Dr. Phil calls on Biden to dismiss Trump's hush money conviction

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- The longtime TV host ried the 'weaponization' of the justice system
- He called for President Biden 'an end to this craziness' and reverse the verdict

Dr. Phil used his primetime show Monday to call for <u>Joe Biden</u> to dismiss the conviction of <u>Donald Trump</u> on 34 felony counts of falsifying documents.

Trump faces <u>heavy fines and potentially prison time</u> in his sentencing on July 11, throwing the 2024 election into chaos.

The longtime TV host, who has been delving more into hard news with his primetime show on his Merit Street Media, decried the 'weaponization' of the justice system to convict Trump.

He called for President Biden 'an end to this craziness to save the collective soul and sanity' of America.

'The current administration could and should do the right thing: dismiss now, even now, post-conviction of a political opponent, all such lawfare and pledge to return to the normal functioning of a government rightly run.'



Dr. Phil used his primetime show Monday to call for Joe Biden to dismiss the conviction of Donald Trump on 34 felony counts of falsifying documents

I don't advocate voting for one candidate over another.

I stay in my lane, addressing human behavior collectively and culturally, focusing on how we can have maximum control in our lives and turn this ship of state called America in the right direction, getting her back on... pic.twitter.com/tsob0o31V2

— Dr. Phil (@DrPhil) <u>June 4, 2024</u>

He thinks America could become a 'banana republic' akin to many autocratic nations, one similar to Russia.

'What are we gonna do next? Find a "Putin poisoning posse" and start finding political opponents foaming at the mouth at home, not so mysteriously dying in their Lay-Z-Boy recliners?'

Dr. Phil claimed that he doesn't 'advocate voting for one candidate or another' but he wants to help 'right this ship' of America.

'We need our Justice Department to return to the business of meting out justice and not running the political agendas of those currently in power,' he said.

He added that such 'weaponization' of the justice system 'make my skin crawl.'

Dr. Phil then called out both sides of the aisle to get over their dislike for one another and be able to determine right from wrong.

'Let's be honest, this is so not just about Trump. if you let your hatred for Donald Trump compromise your ability to find true north on your moral compass, shame on you,' he said.

He then added: 'If you let your disgust for Biden make you blind to the inevitable consequences of pursuing revenge, then God help the children who will inherit the dystopian nightmare we create.'



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The former president was found guilty of 34 felonies last Thursday in a Manhattan courthouse.

Trump's team tried to lay out a strong defense of the former president, distancing him from Cohen's payments to Stormy Daniels.

They also reiterated several of their strongest points, that hush money payments are not illegal and Trump solely <u>wanted to spare his family humiliation from Stormy's alleged affair claims</u>.

The case is the first time a former U.S. President has faced a criminal trial.

Trump is the presumptive Republican presidential candidate and is set to take on <u>loe Biden</u> in November's election.

It means the verdict could upend the 2024 White House race and prove a pivotal moment in the history of the United States.

The charges Trump faces each <u>carry a maximum potential sentence of up to four years in prison.</u>

Prosecutors told of a plot by Trump to 'corrupt' the 2016 election by hiding a \$130,000 hush money payment by his 'fixer' Michael Cohen to porn star Stormy Daniels.

Daniels alleged that she and Trump <u>had sex a decade earlier</u>, which he has denied.



The prosecution was run by Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, a known 'progressive prosecutor'



The case featured explosive evidence by Daniels and lifted the lid on the 'catch and kill' practices of the National Enquirer tabloid, which <u>bought</u> stories that could be damaging to Trump and suppressed them.

But the actual criminal charges concern something more prosaic - the reimbursements Trump signed for Cohen for the payment.

The reimbursements, paid by Trump in monthly installments, were recorded as being for legal expenses.

Prosecutors say that was a fraudulent label designed to conceal the purpose of the hush money transaction and to illicitly interfere in the 2016 election.

Defense lawyers argued that Cohen actually did substantive legal work for Trump and his family and was paid for it.

Prosecutors had a high bar to reach in order to convince the 12-person New York jury that Trump conspired to help his 2016 election campaign by paying porn star Stormy Daniels \$130,000 to keep quiet about their alleged sexual encounters.

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Trump's legal team is expected to appeal regardless of the July 11 sentencing, but the unprecedented conviction sets off a process that all convicted criminals <u>face within the Manhattan criminal court system</u>.



Stormy Daniels, a key witness in the trial, with Donald Trump in 2006



Donald Trump 's lead attorney Todd Blanche revealed that the legal team was more upset than he was when he heard the guilty verdict Thursday, a testament to how 'resolute' the ex-president is. They plan to appeal the decision

Theoretically, Trump could <u>face 136 years in prison if given consecutive</u> <u>sentences on all charges.</u>

But even before the verdict came down, legal experts suggested Trump was unlikely to face time behind bars.

Trump at 77-years-old has no prior convictions. The charges also involve a nonviolent offense.

New York law recommends no prison sentence for non-violent felonies where the defendant lacks any prior felony conviction in the last decade.

The more likely option, according to legal experts, is the ex-president could face probation or a steep fine. Both pose their own challenges for the former president.

Meanwhile, because Trump as a former president and the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, he has another unique consideration officials need to contend with.

Trump has Secret Service protection. The agency has already reportedly been in discussions over how it would proceed in its charge to protect him should Trump actually be locked up.

Trump's lawyers have already been able to <u>stall the three other cases</u> <u>against him</u>.

While New York law made it challenging to <u>delay the hush money case</u>, his team is expected to appeal the conviction.