

Bezos hits Biden on inflation, claims Manchin 'saved' WH, Dems from themselves

By Callie Patteson and Mark Moor, New York Post, May 16, 2022

<https://nypost.com/2022/05/16/jeff-bezos-hits-biden-on-inflation-claims-manchin-saved-white-house/>

The White House and Amazon founder Jeff Bezos traded barbs on Monday after the billionaire criticized the administration's economic policies for fueling record-high inflation and a Biden spokesman goaded the tech titan by suggesting the slam was based in self-interest. The exchange continued a running battle that began on Friday when Biden tweeted: "**You want to bring down inflation? Let's make sure the wealthiest corporations pay their fair share.**"

Bezos fired back by referencing the Department of Homeland Security's nascent Disinformation Governance Board. "*The newly created Disinformation Board should review this tweet, or maybe they need to form a new Non Sequitur Board instead,*" Bezos tweeted. "**Raising corp taxes is fine to discuss. Taming inflation is critical to discuss. Mushing them together is just misdirection.**"



Jeffrey Bezos slammed President Biden and said Sen. Joe Manchin saved Democrats from themselves. Kevin Mazur/Getty Images for Robin Hood

"It doesn't require a huge leap to figure out why one of the wealthiest individuals on Earth opposes an economic agenda for the middle class that cuts some of the biggest costs families face, fights inflation for the long haul, and adds to the historic deficit reduction the President is achieving by asking the richest taxpayers and corporations to pay their fair share," deputy White House press secretary Andrew Bates said in a statement to the Washington Post — which Bezos owns — on Monday.

"It's also unsurprising that this tweet comes after the President met with labor organizers, including Amazon employees," Bates continued, needling Bezos over efforts to unionize workers at Amazon warehouses, including on Staten Island. "**Look, a squirrel!**" Bezos responded mockingly. "*This is the White House's statement about my recent tweets. They understandably want to muddy the topic. They know inflation hurts the neediest the most. But unions aren't causing inflation and neither are wealthy people.*"



Bezos was referring to Manchin opposing Biden's \$2 trillion Build Back Better social spending plan in December last year. AP Photo/Rich Pedroncelli

"Remember the **Administration tried their best to add another \$3.5 TRILLION to federal spending.** They failed, but **if they had succeeded, inflation would be even higher than it is today, and inflation today is at a 40 year high,**" added Bezos, whose fortune is estimated at \$140.6 billion.

New White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre doubled down Monday evening when asked about Biden's tweet, saying:

"We have talked about this this past year, about making sure that the wealthiest among us are paying their fair share, and that is important to do and that is something that the president has been working on every day, when we talk about inflation and lowering costs. And so it's very important that, you know, as we're seeing costs rise, as we're talking about how to, you know, build an America that's safe — that's equal for everyone, that doesn't leave everyone behind, that is an important part of that as well."



Jeff Bezos
@JeffBezos

In fact, the administration tried hard to inject even more stimulus into an already over-heated, inflationary economy and only Manchin saved them from themselves. Inflation is a regressive tax that most hurts the least affluent. Misdirection doesn't help the country.

Neoliberal @neOliberal · May 14

This is so silly. The deficit is decreasing because we're not doing pandemic aid anymore, and federal receipts are up because of inflation. Congress, or the Biden administration, didn't do anything to lower the deficit.
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Jeff Bezos tweets Joe Manchin "saved" Biden and Democrats from themselves on inflation.
[Twitter/ @jeffbezos](https://twitter.com/jeffbezos)

When Fox News correspondent Peter Doocy followed up by asking: "How does raising taxes on corporations lower the cost of gas, the cost of a used car, the cost of food for everyday Americans?"

In response, Jean-Pierre departed from the topic of inflation completely, saying: "So look, I think we encourage those who have done very well, especially those who care about climate change, to support a fairer tax code that doesn't charge manufacturers, workers, cops, builders a higher percentage of their earnings than most people in our nation, and not let that stand in the way of reducing energy costs and fighting this existential

problem, if you think about that as an example, and to support basic collective bargaining rights as well, right? That's also important. "But look," Jean-Pierre concluded, "without having a fairer tax code, which is what I'm talking about, like manufacturing workers, cops, it's not fair for them to have to pay higher taxes than the folks who are not paying taxes at all."

In a separate post over the weekend, Bezos claimed Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV) had "saved" Democrats from making the inflation problem worse.

Bezos, 58, **accused the White House Sunday of overheating the economy with pandemic-induced stimulus payments.** Biden's \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan, approved in March 2020, allotted up to

\$1,400 per person, plus \$1,400 per eligible dependent, for people and families who met certain requirements.



Sen. Joe Manchin's announcement that he would vote "no" on the legislation killed any chance of the bill passing the 50-50 Senate. AP Photo/Jose Luis Magana

One day earlier, Biden had tweeted: "Under my predecessor, the deficit increased every single year. This year, we're on track to cut the deficit by \$1.5 trillion – **the biggest one-year decline ever.** It matters to families, because reducing the deficit is one of the main ways we can ease inflationary pressures."

A Twitter user with the name "NeoLiberal" called Biden's claim "so silly." "The **deficit is decreasing because we're not doing pandemic aid anymore**, and federal receipts are up because of inflation," they wrote. "**Congress, or the Biden administration, didn't do anything to lower the deficit.**"



Bezos then chimed in, tweeting: "In fact, the administration **tried hard to inject even more stimulus into an already over-heated, inflationary economy and only Manchin saved them from themselves.** Inflation is a regressive tax that most hurts the least affluent. Misdirection doesn't help the country."

Bezos accused the White House of overheating the economy with pandemic-induced stimulus payments. AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta

Bezos was referring to Manchin opposing Biden's \$2 trillion Build Back Better social spending plan in December last year. Manchin's announcement that he would vote "no" on the legislation killed any chance of the bill passing the 50-50 Senate. Since then, he has repeatedly killed any effort to resurrect the measure.

The Biden administration has been heavily criticized for its handling of inflation, which stood at an annual rate of 8.3% in April [8.6% in May] as prices of food and gas continue to skyrocket across the country.

Additional reporting by Snejana Farberov