

*CBS Mornings*

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5 minutes and 2 seconds

STEPHEN COLBERT [on CBS's *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, 05/05/26]: Back in 2020, I soundly defeated the former President at a game of waste paper basketball. I decided to offer President Obama a rematch.

BARACK OBAMA [on CBS's *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, 05/05/26]: Oh, see, he's getting cocky.

COLBERT [on CBS's *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, 05/05/26]: Okay.

OBAMA [on CBS's *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, 05/05/26]: He's getting cocky.

[FOOTAGE SPED UP]

COLBERT [on CBS's *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, 05/05/26]: Oh!

[CHEERS AND APPLAUSE]

COLBERT [on CBS's *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, 05/05/26]: It's the President Barack Obama Runner-Up Waste Basketball Trophy.

OBAMA [on CBS's *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, 05/05/26]: There's going to be a third time. Wait, and maybe a fourth, fifth.

ANNOUNCER: This morning's Eye Opener is presented by Progressive, making it easy to bundle insurance.

[LAUGHTER]

GAYLE KING: Well, those two have a bond.

VLADIMIR DUTHIERS: Hey, yeah, they're clearly do.

NATE BURLESON: That kind of spirit came out of Barack at the end.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking Overnight; Obama Appears to Rip Trump in New Interview]

KING: Yes, it does, and we're going to begin with what appeared to be some very pointed comments for President Trump from former President Barack Obama in an interview with Stephen Colbert. The 44th President criticizing the expanding powers of the executive branch,

including President Trump's use of the Justice Department. Weijia Jiang is at the White House. Weijia, good morning, President Barack Obama had some thoughts.

WEIJIA JIANG: Good morning, Gayle. Good morning to everybody. The former President actually went on *The Late Show* ahead of the opening for the Obama Presidential Center in Chicago slated for next month, but yes, he had plenty to say about the presidency and how the Oval Office has changed since he was in charge.

OBAMA [on CBS's *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, 05/05/26]: This struggle between the idea that we, the people, includes everybody.

JIANG: During a taped interview on *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, Colbert asked former President Barack Obama about the expanding powers of the executive branch, and what powers he believes whoever is the president should not have.

OBAMA [on CBS's *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, 05/05/26]: The White House shouldn't be able to direct the Attorney General to go around prosecuting whoever the President wants prosecuted.

[CHEERS AND APPLAUSE]

COLBERT [on CBS's *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, 05/05/26]: Right, technically it's under the executive branch.

OBAMA [on CBS's *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, 05/05/26]: Technically. It's

COLBERT [on CBS's *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, 05/05/26]: The norm is it's independent.

OBAMA [on CBS's *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, 05/05/26]: The idea is that the Attorney General is that people's lawyer, it's not the President's consigliere. [SCREEN WIPE] [APPLAUSE] You can't have a situation in which whoever's in charge of the government starts using that to go after their political enemies or reward their friends.

JIANG: Obama did not mention President Trump by name, but he nodded to critics who say Trump has leaned on the role of Attorney General and the Justice Department to pursue investigations into his political adversaries, including former FBI director James Comey and New York Attorney General Letitia James. Obama also spoke about the President's power as commander-in-chief.

OBAMA [on CBS's *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, 05/05/26]: There had been a whole series of norms that were in place to ensure that you weren't trying to make that military loyal to you as opposed to the Constitution.

JIANG: Obama also seemed to criticize the President for using the office to advance business

interests for his family and friends.

OBAMA [on CBS's *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, 05/05/26]: A good policy that I'd like to see followed is that the President of the United States shouldn't have a bunch of side hustles that — [CHEERS AND APPLAUSE] — those companies and the foreign entities can invest in and do favors for.

COLBERT [on CBS's *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, 05/05/26]: How much of that is just jealous that you didn't think of selling sneakers? [LAUGHTER] Because your sneakers would have flown. You know that, right?

JIANG: Even when joking about Colbert's future, the former President appeared to take a jab.

COLBERTS [on CBS's *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, 05/05/26]: How dumb do you think it is for people to say that I should run for President?

OBAMA [on CBS's *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, 05/05/26]: Well, you know — [LAUGHTER] — the bar has changed.

COLBERT [on CBS's *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, 05/05/26]: That is true.

JIANG: A recent *Washington Post*/ABC News/Ipsos poll on Trump's approval rating found only 37 percent of Americans approve of his job performance. This interview dropped just six months before a contentious midterm election when the U.S. is wrapped up in a war with Iran and gas prices continue to climb. We have asked the White House for a response to Obama, but have not heard back this morning, Vlad.

DUTHIERS: All right. Weijia Jiang reporting from the White House for us this morning. For more on this, let's bring in our chief Washington analyst, Robert Costa. Bob, as Weijia outlined, this criticism comes as President Trump faces some very, very tough political headwinds. You frequently speak to President Trump, what do you make of this and how might President Trump respond?

ROBERT COSTA: Good morning. There's always a political dance for former presidents. They don't always want to weigh in on current affairs. But with the opening of the library, we see former President Obama doing just that, not using President Trump's name. But his comments reflect a growing confidence among many Democrats nationally that ahead of these midterm elections. The headwinds are around the White House right now that the Democrats have a real shot of winning the majority. But we can expect, based on my conversations with White House officials and top advisors to President Trump, he is going to fight back. He believes he has executive authority blessed by the Supreme Court, and he has the political will to fight.