


FBI and Twitter, supplemental

 cnav.news/2022/12/19/accountability/executive/fbi-twitter-supplemental/

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Matt Taibbi, on Friday December 16, [released a thread](#) detailing the partnership between Twitter and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Last night he released another thread, saying more about that partnership.

The second FBI and Twitter thread

Herewith the second thread detailing the relationship between Twitter and the FBI:

<https://t.co/mz7AFoolHV> July of 2020, San Francisco FBI agent Elvis Chan tells Twitter executive Yoel Roth to expect written questions from the Foreign Influence Task Force (FITF), the inter-agency group that deals with cyber threats.

pic.twitter.com/V4zNYnF81W

— Matt Taibbi (@mtaibbi) [December 18, 2022](#)

<https://t.co/0PiyFHVTrc> would think that would be good news. The agencies seemed to feel otherwise.

— Matt Taibbi (@mtaibbi) [December 18, 2022](#)

6.The task force demanded to know how Twitter came to its unpopular conclusion. Oddly, it included a bibliography of public sources – including a Wall Street Journal article – attesting to the prevalence of foreign threats, as if to show Twitter they got it wrong.

— Matt Taibbi (@mtaibbi) [December 18, 2022](#)

8.He added he was not “comfortable with the Bureau (and by extension the IC) demanding written answers.” The idea of the FBI acting as conduit for the Intelligence Community is interesting, given that many agencies are barred from domestic operations.

— Matt Taibbi (@mtaibbi) [December 18, 2022](#)

10.Roth suggested they “get on the phone with Elvis ASAP and try to straighten this out,” to disabuse the agencies of any notion that state propaganda is not a “thing” on Twitter.

— Matt Taibbi (@mtaibbi) [December 18, 2022](#)

12.The FBI responded to Friday’s report by saying it “regularly engages with private sector entities to provide information specific to identified foreign malign influence actors’ subversive, undeclared, covert, or criminal activities.” pic.twitter.com/fkJrLjPKIN

— Matt Taibbi (@mtaibbi) [December 18, 2022](#)

<https://t.co/p7t3Dnsk09> [@BariWeiss](#) and [@ShellenbergerMD](#) for more from the Twitter Files.

— Matt Taibbi (@mtaibbi) [December 18, 2022](#)

The last tweet embeds this [article](#) from a [site](#) by Alex Bilzerian. The title: “A Case for Regulation in the Art Market.” Is this a tease for the next Twitter Files? Or is it a blind? *CNAV* will wait and watch.

This thread details specifically the relationship of Twitter with the Foreign Influence Task Force (FITF). As you can see, Twitter received a demand that they Get With The Program. Taibbi correctly points out that the demands for explanation and compliance comes not merely from the FBI. The FBI is a “conduit” for the intelligence community – many member agencies of which are not supposed to run domestic operations.

In fact the Deep State has just reared its ugly head. We see here a scene out of a movie, in which a high-ranking villain threatens someone who questions what said villain is asking. And that someone then says:

| Yes, sir. Yes, sir. Anything you say, sir.

Is this really the FBI? Or is it, rather, a combination of the *Stasi* and the *Volkspolizei* in East Germany during the Cold War? Or the *Gestapo* and the *Schutzstaffel* during the Second World War?

Reaction

The reaction to this file is shocking. Apologists for the FBI and the U.S. intelligence community, including two U.S. Representatives, have taken a sharp and imperious tone. In fact, that tone has made Matt Taibbi terrifically angry.

For example: Rep. Ted Lieu (D-Calif.-33rd) scornfully sums up the thread: “Twitter disagreed with the FBI.” Taibbi sharply reminds him to re-read the thread.

Then hastily reassured them that they would agree. But then, reading comprehension skills aren't a prerequisite for public office. <https://t.co/X6JZnjzKrg>

— Matt Taibbi (@mtaibbi) [December 19, 2022](#)

Later he laments – as anyone should – that a Member of Congress would take the Twitter/FBI relationship as “a partisan story.”

It is very odd that people (cough, @tedlieu) think the FBI/DHS relationship with Twitter and other platforms is a partisan story. It's taken place and grown under both Republican and Democratic administrations. This concerns everyone.

— Matt Taibbi (@mtaibbi) [December 18, 2022](#)

Another user accuses Taibbi of context dropping and Soviet propaganda technique. If this user is even capable of appreciating the irony, she (presumably) gives no sign. Herewith Taibbi's response:

The context: January 8th, 2021, a few hours before Trump was banned from the platform. <https://t.co/SANoy4vkoT>

— Matt Taibbi (@mtaibbi) [December 19, 2022](#)

At 4:36 p.m. PST, Taibbi tweets out a graphic labeled “Starting to hear from partners.”

“Starting to hear from partners.” pic.twitter.com/QGGWuZoUbr

— Matt Taibbi (@mtaibbi) [December 19, 2022](#)

The graphic references a “Schiff,” presumably Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Calif.-28th), outgoing Chairman of the House Intelligence Committee. (Who also serves on the January 6 Committee.) This same Adam Schiff actually says that relaxed moderation is a *problem!*

REP. SCHIFF: "We've got a big problem right now with social media companies and their failure to moderate content and the explosion of hate on Twitter, the banning of journalists on Twitter. [...] If you'll be responsible moderators of content, we will give you immunity." pic.twitter.com/zujwUbEmUd

— Breaking911 (@Breaking911) [December 18, 2022](#)

Yet another user asks whether the FBI had grounds for looking at social media posts. Taibbi reminds him that *this* time, the FBI had *no* such grounds.

Once we had a standard in this country that the FBI had to at least have some indication of possible crime to initiate investigations. No longer. They can “pre-assess” at will, with no chargeable crime in sight, and people like you are fine with it.

<https://t.co/qhZMi1vutb>

— Matt Taibbi (@mtaibbi) [December 19, 2022](#)

And here he sums up his thread:

Notes from the Twitter Files: Twitter and the Foreign Influence Task Force (FITF)
Twitter didn't just take moderation requests from government, it made rapid attitude adjustments. More below: <https://t.co/ojuxq0eboH>

— Matt Taibbi (@mtaibbi) [December 18, 2022](#)

Analysis

If the Twitter Files story is a partisan story, then the Democratic Party made it partisan. Partisan like the Socialist Unity Party of (East) Germany, or the National Socialist German Workers' Party. Furthermore, it ill befits any Member of Congress to apologize for such behavior as we have seen. (Or to help such a Member remain in office, as Republicans did at Midterms.)

CNAV has learned to expect no better of Democrats, particularly California Democrats. (With one possible exception: Rep. Ro Khanna, D-Calif.-17th.) But we expect better of Republicans. Thus far no Republican, except Donald Trump and possibly Kari Lake, has said a word about this disgraceful era. And that is final shame to American pride.