

White House press briefing

10/12/21

2:38:38 p.m.

21 seconds

ERIN LOGAN: So it's been six weeks since the drone strike in Kabul and the administration said that they would consider giving compensation to the family who lost people. The *LA Times* reported today that no one has reached out to them. Can you say why?

JEN PSAKI: It's really under the purview of the Department of Defense. I would point to them, I'm happy to check with them too and see if there's an update.

(...)

2:45:13 p.m.

2 minutes and 7 seconds

STEVEN NELSON: It's been a bit, so I hope to ask you quickly about three different subject areas if that's all right. The first subject area is we at the *New York Post* reported on Friday that the First Son had sold five prints of his artworks for \$75,000 each and that a team of lawyers is reviewing the prospective buyers who are going to be allowed into an upcoming New York show. That seems to suggest a departure from the White House-brokered agreement where the purchasers would be anonymous. I was hoping you could say, the White House knows who purchased the five prints and whether there is indeed a departure to the arrangement, that there would be anonymity here.

PSAKI: I know this is your favorite topic, but again, it still is the purview of the gallerist. We still do not know and will not know who purchases any paintings and the President remains proud of his son.

NELSON: Ah, White House or —

PSAKI: Did you have another question on something else? Otherwise, we're going to move on to some other topics.

NELSON: Yes, yes. I do.

PSAKI: Lots going on in the world.

NELSON: Yes, so about build back better and tax policy, I'd like to ask you about proposed tax increases and proposed tighter tax enforcement. President Biden often describes raising taxes on higher incomes as a matter of fairness and enforcing current tax policy is a matter of people paying their fair share. But Republicans in Congress, led by Representative Jim Banks, are pointing to a recent Congressional Research Service report, which they say underscores that President Biden allegedly owes \$500,000 in Medicare taxes that he didn't pay by allegedly

improperly categorizing \$13 million in income routed through s-corporations in 2017 and 2018. So, tax law expert Robert Willens, who teaches at Columbia University said in my case — “in my view, the case can easily be made” by the I.R.S. that President Biden owes back taxes under current law. So, as he campaigns for —

PSAKI: This is a very long question. I think I know what you're getting at. This has been debunked as you probably know. Also, he's released many, many years of his tax returns so people can check them out.

NELSON: [INAUDIBLE]

PSAKI [TO GEORGE CONDON]: Okay go ahead, George.

NELSON: [INAUDIBLE]

PSAKI [TO CONDON]: Go ahead, go ahead.

NELSON: Will President Biden be paying back taxes?

PSAKI [TO NELSON]: I think we're gonna move on to some more topics. [TO CONDON] Go ahead, George.

(...)

2:52:52 p.m.

1 minute and 51 seconds

EDWARD LAWRENCE: So he said June [was when] this supply chain disruption tax force was assembled. I'm just curious why it took so long for the President to get together the two port heads as well as all the shipping companies to figure out what's wrong with the supply chain since it's been an issue for most of the year.

PSAKI: Well, I would say that the President has — the supply chain task force has been working around the clock for months and months now to address a range of different issues that we see in the supply chain and as you know, because you cover this pretty closely, there are issues at the ports and addressing the bottlenecks at the ports, those have been on the rise recently, but it's something that he's been working on and his team has been working on there. There are also a range of different issues in the supply chain. It's not just domestically, it's globally as well. It's one of the reasons we've been, of course, it's morally right too, but such a huge contributor to the global effort to get the pandemic under control to ensure we're making sure manufacturing facilities are staying open. It's why he's pressed so hard for the chips legislation to ensure that the semiconductor shortages something that doesn't halt production for the auto industry. So it's not just one issue in the supply chain as you well know. It's multiple issues. That's why the team has been working for several months to address it. And tomorrow's another opportunity. We've done several supply chain events to lift this up and tell the American people what we're doing to help

address the bottlenecks.

LAWRENCE: But are they — are we behind the curve? Is the President behind the curve rather than trying to get in front of this issue?

PSAKI: He's been working on these issues for months. I mean, I know it's been up in front in the news in the last few weeks, but these are issues the President's been focused on since he took office and that's why he had a dedicated team both in the N.E.C. and the Department of Treasury across the inter agency to help address these issues. It's a fundamental challenge as the economy's turning back on and one has been focused on from the first day.

(....)

2:56:24 p.m.
27 seconds

SHANNON PETTYPIECE: And another thing we keep asking about: the President's physical. Last month, you said it would be soon. We're now in October. Do you have any update? And why is it taking so long? Is the president just very busy? Does he, you know, not want to see his doctor?

PSAKI: He is very busy. But it is standard for every president to get a physical. He will get a physical too. When — and when he gets a physical, we will make all of that information available to all of you.

JOSH BOAK: Thanks, Jen.

PETTYPIECE: Is it still planning on being —

PSAKI: Okay, thanks every —

PETTYPIECE: — this year?

PSAKI: Yeah. Absolutely. Thanks everyone.