group that plays the role of an enemy or competitor, and provides security feedback from that perspective.” Note that Oltmann’s reference to a “National Security Director”—a position that doesn’t exist outside **USAID**—may intend to refer to Trump’s then-National Security Advisor, **Robert O’Brien**.}*

Given his one-step-removed connection to a militia group, and his public statements possibly indicative of a willingness to engage in acts of violence, it is unclear who at State would have agreed to let Oltmann “**see all the raw files**” from voting conducted in a Michigan county in 2020, let alone to then *transmit* that information to unnamed associates off-site. It is unclear if such possession or transmission would be legal.

While in his January 11 video Oltmann clearly says that he would “**never advocate for violence**”, one of the most striking statements in the same video—“**I hope that we aren’t at the place yet that we *have* to do the same thing that BLM and antifa did for six straight months during [last] summer**” (emphasis supplied)—suggests otherwise. As noted previously by *Proof*, Oltmann has also, since January 11, implied that the appropriate response to antifa is violence, saying in a May video (emphasis in original),

*Step out! This weekend, step out and make your voice heard! Take ten of your friends, and step out. And if antifa shows up [at any rally you coordinate], mmmm—I’m not going to tell you what to do to antifa. I’m gonna tell you what **I** would do to antifa. But I’m not going to tell **you** what to do to antifa. But step out and do something. Finally stand up and take a stand. Let them see the three million people that showed up on January 6 to go against this fraud—this coup of our nation.*

Hyde’s claim that Oltmann was in the Willard war room on January 6, and Oltmann’s claim that he was in the Willard war room on January 7, and the possibility that—given that Oltmann was (per his Facebook) in the Willard on January 5 and stayed in DC “**all week**”—Oltmann was also in the war room at other times, receives some new indirect corroboration in Oltmann’s January 11 video. Apparently referring to Rudy Giuliani and John Eastman, Oltmann says,

I spent an enormous amount of time [during Insurrection Week] with people who are constitutional attorneys. I got to meet with Mayor Giuliani. I got to meet with Mayor Giuliani’s team. I met with other people that will remain nameless—because I don’t want to name-drop—but that were working on election integrity.

Oltmann’s unwillingness to name the entrants into Trump’s January 6 war room (other than Giuliani) mirrors precisely the unwillingness of far-right activist **James Sullivan** to identify anyone from the war room he worked with other than Giuliani. As *Proof* has noted, after the armed rebellion at the Capitol, no one who had participated in the Willard Hotel war room broadcast from that location other than Giuliani, who due to his ongoing (at the time) representation of then-president Donald Trump arguably had a protection against interrogation by federal law enforcement—by virtue of attorney-client privilege—other war room participants didn’t have. Eastman’s claim that he was Trump’s attorney on Insurrection Day is of relatively recent vintage, and may indeed be an effort to cloak Eastman in the same protection from having to reveal Trump’s communications with the Willard that Giuliani (at least *arguendo*, momentarily putting aside the well-established “**crime-fraud**” exception to attorney-client privilege) enjoys.

Did Oltmann Meet Roger Stone at Freedom Plaza, the Willard Hotel, or in Trump’s War Room at the Willard?

Did Oltmann make contact with **Roger Stone** at the Rally to Save America on January 5—a **Stop the Steal** event at which both were VIP guests, speakers, and inhabitants of the event’s “**VIP tent**”—or during the two days that both men were guests at the Willard? Does the fact that Oltmann’s only video from the January 5 rally focused on Stone’s speech hold any significance? We don’t know.

But *Proof* can identify an odd connection between the two men that relates to the

Rally to Save America. At that event, Oltmann filmed himself with Trumpist “rapper” **Forgiato Blow**, who would later be infamously filmed dancing and rapping with Roger Stone at the **Conservative Political Action Conference** in February 2021. An audio transcript of the January 5 video reveals not just a social exchange between Oltmann and Blow but an implication that either they’d spoken before, were planning to dine together on Insurrection Eve, or both:

JOE OLTMANN: All right, so I’m up [on stage] next [after Roger Stone]. I[’ve] got to show everybody how they stole it [the 2020 presidential election].

FORGIATO BLOW: He’s going to go out there and do his thing! And then after, he’s going to take me out to eat!

OLTMANN *{laughing}*: This guy! *{points at Blow}*

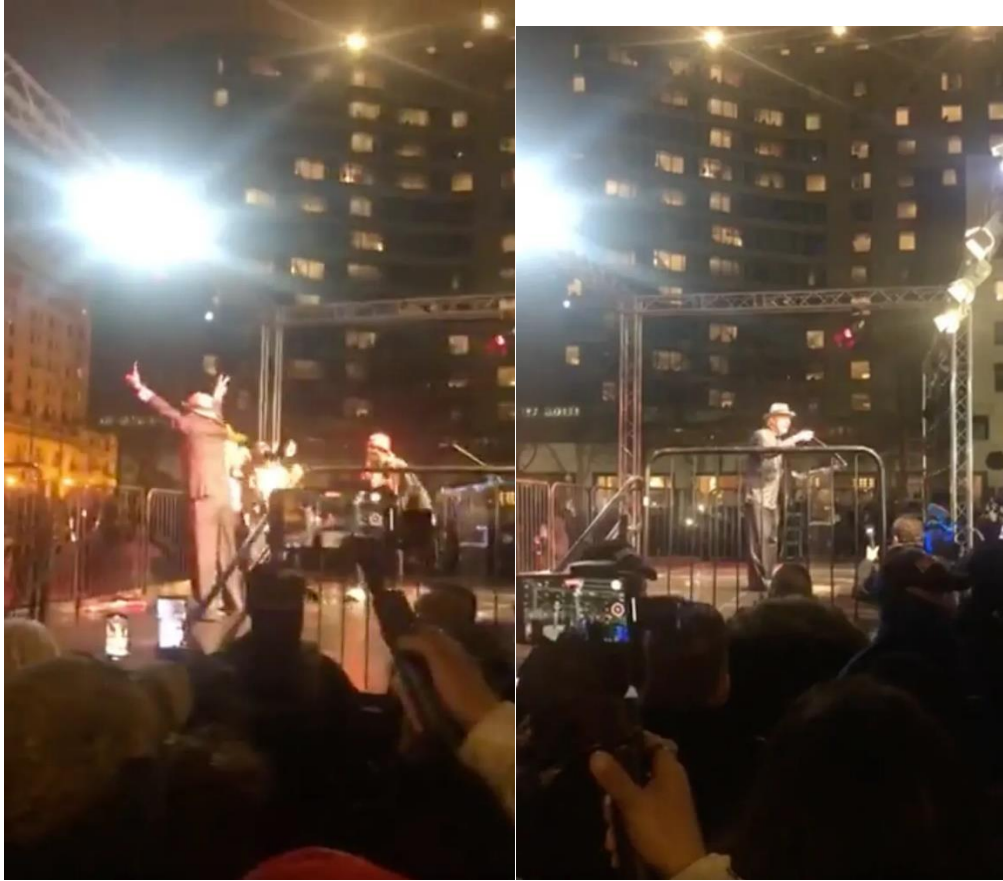
BLOW *{to Oltmann}*: We gotta get something to eat!

OLTMANN *{to the camera}*: You know who he is! Needs no introduction!

BLOW *{to the camera}*: Forgiato Blow! What’s up, baby!

While Forgiato Blow being a mutual acquaintance of Roger Stone and Joe Oltmann doesn’t establish contact between the latter two men, their *opportunity* to meet during Insurrection Week by both proximity and mutual acquaintance can now be confirmed.

Two stills from the video Oltmann took of Roger Stone at Freedom Plaza are below



Joe Otto/Oltmann After Insurrection Day

Neither the seven deaths associated with Insurrection Day, the 140 injuries suffered by law enforcement at the U.S. Capitol, the millions of dollars of property damage there enacted by domestic terrorists, nor the smearing of blood and feces on the building's walls in any way chilled Oltmann's ardor for overturning the results of the free and fair 2020 presidential election—an election that Trump's own **Department of Homeland Security** officially determined was **“the most secure”** in the nation's history.

In a January Facebook video billed by Oltmann as **“round two”** of his post-insurrection comments, and an **“update”** on his prior Facebook livestream, Oltmann admits that he spent January 20 through January 24 **“in Florida meeting with a strong group of people who just want truth....We had great meetings. We talked about what the path forward looks like. How do we stand together.**

I’ve had some great conversations with people all over the country on what this movement actually looks like, and how do we divest...[from] Big Tech.” Oltmann does not expound on who **The Florida Group** includes (for instance, the former President of the United States) or what it is plotting, but he notes—as if to imply that, in his ongoing war against Donald Trump’s political opponents, anything goes—Democrats “**evil people**” and “**sociopaths.**”

Conclusion

It’s essential that America understands the treacherous militancy of the men and women who gathered at the Willard Hotel during Insurrection Week, including both those who can be confirmed as entering what Oltmann called the Trump legal team’s “**command center**” at the Willard and those who are strongly suspected of having done so due to their own statements and photographic and video evidence—including oddball Trump political adviser **Sebastian Gorka**, Trump-Russia scandal figure **Boris Epshteyn**, and far-right activist **David Harris Jr.** *Proof* is now working to confirm the presence of these three men in the Willard war room, as well as investigating whether other infamous members of Trump’s legal team, including legal advisers **Joe diGenova** and **Victoria Toensing**—the latter of whom was recently raided by the FBI—were also present. John Eastman describes what Joe Oltmann calls a command center as not just a “war room” but also a “**communications coordination**” space, which suggests that on January 6 information was not just flowing *into* the room but was emanating *from* it as well. Understanding the militancy of the messages that may have been exiting the Willard Hotel on Insurrection Eve and Insurrection Day, especially if they pertained to Oltmann’s longtime obsession—accusing antifa of things it wasn’t even present to do—a possibility strongly suggested by Giuliani’s *remarkably fast* broadcast of false claims about supposed antifa leader **John Sullivan** masterminding the January 6 insurrection.

By the same token, the militancy of a man—Joe Otto/Oltmann—who had the ear of the “leadership” of Donald Trump’s State Department on January 6, possibly including (we can’t yet know) Secretary of State **Mike Pompeo**, is an urgent national security issue that Congress must investigate via a **House Select**

Committee. *Proof* is committed to continuing to gather accurate, reliable, fully sourced data on all those in positions or physical locations of command, control and/or coordination during Insurrection Week.

3.0 (MAJOR BREAKING NEWS) Eyewitness: I Was Present As Alleged Coup Plotter Patrick Byrne Privately Confessed to Federal Crimes on January 6—and There's a Video of Him Doing It

New audio and video evidence from insurrectionists Joe Oltmann and Patrick Byrne is about to become critical to ongoing federal investigations by both the FBI and House January 6 Committee



Introduction

Just days ago, on an episode of **Conservative Daily Podcast** titled “**GOPers Covering Up Election Fraud**”, insurrectionist Colorado militiaman **Joe Oltmann**—whose presence in **Donald Trump**’s Insurrection Eve “**command center**” at the **Willard Hotel** in Washington was extensively covered by *Proof* here and here—lit into his one-time insurrectionist compatriot **Patrick Byrne** over a statement Byrne made about him.



ABOVE: Insurrectionists Joe Oltmann (l) and Max McGuire (r).

n the relevant podcast segment, which begins with sixteen minutes remaining in the hour-plus recording linked to above—the very moment that Oltmann receives, live on-air, a message from someone alerting him to Byrne’s February 3 videotaped statement, which accuses Oltmann of regularly discussing a coming **Second Civil War** in private—Oltmann goes on a long rant about Byrne that has significant repercussions for the future of the United States.

And yet, this is only one of *several* transformative pieces of evidence that *Proof* reveals in the article below, as it turns out Oltmann’s response to Byrne is a falling domino that has caused others to topple—launching a new front in the January 6 investigation.

Colorado Militant Joe Oltmann Drops a Bombshell

Here’s what Joe Oltmann says at “**15:39**” remaining in the podcast above:

Hey, so you [referring to his podcast audience] need to know this: I got attacked by Patrick Byrne today. Somebody just told me I got attacked by Patrick Byrne.

So I’m just going to say this—mister [podcast] producer, you’re going to have to bleep this word—fork {sic} Patrick Byrne.

He [Byrne] said, “Given the whiff of violent language that I’m hearing [from certain fellow ‘election integrity’ advocates], I think I must no longer refrain [from speaking on Oltmann’s past statements about civil war].”

*[Oltmann now addressing his co-host, **Max McGuire**]: Have I ever called for violence? Have I ever called for violence? [McGuire does not respond.] I’ve [only] asked people to get in the gap {sic}. I’ve asked people to do the right thing.*

*And so Patrick Byrne’s mad at me, right? Patrick Byrne’s mad at me. I’m not the guy who worked for the **CIA**! I’m not the guy who worked for the **FBI**! I’m not the guy who had an ex-girlfriend [convicted and deported Kremlin asset **Maria Butina**] live in my house and set her up—the Russian, Marie {sic} whatever! I’m not the one that did that!*

*I’m not the one that on January 6 [2021], walked in [to Team Trump’s Willard Hotel command center]—while the whole place is in a frenzy because of what was going on in D.C. and the propaganda they [the media, federal government, and the political left] were building while the FBI was creating what was happening at the **Capitol**—I’m not the one who walked in and asked [Trump lawyer **Rudy**] **Giuliani**, “Hey, do me a favor: can you go ask President Trump for a pardon [for me]?”*

I’m not the one that did that. No—Patrick Byrne did that.

Oltmann’s bizarre empathy for the Russian spy Butina notwithstanding—and, for that matter, the dubious notion that Byrne ever worked for the FBI or CIA notwithstanding—the idea that as the insurrection at the **U.S. Capitol** unfolded Patrick Byrne hurried to the nerve center of Team Trump’s Insurrection Day operations and asked Trump’s personal attorney Rudy Giuliani for a presidential pardon is *extremely* telling.

As Oltmann continues speaking of Byrne, his story becomes even more dramatic—and troubling.

*I'm not the one who was part of an election audit in Arizona that the only reason that it [the 2020 presidential election results] weren't decertified in Arizona is because the report [from Patrick Byrne compatriot **Doug Logan**'s **Cyber Ninjas** outfit] was written like trash.*

*Logan got on this show and said, "**It [using the term 'fraud' in his audit report] would have created a constitutional crisis.**" I'm not the one where {sic} Logan got up here and said, "**Oh, by the way, I fell asleep the night before the [Arizona audit] report was due.**"*

*I'm not the one who said that the information contained in [pro-Trump data scientist] **Jovan [Pulitzer's]** report is crap. No, that was Logan that did that. Logan said that what Jovan had [data allegedly proving the 2020 presidential election in Arizona was stolen] was garbage, and that he wouldn't put it in the [Cyber Ninjas' audit] report.*

I'm not the one that said that.

Beyond the cracks in the insurrectionist cause that this rant reveals, it also hints at a topic that will return in the secretly recorded Patrick Byrne-**Lin Wood** phone call that *Proof* details below: the notion that, behind the scenes, the supposedly “independent” post-election Arizona “audit” that Patrick Byrne, **Michael Flynn**, and Trump lawyer **Sidney Powell** funded to the tune of millions of dollars was in fact a mere byproduct of clandestine backroom debates between insurrectionist Republican legislators in Arizona, among them the **Oath Keepers**-cum-politicians **Wendy Rogers** and **Mark Finchem**, fringe Trumpist “experts” like Pulitzer, and far-right activists like Oltmann.

Indeed, Oltmann implies that Doug Logan was so concerned about the pressures he was receiving to doctor his audit—including pressure from political figures who had publicly said their voters could rely on Logan's work-product precisely *because* it was independent—that he told other Trumpists that to do as they were demanding of him would lead to a “**constitutional crisis.**” That crisis could have, it goes without saying, provoked precisely the Second Civil War Byrne insists Oltmann has been demanding.

But it gets worse.

Oltmann continues:

*This guy [Patrick Byrne] wants to attack me. And he's not just attacking me, he's attacking [election-fraud conspiracy theorist and current Massachusetts gubernatorial candidate] Dr. **Shiva** [Ayyadurai]. But you know what? He [Byrne] attacked Dr. Shiva {sic} but—I just want to point this out—not before offering [Ayyadurai] fifty grand [\$50,000] to be on his ['election integrity'] team.*

{Oltmann mimicking Byrne} “Hey, come work for me!” [But] as soon as you don't want to work for Patrick Byrne—“Controlled Opposition” Patrick Byrne—[as] soon as you don't want to do that, you become the enemy.

*And now you have a guy who's doing really good work {Oltmann is referring to himself} on an audit in New Mexico, [and] you want to attack [him]? I don't care what you think about Lin Wood or about [insurrectionist New Mexico State University law professor] **David K. Clements**. I don't care what you think about what they say about General [Michael] Flynn. I've never said anything [about any of that]. But if you {Oltmann is referring to Byrne} want to go “scorched Earth,” pal, let's go!*

Matter of fact, come on [Conservative Daily Podcast]! If you have enough guts.

But I don't think Patrick Byrne does. I don't think he has guts! Unless he's trying to plan [against] and ruin people behind their backs. And hire media personalities to get into everybody's family! No, I don't think he [Byrne] has any balls.

Putting aside the now-cresting paranoia infecting the insurrectionist “movement”—evident in Oltmann's casual suggestion that not only is Byrne secretly working for the federal government, but that the federal government is using Byrne and other plants to bring down the movement from the inside—this portion of Oltmann's diatribe underscores that (a) Trump's insurrection is spreading to states whose post-election “election integrity” battles have been much less discussed in major media, like New Mexico, and (b) the insurrection is

currently experiencing—as we will see much more detail below—a *major* schism federal investigators can exploit if they move quickly.

On one side of this schism are Michael Flynn and his allies—militants like Byrne and **Roger Stone** who are hoping Flynn will run for President of the United States in 2024 if Trump is unable or unwilling to do so—while on the other are men who are (if this is even possible) *more* radical than Flynn and his **QAnonist** cohort, including Wood, Clements, and (albeit he doesn't proclaim it directly here) Oltmann. This latter group of insurrectionists would be called *dead-enders* were they in another nation, meaning they believe it may be time for their political movement to disengage from American democracy altogether by ceasing to vote and, as Oltmann has indeed often implied, turning to violence. In lay terms, one can think of these two camps as (1) those who wish to *steal* the 2024 presidential election via a massive disinformation campaign, and (2) those who wish for there to be *no 2024 presidential election at all*, with American democracy replaced by a continent-spanning neo-fascist autocracy they will maintain at the barrel of a gun.

The above is no exaggeration. If you watch hours of videos of what these few men are saying to one another and the followers they've radicalized, you will understand this.

But Oltmann's rant is *most* significant for the way it returns to the subject of Patrick Byrne in a fashion that Congress cannot now ignore (emphasis supplied):

You want to know what else?

I'm not the guy who stole a movie from a guy under contract! I'm not the one that did that. And then used {indiscernible} to make money! I'm not the one that did that! No, that's you, Patrick Byrne. You did that. You stole it. Not me. You did. And if you want to go through all the details of this, I'm game. You want to sit on this show and run your mouth to me?

Why doesn't everybody go to Patrick Byrne's page and ask him, "Why did you ask for a pardon on January 6?" {Addressing Byrne}: Tell me! Why did you ask

for a pardon? Why did you walk in there [Trump’s Insurrection Week Willard Hotel command center] and ask Giuliani for a pardon! Please—tell me!

I didn’t say a word about it [when it happened]. [And] I was sitting right next to you!

And here’s the bad part about it, Patrick Byrne: there was some idiot behind us—I don’t even know how he got into the place—that was videoing {sic} it! While you’re asking for a pardon!

So go ahead and tell the American people why you asked for a pardon.

Why did you say [to Giuliani], “What I did [before January 6] could [put] me in jail for a thousand years”? Why? You tell me!

This is explosive testimonial evidence—for almost too many reasons to count. But here are five key ones:

(1) Oltmann previously claimed that a picture of him in Trump’s command center on January 6 could not have been him—and could not have been taken on January 6—as he was never in the command center on January 6. Apparently, that was a lie.

Oltmann has said in the past that the *reason* he was never in Giuliani’s Willard Hotel suite on January 6 was that he was in a telecommunications-secure **Faraday cage** at Trump’s **State Department** trying to convince high-level **Mike Pompeo** allies to help Trump overturn the 2020 election.

But here Oltmann admits to being in the command center on Insurrection Day. This turns him into precisely the high-value January 6 witness *Proof* long ago wrote he was.

(2) Oltmann now says that he can testify to things said to—and presumably by—the then-president’s personal attorney *on Insurrection Day*.

According to Oltmann, he was sitting right in front of Giuliani for some period of time on January 6, 2021, and has clear recall of the events of the day. This means that Oltmann can tell Congress not only about what Patrick Byrne may have said during and/or immediately after the attack on the Capitol, but also what was said by Giuliani and others who—during the period of time Oltmann was in the command center—had direct contact with Giuliani. One of those people was Donald Trump, who called in to the command center several times on Insurrection Day.

If the then-president was on speakerphone during those calls; or if Giuliani related the substance of the calls to those around him (either conversationally or as part of issuing new marching orders to Trump’s legal team) as soon as his conversation with the president was over; or if—as major media reports, and as we all learned during congressional hearings in the **Trump-Ukraine scandal** is a penchant of Trump’s—Trump was speaking so loudly to Giuliani during their calls that his voice could be heard by individuals not on the call, Joe Oltmann may be able to testify under oath to statements made by Donald Trump in the midst of the January 6 attack on the Capitol.

(3) Oltmann now insists that there is video evidence of the discussions that occurred in Trump’s command center on Insurrection Day.

This is, put simply, astounding. *Proof*, and I imagine many of you, would surmise that it’s never been imagined—by any congressional, criminal, or independent investigator—that the internal machinations of Team Trump on Insurrection Day were subject to audio recording and/or videotaping. But Oltmann says that’s exactly what happened.

{Note: And Proof now has additional evidence—see below—suggesting that Oltmann is right.}

(4) Oltmann doesn’t just say that he heard Patrick Byrne ask Rudy Giuliani for a presidential pardon from a few feet away. He heard Byrne *admit* to federal crimes.

One cannot go to federal prison “**for a thousand years**” just for committing a single violation of a federal criminal statute. Any person claiming that they could receive consecutive decades-long federal criminal sentences can only be referring to a very small block of federal offenses.

In this context, federal investigators would likely assume that Byrne is confessing to **Seditious Conspiracy**, many counts of **Election Fraud**, **Espionage**, or **Treason**. While this roster is necessarily speculative, it nevertheless stands in here as a reasonable assessment of the range (and gravity) of the federal offenses Byrne appeared to be concerned about in speaking to the president’s personal lawyer on Insurrection Day.

(5) Oltmann’s level of hatred for Patrick Byrne means that he’ll betray him if federal criminal or congressional investigators put Oltmann under oath, and that Byrne will sometime thereafter be put in the position of having to himself testify under oath and do one of the following three things: (i) assert his Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination (which he says he will never do); (ii) admit to some serious federal crimes; or (iii) perjure himself.

As a former federal criminal investigator, I can tell you that one of the investigative goldmines you always hope for is two witnesses on the other side of your case who hate one another and are telling stories that can’t be reconciled. In his January 6 confession, Byrne says repeatedly to his audience of tens of thousands of viewers that he will speak candidly, comprehensively, and without an attorney to the **House January 6 Committee** because he did nothing wrong and has nothing to hide. *Proof* urges the Committee to take Byrne up on his offer, as the evidence tends to suggest that in fact Byrne did *quite a bit* that was illicit and possibly criminal in the run-up to January 6. And now Joe Oltmann says that Byrne has confessed to this in his presence.

If both Oltmann and Byrne are subpoenaed by the Committee and testify under oath, something must break. And since we didn’t even know for certain that Byrne was in the Willard Hotel command center on Insurrection Day until Oltmann confirmed it earlier this month; and since we now know that there’s videotape of

what Byrne said to Giuliani (or else it was destroyed by Byrne or at Byrne's direction, which could be its own federal crime, depending on the circumstances); something will give if both men are put under oath. And what that give will *get* Congress is intelligence about what was said and done in Trump's Insurrection Day command center as our nation's capital was under attack.

How We Know Joe Oltmann Isn't Lying About Patrick Byrne's Live Confession to Serious Federal Crimes

A good criminal investigator knows that people lie—a *lot*—and that when people are enmeshed in certain emotions they're even more likely to lie, especially if the emotion in question is vengeful anger. So how do we know that Oltmann isn't lying about what he says he heard Byrne say from a distance of a few feet away? Certainly, given the amount of anger toward Byrne that Oltmann demonstrates in the video linked to atop this article, we can see that Oltmann's attack on his onetime compatriot comes at a time that he is trying to everything he can not just to embarrass Byrne but to destroy his reputation in the **MAGA** "movement."

{Note: It must be remembered that Joe Oltmann isn't revealing Patrick Byrne's confession because he wants Byrne to be arrested or cares about any federal crimes Byrne may have committed. Rather, Oltmann's point is simply that on Insurrection Day Patrick Byrne was thinking about himself and his own safety and security—not the advancement of Trump's insurrection. While outside Trump's insurrectionist inner circle Oltmann's words will be perceived as contributing evidence to a possible future criminal indictment of Byrne, inside that circle Oltmann's accusation will be taken as merely an indictment of Byrne's character.}

So how do we know Oltmann's story is true? Because *he's told it before*—as a time he wasn't angry at Byrne or in any was quarreling with him. Indeed, in his prior version of the story Oltmann actually elided Patrick Byrne's name in order to *protect* Byrne's reputation.

Here's what Oltmann said in an earlier episode of Conservative Daily Podcast (about fifteen minutes into the episode):

*I was there in [Washington on] January 6th. I met with Mayor Giuliani. I met with other people—because I was asked to. I was asked to meet with those people. And I’m going to say something to you {addressing insurrectionist **Couy Griffin**, then a guest on the podcast} and you may hate me for saying it: President Trump surrounded himself with what he thought was the best of a very, very bad situation. [But] Washington is a cesspool of people who have an unquenchable thirst for power and money. Unquenchable!*

*I remember sitting at the table [in Rudy Giuliani’s suite at the Willard Hotel] and someone walked in and sat down—and this is after [the riot on] January 6! It was after [the riot on] January 6!—sits down and says [to Giuliani], “**You’ve got to get me a full [presidential] pardon.**” And I look at him like, “What is wrong with you? Why would you say that?” **And this person is staring—looking—right at Mayor Giuliani.***

And I’m asking everyone [in the Willard suite on January 6], “Where’s the plan? To just pull out the evidence [of a stolen election]? Where’s the maturity? Where’s the basic maturity as men? [And] as women—whatever, there were women there [in Giuliani’s suite], too. Where are the basic principles of being focused on the goal of ‘truth only’?” And Couy, it [the maturity] wasn’t there [in Giuliani’s suite]. It wasn’t there. It was self-serving—people looking for power and authority.

And look, I haven’t said anything [about this] up to this point. Because I’m actually disgusted that we haven’t been able to get back to the point where we hold people responsible for the third of November [2020]. Because we have plenty of evidence!

When you {he is referring to Trump here} have that many Judases around you, and the Judases spread like a cancer—man, it’s taken down better men.

And I don’t know if there’s a whole lot of men better than President Trump. I just don’t.

That doesn’t mean he’s not flawed—I think he is courageous—but I do think that people went back to their homes [post-January 6], devastated, they went back to

barely [having enough money for] paying the bills, in many cases. [They] used everything to come out to Washington and try to save our nation; but I also believe that that fire that he [Trump] lit is not going out, and they're trying to figure out how to put it out, and they can't. They can't.

Besides Oltmann here repeating his allegation about Patrick Byrne at a time when he was *not* looking to out Byrne before the entire MAGA “movement,” what is notable in Oltmann’s monologue above is that he says he accounted Byrne—as of January 6, 2021—as being among the small number of key people Trump “**surrounded himself with**” in the final weeks of his presidency, indeed placing Byrne *so* deep inside Trump’s inner circle that he analogizes Byrne to one of Jesus’s (thus, Trump’s) apostles: Judas.

In a Follow-Up Confession, Byrne Has Now Accidentally *Bolstered* Joe Oltmann’s Accusation Against Him

Many people don’t realize that after Patrick Byrne’s recent January 6 confession was wildly successful in the only terms Byrne appears to care about—viewership—the former CEO took to **Rumble** a second time, offering a 25-minute “**addendum**” to his already 87-minute confession of participation in a coup plot. While not quite as news-filled as his initial confession, Byrne’s addendum is nevertheless *extremely* startling, for at least three key reasons:

(1) It turns out that Byrne was filming a movie as he was participating in a coup.

Byrne proudly cites his film *The Deep Rig* as having been filmed around the time of January 6. This is also the period during which this author received two private messages on **Facebook** from a self-identified Byrne intermediary (*Proof* is eliding the name of this person to avoid them being harassed):

10/7/20, 11:24 AM

I know someone who wants to talk with you about Comey and the election. I can send more details. Please let me know the best way to reach you and connect the two of you. Thank you.

It's Patrick Byrne.

10/8/20, 6:48 PM

Also, I confirmed with Patrick that he also met with Roger Stone so he can provide more insight into that character.



This author did not respond to Byrne’s pre-election entreaty, though it is certainly telling that **Roger Stone** is now openly recruiting Michael Flynn to run for president in 2024; Byrne and Flynn have lately become nearly inseparable, according to Byrne’s confession and to statements he makes in his recent phone call with Lin Wood (see below); and prior to the 2020 election, Byrne appears to have been in touch with both Stone and Flynn about election issues—even as he was filming a movie on elections and deeply interested in a man whose actions determined, in large part, the outcome of the 2016 election: former FBI director **James Comey**. Byrne’s friendship with Flynn, his courtship of Giuliani, and his clandestine meeting with Stone, coupled with his fixation on the 2016 and 2020 presidential elections, puts him much deeper inside the orbit of Trumpist “**ratfucking**” (a political term of art for election-related dirty tricks) than we previously had reason to believe.

And that matters—for reasons we’ll soon see.

But Patrick Byrne’s hubris aside, he seems to have *literally* cast himself as the implied protagonist of a documentary in which by all rights he should’ve been a

minor player at best. Indeed, the significance of the revelation that Byrne was filming a movie during the period of time he was most involved in the so-called “**election integrity**” movement is that it may explain why Oltmann said of Byrne’s plea for a Trump pardon on January 6, “**And here’s the bad part about it, Patrick Byrne: there was some idiot behind us—I don’t even know how he got into the place—that was videoing {sic} it! While you’re asking for a pardon.**”

If the person filming Byrne on January 6 was doing so for the purposes of Byrne’s film—and admittedly it’s hard to imagine anyone turning on a video camera in that space, amidst that context, and on that day for any other reason—it means that somewhere out there is the “b-roll” for *The Deep Rig*; that Congress can find out who has that roll (or a copy of it) simply by looking at the credits of Byrne’s “documentary”; and that a congressional subpoena could thereby put the House January 6 Committee in possession of video from *inside Trump’s January 6 war room on the very day of the attack*.

*{Note: At least as it’s been covered by **The Arizona Republic**, Byrne’s film seems to have a very interesting group of people behind it—from the standpoint of a criminal investigator. Among those who, at first blush, appear to have been in some way involved in Byrne’s film are Mike Flynn’s brother **Joe Flynn**, movie producer **Steve Lucescu**, former Mike Flynn employee **Phil Waldron**, film director **Roger Richards**, **Bob Hughes**, and none other than Oltmann himself. All appeared with Byrne on a panel during the film’s Arizona premiere, perhaps explaining this Oltmann comment from above: “**I’m not the guy who stole a movie from a guy under contract! I’m not the one that did that. And then used {indiscernible} to make money! I’m not the one that did that! No, that’s you, Patrick Byrne. You did that. You stole it. Not me. You did. And if you want to go through all the details of this, I’m game.**” One wonders, too, about Byrne’s willingness or ability to stand up to Phil Waldron’s alleged “**black ops**” plot if he was making a movie with him at the time, or even contemplating doing so at some point in the future. Byrne could hardly make a documentary alongside people with whom he’d burned his bridges.}*

Not only would this film, or what videotaping of Byrne was happening in preparation for some future film project, presumably show Byrne confessing to federal crimes, it would also reveal Giuliani's *response* to Byrne's request for a corrupt pardon ("corrupt" as Byrne was asking for a pardon from a man with whom he co-planned a self-coup).

And this is only a small slice of what Byrne's film's B-roll would presumably reveal. Who knows what other evidence Byrne created of his own actions in the lead-up to January 6, on the day of the insurrection itself, and in the days immediately thereafter?

(2) We now know what Byrne did right after the attack on the Capitol on January 6.

In his initial January 6 confession, Byrne insisted that he and Flynn were so disgusted by Trump's speech at the **White House Ellipse**—not because it was inciting a violent insurrection, but because it was vain, though of course this has been a Trump calling card for as long as either Byrne or Flynn has known Trump—that they immediately returned to **Trump International Hotel** (where Byrne had a block of rooms and where Flynn says he never went), packed their bags in preparation for departure, and left D.C.

Now Byrne says that that isn't so.

Instead, Byrne now says, he stayed in D.C. *through January 9* to coordinate transferring his entire team of election-focused cyber-intelligence "experts" to **Michael Lindell**'s custody (though it's not clear what this looked like from either a financial, logistical, or operational standpoint, it's how Byrne describes it). This is significant because we know that less than a week after Byrne *now* says he left Washington, the same Lindell was seen entering the Oval Office with documents that advised then-President Trump to declare martial law and replace the leadership of the U.S. intelligence community with individuals now suspected to have been involved in Byrne's coup plot (most notably, **Kash Patel** and **Frank Colon**). When members of the White House press corps, having been able to take photos of Lindell's document, asked him about it, he claimed he hadn't read it and

that it had been given to him by a group of “**lawyers**”—quite possibly, though we certainly don’t know this for certain yet, the same team of lawyers that had flocked around **Team Kraken** and **Team Trump** at the Willard Hotel during Insurrection Week. Byrne’s “addendum” is the first time we have ever heard of a connection between Byrne’s coup plot and the one Lindell proposed in the days after the attack on the Capitol, while Trump was still president and therefore still had the entire might of America’s federal executive branch within his command and control.

If indeed Byrne remained active in coup plotting even *after* begging Trump (via his attorney Giuliani) for a presidential pardon, it could mean one of several things: (1) Byrne was so certain that he had committed federal crimes that he was willing to do anything, even end American democracy via a declaration of martial law, to ensure Trump remained president (and he himself remained free of potential legal liability for helping to stage a self-coup); (2) Byrne was so invested in corruptly receiving a pardon from his co-conspirator Trump that he continued plotting with Trump post-January—even though he knew it was fruitless—because he thought doing so might earn him a pardon; (3) he floated ending our democracy purely to make his current or future film more entertaining and lucrative; (4) Michael Lindell was, from the start, more involved in the coup plot than Byrne’s initial confession admitted, and Lindell was elided from Byrne’s initial account in part because Lindell was the Team Kraken member who had brought intel from corrupt Brazilian politician **Eduardo Bolsonaro** to Team Trump; (5) Byrne’s plea to Giuliani to get him a pardon was in fact primarily an attempt to get back in front of Trump in the Oval Office, which (once Byrne had failed to do this) he and his fellow insurrectionists reacted to by sending Lindell instead, as Lindell did not have the baggage of having sold Trump on a failed coup plot on December 18, 2020); or (6) a combination of these—or even all of them at once.

Regardless of what precisely Byrne was up to on January 7, January 8, and January 9 of 2021, and whether or how this was connected to what may be deemed a *second* coup plot pushed by Lindell around January 15, 2021, if Byrne was filming *The Deep Rig* during this period it means there is likely still footage of who

Byrne was speaking to and working with as he and/or Lindell conceived of a means of keeping Trump in power that did *not* involve GOP state legislators in the way **Peter Navarro**’s by-then-failed “**Green Bay Sweep**” plot had.

This, then, is the chief significance of Patrick Byrne’s revised insurrection timeline: it underlines that, whatever he might now say about having been opposed to “black ops” prior to January 6, once Navarro’s political coup plot had failed it seems Team Kraken *fell back upon* illicit plans Trump had only provisionally and partially green-lit when Byrne, Flynn, and **Sidney Powell** met with him in the **Oval Office** on December 18.

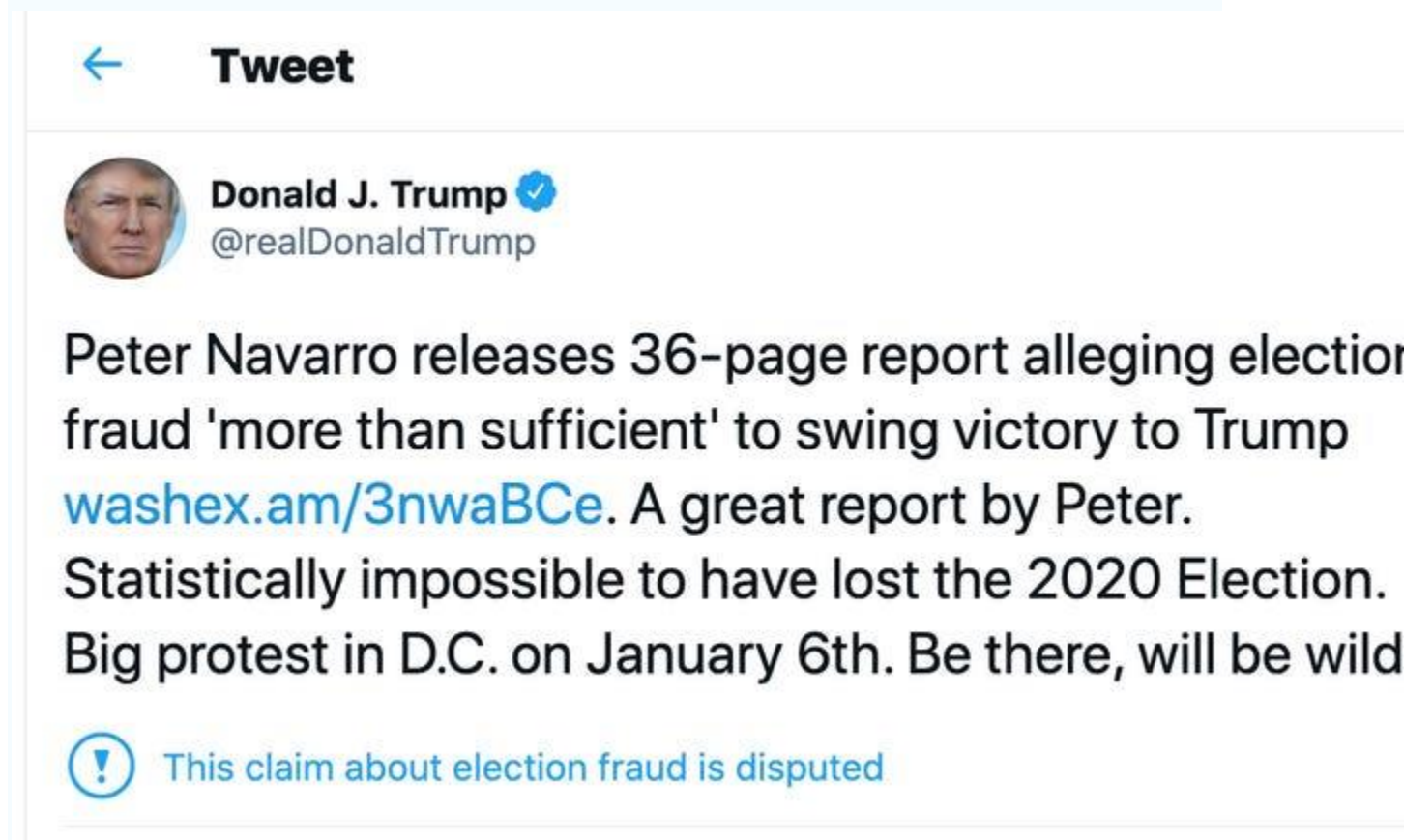
Up until now, journalists and even congressional investigators appear to have treated Lindell’s January 15 Oval Office as the last gasp of a lunatic’s (Lindell’s) ramblings. Yet the timeline and other details we garner from Byrne’s now *two* January 6–related confessions indicate that the January 15 Trump-Lindell meeting, however seriously or casually Trump may have taken it at the time, was a legitimate and concerted effort by previously unidentified persons to orchestrate a coup in the *post*-“Green Bay Sweep” political reality. In other words, by admitting he was coordinating closely with Lindell on January 7, January 8, and January 9 of 2021, Byrne may be admitting to involvement in what could be termed “**Coup 2.0**.”

Worst of all, Byrne would have done so after *already being on video admitting that his past actions were criminal*. If this video is recovered, it *could* establish the necessary criminal *mens rea* (“guilty mind”) for a charge of **Seditious Conspiracy** against Byrne for, at a minimum, his post-January 6 activities. For this reason, Byrne’s addendum to his first January 6–related confession may be even more important than his original confession.

(3) Byrne gives new details of “Meeting #3”—his, Powell, and Flynn’s private two-hour meeting with Trump in the presidential residence on December 18, 2020.

This third stage of the raucous December 18 White House meeting between Team Kraken and then-President Trump is important because it lasted past midnight on

December 18 (thus, into the wee hours of December 19), and it is during those wee hours that Trump for the first time acknowledged—via his **Twitter** feed—both Peter Navarro’s “Green Bay Sweep” and domestic terrorist **Ali Alexander**’s **Stop the Steal** plot scheduled for January 6 (see below). We still don’t know who was present during this two-hour period in Trump’s White House residence besides Byrne, Powell, and Flynn, though *Proof* notes again that it was *Navarro’s* office that made the *first* stage of the December 18 meeting possible—so the possibility of Navarro joining the third stage of that meeting in person, via phone, or via video conference can’t be ignored.



But what is so telling about Byrne’s first detailed reference to this latter meeting is a moment between himself and Trump that he describes with some hesitation (noting that, in his view, one normally doesn’t speak about private conversations with a sitting president). What Byrne reveals is intended to put Donald Trump in a

positive, if wildly implausible, light—as a man perfectly happy to accept defeat in a presidential election and abandon all claim to the greatest power and authority he’s ever known in his life—but what it in *fact* does is shed new light on Team Kraken’s original coup plot.

As *Proof* reported here, in his initial confession Byrne first implied that Team Kraken wanted to convince Trump that the 2020 presidential election had been attacked by a single nation—**Iran**—in a way that legitimized Trump seizing voting-machine data. But *Proof* also noted that, by the time Byrne was done with this first confession, it seemed that he was saying that a *confederation* of nations had attacked the 2020 vote, at least one of which (which we only know *wasn’t* Iran, **China**, or **Russia**, all of whom he named) he was unwilling to disclose. Despite insisting that President Trump was never presented, at any time on December 18, 2020, with Sidney Powell and Michael Flynn’s “**Hammer and Scorecard**” conspiracy theory—which alleged a confederation of nations, led by **Venezuela**, attacked the 2020 vote—Byrne’s description of what he believes was done on November 3, 2020 sure sounds a *lot* like that very conspiracy.

And it matters. Because Byrne seems intent on hiding the source of Team Kraken’s foreign intel—a supposed Venezuelan “**defector**” who it seems impossible for Team Kraken to have located without the help of Lindell’s and Trump’s good friends, the Bolsonaros of Brazil (Brazilian president **Jair Bolsonaro** and his son Eduardo).

So there’s a *lot* at stake in whether Trump was convinced to try to stage a coup on the basis of a theory holding that a *confederation* of countries attacked America in 2020.

It’s with all this in mind that we turn again to the 25-minute “addendum” to Byrne’s first January 6 confession, in which addendum he recounts a brief conversation he had with Trump in a doorway in the then-president’s private residence during Meeting #3 on December 18, 2020. According to Byrne, Trump leaned close to him and *emphasized* that he couldn’t leave the White House on

January if “**nations**” interfered with voting on November 3 of that year. Byrne is quite clear that Trump said “nations,” plural.

This is the best evidence we have so far (if still imperfect evidence) that Team Kraken did, in fact, present Trump with its “Hammer and Scorecard” conspiracy theory in the White House, and that it was just a matter of minutes after the meeting at which this conspiracy theory was shared with Trump that Trump announced he’d be attending domestic terrorist Ali Alexander’s January 6 “protest” in Washington—an event that was scheduled to coincide with the joint session of Congress Team Kraken intended to see postponed at all costs. It was also an event whose January 5 warm-up rally in **Freedom Plaza** featured Trump administration official Peter Navarro as a featured speaker.

With this new evidence, January 6 truly becomes an *international* scandal. If indeed it was false “intelligence” from a foreign national that directly led to the violent events of January 6, House investigators—and for that matter, the **CIA**—must find out *which* foreign national(s) worked with the sitting President of the United States and his top aides to end American democracy. *Proof* has already done a great deal of work to array the evidence we have on this score so far (see [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#)).

One final note about Byrne’s second January 6 confession: during its latter minutes, when Byrne is again speaking of his eagerness to testify before Congress, he actually *raises his hand* as if he’s about to testify under oath (and thus under penalty of perjury). With this in mind, it’s incumbent upon Congress to hold Byrne to this demonstrative gesture, as well as his words, and not only bring him in to testify; not only hold him to his promise to appear without a lawyer; not only hold him to his assurance that he will not invoke the Fifth Amendment at any point; but make sure he is placed under oath before testifying—and then refer him to the **Department of Justice** for prosecution if (as he *appears* to have done repeatedly in his taped confessions) he perjures himself.

Ten Major Revelations From the Recently Revealed (and Secretly Recorded) Patrick Byrne-Lin Wood Call

{Note: Proof does not endorse the screenshot used to promote the video above. This video is offered here purely for its substantive content, not its editorializing “Clown World” framing.}

The above link takes you to one of the wildest audio recordings you’ll ever hear. In it, Patrick Byrne—speaking to far-right South Carolina lawyer and Team Kraken hanger-on **Lin Wood**, who is secretly recording the conversation—accuses Sidney Powell of being “**batshit**” and says she is currently under criminal investigation (one that Byrne implies he is aiding) for a “**scam**” involving *tens of millions* of dollars being bilked from Trump supporters.

Byrne also tells Lin Wood that Powell’s religious faith is an act she uses to get money from evangelicals; accuses her of repeatedly getting drunk and making passes at him; and compares her unfavorably to **Meryl Streep**’s character in the film *The Devil Wears Prada*. He also recounts what he says are Powell’s outstanding allegations against him: for instance that he “**poisoned**” her and that he “**date-raped**” her. He contends that he hasn’t spoken to Powell since April 2021, and that he will never speak to her again.

Byrne’s litany of shocking revelations seems to go on and on. Sidney Powell, he says, routinely files motions in court that she hasn’t even read. He more than implies that she’s a criminal fraudster who may have secretly made up to \$70 million (not a typo) via an apparent charitable organization—**Defending the Republic**—that Byrne alleges is secretly a for-profit company offers “**stock options**” currently held only by Powell.

So what does any of this have to do with the January 6 insurrection? Quite a lot, actually—if you think like a federal criminal investigator. Consider the following:

(1) What happens if Powell is federally charged for fraud? If Powell faces **Tax Fraud, Wire Fraud, Bank Fraud**, or other fraud charges—especially at a time when she may be under investigation for **Election Fraud**—it gives the **FBI** enormous leverage over her to get her to talk plainly about the insurrection and the events leading up to it.

Not only was Powell at the now-infamous December 18, 2020 Oval Office/presidential residence meeting where it now appears Trump's coup plot was hatched, but she also (according to Byrne's call with Wood) was fired from Trump's legal team for making face-to-face contact with domestic terrorist Ali Alexander. She has had innumerable private conversations with people like Rudy Giuliani and Michael Flynn—discussions DOJ would surely like to know about. If Powell ends up being charged for criminal actions that post-date January 6, as Byrne implies she eventually will be, she could sign a cooperation deal with DOJ that would blow its insurrection probe wide open.

(2) What happens if the Powell-Byrne rift is never repaired? The news that Byrne no longer speaks to Powell—and Byrne's implication that it's possible Michael Flynn no longer speaks to her either, despite her having been his lawyer for an extended period—means that federal investigators (both congressional and criminal) may now have an easier time driving a wedge between the January 6 coup plotters than they previously imagined or hoped for. Indeed, the news that three people who were present in the White House during the formation of the January 6 coup plot are now at odds with one another in varying degrees and for varying reasons is absolutely terrifying news for Donald Trump. He likely would have presumed, in speaking to the leadership of Team Kraken on December 18, 2020, that he was speaking to a tight-knit group of loyalists who'd never betray him *or* one another. That no longer looks to be the case.

(3) How many more inculpatory Team Kraken recordings are out there? We now know that Lin Wood, who hosted most or all of Team Kraken at his sprawling South Carolina plantation in November of 2020, has been secretly recording calls with Team Kraken. We also now know that Patrick Byrne was filming a movie (with, presumably, as noted above, a great deal of "B-roll") even as he was engaged in actions that could eventually be investigated as **Seditious Conspiracy**. We now know, through the Byrne-Wood call above, that Michael Flynn and his brother Joe Flynn fled Sidney Powell's company in Florida because they believed she might be committing interstate crimes—a realization that would've given both men substantial cause to start memorializing their conversations with Powell and her actions respecting Defending the Republic.

The steady creation of as-yet-unseen audio, video, and documentary evidence by the members of Team Kraken is a dream come true for federal investigators, even if some of the content involved in these memorializations (for instance any sexual advances Powell may or may not have made upon Byrne, and any substances Byrne may or may not have given to her) is not only salacious but likely to be unfounded or exaggerated.

(4) Does more inculpatory evidence about Team Kraken’s schemes already exist than we realize? One of the biggest questions in America right now is whether DOJ is or is not seriously investigating the January 6 coup plotters. While Patrick Byrne and Lin Wood’s statements during the recorded call you can hear in full above are overheated and paranoid at times, they do establish one thing for certain: both men believe that their operations have been infiltrated by federal agents, and that these agents have a great deal of eyewitness testimony they intend to offer about what insurrectionists like Byrne and Wood have been up to.

Byrne and Wood agree that the **Navy SEALs** have federal informants among them who posed as bodyguards for Wood and others on Team Kraken. Whether or not this is true—and we can’t at present know whether it’s true or not—the possibility that it *is* true at least gives us some new insight into the sort of actions DOJ *might* be engaged in as part of its broader January 6 investigation (albeit it is still unlikely they have used such “movie-ready” methods of group infiltration).

So while my view tends to be that Byrne and Wood are overstating the likelihood of their operations being compromised—and overstating this by a considerable margin—the fact remains that DOJ *does* often rely on informants in complex criminal cases that involve otherwise hard-to-crack criminal enterprises. So as much as Byrne’s remark about SEALs remains hard to credit, neither can it be precipitously dismissed.

(5) The level of paranoia among the coup plotters is higher than we realized—and that’s all to the good. In the phone call above, Wood opines that Powell and Flynn won’t return his calls, despite him having hosted them at his plantation for at least two weeks during a critical coup-plotting period in mid- to late November

2020. As Wood doesn't indicate that a conspicuous falling out with either Powell or Flynn predated them refusing to return his calls, the only conclusion we can draw at present is that the members of Team Kraken are avoiding being in touch with one another, perhaps in part for the very reason that Wood demonstrates in secretly recording Byrne: the perfidy of all of these individuals is such that they don't trust one another, and don't wish to create new evidence of their interactions and interrelationships.

Not only does this suggest that the coup plotters perceive themselves to be under some sort of federal investigation, it also neuters their ability to engage in high-level coup plotting again. It is only to America's benefit that the number of individuals with the resources, connections and wherewithal to form a large-scale seditious conspiracy is comparatively small; if a potential hub of seditious activity has been overcome with paranoia and mutual distrust, it helps protect America from a redux of what happened on January 6, 2021.

(6) The coup plotters may have been discussing much more than just *coup plotting* during their many interactions—and it matters. During the call above, Wood reveals that he has had at least one discussion with Flynn about Flynn's alleged involvement with **Pegasus** spyware (a topic addressed in some detail in the 2019 **Macmillan** book *Proof of Conspiracy*). Flynn's ties to dodgy Israeli cyber-intelligence outfits has nothing to do with Trump's efforts to steal the 2020 presidential election—but a *great deal* to do with Trump's efforts to steal the 2016 presidential election. We've never before had any indication that the coup plotters discussed one another's murky pasts; with the call above, we now know that men like Wood may know more that's of great interest to federal investigators than we previously realized. **“Something's not right right now with Mike Flynn. I don't know what it is. I've tried to talk to him”**, opines Wood at one point. That Wood says this just seconds after noting that Flynn made \$1 million off spyware in 2016 and then lied to him (Wood) about it underlines that there is now an opening for federal investigators to get much more than just information about the 2020 presidential election from men like the South Carolina attorney.

Wood also says that **“I thought Jim Penrose was a fine Christian man. But Jim Penrose may not be who he purported to be.”** This is significant given **Jim Penrose’s** role as one of the key “intelligence” experts inside Team Kraken (a perhaps surprising distinction, in view of the fact that major media has paid almost no attention to him thus far). Byrne and Wood also agree that they have *both* heard that **“Jovan Pulitzer is not a legitimate guy”**—a significant point of concord given that Pulitzer, like Penrose, is deemed one of the most trusted figures in Trump’s “election integrity” movement.

(7) This call provides insights into the character of certain public figures that we might not have gotten otherwise. At one point Lin Wood and Patrick Byrne discuss **Kyle Rittenhouse**, the 2021-acquitted defendant who Wood briefly represented in a defamation suit Rittenhouse contemplated following his arrest for multiple homicides in Kenosha, Wisconsin. While it’s common practice among lawyers to avoid speaking ill of their clients—as they could not only be violating attorney-client privilege in doing so, but could also be creating new legal problems for clients that only they (as a person with special access to such individuals) could create—in the call above Wood repeatedly calls out Rittenhouse as a liar, alleging that Rittenhouse deliberately lied about him on national television (**Fox News**). While it is certainly not the business or interest of *Proof* to mediate in a dispute like this one, certainly candid—if ill-advised and unethical—diatribes like Lin Wood’s give us access to another view of people like Kyle Rittenhouse as well as his legal team, not to mention (as already noted) Trump lawyers like Sidney Powell or Trump’s first National Security Advisor, Michael Flynn.

In this respect, the paranoia and perfidy of those with whom Trump has surrounded himself ultimately must out in the public square. Beyond being mildly entertaining, it is robustly probative.

(8) This phone call demands an urgent revistation of prior statements by key figures relating to the 2020 election. In his lengthy confession, Patrick Byrne said that his audience would be amazed at how little he ever had to do with the fraudulent **“audit”** his friend Doug Logan ran in Maricopa County, Arizona. But to Wood, Byrne admits that he and Michael Flynn contributed at least *five million*

dollars—not a typo—to the effort. Just so, **OANN** “reporter” **Christina Bobb**, a member of the Willard Hotel war room who appears (the *Daily Beast* recently reported) to have created at least one key pre-January 6 coup memo, has at times been cagey about the work she did (despite allegedly being a reporter) to raise money for Logan’s “audit.”

During the Byrne-Wood call, Wood speaks candidly about Bobb reaching out to him to ask for \$150,000 for the audit. This suggests that, at a minimum, Wood can speak to actions surrounding the 2020 election by a much wider cast of characters than we previously would have expected. In the case of Bobb this is particularly significant, as her precise role in the coup plot as an ex-employee of the **Department of Homeland Security** has up to now been shrouded in mystery.

Just so, Byrne confirms to Wood that he has had direct contact with insurrectionist GOP state rep **Wendy Rogers** of Arizona, another individual whose role in the coup plot remains unclear. What Byrne says about Rogers is shocking: he claims that he was told by Rogers that she “**instructed**” Doug Logan’s **Cyber Ninjas** outfit on how its final report should read, a degree of clandestine tampering in what was supposed to be an *independent* post-election report that confirms that—as its critics always said—it was entirely a sham. Indeed, Byrne’s words here may potentially justify the opening of an election fraud investigation into Rogers. That Byrne said he had “**lunch**” with a group of “**senior [GOP] senators**” in Arizona not only confirms that he had far more involvement in the Arizona audit than he’s now saying publicly but also that he is a key witness in any future Election Fraud investigation into Logan, Rogers, and other Arizona state representatives who are also known insurrectionists, like **Oath Keeper** and **Stop the Steal** leader (as well as Ali Alexander mentor) **Mark Finchem**.

(9) The call offers some major bombshells with implications for America’s future.

Wood, who has had numerous contacts with Flynn’s inner circle, says to Byrne that “**he knows that he [Flynn] has been planting questions about whether he’s going to run for Vice President [with Trump in 2024]**”, and then adds that the

nature of the rumors he is hearing prompts him to want to know—from Byrne—
“Is Mike Flynn running for president in 2024?”

As *Proof* has previously reported, Roger Stone has been behind an effort to recruit Flynn to run for POTUS in 2024 if Trump does not. Wood’s statements to Byrne underscore that this effort may be spoken of far more widely in the insurrectionist “community” than is currently realized by major media. **“It looks to me”, Wood tells Byrne at one point, “that Mike [Flynn] is *not* fighting to fix [the] 2020 [election], Mike is looking for his own agenda to potentially run for office [the White House] in 2024”** (emphasis in original).

It is shocking to think that major media has thus far focused almost exclusively on more “mainstream” alternatives to a 2024 Trump presidential run—like Sen. **Ted Cruz** (R-TX), Gov. **Ron DeSantis** (R-FL), and former Vice President **Mike Pence** (R-IN)—when in actuality, within the increasingly seditious MAGA “movement” (which at this point in time has an ironclad grip on the **Republican Party**), the leading candidate for President of the United States might be one of the most dangerous men in modern American politics: Michael Flynn. This Byrne-Wood call alone should be enough to get media asking serious questions about Flynn’s political ambitions—remembering, here, that Flynn was already rumored to be one of Trump’s top early VP picks in 2016.

(10) Statements made during the above call could presage the collapse of the GOP. A potential Flynn 2024 presidential run isn’t merely an academic matter, nor is it even *merely* a national security matter—though Flynn’s foreign entanglements are terrifying for those of us who’ve written at length on his professional dealings and geopolitical liaisons. It is also an internal crisis for the Republican Party. In this respect, Wood’s comments on Flynn are profoundly telling: **“We [Republicans] cannot continue to vote in rigged elections....Mike was suggesting we could vote our way out of a rigged election system. That’s arrant nonsense! Mike wanted everyone to look forward [to a presidential race he might run in in 2024]—and stay in a rigged system—when he should have been saying what everybody knew, [that Glenn] Youngkin [a Republican who recently won the gubernatorial race in Virginia]....is a RINO Republican**

[a ‘Republican in Name Only’] or a communist—I don’t know—but he [Youngkin] is not a patriot....I think he’s a liar. I think he [Youngkin] is a wolf in sheep’s clothing.”

Given that Wood earlier tells Byrne that U.S. elections are now nothing more than **“a communist effort to take over our presidency”**, what he is underlining with these remarks is an ongoing debate in the Republican Party: should GOP voters continue to vote? Wood avers that any avowed MAGA-movement champion who runs for elected office in the future will face accusations—in Wood’s view, well-warranted ones—that they’re supporting a clandestine communist takeover of the United States. Needless to say, if Wood’s rhetoric wins out over Flynn’s ambitions, it will be impossible for the GOP to consistently win elections in the U.S. at almost any level of government.

*{Note: There are also certain statements in the Byrne-Wood call I don’t know what to do with yet, for instance Wood’s claim that **“Joe Posobiec”**—he seems to be referring to **Jack Posobiec**—used to **“work under”** and **“serve under”** Michael Flynn. Posobiec was posing as an OANN “reporter” on January 6, as was Christina Bobb, despite both of them being involved with the insurrection effort (Posobiec with Ali Alexander, Bobb with Trump’s legal team). Having not yet done a deep dive on Posobiec, and knowing only that he used to work in military intelligence, I can’t say whether he has the associations with Flynn that Wood claims. But the Byrne-Wood call is a goldmine of such leads, and as such deserves to be carefully listened to.}*

Conclusion

It certainly now appears that there were multiple connected coup plots before, during, and after January 6—and that some video evidence of these plots exists. It *also* appears that there’s a sufficient schism, now, within the insurrectionist camp, *and* that enough inculpatory public confessions have been made by leading members of this camp, that the House January 6 Committee can quickly sweep in to demand, with a subpoena for documents and another for testimony, that two key

individuals produce for Congress everything they know: ex-CEO Patrick Byrne and Colorado militant Joe Oltmann.

What's more, these two men have already been caught in sufficient lies and other self-contradictions that they will begin their testimony before Congress profoundly and irrevocably wrong-footed—forced to either invoke their **Fifth Amendment** privilege against self-incrimination (which one of them has pledged publicly not to do), or else admit that they have been hiding their Insurrection Week actions for over a year now.

And Congress will be well-positioned to figure out why those lies were told, and what they were intended to conceal.

Stupidity is often what brings down bad actors. I learned this during my many years as a state public defender. But sometimes it's *vanity*, instead. Byrne and Oltmann are so loudly self-righteous about their supposedly noble efforts to end U.S. democracy that they have provided federal investigators—both in **Congress** and the FBI—with a trail of evidence that cannot be ignored. And only some of that evidence is testimonial; some portion of it clearly exists in multimedia formats, whether it be prior statements made by Oltmann on his too-candid-by-half Conservative Daily Podcast or Byrne's now multiple public confessions about what he was doing before and during and after January 6. Or we could look at Oltmann's Facebook videos—previously reported on by *Proof* here and here—or what apparently is a whole film Byrne made on his dubiously legal conduct. All this must be seized by investigators before any of it is destroyed or otherwise compromised.

But Congress must also exploit the new divisions that have appeared within the coup plotters' ranks.

At one point in the conversation of his with Patrick Byrne that he secretly recorded, Linn Wood actually advises Byrne to go to federal authorities and drop a dime on his fellow coup plotter Sidney Powell (albeit for financial crimes, not political ones). The consequences this would have for the January 6 investigation would have been fully unmistakable to Byrne in that moment, and yet

he *agreed* with Wood that he would probably need to turn Powell in to the authorities—partly (perhaps even in major part) to save his own skin. Congress and the FBI can now leverage the same sort of cynical reasoning to question Byrne and Wood with respect to their actions on and around January 6, or even to cut a deal with Powell on some of her alleged financial crimes if she will reveal in full what she said to Donald Trump (and what he said to her in response) on December 18, 2020 and other key dates in the insurrection timeline.

It has been far too easy, for some time now, for members of Congress and federal law enforcement officers to dismiss people like Lindell, Oltmann, Byrne, Powell, Flynn as cranks, lunatics, or some combination of the two. What sort of person would conspire with these incompetent radicals, one might ask? The answer: *Donald Trump*. Donald Trump would, and apparently did, conspire with these people. That most Americans of sense would never partner up with them, or even (and here I speak from experience) communicate with them if they reached out, is immaterial. Sometimes alleged wrong-doers are every bit as stupid as those aiming to chase them down hope they will be, and that's all to the good (unless you're currently working as a state public defender).

That the January 6 coup plotters *failed* saved our nation. That the plotters are, in many instances, embarrassingly unsophisticated must be exploited to ensure the *investigation* of their coup plot doesn't meet the same fate the plot itself did.