

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

HERITAGE FOUNDATION)
214 Massachusetts Ave. N.E.)
Washington, D.C. 20002)

MIKE HOWELL)
214 Massachusetts Ave. N.E.)
Washington, D.C. 20002)

Plaintiffs,)

v.)

Case No. 24-cv-2715

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE)
950 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.)
Washington, D.C. 20530)

Defendant.)

_____)

**COMPLAINT AND PRAYER FOR DECLARATORY
AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

Plaintiffs THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION and MIKE HOWELL (collectively “Plaintiffs”) for their complaint against Defendant, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (“DOJ”), allege on knowledge as to Plaintiffs, and on information and belief as to all other matters, as follows:

1. This is an action under the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C § 552, to compel the production of certain records related to final advice from the DOJ’s Office of Legal Counsel (“OLC”) concerning the 25th Amendment. *See* Plaintiffs’ FOIA Request (Sept. 11, 2024) (“DOJ Request” or “Plaintiffs’ DOJ FOIA Request”) (Ex. 1).

PARTIES

2. Plaintiff, The Heritage Foundation is a Washington, D.C.-based nonpartisan public policy organization with a national and international reputation whose mission is to “formulate and promote public policies based on the principles of free enterprise, limited government, individual freedom, traditional American values, and a strong national defense.” Heritage Foundation, About Heritage, <https://www.heritage.org/about-heritage/mission> (last visited Mar. 19, 2024). Heritage is a not-for-profit section 501(c)(3) organization which engages in substantial dissemination of information to the public.

3. Plaintiff Mike Howell leads The Heritage Foundation’s Oversight Project and is an author for *The Daily Signal*, a national news outlet. The Oversight Project is an initiative aimed at obtaining information via FOIA requests and other means in order to best inform the public and Congress for the purposes of Congressional oversight. “The requests and analyses of information are informed by Heritage’s deep policy expertise. By its nature, the Oversight Project is primarily engaged in disseminating information to the public.” Oversight Project, *found at* <https://www.heritage.org/oversight> (last visited Sept. 23, 2024); Oversight Project (@OversightPR), X (last visited Sept. 23, 2024), <https://twitter.com/OversightPR>. Staff for the Oversight Project routinely appear on television, radio, print, and other forms of media to provide expert commentary on salient issues in the national debate.

4. Defendant DOJ is a federal agency of the United States within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. § 552(f)(1) whose mission statement is whose mission statement is to “uphold the rule of law, to keep our country safe, and to protect civil rights.” About DOJ; Our Mission, *found at* <https://www.justice.gov/about> (last visited Sept. 23, 2024).

5. OLC is a component of DOJ whose mission statement is to “provide[] legal advice to the President and all executive branch agencies.” Office of Legal Counsel; About the Office, *found at* <https://www.justice.gov/olc> (last visited Sept. 23, 2024).

BACKGROUND

6. On July 21, 2024, President Joseph R. Biden officially announced the termination of his candidacy from the 2024 Presidential Election.

7. Media outlets reported that President Biden dropped out of the 2024 Presidential Election due to pressure from senior leaders within the Democrat Party who, among other things, threatened removing the President by invoking the 25th Amendment. *See generally*, App. A.

8. OLC frequently provides (and is asked to provide) advice concerning the construction of Constitutional Amendments.

9. The 25th Amendment is considered a legally ambiguous Amendment. Indeed, that legal ambiguity has featured prominently in popular culture such as in Seasons 2 and 6 of the hit series *24*.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

10. This Court has jurisdiction pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(B) because this action is brought in the District of Columbia and 28 U.S.C. § 1331 because the resolution of disputes under FOIA presents a federal question.

11. Venue is proper in this Court under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) because Defendant’s principal place of business is in the District of Columbia.

PLAINTIFFS’ FOIA REQUEST

12. Plaintiffs submitted the Request on September 11, 2024, to Defendant.

13. The Request sought: “any final advice external from OLC relating to the 25th [A]mendment”, from “June 1, 2024 to present. Request at 1.

14. The Request sought a fee waiver based on Heritage’s status as a not-for-profit and the fact that a purpose of the Request was to allow Heritage to gather information on a matter of public interest for (among other things) use by authors of, *The Daily Signal*, which is a major news outlet. *Id.* at 4–5.

15. The Request also sought production of records in partial responses as soon as they became available. *Id.* at 4

REQUEST FOR EXPEDITED PROCESSING

16. Plaintiffs requested Expedited Processing for the Request. *See* Ex. 1 at 5. The factual and legal basis for the Application was explained in a four-page submission.

17. The Request attached three appendices totaling 161 pages of news articles discussing the 25th Amendment and President Biden. The foregoing coverage was “widespread and exceptional” and surfaces “questions about the Government’s integrity that affect public confidence.” 28 C.F.R. § 16.5(e)(1)(iv).

DEFENDANT’S CONSTRUCTIVE DENIAL OF EXPEDITED PROCESSING

18. Defendant submitted the Request via OLC’s FOIA email box on September 11, 2024. *See* Email Correspondence between Roman Jankowski and OLC FOIA Office (Sept. 11, 2024) (Ex. 2).

19. Defendant has not made a determination on the Request.

20. Defendant has not made a decision on Plaintiffs’ application for expedited processing.

21. Ten calendar days from September 11, 2024, is September 21, 2024.

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF
Violation of FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552
Wrongful Denial of Expedited Processing

22. Plaintiffs re-allege the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set out herein.

23. FOIA requires all doubts to be resolved in favor of disclosure. “Transparency in government operations is a priority of th[e Biden] . . . Administration.” Attorney General, *Memorandum for Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies: Freedom of Information Act Guidelines*, at 4 (Mar. 15, 2022).

24. Plaintiffs properly requested records within the possession, custody, or control of Defendant.

25. Plaintiffs properly asked that DOJ expedite the processing of Plaintiffs’ FOIA Request, based upon Plaintiffs’ showing that the foregoing coverage was “widespread and exceptional” and surfaces “questions about the Government’s integrity that affect public confidence.” 28 C.F.R. § 16.5(e)(1)(iv).

26. Defendant did not rule on Plaintiffs’ request for expedited processing.

27. Defendant is in violation of FOIA.

28. Plaintiffs are being irreparably harmed by reason of Defendant’s violation of FOIA. Plaintiffs are being denied information to which they are statutorily entitled to on an expedited basis and that is important to carrying out Plaintiffs’ functions as a non-partisan research and educational institution and publisher of news. Plaintiffs will continue to be irreparably harmed unless Defendants are compelled to comply with the law.

29. Plaintiffs have no adequate remedy at law.

WHEREFORE as a result of the foregoing, Plaintiffs pray that this Court:

A. Enter a preliminary and permanent injunction compelling Defendant to process

Plaintiffs' FOIA Request on an expedited basis.

- B. Award Plaintiffs their costs and reasonable attorneys' fees in this action as provided by 5 U.S.C. § 522(a)(4)(E); and
- C. Grant such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

Dated: September 23, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Samuel Everett Dewey
SAMUEL EVERETT DEWEY
(No. 999979)
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Counsel for Plaintiffs

<input type="radio"/> G. Habeas Corpus/ 2255 <input type="checkbox"/> 530 Habeas Corpus – General <input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motion/Vacate Sentence <input type="checkbox"/> 463 Habeas Corpus – Alien Detainee	<input type="radio"/> H. Employment Discrimination <input type="checkbox"/> 442 Civil Rights – Employment (criteria: race, gender/sex, national origin, discrimination, disability, age, religion, retaliation) *(If pro se, select this deck)*	<input checked="" type="radio"/> I. FOIA/Privacy Act <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions (if Privacy Act) *(If pro se, select this deck)*	<input type="radio"/> J. Student Loan <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loan (excluding veterans)
<input type="radio"/> K. Labor/ERISA (non-employment) <input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Labor Railway Act <input type="checkbox"/> 751 Family and Medical Leave Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act	<input type="radio"/> L. Other Civil Rights (non-employment) <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting (if not Voting Rights Act) <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations <input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 445 Americans w/Disabilities – Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 446 Americans w/Disabilities – Other <input type="checkbox"/> 448 Education	<input type="radio"/> M. Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran’s Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholder’s Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	<input type="radio"/> N. Three-Judge Court <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Civil Rights – Voting (if Voting Rights Act)

V. ORIGIN
 1 Original Proceeding
 2 Removed from State Court
 3 Remanded from Appellate Court
 4 Reinstated or Reopened
 5 Transferred from another district (specify)
 6 Multi-district Litigation
 7 Appeal to District Judge from Mag. Judge
 8 Multi-district Litigation – Direct File

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION (CITE THE U.S. CIVIL STATUTE UNDER WHICH YOU ARE FILING AND WRITE A BRIEF STATEMENT OF CAUSE.)

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT	<input type="checkbox"/> CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.C.P. 23	DEMAND \$ JURY DEMAND:	Check YES only if demanded in complaint YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
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VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY	(See instruction)	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	If yes, please complete related case form
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DATE: <u>September 23, 2024</u>	SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD <u>/s/ Samuel Everett Dewey</u>
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INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET JS-44
 Authority for Civil Cover Sheet

The JS-44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and services of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. Listed below are tips for completing the civil coversheet. These tips coincide with the Roman Numerals on the cover sheet.

- I. COUNTY OF RESIDENCE OF FIRST LISTED PLAINTIFF/DEFENDANT (b) County of residence: Use 11001 to indicate plaintiff if resident of Washington, DC, 88888 if plaintiff is resident of United States but not Washington, DC, and 99999 if plaintiff is outside the United States.
- III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES: This section is completed only if diversity of citizenship was selected as the Basis of Jurisdiction under Section II.
- IV. CASE ASSIGNMENT AND NATURE OF SUIT: The assignment of a judge to your case will depend on the category you select that best represents the primary cause of action found in your complaint. You may select only one category. You must also select one corresponding nature of suit found under the category of the case.
- VI. CAUSE OF ACTION: Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing and write a brief statement of the primary cause.
- VIII. RELATED CASE(S), IF ANY: If you indicated that there is a related case, you must complete a related case form, which may be obtained from the Clerk’s Office.

Because of the need for accurate and complete information, you should ensure the accuracy of the information provided prior to signing the form.

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

_____)
 Plaintiff)
)
 v.) Civil Action No.
)
_____)
 Defendant)

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: *(Defendant's name and address)*

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

Within 30 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it) you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are:

If you fail to respond, judgment by default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.

ANGELA D. CAESAR, CLERK OF COURT

Date: _____

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

Civil Action No. _____

PROOF OF SERVICE

(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (l))

This summons for *(name of individual and title, if any)* _____
was received by me on *(date)* _____.

I personally served the summons on the individual at *(place)* _____
_____ on *(date)* _____; or

I left the summons at the individual's residence or usual place of abode with *(name)* _____
_____, a person of suitable age and discretion who resides there,
on *(date)* _____, and mailed a copy to the individual's last known address; or

I served the summons on *(name of individual)* _____, who is
designated by law to accept service of process on behalf of *(name of organization)* _____
_____ on *(date)* _____; or

I returned the summons unexecuted because _____; or

Other *(specify):* _____.

My fees are \$ _____ for travel and \$ _____ for services, for a total of \$ _____.

I declare under penalty of perjury that this information is true.

Date: _____

Server's signature

Printed name and title

Server's address

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

_____)
 Plaintiff)
)
 v.) Civil Action No.
)
_____)
 Defendant)

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: *(Defendant's name and address)*

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

Within 30 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it) you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are:

If you fail to respond, judgment by default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.

ANGELA D. CAESAR, CLERK OF COURT

Date: _____

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

Civil Action No. _____

PROOF OF SERVICE

(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (l))

This summons for *(name of individual and title, if any)* _____
was received by me on *(date)* _____.

I personally served the summons on the individual at *(place)* _____
_____ on *(date)* _____; or

I left the summons at the individual's residence or usual place of abode with *(name)* _____
_____, a person of suitable age and discretion who resides there,
on *(date)* _____, and mailed a copy to the individual's last known address; or

I served the summons on *(name of individual)* _____, who is
designated by law to accept service of process on behalf of *(name of organization)* _____
_____ on *(date)* _____; or

I returned the summons unexecuted because _____; or

Other *(specify):* _____.

My fees are \$ _____ for travel and \$ _____ for services, for a total of \$ _____.

I declare under penalty of perjury that this information is true.

Date: _____

Server's signature

Printed name and title

Server's address

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

_____)
 Plaintiff)
)
 v.) Civil Action No.
)
_____)
 Defendant)

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: *(Defendant's name and address)*

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

Within 30 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it) you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are:

If you fail to respond, judgment by default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.

ANGELA D. CAESAR, CLERK OF COURT

Date: _____

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

Civil Action No. _____

PROOF OF SERVICE

(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (l))

This summons for *(name of individual and title, if any)* _____
was received by me on *(date)* _____.

I personally served the summons on the individual at *(place)* _____
_____ on *(date)* _____; or

I left the summons at the individual's residence or usual place of abode with *(name)* _____
_____, a person of suitable age and discretion who resides there,
on *(date)* _____, and mailed a copy to the individual's last known address; or

I served the summons on *(name of individual)* _____, who is
designated by law to accept service of process on behalf of *(name of organization)* _____
_____ on *(date)* _____; or

I returned the summons unexecuted because _____; or

Other *(specify)*: _____

My fees are \$ _____ for travel and \$ _____ for services, for a total of \$ _____.

I declare under penalty of perjury that this information is true.

Date: _____

Server's signature

Printed name and title

Server's address

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

EXHIBIT 1

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SENT VIA: usdoj-officeoflegalcounsel@usdoj.gov

September 11, 2024

Melissa Golden
Lead Paralegal and FOIA Specialist
Office of Legal Counsel
Room 5517, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Department of Justice
Washington, DC 20530-0001
(202) 514-2053

Re: Records related to the 25th Amendment

Dear FOIA Officer:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, and the implementing FOIA regulations of the Department of Justice (DOJ), 28 C.F.R. § 16 *et seq.*, I respectfully request the following records:

any final advice external from OLC relating to the 25th amendment.

The timeline of this request is June 1, 2024 to the present.

For this request, please search the Offices of Legal Counsel.

To further narrow down the scope of the request, requester does not seek correspondence that merely forwards press clippings, such as news accounts or opinion pieces, newsletters, and published or docketed materials, if that correspondence has no comment or no substantive comment added by any party in the thread.

The term “the Superseding Indictment” is defined as the Superseding Indictment filed in *United States v. Donald J. Trump*, No. 23-cr-257 (TSC) (ECF No. 226).

The term “[t]he Department” is defined as broadly per statute and reach any office listed on the Department’s operative organization chart. *See* <https://www.justice.gov/d9/2023-09/DOJ%20-%20AG%20signed%20%20Approved%2008.17.2023.pdf>

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The terms “pertaining to,” “referring,” “relating,” or “concerning” with respect to any given subject means anything that constitutes, contains, embodies, reflects, identifies, states, refers to, deals with, or is in any manner whatsoever pertinent to that subject.

The term “record” means any written, recorded, or graphic matter of any nature whatsoever, regardless of how recorded, and whether original or copy, including, but not limited to, the following: memoranda, reports, expense reports, books, manuals, instructions, financial reports, working papers, records, notes, letters, notices, confirmations, telegrams, receipts, appraisals, pamphlets, magazines, newspapers, prospectuses, inter-office and intra-office communications, electronic mail (emails), MMS or SMS text messages, instant messages, messaging systems (such as iMessage, Microsoft Teams, WhatsApp, Telegram, Signal, Google Chat, Twitter direct messages, Lync, Slack, and Facebook Messenger), contracts, cables, telexes, notations of any type of conversation, telephone call, voicemail, meeting or other communication, bulletins, printed matter, computer printouts, teletypes, invoices, transcripts, diaries, analyses, returns, summaries, minutes, bills, accounts, estimates, projections, comparisons, messages, correspondence, press releases, circulars, financial statements, reviews, opinions, offers, studies and investigations, questionnaires and surveys, and work sheets (and all drafts, preliminary versions, alterations, modifications, revisions, changes, and amendments of any of the foregoing, as well as any attachments or appendices thereto), and graphic or oral records or representations of any kind (including without limitation, photographs, charts, graphs, microfiche, microfilm, videotape, recordings and motion pictures), and electronic, mechanical, and electronic records or representations of any kind (including, without limitation, tapes, cassettes, disks, and recordings) and other written, printed, typed, or other graphic or recorded matter of any kind or nature, however produced or reproduced, and whether preserved in writing, film, tape, disk, videotape or otherwise. A record bearing any notation not a part of the original text is to be considered a separate record. A draft or non-identical copy is a separate record within the meaning of this term. By definition a “communication” (as that term is defined herein) is also a “record” if the means of communication is any written, recorded, or graphic matter of any sort whatsoever, regardless of how recorded, and whether original or copy.

The terms “and” and “or” should be construed broadly and either conjunctively or disjunctively to bring within the scope of this request any information which might otherwise be construed to be outside its scope. The terms “all,” “any,” and “each” should each be construed as ‘encompassing any and all. The singular includes the plural number, and vice versa. The present tense

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includes the past and vice versa. The masculine includes the feminine and neuter genders.

The term “communication” means each manner or means of disclosure or exchange of information (in the form of facts, ideas, inquiries, or otherwise), regardless of means utilized, whether oral, electronic, by document or otherwise, and whether in an in-person meeting, by telephone, facsimile, e-mail (desktop or mobile device), text message, MMS or SMS message, messaging systems (such as iMessage, Microsoft Teams, WhatsApp, Telegram, Signal, Google Chat, Twitter direct messages, Lync, Slack, and Facebook Messenger), regular mail, telexes, releases, or otherwise.

“Communications with,” “communications from,” and “communications between” means any communication involving the related parties, regardless of whether other persons were involved in the communication, and includes, but is not limited to, communications where one party is cc’d or bcc’d, both parties are cc’d or bcc’d, or some combination thereof.

Please consider all members of a document “family” to be responsive to the request if any single “member” of that “family” is responsive, regardless of whether the “family member” in question is “parent” or “child.”

In the interest of expediency and to minimize the research and/or duplication burden on your staff, please send records electronically if possible. If this is not possible, please notify me before sending to the mailing address listed below. If access to this request will take longer than twenty business days, please let me know when I might receive records or be able to inspect the requested records. Please produce responsive documents as soon as they become available. In all cases, please communicate with me at the below email address.

Please comply fully with 5 U.S.C. § 552(b). Accordingly, without limitation to the foregoing, if any portion of this request is denied for any reason, please provide written notice of the records or portions of records that are being withheld and cite each specific exemption of the Freedom of Information Act on which the agency relies. Moreover, to the extent that responsive records may be withheld in part produce all reasonably segregable portions of those records. Additionally, please provide all responsive documents even if they are redacted in full.

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Fee Waiver Request

This request is primarily and fundamentally for non-commercial purposes. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, Heritage Foundation does not have a commercial purpose and the release of the information requested is not in Heritage Foundation's commercial interest. Heritage Foundation's mission is to formulate and promote public policies based on the principles of free enterprise, limited government, individual freedom, traditional American values, and a strong national defense. Heritage Foundation uses the information requested and analyzes it in order to educate the public through social media,¹ broadcast media² (traditional and nontraditional) and press releases.³ The requested information is in the public interest because there are serious questions as to whether Obama instigated an anti-Biden coup by invoking the '25th Amendment'⁴.

Because this is a request by a member of the news media for information of public interest, made in my capacity as an author for the Daily Signal⁵ (a major news outlet⁶), I actively gather information of potential interest to our Daily Signal audience, and I use my editorial skills to turn raw materials into a distinct work, and I distribute that work to our Daily Signal audience through podcasts⁷ or articles. I also post our distinct work on our Oversight Project social media page.⁸ By function, the Oversight Project is primarily engaged in disseminating information to the public. Staff members for the Oversight Project regularly appear in television, radio, print, and other forms of media to provide expert

¹ Heritage Foundation on X. [@Heritage] (Accessed: 2024, June 25). 698.2K followers. <https://twitter.com/Heritage>

² Fox News. (Accessed: 2024, June 25). Heritage Foundation launches Conservative Oversight Project aimed at 'exposing' Biden admin, leftist policies. <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/heritage-conservative-oversight-project-biden-admin-leftist-policies>

³ Heritage Foundation. (Accessed: 2024, June 25). Press. <https://www.heritage.org/press>.

⁴ Seymour Hersh Substack. (Accessed: 2024, September 11). Report from Seymour Hersh: Obama Instigated Anti-Biden Coup With '25th Amendment' Threat. <https://seemorerocks.substack.com/p/report-from-seymour-hersh-obama-instigated>

⁵ Daily Signal. (Accessed: 2024, June 25). Mike Howell. <https://www.dailysignal.com/author/mike-howell/>

⁶ Daily Signal on X. [@DailySignal] (Accessed: 2024, June 25). 87.8K Followers. <https://twitter.com/DailySignal>

⁷ Apple. (Accessed: 2024, June 25). The Daily Signal Podcast. <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-daily-signal-podcast/id1313611947>

⁸ Oversight Project on X. [@OversightPR] (Accessed: 2024, June 25). 25.2K Followers. <https://twitter.com/oversightpr>

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commentary on salient issues in the national debate. I request that you waive all applicable fees associated with this request.

If you deny this request for a fee waiver, please advise me in advance of the estimated charges if they are to exceed \$50. Please send me a detailed and itemized explanation of those charges.

Request for Expedited Processing

Pursuant to 28 C.F.R. § 16.5(e)(1)(iv), I request expedited processing for this request. I certify the following statement of facts in support of expedited processing to be true and correct pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(E)(vi) and 28 C.F.R. § 16.5(e)(3).

Background:

On July 21, 2024, Joe Biden, the incumbent president of the United States, announced his withdrawal from the 2024 United States presidential election and endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris as his replacement.⁹

Media reports have stated that President Biden withdrew from his candidacy because he was threatened with the 25th Amendment.

The following factual Appendix is attached and expressly incorporated herein and made part of this request:

- Appendix A is a compilation of news articles about 25th Amendment.

Expedited Processing is Warranted under 28 C.F.R. § 16.5(e)(1)(iv)

This provision provides that expedited processing shall be granted regarding: “A matter of widespread and exceptional media interest in which there exists possible questions about the government’s integrity which affect public confidence.”

Courts have held that the DOJ Regulation requires the requester to show: (1) that the request involves a “matter of widespread and exceptional media interest” (28 C.F.R. § 16.5(e)(1)(iv)); and (2) that the matter is one “in which there exists possible questions about the integrity of the government that affect public

⁹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Age_and_health_concerns_about_Joe_Biden

The Oversight Project



confidence” (*id.*). See *Edmonds v. FBI*, No. 02-cv-1294 (ESH), 2002 WL 32539613, *3 (D.D.C. Dec. 3, 2002). It is not necessary to show “prejudice or a matter of current exigency to the American public.” *Id.*

First, the DOJ Regulation requires showing that the matter about which questions of integrity have been raised is the subject of widespread national media attention. See *Am. Oversight v. DOJ*, 292 F.Supp.3d 501, 507–508 (D.D.C. 2018) (denying motion for expedited processing because general media interest in Solicitor General’s nomination is insufficient to show media interest in possible ethics questions concerning the nomination). There need not be a showing that the disclosure would shed considerable light on agency operations; only that there is “exceptional” and “widespread” media interest. See *CREW v. DOJ*, 870 F.Supp.2d 70, 81 (D.D.C. 2012), *rev’d on other grounds*, 746 F.3d 1082 (D.C. Cir. 2014). While the media interest need be “widespread” and “exceptional” it need not be overwhelming. See *ACLU v. DOJ*, 321 F.Supp.2d 24, 31–32 (D.D.C. 2004) (rejecting DOJ’s position that requester’s citation to what the court described as “only a handful of articles” was insufficient to show “widespread and exceptional media interest” because those articles “were published in a variety of publications and repeatedly reference the ongoing national discussion about the Patriot Act and Section 215” (second quotation added)); *Edmonds v. FBI*, No. 02-cv-1294 (ESH), 2002 WL 32539613, at *3 (D.D.C. Dec. 3, 2002) (numerous national newspaper and network television broadcasts concerning whistleblower’s allegations of security lapses in FBI translator program met test).

Second, the DOJ Regulation requires showing that “there exists possible questions about the government’s integrity that affect public confidence.” *CREW v. DOJ*, 436 F.Supp.3d 354, 361 (D.D.C. 2020) (quoting 28 C.F.R. § 16.5(e)(1)(4)) (emphasis by Court). It does not “require the requester to prove wrongdoing by the government in order to obtain documents on an expedited basis.” *Id.* at 362. “The primary way to determine whether such possible questions exist is by examining the state of public coverage of the matter at issue, and whether that coverage surfaces possible ethics issues so potentially significant as to reduce public confidence in governmental institutions.” *Am. Oversight v. DOJ*, 292 F.Supp.3d 501, 508 (D.D.C. 2018). This is not an extraordinarily high bar. See, e.g., *CREW*, 436 F.Supp.3d at 361 (complaint sufficient to survive a motion to dismiss where it alleged Attorney General’s action regarding disclosure of Mueller Report “supported an inference that at best, the Attorney General undertook to frame the public discussion on his own terms, and at worst that he distorted the truth”); *ACLU v. DOJ*, 321 F.Supp.2d 24, 32 (D.D.C. 2004) (allegations in press that Section 215 of the Patriot Act may be unconstitutional and reports that Members of Congress have

The Oversight Project



alleged abuses of Section 215 “implicate[] government integrity” and hence are sufficient to meet test); *Edmonds*, 2002 WL 32539613, at *3–4 (test met where plaintiff alleged security lapses in FBI translators program, national news covered the issue, and two Senators expressed concern regarding “the significant security issues raised by plaintiff’s allegations and the integrity of the FBI”).

The facts amply support expedition here. Multiple national media outlets have published articles or aired programming concerning whether the Superseding Indictment complied with Department policies concerning taking politically motivated actions. See App. A.

There is more than enough evidence to sustain a finding of “possible questions about the government’s integrity that affect public confidence.” Again, this bar is not a very high bar. Many in the news and in American political discourse have questioned the political motivations behind Special Counsel Smith’s investigation generally, the timing of his actions vis a vis the 2024 General Election, and the filing of the Superseding Indictment in particular.

Thank you in advance for considering my request. If you have any questions, or feel you need clarification of this request please contact me at oversightproject@heritage.org.

Sincerely,

Mike Howell
Director and Investigative Columnist at The
Daily Signal
The Heritage Foundation
214 Massachusetts Ave, NE
Washington, D.C. 20002

The weird, creepy, surreal - and dangerous - 2024 campaign, 2024 WLNR 14076822

8/17/24 Freeman (Waukesha, Wis.) (No Page)
2024 WLNR 14076822

Freeman, The (Waukesha, WI)
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August 17, 2024

Section: Local News

The weird, creepy, surreal - and dangerous - 2024 campaign

The already-long 2024 presidential campaign has become the strangest in modern history.

Here are 10 unanswered questions that illustrate how and why we've entered this bizarre world: 1.) How can Kamala Harris merely promise us fixes to come in 2025 for inflation and an open border when she is still vice president for another six months? Why can't she enact her proposed solutions to these problems (which she helped create) right now?

2.) Would the media prefer to help her win but lose further credibility themselves by failing to ask why she has disowned her last three decades of leftist agendas, or to reclaim some of their reputations and thereby risk her losing?

3.) Does the left appreciate the new campaign and election protocols it has now established?

That is to say: Cancel by fiat their virtual nominee four months before the election when he sinks in the polls?

Nullify the outcome of a year of primaries and the will of 14 million voters?

Threaten a sitting president with removal by the 25th Amendment process unless he steps aside as his party nominee?

Anoint a replacement nominee before the convention and without a single primary - and then prevent any rival candidates from challenging her?

4.) After the precedents of 2020 and 2024, is the future orthodox protocol for any Democratic nominee now to avoid all interviews and extempore speaking, and stick to teleprompted speeches and scripted responses only?

Is the fear that a transparent progressive messenger with an overt and honest left-wing message will double down on it and thus guarantee defeat?

5.) For the next 80 days, has the chameleon-like Harris now become a temporary MAGA candidate, as she expropriates former President Donald Trump's positions from border security to no taxes on tips? Does the media care to ask the new 80-day MAGA Harris why she has renounced many of her once emphatic beliefs?

6.) If Democratic presidential reelection candidate Joe Biden was pronounced fit as a fiddle before June 27, but after July 21 was abruptly forced off the ticket as too debilitated to continue as his party's nominee, what exactly is his status now?

(Half-cognizant and thus able enough to continue his not-so-important task as America's president, but also half-enfeebled and thus utterly unable to continue as the far more important Democratic nominee, it appears.)

The weird, creepy, surreal - and dangerous - 2024 campaign, 2024 WLNR 14076822

7.) Does the new antisemitic Democratic Party prefer to risk losing with the radical nonentity WASP Tim Walz as vice presidential candidate rather than likely win with a popular, successful, and moderate Jewish Josh Shapiro?

8.) If one vice presidential candidate went to a war zone to serve with his deployed unit, while his counterpart preferred to retire from the military to avoid doing the same and lies about his abdication, how can the media credibly assert that the former's tour was militarily suspect and yet pronounce the latter's absence as heroic?

9.) If the current president canceled his reelection bid because he was too debilitated and unpopular, and is now rarely seen or heard, and if the vice president is out of Washington running a campaign in his place, but avoiding all press conferences, interviews, and unscripted addresses, who exactly, if anyone, is running the United States for the next six months of the lame duck Biden-Harris administration?

10.) If Trump all summer has been compared by his enemies to Hitler and his murderous Third Reich, and if a 20-year-old would-be assassin and murderer with ease took up a sniper's position to kill Trump - without a notified Secret Service or other law enforcement attempting to abort the shooter's attempted assassination - what signal does that send to other would-be assassins for the next 80 days of the 2024 campaign?

Is the message that if a 20-year-old amateur sniper can brazenly and visibly for nearly an hour breach all Secret Service security perimeters to shoot eight times at the president, hit him in the ear, kill one innocent bystander, and wound two others, then almost any future, more-experienced serious shooter could match or exceed the ability of that disturbed amateur to get close enough to Trump to fire more than eight shots at his head?

And that shooting Trump in many leftist quarters would subsequently earn the unhinged killer eternal fame, applause, and immortality?

And that if there are such anticipated rewards and perceived opportunities, then we may well see more attempts on candidate Trump's life?

In sum, presidential campaigns traditionally kick off after Labor Day and mostly follow accepted protocols. But this warped 2024 version violates every prior precedent and is not just creepy but dangerous - even before the campaign was supposed to formally begin.

(Victor Davis Hanson is a distinguished fellow of the Center for American Greatness. He is a classicist and historian at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University, and the author of "The Second World Wars: How the First Global Conflict Was Fought and Won," from Basic Books. You can reach him by e-mailing authorvdh@gmail.com.)

VICTOR DAVIS HANSON

---- **Index References** ----

Company: Hoover Institution.

News Subject: (Campaigns & Elections (1CA25); Global Politics (1GL73); Government (1GO80); Political Parties (1PO73); Public Affairs (1PU31); World Elections (1WO93))

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August 17, 2024

'Joe Biden HATES Her!' Trump Tells Rally Crowd Biden Hates Harris Because She 'Overthrew' Him

Phillip Nieto

Aug 17, 2024

Former President Donald Trump told his supporters at a rally on Saturday that Joe Biden hates his Democratic successor Kamala Harris.

For weeks since Biden has dropped out the race, Trump has lamented that he no longer can run against the president and instead will have to face Harris at the ballot box. Trump has imagined aloud that Harris and Democrats pressured Biden to step aside by threatening to use the 25th amendment.

Trump again alluded to those claims by telling a crowd of supporters at a Pennsylvania rally that Harris overthrew him. Before making these claims, Trump was sticking to his teleprompter and going after Harris on her economic policies before going off topic towards Biden.

And that's called the Kamala Harris inflation tax. She was there for everything. You know when she sits and complains — Hey look, look, Joe Biden hates her. Okay. Hates her. You don't mind if I go off teleprompter for a second, do you? Joe Biden hates her. This was an overthrow of a president. This was an overthrow. They went out and I spent \$100 million fighting Joe Biden. They told him he couldn't win. His debate performance wasn't the best ever. But they said mine was the best ever. But they said his debate performance wasn't. I look forward to debating he by the way. She'll be easier. She'll be easier than him.

Watch the clip above via Fox News.

Have a tip we should know? tips@mediaite.com

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August 16, 2024

Section: News

Gerald Ford remembered on anniversary President led nation through uncertain times

Frank Witsil

August 16, 2024

DETROIT – As the nation looks ahead to the upcoming presidential election at a time of political uncertainty, some in Michigan are looking back on the 50th anniversary of the inauguration of a man who became president under extraordinary circumstances.

During an Aug. 9, 1974, ceremony at the White House, Vice President Gerald R. Ford – who had been a longtime U.S. representative from Michigan’s 5th District – took the oath of office.

His wife, Betty, held the Bible, which was open to Proverbs 3:5-6, verses that emphasized trusting “in the Lord;” and Ford, who was appointed vice president just eight months earlier, became the first – and only – person to hold both top offices without having been elected to either.

Leading up to Ford’s presidency, the nation had faced some dark times, including the assassinations of a sitting president and presidential candidate, racial strife, international conflict, economic hardship, scandal and discord.

”I think Ford would look at this moment and say tumultuous times are part of the long arc of history,” Celeste Watkins-Hayes, dean of the University of Michigan’s public policy school that now bears Ford’s name, said during a recent PBS segment about the anniversary. These times, she added, can feel “very anxiety-producing and very worrying,” but Ford would likely ask “what are the areas of common ground, what are the areas of common concern, and how do we move forward on the basis of those?”

In many ways, Ford’s presidency is reassurance to Americans that, even in challenging times, the message that Ford delivered in his first presidential address is true: The democratic process works.

”In a time of ethical relativism and political cynicism, Ford’s personal integrity stood out,” Gleaves Whitney, the executive director of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation in Grand Rapids, Michigan, wrote in a yet-unpublished essay he emailed to the Detroit Free Press. “His presidency was characterized by transparency and accountability.”

An office he never sought

In many ways Ford’s presidency was a test of a peaceful transfer of executive power, which was an area of the Constitution that was clarified by the 25th Amendment and ratified in 1967, said Daniel Clark, an Oakland University history professor.

Gerald Ford remembered on anniversary, 2024 WLNR 13899826

”No one anticipated, when that amendment was passed, it would be put to the test so quickly,” Clark said, adding that the question of transfer of power is one of the parallels Ford’s time has with today. “Can we continue to rely on peaceful transfers of power?”

Ford’s presidency, Clark noted, was – and is – a source of pride for Michiganders, who recognized Ford as one of their own, even though he was born in Omaha, Nebraska.

Ford, who was named Leslie Lynch King Jr. at birth after his biological father, ended up in Michigan after his parents separated. Ford said his father was abusive to his mother. To get away, his mother moved them to Oak Park, Illinois. Then they relocated to Grand Rapids, where his grandparents lived.

Ford’s parents divorced, and his mother married Gerald Rudolff Ford, a businessman.

Ford adopted his stepfather’s name, becoming Gerald Rudolff Ford Jr. To his friends, he was just Jerry.

As a boy, Ford got involved with sports and scouting, becoming an Eagle Scout, the only president to do so. A standout athlete, Ford went on to play football at the University of Michigan. While on the team, the Wolverines won two national titles.

Ford went on to Yale Law School, where he also coached football and boxing.

Ford joined the Navy, served as an officer and returned to Grand Rapids, where he had a law practice and became active in politics, running for Congress. He held his seat for 25 years, with an ambition to become speaker of the House. Instead, he settled for minority leader.

In 1973, Vice President Spiro Agnew pleaded no contest to income-tax evasion and resigned. To replace him, President Richard Nixon selected Ford, which, the congressman from Michigan figured, was the highest political position he would attain, according to Ford’s obituary in the New York Times.

But a few months later, Nixon resigned and Ford became president.

When Ford died at his home in Rancho Mirage, California, in 2006, the Times praised Ford, whom it said had “gently led the United States out of the tumultuous Watergate era.” It noted the former president had a “common touch” and “uncommon virtue.”

And yet, the Times obituary also pointed out, Ford was thrust into an office “he had never sought.”

A woman in the White House

After he left office, Ford put his presidential library in Ann Arbor, honoring his connection to the University of Michigan, and his presidential museum in Grand Rapids, his hometown until he went to Washington, D.C. Both are operated as one entity.

And in 1989, Ford was in West Branch, Iowa, where former President Herbert Hoover was from, for a conference of former presidents. Ford spoke to a group of schoolchildren, and one of them, a girl, asked him a prophetic question.

”What advice would you give a young lady wanting to become president of the United States?”

Ford’s response, recorded on video, has had some relevance in these past few months and recently has been circulating on social media. Ford gently told the girl that he hoped that at some point a woman would become president.

---- Index References ----

Company: Yale Law School; The University of Michigan; Oakland University

News Subject: (Campaigns & Elections (1CA25); Global Politics (1GL73); Government (1GO80); Public Affairs (1PU31);

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World Elections (1WO93))

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August 14, 2024

Section: Opinion

25th amendment re-visited

Dan Edwards

John Barnhart, welcome back and congratulations on your hard-fought victories recovering from a stroke. Once again, as we both can testify, the Bedford medical professionals are heroic in their dedication and professionalism. In the rich tradition of the Bedford Bulletin presenting differing views, I look forward to our re-engaging and debate. The 25th Amendment addresses issues related to presidential succession if the President is no longer (or temporarily) unable to meet the demands of the office. I had intended to write the column when we had two old guys running for President. Obviously, things have changed. We're down to one - old guy. The 25th Amendment was proposed by Congress and ratified in the aftermath of the assassination of JFK. While it clarified some vagueness in the Constitution, I am not sure it really covers the case of declining health/mental conditions that are increasingly possible if we elect elderly politicians as President.

The 25th Amendment has four parts. The first three are straight forward. Section 1 states "In case of the removal of the President from office or of his death or resignation, the Vice President shall become President." Section 2 covers the case if there is a vacancy in the office of Vice President, then the President shall nominate a VP which requires a confirmation by majority vote of the House and Senate. When Nixon resigned from office in 1974, Gerald Ford became President. Ford invoked Section 2 to nominate Nelson Rockefeller his VP. Section 3 allows for a President to notify the heads of the Senate and House that he/she will not be able to manage the duties of the office, and until he/she notifies them to the contrary, the Vice President shall be acting President. Section 3 has been used when a President was going into surgery. Reagan transferred his duties once and George W did this twice for a few hours during planned surgeries.

Section 4 is complicated and imperfect. It addresses the case when a President may no longer be capable but refuses to step aside. It allows for the Vice President and majority of the President's cabinet (or another group that Congress designates) to declare a President unfit, whereupon the VP immediately becomes Acting President. If the President disagrees and declares themselves fit, the VP and the deciding body above has four days to disagree. If they don't, the President resumes his office. If they do, the VP keeps control while Congress quickly meets and decides. It takes a two-thirds majority in both the House and Senate to permanently remove an obstinate incapable President.

At the Constitutional Convention in 1787, delegate John Dickinson nailed the problem when he asked, "What is the extent of the term 'disability and who is to be the judge of it?'" No response was recorded. The difficulty of determining when someone is unfit for the office of President is a minefield. Section 4 was briefly brought up in the days after Jan 6th regarding Trump, but his cabinet did not pursue. Ronald Reagan's onset of dementia in his second term was covered up. FDR was dying as he ran for a fourth term and died five months after being re-elected. Woodrow Wilson, our 28th President, had a severe debilitating stroke during his 2nd term. As history now recounts, the condition was kept secret and his wife Edith essentially served as chief executive during the last year and half of his term. Presidents do bring ambitious people into the White House. It is fair to say that there must be a tendency to cover up a President's minor failings so they can keep their jobs and manage the reins of power. But we didn't elect them, and any deception violates the guardrail of Section 4.

25th amendment re-visited, 2024 WLNR 13965726

Finally, I am shocked that Hollywood hasn't spun Section 4 into a movie. The plot would involve a capable well-liked President that is suddenly setup, made to appear incompetent, and betrayed by a turncoat VP and cabinet who steal the reins of power in a Section 4 inspired coup. So...what do you think readers? If I put this on social media, would this be clickbait? Gee willikers, maybe I could be a "social media influencer"? Nah, think I'll just hang with the cows.

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News Subject: (Executive Bodies (1EX50); Government (1GO80); Government Institutions (1GO90); Legislation (1LE97); Public Affairs (1PU31); U.S. Legislation (1US12))

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August 12, 2024

Slowing down, easily influenced and likely to say something ‘crazy’: Strategists on Trump’s
campaign struggles
Donald Trump is falling behind Kamala Harris in national polls as he holds fewer and fewer
campaign rallies compared to his 2016 campaign, Katie Ha...

Katie Hawkinson

Donald Trump is falling behind Kamala Harris in national polls as he holds fewer and fewer campaign rallies compared to his 2016 campaign, Katie Hawkinson reports

Donald Trump is slowing down on campaign rallies — but doesn’t want to admit it.

The former president faces a difficult race against Vice President Kamala Harris , who is gaining on her Republican rival with a 2.4 lead in an average of recent national polls . Despite this, he appears to be slowing down his campaign events.

The Washington Post reports that Trump held 22 rallies from July 1 to August 10, 2016. During that same time frame this year, Trump held just eight .

While Trump often speaks with local media outlets in swing states and gives interviews to “friendly” national media organizations like Fox News , the slowdown in events is beginning to raise questions regarding his campaign strategy.

Last week, a reporter asked the former president why he wasn’t campaigning more during a meandering press conference at his Mar-a-Lago estate. Trump responded by calling the question “stupid.”

Now, campaign experts tell The Independent this slowdown in campaign rallies is likely the product of several factors — including his unpredictability on stage and off-putting theories that could turn off swing voters.

Trump has an issue with ‘message discipline,’ strategists say

Trump’s campaign could be strategically limiting the number of live rallies as a form of damage control, Evan Siegfried, a political strategist who previously worked on GOP campaigns, told The Independent.

The less he’s seen in public and at rallies, Siegfried said, the fewer opportunities there are for him to “riff and go off script” to spread conspiracy theories and grievances.

”The real people who are going to choose this election are in seven states, and they represent a very thin swath of the entire electorate in this country,” Siegfried said.

These falsehoods and grievances, such as Trump’s baseless claim that Harris “happened to turn Black” to win over voters, are “the crazy stuff” that can turn off swing voters, according to Siegfried.

Slowing down, easily influenced and likely to say something..., 2024 WLNR 13581696

"They don't care about Donald Trump's grievances – if anything they don't like Donald Trump's grievances, they don't want to hear them," he continued.

The ultimate problem, Siegfried said, is that Trump lacks "message discipline." The strategist also noted his running mate, JD Vance, will continue to make major appearances on the campaign trail given his ability to stay on message.

Dr. Costas Panagopoulos, a political science professor at Northwestern University, agrees.

"There's always a risk that Trump will say something that will backfire on the campaign trail," he told The Independent

The slowdown in campaign events could also reasonably be attributed to security concerns following the assassination attempt and Trump's old age, Dr. Panagopoulos said.

The Trump campaign, for its part, rejects the idea that there has been a slowdown in campaign events.

"These so-called 'strategists' have absolutely no idea what they are talking about," Trump campaign spokesperson Karoline Leavitt told The Independent. "President Trump is working around the clock, whether it be speaking at rallies and fundraisers, holding hours-long press conferences, or sitting down for interviews with the media."

The former president has also gone off-message on Truth Social, Siegfried said, as his posts are likely influenced by a small group of right-wingers.

"Trump basically lives in his country clubs, and a lot of people have access to him there, and some are not exactly in the mainstream of thought and have ideas that would be considered, putting it politely, bats*** crazy," Siegfried told The Independent.

"Somebody just takes [Trump] aside and says, 'Hey, did you hear about this?' And he doesn't go out and do his homework to fact check it, just puts it out there," he continued.

Trump spreads baseless claims, attacks allies at recent rallies

Trump's latest campaign stop was in Bozeman, Montana last week. While Trump is almost certain to win Montana come November, the state is home to a competitive Senate race that could decide party control of the chamber.

There, he spread a baseless theory that Harris orchestrated Joe Biden's decision to step down.

"[Harris] was part of the cabal that got him out... They said, 'we'll do it the nice way or we'll do it the hard way, Joe,'" Trump said. "We'll use the 25th amendment and we'll call you mentally incompetent and everybody will believe us. What they did is a terrible thing actually, they forced him out."

"I hear [Biden is] going to make a comeback at the Democrat convention. He's gonna walk into the room, and he's gonna say: 'I want my presidency back, I want another chance to debate Trump, I want another chance,'" he continued.

Trump is pleading for Joe Biden to get back in the race pic.twitter.com/JKnzkzQd1i

— Aaron Rupar (@atrupar) August 10, 2024

Meanwhile, at a campaign stop in the swing-state of Georgia earlier this month, Trump repeatedly attacked GOP Governor Brian Kemp.

Regardless of the reasoning, fewer campaign rallies will have a detrimental effect on Trump's campaign, Dr. Panagopoulos said.

"There's always a risk that Trump will say something that will backfire on the campaign trail," he told The Independent. "Limiting the number of rallies is not the most optimal solution for that, because it just means that they're limiting exposure

Slowing down, easily influenced and likely to say something..., 2024 WLNR 13581696

to voters and others who will be crucial for them in this election.”

Ultimately, voters can pick up on the difference in energy between Trump and Harris, Dr. Panagopoulos said.

”That contrast is palpable in this race, at this moment, when you have one side doing so much and the other side seemingly pulling back.”

---- **Index References** ----

Company: WP COMPANY LLC; NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

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Lots of noise in St. Lucie, Martin elections, be careful who..., 2024 WLNR 13569418

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August 12, 2024

Lots of noise in St. Lucie, Martin elections, be careful who you pick; Epstein case a mess
Letters: Look at numbers, facts in Martin County Commission. St. Lucie County sheriff's
races; Jeffrey Epstein investigation too little, too late.

Treasure Coast Newspapers

Recently, mailers supporting Martin County Commissioner Doug Smith and Susan Gibbs Thomas, candidate for the District 3 seat, showed up sounding the same theme: how dedicated they are to protecting the Martin County way of life.

"Doug Smith is protecting our most precious places from excessive growth and out-of-control development," read Smith's mailer.

Beware claims of mailers citing Martin County way of life

Smith rarely meets a development proposal he doesn't like. He voted for comprehensive plan amendments to facilitate more and denser development. He voted to jump the urban service district boundary and create the "rural lifestyle" land use; in December, he voted in favor of a proposal to permit development more than a mile into existing farmland.

This makes sense when you consider Smith, whose campaign has raised \$164,541, got much of it from developers and development-related interests like land use attorneys, construction companies and others.

Do we really expect Smith to bite the hand that feeds him?

If anything, the Gibbs Thomas mailer was even more ludicrous. She will "Put a stop to growth and protect our Martin County way of life," it reads.

Thomas has raised \$78,574 and gotten an even greater percentage of that cash from developers, home builders, real estate investors and the like than Smith.

Worse, her mailer was paid for by a political action committee, Keep Martin Green, which state records show got all its money from another PAC, Accountability in Government. That PAC got \$482,000 from a third PAC, Fight for Florida, which gets most of its money from developers, homebuilders and construction firms.

So this is how it works; slick mailers make you think these candidates oppose "sprawl," but the candidates are funded by the sprawl industry, guaranteeing sprawl will continue.

And that, unfortunately, has indeed become the "Martin County way of life."

Gil Smart, Jensen Beach, is executive director of VoteWater, a Sewall's Point-based clean-water advocacy group.

Epstein case in Palm Beach County should have been reviewed years ago

Lots of noise in St. Lucie, Martin elections, be careful who..., 2024 WLNR 13569418

Although I applaud Rep. Lois Frankel for delving into the Epstein case and its failings, I think she and many others are quite a bit late in speaking up.

"It's an embarrassment to our justice system," she said. "Back then, I thought the same way."

Too bad her thoughts weren't put into action.

There were so many reports in respect to this travesty, yet no one spoke up. Why?

It was well reported and open knowledge that Epstein was given preferential treatment before, during and after his aberrant behavior and subsequent sentence.

Among them, exclusive housing while "incarcerated," given hours away from his cell without supervision and then the prosecutors used their underhanded tactics to further humiliate the victims.

What kind of influence, if any, did Epstein have on Palm Beach County Sheriff Ric Bradshaw and then-State Attorney Barry Krischer to impel them to act in this manner? Their silence speaks volumes.

But as of today, I remain unaware of any investigation or action taken against Bradshaw or attorneys Krischer, Lanna Belohlavek and Mary Ann Duggan. Why is that? What's being hidden?

It's nice Frankel wants to strengthen victims' rights, but what good are they if there is no enforcement of the ones already in place?

Thanks to Frankel for finally speaking up, but perhaps had she taken action sooner we would have witnessed a far different outcome, than "a reprehensible abuse of power" and the continued shame and degradation these girls suffered.

Jan Belwood, Palm City

Here's a hurricane tip they don't tell you

All the pamphlets and publications neglect to inform the public that in advance of hurricane flooding that every chemical, paint and fertilizer on your garage floor or on the ground should be disposed of, if warranted, or stored at few feet off the ground.

Should your property flood, you don't want to add all those dangerous and harmful chemicals into our local waterways.

Sharon McGinnis, Stuart

Keep open mind when it comes to electing sheriff

I want to express my jubilation that a true crime fighter who came up through the ranks at the department he leads is running for sheriff.

Sheriff Keith Pearson is not a politician. He is not a polished political mouthpiece. His expertise is fighting crime.

An example of this is how he publicly releases messages that criminals understand, telling them they should not come to St. Lucie County because they will be caught and prosecuted. The message is not intended for politicians who don't understand.

Please pay attention to the smoke and mirrors about Pearson's ethic. If he had as much as a parking ticket or warning in his records, it would be on billboards along Interstate 95.

I have no relationship with Pearson and am not involved in politics at all. I have worked in law enforcement. I have worked for chiefs who were real policemen and chiefs who were politicians. It is amazing what goes on behind the scenes on how the two deal with preventing and prosecuting crime.

I always admired the real police chief because he wanted criminals arrested and was not so concerned about what it looked like in the paper. The politician chief was concerned about what things looked like in the paper and not locking criminals up.

Lots of noise in St. Lucie, Martin elections, be careful who..., 2024 WLNR 13569418

I am shocked to see a candidate for sheriff would put up an “adolescent” website depicting Pearson as a bad person. When has a news article become evidence? It has been beaten to death in the media, but the bottom line is Pearson has no charges filed against him. Does the statement, “We cannot file charges,” mean innocence? I think so.

The election is getting bizarre. Please keep an open mind.

Russell Pieper, Fort Pierce

Use amendment to replace Biden with Harris

So, the elites in the Democratic Party get to anoint Kamala Harris as the next president. As only the vice president, she becomes the most powerful executive in the free world while Joe Biden is a lame duck. Why? Because she’s next in line.

Kings inherit their thrones. Politicians do not. Even the so-called family dynasties had to stand for re-election.

Harris is only next in line upon the president’s death or removal via the 25th Amendment, and Biden was not removed. The sitting president is still the president, although diminished. He served notice of quitting when his term ended. Like it or not, he’s the only president we have. We don’t have two.

However, the president all but admitted he is too diminished to run for election. Why should the nation be saddled with a “diminished” president who, in his diminished state, will make decisions that might affect the nation forever? Or will Kamala or those minions around Biden gaslight him?

Congress should demand the Cabinet use the 25th Amendment to remove Biden. Get a clean slate, as the Constitution envisioned. Then Harris can get the job legitimately and take her chances in the election.

Just a thought.

Jim Grant, Jensen Beach

Use science, not partisan bias, to form opinion

Letter writer Paul Vallier declared: “Beyond one or two millimeters ... a year, there is no threatening sea level rise ... (and) there is no imminent climate catastrophe.”

Vallier is misinformed. As I wrote previously: “As sea levels rise along the Texas coast, the Army Corps of Engineers has a \$57 billion plan to build a higher dike around Galveston due to higher tides and stronger, more frequent hurricanes.” And Venice, Italy is at risk of rising sea levels.

The half-meter sea level rise forecasted over the coming decades doesn’t take into account glacial collapse. For example, Scientific American reports, if Antarctica’s Thwaites Glacier collapses it alone could raise sea levels by two feet within two years.

Thwaites is nicknamed the “Doomsday Glacier” because “its collapse could cause catastrophic sea level rise.” Roughly the size of Florida, Thwaites is the world’s widest glacier.

That’s not all. Thwaites acts as a bulwark to the massive West Antarctic Ice Sheet.

”Thwaites’ collapse would undermine the stability of the ice sheet,” CNN reported. The West Antarctic Ice Sheet holds enough water to raise the world’s oceans by at least 10 additional feet.

Vallier speaks in incremental terms of millimeters per year. He would be wise to acknowledge slight changes in any environment can portend tragic results. An analogy: Small cracks often predict the possibility of significant catastrophes. In 2021, telltale cracks in support pillars of the Champlain Towers South condominium in Surfside foretold an impending disaster. That’s why significant steps must be taken immediately to drastically reduce the world’s dependence on fossil fuels to avoid the catastrophic consequences of global warming.

Lots of noise in St. Lucie, Martin elections, be careful who..., 2024 WLNR 13569418

When writers express opinions based on partisan biases, they do us a disservice. For an example of objective, nonpartisan analysis, read Frank Wacha Jr.'s letter published in this publication.

Cray Little, Vero Beach

Harris positive voice for nation's future

The honorable Joe Biden has stepped down from campaigning for the presidency and thrown his support to his vice president, Kamala Harris. I commend him for his love of country in coming to this decision; it's difficult, as we age, to admit to some of our infirmities, but he rose above his ego and chose to think of country first.

Now, this is a true dedication to our country, not some campaign jingle the GOP has come up with to try to fool the public concerning their cultish leader.

Harris is smart and well-spoken, dedicated to serving justice as she did in California as attorney general and, best of all, she has a great attitude about our country's future. Compare her thoughts to those of the former president who does nothing but cast aspersions on our country and push the fear factor.

I choose optimism over pessimism. I choose confidence over daily hateful diatribes. I choose a younger individual over an old, tired, hateful and nasty elderly has-been. I choose happiness over deadly gloom. I choose a better world for my grandchildren in which to live and flourish. I choose Kamala.

Hopefully, you will choose the same. Let's finally elect an intelligent and graceful woman to this very important office; it's well overdue.

Perhaps the women who had previously scorned Hillary Clinton will see the error of their ways and vote for sanity this time around. Donald Trump has shown his stripes time and time again; we all should know just who he is now and that is a lying convicted felon.

Sharon E. Garland, Hobe Sound

Democrats manipulate the minions

There was a heavy dose of anti-Trump rhetoric in a recent letters package in this publication.

Let me assure Cray Little Republicans were always willing to admit Donald Trump's faults. Can the Democrats say the same? Especially now that they are rebranding Kamala Harris and more than willing to forget that she was not open with Americans about Joe Biden's abilities.

Along with Chuck Schumer, Nancy Pelosi and possibly Barack Obama, who can't seem to leave Washington, Harris shows to be the power-hungry, far-left San Francisco liberal we know her to be. The gaslighting has begun, however, aided and abetted by the same mainstream media that shielded Biden for almost four years.

Why haven't we stopped supporting Trump? Open borders, wars in foreign countries, rising inflation, crime, DEI and the biggest "threat to Democracy," as the Democrats love saying about Trump, the use of lawfare against political opponents. It's all been obvious, but the left doesn't seem to care because it has been led to believe that Trump is Enemy No. 1.

We hear from another writer that Republicans are "fascist-leaning" and "foisting" Trump on the nation. Is she serious? What's more fascist than the current administration trying to control the media, persecuting political enemies and opening our southern borders?

Overwrought Hillary Clinton didn't get elected, Democrats have been manipulated and lied to ever since. As long as there is a D on their ballot, many will push it no matter who it represents. Fascists on the right? Nice try.

Patricia A. Perrone, Stuart

The Lord has not saved Trump from justice, voters

I do not know what is more depressing: the lack of knowledge of basic facts or the blind religious devotion to a simpleton grifter.

Lots of noise in St. Lucie, Martin elections, be careful who..., 2024 WLNR 13569418

A letter writer claims God saved Donald Trump; it was divine intervention. God did save Trump. God runs the show. Perhaps God saved Trump so Trump can stand trial for his crimes.

Many people who believe in the same God feel God had a different plan for Trump, and it's the big house and not the White House. The right in this country does not speak for God, nor does the right in this country speak for the majority.

The right may think it does. The right may throw a temper tantrum when it realizes it does not. Remember Jan. 6.

The right is going to lose this election again and the majority will go back to prosecuting Trump. God may have saved Trump from an assassin's bullets, but God will not save Trump from the American voter.

Don Whisman, Stuart

This article originally appeared on Treasure Coast Newspapers: Lots of noise in St. Lucie, Martin elections, be careful who you pick; Epstein case a mess

---- **Index References** ----

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8/12/24 Nation's Blogs (No Page)
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August 12, 2024

Why Donald Trump Can't Let Go of Joe Biden

Jeet Heer

Aug 12, 2024

Politics / August 12, 2024

The former president is caught in a nostalgia trap of his own making.

Republican presidential nominee former president Donald Trump holds an artwork of the assassination attempt, which he signed for the artist, during a campaign rally at the Georgia State University Convocation Center on August 3, in Atlanta. (Photo by Joe Raedle / Getty Images)

With remarkable speed, the Democratic Party has embraced Kamala Harris as their presumptive nominee and moved on from Joe Biden, the party's standard-bearer since 2020—who only a month ago was set to run for the fourth time on a presidential ticket. But even as Harris and her vice presidential running mate Tim Walz have reenergized their party with massive crowds and hefty fund-raising hauls, Donald Trump is not ready to give up on the dream of a rematch against the former president. Both in the press conference Trump gave on Thursday at Mar-a-Lago and in his rally the following day in Montana, the former president repeatedly referred to Biden in surprisingly wistful terms, becoming indignant against the supposed injustice of the Democratic Party forcing Biden to withdraw from the race.

Trump even went so far as to claim in his press conference that Biden had been the victim of an unconstitutional coup. Trump said, "I am no Biden fan but from a constitutional standpoint, from any standpoint you look at, they took the presidency away. People say he lost after the debate. I don't know whether that is true. Whether he could or couldn't win, he had the right to run." This is absurd, since no constitutional issues were raised by Biden's withdrawal as a candidate. Political parties are self-governing entities that set their own rules.

In the Montana rally, Trump launched into an anachronistic riff where he asked the crowd which nickname is better, Sleepy Joe or Crooked Joe. The assembled MAGA cultists roared when "Crooked Joe" was mentioned and—in a plaintive tone that suggested mourning for the campaign he wanted to run against Biden—Trump said, "'Crooked' seems to always win. I mean, he's a crooked guy."

It's hard to escape the feeling that Trump would really rather be running against Biden again—or indeed against Hillary Clinton (who also recurs in his speeches with references to her e-mail scandal, an incident that is surely of remote interest in 2024). Trump's speeches increasingly feel like a nostalgia act, with the demagogue rehearsing his greatest hits (Crooked Hillary's e-mails, China caused Covid, Defund the Police, Stop the Steal) rather than engaging in the political battles of the moment. This constant regurgitation of old material has made Trump's speeches even more unfocused and digressive,

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lacking in strong attack lines. He's never been a disciplined speaker, but at his best, in the 2016 campaign, he was able to hammer at his foes (both establishment Republicans in the primary and Hillary Clinton in the general election, with punchy polemical jabs.

To get a taste of how meandering Trump has become, consider this extended wail from the Montana rally, taking up his now familiar complaint about Biden's withdrawal:

"After the debate [Biden] was down, way down, in the polls. They didn't even want to show the polls. They said that he's not going to win. So they said, 'We're going to take him out and we're going to put somebody new in.' This never happened to anybody before. You spend—we spent \$100 million dollars fighting crooked Joe Biden and then all of sudden they've decided to take him out and put somebody else in. [Harris] never got one vote. She was the first loser in the primaries. You know she ran against Joe Biden and everyone else. I think they had like 16 people running. She never made Iowa, the first state. I love Iowa. You know why I love it? Because I win it every single time with the farmers. We win it. But he never made Iowa. She was the first one to quit. And now... and stupid. Honestly she was the nastiest to him too. And then he picked her. I couldn't believe it. She was part of the cabal that got him out. You know, they got him out. They said, 'We'll do it the nice way or we'll do it the hard way, Joe. We'll use the 25th Amendment, and we'll call you mentally incompetent and everybody will believe us.' And you know what they did is... a terrible thing, actually. They forced him out. It was a coup. We had a coup. That was the first coup in the history of our country. And it was very successful. He said, 'OK, I'll leave. If that's what you want, I'll leave.' And now he's seeing what the competition is. I hear he's going to make a comeback at the Democrat convention. He's going to walk into the room and he's going to say, 'I want my presidency back. I want another chance to debate Trump. I want another chance.'"

Current Issue

As so often with Trump, much of this is phantasmagoric wishcasting disguised as political argument. It's hardly a coup if Joe Biden is still president. There is no evidence that Biden was threatened with the 25th Amendment (a move that would in fact have torn the Democratic Party apart) or that Biden has any plans to use the Democratic National Convention to regain the nomination. The underlying impulse is clearly Trump's transparent desire to have Biden, rather than Harris, as his rival in the election.

There is no mystery as to why Trump is indulging in this public daydreaming: The Kamala Harris and Tim Walz ticket has made the election, which Trump was on track to win, competitive again.

As Axios reports, the Trump campaign is worried that Harris is taking the lead in the election and their candidate lacks the focus to make her the center of his attack. This worry is grounded in the fact that Harris has taken the lead in multiple national polls, is now leading in the swing states of the Midwest (Wisconsin, Michigan, and Pennsylvania), and is more competitive than Biden in the swing states of the South and Southwest (Georgia, North Carolina, Arizona, and Nevada), where the race is now tightening. While the race remains very close, Harris has a real shot at a decisive popular and Electoral College victory.

According to Axios, Trump's advisers are "pleading with him to adopt a new 'hard-hitting' stump speech to define Vice President Harris as liberal and weak.... And praying he'll stop the recidivistic pull to simply improvise haphazardly."

Trump did in fact make arguments in his press conference and speech that Harris is too liberal, in particular referencing stances she took in the 2019 presidential bid, which she has since disavowed (support for Medicare for All and opposition to fracking). But such attacks are generic and can apply to many other Democrats. In the past, Trump was able to characterize his foes in memorable ways with nicknames that had the power to stick (Little Marco, Crooked Hillary, Sleepy Joe). When it comes to Harris and Walz, Trump is still struggling to define them in any language beyond that of GOP boilerplate rhetoric, which may convince the base but finds little resonance with the disengaged voters Trump so successfully mobilized with his original political campaign.

Trump 2024 is a very different candidate than he was in 2016, when he upturned American politics. However disgusting Trump's demagoguery and racism were, he was an electrifying presence who had a compelling message: that America was governed by a bipartisan elite with globalist values whose preferred policies (free trade, robust immigration, an internationalist foreign policy that led to numerous wars) was bad for the country. To this supposed consensus, Trump presented himself as an outsider who, because of his wealth, could challenge the status quo. This message was largely a work

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of fiction (Trump's wealth was vastly overstated, and he effectively governed as a conventional Republican, aside from his heterodoxy on trade), but it made for a strong sales pitch.

Trump in 2024 is both an older candidate and a more tired one. His current campaign is a rerun rather than a burst of originality. Symptomatic of this tiredness is his repeated deployment of old talking points and nicknames and his nursing of grudges from his 2020 election defeat (including his insistence that the election was stolen from him and that those arrested for attacking the Capitol on January 6 are victims of legal injustice).

Occasionally Trump advocates some new policy (such as removing taxes on tips—a proposal Kamala Harris has co-opted). But none of these policies challenge the status quo the way Trump's 2016 campaign did. Trump is running a nostalgia campaign that appeals to those who have fond memories of his presidency. While this remains a significant chunk of the electorate, it isn't one that is likely to grow his support.

And as a nostalgia act, Trump risks being constantly upstaged by the hot new thing. In recent public appearances, he's repeatedly overstated the size of crowds at his rally, while also falsely suggesting that Kamala Harris is drawing small crowds. On Sunday, Trump falsely claimed that a photo showing a large crowd greeting Kamala Harris at a Detroit airport was an AI-generated fake. These desperate lies are signs that Trump himself is aware that on some level that he's facing a formidable rival—and is falling behind. The election is still more than 80 days away and the dynamic could quickly shift. But without a change in message, Trump's campaign runs the real danger of sputtering along into irrelevance.

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Popular
Can we count on you?

In the coming election, the fate of our democracy and fundamental civil rights are on the ballot. The conservative architects of Project 2025 are scheming to institutionalize Donald Trump's authoritarian vision across all levels of government if he should win.

We've already seen events that fill us with both dread and cautious optimism—throughout it all, The Nation has been a bulwark against misinformation and an advocate for bold, principled perspectives. Our dedicated writers have sat down with Kamala Harris and Bernie Sanders for interviews, unpacked the shallow right-wing populist appeals of J.D. Vance, and debated the pathway for a Democratic victory in November.

Stories like these and the one you just read are vital at this critical juncture in our country's history. Now more than ever, we need clear-eyed and deeply reported independent journalism to make sense of the headlines and sort fact from fiction. Donate today and join our 160-year legacy of speaking truth to power and uplifting the voices of grassroots advocates.

Throughout 2024 and what is likely the defining election of our lifetimes, we need your support to continue publishing the insightful journalism you rely on.

Thank you, The Editors of The Nation

Jeet Heer

Jeet Heer is a national affairs correspondent for The Nation and host of the weekly Nation podcast, The Time of Monsters . He also pens the monthly column “Morbid Symptoms.” The author of *In Love with Art: Françoise Mouly's Adventures in Comics with Art Spiegelman* (2013) and *Sweet Lechery: Reviews, Essays and Profiles* (2014), Heer has written for numerous publications, including *The New Yorker* , *The Paris Review* , *Virginia Quarterly Review* , *The American Prospect* , *The Guardian* , *The New Republic* , and *The Boston Globe* .

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Pelosi says Biden's letter on 2024 presidential race 'didn't..., 2024 WLNR 13501759

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August 12, 2024

Section: US

Pelosi says Biden's letter on 2024 presidential race 'didn't sound like Joe...'

TOI World Desk

US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, in an interview with New York Times podcast said that President Joe Biden's letter from last month, which reaffirmed his intention to remain in the 2024 presidential race, "didn't sound like" him."I mean, there are some people who are unhappy with the letter. Let me say it differently.

Some said that some people were unhappy with the letter. I'll put it in somebody else's mouth. It didn't sound like Joe Biden to me.

It really didn't, "Pelosi said during an interview with Ezra Klein on the podcast."I didn't accept the letter as anything but a letter, "she added..Joe Biden on July 8 addressed a letter to Democratic congressmen following a fumbling debate performance that raised doubts about his ability to win the election.

In the letter, he said: "The debate about me running is over. I'm running. I was voted for by 14 million people in the Democratic primary.

Are you trying to take away their voice? We're done with this."Despite this initial stance, Biden eventually yielded to the ongoing pressure from his supporters and stepped down from his position and cleared the path for Vice President Kamala Harris to assume the role of leading the Democratic ticket in the upcoming election.The letter came up when Klein questioned Pelosi about her widely-discussed appearance on MSNBC's "Morning Joe.

"In that interview, the former speaker expressed her support for whichever decision Biden made regarding his political future.Pelosi said: "I wanted to see a campaign that could win. Because I had made a decision that I stayed in Congress to defeat what's his name, because I think he is a danger to our country.

It's not like a Bob Dole or a George Bush or something like that, where you have a difference of opinion, "New York Times reported.Pelosi said that she wanted to use her appearance on "Morning Joe"to urge, "Stop saying things, "as NATO leaders were gathering in Washington, DC, that week."If you have something to say, save it for later, until they're gone.

"Because this is a big deal the summit of NATO, which he has strengthened, grown, and now is hosting. And they're doing great things, and he's the center of it all. Save your comments for later, "Pelosi added.

In a recent CBS interview, Biden, after exiting the US presidential race, specifically mentioned Pelosi as he explained his reasons for ending his re-election bid."A number of my Democratic colleagues in the House and Senate thought that I was going to hurt them in the races. And I was concerned if I stayed in the race, that would be the topic - you'd be interviewing me about why did Nancy Pelosi say [something] .

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.. and I thought it'd be a real distraction, "he said.

"When I ran the first time, I thought of myself as being a transition president. I can't even say how old I am - it's hard for me to get out of my mouth, "he added. The statement aligns with journalist Seymour Hersh's report, which claimed that Barack Obama threatened Joe Biden with the 25th Amendment, asserting that he had "Kamala's approval" to remove him from the race, Collin Rugg said in a post on X.

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Media Appears To Target Trump Running Mate; Vance..., 2024 WLNR 13433345

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August 10, 2024

Media Appears To Target Trump Running Mate; Vance Slams CNN Anchor's Theory About His Service; Keilar Appears To Walk Back Criticism Of Vance; Tr...

Media Appears To Target Trump Running Mate; Vance Slams CNN Anchor's Theory About His Service; Keilar Appears To Walk Back Criticism Of Vance; Trump Campaign Blasts Media's Treatment Of Harris; Analyzing The Media's Treatment Of Walz Versus Vance; New Harris Ad Seeks To Flip Script On Border Issue; Israeli Air Force Strikes Hezbollah Command Center; New Assault In Gaza Ahead Of Cease-Fire Talks; Trump Attacks Harris Policies During Montana Rally; Religious Voters Impact On Presidential Election

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

GREG GUTFELD, FOX NEWS CHANNEL HOST: Out of time! Shannon Bream, David Angelo, Morgan Ortagus, Tyrus, studio audience.

"FOX NEWS @ NIGHT" with dreamy Trace Gallagher is next. I'm Greg Gutfeld. I love you, America.

TRACE GALLAGHER, FOX NEWS CHANNEL ANCHOR: Good evening. I'm Trace Gallagher. It's 11:00 p.m. on the East Coast, 8:00 here in Los Angeles, and this is America's late news, FOX NEWS @ NIGHT.

And breaking tonight, it fell 17,000 feet in one minute, and there was no emergency call. In fact, there was no contact at all with air traffic control.

Horrifying new images in Brazil of a passenger plane spiraling to the ground, killing everyone on board.

One day after taking hostile questions from the media at Mar-a-Lago and agreeing to debate Kamala Harris tonight, former President Trump taking his message directly to Montana voters, this is a live look. The former president running behind schedule after some mechanical issues with his plane. We expect to hear from him any minute. We will take you there live when it happens.

Meantime, the Kamala Harris campaign remains short on substance, but long on the so-called Joy vibes.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

KAMALA HARRIS (D), VICE PRESIDENT AND 2024 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: I know we like hard work. Hard work is good work for all of us.

AMERICAN CROWD: Yes!

Media Appears To Target Trump Running Mate; Vance..., 2024 WLNR 13433345

HARRIS: Hard work is good work and we will do it with joy. And I know we are all clear about what we are up against.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

GALLAGHER: And the liberal media is running cover for the silent Harris campaign as they rush to defend Minnesota Governor Tim Walz.

The senior national correspondent Kevin Corke is live in D.C., with the very latest on this. Kevin, good evening.

KEVIN CORKE, FOX NEWS CHANNEL SENIOR NATIONAL CORRESPONDENT: Evening, Trace. Former President Trump's aircraft, known as Trump Force One, was diverted en route to his rally tonight in Montana, as you mentioned, a mechanical problem. But the pit stop in billings didn't keep him from making his way to beautiful Bozeman as scheduled, nor did it keep him from making a point, as he has throughout this campaign, to talk about what's at stake between now and yes, the election, which, as you know, is less than 90 days away.

Now, meantime, the media machine continues to spin at an incredible pace, turning the vice president, who just a few months ago, they said was the least popular politician in America.

Well, they are turning her into joy personified, America's political sweetheart, accompanied by her running mate, Mr. Joy himself, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz. Leaders, they are, say, the media of a pro-democracy movement that's spreading like wildfire.

Just don't talk about his rank in the military. And then, of course, there is this. The media is also sounding the alarm about former President Trump's running mate, Ohio Senator J.D. Vance, suggesting, among other things, that he's Trump's attack dog. He's a liar. An eyeliner wearing weirdo whose approval ratings are circling the drain.

Now, the media makeover seems to be working, you could argue for the Democrats, at least, according to some of the latest surveys, which show the vice president gaining on the former president in some of the swing states. But keep this in mind, as they continue to run cover for her vice-presidential candidates, the more they have to answer questions, eventually. Trace?

GALLAGHER: Eventually being the key word there.

CORKE: Yes.

GALLAGHER: Kevin Corke, live for us in D.C. Kevin, thank you.

Meantime, J.D., Vance had a blistering response to a CNN anchor who suggested that Vance embellished his own military record and might not be the best person to criticize the record of Tim Walz.

Christina Coleman is live with the heated back and forth on this. Christina, good evening.

CHRISTINA COLEMAN, FOX NEWS CHANNEL CORRESPONDENT: Hi. Good evening, Trace.

While Republicans and several retired command sergeant majors who served in the Minnesota National Guard, accused Tim Walz of embellishing his military career and retiring in May of 2005 to avoid being deployed to Iraq.

CNN's, Brianna Keilar took it upon herself to criticize J.D. Vance's military service.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

BRIANNA KEILAR, CNN ANCHOR: I also think that J.D. Vance, as a messenger on this, may be an imperfect messenger, because we have, as you introduced him as a combat correspondent, which was what his title was. But when you dig a little deeper into that, he was a public affairs specialist, someone who did not see combat which certainly the title combat correspondent kind of gives you a different impression. So, he may be the imperfect messenger on that.

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(END VIDEO CLIP)

COLEMAN: J.D. Vance fired back on Twitter. He called her remarks disgusting. He also wrote, in part, "It's easy to sit in the comfort and safety of a CNN studio and trivialize the service of countless men and women who risked their lives."

Today, Keilar seemed to walk back her own comments, saying attacks on both Vance and Walz's military service are wrong.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

KEILAR: Despite our recent years as a country at war, many service members haven't seen combat. That doesn't make them or their service less admirable or less necessary, nor does retiring from the National Guard after 24 years. These kinds of attacks from the left or the right diminish the service of so many others who have served honorably.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COLEMAN: So, she is criticizing attacks from the left and right, but not from herself. Trace?

GALLAGHER: Christina, thank you.

Well, the FOX NEWS @ NIGHT "COMMON SENSE DEPARTMENT", finds it super convenient that the very same media that covered up Joe Biden's mental acuity is now building up Kamala Harris's record. And what's more? They are doing it with zero help from Kamala Harris.

At least, President Biden claimed to be healthy, Kamala Harris isn't claiming anything. Her policies are now locked away in the equivalent of Al Capone's vault. If you find it and open it, you will discover a big Geraldo-esque, nothing, zilch. It does not exist.

And she is not running a basement campaign like her boss. Instead, she has placed herself in a prominent bubble. She stays in, the media stays out, and the media says nothing. Except for "COMMON SENSE"

Imagine not getting any votes in the Democratic primary, then, not answering any questions in the general election. Seems crazy, but it's working. Kamala Harris is suddenly the Mary Pickford of politics, say nothing and everybody loves you. Speak, and your career is over.

So, why would Kamala Harris agree to be vetted now? Why come up with solutions when you already have the vibe?

"COMMON SENSE" finds it interesting that if Kamala Harris was in the running for a job, she would likely be questioned. But if you're running for the top job, silence isn't just golden, boy, it's downright presidential.

Let's bring in District Media Group president, Beverly Hallberg and independent journalist Brittney Hopper. Thank you both for coming on.

Kellyanne Conway had the following to say. Watch.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

KELLYANNE CONWAY, FOX NEWS CHANNEL CONTRIBUTOR: I would say this to the mainstream media. Kamala Harris is ignoring you because she thinks she already has you. She thinks the mainstream media is already in her thrall, in her corner.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

GALLAGHER: Yes, and that's code for the media really did side with them, Beverly Hallberg.

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BEVERLY HALLBERG, PRESIDENT, DISTRICT MEDIA GROUP: Yes. And I actually think this is a smart strategy by Kamala Harris, because whenever she gets off teleprompter, she is actually quite terrible, there is one person who's been a worse communicator in this administration than Joe Biden is actually been Kamala Harris, and people know that.

And so, the media, who are many of them, who are hoping that she does well, are staying away from their questions. But after a while, the American people see through this. They do want to hear from somebody who is running for office, especially, somebody who is not in the primary.

She has agreed to one presidential debate. I think people are very excited. I think will be one of the most watched debates in our lifetimes, maybe in history.

(CROSSTALK)

GALLAGHER: Yes.

HALLBERG: And she is going to have to answer questions eventually.

GALLAGHER: Yes, eventually. The Wall Street Journal editorial board said this: "Kamala Harris: Mystery Commander in Chief: Kamala Harris is all but telling Americans they'll have to elect her to find out what she really believes, as the vice president ducks interviews in the media give her a free ride. Americans shouldn't have to read tea leaves to figure out if Miss Harris would keep the country safe in a treacherous world."

I mean, you would think that we are owed some answers. She didn't get any votes, maybe she gives up some answers.

I'm sorry, Brittney.

BRITTNEY HOPPER, PRO-ISRAEL ACTIVIST: Yes, yes, Trace, we're not going to get those answers anytime soon. I think that this is all being done on purpose and strategically done. And it is exactly what she just said, that this is for Kamala, because I don't even understand what she says. When she speaks, it's like a bunch of word salad, and I'm left, huh? And I think a lot of other people are left with, what?

And so, during the debate, I think a lot of people are going to actually end up playing drinking games, because it's just going to be one of those nights where we're all going to just be like, what is going on?

(CROSSTALK)

GALLAGHER: Yes.

HOPPER: But I do think going back to the left-wing mainstream media, look, I was on it for 18 years. I know for a fact what they are doing, and they are doing this on purpose to make her look better. And it can never be as biased as it is, as what we are seeing right now.

(CROSSTALK)

GALLAGHER: Yes, I mean it --

HOPPER: And it's infuriating as it is, it's kind of comical as well.

GALLAGHER: Yes.

HOPPER: Because this is getting ridiculous, and the American people should really be asking questions.

GALLAGHER: Yes, but it's deliberate, really is. And I mean, it's funny, because Kamala Harris had that pattern where if

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you ask her a question, she will repeat the question, trying to buy some time, and then, she kind of goes on from there.

Beverly Hallberg, to you, back again. Joe Rogan on the gaslighting, he said this.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

JOE ROGAN, HOST, THE JOE ROGAN EXPERIENCE PODCAST: Yes. No, we're definitely being gaslit. That's the problem with like, fact checkers. Some of these fact checkers are completely full of --

Like, you're just trying to debunk something, especially now, when there's all this scrutiny being paid attention to what this guy has done.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

GALLAGHER: And the fact checker is always happened to be on the left, Beverly Hallberg, and it's kind of unclear why?

HALLBERG: We're at a point where even the fact checkers, we can't trust. Now, look, the faith in the media institution was an all-time low before 2024. But when they told us that Joe Biden was running circles around his campaign, that all of a sudden, Kamala Harris is now -- this amazing vice president and now this amazing candidate. People see the gaslighting for what it is.

And here is what I fear is that as we see how we're being lied to. How are people going to actually trust the election process? Democrats talk about preserving democracy, but when you destroy our institutions and our faith in them at every level, how are people going to trust anything on election day?

And I think that's something that we're going to be concerned about as we get to November 5th.

GALLAGHER: Yes, you got to believe that media trust is at an all-time low. One more look at CNN's Brianna Keilar. Just watch it. I mean, it's dishonest. Here is what she said.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

KEILAR: He was a public affairs specialist. Someone who did not see combat, which certainly the title combat correspondent kind of gives you a different impression. So, he may be the imperfect messenger on that.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

GALLAGHER: So, the goal here, Brittney, is that, you know, they are going after Tim Walz, so, we're going to change the narrative, and we're going to come up with anything in you. And there's a reason that J.D. Vance was so upset by this, because it's dishonest. It is just gaslighting.

HOPPER: Yes, I love that word, gaslighting.

I have my master's degree in clinical psychology. But look, you know, this is what the left-wing media does. This is -- they stick to their narrative, they stick to their agenda, CBS News just had a headline the other day saying that the GOP is mad that Tim Walz put tampons in school bathrooms.

They left out a huge word there, boy's bathrooms.

GALLAGHER: Right.

HOPPER: So, they are all doing this on purpose. And, you know, this is -- this is the biggest problem is that the American people are being lied to. And it's the narrative, it's the agenda that they are being told. And unfortunately, with my master's degree, it doesn't take a psychologist to tell people, if you keep telling folks the same story, one side, people are going to

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believe it. And this is --

(CROSSTALK)

GALLAGHER: They are.

HOPPER: This is the biggest threat we have right now in America.

GALLAGHER: Brittney Hopper, Beverly Hallberg, thank you both.

Well, 19 days and counting since Kamala Harris became the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, and still no news conference or a sit-down interview. But she says maybe sometime in the next three weeks.

Chanley Painter is live in New York, with more on the cone of silence.

Chanley, good evening.

CHANLEY PAINTER, FOX NEWS CHANNEL, OVERNIGHT ANCHOR: Hey, good evening, Trace.

Well, Harris announced that possibility of a sit-down interview yesterday during a rare chat she had with the reporters traveling with her on the campaign trail. She spent about one minute taking their questions. Watch this.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Are you open to more debate?

HARRIS: I am happy to have that conversation about an additional debate for after September 10th, for sure.

PAINTER (voice over): Harris' brief press time only seemed to come after caving to the mounting pressure and criticism coming from the Trump-Vance camp on that front. And while she may not be talking to reporters, Harris has been busy talking to voters on the campaign trail tonight, rallying with her running mate in front of a sold-out crowd in battle ground state, Arizona.

HARRIS: We are the underdog. We are out in great numbers, but we got a lot of work to do.

AMERICAN CROWD: Yes!

HARRIS: And this is going to be hard work.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

PAINTER (on camera): And about five minutes into her rally speech, though Harris had to quiet down, pro-Palestinian protesters with this.

HARRIS: The president and I are working around the clock every day to get that cease fire deal done and bring the hostages home.

So, I respect your voices, but we are here to now talk about this race.

PAINTER: Speaking of President Biden, while Harris says he's working around the clock there, he is taking heat, though, for also avoiding the press and the public eye as he hunkers down at his home in Delaware after holding only one public event this week and had nothing on his schedule today, despite a tumultuous week around the globe from the looming threats in the Middle East to significant escalation in the Russian-Ukraine war to turmoil here at home, trace with Wall Street.

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So, we'll see what he does next.

GALLAGHER: Bunch of stuff going on.

Chanley Painter, live for us in New York. Chanley, thank you.

Let's bring in California GOP chairwoman Jessica Millan Patterson and Los Angeles County GOP Vice Chair Siaka Massaquoi. Thank you both for coming on here.

Foxnews.com wrote the following headline here. It says the following: "Biden hunkers down at Delaware beach house after only public event of the week."

You know, it's interesting because it almost feels sad, Jessica. You look at this and you're like, I don't know. It feels sad. It feels like he is become totally irrelevant.

JESSICA MILLAN PATTERSON, CHAIRWOMAN, CALIFORNIA REPUBLICAN PARTY: He is given up on the narrative that he's up for the job.

GALLAGHER: Yes.

PATTERSON: He had a week where we had a tumultuous week on Wall Street. We had raising tensions in the Middle East. We have a border that's leaking like a sieve, and the only event he did was bringing in the World Series champs. He didn't do anything, any of these problems.

There is one thing to give Kamala Harris the space to campaign.

GALLAGHER: Right.

PATTERSON: There is another thing to be just phoning it in. It's very clear, he is phoning it in.

GALLAGHER: Somebody is still has to run the country.

Meantime, Kamala Harris is out in battleground states and she is campaigning, but it's interesting, Siaka, because she is giving. And, I mean, she is giving the identical speech in each of these battleground states.

We have a sample for you. It's 30 seconds, kind of long for our -- for our style here, but well worth it. Watch.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

HARRIS: Listen, let me tell you, I am clear. The path to the White House runs right through this state.

And listen, I am clear the path to the White House runs right through this state.

I took on perpetrators of all kinds.

I took on perpetrators of all kinds.

And are we ready to fight for it?

AMERICAN CROWD: Yes.

HARRIS: And are we ready to fight for it?

AMERICAN CROWD: Yes.

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And when we fight, we win!

(END VIDEO CLIP)

GALLAGHER: I mean big applause for whoever put that together. But it's unbelievable. These are different rallies.

SIACA MASSAQUOI, GOP VICE CHAIR, LOS ANGELES COUNTY: Yes.

GALLAGHER: And she doesn't think that television is not -- they are covering it.

MASSAQUOI: Yes. Well, you know, what we're seeing is the great script of the Democratic Party, like they're not going to let her go off script. There is a reason why, because both her and Joe, I believe they are not the ones running the show.

So, that's why we are seeing it look like a like a puppet show, because the puppet masters behind the curtain pulling her aside. Because if she ever came up and have to answer hard questions, like I said before, her record is Joe's record.

And I think is at a point now, we should really worry about that nervous tick she has that every time hard questions come, she starts to cackle. What -- is she OK?

GALLAGHER: Yes.

MASSAQUOI: We need to start looking in the health of both of them now. It's really, it's really wild to me to see what's going.

GALLAGHER: I am curious how she handled these debates. It's going to be fascinating here. Meantime, here is a campaign ad that Harris just dropped. Watch.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: As vice president, she backed the toughest border control bill in decades. And as president, she will hire thousands more border agents and crack down on fentanyl and human trafficking.

Fixing the border is tough. So, is Kamala Harris.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

GALLAGHER: Well, one, she is still the vice president. Just for the record, she is still the vice president. Two, are they kidding? They are running an ad on the border?

You're raising this. It's like Joe Biden running an ad on Afghanistan. Let's take one more look at Afghanistan.

PATTERSON: It's absolutely ludicrous. And we're not just talking about the last 3-1/2 years that she is been the vice president. Let's look at her 20- year record. When she was the vice -- or the attorney general here in California, and supported sanctuary state. When she was the D.A. in San Francisco, supported sanctuary cities. When she refused to prosecute illegal immigrants.

We have seen an increase on illegal border crossings of 140 percent over the last 3-1/2 years.

GALLAGHER: Yes.

PATTERSON: She is part of the problem. And if she wanted to fix it, she could do it right now.

GALLAGHER: And speaking of fixing this, I think it's worth pointing out. This is the Harris letter from 2018, rejecting

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more funding for the border agents. Quoting here, "We urge you to reduce funding for the administration's reckless immigration enforcement operations that are tearing families apart and harming our economy."

That's the same one, by the way, a minute ago, wants to secure the border.

MASSAQUOI: It's all this a joke. At the end of the day, these are wild socialist policies that she wants to implement. She was locking up, to Jessica's point, she was as -- she was letting these illegals come in. She was locking up again, people like me for minuscule misdemeanors and keeping us in there for a long period of time, because she has her own agenda to play up there, right?

GALLAGHER: Right, right.

MASSAQUOI: So, what she is doing and what everyone is doing, it's the American people truly against the mainstream media, because the media is what's been running a campaign for her right now, by hiding her and making her look like she is the next best thing since sliced bread.

Guess what? She isn't, and most people have some, you know, some type of issue eating that.

GALLAGHER: We had a state senator on last night who changed parties from Democrat to Republican. And we know you wanted to talk. But I wanted to put these pictures up because this is Gavin Newsom today, walking around, and he is picking up homeless encampments, and so on and so forth. And I thought it was worth a look.

I just want your thoughts on people kind of changing, pulling out of the Democratic Party, and then, Gavin Newsom kind of going against some of his own people.

PATTERSON: Well, I think it's pretty clear what he is doing. He is not that confident that Vice President Harris is going to win, and he's looking at 2028. He's got a finite amount of time to clean up his state, so he can run for president.

And here in California, this is an ongoing message.

GALLAGHER: Yes.

PATTERSON: We saw the senator who had switched parties yesterday was incredibly brave and courageous to move from the majority party to the minority party. But we're seeing it in registration since October of last year.

GALLAGHER: Right.

PATTERSON: Over 200,000 new Republicans we have.

(CROSSTALK)

GALLAGHER: Yes.

PATTERSON: In that same time period, Democrats have lost 112,000. And no party preference to decline state have gone down about 60,000.

GALLAGHER: 15 seconds.

MASSAQUOI: Yes, and I to add to that point, right here in Los Angeles, since 2023, we've gained about 66,000 new voters. While the Democrats themselves, since 2023 have lost 46,000 voters.

GALLAGHER: Yes.

MASSAQUOI: That's in L.A. So, things are changing guys. Get out there --

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(CROSSTALK)

GALLAGHER: Right. Nobody is saying -- nobody is saying that, that Trump is going to take California. But it is fascinating the shift that's going.

MASSAQUOI: Yes.

GALLAGHER: The pendulum is starting to swing back.

MASSAQUOI: There is a --

GALLAGHER: Siaka.

MASSAQUOI: There is a lot of smaller races here, in like the city.

GALLAGHER: Yes.

MASSAQUOI: And we'd win one, two, or three, that's rippling effect is going to go through California and through the rest of the country.

GALLAGHER: Siaka, Jessica, thank you.

Coming up, what caused a passenger plane to suddenly fall 17,000 feet in one minute, then, spiral to the ground without any emergency call. We'll have the latest on the Brazilian airline crash that killed everybody on board.

And later in the "NIGHTCAP", three months from the presidential election, and FOX NEWS @ NIGHT thinks it's time to put the country's top issues back on the front burner, because top Democrats appear to be ignoring them.

What's your top issue? Is it the economy, the border, something else? And tell us why? X and Instagram @tracegallagher. We will read, as always, your responses coming up in the "NIGHTCAP".

Meantime, 8:36 on the West Coast -- 8:20 on the West Coast. Here is a FOX NEWS @ NIGHT "TRIP ACROSS AMERICA", a live look at Kaanapali, Hawaii.

Did you know Hawaii is the nation's leading producer of coffee? Of course, everybody knows that.

Next, Minneapolis, Minnesota, hometown of Charles Schulz, though he ended his life in California, creator of the beloved Peanuts comic.

Finally, a live look at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, commonly referred to as the City of Brotherly Love. If you can't join us, live, don't forget to set your DVR, and watch us anytime.

We are coming right back with an aviation expert in that horrifying crash in Brazil.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

GALLAGHER: Well, there is a horrific new video tonight of a passenger plane with 61 people on board, spiraling, then, crashing in Brazil, killing everybody on board. The crash happened just minutes before it was scheduled to land in Sao Paulo. Flight tracking data shows the plane dropped 17,000 feet in roughly a minute. But investigators are unclear why.

Let's bring in former FAA safety team representative, pilot, and aviation expert, Kyle Bailey.

Kyle, it's great to have you on the show. I mean, it's a bad reason, but I'm curious, because you could hear the engines.

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When you listen that, watch that video, you can hear the engine still running. The plane dropped 17,000 feet in a minute, and then was spiraling. I mean, what do you make of that? And there was no, by the way, no mayday, no emergency signal given at all. What are your thoughts?

KYLE BAILEY, FORMER FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION SAFETY TEAM REPRESENTATIVE: So, the question here is, we hear -- do we hear a one engine or two engines? So, if it's one engine, you know, one engine running, one not working, and that could actually have caused them to get into this stall, and then a flat spin.

And just to be clear, it's not the engine stalling, it's what we call an aerodynamic stall where the one of the wings, or both, are losing lift, and then the one wing drops because there's no lift.

So, typically, I'm thinking this also could be icing. There was an advisory for about --

(CROSSTALK)

GALLAGHER: Yes.

BAILEY: From 11,000 to 21,000 feet for severe icing in the vicinity of where that airplane was. And when icing accumulates on the leading edge of the airplane, it could cause one wing or both wings, to stall, leading to what we call this flat spin, which is that uncontrollable spiraling, which is almost impossible to recover from that altitude.

(CROSSTALK)

GALLAGHER: And Kyle, is it sudden? I mean, that's the whole thing. Is it sudden? Is it something that you would not be able to get an emergency notification off, because it happens that fast, where all of a sudden, you know, there is ice on your wing. We're sure the pilots did. We assume they did.

Is it that fast, where you just start spiraling, you start losing altitude and spiraling, and you don't have time to communicate?

BAILEY: Yes, it's fast. And communications is always the second or third priority.

First priority is keeping the airplane in the sky. But generally, what happens, and when I'm looking at the flight data on flight radar, what I'm seeing is some inconsistencies on the ground speed, so that ice building up could make the airplane a little bit sluggish, and then, all sudden, one wing just lets out.

That's where we see that 17,000 foot a minute rate of descent, which is absolutely incredible.

So, that airplane hit the ground in about a matter of a minute, even if there was a more altitude to be in a flat spin like that, you know, it's pretty much spells disaster and fatalities.

GALLAGHER: Yes, it really is just awful. We are waiting for the investigators to give us more information on this.

Kyle Bailey, it's great to have you on the show, as always.

We want to go live, if we can, to Montana. This is, of course, Bozeman, where former President Trump is about to speak. As soon as he starts speaking, we are going to take it live.

He, of course, will walk around the stage for a while, and he will say hi to people, and then, he walks up to the to the microphones, and he'll start speaking.

In the meantime, we're going to kind of go back to the coverage of what's happening in Israel. The Israeli military says they're targeting Hamas fighters and operatives with an assault on Khan Yunis in southern Gaza tonight.

Israel has also confirmed it will send representatives to ceasefire negotiations that are supposed to resume next weekend at a

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yet-to-be- determined location. It comes at the same time U.S. forces were attacked in the Middle East for the 175th time since October 7th.

A U.S. defense official said a drone targeted forces at the Rumalyn landing zone in Syria. No injuries have been reported. The national correspondent, Jeff Paul, is in Tel Aviv tonight.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

JEFF PAUL, FOX NEWS CHANNEL NATIONAL CORRESPONDENT: As the U.S., Egypt and Qatar push for Israel and Hamas to return to the negotiating table, Israeli forces launched a new assault in southern Gaza.

The IDF says troops are targeting Hamas terrorists who are hiding out in the ruins of war-torn neighborhoods. An Israeli airstrike also killed a senior Hamas commander in the Lebanese port city of Sidon.

The intensified fighting is once again pushing thousands in Khan Yunis to evacuate.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: We are tired of this life. By God, we are fed up. Death is better than this.

PAUL: As Israel braces for a major attack from Iran and its proxies, Hezbollah and Israeli forces continue to exchange fire. The ongoing fighting along the Israel-Lebanon border only further complicates efforts to de-escalate.

BILAL SAHLAB, BEIRUT RESIDENT: Now, it's a psychological war more than a normal war. It's just a psychological one. Nothing will happen, God- willing. The war will not happen.

PAUL: Despite multiple reports indicating pressure from the U.S. is causing Iran to rethink its retaliatory attack on Israel, the Iranian Revolutionary Guard released new footage today of new cruise missiles.

White House says, it's taking threats from Iran seriously and is committed to helping defend Israel.

JOHN KIRBY, WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY COMMUNICATIONS ADVISOR: We're also working at the same time in the diplomatic space to try to de-escalate the tensions and to prevent any major escalation of the conflict there in the region.

PAUL: When it comes to the next round of negotiations, we know Israel has agreed to send a delegation next Thursday. But Hamas, however, is reportedly still studying the new proposal but the White House says Qatar has assured them the work to get them there. Trace.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

GALLAGHER: Jeff Paul in Tel Aviv tonight. Jeff, thank you. Let's bring in the co-founder of Restore Liberty, Army veteran Lieutenant Colonel, Darin Gaub, along with GOP nominee for Congress in Virginia's 7th District, Green Beret combat veteran Derrick Anderson.

We can see the former president on the right-hand side of the screen. He's doing some house cleaning. As soon as he starts speaking in earnest, we'll go to that. To you first, Derrick Anderson. Matthew Miller said this about Iran. Watch.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

MATTHEW MILLER, SPOKESPERSON OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE: It should be very clear to Iran that escalation is not in their interest. It's not in Israel's interest, it's not in any country in the region's interest. We have delivered that message to Israel, we know that other countries have delivered it to Iran.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

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GALLAGHER: Will they strike or will they not?

DERRICK ANDERSON, RESTORE LIBERT, CO-FOUNDER: Well, Trace, I mean, let's first talk about the talks about the ceasefire. Israel shouldn't have the terms of a ceasefire pushed upon them by anyone, especially its biggest ally, the United States. Right now, Hamas is suing for peace right now, why? Because they're losing.

They could easily surrender and turn over those hostages. I mean, let's think about it, Trace, there's over 100 hostages still being held in Gaza. Some Americans in the Biden-Harris administration hasn't mentioned anything about it.

Let's not forget about the attack that happened just this week on one of our military installations where five of our U.S. service members were injured, two contractors, because of an attack on an Iranian-backed organization.

The Biden-Harris administration has been equivocal on their support to Israel. Time and time again, just this week, Harris was questioned to clarify whether or not she supports an embargo, arms embargo against Israel.

So, you know, this is why I decided to run for Congress, Trace, is we need a strong national security. We need a strong foreign policy. We need to stand with Israel. Whereas people like my opponent are a rubber stamp for the policies that got us to where we're at right now.

GALLAGHER: Yes, and Colonel, I want to put this up on the screen. This is the Free Beacon. They write the following quoting here, as Biden-Harris administration calls for de-escalation, Iran threatens to wipe out American military bases across the Middle East, going on to say: "A leading member of Iran's nuclear negotiating team promised on Wednesday to wipe out every American military base in the Middle East, in the United States, if the United States joins Israel in an attack on the Islamic Republic." So, the bluster certainly goes on, Colonel.

LT. COL. DARIN GAUB, ARMY VETERAN: Yes, absolutely. And this is expected, of course, because American soldiers and sailors and airmen are over there working on the lily pads throughout the Middle East with minimal security, sometimes host nation security.

And it's always been a concern when the security situation changed so much in the Middle East based on what's happening that we put them at greater and greater risk with no strategy behind why they're there in the first place.

So, we need to rethink where Americans are throughout the Middle East, why they are there, whether or not we're doing the right thing due to what is happening not only in Israel, of course, with potential for expansion into regional to multiple states.

GALLAGHER: Yes, and general, standby with the brace -- speaking of breaking news, we have the former president getting into the body of his speech, let's join.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

DONALD TRUMP, 45TH U.S. PRESIDENT: With your vote, we will reverse the Kamala crash and we will end the Kamala chaos and we will stop the Biden- Harris invasion of people that don't belong in our country. They're invading our country.

Kamala Harris, you know, it's interesting. Nobody really knows her last name. If you ask people, do you know what her last name is? Nobody has any idea what it is. Harris. It's like Harris.

I don't know how the hell did this happen. You know, they said, so we had the debate. He didn't exactly do well. And they actually, CNN was very nice, they said that was one of the greatest debate performances I've ever seen, said by a very important person at CNN.

Then, what happens? Two days later, they said he was lousy. They don't talk about me anymore. They just said he was lousy. And he was pretty bad, you have to admit. But, but we're going to turn it around. We're going to turn this country around.

We're going to turn it around very fast. And Kamala is not up to the job. He's not up to it. Neither is Tester up to it. You

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know, Tester, everyone thinks like he's my best friend. He's never voted for me once.

And yet his commercials is I like Donald Trump very much, I love his pride, I love his border stance. He votes against the border. He voted against funding of the border.

CROWD: Boo!

TRUMP: He said, I love his stance on energy. He voted against our energy programs. He votes against us 100 percent. He's voted in favor of crooked Joe Biden 100 percent of the time. He did it last time with the election. We had the same problem, do you remember?

He comes out, everyone saying he really likes your policy a lot. He does it like he's a radical left lunatic, just like Kamala. And we got to elect him. We got to get him in. Got to get him in. Since becoming a presidential candidate, she has refused to do a single interview. You know why? Because she's dumb. Or hold a single press conference.

She won't hold a press conference. She won't do it. She won't do it. She doesn't want. And they're easy questions, you know, because the press, look at it back there. Look at all of them. A lot of press. They're rigged. They're rigged.

CROWD: Boo!

TRUMP: They're fake news. You know, I looked, and I get these tough questions from the press all the time and I look at the questions that Joe got, right? Where do you think you're having dinner tonight? What will you eat? Will you have ice cream for dessert?

No, I don't know. It's unfair. The questions are so hard he says. No, the way they treated him and with me, I won't use the questions because I don't want to give many ideas. They give me the worst questions. They are so nasty. They are the nastiest people I think on earth.

And Kamala, Kamala, gives the exact same speech over, and over again, over and over the same exact words. One of the people put it up like they put six of them up and every single like every single word is the same. I don't do that I got to give you a little bit of variety, right?

(APPLAUSE)

TRUMP: I change all these damn speeches where are my speechwriters? I'm going to do that just have one speech, and just for the next 90 days go out and just read that thing, but we don't like to read teleprompters, right? It's not as much fun. It's not as exciting.

And somehow, it's never as good as it. No, I think we're going to write up one standard speech. You read it from beginning to end. You know what happened? You start walking out. They say, oh, look, Trump's not holding.

How about yesterday? They said, oh, she had a big crowd. Oh, the crowd. The press is talking about the crowd. In New Jersey, I had 107,000 people. The press never even talked about it, right? They don't talk about it. Because they're fake.

And I went to South Carolina. We had 82,000 people. Oh, front row Joe, look, we have many front row Joes. We have Mr. Wall over here. Look, I love that. Do you think he's in favor of building a wall? I think so. Yes, I think so. He's great.

How many of you come to? Over 200, right? And you know, he's a great guy. He's like, makes a lot of money. You've got to make a lot of money. He travels all over the country. But the front row Joes are great. We have so many people. They've been to so many of the rallies. The rallies are great.

We had a tough one four weeks ago. Very tough one, right? We had a very tough one. Lost a great person, Corey. Great firefighter, great person, really amazing man. Corey, you're a tough one.

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And two gentlemen, real Trumppers, real Trump people, the people, they love our country. What's a Trumper? They love our country too. Really, really badly hurt. They didn't think they were going to make it, and they did make it, and they're going to be as good as ever, and that's great.

The doctors, the doctors in that whole Butler area did a phenomenal job. I will tell you, they thought these two would not make it. And they not only made it, they're going to be there'll be as good as new, but it'll take a little work, but they got hit hard.

All Kamala does is read that teleprompter while pretending she had nothing to do with any of the disasters that they -- you know, she's totally given up of all of the things she said I want this, I want that, I want that -- now, she doesn't want any of it.

And then, they accused me of being horrible when I questioned her. She wanted to be non-energy independent, she wants windmills all over the place, windmills put a windmill on top of the building, but we have so much oil under our feet. We have more liquid gold under our feet than any country in the world, including Saudi Arabia and Russia and we don't use it.

(APPLAUSE)

TRUMP: Four weeks ago, think of it. Four weeks ago, the media said she was grossly incompetent. And I said, oh, this is going to be an easy race. She didn't have a chance of beating me, she couldn't do anything.

They wanted to get her out. They thought she should resign with Crooked Joe Biden. What do you like better? It doesn't matter anymore. But what do you like better, Crooked Joe or Sleepy Joe? Sleepy Joe, Crooked Joe?

OK, ready? They're both correct. I think Crooked Joe is more correct. You like. All right, ready? Crooked first, right? What do you like better? Crooked Joe?

(APPLAUSE)

TRUMP: Or Sleepy Joe?

(APPLAUSE)

TRUMP: OK. Crooked seems to always win. I mean, he's a crooked guy. All he had to do is think of it. If he didn't do the debate, he'd still be running. They'd be saying how great he is. He's a brilliant man, a wonderful guy, really at the top of his game.

He wasn't at the top of his game 25 years ago -- I'll tell you right now. And she's worse than he is. She's worse. He's smarter than she is. But the Democrats didn't have the courage to force her off. They didn't have it.

They didn't want to do it. It was politically incorrect. And now, the media is saying that she's wonderful. She's wonderful. The same people back there. Four of them I recognize so perfectly.

(BOOING)

TRUMP: If you can't do a press conference, you cannot be president, OK, that's it. She doesn't do it. Remember, when I used to always walk up to the press under the helicopter or under the wing of the plane and talk to him? I loved it because if I didn't like their question.

I could say, I can't hear the helicopters. But they do many versions, nobody ever did that before, you know, that was it. And they copy. Everybody copies me. So now she walks up. She'll take like a half a question, and she'll leave.

Joe is bad. Joe couldn't hear. He couldn't, he couldn't do anything. It was an embarrassment to that art form. That was an art form. It was an embarrassment. Kamala, sometimes referred to as Kamala. You get about nine different ways of pronouncing the name.

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And because the press is so dishonest, no matter how you say it, they'll say you're wrong. You were wrong. I don't care if I get it right. Actually, I couldn't care less. I actually haven't been accused that I know of calling it wrong, but if I did, they'd say that he did it on purpose.

And you could do that. I've done a lot of bad name calling, where you call somebody that you know how to say the name perfectly, and you call it on purpose. They say, sir, you made a mistake. I said, no, I didn't. Kamala will not answer for her record of failure and weakness.

A doctor, please. Doctor in the house. Thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you. Take your time. Take your time, Doc. Thank you very much. Thank you. Thank you. We love these people.

They wait for two days sometimes, and then it's tough. It's not easy. Are they OK? Thank you very much. And doctor, take your time. Good. Thank you, darling. Thank you. Thank you.

(CHEERING)

TRUMP: Take your time, doctor, please. We got a lot of time, right? Nice Friday evening. Friday evening in Montana. I think my next drive is going to be about three, four hours from here.

I wish it was a little closer. That's the one thing, but that's OK. That's all right. Our governor says we have all the time we want. Greg says we have all -- you got one of the best governors. I don't know if you do. They appreciate it or not. I don't know. And the governor's wife, I don't know. He's a great one. He's a great guy.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

GALLAGHER: Well, while the president's on pause here, we're going to kind of jump out and we'll jump back in as soon as he starts speaking. Just like the last two presidential election cycles, recent polling now suggesting that voters of faith will play a key role in deciding who takes the White House.

Let's bring in the president of Palo White Ministries and National Faith Advisory Board, Pastor Paula White-Cain and Oklahoma State Superintendent Ryan Walters. Thank you both for coming on. I want to put this up on the screen because Tulsi Gabbard said the following here, watch.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

TULSI GABBARD, FORMER U.S. REPRESENTATIVE: He'll play a critical role, especially at a time where we have the Biden-Harris administration and the Democrat elite who are fundamentally against freedom, including freedom of religion.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

GALLAGHER: And Ryan Walter, you know better than anybody, it appears to be happening all over the country, including in schools in your state.

RYAN WALTERS, OKLAHOMA STATE SUPERINTENDENT: Yes, let's just be really clear. The Harris-Waltz administration would be the most anti-Christian administration in American history. They want to trans the kids. They want to push all faith out of the public square and out of our schools.

They want teachers' unions to run your kids' school, pushing the most woke ideology the country has ever seen. For the future of Christianity in America, we have got to get President Trump re-elected so that he can push back on this radical agenda that is targeting Christians on a daily basis.

GALLAGHER: Yes, I want to put this up as well, Paula, and then have you look at it. This is the Pew Research Poll. It's about faith voters and its percentage of voters who are, quoting here, "protestant."

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You have 38 percent Democrat, 59 Republican leaning, Catholic 44-52, Republican Latter Saints, 23-75, and then unaffiliated 70 percent Democrat, 27 percent leaning Republican. Most people of faith tend to vote Republican. Is it surprising to you or not at all, Paula?

PASTOR PAULA WHITE-CAIN, PAULA WHITE MINISTRIES PRESIDENT: It's not surprising at all that they would choose a candidate like President Donald J. Trump. It's obvious. His policies are so great. He's the only one that his policies align with our priorities. And when you look at those, he's pro-life, he's pro-Israel, religious liberty.

And not only that, but he is also, of course, border, economy, all the things that are important to us as Christians as well. But he has also promised in his second term to do even more for Christians, as he shares the same values and our Christian values. And as I served with him as advisor to Faith Initiative Opportunity in the White House, he did a lot for people's faith and he will do even more.

GALLAGHER: Yes, it's interesting because if you look at the importance of religion to Americans, Ryan Walters, and you put this up and you go from 1965 until now, you had 70 percent said it was very important back in 1965. Now, it's 45 percent. I mean, it's a big drop in numbers, and I'm wondering if you know why. What is it that is the causation of this?

WALTERS: Yes, I can tell you why. The U.S. Supreme Court had a bunch of left-wing activists in the 1960s that took the Bible and prayer out of schools. What we've seen from President Trump is he's put originalists back on the court who actually go back to our founding. It is clear that America was founded on Judeo-Christian values.

Our freedom to practice our religious beliefs was protected in our Constitution because those are rights that came from God. The founders were very clear. President Trump putting justices on the court that actually implement what the Constitution says is a crucial piece to get America back on track to make sure that our kids have an understanding of our history.

GALLAGHER: Yes, and why are we skipping religion, Paula? I just wonder, what's the remedy for getting people back in?

CAIN: Well, first off, we have to turn our hearts back to God, Trace. I mean, we really need a revival and to see things. But we are seeing that as well. We hear these stats, and I see them every single day. And I do see where people are coming back to God. And these statistics can be a little bit funny sometimes because it's how you interpret it, how you read them on things.

And we are seeing Asbury, we saw it at Jensen Franklin's church revival. We're seeing these young pastors rising up. So, I'm very hopeful and I believe we're going to have the greatest turnout. Of course, we saw it in 16. We had, he had 81 percent. I think Hillary had 16, but in 2020, he had 84 percent. And then Biden had 15 percent, even less.

And when we look at this election, if we put in conservative, socially conservative Catholics and those that go to mass, we're looking at 38 percent of voters. That's more than the black, Hispanic and union altogether. So, this is a major block of people. And I believe it's more than what is accounted for or said it sometimes.

GALLAGHER: Yes, I mean we were part of these things. We covered them heavily, Superintendent Walters, the whole Asbury, all of these revivals, and you see these young people and they're getting involved in this. And I wonder, Ryan Walters, if you think that it's true when they say that the evangelical vote might be the key when you're looking come November.

WALTERS: I think it is the key. Christians have to get out to vote for President Trump. Christians have to see, look, Kamala Harris isn't even keeping it a secret. They are on a war path against Christianity. They want it driven from the public square. They want it removed. They hate America.

They hate our Christianity. They hate that people worship God, not government, and they're driving it out of our schools. They're driving it out of the public square. Evangelicals are awakening to this. They can see it. It's crystal clear.

President Trump is going to protect your religious liberties, he's going to protect the Christian faith in America. Well, under

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this unprecedented assault from the teachers unions and Kamala Harris.

GALLAGHER: Speaking of former President Trump, he is speaking right now, Ryan Walters, Paula White-Cain, thank you both for coming on we appreciate it. Now back to President Trump.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

TRUMP: You know they got them out, they said we'll do it the nice way, we'll do it the hard way, Joe. We'll use the 25th Amendment and we'll call you mentally incompetent and everybody will believe us. And you know, what they did is a terrible thing, actually. They forced him out.

It was a coup. We had a coup. That was the first coup in the history of our country. And it was very successful. He said, OK, I'll leave if that's what you want. I'll leave.

And now, he's seeing what the competition is. I hear he's going to make a comeback at the Democrat convention. He's going to walk into the room and he's going to say, I want my presidency back. I want another chance to debate Trump. I want another chance.

But I handed Kamala and Crooked Joe a surging economy with no inflation. We had no inflation. We had nothing. We would -- we had the greatest economy in the history of the world.

(APPLAUSE)

TRUMP: Their radical socialist lunacy turned it into a failing economy with the worst inflation in probably 70 years. You know, they say 47. I don't believe 47. I think it's much more. I handed her the strongest border in U.S. history.

She turned it into the worst border invasion in the history of the world. By the way, the chart, the border chart, I love that chart. I love that chart. I'm here because of that chart. I go, let me see that chart.

If I don't turn, I won't be with you tonight. I won't be with you. I love that chart tonight. you know, the amazing thing --

(APPLAUSE)

TRUMP: I'm going to sleep with that chart tonight. You know, the amazing thing is that that chart, I use it probably 20 percent of the time, not that much. It's always on my left, not on my right. I mean, pretty much always.

There are no people. We had a tremendous crowd, but all of the, as far as the eye could see, there were here and some in the back. And how great were the people in the back? But all the people were the same. Nobody fled.

You know, when a crowd hears a bullet, they always run. They heard lots of bullets, because there were lots of bullets going off. And the, our Secret Service shooter, our Secret Service sniper, whatever you want to call him, water shot, he is one bullet from much further away because the sniper was there and he was way over here.

And he wasn't warned that this could happen. I mean, that was the breakdown they had. They weren't warned. But he heard bullets. He immediately looked over, took aim and shot one bullet. Can you imagine that from probably, probably 400 yards, pretty far.

(APPLAUSE)

TRUMP: But if it wasn't for that sign, in this case, it came down, down to the right. It's never on the right, never. And it's never at the beginning of the speech. And I do, you know, I don't use the teleprompter a lot because I think it gets bad, but I don't.

I just said, you know, let's take a look at the immigration numbers that we had because of great numbers are the best numbers

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in the history of our country. The Border Patrol did that chart. Thank you very much, Border Patrol, I appreciate it. But the Border Patrol did that.

And you see the arrow on the bottom, the red arrow on the bottom. That's the lowest point. That was the week I left office. Look what happened after I left office. Look at that.

And it's much worse now because that's a few months now. It's the numbers are much worse. They've let an invasion of our country happen, but I took a look, and because I took that look, I mean, what are the chances of that?

So, I just want to thank everybody, because I'll tell you what, the level of love and compassion, and, and all of the things that we all went through. It was a terrible thing. And we're going to be very careful. We have to be very careful.

This is, by the way, being president is a dangerous profession. You know, this is a very dangerous. This is not, this is not the safest profession out there, but it was an amazing event. And for those of you that don't believe in God, I believe that there's only one reason that could have happened, because the chances were so, so small, right?

(APPLAUSE)

TRUMP: Yes. Thank you. Thank you very much. And we're going back to Butler. You know that, right? We're going back to Butler. We got to go back. We got to go back to Butler. They were great, and the hospital was incredible. The doctors were incredible that worked in our two friends that was so badly hurt.

The doctors were everything about it and we're going to go back just before the election sometime in October, it's already being worked on and I'll probably start off by saying, as I was saying.

So, you stand up, as I was saying I gave Kamala and Crooked Joe a world at peace and their weakness and incompetence quickly brought us to the brink of a global war. America cannot survive for four more years of this bumbling communist lunatic.

Look, we cannot let her win this election. It's not a question of me. We can't let her win this election. If she wins this election, we're not going to have a country anymore. Starting on day one, we will bring competence and common sense back to the Oval Office.

You know, we're really a party of common sense, if you think. We're conservative and all that, but we're really a party of common sense.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

GALLAGHER: We talked about the Democrats trying to skirt the issues, and we thought it would be important to put the issues on the front burner again, so in our "NIGHTCAP" poll we asked, what is the nation's top issue? A lot of responses, the economy at 51 percent on X, on Instagram it's at 55 percent, the border at 45 and 49.

We had Matthew Pezzone say, "It has to be the border. It affects the economy, crime, and a vast array of other issues."

We had Rob Olson saying, "Division is the top issue."

Tammy Wegner says, "Although they are intertwined, we live with the devastating effects of the bad economy every single day."

We had Rochelle Lyon, "It is a disregard for the Constitution, American ideals and an epidemic of lawfare."

Wendy Palmer said, "The economy, it's gotten to the point I don't want to open my mail and see which bill has gone up."

And then Paul, to end our Friday night, a little comedy said, "My dog, he does not know how to fetch me a beer," which

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might be the biggest problem we have here, seen all day.

Thank you for watching America's late news, FOX NEWS @ NIGHT. I'm Trace Gallagher in Los Angeles. Have a great weekend, we'll see you right back here on Monday.

END

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Critics Blast Walz As 'Weird'; Pelosi Reveals Her Role In Biden's Exit; Kamala Harris Unable To Name Living Rapper In Old Interview; Donald Trump...

Critics Blast Walz As 'Weird'; Pelosi Reveals Her Role In Biden's Exit; Kamala Harris Unable To Name Living Rapper In Old Interview; Donald Trump Asked About His Lack Of Campaigning During Press Conference; Guests Answer Views Question About Embarrassing Things They Did When They Were Younger

SEAN HANNITY, FOX NEWS HOST: please set your DVR so you never, ever, ever, ever miss an episode of Hannity. In the meantime, let not your heart be troubled. Greg Gutfeld is standing by. Why? To put a smile on your face, of course.

Have a great weekend. 85 days on Monday. See you then.

(AUDIENCE CHEERING AND APPLAUDING)

GREG GUTFELD, FOX NEWS HOST: All right. Yes, yes. Yeah, yeah, yeah. You just wait till after the show.

(LAUGHTER)

GUTFELD: It's Friday, so you know what that means. Let's welcome tonight's guest.

She's so pure, Hunter Biden tried to snort her. Host of Fox News Sunday, Shannon Bream.

(AUDIENCE CHEERING AND APPLAUDING)

GUTFELD: He's as cheerful as an orphan with tuberculosis. Comedian and Founder of Western Razor Company David Angelo.

(AUDIENCE CHEERING AND APPLAUDING)

GUTFELD: As a former Ms. Citrus, everything she touches is freshly squeezed. Host of The Morgan Ortagus Show with SiriusXM, Morgan Ortagus.

(AUDIENCE CHEERING AND APPLAUDING)

GUTFELD: And he can see your house from up there. New York Times bestselling author, comedian, and former NWA World Champion Tyrus.

(AUDIENCE CHEERING AND APPLAUDING)

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GUTFELD: All right. Yeah. So before we get to some news stories, let's do this. Yeah.

(ANNOUNCER: GREG'S LEFTOVERS)

GUTFELD: Yeah, it's leftovers where I read the jokes we didn't use this week. And as always, it's my first time reading them. So if they suck, we'll tie Joe Machi to the slender trunk of a sapling, and then as it slowly grows to a large, tall tree, he hangs himself.

(LAUGHTER)

GEORGE 'TYRUS' MURDOCH, FOX NEWS CONTRIBUTOR: Wow. That was --

GUTFELD: It'll take 80, 90 years, but so worth it.

So the Iraqi parliament may lower the legal marriage age for girls to nine years old. So guess who's now condo hunting in Baghdad?

(LAUGHTER)

(AUDIENCE CHEERING AND APPLAUDING)

GUTFELD: In a resurfaced interview from 2020, Vice President Harris was asked who her favorite rapper was alive, and she said, Tupac, who's dead. And when asked who her favorite president was, she said, Joe Biden, who's - -

(LAUGHTER)

(AUDIENCE CHEERING AND APPLAUDING)

GUTFELD: As for Kamala, avoiding questions from the press, she says she wants to get to an interview scheduled before the end of the month. She'd do it sooner, but she needs to learn words.

(LAUGHTER)

GUTFELD: Nancy Pelosi admits they forced President Biden to drop out of the race, not because he was unfit for office, but because he would lose to Trump. So she stabbed Biden in the back, which is weird because she usually bites people in the neck.

(AUDIENCE CHEERING AND APPLAUDING)

GUTFELD: Olympic swimmers are getting sick from having to swim in the Seine river. You could tell something was wrong because they went in looking like this and they came out looking like this.

(AUDIENCE CHEERING AND APPLAUDING)

MURDOCH: You been on "The View", right?

GUTFELD: All right. President Biden openly expressed confusion as he greeted the World Series winning Texas Rangers at the White House. Evidently, he kept asking, where is Chuck Norris?

(LAUGHTER)

GUTFELD: In Olympic women's boxing, XY chromosomed boxers Imani Khalif and Lin Yu Ting advanced to their weight class finals. I think I speak for everyone when I say, may the best man win.

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(LAUGHTER)

GUTFELD: In a comics for Kamala event Ben Stiller said, quote, "Like every white Jewish guy, I wish I was black." Well, there's always a chance he could become black later in life, said one woman.

(LAUGHTER)

(AUDIENCE CHEERING AND APPLAUDING)

GUTFELD: Joy Reid says Democrat Mark Kelly would have been a better pick for Kamala's VP because he's, quote, "Super White," like a mayonnaise sandwich on Wonder bread. That must be why she's copying his hairstyle.

(LAUGHTER)

GUTFELD: The British government is now threatening to arrest Twitter users and they warned think before you post. For what, asked one man.

(LAUGHTER)

GUTFELD: Little historical humor there.

Finally, massive amounts of flooding is set to hit New York City this weekend as Hurricane Debby approaches. And to save stranded New Yorkers, Mayor Adams will implement five massive flotation devices.

(AUDIENCE CHEERING AND APPLAUDING)

GUTFELD: Can't go wrong. All right, so if you ever want to know what the Dems are up to, just listen to what they accuse you of doing. Take the word weird. It was first uttered by a guy named Tim Walz, directed at another guy called J.D. Vance. But turns out, as usual, it's a preemptive projection.

For the Dems, always call you on stuff that they're about to do or have already done. They accuse you of election interference before they do it. They accuse you of racism before they do it. They accuse you of censorship right before they try to shut you up. And when they accuse you of being weird, you just know the party of Drag Queen Story Hour, fat activists and feminists supporting Hamas have really something freaky up their sleeves.

Now, Walz is weird, but he disguises it under the costume of phony compassion, a fake politician who masks destructive ideas under the guise of empathy. At a 2017 town hall, he implied 10 year old boys should be able to invade girls bathrooms because it's all about safety. Quote, "As a teacher, my number one responsibility in the classroom is the safety, security, and belongingness of every single child in that room. These are children my son's age, a fourth grader, a 10 year old who just wants to go to the bathroom. And their identity is they are male or female, and they just go in that bathroom and use it." End quote.

STATE REP. LEIGH FINKE (D) MINNESOTA: Sounds so folksy, you know? Belongingness? Yeah, they'll be belonging in therapy with this guy at the helm. But whose expertise does he rely upon for his midwestern takes? Here's Minnesota state Rep. Leigh Finke who wants to train more children's doctors on sex change surgery and puberty blockers. He sponsored the Trans Refuge Bill, which Walz signed, which makes Minnesota a sanctuary state for such butchery.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

If you promise trans refuge, then we need to increase the number of people who are offering gender affirming care so we have some money, hopefully we can pass to help entice people to move from those states who also practice gender affirming care. We want to do internship programs and fellowship programs with children in Minnesota and other places where people can learn gender affirming care..

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(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

GUTFELD: He's now available for babysitting. And that's the perfect person to give advice for impressionable kids. I don't know. Strangers that want to take in runaways with perfectly good parents who don't want them sterilized, that's (BEEP) weird.

(LAUGHTER)

GUTFELD: I wouldn't send my son to St. Paul. He may come back as St. Paula.

(LAUGHTER)

GUTFELD: There are other weird things about Walz, of course. He fibs about his military service. He set up a snitch line to narc on citizens for not wearing masks outside. And he's super weird on free speech.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

GOV. TIM WALZ (D-MN), 2024 VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: I think we need to push back on this. There's no guarantee to free speech on misinformation or hate speech, and especially around our democracy.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

GUTFELD: There's no guarantee -- what? I guess his class didn't cover the First Amendment. But if misinformation isn't free speech, then shouldn't he arrest himself for lying about his service? So --

(AUDIENCE CHEERING AND APPLAUDING)

GUTFELD: -- here's the deal. My main point, Walz made himself fair game, since his only attack was that the other guy was weird. Because everyone is weird the more you get to know them. It's why marriage is a commitment. Over time, both spouses realize we're all (BEEP) crazy.

(LAUGHTER)

GUTFELD: But there's weird and there's dangerously insane. And that's thinking children can decide to have themselves castrated. And that's Tim Walz. His sin among many is that he smeared Vance for being human. His accusation assumes that he's not.

And once you make that claim, all bets are off. You think Vance is weird and you want to operate on healthy kids. If saying crazy cat ladies is weird, what if you want to turn someone's son into one? So congrats, Walz, you're a weirdo. But so are we.

(AUDIENCE CHEERING AND APPLAUDING)

GUTFELD: So are we. But at least we don't lie about it, unlike you. But maybe that's because you're way weirder than we can even imagine.

(ANNOUNCER: PERIOD!)

(AUDIENCE CHEERING AND APPLAUDING)

GUTFELD: All right. Shannon, it's common knowledge around the building that you're a very weird person.

(LAUGHTER)

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GUTFELD: I mean -- No, I'm serious, she's a freak.

(LAUGHTER)

GUTFELD: But didn't Walz make a mistake by breaking the weird seal. Like, there's no non-weird person. So it's like, once he said that, it's like, okay, we're coming after you.

SHANNON BREAM, FOX NEWS SUNDAY HOST: Well, and the word you use, folksy. So this is a lot of the headlines we're seeing. He's lovable. He's like your dad next door, your grandpa, your coach. So he's supposed to be the normie, we're told. Those are the words the kids use now.

GUTFELD: Yes.

BREAM: As you know. But when you talk about things like free speech. And because nine of the weirdos I like to hang out with, most are at the Supreme Court. And they have decided, eight to one, in some really controversial cases, that the most hateful, weird stuff that you would say is protected by the First Amendment because it's not rainbows and puppies and all that that we have to protect. It's the most hateful stuff.

But the court recognizes the constitution protects your ability to say these things out loud, and then people can judge you based on that. But here's the deal. We got to get past all of the love fest at some point. That's any new candidate gets that, but you have to get to where he is on his policy positions. You outlined some of them. Now, some people may love that, but they need to know what they are so they can decide how to vote.

GUTFELD: Exactly. Now, you did cover the Supreme Court, and they are all perverts.

(LAUGHTER)

BREAM: I didn't say perverts. I said weird --

GUTFELD: No, I mean, come on. They wear robes. We know they're not wearing anything underneath the robes.

(LAUGHTER)

BREAM: I can neither -- I can neither confirm nor deny that.

GUTFELD: No, I think that's a -- I think that we've got an exclusive.

(LAUGHTER)

BREAM: I'll get back to you on that. How about that?

GUTFELD: Yes. You know, Angelo, good to see you, as always. I assume that you have a closet full of skeletons, and I mean literally, not like, metaphorically. You have the bodies of dead people in your little house, probably underneath the floorboards.

ANGELO: That's wrong, Greg. I moved out of that apartment a few weeks ago.

(LAUGHTER)

ANGELO: But I will say -- slanderous accusation. I'm in a two bedroom now.

(LAUGHTER)

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ANGELO: You know, as a comedian and the owner of the largest American made razor company available, westernrazor.com, you know, I have a different relationship with the word weird. You know, it comes at me often.

GUTFELD: Yes.

ANGELO: But it is interesting to see the pivot in the messaging, because, you know, Democrats, liberals in general, it used to be -- it's OK to be weird.

GUTFELD: Right.

ANGELO: It's, hey, everyone's different. It's kind of like they did this with body shaming.

GUTFELD: Yeah.

ANGELO: It was like, don't do body shaming. Don't do body shaming. And then as soon as Trump got into office, they were like, look at his orange face.

GUTFELD: Yeah.

ANGELO: Look at this -- look at Jeff Sessions. He's a Keebler Elf.

GUTFELD: Yeah.

ANGELO: They get off it. They got to stick to their message.

GUTFELD: Yeah, it's true. Because the message only works when they can point it at somebody else.

ANGELO: And we got to remember what the message is. Westernrazor.com for American made razors.

(AUDIENCE CHEERING AND APPLAUDING)

ANGELO: So important. So important.

GUTFELD: Yeah. I guess the transitioning of girls to boys helps your company because you get more shavers.

GUTFELD:

ANGELO: We have razors for everybody.

GUTFELD: Yes.

ANGELO: You know, everybody.

GUTFELD: Everybody.

(LAUGHTER)

GUTFELD: Morgan, know, you find it interesting. It's like you can predict what the Dems are doing by what they accuse you of. It's always that way.

MORGAN ORTAGUS, "THE MORGAN ORTAGUS SHOW": Well, it's also, like, obfuscating from what we should really be talking about this election, which is actually the price of goods for people to go to the grocery store, the price of gasoline. Whether you're safe in your community or whether we're safe around the world.

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We just took two aircraft carriers out of the Pacific region, put them in CENTCOM because, oh, our US Navy ships are getting shot at, troops are getting killed in Jordan from the Iranians. Like, we are in war in almost every theater in this country. But instead, it's actually really smart what the Democrats have done. They're not talking about war around the world. They're talking about who's weird and who's not weird.

I happen to think what's really weird is getting married on Tiananmen Square with the excuse that you want to remember your anniversary because you always want to remember the anniversary of your wedding through a massacre.

GUTFELD: Yes. You know, it's ironic that he got married in China and goes there a lot. And he's not really a great Walz.

(AUDIENCE CHEERING AND APPLAUDING)

ANGELO: I didn't know that.

GUTFELD: I love that they applauded that.

ANGELO: I didn't know Tim Walz got married in Tiananmen Square.

GUTFELD: Yeah.

ORTAGUS: No, no, he got married on the anniversary because he --

ANGELO: On the anniversary

(CROSSTALK)

ANGELO: I went to Tiananmen Square.

GUTFELD: Really?

ANGELO: Yeah. Well, the tour guide, do you want to see Tiananmen Square? And I said, no, thanks.

(LAUGHTER)

GUTFELD: Tyrus?

MURDOCH: No, no, no. Hold on. This is your fault.

(LAUGHTER)

MURDOCH: You need to write a letter to the millions and millions of people watching at home. They're like, what were they clapping? Your fault.

(LAUGHTER)

MURDOCH: All of it's your fault.

ANGELO: And the great wall.

GUTFELD: Not so great wall.

MURDOCH: Not so great.

(LAUGHTER)

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GUTFELD: You're weird, Tyrus. You're weirdo.

MURDOCH: No, no. You know what? We're all weird.

(LAUGHTER)Yeah.

MURDOCH: You look weird. It's you, okay? You flip the dictionary. It's Greg, like, hi. So --

(LAUGHTER)

GUTFELD: I am.

MURDOCH: He's not weird at all. He's a creep.

GUTFELD: Yeah.

MURDOCH: There's a difference between being weird and creepy. And you can be weird all day long. Everyone wants to say, hey, it even sounds good. Hey, let's get weird this weekend. So, hey, let's get creepy this weekend. You don't get the same -- oh, no, cheer.

(LAUGHTER)

(AUDIENCE CHEERING AND APPLAUDING)

MURDOCH: Puppets. Pure puppets. But, yeah. What bothers me the most is the stuff that we're -- like, the fake valor is bad enough. But when you have fake butter churning, sculpting valor, where do you go from there?

GUTFELD: Yeah.

MURDOCH: Turns out he never did that (BEEP).

GUTFELD: He didn't.

MURDOCH: He was just buy it, you know, like, an Iowa thing. So there's -- I got people from the Midwest because I've actually been there. I went to school there and I got people going, this dude ain't legit butter. He's not legit butter.

ANGELO: So he's not really a butter carver?

MURDOCH: No, there's no evidence.

ANGELO: I cannot believe it's not butter.

(LAUGHTER)

(AUDIENCE CHEERING AND APPLAUDING)

MURDOCH: Every one of you that asked for a picture after the show --

(LAUGHTER)

GUTFELD: Oh, oh. We got to move on. That was fun, though. I have to.

MURDOCH: It was.

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GUTFELD: Yes, it was weird --

MURDOCH: Regular. Sharp as a razor over there, bro.

(AUDIENCE CHEERING AND APPLAUDING)

GUTFELD: Wouldn't it be great if he really didn't sell razors at all? It was all -- he just sells hats that say that.

(LAUGHTER)

GUTFELD: Up next, Nancy finally explains why she took Joe's reins.

(AUDIENCE CHEERING AND APPLAUDING)

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

(ANNOUNCER: A STORY IN 5 WORDS)

(AUDIENCE CHEERING AND APPLAUDING)

GUTFELD: Pelosi admits it's a coup. Did I say it right?

BREAM: Yes.

GUTFELD: All right, roll it.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

REP. NANCY PELOSI (D-CA): I've never been that impressed with his political operation --

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Biden's operation.

PELOSI: Yeah. I'm not. I mean, I just hadn't been. They won the White House. Bravo. Right? Mm hmm. But -- so my concern was, this ain't happening and we have to make a decision for this to happen, and the president has to make the decision for that to happen.

Let me just say -- I won't say necessarily, I knew what I was doing at that time. I knew what I was doing in the whole thing, not just that.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: And what was that?

PELOSI: That Donald Trump would never set foot in the White House again.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

(AUDIENCE BOOING)

GUTFELD: This is kind of amazing.

MURDOCH: Yeah.

GUTFELD: This is like -- Tyrus, this is a big deal. They just admitted that they got rid of Biden, not because he was unfit, but because he was going to lose, which is a complete subversion of democracy because he already had almost 4,000

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delegates and the millions of voters and the campaign funds. They just said -- that they circumvented the democratic process because he was going to lose. Three people made this decision.

MURDOCH: Yeah. Let's take it one step higher than that. He had 81 million votes.

GUTFELD: Yeah.

MURDOCH: Not too long ago.

GUTFELD: Yeah.

MURDOCH: You're saying all 81 million left? So they're all -- I guess this -- well, I guess we kind of figure out who's been running the country now. Now we know.

GUTFELD: Yeah.

MURDOCH: It's been Pelosi's call and she's the one who made the call for him to step down. Now you wonder, now they're trying to be nice and try to say it's not because he's inept or father time. Because that would make it even more sinister.

GUTFELD: Yeah.

MURDOCH: We're not even -- we still can't get a straight story. And you know what? You can always tell somebody's (BEEP), because their body has to bring it out of them. He asked her the one thing -- and I get so excited over the weirdest things now, like my kids understanding directions the first time and a reporter asking a follow up question. Whenever I see a reporter ask a follow up question, I'm like, oh, we might get something. Oh, my goodness. And he asked the follow up question. He caught her off guard. But her body brought it up. Like, look, I'm lying. I stabbed him, whipped it from him, threatened him.

GUTFELD: But she did say he was going to lose. That was -- I mean, that's --

MURDOCH: Again, it goes back a few eggs.

GUTFELD: Yeah.

MURDOCH: This is -- we now know we have a communist party sitting in the White House right now, because they decide for the people.

(AUDIENCE CHEERING AND APPLAUDING)

GUTFELD: But it seems that -- it seems to me. Morgan, you're a lawyer, right?

ORTAGUS: No.

GUTFELD: Well, just for the sake of this segment.

(LAUGHTER)

GUTFELD: You've been practicing for three, four decades now. You look so young. Isn't this ground -- maybe I guess I should ask you -- maybe forget that question. It's amazing that Pelosi could say that with a straight face. But perhaps that's the Botox.

(LAUGHTER)

ORTAGUS: I'm not going to judge a girl for a little Botox, first of all. See, I think she plays such an evil character well. And

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you can tell that she couldn't wait, like -- she had offed his candidacy, and she kind of couldn't wait to take credit for it, because Obama was getting credit. President Obama was getting credit. Michelle Obama. All these people were trying to quietly leak, as Shannon knows, background, about who did it. And she sort of went out there and said, no, I'm the one who stuck the knife in. In a way. I got to hand it to her. Like, she played the evil character that she is.

GUTFELD: You know, David, do you have this kind of power struggle inside Western Razor? I imagine you must have a staff of 100, right?

ANGELO: Well, it's a small staff. Greg, I know you make jokes, but we're small business here in America.

GUTFELD: Yeah.

ANGELO: Western Razor.

(LAUGHTER)

ANGELO: And yes, they are constantly trying to throw me out of power.

(LAUGHTER)

GUTFELD: Yes.

MURDOCH: It's a cutthroat business.

(AUDIENCE CHEERING AND APPLAUDING)

ANGELO: Not with our products, it's not. But you know what? I take the point, I take the point. Yeah. You know, this is -- this is just how it is, power. The whole thing's fake. This whole thing is fake.

MURDOCH: Yeah.

ANGELO: Dianne -- remember Dianne Feinstein.

GUTFELD: Feinstein, the --

ANGELO: She was voting on. She -- what did she -- Biden -- he had, it's not a coup. He didn't know he was president.

(LAUGHTER)

ANGELO: He has no idea. They're like, well, you're not doing it. They have Kamala now. It's like, you know, all right. She'll take over. They had Fetterman for a minute. His brain didn't work. And then he went to therapy.

GUTFELD: Yeah.

ANGELO: He went off the reservation on a few topics, are upset on him.

GUTFELD: Yeah.

ANGELO: But they've never had. The whole thing is ridiculous. Like, why are we pretending like, oh, yeah, no, democracy was working prior to three months ago.

GUTFELD: But here's my point, Shannon, and you are a lawyer. This is grounds for impeachment. I would -- see. OK. They spent all this time accusing Trump of an insurrection, of a coup. This is -- she's actually saying they removed him and they put Kamala in place. She's never been elected. She was not nominated. Is this something that, like -- it just doesn't seem like

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it's legal?

BREAM: Well, what Democrats will say when you press them on that, this, look, that donors or a few party leaders are making these decisions. They'll say, oh, no, everybody who voted, the 14 million who voted for President Biden in the primaries was voting for the Biden-Harris ticket, so she was getting votes.

I also think, Morgan, she's trying to have her cake and eat it, too, because I think it's this, oh, I didn't do the actual stabbing. Because she's like, well, I received hundreds of calls. I wasn't making, I wasn't telling people what to do. But then she goes on the show that she knows the president watches. And says after he said, I am not leaving this race, she's like, he's got an important decision to make.

After he's clearly said, I'm staying in the race. It's like me coming on this show and saying, you know, Greg has a decision to make about whether he's going to curse or nothing. And clearly he's decided he's going to use naughty words on the show.

GUTFELD: Naughty.

BREAM: The decision.

(LAUGHTER)

BREAM: The decision has already been --

GUTFELD: That is so (BEEP) cute.

(AUDIENCE CHEERING AND APPLAUDING)

GUTFELD: Having said that, we do swear too much. I think we do swear, but I don't know.

MURDOCH: One of us does.

GUTFELD: Yeah. Who cares?

MURDOCH: Ortagus?

ORTAGUS: It's definitely me. It's sort of like, do you watch Game of Thrones, the famous scene where she says, tell Cersei, I want her to know it was me. That was like Nancy Pelosi's moment.

BREAM: Right. Exactly.

GUTFELD: Well, thanks for bringing that up.

ORTAGUS: Yeah.

(LAUGHTER)

ORTAGUS: You don't watch?

GUTFELD: What about the people who don't watch Game of Thrones? We're all not shut ins like you, Morgan. I have a social life. I do things. I help children. I volunteer. You sit, you watch --

MURDOCH: You should probably go to commercial. This is creepy.

(LAUGHTER)

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GUTFELD: The VP gum flapper can't name a living rapper.

(AUDIENCE CHEERING AND APPLAUDING)

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: This could very well be breaking news, at least to us.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

(APPLAUSE)

GUTFELD: She doesn't know crap about politics or rap. Kamala Harris can only name one rapper, and it's news to us.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Best rapper alive?

KAMALA HARRIS, (D) VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: Tupac.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: You say he lives on.

HARRIS: He's not alive. I know, I keep --

(LAUGHTER)

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Keep going.

HARRIS: I keep doing that.

Who would I say? There are so many. You know, there are some that I would not mention right now because they should stay and their lane, but others --

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I don't know what that means. I want to know --

HARRIS: Keep moving. Keep moving, Angela.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

GUTFELD: Let's move on, Angela, huh? That was in 2020, so maybe she knows more rappers now. I do not even follow rap, and I can name lots of living rappers. There's obviously Vanilla Ice.

(LAUGHTER)

GUTFELD: Do you remember Blondie? She could wrap. And of course, who can forget Tiny D?

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

DANA PERINO, FOX NEWS HOST: Well, my name is Tiny D. and I am here to say I've got funky, fresh rhymes in a major way. So I'm white like Casper, got a dog named Jasper. If you don't think Beyonce fears me, go ahead and ask her. So if you love Castro, stick with Jay-Z. But if you love your pick Day-P, that's me.

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(END VIDEO CLIP)

(APPLAUSE)

TYRUS, FOX NEWS CONTRIBUTOR: Dana is going to whoop your butt. I can't wait. Dana needs to come back.

GUTFELD: She's on vacation, so she has no idea.

(LAUGHTER)

MORGAN ORTAGUS, FORMER STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESPERSON: Exactly, exactly.

GUTFELD: David, you're street.

DAVID ANGELO, COMEDIAN: That's correct.

(LAUGHTER)

GUTFELD: You are a legend among the hip-hop community.

TYRUS: His old rap name is Razor's Edge.

(LAUGHTER)

(APPLAUSE)

GUTFELD: That's true. Do you think she actually knows anybody besides the name that was given to her 10 years ago and it was Tupac from a different interview, and she doesn't even have any idea?

ANGELO: I am torn on this. First of all, she is like 60 years old. It's kind of like a little bit of a weird question. But it is like this is the soft ball she is supposed to have answers so she doesn't talk about policy and stuff. Just make up a thing. If we do not get climate control under -- climate, what is? We don't get climate change under control --

(LAUGHTER)

ANGELO: We'll take that from the top. We don't get climate change under control, Ice Cube is going to melt.

(APPLAUSE)

GUTFELD: That's why you should be writing for Kamala Harris instead of running some dinky razor company out of your garage.

ANGELO: Well, you know, it's WesternRazor.com. Go visit it today.

(LAUGHTER)

GUTFELD: Tyrus, what is your theory behind all this? Do you think it was racist to ask her that?

(LAUGHTER)

GUTFELD: If she is actually listening --

TYRUS: This is the thing that bothers me about -- being black you don't have to like rap music, OK. It just kind of helps because that's what most of us do. But you don't have to know it. I have said a million times, she is a beautiful black woman.

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It has nothing to do. She could also be a beautiful argyle woman. We don't give a damn about the color of your skin. It's your character we got issues with.

But the whole prove I'm black thing, it's almost becoming funny to watch her do it. Just say I've got cousins who are like, ew, rap? I listen to country music. Newsflash, brothers, we invented cowboys. It wasn't a cool job, OK.

(LAUGHTER)

TYRUS: You didn't get to be Clint Eastwood and shoot people up. You had to shovel cow -- all day in the hot sun.

GUTFELD: Can I ask you what happens when Kamala is listening to Tupac? Because she is a wonderful black woman and she is singing along and a certain word comes up, can she --

TYRUS: Can she say it?

GUTFELD: Yes. I mean, she is a beautiful black woman.

TYRUS: Well, she should be able to say it. But you know what, maybe she is refined. Listen, the great Richard Pryor decided that he is not going to see it. I got older I am like I don't want to say it because I don't like the fact that it confuses people. If I'm talking about boys and I say that, and then some poor sweet small razor company guy comes over and hears our conversation, and he was like, oh, hey, what's up, my -- ? And we are like --

(LAUGHTER)

TYRUS: It's like no more Western Razor, and we can't have that. But even the things she came out with, like look at all my old school black jazz records. And I was like, you should have had them already. She is trying too hard.

GUTFELD: Too hard.

TYRUS: And that's what makes you ask the question. But again, if anyone in the Republican Party has any sense, she is a beautiful black woman. Can we please talk about the policies. Just throwing that out there.

(APPLAUSE)

GUTFELD: Shannon, who is your favorite living rapper?

SHANNON BREAM, FOX NEWS ANCHOR: Because I am an expert in this kind of thing, you already took Vanilla Ice, so I am going to have to go with D.J. Jazzy Jeff and the Fresh Prince of Bel Air. That's how up to date I am on rap, so I should probably not say anything more on this topic.

TYRUS: Is their album out?

ANGELO: Yes, and it slaps.

(LAUGHTER)

GUTFELD: It slaps.

TYRUS: Well, it couldn't last forever, bro. We had a good run.

(LAUGHTER)

TYRUS: Morgan, how important is the story to your life?

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ORTAGUS: Last night I stayed awake before I flew here worrying that you were going to ask me about this. It reminds me of Hillary Clinton in, was it 2016?

GUTFELD: Hot sauce?

ORTAGUS: With the hot sauce, yes, totally pandering and pulling the hot sauce out of her purse. She should talk about policy or something --

GUTFELD: But she is not.

ORTAGUS: I don't have time to talk about rap because I am trying to save the planet, or something.

TYRUS: That would be clever and smart.

(LAUGHTER)

ORTAGUS: Maybe that's why she is running a basement campaign.

GUTFELD: All right, we're going to Move on, dot org. Coming up. Reports sound insane saying Trump doesn't campaign.

(APPLAUSE)

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

(SINGING)

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: It's coming your way, hey, hey. It's Video of the Day.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

(APPLAUSE)

GUTFELD: Trump defends Biden and asks what's Kamala hiding? Our "Video of the Day" comes to us from Trump's Mar-a-Lago press conference. I wonder, has he not had a public campaign event for nearly a week now.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: You have not had a public campaign event for nearly a week now. Some of your allies have express concern you're taking this very seriously, particularly at a time --

DONALD TRUMP, (R) U.S. PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: What a stupid question.

(LAUGHTER)

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Why haven't you campaigned this week?

TRUMP: Because I am leading by a lot and because I am letting their convention go through, and I am campaigning a lot.

Excuse me, what are we doing right now?

(END VIDEO CLIP)

Critics Blast Walz As 'Weird'; Pelosi Reveals Her Role In..., 2024 WLNR 13436562

(LAUGHTER)

GUTFELD: It's a good --

(APPLAUSE)

GUTFELD: He's right. I mean you are in the middle of a press conference and you're saying there is no campaign events? That's like being in the middle of sex and asking, hey, what are you doing later?

(LAUGHTER)

TYRUS: Probably going to have a sandwich and a nap.

(LAUGHTER)

GUTFELD: Trump is pushing quite a pace considering he was shot and the head four weeks ago. Pretty sure after McKinley, Kennedy, and Lincoln were shot, they kept their calendars pretty clear.

(LAUGHTER)

GUTFELD: Meanwhile, Kamala, she is not doing any new conferences. You know why she's not doing it? Because she can't do a news conference.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

DONALD TRUMP, (R) U.S. PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: She's not doing any new conference. You know she's not doing it? Because she can't do a news conference. She doesn't know how to do a news conference. She is not smart enough to do a news conference. And I'm sorry, we need smart people.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

GUTFELD: The presidency was taken away from Joe Biden, and Trump is no Biden fan.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

DONALD TRUMP, (R) U.S. PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: The presidency was taken away from Joe Biden. And I am no Biden fan, but I'll tell you what, from a constitutional standpoint, from any standpoint you look at, they took the presidency away. They said they're going to use the 25th Amendment. They said we'll do it the nice way or we'll do it the hard way. And he said, all right.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

(LAUGHTER)

(APPLAUSE)

GUTFELD: Morgan, yesterday he talked for like, I don't know, 70, 80 minutes, right. And then Kamala doesn't say anything. Couldn't there be some kind of midpoint, like where he, or does this help him, or does it win anybody knew? What do you think?

ORTAGUS: I think it was classic, vintage Trump to do a press conference that long. I've say through them, trying to work them. You are sweating and wondering when is it going to be over. But I do think it's smart of him, because he is saying I can stand up here, I can answer every question, and he is forcing the press to try and do their job, which is actually, we're almost three weeks in, maybe ask her a question once or twice.

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GUTFELD: Shannon, it is funny watching the media get all pissed off at him and have to fact check him when he is actually just talking to them unlike the other guy or gal.

SHANNON BREAM, FOX NEWS ANCHOR: And who would have thought that we would have a situation in which President Biden drops out a couple of weeks ago. He has done more press than the vice president has since she was named to take his place on the ticket. He has actually sat down with CBS. We have got nothing from her yet.

GUTFELD: And he was shot. That's the weird thing, is that I am not below milking tragedy, Angelo. If I got shot, I would be talking about it all the time. I would be getting sympathy gifts. He is acting like it never happened. Shouldn't he just milk it a little?

ANGELO: I guess? What is he going to do, just wear a sling?

(LAUGHTER)

ANGELO: It's hard to go too far. But it's funny watching because the journalists are so bad. They don't even know how to ask good questions anymore. So they're just adrift. They have no idea how to handle it.

GUTFELD: Yes, that's true, much like you when you were answering political questions.

(LAUGHTER)

ANGELO: Look.

GUTFELD: Yes, in your face, razor boy.

(LAUGHTER)

GUTFELD: Tyrus, is he helping himself, or is he --

TYRUS: He is the only one who can, President Trump, because he's running against who? Himself. And that's all we're seeing. Listen, we keep saying when is she going to speak? Why do we -- we're no longer the Republican Party. We're the Wile E. Coyote party. We keep chasing that stupid roadrunner like the result is going to be any different. OK, get away from it. Move on. This is weird in a good way. So let's just be weird with Mr. President and leave all this other -- alone.

GUTFELD: All right.

(APPLAUSE)

GUTFELD: And on that note, the show is almost done, so stay for viewer mail fun.

(APPLAUSE)

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yep, you are watching Mailing It In.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

(APPLAUSE)

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GUTFELD: Here's a good question. "Cameras weren't everywhere when we were younger. What's one thing," Shannon, "that makes you glad they weren't?"

BREAM: Only one?

(LAUGHTER)

GUTFELD: You wild child.

BREAM: I feel like I volunteered to put in all kinds of performances that nobody asked for, like to sing solos and do things like youth group and church, and dance things that nobody needs to see. I am scared to even say that because I am sure someone out there has the video.

GUTFELD: Yes, but people can't even keep video anywhere anymore.

BREAM: True. I'm saved.

GUTFELD: Yes. There is a lot of stuff I did that if they found it, oh, boy, Tyrus, I would be in big trouble.

TYRUS: I don't know if you're looking for me to be your buddy on this one.

(LAUGHTER)

TYRUS: You might want to go over to razor's edge over there. He's a little more --

(LAUGHTER)

TYRUS: There's a million things, but the one thing that always stands out, girls were a lot smarter than we were growing up. I don't know if that's still the same. But we always got tricked into show me yours and I'll show you mine. We never saw theirs.

(LAUGHTER)

(APPLAUSE)

GUTFELD: Are we talking about the same thing? Birthmarks. We're talking about birthmarks.

TYRUS: Yes. Yes, Miss Bream, yes, yes.

BREAM: Birthmarks.

TYRUS: Birthmarks.

(LAUGHTER)

GUTFELD: Morgan, were there things that you did younger that you're glad was never recorded for posterity? Is that the word, "posterity"?

ORTAGUS: Yes, I'm like Shannon. I didn't do bad things. I just did a lot of dorky things. I was the drum major of the band and I really hope no one has a picture of that.

BREAM: I bet you were great.

GUTFELD: That's so funny. You were the drum major and I was beating off.

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(LAUGHTER)

(APPLAUSE)

TYRUS: Beating off --

GUTFELD: Beating off.

TYRUS: Beating off young ladies with a stick. He was very handsome. And he came in a small carrying case so you can carry him around in your backpack. He was very popular.

GUTFELD: Yes, yes.

TYRUS: Thank you, Shannon Bream.

GUTFELD: Angelo, you're in between the world of weird and creepy.

(LAUGHTER)

GUTFELD: I'm sure there are plenty things you did when you were younger. Did you dissect a lot of animals in the park?

ANGELO: No, not a lot.

(LAUGHTER)

BREAM: Define "a lot."

ANGELO: A healthy amount. There were cameras. I am only 25, so it's a little bit of a --

(LAUGHTER)

ANGELO: Although there are moments on this show I wish there hadn't been cameras. You're going to late in the edit room tonight.

(LAUGHTER)

GUTFELD: All right, that was a great question. We've got to move on. Don't go away.

(APPLAUSE)

GUTFELD: Out of time. Shannon Bream, David Angelo, Morgan Ortagus, Tyrus, studio audience. FOX NEWS @ NIGHT with dreamy Trace Gallagher is next. I'm Greg Gutfeld. I love you, America.

(APPLAUSE)

END

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August 9, 2024

Section: Letters

Attention All TDS Sufferers - Jeffrey R. Delaney

Staff Writer

Attention All TDS Sufferers

To the Editor:

I peruse several newspapers during the course of the week, and have to laugh when I see letters of hate and criticism, usually by the same few, directed at President Trump. I guess there is a lot to be said about severe cases of TDS, Trump Derangement Syndrome. These people are so obsessed with their hatred for President Trump, they are totally oblivious to the destruction the current administration has done to this country.

What's even funnier, and quite ironic, is perhaps we should be blaming these Trump haters for the mess this country is in, since I suspect they helped put our current career politician in office in the first place. Finally, after 3 1/2 years of total incompetence, Biden was forced out by his own party, who threatened him with the 25th amendment behind closed doors if he didn't drop out on his own.

But wait, it gets even funnier. Our current VP turned overnight Presidential candidate, who has accomplished absolutely nothing as VP, and in 2020 ended her embarrassing run for President having not one single delegate, not even from her home state, is now all of a sudden a media star. Why? What has changed? Nothing, absolutely nothing. It is still the Biden/Harris administration. She has done major harm by having the tie breaking vote in the Senate that sent inflation skyrocketing.

Don't you think voters should have a say in who they want to run for President? The way the elites forced out Biden and cherry picked Harris shouldn't be the process, but that is just another example of the Democrats in DC actually being the ones that are a threat to democracy. With them, inflation is still out of control, gas prices remain high, food prices are up 30%, rents have increased, mortgage rates are hovering around 7%, there is continued complete chaos on the southern border, they support defunding the police, have us involved in multiple wars and on the verge of WWIII, and we are looked upon as a weak country by our enemies.

Yet they criticize President Trump, with letters crippled with ignorance and hate, when all this has happened under the Biden/Harris administration. Remember when the Democrats in DC all cried that if Trump became President in 2016, gas prices would rise, crime would skyrocket, the stock market would stall and we'd be at war. None of that happened. Not until Biden slid into office.

Biden campaigned as the unifier, but has been far from it, and is actually the most divisive President in modern history. To him, half the country is MAGA Republicans, fascists, bigots and deplorables, if they don't agree with his far left radical policies, which are also Harris' policies. She has been Biden's co-pilot the entire ride, nothing has changed, nor will it

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change. This administration has failed the average American worker. And as usual, they now try to play the race card once again. They say if you don't vote for Harris, a woman of color, you're a racist! Race is not a factor. Failed policies are.

This country easily survived four years of President Trump. I could care less if President Trump is a pompous, outspoken bully. His policies worked, and that is what matters to the average common sense American worker. Common sense is totally uncommon with our current administration. Get over your hatred TDS sufferers. It's not healthy for you or our country. Under President Trump we were energy independent, the border was being secured, we were not involved in war and we enjoyed a robust economy.

I for one would look forward to another 4 years of that same prosperity.

Thank you,

Jeffrey R. Delaney

No. Haverhill, N. H.

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Now, Trump Takes Questions As Harris Dodges Media; Trump On Assassination Attempt: I'm A Fast Healer; Trump Blasts Harris As V.P. Tops Him In New Poll; Trump Campaign Says, Harris Hiding From Media; Trump Campaign Says, Going On Offense In Blue States; ABC Reports, Trump, Harris Campaigns Agree To Debate, Proposes Two More; Bodycam Video Shows Officer Confront Trump Gunman; New Bodycam Video From Trump Assassination Attempt; Harris' Record On Crime In Focus As Election Nears; Pelosi Opens Up About Efforts To Replace Biden; Vance Challenges Walz On His Military Record

DONALD TRUMP (R), FORMER U.S. PRESIDENT, 2024 PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE: Oh, it's going to end. The honeymoon period's going to end. Look, she's got a little period, she's got a convention coming up. It's about policy. It's not about her. I think she's incompetent, because I've watched her. She destroyed California. She destroyed San Francisco. Everything she's touched has turned to bad things. I'm not going to use foul language. Everything she's touched has turned bad. She's incompetent.

The reason she's not doing what I do and she's not doing what she should be doing, she won't even do interviews with friendly people, because she can't do better than Biden.

Now he had a reason for not doing well. And he was never, 25 years ago, the sharpest or brightest bulb in the ceiling. That I can tell you, okay? He wasn't. But he could do interviews at least. Not lately, he couldn't, perhaps. But she should be doing interviews. She doesn't want to do interviews. And the reason she doesn't is, number one, her policies are so bad.

Just to answer your question, I think that it's not going to change because it's really ultimately not about her as much as about her policies. She wants open borders. She wants to defund the police. She wants to defund the police. She wants to take away your guns. Anybody that thinks they're not going to come after your guns, you know, when I was president, I totally protected the guns.

And I think it's very important. And I know I take some heat sometimes for it, but you have to have safety. You have to have -- when the bad guy walks in with a gun, you got to have some way of protecting yourself. And, boy, that would be -- you would see crime go up at levels that you've never seen. When people say on this side of the house, this house has guns, we will use the guns. They say, yes, let's pass. We'll go someplace else. You have to have them.

And for four years and, you know, as you know, the NRA endorsed me very powerfully every time I ran, every time, my sons are members and I guess indirectly I'm a member too, but they gave me the strongest of endorsements and that's against very strong competition, people that, you know, felt the same way. No, you have to have that right. Our Second Amendment is a very important right, and it has to be protected.

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Okay, how about you? Go ahead.

REPORTER: You've been predicting a 1929-style depression globally. Can you tell us more about the specific signs you're seeing?

TRUMP: So, there are some of the most brilliant people on Wall Street that are saying that if President Trump doesn't win, you're going to have a depression. I happen to agree. I think that's true because I know how bad these people are. You know, they like to say that they did this and that. You saw the 7 trillion that they said. It was me for 7 trillion. It wasn't me. It was them.

They said that I had inflation. They took over 9 percent inflation. No, I had 1 percent inflation. I had actually no inflation because if you look at the categories, we had just about no inflation. But I had a very minor -- I actually had a positive inflation. It was a perfect number, because you don't want zero. I mean, I'm not going to give you a whole course on economics, but you don't want zero. 1 percent, 1.4 percent is great. You want a little bit because you don't want to have deflation. Deflation is, in many ways, even worse. I had a perfect number right around the 1 percent number. It was perfect.

And to show you it stayed there for two years. And then he did all of the different borrowings that he did, and then he did so many things wrong. Every time he would do it, I'd say, big mistake. And don't forget, they sell hats and they sell stories. Trump was right about everything. I have been right about a lot.

Yes, Maggie.

REPORTER: Yes, sir. I have a question for you. You, when you were president, you pardoned high level drug dealers, you pardoned violent felons, including one man who had allegedly told a rabbi he would make him bleed. How is that different than what you're saying?

TRUMP: Well, we had a commission, like other people do, and it's always complicated and it's always controversial. And we had commissions that and I think of respected people, you know, many of the people on the commission. And they would recommend to me certain pardons for certain people. Some people were treated very harshly. A fantastic woman, as you know, she served 24 years for being on a phone call having to do with drugs. You know who I'm talking about. She was great. And she had another 24 years to go. And it was largely about marijuana, which in many cases is now legalized, okay? But we had many very highly regarded people on a commission, and they'd recommend. And they'd put a reason why.

Some people were, you know, served time, but they served a lot of time for something that today people wouldn't even serve time by.

[15:05:05]

Well, for the most part, I think they did. I mean, they did. They go through -- they went through -- I had a commission, it was a very important commission to me and highly respected people. And, frankly, they came up with some decisions that I wouldn't necessarily agree with, but I did it.

But I let a lot of people out that were -- that had no representation. I went to people in jails, in prison, that we respected. I said, how many of these people should be let out? We let out large groups of low income people that were serving like 40 years for something that today you wouldn't even be put in jail for.

We had very few people let out, because I said, I really don't want to let people out where they had a lot of violence, where they had killing et cetera. And for the most part, we didn't do that.

Yes, please.

REPORTER: Regarding the Fed do you, if you win in November, do you want more of a say over the Fed on issues like the interest rate, and do you think that you can manage -- over the Federal Reserve. And do you think that you can manage a soft landing in the economy given with the current leadership in place?

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TRUMP: Right, well, look, the Federal Reserve is a very interesting thing, and it's sort of gotten it wrong a lot, and he's tending to be a little bit late on things. He gets a little bit too early and a little bit too late. And, you know, that's very largely a -- it's a gut feeling. I believe it's really a gut feeling and I used to have it out with him. I had it out with him a couple of times very strongly. I fought him very hard.

And, you know, we get along fine. We get along fine. But I feel that the president should have at least say in there, yes. I feel that strongly. I think that in my case, I've made a lot of money, I was very successful, and I think I have a better instinct than, in many cases, people that would be on the Federal Reserve or the chairman.

Yes?

REPORTER: You just mentioned people going to prison for marijuana.

TRUMP: Yes.

REPORTER: Harris supports rescheduling marijuana and also says that no one should go to prison for marijuana offense. Do you agree with those positions?

TRUMP: Well, as we legalize it, I start to agree a lot more because, you know, you're being -- it's being illegalized all over the country. Florida has something coming up. I'll be making a statement about that fairly soon. But as we legalize it throughout the country, whether that's a good thing or a bad thing, it's awfully hard to have people all over the jails that are in jail right now for something that's legal. So, I think, obviously, there's a lot of sentiment to doing that.

Yes, please.

REPORTER: Mr. President, Kamala Harris' father is Jamaican-American, and she went to a historically black college. How is she only recently deciding to be black?

TRUMP: Well, you'll have to ask her that question because she's the one that said it. I didn't say it. So, you'll have to ask her. And I very much appreciate that question but you'll have to ask her. But I've known her for a long time. I actually contributed to her campaign a long time ago because I was a developer. I contributed to lots of campaigns of Democrats, Republicans, and some were liberal and some were conservative. But you'll have to ask her about that.

But to me, it doesn't matter. But to her, from her standpoint, I think it's very disrespectful to both, really. Whether it's Indian or black, I think it's very disrespectful to both. To me, it doesn't matter.

REPORTER: Why bring it up? Why bring it up?

TRUMP: Red dress. Red dress.

REPORTER: What about assassination? Is your ear fully recovered? Is there a scar? Do you have any hearing damage from it?

TRUMP: Pretty much recovered. Yes. I'm a fast healer. It's a hell of a shot, but I'm a fast healer. Yes, pretty much recovered.

REPORTER: Do you have hearing damage from it?

TRUMP: No, it didn't hit that. I got very lucky. It just hit the lobe, as they call it.

REPORTER: Is there a scar on your ear?

TRUMP: Yes, a little bit, not much.

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REPORTER: Mr. President, can I ask about (INAUDIBLE) on immigration (INAUDIBLE) immigration question. You've been running on the idea of mass deportation. You say the biggest in American history is basically what you want. When Senator Vance has been asked about that, he sort of suggested that, really, you only need to go after people who've been convicted of crime.

TRUMP: Well, we're starting there.

REPORTER: Okay. So, what are you really talking about here? How would you pay for it? And do you think you can pass something like that could happen?

TRUMP: The largest mass deportation in the history of our country, because we have no choice. It's not sustainable. It's not sustainable. And we are going to start with violent criminals and we're going to start then with criminals.

And our local police is going to work with us because they know everything about the people, they know their names, they know everything about them, they know their middle name, they know their numbers, and as, you know, the other side is trying -- you know, look, for years, I wondered why are they allowing these people to come in at levels like this? It was incredible. And I said two reasons. They're either really stupid, and I don't believe they're stupid. Because anybody that can cheat in elections like they cheat is not stupid. Or in the alternative, they have bad motives or they hate our country.

[15:10:00]

And I used to think they hate our country. But lately, I've seen where they're trying to sign these people up to vote. And they have to stop. They cannot let illegal immigrants vote in this upcoming election.

All right, one more question. Go ahead, one more. Make it a good one, please.

REPORTER: Okay. Regarding social security, taxes for seniors, that was talked about a lot. Experts say that the policy could increase the deficit \$1.6 trillion. So, how would it work, in your view?

TRUMP: We have so many ways of making money in this country, we're not going to affect our social security. We're not changing it. And I proved that over four years. And we're going to do it. It's very unfair to people. They spend their life and they're great citizens and they pay in. We're not going to charge tax to our -- to Social Security, the seniors, we're not going to do it. We're not going to charge and also tax. I say the two things we're going to have no tax on seniors, Social Security, and we're going to have no tax on tips, very simple.

And we are a country that has so many different ways to make money. We have under our feet more liquid gold, I call it oil and gas, than any country in the world, much more than Saudi Arabia, much more than Russia. We have so many different ways we can make money. We're not going to hurt our seniors with Social Security and we're not going to charge them tax, okay?

REPORTER: Can I squeeze one in on this as well, Mr. President? Mr. President --

REPORTER: (INAUDIBLE) if sanctuary cities or abused towns aren't willing to cooperate, how do you plan to enforce that?

TRUMP: We should not have sanctuary cities. Sanctuary cities is a way of protecting criminals, and we should not have sanctuary cities. And if you go to California, and I know it well, I have property out there, great property, if you go to California and you ask the people of California, do they like the idea of sanctuary cities? They don't like it. They're tired of it. They're tired of crime. They're tired of what's happened to our country. Our country has become a crime-ridden mess and we're going to stop it on November 5th.

Thank you very much, everybody.

SHANNON BREAM, FOX NEWS ANCHOR: You've been watching President Trump give a press conference today,

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freewheeling about an hour in length, touching on everything from immigration to the economy to his legal battles to the records of Vice President Harris and Governor Walz and much more.

Good afternoon, everyone. I'm Shannon Bream in for Martha MacCallum and this is The Story. Former President Trump, you saw him there taking questions from reporters at that news conference, something Vice President Harris has not done yet since President Biden dropped out of the race almost three weeks ago.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

TRUMP: She's not doing any news conference. You know why she's not doing it? Because she can't do a news conference, she doesn't know how to do a news conference. She's not smart enough to do a news conference. And I'm sorry, we need smart people to lead this country because our country has never been in this danger before, both economically and from an outside -- from an perspective, Russia doesn't respect us anymore. China doesn't respect us anymore. North Korea, Kim Jong-un liked me a lot, he doesn't like this group. We are in great danger.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BREAM: So new poll shows Harris leading Trump by six points among likely voters. That's a nationwide poll. Now, back in May, Trump was leading by President Biden by two points in that same Marquette Law School survey. The former president is reportedly complaining behind the scenes about Harris' poll numbers and media coverage in moments.

Trump 2024 National Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt will join us, Carl Rove, former White House deputy chief of staff for President George W. Bush, and Kevin Walling, former Biden 2020 campaign surrogate.

But, first, we go to Congressional Correspondent Aishah Hasnie reporting live from Mar-a-Lago where she got some questions and several of them. Aisha, hello.

AISHAH HASNIE, FOX NEWS CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENT: Hello to you, Shannon. Yes, we took a lot of questions. The president did and we learned a lot as well today, but on the polls that you just mentioned and the reporting that the president is perhaps complaining about his campaign behind the scenes, the president came out today and said, we're leading and I'm not complaining. That's a quote from him. He says he's not changing anything when it comes to the strategy, when it comes to the way that the campaign has been putting out their messaging out there at.

They are watching this Harris bump in the polling, and they say that this is a honeymoon period, that this is not really about the person, that this is really about the policies. And at the end of the day, the former president says that the fundamentals of this race, the issues, the economy and how many Americans out there are struggling, that has not changed.

Now, the former president also said about his now new opponent that he'd rather be running against Kamala Harris. At one point, he said that Hillary Clinton was a smarter opponent than Harris. His campaign says that if he can win Georgia and Pennsylvania, those are the two states that they're eyeing right now, that he can seal the deal in November.

[15:15:01]

So, I asked him about his relationship with very popular Georgia Governor Brian Kemp, and I asked him if there was any chance or any opportunity that relationship could be repaired and would he want that? Take a listen to what he said.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

HASNIE: Your campaign is targeting Pennsylvania and Georgia. And if you get those two, you could seal the deal. That's what they say. How important is it to you and is it salvageable for you to be able to repair the relationship with Governor Kemp in Georgia?

TRUMP: I don't know. I don't know if I can or not. I got him elected. Without me, he wouldn't be governor. I got him elected. He was doing terribly. I got him elected. With that being said, I hope we can repair it.

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(END VIDEO CLIP)

HASNIE: Now, I also got the former president to react to a comment made by President Biden this week in a sit-down interview saying that he doesn't think that there would be a peaceful transfer of power if Trump loses this election, and this is what the president said in response.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

TRUMP: Of course, there'll be a peaceful transfer, and there was last time, and there'll be a peaceful transfer. I just hope we're going to have honest elections.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

HASNIE: Shannon, the former president came out, made a lot of news, and amongst the biggest headlines, I think, agreeing to more than one debate. He says that he has just agreed to a debate with Fox News on September 4th, one with ABC on September 10th, and a third with NBC on September 25th. Again, we haven't yet heard with the Kamala Harris and Walz campaign, whether they are on board, but that is coming directly from the former president, that he has agreed to it doing at least three. Shannon?

BREAM: All right. Aishah Hasnie down in Florida for us, thank you so much, Aishah.

All right, let's bring in Karoline Leavitt, Trump 2024 national press secretary. All right, Karoline, always good to see you. And we're getting some news from ABC. Apparently, both sides have agreed to this debate on September 10th to show up and fight about their records, policy and everything else, but let's talk about the fact the president said today that it's not a pivot for him. He's still going to go after the same policies, but it is a different debate going head-to-head with President Joe Biden versus the Vice President Harris, at least stylistic, maybe people would argue. What is the debate prep? How will it be different for a different candidate?

KAROLINE LEAVITT, TRUMP 2024 NATIONAL PRESS SECRETARY: Well, it's different because while Joe Biden was incompetent by senility, Kamala Harris is incompetent, frankly, by stupidity. She has supported 100 percent of Joe Biden's disastrous policies, and that's why our strategy will not change overall. We will continue to hammer away on the message that you just heard President Trump share for more than an hour at that press conference, taking questions on all types of issues and calling out Kamala Harris for her failure as the border czar, allowing more than 11 million illegal people into this country, for her failure in supporting by dynamics, which has created the worst inflation crisis in a generation, and for Joe Biden and Kamala Harris' weak foreign policy that has created war and chaos all over this world.

While President Trump talked about that for more than an hour today, Kamala Harris continues to hide from the news media. It's day 18 and she has not taken one question from the press since being installed as the Democrat Party's nominee. She needs to answer for her disastrous record. The media should be demanding that she answers tough questions. And we look forward to hopefully seeing her on the debate stage on all three occasions that President Trump just committed to.

BREAM: Yes. She's always welcome to come on Fox News. She's always welcome on Fox News Sunday. We would love to talk to her too. So, we'll see if others press her as well to get her where she can answer some questions.

In the meantime, you heard about The Washington Post article. Of course, you guys are very familiar with it, Aishah was talking about it, saying that President Trump is upset about the polling numbers, that he is complaining, that he is talking about whether the campaign is going well. He is polling friends and just trying to take a pulse with people.

In the wake of that report, there is a post on X by former White House communications director, press secretary under President Trump and working with the first lady, Stephanie Grisham says this, Trump's self announced press conference today at 2:00 P.M. He's panicking. I've seen this play many times. He thinks his team is failing him and no one can speak better or save his campaign or defend him but him. He hates the coverage Harris is getting and thinks only he can fix it. So, your response to both The Washington Post reporting and this claim by Ms. Grisham?

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LEAVITT: Well, Ms. Grisham hasn't spoken to President Trump in years. She has no idea what she's talking about. And as for the reporting, that was from unnamed sources who also don't know what they're talking about inside of our campaign. This is a disciplined campaign and we're disciplined because we are led by President Trump, who wakes up every day and focuses on the issues that matter to the American people. And we are led by him.

And that's why you see him continuing to lead in many of the battleground states in many different polls that are out there right now. And he is bringing his winning message to every single corner of this country. It's why we're not only winning in traditional battleground states, but also going on offense in traditional blue states, such as Minnesota, the home of Governor Tim Walz.

[15:20:05]

And the reason that longtime Democrat state is now in play in many polls for President Trump is because Tim Walz's own constituents know how terrible his dangerously liberal record has become.

So, we will spend the next 89 days proving to the American people that we cannot afford a Harris-Walz ticket. America, as we know her and love her, will not be able to afford it. We'll continue to have a border invasion. We will continue to have record high inflation that rips off working families. President Trump has a winning message and will stay focused on delivering that winning message every day.

BREAM: All right. We hope all three of those debates come together, as you do as well. Karoline, thank you for your time.

LEAVITT: Thank you.

BREAM: Okay. Also with us, Carl Rove, former White House deputy chief of staff for President George W. Bush and Fox News Contributor, and Kevin Walling, former Biden 2020 campaign surrogate, now a partner at H.G. Creative.

All right, gentlemen, let's dive on news that at least one of these debates is going to happen. Carl, what are the potential pitfalls, pluses and minuses for both sides?

CARL ROVE, FORMER BUSH 43 DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF: Well, first of all, I thought it was interesting. President Trump had sort of put himself in a box by saying he wasn't going to show up at the debate because Biden had withdrawn. And I thought this is a very adroit way to get back on the right side of that question, saying I'm not only going to debate, I'm willing to debate three times. So, smart on his part to have done that.

This was the moment, though, to lower expectations about him and raise the expectations about his opponent by saying, I know it's going to -- the contest is close. The contest is tight. And I think these debates are going to be a good place to sort of show the deep differences between me and my opponent on the big issues.

His press secretary, who just appeared before us, did, I thought, an excellent job of staying on message. It was clear what the election was about, inflation, immigration, and respect in the world. I'm not certain people walked away from the news conference today with as concise a sense of what President Trump was focused on.

BREAM: Yes, and some of the chatter in The Washington Post article, though, unnamed sources, there were some that were on the record that talked about how they think the campaign is going, including Senator Lindsey Graham. He says, this is Trump's race to lose. I hope he'll get more focused on prosecuting the case against her.

So, Kevin, that gets to the issue of policy versus some of the personality stuff that is certain to come in and continue to grow in this race and potentially the debate. But I want to read something that Politico had today about this, one longtime Harris ally suggesting to the West Wing Playbook that Harris could hold off on big interviews until after Labor Day. Of course, that gets her through the momentum that always comes with the campaign says there's really no need, the person said, the voters that she needs are at the local level. They're not reading the national press.

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I mean, Kevin, fair to say that at some point mainstream media should expect her to do some sit-down interviews. I mean, it's a short space. I mean, are they just going to run out the clock or do you think she does sit down for some big interviews?

KEVIN WALLING, FORMER BIDEN 2020 CAMPAIGN SURROGATE: Shannon, good to be with you. The vice president is absolutely going to sit down for a number of these long form interviews. Let's not forget, she had to piece this campaign together in the last two and a half weeks. And since that announcement of Governor Walz joining the ticket, they've been crisscrossing all the battleground states.

You saw in that press conference, you know, a reporter asked, you know, the former president, where have you been? You know, we haven't seen you in nearly a week. And then he doubled down on going to Montana and Wyoming, two states that really aren't in play. And then talked about the fact that he's, you know, ceding ground so that we can have our convention in Philadelphia. Well, that's in a week-and-a-half so we haven't seen a lot of that former president.

I'd love to see the former president give a press conference like this every single day because it's a reminder to the American people of his tenure in office. And I think when Democrats make this campaign about Donald Trump and his four years, we will clearly win. He has a ceiling and, you know, to Carl's point, did nothing in that press conference to lower expectations for the Vice President, doubling down on calling her stupid multiple times just a month out from this ABC News debate is not the smart policy, I think, for a winning campaign.

BREAM: And we have seen some numbers move. Carl, you're our numbers guy, so let's crunch a little bit of this. This is Marquette Law, their poll that came out that shows a shift obviously away from the polling that was negative for President Biden, improvements for the vice president, and it says her favorables are up 12 points since May and her unfavorables are down nine points. And, Carl, you know, one of the attacks on her was always that she's unpopular, she's incompetent, nobody likes her. That's moved now that she's actually on the ticket. What do you make of it?

ROVE: Well, she's had two and a half weeks of spectacular press, and it's going to continue through the Democratic Convention, in part because of the dominant media are so enthusiastic. They have somebody other than Joe Biden running against Donald Trump, but also because she's adroitly managed this.

But she's going to have to, at some point, begin to have news conferences and she's going to have to begin to answer the questions. And my sense is there's a reason why they're going to try and keep this period where she's isolated from the national press and doesn't appear in a news conference like we just saw for as long as possible, and that's because she's not that good at him.

[15:25:09]

Now, if I were the Trump campaign, I'd be trying to raise expectations about her debate performance and her ability to handle herself in these news conferences. But my suspicion is that when she starts getting asked some tough questions, starting with, why are you changing so many of your views? The views that she had when she ran as a presidential candidate in 2020, whether it was opposition to fracking, I'm going to end offshore drilling, et cetera, she is now in a place where she's much different place today. And that's going to be a difficult question to answer.

BREAM: Well, Kevin says that those big sit downs are coming. So, the invite is out. Kevin and Carl --

WALLING: I'd love her to do Fox News Sunday. Let's make it happen.

BREAM: Doors are open. Okay. You help us out, Kev. We'll get it done. Thanks guys.

WALLING: Thanks, Shannon.

BREAM: All right. Breaking right now, new body cam footage from Butler Township provides chilling perspective on what was happening on that critical rooftop and the chaotic encounter with Trump's wannabe assassin.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

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UNIDENTIFIED MALE: (BLEEP) this close, bro. Dude, he turn around on me? He's straight up.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BREAM: Ted Williams joins us next.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

BREAM: Brand new body cam video from the assassination attempt on former President Trump shows the crucial moment that you have heard so much about. This is an officer trying to confront the gunman when he spotted him on the roof where he ended up opening fire.

[15:30:03]

Correspondent Alexis McAdams is here with breaking details. Alexis, this is what we've been waiting for.

ALEXIS MCADAMS, FOX NEWS CORRESPONDENT: Shannon, that's right. This is some of the new clips that we're seeing right now from the police department there. It's a body camera video that came into the newsroom just a short time ago, and it shows really just how chaotic it was after the former president was nearly assassinated while speaking up on stage in Butler, Pennsylvania.

I was there that day. We knew that some of the people in the crowd really tried to get out of there and get to safety, but seen it from this angle gives you a different perspective. So there are a dozen video clips that were just released by local authorities. Some of it will show you just what was going on in those moments afterward, including at the scene in Butler, Pennsylvania on July 13. Let's take a look.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yo, Mike, on the wall.

Part of my head, right in front of him bro He's got (inaudible) AR (inaudible).

MCADAMS: Yes, you can see that there exactly how this all played out. And you could hear the one officer that we've been talking about, Shannon, who tried to get up there on the roof. I guess he was boosted up there by one of his coworkers. Saw that gunman up there and then dropped because he said, hey, this guy is a backpack up there. He's got a weapon. He could have basically blown my head off.

So that's what happened. Then it looks like he went back to his car, grabbed a different weapon at this point, and then they tried to get back up there again. We want you to take a look at a second video clip right now that happened moments later. It's the same body camera footage, though, from the same officer that was obtained by Fox, shows the authorities then up on the rooftop where the gunman was hiding out. And you can see that gunman laying there after he was shot and killed. Watch.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: You good, bro?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yes, I know. I hear you.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: There was a --

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I know, yes. (inaudible) yes, yes. I hear you. I hear you.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

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MCADAMS: So that local police officer talking to somebody that was either in state or federal law enforcement, saying that they were very angry that they couldn't find him. That's when they started talking about to Shannon how they were all on different radio frequencies which, as we know, has been a major point of this investigation. And exactly how did this young guy get up there on that rooftop, Shannon?

BREAM: Yes. Well, Alexis, you were there that day. It is very enlightening to get this kind of information now trickling out day by day as we get more. Thank you very much.

So former DC Homicide Detective Ted Williams spent time on the scene in Butler, Pennsylvania, also defense attorney, Fox News contributor. Ted, always good to see you. What do you make of this new video that we're seeing and how it kind of fleshes out as we learn more about who knew what as this whole thing was unfolding?

TED WILLIAMS, FOX NEWS CONTRIBUTOR: Hi, Shannon. Let me start off, if I respectfully may by, mentioning the name Corey Comperatore. That was the man who lost his life at this rally for Donald Trump, what is attempted assassination took place. But Fox News has been on this from the beginning.

When I was out there, I learned the information that we are now showing here, and it's somewhat consistent with what the town manager told me. But we know that at 6:09 this guy, Thomas Crooks, was spotted on that roof. Immediately the officer hoisted another officer on the roof. Crook pointed his gun at that officer. That officer fell down, hurt his ankle, and then made communications with other police officers.

But we know that at 6:11 is when Trump took the stage and the shooting started. There's a breakdown here, Shannon, in communication. The advanced team of the Secret Service failed this community, nearly got one man killed, and nearly a president of the United States could have been killed, should we say.

BREAM: Yes. I want to play something from the acting Secret Service director who talks about -- who knew what and how it was or wasn't communicated. This is the acting director, Ronald Rowe.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

RONALD ROWE, JR., ACTING SERVICE SECRET DIRECTOR: The only thing we had was that locals were working an issue at the 3:00, which would have been the former president's right hand side, which is where the shot came. Nothing about man on the roof, nothing about man with a gun, none of that information ever made it over our net.

We didn't challenge our own assumptions of we assume that someone's going to cover that. We assume that there's going to be uniform presence. I could not, and I will not, and I cannot understand why there was not better coverage, or at least somebody looking at that roof line.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BREAM: Ted, do you think we'll ever get the answer to that question?

WILLIAMS: We better get the answer. This director cannot assume the damn thing. We need answers. We need to know what happened.

I don't care whether you're a Republican or Democratic president, presidents have to be safe. And so you don't assume the damn thing. Somebody should have been on that roof. I'm very angry that we lost the life of a man and two others injured, and could have lost the president as a result of what took place here.

Yes, we need answers. They got to give us answers, and they need to be some heads that roll at the top. The men, the good men of the Secret Service, those are good people.

BREAM: They are. And President Trump actually praised the FBI today, saying that they had done the interview with him,

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and he thinks they're doing a good job. Ted, thank you very much. We'll obviously keep tracking every new bit of information we get out of that assassination attempt.

OK, so former President Trump hitting on Vice President Harris' record as a progressive prosecutor as her campaign paints a tough on crime portrayal. Former DA, "The Five" co-host Judge Jeanine Pirro is not having it. She's next.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

DONALD TRUMP (R), FORMER US PRESIDENT AND PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: The same policies, open borders, weak on crime. I think she's worse than Biden, because he got forced into the position. She was there long before.

She destroyed San Francisco. She destroyed California. She destroyed -- no cash bail, weak on crime.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BREAM: Former President Trump, moments ago, as Vice President Harris campaigns partly as a tough on crime former prosecutor, but critics say her record does not back that up. "The Five" co-host Judge Jeanine Pirro is here with me in New York, but first to senior national correspondent William La Jeunesse who's reporting the facts live from LA. Hello, William.

WILLIAM LA JEUNESSE, FOX NEWS SENIOR NATIONAL CORRESPONDENT: Well, Shannon, Harris opposes mandatory minimum sentences for convicts. She wants the National Review Board for police shootings, but she's also being criticized for misleading voters and lacking leadership on the soft on crime Prop 47.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: California Prop 47 allows certain non-violent, unserious felony convictions to be reduced to misdemeanors.

LA JEUNESSE: The year, 2014, police called Prop 47 a get out of jail free card. Retailers and local DA has predicted a rise in crime, but the state's top cop, Attorney General Kamala Harris, said at the time, nothing.

STEVE COOLEY, FORMER LA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Just hiding out, not doing her job, not educating the public.

LA JEUNESSE: Harris claimed as AG, it was her duty to stay neutral. Others disagreed. Top newspapers said Harris failed to inform voters, calling her gutless and disappointing.

TRACI PARK, LA CITY COUNCIL: Prop 47 was a lie from day one.

LA JEUNESSE: Ten years later some voters want to undo Prop 47, still blaming Harris for mislabeling it the Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act.

PARK: It's deliberately misleading title, which promised safe neighborhoods and schools, was intentionally designed to trick voters.

LA JEUNESSE: Throughout her career, Harris governed as a progressive.

KAMALA HARRIS (D), VICE PRESIDENT OF UNITED STATES AND PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: I think San Francisco wants a progressive district attorney.

LA JEUNESSE: As DA, she promised to never seek the death penalty, which outraged critics and allies alike when a man murdered police officer Isaac Espinoza.

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UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I think this district attorney made a very big mistake. As a matter of fact, if I had known she had said that in her campaign, I never would have supported her.

LA JEUNESSE: As US senator, Harris said defunding police allowed cities to spend more on services.

HARRIS: To believe that by putting more police on the street, you're going to have more safety, and that's just wrong.

LA JEUNESSE: She supports sanctuary laws, shielding criminal aliens from deportation and decriminalizing illegal immigration.

HARRIS: We're not going to treat people who are undocumented across the borders criminals.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

LA JEUNESSE: So as AG, Harris was supposed to tell voters accurately what Prop 47 meant for public safety. She failed to mention that it stopped DNA collection from some felons, crippled the ability to solve crimes, predicted the spike in theft and the cost of consumers. Shannon?

BREAM: All right. William La Jeunesse, thank you very much. With me now, "The Five" co-host, Judge Jeanine Pirro, also a former prosecutor. But, listen, judge, you heard her there, and she wrote about this in her book too. She said, I'm a progressive prosecutor. I think that there are multiple victims, not only the crime victim, but people are victims of the criminal justice system too. So is she really hiding it?

JEANINE PIRRO, FOX NEWS HOST: She's trying to hide it now. I mean, it's not unusual. And it's interesting that Prop 47 which was the most significant piece of legislation in California, I think, for the last 10 or 15 years, is something where, as attorney general, as he's already reported, she was silent on.

And the truth is, as attorney general, you are the state's top law enforcement officer, and for her not to get involved when they're basically decriminalizing higher levels of felony and reducing them to misdemeanors, you know, to the opposition of police who predicted a crime wave, and the business owners who knew what was going to happen to their stores. And for her to say, I don't take a position, it was gutless. And she was totally not doing her job.

But you see, that's what she's done her whole career. Kamala Harris was a progressive prosecutor before we even knew what the term meant. She believed in criminals, not in victims. She believed her job was to make sure that the criminals were protected, and to not seek the death penalty when there is a killing of a cop is enough to incense every cop across the country.

And as Dianne Feinstein said, I would never have supported her. I mean, that is just a given. So her DNA is not about being a prosecutor. Nothing about what she has said or done is that. But now she wants the public to believe that she is pro prosecution, pro law enforcement, which is about defunding the police. She is about making sure that they don't have the money, and that criminals get out of jail because criminals, as you say, are victims.

They're not victims. Criminals are the ones who choose to victimize others. And she will lie, as she has repeatedly, and she believes in sanctuary cities. She doesn't want illegal aliens to be deported. She doesn't want them deported, even if they commit a crime. This is not what we need in the White House. It's not what they needed as a DA but that's why San Francisco went to hell in a hand basket.

BREAM: Well, but people have voted for people who describes themselves as progressive prosecutors. Do you think this stuff breaks through with voters? Because there -- there's a big segment of the electorate out there who says, no, I like this change in policy, and I kind of like what she did in the past.

PIRRO: Because I think they're assuming that they're going to do all the stuff they expect the DA to do, but then they'll be progressive in some ways that are a little different than, you know, what happened in the past. I don't think they really understand what it means. And just the way she called Propositions 47, what was it, the Safe Community Act?

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You hear safe community, oh, our community is going to be safe. Let's vote for her. Oh, we're going to protect everyone, everyone, including the criminal. They're not that specific. It's like the Inflation Reduction Act, right? It did everything but reduce inflation. It caused inflation. And that -- and some other bills where she was a tie vote.

It's all about language. It's all about gaslighting Americans. And Americans, in the end, end up being hurt. She wanted to end all cash bail years before it happened across the country, and we are now suffering in this country across the United States, because criminals are allowed to be released, to reoffend again and then released again. This is so predictable.

But we're told that crime is down under the Biden administration on their watch. It is not down. People are not recording crime. They're not reporting crime, police are not making arrests. They're not being called, they know. If you call a cop in some cities, you're lucky if they show up within 24 hours.

BREAM: Yes, it's difficult. And you heard President Trump talking about in that press conference this afternoon that especially rural areas that people may need to exercise the Second Amendment. So they can take up for that slack when somebody can't get to them. So that's a whole other conversation about how she feels about guns, too so.

PIRRO: Yes. Well, she doesn't believe in the Second Amendment. You know, this pro law enforcement young, you know, I'm a constitutionalist, she's not. She doesn't believe in any of the things that people in law enforcement believe in. I know.

BREAM: Mandatory gun buyback, which some people read as confiscation. So she's going to have to talk about that at some point too, Judge, always good to see you. We'll see you on "The Five" --

PIRRO: I will see you in a bit.

BREAM: -- in this fabulous --

PIRRO: Will you be on "The Five?"

BREAM: Not today. I'll join you tomorrow. But, listen, I want people to watch closely for your shoes when you get there.

PIRRO: Thank you, Shannon.

BREAM: Good to see you.

PIRRO: Thank you.

BREAM: OK, the controversy involving Governor Walz's military service and why some are accusing him of abandoning his unit before deployment to Iraq. And former Speaker Pelosi's big reveal about the pressure campaign to get President Biden to do what he did, which is get off the ticket.

(BEGIN AUDIO CLIP)

DAVID REMNICK, EDITOR, THE NEW YORKER: You think you'll have -- your relationship will be there?

REP. NANCY PELOSI (D-CA): I hope so, I pray so, I cry so, you know?

REMNICK: Do you think he's angry at you?

PELOSI: I don't know. We haven't had a conversation.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

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(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

TRUMP: But to just take it away from him, like he was a child. And he's a very angry man right now, I can tell you that. He's not happy with Obama and he's not happy with Nancy Pelosi, crazy Nancy. She is crazy too.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BREAM: By the way that former speaker, Nancy Pelosi, shedding new light on the Democratic pressure campaign to dump President Biden, and the forces that factored into the unprecedented turn of events this election. Here she is in an interview with The New Yorker.

(BEGIN AUDIO CLIP)

PELOSI: I've never been that impressed with his political operation.

REMICK: Biden's operation?

PELOSI: Yes, I'm not. I mean, I just haven't been. I mean, they won the White House, bravo. So, my concern was, this ain't happening, and we have to make a decision for this to happen. The President has to make the decision for that to happen.

(END AUDIO CLIP)

BREAM: So the former speaker was quoted as saying she envisioned a rose petal path for Trump to the White House, and touched on the current state of her relationship with President Biden, disclosing she hasn't seen him. President Biden only has one public event today, hosting the Texas Rangers, before heading to Rehoboth Beach later tonight.

So let's bring in former Wisconsin Republican Congressman Sean Duffy, now the co-host of "The Bottom Line with Dagen and Duffy" on the Fox Business Network. OK, good to see you.

SEAN DUFFY, FOX BUSINESS HOST: You as well.

BREAM: OK. So also in this conversation, the former speaker says I didn't make calls. I wasn't telling people what to do or pressing. She says, I took hundreds of calls. But she did also go on a very popular morning cable show after the President said he's not getting out. She said he's got a decision to make.

DUFFY: That's to show that Joe Biden watches every morning.

BREAM: Right, and she knew it.

DUFFY: But I think we have to interpret what is Nancy Pelosi actually saying when she said, I was not that impressed with his campaign. That happened after the debate. Nancy Pelosi wasn't impressed with the campaign for months, but I think the big thing here is that Nancy Pelosi knew that Joe Biden was cognitively declining, right?

And she was willing to let Joe Biden still run and get another four years in the presidency if he could do it. She was putting her party ahead of her country. Was only after the debate that she decided, oh my gosh, America has seen what I've seen in my private conversations, we have to push him out. And again, I think there's some dishonesty and how she's framing the campaign as it relates to even the cognitive ability of Joe Biden.

Also, I think we talked about this a little bit, you have to go -- Joe Biden was committed to be running, right? And a friendly conversation would never get Joe Biden not to run. There had to have been some kind of threats made to Joe Biden to get him out. And we -- I don't know the love or know what those are, Shannon, but there was some strong arming going on.

Especially after a party that sits and talks about democracy, democracy, democracy, they undermine democracy by having

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Joe Biden win the primary and then push him off before the convention.

BREAM: Well, and it lends to this conversation about the optics to the donors had pulled their mind. And they were starting to pull it from down ballot races too, saying if you're not with us and pushing off the ticket, you're losing your money as well, which then ends up looking like it was the donors who made this decision and at the President himself.

DUFFY: But it wasn't the donors, right? So the donors might have played a little hard ball with the campaign for, you know, a couple weeks, but in the end, these donors are Democrats. They're not Republicans. They can't stand the thought of having Donald Trump as president again. Their money would have come.

Joe Biden knew that. Something else was happening besides the donors to push him out. And you know, was it -- did it involve Hunter, did it involve Joe Biden potential legal problems that he may have, was there some kind of golden parachute promise to Joe to step aside, was there the 25th amendment. We don't know what it was, but Joe Biden was committed to rerunning. He was not going to leave even after the debate.

BREAM: (Inaudible) that morning --

DUFFY: Right.

BREAM: Sunday morning that he left.

DUFFY: I'm going to run.

BREAM: I think we have a little bit of what President Trump said moments ago too, about these debates that we know, one that everybody's agreed to, but maybe more.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

TRUMP: We have September 4, September 10th and September 25th. We have spoken to the heads of the network, and it's all been confirmed. The other side has to agree to the terms.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BREAM: So apparently they've agreed to September 10th. Of course, we are welcoming and hope they lock in a Fox debate too. How do you see this going down? Because even people who are fans of President Trump say he's got to do a different tack with a female standing there on the stage with him. He's done this with Hillary Clinton. He knows it's a slightly different kind of debate.

DUFFY: It's a different game, right? And Kamala Harris is not Hillary Clinton. They're different people and he has to approach it differently. But I think it's going to be good for the American people.

Again, I don't think we have been that impressed with Kamala Harris as the vice president. She's not been the sharpest tack in interviews. This is an opportunity to actually showcase her skill sets and her ideas, and her vision for America to the American people, and it's an opportunity for Trump to attack that. And again, I think we deserve it.

I'm not quite sure how she's going to do if I was the Kamala Harris campaign, I would say, do one debate at most, say no to the others, because again, that's a big risk for her campaign and her ability to actually debate and communicate thoughts.

BREAM: Yes, I'm popping my popcorn.

DUFFY: I'm popping mine.

BREAM: It's going to happen. All right, Sean, good to see you.

Now, Trump Takes Questions As Harris Dodges Media;..., 2024 WLNR 13308206

DUFFY: (Inaudible) salt as well.

BREAM: Yes. OK. Thank you.

DUFFY: Thanks.

BREAM: OK. JD Vance accusing Tim Walz of dropping out of the army to avoid combat and misleading Americans about his military record. So what are the facts? Senator Vance, former President Trump's running mate, is a Marine veteran. Governor Walz, Vice President Harris' VP pick served in the National Guard. They both worn the uniform. So correspondent Garrett Tenney is digging into this live reporting now from Chicago on what he's found. Hey, Garrett.

GARRETT TENNEY, FOX NEWS CORRESPONDENT: Hey. Shannon. Tim Walz served in the Army National Guard for 24 years before he retired to run for Congress, and several people who served with him are now accusing him of embellishing aspects of his military service at times to boost his political career. One example of that is this video from 2018 put out by the Harris campaign, where Walz was speaking about gun control.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

TIM WALZ (D-MN), VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: But we can do background checks, we can do CDC research. We can make sure we don't have reciprocal carry among states. And we can make sure that those weapons of war that I carried in war is the only place where those weapons were.\

(END VIDEO CLIP)

TENNEY: According to the Minnesota National Guard, Tim Walz never served in a warzone, though, and never saw combat.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

THOMAS BEHRENS, SERVED W/ WALZ IN MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD: If he thinks Italy was a combat zone or a warzone, and he was carrying that in war, he's delusional. Just another way to embellish his career beyond what it was, stolen valor for the people that actually were in war.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

TENNEY: Behrens, who served with Walz, is also accusing him of retiring from the military in order to avoid being deployed to Iraq. Walz's military records show that he retired in May of 2005. And while there had been rumors they could be deployed, those official orders didn't come down until two months after Walz had left. Other soldiers who served with Walz have come out to defend his service, saying he was a great soldier in these accusations of stolen valor are absurd. Shannon?

BREAM: So, Garrett, any sense of how this may break through, we know that at the time that we get new candidates onto the stage, listen, clearly, the oppo research was ready by Republicans, by the Trump-Vance campaign as well, but will this really register with voters? Because the fact is, these two VP candidates that are going to match up on stage, we hope for debate for them as well.

I mean, they both have worn the uniform. They both can argue they've served the country. Any sense on how this is -- is it breaking through?

TENNEY: Well, we have heard some -- from some Democrats who say that, you know, this is some -- an area where the campaign needs to clean up its act. And if there have been cases where maybe things have been misspoken or slightly embellished that that needs to be cleaned up now that we're moving into this larger campaign. But we also saw some indications today when the Harris-Walz website updated his biography to state his rank at retirement was not what it was previously. So playing into some of these criticisms they've been getting and trying to get ahead of that. Shannon?

Now, Trump Takes Questions As Harris Dodges Media;..., 2024 WLNR 13308206

BREAM: OK. Garrett Tenney, thank you so much. Always appreciate your reporting.

That is “The Story” of Thursday, August 8, 2024. But as always, “The Story” goes on. We’ll see you back here tomorrow at 3:00 p.m. “Your World” starts right now.

END

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August 7, 2024

Section: Letters To Editor

Letters to the editor: Aug. 7, 2024

Staff Writer

Democratic Party offered no choice

This letter is to explain my views on why I feel that Kamala Harris isn't a genuine Democratic Party choice for the 2024 President of the United States election.

Joe Biden didn't resign from the office of POTUS. If he had, Kamala Harris would be the current POTUS and a viable incumbent for the 2024 POTUS election. The successful pursuit of 25th Amendment proceedings against Joe Biden also would have legitimately landed Harris in the same incumbent position. Harris shouldn't make it to the 2024 POTUS General Election ballot until an official Democratic Party primary vote places her there.

Millions of Democratic Party voters may have to settle for Kamala Harris representing their party in November 2024: (1) just because Joe Biden chose her as his running mate in 2020 and (2) Kamala Harris didn't have the courage to pursue 25th Amendment proceedings against Joe Biden long ago, get him out of office and thereby be in position for a "clean run" at the presidency.

Remember how early in the 2020 Democratic Primary, Harris chose to simply drop out instead of actually work for the presidency? Tulsi Gabbard really let her know how rough it was going to be. Ms. Gabbard did this country a great favor by "smoking" Harris out.

If oligarchs within the DNC hadn't been protecting Joe Biden all of this time, simply removed him with the 25th Amendment and allowed Kamala to assume the position of POTUS, this 2024 General Election for POTUS would be so simple. The question we should all ask ourselves is why didn't it happen that way. The answer is simple; even the powers - that - be within the DNC knew that Kamala Harris doesn't have either a work ethic or the courage to lead America.

Even though I'm now an independent, I see Donald Trump as the only choice for me.

Harry M. Braxton Jr.

Elizabethtown

Wondering just who is in charge of US

The Democrats have not yet had their convention, yet Kamala Harris already is making campaign speeches. What made it worse is the other day Poor Uncle Joe said he "works for her."

Letters to the editor: Aug. 7, 2024, 2024 WLNR 13240798

Now I ask, who is in charge? Of course, after the last three-plus years, my question is answered. With the dummyscraps, no one is in charge.

I had to look on the internet to find out if the vice president qualifies for military personnel saluting this person. After all, the vp is not in the chain of command unless Article 25 of the Constitution is invoked. I was so glad I retired from the military before Bill Clinton moved into the White House. I could not see myself saluting that draft dodger.

President Donald Trump better watch his back, because with Harris anything is possible.

Pinky Bilz

Radcliff

---- **Index References** ----

News Subject: (Campaigns & Elections (1CA25); Global Politics (1GL73); Government (1GO80); Legislation (1LE97); Political Parties (1PO73); Public Affairs (1PU31); U.S. Legislation (1US12); World Elections (1WO93))

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Voter turnout was way low, but there's lots to talk about on..., 2024 WLNR 13193777

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2024 WLNR 13193777

Tennessean, The (Nashville, TN)
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August 7, 2024

Voter turnout was way low, but there's lots to talk about on the way to Nov. 5 election
Tennessee is at the bottom in voter turnout. Please read the top-read essays of the week,
which focus on Donald Trump, Joe Biden and/or Kamala Harris.

David Plazas, Nashville Tennessean

Greetings, readers:

We made it through another election – the Aug. 1 congressional and legislative primary – that saw a few incumbents defeated, a few newcomers selected and set up Tennessee for what will likely be a contentious Nov. 5 general election.

Sadly, voter turnout was way down. As reported by The Tennessean journalist Vivian Jones on Tuesday, statewide turnout fell below 14% – one of the worst showings in decades.

Tennessee is already at the bottom in voter turnout and that's too bad. That means the few of us who vote are making decisions for the vast majority of residents.

The November election – with the president, a transit referendum and an exciting Senate race on the ballot – will hopefully drive out more voters to the polls. Oct. 7 is the deadline to register to vote. Let's do better on Nov. 5.

Top opinion columns of the week

Joe Biden can no longer serve as president. It's time to initiate the 25th Amendment: State Rep. Sabi Kumar, R-Springfield, a retired surgeon, wrote this guest essay, spurred by President Joe Biden's poor debate performance and his eventual dropping out of the presidential race. Kumar believes the 25th Amendment – which creates a process to remove the president in case of incapacity or inability to serve – is the best remedy. Marsha Blackburn vs. Gloria Johnson Tennessee Senate contest will raise the stakes and temperature: I wrote this column the night voters knew that Senator Blackburn would face state Representative Johnson in the general election. Johnson faced three opponents in the Democratic primary but took 70% of the vote. Blackburn easily trounced her one opponent. While Blackburn is favored to win the general election, Johnson promises the incumbent a fight. Another column of mine also made the list: A plea to Gov. Bill Lee to stand up against former President Donald Trump's bullying. Trump actually dared to call Lee a "RINO," or Republican in Name Only – on Election Night. Some Americans needed to see Trump implode before NABJ panel of Black female journalists: Columnist Andrea Williams weighed in on last week's controversy when Donald Trump questioned the racial identity of Vice President Kamala Harris during a discussion at the National Association of Black Journalists' annual convention. VP Kamala Harris word salads reveal something sinister about her political worldview: Letter to the editor writer Don Forte argues that Harris's remarks reveal a nefarious philosophy on politics. You will also find a link to a counterpoint arguing that Harris is ready to be president of the United States. 'MAGA people' care about freedom. That's why we're voting for Trump, not Kamala Harris: In this collection of letters, two readers explain why they are proud about standing behind "Make America Great Again" (MAGA) and Donald Trump.

Voter turnout was way low, but there's lots to talk about on..., 2024 WLNR 13193777

Agree or disagree? Or have a view on another topic entirely? Send a letter of 250 words or fewer to letters@tennessean.com. Include your full name, city/town, ZIP and contact information for verification. Thanks for adding to the public conversation.

Thank you and stay in touch.

David Plazas is the director of opinion and engagement for the USA TODAY Network Tennessee. He is an editorial board member of The Tennessean. He hosts the Tennessee Voices videocast and curates the Tennessee Voices and Latino Tennessee Voices newsletters. Call him at (615) 259-8063, email him at dplazas@tennessean.com or find him on X at [@davidplazas](https://twitter.com/davidplazas).

This article originally appeared on Nashville Tennessean: Voter turnout was way low, but there's lots to talk about on the way to Nov. 5 election

---- Index References ----

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The Kamala Crash; Babysitter Scandal; Beargate; Emergency..., 2024 WLNR 13059089

8/6/24 FOX: Jesse Watters Primetime (No Page)
2024 WLNR 13059089

FOX: Jesse Watters Primetime
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August 6, 2024

The Kamala Crash; Babysitter Scandal; Beargate; Emergency Meeting In The Situation Room Today; America Wakes Up To A Market Bloodbath; Biden- Harr...

The Kamala Crash; Babysitter Scandal; Beargate; Emergency Meeting In The Situation Room Today; America Wakes Up To A Market Bloodbath; Biden- Harris Bankrupted America; Kamala's Economic Philosophy: Equity; Interview With Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC); America Is On The Brink Of A Recession; Pelosi Wants Biden On Mount Rushmore; Biden And Pelosi Haven't Spoken Since Coup; Officials Relied On Cellphone At Butler Rally; Interview With Sen. Josh Hawley (R-MO); Whistleblower Speak Out On Butler Failures; Emhoff Nanny Doesn't Deny Affair, Pregnancy; Media Says Trump Is Running Scared; Trump Challenges Kamala To Fox News Debate; RFK, Jr. Comes Clean On Dead Bear Mystery

LAURA INGRAHAM, FOX NEWS CHANNEL HOST, "THE INGRAHAM ANGLE": Remember, they were allies, living in the United States. And before becoming Colonel, he served as a mechanic working on the American made King Cobra aircraft used on the Russian front. He is a Russian Jew. He was allowed to emigrate here in 1981 in a grain swap.

He's a rabid sports fan and an "Angle" fan. Happy birthday, Iosif.

That's it for us tonight. Jesse is next.

JESSE WATTERS, FOX NEWS CHANNEL HOST, "JESSE WATTERS PRIMETIME": Welcome to JESSE WATTERS PRIMETIME.

Tonight --

JIM ACOSTA, CNN ANCHOR: The Dow opened down more than a thousand points --

CNBC HOST: A quadruple digit loss now.

JILL SCHLESINGER, CBS NEWS: Take a deep breath, it is very scary.

WATTERS: The Kamala crash: What it means for November.

KAMALA HARRIS, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: That is called Bidenomics and we are very proud of Bidenomics.

DOUG EMHOFF, SECOND GENTLEMAN OF THE UNITED STATES: There's too much of toxicity -- masculine toxicity out there.

WATTERS: Kamala's husband got the nanny pregnant.

The Kamala Crash; Babysitter Scandal; Beargate; Emergency..., 2024 WLNR 13059089

HARRIS: Can we just give it up again for my husband?

(Cheers)

ROBERT F. KENNEDY, JR. (I), 2024 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: -- hit a bear and killed it. I picked up the bear and put him in the back of my van. I was going to skin the bear. I said, let's go put the bear in Central Park. And I was like, oh my God, what did I do?

WATTERS: RFK, Jr. and beargate.

Plus --

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: (Cackling). Hey, you on crack?

(END VIDEO CLIP)

WATTERS: Fox News Alert: An emergency meeting in the White House Situation Room today where Kamala Harris looks like a nervous wreck.

As the Middle East is on the verge of spiraling into a regional war, an American carrier strike group has been rushed into the Gulf as Iran could strike Israel at any moment.

American soldiers have already been injured this afternoon in a barrage of rocket attacks on a military base in Iraq. This, while Americans woke up at home to a bloodbath.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

ACOSTA: The Dow opened down more than thousand points, fueling fears of a recession amid a global market meltdown.

CNBC HOST: A quadruple-digit loss now in the Dow, a thousand points.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Never been down a thousand points ever. Not even intraday on the NASDAQ.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Is that true?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: That is true.

ABC NEWS ANCHOR: A rise like that is, historically, a sign that a recession is imminent.

JIM CRAMER, CNBC HOST: The economy is either in or close to a recession.

CHARLES PAYNE, FOX BUSINESS NETWORK ANCHOR: What you're seeing right now in the stock market is what Americans have been feeling for the last three years. It's just a manifestation of it right now.

SCHLESINGER: Take a deep breath, it is very scary.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

WATTERS: Over a trillion dollars wiped out as Bidenomics looks like it's blowing up right before the election. Someone must be proud.

The Kamala Crash; Babysitter Scandal; Beargate; Emergency..., 2024 WLNR 13059089

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

HARRIS: That is called Bidenomics.

That is called Bidenomics and we are very proud of Bidenomics.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

WATTERS: Trump saying today: "Stock markets are crashing. Job numbers are terrible. We are heading to World War III, and we have two of the most incompetent leaders in history. This is not good."

He calls it the Kamala crash. Economists say she detonated the biggest debt bomb in American history, when she cast a tie breaking vote on the \$2 trillion spending bill.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

HARRIS: The yeas are 50, the nays are 50. The Senate being equally divided. The vice president votes in the affirmative and the concurrent resolution as amended is adopted.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

WATTERS: Kamala and Biden raided the Treasury, handed out corporate welfare, imported 10 million foreign workers, declared a war on energy, and then patted themselves on the back.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

REPORTER: Mr. President, what do you want your legacy with the Gen Z to be?

BIDEN: That I've cured the economy.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

WATTERS: Two economic illiterate tax and spend puppets gave a chip company, Intel, \$8 billion of your money, and right under their noses. Intel said, thanks, and laid off 15,000 workers.

This AI bubble, the only thing that's keeping the market afloat that Bidenomics funded with your tax dollars, could pop before the election.

Americans are maxed out on credit cards and are taking on second jobs to keep up, but could soon lose both jobs because of the recklessly corrupt mismanagement of our economy, which will probably end up in another big tech bailout. Watch.

The election was already about the economy, and if today's bloodbath continues, voters deserve answers from Hidin' Harris, who hasn't done an interview since June. A lot has happened since June, and is Kamala even capable of explaining capital markets? Labor markets? The global economy?

In the book, "This Will Not Pass," the authors say, while Biden was negotiating with Republicans for \$1 trillion in new spending, Kamala piped in out of nowhere and asked for \$4 trillion, and Biden dismissed her comment immediately.

Imagine if she had gotten her way. She's never had a job in the private sector and doesn't even know why inflation even happens.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

REPORTER: What else are you going to do to fix this problem with inflation?

The Kamala Crash; Babysitter Scandal; Beargate; Emergency..., 2024 WLNR 13059089

HARRIS: All right, thank you. Well, let's start with this: Prices have gone up and families and individuals are dealing with the realities of -- of -- that bread costs more, that gas costs more and we have to understand what that means. That's about the cost of living going up.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

WATTERS: Thanks. She doesn't even understand what makes prices go up and down, and if she were elected, she'd have stewardship over the most technologically advanced economy in human history, yet believes when you save things on your computer onto the cloud, it actually goes into the clouds.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

HARRIS: No longer are you necessarily keeping those private files in some file cabinet that's locked in the basement of the house, it's on your laptop, and it's then, therefore up here in this cloud that exists above us, right? It's no longer in a physical place.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

WATTERS: With "Economics for Dummies" at her bedside table and "Morning Joe" on her DVR, does it really even matter what Kamala knows? It doesn't. She's told what to do. This is what she's really all about. Watch.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

HARRIS: We have to stay active. And you know, we have to stay woke, like everybody needs to be woke. And you can talk about if you're the wokist or woker, but just stay more woke than less woke.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

WATTERS: This is Kamala's economic philosophy: Equity. She wants to redistribute the wealth and give it to people based on what they look like.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

HARRIS: Equality suggests often, everybody should get the same thing. Well, that often assumes everybody started out in the same place, as opposed to equity, which is everyone should end up in the same place.

And if you then understand not everybody started out in the same place, you understand some people need more. So we all end up in the same place.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

WATTERS: Ending up in the same place is communism, and it's unfeasible, but the arrogance to believe that you, Kamala Harris, who's never run a business, is going to re-engineer the entire US economy so that everybody ends up in the same place, makes the same amount, has the same stuff, is a fantasy and goes against human nature, which she doesn't understand.

But they won't let Kamala ever say that again. They have to make this election about caring instead of competence. The Democrat machine is creating "fomentum" around a woman they tried to strip off the ticket just last year. That's why Obama didn't want Kamala and his people are telling CNN, Democrats are being irrational.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

DAVID AXELROD, CNN CHIEF POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: There's a lot of irrational exuberance on the side of -- on the Democratic side of the aisle right now, because there was despair for some period of time about what November was

The Kamala Crash; Babysitter Scandal; Beargate; Emergency..., 2024 WLNR 13059089

going to look like.

Now people feel like there's a chance, but it is absolutely Trump's race to lose right now.

Everybody should be sober about that on the Democratic side.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

WATTERS: Democrats are still buzzed from the coup, but are about to wake up to a vicious hangover when they realize they're nominating a radical San Francisco socialist to debate a businessman during a recession that she caused and can't explain.

Senator Lindsey Graham is here.

All right, Senator, I mean, rough day in the market and rough day overseas in the Middle East. What's happening here?

SEN. LINDSEY GRAHAM (R-SC): Yes. Well, the worst is yet to come, unfortunately. Well, they're reaping what they've sown for the last four years. On the inflation side, supply and demand, Kamala. If you restrict American oil and gas drilling offshore and onshore, you do away with the Keystone pipeline, you produce less oil and gas, you're going to have higher prices.

When you overregulate the economy, it's hard to create jobs. When you flood the economy from Washington with money that doesn't create jobs, you create inflation.

So what's happening in the Mideast is when we withdrew from Afghanistan, it sent every jihadist, radical Islamic terrorist on steroids. Then we gave the Ayatollah \$80 billion of money and in oil by relieving sanctions. So those two things have led to an empowered Iran who is wreaking havoc on the Mideast; at home, the broken border and inflation and spending policies have come home to roost.

In August of last year, Schumer said the Inflation Reduction Act would sure up and help us all this summer. Well, it didn't.

So I worry about our friends in Israel tonight. To my friends in Israel tonight, if you get attacked by Hezbollah and Iran at the same time, make sure you hit Iran and hit them hard.

WATTERS: So right now, Americans are stretched financially. They can't afford back-to-school supplies. Fifty percent of parents just can't do it. Can Kamala explain what's happening? People are looking at their 401(k)s like they just lost a lot. Can she explain exactly what's going on at a level that makes people feel comfortable that she knows what she's talking about?

GRAHAM: Well, we will never know until does somebody asks her a question, will we?

WATTERS: No.

GRAHAM: So what we've heard is just gibberish.

You know, when she tried to explain inflation, and while we may be on the verge of recession, she has no idea what she is talking about, but she was the last person in the room before President Biden decided to withdraw all of our forces from Afghanistan. She encouraged that decision.

She should not ever be in a room again making an important decision. She opposed pre-invasion sanctions on Russia to deter the invasion of Russia against Ukraine. She said on the sidelines, while some nut job called Israel a genocidal country and said nothing back, she is the border czar.

More people have been poisoned by fentanyl on her watch and is the leading cause of death in America from 18 to

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35-year-old young people.

Enough fentanyl have come across our border on her watch to kill everybody in the world. She doesn't know what the hell she's doing.

WATTERS: She doesn't and she's going to have to, one of these days, Senator answer for it.

GRAHAM: In my lifetime. In my lifetime.

WATTERS: We are waiting.

GRAHAM: In my lifetime, I hope, yes.

WATTERS: We're waiting. We're still waiting. Thank you so much.

It's not easy overthrowing a president. It takes a village.

The Clintons, Obamas, Schumer, and the ringleader, Nancy Pelosi, all came together to kick Biden out.

Pelosi was finally asked about it.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

LESLEY STAHL, "60 MINUTES": Please tell us what you told President Biden to persuade him to step aside.

REP. NANCY PELOSI (D-CA): Well, I've never come -- I've never shared any conversations with the president of the United States publicly. No.

STAHL: They've said that he is furious at you. Is he?

PELOSI: Well, he knows that I love him very much.

STAHL: I understand that you don't want to own this, but it is so well- reported --

PELOSI: No.

STAHL: -- that you were the leader of a pressure campaign.

PELOSI: No, I wasn't a leader of any pressure party. Well, let me say things that I didn't do. I didn't call one person. I did not call one person. I could always say to him, I never called anybody.

What I'm saying is I had confidence that the president would make the proper choice for our country, whatever that would be, and I said that whatever that is, we will go with.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

WATTERS: Biden didn't make a choice, he was staring down the barrel of a gun. Pelosi and the Democrats went for what Biden cared about most, his legacy. They brandished the 25th Amendment, threatened to yank his Presidential Library and deployed a coordinated media strike to tarnish his rep.

Biden knows the game and is never speaking to Nancy again.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

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ERIN BURNETT, CNN ANCHOR: Have you spoken to President Biden since he dropped out?

PELOSI: No, I have not.

BURNETT: Do you hope to?

PELOSI: Yes. I hope to. Yes. We are all busy.

BURNETT: Is everything okay with your relationship?

PELOSI: You'll have to ask him.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

WATTERS: We know how Washington works. They gave 10 percent to the Big Guy and showered him with flattery.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

PELOSI: Such a consequential president of the United States, a Mount Rushmore kind of president of the United States, you want to know what comes next.

STAHL: Are you really saying that he belongs up there on Mount Rushmore? Lincoln and Joe Biden?

PELOSI: But you've got Teddy Roosevelt up there, and he's wonderful. I don't say take him down, but you can add Biden.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

WATTERS: Lesley Stahl, who believes everything Democrats tell her -- laptop wasn't real, COVID was natural -- couldn't believe Biden on Mount Rushmore. I'm sure they'll build him a statue that the Arab Spring breakers will tear down on a hot summer night, but the Democrat patronage mill is in a full swing.

Obama was forced to endorse Kamala, so now his top strategist is being paid to run the Harris Campaign.

Bill and Hillary endorsed, now their daughter, Chelsea, is angling to be the ambassador to Great Britain if Kamala wins. It is usually a gig reserved for major fundraisers or well-connected wasps, not for Clinton nepotism.

After talking about all this, I feel like I have to take a shower.

Charlie Hurt is a Fox News contributor.

Mount Rushmore, Charlie, Biden on Mount Rushmore, can you believe it?

CHARLIE HURT, FOX NEWS CHANNEL CONTRIBUTOR: Even Lesley Stahl couldn't swallow that one. That was --

WATTERS: No.

HURT: That was a whopper. That was just a little bit too big.

But you know, I do think -- I think you put your finger on something that I think is the most important thing about the moment right here.

Everything you just said is exactly true about what Democrats did to get rid of Joe Biden, but the real thing that they did was they dried up the money because the Democratic Party --

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You know, you cannot like Donald Trump. I get people that don't like Donald Trump, but one thing you have to give Donald Trump credit for is he has broken the stranglehold that money has always had on politics in Washington.

He beat Hillary Clinton after getting massively outspent by her in 2016. If you want to know who the big money party is, who is still in the grips of the big money donors today? It's the Democratic Party, and that's how Nancy Pelosi and Democrat leaders managed to get Joe Biden to quit. They dried up his money, and as soon as the big money bag men in the Democratic Party said they closed their purses to him, then he had no choice. It dried up.

That's why Joe Biden has not spoken to Nancy Pelosi again and probably will never speak to her again, although I do suspect that part of the whole deal will wind up with a massive, massive payout to the Biden family.

WATTERS: Yes. We will wait to see what exactly that is, but you're so right. Trump is in touch with the people. He can fund raise off grassroots all day.

Nancy knows Biden can't do it, knows Kamala can't do it. So they are beholden to the highest bidder, and they always will be, and they just stop cutting checks. Here's more sound from Queen Pelosi. Listen.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

DANA BASH, CNN ANCHOR AND POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT: You're both San Franciscans. What's your relationship like?

PELOSI: Our relationship is fine.

BASH: As somebody coming up in San Francisco politics and then, more broadly, California politics, did she ask you for mentorship? Did you --

PELOSI: No.

BASH: -- give her advice?

PELOSI: Actually, the fact is, in that first race, I was for the incumbent, and I was for him because I respected him and his family -- an established, very progressive family in San Francisco, and they supported me.

And if anybody knows anything about me, I'm loyal. She understood that.

BASH: Once that was over, once that primary was over --

PELOSI: Well, that was -- when it is over, it's over.

BASH: No, but I'm saying, once it was over, did she reach out to you for any advice or mentorship?

PELOSI: Well, that isn't -- that -- we're in -- well all have our own -- I always say to people, be yourself.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

WATTERS: So they hate each other.

HURT: Yes, you know, and here is another thing that has not been sort of revealed. You mean to tell me that Nancy Pelosi and the bigwigs in the Democratic Party cashiered a sitting president and never had a conversation with Kamala Harris, who they immediately installed in his place for the election beforehand? Give me a break.

I guarantee you, there's no way they did that without that conversation with Kamala Harris.

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WATTERS: And Kamala knows she owes them everything, and I mean --

HURT: Everything.

WATTERS: Everything.

All right, we'll see what the payback looks like. Charlie Hurt, thanks as always.

HURT: Very good. Thanks, man.

WATTERS: New Secret Service whistleblowers, that's straight ahead.

Plus, Johnny asks about Kamala.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

JOHNNY BELISARIO, ASSOCIATE PRODUCER, FOX NEWS MEDIA: Who's the real Kamala Harris?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Frick-frack, whatever. You know, one day it's fracking, one day it's fricking. Frick-frack. That's Kamala for you. She'll just flip it up.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

WATTERS: Fox News Alert: Secret Service whistleblowers are coming out of the woodwork, furious about last week's press conference where the Director Ron Rowe admitted the agency failed, but wouldn't fire anyone.

Trump's entire protective detail has been an illusion. The rally in Butler was the first time the Secret Service sent counter snipers to a Trump event, and those snipers were communicating by text message, without WiFi. Only the locals had radios, and according to "The Washington Post" the Secret Service wasn't even in the same room as they were. They were in a completely different command center on the opposite side of the farm.

Basically the Secret Service was playing a big game of telephone while Crooks was stalking the grounds. Who signed off on this disastrous plan? According to whistleblowers who have spoken to Senator Josh Hawley, it all comes down to the lead site agent, who they claim is inexperienced and incompetent.

Senator Josh Hawley has been speaking with these whistleblowers, and he joins us now.

Senator, what have these whistleblowers been telling your office?

SEN. JOSH HAWLEY (R-MO): Well, what they've been saying, Jesse, is that this individual, the site agent, the lead agent, was known to the Trump campaign to be inexperienced, to be ineffectual, to be frankly, incompetent at their job.

What I am also told by whistleblowers, that on that day, she was not enforcing the normal security protocol. She was not checking people's IDs. She did not use Secret Service agents. Most of the agents there that day were not Secret Service agents. They were Homeland Security agents.

And get this, Jesse, most of them had never worked a rally before. And yet, this is who she chose to staff the event with, and she didn't train them or integrate them.

From top to bottom, it was a total disaster.

Jesse, it is a miracle, a miracle not only that Trump is alive, but that more good Americans were not killed. It's unbelievable.

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WATTERS: You're saying that the site agent in charge of this security in Butler wasn't checking IDs. What do you mean? She was just letting people in?

HAWLEY: That is what whistleblowers tell me, is that IDs were not checked to allow individuals into secure areas, Jesse. In other words, it was a total free for all.

Whistleblowers portray to me, a circumstance, a situation that was totally out of control, where people were milling around, including in what were supposed to be highly secure areas. Nobody knew who they were.

By the way, it was also the lead site agent's job to make sure that the line of sight for where Trump was, was clear, that agents could see all angles, and she didn't do that. In fact, I'm told that the line of sight was obstructed, which means that agents from different angles couldn't really see around Trump, couldn't see potential dangers to Trump.

This is pretty textbook stuff, Jesse, and what whistleblowers say to me is none of it was done properly, none of it was done by the book. And frankly, when you know all of that, it's amazing more people weren't killed.

This person needs to be fired, as does anybody who had leadership on that day.

WATTERS: This person is still doing security. They're still in charge of security for political events. Why isn't -- why aren't they sidelined and under investigation themselves?

HAWLEY: This is exactly what the whistleblowers who are coming to me, Jesse, want to know. And in fact, we know that this individual is still doing all those things because the director confirmed it. He told me under oath, that yes, this individual is still working events. In fact, he said still doing investigations, which raises the question, is she investigating herself? I mean, this is insane.

And I'll just say this, Jesse --

WATTERS: Sure.

HAWLEY: Whistleblowers are coming forward from the Secret Service because they can't believe what leadership is doing. They cannot believe that Secret Service is not taking action to clear out the rock, frankly. They're scared to death this is going to happen again. We can't let it happen again. We've got to get the facts.

WATTERS: Was this site agent for Butler? Was she one of these Cheatle hires? You know how Cheatle has an agenda? She just promotes people without merit? Was that person a person like that?

HAWLEY: I don't know the answer to that. All I'm told by these whistleblowers is that this individual was inexperienced, that she was known to the campaign to be, frankly, not very good at her job. They had concerns about this individual before the Butler rally.

Again when she was assigned to Butler, the campaign was worried. They thought, uh-oh, this has not gone well before and my gosh, it didn't go well that day.

WATTERS: All right, well, I'm very glad these whistleblowers are speaking out to your office. Please keep the public posted on some of these developments, because the more and more we hear about it, just the angrier I get.

Thank you again.

HAWLEY: Thank you.

WATTERS: Kamala's husband got the nanny pregnant.

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(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

EMHOFF: There's too much of toxicity -- masculine toxicity out there, and we've kind of confused what it means to be a man, what it means to be masculine, where you've got this trope out there that you've got to be tough and angry and lash out to be strong. I just -- just the opposite.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

WATTERS: Uh-oh. Kamala's feminist husband got caught being a toxic male.

The Second Gentleman fessed up to cheating on his first wife with the nanny, who he reportedly got pregnant.

Senior national correspondent, Kevin Corke has the details -- Kevin.

KEVIN CORKE, FOX NEWS CHANNEL CORRESPONDENT: Good evening, Jesse.

So the question remains, obviously, how does Mr. Emhoff reconcile his public statements about so-called toxic masculinity with his behavior that, according to reports, seems to have been well, toxic.

Now, according to "The Daily Mail" and other sources, the Second Gentleman reportedly strayed from his then wife, Kerstin, with a blonde nanny named Najen Naylor, who taught at a private school attended by the couple's two children. That affair allegedly happened over a decade-and-a-half ago, and by some accounts, resulted in a pregnancy.

A close friend with direct knowledge of the affair and pregnancy told "The Daily Mail" that no, Naylor did not keep the baby.

Now, according to CNN, the affair was disclosed to President Biden's vetting committee about four years ago, before he chose the now VP to run on the 2020 ticket, obviously, it was not a deal breaker.

In a statement, Mr. Emhoff didn't exactly come clean about the alleged affair and pregnancy, but he didn't deny the allegations either. Writing this: "During my first marriage, Kerstin and I went through some tough times on account of my actions. I took responsibility, and in the years since, we worked through things as a family and have come out stronger on the other side."

Okay. Now, for her part, Miss Naylor didn't deny the affair or pregnancy when approached by "The Daily Mail" at her home in the Hamptons, telling the paper: "I'm kind of freaked out right now."

As for the VP and the presumptive Democratic nominee, no, we've not heard her address the rumors, nor has her camp, her campaign camp that is responded to questions about it -- Jesse.

WATTERS: All right, well, the campaign hasn't really addressed anything, so --

CORKE: That's true. They haven't even had a news conference.

WATTERS: Par for the course. Thank you very much.

As it stands today, there are no debates scheduled between Trump and Kamala -- none.

Trump and Biden agreed to debate in September, but Trump knocked Biden out before he could get there and Kamala wasn't party to that deal.

So where does that leave us? Well, Kamala wants to keep the debate Biden had scheduled on ABC, September 10th, but

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Trump doesn't want to give ABC the debate because he's suing Stephanopoulos for slander, and instead wants to debate Kamala in September on Fox News.

We call this a negotiation. The media calls it Trump running scared.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

MICHAEL STEELE, MSNBC HOST, "THE WEEKEND": Trump ain't ready for this. He's not. This is so beyond his league.

He's not going to be on a stage where he gets to walk up behind Kamala Harris and not have her turn around and damn near smack the hell out of him.

MSNBC GUEST: You can't be the strong man who's afraid to debate a woman. Trump would fall flat on his face. He just does not have the debate chops that are necessary to withstand all of the blows he would take from Kamala Harris.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

WATTERS: Trump isn't scared. He just popped up after taking a bullet and then dove head first into the Black journalist convention.

The guy has had six presidential debates. Kamala has had zero. He's in the driver's seat and could negotiate three debates, maybe a town hall, audience, maybe just a debate, focus solely on the economy.

If Kamala is afraid of Fox News, how's she going to handle Putin? She brags about being a tough prosecutor, let's see what she's got.

Monica Crowley is a former assistant Treasury Secretary for Public Affairs and host of "The Monica Crowley Podcast." Monica, is there going to be a debate?

MONICA CROWLEY, FORMER ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS: Well, that's a good question, Jesse, because so far, Kamala Harris has been the presumptive Democrat nominee for 15 days, and we have seen zero interviews, zero press conferences, and zero unscripted media events from her. So it is highly unlikely that she is going to be inclined to debate.

Look, if she can't handle Bret Baier and Martha MacCallum, as you say, how is she going to go into the lion's den with President Xi of China or the Iranian Ayatollahs who are closing in on a nuclear weapon? She can't handle Fox News, she cannot handle the job.

I also think, you know, she's probably afraid of coming into this venue of Fox News while Donald Trump goes into every Lion's Den possible, including CNN, including the National Association of Black Journalists.

But I also think, she is very afraid of Donald Trump. Donald Trump just did a complete TKO of Joe Biden, so much so destroyed him so badly that he had to bow out of this race. I think she is absolutely petrified of going one-on-one with President Trump.

WATTERS: She is a tough prosecutor. She used to tear the face off of these guys at the Senate hearings. Remember what she did to these judicial nominees? She was brutal.

I mean, when she wants to get her teeth sunk into somebody, I mean, she can be vicious. Why is she so afraid? I mean, what is there to be afraid of? You prosecute your case. What's the problem with that?

CROWLEY: Well, remember, even in those congressional hearings, Jesse, that you point out, it's still scripted. She still has all of the questions that have been written for her by her staff.

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You go into a presidential debate with someone as fierce and fearless and unpredictable as Donald Trump, you don't know what is coming at you. That's not to say that she is to be underestimated, because she's had some good debate moments in the past, but Donald Trump is a completely different kind of animal. She saw what he did to Joe Biden, to her boss, just ripped the guy to shreds, so much so that he's not even in the race anymore.

I think she is very worried. You played all of those clips at the top of the show, when she is unscripted, when she is out there on her own without any kind of support in an uncontrolled situation, and she can't really complete a sentence.

So you have a president and a vice president now who are incapable of doing these jobs, but for very different reasons, and sending her into a debate is a high risk. Might be a high reward situation, but a very high risk for Kamala Harris.

WATTERS: Yes, I can see Trump just saying, all right, Miss Harris, just define inflation. Define it. In 30 seconds, define inflation, to see what she could do. I don't think she could do it, and that's why this is going to be fun to watch on Fox News.

CROWLEY: Yes, as seen.

WATTERS: Right, as on Fox News, we hope.

Thank you. Monica

WATTERS: RFK, Jr.'s black bear scandal.

Plus, Johnny --

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

Belil Kamala Harris, an historic first woman vice president.

What did she accomplish in office?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I don't know. Do you know?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yes, she hasn't been to our border.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

WATTERS: Every politician has skeletons in their closet, but RFK, Jr. has bears.

This morning, "The New Yorker" dropped a hit piece about him, which included a story about the time he dumped a dead bear in Central Park as a prank.

Hoping to get ahead of the bad press, Kennedy met up with Roseanne and dropped this doozy.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

KENNEDY: I was driving up maybe really early, like seven and then a woman van in front of me hit a bear and killed it, a young bear.

So I pulled over and I picked up the bear and put him in the back of my van, because I was going to skin the bear, and it was in very good condition, and I was going to -- and put the meat in my refrigerator and you can do that in New York State, you can get a bear tag for a roadkill bear.

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And so then, we went hawking, and I had the bear in my car, and then we had a really good day, and we went late. We were catching a lot of game, and the people really loved it, so we stayed late.

And instead of going back to my home in Westchester, I had to go right to the city, because there was a dinner at Peter Luger Steak House, and at the end of the dinner, it went late, and I realized I couldn't go home. I had to go to the airport, and the bear was in my car, and I didn't want to leave the bear in the car, because that would have been bad.

So then I thought, you know, at that time, this was the little bit of the redneck in me, I had an old bike in my car that somebody asked me to get rid of it. I said, Let's go put the bear in Central Park and we'll make it look like he got hit by a bike.

Fun and funny to leave --

(END VIDEO CLIP)

WATTERS: At the time, people were shocked.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

WNYW REPORTER: Take a look behind me. This is where the carcass was found, and they spent the day trying to investigate this. And I have to tell you, at this point, it is still a mystery as to how the bear got here.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Kind of horrified.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: There seem to be a lot of bears in the area.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: My theory is that it seemed like it was old enough to make it down from Upper Counties in New York or over from Jersey, because Morristown and that area has a lot of problems with bears. So my guess is it wandered over from there.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

WATTERS: Kennedy's main concern, his fingerprints all over the scene.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

KENNEDY: And I was like, oh my God, what did I do? And then, they were -- there were some people on TV in Tyvek suites with gloves on, lifting up the bike and they are saying they're going to take this up to Albany to get it fingerprinted.

I was worried because my prints were all over that bike.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

WATTERS: It turns out Kennedy was right.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

WNYW REPORTER: Officers also dusted a bike parked near the bear carcass for prints. Just before four o'clock this afternoon, officers covered the bear with a blue tarp and removed it from the park.

It is being taken to the Bronx Zoo for further investigation.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

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WATTERS: And they weren't just on the bike. They were probably on the bear, too. And I know you're thinking, come on, Watters, by RFK standards, this isn't even that crazy.

He admitted to flying on Epstein's jet, but it's the logistics that are curious.

To review at 7:00 AM, RFK, Jr. picks up a dead bear on the highway in Upstate New York, then he spends the whole day falconing with a dead bear in his car, then drives hours and hours and hours to Brooklyn, has a long dinner, then remembers he has a flight to catch, and a dead bear and a bike in his car.

Did he have room for luggage? Peter Ligers is close to JFK or LaGuardia, RFK, Jr., drives back into New York City and stages a bear murder scene in Central Park before heading to the airport and then leaves his car at the airport?

I believe him.

And now, reports are Alvin Bragg is looking into charging RFK, Jr. because you have to charge everybody running against the Democrat.

So now that Joe Biden is a lame duck, he's going to have a lot more time for the beach. And you know, who loves beaches too -- Johnny.

So we sent him there to see if he could find anybody who's buying into the Kamala hype.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

BELISARIO: Who is excited for Kamala?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Not me. I'm not in to her.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Not me.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Not I.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Me.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: She sucks.

(VIDEO CLIP PLAYS)

HARRIS: Say it to my face.

BELISARIO: What is your opinion of Kamala Harris?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I just don't think she's good for the country.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: He's a flip flopper and a socialist.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Just because she's a woman of color, it doesn't -- It is not going to make me vote for her.

("VEEP" VIDEO CLIP PLAYS)

SELINA MEYER, FICTIONAL CHARACTER: Honeymoon is over. It's kind of a (bleep) honeymoon, too.

BELISARIO: Kamala was an historic first woman vice president. What has she accomplished in office?

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UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: She's become a really good meme.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I don't know. Do you know?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: She hasn't even been to our border.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: From what I know, nothing.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: They've got nothing done. It was a bad four years.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Millions of illegals got in when she was border czar. Wait, she wasn't the border czar. Was she the border czar? Was she the border czar? Wasn't she the border czar?

(VIDEO CLIP PLAYS)

HARRIS: No.

BELISARIO: Now Kamala is at the top of the ticket. What does she stand for?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Anti-America.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Stands for unburdening what has been --

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Abortion for everybody.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: She wants to ban plastic straws.

(VIDEO CLIP PLAYS)

HARRIS: I'm so sorry. I'm so sorry.

BELISARIO: Kamala hated fracking. Now, she doesn't care. She wanted to abolish ICE.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Right.

BELISARIO: Now, she says whatever. She wanted your guns just to be taken away. But now, who is the real Kamala Harris?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I don't think anybody really knows.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Nobody knows.

("THE FIVE" VIDEO CLIP PLAYS)

JEANINE PIRRO, FOX NEWS CHANNEL CO-HOST, "THE FIVE": Will the real Kamala Harris, please stand up.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: She's a fraud.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: You definitely got to change certain things you stand for.

BELISARIO: But you have to change everything you stand for?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I mean, that's a good question.

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UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Frick frack, whatever. You know, one day it's fracking, one day it's fricking. Frick frack. That's Kamala for you.

(VIDEO CLIP PLAYS)

BIDEN: There's no way out. Okay?

BELISARIO: When Kamala was in the Senate, she was voted the most liberal senator. Is that what America needs right now?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: That's the last thing America needs. Definitely not.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I'm voting for Trump.

(VIDEO CLIP PLAYS)

DONALD TRUMP, FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: I think I'm never going back home to the First Lady.

BELISARIO: Is Kamala a leader?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: For someone who I would want to follow, not necessarily.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: She's leading us straight into failure.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: When she was VP, we heard nothing from her. It was literally radio silence.

(VIDEO CLIP PLAYS)

HARRIS: That's it.

BELISARIO: Are you ready for a woman president?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I don't think so.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I don't think it's -- it would be bad to have a woman president, just anybody but her.

BELISARIO: Hillary Clinton?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Or her. Not her either. She's no good either.

(VIDEO CLIP PLAYS)

HILLARY CLINTON, FORMER US SECRETARY OF STATE: I hear them, I know.

BELISARIO: Show me your best Kamala Harris impression.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I can't.

BELISARIO: Come on.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: No, no, no, no. I can't do that.

(VIDEO CLIP PLAYS)

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BIDEN: Show us. Just show us. Stop playing around.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: What do you think? We just fell out of a coconut tree?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: You exist only in the context.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: (Cackling).

KARINE JEAN-PIERRE, WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY: She is the vice president of the United States, Kamala Harris. We have to put some respect on her name.

BELISARIO: How should Donald Trump handle Kamala?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: However he wants.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yes.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: It's a free country.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Come prepared. Come prepared with statements. Come prepared with fact.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: He should be standing on his own principles.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: He should roast her on "Saturday Night Live."

(VIDEO CLIP PLAYS)

TRUMP: No, she's crazy. She's nuts. She's not as crazy as Nancy Pelosi. Crazy Nancy.

BELISARIO: Are you voting for Kamala?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Uh, what? You on crack?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I'm not sure if I'm going to vote for Kamala.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: No.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: No.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Definitely not.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I'm not going to be voting for Kamala. No.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: No. She does not have my vote.

(VIDEO CLIP PLAYS)

HARRIS: Oh, will you ask people that you know to vote. Please. And will you ask them to vote for me?

BELISARIO: JESSE WATTERS PRIMETIME, you're going to be on his show. What do you want to tell him?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: You've got a great name, and I love the water, so go. Jesse Watters.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: It's your world. But this is my beach.

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UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: God bless America.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

WATTERS: More PRIMETIME, straight ahead.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

WATTERS: Very proud of Sophie and Ellie. Long Island, North South Swim Championships over the weekend -- 50 free, 50 back, 50 fly, freestyle relay. They crushed it.

Great job, ladies.

Let's do some text messages.

We've got Andy from Virginia: Didn't 16 Nobel Prize winning economists just tell us Trump would lead us into a recession?

I think they're all donors, too.

Randy from Prescott, Arizona: Hey, Kamala, on a clear day, where does my data go?

Up in the clouds.

John from North Carolina: If Kamala debates Trump, they better check for earbuds. Make sure Obama is not in there.

I'm sure Fox has some strict standards we will adhere to.

Karol from Katy, Texas: Chelsea for Ambassador to UK. Sounds like a path to the presidency.

Oh my gosh, not if Barron has anything to say about it.

James from Sioux Falls, South Dakota: we do not want Joe on our mountain.

Don't worry about it. It's not going to happen. Nancy is just fluffing him up a little bit.

Erica from Apollo Beach, Florida: My husband and I are debating, what's on your tie? Are those sharks or F-16s?

Those are stingrays. Wait no. Marlin?

I believe those are marlins. And it's a Zota.

I'm Watters and this is my world.

END

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August 6, 2024

The Obama coup

John J. Hopkins

Aug 05, 2024

Attorney John J. Hopkins | Hopkins

The dictionary definition of the word “coup” – short for “coup d’ etat” – is the illegal transfer of power within a governmental or quasi-governmental body. Largely thought to be the province of dictators in Third World countries, it now has landed on our shore, with the sad victim being none other than poor Uncle Joe Biden. Its instigator is his long-time false friend and true nemesis, Barack the Hussein Obama. It is nothing but a shameful chapter – or really sub chapter – in American politics. Let us examine.

We begin with the sad truth that this marks the second time that Obama has shoved Joe to the side, again for someone deemed more worthy. The first was of course the passing over of his own VP for Hillary in 2016. How’d that turn out? Joe was no doubt paid off with heretofore unknown contacts in international business for Hunter, brother Jim and the Biden family syndicate from the Clinton Foundation. Thus explains the sudden explosion in Biden wealth with no real means to support.

But then Joe makes the deal with the Devil in 2020. Bernie Sanders – by far the leading candidate at the time for the Democrat nomination – is told “It’s not your night,” and Joe becomes the man, courtesy of manipulation by Obama in South Carolina. Having finally reached the goal he has lied and cheated for over 40 years to achieve, Joe is ecstatic. His joy is short lived.

In selecting his running mate, Biden wished to pick moderate Senator Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota, thinking she had the proper ability to step in if the need arose. This was widely reported by the Biden camp at the time. Foretelling the future of his Presidency, Biden is denied the right to exercise his own judgment but must dance to the tune of those who brought him. No, Joe, you cannot pick Klobuchar is the word from the Obama handlers. You must pick a Black woman for Vice President. With obvious DEI, sexism and racism in play, enter Kamala.

Who can doubt that if the original pick of Klobuchar had been permitted, Biden’s obvious neurological illness would not have been hidden, the 25th amendment invoked, Klobuchar made the first woman President, and just perhaps less drama and stress in America. But alas, just is not the case. Chaos is the coin of the Democrat realm, and it has been wrought today. The wishes of millions of primary voters are cast aside, for the hypocrisy of “saving Democracy.” All to support a candidate who has in the past four years won exactly zero convention delegates. Outrageous does not begin to describe such calculated arrogance.

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Joe Biden has been severely impaired for a long time, probably years. His condition was hidden from America and the world in a criminal conspiracy from the White House. The Constitution has a mechanism by which an impaired President is removed by the 25th Amendment, replaced by the sitting Vice President. The ONLY reason why it was not put into place, the only reason sad Joe stayed, was the unacceptable alternative with Vice President Harris. Joe Biden did not get impaired overnight, any more than Harris got competent overnight. It is the continuation of an arrogant belief that the public is basically stupid and will believe anything the elites tell them. Such is the driving force behind the Obama coup. The essence of democracy is the voice of the people. When that voice is silenced, this is the true threat to Democracy.

Cramming down the throat always results in a gag reflex. This will be the case with the Harris candidacy. The feeble attempts to disavow three and a half years of her terrible record once again presumes public ignorance and mainstream media compliance. Well, they will be half right. She was a failure as Vice President in every task assigned. She cannot now change the register of history. Moreover, the notion that somehow, she is the fairly selected nominee is an obscenity. An open convention, with delegates free to choose the candidate deemed best after debate and examination is true democracy, but such was not to be. The “anybody but Trump” crowd now has their cackling standard bearer.

It is hard not to be cynical in the political world of today. It seems that simple decency and fairness have no place. We stand as a Nation on the edge of darkness, with greedy forces obsessed with only the raw pursuit of power as the only goal. The attempted assassination of Trump was clearly allowed to happen by a WOKE Secret Service indifferent to the point of hostility to his safety. No other conclusion can be rationally drawn. The forces yearning to abolish America as it has been for over 250 years stand at the gate. Peril is omnipresent. But they can and will be defeated. The antiseptic power of sunshine cleanses even the darkest stains. Be not afraid.

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WHAT IS THE CONSTITUTIONAL ROLE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT?

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August 5, 2024

WHAT IS THE CONSTITUTIONAL ROLE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT?

PHILADELPHIA, Pa.

The following information was released by the National Constitution Center:

by Scott Bomboy

More in Constitution Daily Blog

During the current presidential election, the importance of the two vice presidential nominees will be a topic of discussion throughout the campaign season. But what is the actual role played by a vice president in the modern political era?

The vice president has several unique constitutional roles in the federal government, in addition to their primary role of serving as president temporarily or for the remainder of a presidential term when there is a vacancy in office, or an inability or disability on the president's part. These additional roles have been spelled out in the Constitution over time and differ in part from the Founders' original vision.

The Creation of the Role of Vice President

During the Constitutional Convention of 1787 in Philadelphia, there was a debate about the role of the vice president in the new system of federal government. There was no such office under the Articles of Confederation, and the Founders saw a need for a vice president for several reasons. Historian Edward Larson, in a 2017 law review article, recapped the events in Philadelphia. As part of the compromise that created the Electoral College, the Committee of Eleven decided that electors would cast two votes, and the top vote-getter became president. In this way, the Vice Presidency was created to serve an electoral rather than a government purpose, Larson explained, since the second-place finisher would assume the office of the vice president.

The committee was then faced with a second question: what was the vice president's job? First, the committee decided that the vice president should serve in place of the president when the office became vacant during a term. Larson noted that the designation as vice president gave the titleholder nothing to do unless there was a presidential vacancy. The committee then recommended that the vice president serve as the Senate's presiding officer and could break a tie vote in the chamber.

Objections were raised by several delegates, including Elbridge Gerry (pictured, left). We might as well put the President himself at the head of the Legislature. The close intimacy that must subsist between the President [and V]ice-[P]resident makes it absolutely improper, James Madison noted in his record of Gerry's comments. (In March 1813, Elbridge Gerry became the fifth Vice President of the United States.)

The Constitution as ratified on June 21, 1788 included the committee's plans for the vice president. Article II, Section 1

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spelled out that in Case of the Removal of the President from Office, or of his Death, Resignation, or Inability to discharge the Powers and Duties of the said Office, the Same shall devolve on the Vice President. Congress could also declare by law when a vice president had a disability.

Article I, Section 3 established the vice presidents role in Congress: The Vice President of the United States shall be President of the Senate, but shall have no Vote, unless they be equally divided.

A presiding officer of the Senate, the vice president initially was given another role. The vice president along with the speaker of the house officially signed or attested to bills sent to the president for signature. That role would be expanded with the ratification of the 12th Amendment, which was passed after the election of 1800 led to the nations first constitutional crisis under the original presidential election system set out in Article II, Section 1, Clause 3. Each elector cast two electoral votes, with no distinction made between electoral votes for president and electoral votes for vice president.

During the 1800 presidential election, Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr received the same number of Electoral College votes; the House of Representatives voted to break the tie, choosing Jefferson. The 12th Amendment, ratified in 1804, fixed the original Article II process by allowing for distinct ballots for the election of the president and vice president. It also required states to send their certified results to the President of the Senate [and] the President of the Senate shall, in the presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the certificates and the votes shall then be counted.

The Modern Role of the Vice President

During the 19th Century and into the early 20th Century, vice presidents could, if they wished, take part in Senate proceedings in a rulemaking capacity as the presiding officer. And on rare occasions, a vice president could make a long-term consequential decision. In April 1841, Vice President John Tyler was summoned to Washington after the death of President William Henry Harrison. After questions arose from Harrisons cabinet of Tylers role assuming Harrisons duties, Tyler took the presidential oath of office from a federal judge and declared that he was now acting in the full capacity as President of the United States. The Tyler Precedent for presidential succession stood until 1967, when the 25th Amendment formalized the procedure.

By the 1920s, the role of the vice president transitioned to more of an executive branch function. President Warren Harding set a precedent by inviting his vice president, Calvin Coolidge, to cabinet meetings on a regular basis. John Nance Garner, Franklin Roosevelts first vice president, also attended cabinet meetings at the presidents request and travelled abroad to represent Roosevelt. Soon, vice presidents were deployed by sitting presidents as advocates and ambassadors domestically and globally, and also as presidential campaign surrogates.

In constitutional terms, the biggest change in the position of vice president came with 25th Amendments ratification in 1967. The amendment sought to better define the process of determining presidential vacancies and the inability or disability of a president or vice president.

The 25th Amendments first two sections formalized the Tyler Precedent. The amendment stated that the vice president becomes president in case of the removal of the President from office or of his death or resignation. It also allowed the president and Congress to nominate and approve a new vice president when that office became vacant. The 25th Amendments Section 3 allowed the president to notify Congress that he is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, and to designate the vice president to act as president until the president is able to resume work.

However, the Amendments Section 4 granted the vice president a pivotal role in a situation where a president may be determined as unable to discharge his official duties, and has not notified Congress of such.

In such a situation, the vice president in conjunction with a majority of the cabinet, or a previously appointed disability board, can notify Congress of the presidents inability to serve, and the vice president becomes acting president. The president then has an opportunity to respond and to notify Congress that he is able to serve. Afterward, the vice president in conjunction with the cabinet or disability board has the option to object to the presidents claim, and a two-thirds vote of the House and Senate can determine the president is indeed unable to serve. In such a situation, the Vice President shall continue to discharge the same as Acting President; otherwise, the President shall resume the powers and duties of his office, the

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amendment reads.

And as a footnote, the 22nd Amendment, ratified in 1951, combined with the 12th Amendment, includes another restriction on the office of vice president. The 22nd Amendment established terms limits for presidents. The last sentence of the 12th Amendment reads, But no person constitutionally ineligible to the office of President shall be eligible to that of Vice-President of the United States. These provisions bar a president who was elected twice, or a person who served as president for more than 10 years, from becoming the vice president.

However, the office of vice president does not have term limits.

Scott Bomboy is the editor in chief of the National Constitution Center.

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Company: NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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August 5, 2024

Issue DAILY
Section: Style

Pelosi is pleading for political decency

Frances Stead Sellers

Nancy Pelosi begins her new book with a plea for a return to standards of common decency in politics.

”The current climate of threats and attacks must stop,” the former House speaker writes in the opening chapter of “The Art of Power.”

Pelosi is speaking from personal experience, of course, recalling the vicious partisanship that preceded the attack on her husband, Paul, in their San Francisco home in 2022. She traces the rise in aggression back to the firebrand GOP House leader Newt Gingrich. But “The Art of Power” hits shelves less than a month after another equally brazen act of political violence, when a would-be assassin’s bullet clipped former president Donald Trump’s right ear.

The parallel events, less than two years apart, cement the moral clarity of Pelosi’s plea. After the attempted assassination of Trump, Pelosi publicly condemned “political violence of any kind,” in sharp contrast to how Trump mocked “Crazy Nancy” and her family, even as Paul Pelosi was recovering from his injuries.

But they also reveal the conundrum facing readers of this or any other book on contemporary politics: “The Art of Power” is at once of the moment and out of date, overtaken by the rapid-fire political upheavals in the lead-up to the 2024 election.

The most intriguing question about Pelosi today is surely how the 84-year-old California congresswoman continues to wield such influence, more than a year and a half after giving up power as leader of the House Democrats, that she was able to maneuver a sitting president three years her junior out of the race for the White House.

While seeking the answers to such questions is fodder for the ongoing 24/7 news cycle, “The Art of Power” instead offers insights into the enduring effectiveness of Pelosi’s leadership strategy. Last month, the polling and fundraising data that have always been the backbone of her success suggested that if Biden were to seek reelection, Democrats faced defeat not only in the White House but also in down-ballot races, imperiling any chance of their regaining the House - the institution that Pelosi cares about most.

It was widely reported that Pelosi played a key role behind the scenes in persuading Biden to step down. This book was clearly finished before the president pulled out of the race, but in a recent interview with CBS News, Pelosi said: “I wasn’t a leader of any pressure party. Well, let me say things that I didn’t do. I didn’t call one person. I did not call one person.”

That careful phrasing is typical of Pelosi’s constant calculating, which is evident throughout “The Art of Power.”

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This book adds new details about Pelosi's attempts to manage Trump during his presidency, from her response to his late-night phone calls to the possibility of asking Vice President Mike Pence to invoke the 25th Amendment, which allows for the removal of a president deemed "unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office."

But Pelosi's book is more an overview of major episodes in U.S. history that Pelosi played a role in than a recounting of recent dramatic years. During her nearly four decades in Congress, Pelosi writes, she has never viewed her role as a steppingstone, and she believes that other House members trust her because they know that her advocacy for any given position is motivated by policy goals and not a personal agenda.

In 1987, Pelosi's desire to improve the lives of children and battle the scourge of HIV/AIDS was "the primary reason I ran for Congress," she writes. At first, she was not interested in pursuing leadership roles within the House.

"What triggered my change of heart was four straight election-year losses from 1994 to 2000," Pelosi writes. "I believed Democrats needed to start winning elections for our country and our country's children."

And win she did in many cases, careful to take bills to the House floor only when she was confident she had the votes to pass them.

In this book, Pelosi documents the discipline that led to legislative success while brushing over the issues she has been criticized for - her resistance to reforms that would have prevented members from trading individual stocks, for example, even as the Pelosis' own wealth soared; and her determination to remain speaker when some younger members called for her to step aside, seeing her strictly enforced centrism as inadequate to face a rising and increasingly radicalized right. Pelosi's San Francisco seat is so safe that she has had freedom few other members enjoy to engage in bruising legislative battles.

"The Art of Power," with its echo of Trump's somewhat more hucksterish book title, "The Art of the Deal," makes a claim for using political power to advance the common good. As the subtitle - "My Story as America's First Woman Speaker of the House" - suggests, Pelosi is proud of her position as an inspiration for young women. "The Art of Power" is in many ways a successor to Pelosi's breezier, boosterish "Know Your Power" (2008), in which she exhorted younger women to follow her example by speaking out and pursuing their dreams.

The tone of this new volume (she declines to call it a memoir) is far more sober, reflecting the changed political atmosphere and the extraordinary personal toll that public life has recently exacted on her and her family. Yes, she continues to reflect on her own victories as the first woman speaker, working across the aisle to secure legislation that would shore up the economy in the wake of the 2008 financial crash and - the accomplishment of which she's most proud - transforming the provision of health care through the 2010 Affordable Care Act. But it all comes with a word of caution.

"When I speak to women or others who are considering running for office, I tell them that it is not a decision for the faint of heart. . . . You must know your 'why.' Why are you running?"

It was the risk that the ACA might be dismantled after Trump took power in 2016 that convinced her to stay in politics, Pelosi writes. Eight years and two impeachments later, she views the former president as mentally unstable and a danger to the very future of the country.

"The threat to our democracy is real, present, and urgent. The parable of January 6 reminds us that our precious democratic institutions are only as strong as the courage and commitment of those entrusted with their care."

Pelosi recalls in both books how her daughter Alexandra, 16 at the time, encouraged her then-46-year-old mother to go into politics, saying, "Mother, get a life!" Alexandra, now a documentary filmmaker with children of her own, accompanied her mother to the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, documenting the riot in real time on video until they were sequestered under the protection of security guards at Fort McNair.

During the attack on the Capitol, Pelosi remained calm, "already deeply aware of how dangerous Donald Trump was" and ready to go to battle to prevent him from causing more chaos. ("It has been clear to me from the start that he was an imposter," Pelosi writes of Trump, "and that on some level, he knew it.")

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She rose above online demonization, verbal abuse and the eerie calls of “Where is Nancy?” that reverberated through the Capitol on Jan. 6. But the attack on Paul clearly took a toll.

”From housewife to House member to House Speaker, I certainly would never have broken the marble ceiling without Paul’s support, encouragement, and love,” Pelosi writes. “And I would never have done it if I thought it would one day cause him to risk his own life.”

Whether you agree with Pelosi’s policies, “The Art of Power” leaves readers with a disconcerting question: What will become of the political process in America if people as courageous as Pelosi decide that running for office is simply not worth the risk?

Frances Stead Sellers is an associate editor of The Washington Post.

The Art of Power

My Story as America’s First Woman Speaker of the House

By Nancy Pelosi

Simon & Schuster. 337 pp. \$30

---- Index References ----

Company: SIMON & SCHUSTER, INC.

News Subject: (Campaigns & Elections (1CA25); Global Politics (1GL73); Government (1GO80); Government Institutions (1GO90); Legislative Bodies (1LE67); Public Affairs (1PU31); U.S. House of Representatives (1US72); World Elections (1WO93))

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August 4, 2024

Section: Business

Joe Biden, Richard Nixon and 2 turbulent political summers

Michael Peregrine

So you think it's been a turbulent political summer, with President Joe Biden's surprise decision not to run for reelection? Try 50 summers ago, with President Richard Nixon's equally surprising decision to resign from office.

Concerns for the strength of the democratic process are bound to arise from unique and unprecedented political events. This summer's scramble to select the Democratic presidential candidate only weeks from the party's national convention certainly qualifies as such. No sitting president has ever withdrawn his candidacy this late in the election year, and the path forward isn't crystal clear.

Yet for those worried about democracy's ability to withstand the uncharted and the unexpected, strong comfort can be drawn from several prior political events. Most obvious are the decisions of Presidents Harry Truman and Lyndon Johnson not to run for reelection, in 1952 and 1968, respectively. The resulting elections proceeded without impediment or challenge.

But perhaps more comforting are the events surrounding Nixon's resignation on Aug. 8, 1974, and the peaceful, smooth transition of the office that ensued. The succession of Vice President Gerald Ford to the presidency demonstrated the strength and vitality of the Constitution and the democratic system. It didn't have to work out that way. But the nation should remain eternally grateful that it did.

By the summer of 1974, the country's faith in its system of government was wearing thin. The Watergate scandal had been percolating for two full years. Congressional hearings were proceeding. Plea agreements were increasing. Televised Senate hearings were progressing. Evidence of a broad criminal conspiracy was building. Senior White House officials were being indicted. A secret White House taping system was being uncovered.

To top it off, Vice President Spiro Agnew stepped down amid unrelated tax and bribery charges.

Through it all, Nixon steadfastly proclaimed his innocence and retained hope that he could remain in office. But things took a critical turn on July 24, when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Nixon had to release the entirety of the unedited tapes. By July 30, three articles of impeachment -- obstruction of justice, misuse of power and contempt of Congress -- were delivered to the House for a vote. And the Aug. 5 release of three particular White House tapes clearly indicated Nixon's participation in a cover-up of the original burglary of the Democratic National Committee office.

On Aug. 7, three senior elected Republican officials -- Sen. Barry Goldwater, Senate Minority Leader Hugh Scott and House Minority Leader John Rhodes -- met with Nixon in the White House. Rather than advising him to resign, they informed him that he had lost the support of the electorate and Congress, his ability to govern the country had disintegrated and the fate of democracy was in limbo.

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Recognizing the realities, Nixon announced his resignation the next day -- of his own accord and not at gunpoint. He left office Aug. 9 and was immediately succeeded by Ford. Nixon returned to California in peace and safety, a free, but not unburdened, man.

Several provisions of the U.S. Constitution, as well as the Presidential Succession Act of 1947, address the presidential and vice presidential lines of succession. Particularly notable among these is the 25th Amendment, which among other things makes clear that the vice president is first in the line of succession should the president die or resign. Ford succeeded to the vice presidency and to the presidency under these constitutional provisions.

Biden is not the first sitting president to choose not to run for reelection. Others have taken similar action. But Nixon was the first sitting president to resign from office. In that situation, there was no assurance that the succession process would work as the Constitution intended.

Yet it all occurred seamlessly and automatically. Troops were not mobilized. The Capitol Building was not assaulted. The stock market did not crash. There was no coup, no backroom dealing, no hallway haggling and no opposition from Congress. As Ford remarked in his first public comments as president: "My fellow Americans, our long national nightmare is over. Our Constitution works; our great Republic is a Government of laws and not of men. Here the people rule."

Fifty years later, amid the political upheaval from the Biden withdrawal, Ford's words again serve as much needed reassurance. Looking back, the center had indeed held -- against the most severe of tests. The genius of the Founding Fathers' vision had been confirmed. And with that, the worrisome days of the summer of 1974 provide confidence for 2024's weary and suspect citizenry that the democratic system is indeed quite durable.

It's a confidence that's not dependent on memorizing the 25th Amendment, reliving eighth grade civics class or mastering the rules of a national political party convention. It is, however, a confidence ultimately dependent upon the constant monitoring by an informed electorate, functionally familiar with the Constitution and the objectives of its Framers. That's part of the fundamental responsibilities of citizenship.

All in all, that's not a big ask for such a great reward. Because it's the freedoms of which we are unaware -- or to which we are inattentive -- that are the ones most likely to be eroded or lost.

Michael Peregrine is a Chicago lawyer. He was an election volunteer for Richard Nixon in 1972 and Gerald Ford in 1976.

Photo: Gerald Ford, left, and his wife, Betty, in one of his last duties as vice president, walks with Richard Nixon and wife, Pat, from the White House following a speech by Nixon to his White House staff Aug. 9, 1974. Shortly afterward, Ford was sworn in as the 38th president. AP

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August 4, 2024

Volume 78; Issue 212

GUNS, PILLS AND HAUNTED PRESS CLUBS

At the Wana Press Club in South Waziristan in late 2023, a reporter spoke of the need for having a trauma centre for journalists based in what are now the ‘merged districts’ of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province. I was researching a report on the state of media in the merged districts of the former Federally Administered Tribal Areas (Fata) and this interview came during what was the last stop in a series of visits to Pakistan’s north-western tribal areas and districts bordering Afghanistan. The journalist said, ‘The government, both at the provincial and federal level, promised us a trauma centre for the tribal journalists, but nothing came of it.’

It took me back to 2014. That year, the journalism school at the University of Peshawar (UoP) had established one such centre with help from the DW Akademie, the media development and training centre of the German state broadcaster Deutsche Welle. At the time, the erstwhile Fata areas were still that - a semi-autonomous buffer zone on the border with Afghanistan, governed by the centre and its representatives.

The discriminatory Frontier Crimes Regulations, a legacy of the British era under which the tribal areas were ruled long after Pakistan’s independence, did not allow freedom of speech and assembly, and enforced collective punishment for individual actions. There were no courts or police, no local media and political rights. For more than 70 years of Pakistan’s independence, the people of the region lived without fundamental human rights while citizens in the rest of Pakistan had access to them under the Constitution. The merger of former-Fata areas with KP in 2018 promised to change that.

The trauma centre at the journalism school was built in December 2014, the year and the month that saw the massacre of children at the Army Public School (APS) in Peshawar, a devastating culmination to 14 years of a bloody conflict - the so-called ‘War on Terror’ - that befell the region post 9/11. The APS attack, claimed by the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), was in retaliation to the military operation, Zarb-e-Azb, against the TTP militants active in North Waziristan. The operation, launched in June that year, displaced close to a million people from the tribal agency, including journalists.

Six years earlier, in 2009, another military operation, Rah-e-Rast, against militants in Swat had displaced 2.2 million in the month of May. At the height of militancy in Swat between 2004 to 2009, detentions, displacement and killing of journalists had been common, as was the debilitating psychological trauma of covering a protracted conflict with widespread death and destruction.

The merger of the former tribal agencies into Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in 2018 was meant to usher in a new era of protection and constitutional rights for its citizens after being deprived of them for more than 70 years. But it seems not much has changed for the people of newly merged districts. And the toll on journalists reporting from these frontlines of conflict, caught between pressures from all sides, is the most severe...

To the trauma centre at UoP came journalists suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), both those local to the KP

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province and others from the neighbouring Fata. A story in Dawn, covering the trauma centre, said this was a region where journalism had become immersed 'in the extreme violence and daily threats' of a relentless conflict.

When the trauma centre was launched that December, News Lens, an online news cooperative with which I served as an editor for KP and Balochistan - a province with its own history of a simmering conflict, and where, too, journalists were, are, frequently targeted - did a story to cover its inauguration. In the story, a Peshawar-based journalist, Muhammad Irshad, said that he had 'not been able to sleep properly lately.' Irshad said he had been 'suffering abnormal sleep patterns due to covering violent incidents day after day.'

A RECURRING NIGHTMARE

Nearly a decade after that inauguration - and five years since the much-hyped merger of former Fata with the rest of KP in 2018 - I turned to a journalist at the Wana Press Club that day and asked a question I knew the answer to only too well, if only because he was not the first person I had spoken to: 'Why do you think the journalists in the merged areas need a trauma centre?'

Having had numerous conversations about how the conditions had changed for the media in the wake of the merger, I had little doubt about the legitimacy of the demand for a trauma centre for journalists in the merged areas. By late 2023, the region's slide back into terrorism was well on its way. It was the year when, according to the East Asia Forum write-up titled 'Explaining the Resurgence of Terrorist Violence in Pakistan', the country relived 'the scary spectre of 2013' - when terrorist attacks 'peaked at nearly four attacks a day, with nearly 2,700 total fatalities.' With a growing incidence of terror attacks after TTP militants were brought back from Afghanistan to 'mainstream' them, the spectre of Talibanisation is haunting the region again.

Once again, the border regions of KP are in the news for all the wrong reasons - not that they ever emerged into a peaceful, hopeful place after 9/11. And nowhere is that sense more palpable than in the merged districts, with localised military operations, suicide bombings, targeted killings, extortion by threats and violence, attacks on military and police installations. And the consequent tightening of security and restrictions on civil liberties happening all over again, amidst increasing militarisation of the region.

With journalists at the forefront of living and reporting on the volatile situation, it is the state of the media and journalism in the region that illustrates the immensity of that threat like nothing else. But instead of active and sustained support from media organisations and the authorities, given the situation on the ground, now, as then, local journalists walk the tightrope of a hazardous profession. It is a witches' brew of hostilities they face, stemming from tribes unhappy with the absence of peace and opportunity, the pro- and anti-state militants active in the region, state institutions, the authorities governing the region and, most of all, journalists' parent organisations in mainstream media.

Once again, the border regions of KP are in the news for all the wrong reasons. Nowhere is that sense more palpable than in the merged districts, with localised military operations, suicide bombings, targeted killings, extortion, attacks on military and police installations. With journalists at the forefront of living and reporting on the volatile situation, it is the state of the media and journalism in the region that illustrates the immensity of that threat like nothing else.

Tribal journalists insist this 'lack of support' from their employer media organisations - a grievance that surfaced in every single interview with journalists - in the face of rampant odds and threats, has directly contributed to their vulnerability in the field, exposing them to harm.

Even though not 'hostile' to their workers in the real sense of the word, media organisations' disregard for the safety of their workers has placed them on the side of 'harm'. Just as the race for breaking news and a focus on conflict jeopardised the life and limbs of journalists in the 'War on Terror' years, they once again threaten the well-being of journalists during the renewed spike in terrorism-triggered insecurity. And it's not just the journalists that are at risk, but the very cause of journalism and public interest is imperiled in the region.

Not much has been learnt from the blood-soaked decades of the 'War on Terror', whose history is often written in the blood of journalists who died in the line of duty. That war may have morphed in its global context but, for the people - including the

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journalists in the region - it continues like a recurring nightmare, coming back to haunt the region and its people.

According to the journalist asking for a trauma centre, 'Ours is a region amidst another cycle of the 'War on Terror.' Bomb blasts and targeted killings have virtually unhinged our minds.'

And then he added something that echoes the predicament of journalists in the region not long ago. He pulled out a strip of sleeping pills from his pocket and, like that journalist in the 2014 News Lens story about the inauguration of the trauma centre at the journalism school, he said, 'Sleep has abandoned us.'

LEFT TO THEIR OWN DEVICES

In 2006, when he came to receive us at the Mir Ali market in North Waziristan on a hot summer afternoon, Hayatullah Khan, the journalist from North Waziristan who was slain later that same year, looked more like a gun-toting militant than the friendly tribal journalist I knew.

Both Hayatullah and his brother had around their shoulders that great mower of men in these parts, the AK-47. 'Why the gun, Hayatullah?', I asked him, amazed that he was armed. 'The government has told us it can't provide security to journalists,' he said, adjusting the white cap he always wore on his head. 'We are left to our own devices to protect ourselves.'

It was July, an uneasy time, when the memory of several journalists killed in neighbouring South Waziristan was fresh. Usually not the safest of professions anywhere in Pakistan, journalism had turned deadly for reporters who stayed the course in the tribal areas. Others had simply packed up and left for towns in the 'settled areas' where they could report on developments in the troubled region from a safe distance.

'Let's go home,' Hayatullah said, grabbing me by the elbow, pulling us in a hurry out of the little ice cream shop near the bus terminal. It was as if he was fearful of being in a public spot. Quickly, we got into his old but sturdy pick-up truck. His brother got in the back, gun on the ready, vigilantly scanning the landscape, as if expecting a threat to materialise out of the desolation of the dusty plains and villages we were moving through.

As we drove through the market of Mir Ali - one of the three subdivisions of North Waziristan, then, as now, a tense setting for targeted killings, terrorist attacks and military operations - a signboard announced that carrying firearms was prohibited in public places. I asked Hayatullah if his brother went everywhere with him to watch over him. 'He has to, I can't drive and use a gun at the same time, should something go wrong,' he answered.

I asked, 'But that means staying with you all the time. Doesn't he study or work?' 'He does,' Hayatullah explained matter-of-factly, 'but someone has to take care of us. If it is not me, it has to be him. That's the way it is.'

Now in late 2023, I was pulled out of a roadside tea-stall in Tank, even before I had time to bite into a piece of cake. What was it that my hosts saw, by way of a threat, that I couldn't? Later, I observed and learnt that the government had provided armed police guards to journalists for security. As we drove from Tank to Wana to meet journalists at the press club there, the journalist who took me there had an AK47 placed by the driver's seat.

'The conditions are far from safe here. To be a journalist here is nerve-racking,' he said when I asked the question I had of Hayatullah Khan years ago - why carry a gun? 'In March this year [2023], there was an [alleged] drone attack in the south, and a militant commander there called me to say that two children of his family were killed in the attack. He wanted me to carry the story on my channel. I couldn't. Nobody [in the mainstream media] is willing to carry news from the militants. When I refused, he threatened me, saying we, the journalists, were paid minions of the state.'

His heightened threat perception - by no means exclusive to him, but common to the entire journalism community in the tribal regions - is also borne out by a written statement issued by the TTP in August 2023.

It warned journalists in the Khyber and Waziristan districts to desist from being 'lackeys' of the police and the military. It said militants killed in the conflict should be honoured with the title shaheed [martyrs]. In September, warned the letter, the TTP would be targeting journalists in the two districts.

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While there were no attacks on journalists, and some journalists say the announcement was fake - not issued by the TTP - it caused alarm and panic among journalists of the merged districts. Come 2024, and already seven reporters have been killed in the country, including Khalil Jibran in the Khyber district and Kamran Dawar in North Waziristan.

GUNS AND ANTI-ANXIETY PILLS

Over the years, a continuation of the precarious conditions in which tribal journalists live and work raises the uncomfortable question: if 2006 was when the government wanted journalists to take measures for their own safety, and 2014 was when journalists were losing sleep for want of peace, what has changed for the media and journalists in the tribal regions in 2024?

Five years after the former-Fata was merged into the rest of Pakistan, with legal and constitutional guarantees spelled out under the 25th Amendment to the Constitution of Pakistan, it seems not much has.

'It is up to us to care for our safety and well-being,' said the journalist, as we left the plains of Tank, the district neighbouring South Waziristan, and entered a mountainous terrain on our way to Wana. 'We work in a region where always one or the other party [to the conflict] is unhappy with us. We tread with care, but we also have to take measures to protect ourselves.'

It was when I asked him how the conditions around him affected his psychological well-being that I learnt it wasn't just the 'gun' he kept for safety, but he also took 'pills' to sleep. 'You cannot report here as you do in Lahore or Islamabad,' he said. 'It's a state of constant mental torture and anxiety. Once I took Lexotanil. Now I am on Citanew [both anti-anxiety, anti-depression drugs] and Rizek [for anxiety-related gastro-intestinal reflux].'

Guns and addictive anxiety pills - one could be forgiven for having an unsettling *deja vu*. The troubles that journalists and journalism - indeed the hapless, long-suffering people living in the tribal region - have historically faced in the region are far from over. And with it, a lingering question mark hangs over prospects for peace and progress, and participatory, transparent development, as promised under the merger.

As a journalist in Bajaur put it: 'Asleep or awake, ours is an anxious existence.'

THE HAUNTED PRESS

It's no surprise that the Miranshah Press Club (MPC) looks haunted by its own emptiness. Most journalists from North Waziristan district have been displaced, left fearing for their lives, while others feel safer working from home. The gate is opened not by a journalist but a police guard.

Like with most press clubs, it is common for protestors to hold dharnas [sit-ins] in front of the press club in Miranshah, the district headquarters of North Waziristan. Other sit-ins happen on the roadside between Mir Ali and Miranshah - tribesmen gathering to protest a lack of services, the military's takeover of a school or madrassah and, more frequently now, to demand peace or the dead bodies of kin killed in security operations. They expect local journalists to take their voice to the media.

In 2023, when a Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM) sit-in in front of the MPC demanded that its arrested activists be released, one of the journalists got a call from the administration that the press club was 'facilitating the dharna, giving food to PTM activists and allowing them to use the press club toilets.'

According to the journalist, 'I said if the administration does not want the dharna, it could always stop protestors at Sidgai [the main security check post at the entrance to the district] but, once people turn up at the press club, it becomes the media's responsibility to listen to their grievances.' He says the authorities accused him of working against the state.

Within the decades of violence that have crippled life in the region, it is not hard to know where to place North Waziristan. It has always been coded 'red', as the alert signs remind one at the heavily guarded entry gates and military establishments. The region today continues to seeth with danger and discontent.

Even though one does get to see in mainstream media frequent news about soldiers and militants dying in security operations,

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a visit to the district reveals that people's protests against the government and the district administration are just as common. Alternatively, one can also witness and ascertain this from social media platforms, in independent posts from the community, which makes citizen journalism a risky undertaking - as the death of Dawar in North Waziristan in May 2024 illustrates.

The rise of the PTM coincided with the merger of the former-Fata in 2018, when the social movement, with leadership from former-Fata, took to the streets to protest the state's violation of human rights in the border regions.

The government's stiff response, and its no-holds-barred policy, of arresting PTM activists and denying it mainstream media coverage is well-established. What is less debated is that, at a time when the media and freedom of expression in the region should have transformed for the better - after the much-hyped constitutional merger, allowing equal rights to the tribal people in the wake of seven decades of a constitutional limbo - it has instead slid back into alarming chaos.

WALKING a RAZOR'S EDGE

Five years on, the policy of snuffing dissent and controlling information, amidst a renewed wave of terror attacks, bombings and targeted killings - with the region remaining as its chief theatre - continues to shape the conditions undermining media freedoms in the merged tribal areas of erstwhile Fata.

Journalists are caught precariously between the forces out to quash freedom of expression and their duty to uphold it. In a region where journalists themselves are tribesmen, they also run the risk of being labelled 'a traitor to the tribal cause' if they do not give voice to tribal dissent in the face of decades of militancy and attendant militarisation.

The region has been, and remains today, a dangerous and volatile zone, where journalists walk the razor's edge, a plight brought home by the fact that a record seven journalists have already been killed in the country in the first six months of 2024. The deaths of journalists such as Dawar and Khalil suggest an alarming spike in the trend, and many others fear a similar fate as they continue to work under conditions of threats and harassment. Consider the recent case of Gohar Wazir, the displaced tribal journalist who used to report from Bannu, the district adjacent to his native North Waziristan.

Kidnapped in April 2023 and physically tortured, Wazir now lives in fear and anonymity, with no job and little support from his media organisation. He was released after promising his abductors that he would not criticise the authorities. No one knows of his whereabouts, as he lives in hiding, away from his children and family, facing threats and fearing attacks on his life.

This wasn't the first time he was targeted for his work. In 2019, he was also briefly detained for covering a PTM meeting. In a career spanning 15 years, Wazir has covered public protests, militancy, military operations and displacement in the troubled tribal region. 'I was repeatedly told to stop covering protests, where the issue of dismantling pro-government militant groups is always a major demand,' Wazir told Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) in May 2023. 'They can kill me at any time.'

This struggle to give voice to dissent against systematic suppression could be seen as a barometer for freedom of expression - more so because, as a woman journalist from South Waziristan puts it, the PTM demands are also what the people want - an immediate end to insecurity, targeted killing, kidnapping, extortion, the free movement of militants in the region, etc.

Authorities in the tribal areas invoke the exigencies of an emergency situation, arguing in support of curbs on freedom of expression. They claim emergency measures are required to fight militancy - desperate times calling for stringent, desperate measures, even at the cost of civil liberties, they argue.

But it is precisely this state of emergency, where local voices and sentiments are silenced, and little is known and debated in the rest of the country about the actual conditions, that emphasises the need for hearing and heeding independent voices. Their expression or suppression become important indicators of freedom of expression - even more so given the grave, persistent threats to the lives and livelihoods of common people caught up in an unceasing conflict for decades.

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President Biden's out of the campaign, not the job, 2024 WLNR 12907154

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2024 WLNR 12907154

Tallahassee Democrat (FL)
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August 4, 2024

Section: News

President Biden's out of the campaign, not the job

August 4, 2024

Republicans calling for President Joe Biden to resign right away, rather than serving the five months left in his term, know there's no chance that's going to happen.

Unless he has some further-disabling health crisis, Biden will be on the steps of the U.S. Capitol to smile and warmly congratulate the nation's next president in the inauguration ceremonies Jan. 20. It will be a bittersweet end to a political career of more than half a century if the Marine officer with the nuclear codes follows Kamala Harris away from the swearing-in ceremony. And if it's Donald Trump, Biden will politely pretend everything is all right as he returns the presidency to his predecessor.

But since Biden announced on July 21 that he was abandoning his re-election campaign and endorsing Vice President Harris, Republicans have mischievously called for him to quit right away. Naturally they cloak their unsolicited advice in feigned concern for national security, but they really don't want to give up the age issue central to the weeks-long pressure campaign that finally forced Biden out.

U.S. Sen. Rick Scott, R-Fla., even proposed using the 25th Amendment to remove the president. That's the constitutional provision — adopted after the Kennedy assassination but never used to remove a president — that allows Cabinet officers to evaluate presidential fitness.

"Biden is not capable of fulfilling the requirements of the job, and that poses a threat to our national security," Scott said in a post on X. "Joe Biden shouldn't be running our country if he can't run for re-election."

Lest anyone think he believes Harris would do better, should a Cabinet mutiny succeed in ousting Biden, Scott recalled that many of his Florida constituents fled socialism in Cuba and South America. "Kamala Harris is a California socialist, plain and simple," he said in another tweet.

Gov. Ron DeSantis added that Harris "was complicit in a massive coverup to hide and deny the fact that Joe Biden was not capable of discharging the duties of the office."

There was a loud and fast-spreading chorus of resignation calls from Republicans nationwide, including U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La. The sincerity of their concern for national security should be considered in light of partisan politics — like everything else in an even-numbered year.

With Biden out of the race, the GOP wants to keep talk of his mental and physical decline buzzing in political circles. Every

President Biden's out of the campaign, not the job, 2024 WLNR 12907154

time he trips on the steps of Air Force One, whenever he has a verbal slip, next time he looks confused, Republicans will remind us that Biden is not just an octogenarian, but a very old one.

Their concern for having a president on top of his game probably ranks somewhere below their desire to make fun of him.

Biden won't quit because people in power don't give it up. After what Trump did, trying to stay in office, the GOP can hardly talk about graceful exits.

And from a job-performance standpoint, the presidency is really about 25,000 people. Stumbling over a word or needing a nap isn't going to change domestic policy or world events. When any president slips, there are whole departments to catch whatever slipped past him.

Democrats beat up on George W. Bush for spending seven minutes reading to Sarasota school children after being told of the 9/11 terror attacks. But Bush knew thousands of city, state and federal officials were working on it.

It's just nasty partisanship to say Biden can't be president if he can't run for president. First, he probably didn't drop out because of his clear physical decline, but because strategists showed him polls proving he can't win.

Running for office and being in office are two entirely different skill sets. At 81, Biden doesn't have to be both nominee and chief executive anymore.

Once he benched himself, Democrats were quick to praise Biden for putting the country ahead of his strong personal wishes, which is probably true to some extent. But it's likely that tactical reality set in and, like Lyndon Johnson in 1968, Biden had to finally admit he would probably lose — and take many congressional Democrats down with him.

To paraphrase another sad ending, the Republicans won't have Joe Biden to kick around anymore. But they'd like to kick him one last time now that he's down.

Bill Cotterell is a retired Capitol reporter for United Press International and the Tallahassee Democrat. He writes a weekly column for The News Service of Florida and City & State Florida. He can be reached at wrcott43@aol.com.

Bill Cotterell

Columnist

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YOUR VIEW: Who's running the country?, 2024 WLNR 12908683

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August 3, 2024

Section: Opinion

YOUR VIEW: Who's running the country?

Staff Writer

Who's running the country?

I'm wondering how Democrats feel about the virtual defenestration of Joe Biden and the anointing of Kamala Harris. One day Biden is saying only God could convince him to leave the race. A few days later, after Obama, Pelosi, and others reportedly threatened him with the 25th Amendment, he dropped out, not by TV appearance but by a typed message that his staff learned of minutes before America did.

Within days, Kamala, via the Democratic elite, secured enough party delegates to take the nomination. (She can legally access the donations to Biden/Harris). No "rank-and-file" Democrats or delegates were given an opportunity to vote for her. (Democrats were also not able to vote for Robert F. Kennedy Jr., who was not even allowed on the Democratic primary ballot.)

Most people who voted for Biden in the primary had no idea that his staff, his family, Pelosi, Schumer, the Obamas, Hillary, Newsom, his doctor, and Kamala were all lying, covering up his dementia. Those people should be charged with deception or dereliction. The public had no idea that journalists, who should have exposed this major political scandal, were in on the cover-up. Shame on everyone for telling us Biden was "sharp as a tack," "gets more done in an hour than most people in a day," etc.

We didn't know that he hadn't held a Cabinet meeting in nine months, and that even then, questions had to be submitted through his staff before the meeting. Until they saw proof at the Biden-Trump debate, Democrats insisted that videos showing Biden wandering off, freezing up, or unable to find the right words, were "deep fakes." Who's been running the country? I don't think it's been Biden.

Maybe the Democratic convention will have a truly open nomination system. I hope so. But I doubt it.

Angie Many

Eckert

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August 2, 2024

Section: Features

25th Amendment :If not mentally fit, Biden must go now

By Gary Franks

We have all seen the warning signs per President Joe Biden's mental acuity.

Ironically, Biden's mental acuity could be the "quintessential threat" to our democracy. A recent CBS poll stated that 72% of Americans feel he is not mentally fit to be president.

But that means nothing to today's Democratic leaders, who operate according to the get-Trump-at-all-costs principle. And it is that "at all costs" part, an obsession, that also makes Democrats a quintessential threat to our democracy.

Regrettably, Democrats refuse to even think about invoking the 25th Constitutional amendment to immediately remove Biden as president. Republicans should not give the Democrats a pass on this matter, nor should a fair and objective media. It is especially important to the nation. We must know definitively if Biden should go now for the good of America.

Biden not only failed to show cognitive fitness during his debate with former President Donald Trump for millions to see, but he also failed to show strong mental acuity in nearly every other subsequent opportunity to correct the course.

Reading 10-15 minutes from a teleprompter once or twice a week does not cut it. During an ABC interview, Biden could not recall if he had viewed his debate performance.

We need to see further proof of Biden's cognitive condition. We need to see the video deposition that is currently being withheld by Attorney General Merrick Garland. The video was the primary reason Biden was not indicted for mishandling classified documents as president.

If Biden was deemed incapable of being indicted because of his mental acuity and age, why should we trust him to be our president? Show us the video of his deposition. Instead, Democrats prefer to cover up the truth while leaving America in a precarious position.

If the American people are allowed to see the deposition and they conclude Biden is mentally impaired, all those individuals, starting with Vice President Kamala Harris, should be condemned for lying to the American people. All those complicit would no longer have any credibility.

Just weeks ago, Democratic leaders like Harris said, "Biden was sharper than ever." Others added, "He had a bad night (per the debate)" - in a valiant attempt to hoodwink America.

25th Amendment :If not mentally fit, Biden must go now, 2024 WLNR 12829061

Let us remember, once upon a time, Democrats were fighting for Biden to remain as their presidential candidate. Now, they are praising Biden for leaving the race. After such schizophrenic behavior, Democrats say Republicans are a “threat to our democracy?” Really?

Biden refused to tell us why he is stepping down other than to say that he is “passing the torch.” We are not stupid. Mr. President, give us an answer. We deserve one.

If it is concluded that Biden is not mentally fit to be president, Joe must go now.

Gary Franks served three terms as U.S. representative for Connecticut’s 5th District. He was the first Black Republican elected to the House in nearly 60 years and New England’s first Black member of the House. Host: podcast “We Speak Frankly.” /Tribune News Service

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August 2, 2024

Section: Brent Regan

OPINION: Lather rinse repeat

BRENT REGAN/Common Sense

"The Party told you to reject the evidence of your eyes and ears. It was their final, most essential command." - George Orwell, 1984

Most of the country is brainwashed and about half are severely brainwashed to the extent that they no longer operate in reality. Of course, YOU are not brainwashed ... or are you? How could you tell? Here is a test. Answer these three questions:

Do you believe that Trump called white supremacists in Charlottesville "fine people?"

Did Trump tell people to drink or inject bleach to fight COVID?

Were the Jan. 6 protesters insurrectionists attempting to overthrow the government by occupying the Capitol?

If you answered YES to any of these questions, stop reading because nothing that I am about to say will make any sense to you, and you will only get angry and frustrated.

If you recognized the three questions as hoaxes then there is hope for you. Over the last eight years, you have become more aware that the news is mostly fake. If you were really paying close attention, especially for the last month, you were shocked to find out that the fakery is a coordinated, centralized effort to brainwash citizens.

Since 2019 you have been observing Joe Biden's slide into senility, but the media has been chanting that Joe is perfectly fine, sharp as a tack, and he mumbles because of a speech impediment. Meanwhile, VP Harris was universally disliked with the lowest approval ratings of any vice president. It is as if they were using her as contrast to Biden. The Democrats and their operatives in the media were telling us this was normal.

The Biden Administration's policies are hugely unpopular. Open border, inflation, DEI, defund the police, lawfare, etc. were all polling negative so their best persuasion tool was to use fear and make Trump into an existential threat to just about everything.

Then the debate happened and in a classic "the emperor has no clothes" moment, everybody was acutely aware of Joe's diminished cognitive abilities. Their first reaction was to deny it happened. They said that Joe got off to a slow start because he had a cold. Democrats faithfully lined up in support of Biden but the poll numbers kept dropping.

Then the failed assassination attempt and Trump's heroic reaction along with iconic imagery closed the deal. Biden would lose to Trump, and everybody knew it. Time for Plan "B," take Biden to the woodshed. He was likely given the option of

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withdrawing from the race and remaining president or being removed from office using the 25th Amendment. Biden needs those last-minute Presidential Pardons so he agreed to withdraw. He then endorsed Harris to return the favor and force them into having a candidate demonstrably worse than Joe.

It was then that we really got to see the Democrat brainwashing machine in action. One of the first steps in rehabilitating Harris was to disassociate her from the border crisis. They sent out talking points to be parroted by the media that Harris was never the Border Czar, and calling her that was just a Republican smear. Unfortunately there is LOTS of footage of those very same media slaves cheering Harris, the new Border Czar, and even government documents from the White House identifying Harris as the Border Czar.

The fact that they would lie so brazenly despite the likelihood they would get caught speaks to their level of fealty to their Democrat masters. Trump does pose an existential threat, to their power, so extreme measures are justified.

The assassination attempt exposed the Democrats' "Trump is Hitler" fear rhetoric as a likely cause of political violence. They realized that continuing down the fear path was no longer viable. They needed a new angle.

Remember back in 2016 with all the media outlets and Hillary simultaneously started calling Trump "dark?" That was no accident as it was later discovered that persuasion consultant Robert Cialdini hatched that dark pearl.

The Democrat party is largely composed of liberal women and their beta male allies, so it was no shock that the latest persuasion framing is the mean girl insult "weird." It was shocking how fast the media propagated the "Republicans are weird" framing. What was particularly creepy was watching the talking heads pretend that "weird" was a word they thought up. To watch them look into the camera and lie erased any remaining trace of credibility.

There are several compilation videos of media outlets parroting the "weird" framing so you can see the brainwashing happening in real time, and once you see it you can't unsee it.

The failed assassination attempt has forced the Democrats to abandon the fear persuasion high ground. The "weird" framing is powerful persuasion, but it is simply a mean girl insult that is only persuasive to the swipe left, beta male "White Dudes for Kamala." Sad.

Republicans need to reject the "weird" framing and focus on our strengths. Policy, policy, policy. The Democrat policies of open borders, eliminating private health insurance, forced gun confiscation, DEI, allowing men in women's sports and confiscating your earnings to distribute to their supporters are all losing propositions for Democrats, which is exactly why they need to be exposed and amplified.

Your defense against being brainwashed is to be aware of the attempt. Watch for their next play. Once you see the gears of the machine, their power to influence you vanishes.

It's just common sense.

Brent Regan is chairman of the Kootenai County Republican Central Committee.

---- Index References ----

News Subject: (Campaigns & Elections (1CA25); Global Politics (1GL73); Government (1GO80); Legislation (1LE97); Political Parties (1PO73); Public Affairs (1PU31); U.S. Legislation (1US12); World Elections (1WO93))

Region: (USA (1US73))

Language: EN

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Other Indexing: (Biden Administration; Kootenai County Republican Central Committee; White House)

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Sound Off: August 3, 2024, 2024 WLNR 12820380

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2024 WLNR 12820380

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August 2, 2024

Sound Off: August 3, 2024

By Sun Herald readers, SunHerald

Make it make sense

Donald Trump is calling for the arrest of pro-Palestinian protesters. At the same time interview, he called for the Jan. 6 rioters at the Capitol to be released. Yes, the flag was burned, but it was also used as a weapon on Jan. 6.

Because of Trump?

I have never heard of more convoluted thinking than JD Vance giving Donald Trump all the credit for the recent release of hostages negotiated by President Biden. Their jailers knew Trump would be back in power so they were cleaning house? You have got to be kidding me. The word the Dems are using is “weird.” They would be perfectly justified (and more accurate) using “insane” instead.

All Obama?

It’s so cute to hear liberals gush over just how brave President Biden is for choosing to end his reelection campaign. We now know that the man behind the curtain is none other that Barack Obama, who threatened Biden with the 25th Amendment, which would destroy Biden’s legacy.

VP choice

Donald Trump faces a big dilemma with his choice of a running-mate. Anyone need more proof of his bad judgment skills? If he keeps JD Vance on the ticket, his hired mouthpieces will spend the next three months trying to rehab his reputation and explain away his babble. If he ditches Vance, he loses his premise for the lawsuits to come that the Dems pulled an illegal last minute switcheroo. Poor guy, what to do?

All logical

It’s legal, appropriate, and logical for President Biden to give his war chest to the presidential candidate taking his place. He doesn’t need it anymore for running his presidential campaign, doesn’t need it to pay his personal legal bills, and doesn’t have several businesses always on the brink of bankruptcy to funnel it into.

Attacking women

Donald Trump is now making fun of women that cannot have children. It is sick and disgusting for a person that wants to be

Sound Off: August 3, 2024, 2024 WLNR 12820380

president to spread such hatred toward women. He is an insult to all women, and no woman in the United States should vote for him.

Go forth

Yes, Christians, get out in force and vote in November. Vote your conscience. Let Donald Trump know that you know he is a Christian in name only, and only when speaking to you, and that the Ten Commandments apply to everyone, even him. Let him know that a staged photo op with an upside down Bible did not fool you. Let him know you don't want a cheating, lying con artist for a president.

Send your Sound Offs to soundoff@sunherald.com .

---- Index References ----

News Subject: (Campaigns & Elections (1CA25); Global Politics (1GL73); Government (1GO80); Legislation (1LE97); Public Affairs (1PU31); U.S. Legislation (1US12); World Elections (1WO93))

Industry: (Celebrities (1CE65); Entertainment (1EN08))

Region: (USA (1US73))

Language: EN

Word Count: 435

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August 2, 2024

Rule of Law Clinic Plays Key Role Drafting New York State Senate Legislation

BRONX, New York, Aug. 2 (TNSres) -- Fordham University School of Law issued the following news:

Students in Fordham Law School's Rule of Law Clinic had an important hand in drafting legislation introduced in the New York State Senate to reform the state's gubernatorial succession policies.

The legislation is the latest progress in the Clinic's work over three semesters to develop and advocate for succession reforms. Clinic students have written four reports, published op-eds, met with lawmakers and legislative aides, interviewed experts, and coordinated with stakeholders.

Dean Emeritus John D. Feerick '61 and Senior Fellow John Rogan '14 teach the Rule of Law Clinic. Two years after graduating from Fordham Law, Feerick played a central role in framing the U.S. Constitution's 25th Amendment, which deals with presidential succession and inability. The Clinic is advocating for New York to have its own version of the 25th Amendment.

Students collaborated with New York state Sen. James Skoufis and his staff on two bills that would transform gubernatorial succession in New York. One of the newly introduced bills is a proposed constitutional amendment and the other is a proposed statute. The constitutional amendment, S9541, would create procedures for declaring the governor unable to serve and remove the antiquated provision that automatically transfers power whenever the governor travels outside the state. The statute, S9575, would reform the process for filling vacancies in the lieutenant governor's office and update the line of succession to the governor's office.

Fordham Law students Brennan Corrison '24, Sami Jumper '24, Michelle Rossy '24, and James Ziemba '24 worked on the legislation this spring.

"I never imagined I'd have the opportunity to work towards such significant and sorely needed change any time throughout my legal career, never mind during my time at Fordham," said Ziemba. "Professor Rogan and Dean Feerick really set us up for success with their experience both in gubernatorial succession specifically and advocating for constitutional reform more generally."

Corrison added, "Our work in the Rule of Law Clinic was incredibly rewarding and exciting. We picked up the great work on gubernatorial succession by past semesters' teams, made updates to the proposals, and found effective ways to advocate for the proposals with lawmakers and good government groups."

In addition to reforms developed by the Clinic, the legislation includes proposals advanced by the New York State Bar Association (NYSBA). The Clinic and NYSBA have coordinated some of their efforts. This includes a co-sponsored public program at Fordham Law last fall, where former New York Governor David Paterson was among the speakers. Clinic students met with Paterson before his remarks at the program to discuss the importance of succession reforms.

Rule of Law Clinic Plays Key Role Drafting New York State Senate Legislation

The Clinic launched its gubernatorial succession project in spring 2022 with a report (https://ir.lawnet.fordham.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1000&context=rule_of_law_clinic) that influenced reform discussions and received media attention. A number of students in the Clinic during the fall 2023 semester published op-ed articles arguing for the proposed reforms in the legislation:

* Spencer Shih, Harry Solomon & Chase Cooper, Reforming the Process of Lieutenant Governor Replacement (New York Law Journal, Feb. 1, 2024)

* Liam Turner & John Rogan, NY Gubernatorial Absence Provision Is Obsolete and Harmful (Law360, Mar. 11, 2024)

* Alex Kasdan, Greta Kaufman & Jolie Gentzkow, A Better Gubernatorial Line of Succession (Fordham Law Voting Rights and Democracy Forum, Mar. 11, 2024)

* Antonia Spano, Steering the Ship of State: Ensuring a Capable Governor is Always at New York's Helm (Fordham Law Voting Rights and Democracy Forum, June 27, 2024)

"The students in the Clinic have been remarkably dedicated in studying the subject area, examining statutes and constitutions of other states, and interviewing persons knowledgeable in the field before arriving at their conclusions," Feerick said. "Adoption of their recommendations would elevate the executive succession provisions of the New York State Constitution, making them a national model in addressing problems that go to the heart of state government."

* * *

Original text here:
<https://news.law.fordham.edu/blog/2024/08/01/rule-of-law-clinic-plays-key-role-drafting-new-york-state-senate-legislation/MSTRUCK-8757367> MSTRUCK

---- Index References ----

Company: NEW YORK STATE SENATE; New York State Bar Association; Fordham University School of Law

News Subject: (Education (1ED85); Government (1GO80); Higher Education (1HI55); Law Schools (1LA69); Legislation (1LE97); U.S. Legislation (1US12))

Industry: (Healthcare (1HE06); Healthcare Regulatory (1HE04); Political Science (1PO69); Science (1SC89); Science & Engineering (1SC33); Social Science (1SO92); U.S. National Healthcare Reform (1US09))

Region: (Americas (1AM92); New York (1NE72); North America (1NO39); U.S. Mid-Atlantic Region (1MI18); USA (1US73))

Language: EN

Other Indexing: (Rule of Law Clinic; Fordham Law School; Fordham Law Voting Rights and Democracy Forum; New York State Senate; New York State Bar Association; Fordham University School of Law) (BRONX, New York)

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Rule of Law Clinic Plays Key Role Drafting New York State Senate Legislation

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August 2, 2024

Biden must go now if not mentally fit

GARY FRANKS

We have all seen the warning signs about President Joe Biden's mental acuity. More than a century ago, the captain of the Titanic got warning signs about the conditions of the ocean that night. He ignored them. Will America do the same with Biden? We do so at our own peril, as we all know how the Titanic story ended.

Ironically, Biden's mental acuity could be the quintessential threat to our democracy. A recent CBS poll stated that 72% of Americans feel he is not mentally fit to be president.

But that means nothing to today's Democratic leaders, who operate according to the get-Trump-at-all-costs principle. And it is that "at all costs" part, an obsession, that also makes Democrats a quintessential threat to our democracy.

Regrettably, Democrats refuse to even think about invoking the 25th Amendment to immediately remove Biden as president. Republicans should not give the Democrats a pass, nor should a fair and objective media. It is especially important to the nation. We must know definitively if Biden should go now for the good of America.

Biden not only failed to show cognitive fitness during his debate with former President Donald Trump for millions to see, but he also failed to show strong mental acuity in nearly every other subsequent opportunity to correct the course. At times he needed to get the questions before the interview.

The Democrats are willing to risk the well-being of America by leaving a clearly mentally impaired person in the White House for six more months. This is a true example of a nation treading in dangerous waters.

We need to see further proof of Biden's cognitive condition. Biden, however, has repeatedly refused to be examined for these health concerns.

We need to see the video deposition that is being withheld by Attorney General Merrick Garland. The video was the primary reason Biden was not indicted for mishandling classified documents as president.

Just think, if Biden was deemed incapable of being indicted because of his mental acuity and age, why should we trust him to be our president? Instead, Democrats prefer to cover up the truth while leaving America in a precarious position.

If the American people are allowed to see the deposition and they conclude Biden is mentally impaired, all those individuals, starting with Vice President Kamala Harris, should be condemned for lying to the American people. All those complicit would no longer have any credibility. They are simply not trustworthy. The videotapes are a smoking gun.

Biden must go now if not mentally fit, 2024 WLNR 12823522

Once upon a time, Democrats were fighting for Biden to remain as their presidential candidate. Now, they are praising Biden for leaving the race.

After such schizophrenic behavior, Democrats say Republicans are a “threat to our democracy?” Really?

Democrats have the power to remove Biden immediately via the 25th Amendment. They do not need a single Republican vote. Not wanting to do this says the Democrats do not really want Harris as president, even if just to finish out Biden’s term. Maybe some Democrats actually think Biden is not mentally impaired. Or they believe a cognitively impaired Biden is better than Harris.

The only reason Democratic leaders decided to force Biden out by stopping his fundraising was because his failures and decline would have put in jeopardy previously safe House and Senate seats. Once again, Democrats are not thinking about Americans but only about their own political careers.

The November elections should take a back seat. The integrity of the Democratic Party is on the ballot right now.

---- Index References ----

News Subject: (Campaigns & Elections (1CA25); Global Politics (1GL73); Government (1GO80); Political Parties (1PO73); Public Affairs (1PU31); World Elections (1WO93))

Industry: (Healthcare (1HE06); Healthcare Practice Specialties (1HE49); Healthcare Services (1HE13); Psychiatric Services (1PS61))

Region: (Americas (1AM92))

Language: EN

Other Indexing: (Democratic Party; White House; Senate) (Joe Biden)

Word Count: 588

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2024 election :U.S. leadership a multiple-choice question, 2024 WLNR 12728613

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August 1, 2024

Section: Features

2024 election :U.S. leadership a multiple-choice question

Will Washington politicians soon be wearing Roman togas?

You never know.

It is helpful to know that once in Rome one must, as the old saying goes, do as the Romans do.

But must one do it in Washington too?

We ask only because we soon could be ruled by a toga-wearing Triumvirate, just like in Ancient Rome.

That was back in 60 BCE when Rome was in chaos and falling apart. There was rioting in the streets and crime, corruption and violence , like in the U.S. today.

Then three prominent Romans - Julius Caesar, Pompey and Crassus, who did not even like one another - agreed to run the empire as a threesome to restore law and order and “save” the Roman Republic.

It was the way U.S. politicians talk about “saving our democracy” today.

Only it did not work out so well back then. The three argued and fought. Crassus was later killed and decapitated by the Parthians after losing the Battle of Carrhae; Pompey was assassinated in Egypt after losing the Battle of Pharsalus to Caesar, and Caesar, of course, was later murdered by Brutus and fellow senators in Rome.

Other than that, things worked out fine.

Some people, like Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, must believe that the U.S. is already ruled by a Triumvirate.

Which is why on his trip to the U.S. last week he had to meet separately with three people who are allegedly running the country, or soon will be.

One meeting was with feeble President Joe Biden at the White House, who may or may not know what is going on.

The second was with open borders Vice President Kamala Harris, the newly discovered media star and president in waiting, who is trying to find out what is going on. They met in her Executive Office quarters.

And the third meeting was with would-be president (again) Donald Trump, who is telling both Biden and Harris what is

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really going on and that they are full of it. That meeting was at Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate.

Consequently, a new protocol has been set, at least until a new president is elected and sworn in.

Until then visiting heads of state will have to hold three separate meetings with three different American political leaders at three different places.

Think what would happen if there were an emergency meeting of NATO in Brussels. Would all three fly over on different planes to attend?

Unlike the three Roman leaders who did occasionally meet over a cup of wine or two (with winetasters) to straighten out wars or to meet a foreign dignitary - even though they hated each other - there is no chance our three leaders will do the same.

While Biden and Harris do not hate each other -at least not yet - they both despise Trump, and Trump feels the same about them. And, unlike Biden and Harris, there is no way Trump would be caught dead in a toga.

All kidding aside, the U.S. is going through a perilous period. Transitions of power from one president to the next are often potentially dangerous times. Unpredictable things can happen.

And here we have an incumbent president who is feeling every one of his 81 years and it shows, forced out of his campaign for reelection, but who believes he is competent enough to remain in office for the rest of his term that runs to Jan. 20, 2025 or for six more months.

But what if he is not competent enough to serve and will not resign and there is not enough time to initiate the 25th Amendment to replace him?

Who will be in charge during this long transition and to make decisions if China invades Taiwan, or Iran attacks Israel, or Vladimir Putin goes nuclear in Ukraine? Biden? Harris? Both? Neither?

It is not by coincidence that Russian warships returned to Cuba last week, or that Russian and Chinese bombers, in their first joint operation, flew off the coast of Alaska a week earlier, or that Iran's proxy Hezbollah killed 12 children in Israel with a rocket attack.

Our adversaries are taking note of this serious potential lapse in American leadership, and they will act.

It is too bad, but a Triumvirate toga party will not cut it.

Peter Lucas is a veteran political reporter. Email him at: peter.lucas@bostonherald.com

---- **Index References** ----

Company: North Atlantic Treaty Organization

News Subject: (Campaigns & Elections (1CA25); Global Politics (1GL73); Government (1GO80); International Issues (1IN59); Public Affairs (1PU31); Top World News (1WO62); World Elections (1WO93))

Region: (Asia (1AS61); Israel (1IS16); Mediterranean (1ME20); Middle East (1MI23); Western Asia (1WE54))

Language: EN

Other Indexing: (U.S.; Hezbollah; NATO)

Word Count: 729

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Revealed: Nancy Pelosi was emptying her dishwasher when..., 2024 WLNR 12711782

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2024 WLNR 12711782

Daily Mail Online (UK)
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August 1, 2024

Revealed: Nancy Pelosi was emptying her dishwasher when she called to ask Mike Pence to invoke the 25th Amendment against Trump

Nikki Schwab, Chief Campaign Correspondent For Dailymail.Com In Washington, D.C.

Vice President Mike Pence snubbed House Speaker Nancy Pelosi when she called him after January 6 to talk about invoking the 25th Amendment against President Donald Trump.

Pelosi wrote about the experience in her forthcoming memoir, *The Art of Power: My Story as America's First Woman Speaker of the House*, which will be released Tuesday.

Speaker Emeritus Nancy Pelosi's new book comes out next week She reveals how she was snubbed by Vice President Mike Pence

She recalled how after the January 6 Capitol attack, 'the Democratic leadership discussed asking the vice president to invoke the 25th Amendment to the Constitution, which allows for the vice president and a majority of Cabinet members to certify that a president is unable to discharge the duties of the office.'

She and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer 'placed a call to Vice President Pence about this possibility,' Pelosi's book reveals, according to the Guardian.

'The vice president's office kept us on hold for 20 minutes,' Pelosi wrote, adding that she was 'thankfully' at home 'so I could empty the dishwasher and put in a load of laundry.'

'Ultimately, Vice President Pence never got on the phone with us or returned our call,' she said.

Throughout the book, Pelosi pushes that Trump is mentally unwell.

She said that by January 6, 'I knew Donald Trump's mental imbalance.'

'I had seen it up close,' Pelosi continued. 'His denial and then delays when the COVID pandemic struck, his penchant for repeatedly stomping out of meetings, his foul mouth, his pounding on tables, his temper tantrums, his disrespect for our nation's patriots, and his total separation from reality and actual events.'

'His repeated, ridiculous insistence that he was the greatest of all time,' the House Speaker added.

Pelosi reveals she would get calls from Trump, often late at night.

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In one such call, Trump blamed former President Barack Obama for the missile strikes in Syria that he had just ordered.

Eventually Pelosi told the president it was time to go to bed.

'It's midnight. I think you should go to sleep,' Pelosi said.

She also recalled being told at a 2019 memorial service for a prominent psychiatrist by 'doctors and other mental health professionals' that they were 'deeply concerned that there was something seriously wrong' with Trump.

'And that his mental and psychological health was in decline,' Pelosi recalled.

---- Index References ----

News Subject: (Government (1GO80); Legislation (1LE97); U.S. Legislation (1US12))

Industry: (Healthcare (1HE06); Healthcare Practice Specialties (1HE49); Healthcare Services (1HE13); Psychiatric Services (1PS61); Psychiatry (1PS63))

Region: (USA (1US73))

Language: EN

Other Indexing: (Nancy Pelosi; Mike Pence)

Word Count: 398

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Joe Biden mental decline stunned GOP senator TWO years..., 2024 WLNR 12630989

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August 1, 2024

Joe Biden mental decline stunned GOP senator TWO years ago when he confused wife for White House staffer despite swearing him in twice

Jon Michael Raasch, Political Reporter On Capitol Hill, For Dailymail.Com

A Republican senator says he witnessed firsthand that President Joe Biden was suffering mental deficits as far back as two years ago.

Utah Sen. Mike Lee said this week he was left stunned when Biden mistook his wife as one of his own White House staffers multiple times during a reception, even after she told him who she was.

READ MORE: Republicans slam Biden's 'unconstitutional' Supreme Court plan

The anecdote exposes yet another apparent example of the president's apparent mental decline - and significantly, one that dates back much further than Democrats have been willing to reveal.

Lee shockingly disclosed to DailyMail.com the uncomfortable interaction between his wife and the president, which is among other signs of 'alarm' about Biden's well being.

He said what really struck him was that he and his wife, Sharon, had met the president on multiple occasions.

But during that White House reception for congressional spouses about two years ago, the president did not even recognize her when she said hello to the president.

Biden asked for her name, and clearly did not remember her despite meeting many times and then inquired whether she worked for him in the White House.

And when she told him that she was the wife of Sen. Mike Lee, Biden looked confused before again asking her if she was on his staff.

The 'weird' interaction prompted Lee to surmise that the president isn't 'quite there,' he said on the Tucker Carlson Show.

'He swore me into the Senate twice,' Lee immediately shifted to telling Carlson, describing their many interactions over the years between 2011 and 2017.

'We had interacted with him a lot and she thought that would take care of it,' Lee said of his wife's assumption that Biden would remember her.

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'He looked confused,' Sharon had said.

'He was not quite there,' the Republican senator said of Biden after telling his wife's tale.

'There was a kind of a deer in the headlights phenomenon. [Sharon] said 'it was like I was talking to somebody who wasn't aware of what was going on.'

'I've interacted a fair amount with with Joe Biden over the years, my wife a lot less, of course, but enough times that she was able to recognize what is his personality and what isn't, and she realized this is very out of character for him.'

'He just looked confused and forgot what he was supposed to do.' The Republican called the interaction 'alarming.'

Lee went on to tell DailyMail.com other instances where Biden's age and ability has concerned him.

He said he's studied Biden's heavy use of teleprompters dating back to at least 2021 among other crutches.

Lee said Biden has been the least interactive of all presidents he's served under since Obama.

It's odd how Biden, a former Senate master, has hardly interacted with the body since taking office, he went on, saying he made less trips to the hill than Trump and Obama.

The Utah senator also disclosed how Biden was 'not being careful' about reading from a script over the phone.

'Anyone who's been in politics knows that you've got staff giving you things to guide your conversations you want to be careful about not, you know, at least obviously, reading a script from a phone. And he was not being careful at all.'

Biden had been at the forefront of attacks against him as he was still running for reelection.

Even in the weeks after he canceled his campaign, Republicans have called on his cabinet, and particularly Vice President Kamala Harris, to invoke the 25th Amendment, which outlines presidential succession in the case of an incapable commander.

Videos of him appearing to freeze at public appearances and his disjointed and stumbling interviews have further fueled concerns about his health and condition.

Lee also described too DailyMail.com about how the president appeared to start showing symptoms of Alzheimer's disease, which his own mother-in-law passed away from in recent years.

The doctor's told him when she was diagnosed that Lee would start to notice real signs of decline when his mother-in-law's posture and gait became impacted.

'One day it occurred to me, my gosh, he's walking the way Carol did, he's walking the way my mother-in-law walked when what the doctors told us to watch out for started to kick in,' he told DailyMail.com.

'It's kind of a shuffle to sort of kick your feet forward. It's not a fluid motion. It's a little bit more robotic.'

'I saw that same gait and posture in President Biden during his first term in office.'

There could be other reasons for those symptoms, Lee continued, but said he also saw other clear signs of 'cognitive decline.'

'He'll utter a few words in a row or entire sentence that is almost unintelligible, or that makes no sense, or that is factually or logically implausible, or he'll appear to get lost while performing a very simple task, like walking from point A to point B.'

'So when you put all those things together, and like I say, most of those things that I've put together based on publicly

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available information, there's no doubt in my mind that he's had a lot of bad days, probably more bad days than good ones.'

---- **Index References** ----

News Subject: (Government (1GO80); Legislation (1LE97); Public Affairs (1PU31); U.S. Legislation (1US12))

Industry: (Healthcare (1HE06); Healthcare Practice Specialties (1HE49); Healthcare Regulatory (1HE04); Healthcare Services (1HE13); Psychiatric Services (1PS61); U.S. National Healthcare Reform (1US09))

Region: (Americas (1AM92); North America (1NO39); U.S. West Region (1WE46); USA (1US73); Utah (1UT90))

Language: EN

Other Indexing: (GOP; White House; Senate) (Joe Biden)

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August 1, 2024

Doctors told Pelosi of concern for Trump's mental health, ex-speaker says in book Exclusive: Pelosi calls Trump 'unhinged' and reveals exchange with doctors at 2019 memorial for top psychiatristUS politics – live updates

Martin Pengelly in Washington

In early 2019, at a memorial service for a prominent psychiatrist, a succession of “doctors and other mental health professionals” told Nancy Pelosi they were “deeply concerned that there was something seriously wrong” with Donald Trump, “and that his mental and psychological health was in decline”.

“I’m not a doctor,” the former speaker writes in an eagerly awaited memoir, “but I did find his behaviors difficult to understand.”

Pelosi’s book, *The Art of Power: My Story as America’s First Woman Speaker of the House*, will be published next week. The Guardian obtained a copy.

Pelosi was speaker between 2007 and 2011, and between 2019 and 2023, the latter spell coinciding with Trump’s chaotic presidency. Her memoir comes out amid a tumultuous 2024 presidential campaign, in which Trump is the Republican nominee for a third successive election.

Questions about Trump’s fitness for office form a thread through the book. At 78, Trump is the oldest candidate ever, his campaign-trail utterances studied for frequent mistakes, his speeches are often rambling and marked by bizarre references.

Trump’s volcanic behavior and disregard for societal norms also stoke such questions, not least because he left office having been impeached twice, the second time for inciting the deadly January 6 Capitol attack; has been convicted on 34 criminal charges and faces 54 more; has been ordered to pay hundreds of millions of dollars in civil cases including one concerning a rape claim a judge called “substantially true”; and has promised if re-elected to govern as “a dictator” on “day one”.

On the page, Pelosi says she did not solicit statements about Trump’s mental health from attendees at the memorial for Dr David Hamburg, “a distinguished psychiatrist who ... served as the president of the Carnegie Corporation, where he had been a great voice for international peace”, and who died in April 2019.

Elsewhere in *The Art of Power*, however, the former speaker is not shy of stating her views about Trump’s mental health, calling him “imbalanced” and “unhinged”.

By 6 January 2021, Pelosi writes, “I knew Donald Trump’s mental imbalance. I had seen it up close. His denial and then delays when the Covid pandemic struck, his penchant for repeatedly stomping out of meetings, his foul mouth, his pounding on tables, his temper tantrums, his disrespect for our nation’s patriots, and his total separation from reality and actual events.

Doctors told Pelosi of concern for Trump's mental health,..., 2024 WLNR 12671367

His repeated, ridiculous insistence that he was the greatest of all time.”

I had seen ...his foul mouth, his temper tantrums, his disrespect for our nation's patriots, his total separation from reality

She describes how subordinates including Mark Meadows, Trump's final chief of staff, indulged improper behavior, allowing Trump to “surreptitiously listen” to private meetings with congressional leaders, eventually prompting Pelosi to ban all cellphones from her meeting rooms on Capitol Hill.

Pelosi also describes getting calls from Trump, often late at night, including one in which she says Trump insisted missile strikes on Syria he had just ordered were Barack Obama's fault, eventually prompting Pelosi to tell him: “It's midnight. I think you should go to sleep.”

Pelosi devotes attention to the events of 6 January 2021, when she and other congressional leaders were hurried from a mob who meant them harm, then spent hours trying to get Trump to call them off.

Much of Pelosi's account is familiar, thanks to the work of the House January 6 committee, which she created, and of her own daughter, Alexandra Pelosi, a documentarian who was filming her mother that day.

”People still ask me how I remained so calm,” Pelosi writes, of the hours when Congress was under attack, she and other leaders were evacuated to Fort McNair, and Vice-President Mike Pence was in hiding as the mob chanted about hanging him.

”My answer is that I was already deeply aware of how dangerous Donald Trump was.

”He continues to be dangerous. If his family and staff truly understood his disregard for both the fundamentals of the law and for basic rules, and if they had reckoned with his personal instability over not winning the [2020] election, they should have staged an intervention. Whether because of willful blindness, money, prestige, or greed, they didn't – and America has paid a steep price.”

Saying she had quickly realised she had “more respect for the office of president of the United States than Trump”, Pelosi says “it was clear to me from the start that he was an imposter – and that on some level, he knew it”.

Still she is not done. After describing how electoral college votes were eventually counted and Joe Biden's victory confirmed, she says she “and many others wanted a consequence for the deranged, unhinged man who was still president of the United States”.

That led to an impeachment and a second failed Senate trial, after the Republican leader there, Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, made a historic miscalculation: that Trump did not require conviction and barring from office, as he was politically finished.

Pelosi describes another failed effort to remove Trump from office, on grounds of being unfit.

”Following January 6,” she writes, “the Democratic leadership discussed asking the vice-president to invoke the 25th amendment to the constitution, which allows for the vice-president and a majority of cabinet members to certify that a president is unable to discharge the duties of the office.”

She and the Senate majority leader, Chuck Schumer of New York, “placed a call to Vice-President Pence about this possibility”.

Elsewhere, Pelosi writes that she admires Pence for his actions on January 6, when he refused to be spirited from the Capitol despite having to hide from a murderous mob sent by his own president, then ultimately presided over certification of election results.

But when it came to the 25th amendment, Pence let Pelosi down.

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"The vice-president's office kept us on hold for 20 minutes," Pelosi writes, adding that "thankfully" she was at home at the time, "so I could also empty the dishwasher and put in a load of laundry.

"Ultimately, Vice-President Pence never got on the phone with us or returned our call."

---- Index References ----

Company: CARNEGIE CLEAN ENERGY LIMITED

News Subject: (Campaigns & Elections (1CA25); Global Politics (1GL73); Government (1GO80); Public Affairs (1PU31); World Elections (1WO93))

Industry: (Healthcare (1HE06); Healthcare Practice Specialties (1HE49); Healthcare Services (1HE13); Psychiatric Services (1PS61); Psychiatry (1PS63))

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MAKING SENSE: Democrats are the enemy of democracy, 2024 WLNR 12938308

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August 1, 2024

Section: Open

MAKING SENSE: Democrats are the enemy of democracy

MICHAEL REAGAN Syndicated Columnist

We had two big speeches from Washington on Wednesday.

Neither one was very encouraging for those of us who worry about our fragile democracy and the futures of our kids and grandkids.

Bibi Netanyahu gave a great speech in the House of Representatives, defending Israel's war in Gaza and trying to rally support from U.S. politicians - i.e., Republicans, mostly.

Many Democrats stayed away from Bibi's speech or cut out early, like Senator Chuck Schumer.

They were afraid to offend the left-wing Democrats that have fractured their party by supporting the Palestinians in Gaza and arguing against further U.S. military aid for Israel.

Rashida Tlaib at least showed up, but she was spotted in the audience holding a sign that read "guilty of genocide" on one side and "war criminal" on the other.

Tlaib's sign echoed those being carried by the "mostly peaceful" 2,000 anti-Israeli protestors outside, five of whom were arrested for breaking into the Capitol Building.

As for the Democrat Party's brave and principled leaders, one was conspicuously absent - VP Kamala Harris.

The party's presumptive 2024 presidential nominee couldn't attend Bibi's speech. Conveniently, she had to deliver a very important address to the historically black sorority Zeta Phi Beta.

President Biden was AWOL, too.

While Bibi spoke, he was either having his nap or practicing his Wednesday night Oval Office speech where he explained to the nation why he was selflessly "handing the torch" to young Kamala.

I watched Biden's "torch" speech. It was pitiful. He looked worse than he did in his disastrous TV debate with Trump. He could barely read the teleprompter.

The Biden hero-worshippers on "Morning Joe" saw a selfless hero and swallowed every word and cliché their beloved president said.

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But I saw a sad man who's not going to make it to the end of his term - or maybe not even to the convention.

Meanwhile, it drove me crazy on Wednesday to watch the vandalism being committed by the anti-Israeli protestors in Washington.

American flags were taken down and replaced with Palestinian flags at Washington's Union Station. An American flag was set on fire by protestors. Pro-Hamas graffiti was everywhere.

Even the replica of the Liberty Bell outside the train station was defaced with hateful and obscene antisemitic graffiti. We know nothing will happen to the 200 rioters who were arrested in Washington.

On Thursday afternoon Harris - the person who helped bail out rioters in the "mostly peaceful" Summer of Love in 2020 - finally got around to condemning the "despicable acts by unpatriotic protestors."

But there was little outrage from other top Democrat Party people and their friends in the major liberal media.

While our streets and campuses are crawling with leftwing protestors and pro-Palestine vandals, Democrats are still yammering about the "insurrection" of January 6 and worrying about the existential threat Donald Trump supposedly poses to our democracy.

The Democrats constantly warn everyone about Trump being a wannabe dictator. But I'm tired of hearing them say they are trying to save democracy while they continue to step all over it.

I've seen what Democrats did to Biden - and it wasn't very democratic.

He was no doubt threatened by his party's bosses with the 25th Amendment - "Get out, Joe, or we're gonna throw you out. Kamala's moving in."

Biden's victimization by his own tribe was nothing new.

In 2016 Democrat chiefs screwed Bernie Sanders out of the nomination and put the fix in for Hillary. In 2020 they made every other candidate step aside so Biden could win.

Now in 2024 they've essentially tossed a president out of office and replaced him with his VP - with no votes taken by anyone.

So don't tell the Trump-deranged liberal media, but Democrats have been having their own insurrections for years.

They've been taking place behind closed doors, and they were decided by political insiders and Washington elites who are unknown to the public.

They've been scaring everyone that if Trump is reelected, there goes democracy. But guess what folks, in the Democrat Party it's already gone.

Michael Reagan, the son of President Ronald Reagan, is an author, speaker and president of the Reagan Legacy Foundation. Send comments to reagan@caglecartoons.com and follow [@reaganworld](https://twitter.com/reaganworld) on Twitter.

---- Index References ----

News Subject: (Campaigns & Elections (1CA25); Global Politics (1GL73); Government (1GO80); Legislation (1LE97); Political Parties (1PO73); Public Affairs (1PU31); U.S. Legislation (1US12); World Elections (1WO93))

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Doctors voiced concerns to ex-Speaker that Trump's mental health 'was in decline,' new book reveals

'It was clear to me from the start that he was an imposter – and that on some level, he knew it,' Pelosi writes about Trump

Gustaf Kilander

Nancy Pelosi detailed how medical professionals expressed concern to her regarding then-President Donald Trump 's mental health during her time as Speaker of the House, according to her new memoir.

A copy of *The Art of Power: My Story as America's First Woman Speaker of the House*, to be published next week, was obtained by *The Guardian*.

At a 2019 memorial service for psychiatrist Dr David Hamburg, doctors and other mental health professionals shared their deep concern "that there was something seriously wrong" with Trump and that "his mental and psychological health was in decline," Pelosi detailed in the book.

Pelosi said she found Trump's behavior "difficult to understand." The former speaker frequently clashed with Trump during her second stint in the top job in the lower chamber. She was speaker between 2007 and 2011 and between 2019 and 2023, which coincided with the latter half of Trump's presidency and the beginning of President Joe Biden's time in the White House.

Trump is now the Republican presidential nominee yet again, for the third straight election cycle. The 78-year-old former president is the oldest-ever candidate for the office.

His often bizarre behavior has come under increasing scrutiny following his two impeachments, including for the Capitol riot, his 34 felony convictions, the orders for him to pay hundreds of millions in damages in several civil cases, including one in which he was found liable for sexual abuse, his comments that he would spend day one of his next term as a "dictator, and his questioning of Vice President Kamala Harris's racial identity during an interview with the National Association of Black Journalists on Wednesday.

By the time January 6, 2021, the day of the insurrection, came, Pelosi wrote that she "knew Donald Trump's mental imbalance. I had seen it up close.

"His denial and then delays when the Covid pandemic struck, his penchant for repeatedly stomping out of meetings, his foul mouth, his pounding on tables, his temper tantrums, his disrespect for our nation's patriots and his total separation from reality and actual events. His repeated, ridiculous insistence that he was the greatest of all time."

Doctors voiced concerns to ex-Speaker that Trump's mental..., 2024 WLNR 12691214

She notes how staffers, such as Trump's last Chief of Staff Mark Meadows, indulged his odd behavior, and allowed him to listen into meetings on Capitol Hill, leading to the speaker banning phones in her meeting rooms.

"People still ask me how I remained so calm," she writes about the Capitol attack. Pelosi and other Capitol leaders were evacuated to Fort McNair in southern Washington, DC.

"My answer is that I was already deeply aware of how dangerous Donald Trump was," she writes.

"He continues to be dangerous. If his family and staff truly understood his disregard for both the fundamentals of the law and for basic rules, and if they had reckoned with his personal instability over not winning the [2020] election, they should have staged an intervention," she adds. "Whether because of willful blindness, money, prestige or greed, they didn't – and America has paid a steep price."

Pelosi added that "it was clear to me from the start that he was an imposter – and that on some level, he knew it."

After the insurrection, Pelosi and the Democratic Senate leader Chuck Schumer placed a call to then-Vice President Mike Pence about invoking the 25th Amendment to remove Trump.

Pelosi writes elsewhere that she admired Pence for his actions on January 6, when he presided over the certification of the 2020 election results after refusing to leave the Capitol even as the mob of Trump supporters chanted that he should be hanged.

But after being on hold for 20 minutes, Pence never got on the phone with Pelosi and Schumer and didn't return their call, the former speaker wrote.

---- Index References ----

Company: National Association of Black Journalists

News Subject: (Campaigns & Elections (1CA25); Global Politics (1GL73); Government (1GO80); World Elections (1WO93))

Industry: (Healthcare (1HE06); Healthcare Practice Specialties (1HE49); Healthcare Services (1HE13); Psychiatric Services (1PS61); Psychiatry (1PS63))

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Nancy Pelosi details 'Trump's mental imbalance' in new memoir

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Section: News

Nancy Pelosi details 'Trump's mental imbalance' in new memoir

Chris Knight

This month, Simon & Schuster is releasing *The Art of Power* (<https://www.simonandschuster.com/books/The-Art-of-Power/Nancy-Pelosi/9781668048047>): My Story as America's First Woman Speaker of the House, by Nancy Pelosi.

Over the memoir's 352 pages, the Democratic Representative and former House Speaker discusses her five children, the 2022 attack on her husband in their home and, the publisher's website adds: "moving moments with soldiers sent to the front lines, women who inspired her, and human rights activists who fought by her side."

But as a politician with a front-row seat to Donald Trump's rise to presidential power - she was House Minority leader from 2011 to 2019, and House Speaker from 2019 to 2023 - Pelosi could be expected to provide more than a few observations on the former president. And as Britain's *Guardian* newspaper (<https://www.theguardian.com/books/article/2024/aug/01/nancy-pelosi-trump-book>) found out from an advance copy of the book, she does not disappoint.

By 2021, "I knew Donald Trump's mental imbalance," the *Guardian* quotes her as saying. "I had seen it up close. His denial and then delays when the COVID pandemic struck, his penchant for repeatedly stomping out of meetings, his foul mouth, his pounding on tables, his temper tantrums, his disrespect for our nation's patriots, and his total separation from reality and actual events. His repeated, ridiculous insistence that he was the greatest of all time."

Police footage of Canadian assailant striking Pelosi's husband (<https://nationalpost.com/news/police-bodycam-footage-striking-pelosis-husband>)

Trump says Harris opted to 'turn Black' (<https://nationalpost.com/news/world/donald-trump-kamala-harris-black>)

The *Guardian* also quotes Pelosi as saying that in 2019, at a memorial service for a prominent psychiatrist, a succession of "doctors and other mental health professionals" told her they were "deeply concerned that there was something seriously wrong (with Trump) and that his mental and psychological health was in decline."

She makes it clear she did not solicit these statements about Trump's mental health from attendees at the memorial for Dr. David Hamburg, "a distinguished psychiatrist who ... served as the president of the Carnegie Corporation, where he had been a great voice for international peace."

She adds: "I'm not a doctor, but I did find his behaviors difficult to understand."

Nancy Pelosi details 'Trump's mental imbalance' in new memoir

Elsewhere in the book, Pelosi describes how Mark Meadows, Trump's chief of staff, allowed the president to "surreptitiously listen" to private meetings with congressional leaders, which led to her banning cellphones from all her meetings on Capitol Hill.

And in one of the more bizarre excerpts she describes getting a late-night call from Trump in which he said that missile strikes on Syria he had just ordered were Barack Obama's fault. Her response: "It's midnight. I think you should go to sleep."

In another section of the book, the Guardian reports, Pelosi details a call she and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer made to Trump's vice-president after the events of Jan. 6, 2021. They planned to ask Mike Pence "to invoke the 25th amendment to the constitution, which allows for the vice-president and a majority of cabinet members to certify that a president is unable to discharge the duties of the office."

She writes that they were put on hold for 20 minutes, adding that, since she was at home, she emptied the dishwasher and put in a load of laundry while waiting.

"Ultimately, Vice-President Pence never got on the phone with us or returned our call."

---- Index References ----

Company: CARNEGIE CLEAN ENERGY LIMITED

News Subject: (Government (1GO80); Legislation (1LE97); U.S. Legislation (1US12))

Industry: (Healthcare (1HE06); Healthcare Practice Specialties (1HE49); Healthcare Services (1HE13); Psychiatric Services (1PS61); Psychiatry (1PS63))

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EXHIBIT 2

New FOIA request


 OversightProject
To  usdoj-officeoflegalcounsel@usdoj.gov

Retention Policy THF - Email 18 Month Retention (1 year, 6 months)

Expires 3/10/2026

  Reply  Reply All  Forward  

Wed 9/11/2024 2:23 PM

 You forwarded this message on 9/11/2024 2:34 PM.

-  2024-09-11 25th Amendment.pdf 638 KB
-  App a.pdf 1 MB

Attached is a new FOIA request from the Heritage Foundation/The Daily Signal.