

White House press briefing
06/13/22
3:54:08 p.m. [via CBSN]
3 minutes

PETER DOOCY: President Biden once bragged about the stock market hitting “record after record after record on my watch.” How about now?

KARINE JEAN-PIERRE: Meaning the stock market —

DOOCY: All the gains from President Biden’s time in office have been wiped out.

JEAN-PIERRE: So, as you know, we are watching — we’re watching closely. We know families are concerned about inflation and the stock market. That is something that the President is — is really aware of. And so, look, we face global challenges. We’ve talked about this. This is — we’re not the only country dealing with what we’re seeing at the moment as it relates to inflation. You know, Putin — Putin’s price hike, inflation, coming — coming out of a once-in-a-generation global pandemic — all — all of those things play a factor. And, you know — but the thing — the way that we see this is that the American people are well positioned to face these challenges because of the economic historic gains that we have made under this President — under this President in the last 16 months.

DOOCY: Okay. So, as you say that Americans are well positioned to weather this stock market decline, what is the President’s message to somebody who might want to retire but their 401(k) is getting wiped out?

JEAN-PIERRE: So we know — we know that the — that high prices are having a real effect on people’s lives. We get that and we are incredibly focused on doing everything that we can to make sure that the economy is working for every — American people. But we are coming out of the strongest job market in American history, and that matters and that — a lot of that is thanks to the American Rescue Plan, which only Democrats voted for that — Republicans did not — and it led to this economic boom — this historic economic boom that we’re seeing with jobs.

DOOCY: Didn’t it also lead to historic inflation?

JEAN-PIERRE: No. That is not —

DOOCY: No?

JEAN-PIERRE: That is — that is — that is not — that is not how we’re seeing the American Rescue Plan. Look, the President came in — we have to remember what the President walked into. When he walked into this administration, the economy was at a standstill. Schools were closed. Businesses were shutting down. Twenty million people were on unemployment insurance benefits. That is what he walked into and he took action. He got the American Rescue Plan done. Democrats — only Democrats voted for it and it helped turn the economy around, including

getting more than 200 million people vaccinated, having a comprehensive vaccination plan that — that was not in place when he walked into the administration.

DOOCY: Okay and then, quickly, is the President running for reelection?

JEAN-PIERRE: He has — first of all, let's — let's reset for a second. I cannot talk about elections. I cannot be a political analyst from here or — you know, or the midterms or anything like that, or including 2024. The President, as you know, has been asked that question many times, and he has answered it. His answer has been pretty simple, which is: Yes, he's running for reelection. I'm — I can't say more than that.

DOOCY: Okay.

(....)

4:15:31 p.m. [via NBC News Live Event]
4 minutes and 42 seconds

SEBASTIAN SMITH: And a quick domestic one, please. Most presidents, I'm guessing, would say they don't pay attention to the polls. But does President Biden feel any concern that his approval rating is, really, pretty amazingly low and consistently low? I believe today it went under — the average went under 40 percent for the first time.

JEAN-PIERRE: The President is focused on delivering for the American people. That's his focus right now.

KAYLA TAUSCHE: Karine, thank you. Inflation has been above 5 percent for an entire year now. Why did the President wait until almost December to decide who would be leading the Federal Reserve?

JEAN-PIERRE: The President has taken — taken the economy as a whole and inflation very seriously, especially these past several months, in making sure that he does everything he can when it comes to — as we know, inflation is — is increasing — is increasing costs in two important areas for the American people: food and gas. I have listed out the things that the President has done and so, that — you know, that hasn't changed. It has been a priority. That's why we see the economy in a — in a strong — stronger place than it's been — a historic place than it's been in decades and so, the President is going to continue to do that — to do that work. We do have a Federal Reserve — you know, the Chair and others in place. We're going to leave that and make sure that they're independent, leave the work to them. They have the strongest tools in dealing with inflation. They have made this a priority and so, we're going to leave it to them. All right. Go ahead.

TAUSCHE: The experts now suggest that —

JEAN-PIERRE: I'm going to move on.

PHILIP WEGMANN: Thank —

JEAN-PIERRE: Yeah. Go ahead.

WEGMANN: Thank you, Karine. Over the weekend, a crisis pregnancy center in Oregon was firebombed. That's the fourth one so far and then, last weekend, of course, a would-be assassin was arrested outside the home of Justice Kavanaugh. I know that the administration condemns violence and you've said as much several times previously, but I'm wondering: Is there anything that the President is doing to cool passions before the Dobbs decision drops?

JEAN-PIERRE: You mean in — with — as it relates to abor- — the decision? So, I want it to be really clear: You know, the Department of Justice, as it relates to Kavanaugh, has U.S. Marshals providing support to the Supreme Court Marshal and the President supports legislation to fund increased security for court and judges and it is how — it has now been reported that the marshals our administration assigned to help protect judges were instrumental in the person not accomplishing the horrible deed that he set out to do. This is the threat that we saw against Kavanaugh and so, we have taken this very seriously. Like you said, we have condemned — condemned it. The President has, and we will continue to do so. Any int- — intimidation or threats against judges is something that we take very seriously and so, you know, one of the reasons — again, one of the reasons the — the act did not happen last week was because the Department of — DOJ took that very seriously from the beginning when we were — when we were hearing the threats and the intimidation and put U.S. Marshals there.

WEGMANN: And then, with regard to some of the arson that we've been seeing around the country?

JEAN-PIERRE: Well, that's something, clearly, the DOJ is looking into and, you know, they've taken that very seriously. We have seen an uptick of that type of arson and bombing and — or attempt to bomb, as we saw just recently over the weekend and so, again, that's for — DOJ is taking that very seriously, and they're going to continue to do so.

WEGMANN: And then just one quick follow-up.

[PRESS STAFF MEMBER SNEEZES]

JEAN-PIERRE: Bless you, Chris.

WEGMANN: Jen was asked about some of these protests that were occurring outside of Supreme Court justices' home — homes, and she reiterated that the administration wants them to remain peaceful. But does the President believe that there should be any type of protesters picketing outside of judges' homes when there's a case pending before them?

JEAN-PIERRE: So, you know, we have not weighed in on where people should or should not protest. We have said that all Americans have the right to peacefully protest, whatever their point of view, but that — but that attempts at intimidation and violence are totally unacceptable and

that they need to be condemned at any time they happen, regardless of who does it.

WEGMANN: Thank you, Karine.

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4:26:17 p.m.

41 seconds

BLOOMBERG GOVERNMENT REPORTER: So, first, what is the White House — what is the latest update the White House has received on the current infant formula situation across the country?

JEAN-PIERRE: Yeah, let me see if I have anything new for you on that because I think it's been a couple of days since we have asked — been asked that question. Okay. I don't have anything new. I know we made some announcements last week, I don't — I just don't have them in front of me. But if you want to come back, and we'll — we'll talk through the things that we have been able to do in the past — what — the most recent activities that we've done.