

*CBS Mornings*

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2 minutes and 38 seconds [2:21 on laptop letter, 0:17 on IRS]

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: New Testimony in Hunter Biden Probe; Ex-CIA Chief; Antony Blinken Helped Craft Letter to Discredit Laptop]

TONY DOKOUPIL: We're going to turn now to new developments in the congressional probe into Hunter Biden's business dealings. According to House Republicans, they're saying that former CIA Director Michael Morell gave them new information about the origins of a letter from 50 former intelligence officials concerning Hunter Biden's laptop that suggested Russian involvement in hacking the laptop's contents. Our senior investigative correspondent Catherine Herridge has more.

JOE BIDEN [TO PETER DOOCY] [on 09/21/19]: I've never spoken to my son —

CATHERINE HERRIDGE: In the final weeks of the 2020 presidential campaign, the *New York Post* reported on the contents of Hunter Biden's laptop, alleging he used his father's position for personal gain, a claim the President's son has denied. Less than a week later, more than 50 former intelligence officials released a statement that the laptop had "all the classic earmarks of a Russian information operation."

KRISTEN WELKER [on 10/22/20]: We're talking about the issue —

DONALD TRUMP [on 10/22/20]: The laptop from hell.

HERRIDGE: At the final presidential debate, then-candidate Biden cited the letter from intel officials to push back against then-President Trump's attacks.

BIDEN [on 10/22/20]: There are 50 former national intelligence folks who said that what this — he's accusing me of is a Russian plant. They have said that this is — has all the char — five former heads of the CIA, both parties, say what he's saying is a bunch of garbage.

HERRIDGE: According to a letter released Thursday night from the Republican chairmen of the House Judiciary and Intelligence Committees, former CIA Deputy Director Michael Morell told congressional investigators that, days after the laptop story, Secretary of State Antony Blinken, then a Biden campaign adviser, reached out to Morell and set in motion the events that led to the intelligence official's public statement.

SENATOR LINDSEY GRAHAM (R-SC) [on FNC's *The Faulkner Focus*, 04/20/23]: If they made an effort to manipulate intelligence officials to sign a letter basically misleading the public about the Hunter Biden laptop right before the election, that is a major, major political event.

HERRIDGE: This comes after an IRS agent came forward this week alleging the investigation

involving Hunter Biden's taxes has been improperly influenced for political reasons. The White House responded.

KARINE JEAN-PIERRE: The President respects the rule of law and — and the independence of the Department of Justice.

HERRIDGE: We asked Morell, who is a former CBS News contributor, if the characterization of his congressional interview is accurate, and he declined to comment. In a tweet, the White House accused House Republicans of weaponizing their power to relitigate the 2020 election rather than focus on the real problems Americans face. Nate?

BURLESON: Catherine, thank you.