

ABC's *Good Morning America*

02/08/22

7:00:15 a.m. [TEASE]

47 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking Overnight; State of the Union]

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS: President Biden pitched unity in his State of the Union address, but Washington's divisions on full display. Overnight, a fired up and fiery President Biden delivered his first State of the Union to a divided Congress.

PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN: We're the United States of America and there's nothing, nothing beyond our capacity if we do it together.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Making the case the economy is back from the brink. Calling on Congress to help.

BIDEN: Finish the job. [SCREEN WIPE] Finish the job. [SCREEN WIPE] Finish the job.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Touting his bipartisan achievements and trading jabs with Republicans. [BOOS] The outburst over the border, fighting the fentanyl crisis, guns, and more. This morning, the GOP response and the view from the White House. Vice President Harris joins us live.

BIDEN: The state of our union is strong. [APPLAUSE]

(....)

7:03:01 a.m.

7 minutes and 30 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking Overnight; Biden Delivers Fiery State of the Union; President Touts Accomplishments, Economic Recover in First Speech to Divided Congress]

STEPHANOPOULOS: We're going to begin with President Biden's State of the Union address. His first speech to the new and divided Congress. It was unusually combative, the most rowdy House chamber in memory as Republicans booed and shouted liar at moments in the speech. Senior White House correspondent Mary Bruce starts us off and, Mary, the President did not shy away from that fight.

MARY BRUCE: No, he certainly did not. And I can tell you this White House this morning is riding high. I am told there were cheers and high-fives here last night. They feel the President made a clear and compelling case for the progress made so far and the need to stay the course. But there were also a lot — a lot of that raucous contention in the chamber. Republicans at points jeering and heckling at the President, even as he made the argument that it's time they work together.

HOUSE SERGEANT AT ARMS: Mr. Speaker, the President of the United States.

BRUCE: Overnight President Biden making the case that the economy is back from the brink and asking Americans to trust him.

BIDEN: We're not finished yet by any stretch of the imagination but the unemployment rate is at 3.4 percent, a 50-year low. [CHEERS AND APPLAUSE]

BRUCE: That appeal a constant refrain.

BIDEN: Finish the job. [SCREEN WIPE] Let's finish the job this time. [SCREEN WIPE] Let's finish the job. [SCREEN WIPE] We got to finish the job.

BRUCE: The President touting his accomplishments, highlighting bipartisan investments in rebuilding the nation's roads and bridges and poking at the Republicans who didn't back his infrastructure plan.

BIDEN: We'll fund these projects and I'll see you at the groundbreaking.

BRUCE: His first State of the Union address before a divided Congress started with a hand extended across the aisle.

BIDEN: Speaker, I don't want to ruin your reputation but I look forward to working with you. [LAUGHTER]

BRUCE: But there were plenty of contentious moments, outbursts over the border.

CONGRESSIONAL REPUBLICANS: The border. The border! The border!

BRUCE: Fighting the fentanyl crisis.

HOUSE REPUBLICAN: It's your fault.

BRUCE: And especially when it came to the debate over lifting the debt ceiling.

BIDEN: Some of my Republican friends want to take the economy hostage. [SCREEN WIPE] Instead of making the wealthy pay their fair share some Republican — some Republicans want Medicare and Social Security to sunset. I'm not saying it's a majority. [BOOS] Let me give you — anybody who doubts it, contact my office, I'll give you a copy — I'll give you a copy of the proposal. [BOOS] That means Congress doesn't vote — well, I'm glad to see — I tell you, I enjoy conversion.

BRUCE: The President seizing the moment to turn the tables on Republicans trying to get them to commit.

BIDEN: As we all apparently agree, Social Security and Medicare is off the — off the books now, right? They're not to be — [APPLAUSE] — all right. [APPLAUSE] I'm ready. We got unanimity.

BRUCE: On police reform, Biden admitting most in the chamber cannot relate.

BIDEN: Most of us in here have never had to have the talk, the talk that brown and black parents have had to have with their children.

BRUCE: With the parents of Tyre Nichols sitting in the First Lady's box the President urging Congress to finally act.

BIDEN: Let's commit ourselves to make the words of Tyre's mom true, something good must come from this. [CHEERS AND APPLAUSE] Something good. And all of us, all of us.

BRUCE: And on guns, the President pointing to Brandon Tsay who's credited with saving lives in the Monterey Park massacre.

BIDEN: He saved lives. It's time we do the same. Ban assault weapons now. [APPLAUSE] Ban them now, once and for all.

BRUCE: Looking ahead, the President with a message of hope.

BIDEN: Because the soul of this nation is strong, because the backbone of this nation is strong, because the people of this nation are strong, the State of the Union is strong. [CHEERS AND APPLAUSE]

BRUCE: And while the White House insists that this speech was not a trial run for the upcoming 2024 campaign I have to tell you it certainly felt like that, like he was laying the groundwork and Biden's delivery and command may go far to quell some of the concern even from his own party about a re-election run. Now, starting today the President is taking this message on the road. This week, he'll be visiting two states critical to the next election, George.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Mary Bruce, thanks. Let's get more on this from our senior congressional Rachel Scott. Chief Washington correspondent Jon Karl and, Rachel, let me begin with you. I've never seen a chamber like that.

RACHEL SCOTT: Yeah, George, and you said it yourself. It was a rowdy House chamber. At times, extremely contentious. I was sitting inside the chamber watching this all unfold as Republican members of Congress heckled the President of the United States. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy warned his conference earlier in the day that the mics are hot, that the cameras are rolling. He wanted this to be civil and respectful. He told reporters after that closed door meeting that his party would not be engaging in any childish games, but, of course, that all served as a very stark contrast to what we saw inside that House chamber, George.

STEPHANOPOULOS: And Jon, the President had a balancing act, pleading for bipartisanship yet also showing he's got a lot of fight in him. Did he do what he needed to do?

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking Overnight; Biden Delivers Fiery State of the Union; Did President Accomplish What He Set Out to Do?]

JONATHAN KARL: I really think he did. Look, this was a highly unusual State of the Union address. But this is one of the best speeches that Joe Biden has delivered as President. He came across as optimistic, hopeful. He seemed to be having a good time up there and even when he was delivering some of those harsh attacks on Republicans, he was doing it with a smile, not the name-calling he's done in the past. There was no talk of MAGA, you know, extremist, ultra-MAGA Republicans and the reaction to the — from the Republicans, at least the back bench Republicans who were heckling him and jeering him, played exactly into his message. They made the contrast. He was able to for a moment anyway, George, portray the Republican opposition as a bunch of angry hecklers, people that — that were bitter and rude. You could see Kevin McCarthy obviously didn't like the — the image. He was literally shushing Republicans in the chamber.

STEPHANOPOULOS: And Jon, the official Republican response, a familiar face from the Trump era.

KARL: Yeah, Sarah Sanders — literally going to Trump's old spokesperson. Her message was very much in keeping with Trumpism. It was harshly negative, almost a bit of American carnage that we saw from Trump in his inaugural address. But one interesting thing, George, Sarah Huckabee Sanders may have invoked Trump, but she never once mentioned his name in that speech.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Right.

[SANTOS vs. ROMNEY]

(...)

7:30:41 a.m.

12 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Right Now; State of the Union]

STEPHANOPOULOS: Following a lot of headlines including the reaction to President Biden's first State of the Union address in front of a divided Congress. The President made the case that the economy is back from the brink and called on Congress for help. We're going to speak to Vice President Harris in just a few moments.

(...)

7:40:52 a.m.

5 minutes and 36 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Live on *GMA*; Vice President Harris One-on-One; On President Biden's State of the Union & Republican Response]

STEPHANOPOULOS: That was quite a chamber last night. Your facial expressions gave some hint to what you were thinking in the response to President Biden. But what does it say about the prospects for bipartisanship?

[VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS]

STEPHANOPOULOS: The problems aren't just inside that chamber, though. The President also facing a skeptical public. The majority don't think they're better off since he took office and majority don't approve of the job he's doing.

[HARRIS]

STEPHANOPOULOS: The President did not make a specific reference last night to that Chinese spy balloon. Can the confrontation with China be contained?

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Live on *GMA*; Vice President Harris One-on-One; On U.S. Relationship With China After Spy Balloon Incident]

[HARRIS]

STEPHANOPOULOS: The official Republican response last night from Governor Sanders of Arkansas — she said the choice before America right now is the choice between normal and crazy. Your reaction?

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Live on *GMA*; Vice President Harris One-on-One; White House on the Republican Response to Biden's Address]

[HARRIS]

STEPHANOPOULOS: Governor Sanders also made a point about the generational gulf. She's 40. President Biden just turned 80. Looks like he's gearing up for re-election but a majority of Americans, according — a majority of Democrats, according to our new poll say they don't want President Biden to run again. What do you say to them?

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Live on *GMA*; Vice President Harris One-on-One; Is President Biden Running for a Second Term?]

[HARRIS]

STEPHANOPOULOS: Madam Vice President, thanks for your time this morning.

HARRIS: Thank you.

(...)

8:00:17 a.m. [TEASE]
25 seconds

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STEPHANOPOULOS: Making the case the economy is back from the brink. Calling on Congress to help. Touting his bipartisan achievements. And trading jabs with Republicans. The outbursts over the border, fighting the fentanyl crisis, guns and more.

(...)

8:02:47 a.m.
3 minutes and 15 seconds

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STEPHANOPOULOS: First President Biden's State of the Union address, his first speech to the new and divided Congress. It was unusually combative, the most rowdy House chamber in memory as Republicans booed, shouted liar" at moments in the speech. I want to go back to our senior White House correspondent Mary Bruce. Good morning, Mary.

BRUCE: Good morning, George. Well, I am told there were cheers and high-fives at the White House last night. This morning, they are riding high. They feel the president delivered. But we have never seen the chamber quite like this. It was raucous and contentious at points even as the president was arguing that Republicans should work together.

HOUSE SERGEANT AT ARMS: Mr. Speaker, the President of the United States.

BRUCE: Overnight President Biden making the case that the economy is back from the brink and asking Americans to trust him.

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3.4 percent, a 50-year low. [CHEERS AND APPLAUSE]

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BRUCE: But there were plenty of contentious moments, especially when it came to the debate over lifting the debt ceiling.

BIDEN: [S]ome Republicans want Medicare and Social Security to sunset. I'm not saying it's a majority. [BOOS] Let me give you — anybody who doubts it, contact my office, I'll give you a copy — I'll give you a copy of the proposal. [BOOS] That means Congress doesn't vote — well, I'm glad to see — I tell you, I enjoy conversion.

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BIDEN: As we all apparently agree, Social Security and Medicare is off the — off the books now, right? They're not to be — [APPLAUSE] — all right. [APPLAUSE] I'm ready. We got unanimity.

BRUCE: Vice President Kamala Harris talking to George earlier on the response to the President's address.

STEPHANOPOULOS [TO HARRIS]: The President also facing a skeptical public. The majority don't think they're better off since he took office. A majority don't approve of the job he's doing.

HARRIS: There is no question and, again, the President spoke about this and it's on his mind every day, people are still hurting in America. As he started his presentation last night, talking about the fact that we've come out of an [sic] historic pandemic, the economic crisis that resulted, supply chain crisis that resulted. You look at the cost of milk and eggs, you know, it's about \$4.25, I think, on average in the country, so, yeah, people are still hurting and we still have work

to do. I think the President was clear that the job is not done.

BRUCE: Now, the White House insists last night's address was not a trial run for the upcoming 2024 campaign but it certainly felt like he was laying the groundwork for that and starting today the President will be taking this message on the road, visiting two states this week that are critical to the upcoming election, George.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Seems like you said: he's ramping up for re-election announcement.
Okay, Mary Bruce, thanks very much.