

Abbreviated Pundit Roundup: Disgraced

by Chitown Kev for Daily Kos Community :

From L to R: House Oversight Committee Chairperson James Comer (KY-1) and House Judiciary Chair Jim Jordan (OH-4) are disgraced for trafficking in what we now know is a Russian disinformation campaign against the President's son, Hunter Biden. But they're only ones who should be disgraced.

We begin today with [Josh Marshall](#)—again—of Talking Points Memo, excoriating legacy media for falling for the now-discredited Hunter Biden Laptop story.

For years I've continued saying, against what seems like the unified thinking of every reporter, editorialist and credentialed smart person, that the fabled "Hunter Biden Laptop" was obviously the product of a Russian influence operation. The story was [absurd on its face](#). Somehow Hunter Biden decided in a drugged-up fugue that he needed to take his laptop to a computer repair shop. He then forgot about it. The legally blind owner of the repair shop decided to crack it open and look at the files (as one does, of course) and then somehow managed to get the contents to Rudy Giuliani and Steve Bannon.

And yet basically everybody and I mean *everybody* ended up falling for this. Indeed, the very brief efforts to remain wary of the laptop story in the final days of the 2020 election have evolved into an object case of the dangers of censorship and even liberal media election meddling. It's a decision — albeit one lasting only a few days — that everyone now agrees "we got wrong." It was the centerpiece of Elon Musk's "Twitter Files" nonsense. But Elon Musk going in for it isn't the point. He's a clown. All the serious people ended up doing exactly the same. This has always been bullshit. Media organizations at first wouldn't touch the story because they'd spent the previous four years kicking themselves for allowing themselves to become the promoters of a Russian election interference and disinformation campaign with the purloined DNC emails back in 2016. Since the Hunter Biden laptop stories had all the hallmarks of exactly the same thing somehow happening to pop up in the final days of the 2020, of course they were suspicious.

[...]

The real issue, as I note above, is the reporters, editorialists and commentators, who vouched for and credited this whole edifice of lies and bullshit...

[...]

This entire thing has been based on Russian plants and intelligence operations from the start. Every bit of it. It's been obvious. And yet, well ... they're all dupes. Somehow almost a decade after this whole thing started we're shocked to see, wow, Weiss's office was being led around by another cat's paw of the Russian intelligence services. We're shocked. But why are we shocked? Every last person among the serious people of the nation's capital and the sprawling thing called elite received opinion has egg on their face. And it's not even clear they fully realize it yet.