

Ziegler on Reportercast December 2022 - transcript

00:09

MR: Welcome, dear people to this festive episode of reporter cast for December 2022. My name is Matei Rosca, the journalist behind reporter dot London, the website, and what better way to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ than by discussing all the ways his subjects are lying, cheating and stealing from each other, bullying journalists and manipulating civil society, dodging taxes, and trying to bend the rules for selfish gain every waking moment of every day. Indeed, with today's guest, we will be taking on an extremely politically sensitive story, one that has divided opinion across the United States and the world. It has pitted journalists against each other. And moreover, it has tangled up Twitter, one of the world's biggest social media platforms in a censorship scandal as recently as this week under the banner of the Twitter files. But this censorship scandal has been going on over a year. Now the subject at hand is Hunter Biden's laptop Hunter Biden being one of the sons of United States President Joe Biden. And apparently it's not just one laptop, but apparently it's three. And they include alleged proof of very serious financial malfeasance among other serious crimes. And our guest today is the man who sits right in the middle of the story, the researcher who surfaced all of the allegations who, who went through the data in the laptop and published it in various media outlets. Garrett Ziegler, who is a former Trump White House staffer, who used to write reports for Donald Trump. Thanks for joining us, Garrett.

02:01

GZ: Thank you very much. I appreciate you having me on.

02:05

MR: Before the questions, I'd like to say thank you to our sponsor, H5 Strategies, a consulting firm in Bucharest, specialised in political and executive advisory across Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Africa. And now for the first question, before we get into the actual laptop, can we address some of the controversies around this story starting with, are you affiliated with Donald Trump today? And if if you are, even if you're not, don't you think he's a much bigger crook than Hunter Biden can ever dream of becoming?

02:44

GZ: Well, generally, first question, no, I'm not I'm not employed or paid by any political action committee affiliated with the former president. In fact, I haven't, I haven't spoken to him directly since January 18 2021, nearly two years ago. And so this is a completely separate nonprofit we established in July of 2021. All of our financials are, you know, they're available for anybody with an internet connection and a cursory knowledge of how to navigate the IRS website. And to answer your second question, think about it this way, I had access to Hunter Biden's laptop for you know, not even two years now. And he himself only used that particular

device for less than six months. And at the very least, we found evidence of over a dozen different federal felonies in the number 459 is the number that we found was the basically the floor of every time one of those felonies was committed so you'd think that because they have used the FISA Surveillance Court and other avenues to get at Trump's financial affairs and his broader life. I mean, the US House of Representatives just released a press release yesterday saying that they looked at all of his tax returns, you'd think that if they had that sort of analysis, not just one device, but his entire sort of, you know, desk, that they would find something, but they haven't. And over the course of six years Matei there's been controversy after controversy, starting with Stormy Daniels, an embarrassing scenario for the former president. And that ended up with Michael Avenatti going to the pen for years. And so our allegations are conservative, we try to strike a floor meaning we didn't include anything in this in this dossier Matei that there wasn't two pieces of corroborating evidence for so if we found, for example, one wire transfer that wasn't enough to include in here, we had to find a text message or another email that alludes to that wire transfer. Because we want it to be able to stand up to scrutiny. If there's just one piece of evidence for something even if it's a blatant email that can be claimed. In another way the Bidens could claim plausible deniability for that. And so I think that if anybody takes the time to read through the dossier read through the 2000 footnotes, they will come away with the idea that this was done very methodically, and we don't accuse Hunter of anything that we think he didn't do. It's it's very, it's very thorough. And that's why I'm glad that you invited me on today. So we could talk about and reach a different audience.

05:22

MR: Now, that's, that's fine. I understand. And I do agree with you. I have I have read most of it. And I agree, it is thorough. It's not for me to decide whether all of it is accurate or not. But given how many publications actually picked up these allegations, I suppose with all these big newsrooms publishing them, they probably have faith that the allegations are solid, even if they end up not being picked up in court. So before just another question, before we get into the into the data, you made, the promotional clip for this for this dossier is saying that people should support the nonprofit Marco Polo because the election in 2020 was a sham. And I wonder if you just said that, because you wanted to appeal to a conservative audience and you wanted to make, to speak metaphorically? Or do you actually think the election was illegitimate? Because if you don't think Joe Biden won the election, then you know, I at the very least I can understand why big outlets such as I don't know, CNN and whatever, didn't really want to touch this story?

06:38

GZ: Well, I think that, first of all, they're there the concerns about the 2020 election, have nothing to do with the fact that Joe Biden is the President today, meaning I believe he is the United States president. But I just think that like many elections before the 2020 election, it was fraudulently conducted and my argument is very simple. In the US Constitution, it

prescribes that the time manner in place of elections is to be decided by the state legislatures. That didn't occur in 2020. And one of the reasons for that Matei, is because they said that the pandemic required them to send out mail in ballots to everybody on the list no matter if they requested one in that way, because it circumvented state legislatures and it was decided by the executive ie state, you know, the Secretary of State of the governor. That is why think it's illegitimate. Now somebody who is who has a nuanced mind, can hold two different ideas. At the same time, they can still think that there were problems with the legality of the 2020 election. And in the exhibits in our report, even if you don't agree with me about the election fraud, you would agree that the data in here is in dispute, and in fact, all the left wing outlets and all the mainstream outlets that have given limited hangouts by about the Biden laptop have not disputed the content, they have not found one byte of manufactured data. And they have tried, they've gone through the 128,000 emails that my nonprofit put up in May, Biden laptop emails.com. And not one email was doctored, because we didn't change anything. We simply took it from the laptop on to the website. And so my answer is very simple. I do believe that the election was fraudulently conducted in 2020. But that has, but the that has no basis in the arguments of money laundering, far violations, etc. Right?

08:41

MR: so can I just ask you a yes or no simple question. Do you think Joe Biden won the election squarely fairly?

GZ: No.

MR: Good Lord. Well, I mean, I mean, that's just that's just madness, isn't it? But anyway.

09:00

GZ: Well, I would I would say that if you don't agree with that, you have to read more US history in 1960. The same thing occurred except the rectification methods weren't used by Nixon, he didn't really fight it. And even liberal biographers have come to that conclusion that the, basically the political machine in Chicago with with the dailies, and the other people in Texas, stole the election for Kennedy. And LBJ's election in 1948, in Texas, and the Senate race was stolen as well. And so I think my claim that elections can have fraud in that there are laws being broken is is in no way abnormal. In fact, there were more than a half a dozen Democrats who objected to the 2016 election of Donald Trump and yet no one asked them anything. So I think that my problems with it are within the course of American history not that abnormal. And again, I think that the 2020 election is a subsection of this dossier, which there is a 2020 election subsection. And what I mentioned in that Matei is basically that there was a bipartisan conspiracy, not a theory but a conspiracy to go against Donald Trump wherein you have the chairman of the largest corporation on planet Earth, Greg Penner of Walmart, who was Hunter Biden's college classmate at Georgetown, having a call with Hunter in October of

2018. Asking Hunter to get his dad and John Kasich a Republican to run on a joint ticket. So that's what I mean by conspiracy. There was a unit party conspiracy to try to get Donald Trump.

10:43

MR: Politicians do that all the time. politicians and business people lobby. They partner with each other all the time, you'd make it sound when you say conspiracy and make it sound like there's this sort of almost almost a cult thing happening to [deny] Trump. Donald Trump is frankly, he's not that good a politician and he's got too much baggage, you know, so,

11:10

GZ: but the word conspiracy doesn't necessarily connote criminality, when you can look it up in Webster's, I'm simply saying that there was a group of people. And I agree with you that politicians do this all the time. Why this is news to me, Matei is that we have all of this primary source material, that's really one of the biggest stories is an even a liberal magazine called New York Magazine. Andrew Rice is a writer there, and he in September came out with a 5000 word piece about how this is the most primary source material that has ever surfaced on a member of US first family, meaning we have over 200 gigabytes. So I think that's what's unique about it that we have, that we have the phone call itself with the guy it's not that it's what they're doing is never been done before.

11:56

MR: Right. Right. Okay. And can you say a few words about Marco Polo, the nonprofit? And, actually, how did you end up working for the White House in the first place? What were you doing before the White House? And after that a little bit about Marco Polo, please?

12:14

GZ: Yeah, so I got an internship at the White House when I was a senior in college, in the fall of 2017. And through that, I got to know a man named Peter Navarro. And, you know, I consider myself a heretic in many ways. I don't believe what a lot of people believe in because I'm a Lutheran. I'm a double heretic. I'm a Lutheran who doesn't believe in free trade. And not because I don't think there'll be free trade in heaven. But I just think that the sinful nature of man, like you alluded to, at the introduction of the show, prohibits there to be free and fair commerce between nations. And so when I got to know Peter Navarro, I realised that he was a heretic, like me, and heretics didn't tend to stick together. And so I ended up working for him after I graduated college for two years, from 2019 to 2021. And it was a dream. You know, Peter was a college professor for 30 years. And so he had a very young staff, everybody was under 30. And we got to work on projects from domestic manufacturing, to, to the election fraud. Now, the election fraud was a little bit of a different project than the other things that we did. But still, I think that Peter was always around late 20s research, you know, graduate

assistants in his college years. And so that environment translated into the White House, and it was a lot different than all the other offices. And through that, bleeding to your next question, I fell in love with open source intelligence tools. Half of my day was spent on Commerce Department websites, getting raw trade data from all the countries of the world and through that, that's sort of the thrill of the hunt, is a very safe, wholesome way to get a dopamine fix, as opposed to other other stimulants. And that that has really drove me and what I mean by that is, every single day, all I'm doing is scouring. For this report, I worked with two private investigators, we took a lot of the people in in hunters contacts in his in his phone in his which was hooked up via iCloud to his laptop and ran background reports on them. And so what I would do is look at those background reports. Look at the LLC is that they're the ultimate beneficial owners of go pull their documentation from the Secretaries of State website and then map out their assets. And that's essentially what I did for the report is look at public records, look at the date on the laptop and try to find any violation of loss because the report again, and you probably know this, maybe maybe some relationships don't. The report is not about hunters degeneracy, sexually. The only time we mentioned that is when there's a violation of law, we don't make fun of him. For the purpose of making fun of him, we did confirm that there were three violations of human trafficking laws. Without dispute. We again, some people are saying that Hunter right raped 10 year old girls, that's just that's just hoaxes that were started by some of the right wing media in the United States. We've stayed away from that. And we've actually identified the people who came up with those hoaxes. So I would, you know, say that an Open Source Intelligence Group is what Marco Polo is, there's six of us in the group. And we get leads all the time, I would say 30% of them pan out 70% of them, don't cut it. But it's a dream. I love what I do.

15:46

MR: Right? And now that this story is kind of winding down, what are you going to do next? What are you planning? Are you going to get into Republican politics or going to be an opposition researcher for one of these candidates or what?

16:01

GZ: Now we've stayed away. That's why we went with the 501 C three, as opposed to the 501. C four, I find a lot of the candidates and elected officials, the United States, very underwhelming. Personally, I like people I wouldn't want to spend time with they're just not interesting, they don't have a grasp of history. So what we're interested in especially is the cartels, we think the drug cartels have an outsized influence in American politics, particularly the southwestern states. And we're going to be starting a pretty big project, it won't result in a 640 page report, it'll probably be one sixth of that. But we're starting a big project on a cargo air shipment facility at an airport in Arizona, called Skybridge. And it's going to be the first of its kind in the United States whereby Mexican customs officials are going to be stationed inside the United States. And they build this as a way to speed up commerce. But what really is going

to happen is there's going to be zero way to effectively [check] all kinds of contraband and other illicit materials going to be shipped in the United States. We're very interested in that. And again, if somebody reads the 644 pages, because you made a comment about Republican, I'm not a Republican. But if somebody reads this report, they'll see that we actually criticise Republicans more than Democrats. In fact, that infamous letter on October 19 2020, from former intelligence officials, there were more Republicans who signed that letter than Democrats. So I think that this laptop story, and you mentioned the Twitter files at the top, those Twitter files reveal that there were a lot of Republicans involved in this as well. And so we really think it's an indictment on the entire political class. I don't want to say entire, probably 95% of the I tried to stay away from absolutes, but it's, there was a there was a bipartisan effort to stop this material from coming to the public.

18:00

MR: Right? Yeah, I suppose there was. And I suppose just the other day, it was pretty clear from the Tweet, twitter files reporting that the FBI was pressuring Twitter quite hard to stop the story, claiming it was a Russian hack and leak operation. And it does, it does turn out with hindsight, that is that it wasn't but do you have anything to add to that? How did you feel when when you realise that? How did you feel when you realise that authorities of the government are trying to stop the story?

18:37

GZ: Well, the feeling is, first of all, anger. And second of all, my nerdiness takes over and I will just say that two of the officials implicated in this scheme, and it is a scheme. We can't find statute violations right away other than the First Amendment, which isn't a statute, right. But it's ingrained in our Constitution. To the officials, Elvis Chan and Laura Daimler were already featured in our dossier. And the reason why we knew that is because I've been close with the plaintiffs in a case called Missouri V. Biden, who in those state attorneys general are suing the federal government for working with social media platforms to censor what they deem to be misinformation. And so those two officials were named in this Twitter drop. But to me, it's all about the core is the FBI wants to claim plausible deniability by saying that they didn't demand that they do this, they just suggest sort of like it's a, it's an elbow to the to the ribs about, hey, this is what we deem, you know, misinformation if you want to stay in the good graces of the FBI. This is what the undertone is they don't say this explicitly in the email. But if they only suggest it, then the FBI has plausible deniability to say, hey, look, this isn't a violation of First Amendment. We didn't tell them to do this. They were acting on their own accord. But I would argue that, that Twitter wouldn't have done that if but for the emails from the FBI, and so what I'm intrigued Did it and more than anything is state level actions because, Joe, again, this isn't my opinion, this is what Joe said. He's very proud of his son, his son is the smartest man he knows. And he didn't do anything wrong. It's what he said. So, if it's proven that Hunter did commit a federal felony and proven in court, not just to not report, he will be pardoned. And he

in his sentence will be commuted just like most presidents would do for their for their child. But the president can't pardon state level crimes. And there's a lot of things on this laptop, and we go into them, we actually, I went through the trouble of finding each state statute that he violated. And I worked with an attorney. In fact, attorneys fees were a fifth of our cost to try to find out which statute he violated in each state. So I would if justice is to occur in this scenario, I think Hunter must be indicted at a state level. And again, it doesn't have to be for the drugs and sex, although that's appalling Matei. It can be for money laundering. And I'd like to talk a little bit about the FARA violations too, because that's, that's critical, because our laws are unique in that regard.

21:01

MR: Now, we're gonna get into that we're gonna get into that. I suppose. Yeah, well, I suppose Donald Trump pardoned, what's his name, the lobbyist guy, he pardoned Roger Stone, didn't he? So?

GZ: Yeah, but even even worse than that, the one that I was most angered by? I think he should have pardoned Julian Assange and Ross Ulbricht and Edward Snowden. But the other one was Jared Kushner, his father, and I don't like Jared Kushner, most of the time spent in the White House with my office was fighting Jared Kushners. Cuz he is with the banking cartel. And if there's one thing that your listeners have to understand about me, it said, I hate the I hate the regime, capital T capital R and I consider the banking cartel to be probably the head of the regime. And this is to me, it's global. So Kushner, to me represents the

21:59

MR: Let's cool it a little bit on that, because we don't want to sound like Alex Jones here. Right? So we're just this stuff when you talk about big global stuff. Yeah. There's this febrile atmosphere, you know, and I kind of feel for Twitter, Twitter employees as well, because when, you know, there was this sort of moral panic around Russian influence at the time in 2020, it was, everybody was talking about it, you know, the Russians out to get us. And Paul Manafort was working with a bunch of Russians and a bunch of corrupt oligarchs to influence the election. And so there was there was [atmosphere] in America for this sort of election interference, and you work at Twitter, you're kind of a techie geek, and you've got all these, all these FBI people and official people coming over and saying, Look, you know, the fate of democracy this year is in your hands. So this probably made an impression. So I'm kind of I do blame the officials who put pressure on Twitter, because they should have known better. But I don't really blame Twitter employees. Because I think when you come under that sort of pressure, it's very easy to be in all awe of state power and think, oh, man, you know, I want to be on the good side of history here. So anyway, can I just go into the into the information in the in the file in the Hunter Biden file? What mostly drew my attention, apart from all the fights happening in America, was that it seems that Hunter Biden was really active in Eastern

Europe, which is my neck of the woods, and you've got Ukraine, you've got Romania, Serbia, and all of these countries, while his dad, Joe Biden was the vice president. And so it seemed like, taken together, Hunter was trading very heavily on his dad's position. And even if Joe Biden didn't really act wrongly, it still looks like Hunter Biden was trying to give the impression that he could influence American policy. So could we talk a little bit about that, and and firstly, with Ukraine and Romania, and what happened?

24:13

GZ: Well, firstly, in both Ukraine and Romania, Hunter's, violations of law were very, in one way, very simple. And you mentioned Paul Manafort, Hunter committed the same felonies that Paul Manafort did whereby he represented a foreign principal without registering that representation with the US Justice Department. And so the statute is written such that Hunter didn't need to change us policy directly to have committed that felony. All he needed to do was advocate for that change of policy and not register with the DOJ and we check. You mentioned open source, right I mentioned open source intelligence For hours, I scoured the FARA filings I looked at all the FARA filings going back years, and not one of hundreds of associates, you know, registered FARA as a foreign agent. And so because of that Matei because in both cases he was trying to get us officials to intercede with foreign officials on behalf of his foreign principal, the money that he collected from those foreign principals is subject to seizure and money laundering laws. And in fact, I reread the Paul Manafort indictment about a month ago, just to read, you know, cuz it's in our report, but I wanted to refresh my memory and at the end of the indictment, it goes into all of his assets that can be seized because of this foreign representation, his mansion on Long Island, his brownstone in Brooklyn. And so, theoretically, all of those assets that Hunter Biden has bought with foreign cash could be seized because he didn't register that representation. And so in Ukraine, it was a insurance policy that Mykola Zlochevsky took out against prosecution basically, and Hunter and Devon Archer, who has been convicted in the Southern District of New York, he's, he's been sentenced, but he's appealing, were paid 83 grand a month per, you know, a piece, eight-three grand to each male to sit on this board and Hunter had no experience in energy policy. And because we have the email correspondence on this laptop Matei we can see that Vadym Pozharsky, the advisor to Burisma's board, and Zlochevsky were asking Hunter to use his influence within the US government to advocate to drop the cases against Mykola. So our allegations are again, very conservative, and I think very tempered compared to what's been out there. We're saying that his advocacy itself is illegal, because we don't have the phone call with which I believe occurred, but we don't have it as evidence between Hunter and Joe, saying that Shokin was fired directly because of Hunter. We can infer it but again, we don't have the evidence for it. We're saying that the FARA violation itself is illegal. Now turning to Romania, the same thing occurred. Gabriel Popoviciu, you hired boys Schiller Flexner in Rosemont, Seneca Consulting, and Louis free the former FBI director to intervene on his behalf with Laura Kovesi, I'm mispronouncing that name. I know you're probably laughing Yes. Hans Clem, the US

Ambassador to Romania did that, we have absolute proof, they met multiple times, even at the US Embassy doing that. So you have Hunter Biden, Mike Gottlieb, Louis Freeh and Chris boys, the son of the founder of Boise, Schiller Flexner, big time prominent lawyer.

27:56

MR. that was a dirty business.

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GZ: You mentioned Rudy was that too, and we put that in the report Rudy Giuliani in,

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MR: I appreciated that. Actually, I was gonna say, you know, Giuliani had some involvement in there and you didn't forgive him.

28:12

GZ: He never, never talked about that publicly. Frustratingly, we called him to ask him for comment. Again, I called everybody in this report that we accused of a felony, we call and ask them for an alternate explanation of this material saying, what are what are what am I not seeing here? I'm seeing clear wire transfers based on undeclared foreign representation. How else can I read this? And a lot of, you know, a lot of people told me to eff off. A lot of people wouldn't respond. A couple of them did, I called over. I also called all of Hunters, pimps and prostitutes and drug dealers in this. And so I did the due diligence. I did ask everybody for comment beforehand. Louis Freeh told me to buzz off. And so you have this, this Romanian oligarch and I did wish him a happy birthday. He just turned 63. Last Thursday, Gabriel Popoviciu.

29:05

MR: He's in London here. Yeah. Actually, what was happening? Can I Can I just make a quick? Yeah, a quick summary about this case. Just so people know. So this lobbying, this sort of transatlantic high powered lobbying against Romanian justice actually went nowhere. And Popoviciu did end up getting sentenced, but he skipped sentencing and he went to London. He's living a very comfortable life, a very high end life in London. And because of how Romanian financial crime law works, even if you're sentenced, it's not for life. So it turns out that even if you don't fulfil your sentence for non violence offenses, it just gets prescribed. So he's going to be a free man. I think in a few months very shortly, and also the lawyers that he had in London managed to convince British justice that he shouldn't be he shouldn't be extradited because conditions in Romania are so poor. And, you know, he's such a refined individual that he couldn't take to Romanian prison. And so I think that was just a sorry case in the history of Romania. But then, you know, Kovesi, the prosecutor, back then she was the prosecutor and the chief prosecutor. And she had a lot of backbone, and she, she is now the

head prosecutor for the whole of the European Union. So she's putting away bad people all across the European Union, across Germany, Italy, and all the big countries. So clearly some good came out of it.

30:47

GZ: And it's an incredible case, it's a, again, in normal times, Hunter was paid hundreds of 1000s of dollars for that. And again, our allegation is that the representation itself is illegal, whether or not

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MR: Sorry, yeah. Can we talk a bit about Fara? So the foreign foreign lobbying act basically? Yes. So can you can you explain what it does and what it's for, and why, why it's illegal in the first place?

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GZ: Yes, the law is very old. It's been on the books for 84 years, it was passed in 1938, by the US Congress in basically, it, the exact statutory language says, if you're an agent for a foreign principal, and that foreign principal can be a business, an individual, a political party, in Manafort case, it was a political party, the Party of Regions. If you're an agent for that foreign principal, within the United States and advocate for that foreign principal, to any level of government, in any government official, it's not illegal, you just have to register that with the Justice Department and give very basic information, if you go to the DOJ website, you'll see that all you have to do is give your name, your address, the name of the foreign principal, a three sentence description of the work, and a rough estimate of the money paid, it's the bar is very low, as a result, because the bar is mere disclosure, and it's a very low bar, the penalties are very steep. And that's why Manafort was sent to federal prison and fined all this money. And the fact that the fines are steep, and you can go to prison for up to 10 years. And so the goal of the statute and I went ahead and went back to 1938, and read the congressional debate on it was basically transparency that if you're going to be if you're going to be a foreign agent within the within the borders, we at least have to know who your foreign agent for and where the money's coming from. And so, you know, Rosemont Seneca consulting Hunter's consulting firm, that was essentially their business model. And we have an email from Hunter's business partner, Eric Schwerin. That said, they were very, quote, very worried about this, about them being basically found out as far as violators. So in response to an article Hunters business partner, emails Hunter and says, now, you know, why worry about this so much, because they were bringing up the fact that 30 years earlier before Daily was Obama's Chief of Staff. He was he was fine for this. And so it's an incredible thing. You know, when you find evidence of a felony, it's one thing if they just are hush hush about it. It's another if in other emails, you see them talking about them being very worried about the government enforcing the law. Sociologically, that's just that's incredible to see somebody navigate that.

34:08

MR: Right. Well, that's, that's very interesting. And there were a couple of deals with Kazakhstan, with Serbia. Can we talk a little bit about that, and then also the Chinese deals. The media in America has made quite a bit about China these days, about Hunter's activity with China. But let's look at Kazakhstan and Serbia first.

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GZ: Very good question. At the beginning of each section of this report, we put the people involved in their picture because unless I see their face, I can't remember them. So the people involved in the Kazakhstan deal were the city at the time the sitting Prime Minister who since been arrested for treason. Karim Massimov. I haven't followed that case closely. So I don't know whether the charges are legit or trumped up, but it was Karim Massimov, Kenes Rakishev, guess what Hunters partner calls him there's a G in there, but and then there's an there's an American official named Mark Holtzman who sat on the board and was the chairman of the largest commercial bank in Kazakhstan. I'm going to botch the name so people will have to go to our report. But basically, if you just if you start at page 165, you'll see that Hunter and his business partner Devon Archer, were acting as a foreign agent for Kenes Rakishev even setting up calls and meetings with the sitting Secretary of State, John Kerry. And Devon Archer Hunters business partner was John Kerry's vice chairman of finance on his 20 his 2004 presidential campaign. And so they were setting up meetings with, you know, American officials for Rakishev. And again, these normal activities cost hundreds of 1000s of dollars. And you see that in FARA filings. Secondly, more importantly, they were acting on Burisma 's behalf to try to strike a deal between CNOOC the Chinese national offshore oil company, Burisma was going to drill wells in Kazakhstan and ship the natural gas to China for CNOOC. And at the time, CNOOC was with was on the US sanctions list. So you have the son of the Vice President, Devon Archer, who was the vice chairman and met with the sitting Secretary of State working with a Cypriot domiciled Ukrainian based natural gas company planning to drill wells in Kazakhstan to then ship the cheap gas to China. And again, the statute violations are very simple. The working on the CNOOC deal wasn't a statute violation per se, but the but the FARA was violated multiple times because they were backchannels. In fact, with the Foreign Minister one time this is this scenario is on page 167, Devon Archer and Hunter Biden were back channelling with Foreign Minister to resolve to set up a call with John Kerry. This occurred on July 11 2013. And the chief of staff then Chief of Staff for the Secretary of State David Wade, ask Archer and Devon. What does he want to talk about with JK meaning what does for administrators off when it talks about JK and Devon Archer says us Kazakhstan strategic partnership on nuclear Non Proliferation cause extend WTO WTO accession in the New Silk Road? So you have unregistered agents, talking with the sitting Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan on the most sensitive topics? I mean, what more sensitive can name and more

sensitive topics and nuclear Non Proliferation and WTO session? And yet these topics were entrusted to back channelers.

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MR: Sounds quite serious. And you know, to be fair, this is I do feel for Joe Biden a little bit on this, because I'm not really sure that it comes across like he was involved at all.

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GZ: Yeah, we don't make that allegation.

38:12

MR: So that's why that's why I'm saying I'm feeling for him a little bit, because he was he was in a high powered job in the most powerful country in the world. And obviously, this attracts people with varied interests and people of varied moral fibre right. And so, clearly, Hunter Biden was a massive vulnerability for Joe Biden, because of, you know, his own of his own personality and his own his own vices and so forth. So in this case, you know, it's fine to point the finger at Hunter Biden and you know, talk about, you know, the lobbying and stuff like that, but I just want to put it out there that, as a dad, in high powered position, Joe Biden must have had a lot of a lot of nights, sleepless nights trying to figure out what to do in this situation. Yes, he was being put in a very in a very nasty position.

39:09

GZ: It is a very precarious position. But I would argue in our report lays out the fact that Joe consistently didn't stop his son from being in situations that would exacerbate those vices. So how would you why and again, he didn't advise Hunter against any of this. You'd think that the VP would advise his son from sitting on the board of a Ukrainian energy firm at the exact time. He's the point man in that country. But he didn't do so.

39:32

MR: I don't know. It's not clear that he didn't. It's not clear that he did.

GZ: He didn't. He said he never discussed it with him. So that means that he didn't,

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MR: he never discussed it in a formal capacity. You know, I don't think I mean, who knows?

39:48

GZ: I'm just going on what he said. He said he never discussed his son's overseas business dealings with him. So if I'm to take them at his word, he didn't advise against any of this stuff. Because he said he never did. discuss it with him.

MR: Well, that's, that's a different thing. It's one thing to discuss the businesses themselves. And it's one thing to tell your son look, just get the hell out of there and just just, you know, just stop putting me on the spot. So I doubt that he never tried to stop him. But you know, this is just all a matter of opinion. But another thing I had to say is, first of all, I need to give another shout out to H5 Strategies in Bucharest, a political and executive consultancy specialised in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Africa. And by the way, there is total editorial independence of the sponsor. Because we don't want to get them into trouble. The sponsor has no idea who is coming on the podcast, what the questions are, what the subjects of discussions are. And there's total editorial independence and separation, and we thank them for trusting us. So Hunter is actually now involved in serious tax problems in America, legal problems, he's paying back taxes and penalties. Because, you know, because he's being made to do it by the court. And to this point, it does look like the New York Times also tried to get a lot of his a lot of his tax arrangements. So at one point or another, you were actually fighting the same fight as the New York Times.

41:22

GZ: In Romania case, absolutely. In fact, the reporter who urged the lawyers of the New York Times to file the complaint in the Southern District of New York, Ken Vogel, I talked to Ken Vogel, and I told him that these records that they're going to get from DOJ and the New York and the State Department has been producing them are going to be very, very revelatory. And they'll, they'll feature Gabriel Popoviciu's direct emails for all your listeners. But again, I think that the reports from the New York Times in general, not about the Romania case, but in general about this laptop, have been a day late and \$1 short and have been sort of a limited hangout, in that they don't talk about Joe at all, which our report goes into how Joe violated multiple federal laws and regulations. And again, I think that if we just have one device, imagine what would come up if we had FISA surveillance, which they did on the previous president. So I think that the you know, to the degree that the New York Times will talk about statute violations which are apparent I applaud them, but I but it's it's not really a story about Hunter per se. It's really about story about influence peddling. Hunter is just one of the main characters on the stage today, but it's really again, this reports really about the political class in because there's so many people around Hunter here you have Devon Archer, Bevan Cooney, Mike Gottlieb, you know, Hunter, didn't get into the nitty gritty of it. There's not there's not evidence, he put together one pitch deck. He was just making the intros. So we really try to go into all of the movers and shakers around him who effectuated this and sometimes that included Joe, sometimes it didn't.

42:57

MR: Right. Okay. And another another thing I'd like to talk about from the file would be Serbia. And that's because unlike the other countries that are kind of independent and kind of, you

know, working their way around big geopolitical, sort of, sort of currents. I think it's pretty clear that Serbia is a very close ally of Russia. And you know, it's been hot. This has been happening for years. And now in the context of the Ukraine war, Serbia has been very soft on Russia. There's even now I think, there's a lot of a lot of trading a lot of diplomacy, a lot of very close relations anyway, between the two countries and Serbia is right in the middle of Europe. So what was Hunter actually doing in Serbia?

43:51

GZ: Well, Hunter never got involved in domestic Serbian politics. What Hunter was was an unregistered agent for a very particular prominent Serbian official named Vuk Jeremic and he of course, was the president, the youngest president of the UN General Assembly in world history. And the far violations were very simple Hunter admits to crafting a plan with food Jeremy to basically run for the the General Secretary position and Vic Jeremy got third in the voting. But you'll you'll see in emails in April of 2015. He's saying that he needs to talk in person about this plan. He's hatched for Vuk Jeremic and he also invites Vuc to a private dinner at Cafe Milano restaurant in DC with Joe, so Hunter Hunter is basically parting the Waters for Vuc Jeremic in the in the United States political sphere and in trying to get him in front of Joe himself and just a private dinner not like a public event. So, I guess the only involvement non illegal but worthy. I guess noteworthy involvement is Hunters firm funded Vuc Jeremic just think tank the Centre for International Relations and Development, sustainable development excuse me that that think tank in Belgrade, the board of advisors of that is basically locked with high level Chinese officials, Ye Jianming, the chairman of CEFC was on that advisory board and Vuc Jeremic refers to the now disappeared Ye Jianming as as one of his good friends is basically he was Trump, he was one of the people who introduced Hunter Biden to CEFC. And that's a good segue, I think, to the Chinese section is Vuc acted as this bridge between the East and the West. He you know, he knew all these officials from his UN days. And Jeremic was perfectly happy to act as that basically convening point for the Chinese and the Westerners.

46:13

MR: Right, right. Okay. Well, that's a that's an interesting thing between China and Serbia. And so there was no connection directly with Russia at all. It's just the fact that Serbia happens to be close to Russia.

46:25

We couldn't find any. We look deeply into the laptop, there is plenty of evidence that Hunter corresponded with Russian officials and sought investments. And so the the interactions with Russian nationals, to our knowledge didn't reach the level of felony, we found no evidence that Hunter advocated US government officials on behalf of Russian nationals, we can just find business transactions.

48:48

MR: Yeah. Cool. Cool. And so I suppose that brings us to the Baltics, there was a very interesting section of the report, where Baltic banks were mentioned, especially a couple of them that were extremely controversial, and especially one which was a ABLV Bank, which is now closed for, for one of the biggest money laundering scandals in the history of Europe, including wiring money legally in violation of sanctions against North Korea and all sorts of money laundering linked to Russian oligarchs and influence operations. And, you know, what have you all have the whole the whole menu of, of the business in Eastern Europe, this bank was right at the heart of it. So what was Hunter Biden doing getting money from that bank?

49:41

GZ: Very particularly Hunter's business partner in him, had a shell company called Rosemont Seneca Bohai LC, which was the focus of the Indian bond fraud case which implicated Devon Archer as a part of that litigation, bank statement. As we're leased by the government for this shell company called Rosemont, Seneca Bohai LLC, we scoured through those bank statements and literally digitised all of them over 300 pages on April 22 2014, that shell company received a \$142,000 300 \$142,300 wire transfer from Novartis holding PT II limited which was a Singaporean domiciled shell company beneficially owned by kennis rocket ship. And the reason why ablv came up is because kennis rocket ships shell company use that Latvian bank, it literally says ABLV Bank as Riga, Latvia, to make that transaction the day after, in basically perfect money laundering form, that same amount went to a Schneider Nelson motor company to buy a new Porsche SUV for Hunter. And this, again, based on reporting from the New York Post is directly involved in the grand jury investigation involving Hunter Biden right now. So in six months, if he does get involved, indicted, we can go back to this to this talk and see 169 in our dossier and say, this was the subject of a grand jury investigation. And because we have access to Hunter's tax numbers, not the actual returns, but from his assistant what he made, we know that he didn't classify this as income which he should have because he then bought the bought the car. So that's a clear New York state money laundering violation, which they just got Steve Bannon on, which they indicted Steve Bannon for and, and federal money laundering. So ABLV Bank, just to be very quick and succinct ABLV Bank was used by the president's son to illegally or tax evasion, purchase a Porsche SUV from a Singaporean domiciled shell company run by Kenes Rakishev.

51:59

MR: Right and I would also like to make the point here that ABLV was world famous, because you know, you've got you've got a Kazakh businessman who can open bank accounts anywhere he likes, but he chooses this little obscure bank in Latvia. Why? Because the bank was world famous for not checking the source of funds. So anyone with money bit, you know,

corrupt officials and I'm not saying Rakesh did anything wrong. I'm just saying Rakishev have picked one of the worst one of the worst banks to wire money to Hunter Biden.

53:49

MR: Anyway. So about Ukraine. Now back to Ukraine. This is the final question, because we're running out of time as well. The Ukraine stuff has been quite widely in the media. Is there anything new in the final version of the report? Not necessarily just about Ukraine, but about any Eastern European countries that you think adds anything to the news?

54:19

GZ: Well, what our report does is systematically lay out all of the illegal interactions that Hunter Hunter had, right, so Hunter getting on the board of this company isn't by itself illegal. The only thing we include in this report is Hunter reaching out to US government officials. So we have him reaching out to Immigrations and Customs Enforcement, the US State Department trying to strong arm the US State Department to Vince strong arm the US government to let Mykola into their country because there was a flag on his on his file being a minister for Yanukovich. And so you know, everything that has been said about Ukraine, I think has lacked specificity. And so we go into Igor Kolomoisky. And how all the wire funds that were sent to Devon and Hunter were sent from PrivatBank, which again is the subject, of course, for different lawsuits within the United States for defrauding depositors.

55:27

MR: Kolomoisky is under US sanctions now.

GZ: Yes. His bank was closed.

MR: I actually interviewed in the previous podcast, I interviewed the Governor of the Central Bank of Ukraine, who closed down PrivatBank in Ukraine for extensive fraud.

GZ: We're gonna have to go watch that. I'm gonna have to listen here. Because Joe Biden directly talked about that with Poroshenko on November 16th 2026, or 2016. He urges Poroshenko to to nationalise Privat ASAP. And I think that's very interesting considering his son was getting wire transfers to that bank from it.

MR: And, you know, this is again to Joe Biden's credit because nationalising Private Bank was probably the best thing that happened to Ukraine because that bank was destroying the Ukrainian economy.

GZ: it's saved some depositors but yeah, absolutely,

56:21

MR: yeah, it's a fraud of five and a half billion. I think that was proven. It's probably higher than that. But the Ukrainians had to borrow money from the IMF. And if they hadn't nationalised that particular bank, you know, the Ukrainian economy would have collapsed. And probably today with the war, the Ukrainians wouldn't have been able to resist invasion so well as they have. So now back to back to the point of the bank, what exactly was Hunter doing with Privatbank, before nationalisation.

56:52

MR: All of the funds over the \$2.5 million that was sent to his shell company over the course of 2014 to 2019, he served a five year term that was sent through Privatebank. And so we would argue that it facilitated and helped Hunters board position because Ukrainian journalist have tried to pierce the corporate veil and see what involvement Kolomoisky has had with Bersedia Investments, Ltd, which is the holding company that that owns Burisma. And so they actually call Mykola Zlochevsky, a minigarch, and Kolomoisky, the oligarch and so our our report raises questions on a \$12.3 million wire transfer that came in to the holding company that owns Burisma in May of 2014. And the reason why we have records of that is because the Prosecutor General's Office released them in Ukraine. So we have that \$12.3 million wire transfer in our question, we don't make an allegation. Our question is whether or not those funds came from Kolomoisky or one of his minions in Privatbank to Zlochevsky because Zlochevsky use them for Burisma or like a lot of the accounts for Burisma were held at Privatbank.

1:00:34

MR: Right, well, that is what a story what a what a fantastic sort of fascinating

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GZ: sociologically, does it get better than this?

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MR: Yeah. Do you think there's gonna be a Netflix show about this one? You know what, the dust actually settles in a few years?

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GZ: I think that I think that nothing will happen to Hunter at the federal level. So I don't think there'll be a Netflix show. I think that a Netflix show will only occur if a state level official looks at this evidence and tries to try him at a state level. That's my answer.

1:01:08

MR: Well, you never know with American justice, because there was a lot of speculation that, you know, SBF Sam bankman Fried wouldn't get indicted because he donated all this money to politicians. But what happened, you know, the Southern District of New York made the case against him and now he's now he's moving. He's being indicted in America. He's been extradited. So we'll just have to see. And of course, until the man gets convicted, he is innocent until proven guilty. So we should state that, that, you know, so far he hasn't been he hasn't been convicted of anything. So he's a free man and rightly so. And so with that, Garrett, I appreciate your time. Thanks very much. Merry Christmas to you and the family. One last shout out to H5 Strategies in Bucharest, political and executive consultancy for Eastern Europe, Africa and Central Asia. And you know, good luck in the future. Good luck going after the Mexican cartels and who knows maybe in a little while you'll join us again on reporter cast.

1:02:20

GZ: Thank you very much.