

White House press briefing [via CBSN]

05/10/22

3:34:10 p.m.

1 minute and 2 seconds

WILL WEISSERT: You suggested that peacefully protesting outside the homes of judges and Supreme Court justices is part of freedom of expression and part of, sort of, what we do in the United States. But there's a law of Virginia that actually prohibits protests outside private residence, even when done peacefully. So I'm wondering if any sort of demonstrations outside of private homes might run afoul of that law and other laws like it in other parts of the country.

JEN PSAKI: We're certainly not suggesting anyone break any laws. I would note that the President's view has long been — and I tweeted this earlier this morning and repeated — and made a number of these comments last week as well that violence, threats, and intimidation have no place in political discourse. Yes, we are a country that promotes democracy, and we certainly allow for peaceful protest in a range of places in the country. None of it should violate the law; no one is suggesting that and it should never resort to violence, to threats, to intimidation in any way, shape, or form, but that is what our position is and the President's position is.

(...)

3:57:28 p.m.

1 minute and 5 seconds

TAMARA KEITH: The President and you have talked about the “MAGA crowd” or the “ultra-MAGA.” How does that jive with his desire to be the bipartisan guy?

PSAKI: Well, the President's view is you can do both. He believes that there is work we can continue to do together. We're actively advocating for — he was out traveling in — just last Friday on the Bipartisan Innovation Act. We believe that needs to move forward; it should move forward. And that can be — can build on the nearly 80 bills that we signed into law last year that are bipartisan. But he's also not going to stand by and not call out what he sees as ultra-MAGA behavior, ultra-MAGA policies that are out of the mainstream of the country and are not in the interest of the American people, whether that is efforts to prevent a woman from making choices about her own healthcare or whether that is Chairman Scott's policy and proposals on — that would raise taxes on people making less than \$100,000 a year. He's going to continue to call that out. But he believes there is still a path to move forward on where we have agreement.

(...)

3:59:49 p.m.

1 minute and 40 seconds

ALEXANDRIA HOFF: Does the President plan to condemn the leak of the Supreme Court draft opinion or the doxing of the justices, now that we've seen violence unfold?

PSAKI: Well, I would say that we have been clear and the President's position has long been that we should not see protests that takes the form of violence, that takes the form of vandalism, and that threatens anyone. That has long been his position for his entire career and continues to be his position.

HOFF: And, for tomorrow, your office released that —

PSAKI: But can I say one more thing? Sorry.

HOFF: Please do. Please do.

PSAKI: We have not seen violence or vandalism against Supreme Court justices. We have seen it at Catholic churches. That's unacceptable. The President does not support that. We have seen it at some conservative organizations. That — we don't support that and we certainly call for — we know the passion. We understand the passion. We understand the concern. But what the President's position is is that that should be peaceful — the protests. But continue. Go ahead.

HOFF: And as for tomorrow, the President plans to offer, as you said, a contrast. And it was written, quote, to "Congressional Republicans' Ultra-MAGA plan to raise taxes." Now, *The Washington Post* has called that claim false — that there was a Republican congressional plan to raise taxes. Why is this statement still being shared?

PSAKI: Because Chairman Scott's plan — and we welcome — we know he's asked for people to go to his website. We would encourage people to do the same thing and check out his plan that raises taxes for people making less than \$100,000 a year.

HOFF: But Mitch McConnell and this report — there aren't any other Republicans signing on to this at this point. So is it fair to say that Republicans as a whole are pushing a plan to raise taxes?

PSAKI: He's the chairman of the committee. If Republicans want to repudiate his plan, they should go do that. But otherwise, that continues to be what they're running on. So that's their position, not ours.

(...)

Time N/A
51 seconds

ALEX LEARY: And just real quickly, back on the Rick Scott question: Senator McConnell did repudiate that — that plan, so how can you say it stands for what Republicans —

PSAKI: Well, he's the chairman of the committee. I wouldn't say every Republican has repudiated. If they don't — if that's not at all the plan they're running on and none of them are for it, then they can speak for themselves. [TO JARDINS] Go ahead.

LISA DEJARDINS: Jen, on abortion, this country is about to engage — some states that don't have trigger laws are going to decide what they think the restrictions should be on abortion, and that's going to be a tough question in many of these states. Does the President have a clear belief in what he thinks the restrictions should be on, or if there should be any restrictions on abortion? I know you've been asked this before, but I just want to get a clear answer.

PSAKI: The President's view is that women should be able to make choices about their own healthcare. I'm not going to detail it further beyond what he said in the past from here.

DEJARDINS: So does that mean no restrictions?

PSAKI: Again, I'm not going to detail his opinion. He's spoken to this a number of times.

(...)

Time N/A

1 minute and 9 seconds

GEOFF EARLE: You were unequivocal in condemning the violence. But as you know, there's also some allies who are protesting outside justices' homes, including Brett Kavanaugh, who — if there's any kind of a compromise — conservative ruling that preserves some of Roe, he could be part of that with Roberts. So, my question is: Is it appropriate to protest outside people's homes? And is it productive or not productive?

PSAKI: Look, I would say, in terms of the productive question, that's not for me to speak to. Obviously, these justices make decisions as an independent body. How they are influenced or if they are influenced is not for me to make a determination of. We do believe in peaceful protests. We do not believe in or support any intimidation of any kind — obviously, the violation or breaking of any law, as somebody raised before, or threats or intimidation of any individual. What we do support is people peacefully protesting. And they do that in a range of places.

EARLE: But you wouldn't wave anybody off for tactical reasons?

PSAKI: We're not here to give tactical advice to protesters. What we are here to call for is peaceful protest, for people not to resort to violence, to vandalism, or certainly intimidation of any kind.

(...)

4:12:43 p.m. [via NBC News Now Live Event]

2 minutes and 32 seconds

STEVEN NELSON: So, I'd like to ask you first about the coronavirus and then about a transparency matter.

PSAKI: Sure.

NELSON: On the coronavirus, the CDC data indicate that we are getting pretty close to the 1 million death mark.

PSAKI: Yeah.

NELSON: Some outlets say we've already crossed a million deaths. I was hoping — you know, as we're talking about potentially rolling back tariffs on Chinese goods, can you say, you know, where the tariffs question comes into pushing China to be transparent on the origins? And can you detail anything that President Biden has done with his levers of power, be it sanctions or tariffs or anything else to press for transparency from China?

PSAKI: Okay, there was a lot packed in there, so let me do my best here. I would say, first, as you noted at the top — or at the top of your question — we track the CDC data as well as Johns Hopkins's data. And you are right: We are getting close to a million. And we will be marking that from here. And as we get closer, we'll have more to mark from here. The President has had recent engagements with President Xi, as we have had at a very high level from a range of national security officials. And we always raise transparency in those conversations, but I don't have more to read out from those at this point in time. And what was the third part?

NELSON: Are tariffs part of — are tariffs — or, I mean, is that part of the pressure?

PSAKI: There's an ongoing review. I would look at it separately from the COVID deaths or from Russia. There's an ongoing review on Chinese tariffs. We've been looking at those through the prism of how they're impacting industries here in the United States. We feel that a number of them have not been constructive and have hurt — had a — had a negative impact on a number of industries. So, we're looking at and we're continuing our review of that, which is being led by our Ambassador Katherine Tai.

NELSON: Would tariffs be used to pressure China to be transparent, though? I mean, is that part of the consideration at all when considering rolling them back?

PSAKI: Well, again, we consider a range of factors as we look at the tariffs. The largest factor is the impact on the economy and a range of industries.

NELSON: And the transparency question I have: In 2017 and 2018, the President routed \$13 million of income through S corporations. There are some ethics experts who are calling on him to divulge the specific sources of income in those revenue streams. Richard Painter, who ran for Congress for the Senate as a Democrat, has been among those who are calling for this. Will President Biden be releasing the sources of income that were in that three — \$13 million, particularly as there's attention being paid to his son and whether he earned any money from his businesses?

PSAKI: Well, again, the President doesn't have dealings with his family members about business

and he has released decades of tax returns, which is more than I can say for his predecessor.

NELSON: But the S corporation, in particular?