Twitter Thread by Jason Kint



Jason Kint
@jason_kint

We’ve discussed before but here is the issue in Facebook’s banning decision (whether you agree or disagree). This entire chain of execs from Bickert up to Zuckerberg report into and lobby DC interests. Same group that decided not to take action on shooting and looting post. /1



Bickert was lawyer involved in issues now central to facebook antitrust complaints. She also gave false evidence to Parliament one month before globe found out about Cambridge Analytica. And she's now giving advice on Trump account. Political winds. /2 https://t.co/h0cCbjKiwE

> This was after Bickert gave lawyer answers to the first two questions which defy any belief she is being forthright.
> 1) She doesn't remember if she knew about Cambridge Analytica breach when she gave evidence to Parliament in Feb 2018 in DC. cc @carolecadwalla. pic.twitter.com/j5sRNPTVic
>
> — Jason Kint (@jason_kint) June 4, 2020

Kaplan's role is well-documented. WSJ, NYT and Wash Post all had significant reports how he oversized influence inside of Facebook. He also played point in the 2016 post-election scrutiny of Facebook with his deep conservative ties. Political winds. /3 https://t.co/Sk9iSTqqiT

> and Facebook's own Joel Kaplan who prompted employee to askthe obvious question\u2b06\ufe0f: "Is it a conflict of interest to have one policy executive influencing both staying on good terms with Trump and civil rights-related moderation?" https://t.co/xa2rbG4mVk
>
> — Jason Kint (@jason_kint) September 24, 2020

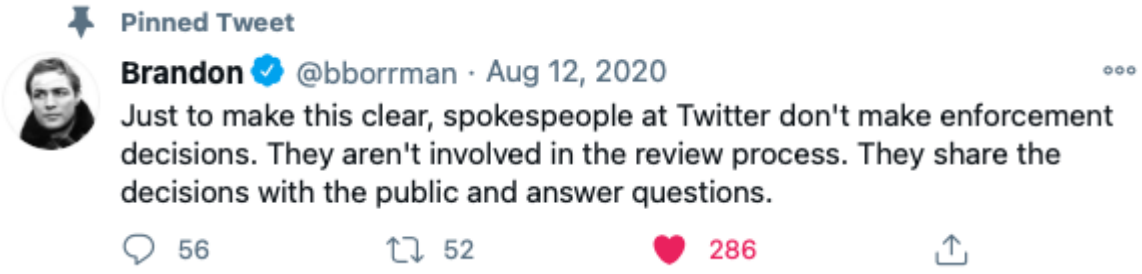
Clegg was hired in once the heat got too much in the UK and globally. If you speak to anyone familiar with his work as a MP, you'll entirely understand why Facebook hired him. Political winds. /4 https://t.co/YEM1onB4Zb

Sandberg is a long story. But she has been intersection of everything using deny, deflect, delay tactics and her deep DC ties to avoid having to answer tough questions where FB traded toxic effects on globe to make more $ / power. Political Winds. /5 https://t.co/UPhdrmCEMD

So back to my central point which I also made in June, political winds are core to these conversations as Zuckerberg is looking to government affairs and communications' executives to guide his decision. /6 https://t.co/DTWURzVOK5

> I mean look at the list:
> Zuckerberg - $60B+ in $FB stock
> Sheryl - ditto + former political operative
> Nick - former MP, UK political operative
> Joel - DC political animal
> Bickert - misled Parliament on Cambridge Analytica, legal counsel on shutting down competitive apps controversy
> pic.twitter.com/fQYJc8WvV9
>
> — Jason Kint (@jason_kint) June 3, 2020

And yes you should contrast this to how Twitter reports to make these similar and very difficult decisions. I noted this in May in some important reporting from @WillOremus. It's even the pinned tweet for Twitter's head of Comms. This firewall matters. /7 https://t.co/YsezyJ44wH



These firewalls exist at news orgs between business and editorial interests for good reason. If you're running a platform with FB's influence without competition, liability for info and 98% in high-margin surveillance advertising, it REALLY matters. /8

I was at a Sept industry event where Facebook's Nick Clegg spoke to probably 100+ senior industry execs and internet minds. Almost no one thought facebook was ready except @nick_clegg. Now they're making rapid decisions influenced by political winds. /9 https://t.co/M6Wb8BOuJX

> I don't want to get ahead of John sharing his highlights from his strong event but @nick_clegg spent 30min making his case, the audience was polled live asking if Facebook is prepared for the upcoming election and 95% of the audience picked "No." Maybe it was worse this morning? https://t.co/jkP7GOe1Hy pic.twitter.com/yWNphBD3ts
>
> — Jason Kint (@jason_kint) September 17, 2020

Again, bad decisions based on political winds that in hindsight are fairly obviously in need of a review. /10 https://t.co/h6TUT8T5dg

> Facebook will NOT flag declarations by President Trump or any other candidate who prematurely declares victory in battleground states. The company only will flag claims stating that a candidate has won the overall election.https://t.co/7jKPSZ2fo8
>
> — Jeff Horwitz (@JeffHorwitz) November 4, 2020

If you want a really good read on all of these issues, i highly recommend the NYT Magazine cover story from October. /11 https://t.co/EfVzvqvEIy

> Amazing read. Don\u2019t touch my 1A but recognize microtargeting has minimized the collisions... \u201cit is wrong to censor ideas, because knowledge arises from the \u2018the clearer perception and livelier impression of truth, produced by its collision with error.\u2019\u201d https://t.co/jJqlwlaI2A
>
> — Jason Kint (@jason_kint) October 14, 2020