

Administration of Donald J. Trump, 2026

Remarks on Signing an Executive Order on Celebrating American Greatness With American Motor Racing

January 30, 2026

The President. So I have some incredible people, and this is a very exciting thing that we're doing. And it was fast. They've wanted to do it. I understand they've been here hundreds of times over the years trying to do it. And they're going to give you a little bit of history.

Roger Penske, everybody knows. He's a legend in many different things, but certainly in racing. He's won the Indianapolis 500 twenty times. On the 18th time, I said—he's been a friend of mine for a long time, but on the 18th time, I said, "I think I'm going to give him the Presidential Medal of Freedom," because, you know, how do you do that? Japan, Germany—Roger, right?—everybody, they want to—they want to win the Indy 500.

Penske Corporation Founder and Chairman Roger S. Penske. Correct.

The President. They spend billions of dollars getting a car. And this guy wins it, like, every year. You won it so many times that he ended up buying the track. [*Laughter*] So now he owns the track. He owns the race. I'd say that's a—pretty good. Now he's won it, though—he won it two times since he got it, and it's a total of 20.

And didn't you win the Daytona 500?

Mr. Penske. Yes.

The President. How many times?

Mr. Penske. Four times.

The President. That's all? [*Laughter*] That's it? That's terrible. I can't believe it.

Anyway. If you win it once, it's, like, great. It's—the guy's amazing. He's a genius—and a real genius at cars and racing.

And they are going to put up something that's really amazing. It's really having to do with our great 250th birthday, where we're having so many wonderful things. UFC is coming, as you know, in front of the White House, where they're—building literally a stadium. We're going to have a—over a hundred thousand people.

And this is going to have a lot of people—I won't even say how many people, because I think it can set a record for racing. It's going to be very, very important.

We're celebrating greatness with American motor racing. That's going to be the name of the event. It's going to take place on August 21st through the 23d, and it's going to be so exciting. And I love the racing. I don't have a lot of time to watch it, but I love the racing.

And just before we start, I will say: Numbers came out this morning. The—they're phenomenal for the country.

So we announced yesterday that for the first time in, I think, 28 years, America made more steel than Japan. Can you believe it? Japan is a big steel country. America made more steel than Japan.

The numbers are record-setting numbers. Every one of our numbers are doing. We've never had anything like it. We have over \$18 trillion coming into our country. We're building thousands of plants and all sorts of businesses all over the United States. There's never been anything like it.

Eighteen trillion dollars investment. So we have over—fellas, we have over \$18 trillion being invested in the United States of America. The record was \$3 trillion, 10 years ago—not by us, by another country. And we're going to do 18, and I think the 18 is going to go higher. We're just looking at 11 months. The 12th month hasn't come in yet, but it's going to bring us over 18, maybe even hit 20.

So you have \$18- to \$20 trillion coming in, and we've never had anything like it.

We have a record we just set, as you know. The S&P 500 just set a new record: 7,000. Nobody thought that was possible in this quick a time. They thought maybe at the end of 4 years or 5 years or 6 years. But we did it in the first year.

And we had 48 stock market highs, Roger.

So Roger is a big beneficiary, because he has a lot of stock. *[Laughter]* But anybody that has stock, including people with 401(k)s. So, the economy has never been like this.

It was just announced that crime is at an alltime low, lowest number—low—best numbers on crime in the history—in the recorded history of our country and the lowest numbers of murders in the history of our country that we have—recorded history. It goes back 125 years. That's not bad.

And a lot of that is because of the fact that we have a closed border. We've taken out thousands and thousands of criminals and murderers and drug dealers and everything else. And we've either brought them back to the—their country, or, in some cases, we have to put them in our jails because we don't want to have them come back. And so we don't want to just bring them back to their country and then they maybe come back. Despite our border, they're pretty sneaky, pretty smart.

So we're doing things that nobody's ever seen before. The country is really in great shape. We have a large armada—flotilla—you can call it whatever you want—heading toward Iran right now. Even larger than what we had in Venezuela. It's still in front of Venezuela.

The Venezuelan situation—the leadership is doing a very good job. We're very happy, and we're getting along very, very well.

And we're inviting countries of the world—very shortly, they're going to be starting to take the oil. We're going to be heading that with the country, and that's worked out really well.

We're now sending, actually, a larger number of ships to Iran, and hopefully, we'll make a deal. If we do make a deal, that's good. If we don't make a deal, we'll see what happens.

But this is going to be exciting. So I'm going to ask—and he really is a legend. He's a great man. I've known him for a tremendously long time. I refuse to say how—we were both young. Now we're both a little older. *[Laughter]* We refuse to say old, but we're a little older.

But Roger Penske is the chairman, as you know, of Penske Corporation. He's got everything you can imagine—mostly, I think, to do with automotive. And I'd like to ask him to say a few words about the event, because this is going to be—they're putting everything behind it, and I think it's going to be really exciting.

Roger, please.

Mr. Penske. Well, thank you, Mr. President. This is really an amazing time for us as a company to support the 250th anniversary for the country. And there's no better way for us to bring automotive and speed into the DC area and to have the opportunity to be able to compete here with our Indy cars.

As you know, we own the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, and we are taking that history of over a hundred years and the speed and what's taken place there with the different manufacturers, and bringing it here to this race will be amazing.

Certainly, the Freedom 250, when you think about it, it's just a byproduct to what the President has done during this year. And this will be event, obviously, in August, which will make a huge difference.

And we're excited: The area for people to see, most of the grounds will be free. So it's going to be an economic benefit to the area, to the city. And obviously, with our Fox partner—Eric Shanks will be our media partner. And believe me, what they did for us at Indy this past year, they're going to take that and put it on steroids, really, and take it to the next level.

So thank you, Mr. President——

The President. Great.

Mr. Penske. ——for allowing us to come into your city.

The President. That's so great, Roger.

Mr. Penske. Thank you.

The President. Thank you. Great—great man.

Eric, I'd like to have you say a few words. He's done a fantastic job at Fox, and he's really excited about this, and I know they're going to lay it on the line.

Eric, please.

Fox Sports Chief Executive Officer and Executive Producer Eric Shanks. Sure. Well, thank you, Mr. President, for having us here today. Big shout-out to Secretary Duffy. This project was kind of on life support until you stepped in recently and got us here today.

Secretary Burgum, your team has been absolutely incredible.

The President. Explain how many times you came to Washington trying to do this event.

Mr. Shanks. I think Bud came here 81 times.

Penske Corporation President Claude "Bud" Denker III. Eighty-one meetings I had on Capitol Hill.

The President. Meeting with Senators, meeting with people at the Capitol. And they all wanted it. Everybody wanted it, but they couldn't figure it out. It was crazy. Eighty-some-odd times. That's pretty amazing.

So go ahead, please.

Mr. Shanks. Right.

Well, it's a real honor to be a partner with Roger and IndyCar. And at Fox Sports, we do the biggest events in sports. This year we have the FIFA World Cup that we'll be celebrating here as well. And then dovetailing right after that to be able to celebrate America's birthday on Fox is an absolutely incredible honor, and everyone at Fox Sports can't wait to see exactly how this is going to unfold and bring it to life.

So, Mr. President, thank you again for signing this today.

The President. Right. And the big thing, it's August 21st through the 23d, and I believe the race is on the 23d, right?

Mr. Shanks. Yes.

The President. That's going to be incredible. They're going to have practice sessions. It's going to be just a very exciting period, I think, for Washington.

If I could, I'd like to ask Sean Duffy, the Secretary of Transportation, who is terrific and doing a great job.

Much more important than Sean is, we have Rachel Campos-Duffy here. [*Laughter*] And she's one of the greatest people I know and one of the greatest people on television. So most of you know her, but I don't think we'll have her speak about the race, because——

Fox News Program Host Rachel Campos-Duffy. No.

The President. ——she knows less about it than anybody up here. [*Laughter*] But she is fantastic.

Ms. Campos-Duffy. Happy to support Fox. [*Laughter*]

The President. Sean, please.

Secretary of Transportation Sean P. Duffy. So the President gave us all a directive, which I'm grateful for: We're going to celebrate America's 250th birthday, and he asked all of us to think outside the box: How do we make this historic and cool, and let's all do this together. And he loves the country and loves the birthday. And so we at DOT were working on this concept. We didn't know, at the same time, Penske was working on the same project too. And so, we've come together. And Doug has been a wonderful partner.

But to think, 190 miles an hour down Pennsylvania Avenue. This is going to be wild. The last time we had a race in the capital city, Bud, was when?

Mr. Denker. Eighteen-oh-one—Thomas Jefferson with a horse race.

Secretary Duffy. A horse race in 1801, Mr. President. [*Laughter*]

Now we're going to do it—we're going to do a real race.

The President. That's so great. That's such a good—[*Laughter*]——

Secretary Duffy. So listen, this doesn't happen. You know, these—we just don't come in and have the—ask the President to sign. There's a lot of work that goes into this, as you can tell. You know, Bud—and my Chief of Staff, Pete, all had a lot of meetings on the Hill. We couldn't be more excited about this.

Again, I want to repeat: This is free for the American people to come to your Nation's capital and see a great road race.

Freedom, America, speed, and road racing. It doesn't get more American that, Mr. President. So thank you for signing——

The President. That's right. Well——

Secretary Duffy. ——this, and thanks for all of your support.

The President. ——you are fantastic. And what a job you've done. They've put it together very—they've been coming here for years, and everybody wanted it. You know, every Senator wants it, every Congressman—everybody wants it, but they don't get things done.

Secretary Duffy. Only you, Mr. President.

The President. Trump gets things done. We didn't have 89 meetings. We had maybe a half a meeting. I think this is probably about a half a meeting.

I'd like to thank Pete Meachum for the great job you've done representing us, and Luke Bunting. These are two young people that work with us, and they've really been fantastic.

I'd like to ask Doug Burgum to say a few words. He's very much involved through his position of Interior, because a lot of the space is Interior. He sort of has—I think he's the largest landlord anywhere in the world, by far. *[Laughter]*

So, Doug, could you say a few words, please?

Secretary of the Interior Douglas J. Burgum. Yes, absolutely.

Thank you, Mr. President. This birthday that's coming up, the 250th anniversary of America—Freedom 250—is the most monumental birthday, maybe, of any country ever in the history of the world.

And President Trump, with his directive to celebrate this thing—we've got a—what's more American than race car driving? What's more monumental than the Indy 500 as an icon of what's going on in our country. And so, merging the—history and the tradition of our Capital, Washington, DC, with the speed and the innovation that goes on in the IndyCar Series is incredible. And it's a great metaphor, because the speeds we're talking about is the speed of President Trump.

I want to—like, to reiterate: There weren't 81 meetings with the Trump administration. I think it was—they called President Trump. He got Sean and I going. And was it—that was, like, from Saturday till now, we have a race.

Mr. Denker. One week.

Secretary Burgum. One week, we have a race, as opposed to, like, 4 months of talking. So I think there's also a metaphor here about President Trump, who's an incredible sportsman. He's an athlete himself, but he loves sports. And so, whether it's soccer, UFC, the football draft—NFL football draft coming, IndyCar, and—and all the teams that he hosts here. I mean, to any American who loves sports, you ought to love this President, because he's bringing professional sports to our Capital.

And, again, August 21st to 23d—you talk about the economic impact. By the time all these reporters get done telling the story, there's not going to be a hotel room available in this city on that weekend, because everybody is going to want to be here.

People that maybe have wanted to see an IndyCar race their whole life are now going to have an opportunity to come to their capital, celebrate 250, and see an IndyCar race for free. And they're going to be able to see it on the National Mall, and you—wherever you put down your lawn chair and watch this race for free, you're going to be staring at the Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial, the Jefferson Memorial. And I'm sure there's going to be fireworks this weekend too. I'm sure of that. And if you need a permit, you can get one from Interior. *[Laughter]*

So, anyway, it's absolutely incredible. And congratulations to Sean, the Penske organization, Fox Sports, everybody for putting it together. This is going to be a great celebration for America.

The President. Thank you very much, and you're doing a fantastic job.

Could I just ask Bud Denker—he's the president of Penske Corporation—to say a few words, please.

Mr. Denker. Well, thank you, Mr. President. You know, Eric Shanks and I, from Fox, had this dream and—just last July—and could it ever be possible to bring a race to our Nation's capital to celebrate our country's history? And everybody said: "There's no way. It's impossible." How do you put a race on at 190 miles an hour in a city like Washington, DC?

I came here. I walked the area for a while. I found a race track on the Capitol grounds. Up against a lot of meetings and couldn't get the kind of support we need. So, within a week, Secretary Duffy and—we put this together with the President, didn't we? And we—now we have a race here on our city property, on the national properties that is going to celebrate America.

The word "free" shouldn't be overridden, because we are going to have a free event here. People can come out and celebrate our country's history.

I also want to thank Mayor Bowser. She has been a great partner in this process as well too. So I know that, Mr. President, she's a great supporter of what you've done here in the city as well too.

The President. Yes.

Mr. Denker. And we thank her for this.

But we're going to have an amazing event. We're going to make everybody in this country proud. We want everybody to come out for free and enjoy this and celebrate our country the way it should be here in the Nation's Capital.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. And I said: "Pick the best site. It's very important. Pick the best site. Don't go for second or third, because there's a lot of different routes." I said, "Pick—even if it's more difficult to get approved, pick the absolute best site."

And they were actually looking at another site. And when I said that, they said, "Well, the best site is this site," the site we're doing. I said, "Let's take a look at it." And we think it's the best site too. It's actually better than the original site they were looking at. But if we're going to do it, we want to do it right.

So this is going to be something, in terms of the road width and the crowds and everything else that we can hold. The best site—one of the best sites I've ever seen, actually, and it'll be beautiful.

So I'm going to sign this. And if you have any questions on this subject, that'd be great.

We just named a new Fed Chairman today. You know that? His—he's a central casting. He's like Roger Penske. He's central casting. *[Laughter]*

Secretary Duffy. Great guys.

The President. You know him, Roger? A very good guy.

Roger, no autopen. I didn't use an autopen. *[Laughter]*

[At this point, the President signed the Executive order.]

Mr. Penske. Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. Here, Roger, take that.

Mr. Penske. I will.

[The President handed Mr. Penske a signing pen.]

Mr. Denker. Awesome.

The President. Okay. And Pete.

[The President handed out signing pens.]

Secretary Duffy. Thank you.

Mr. Denker. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. President. Oh, that's great.

The President. Here you go, young man.

Associate Counsel to the President Luke D. Bunting. Thank you.

The President. I didn't want to sign each letter. You know, they sign each letter, they hand pens. And I used to watch these Presidents—[laughter]—one letter. You got to see what it looks like at the end. It never looks—never looks too good.

Here, Rachel, take that.

Ms. Campos-Duffy. Thank you.

The President. That's for your team.

Ms. Campos-Duffy. Here you do.

Mr. Denker. Thank you.

The President. Congratulations. This is really exciting. Really great.

Do you have any questions about this?

The President's Nominee for the Chair of the Federal Reserve System Board of Governors Chairman Kevin M. Warsh

Q. Mr. President, on your Fed Chair nominee, since you just brought it up.

The President. Yes.

Q. Did Kevin Warsh commit to you that he will push to cut interest rates if he is confirmed?

The President. No, but we talk about it, and I've been following him, and I don't want to ask him that question. I think it's inappropriate, probably. It probably would be allowed, but I want to keep it nice and pure. But he certainly wants to cut rates. I've been watching him for a long time.

Interest Rates/The President's Nominee for Federal Reserve System Board of Governors Chairman Kevin M. Warsh

Q. Mr. President, did you have any concerns about his hawkish history of pushing for rate hikes?

The President. He's going to want to do the same thing. I think that—yes, I've had times when I think you've had to really have rate hikes too. But he's very smart, very good, strong, young—pretty young—and I think he's going to do a—I mean, he—he was the central casting guy that people wanted. Kevin was great.

I tell you what, I met numerous people. Every one of them were fantastic—really fantastic. I wanted to keep Kevin here. And I thought that I'd call them "Kevin One," "Kevin Two."

And we have—I said, "It's going to be a Kevin." But, you know, Kevin really has been fantastic at the White House. You all know him. You know very well. And so we have Kevin—Kevin W.

Senate Confirmation Process

Q. Are you concerned, Mr. President, about the confirmation hearings? We've heard—

The President. No.

Q. —Senator Tillis—

The President. No.

Q. You think——

The President. Well——

Q. ——with the DOJ investigation that's going on?

The President. This is—in the whole country, I would say that this was the, you know, perfect candidate. This was not a surprise or anything. This was the man that's most qualified—top student, best schools. Everything was, like, perfect. The youngest person ever to serve on the Fed.

Got the whole package. Looks don't mean anything, but he's got the look. Right? Roger, looks don't mean anything, but if they have the look, it's okay.

But he's got the whole package, and I think he's going to do a great job. And he loves the country.

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

Yes. Wait, wait, wait.

Q. Will you speak to Senator Tillis?

The President. Please, in the back. Yes.

Iran/Political Demonstrations

Q. Are you giving Iran any kind of deadline to make a deal before potentially taking military action?

The President. Only they know for sure.

Q. Have you communicated that to them directly?

The President. Yes, I have.

Q. Do you have a timeline—do you have a timeline for when you're going to pull back, potentially, the Federal presence there?

The President. No. We'll see how it all works out. You know, they have to float someplace. They might as well float near Iran. But it's a rough situation going on.

So I stopped 837 people, as you know, last week, from being hung. They were going to hang 830. It was all set. And, I mean, I'm looking at the people behind me, they say, "What kind of a"—racing's a lot nicer than that.

They were going to hang 837 people. And I told them, "If you do it, you're going to pay a price like nobody's ever paid before." And they pulled back. I appreciated that, but a lot of people are being killed.

So we'll see what happens.

[*Several reporters spoke at once.*]

They—I can say this: They do want to make a deal.

Virginia/Tax Code Reform/Democratic Party

Q. Can I ask you about Virginia, actually? Virginia flipped the Governorship, and now they're looking at 50 proposals to increase taxes. What do you think about that?

The President. Well, I think it's terrible. I think a lot of people will leave Virginia. I—saw that. Look, Glenn was a friend of mine—Glenn Youngkin—and worked so hard on cutting taxes.

This woman came in, and in one swoop, she raised everything up higher than it ever was. I don't understand it. I mean, people voted for Democrat. But she came in, and she raised—and I'll work with her like I work with everyone else, but she came into Virginia, raised everything to a point like no—taxes that nobody ever even heard of before.

And I don't understand. How do people get elected with this kind of philosophy? This is only in the very modern age.

You know, I grew up and I've always hear—heard politicians: "We'll cut taxes. We'll cut taxes"—everybody's screaming, "We're going to cut taxes." I cut taxes. I gave you the biggest tax cut in the history of our country in the "Great Big Beautiful Bill": no tax on tips, no tax on Social Security, no tax on overtime. Interest deductions—Roger, when somebody buys a car, they can—

Mr. Penske. Right. [*Inaudible*]

The President. —deduct the interest if they borrow money. That's the biggest thing—

Secretary Duffy. American-made.

The President. —in terms of the car business, right?

Secretary Duffy. American-made ones.

The President. Correct.

So we have—you know, I give tax cuts, and they give tax increases. I don't know how they get elected. They get elected because they cheat, you want to know the truth. If they—

[*Several reporters spoke at once.*]

If they didn't cheat—if they didn't cheat, they'd have no chance. They have horrible policy: transgender for everyone. They have the little thing about open borders so that the world's prison population and mental hospitals can be emptied into our country. It's just a crazy—men playing in women's sports.

Roger, are you a fan of men playing in women's sports? [*Laughter*]

Mr. Penske. No.

The President. Only as a better. You'd like to bet, if you're—

Mr. Penske. No, no betting. [*Laughter*]

The President. Not—you're not a big—you're not a big fan, I don't think so.

Mr. Penske. No. That's for sure.

The President. I have a feeling. I don't want to get him in trouble, but I think he joins the 99 percent of—they say it's an 80/20 issue. I think it's a—

Mr. Penske. Ninety-nine.

The President. It's maybe 99. It's 99/1.

ABC News

Q. Mr. President, why are you suing your own administration and the IRS? Why are you suing—

The President. Who are you with?

Q. I'm with ABC News.

The President. You're a loud person—very loud. Let somebody else have a chance.

Q. Can you answer the question?

The President. Wait a minute. ABC Fake——

Q. Why are you suing IRS?

The President. ABC Fake News.

Q. You're suing

The President. Go ahead.

I didn't call on you.

Q. Can you answer——

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

Q. Right here?

The President. Yes.

Q. Do you think the upcoming talks——

The President. ABC, by the way, is truly one of the worst.

Go ahead.

Russia/Ukraine

Q. Do you think the upcoming talks between Russia and Ukraine stand a chance without—

The President. Yes.

Q. ——U.S. Envoy Witkoff and Jared Kushner there?

The President. I think it's—I think they stand a chance. We've been trying. I've—I have ended eight wars. All of them I thought were going to be maybe tougher than this one. But Zelenskyy and Putin hate each other, and it makes it very difficult. But I think we're getting very close to getting a settlement.

Hundreds of thousands of people, mostly soldiers, have been killed. Last week, they lost 29,000 people—last month, they lost 29,000 soldiers. Can you believe that, fellas? Twenty-nine thousand. You lose one race driver, and it's a big deal. Twenty-nine thousand soldiers in one month, 27,000 the month before.

I think that—yes, I think that we have a good chance of getting it settled.

Yes, ma'am, please.

Senate Confirmation Process

Q. Mr. President, on the Warsh nomination. What—is your strategy for getting past the hold that Senator Tillis has on this process? He said he won't allow, you know, a vote to go through.

The President. Well, that's—you know, that kind of thinking is, why he's no longer a Senator. You know, he's going to be out of office. It's too bad. I always liked Senator Tillis, actually, but he did some things that were not smart and whatever.

I mean, you know, if he doesn't approve, we'll just have to wait till somebody comes in that will approve it, right? So that's it. But I—saw that. He wants to be an obstructionist, but we have a lot of obstructionists. I've had a lot, and we've created the best Presidency maybe ever.

Yes.

Iran/U.S. Military Readiness

Q. Mr. President, on Iran, a follow-up. If Iran doesn't make a deal, is your plan to replicate there what you just did in Venezuela?

The President. I don't want to say that. I don't want to talk—I mean, I don't want to talk about anything having to do with what I'm doing militarily.

But we have a tremendously powerful fleet there. We have the most powerful ships in the world. We have the most powerful military, by far, in the world. We showed that on numerous occasions.

I mean, I rebuilt the military in my term. If I didn't do—you know, I wouldn't, I think, be able to say that. But I rebuilt the military, the entire United States military, in my first term. And now we're building it bigger, better, stronger than ever before. I'm adding to it.

We're adding something called the battleship. You would find this interesting. You know, the old-fashioned, beautiful battleships? And we're adding up to 25 of them. Each battleship is 100 times more powerful than the battleships of the 1940s—those big, powerful ones with the guns—because of what the ships carry. But we're going to build 10, and then we'll see how we like them, and we're going to go and do another 15 after that. Could be up to 25 battleships.

A hundred times more powerful. Can you imagine that? And it's peace through strength. We don't want to use them, but if we have to use them, we will.

[Several reporters spoke at once.]

Chairman of the Federal Reserve System Board of Governors Jerome H. Powell

Q. Mr. President, on the Fed. On the Fed, should the DOJ continue with its investigation into Jay Powell? That seems to be a sticking point for Senator Tillis.

The President. Well, he's got a building that—you know, I build buildings, and I build them under budget, ahead of schedule. I build them, but they're within reason, always. And this is a small, little complex that's costing billions of dollars. Most expensive job per square foot ever built. And it's a little complex. It's a little Fed complex.

I built the hotel on Pennsylvania Avenue, and I built it for around \$200 million, and it's bigger than that. They're spending many times that amount to do a renovation of a building. I've heard numbers as high as \$4 billion—four—\$4 billion to build a building. I could have—I could have renovated that building and fixed it up, made it beautiful for \$25 million. They're going to spend close to \$4 billion on it.

So it's either gross incompetence or it's theft. Somebody's making money, because you can't spend—it's more per square—and you have half a building there. You know, you have the structure, you have the exterior skin that they're not changing much. They're building a building, and they're spending almost—I mean, I'm hearing numbers of between \$3- and \$4 billion. It's the most expensive structure ever built per square foot.

So he's either incompetent, or he or somebody is a crook, and we'll find out.

Q. Do you think Kristi Noem should step down?

Q. Thank you, Mr. President, on Minneapolis. So——

The President. Go ahead. Say it.

Minnesota/Immigration Enforcement Actions/Border Security/Public Safety in the District of Columbia/2024 Presidential Election

Q. On Minneapolis, Governor Tim Walz recently likened the conflict on the ground to Fort Sumter, sort of implying that this is the beginning of a civil war. Do you agree with that characterization? Do you feel like there's a civil war brewing in Minneapolis?

The President. The Governor said that?

Q. The Governor did say that.

The President. Wow. Does he know what Fort Sumter was, or do you think somebody wrote it out for him?

Q. I don't want to speak for him.

The President. No, this is a—I was elected on law and order. I was elected on a strong border.

We had a border that allowed 25 million people to come in. Many were murderers. They murdered people. We had 11,888 murderers. We had prisons, including Venezuela—but Venezuela opened its prisons. So did the Congo. The Congo, in Africa, opened its prisons. They dumped people into our country. Many countries did that. I would have done that, if I were leading a country. I would have dumped the prisoners into our country. We had open borders. We had all these things.

I was elected on law and order. I was elected on the economy. I was elected on a lot of reasons, because when I took over, we inherited a mess. I had—prices were too high. Inflation was the highest it was in 48 years. I say ever, but the media always corrects me by saying it's only 48 years. I think 48 years almost sounds worse.

But when I was elected, I was elected to do a job, and one of the big things I was elected to do is law and order. We now have the lowest crime rate in the history of our country. We have the lowest murder rate in the history of our country. We have Washington, DC, which was a dangerous place to walk, is now a totally safe city. You can walk with your husband or your wife. You can walk with your children right down the middle of the city. Nothing's going to happen.

We did a great job. We have—we had the National Guard. We have soldiers. We have people that nobody is going to mess with. And we've taken out—remember, it's not just that. In Washington, we've removed over 2,000 criminals.

And you know, if you look at the numbers, a very small percentage of your population—2 percent, 3 percent of your population causes 90 percent of the crime. So, when you move a small—it's amazing how that works. But the criminals go over and over and over again. So, 2 to 3 percent of your population can cause over 90 percent of your crime. So it's not that complex.

We moved 2,000 people out of Washington. We brought them back to their countries where they came from. They came through open borders by Sleepy Joe Biden.

And I will tell you, Washington is safe. If you look at New Orleans—as you know, we went there about 4 weeks ago. I was with the mayor of New Orleans last night. He was at the premier, and—she was at the premier. She was great. I believe she's a Democrat. She came over, and she thanked me so much. She said, "Crime is down more than 50 percent in just a few weeks." And

you couldn't even walk down the street in New Orleans, it's so bad. And now they let us in there, and she is thanking me so much, so profusely. She was great last night.

I'd do that. If I were a Democrat, I'd say, "Call Trump and let him do what they do." But we remove people—criminals—from the cities, and they become safe cities.

If you look at Minnesota—Minneapolis—we have crime down there because we took out thousands of people, despite all the mess and everything else. But do these people really want to have rapists, do they really want to have drug dealers and people from prisons and murderers? Do they really want to have them in the community? You know, it's a—it's really insurrectionists and agitators.

And they're paid, and you can tell—a lot of reasons. Number one, they're professionals—you know, with their mouth. But they're also—you look at the signs. The signs are all professionally made. They have signs that are gorgeous. In fact, I want to get the sign, because I'm a big—I need a lot of signs for different things, and I want to find out whoever does their signs. They do a beautiful job.

You know, everybody has this beautiful sign with brandnew wood. It's like leather panels. They have a leather handle on the bottom. These are not people that—these are people that are handed signs. And we know pretty much—we're getting very close to it, but we know pretty much who's funding this stuff. These are paid insurrectionists, paid troublemakers.

But I was elected by a landslide. I won every swing State. I won the popular vote by a lot. I won everything. I won everything, and I was elected by a landslide on law and order and on strong borders.

We had a border that was so bad, so open, where 25 million people came in over a period of 4 years. And now, nobody comes in. Nobody even tries to come in.

And I can only say, I think—we'll say it very plainly: Elections have consequences. The people want law and order. And we have a silent majority. You know, we have a silent majority of people. They don't go and riot and everything else, but they like what we're doing. They like having a safe city.

I get calls every single day—every person I see working in the White House—people I don't know; many people work here—and they say, "I'd like to thank you, sir." "Why?" "You've made Washington so great. We walk to work." They walk to work. You people know it very well. You walk to work now. You used to take an Uber or a taxi or something, and you even felt, like, in danger there.

Every person in his building—I mean, virtually, every time I see somebody, they thank me, because a year and a half ago, they lived in hell, and now they can walk to work, and they're totally safe. Nothing is going to happen.

And if anything did happen, the person that did it would be living in hell for a long period of time.

Thank you very much, everybody. Thank you. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:57 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to National Economic Council Director Kevin A. Hassett; former Gov. Glenn A. Youngkin and Gov. Abigail D. Spanberger of Virginia; President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine; President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin of Russia; and Mayor Helena Moreno of New Orleans, LA. A reporter referred to the President's son-in-law Jared C. Kushner.

Categories: Addresses and Remarks : U.S. motor racing, singing the Executive order celebrating greatness.

Locations: Washington, DC.

Names: Biden, Joseph R., Jr.; Bunting, Luke D.; Burgum, Douglas J.; Campos-Duffy, Rachel; Denker, Claude "Bud," III; Duffy, Sean P.; Hassett, Kevin A.; Meachum, Pete; Moreno, Helena; Penske, Roger S.; Powell, Jerome H.; Putin, Vladimir Vladimirovich; Shanks, Eric; Spanberger, Abigail D.; Tillis, Tomas R.; Walz, Timothy J.; Warsh, Kevin M.; Youngkin, Glenn A.; Zelenskyy, Volodymyr.

Subjects: ABC News; America's 250th birthday celebration; Associate Counsel to the President; Automobile racing; Border security; Department of Transportation Chief of Staff; District of Columbia, law enforcement improvement efforts; Economic improvement; Federal Reserve System; Illegal immigration; Inflation; Interest rates; Iran, political unrest and violence; Louisiana, law enforcement improvement efforts in New Orleans; Minnesota, Governor; Minnesota, immigration enforcement actions; Minnesota, political demonstrations in Minneapolis; National Economic Council; National Guard; Russia, conflict in Ukraine; Russia, President; Secretary of the Interior; Secretary of Transportation; Senate confirmation process; Steel and aluminum, domestic production; Stock market; Tax Code reform; U.S. military readiness, improvement efforts; Ukraine, President; Ukraine, Russian invasion and airstrikes; Venezuela, relations with U.S.; Virginia, Governor.

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