



Exclusive to OpEd News:

OpEdNews Op Eds 2/24/2023 at 6:53 AM EST H2'ed 2/24/23



## Questions for House Oversight Chair James Comer from Bob Weiner, former spokesman Govt Operations & Oversight Committee

By Robert Weiner and Lexi Meola

**Question 1: Haven't the cosmetic and ethics issues on Hunter Biden doing business with Ukraine been out there for years-- there was a State Dept. report years ago saying the ethics were wrong... BUT no legal issues... unless turns out he didn't pay taxes. Don't a lot of congressmen and other politicians in both parties have family capitalizing on name?**

**2) BUT What about TRUMP's corrupt money issues? Your response to CNN's Jake Tapper and others has been "Trump was investigated for 6 years, Biden not." But what about the Trump FAMILY since that's what Hunter is to Biden-- \*\*\*SO the Jared-Saudi TWO BILLION dollar deal, Melania's merchandising products at the WH, AND issues Trump has NOT been investigated for-- Trump hotel foreign guests almost forced-staying for profits, the real estate deals in NYC (ie right in Trump Tower) and FL condos getting triple the going price from Russians and others; AND who paid Trump campaign manager Paul Manafort and his huge debts since Trump had him on a \$1 salary (the answer appears to be Ukraine operatives then which meant Russia). And isn't this similar and even related to the new FBI Russian Oligarch case? Shouldn't all these be included in the investigation AND will you oppose Democrats who may want to bring them up??**

**3) ON the Biden classified papers, he has cooperated and immediately turned over to (and still doing) Archives, Trump stonewalled and obstructed/is obstructing so many prosecutors believe the Biden special prosecutor, Robert Hur, will issue a "declination" on Biden (though with a bad-boy slap on wrist), but the Trump one, Jack Smith, may indict and prosecute Trump, ALONG with Georgia's Fanni Willis and/or Smith indict and prosecute on election rigging-- no one can get past the 11,780 votes GA taped call and the myriad states fake electors. Would you agree or disagree?**

## **Additional Thoughts**

*An Attempt to Overshadow the Public's Questions about the Trump Family's Business Ventures by Continuing Obsession with Hunter Biden's Ukraine Business Deals*

Hunter Biden doing business with Ukraine has been well investigated through the State Department years ago with undeniable ethics conflicts but no support towards legality problems. Republican members in the House of Representatives have been clear about their objectives to investigate the Biden family once he was elected to office in 2020.

Now in a Republican controlled House, they have the power to investigate through the House Oversight Committee. However, this Republican controlled Oversight Committee has little interest in exploring former President Trump's family members' business deals.

On Sunday Jan 15th, new House Oversight Committee Chairman Rep. James Comer (R-KY) went on CNN's broadcast of State of the Union to discuss both Biden and Trump's controversy with classified documents not being given to the National Archives and his role as chairman.

When pressed by Jake Tapper, Comer was quick to redirect to concerns around Biden. A common defense from Republicans has been that Trump was investigated for six years but not Biden. Although the Trump family has been investigated, there are still too many concerns surrounding numerous suspicious deals to simply close the book on these probes.

In a visit to the National Press Club, Comer doubled down on his beliefs that Trump "has been investigated for 6 years". Comer was quick to emphasize why he believes Hunter Biden needed to be investigated for influence peddling but was unwilling to accuse Jared Kushner of doing the same.

Despite Republicans' best efforts, the questions surrounding Trump's family remain. Where is the money going and where is it coming from?

The Trump Family and executives close to the family have been exposed for numerous deals with foreign countries surrounding their businesses, as well as tax and bank fraud. The Trump Organization has fallen from the good graces of popular banks like J.P. Morgan Chase after the January 6th Insurrection which means they no longer have access to the money they once did.

Jared Kushner, son-in-law and former senior advisor to Trump, had a two billion dollar deal with the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud. This drew many questions on whether or not Kushner's deal inappropriately influenced the U.S. Foreign Policy in regards to Saudi Arabia, especially after the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi by Saudi assassins tied to the Crown Prince and numerous human rights abuses.

The investment into Kushner's firm Affinity is not the only deal that Kushner received while he was an advisor with Trump. Kushner and his wife Ivanka Trump financials were looked into and it was discovered that both parties made around \$640 million in outside income while working in the White House. While there are not too many details surrounding how this money was made, there still lies the question where did it come from.

These deals were not the only ones made during Trump's time in office. The Trump Organization received numerous loans from a variety of banks to open as many properties as it has. Those properties include real estate deals in New York, New Jersey, Florida, and globally. Trump Tower in New York started construction after a \$650 million dollar loan from Deutsche Bank and three hedge funds.

It does not stop in New York. In Florida, it was reported through Reuters Investigates that Russian elites were investing into Trump's South Florida luxury towers. It was found through public records and corporate records that at least 63 individuals with Russian passports bought at least \$98.4 million dollars worth of property. With all of these reports being released, Trump is still insistent that he has no relations with Russia.

Trump is known for his numerous golf courses in the States and globally. In 2017, Eric Trump made an offhand statement that Trump's Scottish golf courses were being funded by Russia. While this statement has been denied, it brought serious concerns on whether that was true and if this golf course is being used as a front for money laundering or other crimes with Russia.

Three of Trump's closest allies all have been found guilty of numerous crimes directly connected to Trump and his organization. Allen Wieselburg, was Trump organization's Chief Financial Officer, pleaded guilty to multiple tax crimes related to the former president's organization.

Paul Manafort, Trump's former presidential campaign chairman and chief strategist, was sentenced to seven and a half years for 18 different criminal charges. Those charges include falsifications of income tax returns, failures to file foreign bank account reports, bank fraud, and bank fraud conspiracy.

Steve Bannon, former White House's chief strategist under Trump, was charged with money laundering, conspiracy and scheming to defraud for his alleged role in We Build the Wall, a group that raised at least \$15 million.

These three men are not the only ones willing to tank their personal and professional lives for Trump. So a new question arises, What does Trump have over Wieselburg, Bannon, and Manafort? Why did they stay silent and take the fall for his family's crimes?

Weiner was spokesman in the Clinton and Bush White Houses and the House Government Operations (now Oversight) Committee, and senior staff for Cong. John Conyers, Claude Pepper, Charles Rangel, Ed Koch, Sen. Ted Kennedy, and Four-Star Gen. Barry McCaffrey. Meola is policy analyst for Robert Weiner associates and Solutions for Change.