

CBS Mornings

02/08/23

7:00:41 a.m. [TEASE]

26 seconds

HOUSE SERGEANT AT ARMS: The President of the United States!

[CHEERS AND APPLAUSE]

GAYLE KING: President Biden delivering his State of the Union address to a deeply divided Congress.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: State of the Union]

PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN: Because the people of this nation are strong. The State of the Union is strong.

UNIDENTIFIED REPORTER: Arkansas Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders delivered the official Republican response.

GOVERNOR SARAH HUCKABEE SANDERS (R-AR): President Biden's weakness puts our nation and the world at risk.

(...)

7:04:03 a.m.

9 minutes and 2 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Biden Defends Record in State of the Union; Touts Economic Recovery, Gets Heckled by Some Republicans]

DAVID BEGNAUD: But we begin this morning with President Biden's second State of the Union address, his first in a Republican-controlled House. The President spoke about what he believes are his achievements from his first two years in office, including some encouraging signs for the economy and proposed what he called a blueprint to rebuild America. He pleaded for bipartisanship, but parts of his speech were met with heckling from some members of the GOP. Nancy Cordes is at the White House this morning with more on the speech. Nancy, good morning.

NANCY CORDES: Good morning, David. Yes, this may have been the rowdiest State of the Union in history. President Biden was literally yelled at repeatedly by some of his opponents. In other ways, though, this felt like a soft launch of his re-election bid, laying out his past accomplishments and describing what he wants to do with the rest of this term.

HOUSE SPEAKER KEVIN MCCARTHY (R-CA):: The President of the United States!

[CHEERS AND APPLAUSE]

CORDES: President Biden's second State of the Union address started with a show of bipartisanship as he congratulated the new House speaker, Republican Kevin McCarthy.

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

CORDES: But the night quickly took a turn.

REPUBLICANS: The border! The border!

CORDES: McCarthy had to shush members of his own party at least four times as they booed and interrupted the President when he talked about China —

REPUBLICANS: The border! The border!

CORDES: — about fentanyl —

HOUSE REPUBLICAN: It's your fault!

CORDES: — and when he noted that some Republicans have proposed cutting Medicare and Social Security.

BIDEN: Well, I'm glad you to see you. No, I tell you, I enjoy conversion. [SCREEN WIPE] So folks, as we all apparently agree, social security and Medicare is off the — off the books now, right? They're not to be touched? Alright. [CHEERS AND APPLAUSE]

CORDES: With re-election likely right around the corner, the President focused on economic bright spots.

BIDEN: The unemployment rate is at 3.4 percent, a 50-year low. [CHEERS AND APPLAUSE]

CORDES: And he touted the \$1.2 trillion bipartisan infrastructure law, which is already paying to modernize roads, bridges and more.

BIDEN: I want to thank my Republican friends who voted for the law, and my Republican friends who voted against it as well, but I'm still — I still get asked to fund the projects in those districts as well, but don't worry, I promised I'd be a President for all Americans. We'll fund these projects.

CORDES: The President did make one quick reference to the suspected Chinese spy balloon that was shot down off the coast of South Carolina over the weekend.

BIDEN: If China threatens our sovereignty, we will act to protect our country and we did.

CORDES: Attending the address as guests of the President were the parents of Tyre Nichols.

BIDEN: Welcome. [APPLAUSE]

CORDES: Their son was beaten to death last month, five Memphis police officers are now facing charges.

BIDEN: I know most cops and their families are good, decent, honorable people, the vast majority, but what happened to Tyre in Memphis happens too often. Let's come together to finish the job on police reform.

GOVERNOR SARAH HUCKABEE SANDERS (R-AR): He is simply unfit to serve as commander in chief.

CORDES: Delivering the Republican response was Sarah Huckabee Sanders. She is the new governor of Arkansas and the former Trump administration press secretary.

SANDERS: The Biden administration is doubling down on crazy.

CORDES: She accused the White House of being more interested in, "woke fantasies" than in the hard realities Americans face.

SANDERS: I'm the first woman to lead my state, and he's the first man to surrender his presidency to a woke mob that can't even tell you what a woman is.

[ROMNEY vs SANTOS]

DOKOUPIL: Nancy, thank you very much. We are joined now by Republican Senator John Thune of the great state of South Dakota who is also the Senate Minority Whip. And, Senator, we mentioned that private moment. I want to get into some of the topics of this address but also the tone because there were public moments of disagreement we're not used to seeing at a State of the Union. The President was called a liar a couple times. There were some outbursts about whether he was to blame for the fentanyl crisis. There were definitely *Rocky Horror Picture Show* vibes at various moments there and, before we get into the content, I'm curious what you think the American people should take away from what they saw last night?

SENATOR JOHN THUNE (R-SC): Well, I think, Tony, what, you know, they saw obviously was a President — and people have characterized it as a soft launch for his re-election campaign. There was a lot of red meat that he threw out there. And the reaction in the chamber was probably pretty predictable. Democrats were very boisterous in their support, and Republicans, of course, not so much. And I think that, you know, again, the tone of State of the Union speeches, at least in my — you know, the modern — modern era in which we live politically, there is more, I would say, activity in the chamber probably than there used to be. But I think that probably characterizes a little bit of the change in our politics when people are a lot more — you know, get out there a lot more outspoken and I think the State of the Union speeches are perhaps a good

example of that.

BEGNAUD: Senator, David Begnaud. Good morning to you. There were some moments of bipartisanship, right? The President mentioned more police resources and he recognized the family of Tyre Nichols and there were a lot of Republicans who clapped and stood for that. Are Republicans ready to work with Democrats on police reform?

[THUNE]

DOKOUPIL: You know, Senator, on this question of the debt ceiling, there was a moment -- and this is one of those call in response moments where the President criticized some Republicans for wanting to make cuts to Social Security, some changes there. He's referring to a proposal from Senator Rick Scott, someone who I've actually talked to on this subject, but just to, you know, be abundantly clear for the American people, where does your party stand on cuts to Social Security and Medicare?

THUNE: Tony, I think what you heard last night is both sides agreeing that there aren't going to be cuts to social security or medicare. I do think, however — and the debt limit is a good place to do this — is to — is to actually realize we've got a \$31 trillion debt. It's not going away. We spend more than we take in every year, and you can't solve all that just by raising taxes, which is, you know, a lot of what the President proposed last night. You actually have to figure out how do we strengthen these programs. And that doesn't mean you have to cut things. But there are a lot of younger Americans today who understand if something isn't done, they're not — social security isn't going to be around for them. I mean, if you — you're talking about huge cuts in this program not too far down the road when it goes bankrupt if we don't do some things to make it stronger and viable, not just for current generations but also for future generations of Americans. And there are things that are out there. There's a proposal out there right now, which is bipartisan, bill Cassidy has half a dozen Republicans, half a dozen Democrats on Social Security reform. And it does it in a way that strengthens the program, avoids those steep cuts that would occur in the future, and I think it's — you know, that's the kind of thing we ought to be talking about because both sides have to agree. We can't sustain this. You can't have \$31 trillion in debt and climbing every year, and I think the President, if he wants to, this could be a real legacy issue. He could come to the table and it's going to take presidential leadership to do something big and consequential like this. I think Republicans would meet him there.

DOKOUPIL: Yeah, We'll have to see what happens strengthening the country for the future is what it is all about. A gentleman of the Senate, Senator John Thune, thank you very much.

THUNE: Thanks, Tony. Thanks, guys.

DOKOUPIL: And in — and in our next hour, vice President Kamala Harris will join us live. She'll be giving us her take on the State of the Union.

(...)

8:00:34 a.m. [TEASE]
12 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Vice President Kamala Harris]

KING: President Biden calls for bipartisanship in his State of the Union address, but he was heckled during that speech. Vice President Kamala Harris will tell us if Mr. Biden can overcome deep political divisions.

(...)

8:01:12 a.m.
7 minutes and 55 seconds

KING: We're going to begin this hour with the State of the Union speech by President Biden last night. Did you stay up late to watch?

DOKOUPIL: Mm-hmm.

KING: Yep, you did. This was the first time that he addressed Congress since Republicans took control of the House, and you could say he got some noisy pushback from some GOP lawmakers.

BIDEN: Some Republicans want Medicare and Social Security to sunset. I'm not saying it's the majority — [BOOSE] — let me give you — anybody who doubts it, contact my office. I'll give you a copy of the proposal.

CONGRESSWOMAN MARJORIE TAYLOR GREENE (R-GA): Liar!

KING: Vice President Kamala Harris joins us now from Washington. Madam Vice President, it's good to see you. I want to get your take on —

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Vice President Harris Live; Reaction to President's State of the Union Speech & Economic Message]

VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: Good morning.

KING: — good morning — the speech last night. I've heard — because that is one of the story lines this morning. I've heard descriptions of heckled, rude, obnoxious, but the President of the United States seemed to thrive in the give and take at points. What did you make of the tone last night in the room?

[VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS]

KING: Madam Vice President, he — he laid out very nicely what your administration has accomplished —

HARRIS: Yes.

KING: — and did it in great detail. The thing is, though, the latest polls show Americans still think the economic policies are making their lives worse, that they don't feel better off. What can you do to get the message across? We — we know the laundry list of all the things that have [been] accomplished, but yet for some reason, for many people, the message isn't translating. What are you saying to that? What are you doing about that?

[HARRIS]

KING: All of us have more work to be done on many, many issues but that's a whole 'nother story. Let's talk about China.

HARRIS: Yeah.

KING: We have to talk about the balloon, okay, we know the balloon was shot down.

HARRIS: Yeah.

KING: Your administration is still getting a lot of pushback on why you didn't shoot it down earlier when it was on the west coast before it traveled all across the country picking up who knows what. In hindsight do you all think, well, maybe we should have taken action a little earlier or are you pleased with how you handled it?

[HARRIS]

KING: You know, last night Joe Biden supporters said he had a great night, that he was on. He was firing on all cylinders.

HARRIS: Yeah.

KING: It's being described as a soft launch for the presidential campaign, which leads me to you because I want to know how you're feeling. Your supporters are saying you personally are taking a lot of incoming. Will she be on the ticket, will she not be on the ticket? She seems to be in a damned if she does, damned if she doesn't situation. How are you feeling about the job these days that you're doing and people's perception of you on the ticket?

HARRIS: Well, let me, first of all, say, as the President has said, he intends to run and if he does, I'll be running with him. As it relates to the work of being Vice President, listen, I love the American people. I — today, for example, I'm going to be traveling to — to Atlanta, Georgia, to meet with a bunch of college students about the work we're doing on the climate crisis. We are doing, again, historic work that's about creating jobs but also investing in a clean energy economy. Tomorrow, I'm going to be in Minnesota. Yesterday, I convened a bunch of foreign policy experts around an upcoming trip, my second trip to Munich, Germany to speak on behalf of the American people at the Munich Security Conference. There's important, good work that's

happening and I take the job very seriously, and I'm honored to serve.

KING: All right, I — I know you're very busy, Madam Vice President, but I think people want to know are you feeling okay? Doing okay? You didn't answer that question.

HARRIS: I am doing quite well. I appreciate it, Gayle. I appreciate it, thank you, I'm doing quite well, thank you for asking.

[DOKOUPIL SNEEZES]

KING: One more thing before you go — bless you, Tony. Tony sneezed.

HARRIS: Bless you Tony.

KING: What do you think needs to be done to stop — to figure out a way to handle classified documents? Because it seems to be equal opportunity screwups on both sides?

HARRIS: Well, listen, when we look at the nature of these documents, they're — they're very serious and they are very good rules and protocols in place, and I know they are being followed.

KING: All right, thank you for your time, Madame President.

HARRIS: Okay. I appreciate it.

KING: I know you've got a lot to do.

HARRIS: It's good to be with you, Gayle. Thank you so much. Thank you, everyone.