

The Delray Democrat

GOP Sabotages Jan 6 Investigation - Again¹

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While Speaker Nancy Pelosi deals with the media fallout from her unprecedented rejection of Jim Jordan and Jim Banks, two of Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy's five picks for the Select Committee to Investigate the January 6 Insurrection, voters must focus on McCarthy and the Republicans. Republicans have again sabotaged any effort to investigate and determine the truth about the attack on the Capitol. Voters, including Republican voters, must demand that Republican elected officials do their sworn duty to uphold the Constitution and the Rule of Law, and cease all efforts to prevent investigation about January 6, 2021.

His faux outrage to the contrary, McCarthy well knew that Jordan was especially incapable of serving on this committee, but selecting him was a win/win for McCarthy. If Pelosi left him on the committee, Jordan would sabotage any efforts at progress. If Pelosi rejected him, McCarthy would follow the Trump playbook with a hyperbolic, dishonest attack on Pelosi and the committee, challenging and threatening its legitimacy. McCarthy's goal was to prevent a select committee from being formed and with no Republican appointed members (he chose to withdraw all five rather than replace the two) he may have essentially achieved that goal or at least limited its effectiveness. Time will tell.

Republican Representative Liz Cheney rightfully referred to McCarthy's selections as a partisan attempt to thwart the investigation, and his attack on Speaker Pelosi and her decision as disingenuous. McCarthy selected Representative Jim Jordan, and likely also Representative Jim Banks, for the sole purpose of obstructing the committee's work and preventing any conclusion, no matter how strongly supported, that implicates former President Trump or other Republican leaders and constituencies. Jordan, the king of bombast and dishonesty in Congress, serves no other purpose on the committee. Cheney shoulders a lot of responsibility because she and Adam Kinzinger (later appointed by Pelosi) are the only Republicans serving on the committee, especially to maintain the air of legitimacy Republicans are working so hard to prevent.

Regardless of the consequences, Pelosi was right to reject Jordan and Banks. Her decision was not based on any of their partisan views or actions, as demonstrated by her accepting the other three McCarthy picks. She did not reject individuals who simply voted against the Electoral College vote, even after the insurrection. She drew the line with Jordan and Banks because of their ongoing, fervent efforts to support Trump's "Big Lie" about the election being stolen and their close coordination with Trump before and after January 6 to overturn the election. In fact, Jordan is highly likely to be called as a witness in front of the committee. Just how does one sit on a select committee where one is going to be a material (likely hostile) witness concerning the very wrongdoing at issue?! If you were prosecuting a group of co-defendants for a crime, would you let them serve on each other's juries? Of course not.

Republicans were able to prevent a Congressional Commission that would have undertaken a

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comprehensive review of the January 6 attack on the Capitol. Republicans essentially got everything they asked for on the Commission – representation, staff, subpoena power, etc. They would not take yes for an answer, voted against it, and proved to the American people their determination to prevent the public from learning what occurred on January 6. Following the adage, “the best defense is a good offense,” Republicans have been aggressively attacking law enforcement and anyone attempting to unveil the truth about January 6 as well as prosecuting their bogus claims of a stolen election in part to dissuade people from caring about the facts behind the insurrection. Well, they certainly have been acting offensively... Supporting the violent attack and the clearly fraudulent claims about the election are an affront to democracy, the Constitution, and the American people.

McCarthy’s ruthless, baseless attack on Pelosi was designed entirely as a political stunt, introducing the 2022 Republican smear campaign about socialism/authoritarianism in Congress. The base will love it and respond to it as a rallying cry, thus getting out the vote. They also hope to use this to win independents, particularly in swing House districts and close Senate races, to take control of both chambers. No matter how important people believe it is to determine the truth about the insurrection, this is not likely to be a successful campaign issue. Republicans are betting they can prevent the investigations without political fallout. Democrats will take a big risk if they focus on these issues rather than the traditional “kitchen table” issues that voters prove time and again win or lose elections. That is why it is critical for this select committee to get to work, produce a fair, accurate, and thorough report, and conclude the investigation as swiftly as possible.

There has been plenty of video footage and court documentation memorializing and proving incontrovertibly that the Capitol was violently attacked by an angry mob, the attack was planned by extremist groups that also exploited the mob, approximately 150 law enforcement officers were injured by the rioters, and that they were there believing they were supporting Donald Trump. So, what do Republicans still believe they need to hide – the role of Trump and other elected officials that may have encouraged or supported the insurrection. They will go to great lengths and know no bounds to conceal their treachery, quest for authoritarian control, and efforts to overturn what was a proper election. This is the behavior of criminals with guilty consciences.