



User Name: = brea.jones@factcheck.org

Date and Time: = 2021-07-08

Job Number: = 147909190

Documents (1)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: bennie thompson

Search Type: NaturalAnd

Content Type

news

Narrowed by

-None-

1. MSNBC "ALL IN WITH CHRIS HAYES" INTERVIEW WITH REP. BENNIE THOMPSON (D-MS)

MSNBC "ALL IN WITH CHRIS HAYES" INTERVIEW WITH REP. BENNIE THOMPSON (D-MS)

CQ Transcriptions

July 6, 2021 Tuesday

Copyright 2021 CQ-Roll Call, Inc. All Rights Reserved

All materials herein are protected by United States copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, published or broadcast without the prior written permission of CQ Transcriptions. You may not alter or remove any trademark, copyright or other notice from copies of the content.

Body

EVENT DATE: July 6, 2021

TYPE: NEWS PROGRAM

SPEAKER: REP. **BENNIE THOMPSON** (D-MS)

CHRIS HAYES, MSNBC HOST: Congressman **Bennie Thompson**, Democrat of Mississippi, is the chair of the select committee to investigate January 6th, and he joins me now.

Congressman, I feel that there's actually still a lot we don't know about the deaths of the individuals who died that day. There's been sporadic reports. We have some reporting on Ashli Babbitt and her death. Other individuals, one woman who has declared a methamphetamine overdose, obviously Brian Sicknick.

Will that be one of the focal points of the commission -- of the committee?

REP. BENNIE THOMPSON (D-MS): Well, we'll look at everything, Chris. Thank you for having me, by the way.

One of the things we're tasked with is looking at all the circumstances and the facts surrounding January 6th. Everything is on the table. We'll look at it. We've not been given any real guideposts beyond that.

I think it's important to see who was complicit and what went on, on January 6th. Whether there were outside forces, inside forces, we will look at all of them. We will look at the information that's already been collected by the various committees. But also we'll look at other information that we've not had access to, telephonic information, other things.

So what we have to do is hire the best professional staff that's available. We will do our work. We will not rush the task of the work. We'll interview any and everyone that the facts lead to.

The first one we want to talk to are the members of the Capitol Police, Chris. We've talked to the brass of the Capitol Police, but we've not talked to the rank and file people who fought those insurrectionists that day, and in my opinion, saved the lives of a lot of Americans in the process. We need to hear from them.

So we'll start the process. We won't rush it. And we will look at every situation possible to get to the facts, just what you talked about a few minutes ago. Some of this -- this news comes out every day. So, clearly, it's in our best interests with this select committee to get to the --

MSNBC "ALL IN WITH CHRIS HAYES" INTERVIEW WITH REP. BENNIE THOMPSON (D-MS)

(AUDIO GAP)

HAYES: I think we might be losing --

THOMPSON: -- be driven by the facts and circumstances that we --

(AUDIO GAP)

HAYES: I think we got you back, Congressman. You flickered out for a moment on the Internet connection. I'm going to proceed as if we do have you back.

I wanted to display a tweet from one of your leagues, as Adam Schiff said, that the question of culpability of your colleagues is one of the questions at issue here. I'm just talking about Paul Gosar, who was speaking on the floor, you know, reciting these lies in those crucial six minutes. I don't think there's any evidence he knew that, of course. It's sort of a grand irony.

But that morning, I think he tweeted this, Biden should concede. I want his concession on my desk tomorrow morning. Don't make me come over there. And then he hashtagged, #stopthesteal, and he tags one of the people who was the organizers of the entire event.

And I feel like there hasn't been sort of a sufficient inquiry to what his role was just in organizing the entire thing.

You know what? I think the congressman's Internet is out. So let's take a break. We'll see if we can get him back. Stick right here.

Congressman **Bennie Thompson** on the flip. If not, lots more on the show. Don't go anywhere.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

HAYES: All right. Back with me on the phone is Congressman **Bennie Thompson**, Democrat of Mississippi, chair of the select committee to investigate January 6th.

Congressman, I just read you that tweet. Let me read the tweet again because you may have not have heard me. The connection was blanking out.

But it's your colleague Paul Gosar saying on January 6th saying Biden should concede. I want his concession on my desk tomorrow morning. Don't make me come over there, with a shot of the crowd. That crowd would eventually storm the Capitol, at least in the aggregate. #StopTheSteal 2021, and tagging one of the organizers.

And I just want -- I feel like actually for wherever the chips fall, do you feel like you actually understand the role that members of Congress may have played in organizing this entire event?

THOMPSON (via telephone): Chris, I know that there have been a number of comments made like what Congressman Gosar tweeted. Our investigation will look at any and all of the facts. And if there are members of Congress who were complicit in what went on on January 6th, our investigation will bring it out.

That's why we will have the best investigators possible to look at it, to see whether or not the White House was involved or any other institutional government involved because this should not have taken place.

In a democracy, you can't settle your differences by an insurrection. Democracies are settled at the ballot box, not by an insurrectionist mob like we had on the 6th.

So our obligation as members of this select committee is to look at the facts and circumstances that brought about January 6th and call it just like we see it.

HAYES: I also wonder about the role of the Department of Justice. Of course, there are criminal cases being pursued. There's over 500 arrests.

MSNBC "ALL IN WITH CHRIS HAYES" INTERVIEW WITH REP. BENNIE THOMPSON (D-MS)

There's some speculation that number ultimately might be up to 800. That's an estimate of how many people actually passed through that building. And those prosecutions are all being pursued out of one prosecutor's office in the District of Columbia underneath the Department of Justice.

And I wonder how much -- what you expect as the level of cooperation from the DOJ, from the attorney general in sharing information with your committee?

THOMPSON (via telephone): Well, to the extent that we won't interfere with the prosecution of those individuals, we expect to have conversations in a classified setting or whatever to get access to certain information.

But, again, we're not trying to interfere. But there's certain information that I and the committee will deem necessary to conduct our business.

We need to know, for instance, who did the FBI talk to? Did they talk to DOD? Did they talk to Metropolitan Police? Who, in fact, was part of the communications circle on or before January 6th?

We think there were some breakdowns in that system.

So we'll have to look at the whole thing, not just who committed something, but there are some intelligence failures that occurred on January 6th. We need to make sure that we fix those intelligence failures so they never happen again.

Why does the DOD operate separately from other institutions of government as it relates to January 6th? We have to fix all that.

Why does the mayor of the District of Columbia, of which the United States Capitol in, is an impotent position to protect the citizens of that area?

So, there's a lot of things we have to go to. We hope and expect cooperation from every branch of government as we pursue getting to this report.

HAYES: All right. Congressman **Bennie Thompson**, who will be chairing that select committee, thank you so much for joining us tonight.

THOMPSON (via telephone): Thank you for having me.

END

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Subject: DEATH & DYING (90%); INVESTIGATIONS (90%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (90%); US DEMOCRATIC PARTY (90%); INTERVIEWS (78%); RECRUITMENT & HIRING (72%); DRUG OVERDOSES (71%); METHAMPHETAMINE (55%)

Person: **BENNIE THOMPSON** (90%)

Geographic: UNITED STATES (78%)

Load-Date: July 6, 2021

End of Document