

NBC News Special Report  
04/28/26  
3:38:42 p.m.  
4 minutes and 34 seconds

TOM LLAMAS: I wonder, Ryan, if he was sending a subtle message — a maybe not-so-subtle message — to our President when he said “America’s words carry weight and meaning and they have since the independence the actions of this great nation matter even more.”

RYAN NOBLES: I don’t see how you could not interpret it as such, Tom. And I have to say, being in the room and it may not have been picked up if you are watching on television, when he said those two lines, there was a hush, almost gasp you would describe from the Democratic side of the chamber in that moment. That clearly resonated with certain members of Congress in the room. And then when he drove that point home by referencing President Lincoln and the Gettysburg Address, saying the world may little know what we say but will never forget what we do, that was as powerful a moment as anything that he gave over the course of that roughly 25-minute speech. And there were multiple opportunities for him to use his subtle nature to drive home a point. Right before that section that you had brought up, Tom, he talked all about how the United Kingdom and the United States need to reinforce their alliance and that they will “continue to defend our shared values with partners in Europe and the Commonwealth across the world” and that they “ignore the clarion calls to become ever more inward looking,” which, of course, has been a degree of criticism for the Trump administration at different points. The other thing I think is very interesting thing to point out, which you may not realize if you were watching at home, I had the prepared remarks in front of me, that the king did not at any point stray even a syllable away from the remarks that he had prepared to deliver hear in this chamber. A very research-much different approach from Donald Trump or any other president. Bill Clinton was known to stray from his script from time to time to drive home a point. Even when he was interrupted by applause or laughter, he would go immediately back to where he was in his prepared remarks. Just kind of an indication of the type of public speaker he is and the type of public figure he is that he had a very specific plan in mind, a very specific message that he wanted to send, and he did not deviate from that goal even little bit over the course of this speech.

LLAMAS: He showed no sign of — of nervousness. When he concluded the speech, Ryan, both Republicans and Democrats were reaching across the aisle to shake his hand, to shake the Queen’s hand as well. The speech there in the chamber, this is somewhat rare, I know you alluded to this a little bit, that both parties received the speech so well. It is clear there was something for everyone in this speech. But, you know, at times, especially when speeches are given in the House chamber, many times in the Trump era, there are speeches for an audience of one.

NOBLES: Yeah.

LLAMAS: I want to bring in NBC White House correspondent Monica alba. That audience of one of course being President Trump. This is early. The speech just wrapped up. A minute or

two, two minutes ago, Monica. Do — do we know — or how do you think — you cover the President every day, he is going to receive this speech?

MONICA ALBA: Well, Tom, the President said that he wished he could have traveled to Capitol Hill to be in attendance for these remarks. Ultimately, he could not do that for logistical and security reasons and because he wouldn't be in attendance for a speech like this, that is how much he wanted to be a part of it. He was looking forward to what the King would say. And certainly, some of the things that the king talked about the President might disagree with him on. When the President specifically has made these comments about NATO in the past, he has been a very big critic of that critical alliance. It was clear here from the King's speech that he wanted to boost NATO and talk about how important it is to be able to have a system of allies when it comes to important things like the war in Ukraine, currently another area of a little bit of disagreement about how much support is still going there in terms of how the U.S. viewed that and how the U.K. views that. And I thought something else, Tom, that stood out, was what the king said in reference to what happened on Saturday night at the White House Correspondents Dinner, which is that any acts of violence that are intended to make people feel scared or back down from their daily lives, he said, those will not be successful. That those kind of intended acts are never going to be successful. That was one of the moments that received some of the greatest applause in the chamber.

LLAMAS: Monica, thank you for that.