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Dace Blaskovitz: Welcome back to "Money and Politics and Delaware." Charlie Copeland ripping it today. Absolutely. We did the first half on the zaniness, the craziness at the teachers' union, and let's do some headlines in our second segment together. Joe Biden, Delaware's Joe Biden, is in the news over the last week. I'm sure I'm throwing red meat to the lion, but Charlie Copeland, your instincts and insights.

C. Copeland: Yeah, so we have Joe Biden. Let's go back to President Obama's administration with Joe Biden as vice president. So we have Joe Biden as vice president of the United States who intervened to force the firing of a Ukrainian prosecutor who happened to have an open case looking into a Ukrainian gas company that was employing Joe Biden's son. So let's go through this again. Joe Biden as vice president intervened to force the firing of a Ukrainian prosecutor who had an open case in front of him, the prosecutor that was looking into a Ukrainian natural gas company that was employing Joe Biden's son. And Joe Biden publicly was proud of this, and in front of the council on foreign relations. He talked about this. He said, "I told the Ukrainians, 'You're not getting the billion dollars. I'm not going to be leaving here,'" and I think it was in six hours or I'm going to be leaving here in six hours. "And I said, 'Look, we're leaving in six hours. If the prosecutor's not fired, you are not getting the money.'"

C. Copeland: He said that publicly to a speech in front of the council on foreign relations. Quid pro quo. We're leaving in six hours. If the prosecutor's not fired, you're not getting a billion dollars. That is, if what Trump did, which was have a phone call in which the Ukrainians actually raised the issue and he sort of egged him on, which right or wrong, smarter or stupid, it was not a quid pro quo. Biden specifically made it a quid pro quo. We're leaving in six hours. If that person's not fired, you are not getting the money. That is what Joe Biden did as vice president of the United States, and he admitted it publicly. His son, Hunter, a dishonorably discharged vet for drug violations, was being paid \$50,000 a month to sit on the board. He got it for five years on the board of this natural gas company that was connected to Russian oligarchs — oh gee, Russian collusion, maybe? — And the corruption that was going on within Russia and Ukraine at the time that Obama and Biden were in office.

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- C. Copeland: This is much more significant and much more serious than anything that Donald Trump has done. And yet nobody seems to...on the left care about this. And also in May three Democrat U.S. Senators wrote a letter to the Ukraine's prosecutor channel urging him to help investigate President Trump. So three U.S. Senators asked Ukraine's prosecutor to investigate President Trump writing reverse course and halt any efforts to impede cooperation with this important investigation. And previously they written that they had been strong advocates for a robust and close relationship with Ukraine, but that might change if they didn't start investigating Trump.
- C. Copeland: So three U.S. Senators have also now, well, and these are Democrats, asked the Ukrainians to participate in investigating the President of the United States, who is obviously a candidate for office. So all this stuff, if you really want to see who are the folks that are using quid pro quo, it's Joe Biden and the Democrats. Joe Biden told reporters quote, "I have never spoken to my son about his overseas business dealings," and that it's flatly untrue because Hunter admitted in an interview with the New Yorker that his father had expressed concern about the Ukrainian posts, the Ukrainian gas company post saying that his dad at least once said, "I hope you know what you're doing." Evidently he did, which was get paid a lot of money and maybe hang his dad out to dry.
- C. Copeland: So net, this violated what Joe did, violated federal ethics regulations. All employees are required to recuse themselves from participating in any official matter if their impartiality would be questioned. And it's hard not to question Joe's impartiality when his son's getting a big old payday and he knows about it. Similarly, we know he got a \$1.5 billion deal from the Chinese government after flying to China to see Hunter after flying to China on Air Force Two with his father. So if we're going to talk about any of this stuff with Trump, it basically means a Joe Biden is no longer able to run for president of the United States, in my opinion.
- Dace Blaskovitz: Charlie, on my side perhaps naive, I know financial markets. I think I do. It's a four plus decade career. Politics, I'm an intruder. That disclaimer I make virtually every week. But this one seems like the death of Joe Biden, death meaning of his career. I mean, "I have never spoken to my son about his overseas business dealings." Trump will eat him alive. I mean, absolutely. Or the \$50,000 a month. What was the why? The dishonorable discharge or the present or past drug use?

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C. Copeland: Hunter Biden has no experience in natural gas, in oil, no experience running major corporations. He's been a lobbyist. He's been a deal maker in D.C., trading off his dad's name for decades.

Dace Blaskovitz: Bear with me. Where I'm going though is you did this for a living. My end is why would Joe Biden go into this space now? That he's there, it's over. It's over. Trump will eat him alive. His own party on the left will eat him alive. I can't get why he would... Did he stumble and bumble and make a mistake or is there an alternative agenda here?

C. Copeland: I'll be honest, you can be a legislator and be incompetent and serve for decades, and Joe Biden is a good legislator in that he's good in the back room. He's a backslapper. He's very articulate in that kind of thing. But he's not the shrewdest man in the building. And I think he just figures that people are going to vote for him because I'm likable Joe. I'm just a normal Joe, a normal Joe who happens to have several multimillion dollar properties, having a son that has traded off his name for decades and made hundreds of thousands, actually millions of dollars. And this is now all coming out because of the Democrats' obsessive compulsive behavior about Donald Trump.

C. Copeland: And by the way, all things being equal right now, I'm voting for Donald Trump for president 2020. That doesn't mean that I like Donald Trump or want to be his friend, but I'm going to vote for him. I might like a Pete Buttigieg or somebody like that and want to be their friends, but I'm not going to vote for him. And Joe Biden is, in my opinion at this point in time, especially in the left in the party of the Democrat party, almost unelectable because he is so tied into the corruption, to the Clinton's, and his own personal corruption. And as they go through the impeachment hearings, you can bet that every Republican on those committees is going to bring in witnesses to testify as to Hunter Biden's activities in the Ukraine because it will be central to what they're talking about. And it is going to be terrible for Joe Biden.

Dace Blaskovitz: So why? Why? I'm not asking to be clairvoyant or Superman here and do, excuse me, a Vulcan — I guess that's Star Trek — a Vulcan mind meld. And I'm not being as smarty pants, but I can't figure out why. Did you just stumble and then triple down? What's the why? And you got 45 seconds to put some logic to this.

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(Part II Podcast transcript)

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C. Copeland: I don't think it's any more complicated than arrogance and ambition. Joe Biden has been a big fish in a small pool called Delaware and got a long time to play around it...he can stumble across words and say stupid things and they give him a pass on it because he's on the left. But at the end of the day, he was reading his own press clippings, and he's become arrogant, and his ambition exude out of every pore of his anatomy. And I think it's simple as that.

Dace Blaskovitz: All right. His name is Charlie Copeland. He joins us once a month. Always brings wonderful insights. I got to turn to the audience looking to next week. Gosh, it's October already. Robert Fry, the noted economist, is next week. We'll see you back here for more "Money and Politics in Delaware."