

Jill and Hunter push Biden to fire staff and fight on, report reveals

12:34 EDT 04 Jul 2024, updated 12:38 EDT 04 Jul 2024 By Emily Goodin, Senior U.S. Political Reporter In Washington D.C.



Jill and Hunter Biden are taking command behind the scenes at the White House , urging President Joe Biden to fire staff they believed were of disservice to him and to fight on as the Democratic nominee. Meanwhile, the president's sister, Valerie Biden Owens, who has served as Biden's 'gut check' and closest adviser, is on her way to the White House for the July 4th celebrations, where she will have face-to-face meetings regarding her brother's re-election campaign.



The trio's support for the president comes amid reports he has told allies he is considering dropping out of the race . The White House denies this, saying Biden is in it to win it. Biden and his team are working frantically to shore up support among party members, lawmakers, governors and donors to reassure them he can beat Donald Trump in November. Jill, Hunter and Valerie are the three most important people in any decision Joe Biden makes about his future.



He listens to them the most. They would need to give their blessing from him to exit the presidential race. But a new report from NBC News reveals how the trio is circling the wagons in support of Biden staying in the race. Jill Biden was on the road this week, at events in Pennsylvania and Michigan to tout the president's record in the White House. But Hunter was at his father's side, walking in behind him at a ceremony in the East Room for Medal of Honor winners and, according to reports, joining in meetings in the West Wing.



The entire family will be at the White House to celebrate the Fourth of July. It's the second time in five days they will be together. The Biden clan gathered at Camp David over the weekend for a pre-planned photo shoot with famed photographer Annie Leibovitz. But the main topic of conversation was Biden's disastrous debate performance against Trump.



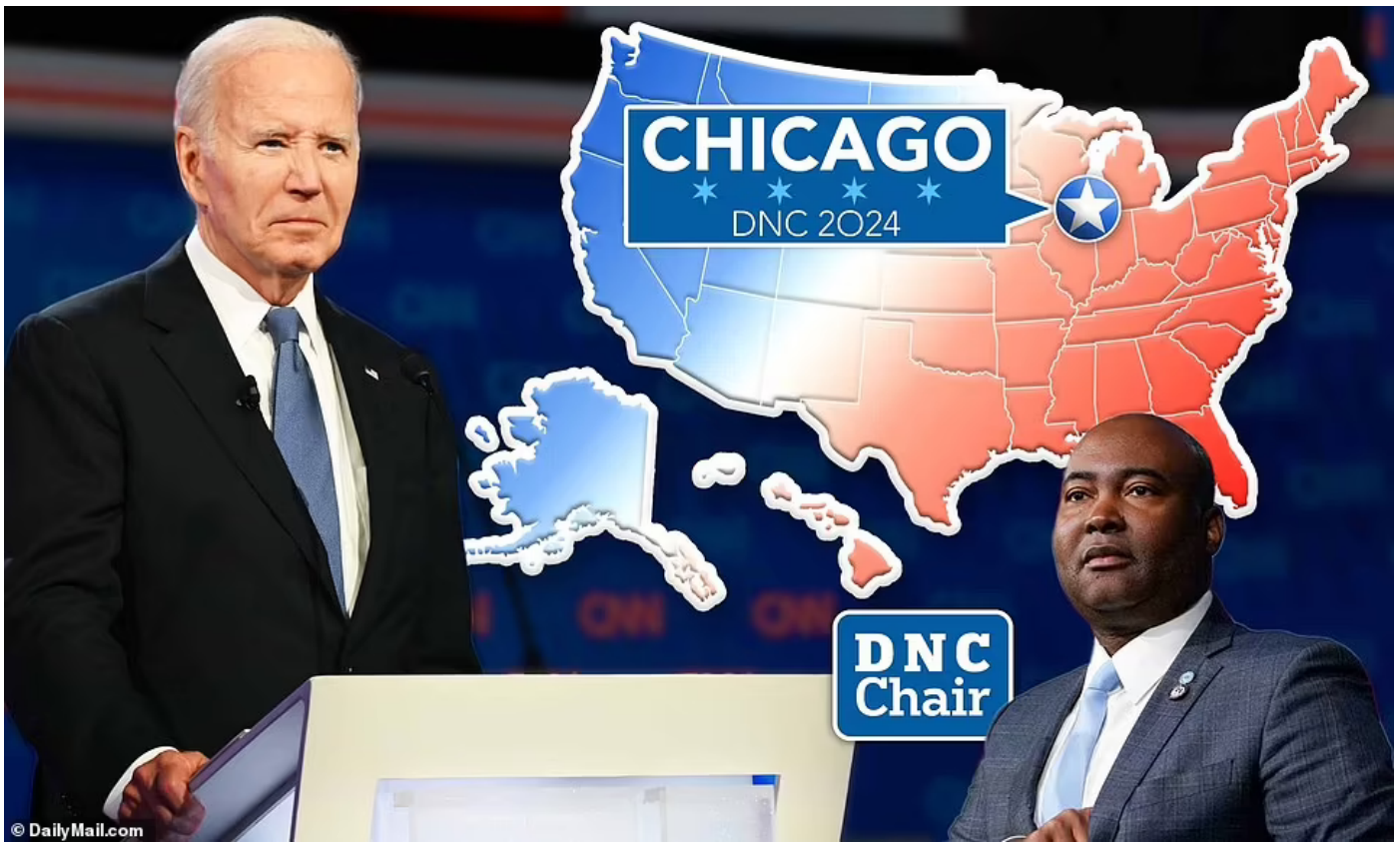
Among the conversations was talk about whether or not to fire senior White House adviser Anita Dunn and her husband, Bob Bauer, who is Biden's personal lawyer. The family members are angry Biden was loaded up with statistics to spout at the debate instead of allowed to show his natural empathy. Dunn helped Biden in his debate prep and Bauer played Trump in mock debates. White House chief of staff Jeff Zients denied there have been discussions about ousting Dunn or Bauer.



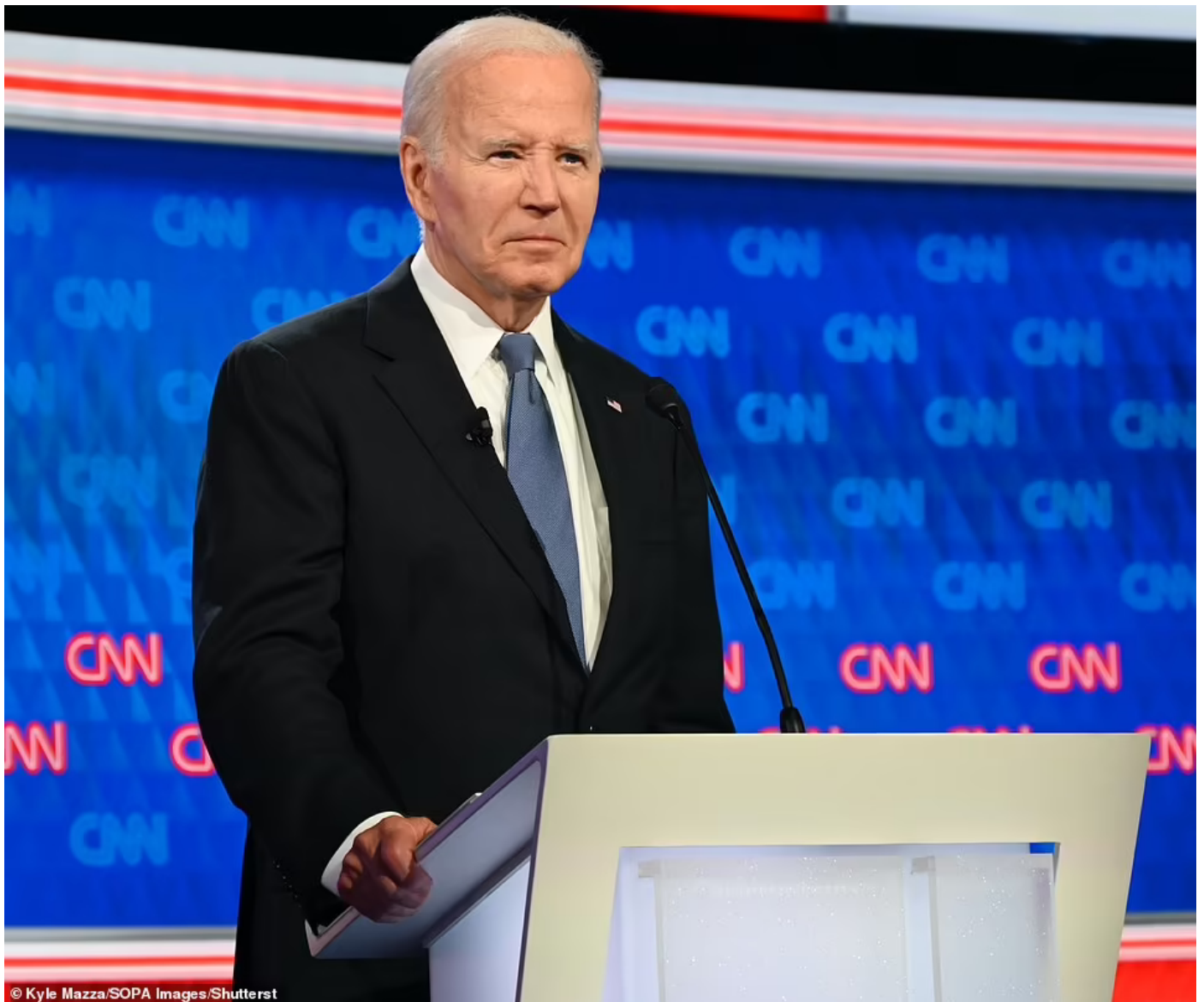
'The president and first lady have full confidence in their team, including Anita and Bob,' he told NBC News. 'There is absolutely no truth to these unfounded and insulting rumors.' Valerie Biden Owens, 78, the president's younger sister, has long been one of his top political advisers. She managed his first Senate campaign in 1972 and has been deeply involved in all his campaign since, including his presidential runs.



She also became a surrogate mother to Hunter and Beau after Biden's first wife, Neilia Hunter Biden, and their 1-year-old daughter Naomi were killed in a traffic accident in 1972 shortly after Biden won his first US Senate race. She moved into her brother's home to look after the boys while Biden commuted daily on Amtrak to Washington D.C.



The Biden family has rallied together, getting closer, in the past months as the presidential race has heated up and Hunter Biden has been on trial for federal gun charges. The president's son was found guilty of three felony counts. Jill Biden and Valerie Biden Owens were in the courtroom nearly every day to support him.




The family believes Hunter is only being prosecuted because Joe Biden is president. Even some Republicans questioned why prosecutors were pursuing him on charges he lied on a form when he bought a handgun. Hunter Biden was deep in a drug addiction at the time. The first lady pointed to those attacks on Hunter when the family talked at Camp David this weekend, NBC News reported. She noted all the family has had to endure since Biden decided to run for president to make the point that now was the time to fight, two people familiar with the conversations told the network.



She pointed out Hunter could go to jail for this. There is another reason the Bidens are digging in their heels. The family, particularly Jill Biden, remembers how Joe Biden was forced out of the 1988 presidential race after a plagiarism scandal. 'In 1987, she saw him be forced out by the press, pundits and polls, and it was really a scarring experience for both of them,' Michael LaRosa, the first lady's former press secretary, told the New York Times. He said had discussed the 1988 episode multiple times with the first lady when he worked for her. 'I think they learned from that experience and they weren't going to have their hands forced like they were in 1987.'



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