

Unfit To Probe

Don't trust the FBI to investigate Secret Service

PRESIDENT Biden on Sunday announced an FBI investigation into the Secret Service's astounding failure to protect Donald Trump at the rally in Butler, Pa., promising the probe would be "thorough and swift."

But it's folly to trust a federal law enforcement agency to obliterate interagency niceties by exposing all the foibles and flubs of fellow G-men.

Instead, we'll likely see a vintage DC investigation along these lines: Please tell us if you screwed up. Also, is there someone else we can blame?

Congress is jumping on the Secret Service's Butler debacle, asserting its right to investigate.

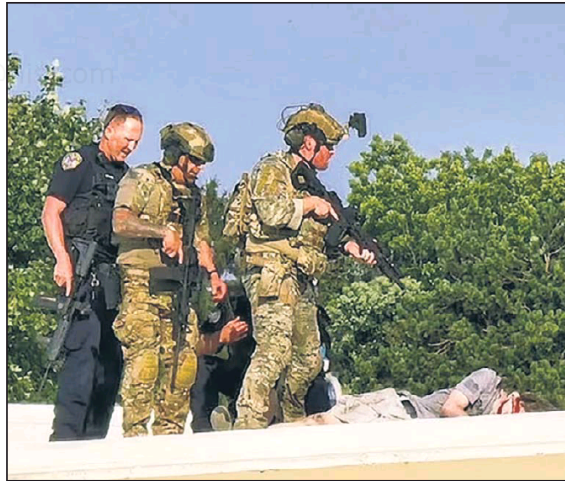
House Oversight Committee Chairman James Comer has requested Secret Service chief Kimberly Cheatle to "preserve all documents" tied to the Trump shooting, and Cheatle could take a high-profile hammering before the committee next week.

Meanwhile, Rep. Lance Gooden (R-Texas), citing a lack of "faith in the current FBI leadership," joined Rep. Jim Banks (R-In.) to call for a select House committee, while Sens. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) and Gary Peters (D-Mich.) announced plans for a bipartisan Senate investigation.

Yet the White House is telling Americans to blindly trust an agency whose acronym is now widely presumed to stand for Following Biden's Instructions.

This is the same FBI that kowtowed when Team Biden wanted parents who protested school closures and mask mandates at school board meetings to be categorized as terrorist threats. An FBI analysis in 2021 recommended targeting conservative Catholics — and claimed the Bureau could "distinguish the bad Catholics from the good ones" based on their "preference for 'the Traditional Latin Mass and pre-Vatican teachings.'"

The agency knew early on that Hunter Biden's laptop was bona fide, but did nothing to debunk the claims by CIA officials and others that it was Russian disinformation prior to the 2020 election. FBI officials also browbeat Twitter and other social media companies to suppress The Post's bombshell laptop revelations.



Obtained by NY Post

Bloody aftermath: Law enforcement agents killed Trump's would-be assassin, but critics question the FBI's inquiry into the security breach.

Will the FBI treat the Secret Service like it did Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign? The agency shrugged off the destruction of tens of thousands of subpoenaed emails tied to her breach of federal classified data laws.

Actually, the Secret Service has already been caught destroying far more evidence.

In January 2021, a Secret Service sweep missed a pipe bomb planted outside the Democratic National Committee headquarters shortly before Kamala Harris, then the Vice President-elect, arrived there. Months later, the agency admitted it had erased the cellphone records of dozens of officials and agents — after they were requested by the department's inspector general.

No Secret Service official faced any penalty for that. Is the routine destruction of self-incriminating evidence a perk of federal law enforcement?

Biden declared on Sunday, "We don't yet have any information about the motive of the shooter... Let the FBI do their job."

Like the job done by the FBI after the 2016 Pulse nightclub massacre in Orlando, perhaps? Police repeatedly spoke with shooter Omar Mateen via cellphone as he was killing 49 people while pledging allegiance to the Islamic State. But the FBI initially

expunged the comments from the phone transcripts, enabling President Barack Obama to falsely portray the attack as having been spurred by anti-gay bias.

More recently, the FBI fought to suppress the crazed writings of Audrey Hale, the transgender mass killer who attacked the Covenant Christian School in Nashville last year. One leaked excerpt purportedly revealed that Hale loathed the children for their "white privilege."

Perhaps the best recent example of an independent Biden administration "investigation" is Attorney General Merrick Garland's willingness to risk jail rather than reveal the audiotape of his boss' interview with Special Counsel Robert Hur. Team Biden will stonewall a congressional subpoena for clearly political reasons — what might they suppress regarding the assassination attempt on Trump?

If Biden's rhetoric dubbing Trump a neo-Nazi influenced Secret Service decisions on the level of protection the Republican deserved, for example, don't expect the FBI to reveal it.

So congressional investigations and whistleblower leaks are the best chance to get at the truth of the matter.

Biden said Sunday that "nothing is more important than [unity] right now."

But a façade of unity is no substitute for truth.

JAMES BOVARD

