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# Donald Trump talks so much that the White House needs to hire more people to write it all down

Trump nearly spoke for eight hours during his first week back in the White House

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in New York

- Thursday 30 January 2025 14:52 EST
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Donald Trump's **rambling public remarks** might spark a hiring spree at the **White House** as beleaguered stenographers struggle to keep up with him.

After four years of comparative quiet under **Joe Biden's administration**, typists recording Trump's first week had to deal with more than 22,000 words on **Inauguration Day**, followed by another 17,000 when the president visited disaster sites in North Carolina and **California**.

Now, there are discussions about hiring additional staff to keep up with the workload, according to people with knowledge of the conversations who insisted on anonymity to discuss internal matters.

The president has barely stopped talking since taking office for a second time, and his inability to stay on topic is contributing to his mammoth word count.

Take Wednesday, for example. During a signing ceremony for legislation to accelerate deportations, Trump talked up his accomplishments, claimed Hamas was using U.S.-funded condoms to make bombs in Gaza, defended his administration's efforts to freeze federal spending and reduce the government workforce, veered through descriptions of migrant violence and made the surprise announcement that Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, would be used as a detention center for people who are in the U.S. illegally.

Even during a press conference on Thursday about an investigation into the deadly air crash in Washington D.C., Trump pivoted to baselessly alleging that standards for air traffic control recruitment and hiring had become lax during the presidencies of his two Democratic predecessors, Barack Obama and Joe Biden.

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President Donald Trump's seeming inability to stay on topic means that stenographers are struggling to keep up with the length of his speeches. (*Getty Images*)

Trump's commentary remains laden with falsehoods, including baseless allegations about voter fraud and assertions that California water policies worsened the recent wildfires. Sometimes he speaks off the cuff about consequential geopolitical matters, such as a recent suggestion that Palestinians should be displaced from Gaza while the enclave is rebuilt. It can be hard to know when to take him seriously, like when he muses about serving a third term, which the U.S. Constitution does not allow.

But now that Trump is back in the presidency, it's hard to ignore him.

"He's dictating the news on his terms," said Michael LaRosa, who worked as a television producer before serving as a spokesperson for former first lady Jill Biden. "He's become America's assignment editor."

Most presidents try to start their terms with a bang, seizing the moment when their influence could be at its peak. However, Trump is in a different league.

Biden, a Democrat, spent 2 hours and 36 minutes talking on camera and used 24,259 words in his first week in office four years ago, according to numbers generated by Factba.se.

Trump's comparable stats: nearly 7 hours and 44 minutes and 81,235 words last week. That's longer than watching the original "Star Wars" trilogy back-to-back-to-back, and more words than "Macbeth," "Hamlet" and "Richard III" combined.

It's also much more than when Trump took office for his first term eight years ago. Back then, he was only on camera talking for 3 hours and 41 minutes and spoke 33,571 words.

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In his first week in office, Trump spoke for almost four times as long as his predecessor Joe Biden did. (AP)

Trump has spent decades practicing the best ways to get people to pay attention to him. As a New York businessman, he fed stories to gossip columnists, added gold plating to buildings and slapped his name on every product that he sold. His efforts reached an apex with "The Apprentice," the reality television show that beamed him into American living rooms.

"One of the things that has given him the advantage is that he thinks like an executive producer," said Kevin Madden, a Republican communications strategist. "He's constantly programming the next hour and trying to keep his audience engaged."

A sign of what was to come arrived shortly after Trump was sworn in. He delivered an inaugural address and then promptly gave more remarks to supporters that were even longer than his speech. And then he spoke at a downtown arena, where people had gathered for a rally, and later he parried questions from reporters for nearly an hour in the Oval Office while signing executive orders.

At one point, he turned to Fox News Channel's Peter Doocy.

"Does Biden ever do news conferences like this?" Trump said. "How many news conferences, Peter, has he

done like this?"

"Like this?" Doocy responded.

"None," Trump said, answering his own question.

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Trump's spoke for an impressive 7 hours and 44 minutes during his first week, including 81,235 words. (*Getty Images*)

On Friday, Trump presented a tour de force of talking, demonstrating that he's far more willing to put himself in unscripted situations than Biden was.

He spoke with reporters while leaving the White House in the morning. He talked to them again after landing in North Carolina, then again at a briefing on the recovery from Hurricane Helene, and then again while meeting with victims of the storm.

Trump flew that afternoon to Los Angeles, where he conversed with local officials about the recent wildfires. Before boarding Air Force One to leave the city in the evening, he answered more questions from reporters on the tarmac.

As his travels continued over the weekend, Trump spoke to reporters twice at the back of Air Force One — as often as Biden did for his entire term.

"Transparency is back!" wrote longtime aide Margo Martin on social media.

That's not the word that Kathleen Hall Jamieson, director of the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania, would use.

"Being accessible and being transparent are two different things," she said.

Sometimes more talking doesn't produce more clarity. One afternoon, Trump told reporters that there were "no surprises" when Republican Sens. Susan Collins and Lisa Murkowski decided to oppose Pete Hegseth to lead the Pentagon. The next morning, Trump said he was "very surprised" by their votes.

Jamieson worries that the frenzied pace will exhaust people.

"More people will simply check out," she said. "And that's a problem. An informed citizenry is an engaged citizenry."

Kate Berner, who worked on Biden's communications staff, said Trump's constant talking helps keep his adversaries off balance.

"By doing so much and saying so much, it is hard for people who oppose him to organize," she said. "And it is hard for any one thing to take hold."

But there's also a risk for Trump, Berner said. If he's not careful, she said, he could once again start "wearing out his welcome with the American people."

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*Additional reporting by AP.*

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