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Democracy Dies in Darkness

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ELECTION 2024

Trayon White Sr. accused of bribery

Councilman took cash to pressure D.C. officials on contracts, FBI alleges

This article is by Emily Davies, Peter Hermann, Katie Shepherd, Salvador Rizzo and Michael Brice-Saddler

In cash-stuffed envelopes exchanged in the front seat of parked cars, D.C. Council member Trayon White Sr. took tens of thousands of dollars in bribes and agreed to pressure D.C. government employees to steer contracts toward the man providing the payments, federal authorities alleged in court documents unsealed Monday.

In a 37-page complaint charging him with one count of bribery, the FBI outlined how it believed the Ward 8 Democrat, who was expected to win reelection in November, had brazenly pressed the owner of local organizations for cash and kickbacks, not knowing the man was secretly working for the FBI and recording their talks. White, seen in multiple photographs in court documents with what appears to be envelopes, vowed to persuade D.C. employees to extend certain contracts aimed at helping the city's most at-risk youths and adults.

"That's for, making sure you reach out to [Government Employee 3] and [Government Employee 4]," the unnamed informant said, according to the affidavit, handing White an envelope with

SEE WHITE ON A20

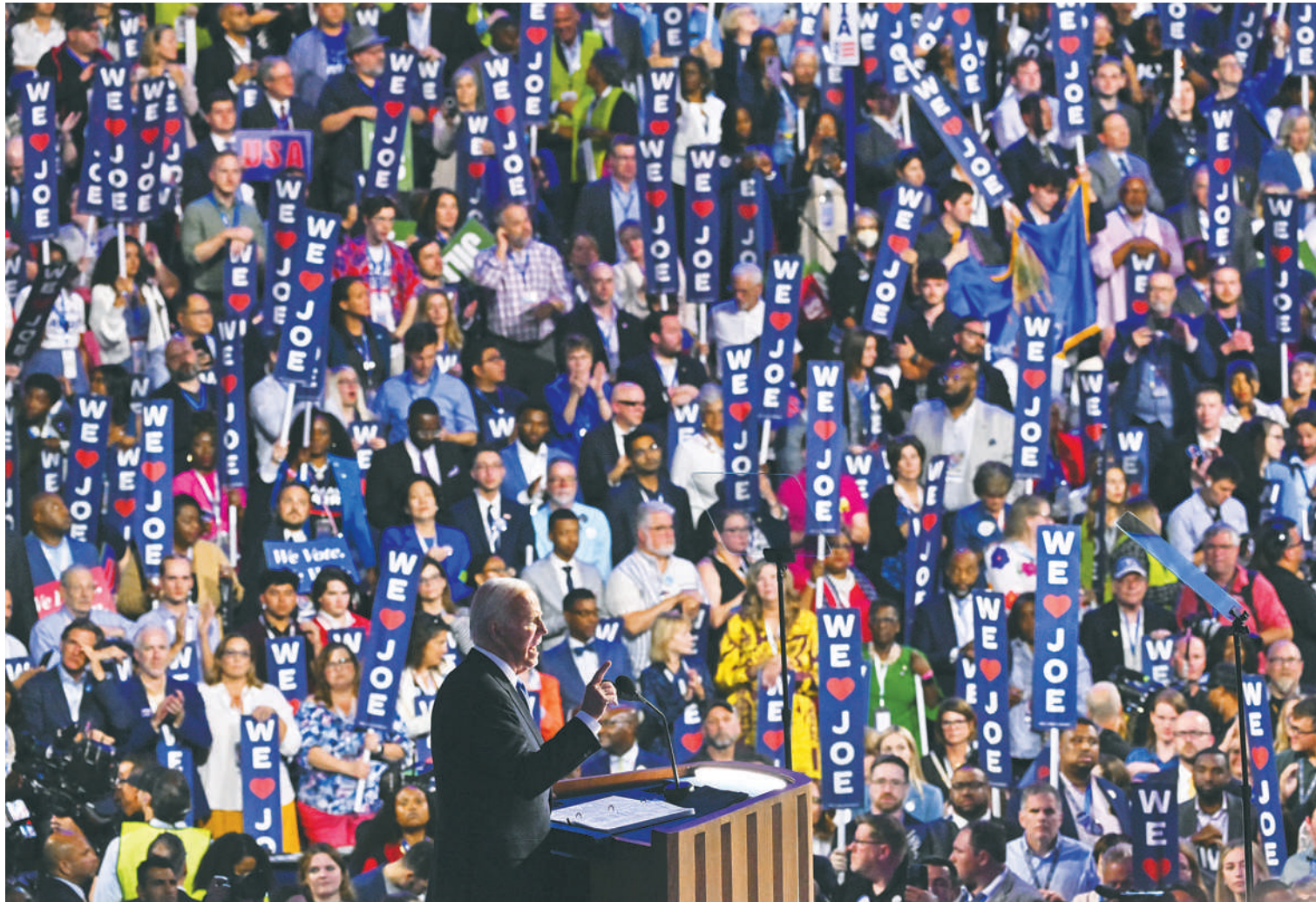
D.C. Council: White could face punishment from colleagues. B1



U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Federal investigators say this photo shows Trayon White Sr. accepting an envelope containing \$5,000 on July 17.

Party ushers in a new guard at DNC



RICKY CARIOTI/THE WASHINGTON POST

President Joe Biden speaks during the first night of the Democratic National Convention at the United Center in Chicago on Monday. Biden received a long ovation as the crowd chanted "We love Joe!" Biden appeared to tear up, telling the crowd he loved them, too.

Trump's false 'coup' claims prime his supporters to challenge a loss

BY COLBY ITKOWITZ AND HANNAH ALLAM

From the moment Vice President Kamala Harris emerged as the surprise Democratic presidential nominee, former president Donald Trump began arguing that she was anointed through a "coup" rather than chosen by primary voters. After barely mentioning election integrity at the Republican convention in July, Trump is casting the upcoming election as "rigged" against him and baselessly labeling any hurdle in his path as election interference.

"This was an overthrow of a president. This was an overthrow," Trump said at a rally in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., on Saturday,

referring to Harris replacing Biden on the ticket. He later added: "They deposed a president. It was a coup of a president. This was a coup."

Trump's efforts to undermine confidence in this year's election are reminiscent of the tactics he used in the 2020 campaign and indicate how he could again seek to delegitimize the results if he loses, setting the stage for another combustible fight over the presidency, election and national security experts said.

"This is Donald Trump's playbook: 'There's a deep state, they're all out to get me,'" said Elizabeth Neumann, who served as a senior Department of Homeland Security official during the

SEE TRUMP ON A13

Vice president is treading carefully around subject of the glass ceiling

BY MAEVE RESTON

CHICAGO — When Hillary Clinton became the first woman to clinch a major party's presidential nomination eight years ago, Democratic convention showrunners made sure there was no subtlety in marking the significance of the history-making moment.

Images of the nation's 44 male presidents appeared on the Jumbotron in Philadelphia beneath the image of a plate of glass that shattered to reveal Clinton beaming in live from New York. "We just put the biggest crack in that glass ceiling yet," she told attendees at a convention awash in signs and buttons bearing slogans such as

"I'm with her."

Eight years later, there will be little outward embrace of a similar history-making moment with the Democratic National Convention underway this week in Chicago, even though Vice President Kamala Harris could also become the first female president in the nation's history. Clinton spoke Monday night, delivering a speech that leaned heavily on the history of women in politics.

"Together, we've put a lot of cracks in the highest, hardest glass ceiling," Clinton said. This cycle, she said, America is "so close to breaking through once and for all."

But the theme of a "potential

SEE HARRIS ON A10

LEADERS REFLECT ON BIDEN'S PRESIDENCY

Harris makes a surprise cameo on opening night

BY YASMEEN ABUTALEB AND CLEVE R. WOOTSON JR.

CHICAGO — On a night when President Joe Biden passed the torch to Vice President Kamala Harris, Hillary Clinton took the stage to embrace Harris's candidacy, reflect on her own role in the unfolding history and take stock of Biden's public service over the last half-century.

Late into the evening on Monday, delegates awaited what was likely to be one of the more consequential speeches Biden was to give in his remaining time in the White House, touting his own legacy while paving the way for his vice president.

The crowd gave Biden a minutes-long ovation and chanted, "We love Joe!" Biden, appearing to tear up, said he loved the crowd, and America — and added, "Our best days are not behind us — they're before us." Referring to Trump, he added, "You can't love your country only when you win."

Numerous speakers who appeared before him reflected on Biden's presidency and his "selfless" decision in exiting the presidential race to make way for Harris, a younger, more energetic candidate whom most Democrats say has a better chance of defeating Republican nominee Donald Trump.

Biden's and Clinton's speeches on the opening night of a historic convention came one month after the president's shocking decision to exit the presidential race and endorse Harris. Biden had come under unrelenting pressure from Democrats to step aside after a dismal debate performance against Trump on June 27 that, for many in his party, renewed questions about his

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Anticipated speakers: Obamas aim to offer 2008-style hope. A7

'Future is here': Hillary Clinton said Harris would finish the job. A10

Chicago's Ukrainian Village: War shifts diaspora's politics. A11

CONCUSSION FILES

The NFL's settlement still ignores 'critical' tests

As denials pile up, basic tools aren't being used to diagnose ex-players suffering from brain disease

BY WILL HOBSON

When Chuck Arrobio's memory began to falter, he seemed like an ideal candidate for one of the more innovative benefits of the NFL's landmark concussion settlement.

A Minnesota Viking for just one season, 1966, Arrobio worked for decades after football as a dentist. But before he retired in 2016, he displayed alarming signs of cognitive decline. On a few occasions, Arrobio's assistants narrowly prevented him from filling the wrong tooth or numbing the wrong side of a patient's mouth.

A neuropsychologist diagnosed Arrobio with dementia in 2017, his medical records show, and speculated the cause was chronic traumatic encephalopathy, or CTE, the brain disease linked to football. The devastating news came with some consolation: The NFL's concussion settlement, years in the making, had finally taken effect, promising care and payments into the millions for former players

SEE CONCUSSIONS ON A14



CASSANDRA GIRALDO FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Margit Arrobio was told by NFL concussion settlement doctors that her late husband, Chuck Arrobio, did not qualify for a payment just months after his neurologist diagnosed him with dementia.

PHIL DONAHUE 1935-2024

King of daytime TV pioneered breezy format

BY FRED A. BERNSTEIN

Phil Donahue, the host for nearly 30 years of a daytime television talk show that explored the serious and the salacious, popularizing a breezy format — with audience members asking questions and offering opinions — that opened the door to successors and rivals including Oprah Winfrey, died Aug. 18 at his home in Manhattan. He was 88.

Publicist Susie Arons, a family representative, confirmed the death but did not give a specific cause.

"The Phil Donahue Show" (later just "Donahue") debuted on a television station in Dayton, Ohio, on Nov. 6, 1967, with a single guest: atheist Madalyn Murray O'Hair, sometimes called the most hated woman in America for her effort to end Bible reading in schools. Other installments that first week included a

video of a woman giving birth and a discussion on the appropriateness of dolls with penises.

On Mr. Donahue's first day, the station had already invited a studio audience for the variety show that his program replaced, and he decided to let the crowd stay.

He chatted with audience members during commercial breaks and often liked what he heard. So one day, while on the air, "I jumped out of the chair and went into the audience," he told NPR years later.

"That moment is what ... subsequently made the program different, and absorbing enough to hold a viewer for an hour."

From that point on, Mr. Donahue, whose bright blue eyes and flying shirttails made him seem boyish — even after his dark hair turned prematurely white — was known for running up and down aisles with a microphone to seek

SEE DONAHUE ON A20



Phil Donahue

IN THE NEWS

Trump's security The Secret Service is finding that protecting the former president is extremely challenging, even as his campaign is asking for more resources. A4

Sentenced Chrystul Kizer, a sex-trafficking victim in Wisconsin, received 11 years in prison for killing her abuser. A5

THE NATION Hundreds of Afghans who aided the U.S. will be temporarily relocated to the Philippines. A2
Former congressman George Santos pleaded guilty to wire fraud and identity theft. A24

THE WORLD Russians closed in on an eastern Ukrainian city despite Kyiv's successes elsewhere. A16
Hamas claimed responsibility for an attack on Tel Aviv and warned of more. A17

THE ECONOMY The U.S. government is cracking down on election betting, while sites defend it as an accurate predictor of races. A18
Donald Trump's AI fakes of Kamala Harris and Taylor Swift aren't credible deepfakes; they're provocative memes. A19

THE REGION School starts this week across Northern Virginia with new policies on cellphone use and teacher training. B1
D.C. police are investigating the cause of a 911 outage that left dispatchers without access to key software for hours. B1

STYLE A Wyoming mayoral candidate says AI can help make city government more transparent and more efficient. C1

HEALTH & SCIENCE Photographers help unravel the mysteries of sprites, the flashes of light that occur above thunderstorm clouds. E1

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