Twitter Thread by RiShawn Biddle

RiShawn Biddle
@dropoutnation

Except that @AOC asked for the $2,000 after the $600 payout was negotiated by House Democrats, Senate Republicans and the Trump regime. Which was never enough to start. Now Biden is still not providing the $2,000 when folks need the money.

The Member from New York is correct.

> Dear @AOC: I've given you plenty of praise when deserved and criticism when deserved. You participating in this gaslighting is worthy of criticism.
>
> You wanted $2,000. You got $600. Biden is pushing for another $1,400, bringing it to $2,000 total, which is what you asked for. https://t.co/50qQL9arUH
>
> — Charles #GetCovered-ba (@charles_gaba) January 15, 2021

You can argue that AOC shouldn't have taken to media to make her case. But she's a Member of Congress and can use any of the tools at her disposal to do so. In any case, she is correct that what Biden is proposing isn't nearly good enough. Also, Biden only responds to pressure.

It is only B.S. to you because you are more-aligned with Biden and his wing of the Democratic Party than with AOC's wing. https://t.co/N4ZpfbAJb9

> I'm sorry, but bullshit. There's two different arguments here:
> 1. $2,000 isn't enough
> 2. Biden "lied" or "went back on his promise"
>
> #1 is debatable. #2 is utter bullshit. $2,000 is what was passed by the House. $600 is what passed the Senate. Adding $1,400 would = $2,000.
>
> — Charles #GetCovered-ba (@charles_gaba) January 15, 2021

The reality is that $2,000 is not enough and when Biden stepped into this, he basically agreed to give $2,000 (even if he 'meant' just another $1,400). Biden should have just did the $2,000 because we all know that another $1,400 isn't enough. https://t.co/ycXsO0d7LL

> Again, you can argue that the total *should* be more than $2K, but you can't argue that Biden or anyone else lied about what the total from Dems would be. Read the rest of @Yair_Rosenberg's thread. Even BERNIE is praising the plan.
>
> — Charles #GetCovered-ba (@charles_gaba) January 15, 2021

Bernie praised it as a 'very strong first installment'. Which means that he expects more than just another $1,400. But because he has a closer relationship with Biden than AOC does, he's not going to press hard right now. @charles_gaba https://t.co/O5QFeUti1c

> President-Elect Biden's COVID rescue plan will begin to provide our people with much-needed support, such as $2,000 direct payments and a $15 minimum wage.
>
> I look forward to working with him and my colleagues in Congress to urgently provide bold relief to working families. pic.twitter.com/i8wS5180bB
>
> — Bernie Sanders (@SenSanders) January 15, 2021

This, by the way, is where AOC could have done better. Politics is the art of the possible, and the reality is that with rather tenuous control of the Senate, Biden has to get as much possible as he can. @charles_gaba

I agree with AOC that Biden should be more-aggressive. But there's Joe Manchin sitting right there threatening to derail everything good because he's a White Supremacist DINO who cares only about getting re-elected. So Biden does what he can. @charles_gaba

This point, by the way... https://t.co/DXohk6o3dF

> Also, the politics of it are on AOC\u2019s side. Whatever Biden *meant*, a lot of people just heard that they would get a check with \u201c$2,000" on it. If it\u2019s only $1400 they will feel like he didn\u2019t do what he promised.
>
> — whetstone (@whetstone) January 15, 2021

Ultimately, AOC is right to push Biden on this. That's her job. She's not here just to play nice for the president-elect; she's also fighting for other Americans, including those in her district who really need way more than $1,400 or even $2K. https://t.co/ITzDlNwiqw

> oh, he "should have just done" $2,000? With his magic wand? Has it occurred to you that he might have already discussed this with folks like Joe Manchin, Mitt Romney etc. who may have already stated point-blank that there's absolutely no way in hell they're going over $1,400?
>
> — Charles #GetCovered-ba (@charles_gaba) January 15, 2021

Biden is doing the art of the possible. But AOC is also fighting to make more possible. If more folks (including Manchin's constituents) demand $2,000, Manchin has to give. Which means Biden moves. Or Biden tells Manchin to do it or lose something he really wants. @charles_gaba

Activists and Members of Congress working the outside are the ones who push the folks closer to the center to change. That's how life works. And AOC is doing it right - even if Center-Whites don't like it. @charles_gaba

Meanwhile as WillyWicki notes, Biden forgets that the average American isn't going to do a whole lot of mental math to understand what he's doing.

He should just push for the $2,000 and avoid disappointing folks out there. https://t.co/k34aERrvEn

> This is the key. The problem institutional politicians have is that they DO NOT UNDERSTAND that the public at large just don't follow things that closely. One thing that's sunk in is "$2000." Anything less than that, they won't get the nuances, they'll just feel wronged.
>
> — WillyWicki (@WickiWilly) January 15, 2021

There are, by the way, other reasons why Biden should just give the $2,000. Starting with the latest economic news. https://t.co/ZBdjVJ1Lqo

> AND THIS IS WHAT GOES IN GDP FOR CONSUMER SPENDING! down 2.1% bad. bad. bad.
>
> PS revising down your Q1 forecasts now A LOT, you overly optimistic Wall Street.
>
> PPS @BEA_News strips building material stores out and keeps auto parts for PCE. even so.https://t.co/XvwOT69sd2
>
> — Claudia Sahm RECOVERY FOR ALL (@Claudia_Sahm) January 15, 2021

I forgot this, by the way (and @charles_gaba probably forgot this, too). The promise of $2,000 was, along with the work of LaTosha Brown, Stacey Abrams and other Black folks, the key to Ossof and Warnock winning their races.

You keep the promises made. https://t.co/M2YJmhqFS3

> "$2000" is the closest Democrats have to a slogan right now. They actually put in work to get it fully into the zeitgeist. "If Ossoff and Warnock win, you'll get $2000" was the closing argument in a successful election. Why on EARTH would you even think about doing anything else?
>
> — WillyWicki (@WickiWilly) January 15, 2021

For most folks, that's $2,000, and in their minds, above the $600 given. Not $1,400 on top of $600.

This is also correct... https://t.co/EpkHMGqGfD

> To every one in my mentions pointing out what else is in the relief bill...
>
> Do you really think people who were expecting $2000 checks and find out that it\u2019s less are going to think, hold on let me read the whole bill b4 I decide whether or not I like a smaller check? https://t.co/Lx0vUppkz6
>
> — Rebecca Nagle (@rebeccanagle) January 15, 2021

I talk to real live people who aren't in policy. This includes folks who drive buses as well as fix cars for a living. Ask them about the $2,000 and they thought they were getting an additional $2,000.

That's how Joe Average thinks. We're not Joe.
https://t.co/aLRhHQHNGX

> "For most folks" and you base this on what evidence, exactly?
>
> I *always* assumed it was $2,000 total, not $2,000+$600. You may have assumed that, but I didn't, nor did many others.
>
> It's possible you're correct, but it's also possible only a small % thought that.
>
> — Charles #GetCovered-ba (@charles_gaba) January 15, 2021

Let me remind you of this: If you are the person tweeting or putting together newsletters on healthcare issues, you aren't the average person. So don't assume that how you think is how the person working out there in that blue collar life thinks.

That's on you. https://t.co/c6vVzBliOr

> I like how you assume I *don't* talk to "real live people" who "aren't in policy."
>
> — Charles #GetCovered-ba (@charles_gaba) January 15, 2021

I'm also Black, so the chances of me knowing everyday people is far greater because they also happen to be my relatives and neighbors. As well as folks I deal with in areas such as education.