

Administration of Donald J. Trump, 2025

Remarks on Signing the Homebuyers Privacy Protection Act and Executive Orders and Announcing the 2026 Group of Twenty (G-20) Nations Summit in Miami, Florida, and an Exchange With Reporters

September 5, 2025

The President. Well, thank you very much. We'll start by signing three very important bills. And, Will, would you discuss them please?

White House Staff Secretary William O. Scharf. Yes, sir. This is H.R. 2808. This is the Homebuyers Privacy Protection Act. The Congressman here was the lead sponsor, so I think maybe he——

The President. John Rose, yes.

Staff Secretary Scharf. ——could probably say more about it than I can.

The President. John, please.

Representative John W. Rose. Well, it's difficult for Americans to buy a home, particularly after the last 4 years, sir, but with the President's signature today, we're going to make it easy for people to buy a home without getting hassled.

For years, their private personal information has been bought and sold in the open market, resulting in them getting innumerable phone calls and text messages. But with your signature today, we're going to put an end to that so that when Americans try to realize the American dream of owning a home, they're able to do so without being harassed.

The President. Good job. Good. It's a great honor, John.

[At this point, the President signed the bill.]

Okay. There it is. And that's going to help a lot of the homeowners of our great country.

John, want to hold that?

Rep. Rose. Sure.

The President. Thank you, John, very much.

Rep. Rose. Thank you very much.

The President. Thank you very much.

Okay, Will, you go ahead.

Rep. Rose. And I'd like to leave you with this gift from a constituent back in Tennessee.

The President. Oh, I could use that at night. *[Laughter]*

Rep. Rose. It's an American flag afghan.

The President. That's very nice. I like that.

Rep. Rose. Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. Thank you very much. Thank you. That's very nice.

Staff Secretary Scharf. Next, we have a number of Executive orders for your attention, sir.

The President. Okay.

Staff Secretary Scharf. From 1789 until 1947, our Nation won some of its greatest military victories under the direction of a Secretary of War operating within a Department of War.

Today, with this Executive order, you will authorize the current Secretary of Defense and the current Department of Defense to once again embrace this great lineage and once again be named the Secretary of War and the Department of War.

The President. So this is something we thought long and hard about. We've been talking about it for months—Pete and I and Dan. Dan came into the fold—by the way, a great general.

He headed up the—I wouldn't call it an attack. I don't want—I'd almost call that one maybe even more than an attack, what he did with Iran. You saw the success of that operation. It was perfect.

In fact, we have—this was sent to me by the great company that makes that particular B-2 bomber. And it was flawless. It was actually flawless. They flew for 37 hours back and forth, and there wasn't a bolt that was out of condition. There wasn't an engine failure. There was no problem. It was a perfect attack, and it knocked out any possible nuclear capability for Iran, which nobody wanted to see, and we weren't going to put up with. So great job, Dan.

And we've been talking about this "Department of War." So we won the First World War. We won the Second World War. We won everything before that and in between. And then we decided to go woke and we changed the name to "Department of Defense."

So we're going "Department of War," and I'd like to ask our Secretary of War—[laughter]—to say a few words—Pete Hegseth.

I think it's a much more appropriate name, especially in light of where the world is right now. We have the strongest military in the world. We have the greatest equipment in the world. We have the greatest manufacturers of equipment by far. There's nobody to even compete. And you see that with this and so many other things. The Patriots are the best. Every element of the military, we make the best by far.

So, Pete, I'd like to ask you, and maybe Dan—Dan "Razin" Caine—to say a few words, please.

Secretary of Defense Peter B. Hegseth. Mr. President, thank you.

After winning a war for independence in 1789, George Washington established the War Department, and Henry Knox was his first Secretary of War. And this country won every major war after that, to include World War I and World War II. Total victory, Mr. President, as you said.

Then, 150 years after that, we changed the name after World War II from the Department of War to the Department of Defense in 1947. And as you pointed out, Mr. President, we haven't won a major war since. And that's not to disparage our warfighters—whether it's the Korean war, the Vietnam war, or our generation of Iraq and Afghanistan—that's to recognize that this name change is not just about renaming, it's about restoring.

Words matter. It's restoring—as you've guided us to, Mr. President, restoring the warrior ethos, restoring victory and clarity as an end state, restoring intentionality to the use of force. So, at your direction, Mr. President, the War Department is going to fight decisively, not endless conflicts. It's going to fight to win, not not to lose. We're going to go on offense, not just on defense. Maximum lethality, not tepid legality. Violent effect, not politically correct. We're going to raise up warriors, not just defenders.

So this War Department, Mr. President, just like America, is back. Thank you for your leadership and your clarity. We're going to set the tone for this country: America first, peace through strength, brought to you by the War Department. We're back.

The President. All right. Thank you very much. Very well stated. And really, it has to do with winning. We should have won every war. We could have won every war, but we really chose to be very politically correct or wokey, and we'd just fight forever. And then we'd, you know, win, lose—we wouldn't lose, really. We'd just fight to sort of tie. We never wanted to win wars that, every one of them, we would have won easily with just a couple of little changes or a couple of little edicts.

You know, I was told that ISIS would take 5 years to win. And Dan Caine—when I told him, "How long would it take?" he said, "I think about 4 weeks, sir." I said, "What do you mean four weeks? I was told 5 years by the people in Washington." You know who they were. Five years. I said, "You can't do it in 4 weeks."

I actually flew to Iraq to meet with him, and I met him at a big air base. And remember that famous day, right? It turned out to be a famous day for our country because you're now the Joint—head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, which is the biggest deal. And he is because he did things that everybody said you couldn't do.

So they said it was going to be 5 years, and he knocked them out in about 4 weeks total, 100 percent. We took over, and ISIS was gone. And pretty amazing.

But we never fought to win, and now we—if we have to fight at all—you know, we solved seven wars. We have the one that I thought was going to be probably one of the easier ones, and that's with President Putin and Ukraine, and that turned out to be one that's a little bit more difficult. But the seven are done, and they were supposed to be much more difficult to solve. I solved every one of them. And we're going to get the other one done too, but it turned out to be a little bit more difficult than I thought.

And it will get done, or there'll be hell to pay, but—because they're losing 6- to 7- —it used to be 5-. I used to tell you 5-. Now it's almost 7-. I guess 7,000 people last week—7,813 people, young soldiers died. Russian and Ukrainian. Not American soldiers. But it's a shame. And it's just—you know, they're human lives, and I want to see it stop.

But General Caine has done a fantastic job and, again, defeated ISIS, which they said would take a long time, and it didn't take a long time at all—and did other things that people said really couldn't happen. We have the greatest equipment in the world. We have the greatest soldiers in the world.

Dan, say a few words, please.

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. J. Daniel Caine, USAF. Yes, sir. Thank you, Mr. President. It's a true honor for me today to represent the incredible men and women of America's joint force.

Today and every day, the 2.8 million servicemen and -women stand ready to fulfill our sacred duty to protect America at home and abroad.

As the president said, America's military is the single most powerful fighting force in the world. The mission you and the secretary have given us is clear and unambiguous: to deliver peace through overwhelming strength. And I remind everyone that the U.S. military can reach any adversary at the time and place of our choosing.

Service to this Nation is an incredible gift, and we're grateful and honored every day to do so.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. Well, thank you, and it's an honor to sign this. And we will do that right now.

[*The President signed an Executive order titled, "Restoring the United States Department of War".*]

I think that's a big one. I'll be honest, I think—that's a big one.

Pete, hold that up, will you? Or the general.

That's a big one.

Secretary Hegseth. It's a big one, Mr. President.

The President. Do you have any questions on this subject? We're going to be discussing the G-20 in a couple of minutes, but——

Yes, please. Yes, right there.

Renaming of the Department of Defense/Afghanistan

Q. Mr. President, what gave you the idea for this rebrand?

And a question for you and the newly minted Secretary of War. What message does this send to our enemies, to our allies, to the American people? And, again, what gave you the idea for this rebrand at this moment in history, sir?

The President. I think it sends a message of victory. I think it sends a message—really, a message of strength. We're very strong. We're much stronger than anyone would really understand. And, again, you know, having the great equipment—we have just so much better. You look at all of the—just any of it.

Submarines, as an example. We're 20 years ahead of anyone else. Nobody even compares.

And I let a lot of this happen in my first term. You know, we totally rebuilt our military. And then, of course, you had that catastrophe in Afghanistan where they gave up a lot of the equipment—but a relatively small amount, but a lot. It was a lot in Afghanistan.

I think it was the most—General, I'd say it was the most embarrassing day in the history of our country, the way that happened, the way they went to the wrong airport. They should have gone to Bagram, not the local little airport with no security, with tight quarters, et cetera. You know what happened.

I think it was the most embarrassing moment in the history of our country, frankly. That was under the Biden administration. That was terrible.

And we were going to be leaving, but we were leaving with strength and dignity. We were going to keep Bagram, because Bagram is 1 hour away from where China makes its nuclear weapons. We were going to have that all to ourselves—a big, beautiful place built many years ago from money that today would be the equivalent of, you know, many, many billions of dollars. You couldn't build it. The longest runways. The most powerful runways, in terms of load capacity. And we just walked away from it. So stupid. And they were fools. The people were fools.

No, we're—we have the strongest military. And I think that indicates we have the strongest military. And you know, we had it, and we won World War I; we won World War II; we won everything before and, as I said, we won everything in between.

And we were very strong, but we never fought to win. We just didn't fight to win. We didn't lose anything, but we didn't fight to win. We could have won every one of those wars quickly, but they went a route that I think was probably politically correct, but not correct for our Nation.

So I think the Department of War sends a signal.

Yes, please.

The President's Foreign Policy

Q. Mr.—you alluded to this a little while ago, but you said that this rename is a—quote, "a good reflection of where the world is at right now." How do you square naming it the Department of War when you've been pursuing peace——

The President. Yes.

Q. —in so many different parts of the world?

The President. Well, I think I've gotten peace because of the fact that we're strong. If we weren't strong, those seven deals I told you about, the seven wars, a majority of them wouldn't have happened. They happened for two reasons: trade and our strength. Those are the two reasons, and probably strength maybe more important than trade.

So, if we—I was very proud of all those wars. Those were wars that could not be settled, and I settled all of them, and we'll get the other one settled also. That will get settled. But without the strength, we wouldn't have settled any of them.

Yes, please.

Congressional Action on the President's Renaming of the Department of Defense

Q. Mr. President, is your—is it your expectation that Congress will codify this name change into law?

The President. I don't know, but we're going to find out. But I'm not sure they have to. We're signing an Executive order today, but we're going to find out. I'm going to see if they do. We're going with it, and we're going with it very strongly. There's a question as to whether or not they have to, but we'll put it before Congress.

Renaming of Military Bases

Q. Do you know how much this rebrand will actually cost, and are there any concerns about, you know, the Pentagon's mission of——

The President. Yes.

Q. —actually cutting back on spending and waste?

The President. Yes, but not a lot, you know. We know how to rebrand without having to go crazy. We don't have to recarve a mountain or anything. We're going to be doing it not in the most expensive—we're going to start changing the stationary as it comes due and lots of things like that. We're not going to be doing things like have been done in the past, when they change the name of forts that shouldn't have been changed.

Those names of the forts should not have been changed, at least for the most part, and, as you know, many of them have been changed back already at the request of the communities. Every one of those communities said, "We want our name back." Like Fort Bragg, as an example. The people in that community wanted that name back. They refused to call it anything else but Fort Bragg.

So we're not going to be spending very much money on that.

Yes, please.

National Economy

Q. Sir, when you spoke with the Europeans and Zelenskyy earlier this week, did you preview this for them? And did you say——

The President. No.

Q. ——what security guarantees they might be involved in?

The President. No, this has nothing to do with anybody but the United States of America, the people of America. This is who I talk to about changing a name. This is a very important change, because it's an attitude, and we know how to win. We've been winning, and we're going to win like you've never seen.

Wait till these factories start to open up that are being built all over the country. You're going to see things happen in this country that nobody expects. We have over \$17 trillion in investment coming into the country. We never did anything even remotely close to that. We've never—no other country has either, by the way.

So you're going to see things that are pretty amazing, but it's really about winning.

Ukraine/Russia

Q. And what about the security guarantees aspect of that with Ukraine, sir?

The President. Well, we'll work that out. We'll help them. Look, we want to save a lot of lives, so we'll do something with that. I think people expect that. We'll help them. We'll—Europe will be first in by far, and they want to be first. And they want to see it end. Europe wants to see it end. And it will end. It will end. All of a sudden, it's going to come together. You watch.

Q. Can you say anything about the Google ruling?

The President. Yes. Did you want something? Right——

Q. Sir—right here.

The President. Yes, behind you, please. Yes.

Venezuela/Illegal Immigration

Q. Yes, sir. You haven't been shy about taking bold, decisive, offensive action to protect American values—strikes in Iran, strikes this past Tuesday on the positively ID'ed Tren de Aragua narcoterrorists. Is that going to be a critical function of the Department of War moving forward? And why is that important?

The President. It depends on the individual instance. You know, we don't want drugs coming in from Venezuela or anybody else or anyplace else, and we'll be tough on that. And we don't want human trafficking. We don't want to see people coming in, where they open their prisons from all over the world and they dump their prisoners into our country, which is what they did in the Biden administration, where they took insane asylums in places of—that held people that were seriously mentally ill, mentally incompetent, mentally dangerous. And they dumped those people into our country, and we're trying to get them out now.

What they've done—what the Democrats and Biden have done to this country will go down in infamy. What they have done to our country—and especially that—you know, they created the

worst inflation we've ever had. That's nothing compared to what they did with the people in our country right now, and we're getting them out.

And it's not easy when you have the liberal judges destroying our country. But we've won them all. We've won it all. Ultimately, won it all. Hard process. It should be easier. We know who it is. We know exactly who we're looking for. We had 11,000 murderers dropped into our country. We've gotten a lot of them out, or in some cases, they're so dangerous we're afraid to get them out, because they'd come back in.

But for the last 120 days, zero people came in. Can you imagine? This is me speaking, but these are figures developed by, they say, a pretty liberal group of people. They admit that zero people came into our country. Think of that: A year ago, it was millions of people were coming in. Millions. They were coming in.

You could look at them, and you could say, "Big trouble," and that's what we have in our country. But we're getting them out, and despite that, we're doing really well.

Yes. Please, Brian [Brian Glenn, Real America's Voice].

U.S. Armed Forces Recruitment Efforts

Q. Mr. President, can you comment on the recruitment levels across the military branches?

The President. Yes. Well, the recruitment is the most exciting thing.

So, when I was campaigning for the office, numbers were coming out that the recruitment numbers—General, you could speak to it better than anybody—the recruitment into the military, all branches of the military, and police, firemen, and everything else—anything having to do with, like, a public service, the numbers were horrible, record-setting bad, and now they're record-setting good. We're setting every record every month for recruitment. We're packed in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard. My beautiful Air—I love Space Command. I love Space—I see "Space Command," but Space Force has been—we've got a waiting list of people wanting to go in.

A year ago, especially—a year and a half ago—you know, when I took the lead in the polls, which was very early, it really helped with the recruiting. And when I won—from November 5 on, it's been amazing. And over the last 4 or 5 months, it's been—we're just packed.

It was very hard to get police officers. Now the departments are loaded up. Everyone wants to be a police man or woman, so it's been a great thing.

General, do you want to talk about that? It——

Chairman Caine. Sir, as you said, serving our Nation is an incredible gift that we give, and the reward on that gift pays back exponentially year over year. And I think the young people of America are seeing the importance of service. And whether it's in any of our Armed Services or in local police, fire and rescue, service is an important thing that I personally encourage. And I know everyone else in government service sees that same reward.

The President. And, Pete, on recruitment——

Secretary Hegseth. Yes, sir.

The President. ——what do you think?

Secretary Hegseth. I was down at Fort Benning——

The President. Right.

Secretary Hegseth. —the newly properly renamed Fort Benning yesterday, watch—watching Army basic training. And they're so full they can't barely handle the throughput.

It is truly historic across all the services, as you've said. It's been a surge in—into the—I was going to say the "Defense Department," but I will say the "War Department." And that is—it—you might almost call it a "vibe shift," an attitude shift, a feeling that the country is back, that service is back.

And you—there were military families last year, Mr. President, that said, "I don't know if I can recommend"—I mean, I wrote a book on this, "I don't know if I can recommend service to my son or daughter, given what's been done to our military." You heard it over and over and over again, and I hear from those same military families right now, sir, and they're saying, "I recommend to my kids that they go into this department, this Pentagon, under this Commander in Chief," who they know you'll have their back, and they want to serve.

So it is historic, and it's the biggest reflection of how motivated Americans are about your leadership, sir.

The President. You know, it really—it's nothing more than spirit, love for the country. I guess the esprit de corps, as they say, you have more of that than we've had maybe ever, frankly.

But to see a turn—over a period of less than a year, I would say, but to see a turn—nobody wanted to go into the military; now everybody wants to go into the military.

Jennifer [Jennifer Jacobs, CBS News], you want to——

Reported 2019 U.S. Navy SEAL Operation in North Korea

Q. Yeah, there's some new reporting on North Korea and this Navy SEAL incident in 2019. Can you say if the administration has engaged with North Korea on that incident, since it happened, recently?

The President. Yes.

Q. And then can you share some recollections——

The President. I don't know anything about it. No.

Q. Can you confirm——

The President. I'd have to—I could look, but I know nothing about that.

Q. Can you confirm that it happened?

The President. I don't know anything about it.

Q. Okay.

The President. You—I'm hearing it now for the first time.

Q. Okay. Great.

Immigration Enforcement Actions

And then on the Hyundai incident in Georgia with the arrest of some workers—construction workers at the plant. Have you heard any feedback from Hyundai, from South Korea?

The President. I just heard about that a little while before the news conference. And I would say that they were illegal aliens, and ICE was just doing its job. But I know nothing about the instance. It happened a little while ago. Okay?

Sout Korea–U.S. Trade/Immigration Enforcement Actions

Q. There has been some pushback on that, though, from South Korea already. And, of course, you know, they pledged to invest \$150 billion in the U.S when they were just here, you know, last week. Are you concerned at all——

The President. Well, and they have the right to sell cars and things in our country. You know, it's——

Q. Yeah.

The President. ——not like a one-sided deal.

Q. Are you concerned at all about, you know, your immigration agenda potentially clashing with these economic goals?

The President. Well, we want to get along with other countries, and we want to have a great, stable workforce. And we had, as I understand it, a lot of illegal aliens—some not the best of people. But we had a lot of illegal aliens working there.

So, you know, look, they're doing their job. That's what they have to do. These are people that came through with Biden. They came through illegally. They came into our country. So, we have to do our job.

Cashless Bail/District of Columbia

Q. Mr. President, the now–Department of War has been involved in the crime cleanup in DC. You've tasked Congress with proposing and passing a crime bill. What are some things that you would really like to see codified in that crime bill?

The President. Well, I think one of the things is the cashless bail. It's killing it.

When that came out—originally, when that came out the first time, that's when you saw the real big crime start to happen.

Cashless bail, what a disaster that is. You murder somebody, you don't have to put up bail, and you go out in the street, and you murder somebody else. That's what's happened. It happened so often, and that's one of the things.

And other of the things you're reading about, you know, is just standard, but just a certain toughness.

I have to say, one of the elements of fascination for people over the last period of time has been what's happened to DC. So we've gone from a—one of the most dangerous cities in our country to a—what they call a safe city. It's a totally safe city.

In fact, I set up dinner in Washington, DC, next week. I wouldn't have done that—to be honest, I would have had an obligation not to do it before I came into office or even at the very beginning, when things were so corrupt and so dangerous out on the streets.

So Washington, DC, has had virtually no crime. We even have a mayor that's admitting to it, and she's a, you know, liberal Democrat, in all fairness. She's a person that hasn't gotten exactly along with Republicans over the years, and she said she's never seen anything like it.

So Washington, DC, is a totally safe city. We have virtually no crime. One of—it's gone from the most unsafe city in the United States—almost, just about—to one of the safest cities—maybe the safest city in the United States.

That's a tremendous compliment to our military—what we did. The National Guard has done a fantastic job.

Yes, please.

Florida Speaker of the House of Representatives Daniel Perez

Q. Mr. President, can I ask about Florida real quick? Florida House Speaker Daniel Perez was at the White House yesterday as part of a leadership summit.

The President. Yes.

Q. And we understand you met with him separately. Mr. President, what did you two talk about? And also, did you explore him running Florida attorney general?

The President. I didn't. We didn't talk about that, but he's done a fantastic job. He's respected all over the country, really. He's a leader, and he's done a—just a fantastic job.

We didn't discuss anything having to do with his future. I'm sure he'd be very good at that.

Migrant Detention Facility in Ochopee, Florida

Q. My second question: Alligator Alcatraz. Sticking with Florida. A major ruling—appeals court blocked a Federal judge's order to close it and it can remain open for now. Your reaction?

The President. I think they've done a fantastic job in building it—the Governor and everybody else that's been involved. It's an incredible facility. It's housing people for usually a very short period of time before they get brought back to their countries.

As you know, we're—we focus on criminals before we focus on anybody else. And we're taking thousands and thousands of criminals out every month out of our country, some of them murderers.

And I think Florida has done a great job by building it. And whether it's Alligator Alcatraz or anything else you want to call it—I was there. I visited with the Governor, with other people. I guess Nikki was there, and Tom Homan has been there a lot. A lot of people have been there from—it's an amazing facility for what it is. It's not a hotel. It's not supposed to be a hotel. But they've done a great job with it, and I'm very happy with the judges' decision.

Venezuela/Fentanyl/Illicit Drug Interdiction Efforts

Q. You also mentioned Venezuela. I want to ask one more follow-up question on that. On the U.S. strike on a boat tied to a Venezuelan drug cartel, the Maduro regime is pushing back today. In fact, they say the U.S. seeks "regime change through military threat." Your reaction to those words? And also, would you like to see regime change in Venezuela?

The President. Well, we're not talking about that. But we are talking about the fact that you had an election, which was a very strange election, to put it mildly. I'm being very nice when I say that.

I can only say that billions of dollars of drugs are pouring into our country from Venezuela. The prisons of Venezuela have been opened up to our country. They've taken their prisoners—the worst prisoners: murderers, Tren de Aragua—the worst prisoners that you can ever imagine are now happily living in the United States of America.

Now, many of them, we've gotten out. It's not easy to get them out because of the liberal system that we're working with in many cases—not in all cases. But millions and millions of—of dollars and—billions of dollars of drugs are pouring out of Venezuela and other countries.

Look, China—what they're doing with fentanyl is a terrible thing. It comes through Canada, and it comes through Mexico, but a lot of it's coming through Venezuela. Venezuela has been a very bad actor, and we understand that.

And when you look at that boat, you look at the—you see the bags of whatever it is there, those bags were—you know what those bags represent? Hundreds of thousands of dead people in the United States. That's what they represent.

Yes, please.

Job Creation and Growth

Q. Mr. President, your reaction to the jobs report this morning?

The President. Well, I'm going to talk about that in a minute. We have our great people here, so I'll talk that in a minute.

Let's talk about this. We'll give a couple of the—because these two people want to get to work on the Department of War—[laughter]—so let's keep them first.

Yes.

Gun Control

Q. Mr. President, the DOJ is reportedly considering a ban on transgender people owning guns after the Minneapolis shooting. Do you think that they should be able to own guns?

The President. Are we talking in the military?

Q. In general.

The President. Okay. I thought you were talking about in the military.

Q: On the——

The President. On—let—I'll refer to that, then, differently because it's not a military question. I'll be able to pass on that very nicely, unless you'd like to talk about it.

Secretary Hegseth. No, that's——

The President. No, Pete doesn't want any part of that question——

Q. On Venezuela——

Q. On Venezuela——

The President. Yes, please.

India/Russian Oil and Gas Supply/Rose Garden Renovation

Q. Mr. President, who do you blame for losing India to China? In your post earlier today, in the morning, you did put that out.

The President. I don't think we have. I—you know, I've been very disappointed that India would be buying so much oil, as you know, from Russia, and I let them know that. And we put a very big tariff on India—a 50-percent tariff, very high tariff.

I get along very well with Modi, as you know. He's great. He was here a couple of months ago. In fact, we went to the Rose Garden, and it was—the grass was so soaking wet. It was so—was such a terrible place to have a news conference. I said, "We'll—let's use a beautiful white stone, emblematic of the White House." Okay? And it's been very well received.

But we had a news conference in the—on the grass. That was my last news conference I had on the grass because everybody sunk in. You probably sunk in. Every reporter out there, they ruined their shoes. We made that change. It's been a really well-received change.

Yes, please. Go ahead.

Q. Just to follow up, sir——

Venezuela/Opioid Epidemic

Q. On Venezuela, you've sent F-35s down to Puerto Rico. You've sent naval vessels into the Caribbean. You're concerned about drug being illegally sent into the United States.

The President. Yes.

Q. How do you describe this build-up, this situation? Are we headed towards war?

The President. Well, I just think it's strong. We're strong on drugs. We don't want drugs killing our people.

Q. But then——

The President. I believe we lost three hundred thousand—you know, they always say 95-, 100,000. I believe—they've been saying that for 20 years. I believe we lost 300,000 people last year.

I know families that lost their son. Those families will never be the same. I know a family who lost a daughter—beautiful daughter. In fact, it was like she took something that she thought was, like, a minor deal, and it turned out to be riddled out with fentanyl. The size of the head of a pin, and you're dead.

And no, we—we're stopping the drugs. We're going to save a lot of people. Look, whether it's 100,000—but it's not. It's 300-, 350,000 people died last year from drugs. And we're not going to let that happen to this country. Think of that.

Q. So——

The President. Think if you're in a war and you lose 300,000. We lost 600,000 in the—pretty much, between Gettysburg and all of that—the Civil War, we lost—what?—600,000. So we're losing half of that every year to drugs. We're not going to do it. We're not going to allow it to happen.

You think of the wars. If we lost 600,000 people in a war, but we lost—we lose that every 2 years—more than that.

Q. So how——

The President. So it's 300- to 350,000 people. And when I see boats coming in, like, loaded up the other day with all sorts of drugs—probably fentanyl, mostly, but all sorts of drugs—and we're going to take them out. And if people want to have fun going on the high seas or the low seas, they're going to be in trouble.

I will tell you, boat traffic is substantially down in the area that happened, and they're—they called it the "runway." It's a runway to the United States. And boat traffic is very substantially down on the runway. You can imagine why.

I think anybody that saw that is going to say, "I'll take a pass." I don't even know about fishermen. They may say, "I'm not getting on the boat."

Q. What happens to——

The President. "I'm not going to take a chance."

Q. What happens if Venezuela flies jets over U.S. Naval vessels again?

The President. Well, I would say they're going to be in trouble.

Q. What kind of trouble?

The President. We'll let them know about that. We heard that happened, but it wasn't really over, not like they described.

But I would say, General, if they do that, you have a choice of doing anything you want. Okay? If they fly in a dangerous position, I would say that you can—you or your captains can make the decision as to what they want to do. All right?

Chairman Caine. Yes, sir.

Staff Secretary Scharf. Sir, we have—we have one more——

Q. How close did they get, Mr. President? You said they didn't go over.

The President. Say it.

Q. How close did they get? You said the—those planes did not go over the ship.

The President. Well, I don't want to talk about that, but if they do put us in a dangerous position, they'll be shot down.

Thank you very much, everybody. So we're going to now cover the G-20, and I'm going to let these people go back to the Department of War and figure out how to maintain peace. Okay?

Secretary Hegseth. Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. Thank you very much.

Secretary Hegseth. Thank you very much.

The President. Congratulations.

General, thank you very much. Appreciate it.

Chairman Caine. Thank you, sir.

The President. Great job.

Chairman Caine. Thank you.

Staff Secretary Scharf. Sir, just before G-20, we do have one more EO——

The President. Okay.

Staff Secretary Scharf. ——for you today. And I should also say that the Department of War EO that you signed was actually your 200th EO since you came——

The President. Wow.

Staff Secretary Scharf. ——back into office on January 20. That's more than Joe Biden did in his entire term in office, more than Obama did in either of his two terms in office. So it's a momentous accomplishment, and congratulations, sir.

The President. That's good. But Biden never signed one.

Staff Secretary Scharf. No. Yes, you've done every one.

The President. They were signed by the——

Staff Secretary Scharf. I've been here for them. [*Laughter*]

The President. They've been signed by the autopen, right? [*Laughter*] Didn't he—so we really beat them by much more than you think. [*Laughter*]

Staff Secretary Scharf. This—the 201st Executive order, sir, this relates to hostages and wrongfully detained Americans.

[*The President signed an Executive order titled, "Strengthening Efforts To Protect U.S. Nationals From Wrongful Detention Abroad".*]

This provides a new legal mechanism to declare foreign countries to be countries that engage in those sorts of practices and gives your administration powerful tools to get American hostages out.

The President. Great.

Staff Secretary Scharf. This has been a focus of your administration——

The President. Yes.

Staff Secretary Scharf. ——this time around. Adam Boehler is here, and he's done incredible work already. This will give him even more tools.

The President. I think it's great. And Adam is amazing.

So, Adam, do you want to describe how many hostages we've gotten out together, you and I and you and a couple of other people that we know? And——

U.S. Special Envoy for Hostage Response Adam Boehler. Yes.

The President. ——me and a couple of other people that you don't know. But we've gotten a lot of hostages. Do you want to describe it, please?

Special Envoy Boehler. Mr. President, you brought back 72 hostages since your term. If we compare that to President Biden, he has gotten 20 taken, so he is negative 20.

The President. Twenty taken?

Special Envoy Boehler. Twenty taken.

The President. They don't take our people so often.

Special Envoy Boehler. Yes. So, Mr. President——

The President. That's great.

Special Envoy Boehler. ——when we spoke, you said that that was a primary focus. And I'll tell you, the job is easy because of you.

The President. And we paid nothing too.

Special Envoy Boehler. We pay nothing. We don't exchange.

The President. They pay \$6 billion.

Special Envoy Boehler. Yes.

The President. They always paid \$6 billion.

Special Envoy Boehler. Yes.

The President. For five people, \$6 billion. It was just a number I kept hearing. Not only that, \$6 billion plus, we'd get, like, one person, and they'd get six. They got one—the "Prince of Doom" they called him. He was the number-one arms merchant anywhere in the world ever, and they got him out. And on top of that, we paid money.

So, no, we don't do that. You know, once you pay money, then a lot of people start disappearing. They start grabbing reporters too. They think the reporter is going to get a lot of money, and to me, they would. You would be—[*laughter*]—you'll be well taken care of.

[*Laughter*] I want to—I'd better stress that, because, otherwise, we have headlines: "He said this" or "he said that." No, I'm not smiling about it.

But they would. They'd be grabbing reporters. They'd be grabbing everybody. And especially when you pay the kind of money that Biden and Obama. They used to pay money that was crazy. We don't pay, and if you don't pay, they find it to be not a lucrative business anymore.

That's fantastic.

Would you like to say something?

National Security Council Senior Director for Counterterrorism Sebastian Gorka. Sir, it's really SPEHA, Special Envoy Bohler, it's Ric Grenell, it's Steve Witkoff——

The President. Right.

Senior Director Gorka. ——who brought Americans home. But with this EO you are signing today, you are drawing a line in the sand that U.S. citizens will not be used as bargaining chips. And it provides your Secretary of State, Marco Rubio, the same toolset to punish states who take our citizens wrongfully, the same way that we can punish those who sponsor terrorists.

This is a very significant EO you are signing today, sir.

The President. Thank you, Sebastian. Very good. You're doing a great job too.

Senior Director Gorka. Thank you, sir.

And this is your Director for Hostage Affairs at the NSC.

The President. Yes, and I hear.

Senior Director Gorka. So Julia was seminal, as well, to all of this.

The President. I heard you're doing unbelievable. Would you like to say something?

National Security Council Director for Hostage Affairs Julia Speer. Thank you, sir. Absolutely. It's a outstanding EO. Absolutely unprecedented action against those foreign adversaries who would take our people. They now know they are on notice and—and it's not acceptable. And if you take our people now, you will pay.

The President. You know, Adam gave up a job where he was making tremendous amounts of money—big, big stuff, top-of-the-line Wall Street. And he wanted to do this. He wanted to do hostages. I offered him other jobs too—very big jobs. He said—I was shocked, actually, he didn't want them. He wanted to do hostage negotiation. And pretty amazing.

Thank you very much. Appreciate it.

Special Envoy Bohler. Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. Appreciate it.

Special Envoy Bohler. I really——

The President. Thank you all.

Senior Director Gorka. Thank you, sir.

The President. Do you have any questions for them on this very important subject?

Hostages and U.S. Nationals Detained Overseas/Belarus

Q. I think it shows a lot of your leadership as far as fighting for Americans and fighting for humans. And to think that, you know, Joe Biden went to negative territory in his——

The President. Oh, he went way negative.

Q. —way negative—and you're actually making progress on this, I think this does send a message to the world that we don't negotiate, we're going to stay strong in that type of, what they call, business.

The President. Wow.

Senior Director Gorka. One little anecdote that may be of interest. We were told by numerous families who had missing loved ones during the Biden administration that this building, Biden's National Security Council, told those families not to talk about their missing loved ones, to be quiet, not to create any pressure on Biden and on Jake Sullivan, the key propagator of the Russia hoax.

This administration has met with those families on a weekly basis.

The President. Right.

Senior Director Gorka. People like Adam; yourself, sir; your Envoys are doing everything to get every single American home, not to tell them not to talk about their loved ones, but bring them home.

The President. Well, you know, I can tell you one story that was amazing. A few weeks—weeks ago—very little written about it, but there should have been. But it was a very nice gesture. The head of Belarus, who's a very respected man—strong—strong person, strong leader—he released 16 hostages.

John Coale, a lawyer who works for me—great lawyer, actually—one of the greatest lawyers—but John Coale was over there, and he heard that they had hostages. And you know about this. He—sixteen people he released. And I just want to thank the head of Belarus.

But while John was over there, they had, I believe, another 1,400 hostages. Now, not from us—from places all over the world, and just a pretty tough place, in all fairness. But they had 1,400. And I believe they're going to be releasing a lot of those 1,400. They're not—I think very few, if any—we got more—we got, pretty much, ours back.

And we didn't pay anything, but I very much gave my respects to the leader of the country, who is—again, he's a very strong man. But he's got 1,400 or 1,500 or a large number, and we're talking about releasing them. Some are political. I guess a lot of them are political. And it looks like they're going to be released at some point in the pretty near future.

So it's a great thing. They have to respect your country. If they respect you and they respect your country, they release. And if they don't, then you have to pay \$6 billion. I mean, \$6 billion. Can you imagine that? Paying \$6 billion.

Former Mesa County, Colorado, Clerk and Recorder Tina Peters

Q. Kind of related, but not really. But could you comment on Tina Peters, who's been locked up in a—in—behind bars from—in—from Colorado, defending the election? I think you put out a Truth a couple days ago about it.

The President. We have a wonderful woman who was an election official, and she saw cheating in Colorado, and she viewed it as horrible. And she said, "What's going on here?" And she went to the machine, and she tried to open it to find out whether or not it was cheating. And they went to her, and they said, "Did you touch this machine?" "Yes." And they arrested her. They arrested her instead of the people that did the cheating.

It's a State charge, so it's hard to do anything with, but we're going to—we're going to do something. What they did in Colorado—look, Colorado just went to all mail-in voting. That

means they cheat. That's why they lost—that's one of the reasons, but that's a big reason why they just lost the whole Space Command situation that is going to Alabama.

But when you have mail-in voting, you have nothing but cheating. But this woman is a real patriot, and they put her in jail for a long time. She's 72 years old, 73 years old. And she wanted to find out. She didn't do anything. She touched the machine. She looked at the machine. She's trying to find out what was going on. And they went and arrested her for doing that, and it was supposed to be the other way around.

I'm glad you brought that up. They should let her go. Let her out.

Thank you.

Yes, please.

Hostages and U.S. Nationals Detained Overseas

Q. This isn't really the subject that's talked a lot about, Mr. President, but what about your team's strategy has made it them so effective at getting a record amount of these hostages, many of whom have been forgotten about, home?

The President. I think they respect us. I think they respect us. They know we're not going to pay. Adam is a great negotiator. Steve Witkoff is a great negotiator. Seb is a great negotiator. They're all smart people. They're a little bit natural negotiators. Some people aren't good negotiators. Nothing you can do about it.

Senior Director Gorka. And they're afraid of you, sir.

Special Envoy Boehler. Yes.

The President. Yes, well, maybe. I don't know. I hope so, or whatever.

Special Envoy Boehler. We have the best country, in toughness.

The President. I'd like to say respect, because, you know, I—whatever—

Senior Director Gorka. Both.

The President. —whatever it takes.

Special Envoy Boehler. Yes.

The President. You know, I actually say whatever it takes.

But we've gotten a lot of people out, and we'll continue. We don't have too many in. How many are you working on right now?

Special Envoy Boehler. There's not a lot left.

Senior Director Gorka. A handful.

The President. We got most of our people out. We got them mostly back.

Hostages Held in Gaza, Palestinian Territories

Q. Mr. President, do you have an update on the negotiations that relates to the rest of the hostages in Gaza?

The President. We're in very deep negotiation with Hamas. We said: "Let them all out. Right now, let them all out." And much better things will happen for them. "But if you don't let them all out, it's going to be a tough situation. It's going to be nasty." That's my opinion. Israel's choice, but that's my opinion.

They got to let them out. You've got 20, plus you have about 38 dead people—young, beautiful, dead people. And I'll tell you, the parents want them every bit as much, almost more, than as if their son or daughter were alive. But you have many dead people that are coming out as part of the deal. There's 20 people, but I think, of the 20, there could be some that have recently died, is what I'm hearing. I hope that's wrong.

But you have over 30 bodies in this negotiation. Can you believe? I mean, we negotiate for people that are living. Here, we know that at least 30 people are dead, and we're negotiating to get them out. The parents want them back so badly—so badly, as if they were alive. Every bit as much. It's really pretty amazing.

It's a very sad—I'm in the middle of it. And I put out the other day—I said, "We want all 20." We don't want two. You know, I was the one, with myself and my people—Steve Witkoff, and Jared Kushner was great on this—but they got a lot of people out. We got almost all of them out. They're down to 20.

But, Adam, we got, like, a tremendous number out. But I always said, when you get down to the final 10 or 20, you're not going to get them out unless you're going to do a lot, and doing a lot means capitulation. That's no good either. It's a very tough situation.

But I put out the other day: "Let them all out, every single one. No more twos and ones. 'We'll give you one this week, and, in 2 months, we'll give you two more.'" And there's negotiation going on right now. Okay?

Hamas Attacks of October 7, 2023, on Israel/Hostages Held in Gaza, Palestinian Territories

Q. And real quick, what is the biggest challenge negotiating with Hamas right now? Ten to twenty, what do they want to let them free?

The President. Well, they're asking for some things that are fine. Look, you have to understand—you have to remember October 7. You know? People forget October 7. It's not an easy thing to forget, right? But people forget, or they maybe purposely forget, October 7. So, you know, you have to put that into the equation very strongly. It's amazing. Some people even deny it. They deny it. They're crazy.

But I've seen tape that's as violent as anything that you can imagine. Many of you have seen those same tapes. So you have to put that into the equation too.

So it's not an easy situation. It's a tough one. But there are 20 people, maybe a little less—but there are 20 people that we want out. We want the bodies of—these parents—the—they are. I've never seen anything like it: the level of love that they have. They want their children back.

And you know, I see demonstrations—big demonstrations in Israel about the hostages—not about the war, about the hostages—which puts Israel in a tough position because, you know, it's tough to prosecute a war when you have people wanting—they want the 20 people back. They just want them back very badly, and everything that goes with it. So it's very sad.

Thank you very much. We're going to talk now about the G-20. I figured we could wrap two or three up.

The last time I took a day off, everybody said bad things happened to me. [*Laughter*] You know that, Seb?

Senior Director Gorka. Yes.

The President. I took 1 day off. I didn't take it off, I was working. In fact, I was here. But I didn't do a news conference. And they said, "Bad things happened to the President."

Senior Director Gorka. That's why they're fake news, Mr. President. [*Laughter*]

The President. It's fake news. You know, Obama—if you look, Biden, he had a press conference—he missed it for about a year, right? About a year. And I never saw any stories like that about him. He didn't have—and when he had one, they'd ask him, "What flavor ice cream do you like?" He'd say, "Vanilla." That—how many times have they asked him that question? Every—it's: "What's your favorite ice cream, sir?" "Vanilla. Okay, that's enough. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen."

They don't have to go through this, but we all have a good time.

We—I only do it for one reason: I think it's good for the country. And we are very transparent. There's never been transparency like we have. There's nothing to hide. So thank you very much on this, Will. Great job.

Staff Secretary Scharf. Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. Appreciate it.

Staff Secretary Scharf. Appreciate it.

The President. So we're going to talk about Florida—the great State of Florida—now, because it's going to be a very exciting thing to host the G–20.

And as we celebrate our Nation's 250th anniversary next year, the United States will have the honor of hosting exactly that, the G–20 summit, right here in America for the first time in nearly 20 years.

This afternoon I'm thrilled to announce that the 2026 G–20 conference, which will be—I could read off the countries that we're talking about, but you know who they are, I think. Does anybody want me to list them specifically? [*Laughter*] Jennifer, you're okay?

Okay. But will be held in one of our country's greatest cities: beautiful Miami, Florida, where we have the mayor with us—Mayor Suarez. And I want to thank Francis for being here. He's—I thought he might be in this office.

You know, he almost got there. He was a couple of votes short. [*Laughter*]

Right? A couple of votes—it's not as easy as they think, right? It's not that easy.

Mayor Francis X. Suarez of Miami, FL. That's right, Mr. President.

The President. But he's an amazing guy. Very popular. And very popular in Florida.

The agenda for next year's summit is being organized by Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, who is right here. Hi, Scott.

I saw him standing over there. Nice, tall, good-looking guy—[*laughter*]—but he moved—he moved very quickly.

Karoline, you did a good job.

Does Karoline do a good job, would you say?

Q. Yes, sir.

The President. Is she a star?

Q. She's the best.

The President. How do you compare with the last administration's person? No? [*Laughter*]

Q. I'll—she's the greatest.

The President. You don't want to get into that. I think we're very happy with Karoline.

But Scott Bessent is—talking about a good job. He's done a fantastic job, and we're very proud of him. He's very much involved with the G-20.

And the NEC Director, Kevin Hassett, who is truly a talented guy. And he's certainly being thought of to go to a different position, and we'll find out about that pretty soon.

I don't know, would you like to be the—I won't ask you that. [*Laughter*] I think—who wouldn't want it?

I think it's the greatest position in the world. You know, you come out, you make a speech, and then you go and go away for 30 days or 40 days, and you come out, make another speech, the market goes up or down, depending on what you want to say. I've never seen an easier position than that. The—unfortunately, you need good instinct. So we have somebody in there now that doesn't have them. We call him "Too Late."

But it will focus on unleashing economic prosperity by limiting—eliminating the burdensome regulations, unlocking affordable energy, and pioneering new technologies. And it's going to be very important.

The United States is already leading by example, and America is the hottest country anywhere on Earth. We have more being built under construction now than they think anybody that they've ever seen. I mean, literally, some of these—some of these places are just really unbelievable—what they're building, the size.

You know, if you spent \$50 million on a shopping center someplace, it's a big building—pretty big building. But when you spend \$50 billion on, essentially, a building—they have buildings going up for \$50 billion; they're going to be building their own electricity. And many of them have been given permits already to go and they're starting construction. Some have started construction quite a while ago, and—very early in the administration.

We let them do that. You know, we have a grid that's obviously an old grid. It's been around for a long time. Could never handle the kind of numbers that you're talking about in terms of electricity. And we're letting them build their own plants. They build their own plants with their structures.

So they build their structure, they build their buildings, and they build an electric-producing plant with it. Like Con Edison in New York, that I grew up with, and like others that make electricity, they make it for New York, these plants will make it for their building—for AI. Then you have a lot of the car plants going up. Most of them won't need that kind of electricity, but they have the right to do that also.

So we're allowing companies to build electric plants. They become—essentially, Scott, I guess they become utilities—right?—

Secretary of the Treasury Scott K.H. Bessent. Yes, sir.

The President. —if you think about it. And it's very exciting.

We're going to end up with more electricity than China. And it's going to be built at no cost to us. And I'm telling them, "Build more than you need, and you'll sell it back into the grid." So they'll be able to sell it back into the grid, on top of everything else, at no cost to the American taxpayers. It's very exciting.

And frankly, if we didn't do that, we wouldn't be leading with AI. We wouldn't be probably even doing any AI—it would be 20 years to get an approval. So they're building massive amounts of electricity as we speak.

We've eliminated \$5 trillion worth of Federal regulations. Another big thing since I took office. And if you remember the first term, we took out more regulation than any other President in history times—you could add the top four and they wouldn't come anywhere close to what we were. That's one of the reasons we had such economic—the most successful 4 years of any President, economically, and this is blowing it away. I think this will blow it away when these plants start to—even getting close to opening. I think you're going to see numbers that we've not seen before.

And we've increased oil production by more than 300 barrels a day. That's a lot. Blue-collar wages are rising at the fastest rate in 60 years, and trillions of dollars of investment is pouring into the U.S.A. It's going to be over \$17 trillion very shortly. And nobody ever thought a thing like that was possible.

What made it possible were—number one, they were happy with November 5. They were happy with the election. And number two, the tariffs are bringing countries. And, I mean, it's so vital to our country.

It's before the courts now, and I hope we're going to do very well. We had four great opinions just come out, as you know, from judges. In a couple of cases, they were Obama-appointed judges that felt they had to do what was right for the country. So I respect that greatly. I respect them for doing it. But we have very strong opinions, and it'll end up going to the Supreme Court. And it's just vital for the country. Vital. Absolutely.

We're at a level that we've never thought we'd be at, and it's because of the tariffs. Countries are pouring into our country because of the—you avoid tariffs if you build here. But if you don't build here, you pay a lot of money. But if you build here—so what people are doing is, they're coming in, they're building here. No different than what other countries have done to us.

But we have a big advantage over other countries. We have a market that is—that we built up during our 4 years that was amazing. We took a commanding lead during that four-year period. So it's been—it's a very exciting thing, but I look forward to showing our incredible success to the world when we visit Miami next year.

And I'd like to ask Mayor Suarez—truly a highly respected gentleman who's loved in his city. And we're going to do a great job. We're going to work together and do a fantastic job.

Mayor, would you say a few words, please?

Mayor Suarez. Of course. Thank you, Mr. President. It's a tremendous honor to be with you here today in the Oval Office to make this historic announcement. Just looking at the sign, which is so beautiful——

The President. Good job. Good job.

Mayor Suarez. Yes, it's a great job.

You know, as you know, Mr. President, you were elected by double digits. You were the first Republican President in over 30 years to win Miami-Dade County.

The President. That's right.

Mayor Suarez. And you did it because you follow through on your promises. And in Miami, what we're doing is we are following through on those promises as well. We've kept taxes low. We've kept people safe. We've leaned into innovation. We've grown 150 percent in the last 10 years. We've created one of the most intriguing ecosystems in the world.

And this decision is not only generationally important for the city, but it puts the city on the map as one of the truly great global cities. So, on behalf of all of the workers of Miami, those that

work in the hospitality industry—I know you own many hospitality assets and properties—all of the small-business owners who are going to benefit economically from having the G-20 in Miami.

The President. Right.

Mayor Suarez. And the——

The President. Tremendous, tremendous benefit. It's going to bring in millions and millions of dollars.

Mayor Suarez. We just say thank you. We thank you for believing in us. We thank you for highlighting our city in a time where we have the lowest homeless rate in 11 years.

The President. Yes.

Mayor Suarez. We're on the precipice of having the lowest homicide rate in history and with the lowest taxes. So we're following your America First agenda——

The President. It's true.

Mayor Suarez. And we're creating success. And you know, Miami is the greatest city in the world, we believe.

The President. Thank you. Thank you, Mayor. We'll see you down there.

Mayor Suarez. We'll be highlighting it.

The President. We'll see you down there before then, but we'll see you then.

Mayor Suarez. Of course. Thank you.

The President. Scott, would you like to say a few words?

Secretary Bessent. Yes, sir. So, we're excited to have the G-20, and what's important about the G-20: President Trump's "America first" initiative does not mean America alone; it means America leads.

So we will be holding the G-20 in the capital of the world, Miami, next year, to showcase the beginning of President Trump's second term. We'll be a year and a half into it. We will have done peace deals, tax deals, trade deals. We have made the U.S. the best place to come start a business, have tax certainty, energy certainty, and regulatory certainty. And it's going to be an exciting event.

And the U.S., just as the President was saying earlier about the Defense/Department of War, the U.S. is back on the international stage as a leader. We have whittled down the G-20 back to basics. We are making it work for the American people better than ever.

We have—the G-20 have become basically the G-100 this past year. So it will be a concentrated group in Miami, seeing the best America has to offer, with American leadership, thanks to President Trump.

The President. Thank you very much. Great job. And a great job you're doing.

Kevin, would you like to say a few words?

National Economic Council Director Kevin A. Hassett. Oh, sure. You know, Mr. President, I think this G-20 meeting, where the world leaders will come to the great city of Miami, is going to be viewed as one of the most important meetings in global history, because what's going to happen is the golden age is going to be documented so well in the data by next summer that

you're going to have one of the best speeches written for you that you've ever seen, because we're just going to be talking about the accomplishments of the next year.

The President. I think so. A lot of these plants are going to be open by then.

Director Hassett. Yes, exactly.

The President. And a lot of jobs are coming in like I think we've never seen before. It's going to be good.

Director Hassett. Sure.

The President. Monica, would you like to say something?

U.S. Chief of Protocol Monica Crowley. Thank you, Mr. President. We're so looking forward to having the United States of America host the G-20 in Miami in December of next year. And we're also looking forward to having this as a showcase of American strength, vision, innovation, and power, under your bold leadership, Mr. President. It is going to be the G-20 in the Trumpian golden age.

The President. Okay. Thank you very much.

Any questions on the G-20?

[Several reporters began asking questions at once.]

Q. Sir, could I just—

The President. G-20.

National Economic Council Director Kevin A. Hassett/Federal Reserve System/Inflation/Tax Code Reform

Q. You just said a moment ago that—you were very complimentary of Kevin's work, and I was just wondering if he's your man for the Fed?

The President. Of Kevin?

Q. Yes.

The President. Oh, I am very complimentary. I think he's fantastic. Yes.

Q. And for the Fed, he's your man?

The President. I didn't say that. I said he's fantastic. [Laughter] But—no.

Q. Okay.

The President. I've been—I sort of know who I'm going to pick, but, no, I didn't say anybody in particular. But Kevin is certainly one of the three. They say four, but probably three that—he's a highly respected person. He's great. He's great. He believes in low interest rates, and we all do, but sometimes you have to raise them to stop inflation.

We had the worst inflation, I guess, essentially, that we've ever had in the Biden administration, and it really hurt people. You know, costs are way down. Our energy costs are way down. And you know, when energy comes down, everything comes down. And we brought down the price of groceries and specifically the price of eggs.

You remember that first week when you were screaming about eggs? I said, "I know nothing about them. I just got here. That's Biden's problem." And—but we got the cost of eggs down to really low numbers. So we brought costs down for people. And, you know, it's something I said.

And the Democrats have this false narrative. They say, "Oh, costs went up." They just say things that—it's just, like, incredible. If you look at energy, I think you're going to be at \$2 a gallon with cars very shortly. Two dollars. It was \$4, \$5 under the Democrats. That's a huge—it's like a massive tax cut.

And speaking of tax cuts, we gave you the largest tax cut in history in the bill that we just approved. The largest tax cut in history, and there will be no tax on tips, no tax on Social Security, no tax on overtime.

One of the big things you get: If you buy a car and you borrow money to buy the car, you're allowed to deduct your interest, which, Scott, has never happened before.

You know, rich people like to talk about deductions. Middle income, they never gave them deductions. I got them one of the best deductions that did—an interest deduction. So it's great.

Jennifer, please.

2025 Group of Twenty (G-20) Nations Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa

Q. Yes. And couple questions on the G-20, sir. Is there any update on your plans to attend this year's G-20? And then are you saying, for next year——

The President. I won't be going this year. It's in South Africa. I won't be going. J.D. will be going, great Vice President, and he looks forward to it. But no, I won't be going to that.

2026 Group of Twenty (G-20) Nations Summit in Miami, Florida

Q. And then on the guests for 2026, are you saying it will just be exclusively the 19 countries, the two blocs? There won't be any extras?

The President. No, we're going to invite other countries as observers. They call them observers. But they'll have something to say. But we're going to invite Poland. Already, I've issued them an invitation. They're great. They were just here, as you know. Great leader. Great new leader. One of the big surprises. I was so happy. I endorsed him, actually, and he won. And he's going to be a great leader of Poland. But I've invited Poland already.

Composition of the 2026 Group of Twenty (G-20) Nations Summit in Miami, Florida/Illegal Immigration

Q. What about Russia? What about Russia? Are you inviting Russia?

The President. Oh, that's interesting—I haven't thought of that.

Q. You hadn't?

The President. I didn't—no, I haven't thought of that. That's an interesting question. I'm going to think about that for a little while.

Q. India and Brazil——

Tax Code Reform/Democratic Party

Q. Mr. President—Mr. President, you just mentioned that—the tax cut bill. Why the rebrand from "One Big Beautiful Bill"?

The President. Oh, well, I just save words. I said "the bill." [Laughter] It's "One Big"—I actually call it the "Great——

Q. Are you okay, though——

The President. I actually call it the "Great Big Beautiful Bill"——

Q. And is that——

The President. ——but it's a lot of words. I'm——

Q. ——is that how you want Republicans——

The President. ——you know——

Q. ——to kind of talk about it when they——

The President. No, I don't——

Q. ——are on the campaign trail?

The President. You know, I just want them to say what's in it. It's an incredible bill for the middle class, for the working person. You know, we are a party of the working—it used to be the opposite. The Democrats were for the working people, and the Republicans were supposedly for the rich. The Republican Party has taken in millions of people, and the Democrats have lost millions of people.

They've gone crazy. Honestly, I think they're crazy. What's happened to them, I don't know. They have—they suffer major Trump derangement syndrome, and it's—it's turned out to be actually a disease, but it's a disease of weak people and stupid people, because all we do is we cut taxes, we create great policy.

Their policy is so terrible. They refuse to acknowledge—as an example, I see today it's a big debate again. The women, they don't want men playing in their sports. They don't want it. The Democrats want men to play in women's sports.

I saw the great Governor—we have Governor Youngkin talking about it today, that the woman who's running against our Republican candidate, who's excellent, is, like, so much into the, you know, men being able to use women's bathrooms. Okay? What's that all about? Men playing in women's sports. Wants open borders. Again, wants—they want, actually—after what we've gone through, with millions—I think 25 million people came in from prisons, from mental institutions, drug dealers, drug addicts. They're pouring into our—they poured in. Now we have none coming in. We have—the border has been sealed for a long time—actually, almost since I got into office.

Remember when the Democrats said, "We need legislation"? I didn't have any legislation. I said, "Close the borders," and now the borders—for the last 4 months, not one person has been allowed to come into this country illegally. Not one. Done by people that would normally like to see you look bad. Those are the numbers. So it's been an amazing job.

Yes, please.

2026 Group of Twenty (G-20) Nations Summit in Miami, Florida

Q. Mr. President, this is going to be a major event and a major meeting for South Florida, for you, for Mayor Suarez. I know this is not until next year in Miami, but do preparations begin today? And if so, what is it being done?

Mayor Suarez. They've already begun. *[Laughter]* We will first have to deconflict Art Basel with the dates. And so we have already started doing that. And so thanks to the President's team——

The President. He started a long time ago, actually. *[Laughter]* If you knew him, he was—he was working on this long before this press conference.

Mayor Suarez. Yes, sir.

The President. It's in good shape. Going to be great.

Q. And real quick, Mr. President——

Employment Statistics/Domestic Manufacturing Investment

Q. Yes, Mr. President, we learned this morning that we've lost 78,000 manufacturing jobs this year. How do you explain about that?

The President. Well, one thing we have is, you know, we have—the interest rates are too high. That was, you know, a matter of the Fed. But the other thing is so many different—so many different elements aren't included yet. And one of the things we've learned—and we learned that the hard way, watching over the last few months—are the corrections that people have been making. They'll say, "You're losing jobs," and then they'll say, "By the way, we have a correction a month later of, you know, 100,000 jobs are missing." They actually had a correction once of 850,000 jobs.

But I'll let Kevin just speak about that a little bit, because I heard him speaking about it this morning. I thought he did very well.

Please.

Director Hassett. Oh. Thank you very much, sir. Well, I think that if you look at the indicators, there's capital spending boom, industrial production at an alltime high. The Atlanta Fed says GDP now is north of 3 percent. And so all the indicators are saying that things are really strong.

And what we've also seen is that Goldman Sachs put out a study yesterday that said that the August number tends to be really messed up because of seasonal adjustment things, and they tend to be revised way up. And so I think if they were revised up, which has happened, on average, over the last 50 years, by about 60,000, then everything else would make sense.

But right now we're puzzled about the BLS numbers and looking forward for new leadership there to make it so that the numbers are more reliable.

The President. And, again, we're building—you know, they've started building all of these factories and plants, including car factories. Car factories are coming back. You know, we lost more than 50 percent of our car production over the years, and I think we're going to get all of it back. It's coming back in really rapidly—really.

We're building a lot of car plants. Indiana, places that you don't think of it so much are taking, but also Detroit. Lots of places. It's coming in where I think we're going to get everything—you know, we've lost it over a period of 40 years, and I think we're going to get it all back in a very short period of time.

And big ones—big plants, incredible plants that were never going to come back. Without the tariffs, they wouldn't have come back. And I think without the election on November 5, they wouldn't come back either.

Q. Mr. President——

The President. The election was very important also.

Yes, please.

New York City Mayoral Race

Q. As we've been here, Mayor Adams of New York has announced that he's staying in the mayoral race there. Can you react to that but also tell us whether your administration——

The President. No, I mean, he has to do what he wants to.

Q. Did you offer him a job?

The President. No, I——

Q. Did you offer him an Ambassadorship?

The President. Yes, I mean, he's free to do what he wants. It would seem to me and everybody in this room, including you, that the only way you're going to beat this—the Communist—because you have a Communist running, which is fine. I'll have to deal with a Communist in New York City. I never thought that was going to happen.

This is something I didn't think was going to happen, Scott. You're going to have to explain this one, because we're going to have a communist mayor.

It would seem to me that if he stays in, if you have more than one candidate running against him, it can't—you know, can't be won. If you have one candidate, if he's the right candidate, I would say that Cuomo might have a chance of winning if it was a one-on-one. If it's not one-on-one, it's going to be a hard race.

And we'll get used to a Communist, and he's going to have to go through the White House and get approvals for everything. And we're going to make sure that New York is not hurt. We want to make sure that New York is cherished and taken care of. And so I didn't know he was running or not running.

Q. But you didn't offer him an Ambassadorship——

The President. No, I didn't——

Q. ——or any other position?

The President. I didn't do that. No, I wouldn't do that. I didn't—it's nothing wrong with doing it, but I didn't do that.

Q. Did anyone in your administration do it?

Site Selection for the 2026 Group of Twenty (G-20) Nations Summit in Miami, Florida

Q. We asked about the G-20. We understand that it will be held in Doral, your property.

The President. Yes, it's going to be at Doral, yes.

Q. You considered that with the G-7 last time. You decided against it. Why go forward with it now?

The President. Well, I think that everybody wants it there because it's right next to the airport. It's the best location. It's a beautiful—beautiful everything. They actually requested that it be there because locationally it's the best.

And we will not make any money on it. You know, we're doing a deal where it's not going to be money. There's no money in it. I just want it to go well.

And it's going to be—each country will have its own building. It will be—I think it will be really a beautiful thing. And Doral has been very, very successful. One of the most successful properties in the country. And you know, frankly, it's—the problem is, in December, that's this—the biggest month in Florida. So I'm——

Mayor Suarez. Absolutely.

The President. ——you know, using it for the—you can't get a room in Florida in December, January, et cetera, that area, and that's the time we're talking about.

So, from that standpoint, it's not good, but we want to make sure it's good. I think Doral would be the best location. And, again, they'll have their own building, so it—it will be incredible for them. And being, like, 10 minutes—less than 10 minutes from the airport—and it's a big airport, international. All of the planes will be able to land, go right into their quarters. So, I think it'll work out very well.

Federal Reserve System Chairman

Q. And earlier on your Fed answer, sir, you said that you're looking at maybe three candidates or four.

The President. Three candidates.

Q. Should we interpret that that you like Secretary Bessent in his current role, and that it's Mr.——

The President. Well, I like him too, but I had him as a fourth. [*Laughter*]

Q. Right.

The President. No, I had four. You know, you were talking about four. Now I'm talking about three. He told me, "I'm not leaving."

Q. So, then——

The President. He wants to be doing—and if he was leaving, I mean, he would certainly be one of the people I'd want to. But I asked him specifically.

I could ask him right now: Would you rather stay where you are as Treasury—[*laughter*]—or would you rather go to the——

Secretary Bessent. Sir, I'm the only person on the planet who does not want the job. [*Laughter*]

The President. Okay. He really told me—he said, "I love what I'm doing."

Q. Should we assume that the——

The President. I wouldn't want to really take him, because he is doing a great job.

Q. Are the top three still, then, Mr. Hassett——

The President. I—it's a—yes. I——

Q. ——Mr. Warsh, and Mr. Waller?

The President. I am looking at Kevin also, and I'm looking at—yes, I would say, you could say those are the top three. Good job. [*Laughter*] Good job. That's very good.

[*Several reporters spoke at once.*]

New York City Mayoral Race

Q. To clarify, you're saying you believe Andrew Cuomo would be the best one-on-one candidate against Mamdani?

The President. Well, I think, if I'm going—I'm only going by the polls.

Q. Right.

The President. It's not an endorsement or anything. It just seems that he's second. And what you do to win is, you take the guy who's second, and you hopefully, add one and two. But maybe, if the one isn't getting out, then he's not getting out, and that's okay.

I think—I think the mayor is a very nice person. I helped him. He was—got caught up in a scam by the Biden administration, what they did. So I helped him out a little bit. But I would understand why he doesn't do it.

I do think this: I think if you have more than one candidate, we've got ourselves a communist mayor in New York. And I don't like communist mayors. I don't like them.

Yes.

National Economy/District of Columbia Beautification Efforts/Public Safety Improvements

Q. You passed the "One Big Beautiful Bill," sir. Five months, you have all these slew of events next year: the World Cup, the G-20, all—America250. Given this, what's your economic outlook? For the year of 2026, how much growth do you think is reasonable for us to expect economically next year?

The President. Well, I heard—and you know, we were in a very downward path with Biden, and I heard that the most we could do was 1 percent GDP, and now I'm hearing 3.2 percent and 3 and a half percent and all.

And our big year won't be really next year. I think it will be the year after, because when these plants start opening up—it takes a period of time to build them—we're going to have tremendous job growth. It's unprecedented. We have unprecedented—in history, there's never been anything like it, because we're going to have more than \$17 trillion invested. There's never been anything like that.

If we did a trillion dollars in 1 year—and this is 6 months, seven months, because it really—we really focused on it over the last 6 months.

But we're going to be doing—nobody has ever seen numbers like this. When this stuff starts opening up—our country is being rebuilt. And by the way, Washington, DC, is being rebuilt. You know, in addition to the fact that we have a safe city now—and our National Guard was fantastic and worked with the Mayor, worked with everybody—we're also doing a refurbishing of Washington.

We're going to redo some of the roads, the surfaces. We're going to redo the medians. We're going to take the broken tiles off the tunnels and put brandnew tiles up.

And we're going to regrass all the parks. They're going to be regrassed by people that build world-class golf courses, and not necessarily people that work for me, because I don't care about that. I just want to—I'm very good at grass. [*Laughter*] You know, grass has a life, just like you have a life, right? It has a life. Well, this grass has been up longer than—it's like four lives. Okay? That's why there's a lot of areas where there's just no grass.

But we're going to regrass all of the parks. We're going to—in a year from now, you won't even recognize it. Graffiti is gone. The tents are gone. The medians falling into the roads are gone. The potholes will be gone. The marble is going to be polished and beautiful.

It's all going to be beautiful. We're working with Clark Construction, who's, you know, one of the—well, definitely the biggest here. One of the biggest in the country. And they've been great. And we're going to do about a 10-mile radius from the White House, from the Capitol—looking sort of at both of them, go right in the middle of both of them and do—start drawing circles. And everything is going to be spit shined.

You know, when the head of Poland came here last week and when other leaders came here, they came—a lot of them have been here over the last 8 months—I say, "What do you think?"

And they said that "We're a little surprised at the look, the filth on the road." Now it's much better. We've got it much better, but we have to do some construction things.

I mean, you know, you have medians that are all broken and rotted and rusty and disgusting, and it's going to—they're all going to be changed. You're going to have a very different look. You're going to have the look of prosperity, not the look of poverty.

But the big thing right now, initially, is we have no crime in Washington. You literally have no crime. They said it's down 87 percent. It's not down 87. It's down, like, a hundred percent. We have almost no crime. People are going to restaurants that wouldn't have even thought about it. And I know families that have gone four, five, six times to restaurants over the last few weeks.

And you people are in the same category. I mean, I——

Yes.

Q. I agree on that.

The President. Thank you.

Q. I can get my kids to the park and the playgrounds now.

The President. It's a whole different place, right?

Q. Yes. I agree that.

The President. That's very nice. And you're so tough, usually. I like her now. Right?

[*Laughter*] No, she—because she was truthful. Is that a correct statement, Brian?

Q. Yes, sir, it is.

The President. I heard you were actually mugged. You're a big, strong guy.

Q. But I can't do anything when he has a gun, Mr. President.

The President. No. No, you can't. You know, you say "Thank you very much." Right?
[*Laughter*]

Q. That's exactly what I did.

Can I follow up on the beautification of DC?

The President. Yes.

Q. You've done an amazing job with crime.

The President. Yes.

Political Activity Near White House Grounds

Q. Just out front of the White House is a blue tent that an—that originally was put there to be an anti-nuclear tent for nuclear arms. It's kind of morphed into more of a anti-American at some times, anti-Trump at many times.

The President. Where is this blue tent at?

Q. Right in front of the White House on the North Lawn, on the other side of the black gate in Lafayette Park.

The President. I haven't known this.

Q. Might have—all of us in here walk right by it every day. It is an eyesore in DC.

The President. Oh, I didn't know that.

Q. Well, let me—can I explain——

The President. Bah, bah, bah——

Q. ——a little bit further.

[*The President addressed a staff member.*]

The President. Take it down. Take it down today. Right now.

Nobody told me that.

Q. I've had people tell——

The President. So you're saying there's a blue tent.

Q. It's been there for 30-plus years. It was originally a peace tent, but it's kind of morphed into something more.

The President. Yes, morphed into radical left. Okay.

Q. But what I've heard——

The President. Is it in the Ellipse? Where is it?

Q. No, it's in the——on the Lafayette Park. It's actually part——

[*The President addressed a staff member.*]

The President. Lafayette Park. Take it down.

Q. Okay.

The President. Okay?

Q. But what's interesting about it is, I've had people tell me it's a public housing—health hazard because people sleep in there, they eat, there's rats.

The President. Yes.

Q. But also, it could be a national security risk, because people could hide things in there.

The President. Okay.

Q. They could hide weapons in there. That's not——

The President. We're going to look into it right now.

Q. Yes, sir. Thank you very much.

The President. And we have removed over 50 tent sites—not 50 tents—hundreds and hundred, maybe a thousand—I think it's over a thousand tents, but 50 sites. So I'm a little surprised to hear that, but we're going to look into right now.

Q. Thank you, sir.

The President. Lafayette.

Q. On the National Guard.

The President. Yes.

District of Columbia Law Enforcement

Q. The DC Mayor has, of course, gotten on board with your cleanup of DC, but the DC attorney general has said that he plans to—that he is suing you——

The President. Yes.

Q. —for your federalization of the police. What's your response to that?

The President. Can you imagine, we have an attorney general—who's not related at all to the Mayor, by the way. You know, it's a totally separate department. We have so many separate departments. You have—the district attorney has nothing to do with the mayor. The whole thing is crazy.

But how about this? We just set a record on low crime in Washington, DC, and we have a man suing us to let us go back to high crime.

We're going to have to be here for a little while to make this really work long-term, after we're gone. And so, we're going to meet that head on, and I suspect we'll be very successful.

And I can always declare a national emergency, because this was a national emergency. But right now, we have the safest city—we have, now, one of the safe cities in the country. We had almost the worst. I mean, a city that was as bad as some of the horror shows that you've heard about for years. And we're going to fix some of those horror shows too.

Okay.

Google/Apple Inc./European Union/Digital Services Taxes

Q. Mr. President, the Google ruling today you posted on Truth Social about—the Europeans fining Google. Can you address that?

The President. So Google is a great company.

Q. And what specifically are you looking at—for—

The President. Yes, Google is a great company—American company. Apple is a great American company and so many others. And the European Union, I don't know why they do it, but they have been fining them numbers that have been astronomical, more so before I got here.

But Apple paid \$17 billion of fine in the last year. Apple—\$17 billion on a case that a lot of people think they weren't guilty of.

And, no, I'm going to be speaking to the European Union, but it's not fair. Google just got fined 3½ billion dollars, and they've already paid \$13 billion. They're up to 16½ billion dollars, and people say there was nothing wrong with what they did.

It's almost a source of income to run Europe. It's become a source of income. And many other companies too, mostly tech companies. But we can't let that happen. We can't let that—

Q. What are you seeking from the Europeans, and by when?

The President. No, I can just say, "You can't do that." I mean, you know, they respect us now. They didn't respect us a year ago. European Union respects us. Look, they're paying us \$950 billion, right? You've got to respect us.

They were very disrespectful of our country. I have great respect for Ursula. I've gotten to know her very well. And I just don't think it's fair that they're taxing. And really, it's—it's almost become like a tax. It's almost—it's become so regular. And I've gone to lawyers, and I've asked them, "What do you think?" They said, "They didn't do anything wrong." You can't do that. It's not fair.

And it's interesting. I don't hear that about China, and I don't hear that about other places. I hear it about the European Union.

We were talking about it last night. I think we had a gathering—that was the highest-IQ group of people I think any room has ever had, last night. You know? That was about as high as you can have. All the tech geniuses were there. They love their computers. They were telling me more about chips than I want to know.

Q. Did this come up last night?

The President. Yes, it did. It did come up. Couple of countries said—companies said that they were—they were taxed by the European Union.

It's interesting. They weren't complaining about, in that regard, China. They weren't complaining about other places. It's the European Union. And they have. Apple was, again, forced to pay \$17 billion last year. So I think we're going to change that around. It's just not fair.

Q. Was Elon Musk——

The President. We don't want that to happen to our companies. And, you know, if somebody does that, we should be doing it to them. If they've got to pay, let them pay us. But you just can't do that to our companies.

Yes.

Q. Mr. President——

Q. Was Elon Musk invited to the dinner last night?

2026 Group of Twenty (G-20) Nations Summit in Miami, Florida

Q. ——I wanted to go back to the G-20 real quick in Miami. You know South Florida very well. Many cities were being considered for the G-20. Was this a hard decision, or did Miami just stand out to you?

The President. It wasn't a hard—really, I mean, look, it's got the weather. We're in December, so it's, you know, cold in some places, and that's beautiful too. Cold weather is nice. It's all nice, you know, depending on the city.

But, no, Miami really wanted it. The mayor really wanted it. The people down there really wanted it. You might just address that for a second, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Suarez. Yes, as I said, I mean, a conference of this kind does two things. Number one is, it puts us on a global map with the great global cities. And I think that's something that we've been trying to achieve for a generation.

And I think, number two, it's a tremendous boom for your economy. I mean, as the president knows, he has, you know, multiple hospitality assets. The working people of Miami, the small-business owners are going to benefit tremendously from the economic impact of a conference like this in our city.

So it's an image thing, but it's also benefiting working people in our community.

President Xi Jinping of China/President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin of Russia

Q. Do you think Xi and Putin will attend the G-20? They're members.

The President. That's an interesting question. I'd love them to, if they want to. I mean, they can, you know, as observers. They'd be observers. So I'm not sure they want to be an observer.

[Several reporters spoke at once.]

But if they want to, we can certainly talk.

Vaccine Requirements for School-Age Children

Q. Sir, another—another Florida—could I ask you another Florida question? The—the vaccine mandates that were rolled back for schoolchildren, what do you think about that? What is your reaction?

The President. Well, I think we have to be very careful. Look, you have some vaccines that are so amazing. The polio vaccine, I happen to think, is amazing. A lot of people think that COVID is amazing. You know, there are many people that believe strongly in that.

But you have some vaccines that are so incredible. And I think you have to be very careful when you say that some people don't have to be vaccinated. It's a very—you know, it's a very tough position.

So I'd give you an answer. I'll give you a feeling. But just initially, I heard about it yesterday, and it's a tough stance.

Look, you have vaccines that work. They just pure and simple work. They're not controversial at all. And I think those vaccines should be used. Otherwise, some people are going to catch it, and they endanger other people. And when you don't have controversy at all, I think people should take it.

Okay.

Tax Code Reform/Democratic Party

Q. One more follow-up on your comments on the taxes. On the upcoming tax bill, are you discussing—do you want that new tax bill to eliminate inflation from calculating capital gains taxes?

The President. When you say the "upcoming" tax bill, because when you have an upcoming—we just passed the biggest tax cut in the history of our country. So there's nothing upcoming. [Laughter] There's something that we just passed.

Q. No discussion of that——

The President. So we passed the biggest tax cut in the history of our country for the middle class, for the worker, and that's the only bill that we're really talking about. We did a good job. It's very comprehensive.

And I will say, the Democrats—if you gave them every point that they wanted, every point that they've dreamt of all their lives, you wouldn't get one Democrat vote. They really are—they've become deranged, sick. It's crazy. If you gave them a list of the top 10 things that the Democrats wanted, and you put them in a bill to get passed, you wouldn't get one vote.

It's the only thing they have: They stick together. But they're dying. I mean, they down to 16 percent approval rating, the lowest rating in history for either party, and we have the highest rating we've ever had. The Republicans have the highest rating we've ever had.

Deployment of National Guard Personnel to U.S. Cities/Political Protests/Portland, Oregon

Q. On the National Guard. Have you decided which city that you want to go into next?

The President. Yes, I have. I the—I have. I'm not going to say it now, but yes, I have. We're going to go into——

Q. So it's not—is it Chicago?

The President. We're going to go into another place and straighten it out. And I will say this, I watched today—I didn't know that was continuing to go on, but Portland is unbelievable, what's going on in Portland, the destruction of the city.

Q. Are you going into Portland?

The President. Well, I'm going to look at it now, because I've—I didn't know that was still going on. This has been going on for years.

Q. Have you decided New Orleans?

The President. So we'll be able to stop that very easily. We'll be able to stop it.

Q. How soon is that—how soon will that—

The President. But you know, that was not on my list, Portland. But when I watched television last night, this has been going on—you wouldn't be standing—if you were the mayor, you would be—can you imagine what they're doing?

Mayor Suarez. No. No.

The President. They're walking and throwing smoke bombs into stores.

Mayor Suarez. We don't tolerate that.

The President. These are paid terrorists. Okay? These are paid agitators. These are professional—I watched that last night. I'm very good at this stuff. These are paid agitators. They get paid money by radical left groups—not radical right groups, radical left groups—and they get paid a lot of money.

And you see it with the signs. You know, they all have perfect signs that are printed. They look as good as that sign. Those signs aren't made in basements. [*Laughter*] They're made at professional printing office, and they cost a lot of money.

These are paid agitators, and they're very dangerous for our country. And when we go there, if we go to Portland, we're going to wipe them out. They're going to be gone, and they're going to be gone fast. They won't even stand the fight. They will not stay there.

They're ruined that city. I have people that used to live in Portland. They've left. Most of them have left. But what they've done to that place is just—it's like living in hell.

Yes, go ahead.

Q. So the AP—

The President. Thank you for your statement before.

Brazil-U.S. Trade

Q. All right. AP is reporting that the—you would be banning visas to delegations who'll—who will be attending the UNGA—the U.N. General Assembly, including Brazil. Your reaction on that, sir?

The President. That who is banning them?

Q. The Trump administration.

The President. Well, I don't—we are talking about things. We're very upset with Brazil. We tariff them very high because of the fact that they're doing something that's, you know, very unfortunate.

I love the people of Brazil. We have a great relationship with the people of Brazil, but the Government of Brazil has changed radically. It's gone very left. It's gone very radical left, and it's hurting Brazil very badly, and they're doing very poorly. Very, very poorly. So we'll see.

India-U.S. Relations

Q. And are you ready to reset relations with India at this point?

The President. I always will. I'll always be friends with Modi. He's great. Prime Minister, he's great. I'll always be friends, but I just don't like what he's doing at this particular moment.

But India and the United States have a special relationship. There's nothing to worry about. We just have——

Q. How——

The President. We just have moments on occasion.

India-U.S. Trade/European Union

Q. How are trade talks going with India and with other countries that you haven't reached a trade deal with, Secretary Bessent or Mr. President?

The President. They're going great. Other countries are doing great. We're doing great with all of them. We're upset with the European Union because of what's happening with not just Google but with all of our big companies. They just, you know, hit them with these massive—these unbelievable fines—you know, \$17 billion and \$14 billion. And they use that money to run Europe. It's almost become, like, common. It's almost become a yearly occurrence, like it's a tax. So it's very unfair.

I want to thank you all very much, and we'll see you around. We're going to see you in Florida, but we'll see you a little bit before that, I suspect. Okay?

The President's Schedule

Q. Who are you having for dinner tonight?

White House aide. Thanks, guys.

White House aide. Thank you, press.

The President. Well, I'll be having something good here. I'll be at the White House.
[Laughter]

Q. No, who's coming over for dinner?

White House aide. Thank you.

The President. Thank you very much.

[Several reporters spoke at once.]

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:13 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Muriel E. Bowser of Washington, DC; White House Border Czar Thomas D. Homan; Elizabeth L. Branch and Barbara Lagoa, judges, U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit; Viktor Bout, who was released into Russian custody in exchange for Brittney Y. Griner, center for WNBA's Phoenix Mercury who was detained by Russian authorities for nearly 10 months in 2022; President Alyaksandr Lukashenka of Belarus; U.S. Deputy Special Envoy to Ukraine John P. Coale; U.S. Special Envoy to the Middle East Steven C. Witkoff; White House

Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt; Jerome H. Powell, Chairman, Kevin M. Warsh, former member, and Christopher J. Waller, member, Federal Reserve System Board of Governors; President Karol Nawrocki of Poland; Gov. Glenn A. Youngkin of Virginia; Virginia Democratic gubernatorial candidate former Rep. Abigail D. Spanberger and Republican candidate Winsome Earle-Sears; New York State Rep. Zohran K. Mamdani, in his capacity as a New York City mayoral candidate; former Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo of New York, in his capacity as a New York City mayoral candidate; Attorney General Brian Schwalb of the District of Columbia; President Ursula von der Leyen of the European Commission; and Mayor Keith Wilson of Portland, OR. He also referred to the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist organization; and his son-in-law Jared C. Kushner. Reporters referred to President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine; Kathleen M. Williams, judge, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida; President Nicolas Maduro Moros of Venezuela; and former White House Senior Adviser Elon R. Musk. Senior Director Gorka referred to U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Special Missions Richard A. Grenell; and former National Security Adviser Jacob J. Sullivan. H.R. 2808, approved September 5, was assigned Public Law No. 119–36. The transcript was released by the Office of Communications on September 9.

Categories: Addresses and Remarks : 2026 Group of Twenty (G–20) nations summit in Miami, FL, announcement; Bill Signings and Vetoes : Homebuyers Privacy Protection Act, signing remarks; Interviews With the News Media : Exchanges with reporters, White House.

Locations: Washington, DC.

Names: Adams, Eric; Bessent, Scott K.H.; Biden, Joseph R., Jr.; Boehler, Adam; Bout, Viktor; Bowser, Muriel E.; Branch, Elizabeth L.; Caine, J. Daniel; Coale, John; Crowley, Monica; Cuomo, Andrew M.; DeSantis, Ronald D.; Earl-Sears, Winsome; Gorka, Sebastian; Hassett, Kevin A.; Hegseth, Peter B.; Homan, Thomas D.; Kushner, Jared C.; Lagoa, Barbara; Leavitt, Karoline; Lukashenka, Alyaksandr; Mamdani, Zohran K.; Modi, Narendra; Nawrocki, Karol; Noem, Kristi L.; Obama, Barack; Perez, Daniel; Peters, Tina; Pirro, Jeanine; Powell, Jerome H.; Putin, Vladimir Vladimirovich; Rose, John W.; Scharf, William O.; Schwalb, Brian; Spanberger, Abigail D.; Speer, Julia; Suarez, Francis X.; Vance, James D. "J.D."; von der Leyen, Ursula; Waller, Christopher J.; Warsh, Kevin M.; Wilson, Keith; Witkoff, Steven C.; Xi Jinping; Youngkin, Glenn A.

Subjects: 2024 Presidential election; Afghanistan, withdrawal of U.S. military forces; Armed Forces, U.S., recruitment efforts; Artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies; Automobile industry, strengthening efforts; Belarus, President; Belarus, release of detained U.S. citizens; Border security; Brazil, trade with U.S.; Cashless bail, efforts to eliminate; China, President; China, synthetic opioid supply chain; COVID–19 vaccines; Department of Defense, renaming as Department of War; District of Columbia, beautification efforts; District of Columbia, law enforcement improvement efforts; District of Columbia, Mayor; Economic improvement; Egg prices; Election security and integrity, strengthening efforts; Electricity capacity, expansion efforts; European Commission President; European Union, trade with U.S.; Federal regulations, reduction efforts; Federal Reserve System; Florida, 2026 Group of Twenty (G–20) nations summit in Miami; Florida, Governor; Florida, Migrant detention facility in Ochopee; Florida, Trump National Doral Miami in Miami; Gasoline costs; Gaza, conflict with Israel; Gaza, hostages held by Hamas; Group of Twenty (G–20) nations; Hamas political-paramilitary organization; Homebuyers Privacy Protection Act; Homeownership, access and affordability; Hostages and U.S. nationals detained overseas, repatriation efforts; Household income and wages; Illegal drugs, interdiction efforts; Illegal immigration; Immigration enforcement actions; India, Prime Minister; India, trade with Russia; Inflation; Interest rates; Iran, U.S. airstrikes on nuclear facilities; Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist organization;

Israel, attacks by Hamas of October 7, 2023; Israel, military operations in Gaza; Job creation and growth; Joint Chiefs of Staff; Manufacturing industry, domestic investment; National Economic Council; National Security Council; Opioid epidemic, efforts to combat; Oregon, political demonstrations in Portland; Poland, President; Poland, relations with U.S.; Russia, conflict in Ukraine; Russia, oil supply and refining; Russia, President; Secretary of Defense; Secretary of Homeland Security; Secretary of the Treasury; South Africa, Group of Twenty (G-20) nations summit in Johannesburg; South Korea, trade with U.S.; Sports, efforts to restrict transgender participation; Suspected drug-trafficking vessels, U.S. airstrikes in Caribbean Sea and Eastern Pacific; Tariffs; Tax Code reform; Transgender athletes, efforts to restrict participation; U.S. Chief of Protocol; U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement; U.S. military readiness, improvement efforts; U.S. Special Envoy for Hostage Response; U.S. Special Envoy to the Middle East; Ukraine, international military aid; Ukraine, Russian invasion and airstrikes; Venezuela, democracy efforts; Venezuela, Tren de Aragua criminal organization; Vice President; Virginia, Governor; White House Border Czar; White House Press Secretary; White House Staff Secretary.

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