

Remarks in a Roundtable Discussion on the "Alligator Alcatraz" Migrant Detention Facility and an Exchange With Reporters in Ochopee, Florida

July 1, 2025

The President. Thank you very much. They've done a fantastic job. Even the microphone works well. That's good. Wow.

Well, I'd like to just thank everybody for the incredible job they've done. I love this State.

As you know, Ron and I have had a really great relationship for a long time. We had a little off period for a couple of days—[*laughter*]*—but it didn't last long. It didn't last long. And a lot of respect for each other.*

And it's a great honor to be deep in Florida—the Florida Everglades to open America's newest migrant detention center. It's incredibly built, and you're seeing that yourself. That's why I said, "Let the press join us on our walk so they can see what's happening."

It's known as "Alligator Alcatraz," which is very appropriate, because I looked outside and that's not a place I want to go hiking anytime soon.

But very soon, this facility will house some of the most menacing migrants, some of the most vicious people on the planet. We're surrounded by miles of treacherous swampland, and the only way out is, really, deportation. And a lot of these people are self-deporting back to their country where they came from. Quite a few. We're amazed at, actually, the number.

We took the FEMA money that Joe Biden allocated to pay for the free luxury hotel rooms, where he was paying hundreds of millions of dollars in New York City, and we used it to build this project. And, Ron, it was just a little fraction of that money, the money they spent on that project.

I happen to know the real estate developer. He's a very—he never would—he never really made that much, but he became very wealthy. With luxury, he didn't do well. With people that are not exactly luxury, he's made a fortune.

I want to thank Florida Governor Ron DeSantis and Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem and Florida Attorney General James Uthmeier—where is James? Where is he? You do a very good job. I hear good things. I hear good things about you from Ron too. [*Laughter*] No, you really do. He's even a good-looking guy. That guy has got a future, huh? Good job, James. I hear you're—you're really, really fantastic. Worked hard. You're, like, in the construction business for a few days, right? Huh? Congratulations—for all the hard work and to make this facility possible. It's amazing.

Thanks, as well, to Florida Agriculture Commissioner Wilton Simpson. Where is Wilton? Where are you, Wilton—hi, Walton [Wilton; White House correction]. Been a long time. Thank you. Congressman Byron Donalds. Where is Byron? Hi, Byron. How are you? Good.

Florida Speaker of the House Daniel Perez. Daniel? Daniel. Thank you, Daniel. Why—you didn't want to sit up here with us, Daniel? [*Laughter*] Executive Director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management Kevin Guthrie. Hi, Kevin. Good job.

Acting Director of ICE, Todd Lyons. Todd, great job.

And Senator Joe Gruters. He is a great guy. Where is Joe? We love Joe.

Florida State Senator Joe Gruters. Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. Thank you very much.

State Sen. Gruters. We love you. Welcome home.

The President. Thank you. Thank you, Joe. Joe is great.

With the help of those incredible Border Patrol agents, we now have the lowest level of daily border crossings ever recorded. As you know, last month—the month of May just got released 2 days ago—the number of illegal aliens into the United States was zero—zero. Even I find that hard to believe. I was—[*laughter*—somebody must have gotten in, I think. I don't know, but they say "zero," and the people that count them are radical-left Democrats. So, when a radical-left Democrat tells me it's zero, I believe them.

But there's still much work to do. In the 4 years before I took office, Joe Biden allowed 21 million people—that's a minimum; I think it was much higher than that—illegal aliens to invade our country. He invaded our country, just like a military would invade. It's tougher because they don't wear uniforms. You don't know who they are.

More than the populations of New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston, Phoenix, and Philadelphia combined—that's what came into our country from prisons, from mental institutions, from street gangs, drug dealers. It's disgusting.

This enormous country-destroying invasion has swamped communities nationwide with massive crime, crippling costs, and burdens far beyond what any nation could withstand. No nation could withstand what we did. And we're in the process of doing it, but we have some great people doing it now, and you see them up here with me.

But it's—I'd call it like an unforced error. It's sort of like men in women sports. It's sort of like transgender for everybody. How could they have done this to our country? And we're never going to forget it.

Last year, 15 percent of all the hotel rooms in New York City were used to house illegal aliens at costs that they never got for luxury. They never got—they never got this much for luxury. People coming in from—the wealthiest places on Earth, they made more money with the illegal immigrants. With many rooms costing more than \$300 a night—six times the rent of a typical American family.

In Denver, Colorado, the city was forced to cut \$10 million from its police and fire department budget as part of a \$90 million plan to house illegal aliens. And the—it's a population that's growing and growing and destroying Denver and growing. And it's—and, again, it's destroying Denver, and it's destroying many other cities too.

Likewise, one of the city's largest hospital system is drowning in unpaid medical bills—unpaid in the billions—after their emergency rooms were flooded with tens of thousands of illegals, leading to the closure of critical services. And these are really critical services. They can't even keep them open for American patients. The American patients were treated worse than any illegal immigrant in Los Angeles.

One in every four students in the public school system is from a household headed by an illegal, and most of them don't speak English. So they're in a school system, and they don't have interpreters. They don't have anything. They don't speak English.

What a mess. What a mess. Unforced error—all these people allowed to come in.

The United States is now spending \$78 billion a year on translation. Okay. Think of that: \$78 billion a year on translation and smaller numbers on special education programs for non-English speakers in our public school. So \$78 billion—I think that's not a mistake; I would say million dollars, maybe; hundreds of thousands of dollars—\$78 billion, Joe, on translators and

non-English-speaking work. The Federal Government, the Justice Department—it's more than twice the cost of maintaining the United States Justice Department, what we're spending on translation and other things to help.

In total, the average illegal alien costs American taxpayers an estimated \$70,000—that's each—\$70,000. I think that number is even low.

If you care about balancing the budget, the single most impactful step we can take is to fully reverse the Biden migration invasion, one of the worst invasions we've ever had. We've never had an invasion like this. We've had invasions, but we've taken care of them. We've never had an invasion like this. And it's with us. And we have some very bad people out there looking to do big harm.

That's why the "One Big Beautiful Bill" includes funding for 3,000 new Border Patrol officers and 10,000 new ICE agents. And I've gotten to know the Border Patrol and ICE very well, unlike Kamala. She was the border czar, but she never saw the border. She never made one phone call. She was some border czar. She would have been some President. Probably would have been slightly better than Biden though.

I had to run against both of them. You know, the one guy—it's like a fighter. You knock out the one guy who's doing badly, then they put somebody else in. But fortunately, she was a stiff also. Otherwise, I would have been very angry. I would have been extremely angry.

The heroes of ICE will also help round up and remove members of the savage drug cartels, which are coming back into our country. And we are—we got them out, and now some of them came back in. We just got them out again, and that's going to be a vicious cycle.

But these are foreign gangs. They're horrendous people, killers that have infiltrated our territory, including eight which we have designated as foreign terrorist organizations, which gives us a lot more power for speed and getting them out much easier. And we had a great court victory, as you know, on Friday, that allows us to do what we have to do from the Supreme Court of the United States.

In 5 months, my administration has already arrested over 2,700 members of the murderous Venezuelan gang known as Tren de Aragua, including a pack of these sadistic animals arrested last month with over 280 guns. And these are guns of the latest caliber. These are guns that were made over the last period of less than a year—getting brandnew guns, the latest and the greatest.

Every day, our brave law enforcement officers are hunting down and deporting migrant criminals who have committed heinous crimes, including more than 13,000 murderers—11,888, to be exact, but I'd probably say the 13,000 is right also. Think of it: 11,888, and more than half of them, they committed more than one murder.

So, Ron, many of them are out of here already, but it's still a—it's a hell of a number to be confronted with.

Just this year, ICE agents in Miami have apprehended illegals with arrests for murder, kidnapping, rape, child sexual abuse, and arson. People of the worst order. We're getting these monsters out of the United States, out of Florida, out of all the places that they're in.

And on January 20, I signed an Executive order empowering Governors and State police to be deputized to enforce Federal immigration laws. And Ron has already taken advantage of it. It really—it's a tremendous advantage for the States. I—most of them are doing it. Actually, the blue States tend not to do it. Even a couple of them have though.

And I want to express my tremendous thanks to the State of Florida for embracing this opportunity and being a true partner. They have worked so well with the Federal Government. It's been a—just a beautiful, beautiful partnership.

So, Ron, I'd like to thank you personally. You are my friend, and you'll always be my friend. And we may have some skirmishes, even in the future—I doubt it—but I—we'll always come back, because we just seem to—we have blood that seems to match pretty well. We have a relationship that's been a very strong one for a long period of time, and I appreciate it. Very much appreciate it.

And also, Secretary Noem, I'd like to say—have you say a few words. You have been unbelievable, the job you've done. You and—our favorite person, Tom Homan, have done—and your whole staff, because it's a lot of people, and Tom acknowledges it all the time. He respects you so much. He respects the staff that you both built. And you're really doing one of the great jobs. And it was great that you could work with Ron in Florida so well, build such a great facility.

So please say a few words. Thank you very much.

Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi L. Noem. Thank you. I don't know if this will work.

[At this point, Secretary Noem adjusted her microphone.]

Well, thank you, Mr. President. First of all, I want to thank you for putting the safety and the security of the American people first and the way that you never lose focus on making sure that America stays our priority and that the families that live here get the chance to grow up and to raise their children in communities that are safe and that give them an opportunity to pursue the American dream.

This facility here is a fantastic representation of what can happen when all of government works together and when it's accountable to the taxpayers and to the citizens that live here.

[Secretary Noem continued her remarks, concluding as follows.]

So this bill needs to pass through Congress so we have the resources at the Department of Homeland Security to make sure that our homeland truly is secure.

And, Mr. President, thank you for Stephen Miller. I just want to thank you for him. This guy calls me night and day and tells me all of his wise advice and wisdom. *[Laughter]* But he's a rock star because he loves this country and he's passionate about making sure that nobody is prioritized over an American citizen.

They—we love everybody. We do. We love everybody. But——

The President. Not everybody.

Secretary Noem. Well—*[laughter]*.

The President. A lot of people. Not everybody.

Secretary Noem. But we shouldn't be—we shouldn't be putting people illegally above citizens. We should be making sure that we do things right. And that's what America has always stood for, and we're an example to the rest of the world because we do it right.

So, Mr. President, you surround yourself with great people, and I think that's because everybody wants to work for the greatest President that the United States has ever had, and that's President Donald J. Trump. So thank you, sir.

The President. Thank you very much, Kristi. That's so nice.

Secretary Noem. Thank you for your—*[inaudible]*.

The President. Thank you. Thank you very much.

And I have to say that, you know, when Kristi's name was put before me—by Tom Homan, by the way, because I wanted him for the border, and somehow, I thought that was going to be good, and that's what—but he didn't want the upper job. And I said, "Who do you recommend?" "Kristi Noem." I said: "Oh, are you kidding? She's great, but she's such a fine, elegant person." He said, "Sir, she's tough as hell." I said, "Are you sure?"

You are tough as hell, I tell you. And you're—and you do it in a very nice way, but you are. If you ever saw her ride a horse, she rides a horse like she should be in the rodeo. She's, like, an unbelievable horse person. And you are—you've done a fantastic job.

And Steve Miller would even agree to that, and he likes nobody, by the way. [*Laughter*] He likes—I don't think he likes anybody.

And another one we like is Ron. And, Ron, would you say a few words, please?

Governor Ronald D. DeSantis of Florida. Sure. Well, thank you, Mr. President. Welcome back to Florida, and I think this is the first time you've been back since the events of a couple weeks. So, just let me say, as somebody that was serving on Active Duty in Iraq back in the day, we witnessed the number of our troops that were killed or wounded by the Iranians. We know that they're a militant Islamic regime that was hell-bent on getting nuclear weapons, and under Joe Biden, they were about to get nuclear weapons.

The President. [*Laughter*] Yes, they would have.

Gov. DeSantis. And because of your strong actions, those dreams and those ambitions have been reduced to rubble. And I thank you. I know a lot of veterans thank you. And people in Florida really thank you for stepping up and really making a strong—tough, but strong decision. I think we're much safer as a result of that.

Now, on the immigration. I think President Trump's election represented the chance for us to finally solve this illegal immigration and border problem once and for all. I knew he was going to do the border, although he did it very quickly and very thoroughly. I think that no one can say that that's been anything but a spectacular success.

[*Gov. DeSantis continued his remarks, concluding as follows.*]

And so we're proud to be able to partner with the Trump administration on that.

Mr. President, thanks for coming down. I think you highlighting this is going to move the needle in a big way throughout the country, and I think it's going to help all of us achieve the really big results that I think our voters want to see.

The President. Thank you, Ron. Great job. Thank you. Thanks, Ron.

Florida Division of Emergency Management Executive Director Kevin Guthrie. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. President, for the opportunity. My name is Kevin Guthrie. I'm the executive director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management. And I'd also like to thank President Trump and the Department of Homeland Security's Secretary Noem for joining us here today and for their continued support.

I want to thank by—first, by thanking the man to my right, and that's Governor Ron DeSantis, whose bold leadership and swift action made this project possible. With no—make no mistake, this facility would not be standing here without the President, the Secretary, and the Governor's vision and determination to uphold the rule of law.

[*Executive Director Guthrie continued his remarks, concluding as follows.*]

All in all, sir, this has been a perfect State logistics exercise for this hurricane season. Everything we did here in the last 8 days—God forbid, if we have a hurricane—we're going to do it again. This was a dress rehearsal for us, and we are ready, willing, and able to support you, sir, the Governor, Secretary in everything that you need us to do.

Just a week ago, it was a taxiway and a runway, and now it's a fully functioning facility. We are happy to support you, Mr. President, Governor, Secretary.

The President. Fantastic job. Thank you.

Byron, please.

[Representative Byron Donalds adjusted his microphone.]

Rep. Donalds. Ah, there we go.

First of all, Mr. President, we all have to thank you for your leadership and for the mandate that the American people gave you to finally secure our borders and to deport criminal illegal aliens and long-standing illegal aliens out of the United State. That is a mandate given to you by the American people. I know Secretary Noem, Stephen Miller, Governor DeSantis, myself; on behalf of the other Members of Congress and the Senate; and of course, here in Florida, we are behind you a hundred percent in that mission.

[Rep. Donalds continued his remarks, concluding as follows.]

This is what Florida does, Mr. President. And so, I want to commend you for your leadership and your vision on this. Governor, thank you for all that you done with your vision and determination.

Secretary Noem, we're going to get the bill done so you get the resources you need.

To you, sir.

The President. Thank you very much.

Q. Mr. President, good news: The "Big Beautiful Bill" just passed through the Senate.

The President. Oh, thank you. Wow. Thank you.

I—you know, I'm waiting—listening to these wonderful words, and they are music to my ears, but I was also wondering how are we doing, because I know this is prime time. It shows that I care about you, because I'm here and I probably should be there, but we do care. Thank you very much.

James, please. We're all happy now, James.

Florida State Attorney General James W. Uthmeier. Yes. Well, I could speak on behalf of all of our sheriffs, State law enforcement, our police chiefs: We are going to continue to make arrests—our pedals are to the metal—as many as we can. We want to fill this place up. The Governor and Kevin have shown they can build bridges in 3 days, so why not some detention facilities? Hopefully, there's more to come.

And you really kind of were the inspiration for this. We liked the idea of reopening the original Alcatraz. I don't know if that can happen or not, but we thought, "Hey, we've got our own natural Alcatraz in the middle of the Everglades"——

The President. Right. Right. *[Laughter]*

State Attorney General Uthmeier. ——"a great runway, great perimeter, so let's—let's make it happen." In Florida, we walk the walk, and we will deliver for all of you. Thank you.

The President. Well, I heard you were responsible for the locational pick, and you cannot have picked a better location. I said, "Whoever the hell made this choice"—I know you're taking a little heat from some environmental groups, but I take it all the time, and that's an honor. But I heard you were very responsible for that choice, and that was a big choice. Thank you very much. Great job, James. Thank you.

Do you want to finish over here, and then we'll go over here? We'll go back and celebrate the "Big Beautiful Bill" that just got passed.

You sure that's right—right, Brian [Brian Glenn, Real America's Voice]?

Q. Yes, sir. Correct.

The President. All right.

Q. Vance got the tiebreaker.

The President. Wow. Good. He's doing a good job. Wow.

Florida Commissioner of Agriculture Wilton Simpson. Mr. President, first of all, I just want to say how grateful we are that you're back here in your home State of Florida. You've been doing an amazing job not only at our border but around the world keeping this country—

The President. Thank you.

Commissioner Simpson. —safe and Americans. We are grateful for your leadership. God had a plan for us and—

The President. Thank you, Wilt.

Commissioner Simpson. —and it was Donald Trump. So, thank you for that.

As a member of the immigration board and as the commissioner of Agriculture of this State, I've been happy to help lead with the Governor and the rest of the Cabinet on this issue. We're very proud.

Secretary Noem is here today and others to—represent not only the United States and our efforts to make this commitment to keep our citizens safe, but we're going to continue, in Florida, to remove the barriers to have your vision come true of a safe United States. We're going to get these illegals—the illegal—criminals out of this State. And we really appreciate you and your leadership in this effort. So, thank you for being here.

The President. Thank you very much. You're doing a great job too. Thank you.

State Sen. Gruters. Thank you, Mr. President. Joe Gruters, state senator. I'm a member of your Homeland Security Advisory Council, your Vice Chairman. Thank you for that appointment. And thank you for coming back to Florida and everything that you do.

Every single day, you are delivering on the promises that you—that you promised to us at all the events you've done throughout the years, but specifically this last campaign. You deserve all the credit for everything. And you were surrounding yourself with incredible people like Secretary Noem, Stephen Miller.

And just like your "Big Beautiful Bill," here in Florida, there was a lot of commotion about our immigration bill, and we had three Bs in that: beds, badges, and bad guys. And this goes right along with our beds and the resources.

And I give the Governor, Ron DeSantis, a lot of credit for stepping up and making sure that we all work together, because at the end of the day, even if sometimes there's—there are skirmishes. As a result of the back and forth, we ended up with a better bill, and we all win.

And what we're doing here in Florida, hopefully, will happen all across the country. You've done an—your leadership is amazing. Keep up the great work, and just know that Florida loves President Donald J. Trump.

The President. Oh, thank you very much, Joe. Appreciate it. For a long time. Appreciate it.

By the way, Okeechobee is something that we did together also, and that was a lot of money spent. I hope it was well spent. I know they did—we did a Rolls-Royce job, but it's a lot of money that we spent out there together. And——

Gov. DeSantis. That's another thing——

The President. ——how is it going?

Gov. DeSantis. You can delegate that to us, because we move faster than the Army Corps.

The President. Good.

Gov. DeSantis. So we will finish that reservoir.

The President. Good.

Gov. DeSantis. If you delegate it to us, I'll get it done and much quicker.

The President. Oh, I would do that.

Gov. DeSantis. Yes.

The President. I'd—I'll tell you, let me ask myself permission. *[Laughter]* Permission granted. Go ahead. Get the thing—get it complete. You want to do that?

Gov. DeSantis. All right. We're going to—we're going to go talk to the——

The President. Go ahead, do it.

Gov. DeSantis. ——Army Corps then, after this.

The President. Good. You can move faster, actually. *[Laughter]*

Please.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Acting Director Todd M. Lyons. I think it——

[Acting Director Lyons adjusted his microphone.]

Oh—sir, just, first, on behalf of the men and women of ICE, we just want to thank you for allowing us to do our job again. You know, your vision and under Secretary Noem's leadership, this is what the American people want, and I hope that you see great results of what we're doing out there every day of getting the worst of the worst out of there—out of our communities.

Because of you and Secretary Noem, I have the privilege to lead one of the most premier and the finest law enforcement agencies that we do have in the United States. And the men and women of HSI and ERO Miami do incredible work, like you highlighted.

And with the Governor and the State of Florida, the partnership in Florida has been amazing. The 287(g) program is only going to help us to identify all those known gotaways and get the worst of the worst out of the neighborhoods. And through our Homeland Security Task Force, we are going to make America safe again.

So thank you very much to both you and the Secretary.

The President. Thank you, Todd. Great job. Really great job you're doing. Thank you.

Please.

ICE Acting Executive Associate Director of Enforcement and Removal Operations Garret J. Ripa. Good morning, Mr. President.

The President. Hi.

Director Ripa. Thank you so much for coming. Again, as Garret Ripa, I'm the field office director for ICE ERO here for the Miami Field Office. Incredible collaborative work we've been doing together, working with the State, working with our local partners. And again, just the 287(g) is going to open up that aperture and allow us to get those bad hombres off the street—

The President. Right.

Director Ripa. —and get them into this facility. And we're looking forward to it. And again, just appreciate all of your support.

The President. Thank you. Thank you. Always, thank you. You've always been so great. Thank you very much.

Please.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection Air and Marine Operations Southeast Region Executive Director Andres Blanco. Good afternoon, Mr. President. On behalf of Air and Marine Operations, my name is Andres Blanco. I'm the executive director for Southeast region.

AMO continues to execute and support your Executive orders. Air and Marine Operations brings a unique capability, both in the air and the maritime domains. And in partnership with our Border Patrol OFO officers and the ERO, we continue to conduct effective operations, both interior, along the border, and along maritime approaches.

The President. Thank you very much. Good job.

Department of Homeland Security Investigations Miami Field Office Acting Special Agent in Charge José Figueroa. Good afternoon, Mr. President. José Figueroa. I am the acting special agent in charge for Homeland Security investigations here in South Florida, and our office covers from Key West to Fort Pierce. Tremendous collaboration here with the State and our Federal partners.

HSI is conducting criminal investigations into TDA, MS-13s that are involved in human smuggling, sex trafficking of minors, and we will continue that effort with your support.

Governor DeSantis, thank you very much for this facility. Looking forward to continuing the great work. Thank you.

The President. Thank you very much.

Steve, would you like to say something? Our star.

White House Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy Stephen Miller. Thank you, Mr. President. I just want to say, on a personal note, getting to watch what you've done over the last 5 months to deliver on a 50-year hope and dream of the American people to secure the border—when President Trump came into office on January 20, the United States had endured the largest wave of illegal immigration in human history—not just American history, human history.

[Deputy Chief of Staff Miller continued his remarks, concluding as follows.]

Watching what you've done, sir, has been one of the honors of a lifetime. I'm proud to be able to play any role in it.

And what President Trump is going to achieve next with the resources in this bill will make America safer, stronger, freer, more sovereign, and more prosperous than it has ever been before. Thank you, sir.

The President. Thank you, Steve. Wow. Thank you.

And the bill is going to be great for Ron. It's going to be great for Florida too. A lot of set-asides for Florida, some of the things that you've wanted—you've wanted to do, and so it's great news to hear that it was approved.

Do you want to take a few questions? Ron, we'll take a few questions from these——

Gov. DeSantis. Sure.

[Several reporters began asking questions at once.]

The President. Yes, please. Go ahead. Yes.

Additional Migrant Detention Facilities in Other States

Q. Mr. President—thank you, Mr. President. Given the likelihood of the "One Big Beautiful Bill" passing—and we look forward to the success of this facility here—how many more facilities like this do you feel that the country needs in order to enact your agenda of mass deportations?

The President. Well, I think we'd like to see them in many States, really. Many States. This one—I know Ron is doing a second one—at least a second one and probably a couple of more.

And you know, at some point, they might morph into a system where you're going to keep it for a long time. You know, it's a—it's not that far away from jails that take years to build and money is spent and wasted. And you know, you—like the railway that they have in California that cost, like, 40 times more than it was supposed to cost. The same things happens with prisons.

You look at this—in a short period of time, Ron, James, and some of the people that really worked on it along with our people, they did this in a—less than a week. And you look at it, it's incredible. The—look, the incredible thing is picking the site, because the site was one of the most natural sites. It might be as good as the real Alcatraz site. *[Laughter]* You know, it could be. Well, that's a spooky one too, isn't it? Huh? That's a tough site.

But—so I really—I think it—could last as long as they want to have it. I mean, you—may morph this into, you know, your prison system, frankly, which I know you always need, unfortunately.

I'd like to say it—you know, a little controversial, but I couldn't care less—we have a lot of bad criminals that came into the—this country, and they came in stupidly. It was an unforced error. It was an incompetent President that allowed it to happen. It was an autopen, maybe, that allowed it to happen. And it did happen.

But we also have a lot of bad people that have been here for a long time, people that whack people over the head with a baseball bat from behind when they're not looking and kill them. People that knife you when you're walking down the street. They're not new to our country. They're old to our country. Many of them were born in our country. I think we ought to get them the hell out of here too, if you want to know the truth. So maybe that will be the next job that we'll work on together.

But I think getting them out—you know, we forget about them. We have some very bad—we had some bad accidents in New York, and they're not accidents. They were done very much on purpose. People were being pushed into a subway just before it arrives going 40 miles an hour. And they're 10 feet away from where the thing is, you get pushed right into the face of the

subway train, get whacked and killed. And these are sick people. I'd like to get them out of here too.

[Several reporters spoke at once.]

Yes, please, go ahead. White shirt, glasses.

Border Security/Former Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N. Mayorkas

Q. Julio Rosas, Blaze Media, sir. A couple months ago, I ran into former DHS Secretary Mayorkas, and I asked him a couple questions about his disastrous handling of the border. He didn't like my questions, but the number-one question that I heard from people in—responding to my video was, why wasn't he been arrested yet?

I—you know, obviously, you guys are cleaning up the mess that was made deliberately for the past 4 years. And so, people want accountability. It's great to see that the border is secured, and it's great to see the State-level cooperation.

But I guess I would ask you, why hasn't he been held accountable——

The President. Right.

Q. ——or anybody, really held accountable?

The President. Well, you know, pardons were given out by many—to many people, and they shouldn't have been given out. Like the "Unselect Committee" of political thugs was given a pardon because they destroyed all of the information from 2 years of hearings. And they should be arrested, but they were given pardons.

Was he given a pardon? Mayorkas? Was he not?

Q. I don't believe so, sir.

The President. Well, I'd take a look at that one, because what he did is—I—it's beyond incompetence. Something had to be done.

Now, with that being said, he took orders from other people, and he was really doing the orders. And you could say he was very loyal to them, because it must have been very hard for him to stand up and sit up and, you know, talk about what he allowed to happen to this country and be serious about it.

So he was given orders. If he wasn't given a pardon, I could see looking at that. In fact, why don't you take a look at it, Kristi?

Secretary Noem. He was impeached.

The President. He——

Secretary Noem. He was impeached by Congress.

The President. He was impeached, but yes, it was just a fake impeachment. It was a fake impeachment.

Why don't you take a look at it?

I think he was so bad. They were all so bad. Look, it was the worst President in the history of our country. We've had some bad ones, but he was the worst President. But somebody told Mayorkas to do that, and he followed orders. But that doesn't necessarily hold him armless.

So take a look at it. Very good question, actually. Thank you.

[Several reporters spoke at once.]

Yes, please. Go ahead.

Self-Deportation

Q. Mr. President, you and the Secretary have both said that many people have self-deported since you came back into office.

The President. Yes.

Q. How many is "many"? And has the rate gone up? How do you see the tempo of that moving forward——

The President. Sure.

Q. ——going on?

Secretary Noem. [Inaudible] Testing.

We have had several hundred thousand, but also, we have many that have self-deported not even using the CBP Home app. When I have gone to these other countries to negotiate security agreements and information sharing on criminals—who is coming and going into their countries—they report that hundreds of thousands have come home that weren't on our radar, that they are coming home on their own and self-deporting because they want the chance to be able to go back to America someday.

So we believe it's over a million, possibly more than that. I'm asking all of those countries for their information on what they have of individuals that may have returned home, that they have taking advantage of their programs to help them become a part of their civilization again too.

So we know it's over a million, but we have to—I'm getting more information, and that number will grow.

The President. If they don't leave, they never get the chance to come back. If we have to take them out—and we will, they'll go out—but they never get a chance to come back. The other way, we actually make it a little bit easier for them to come back.

Okay? Thank you. Good question. Thank you.

The President's Legislative Agenda/Medicaid and Medicare/Social Security Program

Q. Mr. President, thank you. Your bill has now passed——

White House aide. Here you go. Right here.

Q. The bill has now passed in the Senate, but we are already hearing from some Republicans in the House who say they cannot get on board with the changes that were made to the bill in the Senate. What is your message to those holdouts?

The President. Well, I just heard that about the Senate, and the bill just passed, and it tells you there's something for everyone. I mean, we have—it's a great bill. There is something for everyone. And I think it's going to go very nicely in the House. Actually, I think it will be easier in the House than it was in the Senate.

Q. And just to be clear on the Medicaid cuts. You've promised not to cut Medicaid, said this is all just targeting waste, fraud, and abuse. Are you saying that the estimated 11.8 million people who could lose their health coverage—that is all waste, fraud, and abuse?

The President. No, I'm not saying that. I'm saying it's going to be a very much smaller number than that, and that number will be waste, fraud, and abuse. And if you look, they took a much more liberal stance on the Medicaid situation than they could have. They had a tough

stance and a weak stance. They took a—not a very strong stance on that to start off. And it's waste, fraud, and abuse, and everybody wants that covered.

Thank you.

Q. What number is that? What analysis are you—are you seeing?

The President. I'm not seeing a number, but I know it's much less than the number you gave. And we really—we're very, very cognizant of three things: Social Security—we're going to take care of it beautifully, Medicare, and Medicaid. And we are going to save it, whereas the Democrats are going to—you—won't have it. They will destroy Medicare and Medicaid, and they have to, because their numbers don't work. So, it's not going to happen. They're the ones that have destroyed—they had made it so bad already. They're going to make it a lot worse.

But now we'll be in charge, so we're going to have no problem with Medicaid or Medicare or Social Security.

Thank you.

Q. Mr. President. Mr. President.

The President. Yes.

Immigration Enforcement Actions

Q. Hi, Mr. President. Claire Galt with WINK News in Fort Myers. What is your direction to ICE when it comes to arresting farmworkers here illegally, other workers in industries that are pretty critical to Florida's economy?

The President. Yes. Well, we're very much cognizant of that. And, as you know, I won the farmers by 92 percent, and I'm not going to be abandoning my farmers. We were strong on the borders, but we're also strong for the farmers and for others in the hotel industry, et cetera, you know, where you have similar situations.

And Kristi and I—and we'll be working with Ron and a lot of the States—we're going to work something where the farmers can be responsible for some of the people they have. And they have people, Ron, for 10, 15 years that they know very well. We're going to put them responsible and have—we're going to issue a form of a card or a document, and the farmer is going to be responsible for these people. They're not going to have citizenship, but they'll be working, they'll be paying taxes.

We need to get our farmers the people they need. Otherwise, our farmers aren't going to be able to do their land.

You know, it was tried once before, many, many years ago, where there was a very strong guy, and he got everybody out. And every farm, almost, in the country—but every farm in California, every farm in Iowa, almost all the farms went bankrupt. They had nobody to work, and we don't want to have that situation.

So we're going to work it—we're going to put our farmers and others in charge of the people that they have under them. They know the people, and I think it's going to work out really well. We're going to take care of our farmer, but we're going to get the criminals out. Okay?

[Several reporters spoke at once.]

The President. Yes, go ahead. Please.

"Alligator Alcatraz" Migrant Detention Facility/Illegal Immigration

Q. Thank you. Mr. President, how do you respond to critics who fear that a 3,000-bed detention center and the waste that that could produce will pollute the surrounding Federal protected land, including land that both administrations have invested billions in dollars—of dollars in restoring?

The President. Well, I was one of those that invested billions of dollars and hundreds of millions of dollars right here in the Meadowlands, but—in the Everglades, but—and the Meadowlands too, in New York. If you look at what we did up there, speaking of the Meadowlands. A lot of places like this, but this is a very unique one.

One thing I'll say about this land: We'll be gone a million years, and this land is still going to be here. It's not going to be much different. You'll have the water moccasins. You'll have the alligators. You may not have people, but you're going to have all those animals. They're going to be around, and you've got plenty of them out here.

I think it was a brilliant choice. And I think almost anybody in his or her right mind would say this was a brilliant choice. I give the Governor a lot of credit for using this piece of land. And in addition to that, it's on top of something that was already developed. It's an airport. You know, you have the runways, you have the—so you—it's already been developed, so it's not like you're dropping dirt right into the—there was zero movement of that.

That was done many years ago, because the airport is very old, but it was an abandoned railroad—an abandoned airport. And frankly, it's, like, perfect, and you can do expansion on this site substantially without doing anything.

So, the people, I heard them complaining about the Everglades. There's no—I don't think you've done anything to the Everglades. I think you're just enhancing it. This was already here.

How long has the airport been here?

Gov. DeSantis. Decades.

The President. Many decades, yes.

Gov. DeSantis. Yes. And they have—Kevin, all these guys, you know, have a waste plan, like the wastewater gets trucked out. Potable water gets—literally, they have—even our DOT has put things up in case there's any seepage, which we don't—so you are literally doing this on concrete that's already here. So I don't think those are valid and even good-faith criticisms, because it's not going to impact the Everglades at all.

The President has been a champion. We've been a champion and really changed the game in Florida on it. I think it's just people don't want to see illegal immigrants deported, and that's their ideology, and they have a right to that. But illegal immigration is unpopular, so they know that they're going to have less effect trying to do that, so they're going to try, "Oh, well, no, it's just about the Everglades." But really, I think a lot of those people, they just don't want to see illegals deported, because if you actually here—everyone's here. You obviously know there's zero land that's being disturbed.

The President. Well, you know, when we talk about popularity, though, I will say, I ran on the issue of illegals and we have to get them out, and I won 82 percent on that issue. So I think that they may not like certain aspects of it, but ultimately, they do not want them in their country. And if—this is a part of a use.

But I think from an environmental standpoint, it's incredible. In fact, when we landed that very big, heavy plane today—they came out and checked it fairly—you know, I think they want the President to be able to land on a piece of concrete that's not going to go 6 feet underground. And they checked it. They came back, and they said, "This thing is really solid."

So it's been there a long time. It's going to be here a long time, and it was a great choice of a site.

Thank you.

Q. Mr. President——

The President. Yes, please. Brian, go ahead.

Q. Yes, sir.

The President. Brian.

Syria

Q. The people of Syria were recently seen on the streets waving American flags, chanting, "Trump, Trump, Trump." They're so appreciative of the economic sanctions that was lifted on that country——

The President. Yes.

Q. ——giving them a little bit of hope for prosperity. You want to comment on that?

The President. Well, they're great people, and the man that is leading them has a reputation. You know, he was the head of some pretty tough organizations, and a lot of people criticized me for that. I said: "Well, what are we going to do? Take him out of a day school, a country day school? You're going to"—it's going to be, by nature, I would think, Ron, they'll be pretty tough. And he is pretty tough.

But he—I think he—I met him, spent a lot of time with him. Good guy. I took off the sanctions because if I didn't do that, they wouldn't have had a chance.

And Syria has a chance. You know, the people are great. They work hard. They're very smart. Used to be a place of professionals: accountants and lawyers and doctors and high academic credentials in that part of the world. And I think it's going to work out great.

I took off the sanctions, and they were very appreciative. They were shocked, but they were very appreciative. We're giving them a chance at survival. With the sanctions, it couldn't have worked.

Thank you.

Q. Mr. President, your beloved——

The President. Yes.

New York City Mayoral Candidate Zohran K. Mamdani

Q. Mr. President, your beloved New York City—your beloved New York City may well be led by a Communist soon, Zohran Mamdani, who, in his nomination speech, said he will defy ICE and will not allow ICE to arrest criminal aliens in New York City. Your message to Communist Zohran Mamdani?

The President. Well, then, we'll have to arrest him. Look, we don't need a communist in this country, but if we have one, I'm going to be watching over him very carefully on behalf of the nation.

We send him money. We send him all the things that he needs to run a government. And, by the way, they get—already, they get about three times what you get, Ron. If you look at the per capita, Florida gets one-third of what New York gets in terms of the numbers.

Why don't you give us those numbers?

Gov. DeSantis. Yes, well, no——

The President. Because that's what we should send him.

Gov. DeSantis. Yes. Well, and, like, sometimes people say Florida gets more because they count Social Security recipients, but that's not money to the State. Those are seniors that live here.

The President. Right.

Gov. DeSantis. If they move to North Carolina, you could count it there. So it has no interaction with the state government. They get more in the city and State governments than we get.

The President. Right. Substantially.

We're going to be watching that very carefully, and a lot of people are saying he's here illegally, he's—you know, we're going to look at everything. But—and ideally, he's going to turn out to be much less than a Communist. But right now, he's a Communist. That's not a Socialist.

You know, I've always said, "We will not have socialism in this country," in the speeches. I say, "Well, what—they skipped socialism." And you get a lot of them like that.

And you see A.O.C. She's out there with her, you know, bad IQ. She is out there ranting and raving about how wonderful he is. And look, so far, he's winning. He still has a race to win, but so far, he's winning, and he has an advantage as a Democrat in New York City.

I was there a long time ago, and it was a long time since a Republican won the city, but you would think that a Republican would be able to win. Or you have a good independent running—Mayor Adams, who's a very good person. I helped him out a little bit. He had a problem, and he was unfairly hurt over this question. He made a statement to the effect that, "This is terrible. New York City can't have all these immigrants come—come in," and, like, he was indicted the following day.

And I said, "That was a phony indictment," and it was a phony indictment. That was a Biden indictment. I said: "Don't feel bad. I got indicted five times." Every time you opened your mouth. That was a bad group. That was a very dangerous group. I will tell you, this was—these were not nice people.

That was the only thing they could do. They had no policy. They had no skill. They had no anything, but they were very good at that. They were vicious, vicious, horrible people.

Thank you very much.

Yes. Please, go ahead.

Immigration Courts

Q. Sorry. Anna Giaritelli with Washington Examiner. Governor DeSantis has proposed using National Guard, deputizing them as immigration judges to get through this massive backlog of people in the immigration court.

The President. Yes.

Q. Would you be open to that?

The President. Yes. He has my approval.

Q. Okay.

The President. That wasn't too hard to get, was it, Ron?

Gov. DeSantis. No. [Laughter]

The President. Ron—he didn't even have to ask me, James. You didn't even need James to ask me. He has my approval. Okay? Good.

I also like what he's doing at Okeechobee. He has my approval for that too. I don't know how we work that out, but we'll work it out.

Gov. DeSantis. We'll follow up.

The President. Go ahead. Please.

Q. President Trump. Jake Stofan with Action News Jax from up in Jacksonville.

The President. Good.

Additional Detention Facilities in Florida/Infrastructure Permits

Q. There's some talk about a facility similar to this up in Camp Blanding. Has that been approved by DHS? If not, what's the timeline? When could we see ground break on that?

The President. Well, I'll ask Ron or James to talk about it. Do you want to mention that James?

State Attorney General Uthmeier. The overarching plan—I think the Secretary has said she supports the whole plan, so we'll—

The President. Do you know if—

State Attorney General Uthmeier. —you guys are going to keep going.

Gov. DeSantis. Yes, it's—

Executive Director Guthrie. Mr. President, just specifically, the response for proposals is out for that today. It closes—I can't even remember what day of the week it is, but it closes on Wednesday at 5 o'clock. Then we will do notice to proceed.

So I would say, right after our wonderful Independence Day, we will be starting construction near that facility.

State Attorney General Uthmeier. You have another big runway there too.

The President. That's great. Wow. Boy, I love these runways. It's very convenient, I must say. Having a runway is a nice thing. Today you don't get runways approved. I will tell you, it's tough to get a runway. Although, in the age of Trump, you get them approved fast. You know?

We're approving massive electrical bins, where—they call them "bins"—but big electrical facilities for the—all of the factories and the AI that's coming in. They're going to build their own electric. They're going to be really—they're going to be made into electrical providers. They're going to have a lot left over. They'll put it into the grid. I think we'll—you know, they're going to end up doing so much, they'll put it into the grid. Won't even cost anything from their standpoint. But—so we have a lot of that happening.

We get approvals fast, so—but I was just saying runways are hard to get, but we'll get them now. But in the past—I would say, over the past 30, 40 years, when you can get a runway that was considered gold.

Okay, please. Go ahead.

Go ahead. Sure.

Q. I got one.

The President. Okay. Go ahead.

Q. President Trump——

The President. Yes.

Administration Achievements/Water Efficiency Standards/Paper Straws/Election Security and Integrity

Q. President Trump. Laverne McGee, News 6 Orlando. You have fulfilled several—campaign promises, along with the help of Governor Ron DeSantis. What is the next campaign promise that you plan to fulfill to the American people?

The President. So we have turned this country around in less than 6 months. And when I was away—and I was telling Ron, I was telling some others; I've said it a little publicly, I guess—but I met a lot of very important people: the King of Saudi Arabia—I was there 2 weeks ago; and Qatar—the leader of Qatar, who's great; and the leader of U.A.E., who's great. These are very substantial people, very smart people, and good people.

And all three of them said essentially the same thing, along with many other people, because I just left NATO, and NATO is going to—we took it up to 5 percent. Nobody can believe that one, Ron. That would be a hard one. Nobody believes that—what happened in NATO—over a trillion dollars a year from, like, nothing. It was an honor.

But every leader said that a year ago, this country was dead. They had no confidence in the United—they really felt it was a dead country, and it was going to—so bad things were going to happen. But they used the term, it was a "dead country." And now they said, "You have the hottest country anywhere in the world." We're the hottest country in the world right now.

And we turned it around fast. I thought it would take longer than this. We turned it around fast. Some of it was psychology, and we had to know how good we were. But others was getting rid of rules, regulations, and all of the things that I got rid of already.

I signed more Executive orders than anybody in history times like three or four, and I got rid of—just one I got rid of the other night: You buy a house, they have a faucet in the house, Joe, and the faucet—the water doesn't come out. They have a restrictor. You can't—in areas where you have so much water they don't know what to do with it, you have a showerhead, the shower doesn't—the shower doesn't—you think it's not working. It is working. The water is dripping out.

And that's no good for me. I like this hair nice and—I like that hair nice and wet. [*Laughter*] Takes you—you have to stand in the shower for 20 minutes before you get the soap out of your hair.

And I put a thing—and it sounds funny, but it's really not. It's horrible. And when you wash your hands, you turn on the faucet and no water comes out. You're washing, —the water barely comes out. It's—this was done by crazy people.

And I—wrote it all off and got it approved in Congress so that they can't just change it, because I did it in my first term, everyone was so happy. And then one of the first things that Biden did when he came back is he put the restriction on showers, toilets, and sinks—put this restriction—and washing machines.

Washing machine, they give you, like, a quarter of this bottle to do your clothing. And people needed 10 of these bottles. And the people came to me from Whirlpool, and they said: "We can't make a machine that's competitive. We can't make a machine anymore. It doesn't work." "Why?" "They don't let us use water." "Do you have any problems with water?" "No, we have so much, we don't know what to do with it." You know, it comes down from heaven. Right? And I approved all of that. The washing machines, the whole thing.

The dishwashers, that was the other one. They give you, like, this much water—right up to there—to do your dishes. So people—you know what they do? They keep pressing the button, so they end up doing the dishes 10 times. They end up using more water than you would have used if you did it right in the first place.

So all of that stuff has been written off. It sounds crazy. It's a—little things.

The straw—I let you go back to a plastic straw. The other—I was tired of having straws melt in my mouth, you know? [Laughter] It wasn't working. The paper wasn't working too well.

So these are little things that I did. Then we have the big things. We have the biggest things, and that has to do with some of the subjects we're talking now. I think the things we're talking about now are the biggest, because if you don't have borders in this country—borders and good elections—and we're working on that next.

There's some bills coming in that's going to make sure that you're a citizen, that people aren't counted in the voting when, you know, they—they were here, and they're here as illegals, and they're criminals, in many cases, and they give them a count, and you end up with extra congressmen. We're going to work on that. We're going to straighten that out next. That's going to be easy compared to what we were doing. But we did the big things too.

But little things like that: a straw. Little things like a washing machine with no water. People go out, they spend all their money on a washing machine. The damn thing doesn't work. You can't use the water. Then you go to your sink, and that doesn't work either. You're stuck. You know what you do? You have dirty plates the next day. That's it.

And we solved so many commonsense problems. And they weren't easy. You know, there are people that really believe in this stuff. But you know, most States have so much water, they don't know what to do with it. And look at North Carolina. I mean, they had a lot of water, and they have to get restrictors on their—you know, on their kitchen faucet.

So we're very proud of the things we did, and we're going to do a lot more of them.

Yes, please. Go ahead.

Guy's in good shape.

Strategic Petroleum Reserve/Domestic Energy Production/Egg Prices

Q. It's Eric Bolling. How are you doing, sir? Something we've talked about for, I'd say, better part of 20 years, and I think it's something near and dear to your heart: energy——

The President. Yes.

Q. ——our energy security.

The President. Yes.

Q. Under Joe Biden, average price of oil for the 4 years was about \$79 a barrel. He drained the SPR halfway down, promised to replenish it, never did.

The President. That's right.

Q. Under you, first term, \$53 average price for 4 years. Biden was \$78 for 8 years. It was never refilled. But the question is, now it's \$64 or so.

The President. Yes.

Q. What are——

The President. Coming down rapidly.

Q. What—coming down, and what a great opportunity to do—fix another one of Joe Biden's problems, one of the things he broke in America, giving us the energy security of an emergency SPR——

The President. Sure.

Q. ——fill it to—maybe even go beyond and fill it to a billion barrels this time at a much cheaper price. Thoughts on the energy sector?

The President. So it holds 77 million barrels, and we had it up to the top, if you remember, and I was proud of that. And I made a deal to buy it at the lowest price of oil. Was a good deal, good instinct. And we filled it up.

And when he came in, he started using it to keep oil prices down because he blew our energy policy out. Energy is what caused—energy and his bad spending is what caused inflation. So, now we have no inflation. Gasoline just hit \$1.99 today in five States. \$1.99—isn't that a nice sound? It was up to 4—\$4 and going up to \$5, \$6, and \$7. In California, it was \$7.70. But we just hit, in five—five States, \$1.99, \$1.98. And it's coming down to that level. So, that'll be a big thing.

And one of the reasons the prices and costs are going down when you go to the supermarket—because I said I was going to get costs down, we're getting the cost down. Food is coming down. When I came out, my first week, if you remember, I had a lunatic reporter screaming at me, saying: "Eggs are going through the roof. What are you going to do about eggs?" I said: "I just got here. I didn't know anything about eggs." I had to—I had to call you. I—I said, "Look, I just got here. Tell me the problem." "Well, they doubled in price, and they got to be five or six times higher." They were right, actually. I said, "Let me work on it." And now we have eggs down to the same numbers it was when I first came in.

You know, we lowered the cost of groceries. A simple word like that, "groceries." It was, like, almost a strange word. I hadn't heard the word in so long. But what could be more beautiful than the word "grocery"? And we have the prices way down. We have the energy way down. Energy brought the groceries down, if you want to know the truth. And you know—so we think we're going to get it lower, and we're going to fill up the national—it's called the Strategic National Reserves. I had it topped out, and this guy would use them—every time, before the election, he'd use them, whenever they had an election. It was artificial.

But believe it or not, as big as—tens of—hundreds of millions of barrels of oil all filled up at low prices. But it was really meant for wars and—it wasn't meant for keeping prices down during a holiday so that somebody could get elected. But they used it, and they didn't bring—the only mistake you made: They didn't bring it a little down. They brought it right down to the bottom. The thing is practically empty. They never filled it up. They never spent 10 cents in filling it up.

And we'll do that. When the market is right, we'll fill it up. I want to fill it up when the market is right.

Thank you. How about one more question?

Okay. Please, in the back.

The President's Affection for Florida

Q. Danamarie McNicholl, Fox News Channel. Mr. President, is there an expected time frame that detainees will spend here? Days? Weeks? Months? And does that have anything to do with the immigration judges you just spoke about being trained and staffed here?

The President. When you say—what was the first part of your question? Who——

Q. Is—there a specific time frame you expect the detainees to spend here? Days? Weeks? Months?

The President. In Florida?

Q. Yes. Here at "Alligator Alcatraz."

The President. I'm going to—I'm going to spend a lot. Look, this is my home State. I love it. I love your government. I love all the people around—these are all friends of mine. They—know them very well.

I mean, I'm not surprised that they do so well. They're great people.

Ron has been a friend of mine for a long time. I feel very comfortable in this state. I'll—spend a lot of time here.

I want to—you know, for 4 years, I've got to be in Washington, and I'm okay with it because I love the White House. I even fix up the little Oval Office. I make it—it's like a diamond. It's beautiful. It's so beautiful. It wasn't maintained properly, I will tell you that. But even when it wasn't, it was still the Oval Office, so it meant a lot.

But I'll spend as much time as I can here. You know, my vacation is generally here because it's convenient. I live in Palm Beach. It's my home. And I have a very nice, little place—nice, little cottage to stay at, right?

But we have a lot of fun. And I'm a big contributor to Florida. You know, pay a lot of tax.

And a lot of people move from New York, and I don't know what New York is going to do. A lot of people moved to Florida from New York, and it was for a lot of reasons, but one of them was taxes. The taxes are so high in New York, they're leaving. I don't know what New York is going to do about that because some of the biggest, wealthiest people and some of the people that pay the most taxes of any people anywhere in the world, for that matter, they're moving to Florida and other places. So we're going to have to help some of these States out, I think.

But thank you very much. I'll be here as much as I can. Very nice question.

With that, I'd like to just end by saying I want to thank Ron and James and all of the people that have done such a great job, all of your staff. Really fantastic work. And it really started with site selection. You can do a great job, but if you have the wrong site—in real estate, you have the wrong site, you're dead. And this was a great site selection, despite what you may read in the environmental press. Good job.

And this was an honor for Kristi and myself and Steve and all of our people to be here. And I also appreciate the media. They've treated us very fairly. Over the last few weeks, I've been treated very nicely, and it's so unusual. I'm not used to it, but we've gotten great accolades.

Brian, I want to thank you for calling out, because I was waiting here, because I knew the vote was taking place, and I'm answering questions, right? So I want to thank you very much. And say hello to our friend.

And I will see a lot of you. Thank you very much. We're going to make America great again. Thank you very much.

Thank you. Thank you, fellas.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:44 a.m. at the Dade-Collier Training and Transition Airport. In his remarks, he referred to White House Border Czar Thomas D. Homan; former Vice President Kamala D. Harris; Vice President James D. "J.D." Vance, in his capacity as President of the Senate; President Ahmad Husayn al-Shara' of Syria; Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez; King

Salman bin Abd al-Aziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia; Amir Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani of Qatar; and President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan of the United Arab Emirates. He also referred to H.R. 1. The transcript was released by the Office of Communications on July 2.

Categories: Addresses and Remarks : "Alligator Alcatraz" migrant detention facility in Ochopee, FL, roundtable discussion; Interviews With the News Media : Exchanges with reporters, Ochopee, FL.

Locations: Ochopee, FL.

Names: Adams, Eric; Biden, Joseph R., Jr.; Blanco, Andres; DeSantis, Ronald D.; Donalds, Byron; Figueroa, José; Gruters, Joe; Guthrie, Kevin; Harris, Kamala D.; Homan, Thomas D.; Lyons, Todd M.; Mamdani, Zohran K.; Mayorkas, Alejandro N.; Miller, Stephen; Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan; Noem, Kristi L.; Ocasio-Cortez, Alexandria; Perez, Daniel; Ripa, Garret J.; Salman bin Abd al-Aziz Al Saud, King; Shara', Ahmad Husayn al-; Simpson, Wilton; Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Amir; Uthmeier, James W.; Vance, James D. "J.D.".

Subjects: 2024 Presidential election; Border security; Citizenship; Egg prices; Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); Florida, Governor; Florida, migrant detention facility in Ochopee; Florida, President's visit; Gasoline costs; Government accountability and transparency, strengthening efforts; Illegal immigration; Medicare and Medicaid programs; North Atlantic Treaty Organization; Oil and natural gas, domestic production; Paper straws, procurement and use; Pardons and commutations; Qatar, Amir; Saudi Arabia, King; Secretary of Homeland Security; Social Security program; Syria, President; Syria, removal of U.S. sanctions; Tax Code reform; Transnational criminal organizations; U.S. Border Patrol; U.S. Customs and Border Protection; U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement; Undocumented immigrants, deportation of criminals; United Arab Emirates, President; Vice President; Water efficiency standards, improvement efforts; White House Border Czar; White House Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy.

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