

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, **organized** citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.” Margaret Mead

<https://leandroherrero.com/the-missing-word-in-the-famous-margaret-mead-quote/>

DOCUMENT OVERVIEW

- I ACCESS to THE THREE WEEKLY CALLS via the Internet**
- II ACCESS to OTHER CALLS SUPPORTED BY WWW.rainbowroundtable.net**
- III OPENING MEDITATION; MAYAN CALENDAR; HOUSEKEEPING; LINK TO PODCAST**
- IV HARD NEWS**

I TO ACCESS THE THREE WEEKLY CALLS via the Internet

A BBS RADIO Go To www.bbsradio.com; click on “64K Listen”

* **Thursday: A Night at the Round Table** Hosts: Panel Members
6 pm Pacific / 9 pm Eastern

* **Friday: Friday Night Hard News** Hosts: Tara & Rama
6 pm Pacific / 9 pm Eastern

One Hour conference Call: 1-641-741-1704 Access Code: 353 863#

* **Saturday: History of our Galactic World & NESARA** Hosts: Tara & Rama
1:30 pm Pacific / 4:30 pm Eastern

One Hour conference Call: 1-720 716 7301 – Access Code: 353 863#

Call to interact / ask questions: Canada & US: STATION 2 1- 888-429-5471
Direct 1- 323-744-4841

C Skype: BBSradio2

D Archives for the 3 Programs listed above:

- Go to *BBSRadio.com*; in first column, LHS, **FIND TALK SHOW**
- Enter *Friday Hard News*, press the GO button. You’ll be taken directly to **Hard News on Friday**; click on “**Archives**” which takes you to the listing of all program archives, the latest one being at the top.
- You can listen directly or download the program to your own computer.
To listen directly, click on the arrow on the black bar.
To download, go to **Episode MP3 link**. Then **right click** on the name '**hardnewsonfriday including the date**' and the drop down menu appears. Click on '**save link as**'

E Archives, written and audio, also exist on the rainbowroundtable website:

www.rainbowroundtable.net - look under the “Archives” tab for **written notes which include links to the entire podcast, as well as links to the audio recordings** of the conference calls

II TO ACCESS OTHER CALLS SUPPORTED BY 2013 Rainbow Roundtable

A Sunday, Mondays: 9 – 10:30 EST Cheryl Croci's Activation Calls
By telephone only: 1-425-436-6260; PIN 9467 441#

**B Tuesdays, 2nd & 4th of each month: *Ashtar on the Road; Ashtar Legacy Calls*
9:00 – 10:30 pm EST Host is Fran**

<http://www.ashtarontheroad.com/ashtarconferences.html>

To access **by Phone:** • 1 – 559 – 726 – 1300; PIN 972400#
• Call is free [except for long distance charges]

via HD Conferencing: 712-770-4160 **PIN #** 980339 [always the same]
<https://www.freeconferencecallhd.com/hd-conferencing/>

via Skype **Click on the VOIP button** and enter what they ask for:
<https://www.freeconferencecallhd.com/hd-conferencing/>

C Wednesdays: 7:00 – 9:00 EST *The Friends of The Aboriginal Moabite Nation Call*
By telephone only: 1-712-432-0900 PIN 666238#
Replay# [good for 1 wk] 1-712-432-0990 PIN 66238#

D Every 2nd Wednesday *The Abundance Call - Caroline Oceana Ryan*
5:45 PM Pacific / 8:45 PM Eastern 60-minute conference call with the Collective,
a group of Angelic and Galactic beings, channeled by

To be notified: email AscensionTimes@gmail.com with the message "YES to Abundance!"

III OPENING MEDITATION; HOUSEKEEPING; ACCESS TO PODCAST; MAYAN CALENDAR

A. Opening Meditation: Rainbird / Cimi Drum; Prayer to the 7 Galactic Directions

B. Mayan Calendar: Rainbird

- **Go to <https://www.spacestationplaza.com>** – to locate specific days & lots more information: on the home page, you can find out what your Mayan signature is; while there, look and see where the wave began: that is the birth wave
- **to learn about the Mayan Calendar, Go to <https://www.spacestationplaza.com>** which will link you further to www.lawoftime.org website for further information.

Next Week's Mayan Record of Days / Calendar in the year of the Magnetic Wizard

PORTAL DAYS – Friday to Thursday – energies are intensified

2nd Fri – 5 MULUC – Red Overtone Moon – Artist Aspect. Wise use of rational mind; accepting spirit's direction – universal mind is our mind: unity. Embrace the gift of unity - commanding, radiance and power

3rd Sat - 6 OC – White Rhythmic Dog – artist – unconditional love; healing pain of the past; having contact with our spirit guides; loyalty to human kind

4th Sun – 7 CHUEN - Blue Resonant Monkey – artist aspect – balancing work and play gifts of innocence, ability to play – let go of jadedness

5th Mon – 8 EB – Yellow Galactic Human 8 tone is galactic: 8th chakra. A Healing aspect activating cosmic consciousness; in tune with Spirit. Contact with other dimensions

6th Tues – 9 BEN Red Solar Skywalker- warrior aspect. Striving towards self-illumination and Clarity; gift of strength, ability to bend dimensions

7th Wed – 10 IX White Planetary Wizard/Magician Visionary aspect – illumination for others; clarity of mind; work with shaman energy, integrity, in accordance with Divine will

8th Thur – 11 MEN Blue Spectral Eagle - Visionary aspect – seeing the big picture, commitment to service, moving consciousness to Source; independence and belief in self – a letting go energy

9th Fri – 12 CIB – Yellow Crystal Warrior - warrior aspect – trust in the journey; keep up connection with the Divine

www.Spacestationplaza.co Click on the tzolkein – it's on page 2 of the link.

For even more information, SEE ALSO [the Law of Time.org](http://theLawofTime.org)

This is not a 3rd dimensional calendar -

C. Housekeeping: Rainbird

- Asking to **have more people contribute**, as some of the regular, long-term donors are stressed and stretched: **any and all small amounts are helpful and very welcome.**

BBS:

- Listener-supported radio programs; program archives can be accessed
- The radio program costs \$300 per week. **Need \$300 for this week.**
Thank you, thank you, thank you - we are caught up again

- Go to BBSradio.com/Station2; find the listing for **Hard News Call & Paypal** button

- BBS appreciates getting checks via the mail: no Paypal fees!

- The mailing address for those who do not like paying electronically:

B B S RADIO [Please put **"Attention Don"** on the envelope]
1500 Pleasant Hill RD [Note inside that it's for T & R calls]
Lafayette, CA 94549 [& the Thursday call, as well]

- **BBS archives can be accessed by everyone;** there are archives on www.rainbowroundtable.net All are free to access.

T & R: Their full-time, life-time commitment is to be tuned in to what is really going on behind the artificial world we see around us. They don't ask for anything but they do require food, a home, gas for the car, and access to BBS Radio in order to compile and distribute this information to the world.

- Donations via Paypal button on the **homepage of www.rainbowroundtable.net**

FOOD MONEY: VIA PAYPAL OR See the PAGE ON Rainbowroundtable

Rama has a pride of Paschats – 9 in total - including the rabbit !!

BASICS: Food for Paschats, for the car, for T & R - Usual stuff

Bills: Caught up - need tires and radiator to be fixed - **\$500 +**

Food for T & R, the car, the Paschats

April 1: \$180 for Rama to go to see the doctor about his arm

- **Please notify T & R if you're sending something:** koran9999@comcast.net
EVERY \$5 HELPS - ALL GRATEFULLY RECEIVED
PLEASE MAKE AN ATTEMPT TO DONATE THIS MONTH

- Rama's mailing address for cheques, money orders: Ram D Berkowitz
PO Box 280
Santa Cruz, NM 87567

- **Remember you can book a session with Mother, as well!**

- **Donations to the Fresh Produce Fund for Tara & Rama -
now on the www.rainbowroundtable.net**

**** [www.rainbowroundtable.net /page/donate](http://www.rainbowroundtable.net/page/donate) ****

- Your donation supports an account set up for Tara & Rama with
Beneficial Farms Community Supported Agriculture in Santa Fe, NM
- They continue to appreciate each & every donation received for food.
- Please continue to go to www.rainbowroundtable.net and link to their Paypal
account: click on the word CHANGE; choose **family and friends option so Paypal
takes off no fees.**

FREEMART: Rama and Tara are being helped by this account: they get their supplements
there. **The returns also help www.rainbowroundtable.net**

<https://www.shopfreemart.com/tarram> a/c # 7000

- all the products have much to offer, so take a look!
- Freemart is a private shoppers club; it's **FREE TO JOIN.**

Also, check out the heading called **READ MORE** for the good information it has

D: INFORMATION SOURCES RELATIVE TO M.T. KESHE AND KESHE FOUNDATION

Contact Rainbird with questions: lightenergync@gmail.com

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aLaVutWXju0> (CHECK THIS OUT)

**** Go to Knowledge Workers workshop #344 on You Tube:** see Keshe's personal tour of
his exhibition in Austria - **The first expo in Europe since the pandemic -**

One Cup One Life – Production and Application; Prevention and Reversal of the Corona Virus

https://en.kfwiki.org/wiki/One_Cup_One_Life_-_Production_and_Application_-_Prevention_and_Reversal_of_the_Corona_Virus

KF Wiki

<https://www.kfwiki.org>

The free Plasma Cyclopdia of the Keshe Foundation

Keshe Foundation Store

<https://store.keshefoundation.org/store/?alias=store>

Keshe Corona site

www.plasmainnature.com/health/coronavirus-1-cup-1-life-series-protocols-and-other-info/

E. ACCESS TO PODCAST:

<https://bbsradio.com/podcast/hard-news-friday-april-2-2021>

Rama, Tara R, T • • •

Both: Greetings to all; Happy Easter

R: He does believe in fairies!

A Black Ops in DC: a man ran into a barrier near the Capital – had to make a black man responsible - he'd become a member of the Nation of Islam was programmed – one police officers died in hospital; the 2nd one still in hospital

Talked with Rosa in Palestine today

IT'S Easter time and the IDF are causing difficulties for those wanting to travel to the old city, Bethlehem etc at all the checkpoints

She said tho' it looks like the way it looks, rainbows are coming in – honour the resurrection flame that is coming in and stay in the high frequencies

Easter, the ancient stories of Isis, Inanana, all the other names for the goddess at this time – all variations on the theme of Mother Mary, Magdalene – these 2 women and Jeshu escaped, and a 100% look-alike stood in for Jeshu

Stay in that high energy!

T: thanks to everyone and esp to archivist who struggles to get it all down on paper! Energies are extreme! !! Keep blazing the Violet Flame!

AUDIO: The Rachel Maddow Show Wednesday, March 31, 2021

Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez goes one-on-one with Rachel Maddow. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NtBYQETVBH0>

2021-03-31 Transcript: The Rachel Maddow Show - Subject: the Infrastructure Bill

Guests: Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Sherrilyn Ifill
March 31, 2021, 7:00 PM MDT

Summary

"The New York Times" is reporting that DOJ is investigating Rep. Matt Gaetz over alleged sexual relationship with a 17-year-old. President Biden is speaking in Pittsburgh today, unveiling his proposal for a nearly \$2 trillion in investment in infrastructure in this country. **Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) is interviewed.** Dozens of the most prominent African-American CEOs and business leaders in the country published a full-page ad in "The New York Times" urging corporate America to take stand against the new voter suppression laws like in Georgia.

T: AOC knows all about NESARA and has a responsibility to present the progressive stance on matters that the main stream media is NOT doing!

CONFERENCE CALL: **LINK TO THE CALL** <https://fccdl.in/I3JCLKRjDK>

To hear the discussion, **please go to the link above.**

The archivist was overcome with a momentary affliction called 'fat fingers' as well as tired and crossed eyes, both conditions resulting in the erasure of the entire evening's work!

Mother's contribution and the various audios have been restored; the notes from the CC are not

B B S

AUDIO: **Era of Peace – Patricia Cota Robles**

[**VLOG 212 - PLEASE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS MOMENT**](https://youtu.be/Z0Z3vpJvFX8)
[**https://youtu.be/Z0Z3vpJvFX8**](https://youtu.be/Z0Z3vpJvFX8)

AUDIO: **Radiant Rose Academy**
 Mother Akasha speaks

MOTHER / ALCYONE **[M/A]**

Greetings in the Light of the Most Radiant One, in the Office of the Christ and only in the Office of the Christ, we invoke the loving energies of St Germain and the Violet Flame.

Greetings, Children of Ra!

Indeed it is a good day to be alive and be in these temples of the Holy Spirit. Things are moving right along with energies as that Resurrection Flame is pouring in. It is about Divine frequencies pouring in, changing physicality as we know it. Everything is moving up in octave. It's a big deal, and Humanity is feeling it as well.

The things that are going on are about the last days of the empire. It is quite awesome to behold any time now, this planet will be free - already free, but we gotta tweak a few things to get there. It's about, metaphorically speaking, putting more sauce on the BBQ as it were.

This time is NOW! The energies are quite magnificent to behold as the Light coming in is changing everything. She can say: quite an interesting moment to be here~ it is like no other. She can say the Light is changing physicality; it is overriding the old programming and ideas about illness. Let's say, the only illness that is out there is about something called 'life out of balance.'

It is coming back into balance as we move into this Resurrection Flame energy, changing all of life right now. Like Patti talked about: we played around with our energies long ago and got lost in the garden, found our way out and things are now getting corrected.

T: You would say it's about time

M/A: It is about time, and a glorious time to be here – yes! The moments of this time – there is great Light pouring forth from Great Central Sun in the centre of the Milky Way Galaxy, and in this time, things are moving very quickly to fruition as all of humanity is waking up to the divine gifts that we all hold in this sacred hour. There is like experiencing the gold dust coming in, being absorbed through the temple, and things are changing in the moment.

As things progress, more and more will be revealed about how They interact with us all, as things are getting lighter on the planet. Like the characters keep telling this one, tea is at 4! They expect to interact with all of humanity in these sacred hours.

There are a few things that are getting changed in the moment. It is about how They can be here and interact with all of us. Let's say, that this way so to speak, yet She will not have to use this vehicle, as it were –

The time is now; everything is moving up. As this energy changes physicality molecularly, more is being revealed how stars and suns, the different aspects of what make up space/time - every day, we are getting a crash course in astro-physics.

It's quite awesome to behold even though what we are seeing is limited to the moments that We share at this time. She can say all is being moved in great magnitude; it is a tremendous, auspicious time to be here ; at the same time quite challenging.

She will be on her way.

T: thanks to Mother for being here on this day

M/A: Ostara: the ancient stories about fertility, nature and Nature's god – how we can interact with all of creation as we let go of the old timeline, interact with the elves, hobbits, fairies, dwarves, the Archangels - it is a magical, wonderful time to be here as spring pours forth.

Even though the rumours of wars are out there, distant drumming that echoes way down there – yet, as it has been said, now is the time for peace.

As we go through this resurrection, transformational, transfigurational energy – what this Holy Week has been about is, we could say, Initiation into the higher realms. As the frequencies get higher, and we talk to our crystals, talk to the fairies in our back yard – all Creation is interacting with this. Just stop and listen to the music all around us – it is the Harmony of the Spheres.

Quite awesome to behold, most unique melodies that are playing, it is the sounds of Nature and Nature's god make each day, a day in the life of a planet, a sun system, a galaxy. Right now, what She can say: we are at the edge of such magnificence – words fail to describe it, so She will pass the talking stick and be on Her way.

T: Last week saw the movie *The Christmas Carol* – thought it odd for this time of year – thinks it's about helping each other

M/A: The spirit of mercy is here: it is the grace the Admiral and his Beloved Twin Flame bring on the planet at this time. He is Risen; we are all risen.

It is about how we do this: like it has been said: Make me an instrument of thy peace; where there is such hatred, let me sow love. And so it is.

T: talks about the animals being closer to us humans than ever; and the fairies

M/A: Just reach out they will talk to you, touch you, feel you, heal you - it's about Love.

Both: Greetings in the Light of the Most Radiant One Kadoish, Kadoish, Kadoish

Rama Returns

Has been to listening to the sound of the water; up near Taos Mtn by a lake – yes, it was chilly

Message: stay in the magnificence of the Golden energy of the Resurrection Flame – allow it to change your life. Allow it to flow

AUDIO: [Open Minds with Regina Meredith](#) **Finding Calm to Boost Immunity with Katrine Volynsky**

<https://www.gaia.com/video/finding-calm-boost-immunity-katrine-volynsky>

S 18:Ep 13 58 mins April 1, 2021

How can we focus our energies toward finding calm in a world filled with fear and anxiety? We can find a pathway to better health by optimizing what we are exposed to, and how we spend our time. Health advocate Katrine Volynsky discusses research on the connection between the parasympathetic nervous system (rest and digest) and boosting our immune response. She shares tips like avoiding artificial blue light and getting more positive exposure to full spectrum sunlight.

Instructor/Host: Regina Meredith Featuring: Katrine Volynsky Video Language: English

AUDIO: Redacted Tonight ~329~ The War on Terror Is Coming Home 2021-04-02

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_3k3mJdZ6Es&ab_channel=RedactedTonight

Lee Camp opens the show this week on a recent report released publicly by the intelligence community to prove how little they are willing to tolerate free speech. Their list of "domestic violence extremists" includes a wide array of groups to be targeted. The real crime of most of these groups is standing in the way of, or simply being opposed to, global capitalist power.

Watch the full episode: <https://www.portable.tv/videos/ciatar...>

Also in this episode: In "Taking the News from Behind" Camp looks back at how the Pentagon stopped Donald Trump from bringing the troops home for Afghanistan.

Naomi Karavani reports on the current situation in Afghanistan and what the oligarchs who run the US Empire stand to lose if the US ends its longest war in history. It isn't the lives they're worried about. It's the contracts, the resources, and the cash.

Natalie McGill joins Camp to discuss Derek Chauvin's trial for murdering George Floyd, and what's missing from President Biden's 2.2 trillion dollar infrastructure bill.

<https://www.portable.tv/videos/ciatargetscitizens>



2021-04-02 Redacted Tonight: Debunking economics w/ Steve Keen, the 2nd largest oil spill in US history, & more

<https://soundcloud.com/rttv/redacted-tonight-debunking-economics-w-steve-keen-the-2nd-largest-oil-spill-in-us-history-more>

Lee Camp interviews the economics professor and author of **Debunking Economics**, Steve Keen. Keen's scholarship gives insight into the ways that neoclassical economic models misunderstand climate change. These models, therefore, stop our political institutions from responding to the crisis and provide cover for corporations to continue their polluting business practices. The conversation covers the climate crisis and the continuing failure of modern societies to take it seriously.

Naomi Karavani reports on the second-largest oil spill in US history. The North Carolina oil spill went undetected until two teens stumbled upon it by accident. The company responsible for the spill already had a terrible safety record and managed to keep the story fairly quiet despite the scale of the problem.

Anders Lee takes a look back at the racist history of the 911 emergency call system.

AUDIO: news report on Pres Biden's comments about President Putin
need to talk about peace, not war

AUDIO: Keiser Report The singularity or the panopticon? (E1678)

2021-04-02

VIDEO: <https://www.rt.com/shows/keiser-report/519717-surveillance-capitalism-american-economy/>

PODCAST: <https://soundcloud.com/rttv/keiser-report-the-singularity-or-the-panopticon>

In this episode of *Keiser Report*, Max and Stacy look at the acceleration of deglobalization, as surveillance capitalism meets the Thucydides Trap, in which the panopticon gets restricted to national boundaries.

READING: regarding the concerns for the evil pieces such as morgellan fibres . . . (Link not accessed)



CLOSING: Rainbird

Rama's Closing Choices

Good Friday Special | Sadhguru Message | Sadhguru Darshan
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b0rdw3oJWhs>

Ostara - Lisa Thiel https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0K1hNDHVs_c

Spring Equinox , March 20

Praise to the Spring,

Praise to all living things

Praise to the Maiden and the joy that she brings

INFORMATION RELATED TO THE NOTES

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Guests: Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Sherrilyn Ifill
March 31, 2021, 7:00 PM MDT

Summary

"The New York Times" is reporting that DOJ is investigating Rep. Matt Gaetz over alleged sexual relationship with a 17-year-old. President Biden is speaking in Pittsburgh today, unveiling his proposal for a nearly \$2 trillion in investment in infrastructure in this country. Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) is interviewed. Dozens of the most prominent African-American CEOs and business leaders in the country published a full-page ad in "The New York Times" urging corporate America to take stand against the new voter suppression laws like in Georgia.

Transcript

MEHDI HASAN, MSNBC HOST: That`s ALL IN on this Wednesday night.

"THE RACHEL MADDOW SHOW" starts now.

Good evening, Rachel.

RACHEL MADDOW, MSNBC HOST: Good evening, Mehdi. Thank you, my friend. Well done.

And thanks to you at home for joining us at this hour.

Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez is going to be here with us live tonight. I`m very much looking forward to speaking with her in just a moment.

Sherrilyn Ifill, one of the highest profile civil rights lawyers in the country is here tonight to talk about what could be a big development in the voting rights fight. A development that unfolded in the surprising ways over the day today.

We`re going to start tonight, though, with a little bit of an update on that bananas story that we had to unexpectedly shift gears to cover at this time in the show last night, when "The New York Times" published late- breaking news about the Republican congressman who is probably the most high profile fanatical Trump supporters in Congress, Republican Congressman Matt Gaetz.

"The Times" last night published the news that Congressman Gaetz is under criminal investigation by the U.S. Justice Department for very serious allegations of child sex trafficking.

Now, I swear I`m not going to spend more of my life than I need to following every twist and turn in this somewhat nauseating story, but because we gave you the sort of back story and context on this last night, I feel the need to update you tonight. Because the sheer bizarreness of this story continued to advance across the court of today and tonight at what appears to be an accelerating pace. This started off weird, it`s getting deep space weird.

All right, first of all, there`s this guy, local Republican elected official in Seminole County, Florida. His name is Joel Greenberg. He`s relevant to the story because his own considerable criminal troubles appear to at least have dove-tailed with this newly reported criminal investigation into Republican Congressman Matt Gaetz.

Joe Greenberg was elected tax collector in Seminole County, Florida, in November 2016. As we discussed last night, Mr. Greenberg immediately set out upon a course of behavior that started off like a fire hose of scandal and ended up like a tsunami of scandal.

I mean, I can't even cram all of it into another lengthy news segment here but just in rough chronological order, just looking at the high points, local investigations and audits found that starting basically as soon as he took office, he spent millions of taxpayer dollars on contracts and payments to his personal friends and some business partners, including six different people who had all been in his wedding several months before he got elected.

Six members of his wedding party just happened to get hundreds of thousands of dollars in contracts and deals from the local tax collector's office, right after their buddy Joel, the groom from the wedding they were in, took over that office. What a coincidence six people from the same wedding, huh?

A county audit found that Mr. Greenberg then spent tons of taxpayer money, like over \$1 million on guns and ammunition and body armor and drones. Drones? It's like a little tax collector army or something. He and all the team who worked in his office, under his leadership, all started wearing guns at work again. This is not like a department of the police it's not even like an office that goes after poachers, people who keep too many fish or something.

These are literally the people to whom you pay your license fees, but they all started strapping guns on their hips at work, and also wearing badges that if you squinted they looked like sheriff badges. They weren't. They were tax collector badges but still.

Mr. Greenberg was soon thereafter investigated for impersonating a police officer when he used his tax collector's gun and badge to pull over a woman he accused of speeding. He put on flashing lights in his tax collector car and pulled her over because he thought she was going too fast. He is the tax collector.

And there's a lot more. It does go on and on and on and on.

I mentioned last night, the allegation that brought federal authorities to Mr. Greenberg's door and initially got him arrested and charged with multiple federal felonies, which ultimately led, we think, to the involvement of Congressman Gaetz -- the initial federal allegations which became the federal charges against Mr. Greenberg came after somebody in Seminole County had the nerve to run against him for tax collector in Seminole County.

Mr. Greenberg, according to prosecutors, then sent nine letters to the school where this guy worked, that who was going to run against him for tax collector. Greenberg sent nine letters purporting to be from students accusing the guy who was going to run against him accusing him of inappropriate sexual activity with students at the school where he worked. Now, the allegations were completely made up, but it ended up being not a problem for his opponent. It ended up being a problem for Mr. Greenberg, because what happened was federal authorities ended up getting brought in to investigate this.

Here's how "The Orlando Sentinel" wrote it up at the time. Quote, between October 10 and November 15th, according to the indictment, Greenberg mailed the letters to Trinity Prep that claimed to be written by students. School officials first turned the letters over to the Seminole County sheriff's office. But investigators determined the letters weren't written by students, they were written by an adult because the letters were delivered by U.S. mail, the case was turned over to the federal investigators with the U.S. attorney's office.

Assistant U.S. attorney Roger Handberg said in court this week that Joel Greenberg's DNA and finger prints were ultimately found on the nine letters sent to the school where his opponent works.

So nine different letters all purporting to be from students, all purporting to document terrible, terrible sexual misbehavior by this guy who was going to run against Joel Greenberg. Joel Greenberg leaves his DNA and fingerprints all over those letters, according to prosecutors. A criminal genius at work here, obviously, if what prosecutors say bears out.

He also, according to prosecutors, set up fake Twitter and Facebook accounts in the name of the same guy running against him and in the name of other people who worked at the same school. Those fake accounts had their own fingerprints on them. They were ultimately traced back to an IP address on a computer at Joel Greenberg's house. He used his own computer to set up the fake accounts in which he set his opponent, in

which he said that his opponent was like a segregationist and a white supremacist and a terrible person, genius at work. Not difficult to trace those back to Joel Greenberg's house, according to prosecutors.

But the problem with this criminal genius at work in these alleged crimes is that because of the way these things were done, federal law enforcement was brought to bear here. This ended up not being a local issue. This was not handled by the sheriff's office. This is handled by the U.S. attorney's office. These are now federal charges. There's federal investigators involved, that all leads to his first indictment.

But then it gets way worse from there. They turn up to arrest him on the first indictment. When they turn up to arrest him, it turns out he has a whole ton of fake IDs in his backpack, in his car, in his wallet. That's going to be more federal charges.

They ultimately charge him for stealing people's identities, by stealing driving licenses turned into the tax collector's office and then using them to make multiple fake IDs. What does he want to make fake IDs for? Well, that is contained in the description of the next set of charges that he faces.

After they do a search of his electronic devices, they decide what he's using the fake IDs for is sex trafficking of at least one minor and other sex related crimes. And so, he faces multiple succeeding federal indictments -- superseding federal indictment as these charges continue to mushroom in Florida, in Seminole County.

NBC News reported today that that latter part of the tax collector guy investigation, the part where they looked at his devices and decided what was going on with the fake IDs through his office is he was using fake IDs to facilitate criminal sexual acts, including sex trafficking of underage persons. That part of the investigation into this tax collector guy ultimately led to what are now the newly reported details of this federal criminal investigation into Republican Congressman Matt Gaetz, who is also accused of sex trafficking of a minor.

Now, Mr. Greenberg, the Seminole County tax collector guy and Congressman Gaetz are reportedly close. There are several multiple social photos of them together, and now, investigators are looking at whether Congressman Gaetz may end up charged with sex traffics of an underage girl.

But while we were absorbing that detail of the story here, right, not just that these two guys are -- one of them facing charges, one of them facing similar allegations that led to a criminal investigation, but the connection of the sex trafficking charges against the tax collector guy to the sex traffics investigation of the congressman, while that was singing in today that the investigation of Gaetz may have come out of what they discovered with this tax collector guy, while that was coming out today, big surprise in the story, maybe shouldn't be much of a surprise, but it shocked me, today, that tax collector Joel Greenberg was hit with yet another federal indictment what timing.

Since he was initially arrested and charged last summer -- again, it all started with the stalking and identity thief stuff on the guy who was running against for the tax collector's office. Since his initial arrest on those charges, federal prosecutors keep adding more alleged crimes. When federal prosecutors added three more superseding criminal indictments in that initial one, including one today for a whole new set of crimes we never heard about before, in this new indictment just filed today, the tax collector guy is charged with embezzling more than \$400,000 from the collector's office.

According to prosecutors, he used that money to buy both cryptocurrency and also autographed sports memorabilia, things signed by Kobe Bryant and Michael Jordan. Why?

Also, and this is incredible, the indictment alleges the tax collector guy, after he was initially arrested and was out on bond, while he was out on bond, he committed a whole new crime prosecutors say in this indictment today on top of everything else while he was out on bond after being arrested and charged with the first slew of federal crimes, he decided that would be the perfect time to start a whole new chapter of his alleged criminal behavior, that would be the perfect time to describe someone who worked at the Small

Business Administration so that person would process fake loan applications for him so he could use fake businesses to get for fraudulent COVID relief funds.

And so they charged him with that today, too. The fraud stuff and the bribery of public officials in order to get it done. Seems like a gem, right?

You add it all up, and the four successive federal indictments this guy faced since last summer and he's now facing 33 federal felony charges.

Thus far, Mr. Greenberg has pled not guilty to the charges that he's had a chance to plead to. His attorney has not commented on the latest ones other than to say he wasn't surprised by them.

But as I said, this is the criminal case in Florida that appears to dovetail with what's going on with Trump's Republican Congressman Matt Gaetz.

We don't know about the exact linkages between the two cases.

Again, NBC is reporting that a part of the investigation of Joel Greenberg that led to sex trafficking charges against him is the same investigation that led to a sex trafficking investigation of Mr. Gaetz. We don't know if Greenberg is cooperating against Congressman Gaetz.

In terms of the status of the investigation into Congressman Gaetz, "Politico" today flushed out the details about Trump Attorney William Barr. Barr was reportedly briefed not once but multiple times on the federal sex trafficking investigation into Congressman Gaetz. "Politico" reporting today that part of the reason Attorney General Barr was briefed on it a lot is because he was very concerned for himself. He didn't want to accidentally end up at an event where Congressman Gaetz might be while this investigation into Congressman Gaetz was ongoing.

"Politico" reporting today that at least one publicly announced meeting between then-Attorney General Bill Barr and Republicans on the Judiciary Committee in Congress got called off. Bill Barr pulled off it of he said publicly he would go do it and the reason he pulled out of it was because Congressman Gaetz has RSVP'd that he would attend. And so, Bill Barr decided he better not attend, because he was fully and repeatedly briefed on the investigation into Congressman Matt Gaetz for alleged child sex trafficking.

Now, as for the scope of the investigation into the congressman, ABC News is reporting tonight that -- reporting today that the investigation includes allegations that he had a sexual relationship with, quote, at least one minor, at least one underage person but maybe more than one. ABC is also reporting the investigation is looking not just at the congressman's alleged conduct in Florida, but federal investigators are looking at his alleged conduct in other states as well.

Now, Congressman Matt Gaetz denied any sexual relationship with anyone under age. Tonight, he has continued to advance his claim that his rich family in Florida was targeted with what he says was an extortion effort in parallel with this investigation. He said his family was extorted by someone claiming it would help Congressman Gaetz survive if his rich father funded an quixotic effort to find an ex-FBI officer, Robert Levenson, who has been missing in Iran for more than a decade.

The idea was you fund the rescue effort for Levenson, if it turn out to be successful, then maybe Congressman Gaetz would look like a national hero because his family funded it, so then he wouldn't be prosecuted for child sex trafficking? I don't know.

The FBI is reportedly investigating that bizarre alleged extortion scheme as well as the child sex trafficking allegations against Congressman Gaetz. But these are separate matters, right? Whether or not somebody was trying to pressure Congressman Gaetz and his family over how much trouble the congressman appears to be in for the sex trafficking investigation, it really does appear, regardless of whether or not that extortion also happened, that the congressman is under serious federal investigation for sex trafficking of at least one child in at least one state.

And that investigation started months ago and was approved of and regularly briefed to the highest levels of the Trump Justice Department, including Trump's Attorney General Bill Barr. Oh.

And just one last point on this. And this is something to watch, because I'm sure this has to change I'm sure this is a mistake. The Republican leader in the House of the Representatives is, of course, Congressman Kevin McCarthy. He today was asked about this reported Justice Department investigation into Congressman Gaetz. Kevin McCarthy said he didn't know anything about it, hadn't talked to the Congressman Gaetz yet.

But he was asked, if Congressman Gaetz does get indicted, if he does get criminally charged in this case, would that be cause to remove him from his committee assignments and his other responsibilities in Congress? If he gets charged with child sex trafficking, are Republicans in Congress going take him off his committees and stuff? Kevin McCarthy said, actually, he would only plan to remove Matt Gaetz from his committees and congressional responsibilities if he gets convicted of child sex trafficking.

A federal indictment for sex trafficking that would not be a big enough deal. They would leave him in his committees, keep being a congressman and all that stuff. Really? I think that might be a mistake. I would not be surprise if Kevin McCarthy cleans that up in coming days.

For what it's worth, we do have quite a bit of experience of congressman being indicted while in office. Hi, Congressman Collins. Hi, Congressman Hunter. You can make a list of all the congressman who have been indicted while in office because Trump pardoned them all before he left office as president.

Because we've got a lot of recent experience with this, the standard in the Republican Party used to be that once you got indicted, well, now, you're under federal criminal indictment. You get taken off your committees, get relieved of congressional responsibilities even if they don't at that moment expel you from Congress.

Apparently, that is how they've dealt with other Republicans who have been indicted. But according to Kevin McCarthy, that's not the plan if Matt Gaetz gets indicted for child sex trafficking. Apparently, that's fine with Kevin McCarthy if and when that happens, just have to wait to see if he gets convicted.

I can't imagine he meant to say that but we'll see. We'll cross that bridge when we hopefully never come to it.

So, like I said, I feel responsible to update you on how that story has evolved from last night. I didn't think it could get weirder, but it is a truly bizarre story evolving with accelerating weirdness over the course of the day today. If it gets weird an over the course of this hour, I will try to ignore it unless I have to.

Also today, "The New York Times" broke the news that state prosecutors in New York subpoenaed the personal bank records of a man named Alan Weisselberg who for decades served as chief financial officer at the Trump Organization both while it was run under President Biden and when it was run by his father, Fred Trump, before him. Alan Weisselberg appears to be under intense pressure in New York state prosecutors to tell them what he knows about the allegations of tax fraud, bank fraud, and insurance fraud that that prosecutor's office is pursuing against President Trump and his company.

"The Times" also reporting that state prosecutors are looking at the hush money payments scandal, the campaign finance felonies for which Trump lawyer Michael Cohen went to prison and in which Trump was described by SDNY prosecutors as individual number one. According to "The Times" tonight, state prosecutors in New York are investigating how those payments were laundered through the Trump Organization's books and whether any such laundering might itself be a prosecutable crime.

That reporting today from "The New York Times" just adding to the increasingly tall pile of legal worries faced by the former president as we reported here last night, former President Trump is now facing not one, not two, but three federal lawsuits for him allegedly inciting the January 6th attack on the U.S. Capitol, the latest one filed by two U.S. Capitol police officers who were injured in the attack.

Also within the last day, a New York state court let a defamation case against the former president go forward. This is the defamation case brought against him by a former contestant on "The Apprentice," a woman named Summer Zervos who said he essentially assaulted her. The president, because that case is going forward in New York state court, the former president may end up having to be deposed under oath in that case. The case was stalled for a while. It is now moving a once again.

Also in the last day, the former president lost a high profile bid to enforce nondisclosure agreements that he made all his campaign staff sign in 2016. A former Trump campaign staffer named Jessica Denson made sexual harassment and discrimination claims against the 2016 Trump campaign. As a separate matter related to that, she litigated the validity of the nondisclosure agreement that she and other Trump campaign workers were made to sign in 2016.

Well, she won that part of it. A federal court has now said that the NDA is not binding on her. So, Katy, bar the door in terms of what that means both in that individual case and for other people associated with the Trump campaign and potentially even the Trump White House who want to talk but fell bound by that nondisclosure agreement. If the federal courts decided those things are toilet paper, that is going to open up a whole new chapter of potential -- guess what in terms of the former president.

That`s just, like, the last 24 hours. The last 24 hours of news from Trumpville. How`s the post presidency life going for the president and his most loyal minions? I mean, man.

And then for contrast, there today is the new president, President Biden, unveiling what he hopes and expecting to be the signature legislative accomplishment of this presidential term, a huge new investment in American infrastructure, one of the most popular issue areas among the American public -- investing in the stuff we all use. What Biden is proposing is a \$2 trillion investment -- roads, bridges, airports, ports, school buildings, the electric grid, water systems, broadband nationwide and more.

The Biden administration and the indeed the president himself today in a major speech in Pennsylvania calling this the biggest investment in infrastructure in this country since World War II. And it looks like they`ve got a path to get it passed, and it will be even more popular than the COVID relief bill that they have passed, which is not only wildly popular among the American people left, right, and center it`s driving 70 percent plus approval ratings for the this president on the issue of COVID specifically, which is driving record high approval ratings for this president overall.

That`s what the Biden administration learned from the first big thing they got through Congress. That A, you can get it done, and B, the American people don`t care that much by the process by which you get it done as long as you are passing something that takes a big, bold, practical approach to everything in common. Turns out the American people like that.

What they`re going back for now as they go for their second legislative lift is something more popular than the COVID relief bill was when you break it down into its constituent parts, but it`s a big ask.

Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York is going to join us on that next.

Stay with us.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: It`s not a plan that tinkers around the edges. It`s a once in a generation investment in America, unlike anything we`ve seen or done since we built the interstate highway system and the space race decades ago. In fact, it`s the largest American jobs investment since World War II.

It will create millions of jobs, good paying jobs. It will grow the economy, make us more competitive around the world, promote our national security interest and put us in a position to win the global competition with China in the upcoming years. It`s big, yes. It`s bold, yes, and we can get it done.

I`m convinced that if we act now, in 50 years, people are going to look back and say, this was the moment that America won the future.

Historically, infrastructure had been a partisan undertaking, many times led by Republicans. It was Abraham Lincoln who built the Transcontinental Railroad. Dwight Eisenhower, Republican, built the interstate system. I could go on.

And I don`t think you`ll find a Republican today in the House or Senate, maybe I`m wrong, gentlemen, who doesn`t think we have to improve infrastructure.

I truly believe we`re in a moment where history is going to look back on this time as a fundamental choice having to be made between democracies and autocracies.

You know, there`s a lot of autocrats in the world who think the reason they`re going to win is democracies can`t reach a consensus anymore. It`s a basic question -- can democracies still deliver for their people? Can they get a majority?

I believe we can. I believe we must.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

RACHEL MADDOW, MSNBC HOST: I believe we must.

President Biden speaking in Pittsburgh today, unveiling his proposal for a nearly \$2 trillion in investment in infrastructure in this country.

And most of the first day stories about this newly revealed plan are talking about the price tag and the politics of how it can get done, and also the big ticket headline items here -- roads and bridges and school buildings, and a sturdy electric grid for the first time in our country`s history, and a half million electric vehicle chargers around the country.

But even beyond that stuff, there`s other pieces inside it that we found today are being celebrated by people who are actually surprised and delighted to find their needs being addressed as a big part of this bill.

For instance, \$45 billion in this bill to replace all of the lead pipes around the country in our water systems. You know more than viewers of any other show about the lead poisoning crisis in Flint, Michigan, where there`s lead pipes and lead service pipes all over the country. This would replace 100 percent of the nation`s lead pipes and service lines.

Also, a \$400 billion investment in expanding access to what`s known as home or community-based care. And in layman`s terms, that means, like, home health aides or a room in a group home if you`re an elderly or disabled person.

Right now in this country, we have a gigantic backlog for those kinds of services. The wait list is 850,000 people long, which means right now, elderly and disabled Americans face waits as long as five years to get the services they need.

This would not only expand that access, it would increase pay and improve working conditions for the people who work in this incredibly critical, critical, but under-funded and often out of sight, big portion of the American economy.

We reached out today to one of the country`s foremost disability activists -- disability advocacy groups, The Arc, to ask just how much impact this kind of an investment could have. Their senior director of public policy there told us, quote: It is major -- with major in all caps, and two exclamation points.

Them thinking that would make this big of a deal, that group in particular, that means it`s a big deal.

Biden`s plan also includes \$20 million to redress historic inequities in transportation infrastructure. That means in blunt terms, undoing wrongs that were committed in the creation of a previous generation of infrastructure, things like tearing down predominantly black neighborhoods to build highways there instead.

This would be \$20 million earmark in the Biden`s plan to reconnect neighborhoods cut off by historic investments in infrastructure.

Biden`s infrastructure plan is a big plan. It is full of big ideas. But a lot of the most interesting stories are in the granular details.

But again, this is just his opening gambit. This is what he`s asking for. What happens to it now is going to be in the hands of the Congress.

Joining us is one of the most influential members of that body, New York Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

Congresswoman, it`s great to see you. Thank you so much for making time to be here tonight.

REP. ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ (D-NY): Of course. Thank you for having me.

MADDOW: So, as I know, you saw the president`s speech today, and we`ve all been reading about and learning about what the president is asking for in this American jobs plan, what do you think of it?

OCASIO-CORTEZ: You know, I think that the vision that President Biden and the administration has laid out, you`re right, has surprised a lot of us in a positive way, and in the detail and the thought that`s here, the scope of it is really encouraging -- except I think the how. That \$2.2 trillion, \$2.25 trillion over eight years, I have serious concerns that it`s not enough to realize the very inspiring vision that Biden has advanced.

And so, I believe that those of us here, especially as progressives within the Democratic Party, we know that there is so much more opportunity here, and in order for us to realize this inspiring vision, we need to go way higher. And that`s what`s going to help us actually deliver on this really promising and inspiring vision that the president laid out today.

MADDOW: And when you say that it should be bigger, do you want the numbers associated with the things the president says he wants done just to get bigger, just do more of the things he`s saying he wants to do, or are there whole new categories of policy that you`d like to see folded into this bill that aren`t there now?

OCASIO-CORTEZ: I think there`s -- there are a couple of areas there. One is that, first of all, you know, this is \$2.25 trillion over eight years. For context, because these huge numbers are hard to understand, for context, we passed an almost \$2 trillion COVID relief package. That`s supposed to last us one year with some provisions lasting up to two years.

So, the \$1,400 stimulus checks, that big package that we felt in our lives were deployed on a shorter timeline. So, I think that we need to really have some shorter timelines, some urgency, greater urgency in this package, and I think some of the investments need to be greater.

So, for example, let`s take public housing. This plan, this Build Back Better plan, it advocates for a total national investment of \$40 billion in public housing nationwide. Sounds great, right?

Except when you consider the fact that the New York City public housing system needs \$40 billion alone just to get up to code. During the wintertime, people run out of heat. They don`t have hot water. They don`t have electricity sometimes. There are holes in people`s walls.

The New York City Public Housing Authority needs \$40 billion alone just so that its residents can live in dignified housing because they have been under-invested and starved frankly by Republican Congresses and Republican administrations for so long.

So, for us to actually invest in national public housing infrastructure, we need to do way more in order for us to deliver on this promise in terms of a price tag there.

Now, in terms of scope, I think, again, I really do have to commend some of these investments that are in here. And some of these details, like exclusionary zoning, are things that progressives have been talking about for a long time. So there is a lot of credit there.

But on climate, we can also go more, we can go deeper, and we can have a more integrated approach in how we push on this issue.

Again, I do commend the administration in its scope, but in order for us to meet that vision, I don't -- I have real concerns that \$2.2 trillion isn't actually going to get us there, so we're going to have to make deeper investments to actually renew public housing, to repeal the Faircloth Amendment, to increase our housing stock in the United States, you know?

And this -- at the end of the day -- is one of the greatest sources in income inequality in the country. It's rooted in housing and real estate.

MADDOW: In terms of how this is going to move. Obviously, this is the Biden administration's second big legislative lift, and I think we have to think of them as a living breathing organism that learns lessons along the way.

Clearly, I think a lot of what was going on with the COVID relief bill is they were thinking about things they wish they had done better or handled differently under the Obama administration. Now, I think they're going to be approaching this infrastructure bill, learning the lessons that they just learned for what happened with COVID relief.

And it was I think a surprise to many in the Beltway when Joe Biden said for COVID relief, he wanted \$1.9 trillion. Everybody assumed that would get whittled way down and some much smaller package would ultimately pass, it didn't. It did get cut down a little bit, but not that much it was basically a \$1.9 trillion plan.

Sounds to me like what I hear you saying tonight that on this one, what may happen, is that President Biden may listen, today, in Pittsburgh, I want \$2.2 trillion over eight years, but when it lands in the House, you and your colleagues may say, \$2.2 trillion is a starting point, but this needs to be a bigger bill, this needs to get larger before the Senate even gets a look at it.

Is that a fair way to expect that may be the way this goes?

OCASIO-CORTEZ: Absolutely.

(LAUGHTER)

You know, if we could wave a magic wand and progressives in the House were able to name any number and get it through, which obviously isn't the case, but if we're looking at ideals and what we think is the actual investment that can create tens of millions of good union jobs in this country, that can shore up our health care, our infrastructure, our housing, and doing it in a way that draws down our carbon emissions to help us get in line with IPCC standards, we're talking about realistically \$10 trillion over ten years.

And I know that may be an eye-popping figure for some people, but we need to understand that we are in a devastating economic moment. Millions of people in the United States are unemployed. We have a truly crippled health-care system, and a planetary crisis on our hands, and we're the wealthiest nation in the history of the world.

So, we can do \$10 trillion. That is a thing of political imagination. However, when you break it up into those two parts, what's important to remember is that this actually isn't a progressive versus a moderate issue. You have some of the most conservative members of the Democratic caucus, like Joe Manchin, that have even signaled support for a \$4 trillion infrastructure plan which is double the numbers.

And so, I think that there's some key dynamics that have changed here, which explains some of this. One is that there is genuine built power in the progressive caucus, within the Democratic Party, but also just progressive ideals in general in the country that, you know, that power has built very significantly, and we are in a fundamentally different political moment.

But on top of that is that even when you look at more at what -- what comprises more moderate views in the caucus, you know, economic populism that works and centers working class people is popular.

And I think Republicans kind of run on that aesthetic and I think Democrats, you know, they talk about it, but we actually are about it. So, but I think that the country shift -- people really I think are starting to understand that these issues are no longer fringe progressive demands but they are consensus builders.

And so, we need that direct investment. We need to build the housing stock. We need to stop making it just an investment for corporate -- you know, for corporations to gobble up our housing stock and an actual thing that we use and live in and enjoy and don't have to fear that our kids won't be able to afford a home, a place to live, and make a family.

And so, those kinds of investments, that's what this is about, not to mention rural broadband, not to mention roads, bridges, mass transit, and a national -- truly national system of EV vehicles and a full electric -- federally electric fleet.

MADDOW: New York Democratic Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, it is a real pleasure to have you here. Thanks for helping us understand. Really happy to have you here.

OCASIO-CORTEZ: Of course, thank you so much.

MADDOW: All right, much more ahead tonight. Stay come -- stay with us.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

MADDOW: Look at this. Today's printed edition of "The New York Times" included this full page ad, a letter, public letter signed by dozens of the most prominent African-American CEOs and business leaders in the country. Their letter urging other CEOs, urging the rest of corporate America to stand up against the new anti-voting law in Georgia, and the dozens of laws like it under consideration in other Republican-controlled states.

And maybe it was that full page ad, the public letter, maybe it was the threat of boycotts of big Georgia companies for not doing enough to stop the voter suppression law before it passed, but today was a day of big shifted. Today we saw an abrupt change in tune of some of the biggest corporations in Georgia.

The CEOs of Delta Airlines and Coca-Cola both came out and called the Georgia anti-voting law, quote, unacceptable. Delta's CEO wrote a letter to employees saying they did work with the legislation to make it less bad but said he now realizes the law enacted is, quote, wrong, and, quote, based on a lie about voter fraud.

Georgia's Republican Governor Brian Kemp responded today that Delta never raised these objections before Kemp signed the bill into law. Kemp said, quote, today's statement by Delta CEO stands in stark contrast to our conversations with the company, like, oh, they're super against it announcement they didn't tell us that when they talked about it before I signed it.

Here's the question -- with Delta and Coca-Cola and these other CEOs and companies now belatedly stepping up, belatedly acknowledging that they didn't understand the magnitude until the Georgia bill was passed, does that mean these companies are alerted now to the danger of this kind of legislation that they are ashamed now enough about their late reaction in Georgia, that they're going to be willing to play a role to get voting rights protections passed in Washington?

Because that's how you could actually make a difference in Georgia right now. There is a live bill in D.C. right now to protect voting rights, including to block some of the worst provisions in the Georgia bill. But that voting rights protection bill in the U.S. Senate needs help getting through the U.S. Senate right now, and some of those biggest corporations in the country, if they have now got religion on this issue, their help could potentially really make a difference in getting that thing passed. Will they now work to do it?

Hold that thought.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

MADDOW: This morning, when dozens of the most prominent African American CEOs and business leaders in the country published a full-page ad in "The New York Times" urging corporate America to take stand against the new voter suppression laws like this in Georgia, Sherrilyn Ifill, the head of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, responded on Twitter by saying, quote: Trust me, this is huge.

Sure enough, a few hours later, huge Georgia-based corporations like Delta and Coca-Cola were feeling their oats on this issue for the first time, coming out slamming the Georgia voting law for the first time, late, frankly, since the bill already passed, but they absolutely have now moved on the issue, something really did shift today on this front in the battle against these voter suppression laws.

Joining us now is the clairvoyant Sherrilyn Ifill, president and director counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund.

Ms. Ifill, it`s really nice to have you here. Thank you so much for making time.

SHERRILYN IFILL, PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR COUNSEL, NAACP LEGAL DEFENSE FUND: Of course

MADDOW: Why was this -- why did you see that letter from black CEOs and business letters as huge. And what do you make of the impact it had just today?

IFILL: Well, a number of advocates, local advocates in Georgia, had been pressing these corporations over weeks, Black Voters Matter, the Georgia NAACP, the New Georgia Project, really pushing these local corporations to take a stand against what was clearly going to be a disastrous bill. And, you know, these are corporations that are synonymous with the state of Georgia. Coca-Cola is synonymous with Georgia.

So a number of groups on the ground had been pushing. I had been in conversations with these corporations asking them to stand against these provisions. We felt it was important for the business community to speak up, including the Chamber of Commerce, the Georgia Chamber and the Metro Atlanta Chamber.

And it is true that they were behind the scenes hoping they could make the bill better, I think, and I think, actually, at the end, they think that what they did, at least they thought what they did, was sufficient, that there was some terrible provisions that were removed from the bill. But the bill that passed is still terrible and their failure to speak as themselves, as Georgia corporations, they were beginning to feel the heat.

And when these CEOs came out this morning, these are heavy hitters, Rachel. These are not people who are silly, who are fly-by-night. These are men and women when they call, you take the call, and business leaders across the country know that. They know these names.

So when this came out this morning, a full-page ad, A7, in "The New York Times" and you saw the CEOs on CNBC and the other channels that people in finance watch in the morning, it was clear to me that this was a game changer, and I think that with the pressure from the local groups and, of course, there have been threats of boycotts, it did make a difference

MADDOW: Do you think that this may translate -- that this will remain focused on Georgia, or do you think this may translate to these CEOs, these corporations, others perhaps who may find themselves in the same frame of mind, that they might work to pass S-1, the federal voting rights protection and the John Lewis bill as well that would afford federal protections it that would neutralize some of the worst impact of these state bills like the ones in Georgia?

IFILL: Yeah, I know that`s an explicit ask of local groups, an ask that they stand up in other states, where copycat bills are being planned. I mean, I did say to the CEO of Coca-Cola, people drink Coca-Cola in Texas, too, and Texas is setting about trying to pass some of these bills as well. But HR1 and HR4 are critically important.

And local groups are have been make that request to these very companies, including the companies that switched their position today, to understand the importance of seeking a federal solution we are playing

whack-a-mole across a variety of states. We are seeing these laws proposed in Florida and Texas and Michigan and states around the country.

And so, we really need that federal legislation. It's going to be a test to see whether corporations are willing to stand up. These are corporations willing to stand up against anti-LGBTQ legislation, which is vitally important. They have spoken out on climate change they have spoken out on gun violence. Now we need them to speak out on this race issue.

It's a democracy issue and I have been really distressed over the last few weeks, concerned that the business plan of many American corporations appears to be agnostic about democracy. When you try to deny citizens the ability to vote and participate in the political process and punish them for turning out in record numbers as the Georgia legislature did with this bill, you are engaged in anti-Democratic actions. That's a space where corporations in my view are compelled to speak because they benefit from our democracy.

And I think after January 6th, we recognize that we need all of the segments of our society to stand together to protect democracy.

MADDOW: Sherrilyn Ifill, president and director counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, it's really good to see you. Thank you for being here. It's an exciting day today to watch this unfold. Thanks for helping us understand.

IFILL: Thank you, Rachel.

MADDOW: We'll be right back. Stay with us.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

MADDOW: I said earlier tonight that Congressman Kevin McCarthy, the House Republican leader, could not have meant it when he told Fox News this morning that Congressman Matt Gaetz will only be removed from his committee assignments in Congress if he is convicted of child sex trafficking, that potentially being indicted on the charges wouldn't enough. That is what Congressman McCarthy said this morning to Fox.

It turns out late this afternoon, he did change his mind on that, as I thought he might have, and he gave comments this morning to NBC's Leann Caldwell in which he made clear that, yes, if Congressman Gaetz does, in fact, get indicted for child sex trafficking, that will be enough to remove him from his committee assignments. I thought that sounded wrong when he said it this morning turns out he cleaned it up late this afternoon and I am glad to hear it.

That's going to do it for us tonight. We will see you again tomorrow.

Now it's time for "THE LAST WORD WITH LAWRENCE O'DONNELL."

Good evening, Lawrence.