

# White House insists 'there is no case' against Biden over his mishandling of classified documents and 'it's time to move on' despite Robert Hur saying he did not exonerate the president and a reasonable jury would convict him

By Emily Goodin, Senior U.S. Political Reporter At The White House 17:38 EDT 12 Mar 2024 , updated 18:22 EDT 12 Mar 2024



- **'There is no case. The case is closed. It's time to move on,' Ian Sams said**
- **Special counsel found there was not enough evidence to charge Biden in his handling of classified documents**
- **White House claimed Hur hearing was political and held by House Republicans to help Donald Trump in the 2024 election**

The [White House](#) on Tuesday insisted the case against President [Joe Biden](#) in his handling of classified documents is 'closed' and 'it's time to

move on.'

'There is no case. The case is closed. It's time to move on,' spokesman Ian Sams said after special counsel [Robert Hur](#) spent hours testifying about his findings before the House Judiciary Committee.

But Hur rejected claims from [Democrats](#) he had 'completely [exonerated](#) [Biden by not charging him with mishandling classified documents during his fiery appearance in Congress](#).'

'I did not exonerate him,' Hur said and noted the word 'exoneration' did not appear in the report.

Hur was investigating how classified documents ended up in an office formerly used by Biden and in his home in Wilmington, Del. Hur, who was appointed to the position by Attorney General [Merrick Garland](#), concluded there was insufficient evidence to charge Biden with a [crime](#).



'There is no case. The case is closed. It's time to move on,' White House spokesman Ian Sams (above) said

But the White House argued Hur found Biden innocent, charged House Republicans with holding a politically-motivated event to help Donald Trump in the 2024 presidential election, and urged the other side to move on to other things like funding the government.

'When a prosecutor spends 15 months investigating a case only to determine that there is no case here and that there will be no charges, and that the case is closed, it only affirms the innocence of the president,' Sams said.

'President Biden's been cleared, that's the whole decision that was made by the prosecutor.'

Sams claimed the hearing was merely politics to help Trump, who faces federal charges related to his handling of classified documents. FBI agents found a trove of classified documents in Mar-a-Lago when they raided the former president's Palm Beach home.

'House Republicans tried to make it a big deal. They want to attack the president politically. They're making it very obvious that they're trying to help the former president. And it's a failure. We need to work on the things that actually matter for the American people. We need to work on getting aid to Ukraine, we need to work on securing our border. We need to work on a spending package that avoids a shutdown next week.'

During the hearing, Hur faced attacks from Republicans for concluding Biden hadn't done anything to warrant charges against him.

And Democrats attacked the special counsel for his attacks on Biden's memory. His report described the 81-year-old Biden as 'a sympathetic, well-meaning, elderly man with a poor memory.'

During the hearing, Hur defended his findings on the president's state of

mind, saying he could not make a decision on whether Biden's retaining of classified documents was 'willful' without considering his state of mind.

'My assessment relevant to the president's memory was necessary, accurate and fair.'

'I did not sanitize my assessment nor did I disparage the president unfairly,' said Hur.

'I had to explain why different facts require different outcomes,' he added, referring to Trump being charged for mishandling documents and Biden avoiding charges. '

Hur interviewed Biden at the White House on October 8th and 9th as part of his investigation.



Special counsel Robert Hur was criticized by Democrats and Republicans during the hearing



President Joe Biden was not charged in his handling of classified documents



A transcript of those interviews shows Biden could not remember the year his son Beau died and was often confused by the dates he served as vice president and about how classified documents ended up in his home.

According to the transcript of the two-day interview reviewed by DailyMail.com, Biden brought up Beau's death in the context of a book he wrote published in 2017.

'What month did Beau die?' Biden asked to himself during the hours-long sit down.

'Oh God, May 30th,' he seemingly responded. But the president had to be reminded about the year in which his oldest son died because he could not remember.

A [White House](#) attorney stepped in to state that the year of Beau's death was 2015.

'Was it 2015 he died?' Biden again questioned out loud. The president then went on to ask if [Donald Trump](#) was elected in 2017, to which another White House attorney jumped in to correct him that it was 2016.

The mix-up of Beau's death date during the interview directly contradicts Biden's fiery denial that it ever occurred.

Hours after Hur put out his scathing report on February 9, where he said Biden couldn't remember the day his son died, [Biden engaged in a furious tirade from the White House](#) saying 'I know what the hell I am doing!' and insisting that 'my memory is fine.'

'How in the hell dare he raise that?' Biden fumed. 'Frankly, when I was asked the question, I thought to myself: it wasn't any of their damn

business.'

But the transcript reveals that it was, in fact, Biden who brought up Beau in the first place - not Hur.



The mix-up of Beau's death date during the interview directly contradicts Biden's fiery denial that it ever occurred



An image from the Biden classified documents report showing a damaged box where classified documents were found in the garage of President Biden in 2022

**White House spokesman Ian Sams argued Biden was asked about it in conjunction with the 2017 book he had written about Beau's death: 'Promise Me Dad.'**

**'Anybody who's familiar with this president's powerful story, emotional story of overcoming that loss, and finding a new purpose and trying to keep going for the country to try to save our democracy and move our country forward. Anybody who's familiar with that story from the president will understand that the President is going to talk about his son Beau,' Sams said.**

**'And I think the transcript makes plainly clear, and I think the American people understand this. The President remembers exactly when his son**



died. He carries that pain with him every day. He carries that emotional toll with him every day.'