

# Soft Coup Planning Call

10/25/2018 at 19:14:31 EDT

Greg Penner<sup>1</sup>: It's a fair amount of work, but we now know what we need to do in every state and what it would cost and how we'd do it. So, it's really about pulling the trigger if we decide we want to do it.

Hunter Biden: When would you have to do that?

Greg Penner: It's a while. And, again, it kind of depends on what the exact approach is and who it is. And not just who the platform is, but who else is running. There's a few decision points along the way, but it could be as late as like spring of 20--, what would be the latest? Well--

Hunter Biden: My question is, would you have to make that decision to pull the trigger of being on the ballot before people--

Greg Penner: Before either party nomination?

Hunter Biden: Yeah.

Greg Penner: Not necessarily. That's part of it. Not necessarily. I mean, you can pull it late. I mean, we could pull the trigger on getting something in place on these different ballots. And again, it depends by state, where we wouldn't even have to have, necessarily, a specific candidate. But it all seems of interest. And we know it's of interest to John<sup>2</sup> [Kasich] to at least have a conversation. If your dad was at all intrigued by it, we could figure out a way to facilitate ... I could fly John [Kasich] out and it could just be an off-the-record face-to-face. If that's not of interest, we could get a couple of political advisors together to talk about it. There's different ways to approach it, depending on if you had any interest.

Hunter Biden: Yeah. Well, look, I think—number one: this is all me. Not him. Okay?

Greg Penner: Yeah.

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<sup>1</sup> “Greg Penner is founder and general partner of Madrone Capital Partners, an investment management firm located in Menlo Park, California. Elected as chairman of the Walmart Board of Directors in 2015, Greg is only the third person to serve in the position, following his father-in-law, Rob Walton, and company founder Sam Walton. ... Previously, Greg worked as a financial analyst at Goldman Sachs & Co. and as a general partner of Peninsula Capital. He also served as a member of the board of directors of Baidu, Inc., from 2004 to 2017 and on the board of directors of Hyatt Hotels Corporation from 2007 to 2014. ... Greg earned a Bachelor of Science degree in international economics from Georgetown University in 1992 [the same year as Hunter Biden] and a master's in business administration from the Stanford Graduate School of Business in 1997.”

See, “Gregory B. Penner, Chairman of the Walmart Inc. Board of Directors and General Partner of Madrone Capital Partners,” *Walmart*, <https://web.archive.org/web/20220109153105/https://corporate.walmart.com/our-story/leadership/board-of-directors/gregory-penner/>

<sup>2</sup> “Mr. Kasich offered a warm testimonial to former Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr., who is set to be ratified as the Democratic nominee this week, calling him ‘a good man, a man of faith, a unifier.’ And he sought to rebut Mr. Trump’s argument that Mr. Biden was a weak-willed captive to the ‘radical left’ of his party.”

See, Peter Baker, “John Kasich, a ‘Deeply Worried’ Republican, Steps Up for Biden,” *New York Times*, August 2020, <https://web.archive.org/web/20211109232919/https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/17/us/politics/john-kasich-biden.html>

Hunter Biden: I think that it's going to be very difficult for him not to run because I think that whether it's the party or whether it's people like you to tell you the truth, Greg. The overall objective here is to stop<sup>3</sup> not only Donald Trump, but to stem the tide of what Donald Trump represents in the political process for the future of this country, which, to me, is way more dangerous than I ever thought that it possibly could be. And my concern is ... I kind of dropped out of this for just—I'm tired of this shit. But I think it's kind of almost unpatriotic not to be back into it, particularly related to my relationship with somebody that actually could change it.

And, so, I think the danger of he [Joe] and John [Kasich] having any discussion right now is emboldening the supporters of those—we'll call them, [for the] lack of a better phrase—"fringe candidates." Because they are no longer fringe candidates in the sense of—they can win nominations. And they could potentially become president. And, so, they're legitimate candidates, as Donald Trump has proven. And so, I think for him, right now, to have that discussion is premature, particularly when he hasn't even announced

But, between you and me—and it's I don't think any secret—my dad's entire career has been about fulfilling the service that you're asked to you fulfill, based upon the way that you lived your life in terms of doing that—getting up and doing what needs to be done. I don't know how he doesn't, except if there's some kind of ... but, by the way, he has more energy than ... I mean, literally he's doing like, literally, three to five events a day. From Florida—he's in Buffalo right now.<sup>4</sup> And whether he's running or not, he'd be doing it. And so, I mean, I can't keep up with him. That's not a joke. But I mean, seriously, Greg. I mean, it's my whole life. It just is so demoralizing because I'm in good shape, man. I swear.

Greg Penner: Right. Right. Well, I mean, we know there's certain—they're just sort of born-to-be politicians. And they—they get energy off of it. It's not draining. Obviously, it gets draining at some point, but it's more of an energizer than a drainer.

Hunter Biden: Yeah. No, you're right. You're right. Anyway, regardless of all that issue, I think that he proves to people that that's not an issue. But I think that, obviously, if you're able to do this in the traditional way, I think there's a nonpartisan or even a partisan but moderate coalition that forms that allows him to win it all. That's my opinion. However, who the hell knows—I mean, any of this stuff! But I think—this is me, again—no matter what I'd rather him run that way. I think for the country—I think that it would be an opportunity to actually start to heal these divisions because the space between what you believe, Greg, and what I believe is so thin.

Greg Penner: Right.

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<sup>3</sup> "There was a conspiracy unfolding behind the scenes, one that both curtailed the protests and coordinated the resistance from CEOs. Both surprises were the result of an informal alliance between left-wing activists and business titans. The pact was formalized in a terse, little-noticed joint statement of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and AFL-CIO published on Election Day."

See, Molly Ball, "The Secret History of the Shadow Campaign That Saved the 2020 Election," *TIME*, February 2021, <https://web.archive.org/web/20210204110856/https://time.com/5936036/secret-2020-election-campaign/>

<sup>4</sup> Christine Vidal, "Vice President Joe Biden to speak at UB Oct. 25 as part of Distinguished Speakers Series," University of Buffalo, October 2018, <https://web.archive.org/web/20220118064211/https://www.buffalo.edu/news/releases/2018/10/046.html>

Hunter Biden: And we've allowed everybody else to tell us and tell the people that coalesce behind our camps that it's wide—that it's really wide. And it's not, man. It truly isn't. The vilification of George—when George Bush was president—was just as disconcerting to me as the vilification of Barack Obama. And, so, I don't think that that ever necessarily changes, but you know what? If you and I ... or, not you and I. If John [Kasich] and Joe [Biden] were ever able to kind of repair that, that's a big, big leap forward—potentially. And so, anyway, what I--what I want to do is, maybe, let's you and I have one more discussion after I talk to him. I'm going to be with him tomorrow and through Saturday. Okay?

Greg Penner: Okay.

Hunter Biden: And I'm going to New York with him for a couple campaign events that he's doing in upstate and then down to the city for some fundraiser for somebody. And so, you don't know this, but, let me talk to him. And I think that there has to be a couple meetings before there's ever a meeting between principals. But I really appreciate the call because, kind of, to me, I've always said to him, whether it was Bloomberg or Kasich or anybody, in order to really heal, you got to start to actually do the things that give people reason to believe. You know what I mean?

Greg Penner: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. I'm with you.

Hunter Biden: So, anyway. And then if it ever happened, then it's the blood bath of like inside, internally. You know?

Greg Penner: Right.

Hunter Biden: But I'd rather that fight than the fight that's occurring right now, which is just awful, man. Awful. I mean, Jesus Christ, you got to ... I mean, awful. I can't watch the news anymore, man. I mean, I really don't. I don't watch it. Somebody told me today, "Sorry to hear about your dad." And I panicked. I said, "What happened?" I mean, it was like the bomb thing.<sup>5</sup> I was like, "Oh my God, thank God. It was only a bomb." Anyway. All right, brother. Yeah.

Greg Penner: All right. But, yeah let me--

Hunter Biden: By the way, there is a bunch of other people that have approached me about it—from Felix<sup>6</sup> Rohatyn's son—I don't know if you know Nick Rohatyn, who's a really, really impressive guy.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> "'Words matter': Joe Biden speaks out hours after being targeted with pipe bomb," *The Guardian*, October 2018, <https://web.archive.org/web/20200618182458/https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/video/2018/oct/26/words-matter-joe-biden-speaks-out-after-being-targeted-pipe-bomb-video>

<sup>6</sup> "Indeed, Mr. Rohatyn was given the nickname Felix the Fixer (one not always used as a compliment). ... Mr. Rohatyn liked to quote Mr. Meyer: 'Public service is like having a young mistress. You should be careful. It's tempting.'" See, Sewell Chan, "Felix G. Rohatyn, Financier Who Piloted New York's Rescue, Dies at 91," *New York Times*, December 2019, <https://web.archive.org/web/20191214205004/https://www.nytimes.com/2019/12/14/nyregion/felix-rohatyn-dead.html>

<sup>7</sup> "Mr. Rohatyn is based in New York and oversees overall strategy and management of the Rohatyn Group (TRG), an independent investment firm focused on emerging markets. Through a variety of fund launches as well as acquisitions the firm has developed a number of strategies to invest in both private and public markets in emerging markets. TRG has a truly global footprint with more than USD5 billion in total assets under management, and offices in 17 countries around the world."

See, "Nicolas Rohatyn," *Global Private Capital Association*, <https://archive.ph/GMbPR>

Greg Penner: Yeah.

Hunter Biden: Nick<sup>8</sup> has been very involved in this.<sup>9</sup> And, so, anyway, I'm not getting ahead of myself, but I'm just saying to you, there's a number of other people of your stature, meaning they can really actually affect change in this country, that I think that you'd also like to meet it if you haven't already. So anyway, buddy. I appreciate the call. Let me call you back tomorrow. Okay? After I talk to him.

Greg Penner: Okay.

Hunter Biden: Tomorrow, late evening or afternoon. Okay?

Greg Penner: Yep. Sounds good.

Hunter Biden: Okay.

Greg Penner: Thanks, Hunter.

Hunter Biden: Okay. Talk to you-- bye-bye.

Greg Penner: Okay. Talk to you soon.

Hunter Biden: Bye.

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<sup>8</sup> "Nick Rohatyn," *LinkedIn*, <https://www.linkedin.com/in/nick-rohatyn-ab891/>

<sup>9</sup> "In 2003, when she founded her gallery, Salon 94, she chose to operate it out of the East 94th Street townhouse that she and her husband, Nicolas Rohatyn, call home."

See, "How Salon 94's Hybrid Model Thrived despite the Pandemic," *Artsy*, April 2021, <https://web.archive.org/web/20210416082131/https://www.artsy.net/article/artsy-editorial-salon-94s-hybrid-model-thrived-despite-pandemic>