Twitter Thread by David Bier

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Long thread: Because I couldn't find anything comprehensive, I'm just going to post everything I've seen in the news/Twitter about Trump's activities related to the Jan 6th insurrection. I think the timing & context of his actions/inactions will matter a lot for a senate trial.

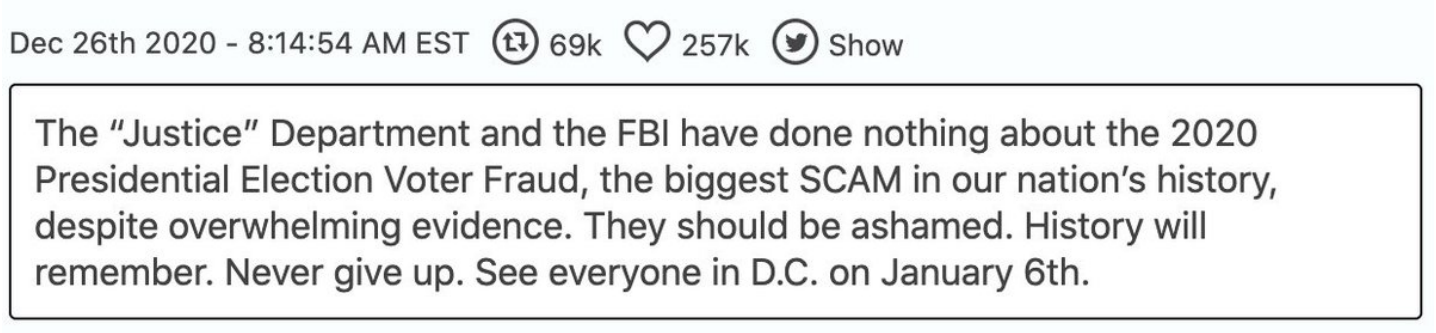
12/12: The earlier DC protest over the electoral college vote during clearly inspired Jan 6th. On Dec 12th, he tweeted: "Wow! Thousands of people forming in Washington (D.C.) for Stop the Steal. Didn't know about this, but I'll be seeing them! #MAGA." https://t.co/GiiCoFXdhl

> Jumping in for @DCist/@wamu885 this evening. The scene rn coming up 17th Street from BLM Plaza. pic.twitter.com/Fn9aukjEPW
>
> — Matt Blitz (@WhyBlitz) December 12, 2020

12/19: Trump announces the Jan. 6th event by tweeting, "Big protest in D.C. on January 6th. Be there, will be wild!" Immediately, insurrectionists begin to discuss the "Wild Protest." Just 2 days later, this UK political analyst predicts the violence https://t.co/pZDJl70eT6

> On January 6, armed Trumpist militias will be rallying in DC, at Trump's orders. It's highly likely that they'll try to storm the Capitol after it certifies Joe Biden's win. I don't think this has sunk in yet.
>
> — Arieh Kovler (@ariehkovler) December 21, 2020

12/26-27: Trump announces his participation on Twitter. On Dec. 29, the FBI sends out a nationwide bulletin warning legislatures about attacks https://t.co/Lgl4yk5aO1



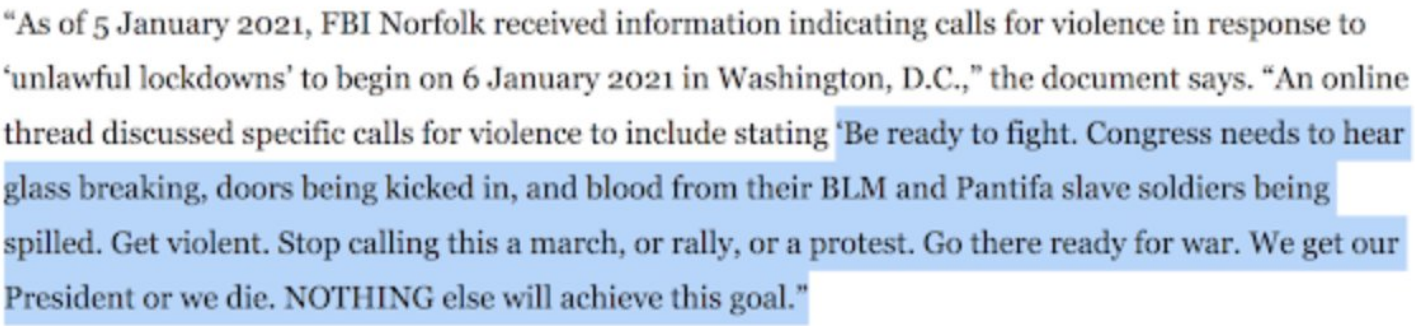
1/1: Trump tweets the time of his protest. Then he retweets "The calvary is coming" on Jan. 6!" Sounds like a war? About this time, the FBI begins visiting right wing extremists to tell them not to go--does the FBI tell the president? https://t.co/3OxnB2AHdr



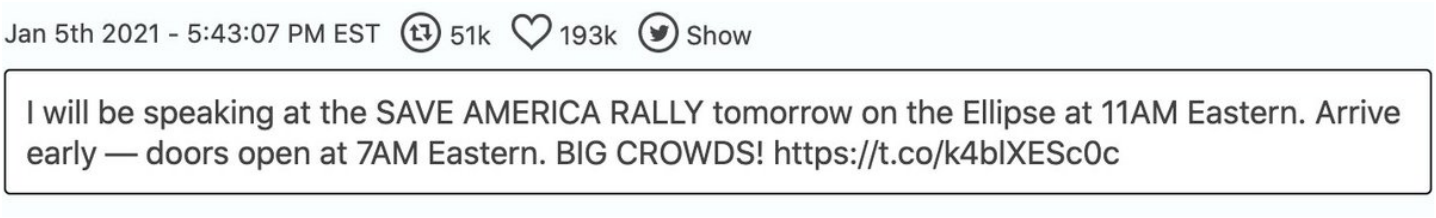
The violent imagery used throughout the promotion of this event needs a whole separate thread.



1/2: Trump called GA Gov. Kemp to pressure him to "find" votes for him to win. The same day, theDonald site users are openly calling for civil war on Jan 6th. Here's the post that prompted an FBI intelligence report in VA a few days later. https://t.co/wLn59XMezR



1/5: Trump sends a series of tweets promoting the rally the next day and touting “thousands of people pouring into D.C.” as a way to dissuade “weak Republicans” from accepting the results of the election.



1/5: Trump tweets at various law enforcement, intelligence, and military agencies that he supposedly oversees about the threat from “Antifa.” At the same time, a VA FBI Office warns of a “war” at the Capitol from the far right starting the next day. https://t.co/RWQ9B2r6MX

A day before rioters stormed Congress, an FBI office in Virginia issued an explicit internal warning that extremists were preparing to travel to Washington to commit violence and “war,” according to an internal document reviewed by The Washington Post that contradicts a senior official’s declaration the bureau had no intelligence indicating anyone at last week’s pro-Trump protest planned to do harm.

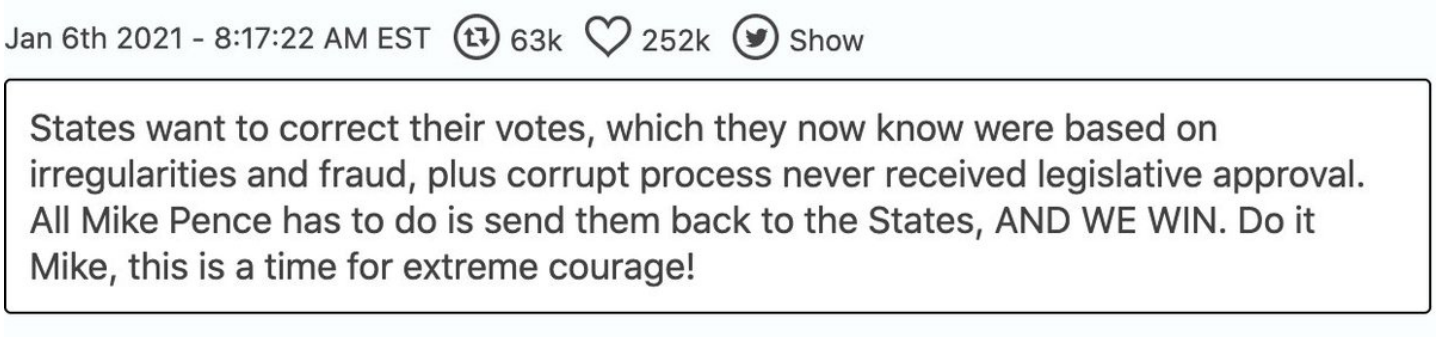
1/6, 1:00am: Trump stays up until well after midnight tweeting that Pence can overturn the election the next day.



1/6, 8:06am: Trump is awake again and hate-watching MSNBC



1/6, 8:17: Trump continues to pressure Pence to overturn the election via Twitter:



1/6, 11:54am: Trump and Trump Jr and family are waiting for Trump to take the stage to address about 8,000 insurrectionists, pre-insurrection, at the Ellipse outside the White House https://t.co/4tAhZeoqQT

> Trump his family, and more watching the riot at the Capitol @CNN @ChrisCuomo @donlemon @KTLA @ABC7 @NBCNews pic.twitter.com/UjdzylnioK
>
> — Deangelo Monroe\u2b50 (@Toxxic_pisces) January 8, 2021

Question that I haven't found reporting on: How much did Trump & his team know about the threats when he went ahead with his participation? Were concerns ignored or never raised? The FBI is telling extremists not to come, but not warning the president not to call for them?

1/6, 12:00-12:17pm: Trump begins his speech. At 12:17, he says that he will march with the rioters to the Capitol to demand the election be overturned. https://t.co/cUohC9JgRb

> "After this, we\u2019re going to walk down and I\u2019ll be there with you. We\u2019re going to walk down. We\u2019re going to walk down any one you want, but I think right here. We\u2019re going walk down to the Capitol"
>
> Donald J. Trump - Jan 6 2021 pic.twitter.com/3w8VlcRMn4
>
> — Nick_1623 (@Nick_1623) January 14, 2021

Trump/the White House apparently did not tell anyone at least in federal law enforcement that he was going to order a march to the Capitol following the speech. Was this intentional? https://t.co/QIm1sdmAz3

Ahead of the rally, Ashan Benedict, the special agent in charge of ATF's Washington field office, put a rapid-response unit based an hour away in suburban Virginia on standby. He told senior Justice Department officials that an arson and explosives task force stood at the ready.

"The question mark for everybody was what happens when the speeches are over? Do they just leave to go home? Do they want to move around the city? Do they want to go to the White House? It was hard to say," said Mr. Benedict. "Ultimately, they went to the Capitol."

1/6, 12:18: Immediately after ordering the march to the capitol, Trump says you can never take back the country with weakness. https://t.co/Da2aVbHstu

> \u201cBecause you\u2019ll never take back your Country with weakness. You have to show strength and you have to be strong.\u201d
> The yesterday\u2019s riots moral instigator.#CapitolHill #CapitolHillRiots #WashingtonRiots #ByeByeTrump pic.twitter.com/XSyJEcV7fU
>
> — Massimo Lucia (@max1602) January 7, 2021

1/6, 12:54pm: Trump is still reciting his normal lies about the election to the rest of the protesters a mile away as some protesters who left when Trump first said to walk arrive at the Capitol & immediately attack the Capitol police https://t.co/kk7sTvH4Ly

> IMPORTANT: this is exact moment the siege of the Capitol building began as the two men in front ripped down a preliminary barrier & rushed officers who were behind a 2nd barrier
>
> They then encouraged others to follow their lead. Officers appeared to be taken completely off guard pic.twitter.com/LE0a01PXBi
>
> — ELIJAH SCHAFFER (@ElijahSchaffer) January 6, 2021

1/6, 1:11pm: Trump ends the speech by telling his supporters to join those who are now already inside the barricades around the Capitol fighting with the police https://t.co/H4UBETd1rp

> "We are going to walk down Pennsylvania Avenue and we're going to the Capitol and we're going to try and give weak Republicans the pride and boldness that they need to take back our country... So let's walk down Pennsylvania Ave" https://t.co/V7rZDp82Hi
> Nauseating
>
> — Marcela Garc\xeda (@marcelagarciar) January 7, 2021

1/6, 1:19pm: Trump returns in his motorcade to the White House. A key moment: He promised the crowd he would go to the Capitol. Was that really an open plan? Did he lie? Or did he hear about the ongoing rioting & decide against it after the speech? https://t.co/BFbtaP7EmP

According to the AP, Trump attending the riot was “discussed” by “the White House” but “abandoned” but who was involved and did this happened before or after the speech? Maybe other reporting has clarified this? https://t.co/jGn7PVYnYS

> Hours earlier, Trump had appeared at a massive rally near the White House, where he continued to urge supporters to fight the election results and encouraged them to march to the Capitol in remarks that were peppered with incendiary language and rife with violent undertones. At one point, he even suggested he might join them — a prospect that was discussed by the White House but eventually abandoned.

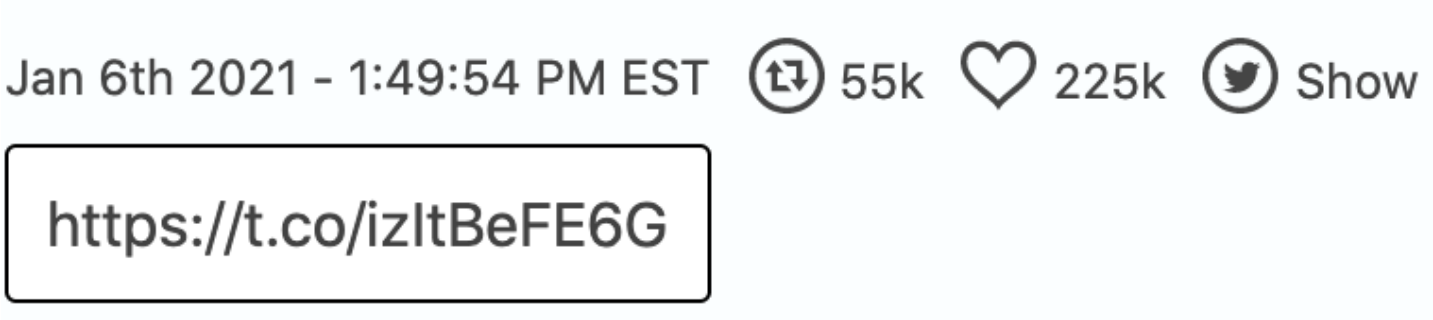
1/6, ~1:25: Back in the White House, Trump turns on the TV to watch the riots https://t.co/1nW346QhRt

> Mr. Trump monitored the scene as it unfolded on television, according to administration officials and people close to the White House. He holed up in the Oval Office, speaking with Mark Meadows, the White House chief of staff, who was said to have been rattled by the day, and Pat A. Cipollone, the White House counsel.

At that point, the insurrectionists look like they are still believing that Trump might be with them! https://t.co/BrFurVwebV

> Very telling video of rioters outside the Capitol shouting at police: "We were invited here. We were invited by the president of the United States" pic.twitter.com/Ctt5M1ijoA
>
> — Drew Harwell (@drewharwell) January 13, 2021

1/6, 1:49: Trump is tweeting a video of his speech starting the riot, which includes all the false justifications for the attack! About this time (or earlier), the Capitol Police makes the request for immediate assistance from the D.C. National Guard.



1/6, ~2:13: Congress suspends action, and Trump is apparently “enthusiastic” that the riot might stop the vote, exactly what he wanted! https://t.co/WSogQSHnQy

> White House officials were shaken by Trump's reaction to a mob of his supporters descending on the Capitol today. He was described to me as borderline enthusiastic because it meant the certification was being derailed. It has genuinely freaked people out.
>
> — Kaitlan Collins (@kaitlancollins) January 7, 2021

1/6, ~2:15: Trump calls Sen. Lee looking for Sen. Tuberville to sure up votes to overturn the election. Presumably, Sen. Lee thought Trump wanted to discuss how to stop the attack on the Capitol, not how to aid it https://t.co/dGxXlvoj6s

Trump first called the personal cell phone of Lee, a Utah Republican, shortly after 2 p.m. ET. At that time the senators had been evacuated from the Senate floor and were in a temporary holding room, as a pro-Trump mob began breaching the Capitol.

Lee picked up the phone and Trump identified himself, and it became clear he was looking for Tuberville and had been given the wrong number. Lee, keeping the President on hold, went to find his colleague and handed Tuberville his phone, telling him the President was on the line and had been trying to reach him.



Related Article: Trump pressured Pence to engineer a coup, then put the VP in danger,

Tuberville spoke with Trump for less than 10 minutes, with the President trying to convince him to make additional objections to the Electoral College vote in a futile effort to block Congress' certification of President-elect Joe Biden's win, according to a source familiar with the call. The call was cut off because senators were asked to move to a secure location.

1/6, ~2:20: After rioters break into the capitol, Trump is watching TV, “enjoying the spectacle” https://t.co/CNpBC9aetG

An aide called Trump Jr. and suggested he immediately issue a statement urging the rioters to stop. At 2:17 p.m., Trump Jr. hit send on a tweet as he boarded the plane: “This is wrong and not who we are,” he wrote. “Be peaceful and use your 1st Amendment rights, but don’t start acting like the other side. We have a country to save and this doesn’t help anyone.”

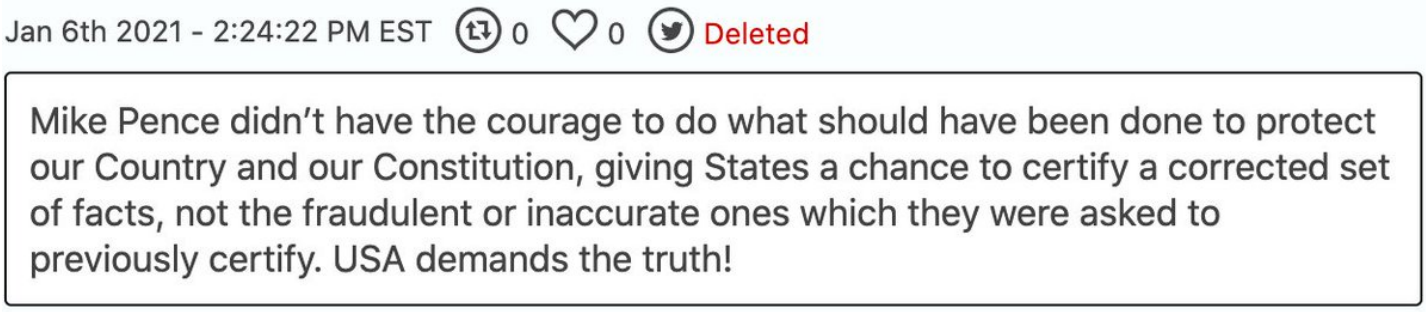
But the president himself was busy enjoying the spectacle. Trump watched with interest, buoyed to see that his supporters were fighting so hard on his behalf, one close adviser said.

1/6, ~2:20: As chaos overtakes the Capitol, aides are telling senators that Trump is walking around the White House “delighted” with the situation and is “confused” why everyone else isn’t on board with the insurrection https://t.co/eqSdGylNqX

“I don’t have any idea what was in his heart about what he wanted to happen once they were in the Capitol, but he wanted there to be chaos,” Sen. Ben Sasse (R-NE) said, during **an interview with conservative radio host Hugh Hewitt** Friday morning.

“And I’m sure you’ve also had conversations with other senior White House officials, as I have,” Sasse continued. “As this was unfolding on television, Donald Trump was walking around the White House confused about why other people on his team weren’t as excited as he was as you had rioters pushing against Capitol Police trying to get into the building.”

1/6, 2:24: Trump tweets an unhinged condemnation of VP Pence--even as the insurrectionists are just a few feet away from getting to him. His tweet provokes a scramble to find him by the insurrectionists inside the Capitol https://t.co/BE5n0k0XlW https://t.co/LQMGPHWhEb



1/6, 2:38: After the insurrectionists seize control, Trump aides finally convince him to tweet about it, but only to say “stay” peaceful (as if they already were) and refuses to tell them to leave the Capitol--he didn’t even want to say “stay peaceful”

https://t.co/CNpBC9aetG

Meanwhile, in the West Wing, a small group of aides — including Ivanka Trump, White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany and Meadows — was imploring Trump to speak out against the violence. Meadows's staff had prompted him to go see the president, with one aide telling the chief of staff before he entered the Oval Office, "They are going to kill people."

Shortly after 2:30 p.m., the group finally persuaded Trump to send a tweet: "Please support our Capitol Police and Law Enforcement," he wrote. "They are truly on the side of our Country. Stay peaceful!"

But the Twitter missive was insufficient, and the president had not wanted to include the final instruction to "stay peaceful," according to one person familiar with the discussions.

1/6, ~2:45: Trump resists requests to act on the request to bring up the National Guard. Ultimately, VP Pence does so even without the legal authority to do so! https://t.co/4QJrxzYGXC https://t.co/K4ozkjimOK

As rioters broke through police barricades and occupied the Capitol, paralyzing the business of Congress, aides said Trump resisted entreaties from some of his advisers to condemn the marauders and refused to be reasoned with.
"He kept saying: 'The vast majority of them are peaceful. What about the riots this summer? What about the other side? No one cared when they were rioting. My people are peaceful. My people aren't thugs,'" an administration official said. "He didn't want to condemn his people.

1/6, ~2:55: Trump talks to GOP House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy on the phone. McCarthy yells at Trump for refusing to take action. This conversation where Trump showed contempt for his life probably led McCarthy to blame Trump for the riot. https://t.co/a5E6HbXxwS

1/6, ~3:00: Trump is conferring with the world's worst group of "advisors" about the situation. We know that this same group thought the entire situation was overblown by the media even the next day after everything! https://t.co/4QJrxzYGXC https://t.co/tgehnEVhZD

People who interacted with Trump on Wednesday said they found him in a fragile and volatile state. He spent the afternoon and evening cocooned at the White House and listening only to a small coterie of loyal aides — including Meadows, deputy chief of staff Dan Scavino, personnel director Johnny McEntee and policy adviser Stephen Miller. Many of his top confidants — Meadows, son-in-law Jared Kushner and first lady Melania Trump, among others — were publicly silent.

1/6, 3:13: Trump tweets to ask everyone “at the U.S. Capitol” (not inside attacking it) to “remain peaceful” (again, as if they were). Not to tell them to leave the capitol and stop attacking it! Rep Gallegher tweets a vid hiding in his office urging the president to call it off



1/6, ~3:45-4:17: Trump goes outside of the White House to film three takes of a video telling the “very special” insurrectionists to go home, while noting that he “loves” them. What's in the other takes? He goes inside and tweets the video at 4:17 https://t.co/CNpBC9aetG

Around this time, the White House was preparing to put out a video address on behalf of the president. They had begun discussing this option earlier but struggled to organize their effort. Biden, meanwhile, stepped forward with remarks that seemed to rise to the occasion: “The scenes of chaos at the Capitol do not reflect the true America, do not represent who we are.”

Trump aides did three takes of the video and chose the most palatable option — despite some West Wing consternation that the president had called the violent protesters “very special.”

“This was a fraudulent election, but we can’t play into the hands of these people,” Trump said in the video, released shortly after 4 p.m. “We have to have peace. So go home. We love you. You’re very special. You’ve seen what happens. You see the way others are treated that are so bad and so evil. I know how you feel. But go home, and go home in peace.”

1/6, 6:01pm: After the Capitol is secured, Trump tweets what amounts to his thanks to the insurrectionists telling them to go home and “remember this day,” revealing publicly for the first time that he believed their actions were worth remembrance.



1/6, 7pm: Giuliani calls Sen. Lee leaving a message intended for Sen. Tuberville about trying to prevent Congress from voting. Basically the same as Trump’s phone call earlier in the day. There’s reason to believe that Trump was behind this effort as well https://t.co/8D7CkvPkUv

It's not clear whether Giuliani—who opens the call by referring to himself as "the president's lawyer"—was directed to call Tuberville by President Trump. Requests for comment to Giuliani's cell phone and White House chief of staff Mark Meadows went unanswered. One longtime Trump adviser still talking to top White House officials says Trump is in constant communication with Giuliani. Asked if such a call is something Trump would know about, he said: "Oh, yeah, 100 percent."

1/7, 7:10pm: It was not until Thursday night that Trump posted a video conceding the election and that a new administration will take office. Yet he immediately regretted doing so. https://t.co/CNpBC9aetG

His calls for healing and reconciliation were more than a day too late, many aides said. Yet as Trump watched the media coverage of his video, he grew angry.

The president said he wished he hadn't done it, a senior White House official said, because he feared that the calming words made him look weak.

Questions: what did Trump know about extremists attending his speech? When/why did Trump decide against going to the Capitol? Who else was Trump calling during the riot? What're in the other takes of the video? Will anyone testify? Will Pence?
https://t.co/GCqGOdt8nh

> The House should immediately subpoena the President\u2019s phone records. He was calling people during the Capitol insurrection to try to continue to delay election certification. Who else did he try to call other than Sen. Tuberville? Rudy\u2019s calls too.
>
> — Barbara Comstock (@BarbaraComstock) January 10, 2021

There were also a huge number of phone calls going out to Trump, his aides & family. I didn't list them all, but having a full account of how Trump ignored all his "friends" during the crisis would be important as well.

Did Trump know his supporters saw him as backing their move? Even if he never saw analysis like this one below (because he distrusts and refuses to take meetings with his intel services), doesn't that failure only further support the case against him? https://t.co/uYOSaw2Aw4

> I've obtained a new intelligence memo warning that the lie that the election was fraudulent threatens to incite more extremist violence in future.
>
> Trump still won't disown this lie, and many Republicans still won't unambiguously condemn it.

My latest:https://t.co/ijvSqdS3w0

— Greg Sargent (@ThePlumLineGS) January 14, 2021