

Pain the Plebes

Joe makes yet another election money grab

WHEN the history of the 2024 presidential campaign is written, will citizens of Westchester County garner Churchill-type accolades: "Never was so much owed by so many to so few"? But perhaps it is unwise to compare the victims of Biden fundraising schemes to the Royal Air Force pilots defeating Hitler's Luftwaffe.

Much of Westchester County was locked down Thursday thanks to President Biden and his vast entourage descending on Irvington for a fundraiser reception in Michael Douglas' mansion. General admission tickets (bring your own pretzels?) started at \$3,300, and the event likely raised at least \$10 million for Biden's re-election campaign.

Though the reception did not start until 6:15 p.m., schools in the area closed starting at 11 a.m. All after-school activities were canceled for kids. Police were "urging people to avoid traveling beginning early this afternoon in anticipation" of Biden's visit, according to a local business journal. Government officials created a vast security corridor hours before

the president arrived and far beyond the specific area he would visit. Perhaps the de facto lockdown was to ensure Biden heard no heckling?

Should people be honored when their personal schedules are disrupted by the commander in chief, the same way medieval peasants offered thanks if their crops were trampled by the king's courtiers? Is Biden entitled to force Americans to pay any price for that blessing of perpetuating his power? Will Thursday's disruption enter local lore as the Westchester equivalent of the Bridgegate scandal that tainted former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie?

The campaign charged attendees \$30,000 for a photo with Biden. But Trump supporters might pay a million dollars for a photo of Biden posing proudly by one of the "air illegal" planes that deliver deluges of dubious aliens to the Westchester County Airport from foreign airports. Westchester was a hub for late-night flights that brought thousands of Cubans, Haitians and Venezuelans into the state, part of the Biden administration's plan to



Wheels down: Biden arrives Thursday in Westchester aboard Marine One.

covertly airlift more than 300,000 immigrants a year into the United States — on top of the millions of illegal aliens crossing the southern border. Then-White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki denied the administration was orchestrating secret flights "in the middle of the night," claiming the 2:30 a.m. arrivals were merely an "early flight."

Actually, the Irvington whistle-stop was the least costly part of the day for taxpayers. A few hours before the reception, Biden went to Syracuse and shouted and slurred about delivering \$6 billion in federal handouts for a private semiconductor factory to be built by Micron Technology. Biden deluged listeners with deceptive economic boasts that should have been euthanized after Thursday's grim data on slowing growth and rising inflation.

Biden has proffered buckets of other handouts to fix Americans' problems, including billions of dollars for electric buses. According to Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, "More funding for buses means less traffic congestion on the road." But bus subsidies can't compete with Biden fundraising gigs for banishing congestion by totally closing roads.

Biden is treating the \$400+ billion in federal student debt like a campaign slush fund, issuing one sham promise after another to forgive debts by shafting taxpayers. It won't matter if the federal judges nullify his edicts after his

promises snare votes to win a second term.

But perhaps the biggest and most dangerous entitlement program is Biden's prerogative to lie about how he is recklessly spending the nation into bankruptcy. In a Washington speech Wednesday, Biden declared, "I cut the national debt so far" — despite the \$7+ trillion increase in federal debt since he took office. In the same way that Biden feels entitled to disrupt the lives of anyone within miles of where he travels, does he also have a divine right to squander the wealth and paychecks of future generations who will bear the burden of his deficit spending?

While Biden is traveling the nation hitting rich donors, Donald Trump is locked in court as Democratic Party fixer Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg targets the former president with a borderline "legally obscene, openly political prosecution," as Jonathan Turley just wrote in these pages. Biden last month raised almost three times the campaign contributions Trump did. Is keeping Trump confined the biggest illicit campaign contribution Team Biden's yet received?

On his way to court Thursday, Trump and his minimally disruptive entourage stopped at a construction site. The construction workers chanted "USA! USA!" and heartily cheered the former president. It is unlikely Westchester residents vexed by Biden's disruptive visit echoed that chant.



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