

Those in power in China fear the Taiwanese independence movement and potential support for this movement from the United States and other democratic UN nations.¹¹

Many leaders in the United States and around the world also spoke about the threat of climate change and the need for the world's industrial nations to play a more active role in attempting to address the factors contributing to the changing climate. President Biden and other US leaders gave speeches during the year about the threat of climate change to the nation's economy and health. From Biden's Department of Defense, Secretary Kathleen Hicks delivered a speech early in the year detailing the unavoidable consequences of climate change for national and international defense.¹²

Welcoming Students and Entering the Professional World

Though America's public figures were consumed for much of the year with the many global and domestic threats and challenges facing the United States, there were also celebrations. Each year, as new classes of students enter the nation's universities and colleges and others depart to begin their professional lives, prominent Americans provide sage advice, humor, and the wisdom of their experience to America's students.

For many Americans, 2022 was marked by struggle, and there were many issues to consider. But it was also a year of recovery for many, and a time when many of the nation's leaders were trying to rekindle faith and trust in America's future and the nation's place in the broader world. The speeches delivered by American politicians, celebrities, activists, and public figures serve as a snapshot of the nation's evolution, reflecting the worries, dreams, hopes, and goals of the American people through the lens of the people whose lives and careers shape each era. For students of history seeking to better understand their world and their times, the year's speeches provide a road map for further exploration, raising issues and introducing ideas that can shape and inspire the next generation.

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and I could not have had better role models for thoughtfulness, integrity, honor, and principle, both by word and deed.

My clerkship with Justice Breyer in particular was an extraordinary gift and one for which I've only become more grateful with each passing year. Justice Breyer's commitment to an independent, impartial judiciary is unflagging. And for him, the rule of law is not nearly a duty. It is his passion. I am daunted by the prospect of having to follow in his footsteps, and I would count myself lucky indeed to be able to do so with even the smallest amount of his wisdom, grace, and joy. The exceptional mentorship of the judges for whom I clerked has proven especially significant for me during this past decade of my service as a federal judge. And of course, that service itself has been a unique opportunity. For that, I must also thank President Obama who put his faith in me by nominating me to my first judicial role on the federal district court.

This brings me to my colleagues and staff of the federal district court in Washington, DC and the DC Circuit. Thank you for everything. I am deeply grateful for your wisdom and your battle-tested friendship through the years. I also want to extend a special thanks to all of my law clerks, many of whom are here today, who have carved out time and space to accompany me on this professional journey. I'm especially grateful to Jennifer Gruda, who has been by my side since nearly the outset of my time on the bench and has promised not to leave me as we take this last big step.

To the many other friends that I have had the great, good fortune to have made throughout the years, from my neighborhood growing up from Miami Palmetto Senior High School and especially the debate team—

Kamala Harris: Right.

Ketanji Brown Jackson: ... from my days at Harvard College, where I met my indefatigable and beloved roommates, Lisa Fairfax, Nina Coleman Simmons, and Antoinette Sequeira Coakley, they are truly my sisters. To my time at Harvard Law School and the many professional experiences that I've been blessed to have since graduation, thank you. I have too many friends to name, but please know how much you've meant to me and how much I have appreciated the smiles, the hugs, and the many "atta, girls" that have propelled me forward to this day.

Finally, I'd like to give special thanks to the White House staff and the special assistants who provided invaluable assistance in helping me to navigate the confirmation process. My trusted sherpa, Senator Doug Jones, was an absolute godsend. He was an absolute godsend. He's not only the best storyteller you'd ever want to meet, but also unbelievably popular on the Hill, which helped a lot. I'm also standing here today in no small part due to the hard work of the brilliant folks who interact with the legislature and other stakeholders on behalf of the White House, including Louisa Terrell, Reema Dodin, and Tona Boyd, Minyon Moore, Ben LaBolt, and Andrew Bates.

I am also particularly grateful for the awe-inspiring leadership of White House Counsel Dana Remus, of Paige Herwig, where's Paige, and Ron Klain. They led an extraordinarily talented team of White House staffers in the Herculean effort that was required to ensure that I was well prepared for the rigors of this process and

I believed we could lift America from the depths of COVID, so we passed the largest economic recovery package since Franklin Delano Roosevelt. And today, America's economy is faster, stronger than any other advanced nation in the world. (Applause.) We have more to go.

I believed we could build a better America, so we passed the biggest infrastructure investment since President Dwight D. Eisenhower. And we've now embarked on a decade of rebuilding

the nation's roads, bridges, highways, ports, water systems, high-speed Internet, railroads. (Applause.)

I believed we could make America safer, so we passed the most significant gun safety law since President Clinton. (Applause.)

I believed we could go from being the highest cost of prescriptions in the world to making prescription drugs and healthcare more affordable, so we passed the most significant healthcare reforms since President Obama signed the Affordable Care Act. (Applause.)

And I believed we could create—we could create a clean energy future and save the planet, so we passed the most important climate initiative ever, ever, ever. (Applause.)

The cynics and the critics tell us nothing can get done, but they are wrong. There is not a single thing America cannot do—not a single thing beyond our capacity if we do it together.

It's never easy. But we're proving that in America, no matter how long the road, progress does come. (Applause.)

Look, I know the last year—few years have been tough. But today, COVID no longer controls our lives. More Americans are working than ever. Businesses are growing. Our schools are open. Millions of Americans have been lifted out of poverty. Millions of veterans once exposed to toxic burn pits will now get what they deserve for their families and the compensation. (Applause.)

American manufacturing has come alive across the Heartland, and the future will be made in America—(applause)—no matter what the white supremacists and the extremists say.

I made a bet on you, the American people, and that bet is paying off. Proving that from darkness—the darkness of Charlottesville, of COVID, of gun violence, of insurrection—we can see the light. Light is now visible. (Applause.)

Light that will guide us forward not only in words, but in actions—actions for you, for your children, for your grandchildren, for America.

Even in this moment, with all the challenges we face, I give you my word as a Biden: I've never been more optimistic about America's future. Not because of me, but because of who you are.

We're going to end cancer as we know it. Mark my words. (Applause.)

We are going to create millions of new jobs in a clean energy economy.

We're going to think big. We're going to make the 21st century another American century because the world needs us to. (Applause.)

Karine Jean-Pierre: Peter, the President believes in the rule of law, the President believes in the independence of the Department of Justice—

Peter Doocy: That's a yes or no. Just is this White House—

Karine Jean-Pierre: No, it's a yes or a no for you. I'm answering the question. You may not like it, but I'm answering the question—

Peter Doocy: I'm just—

Karine Jean-Pierre: ... and I'm... No. Nope. I'm answering the question and I'm telling you that we are not going to comment on a criminal investigation. The President has been very clear. I laid out what his thoughts were back on January 7th in 2021 about how he saw the Department of Justice and I'm just going to leave it there. We are not going to comment from here, from this White House on a criminal investigation that is currently happening.

...

Speaker 6: I know that you've spoken about conversations, or not commented on having conversations today with the Department of Justice. But would the White House now rule out any briefings moving forward as this investigation continues, given the accusations around any sort of partisanship impacting the investigation? I guess—

Karine Jean-Pierre: Can you say more?

Speaker 6: Sure. The question being, moving forward, will the President or anybody from the White House be engaged in any briefings with the Department of Justice over this search or the investigation?

Karine Jean-Pierre: When it comes to a criminal investigation, that is the Department of Justice to investigate and deal with. We give them their independence on that.

Speaker 6: But not clarifying whether or not there would be any sort of briefings, whether any briefings would be made between the Justice Department and the White House, and whether they would be made public if—

Karine Jean-Pierre: Again, they're independent. We are not involved in their criminal investigation, that is not something that we do here. We give them their independence when it comes to that, and so we leave it to Department of Justice. So, any particulars, any specifics on what they're going to do next or anything to that fashion, I would refer you to the Department of Justice.

...

Sebastian: Thank you, Karine. So, I'm not asking you to comment on the Justice Department's side of this, obviously, because I know you can't answer it. But, politically, is the president, who's the country's leader, is he confident that he has a plan to address the way that a lot of Americans, maybe even a very large number of Americans, are being told and may not believe that Donald Trump is being persecuted, that the deep state's coming after you, that the IRS and the FBI are corrupt, all this kind of stuff? This is really believed, apparently, by really a lot of people. He's the leader of the whole country, as he often says. Does he have a handle on this?

Karine Jean-Pierre: Your question is still asking me to comment on what's happening. By me answering it is still asking me a question to comment on it.

Press Conference on Student Loan Forgiveness

By Joe Biden

President Joe Biden gave a press conference in August of 2022 discussing the plan to provide \$10,000 in student debt relief to some Americans. Biden mentions the growth of the American education system, the rising cost of education, and the reduction in value of student loans. Biden also mentions his own family's struggles in affording education and the impact of debt on graduates.

Good afternoon. When America made 12 years of public education universal in the last century, we became not figuratively, literally the best educated public in the world and better prepared than any other nation. And I would argue that it's one of the reasons why we were so successful and had been so successful. But as you've all observed, other nations have caught up. In the 21st century, in my view, I think the vast majority of the Americans, 12 years of universal education is not enough and that we're going to be out competed by the rest of the world if we don't take action. But here's the deal. The cost of education beyond high school has gone up significantly. The total cost to attend a public four-year university has tripled, nearly tripled in 40 years, tripled. Instead of properly funding public colleges, many states have cut back their support.

We're just talking about that in the Oval. Many states have cut back support for their state universities, leaving students to pick up more of the tab. And 50 years, for 50 years, Pell Grants had been a key way for the federal government to help lower income families, particularly those earning less than \$60,000 a year, to send their kids to college. Those Pell Grants used to cover 80%, 80% of the cost of going to a public four-year college. Today, Pell Grants cover roughly 32%. That's one-third of the cost, as opposed to before. It matters. I remember walking up and now my dad, like probably a lot of year folks, cared a lot about your education. My dad's greatest regret was that he never got to go to college. And my dad was a very well-read man, particularly history, but it was a great regret.

And he'd always say, "Joey, you're going to be a college man." And I'd say, "Dad, but what does that matter? I mean, you can still get fired if you're a college man." He says, "Yeah, but they can never take it away from you. They can never take your education away." And I remember my senior year, I got into one of the little Ivy's and I got into a number of schools. And we're trying to get the money, even with financial assistance, to be able to go there. We had four kids, all of us wanting to

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We Will Not Abandon Taiwan

By Nancy Pelosi

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi delivered a speech on August 3, 2022, discussing the recent Bilateral Meeting with President Tsai Ing-wen of Taiwan. Pelosi mentions Taiwan independence and cooperation with the United States, scientific and industrial cooperation, and plans for the future of the Indo-Pacific economic program.

Speaker Pelosi: Thank you very much. Thank you, Madam President, for your leadership and for the leadership gathered here with you today.

I'm proud of my delegation. We're almost like one unit. The Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, the Chairman of the—Mr. Meeks; Mr. Takano, Chair of Veterans' Affairs; Vice Chair of Ways and Means—the trade committee—Congresswoman Suzan DelBene; a Member of the Intelligence Committee, Mr. Krishnamoorthi; and a Member of the Foreign Affairs and Armed Services Committee, Mr. Kim. I say that because when I speak, I—my receiving your kind words, as well as this invitation, is really received and appreciated by Members of Congress. On both sides of the aisle, on both sides of the Capitol: great enthusiasm for the U.S.-Taiwan relationship.

Let's just put it in perspective. Four decades ago, the Taiwan Relations Act was built – in building a strong bond between our two countries: advancing our shared interests of governance, economy and security, while respecting the 'One China' policy. Our solidarity with you is more important than ever, as you defend Taiwan and their freedom.

In our bilateral meeting, we discussed key opportunities to deepen our partnership: upholding democracy and human rights and respect the individual, combatting—well, I'll get around to combat.

Three areas that I just mentioned—security, economy, governance. Security: our relationship is a strong one. And we discussed how we can make it stronger and up to date. Our economy: we talked about a trade agreement that might be possible and soon. And in governance: that, among other things, and in governance, I want to salute Taiwan for the leadership you have had in fighting COVID. Probably one of the highest rates of vaccination, but also the lowest number of deaths from COVID. A real model for the world. It's about science, but it's also about community acceptance of a plan. And that is called leadership. So, thank you for that lesson to all of us.

Delivered on August 3, 2022 in Taipei, Taiwan.