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"Democracy
dies in
broad daylight"

Corporate crime cases hit new low under Biden

Where are the Congressional hearings?

By Russell Mokhiber

Corporate crime enforcement is down under the Biden Justice Department, with fewer major corporate crime cases being brought in the first two years of the Biden administration than during the first two years of the Trump administration.

Major corporate crime cases settled with deferred prosecution agreements, non prosecution agreements and declinations with disgorgement were down from 56 under President Trump to 31 under President Biden.

Major corporate crime cases that resulted in guilty pleas or verdicts were down from 33 under Trump to 24 under Biden.

That's according to a new analysis of the Violation Tracker corporate crime database for the *Capitol Hill Citizen*. Violation Tracker is a project of Good Jobs First.

Other groups that track corporate crime concurred with the *Capitol Hill Citizen's* analysis that corporate crime prosecutions are down under Biden.

Last year Public Citizen put out a report titled *Enforcement Abyss* that crunched U.S. Sentencing Commission numbers. That report found that only 90 corporate crime cases were brought in 2021 under the Biden Department of Justice, less than half of the average annual number of corporate crime prosecutions brought in the previous 25 years (181).

(The Sentencing Commission database includes corporations of all sizes and the Justice Department is historically harsher on crime committed by smaller corporations than crime committed by large powerful corporations represented by the major corporate crime defense law firms. The Violation Tracker database analysis focuses more on larger corporations.)

And earlier this year, the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC) put out a report finding that the prosecution of white-collar offenders last year reached a new all-time



Cornel West tackles the corporate duopoly

● Cornel West announced in June that he's running for the Green Party nomination for President in 2024 – See Page 26

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low since tracking began during the Reagan administration.

During the last fiscal year which ended September 2022, only 4,180 white-collar defendants were prosecuted. White-collar prosecutions last year were lower than in any year during the Trump administration – even lower than during

2020 when due to the pandemic and federal partial shutdowns, federal criminal enforcement activities of all kinds were sharply curtailed.

"In general, prosecutions of white-collar offenders have been steadily declining," the report found.

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Citizens confront Schumer Manchin dirty duopoly debt deal

By Citizen Staff

At a citizen gathering in Berkeley Springs, West Virginia last month, a West Virginia Democratic Party activist was complaining about Senator Joe Manchin (D-West Virginia) siding with Republicans to slip into the debt deal a provision greenlighting the Mountain Valley Pipeline, bypassing the normal judicial and administrative review process every other energy project has to go through.

"It wasn't just Manchin," a second activist who is fond of sticking it to the Demorats shot back. "The Majority Leader in the Senate, Charles Schumer (D-New York) took the lead. He took more money than Manchin from the pipeline company."

"Where did you hear that?" the first activist said with a touch of anger in her voice.

"Google it," said the second. It's true.

No doubt, Manchin is the top Senate recipient of fossil fuel campaign donations. Next-Era Energy, one of the compa-

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OSHA enforcement suspended

By Steven H. Wodka

What if the police in your town announced that they could no longer put anyone in jail because there were no judges to hear the cases? How long would you tolerate such a situation? Probably not very long, if at all.

Yet for American workers whose workplace contains a



hazard that can maim, kill or cause cancer, full enforcement of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) ceased as

of April 28, 2023.

On that day, a little known and tiny federal agency called the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission (OSHRC), lost its quorum and can no longer conduct any official business.

The OSHRC issues orders that enforce OSHA citations that have been contested. The cases handled by the OSHRC typically involve the most im-

portant enforcement actions undertaken by OSHA.

Under the OSHA statute, enforcement of OSHA health and safety standards begins in the Department of Labor. OSHA employs compliance officers who inspect workplaces. When OSHA finds a violation, a citation and penalty is issued against the employer with a deadline for the hazard to be

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