

White House press briefing
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JAMES ROSEN: On the national security leaks, I wonder if you have today any better sense of how damaging to national security they were. I ask this because I was struck by the divergence, if you will, in your comments and those from President Biden on the subject.

You came to this room, and you pleaded with all of us not to publish this material even if we came into possession of it, presumably because of the damage it would cause. In fact, even in court filings in the ongoing prosecution, federal prosecutors are referring to the great damage caused and the potential for greater damage. And yet we saw President Biden say that there was nothing of great consequence in these leaks. How could that be true?

KIRBY: Both are true. That — first of all, when I — we made those comments, it was at the very beginning of these disclosures. We didn't know the full scope of what was out there. We didn't know what hadn't — hadn't been made public yet, and the classification on a lot of this intelligence gave us proper pause for concern. And I still would make the same point I made before: We would urge you not to publish this material. We don't think that this pub- — this material belongs in the public domain.

That said, the more we have come to learn over time — and this is what the President was referring to — is that much of the information that's out there — and I say this with the caveat, James, that I still don't think we know for sure that there isn't more coming — but what we've seen thus far, now weeks afterward, it's — it's a snapshot in time, a very distinct period of time — six, eight weeks' worth. And certainly events and follow-on intelligence assessments have simply moved on from where those assessments were, or those ones that were — that were published.

The other thing I'd say is that many of them were based on unfinished intelligence. It's no different than, in many ways, the way you guys do your job. When you — when you get a source that tells you something, you do the right thing, and you follow it up and you check it with two or three other sources until you triangulate yourselves and get where you're comfortable with what you've got. Right? A lot of that information was based on — on early reporting that had not been corroborated.

ROSEN: How can you tell us that you are not sure that there isn't more material coming? You have not turned off this spigot even with the arrest of this airman?

KIRBY: Look, I — what I can tell you is: We can't say definitively that there couldn't be more documents out there, James. I wish we could have a different answer to your question. But — but that's the honest answer. Now, we don't — we haven't seen many more disclosures in recent weeks, so that's a positive, but it's not like we're going to go whistling past the graveyard and just say, "Okay, we're done." I mean, we're going to keep looking.

JEAN-PIERRE: A couple more. Go ahead, Diana.

DIANA GLEBOVA: Okay, one question on the House Oversight investigation, please. As you know, on May 10, they issued a report showing that the Biden family allegedly funneled \$10 million into their bank accounts while Joe Biden was Vice President. Members of the committee have said there may be several national security concerns at hand here with their alleged ties to the foreign countries. Admiral, have you read the report yourself? And do you personally think that there are any national security concerns here?

KIRBY: No and no.

[...]

JEREMY DIAMOND: Secondly, last night during a CNN Town Hall, former Governor Nikki Haley suggested that allowing transgender girls into female locker rooms is driving up suicidal thoughts among teenage girls. I'm wondering if you have any comment on that.

JEAN-PIERRE: So, look, I'm not going to go beyond what we've talked about when it comes to Department of Education when it comes to this President as it relates to that particular issue. But, look, I think more broadly what we have seen from Republicans just across the country as it relates to transgender youth, as it relates to the LGBTQI+ community, we've seen more than 600 bills. Many of those are targeted at transgender youth. And — and that is something that the President is going to continue to speak out against. It is appalling what we're seeing — the hate, the attack on this community. And so the President is going to be very clear that he supports the LGBTQ+ community. This is Pride Month, as you know; he's going to continue to lift up the community and all their accomplishments, celebrate them. And so I'll just — I'll just leave it there for now.

Go ahead.

JACQUI HEINRICH: Thanks, Karine. Nikki Haley, also last night, refused to answer a question about whether she would sign a bill for a six-week abortion ban if it came to her desk, saying that the administration has not yet outlined their position on whether they would sign bills allowing abortions at 37, 38, 39 weeks. Could you give us the sort of correct — correct position of the administration in terms of what kind, if any — kinds of restrictions on abortion the administration supports?

JEAN-PIERRE: So I didn't watch this — this town hall, so I can't really speak to exactly what she said. What I can speak to, what the President has said, which is that he will continue to call on Congress to restore *Roe v Wade*. And so if you know the particulars of *Roe v Wade*, you'll see where the President stands, so I'll just leave it there for now.

HEINRICH: And one other one on Nikki Haley. She also said that a vote for President Biden is a vote for Vice President Kamala Harris. What do you say to anyone who is questioning whether the President would survive a full four-year term?

JEAN-PIERRE: So let me just say this: It — I'm not going to comment on the 2024. She is a candidate, so I want to be very careful here. And we do follow the Hatch Act, so I want to be really, really mindful here. Look, this is a President — if you look at his track record, if you — and I'm saying this more broadly: If you look at what he's been able to do, he has been able to push forward and get done historic pieces of legislation.

[...]

ED O'KEEFE: I had one other. The chairman of the House Oversight Committee says they're going to vote to hold the FBI Director in contempt on Thursday for withholding documents about some uncorroborated corruption allegations dating back to when the President was Vice President. Does the White House have any comment on the Oversight Committee's continued focus on this?

JEAN-PIERRE: So, I would have to refer you to the FBI. They've actually put out a statement on this, and I would refer you to them.

[...]

EDWARD LAWRENCE: Can I ask you about China, if I could? So, the President says we're in a competition with China. He's been in office 28 months. Are we winning the competition?

JEAN-PIERRE: So, I would point you to the 800,000 manufacturing jobs that were created here. I would point you to the CHIPS and Science Act that was bipartisan that the President was able to get done to make sure that we bring back jobs here. I would point you to, as you always ask me about, the — our economy and how it's growing: more than 13 million jobs created, unemployment at a record low. And so, the President has done the — the work to make sure that we bring those jobs back. You see the investment. We talk about investing in America. And the President is able to talk about that and go around the country laying that out because of what we've been able to do: historic pieces of legislation to prove that point that I'm making.

LAWRENCE: So he feels like we're winning that competition?

JEAN-PIERRE: What we feel like is we are — we are in a place where we are — have — have created an economy that the President hopes that will work for everyone; that we don't leave anyone behind; that we create good-paying jobs like we have manufacturing come back to — to America. And we see that. We see those investment. We see companies saying that they're willing to invest and then create jobs. We see the 800,000 manufacturing jobs out of the 13 million jobs that this President was able to create in just two years — in just two years. That's historical. No other President has been able to do that even in four years. And so, yes, we're

going to continue to be competitive. And I think that's incredibly important to the American people and to how we see the — the economy moving forward for this country.