

Biden draws derision after claiming he used to drive a massive truck

By Chris Jewers For Mailonline 29 Jul 2021

President has been questioned over his claim that he used to drive an 18-wheeler truck, with evidence only suggesting he once rode in one for a night in 1973.

Biden was caught off-camera by a local news channel's microphone during a visit to a Mack Truck facility in , making the claim that he had driven such trucks before.

'I used to drive an 18-wheeler, man,' Biden was heard saying on Wednesday in a video later posted 'I got to.'



President Joe Biden has been questioned over his claim he made on Wednesday while visiting a Mack Trucks facility (pictured) that he used to drive an 18-wheeler truck

Joe Biden, a career politician who has been in politics for 48 years, claims he "used to drive an 18 wheeler."

— RNC Research (@RNCResearch)



A video shared by local news station 69 WFMZ showed audio of president Biden claiming 'I used to drive an 18-wheeler, man'. The claim appears to have been debunked on social media

Large trucks such as the one Biden gave a speech in-front of during the visit to the facility require a special licence to drive, and there is scant evidence that he has ever driven an 18-wheeler truck as he was heard claiming.

'There is *zero evidence* that Biden 'used to drive an 18 wheeler,'" tweeted the RNC's Zach Parkinson, who is also the director of 'RNC Research' whose twitter account posted the video online.

'The extent of Biden's trucking experience is that he **rode in** a truck once, for one night in 1973 (he made sure to return home by plane though),' her said.

Parkinson cited a 1973 opinion piece written by Biden, then a Democratic senator, in which he recalled taking a 536-mile ride from his home state of Delaware to Ohio in a '47,000 pound cargo truck'.

Biden wrote at the time: 'I made the trip because I wanted a firsthand account from the truckers, who say they carry 50 per cent of all the goods shipped within the United States. They make a case worth listening to.'

In a news story about Biden's journey, it is noted that he made the return journey back to Washington D.C. by plane.

Biden, who was elected to the senate at age 29, opened his Wednesday speech by joking with the audience 'Well, I'm not going to say anything; I just came to drive a truck. And I'm not sure which one I want to drive. That one? There's one back in the corner you can't see. It's the biggest damn pickup truck you ever saw in your life.'

COURIER-POST

Camden, N. J.

Wed., December 12, 1973

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536-Mile Ride Gets 'Facts' for Senator

Editor's Note: Sen. Joseph R. Biden Jr., D-Del., member of a Senate subcommittee which has been hearing complaints of truckers about the energy crisis, rode a big rig from Delaware to Ohio to observe for himself. Here is his report, written for United Press International.

SEN. JOE BIDEN

Written for UPI

I rode all night in a 47,000 pound cargo truck carrying hollow-shell pipe from Bear, Del., to Hamilton, Ohio. The distance was a chilly 536 miles. It snowed the last 150 miles of the trip covering five states, but this was nothing compared to the snow-job truck drivers I met believe the government is handing them.

They may be right; they may be wrong. I made the trip because I wanted a first-hand account from the truckers, who say they carry 50 per cent of all the goods shipped within the United States. They make a case worth listening to.

Along the way, I talked to more than 200 drivers, most of them self-employed "in-

dependents," as the mammoth truck I was riding in stopped for fuel at five stations during the 15-hour trip. At a major fuel and rest stop along route I-70 at the Shiloh truck stop in Ohio, I talked to a spontaneous meeting of 200 drivers. They're both angry and frustrated, as is Spencer Malcolm of Bear, the independent whose "rig" I rode in.

Little Known Aspect

The trip was also a fascinating glimpse at an aspect of life on-the-road little known to most Americans, including myself until I made the trip. The truckers drivers are burley, plain-speaking laboring men who seek fair shares in the America they fought in our wars to protect. They pass along gossip and highway information to each other over the citizen-band radios each driver has in his cab. They give themselves code names — "Buffalo Bill," "Big 12," "Dead-Eye," etc.

At the Shiloh stop, I found the beginnings of a massive block-in—whereby a cordon of trucks would block access to diesel fuel stations that truck



SEN. JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR.
... truckers won't share

drivers (not civilian auto drivers) use.

It took some negotiations to get in. The truckers didn't want me if I wouldn't stay and listen, and I didn't want in if they wouldn't let my truck out so I could complete my trip and get back in time for Senate votes on Monday. The result taught us both

something. I talked to the truckers in a large room. They were orderly but blunt in their criticisms.

They made these points:

1. Some drivers were hauling full tanks of motor fuel. They reported seeing fuel ships in Delaware Bay and along other coastal areas waiting to unload. Their question: Was there really a fuel crisis?

2. The proposed speed-limits are unfair. Big rigs can't get into high gear at 50 m.p.h. and waste fuel at that speed.

One trucker claimed he gets

3.2 miles a gallon at 50 m.p.h.

and 4.6 miles at 60 m.p.h.

A big truck's gears, he said,

operate so that driving at 50

m.p.h. is like driving in a pas-

senger car in second gear.

3. They don't want an increase in freight rates, although there is talk within the Nixon administration of permitting an increase to cover increased costs. Truckers say that ultimately such increases, while immediately useful, would result in increased food prices that their wives will have to pay. And,

two truckers said, the consumer would blame food-cost increases on them.

Fuel Cost Varies

4. There is a wide variation in prices at stations where they buy their fuel. Malcolm, with whom I rode, stopped for fuel five times and, in all, we checked fuel prices at a total of nine or ten stations. Prices ranged from 29.9 cents a gallon to \$4.1 cents a gallon for diesel fuel. Big tanks hold between 200 to 300 gallons. Truck-stop managers told me, however, that they have not increased their margin of profit, but their increased prices only reflect increased costs to them.

But dominating the entire discussion was a feeling, which I also have from talking to my constituents in Delaware, that the Federal Government isn't listening. It doesn't matter who's in the White House, a Republican or a Democrat. The truckers just feel "left out." This, also, has damaging implications in the long-run for our democratic political institutions.

In debunking Biden's claim, Zach Parkinson, who is also the director of 'RNC Research', cited a 1973 opinion piece written by Biden, then a Democratic senator, in which he recalled taking a 536-mile ride from his home state of Delaware to Ohio in a '47,000 pound cargo truck'

BIDEN TAKES 550-MILE RIDE

Senator Observes Truckers' Woes

CINCINNATI (AP) — U. S. Sen. Joseph Biden of Delaware put on some old clothes Sunday night and climbed into the cab of a truck.

Yesterday 550 miles and 14 hours later, he arrived in Fairfield, Ohio, with what he said was a new awareness of the truckers' problems.

"I didn't realize the seriousness of the situation," said Biden, a 31-year-old Democrat who is in his first term. The senator returned to Washington, D.C., by plane yesterday afternoon, saying he intended to go before the Senate this week with the complaints he heard.

Biden said he accepted the offer to make the trip after being approached by a group of truckers in Washington.

"One guy said, 'The problem with you high-falutin' senators is once you get in your pinstripe suits, you never get out of them,'" Biden recalled. "I ended up drinking a lot of coffee and listening to a lot of people."

Biden said he talked to more than 300 truck drivers. He said they were upset about three things: reduced speed limits, fuel prices which soar from station to station and freight rates.

"These guys are scared . . .

and they want the truth," Biden said. "They have doubts about what's causing the energy crisis.

"They asked me a lot of questions that the Administration needs to answer. These guys are suddenly making pennies on the pound. They are not out to make a big profit, but they are concerned about making even a profit."

Biden said fuel costs varied at stop to stop by as much as 15 cents a gallon. "And availability is a problem too. At some stations we were allowed only 10-40 gallons, while the major fleet lines got all they wanted."

Ohio was the scene of several protest blockades by truckers last week and some drivers are urging a nationwide shutdown on Friday. In addition, a group of drivers blocked fuel pumps at a truck stop near Cambridge, Ohio, yesterday morning to dramatize their cause.

PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE SUN-TELEGRAPH

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Pictured: A newspaper clipping showing a story about Biden's 550-mile truck ride

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He has previously driven Ford's F-150 lightning pickup truck on May 18 during a visit to Dearborn, Michigan, electrical vehicle plant. This also resulted in claims that Biden wasn't really driving the truck, although fact-checkers refuted this claim.

The president has previously faced criticism for embellishing his past, with claims about his involvement in the Civil Rights movement and working in coal mines .

Biden's 1988 campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination also came undone over claims he embellished biographical details for years, including misstatements about his academic record, according to .

When asked if the president had ever driven such a truck, a spokesperson from the White House pointed to the article about him riding in the 18-wheeler in 1973.

But when reporters pointed out the difference between riding in a truck and actually driving one, the president's spokesperson pointed to Biden driving a school bus in the past as a summer job.

According to SchoolBusFleet.com, cited by Fox News, the majority of school bosses on average 'have two axles, with the bigger models having two wheels on the front axle and four wheels on the dual axle, for a total of six wheels.'

Biden's predecessor Donald Trump was also a fan of large trucks, often posing in the driver's seat for photographs, pretending to blow the horn.