# Biden Asserts Executive Privilege in Special Counsel Recordings Dispute



**Biden Asserts Executive Privilege on Special Counsel Interviews**

**Washington, D.C., March 1, 2023** — President Joe Biden has invoked executive privilege, blocking the release of audio and video recordings from the special counsel investigation into his handling of classified material. This decision was conveyed in letters from the White House and the Justice Department to House Republican leaders.

The action follows a subpoena from the GOP-led House Oversight and Judiciary Committees, which demanded access to these recordings, including the special counsel Robert K. Hur's interviews with Biden. Attorney General Merrick Garland had earlier requested that Biden assert executive privilege to protect the integrity of future investigations.

Garland publicly denounced the committees' actions, characterizing them as unprecedented attacks on the Justice Department. He emphasized his commitment to safeguarding the agency's personnel and its investigative processes.

Biden's counsel, Edward Siskel, argued that the recordings’ release would serve partisan interests rather than legitimate oversight, accusing Republicans of intending to manipulate the material for political gain. The White House maintains that transcripts of the interviews have already been made available to lawmakers.

The Republican leaders, particularly Jim Jordan (R-Ohio) and James Comer (R-Ky.), have criticized this move as politically motivated, contrasting the perceived leniency in Biden's investigation with the aggressive prosecution of former President Donald Trump. Trump's various legal challenges include a 40-count federal indictment related to his handling of classified documents.

Garland appointed Robert K. Hur in January 2023 to investigate classified documents found at Biden's former office and Delaware home. Hur’s final report concluded there was insufficient evidence to charge Biden, partly due to the president's age and cooperation throughout the investigation.

As House Republicans continue their impeachment inquiry and subpoena additional financial records related to Biden's family, any official charges remain uncertain. Republicans argue that Garland's refusal to release the recordings impedes their investigation, while Democrats dismiss these efforts as purely political.

The controversy underscores the ongoing partisan divide over executive privilege, the scope of congressional oversight, and the handling of classified information by current and former presidents.

**Key Figures:** President Joe Biden, Attorney General Merrick Garland, Special Counsel Robert K. Hur, Representatives Jim Jordan and James Comer.

**Date:** March 1, 2023

**Location:** Washington, D.C.