

security preparedness, communications protocols, and the role of the military.

The Biden Administration expressed general support for a commission, but emphasized it was a matter for Congress to decide — a pledge of non-interference and a promise that the President would not pressure Democrats to back its creation.

It was a punt worthy of any Sunday afternoon in the NFL.

It will be left to historians to sift through the evidence and formulate a comprehensive, definitive account of the most serious assault on the center of U. S. government by its own citizens in history.

For now, the American people will confront two truths — a Democratic truth and a Republican one — each promoting explanations and conclusions colored by partisanship and ideology.

Both sides can and will blame a paralyzing polarization for the failure to reach a consensus in support of an independent inquiry, one that, like the 911 commission report, will win the confidence of the American people.

It didn't have to be that way.

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