

CBS Mornings

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7:00:11 a.m. [TEASE]

26 seconds

GAYLE KING: We are going to break down President Trump's primetime address and plus a huge change on where you could see the Oscars. But first, here is your world in 90 seconds. President Trump defends his economic record and blames Joe Biden and the Democrats during a primetime address.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Defending His Record]

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP: One year ago our country was dead. We were absolutely dead. Our country was ready to fail.

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7:02:18 a.m.

4 minutes and 26 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Trump Speech Touts Economy & Defends Record]

KING: We're going to begin, though, with President Trump's primetime address. A forceful but not always factual defense you could say of his first year in office. He blamed the Biden administration for the country's problems and painted a rosy picture of the U.S. economy under his leadership. However, CBS polling shows this that many Americans do not agree with that assessment. Weijia Jiang is at the White House covering the speech. Weijia, good morning.

WEIJIA JIANG: Good morning to you, Gayle. Good morning, everybody. President Trump focused on the past, making the case his predecessor is to blame for current economic problems while taking all the credit for economic progress Trump insists the country has made since his return to office.

TRUMP: I inherited a mess. And I'm fixing it.

JIANG: 11 months into his second term, he addressed a nation he says is roaring back.

TRUMP: Our country was ready to fail, totally fail. Now we're the hottest country anywhere in the world.

JIANG: In a primetime speech the President delivered a dramatic defense of his presidency and took direct aim at his predecessor, former President Joe Biden. Trump argued his policies have fixed past immigration and border issues —

TRUMP: We inherited the worst border here in the world and we quickly turned it into the

strongest border in the history of our country.

JIANG: — and solved economic woes.

TRUMP: Inflation is stopped. Wages are up. Prices are down.

JIANG: But according to the consumer price index, the latest data says inflation sits at three percent, the same as it was the month he took office, and Americans are feeling it. CBS News polling finds a majority of people, 76 percent, say their income is not keeping up with those inflation rates. Despite the concerns, Trump remains confident his plan is working.

TRUMP: We're poised for an economic boom the likes of which the world has never seen.

JIANG: And the President revealed new goals.

TRUMP: Mortgage payments will be coming down even further — [SCREEN WIPE] — and you will see this. In the new year I will announce some of the most aggressive housing reform plans in American history.

JIANG: President Trump also praised the military, announcing what he calls warrior dividend payments, end-of-the-year bonuses worth \$1,776 for nearly 1.5 million service members.

TRUMP: The checks are already on the way.

JIANG: President Trump knows the economy is going to be a make-or-break issue when it comes to those midterm elections next year that will determine control of Congress and, by extension, his own legislative agenda. And Trump is already taking the message on the road, heading to North Carolina for a rally-style event tomorrow, Gayle.

KING: Alright, Weija, thank you. We are joined now by CBS News chief Washington analyst, that's Robert Costa. Bob, always good to see you, especially on days like this, the night after the speech. What are your White House sources telling you about why he chose to deliver the speech at this particular time? And a lot of people are making notice of his delivery. Many times he seemed to be screaming at the camera. What are you hearing?

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Robert Costa on Trump's Primetime Address]

ROBERT COSTA: Great to be with you, Gayle. There is frustration inside the Trump administration about how the economic record is being received by some voters, how it's playing out in the press, and even among Republicans in Congress. So, a lot of people close to the President told me this was a speech about reassuring not only the American people but many Republicans to stay in line, to stay with the President as the midterms approach next year.

KING: Well, he says that he's focused on the economy, that's what he did last night. And he says that it is good under his leadership, but the polling shows that Americans feel otherwise. What is

the strategy here to keep saying it is doing well when many people going out in the world say, no, that's just absolutely not true, Mr. President. What is the strategy?

COSTA: It is not only a strategy, it is reaction. Think about what the Democrats did in those recent elections in Virginia, New Jersey, New York City with Zohran Mamdani, talking about the issue of affordability. And President Trump believes his record, especially in using tariffs and trade to effect the economy has been successful — even if there's a real debate about that — and he wants to make his case. And this is simmering anger, at times, I'm told, in the administration about how they believe her's not getting enough credit and they want to counter the Democrats on that message.

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8:00:52 a.m.
13 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Defending His Record]

TRUMP: Our country was ready to fail. Now we're the hottest country anywhere in the world.

KING: President Trump's primetime address, a forceful but not always factual defense you could say of his first year in office.