Twitter Thread by Vaughn Hillyard

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As Trump warns Pence to walk his line, it's worth just going back to 2016 & the fact Pence knew what he'd have to defend.

While under consideration for VP slot, I asked him about Trump's attacks on his friend Ted Cruz.

Pence responded: "Rubbing is racing."

> Mike Pence in his 1st intvw after selection as Trump's VP pick:
>
> \u201cYou shut the door--you tell the boss exactly what you think. But when the door opens, the job of the VP is to stand right next to the president & implement the policy that he\u2019s decided & I\u2019m prepared to do that. https://t.co/IJfXgLTB9n
>
> — Vaughn Hillyard (@VaughnHillyard) January 5, 2021

The day after the RNC, as Trump rehashed his conspiracy theory that Rafael Cruz was an associate of Lee Harvey Oswald, Pence stood to Trump's left as his running mate said:

“Ted never denied it was his father."



At same 2016 presser, Trump openly chuckled:

"The party has come together...you got to understand I ran as an outsider. I didn't want anybody. Now I have guys like Mike Pence. This isn't supposed to happen. If I don't win, I'm going to blame Mike, right?"
https://t.co/nsmj6QJYyl



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> \u201cTed never denied it was his father." pic.twitter.com/84vBl94L9D
>
> — Vaughn Hillyard (@VaughnHillyard) January 6, 2021

Trump made waves in 2016 when he said Putin is a better leader than President Obama.

Pence played along.

"I think it's inarguable that Vladimir Putin has been a stronger leader in his country than Barack Obama has been in his country," Pence said.

In 2016, Trump railed against Pence's fellow Midwestern governor, Ohio Gov. John Kasich.

Pence said nothing.

Pence in 2016 sidestepped Trump’s openness during the campaign to changing the Geneva Convention to allow for the use of torture tactics.

In 2016 when Trump lashed out at Pence's friend Paul Ryan, Pence defended Trump who “doesn’t go tiptoeing around those thousands of rules of political correctness."

In 2016, Pence defended Trump's penchant for name calling & insults, often referring to Trump's New York roots & difference in "style."

He once said Trump made comment in “the heat of the moment.”

When @SykesCharlie asked Pence in August 2016 about Trump calling Sykes "dopey," Pence didn't call out Trump but responded: "Well, Charlie, I’ve been a fan of yours for many, many years. I appreciate your common sense, conservative voice across the airwaves.”

When Pence was asked by @SykesCharlie if Trump should apologize to the Gold Star parents of Army Capt. Humayun Khan, Pence responded: "I think he’s made it clear that Captain Khan is an American hero."

There was the Reverend Faith Green Timmons in Flint, Michigan, who Trump called a "nervous mess."

Pence continued on without defending the pastor.

Trump attacked others before his 2016 election & Pence stood by.

Trump attacked Hillary Clinton as a “nasty woman.”

Pence said nothing.

After President-elect Trump tweeted in Jan. 2017: “Congressman John Lewis should finally focus on the burning and crime infested inner-cities of the U.S.

Pence responded: "I think Donald Trump has the right to defend himself."

And in 2016/2017, Pence never rejected Trump's propagating that the election was rigged & that 3 to 5 million voted illegally. He even chaired the group tasked with looking into how to avoid tampered elections.

After four years in the White House of defending President Trump, Pence side steps Trump's demands to help overturn the 2020 presidential election:

THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

January 6, 2021

Dear Colleague:

Today, for the 59th time in our Nation's history, Congress will convene in Joint Session to count the electoral votes for President of the United States. Under our Constitution, it will be my duty as Vice President and as President of the Senate to serve as the presiding officer.

After an election with significant allegations of voting irregularities and numerous instances of officials setting aside state election law, I share the concerns of millions of Americans about the integrity of this election. The American people choose the American President, and have every right under the law to demand free and fair elections and a full investigation of electoral misconduct. As presiding officer, I will do my duty to ensure that these concerns receive a fair and open hearing in the Congress of the United States. Objections will be heard, evidence will be presented, and the elected representatives of the American people will make their decision.

Our Founders created the Electoral College in 1787, and it first convened in 1789. With the advent of political parties, the Electoral College was amended in 1804 to provide that Electors vote separately for President and Vice President. Following a contentious election in 1876, with widespread allegations of fraud and malfeasance, Congress spent a decade establishing rules and procedures to govern the counting of electoral votes and the resolution of any objections.

During the 130 years since the Electoral Count Act was passed, Congress has, without exception, used these formal procedures to count the electoral votes every four years.

Given the controversy surrounding this year's election, some approach this year's quadrennial tradition with great expectation, and others with dismissive disdain. Some believe that as Vice President, I should be able to accept or reject electoral votes unilaterally. Others believe that electoral votes should never be challenged in a Joint Session of Congress.

After a careful study of our Constitution, our laws, and our history, I believe neither view is correct.

The President is the chief executive officer of the Federal Government under our Constitution, possessing immense power to impact the lives of the American people. The Presidency belongs to the American people, and to them alone. When disputes concerning a presidential election arise, under Federal law, it is the people's representatives who review the evidence and resolve disputes through a democratic process.

Our Founders were deeply skeptical of concentrations of power and created a Republic based on separation of powers and checks and balances under the Constitution of the United States.