

MSNBC's *The ReidOut*

05/27/21

7:00:31 p.m.

36 seconds

JOY REID: We do begin *The ReidOut* tonight with the cowardice of Senate Republicans. As we speak, they're planning to block the creation of a bipartisan commission to investigate the January 6th attack on our Capitol and our democracy and that vote could take place at any moment. For the first time in this legislative session, Republicans are set to deploy the legislative filibuster, the Jim Crow-era rule that allows the minority party to obstruct the rule of the majority, requiring 60 votes rather than 51. It's the clearest signal yet Republicans have no interest in getting to the bottom of the siege that nearly decapitated our government.

(...)

7:05:31 p.m.

1 minute and 4 seconds

REID: We get the Republican, you know, playbook here. They want to move onto attacking the Biden administration and pretending the Biden administration are a bunch of communists. They wanted that messaging. They don't want to talk about this. But we're going to keep talking about this because this was an attack on our country. So, I get where they're coming from. What I don't really get to be honest with you is where your fellow Democrats is coming from, Joe Manchin. I want to read this to you. This is Joe Manchin criticizing Republicans for opposing the commission. This was just this morning. He said, "there's no excuse for any Republican to vote against this commission since Democrats agreed to everything they asked for. Mitch McConnell has made this his political position, thinking it will help his 2022 elections. They do not believe the truth will set you free, so they continue to live in fear." So, that sounded pretty good, and then he said this later today.

ABC's RACHEL SCOTT: Would you be willing to break the filibuster in order to get this passed?

SENATOR JOE MANCHIN (D-WV): I'm not ready to destroy the government. I'm ready to destroy our government, no. I think [INAUDIBLE] will come together. You have to have faith there's ten good people.

REID: Senator, that seems laughable to me. What — what the attempt to destroy our government happened January 6th. Have you had a conversation with Joe Manchin and what is his deal?

(...)

7:07:55 p.m.

56 seconds

SENATOR CHRIS VAN HOLLEN (D-MD) [on the 1/6 commission]: But I will say for this evening — for this evening, he and I are on the same page on this issue.

REID: Well, not really, though. Because I mean, the thing is I guess what worries a lot of rank and file Democrats and even non-Democrats, there are a lot of, you know, sort of old school versions of Republicans were worried, too, that our democracy is on a razor edge and rather than focus on saving our democracy from what these extremists that now form the base of the Republican party are doing, and what people like Ron Johnson are trying to do to our democracy, setting up to potentially steal future elections, people like Joe Manchin are casually talking about preserving artifacts of the Senate from the — from the Jim Crow era. He seems more fixated on holding onto Jim Crow rules in the Senate than in saving our democracy. Is there enough urgency in your caucus to save our democracy from what Republicans are trying to do to it?

(...)

7:11:11 p.m.

6 minutes and 25 seconds

REID: Here's my challenge. If you can't get — Susan Collins put out her little amendment, if you cannot get ten Republicans even to agree that you should investigate the attempt to hang Mike Pence, decapitate our government, and threaten even their own staffers to the point where their own staffers are saying, "I'm not sure these people care if I live or die." If they won't be on the side of Capitol Police, there is no bipartisanship. Isn't this a dead argument?

JASON JOHNSON: It's a dead argument and I want people to understand also, Joy, the — the context here for Joe Manchin and what this really may be about because he said, you know, he can't take the heat and he doesn't want to destroy the government. Joe Manchin's not getting re-elected. Okay? He's not. The guy got elected by 49 percent of the vote in — in 2018. He's not going to keep his job. He's going to get knocked out next time, so what we're dealing with here is someone who's primarily concerned with their own legacy and own reputation because the electoral consequences are moot. He's not going to get re-elected. The first thing the Democrats might need to do is convince him, "hey, dude, just this for legacy sake because you're not going to win back in West Virginia." But I will say this, Joy, and this is — this is an actual change. I believed all along that Joe Manchin is roughly like the Susan Collins of the Democratic Party, that eventually he will change his mind. And I still think he might do that when it comes to HB1, when it comes to the Senate Bill 1, when it comes to the For the People Act. But the idea he'll still spout this nonsense in the face of an attempt to murder him and everybody with a "D" in their name is — is disturbing to me and I — I don't see the value, honestly, at this point in Democrats treating him with kid gloves. Personally, if I were Senator Van Holland or any other senator, I would say, look if you aren't in favor of the commission, then you want me dead as much as Republicans do. That's how I would be talking about it as this point cause I don't understand the recalcitrance on the part of — one or two senators against simply getting rid of the filibuster in this particular instance to do something, because I promise you and this is not because we want this to happen, you can ask anybody, you can ask Malcolm Nance, you can ask any security expert, it's going to happen again.

REID: Yeah. Yeah.

JOHNSON: The people who did this will simply try again, and this commission's the only way to possibly prevent it.

REID: Well, they'll try again, Susan, and next time they might succeed because they're setting up in the states to make it so they can just outright steal elections that only Republicans decide who wins. Senator Mitt Romney made a suggestion that I think should be obvious. You're a political strategist, my friend. Senator Mitt Romney suggested opposing a commission is bad politics. You think, Willard? "I think the perception is on the part of the public that the January 6th commission [is] just trying to get to the truth of what happened and that Republicans would be seen as not wanting to let the truth come out." Yeah, no s-, Sherlock. I don't understand how Mitch McConnell and friends think that they're going to just get the silence of what every Capitol Police officer, every staffer, they're going to need a lot of people to not talk about January 6th in order for his strategy to work and to move on saying Biden's a commie which no one is going to believe. Why do you suppose that Mitch is — has decided that he thinks he can survive the ads that, in theory, even Democrats can figure out they should run?

SUSAN DEL PERCIO: It all comes back to the — the source. It comes back to Donald Trump. I think there was only so much he was going to go against him, and now he is falling in line with everyone else. And just to follow up on what Jason said, you know, Joe Manchin, if you can't get bipartisanship on protecting our democracy, you're not getting it for anything, and you should use this as the reason, and it will be —

JOHNSON: Right.

DEL PERCIO: — make sense to everybody —

REID: Everyone.

DEL PERCIO: — why we must get rid of the filibuster —

JOHNSON: Right.

DEL PERCIO: — because there's literally no chance of anything else happening.

REID: There's no —

DEL PERCIO: There's also something that —

JOHNSON: Right.

DEL PERCIO: I'm sorry.

REID: Go on. No, no. Go.

DEL PERCIO: — there's also one other thing that's been on my mind lately is Mitch McConnell's out there, and he is moving his conference. He is speaking as — as if he was still majority leader. I am wondering where is Chuck Schumer's voice? Where is the — the insistence, the urgency? I mean, I can ask you guys. I — I just don't understand for a man who wanted that position for so long why he's laying low and I do believe it's just because the administration says, oh, let this play out. There is a reason. I'm not sure what it is, but he's got to get onboard and he's got to start using his voice. He's the majority leader of the United States Senate, and we have heard boo.

REID: Well, and — and Jason, there is a sense that Manchin is also out of control and think he's the majority leader. Manchin is exercising control —

JOHNSON: Right.

REID: — as if he's in charge of the Senate. Doesn't that have to stop?

JOHNSON: Yeah, yeah. This — this flex that's he's going on here, it's not impressive. It's not making anybody happy. It's not him. It's not his drip, whatever. And — and quite frankly just on some ego level stuff if I were chuck Schumer, I would be angry about the fact that more people are asking Joe Manchin what he thinks than what I think. I'm supposed to be the majority leader. Why don't you act like you're the boss? [INAUDIBLE] But — but here's, again, I think, the large issue. The Democrats have this conflict between what they think is supposed to be the way government works and what the people actually want. The American people want an answer. The American people want to feel safe. If Joe Biden can go out and say, “hey, look, there are a lot of Republicans out there running on this recovery act they voted against,” I don't know why Chuck Schumer and Elizabeth Warren and all the leadership aren't running around the country saying, “the Republican party wants you to die. They didn't want you to get money for COVID and they want your whole government to be decapitated.: That should be the answer out of Chuck Schumer's mouth every single minute of every single day as opposed to some variation of Susan Collins of, “I'm concerned that the party

REID: Yeah.

JOHNSON: — who's been acting the same way for the last 35 years continues to act that way.”

REID: This is a party of sedition, violence, white nationalism, and what we're hearing from even the President is we're going to work with them. Really? Because they literally were going to allow the government —

JOHNSON: Right.

REID: — to be decapitated even if they themselves were going to be killed and Mike pence to be hung. That's what y'all should be talking about. I don't get it. Jason and Susan —

DEL PERCIO: And they — they don't want to work with him. I mean, how many times do they

—

REID: They don't! They don't!

DEL PERCIO: — have to say no.

REID: And the message they want to pivot to is that Biden is a communist and that all of his policies are communist. That's what he wants to do.

(...)

7:23:27 p.m.

7 minutes and 49 seconds

REID: One Axios poll showed that 23 percent of Republicans, that's nearly one in five now believe — okay, brace for this — that the government, media and financial world in the U.S. are controlled by a group of Satan worshipping pedophiles who run a global child sex trafficking operation. That's right. Almost a quarter of Republicans are Q-Anon cult believers. So maybe Puppet Kevin doesn't have a Margie Q. Greene problem. He's got a whacked out Republican base problem and that base — let's face it — will never see him as their leader. Back with me now are Jason Johnson and Susan del Percio. Susan, you've been — you've worked for politicians. Since when does the House minority leader have to call you, Marge? She thinks, “well, he should have called me” like she's his boss. I have to ask you about the Republican base. You and I have known each other for a long time. We used to debate back when I was a semi-normal Republican Party. We used to debate about tax policy. People will never believe that. Look it up. We're on — it's all over YouTube. Now, this is a poll by my friends at the Public Religion research institute and the Interfaith Youth Corps — and here's — do you agree with this statement. Because things have gotten so far off-track true American patriots may have to resort to violence in order to save our country. 28 percent, that's nearly a quarter — more than a quarter of Republicans believe that. They're Q-Anon supporters. They're in a completely crazy cult, Susan. What happened to your party?

DEL PERCIO: Well, what happened was Donald Trump was the least of the problems. Trumpism. and what it represents. is what has seeped into the Republican Party at the state level, especially, and that's who's putting up these candidates. It's the state parties who are going for these kooky, Q-Anon and others, and they win primaries. But, you know, here as a strategist, I'll give Kevin my free advice, this is the perfect time for him in the conference to turn on her and turn on her hard because at least they can look like they're fighting something bad and it doesn't have anything to do with Donald Trump. It's not Matt Gaetz and being Trump's boy. This is Marjorie Taylor Greene, who is on her own island as far as I'm concerned, and that's when they should really — they should push for a censure. I think it would be a smart move for them because it would also help with their own fundraising, which they're getting killed on by corporate donors. They are losing mainstream corporate money. By getting rid of her — you can't get rid of trump. I get that — well, I don't but I get it — but by — by going on and turning on — on her, it does give a little bit of an out to say there is a point we will not cross as long as it's not

Donald Trump making —

REID: First of all, Kevin doesn't have the range. He's not going to do it because at the end of the day, A, the Tea Party wasn't any better, okay? They were also doing all these loony things, hanging Doanld — President Obama in effigy. Axios/Ipsos poll this week: “Do you agree with this statement? The U.S. has made enough change to give Black Americans equal right to White Americans.” Among white Americans, 48 percent agree with that. The Tea Party had a very big base as you know, Jason, in the freak out over a black President. Marjorie Taylor Greene also has a bunch of racist stuff that she believes, the Q-Anon thing. There — there — the problem is you have a certain percentage

JOHNSON: Right.

REID: I don't see you how you fix that. It ain't about Margie.

JOHNSON: You can't — you can't fix that. Look, Marjorie Taylor Greene is just like a mixture of, like, Sarah Palin and Stacey Feck. Like, like, we knew this was going to happen. It's not that hard to predict, right? And so, the — the real issue is — is not what the Republican party needs to do about her. It's honestly how Democrats need to respond to her. It's the fact that people need to stop tweeting her. People need to stop treating her as if she's competent. If she wants to run around Georgia right now with Matt Gaetz and maybe hang out with some of his friends after they're done with the rally that's perfectly fine, but she doesn't need to get as much attention as she gets. And the second thing they need to do, if I were Nancy Pelosi, if I were Chuck Schumer, is get together and tell the sergeant at arms and say follow her every single place she goes in Congress. Because what you can't do when she's not spending time causing chaos at her local L.A. Fitness, she's running around and terrorizing people in Congress and that's how she draws attention to herself. Let her be one of 435 people who don't get anything in Congress. But don't make her a superstar when she can't pass legislation, can't raise money, and she's not going to save her party.

REID: I am going to for the —

DEL PERCIO: Oh, but she can raise money, hold on.

REID: — first time, I'm going to disagree with you. I completely disagree you and I'm going to let Susan get in here. I don't agree with you on this, Jason. E.J. Dione has a great tweet out now where he's tweeting out an article that talks about Republicans spent a majority of their money in the last election calling Democrats extremists. Most of their ads had the words AOC or The Squad in them.

JOHNSON: Yes.

REID: They nailed Democrats to these people who are actually really great young legislators who have a lot of important policy ideas. They're not, you know, nutsy coo coo like Marjorie Taylor Greene. I say paste her on every single one of them.

JOHNSON: Right.

REID: She is they boss [sic] because they can't move without her. Paul Ryan is going to come out and try to criticize Trump, but he can't say his name. They're afraid of her. She is the boss. She is the party. I totally disagree. The base of the party are Q-Anon. Susan, your ball. Go for it.

DEL PERCIO: Well, I — just one thing with Jason. She raised \$3 million in the first quarter, an obscene amount of money.

JOHNSON: Right.

DEL PERCIO: She can raise money. I mean, bar none. So that's what actually I think scares Kevin McCarthy about her. But I agree. If I were the Democrats, I would make every Republican Marjorie Taylor Greene.

REID: Every one of them has to own her and Ron Johnson because, you know what — I'm sorry to interrupt you. Because they are more representative of the base of the Republican Party than Kevin. If you showed a picture of Kevin McCarthy to 100 people on the street, don't nobody know [sic] who he is. He is a nobody and the bottom line is the party are Q-Anon. They have gone full tilt, man. I don't know how you ignore that. If you're the Democrats, you need to say that every day.

DEL PERCIO: Well and if I was — the one thing I —

JOHNSON: Because she — here's the thing.

DEL PERCIO: — appreciate about Jason, I think you would make a really good point if this was the same society we were living in — in — in sharing — and being on fact. So, I think that would be a great point not to give her the oxygen, but I do — I agree.

JOHNSON: Right.

DEL PERCIO: I mean, I would paint every single of them. That's why I suggested throwing her out, like, censuring her. The Republicans should take action against her because she's going to be way worse for Republicans than the AOC ever was for Democrats.

REID: Jason, last word.

REID: Every single Republican — every single Republican right here and right now when you show Mitch McConnell's face, when you run against everybody, you have a morph that turns from their face to Donald Trump to the insurrection. That's what you need to do. You don't need to create more bad guys. She's already a bad guy. But if you ask the average person who's not politically involved, who's living in Austin, Texas, who's living in Cleveland, who's living — outside the major cities throughout California and Colorado, they don't necessarily care about Marjorie Taylor Greene, but they know trump is evil, they know Mitch is evil —

REID: And they know she's his girl.

JOHNSON: — they know who sent them checks and they know who tried to overtake the government.

REID: And she's carrying his cape. She and the teeny bit dater, the hide yo' kids, hide yo' wife kid. What's his name? Matt Gaetz. All of them are carrying Trump's cape around, putting Trump masks on the face — the only reason they exist is because of him. They are the party. Sorry, but Mitch McConnell and them —

JOHNSON: Right.

REID: — y'all ain't the party.

JOHNSON: Right.

REID: These people are the party, that — that's what I'm saying. But, anyway, we can debate that on Twitter later.