

MSNBC's *The ReidOut*

12/21/21

7:18:16 p.m. [TEASE]

6 seconds

JOY REID: And tonight's Absolute Worst: Bad faith and bad decisions lead to bad outcomes for the people you're supported to represent.

(...)

7:42:00 p.m.

6 seconds

REID: And tonight's Absolute Worst is straight ahead, as a lawmaker brings new meaning to the term bad faith.

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7:46:17 p.m.

3 minutes and 28 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: The Absolute Worst; Joe Manchin's Bad Faith Negotiations]

REID: Nothing, and I mean nothing, captures the utter hypocrisy of Joe Manchin pretending he represents the average West Virginian than this video from author and activist Don Winslow, which has more than 600,000 views on Twitter and counting.

SENATOR JOE MANCHIN (D-WV): I'm here because of West Virginia. [SCREEN WIPE] For me, it's all about West Virginia.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Welcome to television's unchallenged authority on wealth, prestige, and success. It's another dazzling *Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous*. Meet the stars of show business and big business. Discover how life's winners live, love and spend their fortunes.

REID: I mean, Don Winslow's right. Maserati Manchin, a multimillionaire coal baron, would fit right in on *Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous*. He's been on the side of special interests the entire time, and made it clear yesterday that he was always negotiating in bad faith and never planned to vote for Build Back Better.

MANCHIN [on 12/20/21]: I knew where they were and I knew what they could and could not do. They just never realized it, because they figured surely to God we can move one person. [SCREEN WIPE] The bottom line, I knew that we could not change. It was never going to change. It never could change with that many people. So, Hoppy, for the last month, I have been telling people. They kept saying, Joe, where are you? What are we going to do? How about this?

REID: And he's now pulled a full J.D. Vance, showing open contempt for the people he's supposedly doing such a bang-up job representing. He actually had the nerve to raise questions and concerns to his colleagues that parents would use their child tax credits on — oh, yes — on drugs. Well, geez, Mr. Manchin in the yacht, just go ahead and call your constituents welfare queens, a la Ronald Reagan, and get on with it. There's actually data, by the way, that shows that nine in 10 Americans use their child tax credit on necessities, like food and shelter and education. On top of all that, Manchin has raised the concern that people would abuse paid leave time and use it to go hunting. This is somebody who has claimed that D.C. doesn't understand West Virginians, but here he is reducing them to a stereotype. But what's really sad is how much Build Back Better would have helped West Virginia, a state that, despite Manchin's leadership and all that power, is not exactly in the best shape. West Virginia ranks 50th, 50th in infrastructure, 48th in economy, 47th in health care, and 45th in education. As of 2019, West Virginia had the highest rate of drug overdose deaths in the entire country. And, according to the Associated Press, one in five children in West Virginia live in poverty, and 93 percent of children qualify for the child tax credit payments. The White House also points out that the bill would have provided access to child care for 94,000 children, expand rental assistance for 83,000 renters in that state who are rent-burdened, and expand health insurance to more than 30,000 people in West Virginia, not to mention the climate change provisions that would create jobs. But the coal lobbyists didn't want that. So, for his bad faith, fake negotiating and obstruction of a bill that would truly help his constituents, Joe Manchin, Maserati Manchin, is tonight's Absolute Worst. And up next, we will dig more into how Maserati Manchin misrepresents his state.

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7:53:53 p.m.
50 seconds

MANCHIN [on *Fox News Sunday*, 12/19/21]: If I can't go home and explain it to the people of West Virginia, I can't vote for it and I cannot vote to continue with this piece of legislation. I just can't. I've tried everything humanly possible. I can't get there.

REID: No, you haven't. With those few words, West Virginia Senator Joe Manchin killed the most transformative legislation of the 21st century. He says, oh, he can't explain a bill that lifts thousands of kids out of poverty, cleans up polluted communities, and helps parents take care of their kids. I'm not so sure how hard a sell that really is. But that is his excuse. And it begs the question, is it that he can't or that he just doesn't want to? A member of the West Virginia Democrats Executive Committee, who's criticized Manchin for years, gave this possible explanation to *The New Yorker*: "If it does not personally benefit Joe, his major contributors, and/or his family, he is unmoved."

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7:56:03 p.m.
4 minutes and 11 seconds

REID: And so, Molly, here is a coal baron, whose family's in the coal biz, whose daughter was in the expensive EpiPen biz, who's rich and has a yacht and a Maserati, basically saying, the poors are lazy. Don't give them money. It's going to make them lazier. You know, don't give them help, because it's going to make them do drugs, like the same old Ronald Reagan stuff. And, meanwhile, the business he's in is coal, and he's blocking getting black lung money for coal miners. Your thoughts?

MOLLY JONG-FAST: It's amazing that you can have a Democrat like this in this time, I mean, just incredible and it's hard to believe, but I will say he's a Democrat in a state that went almost 69 percent for Trump, so he has really good cover for not doing progressive things, because he can say, well, I'm a red state Democrat.

REID: Right.

JONG-FAST: And, also, that state is filled — it's people who are a little bit older, they're sicker, they're poorer, and they're very attached to coal. So, if Democrats can't explain why — that Build Back Better isn't just taking away your coal, they get — you know, these voters don't quite get it. And so, ultimately, I think it may be — I mean, look, there's clearly a lot of questions about Manchin and his portfolio. And who even knows what's in there? And — but I would say part of it is, I think that the voters are not hearing what's in it.

REID: Well, and so I guess that question back to you, then, Grace. I mean, if — I think that that is a valid point, that if people don't really know what's in it, and they just hear it's going to be trillions of dollars, if you're a conservative-leaning voter, you go, well, I don't want to do that. I'd rather not spend trillions of dollars. Is — has there been an in-state sales pitch to explain to people, wait, this is your black lung money, this is to make sure you can take care of your kids? Has that happened, to your knowledge?

GRACE SEGERS: Yeah, so there's been a lot of advocacy by the National Black Lung Association, by the Appalachian Citizens Law Center talking about the need for this tax to be extended, from the Mine Workers of America as well. There has been in-state advocacy for it. But there's no way around that it's a ginormous bill. And this is on a very small paragraph very far down in the bill. And it's kind of difficult to get across that, hey, this is in here, and it benefits sick veteran coal miners.

REID: Molly, this is the challenge I have. I'm going to put the stats back up. Infrastructure, the state ranks last, economy 48th, health care 47th, education 45th. You know whose job it is to turn that stuff around and to explain to people, here's how I'm going to do it, how I'm going to make your life better? Well, that would be Joe Manchin, Joe Manchin, who claimed, oh, I'm for this. He came out and said, I will put my name on this. Oh, I just want it to be \$1.6 trillion, instead of 1.7, and essentially bad faith lied, even making the White House think he was negotiating. He wasn't. It's his job with his power to turn these statistics around. And he seems damn determined not to do that. Your thoughts?

JONG-FAST: Yeah, I don't think he cares too much about the people of West Virginia.

REID: Clearly.

JONG-FAST: But I also don't — right? And I don't think — and, again, the coal stuff, the portfolio, he makes money on, I mean, who even — I don't think that senators and congresspeople should own stocks, period. Like, they're making the law. They shouldn't also be able to profit off it. It's insane. But I also think he hasn't been — we — Democrats have not been good enough at messaging to people, what's in this bill can change your life. And so, there hasn't — you know, for him, he can go on Fox News. That helps him in his state.

REID: Yeah.

JONG-FAST: And he can be the hero of the — of this sort of very right-wing state.

REID: A hundred percent.

JONG-FAST: And — right, and he's taking away things from his people that they desperately need. It's so — it's so upsetting to me, as a person —

REID: Yeah.

JONG-FAST: — just to see all this poverty.

REID: Yeah.

JONG-FAST: And the thing is that government can help these people.

REID: You know what an oligarchy is? It's a state with one billionaire and everybody else is either poor or barely struggling. That is West Virginia. The one billionaire is the governor. I bet you who the next governor is going to be. Watch it be Joe Manchin. And he'll get to billionaire eventually, because he's — he's working them funds.