

ABC's *Good Morning America*

06/07/22

7:00:57 a.m. [TEASE]

13 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: ABC News Exclusive; Uvalde Teacher Speaks Out]

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS: This morning the latest on the investigation. Could officers face charges as Congress races to reach a deal on gun reform? Where things stand right now as the new White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre joins us live for an exclusive interview.

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7:14:06 a.m. [TEASE]

4 seconds

STEPHANOPOULOS: Coming up in our next hour, Robin is going to talk to White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre about this crisis.

(....)

7:20:06 a.m. [TEASE]

9 seconds

ROBIN ROBERTS: Coming up, new White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre joins us live on gun violence, abortion rights, and her trailblazing role. We'll be right back.

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7:54:28 a.m.

10 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Ahead on GMA; New White House Press Secretary Live; 8:10]

GINGER ZEE: Now, coming up on the program, we've got new White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre joining us live. She's going to talk about the challenges facing the administration plus her role as a trailblazer.

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8:01:10 a.m. [TEASE]

14 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Karine Jean-Pierre; Exclusive: New White House Press Secretary]

ROBERTS: An ABC News exclusive, new White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre joins us live on the challenges facing President Biden, from gun safety to inflation to abortion rights, and making history in a new role.

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8:06:45 a.m. [TEASE]
11 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: 8:11; New White House Press Secretary Live]

ROBERTS: New White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre joins us live to talk about the President's plans for gun control, inflation, and abortion rights and her breaking barriers in her new role.

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8:11:57 a.m.
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[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Live on *GMA*; One-on-One With New White House Press Secretary; Karine-Jean-Pierre on President Biden's Call for Action on Gun Violence]

ROBERTS: And we want to get right to the new White House Press Secretary, Karine Jean-Pierre, who has been on the job just over three weeks taking over as the President's chief spokesperson. Now — good morning to you —

KARINE JEAN-PIERRE: Good morning.

ROBERTS: — and we've been looking forward to having this opportunity especially today because with gun violence rising to the top of the agenda, so much pressure is on the administration to take action and that's why all ABC News platforms today, we're taking on the issue of guns in America, so if I could ask you about how you began this job, extraordinarily tragic circumstances, the day after you took over, the mass shooting in Buffalo, then Uvalde. President Biden is calling for action but there's been no major federal gun control in nearly 30 years, so what is the President doing to change that? What can he do?

KARINE JEAN-PIERRE: Well, Robin, first of all, thank you so much for having me on and it has been a — a tragic three weeks with Uvalde and then Buffalo and I traveled — I traveled with the President to — to Buffalo to talk to the grieving families — the grieving — the grieving families of the ten who were doing what — what many of us do on the weekends, go to the grocery store and sadly, their lives were taken by this public health epidemic that we're seeing of gun violence and then we traveled sadly to — less than two weeks later to Uvalde and the parents — there meeting the — the President meeting the parents and grieving with them and their family and I was there when they cried out to the President to do something, to take action, and,

you know, I had time with the President afterwards and I — he is just as committed as he was when he was a senator. He talked about 30 years ago, we — there was the assault ban weapon [sic] in 1994 that expired ten years later that the President led on when he was then-senator, as Vice President he played a role with dealing with gun violence when he was in office with President Obama and now as President himself. He has taken on or he has signed the most executive actions than any — any other President at this time in their term and so this is a priority for him. This is a very serious issue for this President, but right now, we're watching what Congress is doing, because we can't do this alone. He cannot do this alone and we're very encouraged. He's very encouraged with what Senate is trying to do — the bipartisan negotiations that we're seeing now because we haven't seen — to your point, Robin, we haven't seen real legislation really move forward in 30 years so this is significant. This moment is significant and so we want to see the Congress continue to move forward.

ROBERTS: Is he personally — personally lobbying these politicians, these congressmen?

JEAN-PIERRE: So I'll say this, the President has been very clear. You know, he made his speech on Thursday. He spoke directly to the American public, continued to lay out the importance of dealing with gun violence, how this is destroying schools, clearly, and communities and how we have to act now and we cannot wait any longer. But he wants to give the Senate and Congress on the Hill some space to have that conversation. It sounds like as you know, Senator Chris Murphy and others —

ROBERTS: Mmhmm.

JEAN-PIERRE: — have been leading this effort. It sounds very promising. We are encouraged by it. Our staff, our office of leg affairs have had direct communications with negotiators on the hill since Uvalde and have spoken to them dozens of times and so that is — that is how we have been really dealing with this, making sure that we can do whatever it is that we can do at our end and getting updates from them as well.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Live on *GMA*; One-on-One With New White House Press Secretary; What Can the Biden Administration Do to Fight Inflation?]

ROBERTS: We're going to move on now. Thank you for that. Inflation, according to our latest ABC News poll, 80 percent of Americans say that inflation is an extremely or very important factor in how they're going to vote and just 28 percent approve of President Biden's handling of inflation, so what does the administration have to do because I don't have to tell you a lot of people — a lot of people that are struggling to make ends meet.

JEAN-PIERRE: Yeah, we understand that, especially when it comes to food and gas prices, the President understands this. He grew up in a family when prices went up just a little bit, how much it impacted their lives. What we're dealing with right now, Robin, is global challenges. We have — we're in a pandemic, which actually caused some issues clearly as we talk about the supply chain. When — when the President walked into this office, the economy was in a crisis and he moved forward, put a plan forward. The American Rescue Plan that Democrats — only

Democrats voted for and it's put us in a place where we are in a stronger economic position to deal with inflation, to go into this transition period where we can see some stable and steady growth and we saw that from the jobs numbers that came out in — on Friday. But we understand. We understand that Americans are truly, truly feeling this. The President is going to continue laying out his plans. He did an op-ed last week laying out the three, four things that he's planning to do, giving the Federal Reserve some space, some Independence because they have the most — the most — they have the most impactful tools, if you will, to really deal with inflation and he's done some other things as we talk about gas prices. I know you all were talking about the increase of gas prices —

ROBERTS: Right.

JEAN-PIERRE: — he's done a couple of things like make sure the historical — historical release of the strategic petroleum reserve, a million — a million barrels a month for six months, that is a big, big deal to be able to do — the homegrown bio fields, the E-15 that's really going to help families in the Midwest. We understand there's more work to be done, but we are continuing to take steps and are encouraged because of where we are economically, we're going to do everything that we can to attack inflation.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Live on *GMA*; One-on-One With New White House Press Secretary; Democrats Brace for Supreme Court Ruling on Abortion Rights]

ROBERTS: And the other big issue, abortion rights, it seems possible the Supreme Court is going overturn *Roe vs. Wade*, so what can the President offer if it's all going to be in the hands of the individual states?

JEAN-PIERRE: Yeah, I mean, look, what we're seeing across the country in these — these legislation in the individual states, as you just mentioned, Robin, are extreme and the President has called them out at every — every turn that we see something that is popped — has popped up that is signed into — into law so the President and the Vice President are committed to continuing to fight for people's — for Americans' constitutional rights as is afforded to them with *Roe v. Wade*. This is something that all Americans feel is — is extreme when you look at the polling. Americans feel like what they're seeing across the country, how the attack on the women's right to choose and the woman — woman's right to decide how to build their family and they disagree with these — what these extreme legislations [sic] so the President has continued to tap into his — his — the different agencies like HHS to make hour that we fortify Title 10 and we're going to continue to talk to groups and figure out what else we can do, but really, we have to get Congress to act on this, so we can codify *Roe v. Wade* and, you know, this is something that we're continuing to talk about, again, talk against and make sure that our voices are out there and — and folks know that the President has their — have their support for Americans.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Live on *GMA*; One-on-One With New White House Press Secretary; Karine Jean-Pierre on Making History in New Role]

ROBERTS: And can we talk about you as a trail blazer? The first black, the first immigrant, the

first openly gay person to hold the job of White House Press Secretary. What does that representation mean to you? I know when I see your parents, they're beaming, your young daughter. So, what does representation mean to you?

JEAN-PIERRE: You know, Robin, it means so much. It means so much because what I hope and what I didn't have when I was growing up is that any young girl or young boy when they look up, they see me, that they know they can dream big and even dream bigger and how important it is to have that representation and the reason that I'm here is because we have a President who believes and understands what it means to have representation and understands that representation does, indeed, matter. We have an administration that is historically diverse. That is because of the leadership of this President. You know, I — I think about my daughter, I think about her friends and I hope that, when she sees me on TV, she thinks to herself, I can do this and I can do more when I'm — when I'm older and so it matters so much. The last thing I do want to say is I'm here because I am standing on so many shoulders. I'm standing here on people who have really sacrificed so much and I'm learning from their brilliance. I'm learning from their sacrifices because I would not be standing here, I would not be at that podium being a spokesperson for the President of the United States — which is truly an honor and a privilege — without the people who came before me.

ROBERTS: Very kind of you to say. Well, Karine, thank you so much. I know that you —

JEAN-PIERRE: Thank you so much.

ROBERTS: — have busy, busy days —

JEAN-PIERRE: Yes.

ROBERTS: — and means a lot you some spent time with us this morning. All the best to you.

JEAN-PIERRE: Thank you, Robin. I appreciate it.

ROBERTS: George.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Just the beginning of her day. Thank you, Robin.