

White House press briefing [via *Washington Post Live*]

02/01/23

2:54:09 p.m.

1 minute and 59 seconds

SEUNG MIN KIM: And, on documents, Ian addressed the version of this at the sticks a little bit ago, but I'm wondering how the White House can claim that they are being transparent when the FBI search of the Pence Center — Penn Biden Center that happened months ago was not proactively disclosed to the public? And what should the public take away from the fact that you are keeping information like this from the public.

KARINE JEAN-PIERRE: Look, I'm going to be very prudent from here, I'm going to be very consistent from here, I'm just not going to comment on anything that is related to what is currently happening. This is a legal process. As you just mentioned, my colleague was outside these doors answering many of your questions, he has done that the past couple weeks, I believe four weeks now, and he'll continue to do that. Anything that is specific to this — to this particular process I would refer you to the Department of Justice and also my colleagues at the White House counsel's office.

MARY BRUCE: Just following up on that, I understand you are not going to discuss the details or anything, but just is there a reason that two of the searches were disclosed and not the search of the Penn Biden Center? You mentioned this is a legal process. Is there a legal reason why you're disclosing only two and not what we know is a third search?

JEAN-PIERRE: I'm — again, I'm going to refer you to the White House counsel's office.

(...)

2:59:20 p.m.

14 seconds

TREVOR HUNNICUTT: Karine, what is the current number of documents bearing classified markings that have been found in the President's residences and offices?

JEAN-PIERRE: I would refer you to the White House counsel's office.

HUNNICUTT: Okay and Ian just declined to comment as well, so —

JEAN-PIERRE: Well, there you go. You got your answer.

(...)

3:08:49 p.m.

22 seconds

ED O'KEEFE: Why not have Ian brief in here?

JEAN-PIERRE: Well, Ian was outside and took your questions?

O'KEEFE: But why not in here like other government officials?

JEAN-PIERRE: Again, Ian was outside and took your question and he's been doing that for the last four weeks.

O'KEEFE: Would the White House have revealed today's search if pool cameras hadn't caught the investigators arriving on scene?

JEAN-PIERRE: Again, this is a question for the White House counsel's office. I would refer you to them.

O'KEEFE: Okay.

(....)

3:18:06 p.m.

36 seconds

PETER ALEXANDER: I asked this of Ian Sams outside when he took our questions earlier. I want to ask of you, though, because I think it's for the wider White House, not just the special counsel's office, which is did anyone at the White House tell the National Archives at any point not to issue a press release about the discovery of classified documents?

JEAN-PIERRE: I would — I would really you to the White House counsel's office, who is [sic] been running this process —

ALEXANDER: Correct.

JEAN-PIERRE: — and refer you to them.

ALEXANDER: Even if it's something that's not just in their purview? It would be wider within the entire White House.

JEAN-PIERRE: I — I think — because this is — when it relates to the DOJ, when it relates to special counsel, this is something that's been under their purview, so I would refer you to them.

(...)

3:31:09 p.m.

26 seconds

ANITA POWELL: Zooming out on the Tyre Nichols funeral today, people both inside the United States and outside are looking at this killing and asking, is the United States a racist society? I'd like to hear your thought on that and also what the administration is doing beyond just police reform, qualified immunity, those discussions, what the U.S. is doing holistically — what the administration is doing holistically to address that perception?

(....)

3:40:55 p.m.

39 seconds

JACQUI HEINRICH: Un — understanding that you can't tell us why the FBI search at the Biden Center wasn't disclosed previously and that Ian Sams has referred questions about the National Archives from sending a press release to DOJ. Understanding you can't talk about any of that, can you assure us that the White House has been and continues to be as transparent as possible, meaning that where there haven't been disclosures, something has prevented that?

JEAN-PIERRE: What I can say is what the President has said many times and you've seen it in our statements, is that we are cooperating fully. The President and his team is cooperating fully and we will continue to do that and I'll just leave it there.