

My Crazy IRS Case

Matt Taibbi

Saturday, December 24, 2022 was one of the most memorable, and most panicked, days of my life. I spent Christmas Eve last year alone, holed up in the Parc 55 hotel in San Francisco, frantically trying to put together what I thought was the [most explosive](#) of the Twitter Files reports, “[Twitter and Other Government Agencies](#).” My wife and children were due to arrive for Christmas the next day, and I spent the morning checking and re-checking a story I knew might make people upset.

It was based on documents passed to Twitter by the FBI-led [Foreign Influence Task Force](#). They showed the company was receiving content recommendations in bulk from an array of federal agencies through the FBI, about a range of topics — from domestic extremist groups in the U.S. to leftist activists in Venezuela to Ukraine, Joe Biden, and the energy company Burisma. Moreover, Twitter was joining Facebook, Microsoft, Verizon, Reddit, and perhaps two dozen other firms in attending regular FITF-led gatherings. At that “industry meeting,” companies often received an “OGA briefing,” usually about foreign policy matters. “OGA” is generally understood to be a euphemism for intelligence services in general, or the CIA in particular.

The FBI had just [denounced the Twitter Files](#) as the work of “conspiracy theorists” whose “sole purpose” was “discrediting the agency.” If earlier reports made the Bureau unhappy, what reaction would this story inspire?

Thanks to a just-published letter to IRS Commissioner Daniel Werfel by House Judiciary Chair Jim Jordan, we nformation sent to the House Subcommittee on the Weaponization of Government by the Treasury Department confirms that an IRS investigation of me opened that day, December 24, 2022.

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
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May 24, 2023

The Honorable Daniel Werfel
Commissioner
Internal Revenue Service
1111 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20224

Dear Commissioner Werfel:

The Committee on the Judiciary is investigating the circumstances of the Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) visit to the home of journalist Matt Taibbi on the same day that Mr. Taibbi testified before the Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government.¹ On March 27, 2023, we wrote to you seeking information about the IRS's visit to Mr. Taibbi's home.² On May 6, and with Mr. Taibbi's consent, the IRS produced some documents responsive to the request.³ These documents, however, raise more questions than they answer.

The IRS asserted to the Committee that it sent a letter to Mr. Taibbi on October 24, 2019—nine days after Mr. Taibbi filed his 2018 tax return—asking Mr. Taibbi to verify his return because it met identity theft criteria and could not be processed until he confirmed.⁴ The IRS alleged that it sent a second letter to Mr. Taibbi on March 23, 2020.⁵ However, according to Mr. Taibbi, neither he nor his accountant received either of these letters or any other notification that there was an issue with his 2018 tax return—that is, until the IRS conducted a field visit at Mr. Taibbi's home three years later. The IRS also failed to produce these purported letters to the Committee.

The IRS's production shows that the IRS opened its examination of Mr. Taibbi's 2018 tax return on December 24, 2022. Not only was this date Christmas Eve and a Saturday, but it

Ostensibly the case was about my 2018 tax return, about which even the IRS doesn't claim to have contacted me for three years before this new "assign date." The opening of the investigation preceded a [visit to my home](#) by an IRS agent on March 9, when I testified in Congress about the Twitter Files and government censorship.

Even more unnerving are other details in Jordan's letter:

On January 27, 2023, the IRS assigned an agent to Mr. Taibbi's case to initiate face-to-face contact. The IRS documents reflect that the case agent performed an extensive investigation of Mr. Taibbi, using publicly available search engines and commercial investigative software such as Anywho, Consumer Affairs, LexisNexis Accruint, and Google. The IRS's dossier about Mr. Taibbi included information such as Mr. Taibbi's voter registration records, whether he possessed a hunting or fishing license, whether he had a concealed weapons permit, and his telephone numbers.

When the IRS checks to see if you have a carry permit and visits your home, at a time when they owe *you* money, it's time to worry.