

*CBS Mornings*

04/20/23

7:00:57 a.m. [TEASE]

10 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Hunter Biden Tax Returns]

TONY DOKOUPIL: A whistleblower claims the investigation into Hunter Biden's tax returns is being mishandled.

MARK LYTLE: We're compromised because of political consideration.

(...)

7:12:44 a.m.

3 minutes and 15 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: CBS News Investigates]

NATE BURLESON: Now to a major development in the federal invest — investigation into Hunter Biden's tax returns. An attorney for an IRS supervisor is sending a letter to lawmakers asking for whistleblower protection for his client. He's alleging the investigation is being improperly influenced by, "preferential treatment and politics." Our chief investigative correspondent Jim Axelrod is here with more. Jim, good morning.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: CBS News Investigates; Potential Whistleblower Comes Forward]

JIM AXELROD: Good morning, Nate. We are learning more about this potential whistleblower described by his attorney as a nonpartisan career civil servant who's looking for protections to share what he's experienced.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: CBS News Investigates; Whistleblower Comes Forward in Hunter Biden Probe; CBS News Learns an IRS Employee Is Seeking Whistleblower Protection]

LYTLE: My client wants to come forward to Congress. He's ready to be questioned about what he knows and what he experienced under the proper legal protections.

JIM AXELROD: Attorney Mark Lytle's client is a supervisory special agent at the IRS who's prepared to tell Congress the investigation he's been working on has been hampered by what he thinks is special treatment.

LYTLE: Typical steps that a law enforcement investigator would take were compromised because of political considerations.

AXELROD: Lytle wouldn't talk in specifics, declining to identify either his client or the target of

the investigation, his client helped conduct. [TO LYTLE] Can you identify him?

LYTLE: I can't at this stage, Jim.

AXELROD: But CBS News has learned the investigation the whistleblower worked on is about Hunter Biden.

HUNTER BIDEN [on 04/05/21]: What we're doing is being completely cooperative.

AXELROD: That was Biden two years ago after the DOJ opened an investigation into his finances. The FBI collected what it believed was sufficient evidence to charge Biden with tax crimes. And last year, sent its findings to the U.S. Attorney in Delaware. Since then, silence. [TO LYTLE] Why can't your client talk to us directly at this point?

LYTLE: There are laws that provide protection to whistleblowers, and he has to navigate that.

AXELROD: Today, Lytle sent this letter to Congress, claiming his client could provide information that would contradict sworn testimony by a senior political appointee.

ATTORNEY GENERAL MERRICK GARLAND [on 03/01/23]: I promise to ensure that he's able to carry out his investigation.

AXELROD: CBS News has learned that was Attorney General Merrick Garland. Who gave testimony about the Trump-appointed U.S. Attorney in Delaware conducting the Hunter Biden investigation. Lytle says neither he nor his client are motivated by politics. [TO LYTLE] Would you find any evidence or allegation of a political agenda?

LYTLE: No. To him, the truth is one truth. And he wants to come forward with it.

AXELROD: Lytle told us the whistleblower has been with the IRS for more than a decade and has extensive documentation to support his allegations.

LYTLE: The things he's been through are very well documented in e-mails and other communications with the Department of Justice.

AXELROD: We asked Lytle if there's a chance his client can only see his slice of the investigation and not the big picture. He said that's possible, but that his client had expressed his concerns to superiors a number of times before seeking whistle-blower status. Neither the IRS, Department of Justice, or a lawyer for Hunter Biden would comment.

GAYLE KING: To be continued for sure. Thank you, Jim.

(....)

8:01:33 a.m.

16 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Hunter Biden Probe]

NATE BURLESON: CBS News learns an irs employee has requested whistleblower protection to talk about the Hunter Biden case.

AXELROD [TO LYTLE]: Why can't your client talk to us directly, at this point?

LYTLE: There are laws that provide protection to whistleblowers, and he has to navigate that.