

ABC's *Good Morning America*

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7:00:19 a.m. [TEASE]

30 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: White House on Defense; Immigration Showdown]

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS: Overnight, President Biden takes on Republican leaders as the immigration crisis intensifies. White House on defense. President Biden slamming Republican governors in Texas and Florida, accusing them of using humans as props for sending immigrants on buses and planes to liberal strongholds like Martha's Vineyard without warning. Now, calls for a federal investigation as those Republican governors say the administration must deal with the crisis. We're at the White House and on the border this morning.

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7:03:06 a.m.

3 minutes and 45 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking Overnight; President Biden Sounds Off on Immigration Showdown; Accuses Republican Governors of "Playing Politics With Human Beings"]

STEPHANOPOULOS: First the immigration battle. Overnight President Biden fired back at the Republican governors of Florida and Texas, accusing them of playing politics with human beings after they sent buses and planes full of migrants to Massachusetts and Washington, D.C. Senior White House correspondent Mary Bruce starts us off. Good morning, Mary.

MARY BRUCE: Good morning, George. This is an audacious stunt. Republican governors using thousands of migrants searching for a better life to make a political point about immigration. It's an attempt to up the pressure on Democrats and the White House and highlighting what is a very serious issue and this morning, the President is now responding, defending his policies and calling this Republican tactic reckless and un-American. Overnight President Biden taking on Republican governors accusing them of using human beings as political pawns.

PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN: Republicans are playing politics with human beings, using them as props. What they're doing is simply wrong.

BRUCE: Biden responding as conservative governors send more and more migrants from strained border communities to liberal strongholds, an effort to spotlight immigration two months before the midterm elections. Hector Miguel Donaire didn't know where he was going.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: New This Morning; Immigration Showdown; GOP Governors Sending Migrants to Liberal Strongholds]

HECTOR MIGUEL DONAIRE [voice of translator]: They said they were taking us somewhere

where there was refugee, a lot of help, especially for the children that were traveling with us.

BRUCE: But when he stepped off the bus in Washington D.C. yesterday, he was outside one of the city's most famous residences, the Vice President's house, one of thousands of undocumented migrants bused to Washington by Texas Republican Governor Greg Abbott. Hours before his bus arrived, two private chartered jets from San Antonio made a surprise landing in Martha's Vineyard carrying roughly 50 migrants, including several children sent by Florida's Republican governor and presidential hopeful Ron DeSantis. Local officials say they had no idea they were coming but DeSantis made sure cameras captured it all.

GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS (R-FL): The minute even a small fraction of what those border towns deal with every day is brought to their front door, they all of a sudden go berserk.

BRUCE: But on the ground officials say they provided help and housing.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DYLAN FERNANDES (D-MA): The immigrants that arrived here were not met with chaos. They're — they've been met with compassion.

BRUCE: For months, Republican governors have been sending migrants to Democratic states to try and make a political point. New York City receiving nearly 12,000 migrants. Its mayor says the city is nearing its breaking point.

MAYOR ERIC ADAMS (D): We need help. We have not been ashamed to say that. We need help.

BRUCE: The Republican governors say the administration's process is broken and argue their tactic is giving the rest of the country a much needed dose of reality. There has been a surge in border crossings. A record 1.8 million apprehensions since October With about half of those migrants being released in the U.S. Cities like El Paso, Texas, have hit a crisis point. ABC's Mireya Villarreal seeing it firsthand.

MIREYA VILLARREAL: El Paso is one of the border cities that's getting hit really hard right now. We just confirmed with the city that Border Patrol has 1,300 encounters every day. A lot of those people end up right here in the streets — downtown area of El Paso. You can see a lot are starting to drop off food and drinks here as well as clothing for migrants that are waiting to get on buses to then head north.

BRUCE: We pressed the White House. [TO JEAN-PIERRE] And do you feel that the situation at the border is under control? Are you doing enough?

KARINE JEAN-PIERRE: We are fixing a broken system. It is not like turning the light switch on. It is going to take some time.

BRUCE: Now, the White House says the Trump administration is responsible for that broken system and they do admit there is a lot more work that can be done here, but the President says

that Republicans have shown no interest in actually solving the immigration problem through legislation, George. It's one of the many reasons the President is saying the upcoming midterm elections are so critical.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Right and hard to imagine anything happening before those elections to fix this. Okay, Mary, thanks very much.

(...)

7:30:59 a.m.
16 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Right Now; Immigration Showdown]

STEPHANOPOULOS: Following a lot of headlines right now including what happened overnight, President Biden slammed Republican governors in Texas and Florida, accused them of using humans as props by sending migrants on buses and planes to liberal strongholds like Martha's Vineyard and Washington, D.C. Didn't give warning. Those Republican governors say the Biden administration must deal with the crisis.

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8:00:21 a.m. [TEASE]
21 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: President Biden Sounds Off; Immigration Showdown]

STEPHANOPOULOS: Overnight, President Biden slams Republican governors in Texas and Florida, accusing them of using humans as props for sending migrants on buses and planes to liberal strongholds like Martha's Vineyard without warning. Now, calls for a federal investigation as those Republican governors say the administration must deal with the crisis. We're at the White House and on the border this morning.

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8:02:41 a.m.
1 minute and 25 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking Overnight; President Biden Sounds Off on Immigration Showdown; Accuses Republican Governors of "Playing Politics With Human Beings"]

STEPHANOPOULOS: First, we're going to start with the immigration battle. Overnight, President Biden slammed Republican governors of Florida and Texas, accusing them of playing politics with human beings after they sent buses and planes with migrants to liberal strongholds. Senior White House correspondent Mary Bruce has the details. Good morning, Mary.

BRUCE: Good morning, George. Yeah, this is an audacious stunt. Republican governors using thousands of migrants looking for a better life to try to make a political point about immigration. It is all an attempt to up the pressure on the White House and Democrats. It is highlighting what is a very real and very serious issue and now, this morning, the President is responding. He is defending his policies. He's calling the Republican tactic reckless and un-American. Biden saying Republicans are playing politics with human beings, using them as props.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: New This Morning; Immigration Showdown; GOP Governors Sending Migrants to Liberal Strongholds]

Now, for months, these governors have been sending migrants from strained border communities to liberal strongholds like Washington, D.C., New York, even the wealthy island of Martha's Vineyard off Massachusetts and they argue this is all giving the rest of the country a taste of what they are dealing with at the border. We have seen a surge in crossings. Communities along the border are stressed and overwhelmed and caught in the middle, of course, are all these migrants and families who are trying to flee poverty and violence and Republicans are eager to make this issue — to make immigration central to the upcoming midterm elections. The White House admits there is a lot more work that can be done but the President also says that, so far, Republicans have shown little interest in actually solving the problem through legislation. George.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Mary Bruce, thanks very much.