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Office of the Press Secretary

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PRESS BRIEFING

by Press Secretary Sean Spicer and Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency Scott Pruitt

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

1:41 P.M. EDT

White House Daily Briefing White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer and EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt briefed reporters on the president's agenda, including his decision to withdraw from the Paris climate agreement.

14:32

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt: This gentleman right here ... yes ...

Bob Weiner: Thank you. Isn't it of concern that the United States has broken a promise to 190 countries, and the President did not address that particular point? And second, you've several times raised that the lowering of CO₂ levels, isn't the reason for lower CO₂ levels because of blocking the smokestack spews that now are not allowed, the kind of regulations that the Administration is now opposing?

Pruitt: As I indicated, largely, we have reduced our CO₂ footprint through innovation and technology, not the least of which is hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling. And the first part of your question, I forget.

Weiner: Isn't it of concern that we broke a promise to 190 countries, and how does that help our credibility?

Pruitt: Well, truly, this gentleman's question back here, if it was a promise that was enforceable and was going to obligate this country, then it should have been ratified as a treaty, right? The exposure here to us domestically, was 26% to 28% targets that were part of an international agreement, and there are provisions in the Clean Air Act that actually allow for lawsuits to be filed domestically to compel regulation to meet those kinds of percentages.

This was as much about a Constitutional and legal concerns as anything else and the President dealt decisively with that, but let's again ... the important thing here is that it put us at economic disadvantage. The world applauded, the world applauded when we joined Paris, and you know why? I think they applauded because they knew it was going to put this country at an economic disadvantage, and the reason European leaders, going back to the question earlier, that I think they want us to stay in is because they know it will continue to shackle our economy, though we are leading the world with respect to our CO₂ reductions. That's all I've got. I've got to head to the airport. Thank you very much.

Q (another reporter, as Administrator Pruitt departs) Our word is not our bond?

LIVE
10:55 am PT

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