

The Daily News Around Us

'Your Order Is A Direct Attack': Native American Tribe Condemns Biden Administration's Secretarial Order

Hank Berrien



Tim Sloan/AFP via Getty Images

On Thursday, January 21, the day after President Joe Biden's inauguration, a Native American tribe issued a blistering letter to Biden's Acting Secretary of the Interior, Scott de la Vega, blasting his Secretarial Order No. 3395. As [Energy In Depth](#) reports, the Order "temporarily suspends delegations of authority regarding leasing and permitting on federal lands, with a significantly reduced staff able to approve such items. This order does not halt leasing or existing development, and at its face is a temporary measure, but is certain to create bottlenecks that last well-beyond the 60-day limit on the order."

De la Vega started serving on January 21 and will remain in an interim capacity until Biden's nominee, [Deb Haaland](#), is confirmed. The Department of the Interior [defended Order No. 3395](#) by writing, "The Order does not impact existing ongoing operations under valid leases and does not preclude the issuance of leases, permits and other authorizations by those specified. In addition, any actions necessary in the event of an incident that might pose a threat to human health, welfare, or safety will continue."

But as [Energy in Depth](#) notes, "White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said Wednesday the administration still has a commitment to ending new oil and gas leasing on federal lands, without elaborating on the president's plans. 'We do, and the leases will be reviewed by our team,' Psaki said," as [Bloomberg reported](#).

The Ute Indian Tribe website [notes](#), "The Uintah and Ouray reservation is located in Northeastern Utah (Fort Duchesne) approximately 150 miles east of Salt Lake City, Utah, on US Highway 40.

There are around 3,200 tribal members, and the Reservation rests within a three-county area known as the 'Uintah Basin.'” The reservation is “the second largest Indian reservation in the United States and covers almost 4.5 million acres,” the website adds.

In his letter to de la Vega, Luke Duncan, the chairman of the Ute Indian Tribe Business Committee, wrote:

The Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation respectfully requests that you immediately amend Order No. 3395 to provide an exception for energy permits and approvals on Indian lands.

The Ute Indian Tribe and other energy producing tribes rely on energy development to fund our governments and provide services to our members. Your order is a direct attack on our economy, sovereignty, and our right to self-determination. Indian lands are not federal public lands. Any action on our lands and interests can only be taken after effective tribal consultation.

Order No. 3395 violates the United States treaty and trust responsibilities to the Ute Indian Tribe and violates important principles of tribal sovereignty and self-determination.

Your order was also issued in violation (of) our government-to-government relationship. Executive Order No. 13175 on Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments, and Interior’s own Policy on Consultation with Tribal Governments.

The order must be withdrawn or amended to comply with Federal law and policies. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. We look forward from hearing from you.



Megan Barnett Bloomgren ✓
@MeganBloomgren



The Ute Indian Tribe does not mince words in their response to Interior's order restricting federal energy development:

"Your order is a direct attack on our economy, sovereignty, and our right to self-determination."



UTE INDIAN TRIBE
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January 21, 2021

Scott de la Vega
Acting Secretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Impact on Tribal Economies from Secretary of the Interior Order No. 3395

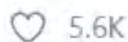
Dear Acting Secretary de la Vega,

The Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation respectfully requests that you immediately amend Order No. 3395 to provide an exception for energy permits and approvals on Indian lands. The Ute Indian Tribe and other energy producing tribes rely on energy development to fund our governments and provide services to our members.

Your order is a direct attack on our economy, sovereignty, and our right to self-determination. Indian lands are not federal public lands. Any action on our lands and interests can only be taken after effective tribal consultation.

Order No. 3395 violates the United States treaty and trust responsibilities to the Ute Indian Tribe and violates important principles of tribal sovereignty and self-determination. Your order was also issued in violation our government-to-government relationship, Executive Order No. 13175 on Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments, and Interior's own

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Bill Barring Biological Boys From Girls' Sports Advances In Montana

Hank Berrien



Jonathan Newton/The Washington Post via Getty Images

In the past week, the Montana House Judiciary Committee [passed a bill](#) which would create the “Save Women’s Sports Act,” an act that would bar biological boys from teams or in sports designated for women or girls. By passing the bill, the Committee set up a floor hearing in the Montana House.

The sponsor of House Bill 112, GOP Rep. John Fuller told the [Montana Free Press](#) that he wanted to protect the 1972 Title IX. Permitting biological boys to compete against biological girls would be “just wrong,” he said, adding, “I believe that this will result in the destruction of women’s sports, and I believe it’s a violation of the spirit of Title IX.”

House Bill 112 cites various reasons for its position: “inherent differences between men and women” ranging from “chromosomal and hormonal differences to physiological differences” as well as men generally possessing “denser, stronger bones, tendons, and ligaments” and “larger hearts, greater lung volume per body mass, a higher red blood cell count, and higher haemoglobin” along with a “higher natural level of testosterone, which affects traits such as hemoglobin levels, body fat content, the storage and use of carbohydrates, and the development of type 2 muscle fibers”;

The bill quotes a recent study of female and male Olympic performances since 1983 that found although athletes from both sexes improved over the time span, the gender gap between male and female performances remained stable, which “suggest[s] that women’s performances at the high level will never match those of men.

” The bill also quotes Duke Law professor and All-American track athlete Doriane Lambelet Coleman, tennis champion Martina Navratilova, and Olympic track gold medalist Sanya Richards-Ross writing, “The evidence is unequivocal that starting in puberty, in every sport except sailing, shooting, and riding, there will always be

significant numbers of boys and men who would beat the best girls and women in head-to-head competition. Claims to the contrary are simply a denial of science.”

The bill concludes:

Be it enacted by the legislature of the State of Montana: Interscholastic, intercollegiate, intramural, or club athletic teams or sports that are sponsored by a public elementary or high school, a public institution of higher education, or any school or institution whose students or teams compete against a public school or institution of higher education must be expressly designated as one of the following based on biological sex: males, men, or boys; females, women, or girls; or coed or mixed. Athletic teams or sports designated for females, women, or girls may not be open to students of the male sex.

A government entity, a licensing or accrediting organization, or an athletic association or organization may not entertain a complaint, open an investigation, or take any other adverse action against a school or institution of higher education for maintaining separate interscholastic, intercollegiate, intramural, or club athletic teams or sports for students of the female sex.

Vaccine supply hinders expanding beyond goal of 100 million shots, Biden health official says

Amy Goldstein, Amy B Wang, Paulina Firozi and Hannah Knowles

The United States needs to move faster to immunize the public against the coronavirus, but efforts to accelerate beyond President Biden’s goal of 100 million shots in 100 days may be hindered by the supplies of vaccine doses, according to Rochelle Walensky, the new director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“I think that the supply is probably going to be the most limiting constraint early on, and we’re really hoping that after that first 100 days, we’ll have much more production,” Walensky said on “Fox News Sunday.”

“We’re really hoping we’ll have more vaccine and that will increase the pace at which we can do the vaccinations,” she said.

As officials push to ramp up inoculation efforts to help crush the pandemic, increasing understanding of coronavirus variants is also presenting a challenge.

Anthony S. Fauci, the government’s senior infectious-disease expert and Biden’s chief medical adviser for the pandemic, said that based on British findings, he now believes the coronavirus variant first detected in the United Kingdom is more deadly and spreads faster.

“We need to assume now what has been circulating dominantly in the U.K. does have an increase in what we call virulence to cause more damage, including death,” Fauci said on CBS News’s “Face the Nation.”



A health-care worker receives a dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech coronavirus vaccine in a care home in Paris on Jan. 7. (Nathan Laine/Bloomberg News)

On Saturday, the United States reported more than 1.3 million newly administered doses of coronavirus vaccine, and the tally was more than 1.1 million by late Sunday afternoon, marking the sixth day in a row the country has topped 1 million daily doses.

The pace suggests the nation is on track to meet the Biden administration's 100-day goal. The target was criticized by some who said it was unrealistic when Biden announced it in December, but it now seems less ambitious because of better manufacturing certainty and a ramped-up inoculation pace in the last days of the Trump administration.

Asked Thursday whether his vaccination goal should be higher, Biden was defensive. "When I announced it, you all said it's not possible. Come on, give me a break, man. It's a good start."

Biden officials have since stressed that the figure of 100 million is just their starting point, not a final goal.

Here are some significant developments:

- The country [appears to have avoided worst-case scenarios](#) for a surge in the wake of holiday gatherings, but experts say the virus's threat could intensify with the emergence of new variants.*
- Up to 100 sites run by the Federal Emergency Management Agency [could begin offering doses of coronavirus vaccine within the next month](#), in an expansion of the federal government's role in fighting the pandemic.*
- Facing criticism from the administration she worked for and some in the scientific community, Deborah Birx, coordinator of the Trump White House's coronavirus response, [said in a CBS News interview that aired Sunday](#) that she "always" considered quitting her job.*

- *People who have received their first vaccine dose can schedule their second shot up to [six weeks later](#) if they are not able to get one in the recommended time frame, according to updated guidance from the CDC. “We’re just ensuring clinicians that if they can’t do it at exactly 21 days or 28 days, that there’s leeway or flexibility,” said CDC spokeswoman Kristen Nordlund.*
- *Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador [said](#) Sunday he has tested positive for the virus and is experiencing mild symptoms.*
- *Biden will impose an entry ban on most non-U.S. citizens who have recently been to South Africa starting Saturday and reimpose a ban set by President Donald Trump on most non-U.S. citizens who traveled in Brazil and much of Europe on Monday, officials familiar with the plans told [Reuters](#).*

Speaking about the coronavirus variant now dominant in his country, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson [said in a statement](#) Friday that it “may be associated with a higher degree of mortality.”

“We have every reason to believe them,” Fauci said Sunday of Johnson’s statement. He added: “We want to look at the data ourselves.”

That variant of the virus is thought to be circulating at a relatively low level within the United States. The CDC [warned less than two weeks ago](#) that it is likely to become the dominant variant in this country within a couple of months.

Fauci said the mutation’s greater virulence “is likely, but we can’t say definitively” because the United States has not been conducting enough genomic testing.

“There’s a lot of movement at the CDC to dramatically increase genomic surveillance,” he said.

In her interview on “Fox News Sunday,” Walensky said health officials are increasing their surveillance and study of variants and are monitoring their effect on the vaccines. She called their emergence a signal that “we need to get more vaccine out there.”

Referring to supply constraints, Walensky said the Biden administration is working with manufacturers to address issues and hopes production will be scaled up “dramatically” by March.

“One of the biggest problems right now is, I can’t tell you how much vaccine we have, and if I can’t tell it to you, then I can’t tell it to the governors, and I can’t tell it to the state health officials,” Walensky said.

That lack of data, she said, is making it harder for state leaders to effectively plan vaccine distribution. In the day before she took over at the CDC and in the few days since, Walensky has repeatedly said publicly that the goals for vaccination and the decisions about when to expand the groups eligible for it must be harmonized with the amount of vaccine doses available in the United States.

In an interview with NBC on Thursday, she suggested that top health officials in the Trump administration had been overly optimistic in predicting late last year that

doses could be widely available to the American public by late February or early March.

“I don’t think late February we’re going to have vaccine in every pharmacy in this country,” Walensky said.

She said the new administration would adhere to the 100-day goal, adding: “We ... also want to be very cognizant of the fact that after 100 days, there are still a lot of Americans who need vaccine, so we have our pedal to the metal to make sure we can get as much vaccine out there.”

Fauci said Sunday that the pace of recent days may be difficult to maintain as more vaccinations occur outside of controlled settings, such as hospitals and nursing homes, and more broadly in communities.

Biden’s nominee for surgeon general, Vivek H. Murthy, called for investing in treatment strategies, testing and contact tracing, especially with the spread of coronavirus variants that are “likely to be more transmissible”.

“The variants, they are really a shot across the bow. The virus is basically telling us that it’s going to continue to change, and we have got to be ready for it,” Murthy said Sunday on ABC News’s “This Week.”

“The bottom line is, we’re in a race against these variants, the virus is going to change, and it’s up to us to adapt and to make sure that we’re staying ahead.”

Murthy also pushed back on criticism of Biden’s goal of 100 million vaccinations, saying it is “not a ceiling. It’s also a goal that reflects the realities of what we face, what could go right but also what could go wrong.”

“I think President Biden fully understands there’s a larger goal here, as we all do, which is that we’ve got to vaccinate as many Americans as possible,” Murthy said.

“And that’s going to take a lot of work — work dispelling misinformation, working on the [vaccine] supply, increasing distribution channels.”

In an interview on NBC News’s “Meet the Press,” White House Chief of Staff Ron Klain also defended the targets, calling it “a very bold and ambitious goal.” He said it was just the administration’s first target, “not our final goal”.

“This country has never given 100 million shots in 100 days, so if we can do that, I think it would be quite an accomplishment,” Klain said Sunday.

“But obviously, we’re not going to stop there. I mean, 100 million people — 100 million shots — is a bold, ambitious goal, but we need to keep going after that.”

Cat Zakrzewski contributed to this report.

N Trump 'Does Want to Run Again,' Says Former Acting Intelligence Chief
Richard Grenell
Benjamin Fearnow - Newsweek

President [Donald Trump](#) on numerous occasions told his former acting director of U.S. National Intelligence he wants to run again in 2024, prompting debate on whether he'd run as a Republican or a separate "Patriot Party" candidate.



Screenshot: Newsmax TV | YouTube

President Donald Trump on numerous occasions told his former acting Director of U.S. National Intelligence he does want to run again in 2024, prompting debate whether he'd run as a Republican or a separate "Patriot Party" candidate.

Trump's former intelligence chief Richard Grenell told Newsmax TV Saturday that the president "personally, a number of times, [said] he does want to run again" for the White House.

Grenell reiterated that he hopes Trump will campaign in 2024 as a member of the GOP given that he is currently "the head of the Republican Party." Another former Trump administration figure on the same news segment, Sebastian Gorka, mocked HBO host Bill Maher and some Democrats for recently equating Trump's "patriot party" movement to the rise of Germany's Nazi Party during Adolf Hitler's political ascent.

Grenell highlighted that not only did the president assure he and other close aides about his plans to run in 2024, but that Trump is by far the most popular politician in the entire GOP. A [roundup of year-ending 2020 polls](#) and surveys showed that Trump holds the support of about 9 in 10—or in some cases even higher percentages—of self-identified Republicans.

An increasingly outspoken sect of Trump supporters and GOP lawmakers have accused party elites of "abandoning" the president during his unfounded challenges to President [Joe Biden's](#) election win.

"Look, it's like a sports team, your party is not always perfect and you try to get it better. If you don't like an aspect of something that's going on then you work to make it better, but you don't abandon it. I believe that the Republican Party is the best place, Donald Trump is the head of the Republican Party still, let's make no mistake about that," Grenell said Saturday, noting "we've got a long ways to go" before 2024.

"Clearly, Donald Trump is a Republican and should run again as a Republican," Grenell added, urging conservatives and Trump supporters not to split off from the GOP.

He and the Newsmax hosts said they believe there is a Republican Party divide among elected office holders and donor "power brokers," but not among the voters.

Grenell briefly praised the current head of the Republican National Committee, Ronna McDaniel, for her fundraising ability. But without mentioning Trump, Grenell complained "I don't know why she doesn't get enough credit" in the Trump era. The former acting intelligence chief said he has attended every Republican convention since 1992.

During the same segment, Gorka ridiculed Democrats and Trump critics for comparing his "patriot party" voter base to Adolf Hitler's brownshirts in 1920s-30s Germany.

"You have to laugh: When did the word 'patriots' become controversial?" On Friday, Trump gave his [first remarks since leaving the White House](#), saying of his future plans, "We'll do something, but not just yet."

Newsweek reached out to the U.S. intelligence community for reaction to Grenell's remarks Sunday afternoon.



CDC director says federal government does not know how much Covid vaccine the U.S. has

Amanda Macias

- The director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention warned Sunday that the federal government doesn't know how much coronavirus vaccine the nation has.*
- "I can't tell you how much vaccine we have, and if I can't tell it to you then I can't tell it to the governors and I can't tell it to the state health officials," CDC director Dr. Rochelle Walensky told "Fox News Sunday."*



Provided by CNBC Dr. Rochelle Walensky, who has been selected to serve as director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention speaks during an event at The Queen theater in Wilmington, Del., Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2020.

WASHINGTON – The director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention warned Sunday that the federal government does not know how much coronavirus vaccine the nation has, a complication that adds to the already herculean task before the Biden administration.

"I can't tell you how much vaccine we have, and if I can't tell it to you then I can't tell it to the governors and I can't tell it to the state health officials," CDC director Dr. Rochelle Walensky told "Fox News Sunday."

"If they don't know how much vaccine they're getting not just this week but next week and the week after they can't plan. They can't figure out how many sites to roll out, they can't figure out how many vaccinators that they need, and they can't figure out how many appointments to make for the public," Walensky said.

In a dig at the Trump administration, Walensky said the lack of knowledge of vaccine supply is indicative of "the challenges we've been left with."

President Joe Biden has set a goal to administer 100 million Covid-19 vaccine shots within his first 100 days. The Biden administration has been repeatedly pressed on whether that target is ambitious enough given the severity of the pandemic.

Walensky acknowledged that the U.S. must vaccinate people faster, but she said the nation faces supply constraints. Production will increase after the first 100 days, Walensky said, and the expected introduction of Johnson & Johnson's vaccine will also help ease supply problems.

"We are really hoping that we'll have more vaccines and that will increase the pace at which we can do the vaccinations," Walensky said.

White House chief of staff Ron Klain said the nation also faces distribution problems because the Trump administration, which started the program, did not have a clear plan.

"The process of distributing the vaccine, particularly outside of nursing homes and hospitals, out into the community as a whole did not really exist when we came into the White House," Klain told MSNBC's "Meet the Press" on Sunday.

"So, the process of getting that vaccine into arms, that's the hard process, that's where we are behind as a country and that's where we are focused in the Biden administration on getting that ramped up," he added.

White House chief medical advisor Dr. Anthony Fauci, who served in the Trump administration, said Sunday the Biden target of 100 million doses in 100 days is not a final number.

"It is really a floor and not a ceiling," Fauci told CBS' "Face The Nation". "It is going to be a challenge. I think it was a reasonable goal that was set. We always want to do better than the goal that you've set."

Those 100 million injections will cover about 67 million people, Fauci said, some of whom will have received the required two doses while others will have received only one dose. So far, the U.S. has administered nearly 22 million doses, far below federal targets.

The need to vaccinate as many people as possible has taken on new urgency as the coronavirus mutates. Fauci said the Covid-19 vaccines currently on the market [may not be as effective against new strains](#).

Biden's surgeon general pick stressed on Sunday the U.S. is in a race to adapt against the new variants.

"The virus is basically telling us that it's going to continue to change and we've got to be ready for it," Dr. Vivek Murthy said during an interview with ABC News' "This Week."

"So the bottom line is, we're in a race against these variants, the virus is going to change and it's up to us to adapt and to make sure that we're staying ahead," Murthy said.

When asked if the U.S. is in a race against time before a Covid variant emerges that renders the vaccines ineffective, Walensky said Americans need to get inoculated when they have the opportunity and adhere to mitigation strategies to deny the virus opportunity to circulate.

"I would say we've been in a race all along," Walensky said. "The more virus that is out there, the more virus that is replicating, the more likely that we are going to have mutations and variants."



May James/Zuma Press

The emergence of new variants of the virus that causes Covid-19—including one in the U.K. that British officials say could be more deadly than earlier versions—signals a future in which health authorities are locked in a cat-and-mouse battle with a shape-shifting pathogen.

Faster-spreading coronavirus strains that researchers fear could also make people sicker or render vaccines less effective threaten to extend lockdowns and lead to more hospitalizations and deaths, epidemiologists caution. But, they said, it doesn't mean the contagion can't be contained.

"We're living in a world where coronavirus is so prevalent and rapidly mutating that there are going to be new variants that pop up," Anthony Harnden, a physician who advises the U.K. government, told Sky News.

"We may well be in a situation where we end up having to have an annual coronavirus vaccine" to cope with emerging strains.

As the new variant in the U.K. has spread across the country, hospitals have been under more strain than they were in the first wave of the pandemic in the spring, and the national Covid-19 death toll is expected to surpass 100,000 in coming days. But in the week ended Sunday, new daily cases were down 22% from the previous seven days.

Matt Hancock, the U.K.'s health secretary, said that was because of national restrictions in place since the start of the year. But in a television interview, Mr.

Hancock warned, “We are a long, long, long way” before cases would be low enough for restrictions to be lifted.

The U.K. variant is one of several that have emerged in recent months to cause concern among researchers. Others have emerged in South Africa and Brazil. Anthony Fauci, President Biden’s chief medical adviser for the Covid-19 pandemic, said on CBS on Sunday that U.S. authorities need to expand genomic surveillance to identify variants of the virus.

Dr. Fauci said current vaccines remain effective. “What we will do and are doing already is making preparations for the possibility that down the pipe, down the line, we may need to modify and upgrade the vaccines. We don’t need to do that right now,” he said.

“The best way to prevent the further evolution of these mutants is to vaccinate as many people as possible with the vaccines that we have currently available to us.”

Jeffrey Barrett, director of the Covid-19 Genomics Initiative at the Wellcome Sanger Institute, said the huge number of cases around the world has given the virus a lot of opportunities to evolve in ways not seen earlier in the pandemic.

“We’re going to have to really contend with these new variants in the virus in the next phase of the pandemic,” he told an online seminar last week. “Something happened that basically allowed a new constellation of mutations to arise,” presenting scientists with new challenges.

The variants likely delay the day when life can get back closer to normal thanks to vaccines and raise the prospect of outbreaks of infections periodically even after large numbers of people are inoculated. And their emergence also suggests that international travel restrictions—where governments impose bans on people coming from places where more troubling versions of the virus are prevalent—could be in place intermittently for years.

The likelihood that many people in poorer countries won’t have access to vaccines for some time suggests that more new variants will be incubating around the world even if levels of immunity in the developed world are high enough to curb the virus’s spread.

The U.K. announcement on Friday that the British variant that now dominates infections across the country—and is also well-entrenched in the U.S.—could be more deadly than earlier versions of the virus is preliminary and could be unduly pessimistic.

It is based on the assessment of an expert advisory panel to the government that in turn used four separate academic studies of raw data to decide that there was a “realistic possibility” that the variant was deadlier.

The studies suggested that a greater proportion of people with this variant were ending up in the hospital or dying. It didn’t suggest that once in the hospital a patient was more likely to die than if he or she had been hospitalized with an earlier variant.

Faster-spreading variants imply that, for any given level of restrictions, cases will rise more rapidly or fall more slowly than with earlier versions. That suggests lockdowns, other things being equal, would have to last longer to bring cases down.

So far, scientists haven't seen evidence the British variant, first identified in someone in the southeast of England in September, is more resistant to vaccines. But another variant first identified in South Africa has a mutation that could lower the effectiveness of vaccines.

As vaccination programs roll out across the world, they should start to reduce the numbers of people who are seriously ill. If vaccines also confer some immunity as well as prevent serious illness—something so far unknown—they will turn the case curve downward.

Vaccine-resistant variants would slow such downward momentum until scientists tweak vaccines to capture the new variants, too. Some new vaccine technologies, such as those used in the two mRNA vaccines now authorized in the U.S., could be adjusted relatively quickly to deal with new mutations.

Corona viruses mutate less frequently than certain others, such as influenza viruses that demand an annual vaccination to cope with new variants. However, the virus responsible for Covid-19 appears to be mutating frequently enough to suggest that vaccinated people may need further shots periodically to keep up their protection from the virus.

The good news in the U.K. is that its vaccination program is moving ahead rapidly, faster than any of its European peers. Up to Saturday, nearly 6.4 million people have received at least one coronavirus vaccine dose, and Mr. Hancock said three-quarters of people over the age of 80, as well as people in three-quarters of nursing homes across the country, had received a shot.

Stephen Fidler at stephen.fidler@wsj.com

'You Say We're All Liars': Rand Paul Has Fiery Debate With George Stephanopoulos.

"You're forgetting who you are as a journalist if you think there's only one side."
Joseph Curl



Drew Angerer/Getty Images

George Stephanopoulos, the former press secretary for Bill Clinton turned ABC host, came out of the chute fast when he sat down with Kentucky Republican Sen. Rand Paul on Sunday's "This Week" political talk show.

"Senator Paul, let me begin with a threshold question for you. This election was not stolen, do you accept that fact?"

Paul most definitely did not accept that fact.

"Well, what I would say is that the debate over whether or not there was fraud should occur, we never had any presentation in court where we actually looked at the evidence. Most of the cases were thrown out for lack of standing, which is a procedural way of not actually hearing the question. There were several states in which the law was changed by the Secretary of State and not the state legislature."

"To me, those are clearly unconstitutional, and I think there's still a chance that those actually do finally work their way up to the Supreme Court. Courts traditionally and historically don't like to hear election questions. But yes. Were there people who voted twice? Were there dead people who voted? Were there illegal aliens who voted? Yes, and we should get to the bottom of it," Paul said.

"I'll give you an example. In my state, when we had a Democrat Secretary of State, she refused, even under federal order, to purge the rolls of illegal voters. We got a Republican Secretary of State and he purged the rolls."

But Stephanopoulos cut in, saying: "I have to stop you there. No election is perfect. But there were 86 challenges filed by President Trump and his allies in court, all were dismissed. Every state certified the results."

The two talked over each other for half a minute until Stephanopoulos said: "The Department of Justice led by William Barr said there's no widespread evidence of fraud. Can't you just say the words, this election –"

Paul broke in to say “no.”

“What I would suggest is that if we want greater confidence in our elections, and 75 percent of Republicans agree with me, is that we do need to look at election integrity, and we need to see if we can restore confidence in the elections,” the senator said.

The two crosstalked again until Paul said: “Hey, George. George. George. Where you make a mistake is that people coming from the liberal side like you, you immediately say everything’s a lie instead of saying there are two sides to everything.

Historically what would happen is if said that I thought that there was fraud, you would interview someone else who said there wasn’t. But now you insert yourself in the middle and say that the absolute ... fact is that everything that I’m saying is a lie.”

“Hold on a second,” the host said, adding that Trump “said the election was stolen. This election was not stolen. The results were certified in every single state ... after count and recounts.”

But Paul said not so. “You’re saying that absolutely it was — you’re saying there was no fraud and it’s all been investigated, and that’s just not true.” The two again argued about who was saying what, when Paul said: “You say we’re all liars. You just simply say we’re all liars.”

Then Paul got specific.

“In Wisconsin, tens of thousands of absentee votes had only the name on them and no address. Historically those were thrown out, this time they weren’t. They made special accommodations because they said, oh, it’s a pandemic and people forgot what their address was.”

“So they changed the law after the fact. That is wrong, that’s unconstitutional. And I plan on spending the next two years going around state to state and fixing these problems and I won’t be cowed by liberals in the media who say, there’s no evidence here and you’re a liar if you talk about election fraud. No, let’s have an open debate. It’s a free country,” Paul said.

Stephanopoulos said: “There is no widespread evidence of election fraud that overturned that results. That was stated as well by the Department of Justice led by President Trump’s attorney general. In Wisconsin, there were counts and recounts.” Paul broke in again to say: “It was never studied. Even that’s not true. Even that’s not true. Even that’s not true.”

“There’s been no examination, thorough examination of all the states to see what problems we had and see if they could fix them. Now, let me say to be clear, I voted to certify the state electors because I think it would be wrong for Congress to overturn that.”

“But at the same time, I’m not willing just to sit here and say, oh, everybody on the Republican side is a liar and there is no fraud. No, there were lots of problems and there were secretaries of state who illegally changed the law and that needs to be fixed. And I’m going to work hard to fix it. And I won’t be cowed by people saying, oh, you’re a liar,” Paul said.

“That’s the problem with the media today is they say all Republicans are liars, and everything we say is a lie. There are two sides to every story. Interview somebody on the other side, but don’t insert yourself into the story to say we’re all liars, because we do think there’s some fraud and the election needs to be fixed.”

But Stephanopoulos said, “Sir, there are not — there are not two sides to this story. This has been looked in every single state.”

“Sure there are,” Paul said. “There are two sides to every story. George, you’re forgetting who you are. You’re forgetting who you are as a journalist if you think there’s only one side. You’re inserting yourself into the story to say I’m a liar because I want to look at election fraud and I want to look at secretaries of state who illegally changed the voter laws without the permission of their state legislatures. That is incontrovertible, it happened.”

“And you can’t just sweep it under the rug and say, ‘Oh, nothing to see here, and everybody is a liar and you’re a fool if you bring this up.’ You’re inserting yourself into the story. A journalist would hear both sides and there are two sides of a story,” he said.

Paul also cited another state. “I believe in Pennsylvania, they broke the law, and I believe if that ever will get a real hearing in the Supreme Court, it was denied for standing. It wasn’t actually taken up. If it were taken up, I do believe that the Supreme Court would overrule and say that they did break the law illegally.”

“I asked you a very simple question, was the election stolen or not?” Stephanopoulos said at the end of the fiery exchange.

“I think there was a great deal of evidence of fraud and changing of the election laws illegally. And I think a thorough investigation is warranted,” Paul said.

Biden Admin Fires Heads Of U.S.-Funded International Broadcasters Over Alleged Trump Support. Two VOA officials reportedly escorted from building by security

Joseph Curl



NICHOLAS KAMM/AFP via Getty Images

President Joe Biden's administration continues to purge all remnants of President Donald Trump, abruptly firing the former president's allies at three federally funded international broadcasters, including the Voice of America (VOA).

The acting chief of the U.S. Agency for Global Media (USAGM) also fired the directors of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Radio Free Asia and the Middle East Broadcasting Networks just a month after they were named to the positions, two officials [told](#) The Associated Press.

"The changes came a day after the director of the Voice of America and his deputy were removed and the chief of the Office of Cuba Broadcasting stepped down. The firings follow the forced resignation of former President Donald Trump's hand-picked choice to lead USAGM only two hours after Joe Biden took office on Wednesday," wrote the AP.

Democrats have accused Trump's USAGM chief Michael Pack of trying to turn VOA and its related networks into pro-Trump propaganda outlets. In December, Pack appointed all of those who were fired.

The two officials told the AP that acting CEO of USAGM, Kellie Chase, had fired Middle East Broadcasting Network director Victoria Coates, Radio Free Asia chief Stephen Yates and Radio Free Europe head Ted Lipien on Friday. The Biden White House has appointed Chase, a three-decade VOA veteran journalist, to be the agency's interim chief executive.

Coates, Yates and Lipien, along with former VOA director Robert Reilly and former Cuba broadcasting chief Jeffrey Shapiro, were considered prominent conservatives whom Pack chose to change what Trump and other Republicans believed was bias in the taxpayer-funded media outlets.

Reilly, who was replaced by VOA veteran journalist Yolanda Lopez, had recently "demoted a White House correspondent under Lopez's supervision after she tried to

ask then-Secretary of State Mike Pompeo a question during a VOA event,” the AP reported.

“Pack had created a furor when he took over USAGM last year and fired the boards of all the outlets under his control along with the leadership of the individual broadcast networks. The actions were criticized as threatening the broadcasters’ prized editorial independence and raised fears that Pack, a conservative filmmaker and former associate of Trump’s onetime political strategist Steve Bannon, intended to turn venerable U.S. media outlets into pro-Trump propaganda machines,” said the wire service.

Biden has moved quickly to wipe away Trump’s actions via executive orders. Biden’s first three orders recommitted the U.S. to the Paris Climate Accord, promoted “racial equity” in health care and required that anti-COVID-19 masks be worn in federal buildings.

He also signed orders ending Trump’s 2017 travel ban on a group of predominately Muslim countries including Libya, Somalia, Syria and Yemen, halting construction of Trump’s U.S.-Mexico border wall, rejoining the World Health Organization, extending a pandemic ban on evictions and foreclosures, suspending student loan payments, reversing Trump environmental deregulation and affirming the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program that protects from deportation people brought illegally to the U.S. as children.

Biden also signaled that he’ll go left, signing an executive order letting transgender women compete in women’s sports. “Children should be able to learn without worrying about whether they will be denied access to the restroom, the locker room, or school sports,” the order says.

Washington Post ‘Fact Checkers’ Won’t Count False Biden Claims; ‘Assume’ He’ll Be Like Obama. “We do not have plans to launch a Biden database at this time.”

Joseph Curl



Tom Pennington/Getty Images

Glenn Kessler, a “fact checker” for The Washington Post, kept track of everything he and a team of deemers deemed to be a lie uttered by President Trump.

His final tally of Trump’s “false and misleading statements” – [30,573](#). But according to a new report, the Post team won’t be keeping score on President Biden, a Democrat.

“Trump’s departure also equals an end to having a false claims project for the current president, as The Post said it does ‘not have plans to launch a Biden database at this time,’” the [Daily Caller](#) wrote.

“The database of Trump claims was started a month after Trump became president as a way to not overwhelm our fact-checking enterprise, where the core mission is to explain complex policy issues,” Shani George told the Caller.

“While we do not have plans to launch a Biden database at this time, we will continue to dig into the accuracy of statements by political figures of all party affiliations.”

Back on January 16, Kessler explained in a CNN appearance why he won’t keep a list of alleged lies from Biden. “I assume the Biden presidency will be a lot like the Obama presidency, and that they will be responsive, and will be able to quickly back up what they’re saying,” he told host Victor Blackwell.

Here’s their exchange:

BLACKWELL: Let me ask you about the president-elect. He made a lot of pretty dramatic claims in his speech on Thursday, Thursday evening. I understand that your team reached out to him and just compare and contrast the reaction and response you got from the incoming administration to what you’ve gotten over the last several years.

KESSLER: Well, in the case of the Biden-Harris transition team, we asked — we identified five factual statements he made, interesting claims that we wanted to know

if they — what was the basis for this. Within 15 minutes, we received citations to those factual statements, and they all checked out.

Generally, the Trump White House almost never responded to our queries, [because], of course, a lot of what the president said could not be defended or explained in terms of where he got these so-called facts. I assume the Biden — you know, I did five years of Obama, and I assume the Biden presidency will be a lot like the Obama presidency, and that they will be responsive, and will be able to quickly back up what they're saying.

And occasionally, the president will go off-kilter, particularly when he's, you know, speaking extemporaneously and not following something that previously — has previously been fact-checked.

On Twitter, Kessler wrote: "I had a question about five factual statements in a recent Biden speech. I received citations and documents backing up those numbers 15 minutes after sending an emailed request for back-up."

In its own report, [Newsbusters](#) wrote: "Kessler warmly accepted Biden's use of liberal think tanks like the Brookings Institution, the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, and poverty analysts at Columbia University backed by liberal foundations like the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

But when Trump used the National Federation of Independent Business for a survey of small business confidence in 2018, Kessler dismissed it as a 'conservative group' whose survey didn't draw enough responses to impress him."

But if you want to keep up with Biden's false and misleading statements, check out this story on [The Federalist](#) headlined: [Here's The Full List Of Every Lie Joe Biden Has Told As President.](#)

[Here's The Full List Of Every Lie Joe Biden Has Told As President](#)
[The Federalist Staff](#)



As President Joe Biden assumes the Oval Office, The Federalist will continue its rigorous coverage of the new White House, keeping the administration accountable with substantive fact-checking throughout Biden's tenure.

Biden Warns Pandemic Will Worsen After Pledging To Shut Down Virus
President Biden spent the entire campaign last year running on a platform to shut down the novel coronavirus, only to back away from the signature pledge on day three of his White House tenure with a bold admission.

"There's nothing we can do to change the trajectory of the pandemic in the next several months," Biden said on Jan. 22.

Biden Claims Federal Government Never Acted with Urgency to Combat Pandemic
Joe Biden claimed the federal government failed to "act with the urgency" that was necessary to combat the coronavirus pandemic, apparently neglecting to mention the Trump White House's Operation Warp Speed that produced two viable coronavirus vaccines by the year's end.

Texas Republican Sen. John Cornyn also pointed out that Congress passed trillions in stimulus, providing funds for pandemic efforts and economic recovery.
Biden Team Tells CNN Trump Offered No Plan for Vaccine Distribution
Sources within the Biden administration told CNN they inherited no vaccine distribution plan from the previous White House.

"There is nothing for us to rework. We are going to have to build everything from scratch," one source reportedly told CNN's MJ Lee, except there was, as outlined in Trump's Operation Warp Speed, included below.

The Biden team's statements were also contradicted by the National Institutes of Health Director Dr. Anthony Fauci the same afternoon.

“We’re certainly not starting from scratch, because there is activity going on in the distribution,” Fauci told reporters.

Biden White House Claims Elites ‘Celebrating’ Is Exception to Mask Edict
White House spokeswoman Jen Psaki justified Biden’s decision with his family to forgo face masks at the Lincoln Memorial after signing an executive order requiring them on all federal lands.

“He was celebrating a historic day in our country. ... We have bigger things to worry about,” said Psaki, whose dismissal of the face mask as an insignificant issue was contradicted by the White House edict passed hours earlier.

*Though Biden has **received** both shots of the Pfizer coronavirus vaccine, **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines** stipulate that vaccinated people are to continue wearing face masks, citing a lack of research showing whether those vaccinated can still spread the virus.*

While Biden likely did not need to wear a face mask, considering he was outside and adequately distanced from others, the absence of a mask flies in the face of Biden’s executive order, in which “celebrating” is not listed as an exception.

Biden Falsely Claims ‘All’ Media Smeared Vaccine Plan as ‘Impossible’
*Joe Biden **defended** his administration’s goal to vaccinate 100 million Americans within his first 100 days in office after a reporter questioned whether the target was too modest.*

“When I announced it, you all said it wasn’t possible. C’mon. Gimme a break, man,” Biden snapped.

*While few articles at major publications have voiced some skepticism, **they remained rare**, undermining Biden’s claim that “all” media had been overwhelmingly pessimistic of the Biden administration reaching the 100 million mark by the end of April.*

Biden Vows to Be Unity President After Smearing GOP Sens. as Nazis
*Biden launched his first term as commander-in-chief by branding himself as the unifier-in-chief while aggressively pursuing a partisan progressive agenda promoting left-wing ideas of “social justice” after **smearing** two Republican senators as Nazi collaborators.*

*“To all those who did not support us, let me say this: Hear me out as we move forward. Take a measure of me and my heart,” Biden **pleaded** with the American people.*

*Less than two weeks prior, however, the “unity” president **smeared** Republican Sens. Josh Hawley of Missouri and Ted Cruz of Texas as Nazis.*

MR. BIDEN ADJUSTED VOA'S HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNICATION AND MANAGEMENT "REMOVED"

Tommy Clark



Mr. Biden has just been in office for two days, has quickly turned over many policies of the previous Trump administration, Director of the US Media Administration (USAGM) - Mr. Michael Pack and many managers Voice of the United States (VOA) was forced to resign.

According to the Washington Post, former President Trump tried to rectify the Voice of America, which was called "the loudspeaker for the Chinese Communist Party (CCP)" by the White House. However, through a legal process of 4 years, it was not until last year that the senior manager of this station was replaced. But these efforts were reversed by Mr. Biden just two days after his inauguration.

After Mr. Biden took the oath of office on January 20, he immediately asked Michael Pack - the general manager of the US Global Communications Agency (nominated by former President Trump and appointed by the Senate). At the same time, he appointed reporter Zhao Khac Lo (Kelu Chao, a native of Taiwan), who has 40 years of experience at VOA, to temporarily take over this position, to be in charge of US radio foreign affairs. According to former VOA employee revealed, VOA Director asked the government to "obey the law", but was kicked out of the office by the police.

The USAGM is VOA's direct superior body, the director of the USAGM needs to be confirmed by the Senate.

After being appointed, the very next day, Ms. Trieu Khac Lo asked VOA Director Robert Reilly and Deputy Director Elizabeth Robbins to "resign." These two were appointed by Mr. Michael Pack in December of last year, only in office for a month.

Ms. Trieu also appointed VOA reporter Yolanda Lopez to be the acting Director of VOA.

In addition, the person in charge of the Office of Cuba Broadcasting (Office of Cuba Broadcasting) - Mr. Jeffrey Shapiro, also "resigned" on the same day. He was appointed interim curator by Michael Pack, also an ally of former White House Advisor Steve Bannon.

On January 11, former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo delivered a speech at VOA's headquarters under the arrangement of Mr. Michael Pack, Mr. Robert Reilly and Mrs. Elizabeth Robbins. Pompeo pointed out that, in the most difficult times, America still needs to ensure its free voice, he called for propaganda not to act on behalf of the CCP.

The Washington Post reported that the appointments of Ms. Trieu Khac Lo and Ms. Yolanda Lopez are a milestone that the US media agency has restored to the status before Michael Pack was appointed.

In April 2020, the White House under the Trump administration, once pointed out, The Voice of America is funded by the tax money of the American people, became a propaganda speaker for the CCP, wasting tax money citizen.

The brief report shows that each year VOA receives \$ 200 million in funding from the US Government, the main task is to introduce "clearly and effectively the US policy" to everyone in the world. . However, "this year, VOA often speaks up for US competitors, not for American citizens".

Two months later, Mr. Trump appointed Michael Pack as Director of USAGM, in charge of overseeing and managing foreign radio agencies such as the Voice of America, Radio Free Asia (RFA), Radio Europe. by (RFE / RL), Middle East Broadcasting, which manages more than 4000 employees. The US government pays \$ 637 million to these agencies each year.

Mr. Michael Pack said that he himself and the media under him manage the mission to restore diplomacy to the American public through international radio.

On January 22, The National Pulse newspaper reported that after the election, the US society's confidence level in the media fell to its lowest level in history, more than half of the people no longer believed in the media.

56% of Americans say that journalists intentionally hide the truth, report fake news, exaggerate their words, intentionally mislead the public.

58% of Americans believe that the vast majority of the media intend to support specific political ideology or stance in their reports, rather than standardize reporting facts.