

ABC's World News Tonight with David Muir

July 19, 2021

6:31 p.m. Eastern [TEASE]

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Biden: "Facebook Isn't Killing People"]

DAVID MUIR: President Biden today backtracking, saying "Facebook isn't killing people" after having said that over his frustration with the amount of misinformation on social media when it comes to the virus and vaccines. What the White House is now saying tonight.

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6:41 p.m. Eastern

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Biden: "Facebook Isn't Killing People"]

MUIR: And tonight, President Biden backtracking after what he said about Facebook on Friday. The President, clearly frustrated with the amount of misinformation on the virus and on vaccines across social media. The President taking aim at Facebook. And here's what he said Friday.

PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN: They're killing people. I mean, really — look, the only pandemic we have is among the unvaccinated and that — and they're killing people.

MUIR: When asked about Facebook, he said they're killing people. So, let's get right to ABC's Rachel Scott at the White House because, Rachel, we heard a different tone from the President today. Surely still upset, frustrated by the misinformation that's out there, but not taking aim directly at Facebook anymore.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Developing Now; Biden: "Facebook Isn't Killing People"; President Clarifies Comments on Vaccine Misinformation]

RACHEL SCOTT: Yes, and today the President's comments infuriating Facebook and today, the President walked it back, saying that it's misinformation on Facebook that is killing Americans, not the social media company itself. The President going on to say that, instead of taking it personally, that Facebook should crack down on bad information about vaccines. But tonight, Facebook says they have done just that. A spokesperson telling us that they have taken aggressive steps to remove more than 18 million pieces of misinformation on the site, even kicking off repeat offenders, David.

MUIR: Rachel, live at the White House tonight. Rachel, thank you.

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6:45 p.m. Eastern

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Virus Fears Sink Stocks]

MUIR: Back here at home this evening and to the economy and the worst day of the year with the Dow amid the alarming surge in Covid cases across the U.S. The Dow losing more than 725 points, more than two percent. ABC's chief business and economics correspondent Rebecca Jarvis with us live tonight. Rebecca?

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking News; Virus Fears Sink Stocks; Dow Drops 725 Points, Worst One-Day Decline of Year]

REBECCA JARVIS: David, that surge leading many on Wall Street to question some of the economic optimism surrounding the reopenings, particularly if it eats into and delays a full return to normal life and work. Some of the hardest hit companies? Travel-related stocks, airlines and cruise lines, a big part of the sell-off. But as for that nest egg, it should still be higher on the year with the S&P 500 up 13 percent, year to date, David.

MUIR: Rebecca Jarvis with us live tonight with what was behind that steep drop. Rebecca, thank you.

CBS Evening News with Norah O'Donnell

July 19, 2021

6:30 p.m. Eastern [TEASE]

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking News; Stocks & COVID Fears]

NORAH O'DONNELL: Tonight, delta variant fears, the stock market plunges and it concerns the highly contagious covid strain could slow economic recovery as coronavirus cases more than double nationwide. Wall Street's worst day in months.

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6:30 p.m. Eastern [TEASE]

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking News; Biden vs. Facebook]

O'DONNELL: Biden versus Facebook. After the President accused the social media giant of killing people with vaccine misinformation, the walk-back as he calls on Facebook to do more.

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6:32 p.m. Eastern

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Summer Surge]

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking News; Stock Market Plunges Over Fears of Delta Variant Surge]

O'DONNELL: We're going to begin tonight with new signs and worries that the Covid pandemic is once again tightening its grip. The stock market had its worst day in months on fears that a midsummer surge driven by the highly contagious delta variant could bring another global economic slowdown. The Dow dropped with airlines, hotels, banks, and oil companies all taking losses.

(...)

6:32 p.m. Eastern

O'DONNELL: And tonight the stunning reversal from the White House as President Biden walks back his statement that Facebook is "killing people." Today he said he meant to blame a small number of bad actors on the social media platform but he is calling on Facebook to do more to stop misinformation.

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6:40 p.m. Eastern

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking News; Biden Clarifies Comments on COVID Misinformation]

ED O'KEEFE: Meanwhile, the President today clarified comments he made Friday about social media companies like Facebook that allow the spread of misinformation about the pandemic. He said the sites are "killing people." Well, the company pushed back and today, the president clarified it's the bad actors that spread misinformation on social media who are to blame, not any one company.

NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt

July 19, 2021

7:00 p.m. Eastern [TEASE]

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking News; Should Masks Be Required Again?]

LESTER HOLT: Fears of a delta variant triggering a major sell-off on Wall Street as cases rise in all 50 states. My interview with the surgeon general.

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7:04 p.m. Eastern

HOLT: The Dow suffering its worst drop since last October on fears of a resurgence.

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7:06 p.m. Eastern

MIGUEL ALMAGUER: The fight to get more Americans vaccinated is also a battle against misinformation. The President now walking back comments after pointing the finger at Facebook Friday.

PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN: My hope is that Facebook, instead of taking it personally, that somehow saying that Facebook is killing people, that they would do something about the misinformation.