



One Hundred Seventeenth Congress

Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol

December 22, 2021

Representative Jim Jordan
United States House of Representatives
2056 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Jordan:

On June 30, 2021, the House adopted House Resolution 503, establishing the Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol (the “Select Committee”). The Select Committee is investigating the facts, circumstances, and causes of the January 6th attack and issues relating thereto. The Select Committee has tremendous respect for the prerogatives of Congress and the privacy of its Members. At the same time, we have a solemn responsibility to investigate fully the facts and circumstances of these events.

We write to seek your voluntary cooperation in advancing our investigation. The violence at the Capitol began early in the afternoon on January 6th. It did not abate until after 4:17 p.m. when President Trump issued a videotaped message instructing the rioters to leave, coupling that message with statements praising them as “very special” and stating, “I know how you feel.” During the multiple hours of violence, many efforts were made to reach President Trump and his Chief of Staff to urge that President Trump immediately appear “on TV,” make a public statement, give an “oval [office] address” or otherwise instruct that the rioters disperse, “go home,” and leave the Capitol. Multiple of these communications, including from the President’s son, made clear that none of the President’s tweets had or would quell the violence, and that a public statement instructing the rioters to leave the Capitol was required. Indeed, the President’s tweet condemning Vice President Pence appeared to enflame the rioters further.

Despite the urgent requests that the President speak and instruct the rioters to leave, President Trump did not make such a statement for multiple hours as rioters attacked police and invaded and occupied the Capitol.¹ The Select Committee has testimony indicating that the president was watching television coverage of the attack from his private dining room adjoining the Oval Office during this time period.² Even after the crowd ultimately dispersed late in the day, then-President Trump, through his legal team, continued to seek to delay or otherwise impede the electoral count.³ And Mr. Trump’s tweet from that evening further revealed his perspective on the

¹ See, e.g., “Bloodshed: For 187 harrowing minutes, the president watched his supporters attack the Capitol — and resisted pleas to stop them,” *Washington Post* (Oct. 31, 2021), found at <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/interactive/2021/what-happened-trump-jan-6-insurrection/>.

² Documents on file with the Select Committee.

³ Documents on file with the Select Committee.

violence: *“These are the things and events that happen when a sacred landslide election victory is so unceremoniously & viciously stripped away from great patriots who have been badly & unfairly treated for so long.”*

We understand that you had at least one and possibly multiple communications with President Trump on January 6th. We would like to discuss each such communication with you in detail.⁴ And we also wish to inquire about any communications you had on January 5th or 6th with those in the Willard War Room, the Trump legal team, White House personnel or others involved in organizing or planning the actions and strategies for January 6th.

Of course, the events on the day of January 6th are not our only focus. We also must learn about the activities that led to the attack on January 6th. Public reporting suggests that you may also have information about meetings with White House officials and the then-President in November and December 2020, and early-January 2021, about strategies for overturning the results of the 2020 election.⁵ We would also like to ask you about any discussions involving the possibility of presidential pardons for individuals involved in any aspect of January 6th or the planning for January 6th. When you were asked during a Rules Committee hearing on October 20, 2021, whether you would be willing to share with the Select Committee the information you have regarding January 6th and the events leading up to that day, you responded, “I’ve said all along, ‘I have nothing to hide.’ I’ve been straightforward all along.”⁶

We would like to meet with you soon, but we also want to accommodate your schedule. We propose meeting with you on January 3rd or January 4th. Please let us know whether one of those dates will fit with your schedule. If you are unavailable on those dates, we can arrange a time during the week of January 10th. If it would be preferable to hold this meeting with you in your district, we would also be glad to explore travel arrangements to facilitate that option.

The American people deserve a full and accurate accounting of what happened on January 6th. We aim to make informed legislative recommendations taking account of all relevant facts. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Bennie G. Thompson
Chairman

⁴ See, e.g., Caroline Vakil, “Jordan acknowledges talking to Trump on Jan. 6” THE HILL (July 29, 2021) available at <https://thehill.com/homenews/house/565425-jordan-acknowledges-conversation-with-trump-on-jan-6> (discussing Rep. Jordan’s interviews on Fox News and Spectrum News about contact with former President Trump on January 6, 2021).

⁵ Katie Benner, Catie Edmondson, Luke Broadwater and Alan Feuer, *Meadows and the Band of Loyalists: How They Fought to Keep Trump in Power*, NEW YORK TIMES (December 15, 2021).

⁶ <https://rules.house.gov/video/h-res-h-rept-117-152>.