TRUMP'S TRAP FOR TWITTER

Even Trump-supporters have wondered about Trump's tweets implying that MSNBC's Joe Scarborough had something to do with a young intern's death in his office when he was still a Florida congressman.

It's true that Scarborough and his co-host and wife Mika Brzezinksi have spent three years accusing Trump of treasonous collusion with the Russians, but Trump's venom still seemed strange.

I, however, don't think it was strange at all. Trump is one of the most calculating, rational people ever to occupy the White House.

He's been faced with a serious problem, which is the fact that the immensely powerful social media giants, which are the gateway to most information nowadays, have already begun trying to sway the election to Biden. Legislatively, thanks to three years of Russiagate and the current hostile House, Trump has been powerless.

So Trump set a trap. On Tuesday (5/26), the Twitter mouse took the bait.

The ostensible story is about Lori Klausutis, 28, who worked in Scarborough's Fort Walton Beach congressional office from 1999 to 2001. On July 20, 2001, when Scarborough was out of town, Klausutis's body was found in the office. Because of a very bizarre medical examiner, it wasn't clear how Klausutis died, making her death ripe for different theories.

Initially, those theories came from the Left. In 2010, hard-left Daily Kos founder Markos Moulitsas lost a gig at MSNBC when he tweeted directly to Scarborough about Klausutis's death. Other leftists such as James Wolcott and Michael Moore attacked Scarborough, too.

After Scarborough turned on Trump in 2016, Trump eventually tweeted out an allusion to Klausutis's death:

Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump · Nov 29, 2017

So now that Matt Lauer is gone when will the Fake News practitioners at NBC be terminating the contract of Phil Griffin? And will they terminate low ratings Joe Scarborough based on the "unsolved mystery" that took place in Florida years ago? Investigate!

It was just recently that Trump again started tweeting about Klausutis's death:

Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump · May 24

A lot of interest in this story about Psycho Joe Scarborough. So a young marathon runner just happened to faint in his office, hit her head on his desk, & die? I would think there is a lot more to this story than that? An affair? What about the so-called investigator? Read story!

Thomas Paine @Thomas1774Paine · May 24

Replying to @realDonaldTrump

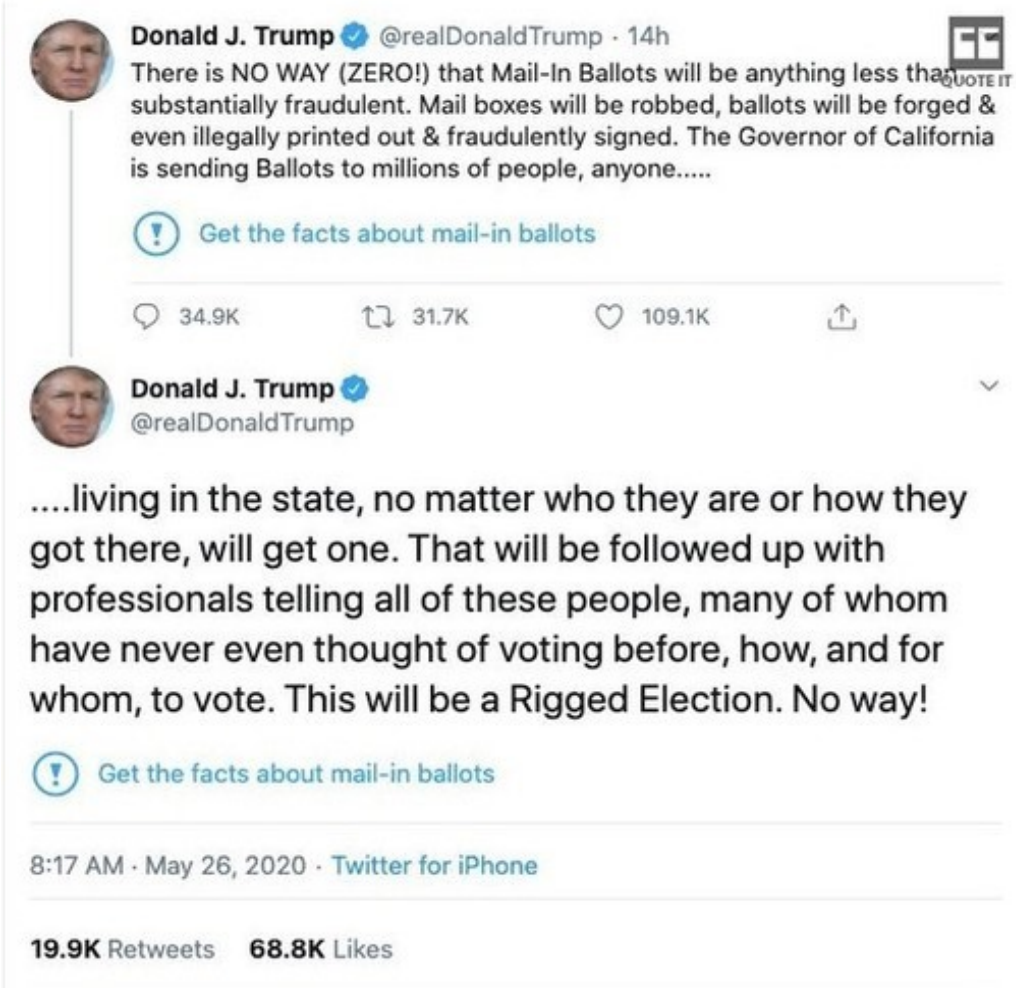
Evidence Shows Foul Play Likely in Scarborough Aide's Suspicious Death in His Congressional Office truepundit.com/flashback-evid...

A few days before, constantly furious Mika Brzezinksi demanded that Twitter dump Trump:

> *".@jack At what point is @Twitter a part of this? TAKE DOWN TRUMP's ACCOUNT— the world would be safer. Retweet if you agree*
>
> *— Mika Brzezinski (@morningmika) May 20, 2020"*

I think Mika's demand was what Trump was waiting for. He wanted to goad Twitter into doing something to get him off the platform. So he sent out this outrageous tweet four days later.

And sure enough, on Tuesday (5/26) Twitter took the bait. As I'm sure Trump had calculated, Twitter didn't do something as obvious as responding to Mika's demands. Instead, it flagged two of Trump's tweets as false:



By challenging the president that way, Twitter made the fatal mistake of overtly inserting itself as a content editor, and therefore publisher, of overtly political material. Trump was ready:

Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump · May 27

....Twitter is completely stifling FREE SPEECH, and I, as President, will not allow it to happen!

83K 60.8K 212.6K

Show this thread

Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump · May 27

.@Twitter is now interfering in the 2020 Presidential Election. They are saying my statement on Mail-In Ballots, which will lead to massive corruption and fraud, is incorrect, based on fact-checking by Fake News CNN and the Amazon Washington Post....

Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump · May 27

....happen again. Just like we can't let large scale Mail-In Ballots take root in our Country. It would be a free for all on cheating, forgery and the theft of Ballots. Whoever cheated the most would win. Likewise, Social Media. Clean up your act, NOW!!!!

16.6K 23.6K 86.8K

Show this thread

Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump · May 27

Republicans feel that Social Media Platforms totally silence conservatives voices. We will strongly regulate, or close them down, before we can ever allow this to happen. We saw what they attempted to do, and failed, in 2016. We can't let a more sophisticated version of that....

Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump · 20h

Big Tech is doing everything in their very considerable power to CENSOR in advance of the 2020 Election. If that happens, we no longer have our freedom. I will never let it happen! They tried hard in 2016, and lost. Now they are going absolutely CRAZY. Stay Tuned!!!

We didn't have to stay tuned for long, did we? Late today, the President signed an Executive Order Preventing Online Censorship (full White House text).

Watch and enjoy his comments upon signing the order in the Oval Office:

The Order will target the social media giants' current immunity from libel and defamation suits because they're viewed as bulletin boards, not publishers. However, when they actively manipulate content — especially the most political content of all, which is statements from the President of the United States — they've put themselves in an editorial position and should be held liable.

This has to have been Trump's goal all along with those Scarborough tweets. He goaded Twitter into censoring him, and the social media giant walked right into his trap. Well played, President Trump. Well played.

Andrea Widburg is deputy editor of American Thinker.

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