

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 28, 2020

The Honorable John Michael “Mick” Mulvaney
Acting Chief of Staff
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington DC 20500

Dear Mr. Mulvaney:

We write to ask questions about very troubling reports that the White House provided press credentials for the World Economic Forum to anti-Semitic conspiracy theorist Rick Wiles.

On January 22, 2020, Jake Tapper tweeted that he was told by the White House Correspondents’ Association that the White House had credentialed Rick Wiles and his TruNews website for the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Switzerland. Jonathan Greenblatt of the Anti-Defamation League subsequently tweeted that TruNews was “at the WEF in Davos on press credentials from the White House.” If these tweets are accurate, they raise serious questions about the White House credentialing process.

Make no mistake: Rick Wiles and TruNews have repeatedly made statements that can only be characterized as virulently anti-Semitic, trading in some of history’s most dangerous tropes. Mr. Wiles has said that a Jewish mafia or “Jewish lobby” controls the United States, he has called Jews “deceivers” and “domestic enemies,” and he has accused them of “do[ing] whatever they have to do to accomplish their political agenda” and “pushing this country to civil war.” Given this history of absurd and hateful statements, it is difficult to understand why the White House would have extended Mr. Wiles and TruNews press credentials. In order to help us understand what happened, please answer the following questions.

- Did the White House extend press credentials for the World Economic Forum to Rick Wiles or representatives from TruNews?
- What specific steps does the White House take to vet individuals and organizations before providing press credentials?
- What specific steps will the White House take to ensure that individuals or organizations with a history of anti-Semitic rhetoric are not given credentials in the future?
- Since the President has stated that “[t]he vile, hate-filled poison of anti-Semitism must be condemned and confronted everywhere and anywhere it appears,” will the administration formally condemn Rick Wiles and TruNews for their anti-Semitic statements?

The normalization of anti-Semitism continues to pose a grave threat to Jews in America and across the world, just as the normalization of anti-religious hatred poses a threat to other belief

communities. In light of this, we urge you in the strongest terms to ensure that the administration does not grant press credentials or extend any other form of approval to Rick Wiles or TruNews in the future.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator