

Administration of Donald J. Trump, 2025

Remarks and an Exchange With Reporters Prior to Departure for Fletcher, North Carolina

January 24, 2025

The President. Hello, everybody. Thank you very much. Thank you very much.

So we're going to North Carolina. It's been a horrible thing the way that's been allowed to fester, and we're going to get it fixed up—it should have been done months ago—from the hurricane that took place almost 4 months ago.

North Carolina has been treated very badly, so we're stopping there.

And we're going to then go to Los Angeles and take a look at a fire that could have been put out if they let the water flow, but they didn't let the water flow. And they still haven't for whatever reason.

So I think we're going to have a very interesting time. I think many of you are going with us. If you'd like to have a ride on the plane, we'd love to give it to you.

Senator Adam B. Schiff

Q. Mr. President, why did you invite Adam Schiff on your trip given you called him "scum" earlier this week?

The President. I don't know. Is he going? Is he going?

Q. No.

The President. I don't know. I mean, I really don't. You know, because if he's going to be there, it would be cheaper, but I didn't invite him. Somebody did.

[At this point, several reporters spoke at once.]

Secretary of Defense Nominee Peter B. Hegseth

Q. Pete Hegseth—Pete Hegseth lost two Republican votes yesterday. Are you at all concerned about his prospects?

The President. Look, whatever it is, it is. He's a good man. I don't know what's going to happen; you never know in those things. But Pete is a very, very good man. I hope he makes it. I hope he makes it.

I was very surprised that Collins and Murkowski would do that. And of course, Mitch is always a "no" vote, I guess. Is Mitch a "no" vote? How about Mitch?

Q. He hasn't said yet.

The President. Huh? He what?

Q. He hasn't said yet.

The President. Let's see what happens.

[Several reporters spoke at once.]

March for Life

Q. The March for Life is today. Sir, the March for Life. Mr. President, the March for Life, sir. Mr. President, the March for Life. The March for Life is today.

The President. I did a big clip for the March for Life, and we look forward to seeing it. I'm going to be watching it. And J.D. Vance, our Vice President, is there, and he's going to be representing us very well. Taking place in a little while, and other than being a little bit cold, it's a beautiful day.

[Several reporters spoke at once.]

Pardons and Commutations/Abortion

Q. How will your—Mr. President, how will your administration—how will your administration protect——

Q. Mr. President, will you give Italy a break of tariffs?

Q. —sir, how will your administration protect pro-life of Americans going forward?

The President. Oh, we're all—we're all for it. In fact, as you know, I just signed a pardon, and in the pardon, we released 23 people that were unjustly put in having to do with pro-life. And they will be released, and they'll be out very shortly. It was disgraceful what happened to them. That was a persecution.

[Several reporters spoke at once.]

Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni of Italy/Italy-U.S. Trade

Q. Mr. President, will you give—will you give Italy a break on tax—on tariffs, sir?

The President. Well, I like her very much. Let's see what happens.

Have a good time. [Inaudible]

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:10 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House prior to boarding Marine One. In his remarks, he referred to Sens. Susan M. Collins, Lisa A. Murkowski, and A. Mitchell McConnell.

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

Locations: Washington, DC.

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Subjects: California, wildfires in Los Angeles area; District of Columbia, March for Life; Italy, Prime Minister; News media, Presidential interviews; North Carolina, Hurricane Helene damage and recovery efforts; Pardons and commutations; Senate confirmation process; Vice President; Water management policy, improvement efforts.

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