Biden and Classified Documents

by Phil Rasmussen

There is no doubt that Biden, Trump and others have classified documents in their possession after leaving office. While this may have happened accidently or deliberately we will probably never know. The problem though is that there is insufficient control of classified documents at the higher levels of government.

With proper control procedures in place, classified documents would be assigned control numbers, and tracked through a logging system that indicated who has possession of the documents along with when they were "checked" and "checked in." If such documents were then found in non-secured offices, homes, and other places, there would be no doubt that they were illegally copied or otherwise duplicated. If a person is found to have these "illegal" copies in their possession, they should hen, unequivocally, be charged and convicted of treason.

However such a system apparently is not yet in place. The documents found in Biden's and Trump's possession appear to be original documents which indicates that there was/is a failure of properly tracking classified document.

	Location	Office
Biden	Multiple *	Senator
Biden	Multiple *	Vice President
Trump	Mar-a-Lago	President

*Multiple = Penn Biden Center and Delaware residence

In 1984, amendments to the Social Security Act and the Federal Employees' Retirement System (FERS) Act enacted three major changes that affect a congressional member's retirement pay.

Under both, the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) and FERS, senators and representatives:

- Must pay into Social Security
- Are eligible for a pension having completed only 5 years of service (age 62)
- Are eligible for a pension at age 50 after 20 years of service
- Can receive a pension up to 80% of their final salary

The Vice President receives a pension based on his/her position as the "President of the Senate" and the cumulative years they served in public office.

Both federal and military law covers the illegal possession, mishandling, and use of classified material. If a person is found guilty of violating these laws, he/she faces fines and/or imprisonment. Military personnel and government employees also face reduction of rank, forfeiture of pay, and some form of dishonorable discharge from the military or office.

With the discovery of classified documents at Trump's Mar-a-Lago residence, a lot of discussion has revolved around those documents including whether they were declassified or not and whether Trump had the right to possess the documents.

However, the discussions took a dramatic twist when it was discovered that Biden also had classified documents at his Delaware residence and the Penn Bien Office. While the two cases, on the surface, appear similar, they are vastly different.

The major difference is that as senator and vice president, Biden removed from his government offices, and took home, classified documents without permission or authorization. Furthermore there was apparently no attempt to ensure that the documents were secured, and there was no attempt by Biden to return them. When Biden's attorneys found the documents and took them to the National Archives, apparently not following any protocol for securing the documents while en route.

Through the US Constitution Congress has the power to "discipline" those individuals in government charged with "misconduct" and other crimes. The disciplinary forms include:

- Expulsion (impeachment) (greatest punishment)
- Censure
- Reprimand (least punishment)

Although Biden's removal of classified documents from government facilities was illegal, it would be impractical to impeach him given that his replacement would be Harris. Conversely a reprimand would not be of any use since Biden has taken a caviler attitude without any remorse toward his possession of the documents. Thus the sensible approach would be to censure Biden and issue a fine as punishment.

The fine would be a recalculation of Biden's pension as senator and vice president. The senate pension would be recalculated to include only the time that Biden became a

senator to the date of the first classified document that was found. Since Biden did not return any of the documents while he was vice president, his vice president pension would be completely forfeited. His presidential pension would only include that part of Biden's senatorial service included in his senate pension and none of his time as vice president.

This fine may seem harsh but Biden has abused the American trust for more than 40 years while serving in leadership positions. Biden has little regard for the economic hardships Americans face because of his poor leadership, lack of empathy, ethics, morals, and his disregard for the security of our nation.

Censoring and fining Biden will be far more effective than impeaching him.