

# JD

Media Network

## *The **Jay Doherty** Podcast*

EPISODE 141

SHOW NOTES

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# The Jay Doherty Podcast Episode 141

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*Today's Show: 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM*

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Today on The Jay Doherty Podcast:

These past two weeks, Republicans, Democrats, Trump, Trump's team, and many members of congress, all disagreed -- or were just plain confused -- over the direction of the COVID-19 stimulus and the coinciding Omnibus package. As Democrats pushed for more money in individual payments, the President, breaking with traditional conservative philosophy and going against the arguments of his own negotiators, agreed with the Democrats, but, before getting his way, signed the bill into law. The divisions, subdivisions, and subdivisions of the subdivisions, of which there are many, are broken down this episode.

Also, as the COVID-19 vaccine distribution appears to be going well, the political division of who gets it first is just as relevant. Some of the elites on Capitol Hill and in Washington, DC, many of whom would be last in line to receive it if they were not public officials, are getting it now. Is that a smart political move to increase the public's confidence or an arrogant snatch from those who need it most?

We'll try to answer all of that and more on episode 141 of The Jay Doherty Podcast.

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## ***QUOTE OF THE DAY:***

(Something with mild relation to this episode; QOTD's does not imply I agree with them)

*"Let us never negotiate out of fear. But let us never fear to negotiate."*

- *John F. Kennedy, 35th President of The United States*

## ***COVID-19 RELIEF BILL UPDATES***

We ended last episode talking about where the COVID-19 bill was going... it seemed Congressional Democrats and Republicans had reached a deal, but it was only later that day that the vote was passed almost unanimously on both sides and the bill was sent to the President's desk who then bashed it right before he headed down to Mar-a-Lago for his Christmas vacation... more on that in a second.

According to the AP's Andrew Taylor... first three paragraphs... article [here](#).

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*“Six GOP senators voted against the bill: Marsha Blackburn of Tennessee, Ted Cruz of Texas, Rand Paul of Kentucky, Rick Scott of Florida, Mike Lee of Utah and Ron Johnson of Wisconsin.”*

These guys are some of the most stalwart conservatives in Congress right now and they voted against the bill which Trump would soon reject. You may think that was a coordinated effort because Paul and Cruz, particularly Cruz, are Trump supporters... but no... the President and these six Republicans had drastically different reasons for rejecting this bill.

If you listened to the end of last episode, you may remember I went through the conservative and liberal economic philosophy that would likely inform the way lawmakers would vote on this bill... all of that was inspired by the odd division in this country between the Congressional Republican establishment and Donald J. Trump. On Friday, Trump tweeted:

*“Why isn’t Congress giving our people a Stimulus Bill? It wasn’t their fault, it was the fault of China. GET IT DONE, and give them more money in direct payments.”*

This is a direct contradiction between Trump and the Republican establishment, and really it is a contradiction, on behalf of Trump of conservative philosophy. As I talked about last episode, “conservative economic philosophy essentially states that corporations and businesses are made of people because they hire people (and by people, I mean working class), so, in order to have a strong working class and incentivize employers to stay in the United States, we need to tax the corporations (and essentially, everyone) relatively less because the benefits of corporations (and the people they employ) staying in America and promoting free-market activity will trickle down to the working class and allow those businesses to promote hard workers based on merit.

Democrats, however, prefer to, as I like to say, bypass the trickle. They want more money in direct payments of all kinds, whether we’re talking about COVID-19 or not... and they want more taxes/less bailouts on big businesses, industries, and corporations because their argument is that these are rich institutions that need to pay their fair share because it’s insane that millions are in poverty while Amazon paid \$0 in federal income tax.

### ***THE WHITE HOUSE VS. CAPITOL HILL***

With all of that in mind, you would think, like many Republicans, Trump would be in favor of sticking with them and refusing to allot more money (more than \$600) in direct payments to individuals. But, then, in a really surprising and contradictory (to his politics, philosophy, and negotiators), Trump gives an angry speech where he blasts Democrats for taking too long to get it through Congress, but then ends up agreeing with them... TRUMP 1

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Him calling the bill a “disgrace” and then acting like he or his team didn’t know what was going to be sent back to his desk is wholeheartedly dishonest. Congressional Republicans and members of Trump’s cabinet knew EXACTLY what was in this bill (I say that objectively with no exaggeration). In fact, before all of this bashing-the-bill nonsense happened (even BEFORE THE BILL PASSED CONGRESS), Steven Mnuchin, the United States Treasury Secretary and one of Trump’s top negotiators, literally said that the money would be ready to go next week and basically implied that he, as a top ranking member of the Trump administration was under the impression that Trump was going to sign the bill. MNUCHIN 1

In fact, this drew widespread criticism of Trump even from right-wing pundits both on policy and on what Fox News anchor Brett Baier described as Trump “throwing Mnuchin under the bus.” BAIER 1

That is most certainly true, and, like I talked about with those six very conservative Republicans who voted against this bill, in an ideal, hard-right conservative land... just to further point out the division Trump has caused between himself, conservative pundits, Congressional republicans, the Republican establishment, and just conservatism as a mindset in America, we heard Republicans like Rand Paul questioning why there even is a stimulus bill. PAUL 1.

Interestingly, this idea crossed Chuck Schumer’s mind who made a little crack at those far-right Republicans... SCHUMER 1

To circle back to Trump, the true emblem of division on your own side is when the enemy agrees with you. Nancy Pelosi, the *sworn enemy* of Donald J. Trump and the Republican establishment, responded to Trump’s fiery anti-conservative speech the other day on Twitter, saying... [“Let’s do it!”](#)

Like I said, in ideal Republican-town, this bill wouldn’t even exist which is why we see this very interesting poker game between Nancy Pelosi and Republicans right now... the first move was Trump announcing his resistance to the stimulus bill that would make its way to his desk, and then Nancy Pelosi agreeing with them, and then the very sly and Washingtonian (that is Washington, D.C.) move from Republican Senator Lindsey Graham who said [this](#) on Twitter...

My read on this is that Senator Graham and the rest of the Republican establishment in Congress want to kill this bill. The way they do that is by doing what he just did. He said, “Look Democrats, Trump all of a sudden decided he wants \$2,000 in direct payments, so you’ve got that going for you... now, give us what we want: decreased regulation on “big tech’s” role in censoring free speech, etc.” If I was a Democrat, I’d just concede to what Graham is trying to do here and play him at his own game. Politically and practically speaking, the \$2,000 checks are a lot more valuable than Democrats holding minor provisions in Section 230 of a bill surrounding social media censorship.

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Then, progressive NY Rep. Alexandria Ocasio Cortez and Democrat Sen. Chuck Schumer joined the topic of conversation on Twitter when AOC [said...](#)

So what happens next in terms of this COVID-19 relief bill? Well, ideally for the Democrats, Kevin McCarthy who is the Republican House Minority leader (who will inevitably and predictably run for President one day as I have predicted for more than a year) has to agree to Democrats' unanimous consent proposal and then the bill will officially be *ratified*, so to speak, and the money will begin to go out.

### *THE OMNIBUS BILL*

At the same time, the coinciding Omnibus bill is causing lots of confusion in the nation's capital. To briefly explain and eradicate any confusion that has been caused, both of these separate bills are being passed together this year for the sake of efficiency. The COVID-19 relief package is reportedly \$900 billion and the yearend Omnibus bill -- which is in essence an amalgamation of a number of policies -- is to fund the government for the year of 2021; it's a routine thing.

The National Conference of State Legislators has a site detailing the many billions of dollars allocated for various industries in this [government-funding](#) package.

Trump's problem is seemingly with the Omnibus bill which is the \$1.4 trillion portion of the larger and total \$2.3 trillion duo of bills that is passing Congress right now... Trump, on a fundamental level, does not seem to understand that these are two separate bills. Why? Because he said... TRUMP 2.

Nonetheless, it wouldn't matter because if he, hypothetically chose to veto one, he would have to veto another regardless of his fundamental misunderstandings. His problem, though, is, other than his non-conservative desire to see the checks increase from \$600 to \$2000 in the COVID-19 relief bill, with the government funding Omnibus bill. Why? Because he thinks there are a lot of frivolous and non-nationalistic policy in there that violates his "America-first" policy mindset. What you're about to hear is a funny rant from Trump in his most recent speech about this topic in which he squawks about the admittedly relatively useless provisions in the bill, especially when the alternative would be giving money to the American people. To reiterate, Trump insinuates that all of these funny things he reads off are a part of the COVID-19 relief bill; they are NOT! They are part of the other Omnibus bill that Congress is trying to routinely pass BUT alongside this one... without further adieu, here's Trump... TRUMP 3.

That's funny... but once again, I would like to reiterate that he misidentifies the COVID-19 bill with the Omnibus bill on purpose for political points, but this is something that is just so

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objectively untrue and pre-written that I don't know why one of his staff members would just correct it so the lie is more implicit rather than explicit... thinking like a politician here!

Eventually, the news was made that Trump signed both bills and all of the protest, the threatening to veto and everything in between was completely useless and achieved nothing other than adding to the delay and worry that so many Americans are experiencing right now.

*Coming up:* we'll talk about the disparities of the COVID-19 vaccine... and it's not between demographics like age, race, ethnicity, or gender... it's between politicians and their subordinate muggles like you and me :)

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**BREAK**

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## *ELITES VS. NON-ELITES*

The age-long struggle between the general public and the elites of Washington has inevitably resurfaced in the context of COVID-19 and vaccine distribution. The issue at play in this particular scenario is that young, healthy Congressman, governors, mayors, elected officials, etc. are getting the COVID-19 vaccine before anyone else. Certain people see this as a good thing because it promotes public confidence in the vaccine and others see it as a power grab by the elite that removes the concept of prioritization from those who need it most... and those who need it most are of course the elderly and people with pre-existing conditions... or both.

My position on this, and I'll explain why in a second, is as follows: Politicians should be treated like every other person on this planet. This country -- and Democracy -- was designed so that the electorate is equal or even above (in terms of holding their politicians accountable) those they elect. Older politicians should get it just because they happen to be in the elderly category just as their non-politician twin brother should be able to get it. That rule applies to every age and every person with pre-existing conditions out there, in my opinion. Millennial politicians with no pre-existing conditions and most Gen-X'ers with no pre-existing conditions should NOT be ahead of a person above the age of 60 with or without pre-existing conditions. Period. Simple logic.

But not to everyone... and who is the most opposite of everyone? The political elite... at least some members of it.

[WAPQ...](#)

Who got vaccinated? Scroll down to the bottom of [this article](#).

Marco Rubio (R - FL) also got it... controversial tweet [here](#).

Another one (of unfortunately, many) example of this is when Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D - NY, 14th District) got the vaccine and was called out by many Republicans AND Democrats... not only Democrats, but, indirectly, one of her progressive allies, Ilhan Omar!

AOC posted some media of her getting the vaccine...

Omar [tweeted](#) against young Congress Peoples getting the vaccine.

Just for the sake of political equilibrium, many Republicans, for example South Carolina Rep. Nancy Mace, [tweeted...](#)

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There have been varying degrees of strong responses from politicians in Washington, DC. There has really been no middle ground in terms of people who hold the opinions, however, people like me who believe that the elderly and those who most need it should get it first are the ones who should. One example of this, as we talked about yesterday, was from a very moderate Democrat, Tulsi Gabbard, who said the following in a twitter rant.... GABBARD 1.

On this topic, I am in complete agreement with Gabbard, Mace, Omar, and the rest of the Congress peoples who chose to wait in the normal people's line for the vaccine. The main -- and really only -- argument I've heard from those who disagree with me on this is: confidence is built when the politicians take the virus.

1. Do you really have any confidence in your politicians to do anything for you? (Joking here but not really)
2. Confidence is built when you see evidence of the vaccine working at a large scale, and we will hopefully see that confidence built shortly as a result of a large proportion of the public becoming vaccinated.

## WEAR A MASK AND BE SAFE!

*Audio Clips from ABC News, The White House, CNBC, Fox News, C-SPAN, and Twitter. Music from Monaldin. Complete credit and link to hear the full song can be found at [jay-doherty.com/141](http://jay-doherty.com/141)*

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