

Administration of Joseph R. Biden, Jr., 2024

Remarks in an Exchange With Reporters in Madison, Wisconsin
July 5, 2024

The President's Interview with George R. Stephanopoulos of ABC News

Q. Mr. President, how was your interview? How was the interview with ABC, sir? Mr. President, how was the interview? How did it go, sir?

The President. Well, I thought it was a good interview. You'll all be able to see it at 8 o'clock tonight. It's—you're going to record it all.

2024 Presidential Election

Q. Are you dropping out of the race or are you completely ruling that out?

The President. Completely ruling that out.

Q. Mr. President, how can you make the case that democracy is at risk, that you are the best candidate to beat Donald Trump?

The President. Because I've beaten him before, and I've gotten more done than any President has.

Q. That was 4 years—that was 4 years ago, Mr.——

Q. Have you spoken to Members of Congress?

Q. That was 4 years ago, Mr. President.

The President. No, it was—it was—but look, you've been wrong about everything so far.

Q. Not really.

The President. You were wrong about 2020. You were wrong about 2022 that we were going to get wiped out. Remember the "red wave"? You were wrong about 2023 when you said all the tough races we were going to—we won them all but two.

So look, we'll see.

The President's Conversations With Members of Congress/2024 Presidential Election

Q. Have you spoken to Members of Congress?

The President. I have. I've spoken——

Q. Who have you spoken to?

The President. At least 20. And all the Governors——

Q. What are they telling you?

Q. What are they telling you, sir?

The President. They're telling me to stay in the race.

2024 Presidential Election

Q. What about the people who have called for—they're gathering together to call for you to step aside? I think Senator Mark Warner is one of the people.

The President. Well, Mark Warner, my understanding, is the only one considering that. No one else is calling me to do that.

Q. Do you value the thoughts of individuals in your——

Former President Donald J. Trump/2024 Presidential Debates

Q. Sir, will you commit to debating President—former President Trump again?

The President. I hope he'll debate me. I wouldn't be surprised if he doesn't——

Q. And if he's in, will you commit to debating him a second time?

The President. I'm committing now. Absolutely, whether he's in or not.

The President's Meeting With Democratic Governors/2024 Presidential Election

Q. Do you value the thoughts of members of your own party when it comes to your decision to stay in the race?

The President. Sure, I do. That's why they've said—you guys saw the Governors. Every one of them in that room—all those Governors said, "Stay in the race."

Governor Maura Healey of Massachusetts

Q. Maura Healey.

The President. Maura Healey didn't say anything when I was in the room. Okay?

2024 Presidential Election

Q. Sir, will you make changes to your campaign staff at all after the debate, the fallout?

The President. We're adding—look, we've just added another 120 staffers. We're all—we have the most extensive staff operation in the States.

Q. And are you pleased with your advisers and how they're seeing you through this moment in your campaign?

The President. Any mistake made is my fault. Thank you.

The President's Ability To Serve/Presidential Succession

Q. Are you confident you can serve another 4 years?

The President. I'm positive.

Q. Mr. President, you've always talked to young people. You're so committed to talking to young people. Why not let someone younger take the country forward? You just have to ask. You know, why not let—like, every CEO has a succession plan.

The President. Well, by the way, we do have succession plans. But what do I need a succession plan for now?

And by the way, you know, I mean—anyway.

Q. No, no, no. Go ahead.

The President. Thank you.

Q. Just stay, stay, stay.

Q. [Inaudible]—decision?

Q. Have you been talking——

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:37 p.m. on the tarmac at the Dane County Regional Airport prior to boarding Air Force One en route to Joint Base Andrews, MD. The transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 8.

Categories: Interviews With the News Media : Exchanges with reporters, Madison, WI.

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