

boots, and stained shirt.

That day, he was dressed for the farm. Amanda was genuinely surprised. Sarah was not. I heard about it the next day.

Same man. Different contexts. Both equally real. We see people only as

they appear to us in our limited interactions. We forget they go home to full lives we know nothing about. The stern principal coaches his daughter's soccer team with patience and laughter. The quiet clerk writes poetry. The in-

timidating boss volunteers at an animal shelter every weekend.

Walt Whitman wrote, "I contain multitudes." So do all of us.

Andy Griffith could play both the gentle sheriff and the ruthless killer

because he contained multitudes, like all of us do. Marcel Marceau was both the entertainer and the hero. My dad was both the principal and the farmer.

The next time you see someone in their uniform—literal or other-

wise—remember: you're watching one scene from a movie you walked into halfway through. The rest of the story might astonish you.

Maybe we need to slow down. Maybe instead of just seeing people, we need

to truly know them—to remember that everyone we meet is living a story far bigger and more complex than the single chapter we happen to witness.

Ghislaine Maxwell appeals for clemency from Trump as she declines to answer questions from lawmakers

By Stephen Groves
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ghislaine Maxwell, the former girlfriend of Jeffrey Epstein, declined to answer questions from House lawmakers in a deposition Monday, but indicated that if President Donald Trump ended her prison sentence, she was willing to testify that neither he nor former President Bill Clinton had done anything wrong in their connections with Epstein.

The House Oversight Committee had wanted Maxwell to answer questions during a video call to the federal prison camp in Texas where she's serving a 20-year sentence for sex trafficking, but she invoked her Fifth Amendment rights to avoid answering questions that would be self-incriminating. She's come under new scrutiny as lawmakers try to investigate how Epstein, a well-connected financier, was able to sexually abuse underage girls for years.

Amid a reckoning over Epstein's abuse that has spilled into the highest levels of businesses and governments around the globe, lawmakers are searching for anyone who was connected to Epstein and may have facilitated his abuse. So far, the revelations have shown how both Trump and Clinton spent time with Epstein in the 1990s and early 2000s, but they have not been credibly accused

of wrongdoing.

Dressed in a brown, prison-issued shirt and sitting at a conference table with a bottle of water, Maxwell repeatedly said she was invoking "my Fifth Amendment right to silence," video later released by the committee showed.

During the closed-door deposition, Maxwell's attorney David Oscar Markus said in a statement to the committee that "Maxwell is prepared to speak fully and honestly if granted clemency by President Trump."

He added that both Trump and Clinton "are innocent of any wrongdoing," but that "Ms. Maxwell alone can explain why, and the public is entitled to that explanation."

Maxwell's appeal hits pushback

Democrats said that was a brazen effort by Maxwell to have Trump end her prison sentence.

"It's very clear she's campaigning for clemency," said Rep. Melanie Stansbury, a New Mexico Democrat.

Asked Monday about Maxwell's appeal, the White House pointed to previous remarks from the president that indicated the prospect of a pardon was not on his radar.

And other Republicans push back to the notion quickly after Maxwell made the appeal.

"NO CLEMENCY. You comply or face punishment," Republican

Rep. Anna Paulina Luna, wrote on social media. "You deserve JUSTICE for what you did you monster."

Maxwell has also been seeking to have her conviction overturned, arguing that she was wrongfully convicted. The Supreme Court rejected her appeal last year, but in December she requested that a federal judge in New York consider what her attorneys describe as "substantial new evidence" that her trial was spoiled by constitutional violations.

Maxwell's attorney cited that petition as he told lawmakers she would invoke her Fifth Amendment rights.

Family members of the late Virginia Giuffre, one of the most outspoken victims of Epstein, also released a letter to Maxwell making it clear they did not consider her "a bystander" to Epstein's abuse.

"You were a central, deliberate actor in a system built to find children, isolate them, groom them, and deliver them to abuse," Sky and Amanda Roberts wrote in the letter addressed to Maxwell.

Maxwell was moved from a federal prison in Florida to a low-security prison camp in Texas last summer after she participated in two-days of interviews with Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche.

The Republican chair of the committee, Rep.

James Comer of Kentucky, had also subpoenaed her at the time, but her attorneys have consistently told the committee that she wouldn't answer questions. However, Comer came under pressure to hold the deposition as he pressed for the committee to enforce subpoenas on Bill Clinton and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. After Comer threatened them with contempt of Congress charges, they both agreed to sit for depositions later this month.

Comer has been haggling with the Clintons over whether that testimony should be held in a public hearing, but Comer reiterated Monday that he would insist on holding closed-door depositions and later releasing transcripts and video.

Lawmakers review unredacted files

Meanwhile, several lawmakers visited a Justice Department office in Washington Monday to look through unredacted versions of the files on Epstein that the department has released to comply with a law passed by Congress last year. As part of an arrangement with the Justice Department, lawmakers were given access to the over 3 million released files in a reading room with four computers. Lawmakers can only make handwritten notes, and their staff are not allowed in with them.

Rep. Jamie Raskin, the

top Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee, spent several hours in the reading room Monday morning. He told reporters as he returned to the Capitol that even if all the House members who triggered the vote on releasing the files "spent every waking hour over at the Department of Justice, it would still take us months to get through all of those documents."

Democrats on Raskin's committee are looking ahead to a Wednesday hearing with Attorney General Pam Bondi, where they are expected to sharply question her on the publication of the Epstein files. The Justice Department failed to redact the personal information of many victims, including inadvertently releasing nude photos of them.

"Over and over we begged them, please be careful, please be more careful," said Jennifer Freeman, an attorney representing survivors. "The damage has already been done. It feels incompetent, it feels intimidating and it feels intentional."

Democrats also say the Justice Department redacted information that should have been made public, including information that could lead to scrutiny of Epstein's associates.

Rep. Thomas Massie, a Kentucky Republican who sponsored the legislation to force the release of the files, said that after reviewing the unredacted

versions for several hours, he had found the names of six men "that are likely incriminated by their inclusion." He called on the Justice Department to pursue accountability for the men, but said he could potentially name them in a House floor speech, where his actions would be constitutionally protected from lawsuits.

Massie, along with California Democratic Rep. Ro Khanna, said they also came across a number of files that still had redactions. They said that was likely because the FBI had turned over redacted versions of the files to the Justice Department.

Khanna said "it wasn't just Epstein and Maxwell" who were involved in sexually abusing underage girls.

Release of the files has set in motion multiple political crises around the world, including in the United Kingdom, where Prime Minister Keir Starmer is clinging to his job after it was revealed his former ambassador to the U.S. had maintained close ties to Epstein. But Democratic lawmakers bemoaned that so far U.S. political figures seem to be escaping unscathed.

"I'm just afraid that the general worsening and degradation of American life has somehow conditioned people not to take this as seriously as we should be taking it," Raskin said.

■ Massie from A-4

of Massie's speech, shared by Republican U.S. Senate candidate Michael Farris, someone in the crowd said after Massie leaves the lectern, "Welcome to the snake pit, baby!"

The Louisville Courier-Journal reported that Massie left the dinner with some of his supporters after his speech and they got drinks at a local restaurant.

Spokespeople for Massie did not immediately return a request for comment Monday.

Lincoln Day Dinners are annual fundraisers for county Republican parties. They often draw candidates who hope to speak directly to the party faithful. After the dinner, the Oldham County Republican Party said on Facebook that all campaigns were "given explicit instructions on how long

they were permitted to speak well in advance of the event to allow them to prepare for the opportunity." The post did not list the exact minutes allotted to the candidates. Osborne, who represents Oldham County in the Kentucky House, was "entrusted with enforcing these rules," the party said.

Massie represents the 4th Congressional District, which includes Oldham County.

The county party's statement also said that Massie, Gallrein, and U.S. Senate candidate Nate Morris "all went over their allotted time and were ushered from the stage when they continued past their time limit."

When asked for additional comment, a spokesperson for Osborne referred the Lantern to the

Oldham County Republican Party's statement.

Gallrein posted a clip on X of Osborne taking the microphone away with the caption "Massie Melt-down!"

A spokesperson for Gallrein referred the Lantern to the X post on Monday and declined to give additional comment.

Trump effect in Kentucky

U.S. Rep. Andy Barr, one of three Republican frontrunners for U.S. Senate, endorsed Gallrein against Massie last week. Barr posted on X a photo of himself with Gallrein at the Oldham County Lincoln Day Dinner. Morris quickly followed suit, also endorsing Gallrein against Massie.

Massie again took issue with the Republican president over the week-

end. Massie has split with Trump by pushing for release of government files on the investigation of sex offender Jeffrey Epstein and criticizing Trump's military intervention in Venezuela.

In a Sunday interview on CNN, Massie criticized Trump's posting of a video on social media that depicts former President Barack Obama, the first Black president, and First Lady Michelle Obama as apes.

"He should absolutely apologize. He's gone too far," Massie said. "I mean, he's attacked my wife recently online, and I do think there are limits," Massie told host CNN journalist Manu Raju.

Barr slams DEI in new television ad

Also over the weekend, Barr began airing a new

ad that shows the congressman disavowing DEI programs, which he said means "Dumb, Evil, Indoctrination." The acronym is shorthand for diversity, equity and inclusion.

"It's not a sin to be white, it's not against the law to be male, and it shouldn't be disqualifying to be a Christian," Barr said in the ad. "I'm Andy Barr and I approve this message to give woke liberals something else to cry about."

According to a Monday press release from Barr's campaign, the commercial is part of a \$1 million ad buy on broadcast, cable and digital platforms. The press release highlighted the "unhinged tweets from woke liberals across KY and the country" that were in response to the ad.

Democratic U.S. Senate

candidates Charles Booker and Amy McGrath were among those criticizing the ad.

Booker's and Barr's campaigns had a back and forth about the commercial on X.

"It's not a sin to be white. It should be a sin to be this desperate though," Booker said in one of his posts about the ad.

McGrath wrote on X that "Kentuckians don't wake up worried about culture-war acronyms," but are concerned about "bills, jobs and health care."

Kentucky's primary election is May 19.

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■ Massie from A-4

By Steven Sloan
Associated Press

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of local leaders, Johnston said his tabletop exercises expanded to consider what might happen if federal officials took aim at Denver, which the Trump administration has sued for limiting cooperation on deportations. The city now prepares for the impact of federal activity on everything from access to schools and hospitals to interference with elections.

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in an interview. "Now we prepare for our own federal government."

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While partnerships are still in place, the officials said the Minneapolis killings have hardened opposition to excessive federal power.

"This is unprecedented," said Jerry Dyer, the Republican mayor of Fresno, California, and a former police chief. "I've never seen federal law enforcement come to the cities, whether it's National

Guard or ICE, and police cities without a level of cooperation from local police."

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The tensions have upended longtime Republican arguments that the federal government should leave local governance to the states under the 10th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Now a Republican president is articulating a

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See WASHINGTON on A-8

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