

BENNIE G. THOMPSON, MISSISSIPPI
CHAIRMAN

ZOE LOFGREN, CALIFORNIA
ADAM B. SCHIFF, CALIFORNIA
PETE AGUILAR, CALIFORNIA
STEPHANIE N. MURPHY, FLORIDA
JAMIE RASKIN, MARYLAND
ELAINE G. LURIA, VIRGINIA
LIZ CHENEY, WYOMING
ADAM KINZINGER, ILLINOIS



U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

january6th.house.gov
(202) 225-7800

One Hundred Seventeenth Congress

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

September 1, 2022

Mr. Newton L. Gingrich



Dear Mr. Gingrich:

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 to the peaceful transfer of power in order to identify and evaluate lessons learned and to recommend corrective laws, policies, procedures, rules, or regulations.

The Committee has obtained information indicating that you have knowledge about former President Donald J. Trump’s efforts to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election, and we write to seek your voluntary cooperation. Some of the information that we have obtained includes email messages that you exchanged with senior advisors to President Trump and others, including Jared Kushner and Jason Miller, in which you provided detailed input into television advertisements that repeated and relied upon false claims about fraud in the 2020 election. These advertising efforts were not designed to encourage voting for a particular candidate. Instead, these efforts attempted to cast doubt on the outcome of the election *after* voting had already taken place. They encouraged members of the public to contact their state officials and pressure them to challenge and overturn the results of the election. To that end, these advertisements were intentionally aired in the days leading up to December 14, 2020, the day electors from each state met to cast their votes for president and vice president.¹

Among the numerous emails you exchanged regarding purported election fraud, you wrote on December 8, 2020, urging Donald Trump’s campaign to air advertisements promoting the false narrative that election workers had smuggled suitcases containing fake ballots at the State Farm Arena in Atlanta, Georgia. This email shows that you provided line edits to the scripts used to produce television advertisements and suggested that the advertisements include a “call-to-action” of pressuring state officials. You specifically pushed for national advertisements to include false allegations about what you called the “suitcase scandal.”

¹ In late December 2020, President Trump personally approved of a second set of television advertisements that again repeated and relied upon false claims about fraud in the 2020 election. *See* Documents on file with the Select Committee. These advertisements were also aimed at increasing public pressure on public officials to challenge and overturn the results of the election, and were timed to air from December 23, 2020, until January 5, 2021. *Id.*

These claims about suitcases of ballots were disproven after numerous independent reviews, including by President Trump's own political appointees at the Department of Justice. BJay Pak, the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia, oversaw an investigation of the claims and found them to be baseless. He relayed this information to Attorney General Bill Barr and Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Richard Donoghue, both of whom directly relayed to President Trump that there was no truth to the claims. Georgia state officials, including Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger—then a supporter of Donald Trump—and news media also found no evidence of the fraud discussed in your emails. Yet, *after* these allegations were shown to be false, you and the Trump campaign continued to spread those very narratives.

Your efforts did not only seek to persuade. Also on December 8, 2020, in response to a proposed script for a television advertisement about election fraud, you sent an email to Mr. Weitzner, Mr. Kushner, and Mr. Miller writing:

The goal is to arouse the country's anger through new verifiable information the American people have never seen before[.] . . . If we inform the American people in a way they find convincing and it arouses their anger[,] they will then bring pressure on legislators and governors.²

You sought to arouse anger just one week after Gabe Sterling, a senior Georgia official, warned the public of the violent threats made against Georgia election officials. He specifically stated that, “[s]omeone is going to get hurt. Someone is going to get shot. Someone is going to get killed.”³ He was exactly right.

In short, you have knowledge and information directly related to our investigation. Information obtained by the Select Committee suggests that you provided detailed directives about the television advertisements that perpetuated false claims about fraud in the 2020 election, that you sought ways to expand the reach of this messaging, and that you were likely in direct conversations with President Trump about these efforts.

Information we have obtained also suggests you were involved in the fake elector scheme. On November 12, 2020, you wrote the following to Mr. Meadows and Mr. Cipollone: “Is someone in charge of coordinating all the electors? Evans makes the point that all the contested electors must meet on [D]ecember 14 and send in ballots to force contests which the house would have to settle.”⁴ Ultimately, President Trump and some of his closest advisors used the votes of these fake electors to encourage Vice President Pence and members of Congress to affect the outcome of the Joint Session of Congress on January 6, 2021.

Surprisingly, the attack on Congress and the activities prescribed by the Constitution did not even pause your relentless pursuit. On the evening of January 6th, you continued to push efforts

² Documents on file with the Select Committee.

³ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jLi-Yo6IucQ>; *see also*, Richard Fausset, “‘It Has to Stop’: Georgia Election Official Lashes Trump,” Dec. 1, 2020 (available at <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/12/01/us/politics/georgia-election-trump.html>).

⁴ Documents on file with the Select Committee.

Mr. Newt Gingrich

Page 3

to overturn the election results. You emailed Mr. Meadows at 10:42 p.m., after the Capitol had been cleared of rioters and members of Congress had returned to finish certifying the election results, and asked, “[a]re there letters from state legislators about decertifying electors[?]”⁵ Accordingly, you appear to have been involved with President Trump’s efforts to stop the certification of the election results, even after the attack on the Capitol.

The Committee is also interested in other communications you may have had with the White House, President Trump, the Trump legal team or any other persons involved in the events of January 6th. We ask that you preserve all records of such communications.

We would like to interview you about these and other communications and speak with you about your efforts to advise President Trump and his campaign. More specifically, we would like to conduct a voluntary transcribed interview with you during the week of September 19, 2022. If you are represented by counsel, our staff is available to talk with him or her regarding an interview and any other matter.

A full and accurate accounting of what happened on January 6th is critical to the Select Committee’s legislative recommendations. And the American people deserve to understand the relevant details of what led to the attack. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Bennie G. Thompson
Chairman

⁵ Documents on file with the Select Committee.