

*Administration of Donald J. Trump, 2026*

**Remarks in an Exchange With Reporter Prior to a Screening of the Documentary Film "Melania"**

*January 29, 2026*

*Q.* Hi. Hi.

*The President.* Hello.

*Q.* Hi.

*The First Lady.* Hello.

*Q.* Hi.

*The First Lady.* How are you?

*Q.* We're the Amazon—[*inaudible*].

*The First Lady.* How are you?

*Q.* I am very well. Thank you.

*Q.* What's your favorite part of the film?

*Q.* Sir, we had a few questions for you——

*The First Lady.* It's very hard to choose. There are many scenes, and people will connect. It will—you will see humor. You will see grief. You will see fashion. So it's—I'm very proud of the film, and it's not easy to produce. It's not easy task.

*Q.* Melania, do you mind coming for a couple questions?

*Q.* We're with Amazon.

*Q.* Amazon.

*The First Lady.* Yes.

*The President.* Oh, good. Go ahead.

*Q.* Right over here.

[*At this point, the First Lady moved to address questions separately.*]

*Federal Government Appropriations*

*Q.* [*Inaudible*]

*The President.* [*Inaudible*]—last couple of days with Senator Schumer. We've gotten along very well. We're working on trying to get it to stay open, and we'll see what happens. It's in the process.

*Documentary Film "Melania"*

*Q.* Mr. President, Amazon paid \$75 million to make and market this film. That is an exorbitant fee. Many Americans think that this is maybe Jeff Bezos trying to get in good with you, and they would call it an act of corporate corruption.

*The President.* Well, who are you with? Who are you with?

*Q.* The New York Times.

*The President.* Oh, the New York Times. The fake news New York Times.

No, I don't know. I mean, I don't know really. I'm not involved in that. That was done with my wife. I think it's going to be—I think it's a very important movie. I think it's really going to be very important. It shows life in the White House. It's a big deal, actually.

Yes.

#### *Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard*

*Q.* What was Tulsi Gabbard doing at an election center in Georgia today?

*The President.* She's working very hard on trying to keep the election safe, and she's done a very good job. And they—as you know, they got into the votes. They got a signed judge's order in Georgia. And you're going to see some interesting things happening. They've been trying to get there for a long time.

#### *Minnesota/Immigration Enforcement Actions*

*Q.* Will we see rolling back immigration enforcement agents out of Minnesota?

*The President.* No, we want to keep our country safe. We'll do whatever we can to keep our country safe.

*Q.* So not pulling back?

*The President.* No, no, not at all.

*Q.* Mr. President, what is your expectations for——

*Q.* Mr. President, Dan Ball with One America News. Nice to see you, sir.

*The President.* Good to see you, my friend. How are you? Good?

*Q.* Tonight is about the First Lady.

*The President.* Yes.

*Q.* No offense to you, I'm not going to ask political questions. I'm going to talk about this amazing woman and this amazing film.

*The President.* Good.

#### *Documentary Film "Melania"*

*Q.* We're going to see you two interact like never before, I heard from the director and producers. Is that true?

*The President.* I think you are going to see that. I'm not sure I'm thrilled with that, but that's okay. [Laughter] That's all right.

No, it's very good. I got to see it for the first time the other night. It's really good. Glamorous. Very glamorous. We need some glamour——

*Q.* We do.

*The President.* ——in the country. So——

*Q.* Well, you're bringing that back.

#### *First Lady Melania Trump*

What do you want the country to know about your amazing wife, our amazing First Lady, that 99 percent of this fake news never tells the country or the world?

*The President.* Well, she's a very serious person, very brilliant person, actually. And speaks many languages, but that's the least of it.

She's doing a great job. She's very popular. The people of the country really love her.

### *The First Lady's Influence on the President*

*Q.* Brett and John told me that she's very influential, more than most folks might think because she is so private and reserved.

How true is that? How much are——

*The President.* It's very true.

*Q.* ——you talking to the First Lady when it comes to policy and things—not about Barron and family, but about the country?

*The President.* A great influence. She's a—really a historian in a true sense. She knows a lot about the history of a lot of different countries, especially this one, and she's very influential. She's somebody that I count on. You know, I speak to a lot of people, and I listen to some and I don't listen to others. But she's very influential. You'll see that tonight. I think you're going to see that tonight.

*Q.* Thank you, Mr. President, appreciate that.

### *Documentary Film "Melania"*

*Q.* Mr. President, are you not in the movie?

*The President.* No, I'm in the movie. I'm in the movie.

### *New York Times*

*Q.* Mr. President, a lot has happened in the past month——

*Q.* That sounded like fake news, didn't it?

*The President.* Yes.

*Q.* No, you're in the movie.

*The President.* It's probably the New York Times.

*Q.* He's in the movie, guys.

*Q.* How do you think January 2026——

*The President.* They got the election wrong, the New York Times, you know?

*Q.* They get a lot wrong, the New York Times, Mr. President.

*The President.* They said that—they got a lot wrong, but they did—they got the election wrong. They've haven't apologized yet.

### *Federal Reserve System Leadership*

*Q.* What day will you be announcing your Fed Chair pick next week?

*The President.* Tomorrow morning.

*Q.* Tomorrow morning? And do you know who you'll pick?

*The President.* I do. I'd better. Otherwise, I'll have to go to work very quickly.

No, I'll be announcing the Fed Chair tomorrow morning.

### *The President's Accomplishments*

*Q.* Mr. President, a lot has happened this month. How do you think January 2026 is going to factor into your legacy?

*The President.* I think that the legacy is very strong right now. We have the safest country. We've had the strongest military. We're doing better than we've ever done before. I think it's going to be great legacy.

*Q.* I would love to talk to the First Lady. It's her night.

*The President.* I'm sure you would. Should we do that?

*Q.* Guys, can we give politics a break for a second and talk to Melania since it's her night and her movie?

*The President.* A great friend of ours, honey.

*The First Lady.* How are you?

*Q.* Hi. Nice to see you, Melania. Let's talk about this film.

[*The President moved along the rope line to answer questions separately.*]

### *Media Company Mergers and Acquisitions*

*Q.* [*Inaudible*]*—*Netflix-Warner Brothers deal?

*The President.* Well, I'm looking at the whole thing, but I have a great feeling for—look, I—I like both of them very much. But it looks to me like one is very much of a monopoly if they're able to do this deal. So we'll see how it all works out.

### *Documentary Film "Melania"*

*Q.* [*Inaudible*]*—*what people will come away from this film? What do you think they will be feeling?

*The President.* I think they're going to see a glamour that they haven't seen before, and I think our country need glamour. You understand glamour better than most. But they're going to understand glamour, a lot about the beauty and the pageantry and things we haven't seen in a long time.

### *Russia/Ukraine*

*Q.* [*Inaudible*]*—*eight wars, Mr. President. What is next for you to be solving? Does President Putin want peace?

*The President.* Well, we're going to see. I think we're going to have peace. We're going to get the peace deal.

### *The First Lady's Influence on the President*

*Q.* Mr. President, do you believe you'd be the man you are today if you hadn't met your wife?

*The President.* Well, that's an interesting question. I'd better be very careful with it. That's a very dangerous—he's asking me a very dangerous question.

I think she's really been a great help. She really has. She's done a great job—very respected, very smart, very measured—very measured. Sometimes when I'm not so measured, she's—she measures you. But no, she's done a great job and very, very influential in terms of the administration. Yes.

*Q.* And, Mr. President——

*The President.* He's asking me very dangerous questions.

*The First Lady.* I see that.

*Q.* I asked your husband if he would be the man he is today if he had never met you. What do you think?

*The First Lady.* Well, we will all be in different places, I guess. *[Laughter]* Right?

*The President.* We like—we do like the way it worked out. So——

*The First Lady.* Right.

*Q.* Mr. President—*[inaudible]*—said he had a conversation with you——

*The President.* He did.

#### *The President's Accomplishments*

*Q.* ——on Saturday night that was——went very well. I wanted to know a little bit more about the details of that conversation.

*The President.* Well, it was not much of a conversation other than he said that he'd loved to see peace. But I want to see peace, I think, maybe more than anyone.

And we've done a great job. We've closed the border. We've stopped crime. Crime is at an all-time low in the history of our country, and that's only because we're taking criminals out. We're taking some very bad people out of our country.

But I want to see that also.

#### *Former President Barack Obama/Documentary Film "Melania"*

*Q.* And, Mr. President, what do you say to those that are critical of the fact that Amazon paid \$40 million to acquire the rights of this movie?

*The President.* Well, I think they'd have to go and ask President Obama, who got paid a lot of money and hasn't done anything. So I think they'll probably have to go—because if you take a look at others, they've been paid a lot of money.

But this is somebody—Melania—who really produced, and she's done a great thing. This is a very important piece of work.

#### *Documentary Film "Melania"*

*Q.* And what do you hope people learn about your wife after seeing this film?

*The President.* Well, I think they knew she was smart, but perhaps maybe they'll get to—to see something that elevates above just the word "smart." She's got a lot of high quality.

*Q.* And you have an entertainment background yourself——

*The President.* I do.

*Q.* ——creating several hit shows.

*The President.* Yes.

#### *Documentary Film "Melania"*

*Q.* Did you have any sort of creative input on this film? Did you watch any of the screeners in advance?

*The President.* I really had none. I saw it for the first time 2 nights ago. I loved it. I thought it was really great, but it really brings back a glamour that you just don't see anymore. And our country can use a little bit of that, right? You would know that, right?

*Federal Government Appropriations/Federal Reserve System Leadership*

*Q.* Sir, on the deal. Can you tell me a little bit more about this split off on the Homeland Security on the shut—avoiding the shutdown?

*The President.* Well, I think what you're going to see is—you will know by the time this movie is over what's going to happen.

And I'll be naming the Fed tomorrow morning. I'll be naming—I've chosen a very good person to head the Fed. I'll be putting that out tomorrow morning.

*Q.* Sir, any details you can share about the extension through September?

*The President.* No.

*Documentary Film "Melania"*

*Q.* Mr. President, what is your message to the tens of millions of Trump voters on this film about the first lady?

*The President.* That she's a very smart person, very influential person, and she cares about the country, loves the country just like Breitbart does, actually. And she's done a great job. Very popular.

*National Economy/U.S. Military Readiness*

*Q.* Mr. President, and there's also been some leftist outlets already pushing negative coverage around this film before it's even come out. What do you say to that? And what can MAGA do to combat that?

*The President.* Well, I—you know, that's standard with these people. And you know, they like to do it. They lost an election in a landslide. They do whatever they can.

But we have a safe country. We have a rich country. We've taken in hundreds of billions of dollars of tariff money. We're—we've never been in a position like this. We're strong. We're financially powerful. We're militarily powerful. I built the military in my first term.

And now we have a group headed out to a place called Iran, and hopefully, we won't have to use it.

*Cabinet Meeting/National Economy/Consumer Prices/Border Security*

*Q.* Lastly, Mr. President, this is—today was your 10th Cabinet meeting. Over the course of 4 years, Joe Biden only held nine cabinet meetings. What does that say about the transparency of your administration versus the last administration?

*The President.* And I had cameras in my Cabinet meetings—all of them, just about all of them. And so it's very transparent as this.

We had a good Cabinet meeting today. We talked about the economy. The economy is through the roof. Prices are way down. Gasoline—\$1.99 a gallon. It was \$4 a gallon just a year and a half ago. So a lot of great things happening, as you know.

*Q.* Absolutely. And people are going to start seeing some relief of their tax returns.

*The President.* I think so. Well, they're going to be—you know, the "Great Big Beautiful Bill" just kicked in, and you're going to see some tremendous numbers. We have—prices are

down all throughout. You know, they like to talk about affordability. It was just a term that they made because, you know—but they're the ones that caused the problem. We inherited a mess. And the prices are way down.

We inherited an open border with millions of people coming in, and the problems that you have—the big problems that you have—millions of criminals were allowed into our country through an open border, and we're getting them out. We're getting them out fast.

They just announced today: Crime in this country is at an all-time low, and that was done by Democrats. They said that the Democrats just released—crime in this country is at an alltime low.

Thank you, and your guys are great.

*The First Lady.* Thank you.

*Q.* Thank you. And could you ask one quick question?

*The President.* Yes, please.

*The First Lady.* Yes.

*The President.* Please. Breitbart.

#### *Atmosphere at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts*

*Q.* Mr. President, do you feel like Hollywood?

*The President.* This feels like Hollywood, but more people. This is—this is like the good ole days when the Academy Award used to get ratings. They don't get ratings anymore.

*Q.* [Inaudible]—Opera House. Is that true?

*The President.* I don't know anything about that.

*Q.* No? Do you think it should be renamed after her?

*The President.* I don't know. It depends. What will she pay?

[Several reporters began asking questions at once.]

That's a good man right there.

#### *Documentary Film "Melania"*

*Q.* What would you say are one or two of your favorite scenes from the documentary?

*The President.* I just like the overall feel of it. It's such a beautiful piece. It's really—the cinematography is beautiful. The whole thing—I think you're going to like it. I mean, people—people really like it. It's very different. I would think are very hard times for movies, frankly, with—since COVID. You know, since COVID it's been very hard. But people—I think people really like it. I could see this being very successful over a period of time.

It's also very much a history of the White House. You know, it's a history—it's a modern-day history of the White House.

#### *The President's Interest in Making a Documentary Film*

*Q.* Do you think you'll want to do a movie—[inaudible]?

*The President.* I don't know about that. I'll find out.

#### *The President's Accomplishments*

*Q.* How does your legacy differ from the First Lady's?

*The President.* Say it.

*Q.* How does your legacy differ from the First Lady's? You're the first President—

*The President.* Well, they're intertwined. You know, we've had a good life. We've done a good job.

Crime at an alltime low. The economy at an alltime high. We've never taken in—we've taken in \$18 trillion. Think of that. Eighteen trillion. Biden—as an example, last administration, less than \$1 trillion in 4 years. We've taking in \$18 trillion in 1 year. It's actually more than that.

So, I mean, it's been an amazing run. We're having a good time.

What happened on the border—we have a closed border. We used to have an open border. Millions of people pouring in, a lot of criminals at the highest level, including 11,888 murderers. We don't want to have murderers in our country. I got them—a lot of them out. We're going to get the rest of them out. But to have a country, you have to have a safe country.

*Springfield, Ohio*

*Q.* When will we see an ICE in Springfield, Ohio? When might we see ICE in Springfield, Ohio?

*The President.* Well, we're going to see what's happening. Springfield is not a happy place with what they did. Springfield—I love Springfield, Ohio. I won Springfield, Ohio. But during the Biden administration, they did great damage to Springfield.

*Documentary Film "Melania"*

*Q.* Mr. President, what was it like seeing—what was it like seeing the documentary for the first time? And what did you learn—did you learn something new about your wife?

*The President.* Well, I don't think so, but I learned she's—you know, just—it's a confirmation more than anything else. A very smart woman. A woman with influence. A woman who understands our country. Comes from another part of the world, but understands this country very well, understands the world very well.

So you're going to see somebody that maybe you didn't know. But I think most people understand this is a very smart woman with influence.

*The Value of the Documentary Film "Melania"*

*Q.* Mr. President, why should—why should audiences see this film, even Democrats might not support you? And do you expect it to be a big hit?

*The President.* Well, I think you'll learn about the White House. You'll learn about government. You'll learn about the First Lady, a little bit about me—not so much about me. You know me pretty much. I'm an open book. But you'll learn things that are very interesting.

And it's a beautifully shot movie. You see the most beautiful scenes. There's a great glamour to this. I was saying when I left—because I saw it three days ago for the first time—there's a great glamour, beautiful glamour. And you learn—it's about the White House. It's about our country. And we need a little glamour. I like glamour.

*Musician Nicki Minaj/Trump Accounts Children's Savings Program*

*Q.* Mr. President, what was it like to have Nicki Minaj in the Oval Office?

*The President.* Nicki Minaj is fantastic. She's a terrific person. She was so nice. And she understands, you know, what we're doing with the Trump Accounts. We're helping children grow

up. When they're 18 years old, they're going to have a lot of money. They're going to be rich. And she got it. She's been a supporter from the beginning, and I think Nicki Minaj is a winner. She's fantastic.

### *The First Lady's Role at the White House*

*Q.* Can you talk about how the First Lady has been more outspoken this term, especially about like——

*The President.* She is. I noticed that myself. She is a little bit more outspoken, I think. Maybe that comes with time. But she's done a great job. She's a very popular, very respected First Lady.

Thank you. Who are you with?

*Q.* Fox News Digital.

*The President.* Good. Very good.

*Q.* Mr. President when can——

*The President.* How are you?

### *Documentary Film "Melania"*

*Q.* Hey, I wanted to ask you: What is your family's reaction to the First Lady's film?

*The President.* I think great. I mean, the—Don is here tonight. And the others are seeing it tomorrow or the next day. But very good. It's been very good.

*Q.* We saw the First Lady's father is here as well.

*The President.* Yes.

*Q.* And I heard that Barron Trump is actually in town as well.

*The President.* Barron saw it 2 nights ago, with us.

*Q.* Yes, at the—[inaudible].

*The President.* He came—he loved it. Barron loved it. Barron is—he thought it was great, I will say.

### *The President's Respect for the First Lady*

*Q.* Mr. President, what makes you proudest of Madam First Lady for doing—showing this story? Doesn't it make you proud?

*The President.* Well, I am proud of her. I mean, she's done a great job. That's—a thing like this is not easy. And you know, she comes from a faraway country, a wonderful country—clean, beautiful, safe. Not a lot—they don't have problems like others have.

But she comes from a country that's a very safe country, a very good country in many ways, but it's different. And she's picked it up very easily. Speaks a lot of languages. Very smart. Understands what's happening. And, really, is a good influencer of me.

Thank you.

### *Documentary Film "Melania"/White House Renovation Work*

*Q.* Mr. President, you have a TV and film background. Did you have any input or any say on the creative track——

*The President.* On this?

*Q.* Yes, on this one.

*The President.* I would say, yes, I mean, other than the fact that I'm in it. I'm sort of in it. But I would say that, basically, this was her baby, and she—it's her views, it's her feel, and she's done a great job. I think you're going to really like it. You're going to love this movie. This is a really good movie.

It's a beautiful movie. It's a documentary of sorts. But it explains the White House. You'll see the great beauty of the White House, the glamour of the White House, the fix-up.

You know, I'm fixing the White House. I do that instinctively. I fix the White House. It's in much better shape than it ever was. It's—it's in—I mean, Doug [Doug Mills, New York Times] would—Doug can tell you. He wins the Pulitzer Prize every week. But, Doug, that's a different building right now than it was a year ago, right?

*Q.* Yes, sir.

*The President.* It's a beautiful, clean building that—things are being repaired. I love doing it. I do it second nature. That's why I was good at real estate. So——

*Q.* And you had mentioned earlier that——

*The President.* Who are you with?

*Q.* I'm with the Daily Mail.

*The President.* Oh, good.

#### *The First Lady's Role at the White House*

*Q.* Yeah. And you had mentioned earlier that Melania has been a little more outspoken this time around. Would you like to see more of that?

*The President.* A little bit, it seems. Well, somebody asked me the question. I think so, yes. I think she's—we'll, she's got stronger opinions now, probably. She's seen—you know, it's experience. It comes with experience. She's got stronger opinions.

Go ahead.

*Q.* Yes, you're a very business-mind-sense person——

*The President.* Business-oriented.

*Q.* Oriented. Thank you.

*The President.* Yes.

*Q.* And I wanted to ask, how is the First Lady also——

*The President.* Good. She's——

*Q.* And we're going to see a little bit of that in the movie, I think.

*The President.* She's going—you're going to see it tonight.

She's got a good business head, a great fashion head. She's—was friends with everybody. Until I ran for office, the fashion industry loved her more than anybody, and then I ran for office. And she didn't care. But the fashion industry really loved her. And once I announced I'm running as a Republican, they didn't like. But now they're all coming to me and asking for help. And we—we give them help.

#### *Documentary Film "Melania"*

*Q.* Well, maybe the First Lady could also comment on this as well. But the—a lot of the fashion magazines snubbed you during the first administration, as well as now. What is your message to them? And what is something that you want people to take away from this film?

*The First Lady.* Here in this film, they will see a lot of emotion, fashion, grief, sadness, celebration, love. So that's the message for the viewers.

*Q.* Mr. President—

*Q.* Mr. President, real quick, if you don't mind—

*The President.* It's going to be a—she's been very well received in terms of this. This is something special—I mean, I think you're going to love it.

A lot of you aren't allowed to say what you think because, you know, your editors don't want you to do it—or the owners. But a lot of people do. Yes, I think you're going to really love it.

Yes.

### *Changes in the Entertainment Industry/Documentary Film "Melania"*

*Q.* Movie theaters are such a beautiful place for community and connectivity. Why do you think it's important that a film like this does release in theaters all over the country?

*The President.* Well, it's nice that she did that, because, personally, I think theaters are—it's a very tough business, theaters selling movie tickets after COVID. And you know, you look at it and you say—so I think this will be unbelievable, streaming and everything.

Theaters are a different—in a different world now. I study financial pages very closely. I look at theaters and the theater business and everything. And it's pretty much of a different world. But she wanted to get it out so people could see it.

But I see this as—in terms of streaming and everything. I think you're going to love it. The glamour, the beauty, the whole thing, it's going to be something that—I don't want to say "especially women," but, I think, maybe especially women, they're going to love this movie.

*Q.* Thank you so much.

*The President.* Okay. Thank you very much.

*Q.* First Lady, could you talk a little bit about your inspiration for focusing on the 20 days before Inauguration?

*The First Lady.* Well, it was my life, so people will see it, transitioning from private citizen to being a First Lady again.

The schedule was very intense. They followed me from morning until evening. And you will see what I have to do and what I did, from planning the Inauguration to running my business, philanthropy, taking care of the family, moving to the White House, meeting with security detail, establishing the East Wing, and hiring the people that—they need to work for me, but also they work for the American people.

Thank you.

*Q.* Thank you.

*The President.* Thank you very much. Who are you all with? Who are you with?

*Q.* Fox News Digital, sir.

*The President.* We like—we do like you.

Who are you with?

*Q.* Daily Caller.

*The President.* That's a good place. They treat me good most of the time.

Thank you. Thank you.

*Q.* Mr. President, Mr. President——

### *Cuba*

*Q.* Hi, Mr. President. Thanks so much for taking the time. Are you trying to choke off Cuba?

*The President.* Say it?

*Q.* Are you trying to choke off Cuba?

*The President.* I don't know. The word "choke off" is awfully tough. Cuba is a failing nation, and you have to feel badly for Cuba. They've treated people very badly. We have a lot of Cuban Americans who really were treated very badly, and they'd probably like to go back.

And no, I'm not trying to, but it looks like it's something that's just not going to be able to survive. I think Cuba will not be able to survive.

[*The President addressed a reporter as follows.*]

Hello. Thank you for your note, very much.

### *Federal Reserve System Leadership*

*Q.* Thank you. As you were thinking about Fed Chair——

*The President.* Yes.

*Q.* ——what were the characteristics that you were looking for in the end? And what——

*The President.* Well, I'll be announcing that tomorrow morning.

*Q.* What exactly tipped that person over the edge in your choice?

*The President.* I'd rather say it tomorrow, but just an outstanding person and a person that won't be too surprising to people. A lot of people think that this is somebody that could have been there a few years ago. It's going to be somebody that is very respected, somebody that's known to everybody in the financial world. And I think it's going to be a very good choice. I hope so. I mean, it's good for——

*Q.* So it's someone who was on your short list, sir?

*The President.* On my reasonably short list. Yes.

*Q.* Is it someone named Kevin?

*Q.* Mr. President, what's your——

*The President.* Go ahead.

### *United Kingdom/Canada/China*

*Q.* Mr. President, what do you think about the U.K. getting into business with China? Keir Starmer was in Beijing.

*The President.* Well, it's very dangerous for them to do that. And it's even more dangerous, I think, for Canada to get into business with China. Canada is not doing well; they're doing very poorly. And you can't look at China as the answer.

That's—I know China very well. I know—President Xi is a friend of mine. I know him very well. But that's a big hurdle to go over when you get Canada. The first thing they're doing to do is say, "You're not allowed to play ice hockey anymore." That's not good. Canada is not going to like that. [Laughter]

#### *Federal Reserve System/National Economy*

*Q.* Mr. President, the Fed yesterday voted 10 to 2 to pause interest rates. Do you think the problem with the Fed is more than just Jerome Powell?

*The President.* Well, you have other political people on the Fed. Absolutely. You have political people that will vote against Trump or an—a Republican, but in particular Trump.

But we've done so well with the economy. You see the numbers. We're getting the best numbers that we've ever had as a country, and that's despite the fighting.

We've broken the Fed wall. I mean, they could have been much better. Could have been much more helpful to the country. But even despite the little bit higher interest rates, you notice that the interest rates now are falling despite the Fed.

But I'm going to be announcing, I think, a really great choice tomorrow. I'm very excited about it. And I'll be announcing it tomorrow morning.

#### *Interest Rates*

*Q.* For all those Fed Governors who wanted to pause interest rates, do you think they'll have their mind changed when there's a new Fed Chairman on board?

*The President.* I do. Yes. I think—I do.

*Q.* Why do you think that, sir?

*The President.* Well, that's just the way it's been. And if they respect the Fed Chairman—they don't respect this Fed Chairman—if they respect the Fed Chairman, they'll be with us all the way. They want to see the country be great.

Thank you very much.

#### *Iran/Political Unrest and Violence*

*Q.* On Iran, Mr. President. Have you had any conversations with Iran in the last few days, and are you planning on any?

*The President.* I have had, and I am planning on it. Yes. We have a lot of very big, very powerful ships sailing to Iran right now, and it would be great if we didn't have to use them. Okay?

*Q.* Can you say what the message was that you shared with Iranians?

*The President.* Well, I told them two things. Number one, no nuclear. And number two, stop killing protesters. They're killing them by the thousands. You know, I stopped 837 hangings two weeks ago. But they're going to have to do something. So nobody has—nobody has seen anything like it.

#### *White House Border Czar Thomas D. Homan/Minnesota*

*Q.* Mr. President, Mr. Homan, I'm sure you caught his remarks earlier today that he made in Minneapolis. Are you pleased with the job that he's doing? Do you feel that——

*The President.* He's doing a great job.

*Q.* Do you feel that this change that you made, this personnel change, is an important one in terms of calming things down?

*The President.* Well, I think he's terrific. But we have to get rid of the criminals. We have to take criminals out of our country. So, from that standpoint, nothing is going to change.

And we have to find out all of the fraud that's taken place in Minnesota. We have to get to it. They've stolen at least \$19 billion, and we're going to find out who did it and where the money is.

Thank you very much.

[*Several reporters began asking questions at once.*]

*Q.* Mr. President——

*Q.* [*Inaudible*]—Minneapolis?

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:10 p.m. at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. In his remarks, he referred to Catherine M. Salinas, U.S. magistrate judge, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. Reporters referred to Jeffrey P. Bezos, president, chief executive officer, and chairman of the board, Amazon.com; film director Brett Ratner; President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin of Russia; the President's father-in-law Victor Knavs; Prime Minister Keir Starmer of the United Kingdom; and Chairman of the Federal Reserve System Board of Governors Jerome H. Powell. The transcript was released by the Office of Communications on January 30.

*Categories:* Interviews With the News Media : Exchanges with reporters, Washington, DC.

*Locations:* Washington, DC.

*Names:* Biden, Joseph R., Jr.; Gabbard, Tulsi; Homan, Thomas D.; Minaj, Nicki; Obama, Barack; Salinas, Catherine M.; Schumer, Charles E.; Trump, Barron W.; Trump, Donald J., Jr.; Trump, Melania; Xi Jinping.

*Subjects:* Border security; Cabinet meeting; China, President; Consumer prices; COVID-19 pandemic; Crime rates; Cuba, economic and political stability; Director of National Intelligence; Documentary film "Melania," screening; Economic improvement; Federal Government, appropriations legislation; Federal Reserve System; Gasoline costs; Illegal immigration; Interest rates; Iran, nuclear weapons development; Iran, political unrest and violence; John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts; Media company mergers; Minnesota, immigration enforcement actions; Senate minority leader; White House Border Czar; White House renovation projects.

*DCPD Number:* DCPD202600070.