

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

**Remarks in an Exchange With Reporters Upon Arrival From Rehoboth Beach,  
Delaware**

*February 19, 2024*

*Q. President Biden—*

*Speaker of the House of Representatives J. Michael Johnson*

*Q. Mr. President, will you meet with Speaker Johnson to try and negotiate the aid?*

*The President. Sure, I'd be happy to meet with him if he has anything to say.*

*Death of Russian Opposition Leader Alexei Navalny*

*Q. Mr. President, would you go as far as to say that Aleksey Navalny's blood is on the hands of House Republicans right now?*

*The President. Well, I wouldn't use that term. They're making a big mistake not responding.*

*Look, the way they're walking away from the threat of Russia, the way they're walking away from NATO, the way they're walking away from meeting our obligations, it's just shocking. I mean, they're wild. I've never seen anything like this.*

*Q. How do you—[inaudible]?*

*Q. President Biden—*

*U.S. Assistance to Ukraine*

*Q. Do you think Navalny's death will make any difference in nudging House Republicans to take up Ukraine aid? They're on vacation right now.*

*The President. I hope so. But I'm not sure anything is going to change.*

*Potential Additional U.S. Sanctions Against Russia*

*Q. Are you going to impose additional sanctions on Russia over Navalny's death?*

*The President. We already have sanctions, but we're considering additional sanctions, yes.*

*Thank you.*

*Q. Do you support—[inaudible]?*

*Q. Mr. President, what's the—[inaudible]?*

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 10:25 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House after exiting Marine One.

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

*Locations:* Washington, DC.

*Names:* Johnson, J. Michael.

*Subjects:* News media, Presidential interviews; North Atlantic Treaty Organization; Russia, conflict in Ukraine; Russia, death of opposition leader Alexei Navalny; Russia, U.S. and international sanctions; Speaker of the House of Representatives; Ukraine, Russian invasion and airstrikes; Ukraine, U.S. assistance.

*DCPD Number:* DCPD202400113.