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Newly released correspondence with the late Jeffrey Epstein show the degradation of his relationship with President Donald Trump, in which he called Trump “borderline insane.” STEPHANIE KEITH/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Epstein trashed former friend Trump in emails

Josh Meyer
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – “Dirty.” “(Expletive) crazy.” “Borderline insane.” A Mafia don but with the “great dangerous power” of being America’s president and commander-in-chief.

That’s how the late Jeffrey Epstein described his former longtime friend and confidant Donald Trump, according to a trove of the convicted sex offender’s texts and emails released Nov. 12 by the House Oversight Committee.

But perhaps the most intriguing

thing Epstein said about Trump in the 20,000-plus pages of emails provided by his estate was this:

“I am the one able to take him down.” The White House and Trump himself tried to spin the document release – and a later one by Republicans – as being a giant nothingburger.

On Nov. 14, Trump said on social media he was asking the Department of Justice to investigate Democrats he says “spent large portions of their life” with the disgraced financier: “Bill Clinton, Larry Summers, Reid Hoffman, J.P. Morgan, Chase, and many other people

and institutions.”

At the same time, Trump railed against Republicans working with Democrats to force the full release of Epstein’s federal case files, and urged them to stop digging into his relationship with the disgraced financier.

“Some Weak Republicans have fallen into their clutches because they are soft and foolish. Epstein was a Democrat, and he is the Democrat’s problem, not the Republican’s problem!” Trump wrote. “Ask Bill Clinton, Reid Hoffman,

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DELAYED FLIGHTS

Trump withdraws plan for payment

Airlines had been required to compensate disrupted passengers

David Shepardson
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – President Donald Trump’s administration said Nov. 14 it was formally withdrawing a plan by his predecessor to require airlines to pay passengers cash compensation when U.S. flight disruptions are caused by carriers.

In December 2024, the Transportation Department under then-President Joe Biden sought public comment on writing rules to require airlines to pay \$200 to \$300 for domestic delays of at least three hours and up to \$775 for longer delays.

In September, the department first disclosed it planned to withdraw the proposal. On Nov. 14, the department said the rules would result in “unnecessary regulatory burdens” in explaining why it would not go forward.

In October, a group of 18 Democratic senators urged the Trump administration not to drop the compensation plan.

“This is a common-sense proposal: when an airline’s mistake imposes unanticipated costs on families, the airline should try to remedy the situation by providing accommodations to consumers and helping cover their costs,” said the letter signed by Democratic Sens. Richard Blumenthal, Maria Cantwell, Ed Markey and others.

Airlines in the United States must refund passengers for canceled flights, but are not required to compensate customers for delays.

The Transportation Department

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Judge’s ruling could free ICE detainees in Illinois

Michael Loria
USA TODAY

CHICAGO – Hundreds of people from Illinois detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement could be released, a federal judge said Nov. 12, saying that “it seems highly unlikely that they’re drug traffickers or gang members or the assorted n’er do-wells ICE has claimed are the worst of the worst.”

U.S. District Judge Jeffrey I. Cummings gave the oral ruling in federal court in Chicago in response to court filings saying the arrests were made unlawfully. The judge’s ruling comes nearly two months into President Donald Trump’s Operation Midway Blitz and could potentially set the stage to free many of the people detained during the immigration enforcement crackdown.

Filings from attorneys at the Ameri-

can Civil Liberties Union of Illinois are aiming to enforce an agreement Homeland Security officials made with the court in 2022 that limited the kinds of arrests the agency can make in the Chicago area. The process is known as a consent decree.

Among the restrictions are limitations on arrests made without a warrant or in vehicle stops. At least 13 people detained in the immigration enforcement crackdown are expected to be released Nov. 14. A group of around 600 could be ordered to be released Nov. 21. Attorneys for the detainees hope to eventually see whether all people detained in Operation Midway Blitz could be protected by the consent decree.

“It will show that this whole operation, the last two months of terrorizing

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The judge’s ruling comes nearly two months into the Operation Midway Blitz immigration crackdown. JIM VONDRUSKA/REUTERS FILE

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