

MSNBC's *The ReidOut*

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7:08:53 p.m.

5 minutes and 6 seconds

MALCOLM NANCE: After the 2020 election, they have appointed themselves an insurgency. They carried out exactly what I predicted last November: The first insurrection of what I suspect will be many insurrections. We are dealing with an insurgency in the United States, and they are now organized under the banner of Trump.

JOY REID: My pinned tweet on Twitter says exactly that, that the Republican Party, Representative Swalwell, is harboring that insurgency and it is a white nationalist insurgency, let's just be blunt. It is — it breaks down along the lines of this idea of replacement theory, which Malcolm just mentioned. So replacement theory, Representative Swalwell, here's Tucker Carlson promoting replacement theory, which is a core white nationalist belief system, on his very popular Fox News show. Take a listen.

[TUCKER CLIPS]

REID: That was not on his show, that was on the comfy couch show, the *Fox & Friends* morning show, but still on that network. Do you — you have to work with people who pretty much have that on in their offices all day and think that is mainstream beliefs. You work with these people, congressman. Do you feel comfortable and safe working with people who at minimum are willing to live with that kind of fascism and white nationalism in their party?

CONGRESSMAN ERIC SWALWELL (D-CA): No, Joy, I don't and we look at many of our colleagues and believe that had they not been in Congress on January 6, they would have been on the other side of the door right next to Ashli Babbitt and so, I'm not working with them. I'm working to replace them from Congress. That's the replacement theory that I'm all in for is to make sure they don't come back in 2023. But it's really, Joy, these twin lies that are killing us, literally killing us. The lie that the election was stolen has taken the lives of many police officers, and the lie that vaccines do not work also propagated by Tucker Carlson, Kevin McCarthy, and, you know, those guys in the Republican Party. It's killing Americans and it's starting to kill our kids. And so, the two twin lies, to make sure they are held accountable for that, I think that's the pathway to making sure that we keep the majorities in both the House and the Senate.

REID: I mean, it's critical cause we only have one — listen, the Democratic Party had a lot of issues, okay? I get annoyed with y'all a lot. But at least the Democratic Party —

SWALWELL: Fair.

REID: — is a normal political party, right? The Republican Party, as Malcolm has said, is an insurgency and is housing an insurgency. So give me another prognostication. I'm going to take the risk of — scaring is caring, Malcolm, so I'll allow you to do this. On August 13 or 14, just a few days from now, the QAnon believers, which is now a substantial portion of the Republican

base, believe that Donald Trump will be reinstated as President through some magic that they only understand. When that doesn't happen, then what?

NANCE: Well, nothing is going to happen here in August. You know, there's a substantial portion of, you know, the gun-slinging conservatives base that — that — that really doesn't support QAnon. Even though, and I said this a year ago on this program, QAnon would — would take over the Republican ideology and it has. Even though they don't allow Q-shirts at Trump rallies and things like that, the belief in the inherent evilness of all Democrats and that there's a global cabal that must be destroyed by force of arms, that is now standard throughout the conservative base. So let me prognosticate a little bit more. The Republican Party — you know, I used to joke that they were vanilla ISIS, right, all of these militia men and everything out there. They were like ISIS. They were like al-Qaeda in the sense that they radicalized online, they would meet together in secret and they did all of these activities which were very much like a terrorist, you know — terrorist insurgency. Now I think they have shifted. The Republican party is more like Shin Fein and the — the relationship between Shin Fein, the Irish Nationalist Party, and the Irish Republican Army — Provisional Irish Republican Army Terrorist group and — who called themselves freedom fighters and insurgents. And had Americans — American congressmen sending them money to buy, you know, heavy machine guns. These guys view themselves as this fanciful group of patriotic freedom fighters, the second coming of the sons of liberty. And there are many of them who are preparing for civil war right now. All the shame that we tried to give them after January 6? That's gone. There are many of them right now that are ready to fight and we're seeing politicians in the statehouses and the Capitol who are actually, you know, pushing them subliminally to fight.

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7:20:36 p.m.

7 minutes and 18 seconds

REID: And while California today became the first state to require vaccination or weekly testing for teachers, Republican Governors Ron DeSantis and Greg Abbott of Texas have doubled down on their ludicrous and dangerous mask mandate bans. But even in states where school boards are empowered to put in masking requirements, things are going south, so to speak. In Tennessee, health officials are warning that the current surge is on track to surpass last year's. And a terrifying scene unfolded after the school board in Williamson County, an affluent suburb of Nashville, voted to require masks in elementary schools.

[WILLIAMSON COUNTY CLIP]

REID: Joining me now, U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona. And Secretary Cardona, thank you so much for being here. I've got to start by asking — we're at the point now where we have to ask how do we keep health professionals and teachers safe if you've got people who are willing to get violent over mask mandates?

EDUCATION SECRETARY MIGUEL CARDONA: You know, it's hard enough to reopen

schools with — in the middle of a pandemic. You know, and I applaud educators in the last year and a half, who have done everything in their power to safely reopen schools and get kids back into the classroom where they learn best. Now to have to worry about poor policy or people that are frustrated and threatening educators and — and health professionals, it's — it's unbelievable. It's truly unbelievable.

REID: I mean, is — and I don't know if there even is, it's just a genuine question I don't know, is there anything that the federal government, the Department of Education can do, to provide for the fact that we now have to potentially have security for teachers who want to have their students masked, for school administrators, and also financial security? Because in the state of Florida, the governor is threatening to dock the pay of people who don't make a lot of money, teachers and administrators, simply because they want to keep kids alive. Can the federal government do anything?

CARDONA: That's literally adding insult to injury. We — we have policies that are being implemented now that are not safe for students. So yes, we're working closely with all — all states, but in particular with Florida, we're having conversations about what we can do to make sure that, number one, our students have access to safe learning environments, that educators are given the opportunity to do what they do best. Let's let our superintendents do their jobs. They know what to do. It's tough enough reopening schools during a pandemic and they shouldn't have to have their salaries threatened or deal with repercussions of making the right decisions. Unfortunately, look at the data. Look at the data. We are talking about the rates in Florida going up. It's dangerous and we want to make sure that our schools are reopened for our students and that parents feel confident sending their children to school. They have been through enough already.

REID: We — we had the chairwoman of the Broward County School District on the show yesterday. She said she doesn't care if she does lose her salary. She's going to protect students. Broward County is going to require masking. Miami-Dade said we will not switch — three districts — Broward, Alachua, and Leon County, they've put mask mandates in place despite the governor saying that they cannot do it. There's been a lawsuit by parents of kids with disabilities. They are suing Ron Desantis saying that his ban on mask mandates violates the Americans With Disabilities Act. I mean, there are kids, first of all, too young to get vaccinated.

CARDONA: Right.

REID: And then there are also kids who have pre-existing conditions who could die from covid. And there are screaming, sometimes violent parents saying they want no mask mandates and they want to be able to send unmasked, potentially contagious kids to school. To me, I have to ask you, do you feel that American public schools at this point are safe with those people out there?

CARDONA: You know, I'm — I'm — I have mask fatigue as well, right? But there is no way I feel comfortable sending my children to school in a place where the rates are higher, where they're growing. We know what's right. And while we're all tired of wearing the mask, we want to make sure our children are safe and that they have a chance to learn in the classroom. To — to

the governor there and to the folks that are making these decisions, don't be the reason why school is interrupted again. I talked to seniors this — this week who said I just want to have another season. So, to them, I say don't be the reason why we can't have games, extracurricular activities, and our students can't engage in those experiences because of your poor policies. Yes, we can reopen schools safely. We have to keep an eye on the Delta variant because if it accelerates due to the community spread, because we know how to keep children safe in our schools, but if it accelerates due to the community spread, I would hate to think that we have to disrupt learning again for these students. They've been through enough. Get out of the way.

REID: Yeah. We know that there have been millions of parents who have disenrolled their children or failed to enroll their kids because of fear of Covid or because of the practical implications there. A lot of those have been students of color. I also want to ask you about what can be done with the already passed Covid relief funds. We know that the administration is helping to pay some teachers who are getting docked in places like Florida. We know that — that may have to happen in other states because Texas seems to follow them. But what about other things like schools that are physically not ready to bring kids back safely because they don't have, you know, adequate heating or cooling, places that are too hot, buildings that don't have enough green space to allow children to play outside? How — how is the administration handling making sure that schools, particularly in low income and minority communities —

CARDONA: Right.

REID: — are physically ready to bring kids back safely?

CARDONA: We know the pandemic affected everyone, but it affected some more than others. And as you mentioned, in the black and brown communities or the very densely populated communities, it really affected those communities. But the American Rescue Plan, \$130 billion intended to safely reopen schools. I visited a school recently in DeKalb County, Georgia, that fixed their ventilation system to have better air flow. So, the funding is there, the urgency is there. And to those places struggling to do that, we want to work with you. If your intent is to get children back safely into school, we want to work with you. But if your intent is to create obstacles, we're going to have the backs of our educators, of our superintendents. We're having conversations about how we can support our educators in those places. At the end of the day, educators know what to do. Lean on the health experts. You know, I don't have a degree in epidemiology and I would argue that the governor doesn't either. So, let's let the health experts know — who know what they're doing make decisions and let our educators educate, let our leaders lead. We've got your back, educators. We're going to be discussing what ways we can support you better. But at the end of the day, as you mentioned, gaps were made worse during the pandemic and I'm wondering how the rights of these students are being violated with some of these actions. We're looking into this.

REID: Yeah, absolutely. You're absolutely right and these kids have rights too, or at least they should. It would be nice if both parties cared about them equally.