

White House press briefing [via Newsmax]

11/12/25

1:38:12 p.m.

2 minutes and 5 seconds

BEVERLY TURNER: So, the clock is ticking on the Friday deadline by which the BBC must retract and apologize for their malicious edits of the President in a documentary shown last year. The recently resigned director general of the BBC yesterday described the organization as the very best of society and blamed the enemies of the BBC for this outcome. Also yesterday, a senior government minister launched a fierce defense of the channel in the House of Commons, saying that the broadcaster remains a light on the hill for people all over the world. So, does the President feel that the network is taking the situation seriously? Does he believe that they've shown sufficient regret? Does this strain the relationship between the President and the Prime Minister? And given that the organization is publicly funded, is the President prepared to bankrupt the BBC in his pursuit of truth and justice?

KAROLINE LEAVITT: Well, thank you, Bev. There's a lot of questions in one there. I will say, I know the president has a very good relationship with Prime Minister Starmer. You have been there. You've seen them in their interactions. You've questioned both leaders in your time joining us. When we've gone to the United Kingdom a few different times now. however, he has always been very frank when he disagrees with leaders, even whom he has a good relationship with. And the BBC, being a fair news organization is definitely an outlet. I think these two leaders would disagree. The President has made it very clear that this is a leftist propaganda machine that is unfortunately subsidized by British taxpayers, and he thinks that's extremely unfortunate for the great people of the United Kingdom in Great Britain. And I think that the President was deeply concerned by the editing — the purposeful and dishonest editing of his speech that was so clearly fake news and he rightfully dubbed that term many years ago. And this is a classic example of that. We see it in the United States all the time. We see it now in the United Kingdom. As you know, the President's external legal counsel has filed a lawsuit against the BBC. We expect that to continue and whether they apologize or not is up to them. Thanks for being here, Bev.

(...)

1:42:26 p.m.

3 minutes and 20 seconds

LEAVITT: It just shows how this is truly a manufactured hoax by the Democrat Party. For now, they're talking about it all of a sudden because President Trump is in the Oval Office. But when Joe Biden was sitting in there, the Democrats never brought this up. This wasn't an issue that they cared about because they actually don't care about the victims in these cases. They care about trying to score political points against President Trump as we, of course, seen with this government shutdown and this entire thing. Again, it's not a coincidence to the American people at home. There are no coincidences in Washington D.C. And it is not a coincidence that the Democrats leaked these emails to the fake news this morning, ahead of Republicans reopening

the government. This is another distraction campaign by the Democrat and the liberal media and it's why I'm being asked questions about Epstein instead of the government reopening because of Republicans and President Trump. [TO REESE] Reagan.

MARY BRUCE: But given your interest in transparency, Karoline, why are White House officials then meeting with Representative Boebert in an effort to try and get her to — to not sign this petition calling for the release of the files?

LEAVITT: Doesn't it show transparency that members of the Trump administration are willing to brief members of Congress whenever they please? Doesn't that show our level of transparency?

BRUCE: [Inaudible.]

LEAVITT: Doesn't that show the level of transparency when we are willing to sit down with members of Congress and address their concerns? That is the that's a defining factor of transparency.

BRUCE: [Inaudible.]

LEAVITT: Having discussions, having discussions with members of Congress about various issues. And I'm not going to detail conversations that took place in the Situation Room in the press Briefing Room. [TO REESE] Reagan

REAGAN REESE: I have question about the government shutdown.

LEAVITT: Thank you. I'm glad someone does. First, on the government shutdown. The shutdown deal reverses the administration's RIFs, and it also prohibits more from happening until the end of January. I'm wondering if the President had input on this element of the deal, and if he's at all disappointed, that's going to reverse the downsizing that they did during the shutdown.

LEAVITT: I mean, look, I think it's about 6,000 workers total when you look at that, in comparison to the reduction in the federal workforce that this administration has done since January to get rid of the waste, the fraud, the abuse, and to reduce the size of our federal bureaucracy. We've done a lot of great work on that front, and we will continue to. But obviously, the President's main priority was to reopen the federal government and get people back to work and that's what this deal accomplishes.

REESE: And on the Middle East, there's been reports in Israeli media that the U.S. is considering building a temporary military base on the Gaza border. Can you confirm these reports?

LEAVITT: So, I had a conversation directly with the reporter who wrote this article And this article was based on a single piece of paper, a — an inquiry that somebody in the Department of

Navy made about an idea that may happen in the future and this reporter deemed that as an official plan and ran with the story that the United States is looking into it. I checked with the highest levels of the United States federal government. This is not something the United States is interested in being engaged in. It's not something we are currently involved in right now, that we will be funding, and the President has been very clear he doesn't want to see boots on the ground with respect to what's happening in the Middle East. We've made great peace. We've made great progress with the peace plan in Gaza, and we want to continue to see that move forward. But I put a comment in that story for a reason. And sometimes we see reporters take a piece of paper like this and just deem it as official policy. And sometimes that misleads people a little bit.