

Remarks During a Document Signing Ceremony and an Exchange With Reporters
April 30, 2026

The President. Well, thank you very much, everybody. We very much appreciate. This is a big afternoon. They all are, in a way, because all of these things that we do are very important.

This afternoon I'm thrilled to sign a historic Executive order expanding access to high-quality retirement savings accounts for millions of Americans.

In my State of the Union earlier this year, I promised to make the same types of retirement accounts enjoyed by the Federal employees available to all Americans, so that's what we're doing. It only seemed fair. It's a tremendous—it's a—really a tremendous situation for all Americans. That was really much—promises made, as I say, promises kept.

I'm thrilled to be joined by incredible people that I know, and they're warriors: Jason Smith—these are Congresspeople—Bryan Steil, Mike Carey, Lloyd Smucker, Bill Huizenga, Ryan Mackenzie, John McGuire, Zach Nunn, Derrick Van Orden, Jeff Crank, Nick Begich, Monica De La Cruz, and Mike Lawler. Warriors, every one of them. They're great people. They fought very hard for what we're about to sign.

And, since my election, the stock market has set 59—this is in a little bit more than a year—59 alltime record highs, adding \$9 trillion in value to, really, the value of our country, if you think about it.

Under 4 years of Biden, the average 401(k) rose at a rate of just \$875 a year. Last year, under Trump, the average 401(k) balance was up \$24,000. So \$875 versus \$24,000. I would say that's pretty good.

Representative William P. Huizenga. [Inaudible] take it.

The President. This is really incredible. The numbers are incredible. The numbers being invested in our country are more incredible than anything. You see it. There are plants being built all over the U.S.A.

We have auto plants, not just AI; AI is doing great. We're leading China by quite a bit. But we have auto plants being built all over the country. They're coming back from Canada. They're coming back from Mexico, Germany, Japan, South Korea. Wherever they build autos, they're coming here. Nobody ever thought they'd see that. The union loves me. You know, I did very well with the autoworkers, but they like me a lot more now than they did when I was just talking about it.

Beginning at the start of next year, every American will be able to go to TrumpIRA.gov and open a new low-cost IRA account. You'll then be able to access the same type of retirement accounts that Federal employees enjoy through the Thrift Savings Plans, which are incredible. As part of the Federal saver's match program, low-income Americans will be eligible to receive up to \$1,000 per year in matching funds deposited directly into their accounts. It's a great thing.

For millions of Americans who lack employer-sponsored plans, this will be really revolutionary, because they'll be covered. Nobody thought that was possible. For example, if a 25-year-old who is eligible for a saver's match program invests just \$165 a month, under the matching Federal contributions, they will have an estimated \$465,000 in their account by the time they're 65 years old. In other words, they'll be rich, and there's something awfully nice about that.

But this is only the first step. I was talking to Kevin Hassett a little while ago and the people standing right behind me. We're going to take it to the next level, and the next level—Kevin, you're going to mention something—but the next level will be necessary to have congressional approval. What you just heard, we don't need congressional approval.

And it will never be terminated, because to terminate it—if somebody else is in office, to terminate it, you'd have to take that money away. You'd have to really take away something that's so positive. I don't think any politician would do it.

But to take it to the next level, we need congressional approval, which should be very easy to get. It should be bipartisan. Normally, it would be bipartisan, but today, nothing's bipartisan. Right? *[Laughter]* I mean, it should be something that everybody supports.

So, Kevin, before we start, maybe you could just explain what we're talking about for the next level.

National Economic Council Director Kevin A. Hassett. Right. So, for the next level, sir, what we're already talking—Chairman Smith and I—about, and they're already—I've been talking with Mr. Smucker about this for a number of years—is that we're going to expand this program that you're creating here, which is for low-income people, to, you know, middle-income people and maybe above as well so that every American—you know, most high-income people have an employer that gives them a 401(k) with a match, but low-income people or Uber drivers or something, they don't have access to that. They don't have access to the match.

What you've done here is you've given the match to low-income people with incomes below \$35,000. But we think that there are a lot of people even who make more than that that don't have any assets for retirement. And so we're working with Congress to significantly expand this program. And we're looking forward for legislation this year to expand this.

The President. And also, the Trump Accounts—you remember, with Michael Dell and Susan and the group that we had—are setting records. The——

Director Hassett. We have 5 million——

The President. The numbers are——

Director Hassett. ——5 million in signups right now, sir.

The President. Five million signups in a short period of time. Far above what we thought even possible. So congratulations to everybody that got that started. Michael Dell put in 6 billion 250 million dollars. That's a lot. He put in a lot of money, and he going to do more too. But they were very responsible.

So I just want to let you know, it's like record—nobody—you are even surprised by that number, I think, right?

Director Hassett. Maybe. *[Laughter]*

The President. He said: "I don't know if we can do that kind"—but it's really way beyond what anyone thought. It's great. And we're going to be doing the same thing, I guess, in a certain way for older people.

Director Hassett. For grownups.

The President. We're going with a plan that if it works—it has to get approved by Congress. But——

Director Hassett. That's right.

The President. ——we think it will get approved. It'd be—it will be fantastic for the country.

Let's go. Will, do you want to start?

White House Staff Secretary William O. Scharf. Yes, sir. Sure.

The President. We have some other things. And we thought we'd let these great people from Congress and beyond or below—I guess I could say that. *[Laughter]*

Staff Secretary Scharf. So, first, sir, this is the IRA Executive order that you just mentioned.

The President. Okay.

Staff Secretary Scharf. This establishes the retirement accounts with the Federal match for eligible people, as you said in your speech and as Kevin explained. This is a big step forward. It's going to provide access to high-quality retirement accounts to a lot of Americans who don't currently have access to such accounts.

[At this point, the President signed an Executive order titled, "Promoting Retirement-Savings Access for American Workers by Establishing TrumpIRA.gov."]

The President. Okay. There it is. That's nice. Great. Thank you very much, everybody.

Maybe we'll do some that aren't associated with this, and then we'll talk about this with the press. You'll ask some questions of the Congresspeople. Okay? Because they were really responsible for this. All right?

Representative Lloyd K. Smucker. Yes.

The President. Who would like to hold that? All right. Good. *[Laughter]*

[The President handed the Executive order to Representative John J. McGuire III.]

Popular guy. *[Laughter]*

Okay. Let's go.

Staff Secretary Scharf. This is a Presidential permit authorizing the Bridger Pipeline, sir. This is a trans-border pipeline similar to the old Keystone XL Pipeline. It will significantly expand our ability to move oil around North America—oil and gas around North America. It's a huge deal in terms of long-term energy dominance and energy security—

[The President signed a permit titled, "Authorizing Bridger Pipeline Expansion LLC To Construct, Connect, Operate, and Maintain Pipeline Facilities at the International Boundary at Phillips County, Montana, Between the United States and Canada."]

The President. Slightly different than the last administration. *[Laughter]*

Staff Secretary Scharf. Very different than the last—*[inaudible]*.

The President. They wouldn't sign a pipeline deal, and we have pipelines going up.

And by the way, they're way underground. They're not a problem. Nobody even knows they're there. It's so crazy. But they wouldn't approve anything having to do with the pipeline, and they're great, as opposed to trucking it or training it. It was—they're great.

A lot of jobs too. A lot of jobs.

Okay. Very good. Next.

Staff Secretary Scharf. This is an Executive order on Federal contracting, sir. Many Federal contracts currently operate on a cost-plus basis. This provides oftentimes weird incentives for contractors, leads to cost overruns, costs the Federal Government a lot of money.

[The President signed an Executive order titled, "Promoting Efficiency, Accountability, and Performance in Federal Contracting."]

What this Executive order does is it establishes a fixed-price contract as the default in most Federal contracts. This aligns the Federal Government with what would typically exist in the private sector, and we believe will continue to drive down fraud and abuse in Federal contracting——

The President. Sound good?

Staff Secretary Scharf. ——Governmentwide.

The President. Would anybody like to object to this? *[Laughter]*

Participant. No, absolutely not.

The President. You're fighting for this one too.

Okay. Thank you. Next.

Staff Secretary Scharf. You previously announced that we were withdrawing Casey Means as the Surgeon General, sir, and appointing Dr. Saphier—or nominating Dr. Saphier in her place.

The President. Good call. Yes.

Staff Secretary Scharf. That, on the left is the withdrawal, which will later be transmitted to the Senate.

The President. Okay.

Staff Secretary Scharf. And on the right is the new nomination form for—for the—our new Surgeon General nominee.

The President. Nicole Saphier. She's with Fox. Was with Fox. Isn't with Fox anymore, Peter *[Peter Doocy, Fox News]*.

But she's great. *[Laughter]* She'll be the Surgeon General. *[Laughter]*

Participant. Well said—*[inaudible]*

Staff Secretary Scharf. I believe she's with Memorial Sloan Kettering in New Jersey, sir. And she's an outstanding doctor.

The President. She is.

[The President signed the withdrawal and nomination documents.]

I just don't know how Biden used the autopen. There's so many—*[laughter]*—really, there's so many things to sign. He'd say, "Here, please take this." It's crazy. *[Laughter]* The whole 4 years was crazy. Okay. Let's not bring it up. *[Laughter]*

She's going to be great. Surgeon General. Thank you.

Staff Secretary Scharf. This is a proclamation declaring this weekend to be National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend.

Representative Derrick F. Van Orden. Awesome.

Staff Secretary Scharf. As you know, firefighters do an incredibly difficult, dangerous job: help keep us all safe. This is a proclamation honoring their sacrifice and remembering those who have fallen in service.

The President. Great.

Rep. Van Orden. That is fantastic.

The President. Everybody likes that.

Rep. Van Orden. You bet.

[*The President signed a proclamation titled, "National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend, 2026."*]

The President. Okay? Firefighters.

Rep. Huizenga. That one deserves a round of applause.

Representative Zachary M. Nunn. Oh, yes.

The President. Okay.

Staff Secretary Scharf. Lastly, sir, this is another proclamation. Your administration, particularly the First Lady, have made foster and adoptive care major priorities.

Rep. Nunn. Thank you.

Staff Secretary Scharf. This is a proclamation declaring National Foster Care Month, honoring those who have participated in foster programs, who have helped raise foster children.

The President. Great.

Staff Secretary Scharf. And speaking about the many things that your administration, including the First Lady's Office, have done on that set of issues.

The President. Yes. It's been a big thing for the First Lady. So this is in honor of our First Lady.

Rep. Nunn. Well said.

Rep. McGuire. I spent time in foster——

Staff Secretary Scharf. That's all, sir.

Rep. McGuire. I spent time in foster care.

The President. Oh, that's great.

Rep. McGuire. Yes.

The President. Yes, that's great.

Rep. McGuire. God is good.

The President. Thank you very much.

Staff Secretary Scharf. Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. So do you have any questions? Maybe we discuss the first signing first. Do you have anything on that?

Q. Mr. President——

Q. Mr. President——

The President. Please.

National Economy/Artificial Intelligence/Domestic Manufacturing Investment/Electricity Capacity

Q. Mr. President, how is this going to help the small-business owners? Do you think this is going to, you know, inspire more people to go into, you know, small businesses that might be reluctant earlier? You know, for IRA—you know, to have their IRA, this is going to, you know, help give them——

The President. Well, I'll tell you, small businesses now are thriving. And, as you know, more people are working right now than at any time in the history of our country. We're doing great. And there's more investment being made in the United States than any country at any time—any time in history.

And a lot of that's AI, and a lot of that's—maybe in a certain way—maybe more importantly auto plants. They're all coming back to our country. They're coming back from different countries where they left us for Germany, as you know, and Japan and South Korea and Canada, Mexico. And they're all coming back at levels that nobody's ever seen before. And tariffs did it. I did it. Maybe the election did it, but tariffs did it. And if they build here, they don't have to pay tariffs.

So we have—Germany is giving—a lot of companies are coming in from Germany, from Japan. Japan just announced \$10 billion more plants going to be built between Toyota and Honda and all the different companies. They're pouring into our country. And South Korea, Canada—they're coming in. I don't know what they're doing, but I can tell you they're coming in tremendously from Canada. There's no reason they—they don't want to pay the tariff. And because of that, they're—so, you know, they're investing at levels never seen before.

We will—you know, for 30 years, we didn't—we virtually didn't build an auto plant in this country, and now we're doing more than we've ever done. So I'm very proud of that.

AI is going wild. We're doing great, and we're letting them build their own electric. But we're actually making them build their own electric plant so they don't take—they take tremendous amounts of energy to have a successful plant. And they're building all of the new ones. They're building their own electric plant like a utility. And any extra they'll either give it or sell it for a good price to local communities and to the grid. So it's going to be fantastic.

But we have tremendous amounts of factories being built in our country now—more than we've ever had at any time ever before. And we have the biggest investment being made in our country—in the history of our country. And by the way, in the history of any country, there's never been a country that has the kind of investment coming in that we have right now.

And these things are being built right now, so you're not going to see the results. I mean, you'll see construction results. You notice the construction workers are through the roof. But when they open, the numbers are going to be staggering.

Do you have a question?

Stock Market/Tax Code Reform/National Economy/U.S. Military Operations in Iran/Venezuela

Q. I certainly do. Thank you, Mr. President. You had some good economic news: GDP, 2-percent growth.

The President. Yes.

Q. New orders for business equipment surged to the highest level in 6 years, and IRS data shows that the average Federal tax return is up by more than 11 percent when you compare it to the same time as last year.

Do you believe that that this is evidence——

The President. It is up over a hundred percent.

Q. Do you believe that this is evidence that the "Big Beautiful" tax cuts that you signed into law last year are working? And do you think the economy is going to continue to hum as the year progresses?

The President. Yes. Thank you.

So the biggest tax cut in history is in the "Great Big Beautiful Bill." And I think—you know, I see it. I actually see it reported where people are shocked at how much money they're making. They can't believe the refunds that they're making: \$5,000, \$6,000, \$7-, \$8-, \$9-. One—one—I saw one last night on television: \$11,000 more than she thought she was going to get. And it's no tax on tips and no tax on overtime, no tax on Social Security for our seniors. No tax on Social—and nobody can believe it even.

And the numbers are far greater than they thought. People that thought they were going to make an extra \$500, turns out they're making an extra \$5,000. So it's been really great, yes. And that's going to carry forward.

I—look, the country's doing really well, and that's despite a military operation. I don't call it a war. *[Laughter]* Would you rather have—a military operation, where, really—I mean, Iran is dying to make a deal. I can only tell you that. I don't want to get into the—but they've got to—they cannot be nuclear, other than that.

But they are—their navy is gone. Their air force is gone. Every ounce of any form of equipment, practically, is gone. You know, their drone factories are about 82 percent down, and their missile factories are almost 90 percent down. And many of their missiles have been knocked out between—they used some, but—and we knocked out more than they used.

And it's pretty amazing what's happened. They want to make a deal.

But despite the fact that we are in what some people would call a war, we just hit a new high today on the stock market. We have—S&P is—is through the roof. They're all—I mean, they're through the roof.

And you know, when we hit 50,000 on the Dow and 7,000 on the S&P, I said to myself: "We've got to do something about Iran. They want to have a nuclear weapon. You can't let them have a nuclear weapon." And I hated to do it to my people, because they said 50,000—Peter, you know this—that 50,000 wouldn't be obtainable in 4—my 4 years or anybody's 4 years. And we hit 50,000 in my first year—the end of my first year.

We hit 7,000 on the S&P. They said that would be even less attainable. And we hit that at the end of the first year, before the year was up. And then I said to Kevin: "Sorry about this, Kevin, but we have to put out a fire, and the fire's taking place in the lovely country of Iran, and they want to have a nuclear weapon."

And if we didn't use this beautiful—see that plane right there, that beautiful B-2 bomber? It looks small there, but it's actually quite large. *[Laughter]* It doesn't look very powerful there, but it's quite—quite large, actually. We ordered—actually, we ordered 25 more of them, the updated version. All built in America, which is very nice. Right?

But if we didn't have that B-2 bomber, if we didn't go in and do what we did—we obliterated that nuclear capacity of theirs. And so, they never—they didn't get the nuclear bomb. If we didn't do that attack—should have been done long before I came along, by other Presidents or by another country or something. But it should have been done long before I came along.

But they are in very bad shape, and they've got nothing going, including leadership. I mean, you know, their leaders are gone. Now they have a whole new—their first-string leaders are gone. Their second-string leaders are gone. Now we're dealing with their third string.

But we'll see what happens. It's been an amazing—it's been an amazing period of time between Venezuela and—where we're doing great. We're getting along with them great. We're working very closely with them. They're doing more oil now than they've done in many, many decades, actually. And they're making more money, and so are we.

You know, we're like—it's like a joint venture, to be honest. And we've paid for the attack many times over. "The attack"—something you've never heard before, probably. I always used to say, "To the victor belong the spoils," but we've paid for the attack, which is always expensive. But it was a less-than-1-day attack. It was actually a 45-minute attack.

And that's a good—you know, they have good military in Venezuela, but this——

[*The President pointed to models of military aircraft.*]

They did not expect that and that and that and that. Other than that—[*laughter*].

But when these suckers come at you at 2,500 miles an hour at 25 feet off the ground, you say: "This is not what I bargained for. This was no good." [*Laughter*]

Q. So, Mr.——

The President. Anyway, so—and now—you know, Venezuela was amazing, but now we're doing essentially—it's larger, but we're doing essentially the same thing in Iran. We can't let Iran have a nuclear weapon.

And their economy is crashing. The blockade is incredible. The power of the blockade is incredible. They're not getting any money from oil. And hopefully, it can be worked out very soon.

Yes.

Iran/U.S. Diplomatic Engagement

Q. I have a—Iran is proving to be very stubborn. The talks seem like they are stalled. Are you getting antsy to break the cease-fire?

The President. Well, I mean, I don't know what stubborn is, because really know nobody knows what the talks are except myself and a couple of other people. They want to make a deal badly.

We have a problem, because nobody knows for sure who the leaders are. It's a little bit of a problem. You know? The leaders have been wiped out, along with their military—almost all of their military. I mean, think of it: 159 ships was their total navy. One hundred and fifty-nine ships are gone. They're underwater. They're way below sea level. Sea level is big difference. Pretty deep waters over there too.

So I don't know that we need it. We might need it. We might need it.

Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup

Q. And, on Iran, a little while ago, the president of FIFA said that when the World Cup is here in the U.S., the team from Iran will be playing in the games.

The President. Well, if Gianni said it, I'm okay. [*Laughter*] Are you talking about——

Q. What——

The President. Did Gianni say it?

Q. He did. What if they win?

The President. Gianni Infantino. That's a piece of work. [*Laughter*]

Q. What if they win?

The President. Well, if they win, we'll have to worry about that. That's not—I'm going to have to worry about that one. That would not be good.

Look, you know what? Let them play well. Gianni is fantastic. You know, he's a friend of mine. And he talked about it. I said: "You do whatever you want. You can have them. You don't have to have them."

Probably have a good team. I don't know. Do they have a good team? Do you have any idea?

Q. I have no idea. [*Laughter*]

The President. Would be hard to believe, actually. [*Laughter*] But I think let them play. Right?

Reported Return of the "Apprentice" Television Program

Q. Just want to—this is—this is a little bit different, but what is your take on these reports that your show, the "Apprentice," is going to come back—could come back on Amazon with host Donald Trump, Jr.?

The President. Wow. Well, I've been hearing it. Look, we had a great success: 14 seasons. And the "Apprentice" was a tremendous success. So I've been hearing that, yes, a little bit. So we'll see what happens.

He's good—he's a good guy. He'd be probably good. He's got a little charisma going. You need a little charisma for those suckers, right? [*Laughter*] So we'll see what happens.

Yes, they told me about it. We'll see. It's early.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. Yes.

Security Incident at the White House Correspondents' Association Dinner/White House Ballroom Construction/Democratic Party

Q. There's been some talks about changes to your security after what took place on——

The President. Changing my security.

Q. ——changing your security after what took place on Saturday night.

The President. Well, they did a pretty good job, actually. You know, they stopped—they—NFL running back. I mean, he was like a running back. In fact, if he ever got out, they're probably going to sign him. He was a speedy guy. But he was stopped. And they had many levels in front of him before he would even come close.

You know, you could be a baseball team and win 19 to nothing, and somebody could say: "You should have won 21. You should have gotten 25 runs. The team was no good," or something. So I don't know.

I can only say that I know a lot of those people at Secret Service, and they were—they were good and they were forceful. And I saw the guys in front of me. They were powerful-looking guys. I said: "We could send them to Hollywood. They could make—they could make movies."

I think that there's always room for improvement. Right? And he got into the building. The problem is that the—I know—that's what I do. I build buildings like that, you know? Much nicer, actually, but I build buildings like that. [*Laughter*] And you know, when you have a thousand

rooms sitting on top of a ballroom and you have the elevators coming down right near the entrance, it's a pretty tough situation.

Now, right outside, we have something that's on time, on budget—actually, ahead of time and ahead of budget, depending on finishes. You know, finishes—there's a big difference between marble and onyx in price. But it's right on budget, right on time. And that's built to the highest standards of security. No units on top, no hotel built on top, where an elevator comes right down through the middle of it.

It's a tough location. It's a—that's a tough location.

So I think the—I know the people at Secret Service. I think they're great. And I think that Congress has to take care of those people. You know, they—we're talking about ICE, we're talking about Border Patrol, Secret Service, everyone.

It's—the Democrats essentially want to defund the police, just so you know.

Participant. That's right.

The President. They want to defund law enforcement. It's crazy. These people have gone crazy.

I heard Hakeem Jeffries, a low-IQ person—he has a very low IQ—screaming today that the Supreme Court is illegitimate. I mean, that's a dangerous statement. Then if I say something modest, they say: "Oh, he's a king. He's a king." And the—they're sick.

But Hakeem Jeffries said the Supreme Court is illegitimate. That's a rough statement. If I made that statement, it would be the biggest story out there. Bad things would happen.

Yes, please.

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

Go ahead.

Gasolines Costs

Q. Just the average price of a gallon of gas is now \$4.30——

The President. It's all right. Yes.

Q. ——in this country. What does this do——

The President. And you know what?

Q. ——to the very people——

The President. And we're not going to have a nuclear weapon in the hands of Iran.

Q. But what—what does this——

The President. The gas will go down. As soon as the war is over, it will drop like a rock. There's so much of it. It's all over the place, sitting all over the oceans of the world. And it will be—it will go down.

But what won't happen is, if Iran had a nuclear weapon and used it, then the whole world is a different place. You're not——

Q. What about the midterms?

The President. ——going to have to pay a little bit more——

Q. Impact on Republicans in——

The President. —for gasoline.

Q. —the midterms?

The President. The gasoline—the oil will go down rapidly as soon as the war is over.

[Several reporters spoke at once.]

Q. Can I follow up? Can I follow up what—

The President. Brian [Brian Glenn, Real America's Voice].

Q. —I was going to ask you about?

Q. Good to see you again, sir.

The President. Brian, go ahead.

Tax Code Reform

Q. I've got two questions. First, I want to follow up on Daniel's [Daniel Baldwin, One America News Network] question. I've described you as the peacemaker. You're achieving peace around the world. Due to these latest policies—"Big Beautiful Bill," no tax on tips, no tax on Social Security, no tax on overtime, now the Trump Accounts, and then the retirement—the IRA account—could we describe you as the wealth maker?

The President. Well, I'm helping people out. I—that's a nice question, actually, but I'm helping people out. These people are with me. You know, these are great people. And feel free to speak up if you'd like, because they wanted this to happen, and we got it done.

And they're Republican people, I think, in all cases, right? [Laughter] In all cases? This—it's crazy we have to—we need—like, always unanimous because the Democrats, they will vote against anything, no matter how good. If they had their favorite thing in the world and we happened to want it—but we found a new strategy. We're going to oppose every single thing that we want, and we'll get unanimous votes. [Laughter]

Q. That works.

The President. So I'm going to come up and oppose everything, Brian, from this point forward, and they'll vote for it.

Go ahead.

Q. Good plan.

U.S. Space Force/The President's Foreign Policy

Second question. You created Space Force on—

The President. Yes.

Q. —the second end—towards the end of your first administration.

The President. Right.

Q. You just had the Artemis II crew in here. I know it's a big accomplishment. What do you see moving forward the duration of your administration in terms of space exploration? I know that was a big moment for you.

The President. Well, doing Space Force was—I think it's going to go down as one of my more important things. It's turning out—even a lot of these great military operations that we have right now. When you look at Venezuela, when you look at, like, the decimation of Iran, which it

was considered powerful. It was the bully of the Middle East. And a lot of that took place so effectively because of what's coming out of space.

When we did Space Force—when I did Space Force—I'm very proud of it—space was like—we were third. China was first. Russia was second. Now we're—we've leapfrogged. We're way ahead of China. We're way ahead of Russia. And we made some great choices.

The first person that headed Space Force—and, really, after that we had a couple of really great people heading it—very—always very important. And a new person is heading it now. I think he could—has a chance to be as good as anybody. As good as—maybe better. I don't know. But we've had great people heading up Space Force.

It's been very important. It's been very important for what we're doing with respect to the different places. And, as far as peace, I settled eight wars, and people try and dispute it, but then they go over them. And almost in every case, they sent letters thanking me and letters to the Nobel Committee. I don't care about that.

I've—María was very nice. She gave me her Nobel Peace Prize because she said she didn't deserve it. She was very, very nice.

But I settled eight wars, and in every case, the people—the Prime Ministers or Presidents—wrote letters thanking me. And in the case of India, I—look, the biggest one would've been Pakistan-India. The Prime Minister of Pakistan said I saved from 30 to 50 million lives, but it could have been more than that. Two nuclear nations were going at it. Eleven airplanes were shot down. They were in the first week of what would have been a very bad war, and I got it solved.

You know how I got it solved? By the use of tariffs. I said: "I'm going to charge you Tariffstariffs if you guys keep fighting." And they said, "Oh, please don't do that."

Tariffs/Whiskey

Q. You just lifted on tariffs, right? On—you just lifted some tariffs on whiskey? Is that correct?

The President. Yes, what I'm doing is—for as long as I've been here, they've wanted to—you know, Kentucky, which is a great place, and we're—I also won, Jason, by a lot. [*Laughter*]

But Kentucky, with the bourbon, and Scotland, with the whiskey, and—they've had trade for years and years and years. And a lot of restrictions—a lot of different restrictions took place that didn't amount to much. And it really stopped them.

I don't know if you know, it's a barrel trade. They use the barrels from the one to take care of the other. And the barrels are only good for one unit. In other words, they can't be used twice. They can only be used once. But the once makes—it makes it a better substance. I'm not a big drinker, so forgive me. [*Laughter*] But it makes them a big substance and a better—a better taste.

But they dealt for years. This was Scotland and Kentucky. Mostly Kentucky. And I took—I just took all the restrictions off so Scotland and Kentucky can start dealing again. And I did it in honor of the King and Queen, who just left. They're heading back. It was a big deal. They've been trying to get this for a long time.

[*Several reporters spoke at once.*]

Europe/U.S. Troop Deployments/Ukraine/U.S. Security Assistance/Iran

Q. You talked about—you talked about possibly pulling out some troops of Germany. Would you be considering the same thing for Spain and Italy? I mean, they haven't been exactly on board as well.

The President. Yes, probably. Yes, I probably will. Why should I—you know, look, why shouldn't I? Italy has not been of any help to us. And Spain has been horrible. Absolutely horrible. You know, it's NATO.

It's not even the fact that they're bad. It's one thing if they said nicely or they said, "Okay, we'll help, but the help is a little slow." But the level—and we helped them with Ukraine. You know, they made a mess out of Ukraine—a total mess. And we helped them with Ukraine. Ukraine has nothing to do—you know, we have—we're an ocean apart. It has to do with them. It's like, for them, it's their front door. We helped them, and Biden gave them \$350 billion, which was insane. It's one of the reasons the war went on. But when we needed them, they were not there. We have to remember that.

And so, if we ever have a big one—because we didn't need any help with Iran. We had Iran—right from the first day, it was over. It was over. And now it's even more so. We're so locked and loaded if we want to do. But we didn't need their help.

And to a certain extent, I asked them—I didn't need the help, but I said, "Yes, we'd love to have you help," because I wanted to see if they'd do it. And they—in all cases, they said, "We don't want to get involved."

And you know, the amazing thing is, they use the Strait of Hormuz. We don't. We don't use it. We don't need it. We have a lot of oil.

Q. Would you——

The President. Well, wait a minute.

Q. Oh, sorry.

The President. And they use it. We don't. And you would have thought they would have said, "We would love to help you." But they didn't, which I think was a very—and Germany—I mean, he's doing a terrible job. He's got immigration problems, he's got energy problems, he's got problems of all kind. And he's got a big problem with Ukraine, because they're in that mess. And he criticized me for doing the whole thing with Iran. But I said: "Would you like to have a nuclear weapon in the hands of Iran?" He said, "No, I don't." I said, "Well, then, I guess I'm right." He didn't have any answer to that.

The bottom line is, for this world, for our country, but certainly for Israel, the Middle East, and Europe—much closer—you cannot let Iran have a nuclear weapon.

And if you agree that Iran can't have a nuclear weapon—which most people agree, almost everybody—it should have been done a long time ago. But if you agree they can't have a nuclear weapon, then what I did has been executed perfectly, because our military has decimated them.

Yes, please. Go ahead.

Iran/U.S. Diplomatic Engagement

Q. Mr. President. Two questions for you. Elina Shirazi from the Daily Mail. You have called this the new regime before in Iran. But I speak to Iranians on a daily basis, and they tell me that these are the same people that have murdered them, executed them, repressed them. I talked to them through the blackout and they wanted me to ask you this question.

And, second of all, Secretary of State Marco Rubio—how come he's not involved in these conversations?

The President. He is. No, he's very much involved. Marco is very, totally—he's negotiating with them all the time.

No, look, Iran killed 42,000 people over the last 2 months—protesters. They were going to kill eight women whose lives I saved. And I appreciate that they didn't do it. I asked them not to do it. They didn't do it.

They were getting ready to hang the women. They were going to hang eight beautiful women that were—just caught the imagination of a lot of people. People were talking about it. You know, it was inconceivable. You saw those eight beautiful people, and they were going to be executed that evening. This was a week ago. And I got on the phone very quickly, and I said: "Don't do it. Don't do it. The whole world is watching. Don't do it."

And they didn't do it. I appreciated it. I guess four were released and the other four are going to be released in a month. They were ready to be executed that night.

So they take a tough—you know, they knocked out—the wrestler, they killed. They killed the wrestler's teammates. He was a—he was a world champion wrestler too. He was a great wrestler—great, talented wrestler. They killed him because he protested. He spoke. He didn't—he wasn't wrestling. What he did is, he spoke negatively about the regime, and they killed him. They executed him along with his friends. They killed 42,000 people.

So, when you say about they say that I do the same, I don't do the same. I'm trying to—I'm trying to save that country, in a certain way. And nobody's ever seen anything like—think of it. They killed 42,000 innocent, not weapon-carrying people, for protesting—42,000. And the number, they say, is a lot higher than that. It's a rough group, but we have decimated them. And their economy is a disaster. So we'll see how long they hold out. We'll see.

Yes.

Q. Mr. President——

[Several reporters spoke at once.]

Golf/Tournament Structure

Q. President Trump, Saudi Arabia is pulling the plug on LIV Golf.

The President. Yes.

Q. Once that tour is gone, do you think the PGA Tour should welcome the defectors back with open arms? *[Laughter]*

The President. Well, I do. It's a great question. In fact, if I had time, I'd love to watch television today because the PGA Tour is playing at Doral, the Cadillac Championship. *[Laughter]* And I said, "Who's winning?" I don't get a chance—I can't even look at it.

Q. Jordan Spieth was in the lead earlier.

The President. Who is?

Q. Jordan Spieth.

The President. Oh, that's good. He's good. Great guy. Good putter, to put it mildly, right? *[Laughter]* He's a very great guy. Chipper, putter.

No, it's—they're at my tournament right now, the PGA. In 2 weeks, LIV is going to be at my course right here on the Potomac. No, I'd love to see LIV, but I do believe that all of the golfers should be playing—the great golfers should be playing against each other. I do believe. You know, it's sort of—they were viewing something as a monopoly, but it's a way—in a way, it should be the opposite of a monopoly.

All—I want to see Rory playing Bryson DeChambeau. I want to see big Jon Rahm playing Scottie, who is so great, right? Scott. Scottie Scheffler is great. And I want to see him play Jon Rahm and Bryson and all the different guys. They have great players on the LIV, but it's almost like people want to see that. That's why the Masters were so good, because you saw everybody together.

Patrick Reed played great. You know, he's on LIV, and he played great. And they all did. They all played, and they're great players. I play with them. They're very good.

When I think I'm a good player and then I play with them, I don't think I'm that good. [Laughter] You know? But there's something nice about all of the players playing together.

No, they'll all be accepted by the Tour. There's no—because they're great. If they weren't, you know—but the Tour really will—the Tour wants to have the best player. You can't have the best player that they're boycotting.

Now, they may do something, you know, a little bit. But they'll all be back on Tour, and it will be great. And, you know, having one to—now, I don't know that—what's happening with LIV. I'm not sure what's happening with LIV. But they are playing at my course in 2 weeks on the Potomac—beautiful course. But right now, they're playing at Doral, which I own. And if I ever—if we end this early, I'll be able to watch for about 3 minutes before—[laughter]—I get back onto the economy and every other subject that we have, including Iran.

We're doing so well with Iran. So I think so.

Yes, please. Yes.

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

Q. Thank you so much, Mr. President. Jennifer Schonberger with Yahoo Finance. Question on clarification of the Trump IRAs versus a regular IRA.

The President. Right.

Q. Does it come down to the difference of a Federal match? Who would qualify for that? And secondly, do you have any reaction to Federal Reserve Chair Jay Powell staying on the Board of Governors? Were you prepared to take any action on the front?

The President. No. I don't care if he—if he stays on, he stays on. That doesn't—I just wanted to make sure that Kevin became the head.

It's very unusual that they stay on. You know, I predicted he would, because, you know, who's going to hire him, frankly. [Laughter] So I predicted he would stay on. But you know, he's a negative—I think he's a negative force.

The thing that angered me about him more than interest rates was the fact that he could allow a building to cost billions of dollars more than it was supposed—I could have built that building—I could have renovated and fixed that building—which is what I do; I always did well with it—for \$25 million. They're going to spend maybe \$4 billion.

It's not even close to being opened. You know, Kevin, who is going to be fantastic, I don't know if he's going to have an office. I'm going to have to put him right here. [Laughter] I'm going to give him—[laughter]. We'll cut the Oval in half. I'll give him half of the Oval. [Laughter]

No, it's a—I think—I'm very happy about Kevin. I think Kevin's—he's a star.

And the other Kevin, we're going to talk to you, could you answer her question?

Director Hassett. Yes, sure. It's a great question. And the match is a superimportant part of it, and it's one reason why we're calling on our friends here to potentially expand it so that—right

now, the match is capped at \$35,000. But there's a whole academic literature that this match has a big effect on people's willingness to save and their long-run welfare.

And so the differences really are the match. We're creating the TrumpIRA.gov website, so it will be really, really easy for people to have access to private companies that have to follow the TSP rules that are really low cost and so on, so that they'll get the best possible investment.

And finally, you've noticed that Michael Dell has given money—promised money for the Trump Accounts. We've also made it clear that in the Trump IRA, charities can contribute to other people's accounts as well.

Q. And I imagine this will boost the stock market and the economy further?

Director Hassett. It will, yes.

The President. Do you want to mention phase two? We're doing phase one today because I can do that without Congress, but phase two is going to be something—would be unbelievable. Do you want to just give it a little summation?

Director Hassett. Sure.

The President. We'll be going back to Congress to ask for this.

Director Hassett. Right. So the basic headline is that if you look at the huge success of Australia in their retirement savings accounts, that we're working with the Treasury Secretary, he and I, and Jason Smith and other Members of Congress to come up with something that's pretty close or in the direction of the Australian system.

The President. Or better. [*Laughter*] We have some, you know——

Director Hassett. Or better. But——

The President. No, they had a couple of little glitches that we'll get rid of.

Director Hassett. But there's absolutely no contemplation of harming Social Security in any way. This is meant to be an add-on for that.

The President. It will be very exciting. It's going to be great. We'll be pretty quick. We'll be pretty fast. We're going to move pretty fast.

[*Several reporters spoke at once.*]

Missing Nuclear Scientists

Q. Mr. President, something—something that we talked about—something that we talked about a couple weeks ago. There's all these missing scientists who had access to classified material. They have—a bunch of them have turned up either—they're either missing or they have turned up dead. Have you been briefed yet about whether or not these cases are connected?

The President. Yes, I have.

Q. And can you tell us if they are connected?

The President. Well, so far, I mean, they're individual. We have a lot of scientists, so when you see—you know, you put together 10, it's a lot, but it's, you know, a very small number compared to what—overall. We have a lot of scientists. I was asking that question. We have thousands—hundreds of thousands of scientists.

So, you know, some of them that we looked at are very sad cases, in some cases. Some were sick. Some left this Earth self-inflicted. Some had other things. So, so far, it's—there's not a major—you know, there—sometimes there's a little bit of a connection anyway, and you say,

"Oh, this is—this is a terrible thing." But so far, we're finding that there's not much of a connection.

We'll let you know. We're going to be doing a full report on it. It's very serious stuff.

Security Incident at the White House Correspondents Association Dinner

Q. I just want to follow up—follow up on my question earlier. Have you been informed if the Secret Service agent who was shot on Saturday, if that was from friendly fire or if it was from the suspect?

The President. Well, they say it was not friendly fire.

Q. So you're hearing that it's from——

The President. Well, that's what I heard. I mean, I heard that. They said it wasn't friendly fire, yes.

Q. Okay. And——

The President. They're—it was actually reported. Do you read the reports? Because it was actually reported yesterday?

Q. Yes, sir. I read through the DOJ memo about this.

The President. Yes. Well, then why do you ask me the question?

Q. I don't believe it said that the agent was struck by——

The President. I'm just saying, they said it wasn't friendly fire, meaning it——

Q. And he hasn't been charged yet.

The President. ——wasn't us.

The President's Personal Security

Q. Okay. And he hasn't been charged yet with that. Of course, that could come.

I want to follow up on the security changes. Is there talks about you potentially wearing a bulletproof vest moving forward, given you have now been shot at so many times?

The President. I don't know if I can handle looking 20 pounds heavier. *[Laughter]* You know, these guys, they look so—some of these guys—some of these guys are physical specimens. Some of these guys that travel with me, I say, "Get him away from me."

Q. That's good to know.

The President. "I don't want to be near him."

No, if you—if you—well, if you want to gain 20 to 25 pounds, get a—vest and live. Frankly, the vest did an amazing job, because it took a bullet close up. And he didn't even want to go to the hospital. I mean, we sent him to the hospital just in case, but he didn't want—you know, it's still a hit, but he didn't want to go to the hospital. It—the vest totally protected him.

Still a lot of power behind that shot, though. That's like getting hit by Mike Tyson. But it's amazing.

I've been asked about that, and I guess it's something you consider. In one way, you don't like to do it because you're giving into a bad element, and so——

Participant. That's right.

The President. I don't know. But I have been asked about it.

Q. How nervous are you about it happening again, another assassination attempt?

The President. I don't think about it.

Q. You don't think about it at all?

The President. If I did, I wouldn't be doing a very good job here. I'd be thinking about nothing but that. I don't think about it.

Q. Are there any——

The President. I really don't. I don't think about it.

Q. Sorry. Are these——

The President. If I did, I wouldn't be effective.

Okay. Brian.

Senate Filibuster Use/Election Reform/Democratic Party/U.S. Supreme Court/News Media/U.S. Military Operations in Iran

Q. Mr. President, real quick one. You pushed on Social—Truth Social calling on Senate Republicans to "blow up" the filibuster.

The President. Ah, they should.

Q. It is a big issue with MAGA. MAGA wants you to get rid of it.

The President. They should do it.

Q. Why don't they do it?

The President. Why don't they do it?

Q. I don't know.

The President. I have no idea. *[Laughter]*

You know why? I guess because they have three or four that are, like, hardline. The same ones. Same ones that are hardline "no" to everything, and you don't have all of them. You know, we have a very small majority.

John Thune is a good man. I said to him: "John, just go take a vote. Let's expose who the people are."

But you know, if we got rid of the filibuster, we could vote on the SAVE America Act, voter ID.

[The President addressed Mr. Glenn.]

You know, you act so good. I love this guy.

He's a great guy. Even though I don't love his girlfriend too much. Okay? *[Laughter]* I won't tell you who the girlfriend is, but I like him. And I've always liked him. It's great——

Q. Thank you. I'm actually curious——

The President. It's great that he hasn't changed. He's still——

Q. I'm the same man.

The President. Brian, I think here's the problem: It's not even imaginable to me why, and people are angry about it. People are angry. I'm talking about Republicans are angry about it. The filibuster should be terminated.

If the Democrats ever get a shot—which probably, based on history, sometime they will—they will use it in the first minute of the first hour, and they will execute all of the bad things: 21 justices—you know, they really like 21. I heard 13, but they really want 21 Supreme Court justices. And they really want to have DC and Puerto Rico become States.

That would mean automatic four Senators go into the Democrat column. And there's not even a chance that they don't do it and do it immediately. Now, with that knowledge, because you could argue whether it's good or bad, but not—I don't think it's that much of an argument, frankly. But you could argue. With that knowledge that they're going to do it immediately, why wouldn't you do it as a Republican? Unless you have bad motives, almost.

But if we did it, we could pass one bill after the other. We could pass laws and acts and things that we never even dreamt of passing. And you know what else? We wouldn't lose for 50 years. You know, if we passed—if we terminated the filibuster, we would have a 50-year run. You'd stop cheating. I mean, look, they're professional cheats, and they're great at it. That's what they're best at. Because you can't get elected with their policy.

You can't get elected with men in women's sports, with transgender mutilization of our children, with open borders for jails to be dropped into our country and mental institutions and drug dealers and murderers.

Think of it: 11,888 murderers come into our country. Nobody even talks to them about it. Right? We got a lot of them out because of—you know why? Because of ICE, which they don't want to—they don't want to fund. They're defunding our police. When they defund ICE and with Border Patrol and Secret Service, they're defunding our police. The same thing as they're doing with an officer on the street corner.

So why the Republicans—Senate—doesn't just sit in there and just do it and take a negative vote and do it again and again, like the Democrats do. They go again and again. The War Power—I'm negotiating a deal with Iran, and every week, every 3 days they put in a thing that the war should stop and the—and people ask me: "How the hell do you negotiate like that? You're destroying them."

Every day I read—think of it: We militarily decapitated the country. And every way—day I read about how well they're doing militarily. They've got nothing left. They're done. And yet, I read in the New York Times, I see on that stupid CNN, which I only watch because you have to watch a little bit of the enemy, so I watch it for a very short period. But you have to. You don't—you have to be smart.

And if you see CNN, you'd think they're winning the war. If you read the New York Times, it's actually seditious, in my opinion. If you read the New York Times, you actually think they're winning the war. You—I read some of these columnists and—but it all starts from the top. It's a terrible thing.

So we're negotiating with them, and they read how well they're doing. And they're sitting in a cave, and all their leaders are dead. Everyone is dead around them. Missiles are all over the place. They have no navy. They have no air force. They have no nothing. We can fly right over the middle of Tehran without being shot at because they have no anti-aircraft. They have nothing, and they're reading that they're winning the war. [Laughter] They're trying to figure it out. They get the New York Times, I guess, in some form, and they think we're crazy.

But you know, I'm supposed to be negotiating. And they make you negotiate from weakness, not strength, but the difference is, I don't care. And everybody knows the facts. We are decimating that country.

I got a call today from another country that's more on our side than that Middle Eastern country, saying: "Sir, please don't hit them anymore. They're decimated. Please." He's actually helping them. He's actually saying, "Please." And yet, the New York Times will tell you that they're winning the war. It's so sad. I hate to even say that because, when I say that, people out watching, they'll say, "Oh, maybe they'll win," just by the fact that I'm saying it. *[Laughter]*

And it is so ridiculous. They're being decimated. We have the greatest military in the world.

Rep. Nunn. Yes, we do.

The President. And one thing that's come out of this and Venezuela, some of the things that have happened—I rebuilt the military in my first term——

Rep. Nunn. Thank you.

The President. ——and did a good job. And also, the first year of this term—we have the greatest military in the world. When I spoke with President Xi, when I spoke with President Putin, they have great respect for what I've done and what our military does. We have a military like no other.

You know, when we attacked Venezuela, their equipment—none of it worked. It was all good equipment, but it was discombobulated. You know what that means. They pressed the buttons and nothing happened. They said, "What the hell is going on?" They heard that weird buzzing sound from way up high. *[Laughter]*

Q. Mr. President, do you——

The President. It's amazing how great our military is. And for us to read——

It's like the B-2 bombers right there. Late at night, 8 months ago, they went into Iranian territory, and Iran was waiting for them. And they were firing at the wrong targets. They were firing at their planes, but they were—they didn't see them. And with no Moon, dark at night, they dropped—each plane had two bombs. Fourteen bombs. Every one of those 14 bombs went right down an air chute.

Rep. Nunn. That's awesome.

The President. Think of it. They followed the beam right into the chute. And every single one of those bombs—very powerful, 200,000-pound bombs—every one of those bombs went right down an air chute. Late at night—think of it—late at night with no Moon. You couldn't see a thing. They put those and they went into territory. All of a sudden—I was watching—they got faster. Then they go like that because the bombs go faster when they head down. I wouldn't want to head down. I'd head up. *[Laughter]* I'd want to get the hell out of there. And they let the bombs go.

And then the first one that let them go was a perfect hit. He said, "Skedaddle." And that plane turned over on its sides, and it went back to a place called Missouri. *[Laughter]* If you don't mind, Jason.

Representative Jason T. Smith. God's country. *[Laughter]*

The President. Huh? It went back. It wanted to say hello to a very powerful Congressman, by the way, from Missouri. Jason.

So every one of those bombs. And yet, before they landed, CNN came out with a report that maybe the damage wasn't that great. The damage was far greater than we said. It was obliteration. And when the Atomic Energy Commission went there 1 week later, they say: "Trump was right. It was obliteration."

And they still haven't been—they've had possession of the site for—they haven't been able to do anything with it. It's—that stuff is buried. And the reason I took such—I was angry about it was because it's disrespectful to those pilots and those incredible people, including the people that maintained the planes. Those planes had to fly for 37 hours without stopping. They got the tankers. They had three tanker lifts, meaning they had to get—refuel up in air. They never landed. They went all the way from Missouri to here and then back.

Some went to Guam, which—there were those who'd say that was a way of camouflaging the whole thing—[*laughter*]—because they followed the ones that—they thought the ones from Guam were not coming. They were going to take—take it easy at Guam. That didn't work out too well. But that was amazing.

And the New York Times and CNN, they said: "Well, maybe the B-2 attack wasn't so great." Even to this day I hear it, because we want to get the nuclear dust. It's way down there. You need excavators and everything to get it, but we want to get it. We'll take it one way or the other. We'll get it. We'll either get it or we'll take it. They'll either give it to us or we'll take it.

But I think it's very disrespectful to our incredible military when they say, "Maybe they missed the target." Every single bomb hit the target. Then, on top of that, we shot from submarines 30 unbelievable missiles that also hit the target on top of that. It was complete obliteration, and that was confirmed by Atomic Energy.

But even the other day I saw on CNN: "Well, I don't know. They want the stuff, so therefore the bombs didn't hit." Yes, we want the stuff. It's way buried, but we want to get it. We will get it. It won't even be hard. But they have to respect our military. They have to.

If it were a miss, I'd tell you. You know, it'd be fine. It would have done a lot of damage. But this was—these bombs went down the air chutes. They'll never build air chutes again in a mountain. [*Laughter*] You know, they built these air chutes to get a little air up there. They'll have to find a different way because it didn't work.

But our military is amazing. There's never been anything like—we have the most powerful military on Earth, and it's too bad we have to use it. But we're doing really well. So we'll see how that all works out.

Thank you very much, everybody.

Q. The tile looks beautiful, Mr. President. The tile looks gorgeous.

The President. Oh, yes. How do you like the new floor?

Participant. Looks good.

The President. So we had all—what I do best is build. That's what I do best. I think—I say to people: "Am I a better builder or politician?" And most of them say politician, but that's okay. [*Laughter*]

What I do best is, I build. The ballroom will be just like that. So I went out and I have a special black granite. Granite is the most powerful stone there is. Marble is much weaker than granite. I like marble more because marble can be more beautiful, but it's a much weaker stone.

When you look at gravesites and you look at a marble plaque a hundred years old, you'll see—oftentimes, you can almost not read it. When you look at a granite plaque a hundred years old, it looks like it just got put there yesterday. You know, that's a test. But we have the finest granite anyone has ever seen. It's called "flawless" granite. There's very little of it.

And I replaced broken slate that was put here many years ago. I saved the ramp because it's in honor of FDR. FDR. Right up there. He had that built as a ramp. I—they said, "Oh, sir, we'll

straighten it." I said, "No, you have to leave the ramp." It was built—that ramp was built for FDR, with the wheelchair, because, you know, it's not—it's a pretty good slope. But a lot of people say, "Why is it a ramp?" I say, "Because of FDR." They say, "Ah, I get it."

But we saved that. But we replaced the broken slate. It was—and it's—slate, by the way, is meant for a roof. It's not meant for a sidewalk. And we replaced it with granite, the highest grade granite. It's valued at—you know, they value stones in terms of—that's valued at 1 million plus. That means 1 million-plus years. A marble will oftentimes be valued at 200 years, 300 years.

Just giving you a little lesson in stone. Somebody will say, "He went off on a tangent." [Laughter] "There's something wrong." Like I did with the pen. I gave you a little thing on the pen, that that pen is better than the one that costs \$2,000 that you're handing to everyone. [Laughter]

See, this one, I can hand to these guys. That's worth three bucks. Okay? [Laughter]

Participant. That's right.

The President. Maybe five. So, anyway——

But I always——

Q. Mr. President, do you still——

The President. I always felt guilty—but they said, "He went off on a tangent about that."

If—I always say—I always say——

White House Renovation Projects

Q. Did the King—did the King love it?

The President. ——if you don't find it interesting, leave during the—[laughter]—but the granite—in fact, if you can, let them leave through that door. It's just completed. We had it completed for King Charles.

Q. Do you—did he love it?

The President. On time. On budget. I paid for it. So, you know, it's very expensive, I will tell you.

Q. Does he love this? Does he love all this new stuff?

The President. He loved it. He loved it. And he's seen some nice stonework.

Q. The Trump renaissance. This is a Trump renaissance here in DC.

The President. Well, we're fixing the White House.

Q. Mr. President, what about——

The President. But it was—it was sort of terrible. People would walk to the Oval Office over broken slate. Again, slate is used on roofs; it's not used where people walk on it. And it's been walked on for a long time—you know, many, many broken pieces. So I said to do it right.

Now, the other thing I did, if you want to have a look: All of the columns, they had 200 years of paint on them.

Q. Wow.

The President. And they looked terrible. And you know, they were chipped and broken, and when you have a lot of paint——

And I stripped the columns back down to the original stone and painted them, and you'll see it. But you may want to—that—final touches. Little touchup here with the paint. Got a little hit by a couple of these heavy stones. You know, they're very heavy. Thick. It's thick granite. But that granite is valued at over a million years. In other words, a lifetime. One million plus. That's your max.

Why don't you walk out there and take a look, okay? I think you'll appreciate.

Q. What about the rescheduling of Correspondents' dinner?

Q. Are we rescheduling the Correspondents' dinner in 30 days?

The President. And the company that did it, if you look at the setting, each point is perfect. So take a—Peter, take a look. Tell your father if I did a good job. [*Laughter*]

Thank—thank you, Brian.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:50 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Michael S. Dell, chairman and chief executive officer, Dell Technologies, and his wife Susan; Cole T. Allen, suspect in the shooting during the White House Correspondents' Association dinner at the Washington Hilton hotel in Washington, DC, on April 25; House Minority Leader Hakeem S. Jeffries; former U.S. Space Force Chief of Space Operations Gen. John W. Raymond, USSF (Ret.) and current U.S. Space Force Chief of Space Operations Gen. B. Chance Saltzman, USSF; Venezuelan opposition leader and 2025 Nobel Peace Prize recipient María Corina Machado; Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif of Pakistan; King Charles III and Queen Camilla of the United Kingdom; Chancellor Friedrich Merz of Germany; Saleh Mohammadi, Mehdi Qasemi, and Saeed Davoudi, who were convicted for their role in the killing of two law enforcement officers at a police station and executed in Qom, Iran, on March 19; professional golfer Rory McIlroy; Kevin M. Warsh, the President's nominee to be Federal Reserve Chairman; former professional boxer Mike Tyson; former Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene; President Xi Jinping of China; President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin of Russia; and Stephen J. Doocy, co-anchor, Fox News Channel's "Fox and Friends" program. He also referred to S. 1383. Reporters referred to National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Artemis II crewmembers Reid Wiseman, commander, Victor J. Glover, pilot, and Christina H. Koch, mission specialist, and Canadian Space Agency astronaut Jeremy Hansen, mission specialist.

Categories: Addresses and Remarks : Document signing ceremony; Interviews With the News Media : Exchanges with reporters, White House.

Locations: Washington, DC.

Names: Allen, Cole T.; Begich, Nick; Biden, Joseph R., Jr.; Camilla, Queen; Carey, Mike; Charles III, King; Crank, Jeff; Davoudi, Saeed; De La Cruz, Monica; DeChambeau, Bryson; Dell, Michael S.; Dell, Susan; Doocy, Stephen J.; Greene, Marjorie Taylor; Hassett, Kevin A.; Huizenga, William P.; Infantino, Giovanni V.; Jeffries, Hakeem S.; Lawler, Michael; Machado, María Corina; Mackenzie, Ryan; McGuire, John J., III; McIlroy, Rory; Mehdi, Qasemi; Merz, Friedrich; Mohammadi, Saleh; Nunn, Zachary; Powell, Jerome H.; Putin, Vladimir Vladimirovich; Rahm, Jon; Raymond, John W.; Reed, Patrick; Saltzman, B. Chance; Saphier, Nicole; Scharf, William O.; Scheffler, Scottie; Sharif, Shehbaz; Smith, Jason T.; Smucker, Lloyd K.; Spieth, Jordan; Steil, Bryan G.; Thune, John R.; Trump, Donald J., Jr.; Trump, Melania; Tyson, Mike; Van Orden, Derrick F.; Warsh, Kevin M.; Xi Jinping.

Subjects: Artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies; China, President; Department of Homeland Security, appropriations legislation; District of Columbia, security incident at White

House Correspondents' Association dinner; Electricity capacity, expansion efforts; Federal contracting, improvement efforts; Federal Reserve System; Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup; First responders, service and dedication; Foster care and adoption, improvement efforts; Gasoline costs; Germany, Chancellor; Golf; House minority leader; India, relations with Pakistan; Interest rates; Iran, commercial transit through Strait of Hormuz; Iran, diplomatic engagement with U.S.; Iran, human rights issues; Iran, U.S. airstrikes on nuclear facilities; Iran, U.S. military operations; Manufacturing industry, domestic investment; Missing or deceased nuclear scientists; National Economic Council; News media, fairness and accuracy; North Atlantic Treaty Organization; Pakistan, Prime Minister; Pakistan, relations with India; Pensions and retirement accounts, strengthening efforts; Pipeline infrastructure, expansion efforts; Russia, President; Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act; Senate filibuster use; Senate majority leader; Stock market; Tax Code reform; Trump Accounts, children's savings program; U.S. diplomatic efforts, expansion; U.S. Secret Service; U.S. Space Force; U.S. Surgeon General; Ukraine, U.S. assistance; Undocumented immigrants, deportation of criminals; United Kingdom, King; United Kingdom, Queen; Venezuela, relations with U.S.; Venezuela, U.S. military capture and exfiltration of President Maduro; White House Ballroom construction project; White House renovation projects; White House Staff Secretary.

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