

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM,
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

INTERVIEW OF: KARINE JEAN-PIERRE

Friday, September 12, 2025

Washington, D.C.

The interview in the above matter was held in room 6480, O'Neill House Office Building,
commencing at 10:06 a.m.
Present: Representative Comer.

1 Appearances:

2
3
4 For the COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM:

5
6 HANNAH CATHEY, PROFESSIONAL STAFF MEMBER

7 AHMARI COLLINS, FELLOW

8 JESSICA COLLINS, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

9 BILLY GRANT, COUNSEL, OVERSIGHT

10 JAKE GREENBERG, CHIEF COUNSEL FOR INVESTIGATIONS

11 WILL HARNICE, RESEARCH ASSISTANT

12 JAMES RUST, DEPUTY STAFF DIRECTOR

13 GRANT SKILES, FELLOW

14 PETER SPECTRE, PROFESSIONAL STAFF MEMBER

15 ELLISON TOLAN, COUNSEL

16 SHARON UTZ, SENIOR PROFESSIONAL STAFF MEMBER

17 [REDACTED], MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

18 [REDACTED], MINORITY LEGAL INTERN

19 [REDACTED], MINORITY SENIOR COUNSEL

20 [REDACTED], MINORITY FELLOW

21 [REDACTED], MINORITY COUNSEL

22 [REDACTED], MINORITY SENIOR COUNSEL

23 [REDACTED], MINORITY DEPUTY CHIEF OVERSIGHT COUNSEL

1 For KARINE JEAN-PIERRE:

2

3 RAPHAEL PROBER, ESQ.

4 ABIGAIL KOHLMAN, ESQ.

5 RAUL C. PAEZ, ESQ.

6 Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP

7 Robert S. Strauss Tower

8 2001 K St NW

9 Washington, D.C. 20006

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 Mr. Greenberg. We'll go on the record.

2 This is a transcribed interview of Karine Jean-Pierre, conducted by the House Committee on
3 Oversight and Government Reform under the authority granted to it pursuant to House Rule X.
4 Accordingly, House Rule X grants the Committee broad jurisdiction for the Committee to conduct
5 investigations of any matter at any time.

6 This interview was requested by Chairman James Comer as part of the Committee's
7 investigation into President Biden's alleged mental and physical decline, the Biden White House's
8 efforts to hide that from the American people, and any unauthorized executive actions.

9 Can the witness please state her name and spell her last name for the record?

10 Ms. Jean-Pierre. Sure. Karine Jean-Pierre. Last name is spelled J-e-a-n, hyphen,
11 P-i-e-r-r-e.

12 Mr. Greenberg. Thank you.

13 On behalf of the Committee, I want to thank Ms. Jean-Pierre for appearing here today. The
14 Committee appreciates your appearance for the interview.

15 My name is Jake Greenberg, and I am chief counsel for investigations for Chairman Comer.

16 Under the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform's rules, you are allowed to have
17 counsel present to advise you during this interview. Do you have counsel representing you in a
18 personal capacity present with you today?

19 Ms. Jean-Pierre. Yes, I do.

20 Mr. Greenberg. Will counsel please identify themselves for the record?

21 Mr. Prober. Raphael Prober from Akin Gump.

22 Ms. Kohlman. Abigail Kohlman from Akin Gump.

23 Mr. Paez. Raul Paez, Akin Gump.

24 Mr. Greenberg. Thank you.

25 For the record, starting with the majority staff, can the additional staff members please

1 introduce themselves with their names, title, and affiliation?

2 Mr. Spectre. Peter Spectre, professional staff member for the majority.

3 Ms. Tolan. Ellison Tolan, counsel for the majority.

4 Mr. Rust. James Rust, deputy staff director for the majority.

5 Mr. Skiles. Grant Skiles, intern for the majority.

6 Mr. Collins. Ahmari Collins, intern for the majority.

7 Ms. Utz. Sharon Utz, senior professional staff for the majority.

8 Ms. Collins. Jessica Collins, House majority.

9 Mr. Harnice. Will Harnice, staff assistant for the majority.

10 Mr. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] counsel, minority.

11 Ms. [REDACTED] [REDACTED], senior counsel, minority.

12 Ms. [REDACTED] [REDACTED], counsel, minority.

13 Ms. [REDACTED] [REDACTED], fellow with the minority.

14 Ms. [REDACTED] [REDACTED], intern with the minority.

15 Mr. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] senior counsel with the minority.

16 Mr. [REDACTED] [REDACTED], staff director, minority.

17 Mr. Greenberg. Thank you all.

18 Mr. Comer?

19 Chairman Comer. James Comer, Chairman, House Oversight Committee, Kentucky.

20 Mr. Greenberg. Thank you.

21 Ms. Jean-Pierre, before we begin, I would like to go over the ground rules for this interview.

22 The questioning will proceed in rounds. The majority will ask questions for an hour, and
23 then the minority will have an opportunity to ask questions for an hour if they so choose.

24 To the extent members have questions for the witness, they will be propounded during their
25 side's respective rounds.

1 Do you understand?

2 Ms. Jean-Pierre. I understand.

3 Mr. Greenberg. The clock will stop if the witness needs to confer with counsel, when
4 counsel for the witness is speaking, and when members are speaking during the opposing side's
5 round of questions. We will alternate back and forth until there are no more questions.

6 There is a court reporter taking down everything I say and everything you say to make a
7 written record of the interview. For the record to be clear, please wait until the staffer questioning
8 you finishes each question before you begin your answer, and the staffer will wait until you finish
9 your response before proceeding to the next question.

10 Further, to ensure the court reporter can properly record this interview, please speak clearly,
11 concisely, and slowly.

12 Also, the court reporter cannot record nonverbal answers, such as nodding or shaking your
13 head, so it is important that you answer each question with an audible, verbal answer.

14 Do you understand?

15 Ms. Jean-Pierre. Yes.

16 Mr. Greenberg. Exhibits may be entered into the record. Majority exhibits will be
17 identified numerically; minority exhibits will be identified alphabetically.

18 We want to you to answer our questions in the most complete and truthful manner possible,
19 so we will take our time. If you have any questions or do not fully understand a question, please let
20 us know. We will attempt to clarify, add context to, or rephrase our questions.

21 Do you understand?

22 Ms. Jean-Pierre. Yes, I do.

23 Mr. Greenberg. If we ask about specific conversations or events in the past and you are
24 unable to recall the exact words or details, you should testify to the substance of those conversations
25 or events to the best of your recollection.

1 If you recall only a part of a conversation or event, you should give us your best recollection of
2 those events or parts of conversations that you do recall.

3 Do you understand?

4 Ms. Jean-Pierre. Yes.

5 Mr. Greenberg. You are required by law to answer questions from Congress truthfully.
6 This also applies to questions posed by congressional staff in this interview.

7 Do you understand?

8 Ms. Jean-Pierre. Yes.

9 Mr. Greenberg. If at any time you knowingly make false statements, you could be subject to
10 criminal prosecution. Do you understand?

11 Ms. Jean-Pierre. Yes.

12 Mr. Greenberg. This includes both knowingly providing false testimony but also stating that
13 you do not recall or remember something when, in fact, you do.

14 Do you understand?

15 Ms. Jean-Pierre. Yes.

16 Mr. Greenberg. Furthermore, you cannot tell half-truths or exclude information necessary
17 to make statements accurate. You are required to provide all information that would make your
18 response truthful. A deliberate failure to disclose information can constitute a false statement.

19 Do you understand?

20 Ms. Jean-Pierre. Yes.

21 Mr. Greenberg. Is there any reason you are unable to provide truthful testimony in today's
22 interview?

23 Ms. Jean-Pierre. No.

24 Mr. Greenberg. Please note that if you wish to assert a privilege over any statement today,
25 that assertion must comply with the rules of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1 Pursuant to that, Committee rule 16(c)(1) states, "For the Chair to consider assertions of
2 privilege over testimony or statements, witnesses or entities must clearly state the specific privilege
3 being asserted and the reason for the assertion on or before the scheduled date of testimony or
4 appearance."

5 I would enter as exhibit 1 a letter transmitted to your counsel dated August 21st, 2025, from
6 Mr. Gary Lawkowski, deputy counsel to the President.

7 [Jean-Pierre Majority Exhibit No. 1
8 was marked for identification.]

9 Mr. Greenberg. This letter informs you that President Trump has determined not to assert
10 executive privilege over your assessment of former President Biden's fitness for the Office of the
11 President and your knowledge of who exercised executive powers during his administration.

12 The letter also states that President Trump will not assert immunity to preclude you from
13 testifying before the House Oversight Committee.

14 Ordinarily, we take a 5-minute break at the end of each hour of questioning, but if you need a
15 longer break or a break before that, please let us know, and we will be happy to accommodate.
16 However, to the extent there is a pending question, we would ask that you finish answering the
17 question before we take a break.

18 Do you understand?

19 Ms. Jean-Pierre. Yes.

20 Mr. Greenberg. Do you have any questions before we begin?

21 Ms. Jean-Pierre. I do not.

22 Mr. Greenberg. It's my understanding your counsel wishes to raise a few points before we
23 begin.

24 Mr. Prober. Yes, just a couple process points I wanted to run through. And thank you for
25 the opportunity.

1 As counsel for former White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre, I would just like to
2 note that she's here voluntarily and appreciates the opportunity to answer your questions on this
3 topic.

4 We would request the opportunity to review the transcript for errata or any typographical
5 errors before any public release. And if there is going to be a public release of the transcript or
6 video of the interview, we would ask that it be released in full so it is accurate and the context is
7 provided.

8 You had referenced the August 21st authorization letter from the White House Counsel's
9 Office. I appreciate you mentioning that.

10 I wanted to also note that, while she is authorized to address the topics you noted and
11 privilege is not being asserted, she has been instructed that she is not authorized to reveal
12 information which is prohibited by law or court order, including classified information, and she will
13 not. And I don't anticipate there is anything that would be at issue in any event.

14 She will be testifying based on her firsthand experience with her time in the Biden
15 administration and on the topics the Committee has identified as relevant.

16 And I would ask, with your indulgence, Ms. Jean-Pierre has a very short opening statement
17 she would like to read into the record if you're willing.

18 Mr. Greenberg. Thank you. And noted for the record. We are not doing opening
19 statements, and we are going to proceed with questioning.

20 Mr. Prober. Okay. In that event, I would ask perhaps, when it is the minority's time, if they
21 would be willing to allow that to be read into the record.

22 Mr. Greenberg. Thank you, sir.

23 Mr. Prober. Thanks.

24 Mr. Greenberg. My clock reads 10:14. The majority's time will begin now.

25 I'll turn it over to Peter.

1 Mr. Spectre. Thank you.

2 EXAMINATION

3 BY MR. SPECTRE:

4 Q Ms. Jean-Pierre, just a couple of background questions to start.

5 Where did you attend college for your undergraduate degree, and what year did you
6 graduate?

7 A I attended New York Institute of Technology, and I graduated in 1997.

8 Q And what was your degree in?

9 A I got a bachelor's degree in pre-med and biology.

10 Q And then you went on to get a master's degree from where? And --

11 A Columbia --

12 Q -- what year?

13 A -- University School of International Public Affairs.

14 Q Thank you.

15 To start out with, I understand that you announced in June that you've written a book that
16 will come out I believe in October, titled, "Independent: A Look Inside a Broken White House,
17 Outside the Party Lines," and I think simultaneously you announced that you are leaving the
18 Democrat Party to be an independent.

19 Why did you leave the Democrat Party?

20 A So I have been a public servant for almost 20 years. I have been part of the
21 Democratic Party since I voted. None of that -- in the sense of my support for the Biden-Harris
22 administration, my support for the Democratic Party and its ideology, that has not changed. That is
23 certainly who I am and what I will continue to support as far as the platform.

24 I believe by being an independent I can be much more helpful by being outside of the
25 two-party system and I think that I can get a lot more done. That was my decision.

1 Q When you say "be more helpful," what do you mean by that?

2 A Just I think, as someone who had a platform for a long time and has become a notable
3 voice, I feel that I want to have a voice that is my own. And, in that realm, that would be
4 independent.

5 Q And as part of the Democrat Party, you didn't feel that you were able to have a voice
6 that was your own?

7 A I think that I spent 20 years working for either a -- a principal, if you will, in those
8 20 years, and so obviously I was working for someone. And I think, now that I am no longer in a
9 public servant role, I feel that that shows, just me not being in a public servant role, that I am an
10 independent voice. And that's how I see myself moving forward.

11 Q You said in a statement to CNN I think around the same time that your book came out
12 that, quote, "We need to be clear-eyed and questioning rather than blindly loyal and obedient, as we
13 may have been in the past."

14 What did you mean by that?

15 A I think that's kind of the definition of "independent," if you will, right? It means that
16 you're standing for your own voice. And that's -- I mean, I think the title of the book kind of speaks
17 for itself in that statement.

18 Q So to whom did you believe you were blindly loyal and obedient in the past?

19 A I don't think it is "to whom." I think it is more of stepping away from a two-party
20 system and just standing and having my own voice.

21 Q Former Vice President Harris has a book that's coming out soon as well, it sounds like,
22 and there's been some recent reporting on what that book contains.

23 There was an article released I believe yesterday with a source from the Biden administration
24 that said, quote, "Vice President Harris was simply not good at the job. She had basically zero
25 substantive role in any of the administration's key work streams, and instead would just dive bomb in

1 for stilted photo ops that exposed how out of depth she was."

2 Do you agree with that?

3 Mr. Prober. Can I just ask, if I can interject quickly, is this sort of on-topic and relevant for
4 the discussion of President Biden's mental acuity? I just want to make sure we're staying focused.

5 Mr. Spectre. Yes. I think the decision for President Biden to step out of the race is relevant
6 to that question, and, therefore, Vice President Harris's role in that is relevant.

7 Ms. Jean-Pierre. Can you repeat the question?

8 BY MR. SPECTRE:

9 Q Quote, "Vice President Harris was simply not good at the job. She had basically zero
10 substantive role in any of the administration's key work streams, and instead would just dive bomb in
11 for stilted photo ops that exposed how out of depth she was."

12 A Well, I'm not going to speak to a source unknown. What I will say is, as White House
13 press secretary, my role was to lift up the administration, and that included the Vice President,
14 obviously the President, and to continue to talk about, to discuss what we were doing on behalf of
15 the American people. That was my focus, and that's what I did, every day.

16 Q So some of the reporting on what's in Vice President Harris's memoir includes -- and this
17 is a quote as well -- quote, "'It's Joe and Jill's decision.' We all said that like a mantra, as if we'd all
18 been hypnotized. Was it grace, or was it recklessness? In retrospect, I think it was recklessness.
19 The stakes were simply too high. This wasn't a choice that should have been left up to an
20 individual's ego, an individual's ambition. It should have been more than a personal decision."

21 Do you agree with Vice President Harris's characterization there?

22 A I haven't read the book. I didn't even read the article or the excerpt from the book.
23 So, out of context, I can't speak to it.

24 Q Do you think that it was reckless to leave the decision up to President Biden?

25 A What I can say is, on that question, I can only speak to my observation and what I

1 believed in my role as White House press secretary. I think, for the President, any President -- it
2 doesn't matter if it's President Biden or any other President -- deciding to run for a reelection or
3 making that decision is a personal decision. And my role was to support the decision that the
4 President made.

5 Q Did President Biden allow for input on that decision?

6 A All I can speak to is my role as White House press secretary. My role was not to give
7 my opinion on something that was a personal decision for the President to make.

8 BY MR. GREENBERG:

9 Q So you disagree with Vice President Harris that it was a reckless decision?

10 A What I'm saying is that I did not read her book, I did not read the excerpt, I have -- I
11 can't speak to something that I haven't even delved into.

12 What I can speak to is the role that I played, my observation. And I do believe any
13 President -- it doesn't matter if it is President Biden or any President -- deciding to run for reelection
14 is a personal decision. My role as White House press secretary was to move forward with whatever
15 he decided.

16 Q And, respectfully, I'm not asking necessarily about from your role as White House press
17 secretary. I'm just asking you, do you think it was reckless for President Biden to seek reelection?

18 A I think it was his personal decision, and he made that decision, and I supported it.

19 Q Thank you.

20 A And I wouldn't characterize it that way. I would just say, it's his personal decision to
21 make, and he made that decision. I wouldn't characterize it in the way that the question was
22 framed.

23 BY MR. SPECTRE:

24 Q I guess I bring it up because certainly I haven't read your book -- it's not out yet -- but
25 from how you've portrayed it here, to me it would seem that you could speak freely about this in

1 retrospect now. You don't see it that way?

2 A Can you say more to your question --

3 Q You said --

4 A -- so I understand what you're asking?

5 Q When I read the quote, quote, "We need to be clear-eyed and questioning rather than
6 blindly loyal and obedient, as we may have been in the past" -- certainly I understand your role in the
7 Biden administration was to defend the administration's positions. But you've left the party, and
8 you say that's so that you don't have to be blindly loyal and obedient.

9 A Well, I will say this. You're focusing on one part, one particular quote. There are
10 many factors that led to me leaving the party. And I will just leave it there.

11 BY MR. GREENBERG:

12 Q Did you feel you had to be blindly obedient to President Biden?

13 A Well, I wouldn't characterize it that way, the role that I played. I would not
14 characterize it that way.

15 What I will say is that it was an honor and a privilege to be White House press secretary. It's
16 something that I feel very lucky to have been able to be in that role. And to be speaking for the
17 President of the United States and to be speaking for the American people was incredibly important
18 to me and the Biden-Harris administration.

19 And my role was, yes, to give information, but to do it in a transparent way. And that is
20 what I did day-in and day-out.

21 Q And not to belabor the point, but I do want to try and understand what you mean by
22 "blindly obedient." You said it wasn't to necessarily a whom, but it was -- it was something else.
23 So what specifically did you feel you were blindly loyal to?

24 A Well, I just want to be really clear here. We're using one line from a press release, and
25 there were many, many factors that led to me becoming independent.

1 And I think I was very clear. I said that I didn't want to be part of a party -- any party. It
2 doesn't matter if it was Democratic Party or Republican Party. I wanted to step out of that and, you
3 know, do the work from the outside.

4 And so there were many factors. I know you all are reading one particular line, but there are
5 multiple factors as to why I decided to be an independent.

6 BY MR. SPECTRE:

7 Q Your book will also reportedly examine, quote, "the
8 3 weeks that led to Biden's abandoning his bid for a second term and the betrayal by the Democratic
9 Party that led to his decision."

10 Is that something that will be addressed in the book?

11 A Can you read that again?

12 Q Sure. Quote, "the 3 weeks that led to Biden's abandoning his bid for a second term
13 and the betrayal by the Democratic Party that led to his decision."

14 A And you're asking me --

15 Q It's reported that that's something that you will address or examine in your book. Is
16 that true?

17 A Yes. I mean, that's what it said in the transcript, correct?

18 Q So, just briefly, what do you mean by "betrayal"?

19 A Look, I'm not going to go into specifics, into details, but I think it will be -- I'll step back
20 for a second.

21 You could be assured that everything that I'm saying today is accurate and concise, and that's
22 my goal of being here today. And I think I've been very clear about the book, about why I wrote it,
23 in the sense of wanting to step out of the two-party system after being a public servant for decades.
24 And I'll just leave it there.

25 Q Well -- and I understand that. And I understand the book's not out yet, and I

1 understand that's an uncomfortable position. So maybe I can ask it a different way. Do you think
2 that -- do you think that the Democratic Party betrayed Joe Biden?

3 A I'm not uncomfortable. I'm just stating that the book will speak for itself.

4 Mr. Greenberg. And, respectfully, ma'am --

5 Ms. Jean-Pierre. Yeah.

6 Mr. Greenberg. -- this is an interview before Congress.

7 Ms. Jean-Pierre. Uh-huh.

8 Mr. Greenberg. If you are refusing to answer the question, I think that's -- we can note that
9 for the record, but this is the time to provide detail. We are asking --

10 Mr. Prober. She certainly did not refuse to answer the question.

11 Mr. Greenberg. Saying that you're not going to get into detail -- this is the time to provide
12 detail.

13 You used a word, "betrayal," and we're trying to understand what you meant by that.

14 Ms. Jean-Pierre. Okay. But I also believe that the -- what I wrote is pretty clear, what the
15 press release says is pretty clear. And I think it lays out what the book is going to be and what the
16 book talks about.

17 Mr. Greenberg. What was the betrayal that you were describing?

18 Ms. Jean-Pierre. I mean, you just -- you just read the line from the transcript.

19 Mr. Greenberg. Okay. Well, we will return to those last 3 weeks, but we can -- we can
20 proceed from here.

21 BY MR. SPECTRE:

22 Q Let's take a step back and --

23 A Sure.

24 Q -- talk about, sort of, your general career background. I understand you've had a long
25 career, so we can sort of move quickly through some of the earlier ones, but what was your first job

1 out of -- was it out of college? Did you work between undergrad and graduate school?

2 A Yes, I did. I worked for a non-for-profit out of college.

3 Q Okay. Do you recall what that was called?

4 A It was focused on education.

5 Q And then after graduate school, was that when you worked for a New York City
6 Councilor?

7 A Correct.

8 Q And then after working for Mr. Gennaro, you worked for John Edwards' Presidential
9 campaign in 2004. Is that right?

10 A I worked for City Council Member Gennaro, and then after that I worked for City Council
11 Member James Sanders. And then after that I worked for an organization -- another organization in
12 D.C.

13 Q And then John Edwards' Presidential campaign?

14 A Yeah.

15 Q And after the campaign, where did you go next?

16 A Which campaign?

17 Q After the 2004 Edwards campaign for President.

18 A If I remember correctly, I -- no, not the 2004. I did not work for the 2004 John Edwards
19 campaign.

20 Q Okay. What year did you work for the John Edwards campaign?

21 A It was 2008.

22 Q And then in 2008 you also worked for Barack Obama's campaign? Is that right?

23 A Yes. That's correct.

24 Q What was your role on that campaign?

25 A For -- in both campaigns, I was Southern political director. Regional Southern political

1 director.

2 Q And then after the 2008 campaign, you joined the Obama White House. Is that right?

3 A That's correct.

4 Q And what was your role?

5 A I was also in the political department, but I had the Northeast.

6 Q And you served in the whole first term. Is that right?

7 A Not the whole first term. Just for 2 years.

8 Q And then you joined --

9 A Well, let me step back. Before I did the political office, I was a White House liaison.

10 Q And then after 2 years, you went where?

11 A To go into -- move back to Chicago to do the reelect.

12 Q So then you were on the 2012 reelection campaign. Did you work in President
13 Obama's second term in the White House?

14 A No.

15 Q Where were you working during that time?

16 A I think I did some consultant work after the campaign.

17 Q And you worked for Martin O'Malley's 2016 Presidential campaign? Is that right?

18 A For a brief moment, yes.

19 Q And then we can skip ahead here.

20 When did you join the Biden 2020 Presidential campaign, do you recall?

21 A I believe it was May of 2020, going into the general.

22 Q And then if I understand correctly, at some point you were on Vice Presidential
23 candidate Kamala Harris's side of the campaign? Is that right? Or was it at the transition?

24 A It was the running mate -- when she became running mate, I became her chief of staff.

25 Q And did you have a role in the transition team?

1 A As an advisor.

2 Q And then once President Biden was inaugurated, you were principal deputy press
3 secretary. Is that right?

4 A Yep, that sounds right.

5 Q And then eventually you succeeded Jen Psaki in May of 2022. Is that right?

6 A Correct.

7 Q And you served the remainder of the Biden administration in that role. Is that right?

8 A Uh-huh. Correct.

9 Q So, if we take a step back, when was the first time you met President Biden?

10 A If I am remembering the year correctly, it was 2009 during the Obama-Biden
11 administration.

12 Q During the administration. So you did not meet him on the campaign trail at all in
13 2008?

14 A Not that I recall.

15 Q And what was the frequency of your interaction with Vice President Biden during that
16 time?

17 A I can't remember the frequency, but if he traveled in my region I saw him often.

18 Q Just, I guess, to get some context --

19 A No, I understand. I don't want to lock in on the amount of time --

20 Q Sure.

21 A -- but I saw him often enough.

22 Q And would this be in a room full of people, or did you have meaningful, direct
23 conversations with --

24 A Yeah --

25 Q -- the Vice President as well?

1 A -- I did. I did. And I traveled with him. Yeah.

2 Q And did you advise him as well?

3 A As it relates to my job.

4 Q So, during that time --

5 Mr. Greenberg. Sorry to interrupt.

6 Can you give an example of what you mean by that, as it relates to your job?

7 Ms. Jean-Pierre. Yeah. Sure. Happy to do it.

8 I was the Northeast political director. So, in that role, anytime he traveled in the Northeast,
9 I traveled with him when he was doing specific political events.

10 Mr. Greenberg. And what would you advise him on?

11 Ms. Jean-Pierre. Because I was the person who kept an eye on what was going on on the
12 ground for the administration politically, if he had questions, I was able to answer those questions.
13 That's it. And it was just what was happening on the ground in that State.

14 BY MR. SPECTRE:

15 Q And, during that time, when you first had met and interacted with Vice President Biden,
16 did you notice that he had a stutter?

17 A I honestly can't -- can't remember specifically if he had a stutter. Obviously, this is
18 something that he talks about very often, and he was always open about his stutter, but I can't
19 remember in 2009 if that came up or if I even noticed it. But I know that he talked about it pretty
20 regularly.

21 Q The reason I ask -- and I used the word "stutter" because I believe that's the word that
22 President Biden used. And we talked about this a little bit with Anita Dunn, who recalled not
23 noticing or knowing about his stutter until he made it public at some point, I think around 2020. Is
24 that how you recall it as well?

25 A Look, I don't specifically remember -- obviously, that's her recollection; I can't speak to

1 that. But I don't remember specifically when that came up. But I know that he has talked about it
2 pretty -- pretty regularly. And, look, I don't think anybody who has a stutter, that prevents them
3 from doing high-level and executing high-level issues and problem-solving.

4 Q Of course. We're trying to understand, sort of, a change over time. And, later on, I
5 think the stutter was an excuse at times used later on in the campaign. So I think I'm just trying to
6 get a sense for, you know, what the evolution of that was over time.

7 So you don't recall specifically during that time?

8 A I don't. I just know that, on the campaign, I do remember him meeting someone who
9 had a stutter, a young boy who had a stutter, and connecting with that young person. And he
10 would have conversations about what was his trick to try to get through his stutter, which I think was
11 kind of like his humane way of connecting with people. That's -- that's what I remember.

12 Q Of course. And this is the 2020 campaign?

13 A This is the 2020 campaign that I'm talking about.

14 Mr. Greenberg. So, in 2009 -- and I won't hold you to exactly 2009, but in that range -- did
15 you ever hear President Biden stutter?

16 Ms. Jean-Pierre. I honestly don't recall -- I don't recall hearing that. And I did interact with
17 him, but I don't recall that.

18 BY MR. SPECTRE:

19 Q How would you describe his communication or his communication skills during that
20 time, 2009-ish?

21 A 2009? He was, you know, the Joe Biden that people talk about -- very friendly, very
22 open, wanting to know everybody, who was everybody in the room. He was not like any elected
23 official that I had worked with. He was incredibly friendly and wanted to know everything about
24 you. That's the Vice President Joe Biden that I met.

25 Q And do you recall him having any trouble recalling your name?

1 A Not that I recall back in 2009. I mean, not that I -- not that I recall.

2 Q So you don't remember an instance where he forgot your name or maybe somebody
3 else's name around you?

4 A No. I mean, I was new to his -- I was new. I was technically on Obama's team, but I
5 traveled with him from time to time. But, you know, I don't remember him not knowing who I was.

6 Q So, when he saw you, he would say, "Hi, Karine," or, "Hi, Ms. Jean-Pierre"?

7 A He would be very friendly when he saw me. And he knew what my role was. And we
8 would just move forward in that fashion.

9 Q And you mentioned that you worked on President Obama's 2012 reelection campaign.

10 A Uh-huh.

11 Q During that campaign, did you have a similar frequency of interaction with Vice
12 President Biden?

13 A No, because my role was different. So, no.

14 Q So you didn't see him very often?

15 A No. I didn't interact with him.

16 Q Not at all?

17 A No, because we were in Chicago, they were in the White House. You know, they
18 were -- he and the President were pretty busy. And so we didn't see either of them very frequently.

19 Q Did you have any role in debate preparation for either President Obama or Vice
20 President Biden?

21 A No. In 2024, no.

22 Q So, I guess, to be clear, during the Obama administration, did you work on debate prep
23 for anybody?

24 A No, I did not.

25 Q And you did not in the 2024 -- did you do that in the 2020 race?

1 A Yes. Yes, I was.

2 Q For President Biden?

3 A Yes, then-Vice President Biden and also then-Senator Kamala Harris.

4 Q Okay. Thank you. We'll get more into that later, but --

5 A Uh-huh. No.

6 Q So you mentioned you joined the Biden 2020 campaign around May. Is that right?

7 A Yeah. May 2020.

8 Q Did somebody approach you for this role?

9 A It was a conversation that I had with then-Vice President Biden in early of 2019 -- I don't
10 remember the exact day -- when he had asked me to join the campaign before he announced. And
11 I was not able to do that. I had a young child at the time and could not commit to being on the road
12 for 2 years. And so one of the things that we discussed was, in the general election, for me to come
13 onboard in the general election if that were to happen.

14 Q So it was a conversation directly with then-Vice President --

15 A Yeah. Yeah. And then it was revisited in May of 2020.

16 BY MR. GREENBERG:

17 Q Was that a phone call?

18 A No, it was a meeting.

19 Q Where was the meeting?

20 A In Virginia.

21 Q Was -- where -- was that a home? Or a restaurant?

22 A If I am remembering correctly, it was a home that the Bidens rented in Virginia in 2019
23 at the time.

24 Q Can you add a little color to what that meeting was? Did --

25 A It was pretty straightforward. It was, you know, "Come join my campaign. I need you

1 on my campaign." I mean, it was very straightforward. There was nothing much more than that,
2 than just straightforward and asking me and direct.

3 Q Did you talk about his time served, Joe Biden's time, as Vice President? Did he --

4 A No.

5 Q -- make any reference to that?

6 A No. It wasn't a long conversation. It was pretty direct.

7 Q Sure.

8 BY MR. SPECTRE:

9 Q And once you joined the Biden 2020 campaign, did you travel with former then-Vice
10 President Biden?

11 A It was COVID, so there wasn't a lot of traveling. I mean, this was a very -- 2020
12 campaign was unprecedented, as I'm sure you all --

13 Q Right.

14 A -- could imagine. And so it was -- there wasn't a lot of travel, because of COVID.

15 Q So what did your interactions with candidate Biden look like?

16 A It was mostly virtual, to be quite honest, because of COVID.

17 Q And were these meetings, you know, with lots of participants on the call, or did you
18 interact directly with --

19 A It would depend.

20 Q So occasionally you would have calls directly with candidate Joe Biden?

21 A Like, one-on-one?

22 Q How would you characterize it?

23 A I would say that anytime there involved information that he needed or, you know, to
24 prepare for a meeting, there would be a virtual conference call.

25 Q So --

1 A I couldn't tell you how many people were on the call.

2 Q Sure. But you interacted with him, whether it be virtually or on the phone or maybe
3 occasionally in person, frequently?

4 A Well, it was COVID, so it was mostly virtual or on the phone. And I don't know, maybe
5 I saw him a handful of times because of the moment that we were in.

6 Q So those virtual and phone calls, were they frequent?

7 A We're talking about 2020. I mean, it was a campaign, so they were often. I can't give
8 you the exact frequency.

9 BY MR. GREENBERG:

10 Q And can you estimate how many times you actually interacted with then-candidate
11 Biden in person?

12 A Probably -- this is just a guess -- I would say, maybe less than five times. I mean, it was
13 COVID --

14 Q Sure.

15 A -- so it was really hard to engage in person.

16 Q And it's my understanding that President Biden was mostly based out of Wilmington at
17 that time. Is that correct?

18 A I know he was in Delaware --

19 Q Sure.

20 A -- yeah, most of the time.

21 Q And just -- I'm not asking for an address, but just generally, where were you based at
22 that time?

23 A I was based in Maryland.

24 Q Okay. And who, to your understanding, was actually with then-candidate Biden up in
25 Delaware?

1 A I don't know. I mean, it was a small -- again, it was COVID. You know, it was a very,
2 very small team of people that were around, because of just trying to be careful and mindful of the
3 protocols, and it was, you know, as we all know, a scary time.

4 BY MR. SPECTRE:

5 Q And then I believe you said, in August of 2020, roughly, you became then-candidate
6 Kamala Harris's chief of staff. Is that right?

7 A Yeah. You know, running mate. Uh-huh.

8 Q And can you remind us what your title was?

9 A Chief --

10 Q Or, sorry, what your role was exactly?

11 A Basically, to help manage her team and to get her ready for whatever it is that she
12 needed, whether it was a debate or a speech or making sure that she had what she needed on the
13 road while she was traveling. But it was managing the team, essentially -- what chief of staffs do.

14 Q So you did help prepare Kamala Harris for her Vice Presidential debates?

15 A Yeah. I think -- I think she only had one, if I'm remembering correctly.

16 Mr. Greenberg. You are.

17 Ms. Jean-Pierre. Yeah.

18 BY MR. GREENBERG:

19 Q Did you request to work for Kamala Harris over Joe Biden?

20 A So, just to give you a little bit of the lay of the land: While I was her chief of staff, I was
21 still senior advisor for Joe Biden, and there was once or twice where I would travel -- I think I traveled
22 with him once. I may have helped -- I still was doing stuff for him, but limited capacity, because I
23 was focused on being her chief of staff.

24 And it wasn't a -- it wasn't a choice. I didn't pick one or the other. He asked me to be the
25 chief of staff for the running mate. I didn't know who the running mate was going to be at the time.

1 And I -- you know, when your boss asks you to do something, you say -- in that really important role,
2 like, a job like that, I said yes.

3 Q How -- I guess I didn't realize that you had been asked to serve with the running mate
4 before the running mate was actually chosen.

5 A Uh-huh.

6 Q How long was that, kind of -- roughly, what are we talking here?

7 A I mean, days. It was --

8 Q Okay.

9 A It was days. That's a good question. I can't remember exactly when, but it was a very
10 small, short timeline.

11 Q What was your relationship with then-Senator Harris like at the time?

12 A We knew of each other, but we weren't, like -- we were friendly, but we weren't friends.
13 We knew of each other and respected each other.

14 Q When Senator Harris was picked as the running mate, did you think that was a good
15 idea?

16 A Again, this is something -- a personal decision that only, you know, a candidate can
17 make. So I just respected his decision and moved forward with it.

18 Q Did you think she was a suitable candidate to be Vice President if so elected?

19 A I mean, look, she was in the 2020 Presidential primary, and so I thought that -- I've
20 always thought that she was impressive. I always thought that she was incredibly talented. But,
21 again, I didn't have an opinion. It was for the President to make -- or then-Vice President Biden to
22 make.

23 Q Did you find her to be honest?

24 A I mean, I worked with her for a very short period of time. I have always found her to
25 be direct and a hard worker. That's what I can speak to.

1 Q But not honest?

2 A I think she was direct. I mean, honest, direct, hard worker -- all of the things. I think
3 that she was just really focused on the job at hand. That's what I can speak to.

4 Q Thank you.

5 BY MR. SPECTRE:

6 Q And, understanding this is still COVID, how often did you interact with then-Vice
7 Presidential candidate Harris?

8 A I interacted with her -- she lived in D.C., so it was easier to interact with her, so I saw her
9 often enough.

10 Q So every week?

11 A Yeah, every week.

12 Q And now thinking into the Biden administration, of course, COVID was still around. Did
13 your interaction with then-President Biden increase from the campaign?

14 A Say that one more time.

15 Q Once President Biden was inaugurated, of course, COVID was still around.

16 A Oh, inauguration. Yeah.

17 Q Once you were in the White House, did your interactions with President Biden increase
18 from what it had been on the campaign trail?

19 A So I was the principal deputy press secretary. So Jen Psaki was the press secretary, so
20 she interacted with him a lot more than I did. But we were all -- you know, there was -- well, I
21 wouldn't say "all of us," but there was a group of us that were at the White House, and so we were
22 there every day.

23 Q So you would see him in person every week?

24 A I would say, a couple times a week, once a week. But, again, I was the deputy, I wasn't
25 the press secretary, so I didn't see him as regularly.

1 Q So, just generally, what were your responsibilities and duties as the deputy?

2 A To step in for Jen Psaki at the podium when she couldn't, to travel with the President,
3 and to prep him when needed, and also to deal with -- deal and talk to and manage with the press.

4 Q And then when you became press secretary, is that when your interaction with
5 President Biden increased?

6 A Well, White House press secretary -- most White House press secretary deal with the
7 President regularly, and so, so did I.

8 Q So every day when he was in the White House? Or --

9 A I would say, on average, once a day.

10 Q And as press secretary, did Andrew Bates report to you?

11 A He reported to me, the communications director, and also Anita Dunn.

12 Q And how much direction did you give these people that reported to you? Were you
13 their direct supervisors or --

14 A Yeah.

15 Q So you interacted with them on a daily basis as well?

16 A With my team in the White House press -- yes.

17 BY MR. GREENBERG:

18 Q Is it usual for somebody from your team to also answer to Ms. Dunn?

19 A It was, because of his portfolio. He had a political portfolio.

20 Q Were there other members of your team that also answered to Ms. Dunn?

21 A No, because he had a political portfolio, so, yes.

22 Q What about Ian Sams?

23 A He didn't -- he was not a part of my team.

24 Q Oh. Okay.

25 BY MR. SPECTRE:

1 Q Ron Klain and others have testified that there was, sort of, at -- the timing, it may not be
2 exact, but roughly 8:00 a.m. -- senior, senior staff meeting every day, followed by another slightly less
3 senior staff meeting around 8:40 or so.

4 Did you attend either or both of these --

5 A Uh-huh.

6 Q -- every day?

7 A I did. As press secretary, yes.

8 Q So not while you were deputy but once you became press secretary?

9 A Yes.

10 Q While you were deputy, did you attend the second meeting, the slightly less senior
11 meeting?

12 A I don't believe I did.

13 Q So, understanding this is while you're press secretary, what were the usual topics of
14 these senior, senior staff meetings?

15 A It was usually what was going on that day; the week ahead, if needed, depending on the
16 day; any legislative announcement, policy announcement that we were doing. It was pretty
17 straightforward.

18 Q Were there discussions of executive decisions being made by the President?

19 A Can you say more?

20 Q Was there discussion of the process of making an executive decision, such as issuing an
21 executive order or a pardon or clemency decisions?

22 A I think there were many meetings like that, but I -- there were many meetings that I was
23 not part of. Obviously, as the White House press secretary, I'm not in every meeting. But usually
24 those morning meetings were more, I would say, like a check-in meeting on the day and how to move
25 forward.

1 Q And did these meetings ever include discussions of President Biden's health?

2 A I think, as far as I was involved, it was more of what was being asked by the press and
3 what was the press inquiry, and it was in that form.

4 Q So, if the press had questions about President Biden's health, then it would've come up
5 at that meeting?

6 A Not necessarily. But that would be -- if you're asking me how it would come up, it
7 would come up because of the press perspective.

8 Q Do you recall that happening?

9 A If it did, very infrequently.

10 Q Do you recall a specific instance?

11 A No, because it didn't take -- take over and -- take over in those meetings at all.

12 Q I'm sorry, could you say that again?

13 A Meaning, like, the health -- what press was asking about as it related to his health didn't
14 overtake those meetings.

15 You have to remember, one of the questions that I got frequently from press was health
16 questions and age questions, so that was something that we had to deal with for a good portion of
17 his first term -- or, of his term.

18 Q So any discussions of President Biden's health at these morning meetings, they were
19 only in the context of press inquiries, never anything different from that?

20 A There was -- I do not recall having a specific meeting on his health, no.

21 Q To be clear, maybe not a meeting that's all about his health, but did his health come up
22 at these meetings in any context?

23 A Not that I recall.

24 BY MR. GREENBERG:

25 Q So, when you were facing media inquiries regarding the President's health,

1 when -- when would you raise those, in a normal situation?

2 A So I think, in these meetings, I am the White House press secretary, so if I get asked,
3 "Hey, what is the press talking about? What's going to be the focus in your press briefing?" that's
4 how it would come up. I would say, "This is what the press is covering. This is the topics that
5 they're into." That's how it would come up.

6 Q And to get the answers to those questions from the press, would you raise them
7 exclusively in that meeting --

8 A No.

9 Q -- or would it be in other --

10 A No.

11 Q -- settings as well?

12 A It was just, as I said, this was a check-in, these meetings were primarily check-ins. So it
13 was -- my role is to engage with the press. And so that's how it would come up.

14 Q And if one of those questions came up and it wasn't -- didn't feel natural, circumstances
15 arise in which you're not bringing it up in that meeting, who would you go to to get answers to that
16 question?

17 A And just to -- I just want to step back for a second and be very clear. If there was a
18 shooting, for example, and people were having inquiries, press was having inquiries, "Did he speak to
19 the mayor? Did he speak to the Governor?" that would be -- it was just in that same vein, I would
20 be asked, "Okay, what's going on? What's the incoming that you're getting? What's going on in
21 the press?" that I would bring that up. So that's what I'm talking about -- like, what press had upon
22 their mind.

23 As it relates to my press briefings and how I would take on any incoming questions, the Q&A,
24 if you will, the talking points that came out, would come from the comms team, senior advisors, and
25 my press team.

1 Q So I don't think that -- that was helpful. I don't think it entirely answers my question.
2 Just, if you had a question that you were trying to get an answer for about the President's
3 health, who would you go to?

4 A The press team, the comms team, senior advisors, depending on the question.

5 Q Would you go to Mike Donilon, for instance?

6 A So, just to lay out a little bit -- so the press team, people have a portfolio. The comms
7 team, people have a portfolio. And so they would be the ones that would, you know, work with the
8 policy teams or the senior advisor on any topics that were coming up in the briefing room, and then
9 they would come to me. And then we would talk through whatever topics that were going to be
10 coming up in the press briefing room. And that's how it worked.

11 Q So who had the portfolio for inquiries regarding President Biden's health?

12 A That was primarily coming from the communications team.

13 Q And who on the communications team?

14 A I mean, we've had different people coming -- kind of, being part of the communications
15 team, so it was an array of people. It was also Anita Dunn, who was part of the senior advisors.
16 So I don't want to pinpoint anybody, because there was -- depending on the timing, depending on
17 what time of -- what time during the first term, or his term.

18 Q Would you ever go to -- would it ever occur to you to go to Ms. Tomasini with a question
19 regarding the President's health?

20 A I did not.

21 Q How about Mr. Bernal?

22 A About the President's health?

23 Q Yes, ma'am.

24 A Mr. Bernal? No.

25 Q How about Ashley Williams?

1 A No. I don't recall doing that.

2 BY MR. SPECTRE:

3 Q How about the First Lady? Same question.

4 A No.

5 Q Did you interact frequently with the First Lady?

6 A Not frequently, but I saw her from time to time.

7 Q And did you ever have a conversation about President Biden's health or fitness?

8 A No.

9 BY MR. GREENBERG:

10 Q How would Ms. Dunn tell you to handle inquiries regarding the President's health or
11 fitness?

12 A Basically how -- meaning -- can you be more specific?

13 Q If there were any talking points that stick out to you about what the message should be
14 regarding the President's health or fitness --

15 A I mean --

16 Q -- coming from Ms. Dunn.

17 A -- I was pretty much on the record about the President's health and -- from my
18 observation. And I've always -- what I said at the podium is certainly what I believed and what I saw
19 myself, my personal observation as well, which is that he was, you know, capable of doing the job.

20 This is a President that had the experience to do the job, cared about the American people,
21 and did it every day, day-in and day-out, and was able to have some pretty successful legislation and
22 policies to help move this country forward.

23 And that's how we -- we just kept it high-level. We kept it on what the President has been
24 able to do.

25 Q Do you think that strategy, delivering that message, was effective? Or do you think

1 that there should've been other efforts taken, by you or other people in the White House, to push
2 back on this story about the President's health or fitness?

3 A Here's what I say. I would say that this is a President where the American people,
4 reporters, whoever was following him, got to see him on a regular basis. This is someone who
5 talked to reporters, you know, in an informal way, taking shouted questions, inquiries from them
6 over 670 times.

7 So he did that pretty regularly. People got to see him multiple times a week. And I think
8 that reaches a level of, "Hey, you guys get to see and speak to him, and he takes your question, and
9 he's out there."

10 Q Then why did this question keep coming up?

11 A You know, that's something for, I think, reporters to speak to. It was a question that
12 came up. I tried -- we tried to do our best to answer it. The President was out there. People got
13 to see him. People got to hear directly from him pretty regularly.

14 I can't speak to that. I'm not going to speak to a hypothetical that I can't even answer.

15 Q Did the frequency of this question increase from January 20th, 2021, to the end of Joe
16 Biden's term?

17 A I think it was something that was a part of being in the administration that came up. I
18 can't speak to the frequency, but it was one of the topics that came up often.

19 Q It didn't increase after his debate with President Trump?

20 A I mean, you all watched my press briefings, right? So that was a topic, certainly, after
21 the debate.

22 But, again, my observation has always been, when it comes to this President, President Biden,
23 that he was more -- more than competent of doing the job each and every day, day-in and day-out.
24 And I got to see that on a regular basis. That was my observation.

25 Q And -- I hear what you're saying. I'm less interested in what you have to say about

1 whether you believe the President was capable of doing the job. My question is, did you ever see a
2 change in the President's ability to do the job?

3 A We started off part of your questioning about when I first met him in 2009. I think that
4 he's aged. I've aged. Presidents age in these jobs. It is very common. Obviously he got older.

5 I spoke to that at the podium. He spoke to that, about how he's aged. But when it comes
6 to competency, when it comes to being able to do the job, he was more than capable of doing that.
7 Did he age? We all do. Yes, he did.

8 Q And I understand that we all age. We're aging just sitting in this room right now.
9 But --

10 A Every second.

11 Q Every second. But --

12 Mr. Prober. It feels like that.

13 BY MR. GREENBERG:

14 Q -- my question is, did you see a change in his competency from 2021 to 2025?

15 A I did not see a change in his competency from 2021 to the end of his administration, if
16 that's what you're asking me --

17 Q So --

18 A -- if I have that correct.

19 Q Yes, ma'am.

20 So let's expand the scope even further. You've known Joe Biden, interacted with Joe Biden
21 since -- on a semi-regular basis since 2009. Is it your testimony here today that Joe Biden's
22 competency is the same from 2009 to today?

23 A What I will say is, when I served with him in the 4 years of this administration, he was
24 more than competent to do the job. This is someone who woke up every morning focused on the
25 American people and delivering for the American people, and that's what I saw. I saw someone

1 who cared and did that in a -- in a very focused way. And, you know, that's why I was honored and
2 privileged to have worked in this administration.

3 Q And I understand that you believe that he was competent the entirety of his term. I
4 am asking you, did you see a change from 2009 to 2025 in Joe Biden's competency?

5 A No. I did not.

6 This is someone who, if you're in a room with him -- when I was in a room with him, during
7 the administration, when I came in to talk to him about whatever issue that he wanted to know
8 about, this is someone who had a conversation with me back and forth, who was very engaged, who
9 was very aware of what was happening in the press, sometimes more aware than I was, and we
10 would have that discussion.

11 And that was my exchange, and that was what I experienced in the 4 years that I worked for
12 this President.

1 [11:05 a.m.]

2 Mr. Greenberg. Do you believe that Joe Biden became a less adept debater from the time
3 that you began knowing him to 2025?

4 Ms. Jean-Pierre. So I will just use his own words. He said himself he wasn't as good
5 debater as he used to be, or he wasn't speaking as well as he used to. That was something that he
6 said, he actually spoke to.

7 Mr. Greenberg. Did you ever have conversations with President Biden about why he wasn't
8 as good of a speaker as he used to be?

9 Ms. Jean-Pierre. I never had a direct conversation with the President about that.

10 BY MR. SPECTRE:

11 Q Did you have a conversation with somebody else about that?

12 A I never had a conversation with anybody about that.

13 Q You mentioned you that didn't recall at least noticing that Joe Biden had a stutter when
14 you first met him, but did you notice it at some point during the -- your time in the Biden
15 administration?

16 A I can't remember specific times, but obviously, this is something that he freely talked
17 about extensively, and I can't pinpoint a moment where I experienced that or could remember, but
18 this is somebody who talked about it, connected with other folks who had stutters, and, you know,
19 again, if you have a stutter, it doesn't mean that you can't perform at a high level.

20 Q Certainly. And the reason that I ask at all is simply because the fact that he had a
21 stutter was brought up as perhaps a reason for some of his lack of performance in the debate, for
22 example, and other moments. Do you agree with that? Do you think that that had a -- that played
23 a role?

24 A I can't hypothesize or opine what it's like to have a stutter. That's not something that I
25 can speak to. I know what you're speaking of. What I know is that he had to get -- he had to work

1 very hard to deal with his stutter even today from the time he was young, even today is something
2 that he talked about extensively. Again, just because you have a stutter doesn't mean you can't
3 operate at a high level and be very functioning, and that does not affect your competency.

4 Q Certainly, and I agree with you. I only mean that it was -- it seemed to be cited as
5 proof that he was not in cognitive decline in any way, that any verbal stumble was simply the result
6 of the stutter.

7 A Again, what I can speak to is my observation and he -- this is somebody that was more
8 than competent to do his job. I don't think -- I don't think a stutter, if he had it or not, if you have a
9 stutter doesn't mean that you can't perform at a high level, but my experience -- my observation,
10 again, and I said this at the podium and I will continue to say it today in front of all of you, which is
11 this is someone who was very active and engaging with me when I had conversations with him.

12 Q Do you think that -- you mentioned that the press was very concerned or brought up
13 frequently President Biden's health or these related issues of his cognitive abilities or fitness to serve.
14 Do you think the American people were also concerned about that?

15 A I can't speak for the whole entire American people. It's not something I can speak to.

16 Q Did you ever have outreach from friends or people you knew that were concerned that
17 President Biden was struggling with his health or cognitive abilities?

18 A Not that I recall. Not specific conversations.

19 Q Did you ever have a conversation with anyone in the White House?

20 A In the White House?

21 Q Where you or they were concerned about President Biden's health or cognitive abilities?

22 A I've never spoken to anybody in the White House about that.

23 BY MR. GREENBERG:

24 Q To be clear, you've spoken to people in the White House about that regarding press
25 inquiries, though.

1 A Exactly, but the question was, if I heard the question, if people in the White House were
2 concerned, like, personally concerned. I did not talk to anybody about that in the White House
3 about personal concern.

4 Q Sure. And you would -- I'm not a press person. I don't really know how your job
5 works, but it's my understanding --

6 A You should try it. It's fun.

7 Q If you had -- if you were receiving outreach from the press about the President's health
8 or ability to serve, you would go to either the comms team, the press team.

9 A It's not necessarily that I would go. Everybody was watching the news just as I was,
10 right? So people were aware with what was happening in the news. But as the press secretary,
11 when I'm in these meetings, these check-in meetings, I would bring up, Hey, this is what I'm going to
12 get in the briefing room, this is, you know, the incoming that we're having that's coming in from the
13 White House press corps.

14 Q Sure. And over the course of your 2 years as press secretary, it's your testimony here
15 today that you never just asked somebody, whether it was one of the senior advisers or the Vice
16 President, Hey, Steve Ricchetti, is the President okay?

17 A I never had to ask that question because I saw the President on a daily basis, and I never
18 ever thought if -- I never had that question.

19 Q But to be clear, you're not a doctor, correct?

20 A I'm not a doctor, but you're also asking me to make a statement, right? About his
21 health so, I mean, it goes both ways here. I'm just telling you my observation, right? My
22 observation was this was somebody who was competent, and these are conversations that I'm
23 having, right? These are direct conversations that I'm having with the President of the United
24 States, Joe Biden at the time, and it was always direct, it was always very alert and, you know, it was
25 a healthy back and forth. So because I had that daily access to him and talked to him, there would

1 be no reason for me to go to a senior adviser to ask the question that you just asked me.

2 Q And just to be specific, after the 2024 debate, you never thought maybe I should
3 actually ask a few other people if the President's doing okay?

4 A He said he had a bad night. The President said he had a bad night.

5 Q And you never thought to ask why?

6 A Again, this is somebody that I had regular engagement with, and I never had a concern
7 about anything that dealt with if the President could do his job or not. I saw a President that was
8 more than capable to do his job.

9 Mr. Spectre. So I understand you had frequent interaction with President Biden, but for
10 those in the White House that didn't, were you aware of any of them coming to you or to anyone
11 else?

12 Ms. Jean-Pierre. They did not come to me.

13 Mr. Spectre. Are you aware of anybody raising concerns about President Biden's health with
14 another senior adviser?

15 Ms. Jean-Pierre. No, I was not.

16 BY MR. GREENBERG:

17 Q So as far as you know, the White House, nobody in the White House had concerns about
18 the President's ability to do his job.

19 A I'm one person out of hundreds of people that work for the President of the United
20 States. I can only speak for myself and my observation and my engagement with people. That's
21 all that I'm speaking to today.

22 Q And -- but you were the spokesperson for the White House, so I would think that you
23 might have an ear for what people in the White House were doing or saying, and is it not -- did
24 nobody ever come to you with any concern and say Ms. Jean-Pierre, is the President okay?

25 A No one came to me and said those exact words. That's not -- that's not a conversation

1 that I had with anyone. What I can say is that my observation, again, I'm one person, and my job
2 was to share information that -- in a transparent way, that was -- that reporters and the American
3 people needed to know. I did not have those direct -- very direct -- you're talking about very direct
4 conversations with people, and I didn't have them.

5 Q Do you think you shared information -- that the White House shared information
6 directly and clearly regarding the President's health or ability to do the job?

7 A Yes.

8 BY MR. SPECTRE:

9 Q We're getting close to the end of our hour, but just quickly, Ian Sams testified that -- and
10 I don't want to misrepresent the exact number of times, that he did not interact with President Biden
11 very often in person, and he was certainly asked to make statements particularly in the context of the
12 Robert Hur report pushing back against the concerns about President Biden's, I think in that case,
13 primarily memory. Did Ian Sams come to you to discuss how to respond to those concerns?

14 A Come to me to help him how to respond to those concerns?

15 Q Are you aware of how Ian Sams got his direction for how to respond to these concerns
16 since he did not interact with President Biden very often?

17 A Ian Sams didn't work for me. He didn't report to me, so I would not have been
18 involved in how he engaged or interacted with the President and his job, because he wasn't under
19 my tutelage, if you will. He didn't work for me. I wasn't his direct report.

20 Q So you have no knowledge of how his response to questions and the context of the Hur
21 report would have been made or considered?

22 A That was not my -- that would not be my role with how Ian would go and speak to the
23 press about -- I just wasn't involved in that.

24 Chairman Comer. I've never really understood why Ian Sams was brought on. He said he
25 didn't interact with the President. You say you didn't interact with him. Who was telling Ian Sams

1 what to do and what to say when he would go out there it seemed like on a daily basis?

2 Ms. Jean-Pierre. So just to correct, I interacted with Ian.

3 Chairman Comer. Okay. You didn't give orders.

4 Ms. Jean-Pierre. Yeah. I didn't want that to be on the record. I interacted with Ian
5 because he did have a portfolio, and so we definitely interacted on his portfolio. I did not give him
6 direction on how to do his job because he didn't report to me. My understanding, because I was
7 not involved in his hiring, I wasn't part of that. My understanding is that he reported to the White
8 House counsel, because that's where he was based, and also Anita Dunn who was a senior adviser at
9 the time. That's my understanding.

10 Chairman Comer. It seems unusual. I mean, you seem like you did a very good job for
11 President Biden.

12 Ms. Jean-Pierre. Thank you.

13 Chairman Comer. I don't understand why they would bring Ian Sams on.

14 Ms. Jean-Pierre. I can't speak to it.

15 Chairman Comer. And you think he reported to the counsel but, I mean, are you sure?
16 Somebody had to tell him what to say when he was out there. He said a lot, a lot of about me,
17 which I know doesn't have anything to do with this, but a lot about the President's health, and then
18 come to find out he never talked to the President.

19 Ms. Jean-Pierre. Well, he was -- I believe his title was spokesperson that was in the White
20 House counsel, if I I'm remembering correctly, and I'm sure your team will correct me. That's where
21 he was based and that's where he kind of lived in doing his job. I can't speak beyond that. I
22 understand your question. I don't have much to share. I appreciate the question, though.

23 Mr. Greenberg. Thank you. We'll go off the record.

24 [Recess.]

25 BY MS. [REDACTED]

1 Q I just want to thank you for being here, Ms. Jean-Pierre. I understand you have a
2 statement you wanted to read. We'll give you some time.

3 A Yes, and thank you so much for this opportunity. I guess it's -- I don't know. Is it
4 afternoon? It's still morning?

5 Mr. Prober. It's still morning.

6 Ms. Jean-Pierre. Good morning. I have been willing to voluntarily cooperate with the
7 Committee from the time I received your request. I'm here today to answer your questions about
8 my service in the Biden administration that are within the scope of our inquiry. I have fulfilled my
9 obligations to the Committee by appearing before you today as requested in your letter dated June
10 27th, 2025.

11 I served as the 35th White House press secretary becoming the first black person, immigrant,
12 and openly queer person to serve in that role. I was the longest-serving female press secretary in
13 my role first as principal deputy press secretary, and then as press secretary. My job was to relay
14 information from all corners of the executive branch to the press and to the American people.

15 I served in the Biden Harris administration from day one through its end. During this time,
16 my focus was on the administration's countless administrative and legislative accomplishments.
17 Transparency was one of my priorities, and I believe the Biden Harris administration shared that
18 priority. In furtherance of this priority, I conducted 306 formal press briefings and hundreds of
19 gaggles. In each of those interactions, I answered questions with information I had at the time.

20 I will be clear today. At all times during President Biden's presidency, I believed that he was
21 fully capable of exercising his presidential duties and responsibilities. That is not to say that he was
22 infallible. No one is. Like any person, including presidents, President Biden made mistakes and
23 had bad days, and like any person, including presidents, President Biden physically aged over the
24 years. There was never a moment when I doubted his abilities or judgment. I can, of course, only
25 speak for my own observations.

1 I've traveled with and saw the President often, but I was not party to every conversation that
2 occurred in the administration. I had an important and visible role in the administration, but my
3 role was only one of many important roles throughout the executive branch. I'm honored to have
4 had the privilege of serving the President and the American people. Thank you for this time.

5 BY MS. [REDACTED]

6 Q Thank you, Ms. Jean-Pierre. You, as press secretary, you were deputy -- principal
7 deputy press secretary at the beginning of the administration, and as press secretary, you -- I think
8 you told my colleagues you saw the President about once a day?

9 A Yeah, on average.

10 Q Once a day. And you traveled with him quite frequently. And just so we have a clear
11 record, was it ever your view that President Biden was unable to make decisions about the matters
12 within the scope of his presidential duties?

13 A No.

14 Q Was it ever your view that President Biden was unable to fulfill -- to fully execute the
15 duties of his office?

16 A No.

17 Q And did you ever have any concerns about President Biden's ability to handle significant
18 policy matters?

19 A No.

20 Q And my majority colleagues have alleged the existence of a cover-up with respect to
21 President Biden's mental acuity. Also, in interest of making sure we have a clear record, Ms.
22 Jean-Pierre, you have no knowledge that Joe Biden was, at any point in time, mentally unable to
23 execute the duties of the office of the President, correct?

24 A Correct.

25 Q And to your knowledge, did anyone in the White House at any point during Joe Biden's

1 presidency ever make decisions to issue any form of clemency, pardons, or -- excuse me, pardons or
2 otherwise in Joe Biden's name without his knowledge or authorization?

3 A No.

4 Q And did you ever make decisions to issue any form of clemency, pardons, or otherwise
5 in Joe Biden's name without his knowledge or authorization?

6 A No.

7 Q And again, at any point during the Biden presidency, did anyone in the White House, to
8 your knowledge, ever issue any other type of executive order without President Biden's knowledge
9 or authorization?

10 A To my knowledge, no.

11 Q So to your knowledge, all decisions to issue executive orders during the Biden
12 administration were made by President Biden alone.

13 A Yes, to my knowledge.

14 Q And no one exercised the power on his behalf.

15 A To my knowledge, no.

16 Q And lastly, aside -- apart from the instances in which President Biden delegated
17 authority to Vice President Harris while he was undergoing a medical procedure, did anyone, to your
18 knowledge, ever step in to carry out the duties of the presidency in Joe Biden's place because he was
19 unable to do so?

20 A No.

21 Ms. [REDACTED] Thank you.

22 Mr. [REDACTED] Great. We'll go off the record.

23 [Discussion off the record.]

24 BY MR. SPECTRE:

25 Q Just as a general question, have you discussed this interview today with anyone besides

1 your immediate family and your counsel?

2 A No.

3 Q I think you mentioned that you have spoken with former President Biden since he left
4 office. Is that right?

5 A Yes.

6 Q On more than one occasion or was it one time?

7 A To my -- it was one time. No, it was one time. It was a couple times over a week
8 period.

9 Q Okay. When was that?

10 A It was early May.

11 Q And in your conversations in early May with former President Biden, what did you
12 discuss?

13 A I was talking to him about an interview that he was about to do. It was a prep, if you
14 will.

15 Q And anything related to this investigation?

16 A Not to my knowledge.

17 Mr. Greenberg. What was the interview about?

18 Ms. Jean-Pierre. It was "The View" interview. I think you all probably watched it. I was
19 part of a team that prepped him for it.

20 Mr. Spectre. So just to be clear, you had no conversations with former President Biden
21 about the contents of your testimony today or what you would testify to?

22 Ms. Jean-Pierre. No.

23 Mr. Greenberg. Just to one of your former questions, Peter, I believe, and I don't have the
24 transcript in front of me, I believe Mr. Bates told us that you had -- while you were having a phone
25 conversation that this investigation came up with him. Do you remember that?

1 Mr. Prober. I'm sorry, can you just explain that a little more. I want to make sure we're
2 tracking the question. Who is the -- who is having the conversation with who?

3 Mr. Greenberg. Sure. When we had an interview with Andrew Bates, I believe he told us
4 that there was a phone conversation in which you -- that this came up in passing. Is that correct?

5 Ms. Jean-Pierre. So I know what you're talking about. It was probably the day that we
6 both got the letter, and I think it was one of those 'are you okay' conversations, and then we both
7 decided on that call that we should not be moving forward to not talk to each other.

8 Mr. Greenberg. Understood. Any similar conversations?

9 Ms. Jean-Pierre. No.

10 Mr. Greenberg. Thank you.

11 Mr. Spectre. And during that conversation with Mr. Bates, do you have any conversation of
12 what topics might be brought up in these interviews?

13 Ms. Jean-Pierre. No. It was, 'Are you okay, Checking in on you,' okay. That's it. We
14 don't need to talk anymore.

15 Mr. Spectre. Sounds good. Thank you.

16 BY MR. GREENBERG:

17 Q Listening to your statement that you just read, I think you made reference to President
18 Biden having bad days. Do I have that correct?

19 A Correct.

20 Q How did you know President Biden was having a bad day?

21 A I was speaking in generalities, right? Not everybody -- we're not perfect. We have
22 good days and bad days, so I was speaking in general.

23 Q Did anybody ever say -- inform you, you know, the President's having a bad day today?

24 A Not that I recall. Not specifically in that way.

25 Q Well, what do you consider a bad day?

1 A I mean, speaking for myself, right? Not for anybody else.

2 Q Sure. Let's start with what you consider.

3 A I think we all have bad days, right? You don't feel like -- at least for me, right? As
4 White House press secretary, maybe I came off the podium and I was like, Oh, that didn't feel good
5 or I felt like I could have been, you know, more sharp, or whatever. Like, we critique ourselves very
6 harshly, and I think -- in that regard. In that regard. And it's big to us, but sometimes it's small to
7 others, right?

8 Q Are you aware of anybody ever instructing either President Biden or a member of staff
9 at the White House that maybe the President shouldn't do something because he's having a bad day?

10 A No.

11 Mr. Greenberg. Thank you.

12 BY MR. SPECTRE:

13 Q On March 26, 2022, soon after Russia invaded Ukraine, President Biden spoke
14 at -- spoke in Warsaw, Poland, and he said, quote, For God sake, this man cannot remain in power,
15 with regard to Vladimir Putin. I think this is -- March 26, 2022, is shortly before you became press
16 secretary. You were deputy still at that time?

17 A Can you say that again. I'm so sorry, I'm just trying to --

18 Q Sure. This is a quote from President Biden from March 26, 2022. I'm just stating for
19 the record, I believe you started as press secretary on May 13th, so shortly after that. So during this
20 time that this was said --

21 A I understand.

22 Q -- you were deputy. Is that correct?

23 A Yes, if you were talking about March 2022, yes.

24 Q So I can read the quote again if you'd like.

25 A Yeah. Do you mind?

1 Q Sure. President Biden stated, quote, "For God sake, this man cannot remain in power,"
2 end quote, with regard to Vladimir Putin. Do you recall that?

3 A Not specifically. It vaguely sounds familiar.

4 Q Okay. So do you recall what the White House said after that statement was made?

5 A I mean, I wasn't the press secretary at the time, so I don't recall.

6 Q Okay. Do you believe that President Biden meant to say what he was saying when he
7 appeared to call for President Putin to be ousted?

8 A Look, I don't specifically remember that moment, and so, I did not have a conversation
9 with him directly, because I was not the press secretary at the time.

10 Q Sure.

11 A So I can't speak to -- I can't characterize what the President meant.

12 Mr. Greenberg. But you were principal deputy press secretary, correct?

13 Ms. Jean-Pierre. Yes.

14 Mr. Greenberg. So when something like this would come up, was that not the deputy press
15 secretary or other people in the office, did they not handle things like this?

16 Ms. Jean-Pierre. I think what I'm trying to say is I wasn't the press secretary at the time, so
17 this would have been something that I don't directly remember, and so I can't speak to how that
18 played out. I mean, I said earlier that as deputy press secretary, I didn't see him as often, so this
19 would be something that my predecessor would have handled directly and would be able to speak
20 to.

21 BY MR. SPECTRE:

22 Q I believe that statement was walked back slightly in the aftermath, and so would
23 something like that be what you mean by a bad day, for instance?

24 A Look, I think what I can say is, and you guys heard it, right? People have bad days.
25 Nobody's perfect, even presidents in my statement, right? Like all of us. And my observation

1 more broadly continues to be that his -- he was still very much competent to do the job. Again,
2 that's why I wanted to be really clear that we all have bad days, we all have missteps, and we're not
3 perfect.

4 Q Maybe it's helpful if we talk about some other examples when you were press secretary,
5 so this is on May 23, 2022, so just for the record, that was after you became press secretary. Is that
6 right?

7 A Yes. For the record, yes.

8 Q So speaking alongside Japanese Prime Minister Kishida in Tokyo, President Biden was
9 asked, quote, "Are you willing to get involved militarily to defend Taiwan if it comes to that?" And
10 President Biden responded, "Yes." The reporter responded, surprised, "you are?" And President
11 Biden stated, That's the commitment we made. Do you recall that?

12 A Yes, I recall.

13 Q Were you surprised by President Biden's statement in that moment?

14 A In that moment, I can't speak to what I was thinking in that moment.

15 Q Did that statement appear to be at odds with what you understood to be President
16 Biden or America's policy toward Taiwan?

17 A From where our policy was, yes.

18 Q I'm sorry, could you be more specific.

19 A Well, I was answering your question, like, where our policy was. Was it at odds? Yes.

20 Q Were you consulted, or were you involved in the handling of the aftermath of that?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Did you advise President Biden on how to handle that issue going forward?

23 A I think we -- I think we all talked through with him about the statement. Look, I want
24 to be really -- I can't specifically remember the conversation, but I was certainly part of the
25 conversation, yes.

1 Q Sure. Did President Biden explain how the mix-up, if it was a mix-up, how it happened,
2 why it happened.

3 A Honestly, I can't recall the specifics of the conversation on how he explained it.

4 Q Do you believe President Biden knew what he was saying when he said it, or did he
5 misspeak? What --

6 A Look, I think that we had a conversation about it. I cannot recall specifically how it
7 went back and forth, and so it's hard for me to characterize that today.

8 Q I think in your opening statement, you said something along the lines of you never had a
9 moment where you doubted President Biden's judgment, and this instance of seemingly forgetting
10 about strategic ambiguity with regard to Taiwan, that wouldn't stand out to you as an instance where
11 his judgment was at question?

12 A The President was in the job for 4 years, and I think his record shows that he made
13 critical, important decisions that mattered to the American people whether domestically or foreign.
14 We're talking about two moments, I think, that you just laid out to me, and he had 37 press
15 conferences during his time, and that does not take away from believing that this was a President
16 that was indeed competent to lead and to move this country forward.

17 Q Sure. And I understand, you've been very clear I think on that, and I don't mean to
18 split hairs, but you just said that there was never a moment where you doubted his judgment.

19 A That continues to be true.

20 Q So in that moment where he appeared to forget or reject strategic ambiguity, you had
21 no concerns about his judgment?

22 A I wouldn't use that moment as an only time or a moment that would make me question
23 anything about his competency. That does not change my statement.

24 Q Okay. Well, a third example, on June 20th, 2023, again, that being while you were
25 White House press secretary. Is that correct?

1 A Yep.

2 Q President Biden attended a fund-raiser with Governor Gavin Newsom in California.

3 During the fundraiser, President Biden called Chinese President Xi Jinping a dictator. I guess similar
4 questions. Do you recall that instance?

5 A Yes.

6 Q Were you surprised when President Biden said that?

7 A I don't remember my initial reaction, but I do recall.

8 Q So I guess similarly, then, did that statement appear to be at odds with the White
9 House's general stance on China or President Xi Jinping?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Do you believe that President Biden meant to say that when he said it?

12 A What I will continue to believe is that this President was more than competent to lead
13 and move this country forward. I can't get into characterizing or explaining for the President in that
14 moment what he was thinking.

15 Q I guess the reason these examples stick out to me is in the course of our interviews, and,
16 certainly, my knowledge of President Biden's career, you know, chairman of the Senate Foreign
17 Relations Committee, his expertise in foreign policy is something that many of the witnesses have
18 brought up, even as something that distracted him at times from being sharp on domestic issues, and
19 so, these missteps appear -- do you not think that they're a reflection of his waning abilities?

20 A I think that presidents -- I don't think it's just Joe Biden. Presidents have had
21 misspeaks, missteps. I think I said that in my opening statement. This is not a specific to one
22 President. I think that we can go back and look at other presidents who have had similar situations.
23 I think when it comes to his competency, when it comes to, again, getting things done when I was
24 there in the 4 years for the American people, doing some historic policies, moving forward some
25 historic policies and legislation, it would not have happened if it wasn't for this President's

1 experience. It would not have happened if it wasn't for his leadership. And, again, I mean, it goes
2 back to what I said in my statement that we are not perfect.

3 Q I guess I won't belabor the point but, you know, certainly, as you've mentioned,
4 President Biden, you know, made an uncountable number of statements over the course of his
5 presidency, and certainly, you know, all presidents are bound to have a misstep here or there, and
6 the reason that these and maybe some others we'll bring up -- that we will bring up today stand out
7 to me is because they do appear to be something that President Biden, operating at full capacity,
8 would not have gotten wrong. You don't see it that way?

9 A No, I don't. I think, again, in my statement, I mentioned presidents with an S. It is
10 very much something that happens with presidents, with all of us from time to time, but in those 4
11 years that I worked with him, he was able to accomplish a lot, and he was more than capable of
12 doing the job, and got things done in those four years, and we used to say this all the time, that most
13 presidents couldn't get done in their first two terms. In their two terms.

14 BY MR. GREENBERG:

15 Q When you were -- I understand what you're saying about missteps. I make them all
16 the time. When you were debriefing or talking with President Biden about how to handle any kind
17 of fallout from these rather significant missteps in terms of what American foreign policy was, you're
18 talking with him. How would he respond?

19 A What I can remember, he took it in. He took it in, he listened, and that's what I could
20 remember specifics or the details of it, like he just took it in.

21 Q Did he ever say no, I said what I said or, you know, to the effect of I said what I said and I
22 meant it?

23 A I don't remember those interactions specifically, but I know anytime that I would bring
24 something up or I would say this is what the press is saying, most of the time he would just take it in
25 and listen.

1 Q Did you ever see President Biden yell in response to somebody trying to clean up
2 something that he had said?

3 A Not that I recall.

4 Q Did you ever see President Biden yell?

5 A Not that I recall specifically.

6 Mr. Spectre. And so to be clear, you don't recall in any of those instances, those three
7 instances that I just discussed with you, you don't recall President Biden expressing regret about
8 what he had said?

9 Ms. Jean-Pierre. I don't remember the specific conversation. That's what I can share with
10 you.

11 Mr. Greenberg. Did he ever say when a plan was presented to clean up what had been said
12 or clarify what he meant, did he, you know, approve that kind of cleanup?

13 Ms. Jean-Pierre. Normally, if it's coming from him, he would approve it, yes.

14 Mr. Greenberg. What if it were coming from someone else?

15 Ms. Jean-Pierre. No. Meaning, like, if we would flag something like that to him, again,
16 you're asking me for granular details about the back and forth that I can't remember the granular,
17 but I can speak to the process, and he would sign off on that.

18 Mr. Prober. So just for clarity's sake, you're talking generally about the process?

19 Ms. Jean-Pierre. Generally about the process. If there was something that we wanted to
20 make sure he was comfortable with in us saying, yes, in general, the process was that.

21 BY MR. GREENBERG:

22 Q Were there deviations from that general process?

23 A Not that I recall.

24 Q And with those missteps, did you see those going back to your entire time knowing Joe
25 Biden, did you see those increase as he aged?

1 A I can't speak to frequency or the amount of if it increased. I just know that we all have
2 them and it happens, but I can't -- you know, I said this before. Did he get older? Yes. Did he
3 age? Yes. And he would say this. He said many times about him getting older and not speaking
4 as well and not walking as well. This is something coming directly from him, so he acknowledged
5 that he aged. I can't speak to the frequency or the change.

6 Q Sorry. And I understand getting older and I understand that, you know, walking slower
7 is part of getting older, but you've lumped that in -- President Biden lumped that in with speaking as
8 well. That raises different issues, I believe. Don't you think so?

9 A I'm not a medical expert, so I can't speak to that.

10 Q Okay. Fair. Did you notice from your entire time knowing him that his speaking
11 deteriorated?

12 A What I will say is his age, he definitely aged. We all make missteps. We all have bad
13 days. Did he have some? Obviously. I said that at the top that he did. I was not tracking
14 everything that happened every day, so I can't speak to frequency. I'm not an expert, so I can't
15 really speak to that.

16 Q So you think President Biden's speaking ability today or in 2024 is the same as when you
17 first met him in 2009?

18 A Obviously, it's not.

19 Mr. Spectre. What about it changed?

20 Ms. Jean-Pierre. I can't speak to specifics but, I mean, 2009 to 2024 a lot of time has lapsed.
21 All of us change. All of us age.

22 BY MR. GREENBERG:

23 Q It's been reported -- again, we don't have the book. We will certainly be reading the
24 book. Vice President -- yours as well, Vice President --

25 A I thought you were talking about mine. I'm, like, great.

1 Q Vice President Harris's book is reported to have said -- reports to say, at 81 Joe got tired.
2 That's when his age showed in physical and verbal stumbles. Do you agree with that?

3 A I did not -- I haven't read the book. I did not read the excerpt. I can't speak to it.

4 Q Okay. Well, let's take out the fact that it's an excerpt from a book. Do you agree
5 with Joe got tired. That's when his age showed in physical and verbal stumbles?

6 A That's not my observation. My observation that this was somebody who was always
7 running around and doing things on behalf of the American people, whether that's traveling, whether
8 that's speaking in front of the American people at the White House and talking about events -- I
9 mean, talking about policies, or what it is that we're doing for the American people. That is not my
10 experience.

11 Q Who saw President Biden more do you think between you and Vice President Harris?

12 A I believe I did, because I traveled with him and saw him every day.

13 BY MR. SPECTRE:

14 Q So it's our understanding that you would oftentimes have a big binder or book of talking
15 points. Is that right?

16 A It is not unusual for a White House press secretary to have a binder.

17 Q Sure. I have never been the White House press secretary, so what usually is included
18 in a binder like that and who prepares it?

19 A That's why I was sharing it's not unusual for a White House press secretary to have a
20 binder. It is a collective process.

21 Q So by people from your team as well as people from outside of your team? Is that
22 right?

23 A People from my team and people outside of my team.

24 Q And this would include talking points mainly for you to answer questions at the podium
25 from reporters or other types of talking points as well?

1 A The binder serves -- the purpose of the binder is to have points in the book to address
2 many topics, domestic, foreign topics primarily.

3 Q Were there ever talking points in your book related to President Biden's health,
4 cognitive abilities, mental acuity, kind of all those sorts of related topics?

5 A Yes, because it was questions that the press was asking.

6 Q Do you recall what the general theme of those talking points was?

7 A I mean, I did press briefings, so I think what I said is out there on the record about
8 answering those specific questions to the press.

9 Q So your public statements reflect exactly what generally would have been put in those
10 binders?

11 A Yes.

12 Mr. Prober. Just to clarify, because the question was slightly convoluted, and I don't mean
13 that in a critical way.

14 Mr. Spectre. Sure.

15 Mr. Prober. You said exactly generally reflect. I just want to make clear that the answer
16 was probably generally reflects what was in the book.

17 Mr. Spectre. Yeah. I apologize.

18 Mr. Prober. No, no, no. Appreciate it. Thank you.

19 BY MR. GREENBERG:

20 Q No judgment on binders. We're using binders right now.

21 A As I can see from here.

22 Q So did you read the binder? Like, it's a huge binder. Do you read the binder every
23 night beforehand?

24 A I just want to make sure this is clear. Like every other White House press secretary, we
25 have binders, notes, whatever you want to call it, because we want to make sure that we are

1 accurate in pushing information out to the American public, and so that's why that exists. As far as
2 my process, I read, you know, read the binder pretty regularly. I focused on it pretty regularly,
3 because that was my job to do so.

4 Q And who would prepare talking points regarding President Biden's health for the
5 binder?

6 A That would -- it depend -- it depended on if it was certainly any memo or anything like
7 that that came out from the doctor, it would certainly have his involvement. And outside of that, it
8 was senior advisers and the communications team.

9 Q Do you think Anita Dunn played a role in that -- in preparation with bullets or memos
10 regarding the President's health?

11 A I can't speak to what she did specifically on anything -- memos, or anything like that. I
12 can't speak specifically, but she certainly was part of the senior advisers that we would -- that my
13 team would speak to about certain issues.

14 Q And when you make reference to the doctor, you're speaking about Dr. Kevin O'Connor?

15 A Yes.

16 Q And his team, presumably?

17 A It was primarily him directly.

18 Q How often would you interact with Dr. O'Connor?

19 A Not often. I would -- he would travel. When he traveled with the President, I would
20 certainly interact and see him.

21 Q And I assume that when the President's annual health report would come out, you
22 would speak more regularly or in the run up to that with Dr. O'Connor?

23 A Not in the run-up. Mostly afterwards.

24 Q And my question was ambiguous. Afterwards meaning after you had gone and spoken
25 in front of the press or afterwards after his examination?

1 A To be clear, I was not involved in the memo process that Dr. O'Connor did. I had no
2 involvement in that. I -- my team and I would put that out there. Whenever the memo was ready,
3 it came to my team, and we would share it with the American public. And the times that I engaged
4 with him was usually when there were additional press inquiries or they wanted to understand
5 something better or wanted more clarity in the memo, and that's when my team -- somebody from
6 my team would go to him directly just to ask for clarity.

7 Q Did Dr. O'Connor ever instruct you or advise you not to mention something?

8 A No.

9 BY MR. SPECTRE:

10 Q On the book, the binder of talking points, I think you said various people at various
11 times would contribute to this binder or book. Was there one person who was ultimately
12 responsible for putting together? Is that you?

13 A Like putting the book together? Is that what you're talking about?

14 Q Yeah.

15 A There's usually a junior person that's in charge of making sure everything is in the book,
16 but I was responsible for it, ultimately.

17 Q So if there was a talking point about President Biden's health or fitness in the book,
18 would you know -- would it be denoted in some way who that came from?

19 A Meaning? Can you say more?

20 Q So if you were getting a question from the press about President Biden's health and you
21 looked in your book and there was a talking point, a suggested talking point on that topic, was it
22 denoted in some way who had prepared that talking point, or how would you know who had
23 prepared that talking point?

24 A So in -- nowhere in the book did that exist.

25 Q So in general, then, how would you know who had prepared a specific talking point?

1 A It depended -- I think I explained before that people had portfolios, and so usually a
2 policy or a topic or issue was in someone's portfolio, and so they owned that portfolio, and so they
3 would be -- that's how I would know where it came from.

4 BY MR. GREENBERG:

5 Q And just -- I can't remember, and I don't have the transcript in front of me what you just
6 said -- of what you said last hour. You do not remember who -- whose portfolio was President
7 Biden's health. Is that correct?

8 A That usually came from senior advisers in the communications team. I mean, it was
9 coming from various places, but usually senior advisers were kind of in charge, and that would
10 primarily be Anita Dunn.

11 Q What other issues besides President Biden's health were dealt with at the senior
12 advisers level exclusively?

13 A There were a lot of issues. It wasn't just that. You're asking me about the health, but
14 there were a lot of issues. Like, if we're announcing, for example, an important policy or legislation,
15 talking to Congress about certain things, that would certainly be at the senior advisory level. They
16 handled an array of things that we wanted to make sure that they got signoff on.

17 Q Is it fair to say that if the senior -- if a particular issue were being handled by the senior
18 advisers that it was an issue that was significant?

19 A I wouldn't necessarily say that, because it was an array of things. Again, talking
20 to -- you know, talking to leadership or, you know, an important issue that was announcement of a
21 legislation or policy.

22 Q But those sound significant?

23 A They sound significant, but I don't want to limit it to that. It could be -- I mean, things
24 could rise to that level on any issue.

25 Mr. Spectre. We'll talk a little bit more about the Hur report, I think, at some point, so just

1 briefly, and I want to separate, I think, the Hur report issue is -- there's kind of two separate issues.
2 Taking the President's memory and the related concerns raised by Special Counsel Hur on that topic,
3 who would have provided talking points about that for the briefing?

4 Ms. Jean-Pierre. That would have come to Ian and the White House counsel team and Anita
5 Dunn.

6 Mr. Spectre. So the statement that Ian Sams made, and I believe you may have used this
7 word as well, I don't have it in front of me, so feel free to correct me and we can check as well, but
8 the term, "gratuitous," was brought up a number of times. Was that something that originated
9 with Ian Sams?

10 Ms. Jean-Pierre. That originated from that side of things, yeah. Ian and Anita and that
11 team, yes.

12 Mr. Prober. And just -- sorry, for clarity sake, are you saying it is specifically your
13 recollection that it was Ian or it was that team of people?

14 Ms. Jean-Pierre. My specific recollection, to be more clear, it came from that group of
15 people. I don't know who wrote it. I don't know who decided on that word. I can't speak to
16 that.

17 BY MR. SPECTRE:

18 Q Sure. But generally, it would be Ian Sams who would handle providing talking points
19 out of that office to you?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Did you ever -- was there ever an instance where you had to go and follow up with Ian
22 Sams about one of those talking points?

23 A Not that I recall.

24 Q So not on the Hur report?

25 A I mean, not that I recall. Did we have conversations? Did we go back and forth?

1 Yes.

2 BY MS. TOLAN:

3 Q Just quickly, on the process of compiling the binder, I know you said various people,
4 including yourself, would put talking points in it. Was there a final review of everything that was
5 added to the binder?

6 A Yeah. From the communications team.

7 Q And just the communications team or any other --

8 A I mean, sometimes they would pull in senior advisers, and there was also policy folks as
9 well that would be involved. Sometimes folks from the different agencies would be involved as well
10 if it's an issue that's coming from that agency. But the communications team was the
11 primary -- because they deal with the messaging.

12 Q And did President Biden ever review the binder talking points?

13 A What was in my binder? Not that I recall.

14 BY MR. SPECTRE:

15 Q At a press briefing on July 2nd, 2024, a reporter stated, quote, The administration
16 strongly criticized the media for clips showing the President appearing to be confused, freezing at
17 times. You called it cheap fakes, misinformation, disinformation, and in one case implied that it was
18 the product of artificial intelligence calling it deep fakes. Do you have any regret over using that
19 language, end quote? You responded, quote, No, not at all, and let me be clear, it was a certain
20 part of the media, end quote. Was the term cheap fakes something that was put into the binder?

21 A Meaning?

22 Q When you used the term cheap fakes, was that your choice of words in the moment, or
23 was that something that had been prepared ahead of time as talking points?

24 A It was prepared.

25 Q Do you know who prepared that?

1 A It came from, again, various offices, departments, in creating the talking points for that
2 particular issue.

3 Q Sure. But to be more specific, who would generally handle --

4 A I don't recall. If you're asking me where that came from specifically, I just don't recall.

5 Q And did you or did anyone ever verify if the videos you were talking about were, in fact,
6 cheap fakes?

7 A I believe so.

8 Mr. Greenberg. What is a cheap fake? I really don't know.

9 Ms. Jean-Pierre. It was something that we did not coin. It was something that the media
10 coined. They did the work. They did the legwork on coming up with that terminology, and so we
11 were just elevating essentially what the media was saying, what the press was saying.

12 Mr. Greenberg. But do you know what it is?

13 Ms. Jean-Pierre. I mean, it basically is laid out how you defined it with what President Biden
14 was actually doing, and it took away from what he was actually doing or created an illusion of
15 something that just did not exist, but using him, and so that is what we were calling out. The press
16 was calling it out too. We were just elevating it in the briefing room.

1 [12:20 p.m.]

2 BY MR. GREENBERG:

3 Q But were all clips circulated on social media or otherwise showing President Biden being
4 confused or freezing at times, were those all fakes?

5 A I can't speak to every -- everything that was on social media.

6 Q Sure. But there were instances where videos were circulated of President Biden
7 appearing confused or freezing for a moment that were real, correct?

8 A Not that I recall. This -- what we were trying to lift up was something that was very,
9 very clear, that what they were showing was not actually what was happening.

10 Q Did you ever see President Biden appear confused?

11 A No.

12 Q What about during the debate performance? Did he not appear confused to you
13 there?

14 A He -- during the debate performance, he seemingly, to me, looked like he had a cold.
15 And that's what he said. And from someone who saw him every day, that's what I saw -- someone
16 who had a cold, who was hoarse. And that is something that he said that he had.

17 Q So, when he said, "We finally beat Medicare," that's indicative of a cold to you?

18 A I think he was sick. I can't speak to what was -- I can't speak to, like, what he was
19 thinking at the time. He said it was a bad night. He said it was a bad performance.

20 BY MR. SPECTRE:

21 Q Is it fair to say, though, that -- it was reported in the press after the debate that
22 President Biden appeared to be confused when he delivered that line about beating Medicare?

23 A I mean, I can't characterize what the President was feeling or thinking --

24 Q I'm sorry, but --

25 A Yeah.

1 Q -- not --

2 A No, no. I hear.

3 Q Regardless of whether you think he was confused, do you think that the American
4 people thought that he was confused at that moment?

5 A I think it was a bad debate. And he said it was a bad debate. And I think it was
6 indeed a misstep. I do think it was a misstep. And that's what it looked like and that's what he
7 said, that it was a bad debate.

8 Q Well, and the reason -- and I don't mean to split hairs, but --

9 A No.

10 Q -- the reason I'm asking, I think -- this question that was raised to you at this press
11 briefing was very shortly after the debate. And so the way I read that is, you know, were all of the
12 clips of President -- so this is my question: Were all of the clips being circulated of President Biden
13 where he appeared to be confused -- they weren't all cheap fakes, were they?

14 A You're asking me to speak to a hypothetical that I can't -- that I can't answer. I don't
15 know all of the videos or tapes that are out there. I can't -- I just can't answer that, I can't speak to
16 that.

17 Q So you don't think that your characterization of these videos as being cheap fakes may
18 have been misleading to people who are seeing clips from the debate where President Biden, in my
19 opinion, appeared to be confused? You don't think that that was a confusing statement?

20 A I think you're bringing a bunch of things together. My -- I don't believe that that's
21 what I was doing, misleading the American people. I was lifting up something that the press
22 themselves talked about and laid out. And we were really just making that clear, as well, to the
23 American people something that the press talked about in those particular moments. And we were
24 speaking about specific videos.

25 Q So there were specific videos that you were referring to with "cheap fakes"?

1 A There were specific videos that the press was referring to, the cheap fakes, and that's
2 what we were lifting up.

3 Q Did you ever clarify the specific videos that you meant when you called them cheap
4 fakes?

5 A I mean, I don't recall. I mean, I think at the time it was very clear to the press what I
6 was talking about. I don't think there was confusion in the press room at the time about what we
7 were talking about, because it was all over the news. It was being reported on pretty heavily.

8 Mr. Greenberg. You go ahead.

9 BY MR. SPECTRE:

10 Q So, switching gears a little bit, neurologist Dr. Kevin Cannard visited the Executive
11 Mansion eight times in 8 months between 2023 and 2024. Do you recall these visits?

12 A I mean, I know that it was reported on.

13 Q Do you know what prompted those visits?

14 A I believe there was a statement that was put on -- put out by Dr. O'Connor explaining.
15 So I would have to refer you to that statement.

16 Q So, at the time, your only knowledge of Dr. Cannard's visits would have been the
17 publicly available memo from --

18 A At the time --

19 Q -- Dr. O'Connor?

20 A -- I think it was reported by the press first, and then there was a supplemental memo
21 that came out from Dr. O'Connor.

22 Q So you recall that, that memo -- you recall --

23 A The supplemental memo?

24 Q Yes.

25 A I recall the supplemental memo being released to explain Dr. Cannard's visits.

1 Q And then at a press briefing on July 8th, 2024, you cited, quote, "security reasons," end
2 quote, when referring to -- when refusing to explain the details of the neurologist's visits. You
3 never said what those security concerns were.

4 A I believe the memo, the supplemental memo, spoke to -- spoke to Dr. Cannard's visits,
5 and I would refer to you that.

6 BY MR. GREENBERG:

7 Q Had you ever heard the name "Dr. Cannard" before this was reported on?

8 A Not that I recall.

9 Q Did you ever hear about a neurologist visiting the White House prior to this being
10 reported on?

11 A Not that I recall. As you know, as it's connected to his physical, he sees an array of
12 specialists. But, no, I would have to say, no, I don't know any visits from Dr. Cannard --

13 Q And --

14 A -- beyond learning this.

15 Q And did you -- you received questions, correct, about the President participating or
16 somehow completing a cognitive exam? You received those questions, correct?

17 A Correct.

18 Q Did you ever know of the President in fact taking a cognitive exam?

19 A Not that I'm aware of.

20 Q Are you aware of anybody in the White House advising that the President take a
21 cognitive exam?

22 A Not that I'm aware of.

23 Q Did you ever say, like, "It would make my job easier if he just took the cognitive exam"?

24 A It's not my decision to make.

25 Q Is it -- I really don't know. Is it -- would it have been inappropriate to say, like, "This

1 would make my job easier, if he just took the cognitive exam"?

2 A I think that's up to the medical doctor.

3 BY MR. SPECTRE:

4 Q In her interview, Anita Dunn explained that some of Biden's senior advisors came to a
5 consensus that Biden shouldn't take the cognitive exam, concluding that it would offer no political
6 benefits.

7 Were you aware of those discussions or --

8 A I don't recall.

9 And I've said this earlier. As the White House press secretary, I'm not in every meeting,
10 right? It's not my job to be in every meeting. There are some conversations that are going to
11 happen that I'm not involved in, that I'm not included in.

12 Q You don't recall being aware that the reason that President Biden wasn't taking a
13 cognitive test was that it had been deemed that it would offer no political benefits?

14 A And I will also say that I wasn't part of, kind of, political strategy, because that was not
15 part of my portfolio. And that was something that I was not -- as a White House press secretary,
16 was not capable of doing or was part of my purview.

17 BY MR. GREENBERG:

18 Q And when you said to my previous question that you believed that it was up to the
19 doctor for the President to take a cognitive exam --

20 A Uh-huh.

21 Q -- you're referring to Dr. Kevin O'Connor again?

22 A Yeah. He was the President's doctor, so I was referring to Dr. O'Connor. And he has
23 a team. He has -- the President has a team of doctors. Every President does. It's not unusual.

24 Q And Dr. O'Connor pled the Fifth when he came before this Committee. Are you aware
25 of that?

1 A Yes, I'm aware.

2 Q Do you have any reason to -- do you have any knowledge of why Dr. O'Connor would
3 plead the Fifth?

4 A I'm assuming it's because he's a doctor and just out of -- that's what would not be
5 uncommon. That's what I believe. I have no idea. I can't speak to anything beyond that.

6 Q Well, actually, Ms. Tomasini and Mr. Bernal both also pled the Fifth in front of this
7 Committee. Are you aware of that?

8 A I'm aware.

9 Q Same question. Do you have any knowledge about why they would do that?

10 A I don't have any knowledge.

11 BY MR. SPECTRE:

12 Q And to the question of that it was up to the doctor, up to Dr. O'Connor, whether
13 President Biden should take a cognitive exam, did -- maybe you already said this, but did you have a
14 conversation with him about that?

15 A No.

16 Q And so when did you become aware or how did you become aware that Dr. O'Connor
17 did not believe that President Biden required a cognitive exam?

18 A When it became a question, a very heavily asked question, in the press briefing room.

19 Q Maybe I'm confused. So how did you become aware that Dr. O'Connor had said that
20 President Biden did not need a cognitive exam?

21 A Oh. I didn't -- I said it's up to -- no. What I was trying to say was that it's up to the
22 doctor to make that decision. And you would assume that, you know, he didn't think that was
23 needed. But that's up to the doctor; that's not up to me. Because I think I was asked, well, why
24 didn't I ask for him to have one, and I said, it's up to the medical doctor.

25 BY MR. GREENBERG:

1 Q Would it have made your life easier if he had taken a cognitive exam?

2 A You know, I didn't think about it that way. That's not how I thought about it. I
3 thought, this is a medical decision; it's not my decision to make; it's a medical decision. And that
4 was decided on outside of me.

5 Q In your role as press secretary, did you advise on what you believed would help the
6 White House regarding what you could tell the press? Or were you just, you know -- or did you see
7 your role as taking marching orders and delivering that message?

8 A I saw my role in making sure that the American people had the information that they
9 needed. That was my role.

10 When it came to policy issues, obviously there are policy experts who knew how to talk about
11 those issues, and I would certainly take their lead on those issues. And most of the things that I
12 talked about was connected to a policy, connected to an issue that my colleagues would certainly
13 play a role in how we spoke about it.

14 BY MR. SPECTRE:

15 Q I asked, I think in the first hour, about your impression of the American people's concern
16 or whether they had concerns about President Biden's mental or cognitive health. And I
17 understand you certainly can't speak for every person, but maybe I'll leave it to you to characterize.
18 Do you think the American people had those types of concerns, that some of them had those types
19 of concerns, or many?

20 A Look, what I know is that polling was often used from reporters about what the
21 American people believed and thought. Obviously it's a subset of a group and it's a snapshot in
22 time, when you talk about polling. That's as far as I can speak to.

23 Q I think one of those polls that got brought up to you at the time was a poll from June of
24 2024 that found that, quote, "72 percent of voters do not believe that Biden has the mental or
25 cognitive health to serve as President, as well as nearly half of his own party," end quote.

1 And so, when we've brought that up to some of our other witnesses, many have made hay
2 out of separating concerns about President Biden's age from concerns about President Biden's
3 mental or cognitive health, and several have said that they believe that the American people were
4 only concerned about his age.

5 And, frankly, I don't believe that. I don't think that this poll reflects that either. What do
6 you make of that?

7 A Look, what I can say is -- and I think just repeating what I've said multiple times
8 here -- is, when it comes to his age, he aged. We all do. We saw it. He talked about it. He
9 owned up to how things had changed for him, certainly physically. He talked about that often.

10 And what I can say -- my observation deals with his mental acuity, right? -- is, being able to do
11 the job, and this is someone who was able to do the job day-in and day-out. And that's what I saw.

12 I'm not arguing the age. I don't think any one of us are.

13 Q Sure.

14 A We never did. I didn't do that at the podium. But what I wanted to make very clear
15 is that he was more than capable of doing the job. That's what I observed.

16 Q And that -- you have made that clear, and I understand. But I think the question is
17 more so: Separately of your opinion, this poll says that 72 percent of voters do not believe that
18 Biden has the mental or cognitive health to serve as President. Does that sound like they were
19 concerned about his age, or does that sound like they were concerned about cognitive and mental
20 health? Granted, those things are associated with age, but it's a separate question; is that right?

21 A What I could speak to is what I observed. And we've talked about the age. We've all
22 been very honest about that, I think, and we're not trying to change that up, right? We have --

23 Q Sure.

24 A -- said, this is someone who's aged. We all age.

25 But what we also -- what I, just speaking for myself, wanted to be clear, as someone who saw

1 him on a daily -- a daily beat, if you will, he was alert. I would have back-and-forth conversation
2 with him. And he was always looking for information from me. I was always trying to go back and
3 forth with him on an issue that mattered to him and the American people. I mean, we had a lot of
4 conversations.

5 Q Uh-huh.

6 A And this is somebody who was certainly alert and aware and focused every single day.

7 Q Right.

8 Again, I don't want to belabor the point --

9 A Uh-huh.

10 Q -- but other witnesses have been hesitant to even admit or say that the American
11 people had concerns about President Biden's mental and cognitive health. But my impression and
12 my impression of your testimony today as well, you were fielding questions about that topic
13 somewhat frequently, independently of his age, questions about his cognitive and mental health. Is
14 that right?

15 A I was the White House press secretary. Anything that the press wanted to talk about
16 came through -- came through me.

17 Q Right, but including that.

18 A I mean, I think I've been pretty clear that that is something that came up a lot in the
19 briefing room for a good part of my tenure as the White House press secretary. It was talked about
20 a lot. It was brought up a lot. And I answered the -- I answered their questions every time I was
21 asked about it.

22 BY MR. GREENBERG:

23 Q You said that you would speak with President Biden about inquiries you were receiving
24 from the press. Did you speak with him about inquiries you were receiving about his mental acuity?

25 A I would let him know what the press was thinking about or wanted to talk about or what

1 was coming up in the briefing room.

2 Q What was his response to things like that?

3 A He took it in. I don't remember a specific response, but he would be like, "Okay."

4 Q Really? Like, he wouldn't -- he wouldn't be a little -- I would understand if somebody
5 were offended if they were questioning my mental acuity. But you don't -- you don't remember any
6 kind of response from President Biden?

7 A As I said just moments ago, it was something that came up all the time. So it wasn't
8 unusual for me to say, "This is what's coming up in the briefing room," because it was a constant
9 thread, if you will, narrative, of the administration. So it wasn't unusual for me to say to him, "Hey,
10 this is coming up."

11 Q What would you actually say? Or was there anything you wouldn't say? Maybe you
12 don't want to offend him by phrasing something a certain way. How would you present -- it's a
13 delicate issue.

14 A Yeah.

15 Q So how would you present that to him?

16 A I mean, look, I was pretty forthcoming and honest with him. And, also, he would see
17 the briefings himself sometimes, right? Like, he would see the reporting himself. So he saw for
18 himself what people were saying and what the reporting was. So, I mean, I don't -- wasn't telling
19 him any secrets, right? He saw for himself.

20 Q Did he ever, you know, have an opinion about his own mental acuity? I wouldn't be
21 surprised if he did.

22 A Can you say more?

23 Q Sure. Did he ever opine on the criticism that he was in some sort of cognitive decline
24 or maybe he lost his fast ball or something like that?

25 A I don't remember anything specific to share. I don't remember anything specific.

1 Again, like I said, this was something that came up quite often.

2 Q Are there any issues that you remember that -- not just this one, but -- would elicit an
3 emotional response from President Biden when you were, you know, briefing him on something that
4 the press was asking about?

5 A Nothing specific that I can recall.

6 Q What about questions about his family?

7 A Can you --

8 Q Sure. What about congressional interest in his son, Hunter Biden? Would that elicit
9 an emotional response from the President?

10 A I don't remember an emotional response, but I would mention it to him if it came up in
11 the briefing room and if he asked.

12 Q So your testimony today is, President Biden was -- when you would relay information to
13 him regarding any issue at all, he was pretty stoic?

14 A What you're asking me are about specific things. I'm not taking a broad brush here.
15 We'd -- and I said this before. There are many times we would have a back-and-forth about a
16 particular issue, whether it was the economy or legislation, and we would have a healthy
17 back-and-forth.

18 I think some issues, he just had to take it in. I think it was him taking it in. I wouldn't
19 characterize it as stoic. I would say, he was taking it in, taking in the information.

20 BY MR. SPECTRE:

21 Q And not to come back to the same point that I was on, but -- and I don't -- you know, I
22 actually appreciate that you have -- the way that you have characterized this, in explaining that -- you
23 know, separating out cognitive health and mental health from the age concerns and saying that, you
24 know, you were aware that the press was asking those questions.

25 And I'm only continuing to ask about it because --

1 A Uh-huh.

2 Q -- you may be the first, if not one of the few, who have actually had that discussion with
3 us in our interviews. Most of the time, our witnesses have been unwilling to say that the people
4 had concerns about President Biden's --

5 Ms. Kohlman. I just want to --

6 Ms. Jean-Pierre. I didn't -- yes, go ahead.

7 Ms. Kohlman. No, go ahead.

8 Ms. Jean-Pierre. I didn't say the people had concerns. I'm telling you what the press was
9 asking me. And it was pretty consistent. I can't -- like, I can't speak for every person in the
10 country. I can only speak to what I was asked in the briefing room and what the press was asking
11 me. And that was what I was speaking to.

12 BY MR. SPECTRE:

13 Q I'm not asking you to speak for every American. But do you think that a significant
14 group -- you can characterize the grouping if you'd like. But were the American people concerned
15 about President Biden's cognitive or mental health?

16 A Again, I didn't -- obviously, you read me one poll, right, that I was asked about. I
17 cannot -- I cannot do a broad brush and talk about "the American people," right? I cannot -- it's not
18 something that I can do.

19 What I can tell you is my experience, my observation, and things that we have talked about in
20 the briefing room. The President's talked about his age. This is not something that we did not talk
21 about directly or engage on directly.

22 Q So the press was very interested in that topic, then. Is that -- that's what you're saying.

23 A Yeah. I've said that multiple times. And the briefings would prove that.

24 Q And you don't think that that's a reflection in any way that the American people were
25 also concerned about it?

1 A I mean, I can't speak to -- I can't -- I can't speak to that. Every -- you know, every outlet
2 has their reasoning to ask questions. I can't speak to that.

3 Q Gotcha.

4 A My job, as the White House press secretary, is to answer the questions that are before
5 me.

6 Q Thank you.

7 Mr. Greenberg. We can go off the record.

8 [Recess.]

1 [1:44 p.m.]

2 Ms. [REDACTED] We just want to get the two more people that joined, so --

3 Mr. Grant. Billy Grant, counsel for the majority.

4 Ms. Cathey. Hannah Cathey, professional staff for the majority.

5 Ms. [REDACTED] Thank you.

6 BY MS. [REDACTED]

7 Q Ms. Jean-Pierre, in the previous hour, you talked to my colleagues about the President's
8 debate, and they asked you about the reaction to President Biden's performance.

9 As I understood, you do not -- you do not attribute the President's debate performance to
10 cognitive issues. Is that correct?

11 A No.

12 Q And nothing about that debate changed your understanding that Joe Biden was able to
13 execute the duties of the Office of the President of the United States, correct?

14 A That's correct.

15 Q And my majority colleagues also asked you about a few examples of President Biden
16 misspeaking, and you also -- also, again, you do not attribute the President misspeaking to cognitive
17 issues, correct?

18 A I do not. Correct.

19 Q And you mentioned -- I think it -- whether it was in your opening or with my majority
20 colleagues, that, you know, Presidents misspeak; you know, it's something they do.

21 A Uh-huh.

22 Q I would like to introduce a few examples from President Trump.

23 I would like to enter into the record as exhibit A a July article that discusses President Trump
24 forgetting that he appointed Jerome Powell as the Fed Chair.

25 [Jean-Pierre Minority Exhibit A]

1 was marked for identification.]

2 Ms. [REDACTED] I would also like to enter into the record as exhibit B a New York Times article that
3 discusses President Trump confusing Nikki Haley with Nancy Pelosi in regards to the January 6th
4 attack.

5 [Jean-Pierre Minority Exhibit B
6 was marked for identification.]

7 Ms. [REDACTED] I just want to make sure the record's really clear about one of the questions my
8 colleague just asked you, the first one, about whether it's correct that you do not attribute President
9 Biden's debate performance to his cognitive issues.

10 Ms. Jean-Pierre. I do not attribute it to his cognitive issues.

11 Ms. [REDACTED] Thank you very much.

12 Mr. Prober. And just to be crystal-clear on the record, when you say "cognitive issues," I
13 want to make sure no one is suggesting there are cognitive issues.

14 Ms. [REDACTED] Yes.

15 Mr. Prober. You were asking --

16 Ms. [REDACTED] Alleged cognitive --

17 Ms. [REDACTED] Alleged cognitive decline.

18 Mr. Prober. Thank you.

19 BY MS. [REDACTED]

20 Q My majority colleague noted earlier that some of the targets of this investigation chose
21 to invoke their Fifth Amendment rights. Do you recall that conversation?

22 A I do.

23 Q I'd like to enter into the record exhibit C, a Truth Social post by President Trump that
24 states in part, "It was the people that knew he was cognitively impaired, and that took over the
25 Autopen. They stole the Presidency of the United States, and put us in Great Danger. This is

1 TREASON at the Highest Level!" A later part of that same post states, "Something very severe
2 should happen to these Treasonous Thugs."

3 This post was made on May 20th, 2025. Two days later, Chairman Comer sent his first round
4 of letters requesting transcribed interviews in this investigation.

5 [Jean-Pierre Minority Exhibit C
6 was marked for identification.]

7 Ms. [REDACTED] I then would like to enter into the record as exhibit D a June 4th, 2025,
8 Presidential memorandum in which President Trump directed the Attorney General to investigate,
9 quote, "whether certain individuals conspired to deceive the public about Biden's mental state and
10 unconstitutionally exercised the authorities and responsibilities of the President."

11 On that same day, Chairman Comer sent additional letters to senior White House
12 officials -- former White House officials requesting transcribed interviews in this investigation.

13 [Jean-Pierre Minority Exhibit D
14 was marked for identification.]

15 BY MS. [REDACTED]

16 Q My majority colleagues also quoted earlier from excerpts that appear to have been
17 published from Vice President Harris's upcoming book.

18 You said you have not read the article or the excerpts. Is that correct?

19 A That is correct. I have not.

20 Q I will just read one more piece of the excerpt to you.

21 "On his worst day, he" -- President Biden -- "was more deeply knowledgeable and more
22 capable of exercising judgment and far more compassionate than Donald Trump on his best."

23 Ms. [REDACTED] We'll go off the record.

24 [Recess.]

25 Mr. Greenberg. We'll go on the record.

1 BY MR. GREENBERG:

2 Q Ms. Jean-Pierre, were you interviewed by Special Counsel Hur?

3 A No.

4 Q How would you describe your involvement in the White House's response to the release
5 of the Hur report?

6 A I was at the podium taking questions about it.

7 Q Who was -- and I'm sure there are multiple people -- involved in the formulation of the
8 response to the report of Special Counsel Hur?

9 A It was something that, to my understanding, Anita Dunn, senior advisor, handled, and
10 with Ian Sams, to my knowledge.

11 Q And did you assist with, you know, a communication strategy regarding that?

12 A No, I did not.

13 Q Um --

14 A Besides being at the podium.

15 Q Besides being at the podium. Is that difficult, being at the podium and not having, you
16 know, really a say in what the communication strategy is?

17 A I think that my job is to execute the strategy. That's the job of the press team. And
18 it's to have relationships with the press and do the best that we can to answer their questions.
19 Everybody plays a role, and that's just the job of the White House press secretary.

20 Q Did you ever deliver any message from the podium that you believed was not entirely
21 true or accurate?

22 A No.

23 Q What was the message conveyed to you, to your recollection, about how you
24 would -- what you would deliver regarding the Hur report?

25 A I mean, I don't remember the specifics. Obviously, I'm on the record in the briefing

1 room talking about it, but I don't remember the specifics.

2 I do know that -- I do remember that Ian did most of the handling from the press. What I
3 primarily did was say that they needed to talk to the White House Counsel, and Ian handled most of
4 the incoming -- and even came into the briefing room.

5 Q Was the White House -- is it fair to say that the White House was not exactly thrilled
6 about the conclusions of the Hur report?

7 A I mean --

8 Mr. Prober. Are you asking about -- sorry to interrupt. Are you asking about a particular
9 person? Or conversation? Or --

10 Mr. Greenberg. I was --

11 Mr. Prober. -- the building?

12 Mr. Greenberg. -- just asking about the general vibe surrounding the Hur report. But I can
13 be more specific.

14 BY MR. GREENBERG:

15 Q Did the people who did formulate the response to the Hur report, did they take issue
16 with the conclusions of the Hur report?

17 A I don't recall anything specific, like, any conversation. I just can't speak to anything
18 directly --

19 Q Do you remember --

20 A -- on that.

21 Q Sure. Sorry. I didn't mean to cut you off.

22 A No, no.

23 Q Do you remember -- and I think I'm quoting, but I'm paraphrasing, because I'm doing it
24 off the top of my head. But do you remember the conclusion that "President Biden would be likely
25 to present himself to a jury, as he did during our interview of him, as a sympathetic, well-meaning,

1 elderly man with a poor memory"?

2 A Say -- do I remember --

3 Q Do you remember that conclusion from the Hur report?

4 A Oh. Yes, I do.

5 Q Do you remember anybody, again, from the White House communications team or
6 really anyone in the White House at large, about people taking particular issue with that statement?

7 A I don't remember specific. More broadly speaking, I do -- I think there was a feeling of,
8 like, they took issue to it. But I couldn't tell you this person, that person. I don't remember having
9 conversations. But more broadly about the feeling of the -- of the -- of those words.

10 Q Well, let's -- maybe we'll do the exercise that we did earlier. Pretend like it's not a
11 quote. Would you agree with the statement that President Biden is a sympathetic, well-meaning,
12 elderly man with a poor memory?

13 A That is not how I would characterize the President.

14 Q And not to split hairs here, but I recognize that that's not the way that you would --

15 A Uh-huh.

16 Q -- characterize the President, but would you disagree with that statement, that he was a
17 sympathetic -- that he is a sympathetic, well-meaning, elderly man with a poor memory?

18 A That's not what I would agree with from my experience and observations.

19 Q And we're going to get to the debate here shortly. When we brought Ron Klain in, he
20 said that -- he, like you and like President Biden, said that President Biden had a bad night that night.
21 He also said that it was a uniquely bad night, in that he had never seen the President appear that way
22 before.

23 Had you ever seen the President appear the way that he did on the debate stage that night?

24 A No.

25 Q And just to be clear, from one of these hours that we've talked about it, you attribute

1 President Biden's performance that night solely to the fact that he had a cold?

2 A That is something that the President stated himself.

3 Q I'm going to play -- well, let me ask you this. Have you ever heard the audio from the
4 interview that Special Counsel Hur did -- the interview between Special Counsel Hur and President
5 Biden?

6 A Only bits and pieces from the press.

7 Q Okay.

8 A That was something --

9 Q We're going to play a portion of it --

10 A Okay.

11 Q -- and then I'm going to ask you a question.

12 A Sure.

13 Q And if you can't hear, we can make it louder somehow.

14 [Audio recording played.]

15 BY MR. GREENBERG:

16 Q Okay. Special Counsel Hur's question to President Biden was, where would documents
17 be stored at the Naval Observatory?

18 I played 3 minutes of President Biden's response. His response goes on for an additional 9
19 minutes. During that time, he speaks about the Violence Against Women Act, agriculture in the
20 Delmarva Peninsula, the International Moot Court Competition, moving to Idaho, working at a law
21 firm, the Wilmington Club, the Du Pont family, the civil rights movement, reforming the Democratic
22 Party in the South, and his first time running for office, until Special Counsel Hur interrupts and asks
23 the question again.

24 Do you think that's an example of maybe a bad day for President Biden, how he's responding
25 to those questions?

1 Mr. Prober. I'd just like to make it clear, we obviously haven't heard the balance of --

2 Ms. Jean-Pierre. Yes.

3 Mr. Greenberg. I understand.

4 Mr. Prober. -- the interview, she wasn't in the room.

5 Ms. Jean-Pierre. Yeah.

6 Mr. Prober. You know, this really seems a little bit afield from the type of thing that she
7 would have any firsthand knowledge of beyond, you know, sort of, her own personal experiences.

8 BY MR. GREENBERG:

9 Q Do you think that it should take 12 minutes to answer the question -- excuse me.

10 Do you think -- in your experience, when President Biden received a question that, to me,
11 appears would require a pretty simple answer, would President Biden ever provide these
12 longwinded, 12-minute answers to a simple question?

13 A This is kind of in line of what you heard from Rafi. I wasn't in the room. I don't know
14 what the environment was. I don't know the factors. I've never been in that situation, so I don't
15 know what it feels like. So I can't speak to it with great knowledge in that particular interview and
16 instance.

17 What I can say, which is what I've been saying multiple times, is, that -- well, that was not my
18 experience with the President in my engagement and interaction with him.

19 Q So what you heard just now, the President talking about the Violence Against Women
20 Act, agriculture in the Delmarva Peninsula, that kind of interaction, you never had an interaction like
21 that?

22 A Me, personally, engaging with the President, I've never had a reaction like that.

23 Q Do you think somebody who -- personal opinion.

24 A Uh-huh.

25 Q Do you think somebody who takes 12 minutes to respond to a simple question like that

1 is fit to run the country?

2 Mr. Prober. I'm not sure that's a question that can be answered. I mean, I would like for
3 her to provide an answer, and she's here voluntarily and happy to participate. But, I mean, without
4 knowing what the question is, what the context is, you know, it seems fairly, you know, convoluted
5 to just suggest that there's a particular amount of time --

6 Mr. Greenberg. Sure.

7 Mr. Prober. -- that is too much for a question to be answered.

8 So, I mean, I would like for her to be able to address the question, but that just feels like
9 something that is not answerable.

10 Mr. Greenberg. Sure. And we can leave it, unless you would like to answer the question.

11 Ms. Jean-Pierre. No, I'll leave it.

12 Mr. Greenberg. Go ahead.

13 BY MR. SPECTRE:

14 Q I want to talk a little bit about President Biden's run for reelection. And we talked a
15 little bit about that in the context of former Vice President Kamala Harris's book --

16 A Uh-huh.

17 Q -- but just to go back a little, during and immediately before the 2020 election, was it
18 your impression that President Biden intended to serve -- to seek a second term?

19 A I don't know what the President's intentions were. We were so focused on the
20 moment and winning, I never even thought beyond that. My focus was -- and all of our focus was
21 on the upcoming election.

22 Q Then-candidate Biden had said at one point that he intended to be a, quote, "bridge" to
23 a younger generation of Democratic leaders. Was that your impression as well, that he was going
24 to be a bridge President?

25 A I -- he said this, and I believed him when he said it. Those were his words.

1 Q Do you think that that implied that he intended to serve only one term?

2 A I wouldn't put too much into that.

3 Q So, no, you don't believe that implied that?

4 A I mean, I -- you would have to speak to him and ask him what he meant. What I
5 believed he meant was the pick of his Vice President, making history and picking a woman Vice
6 President, in this case a woman of color.

7 Q So --

8 Mr. Greenberg. Sorry, I actually just don't understand. He is a bridge candidate by picking
9 Kamala Harris as his running mate?

10 Ms. Jean-Pierre. I think it's picking someone younger and bringing -- like, having a ticket that
11 brings everybody together. A unity.

12 Mr. Greenberg. I see.

13 Ms. Jean-Pierre. I think we even said that during the 2020 campaign. Unifying. And I
14 think that's -- that's how I took it. But you would have to ask him directly specifically about what he
15 meant by that.

16 BY MR. SPECTRE:

17 Q So when did you first understand that President Biden would seek a second term?

18 A When he announced it.

19 Q You didn't know before that?

20 A It was his decision to make. It's a personal decision to made.

21 Q So, inside the White House, were there any discussions or considerations of whether
22 President Biden was physically or mentally fit to seek or serve a second term?

23 A No, not that I was a part of. Not that I was aware of and not that I was part of.

24 Q And to circle back to the 2020 election -- because we're going to talk a little bit about
25 debate prep for 2024. So, for 2020, I think you had said that you had some role in preparing Joe

1 Biden for his debates in 2020. Is that right?

2 A Yeah, I was part of the debate prep.

3 Q Okay. And were you part of the debate prep team for 2024 as well?

4 A No, I was not.

5 Q Okay. What did debate prep look like for the 2020 debate --

6 A Again --

7 Q -- understanding, of course, it was COVID.

8 A Yeah. It was an awkward time, so it was all virtual. There was some moments where
9 there were people there at the location with him, and then there were folks who were virtual. At
10 the time, I had a dual role, so I was virtual for the debate prep.

11 So, I mean, it was -- again, it was a virtual process because of COVID and because of what we
12 were dealing with with the protocols.

13 Q And how would you say then-candidate Biden performed in debate prep during the
14 2020 race?

15 A At the time, it was the beginning of debate prep, so it was more taking in information,
16 reading the documents. That's the part of debate prep that I was involved in in 2020, to be specific.

17 Q So you aren't involved in any mock debates?

18 A No, because, again, I had dual roles, so I was not.

19 Mr. Greenberg. What sort of documents were you preparing for that?

20 Ms. Jean-Pierre. Policy. Just, kind of, domestic policy. The things that any other
21 candidate would do just to kind of talk through, walk through, that was prepared. That was it.
22 That was the part I was involved in.

23 BY MR. SPECTRE:

24 Q Did you watch the 2020 Presidential debate?

25 A I'm sure I did.

1 Q How would you characterize then-candidate Biden's performance in that debate?

2 A I believe it was strong.

3 Q So you were not at Camp David during the debate prep for the 2024 --

4 A No, not in my --

5 Q -- election?

6 A In my role as White House press secretary, I was not involved in campaigns or any
7 political strategy that related to his reelect.

8 Q Did you have any conversations debate prep with any of the people who were there or
9 involved with it?

10 A If it was, it was informal. It was like, "How's it going?" Very, very informal. No
11 memo, no specifics, no readout.

12 BY MR. GREENBERG:

13 Q It's my understanding that there were certain White House staff --

14 A Yes.

15 Q -- present, correct?

16 A Yes.

17 Q So, I guess, to kind of re-ask the question, why weren't you there, specifically?

18 A From what I understood from White House Counsel, I had a role that it was better not to
19 politicize it, not to be involved in any political decision. It was better just to keep me, you know, in
20 my White House government role and not be involved in that way, in any decision-making strategy or
21 part of the campaign.

22 Q And not to ask you an awkward question, but you're unaware of anybody
23 recommending that you don't attend, besides White House Counsel providing advice, but nobody in
24 senior staff recommending that you not appear?

25 A No. It was a White House Counsel decision --

1 Q Okay.

2 A -- because I was so public. And if you watch the briefing, you probably would
3 understand why.

4 Q I watched a lot of them.

5 A Yeah.

6 BY MR. SPECTRE:

7 Q So, in your "hey, how's it going" conversations, informal conversations, I think you said,
8 with people who were involved, what did they say about how it was going?

9 A It was just one person, the communications director, because he was there and we're
10 friends. And he'd be like, "It's going great." It would be one-answers. It wouldn't be -- it
11 wouldn't be a full-throated explanation.

12 Q So, in that conversation or conversations, there was no indication that debate prep was
13 going poorly?

14 A I never got that indication.

15 BY MR. GREENBERG:

16 Q Even before debate prep, did you ever hear anybody express any concern about how
17 President Biden would do in a debate against -- in 2024?

18 A No. No.

19 Q The debate happened relatively early in the election cycle compared to other debates.
20 Do you know why that was?

21 A That was a political strategy that I was not involved in.

22 Q Following that thread, are you aware of anyone opining that this should be an early
23 debate to push back against any of the narrative or concerns about President Biden's age or ability to
24 do the job?

25 A I was -- that wasn't -- that wouldn't be a conversation that I would be part of, because

1 it's part of the campaign and the strategy. So I was not part of that conversation.

2 Q Recognizing that you weren't part of the conversation, but did you hear that?

3 A Oh, did I hear it? Not that I was privy to, not in a conversation that I was involved in.

4 Q But any other way that you might've heard that?

5 A Not in a conversation that I was involved with. I would certainly make that
6 assumption, but I was not part of a conversation to make that decision.

7 Q Understood.

8 BY MR. SPECTRE:

9 Q So, understanding that you were not involved with debate prep in any way for the 2024
10 race, were you there on debate night?

11 A Yes.

12 Q If I'm recalling correctly, I think there were a couple of different holding rooms or rooms
13 where different staff or campaign staff were watching from. Do you recall who you were sitting
14 with when you watched it?

15 A Correct. I was in a holding room with a mix of White House staff and campaign staff
16 watching the debate.

17 Q Do you recall if Ron Klain --

18 A He --

19 Q -- was in the room with you?

20 A He was in the room with me.

21 Q I believe Mr. Klain said at some point during the debate, I believe after the line about
22 beating Medicare, said something along the lines of, "We're F'd." Do you recall that?

23 A I don't remember specifics, but I know people were reacting to what we were all
24 watching in the room. But I can't say specifically that's what Ron Klain said. If that's what he said,
25 I take his word for it.

1 Q So, in the general reaction to the debate in that holding room, was it clear then that it
2 was a bad night?

3 A I think, for many of us, including the President, who said it was a bad night, it was a bad
4 night. But I want to make clear, it was a bad night for not health concerns but political strategy
5 concerns. That's what was going on in the room.

6 Q So what was bad about President Biden's performance?

7 A Look, I'm not going to -- I think we all watched it. I'm not going to go into specifics.
8 But we all watched what was happening. And he said it was a bad night. We all watched it. We
9 all agree it was a bad night. It did not go the way that we wanted it to.

10 Q I understand that. Frankly, I'm interested in your perspective. You have a lot of
11 expertise, and you've worked in politics a very long time. You don't have a specific aspect of it that
12 was poor?

13 A I agree with the way the President characterized it, which was, it was a bad night.

14 BY MR. GREENBERG:

15 Q Were you part of the spin team that goes out on the floor after these debates and, you
16 know, characterizes the candidate one way or the other?

17 A I would not be, because that would be a political strategy and part of the campaign
18 world. So I would not be part of that.

19 Q And just to go back to what you said, you attributed a lot of President Biden's
20 appearance to a cold. Is that correct?

21 A Yes, that's what I have attributed it. I've said that on the record many times.

22 Q When did you first learn that President Biden had a cold?

23 A When I was in the room.

24 Q So while he was on stage somebody informed you that he had a cold?

25 A Look, I had not seen him that day. Others in the room had and had conversations with

1 him. I was on the plane with him but did not speak with him directly before the debate. And so
2 folks who had talked to him said that he had a cold.

3 Q And that was while he was debating, somebody informed you?

4 A I was informed that he had a cold. And one of the reasons I was informed that is
5 because press was asking. There was inquiries from press asking if he was sick.

6 Q Do you remember who told you that he had a cold?

7 A I don't. There was a lot going on in that room, as you can imagine, during a debate.

8 BY MR. SPECTRE:

9 Q So, to be clear, he had already started debating when you found that out?

10 A Yes, because we heard him speaking and his voice, and it was hoarse. And so that was
11 what -- that's what was shared with me.

12 Q In a recently released interview, the President's son, Hunter Biden, told Andrew
13 Callaghan that, quote, "they gave him Ambien to be able to sleep, and he gets up on stage and looks
14 like a deer in the headlights."

15 Do you have any knowledge of President Biden taking Ambien --

16 A No.

17 Q -- ever?

18 A No.

19 BY MR. GREENBERG:

20 Q Do you have knowledge of anyone on the President's team providing medication to the
21 President?

22 A No.

23 Q And just to clarify, because my question was ambiguous, do you have any knowledge of
24 anyone in the White House providing the President medication other than Dr. O'Connor?

25 A No.

1 BY MR. SPECTRE:

2 Q Did you discuss the President's performance after the debate with him directly?

3 A I had a brief conversation on the incoming that I was having -- that I was getting from
4 the press about the debate, because he asked.

5 Q And what did you talk about?

6 A I can't remember the specifics, but I shared with him the incoming that I was receiving,
7 that we were all receiving.

8 Q Did he express any regrets about what he had said or how he had performed, other than
9 saying, of course, that it was a bad night? Did he get any more specific than that?

10 A He did not get more specific than that.

11 Q Did you have any conversations with other senior staff at the White House about
12 President Biden's performance?

13 A I mean, likely, yes. We talked about it.

14 Q So conversations that involved discussions of why performed like that?

15 A We talked about the debate, the incoming that we were getting, and how to respond to
16 reporters.

17 Q How were you directed to respond to reporters?

18 A We shared basically what I shared before, that he had a cold. They also asked me if he
19 was tested for COVID. He said yes but he did not have COVID. Those were the things that we
20 shared, and it was a bad night.

21 Q Were there any additional talking points that were suggested or put in the book that
22 weren't put out?

23 A I -- just for some clarity, it wasn't talking points, it wasn't in the book. We were
24 traveling, we were on the road. It was just trying to get, in real-time, answers to questions that
25 reporters were asking.

1 Q But did anybody suggest a different narrative other than that he had had a cold --

2 A No.

3 Q -- for why he had performed like that?

4 A No.

5 Q Did anyone ever advocate for the President to be more public-facing after the debate, to
6 do more press conferences or anything of that sort, to you?

7 A So I will say this, as it relates to public-facing and his schedule. We went from, if I
8 remember -- which was always the plan -- we went from Atlanta to North Carolina, to New York, to
9 New Jersey. We had a full, like, 2, 3 days of a four-State swing. And that's if I'm remembering the
10 number of States and the amount of days. But we had a pretty full, robust schedule coming out of
11 the debate.

12 And, I will just add, where the President engaged with supporters, took pictures, talked to
13 them, spoke in front of them, and was -- he was out there for the American people to see him
14 directly after the debate --

15 Q But --

16 A -- for 2 days in four States, I believe.

17 Q But are you aware of any members of senior staff recommending or advising that he do
18 more than that, to be more public-facing than he was being?

19 A I mean, there was always conversation about him continuing to be public-facing.
20 There was always conversation about, you know, him being out there, especially for the campaign,
21 right? It was a campaign.

22 So those conversations were always happening. Where can we send him? Where does he
23 need to go? Obviously, a lot of that was strategic and from the campaign side, because we were a
24 few months out from the election.

25 Q But do you recall anybody specific recommending that in the wake of the debate?

1 A I don't remember anybody specific, but it was a conversation that was consistently had,
2 you know, to continue for him to be out there.

3 BY MR. GREENBERG:

4 Q And, at this point, immediately after the debate --

5 A Uh-huh.

6 Q -- did you believe that President Biden should stay in the race?

7 A Look, what I believe is, when it comes to something like this, to run for reelection, run
8 for election, make these types of decisions, it is something that is very personal, and I
9 supported -- my job is to support the President in whatever decision that he wants to make.
10 My understanding was, at that time, that we were -- he was still in it and he was still going to
11 continue to run for reelection. I did not think anything else out of that. I did not have an opinion.
12 My only thing was, let me support the White House, this President, the best way that I could.

1 [2:22 p.m.]

2 Mr. Greenberg. And I do understand that was your job, and thank you for that. But you
3 are also a citizen of this country, did you think that President Biden was the best candidate at that
4 point to be the Democratic nominee for President?

5 A Well, that is a different question than what you just asked me. Yes.

6 Mr. Prober. But the answer is yes.

7 Ms. Jean-Pierre. The answer is yes.

8 Mr. Prober. There are a lot of questions floating around.

9 Ms. Jean-Pierre. No, I know, you just asked me a completely different question, and the
10 answer to that question is yes.

11 BY MR. GREENBERG:

12 Q Maybe I will save us some time, did you believe that up until the day that President
13 Biden dropped out of the race?

14 A Did I --

15 Q Did you believe that President Biden should be the Democratic candidate for President
16 up until the day that he dropped out of the race?

17 A Yes. Again, personal decision, something for him to make, but yes.

18 BY MR. SPECTRE:

19 Q But you can support somebody's personal decision and not tell them that you disagree
20 with it. Privately disagreeing with it is different. So did you have personal opinions that you didn't
21 share that President Biden should step aside earlier than he did?

22 A Well, your colleagues just asked me did I think that the President, and I am paraphrasing
23 here, was the right person for that moment to be running the -- to be the nominee for the
24 Democratic party, and I said yes. So I think that answers what I believed, that I believed that he was
25 the right person in that moment to run for President. And I think that answers the question.

1 Q Did anybody that you are aware of on the campaign or in the White House have a
2 different view than you did? Did anybody start having reservations about whether President Biden
3 should stay in the race?

4 A Not directly. I never had a conversation with anybody about that.

5 Q Did you hear of conversations that you weren't part of where that was raised?

6 A No. And when it came to the campaign, I just wasn't engaged with people on a regular
7 basis, so I couldn't even tell you what was going on on the campaign and people's feelings.

8 Q At one point on, I believe it was on Morning Joe, President Biden implied that -- or said
9 directly that it was the elites in the Democratic party that were pressuring him to step aside. Do
10 you think that is true?

11 A Look, I think there were a lot of factors that led to the President to decide not to run.
12 He wrote about it, his statement is -- there is a statement that he put out, and I would just let him
13 speak to it. I mean, he -- it is -- he was very clear when he made that decision why he wanted
14 to -- and he did an oval office address laying out his thought process.

15 Q Do you believe that the pressure for President Biden to drop out was from the
16 Democratic party elites?

17 A I think there were a lot of factors that played into his decision.

18 Q Was that one of them?

19 A I believe there were a lot of factors that played into his decision, and he laid it out, his
20 thought process, and it was -- you know, he put out a statement about it, and again, did an oval office
21 address.

22 BY MR. GREENBERG:

23 Q Do you think -- there were a lot of pundits, there were Democratic politicians on the Hill
24 who would eventually come out and be in favor of Joe Biden dropping out of the race. A lot of that,
25 most of that occurred in the wake of President Biden's debate performance.

1 Sitting here today, we are over -- we are a year past Joe Biden dropping out of the race.
2 With the benefit of hindsight, do you just think that all of that was an overreaction to Joe Biden's
3 performance during one debate?

4 Mr. Prober. That strikes me of more like a political science question than a mental acuity
5 question. I mean, is there a question about sort of his performance and --

6 Mr. Greenberg. I will be honest, other witnesses -- I have asked the same question to other
7 witnesses and they actually didn't have a problem answering that question?

8 BY MR. GREENBERG:

9 Q The question being, do you think that this was an overreaction on the part of the
10 Democratic party to push Joe Biden out of the race?

11 Mr. Prober. Again, I don't have a problem with an answer. I am just pointing out that it
12 seems far afield from what brings us here today.

13 Mr. Greenberg. Well, I am happy to respond to that. The investigation is about Joe Biden's
14 decisionmaking, and one of the biggest decisions that Joe Biden made during his presidency was
15 dropping out of the race, and I am interested to know what was behind that decision.

16 Mr. Prober. Understood. And I think if Ms. Jean-Pierre has personal knowledge from the
17 time or anything that is relevant, she should obviously answer the question. I just wanted to make
18 sure that it is something she is able to speak to and not just opining on sort of the politics of the day.

19 BY MR. GREENBERG:

20 Q I will tell you what, you don't even have to answer the question. The question being,
21 do you think it was an overreaction on the part of the Democratic Party and punditry to pressure Joe
22 Biden to drop out of the race? Would you like to respond to that?

23 A So something that you just said that I think is also important, you said that you were
24 trying to figure out what was behind the decision of President Biden making a very difficult, very
25 personal decision. I do not know, right? I know from what he wrote and put out in a statement.

1 I was not part of his thought -- what I don't know is I wasn't part of his thought process. I wasn't in
2 the room when he was making this decision. I wasn't in the room when he was talking to his family.
3 I was not in the room. I learned maybe 20 minutes before everybody else in the world learned that
4 he had made this decision. It is an incredibly personal decision. It was for him to make alone.
5 Was I surprised? Yes, because I thought we were going to continue the re-election and move
6 forward. That is the best way that I can answer that question.

7 Q Thank you. And I told you we would return to it, so I want to return to it. There
8 is -- your book, which we have not read, we await it, bated breath, a description is -- a word that is
9 used to describe something that you talk about is betrayal, so I want to talk about, I want to talk
10 about that. Who betrayed whom?

11 A What I was talking about is stepping out from the Democratic Party from a two-party
12 system that I felt we needed to really take a hard look at and see what works and what doesn't work.
13 It was a feeling of -- and there were many factors that played into this of, I want to do this in a space
14 where I can be -- look at it in an independent light, and that is what I was talking about, stepping
15 away from the two-party system, stepping away from a party that I had been part of for a long time.
16 Still believe in the ideology, still believe in what the Biden/Harris administration did, but I wanted to
17 step away from it.

18 Mr. Prober. It being the two-party system.

19 Ms. Jean-Pierre. The two-party system. It being the two-party system as a whole. As a
20 whole.

21 BY MR. GREENBERG:

22 Q Okay. This is my least favorite part of the job, but I don't think you answered the
23 question. Who betrayed whom?

24 A Again, I wanted to step away from a two-party system that I didn't feel like was working.

25 Q Do you believe that the Democratic Party betrayed you?

1 A I believe that that is something that certainly the President will speak to. I do have my
2 thoughts about that, but I think at the end of the day, I am still very much part of what the
3 Democrats stand for. I want to do it in my own way and from the outside, and I feel like I can have
4 a better effect in doing that.

5 Q Do you believe that the Democratic Party betrayed Joe Biden?

6 A I think many historians will write that tale.

7 Q Do you believe Joe Biden betrayed you?

8 A No. Remember, I stayed until the end.

9 Q I actually have a question. I am not looking for spoilers on your book.

10 A You are trying, though.

11 Q But, you know, I do want to be clear that is it your testimony today that your book will
12 not make reference to President Biden's health, his cognitive ability, or any inability to do the job of
13 the presidency?

14 A What I will say is the questions that you are asking me today, I am answering them
15 accurately and completely, and I am not deviating from what I have said at the podium on the record.

16 Q Will your book make any reference to President Biden's health, his cognitive ability or
17 inability to do the job of President?

18 A And again, I have talked about this, I have been very clear that from my perspective,
19 from what I saw, the President was always able to do the job. I talk about the 3 weeks, I talk about
20 it from my perspective, and I talk about things that happened from the podium, and nothing that I
21 am telling you right now deviates from what I said in public.

22 Q Do you talk about it in the book anything that involved the President's health, his
23 cognitive ability, or his inability to do the job?

24 A Well, I would say that I never thought that he was -- was not able to do the job, so that
25 is not how I would characterize how the President performed as President of the United States. He

1 was always capable of doing the job. And again, I do talk about the 3 weeks of that period between
2 the debate, I mean, it is pretty much says that, to when he decided from my point of view, from what
3 I -- point of view. I am speaking from like what I had said at the podium.

4 Q What does your book say about the President's health --

5 Ms. Kohlman. I am just going to interject. I think she is repeatedly telling you, she is just
6 characterizing it differently, but she is saying she is consistent with what she said on the podium with
7 what she is saying here and what is in her book.

8 Mr. Greenberg. I understand. And the last thing I want to do is read a book -- read the
9 book and see something that is, if not inconsistent, but is being left out from this interview and have
10 questions and then we all have to come back here and me asking more questions. So I would really
11 just like a straight response.

12 Mr. Prober. It is our expectation that that will not happen.

13 Ms. Kohlman. Right.

14 Mr. Greenberg. And I would love for that to be my expectation as well, but it is currently
15 not, so...

16 Ms. Kohlman. The way you are phrasing the question, she is saying that those same themes
17 about the 3 weeks where she is getting incoming from press, all the things that we have just talked
18 about are also discussed in her book consistently.

19 Mr. Prober. And consistent with the discussion today. I think that is the message.

20 BY MR. GREENBERG:

21 Q And my question is, what is the book going to say about this?

22 A Everything that I am answering today to all of you.

23 Q Okay.

24 A I said that.

25 Q Okay.

1 A There will be no discrepancies.

2 BY MR. SPECTRE:

3 Q Ultimately President Biden's decision to drop out, understanding, of course, that that
4 was his decision to make, did you think that was the right decision?

5 A Again, that was his decision to make. It was his decision to make. Now, if you are
6 asking me if I was disappointed, if I was surprised, yes, because I thought we were going to continue.
7 Again, and the reason why, because he made that decision, that personal decision for himself.

8 Q We are going to switch gears a little here to -- the press asked you on numerous
9 occasions whether President Biden planned to pardon his son Hunter, and you repeatedly and
10 adamantly said that he would not. Is that right?

11 A Yes, because that is what I knew the answer to be at the time.

12 Q And, of course, he eventually did pardon his son Hunter Biden; is that correct?

13 A Correct.

14 Q When did you learn that he intended to pardon Hunter?

15 A It was a short timeline when I learned from the time that -- from the time I learned to
16 the time that we shared it with the press. A very short timeline.

17 Q Meaning like the same day or --

18 A I honestly don't have an actual amount of time, but it was a short timeline. Like maybe
19 I found out the night before and we announced it the day before. It was a very, very short period of
20 time.

21 Q And the basis of your understanding before he ultimately did decide to do it, the basis of
22 your understanding that he would not pardon Hunter Biden, was that a conversation you had with
23 him directly or --

24 A No, I did not have a conversation with him about it.

25 Q And would that be -- who would that be that you had talked to about that?

1 A I mean, he -- again, we put out a statement that he was very involved in and his thought
2 process about his decision to pardon his son, and that is what I understood it to be, that is what he
3 wanted to make sure that the American people had, I was not part of any conversation on that.

4 Q And I am sorry if my question was confusing, but before when your answer at the
5 podium was that he would not pardon his son, you were saying that because you had spoken to him
6 and he said he wouldn't?

7 A Oh, I understand. I thought you meant when he actually made the decision. Yes, it is
8 something that he had said multiple times, he said it in public on the record, is what I knew to be true
9 at the time, and that is what I -- that is what I repeated, something that he was very clear about
10 during that period of time when I said he would not.

11 Q When President Biden would be given talking point cards for a specific issue, is that
12 something you would be involved in generally?

13 A If it relates to the press, or inquiry that was coming from the press, yes.

14 Q I can introduce it if it is easier, but at first I can just represent it to you. There was a
15 tweet by Alex Thompson from September 8th, so just a few days ago, that --

16 A Like a year ago, September?

17 Q I am sorry. Just a few days ago.

18 A Currently. Okay.

19 Q That included a document which was a talking points card dated December 1st, 2024.
20 One of the talking points is a bolded header that says, When did you, in all caps, decide to do this,
21 with regard to why did you change your mind to pardon Hunter? And then under the, "When did
22 you decide to do this" header, it says, Made the decision this weekend. Is that a normal talking
23 point for a card like that?

24 Mr. Prober. Can we take a look at it if you got it. If you don't mind. Thank you.

25 Mr. Spectre. We will go off the record.

1 [Discussion off the record.]

2 Mr. Spectre. We can go back on the record. Thank you. I will introduce this as exhibit 2,
3 the tweet that I was mentioning earlier from Alex Thompson.

4 [Jean-Pierre Exhibit No. 2

5 was marked for identification.]

6 BY MR. SPECTRE:

7 Q And as you can see, it is dated December 1st, 2024. Firstly, have you seen this before?

8 A So it would not be unusual for me to have put together or be part of with the comms
9 team in putting notes -- like this it is not unusual for any President, to be quite honest, to have cards
10 or notes from the press comms team. I don't remember this particular specific one, but, you know,
11 it wouldn't be -- I wouldn't normally be involved in this.

12 Q And, of course, this is a talking points sheet with notes with regard to the President
13 changing his mind about pardoning his son, and it strikes me as odd that he would require a talking
14 point for when he made the decision when it was only apparently the previous weekend. Is that
15 unusual?

16 A It is not unusual. So just to give you a little bit of the process here is that my job as the
17 press, White House Press Secretary, and also, communications director job is to make sure that
18 whatever questions that we think -- if he engaged -- he engages with the press pretty regularly, I
19 think I said he engaged with the press unofficially over 700 -- 670 times, right, so this was a regular
20 occurrence, so he saw the press all the time. And members of the press travel with the President
21 pretty regularly. So we would put together, like I said before, daily news summary, daily notes, and
22 we are talking about one card, but there were probably other cards here on whatever issue, topics of
23 the day. And it was -- I would look at it just like a memo that he would be getting just to let him
24 know, Hey, this is what is up, this is what is going on, and this is probably what you are going to hear.
25 So it was not unusual -- it is not uncommon for Presidents or principals or candidates to have these

1 types of notes that they are going to be getting from the press.

2 Q That all makes sense. I guess to me it still strikes me as odd that, you know, it seems
3 like a pretty big decision, he is going back on something that he had said he wouldn't do and now he
4 is doing it, and it is with regard to his son, and he made the decision only in the previous days. Is it
5 not odd to you that he would need to be reminded that it was just --

6 A It is not odd because we did this consistently, make sure that he had what was on the
7 minds of the press. It is something that we did daily. And this would be it, this -- in this moment,
8 dated, right, this would be something that was press was focused on. So it is not unusual.
9 Candidates do this. Other principals do this. It is not unusual.

10 Q Were you surprised that President Biden changed his mind about pardoning his son?

11 A Yeah, I was surprised.

12 Q Why?

13 A Because we had said that he wouldn't. But again, his decision to make, very personal
14 decision, and he laid out in a statement why he made that decision.

15 Q And I know we got a little -- my question got confusing the last time, but for the record
16 to be clear, did you have a conversation directly with President Biden about his reversal, about when
17 he eventually decided to pardon his son?

18 A If you are asking me if I had a conversation about his thought process, the decision
19 making, no.

20 Q And did you discuss that with anybody else?

21 A No.

22 Q So are you directly aware of when he made the decision to pardon his son?

23 A I mean, he shares it in his statement.

24 Mr. Prober. But is the question outside of that, is she aware of anything, outside of what he
25 has said or what is in his statement?

1 BY MR. SPECTRE:

2 Q Yeah, do you have direct, any direct knowledge of the process by which President Biden
3 came to make that decision besides his public statements?

4 A No. Beside his public statement, no.

5 Mr. Greenberg. Did you ever hear any conversation, any rumor that President Biden was
6 considering pardoning his son when -- while you were going to the podium and saying he would in
7 fact not do that?

8 Ms. Jean-Pierre. Are you asking me from like internally?

9 Mr. Greenberg. Yes, ma'am.

10 Ms. Jean-Pierre. No. Like internally from the White House?

11 Mr. Greenberg. Yes, ma'am.

12 Ms. Jean-Pierre. No.

13 BY MR. SPECTRE:

14 Q Why do you believe he changed his mind?

15 A I mean, I would just refer back to the statement that he put out about it, personal
16 decision that he made, difficult decision for him to make, but he made it.

17 BY MR. GREENBERG:

18 Q Did you ever speak with anybody from Hunter Biden's legal team?

19 A No.

20 Q Did you ever speak with Hunter Biden?

21 A If you are asking me if I have ever spoke to Hunter Biden about his legal or pardons or
22 anything like that --

23 Q I will get there, but let's start generally.

24 A I mean, I would see him from time to time with his family, but we did not talk about this.

25 Q You never talked with Hunter Biden about any of his legal issues?

1 A No.

2 Q And you never spoke with Hunter Biden about any congressional inquiry into Joe Biden?

3 A No.

4 Q Who, going back to the binder, who inserted -- who would insert information into the
5 binder about pardons, if you know?

6 A Are you asking me who would like help formulate the questions or the -- formulate the
7 response?

8 Q Or the response, yes, ma'am.

9 A I believe that came from the comms team primarily.

10 Q Do you know if anyone had, you know, pardons as their portfolio?

11 A Not specifically, no. Not that I remember, no.

12 Mr. Spectre. Do you know if Anita Dunn was involved?

13 Ms. Jean-Pierre. She was not there by that point. We are talking about December of 2024,
14 so that was -- this was all towards the -- or even January, actually. This was the end of the
15 administration.

16 BY MR. GREENBERG:

17 Q So you couldn't pinpoint a particular person or a couple of people who were inserting
18 information into the binder about pardons?

19 A Well, I would say it was the communications team. Right. The communications
20 director was involved, that is where I would say that it came from.

21 Q Did you ever speak with President Biden about pardons?

22 A I mean, we were -- again, like this was like the last couple of days of the administration,
23 so I never had a specific conversation with him about it, no.

24 Q And just so I am clear, we are talking about the pardon of Hunter Biden at this point.

25 A Oh. Oh.

1 Q I will rephrase the question. Did you have any conversation with President Biden
2 about the pardon of Hunter Biden?

3 A No. Like before he --

4 Q Before or after.

5 A No, I did not.

6 Q Did you ever have a conversation with President Biden about the pardon, the later
7 pardons of any member of his family before or after?

8 A That is what I was speaking to prior, which is it was towards the -- I think it was like the
9 last day of the administration, so there was no time to talk about that. The only time I talked to the
10 President about the pardon is in -- as I explain, when I tell him what is on the mind of the press, what
11 I am getting in the press briefing room, and I would bring it up in that way. But we never had a
12 direct conversation about it.

13 Mr. Prober. And I just want to clarify on that to make sure there is no confusion. Are you
14 talking about the theoretical question of would the President pardon Hunter Biden, or after he had
15 made the decision?

16 Ms. Jean-Pierre. I have never talked to him about him pardoning his son, Hunter, like
17 never -- we never had a conversation. What I was trying to say is if it was on the mind of the press, I
18 would say this is what the press is asking me. But we never had a conversation about it, about his
19 decision or anything like that.

20 BY MR. GREENBERG:

21 Q So what you would deliver to the press, that just was from the briefing book
22 regarding -- I will rephrase. When you would tell the press that the President does not intend to
23 pardon his son Hunter, you were getting that information purely from the briefing book?

24 Ms. Kohlman. No.

25 Ms. Jean-Pierre. No. I think I made that clear, that the President said it himself. Right.

1 This is -- when I said it at the podium, the President had also said it, whether at a gaggle or in an
2 interview, a sit-down interview.

3 BY MR. GREENBERG:

4 Q I understand.

5 A Which he did 151 sit-down interviews. He would, if he were asked during that time, he
6 would answer it and say no. So it came from the President of the United States.

7 Q Were you at all aggrieved when the President did the exact opposite of what you had
8 been saying from the podium?

9 A Was I aggrieved? No.

10 Mr. Greenberg. Okay. We will stop right there.

11 Mr. Spectre. We will go off the record.

12 [Discussion off the record.]

13 BY MS. [REDACTED]

14 Q Ms. Jean-Pierre, in the last hour, my majority colleagues talked to you about the Hur
15 report and the President's response to an answer -- a response to a question, excuse me, and they
16 seemed to indicate that a long-winded answer was some indication of cognitive decline or the
17 President's inability to do the job. Would you say in your experience that President Biden is known
18 for being long-winded?

19 A Yes, he is known for being long-winded.

20 Q So was that abnormal for him to go -- to give lengthy answers to questions that most
21 people would take a shorter amount of time?

22 A True. Yes.

23 Q Okay. So it is fair to say that because Joe Biden gave a long-winded answer to the
24 question by Special Counsel Hur is not an indication that he was unable to do his job?

25 A Correct.

1 BY MR. [REDACTED]

2 Q Ms. Jean-Pierre, thank you, again, for appearing here today.

3 A Thank you.

4 Q I just want to clarify for the record, and I know this has been discussed a few times, you
5 are here voluntarily. Is that right?

6 A Yes, I am.

7 Q And you have been asked a variety of questions by my Republican colleagues about
8 different events spanning numerous years. I just want to be very clear that you are answering these
9 questions to the best of your recollection. Is that right?

10 A Yes, I am.

11 Q And I also want to ask you, I guess, during your time at the White House, was there a
12 grand conspiracy to cover up the mental decline of President Biden from the public?

13 A No.

14 Mr. [REDACTED] We will leave it there. We will go off the record.

15 Ms. Jean-Pierre. Thank you. Thank you guys.

16 [Discussion off the record.]

17 Mr. Spectre. We can go on the record.

18 BY MR. GREENBERG:

19 Q Actually, I had a few follow-up questions about pardons. Were you in meetings, or
20 have discussions about the pardon of Dr. Fauci?

21 A No, I was not.

22 Q Were you in meetings, or did you participate in any discussions regarding the pardon of
23 General Milley?

24 A No, I was not.

25 Q Were you in meetings, or part of any discussions regarding the pardon of January 6th

1 committee members and staff?

2 A No, I was not.

3 Q Did anyone discuss these pardons with you?

4 A The decision process? No.

5 Q So the only discussions that you would have on these would be how you would
6 communicate them from the podium?

7 A Correct.

8 Mr. Greenberg. Thank you.

9 Ms. Jean-Pierre. Or to the press, more generally.

10 Mr. Greenberg. Yes, ma'am.

11 BY MR. SPECTRE:

12 Q And these are related questions, just thinking more broadly of other types of executive
13 actions, such as executive orders or signing bills or things of that nature. We talked about it a little
14 bit in the context of the very senior staff, and senior staff meetings that occurred each morning, and
15 feel free to correct me, but I think what you said was that those things would come up during those
16 meetings, but it sounded like that that was not a meeting where the decision process was discussed
17 at length; is that --

18 A That is correct. I would see those meetings in the morning as more like a check-in
19 meeting. I think I said that earlier.

20 Q So were you involved in any meetings or discussions that were more substantive than
21 that with regard to making other types of executive decisions, like executive orders?

22 A No.

23 Q So same question that my colleague just asked you, you would essentially only have
24 conversations about those types of actions in the context of answering questions on the podium, or
25 telling somebody that you had been receiving questions about them?

1 A That is right. That is correct.

2 Q So do you have any understanding of what the process for getting an executive -- getting
3 the sign-off from the President on a given executive action was?

4 A Can I step back from your previous question?

5 Q Sure.

6 A There would be times where we would look at the week ahead, and we would say, the
7 President is going to potentially make this announcement or that announcement, but I was never
8 part of the decisionmaking. I was never part of how -- I wasn't in the room for those particular
9 executive orders or decisions that were being made.

10 Q So do you have an awareness of what the process looked like for making an executive
11 decision, or getting the President to sign off on it?

12 A No.

13 Q Were you ever in the room when somebody gave a verbal authorization -- I will start
14 again. When -- our understanding is that there is a decision card or decision memo that goes to the
15 President, and that he signs that basically indicating his intention to do whatever executive action.
16 Were you ever in the room when somebody verbally communicated that the President intended to
17 do something when you knew he had not signed?

18 A No, I am not aware of that.

19 Q And similarly, are you familiar with the process by which official documents are signed
20 with the autopen?

21 A No.

22 Q Was the autopen ever something that came up -- were there ever talking points in your
23 briefing book about the autopen?

24 A Not that I recall.

25 BY MR. GREENBERG:

1 Q Do you have any knowledge of President Biden's political advisors weighing in on any
2 healthcare he should or should not receive?

3 A No.

4 Q Were you present for any of President Biden's meetings with Dr. Kevin O'Connor?

5 A No.

6 Q Do you know who would attend those meetings?

7 A I would not.

8 Q Okay. Are you aware of anyone in the White House advocating for you to no longer be
9 Press Secretary?

10 A I don't. I mean, just -- there were a lot of stories written, as you know, but all I can say
11 is I stayed as Press Secretary until the end.

12 Q Yes, ma'am, I do know, and one of those stories was that Anita Dunn had advocated for
13 you to no longer be Press Secretary. Do you have any knowledge of that?

14 A I know of the story. I can't speak to the validity of the story, but I am aware that it is
15 out there and exists.

16 Q Did Ms. Dunn ever raise anything with you about no longer being the Press Secretary?

17 A What I will say is that we had a professional relationship. In these types of high-stakes
18 type of jobs, are there disagreements? Yes, there are disagreements. Did we have
19 disagreements? Yes, we had disagreements. But all in all, our relationship was -- we kept it on a
20 professional level.

21 Q There have been a number of books released in the months following Joe Biden leaving
22 office.

23 Mr. Prober. I hear there are better ones coming out.

24 Ms. Kohlman. Just for the record.

25 Mr. Prober. For the record.

1 Mr. Greenberg. I have no reason to doubt it.

2 Ms. Jean-Pierre. I know you are going to read it. I can see it.

3 BY MR. GREENBERG:

4 Q Did you ever speak with Jake Tapper, Alex Thompson, for their book, Original Sin?

5 A No.

6 Q You were not a source for this book?

7 A No.

8 Q Did you speak with Chris Whipple for the book, Uncharted?

9 A No.

10 Q Did you speak with Josh Dawsey, Tyler Pager, Isaac Arnsdorf for their book, 2024?

11 A No.

12 Q Did you ever discourage from people speaking with any of these people that I just said
13 from speaking with them?

14 A No.

15 Q It is my understanding, actually, that for the book, Original Sin, there was somewhat of a
16 strategy to encourage people in the White House to speak with Mr. Thompson or Mr. Tapper. Are
17 you aware of that?

18 A I am aware of that, yes.

19 Q Did anyone ask you to speak?

20 A No.

21 Q Do you know what rationale underlaid that decision to have them speak?

22 A My guess would be the book is going to be written anyway, so maybe we can -- folks can
23 help with the -- with the narrative of the book. That would be --

24 Q Have you read the book?

25 A No, I have not read the book.

1 Mr. Spectre. There are several unnamed cabinet secretaries in the book. Do you know
2 who those were?

3 Ms. Jean-Pierre. I didn't read it, so I can't even speak to it.

4 Mr. Greenberg. Go off the record.

5 [Discussion off the record.]

6 BY MS. [REDACTED]

7 Q Thank you again, Ms. Jean-Pierre. I know you said previously you are not aware of the
8 autopen process, but just for the record, we just want to ask you a couple of questions.

9 Ms. Jean-Pierre, to your knowledge, are you aware of any instance where an executive order
10 issued during the Biden presidency was signed by autopen without President Biden's knowledge or
11 authorization?

12 A To my knowledge, no.

13 Q And to your knowledge, are you aware of any instance in which the autopen was used
14 to sign a Presidential memorandum issued during the Biden presidency without President Biden's
15 knowledge or authorization?

16 A To my knowledge, no.

17 Q And to your knowledge, are you aware of any instance in which the autopen was used
18 to sign a pardon issued during the Biden presidency without President Biden's knowledge or
19 authorization?

20 A To my knowledge, no.

21 Q And, lastly, to your knowledge, are you aware of any instance in which the autopen was
22 used to sign an order granting clemency issued during the Biden Presidency without President
23 Biden's knowledge or authorization?

24 A To my knowledge, no.

25 Ms. [REDACTED] We will go off the record.

1 Ms. Jean-Pierre. Thank you guys. Thanks everybody.

2 [Whereupon, at 3:15 p.m., the interview was concluded.]

Certificate of Deponent/Interviewee

I have read the foregoing ____ pages, which contain the correct transcript of the answers made by me to the questions therein recorded.

Witness Name

Date