

Questions for the Record for Michael Knowles
Hearing on “Politically Violent Attacks: A Threat to Our Constitutional Order”
Submitted November 4, 2025

QUESTIONS FROM SENATOR WHITEHOUSE

Please answer each question and sub-question individually and as specifically as possible.
Where indicated, please provide only yes or no answers.

1. Under what circumstances should threats against public officials and judges be investigated?

Given the recent uptick in political violence, particularly from the Left, threats against public figures should be treated with even greater seriousness than they otherwise have been.

Investigations are warranted, in my opinion, when threats are explicit and credible, especially when they come from people associated with demonstrably violent groups such as Antifa.

2. Under what circumstances should the orchestration or instigation of threats against public officials and judges be investigated?

The orchestration or instigation of threats against public figures is a murkier matter than the threats themselves. Virtually every Democrat in public life, it seems, has accused President Trump of “fascism” or “Nazism,” compared him to Adolf Hitler, and described him as an “existential threat” to the United States. President Biden himself called Trump an “existential threat” to the country. Such accusations and comparisons not only instigate threats against President Trump; they justify his assassination, which tragically almost occurred twice just last year. For now, the government seems to err on the side of restraint when it comes to investigating the instigation of threats against public officials. Were the government to take the matter more seriously, the FBI would have to take a look into virtually every Democrat in the country.