

action as manufacturing—good-paying manufacturing jobs, high-end jobs—returns to our shore, as new innovations get developed here at home.

We will also talk with President Biden about one of the most important priorities that defines our party: building ladders to help people get into the middle class and helping people who are already in the middle class stay there.

We will continue protecting Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid from the hard right. We will keep investing in infrastructure jobs and good-paying union jobs, and we will hold abusive corporations accountable for putting profits over people's safety.

We are also going to make sure that, once people make it into the middle class, they have the tools to stay in the middle class. That was precisely the reasoning behind our work on IRA, on CHIPS and Science, on pushing for student debt relief and increasing Pell grants, and so much more.

I expect we will also discuss how we will keep Americans safe and keep democracy alive in the 21st century. One year into Putin's violent assault on Ukraine, the support for Ukraine will hold firm, and that, praise God, has been very bipartisan. Leader McCONNELL and I are united in that regard.

So we will focus on taking an all-of-above approach to outcompete President Xi and the Chinese Communist Party. CHIPS was an important step in that direction, but we cannot relent. The administration has already taken a few Executive actions that will increase our ability to bring jobs back here and prevent the Chinese from purloining our intellectual property. But we certainly cannot rest on our laurels.

Finally, and very importantly, we are going to talk about how Democrats will preserve our unity in the months ahead. The story here in Congress over the first few months of 2023 has been one of contrasts. Democrats are united on helping average Americans, while Republicans are divided, paralyzed by chaos, and so many of them doing the bidding of the ultrarich and the very well connected and powerful.

Republicans like to talk about standing up for average folks and fighting "wokeism"—whatever that means—but look at what they have actually done this year. They have given cover to wealthy tax cheats, escalated their war on women, even tried to push a national sales tax that would raise taxes significantly—up to 30 percent—for average families.

How the heck is an average family going to pay 30 percent more for everything they buy? What planet are these folks on?

Nowhere else is the contrast between Democrats and Republicans more glaring than when it comes to raising the debt ceiling. President Biden and Senate and House Democrats have been clear from the very beginning that we are united on what our plan is: Both sides must come together and raise the

debt ceiling without engaging in hostage-taking, brinkmanship, or political blackmail.

Speaker MCCARTHY, however, is unable to unite his conference or explain what exactly the Republican plan is. The hard right is demanding that we agree to spending cuts in exchange for their votes. But to this day, there is no consensus and no clarity about what cuts Republicans want.

Speaker MCCARTHY, it is March 2. Where is your plan? It is March 2, Speaker MCCARTHY. You have been talking about a plan for a while. Where is it? Where is your plan?

You say Social Security and Medicare is off the table. But until the American people see a plan, they cannot just take the Speaker at his word that Social Security and Medicare will be safe, because so many on his right flank—so many mainstream Republican Members even—have long pushed to have these programs changed.

And there is more that Americans have to worry about. What is the Republican plan on Medicaid or funding the police, on Pell grants, on defense, on food for kids? Will all of these things get cut from their plan?

Again, this goes back to the central problem with the Republican House majority. It will be exceedingly difficult and, in all likelihood, impossible for them to unite around a plan that they can pass with their 220-some-odd votes and that the American people will accept and like.

This contrast is going to keep growing and growing in the months ahead. During today's lunch, we will talk with the President about how we can make sure Americans see and understand the contrast. I thank President Biden for his time, and I very much look forward to having him here at our Capitol.

#### INSULIN

Mr. President, now on insulin, yesterday's news that Eli Lilly is capping insulin for patients at \$35 a month is a very big deal. That will make an enormous difference for the millions of Americans that rely on this drug to manage their diabetes.

I commend Eli Lilly for taking this much needed step, but, frankly, this should have happened a long time ago. There is no excuse for monthly insulin costing \$600, \$700, \$800 a month and people quaking in their boots about whether they can take half the dose, a quarter of the dose, no dose at all and getting even sicker. So we are happy to see that this company ends its terrible practice of keeping insulin prices high, and they deserve commendation.

It does bring up a few other points.

First, Eli Lilly's announcement is good progress, but still not close to enough. There is no substitute for legislation, such as the legislation you have been offering, Mr. President, Senator WARNOCK. There is no substitute for legislation that locks down a mandatory and permanent cap on insulin for all Americans, not just those who get insulin from certain companies.

Second, lowering insulin costs is a good policy that everyone on both sides should get behind. This should not be a Democratic issue or a Republican issue. It is something that affects people in every city in every State.

And, third, now is the time to finish the job and pass a bill to put a \$35 cap on insulin for all Americans.

Last year, we Democrats made good progress in the Inflation Reduction Act to lower insulin to \$35 for seniors on Medicare. It is my hope—it is my hope—to soon bring a bipartisan bill to lower prescription drug costs and cap insulin costs at \$35 for everyone—for everyone—to the floor and pass it with support from both sides of the aisle.

Let's get this done. It is so important for the American people. We Democrats are going to do all we can to get it done, hopefully, in a bipartisan way.

#### FOX NEWS

Mr. President, finally, on FOX News—there is a lot to talk about this morning. Earlier this week, we learned that Rupert Murdoch admitted during a deposition that he and FOX News executives knowingly—knowingly—broadcasted the Big Lie on their network despite many of them knowing it was completely bogus. When asked if he could have stepped in to stop it, Mr. Murdoch claimed that he could have but chose not to, and he expressed regret for not doing so.

With all due respect, expressing regret is not enough. I repeat, expressing regret on an issue so vital to the future of our democracy is just not enough. What Rupert Murdoch and FOX News executives and hosts have done is dangerous. When people doubt that elections are on the level, that is the beginning of the end of this wonderful democracy. Elections are our wellspring. When people don't believe they are legit, democracy starts flying out the window and some other form of autocracy comes in. We are not there yet, but FOX News and its commentators who have lied have helped sow some evil seeds in our body politic.

The wellspring of democracy is elections, and it is why this wonderful, great experiment has endured for so long. When conspiracy theories like the Big Lie are allowed to grow, when they are given a prime time spot on cable news—well, we all saw what could happen on January 6.

That is why I wrote a letter with Leader JEFFRIES to Mr. Murdoch this week, demanding that he should do what he should have done a long time ago: First, stop spreading lies about the election; second, stop sowing division; third, stop weakening faith in our democracy; and fourth, stop the commentators who continue to repeat the Big Lie even after so many at FOX, including Mr. Murdoch, admitted it was a lie, admitted they regretted it happened. Stop them from doing it.

Again, expressing regret is simply not enough.

In the light of mounting evidence that FOX News knowingly misled their

viewers, it is alarming, it is disturbing, and it is highly inappropriate for Speaker MCCARTHY to share highly sensitive security camera footage of the January 6 attack with Tucker Carlson, one of the biggest peddlers of the Big Lie, one of the people who have done more to destroy faith in this democracy than just about anyone else.

Releasing this footage publicly reveals the location of security cameras across the Capitol grounds, making it harder and more dangerous for our brave Capitol Police officers who defended the Capitol that day to do their job. Giving someone as disingenuous, fundamentally dishonest as Tucker Carlson when it comes to what happened in the election—giving him exclusive access to this type of sensitive information is a grave mistake—a grave mistake—by Speaker MCCARTHY and feeds into the propaganda he has already put on FOX News's air.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

CRIME

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, the American people are deeply concerned about the collapse of law and order in our country. Thirty-nine percent of New York residents say they feel less safe than they did 1 year ago. Last month, 63 percent of likely voters in Chicago said they felt personally unsafe from gun violence and crime. By the way, on Tuesday, those Chicago voters tossed out the incumbent mayor. Americans see this problem going from bad to worse. More than 70 percent of the country expects we will see crime rates rise even higher this coming year.

Unfortunately, my fellow Kentuckians know this as well as anyone else. In my hometown of Louisville, youth homicides tripled between 2018 and 2021. In fact, since the onset of the pandemic, Louisville has seen the second worst increase in youth homicides among more than a dozen similar U.S. cities. Total homicides have slightly subsided from their record high in 2021, but they are still sitting in the triple digits.

One Louisville couple whose 19-year-old son was murdered by a convicted felon in 2019 summed up the way every-body is feeling. Here is what they said:

[Homicides] may be down, but it's not down enough.

Of course, crime is not limited to the most callous acts of murder; there is also a literal rash of brazen theft. Just 2 days ago, the town of Somerset in my State was stunned when their local car dealership was robbed point-blank. A group of masked thieves stormed the showroom and drove no fewer than six high-end cars right off the lot.

The nationwide decline in law and order hasn't been happenstance. Today's Democratic Party has made a deliberate decision to make public safety and innocent citizens a lower priority

than repeat criminal offenders. This has happened at the Federal level, where prominent Democrats have spent years amplifying anti-police rhetoric that tangibly and provably hurts law enforcement and certainly leads to more crime.

It has happened at the local level, where liberal mayors and city councils around the country have waged rhetorical wars against their own police departments and sometimes actually followed through on cutting funding.

The left's "soft on crime" campaign has even infiltrated the legal system itself. Far-left political donors have worked to get radical district attorneys elected in and around major cities. Many of them have promptly instituted what amount to blanket amnesties to whole classes of crimes.

For example, in Los Angeles, the district attorney's refusal to go after major misdemeanor offenses has brought his office prosecution rate down to half of what it was under his predecessor. The Commonwealth's attorney over in Fairfax County has repeatedly declined to pursue justice against perpetrators of child sexual assault. The former district attorney in Boston who made headlines for declaring that charges involving 15 different serious crimes would be "outright dismissed" was actually rewarded by President Biden with a promotion to be the U.S. attorney for her whole State.

To make matters worse, in the midst of the violent crime surge that Democrats' actions have helped cause, their administration's Department of Justice has focused on many of the wrong things. A year and a half ago, Attorney General Garland instructed the Department, including the FBI, to go sniffing around stories of concerned parents voicing opinions at local school board meetings. In the middle of a violent crime wave, the administration's priority was extra security for moms and dads exercising their First Amendment rights.

Just last fall, armed FBI agents were sent to rural Pennsylvania to arrest a father at home in front of his young children because the man had defended his son during an earlier minor altercation outside an abortion clinic. Apparently, under this administration, the crime of protesting while conservative can bring FBI agents to your house with guns drawn.

Then just a few weeks ago, a memo leaked from the Bureau's Richmond, VA, office that talked about needing to put informants in church pews so the FBI could spy on Catholic Americans whose religious views they deemed overly traditional.

Our major cities are beset with murders and carjackings, but these Democrats are focused on subjecting God-fearing Americans to this junior-varsity J. Edgar Hoover act. It is nonsensical. And don't think for a minute they have simply turned up the security evenly, across the board. In fact, it has been quite the opposite.

While the Biden-Garland DOJ seems fanatically overzealous about harassing conservative citizens, they are currently asleep at the switch when far-left activists are flouting actual Federal laws.

When fringe activists advocated for violence against sitting Justices of the Supreme Court, when crowds spent months picketing outside Justices' private family homes in direct contravention of Federal law, the Attorney General didn't lift a finger. The Biden administration simply refused to enforce black-letter Federal law that prohibits picketing and protesting at judges' private residences. That is the law. This willful failure to enforce the law effectively made the President and the Attorney General willing partners in the improper pressure campaign that the leak of the draft opinion was surely designed to spark in the first place.

Get this—as the senior Senator from Utah has pointed out, there have been more than 80 recorded attacks on pro-life pregnancy centers since the start of last year and 130 attacks on Catholic churches.

Do you know how many of the offenders Attorney General Garland's DOJ has managed to charge? A grand total of two, just two. Suffice it to say the Attorney General had a lot to answer for at his oversight hearing before the Judiciary yesterday, but, unfortunately, Senators saw no evidence that a course correction is coming.

For example, the Attorney General wouldn't give Ranking Member GRAHAM a straight answer on designating Mexican drug cartels as foreign terrorist organizations. He wouldn't give a straight answer about whether we should expand mandatory minimum sentencing laws to address the fentanyl crisis. He seemed to imply the status quo is OK, and the DOJ already has the tools it needs to address the problem, which I would add, if true, would make the administration's failures all the more galling.

He also couldn't satisfy questioning from Senator CORNYN about whether the Department is deliberately not charging drug traffickers with offenses that would already entail mandatory minimums under current law; in other words, basically cherry-picking their way around existing penalties to make current law even softer on lethal drugs.

Look, the American people want and deserve law and order. Getting murderers off our streets and foreign poison out of our neighborhoods are among the most basic governing responsibilities you could possibly think of. Evidently, the Biden administration either does not agree or just cannot deliver.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

NOMINATION OF JONATHAN JAMES CANADA GREY

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I have two important things I would like to speak about today. And let me first start with a confirmation vote we will be having this afternoon on Judge Jonathan J.C. Grey to serve as the U.S.