

*Administration of Joseph R. Biden, Jr., 2024*

**Remarks in an Exchange With Reporters Prior to Departure for Raleigh, North Carolina**

*January 18, 2024*

*Iran-Pakistan Military Confrontation*

*Q.* What do you make of these attacks between Iran and Pakistan?

*The President.* As you can see, Iran is not particularly well liked in the region.

*Q.* Yes.

*The President.* And where that goes, we're working on now. I don't know where that goes.

*The President's Meeting With Congressional Leaders*

*Q.* And how was your—how was your meeting yesterday?

*The President.* I thought the meeting went well yesterday. I thought the meeting went well.

*Border Security*

*Q.* What are the sticking points on the border agreement?

*Q.* Mr. President—

*Q.* Where are the disagreements you're working on?

*The President.* I don't think we have any sticking points left.

*U.S. Airstrikes in Yemen/Houthi Militant Organization*

*Q.* Are the airstrikes in Yemen working?

*The President.* Well, when you say "working," are they stopping the Houthis? No. Are they going to continue? Yes.

*U.S. Assistance to Ukraine*

*Q.* Mr. President, how do you feel about aid for Ukraine after yesterday's meeting with Members of Congress?

*The President.* I think the vast majority of Members of Congress support aid to Ukraine. The question is whether or not a small minority are going to hold it up, which would be a disaster.

*Q.* Mr. President—

*Iowa Republican Presidential Caucus Results*

*Q.* How concerned are you with the Arab American votes during this election? And what Iowa means to you, to your reelection race?

*The President.* Well, I don't think Iowa means anything. The President got 50-some-thousand votes, the lowest number of votes anybody who's won got. You know, this idea that it's been a runaway, I think he can characterize it any way he wants. I'll let them make that judgment.

What was the second part of the question?

*Former President Donald J. Trump/Arab American Voters/2024 Presidential Election/Situation in Gaza, Palestinian Territories*

*Q.* The part was: Are you concerned with the Arab American votes voting for you during this election because of Gaza? Many say they will not vote for you.

*The President.* Well, look, the President wants to put a—the former President wants to put a ban on Arabs coming into the country. We'll make sure he—we understand who cares about the Arab population, number one.

Number two, we've got a long way to go in terms of settling the situation in Gaza.

[*At this point, several reporters asked questions at once.*]

#### *March for Life in Washington, District of Columbia*

*Q.* The March for Life is tomorrow in Washington, DC—the March for Life is tomorrow in Washington, DC.

*The President.* Yes, I know that.

*Q.* What's your message to those attending?

*The President.* March.

[*Several reporters asked questions at once.*]

*Q.* Mr. President——

*Q.* Sir—sir, can you talk about inflation? When will prices come down?

#### *2022 Shooting in Uvalde, Texas*

*Q.* Should anybody be held for—should anybody be held criminally responsible for failures after the Uvalde shooting? Should anybody be held responsible with criminal charges?

*The President.* I have not read the full report. The report will be out today——

*Q.* Today.

*The President.* ——number one. We're going to do what we can to implement the recommendations of the Justice Department. But I don't know if there is any criminal liability. I—I have not read the report.

*Q.* Were you—were you briefed by the Attorney General on this?

*The President.* I was briefed by my staff on it.

[*Several reporters asked questions at once.*]

*The President.* Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:46 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House prior to boarding Marine One.

*Categories:* Interviews With the News Media : Exchanges with reporters, White House.

*Locations:* Washington, DC.

*Names:* Trump, Donald J.

*Subjects:* Border security; Department of Justice, report on 2022 shooting in Uvalde, TX; District of Columbia, March for Life; Iran, regional involvement; News media, Presidential interviews; Texas, 2022 shooting in Uvalde; Ukraine, U.S. assistance; Yemen, Houthi militant organization.

*DCPD Number:* DCPD202400028.