

Biden's farewell sentiments need to become Democratic P..

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I am sure I was not alone in not expecting President Biden to say anything very interesting [in his farewell speech](#) to America last night, but as it turned out, he did.

Biden took the opportunity to make clear the threat to the USA and the rest of the world that Trump represents. He said:

That's why my farewell address tonight, I want to warn the country of some things that give me great concern. And this is a dangerous — and that's the dangerous concentration of power in the hands of a very few ultrawealthy people, and the dangerous consequences if their abuse of power is left unchecked. Today, an oligarchy is taking shape in America of extreme wealth, power and influence that literally threatens our entire democracy, our basic rights and freedoms and a fair shot for everyone to get ahead. We see the consequences all across America. And we've seen it before.

More than a century ago, the American people stood up to the robber barons back then and busted the trusts. They didn't punish the wealthy. They just made the wealthy play by the rules everybody else had. Workers want rights to earn their fair share. You know, they were dealt into the deal, and it helped put us on the path to building the largest middle class, the most prosperous century any nation the world has ever seen. We've got to do that again.

Later in the speech, he added:

You know, in his farewell address, President Eisenhower spoke of the dangers of the military-industrial complex. He warned us that about, and I quote, "The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power." Six days — six decades later, I'm equally concerned about the potential rise of a tech-industrial complex that could pose real dangers for our country as well.

Americans are being buried under an avalanche of misinformation and disinformation enabling the abuse of power. The free press is crumbling. Editors are disappearing.

Social media is giving up on fact-checking. The truth is smothered by lies told for power and for profit. We must hold the social platforms accountable to protect our children, our families and our very democracy from the abuse of power.

He also had this to say:

And in a democracy, there is another danger — that the concentration of power and wealth. It erodes a sense of unity and common purpose. It causes distrust and division. Participating in our democracy becomes exhausting and even disillusioning, and people don't feel like they have a fair shot. We have to stay engaged in the process. I know it's frustrating. A fair shot is what makes America America. Everyone is entitled to a fair shot, not a guarantee, just a fair shot, an even playing field. Going as far as your hard work and talent can take you.

Let me be clear: all this seemed a bit late. It would have been better to explain motivations a long time ago. Clearer expressions of threat would have helped as well. And I would not agree with all Biden has done, said, or actually seems to stand for. But, that said, there is much to agree with in the sections that I quote.

The USA and the world are under threat from oligarchs.

Mega-wealth is threatening democracy.

Power is being abused.

The tech-industrial complex is out of control.

The belief in fairness is being eroded.

Biden got that right.

The trouble is, his Party appears to have no intention of doing anything about these things, being a bystander watching and even benefiting from all such things over time.

If the Democrats want to return to office and make meaningful change, they have to walk the talk of controlling power, wealth, oligarchy and tech. Will they? I want to know how.