

CNN's *Cuomo Prime Time*

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20 minutes and 1 second

CHRIS CUOMO: One of the tough questions we're struggling with is why do so many in this President's party stand by him when he says things he would condemn of anyone else, that they would never say themselves, even as he tries to undermine the legitimacy of our election. Why don't they all say, "Mr. President, denounce the Proud Boys and do it now." Let's ask a man with a reputation for great smarts at one time great truth about Trump. Republican Senator Ted Cruz Texas, out with a new book. *One Vote Away: How a Single Supreme Court Seat Can Change History*. Senator Cruz, welcome. I got a way for you to talk to me instead of tweeting about me. Give you a chance to sell your book. Welcome.

SENATOR TED CRUZ (R-TX): Well, Chris, good evening. Good to be with you.

CUOMO: The book, the central thought. One vote, one seat, one judge can make a big difference. So can one voice speaking truth to power, especially when it resonates like your own. Will you be that voice? Will you say playing nice with the Proud Boys is wrong?

CRUZ: Well, listen, I've condemned the Proud Boys long ago. I think white supremacists, Nazis, Klansmen, Nazis are ignorant, bigoted morons. I also think that — that the American people care about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, they care about the supreme court. It was a big reason the President was elected. It's a big reason we have a Republican majority and I think this vacancy on the court, it's the reason I wrote this book that was released just this week because it focuses on the rights that are precious to so many of us. Free speech, religious liberty —

CUOMO: Right.

CRUZ: — the Second Amendment, and how all of them really hang in the balance of the court, and I think that issue matters enormously, and for me, it's the most compelling issue.

CUOMO: Absolutely. Now, I will exercise my right and say, was the President wrong to go soft on the Proud Boys in the debate last night?

CRUZ: Oh, look, I — I wish he had been much clearer in his denunciation, I was glad today that he — he walked that back and he —

CUOMO: No, he didn't.

CRUZ: — look. I'm — I'm glad that he sought to walk it back. I'm glad his campaign sought to walk it back, but let me be clear also, the press is completely hypocritical on this issue.

CUOMO: Really?

CRUZ: The press is partisan in this regard. So, ten years ago, 2010, Joe Biden gave a eulogy for Robert Byrd who was a —

CUOMO: Yeah.

CRUZ: — grand cyclops of the KKK. That's ten years ago

CUOMO: You're really going to go with that?

CRUZ: Oh, yeah. You better believe it.

CUOMO: I know you're a master debate and professor Derschowitz tells me —

CRUZ: That — that — that

CUOMO: — you were the smartest student he ever had at Harvard Law. You're going to go with this weak ass argument here? Byrd, who had a complete enlightenment about how hate was wrong, who changed his life, who spoke about it, who changed his ways —

CRUZ: Chris, have you ever eulogized a klansman? I haven't.

CUOMO: You're going to — he was a —

CRUZ: Oh, I'll give you another example. How about —

CUOMO: No, no, no. Hold on.

CRUZ: Hold on.

CUOMO: That's your example. You're going to use that —

CRUZ: No, I'll give you another one.

CUOMO: But hold on.

CRUZ: I'll give you a lot of examples.

CUOMO: Well, but hold on. I don't want you to run away from the premise, Senator. I'm not you, but I'm not a fool either. He did it in Charlottesville, he did it with David Duke, the old Ted Cruz who he called Iyin' Ted when he wasn't insulting your wife and your father, tweeted, "hey, you're better you're better than this, Mr. President?" What happened to that Ted? I don't know if he changed or did just you changed [sic], for some reason, Senator?

CRUZ: Chris, you — you know, I'm glad you — you — you take tips on — on insults from — from other folks.

CUOMO: Really?

CRUZ: Look.

CUOMO: Am I insulting you, sir?

CRUZ: Oh, yeah —

CUOMO: How so?

CRUZ: — you are.

CUOMO: How so?

CRUZ: And you're enjoying it. That's fine.

CUOMO: I'm not enjoying —

CRUZ: You know, Chris —

CUOMO: — it at all.

CRUZ: Chris —

CUOMO: I'm not enjoying anything

CRUZ: — Chris, there was a time —

CUOMO: — about this, except for having an opportunity for you to say the right thing at the right time.

CRUZ: Chris, there was a time when CNN cared about being journalistic and talking about facts.

CUOMO: Huh.

CRUZ: Donald Trump broke you guys. I mean, you're just —

CUOMO: Really?

CRUZ: Your entire show, your entire network now is just how much you hate Trump and — and —

CUOMO: Really?

CRUZ: You know what? I think a lot of people, like, are interested in — you know, you said in your opening, it was interesting, if the President didn't say anything positive about the country.

CUOMO: Mmmhmm.

CRUZ: I thought the most important moment in the debate last night was when the President made very clear that — that Joe Biden's policy agenda is shutting down the country, shutting down small businesses and shutting down schools and our priority needs to be opening up the economy, getting jobs back, getting kids back in school. And that's a different policy agenda. We've had an enormous economic impact from this pandemic. We need to restart the economy and I think the President and Joe Biden have very different visions. Joe Biden's policies, I think, don't work and hurt a whole lot of people, and when I'm back in Texas, people in Texas don't understand why the press is just the only thing you talk about is how much you hate the President.

CUOMO: Ted —

CRUZ: I get that the President's —

CUOMO: Ted — Senator —

CRUZ: — not your friend, fine.

CUOMO: — when you were in the campaign — do you want me to read through some of the things you said about Donald Trump? You want me to talk about somebody who had a chance to talk about policy, but just stuck with the person? Nobody did it more than you did. That's why he gave you the nickname he did and beat you down with it. The idea that you're going to put

that on the media. My brother, you are the guy who went on Twitter talking about my naked ass, but you won't tell him when he's being an ass. So, why would you put it on me?

CRUZ: Chris, I — fine, you hate the President. I get it.

CUOMO: I do not hate the President.

CRUZ: You know what? We —

CUOMO: You are —

CRUZ: — started —

CUOMO: — too smart to —

CRUZ: — this year —

CUOMO: — say something that stupid.

CRUZ: Chris —

CUOMO: I respect him as President,

CRUZ: — we — we —

CUOMO: I want better for this country and frankly, I want you to speak to that as well.

CRUZ: Alright, Chris. We —

CUOMO: You can't say we —

CRUZ: — started this year —

CUOMO: — have a policy difference over —

CRUZ: — Chris —

CUOMO: — closing down our country.

CRUZ: — please don't interrupt every sentence.

CUOMO: The President had to do it.

CRUZ: You know, I get that you want to interrupt every sentence, but — but you're behaving like you were one of the debaters last night. We can have a respectful conversation and speak to each other civilly or —

CUOMO: Senator —

CRUZ: — just yell at me.

CUOMO: — how many times —

CRUZ: Yeah.

CUOMO: — have I invited you on the show?

CRUZ: Um well, I remember one time you — you tweeted out Cruz is dodging my —

CUOMO: 20 times.

CRUZ: — literally while I was on Fox.

CUOMO: Was that —

CRUZ: I was on *Fox and Friends*.

CUOMO: Yeah?

CRUZ: You had invited me.

CUOMO: Right.

CRUZ: You attacked me. And by the way, I did a 15 minute interview with CNN that day —

CUOMO: I didn't attack you.

CRUZ: — that CNN didn't air.

CUOMO: I asked you to come on the show and you said —

CRUZ: Chris —

CRUZ: — I just did one with CNN.

CRUZ: — Chris —

CUOMO: Every show —

CRUZ: — Chris, you — you literally —

CUOMO: — is different.

CRUZ: You literally put me on the screen and said, Ted is afraid to come on. You invited me while I was on Fox. I mean, it was — I mean, look.

CUOMO: 20 times I've invited you.

CRUZ: Let's actually talk about substance. I think your —

CUOMO: 20 times.

CRUZ: — Chris —

CUOMO: You're here right now because I want to give you a —

CRUZ: — I'm here right now.

CUOMO: — chance to speak.

CRUZ: Chris, I'm here right now, so let's actually talk about substance.

CUOMO: Good, why do I care?

CRUZ: And let's —

CUOMO: Last night, you said —

CRUZ: — talk about —

CUOMO: — the most important thing was when he talked about the timing of who shut down the economy and when, which was always his —

CRUZ: — no, not the timing.

CUOMO: — which was his choice.

CRUZ: What the solution is right now, 51 million Americans have lost their jobs.

CUOMO: Right.

CRUZ: They want to go back to work.

CUOMO: Right.

CRUZ: Small businesses want to open up.

CUOMO: Yes.

CRUZ: Restaurants want to open up.

CUOMO: They should.

CRUZ: Movie theaters want to open up.

CUOMO: They should.

CRUZ: People want to provide for their families.

CUOMO: They should.

CRUZ: Moms want their kids to go back to school and —

CUOMO: Dads too.

CRUZ: — Joe Biden —

CUOMO: Dads too —

CRUZ: — and the Democrats —

CUOMO: — you know, dads care about their —

CRUZ: — are responsible for the —

CUOMO: — kids in school —

CRUZ: — shutdowns.

CUOMO: — not just moms. Dads care too. And you know why —

CRUZ: Absolutely.

CUOMO: — it can't happen? And you know why it was wrong for him to tell your governor he was doing the right thing when he wasn't. And he had to learn the hard way? Same in Georgia, same in Florida. Testing, Ted. Testing. Testing, Ted.

CRUZ: I am a huge proponent of — of —

CUOMO: But the federal government —

CRUZ: — testing.

CUOMO: — has not —

CRUZ: But let's —

CUOMO: And the —

CRUZ: — be very clear —

CUOMO: — President has slow walked —

CRUZ: — I — I —

CUOMO: — it, sir.

CRUZ: — yet —

CUOMO: Go ahead.

CRUZ: I get that your show wants to attack Texas, and Florida, and Georgia, because they have Republican governors. We have also had much, much lower death rates than many other parts of the country. And — and — and — and it's — it's political, the attacks you're making. I think what we should be focused on, yes, testing, I'm a big proponent of testing. We need to do more testing.

CUOMO: Right. Why don't we?

CRUZ: But we need people to go back to work.

CUOMO: Why don't we —

CRUZ: And —

CUOMO: — do the testing so people can go back to work? Why don't we do the testing so kids can go to school?

CRUZ: Well, I'll tell you. I've introduced actual legislation in the Senate —

CUOMO: Oh, have you?

CRUZ: — in — in the Senate to create a tax credit for employers to test their employees —

CUOMO: Oh, what happened to that?

CRUZ: — on a weekly basis.

CUOMO: Why haven't you guys voted on it?

CRUZ: Well, the Democrats are blocking voting on everything. They've filibustered legislation multiple times. I don't think either Pelosi or Schumer actually want anything to pass because they —

CUOMO: Have they read *Green Eggs* —

CRUZ: — decided —

CUOMO: — *and Ham*? By the way, have they tried that one or no? They're just saving that for you? Right?

CRUZ: Chris, do — do — do you actually want to talk substance or —

CUOMO: We are talking —

CRUZ: — just insults?

CUOMO: — substance. I just like to call out the hypocrisy when it's there, because the audience heads stay on straight that way.

CRUZ: All — alright —

CUOMO: Cause they're not — this is the *Green Eggs and Ham* guy. Is he talking about filibustering? You know, that's what this show is. But I have to tell you, to cheapen it by saying I want to take political shots about COVID, you know I had it, you know my wife had it, you know my kid had it. You know I network with people all over this country who are still suffering with it. You know I hate that kids aren't in school or your staff should have told you I talk about it every night. It couldn't be less political for me. I don't want people to get sick.

CRUZ: Ex — except, Chris —

CUOMO: And if they tested more —

CRUZ: — to attack Republican governors —

CUOMO: — Ted, they'd be better.

CRUZ: — and let me say something. There is something disgusting that Democrats are doing, that Joe Biden does, and you do —

CUOMO: Really?

CRUZ: — which is you try to blame the — the people who have lost their lives —

CUOMO: Mmm.

CRUZ: — on your political enemies and that's just not —

CUOMO: No.

CRUZ: — right. It's —

CUOMO: No.

CRUZ: — not right at all.

CUOMO: I'm saying that —

CRUZ: And it's particularly —

CUOMO: — when you —



CRUZ: — not right —

CUOMO: — when you hear —

CRUZ: — when —

CUOMO: — 200,000 people die, you don't say it is what it is. I'm saying —

CRUZ: — but you know what?

CUOMO: — that when you could —

CRUZ: It's particularly —

CUOMO: — have slowed it down —

CRUZ: — not right, Chris —

CUOMO: — you didn't, you own it.

CRUZ: — when your brother has presided over the state with the highest death rate in the country. And —

CUOMO: New York's record —

CRUZ: — I'm not —

CUOMO: — will stand —

CRUZ: And I'm not —

CUOMO: — for itself.

CRUZ: — I know your brother didn't want those people —

CUOMO: Oh yeah?

CRUZ: — to lose their lives but you shouldn't play politics —

CUOMO: Oh, that's good.

CRUZ: — with these stats.

CUOMO: Oh, you don't think he intentionally killed them? That's good.

CRUZ: No, of course not.

CUOMO: That's mature of you, Ted.

CRUZ: Of course not, but I do think —

CUOMO: That must be the Christian —

CRUZ: — that we can have a —

CUOMO: — in you.

CRUZ: — a very reasonable policy discussion about the policy mistakes in New York and New Jersey of sending COVID positive patients into nursing homes. I think that was a very —

CUOMO: That didn't happen —

CRUZ: — serious policy —

CUOMO: — all over the country —

CRUZ: — mistake.

CUOMO: — right? That wasn't the most —

CRUZ: No, it didn't happen in Texas.

CUOMO: — vulnerable population?

CRUZ: One of the reasons why you're —

CUOMO: Uh-huh.

CRUZ: — the death rate in New York is four times the death rate in Texas.

CUOMO: Texas, the place where the governor says —

CRUZ: Chris —

CUOMO: — that you didn't need to test and you didn't need masks, right? And the President

CRUZ: — okay. That — that's just —

CUOMO: — gave him a pat on the head?

CRUZ: That's a complete fabrication.

CUOMO: Yeah?

CRUZ: And we test a lot. I've been tested —

CUOMO: This is the same governor —

CRUZ: — many times.

CUOMO: — who said we didn't need to shut down, go out. And then he had to turn around and do it differently cause cases popped all over the place? That guy? Is that what you're talking about?

CRUZ: Chris, was it a mistake —

CUOMO: Or is that too political?

CRUZ: — was it a mistake when your brother implemented a policy that nursing homes had to except COVID positive patients and endanger the lives of tens —

CUOMO: My brother was the first —

CRUZ: — of thousands of seniors —

CUOMO: — one to say —

CRUZ: — in New York State?

CUOMO: — that there was a learning curve and that mistakes were made and they changed things as soon as they could.

CRUZ: But —

CUOMO: Now —

CRUZ: — don't be a hypocrite —

CUOMO: I could write —

CRUZ: — about it.

CUOMO: — that off as —

CRUZ: Then — then —

CUOMO: — a political attack —

CRUZ: — then don't claim —

CUOMO: — right?

CRUZ: — and I'm —

CUOMO: I could ask you — I could ask you —

CRUZ: Look —

CUOMO: — questions about only things that have to do with your family, but I'm not going to do that cause the general —

CRUZ: — Chris — Chris —

CUOMO: — propositions matter more.

CRUZ: — I'm actually talking about public policy —

CUOMO: Mmmhm?

CRUZ: — that was a serious mistake.

CUOMO: And —

CRUZ: But I also —

CUOMO: — testing —

CRUZ: — recognize —

CUOMO: — is not public —

CRUZ: — this was a pandemic —

CUOMO: — policy. Testing is not public policy.

CRUZ: Chris, I'm not interrupting you. Let me actually get a sentence without interrupting me.

CUOMO: I think you've gotten many, sir. I'll show you the tabulation of who spoke and how much in the segment later. Go ahead.

CRUZ: Chris —

CUOMO: Yes sir?

CRUZ: — this pandemic has been an enormous challenge across the country. I think Democrats and Republicans are trying in good faith to keep people safe, but I think we can also have reasonable policy discussions about what works, A, o keep people safe, but, B, to get people back to work and I think people want to go back to work. You know, this week, Disney announced 28,000 layoffs. Now, Disney is not a —

CUOMO: You see American Airlines?

CRUZ: — right-wing company. They're a —

CUOMO: American Airlines is going to —

CRUZ: — very liberal company, but what's interesting about —

CUOMO: — do tens of thousands.

CRUZ: — Disney — what is interesting about Disney is they're doing the layoffs in California, because California shut down the theme park. They're not doing the layoffs in Florida because Florida opened Disney World. I mean, it's a clear contrast where Democratic politicians in California —

CUOMO: So you're saying that —

CRUZ: — have shut it down and —

CUOMO: — so they're laying off —

CRUZ: — they've cost people —

CUOMO: — the people —

CRUZ: — people their jobs.

CUOMO: — where they're out of business and not the places that they're in business, and you're saying that's political?

CRUZ: No, I'm saying the policies —

CUOMO: Oh, what are you saying?

CRUZ: — of Democrats to shut the economy down are bad policies that hurt people's lives.

CUOMO: What do you do when —

CRUZ: And the layoffs —

CUOMO: — people are getting sick, Ted?

CRUZ: — are a direct result —

CUOMO: What do you do when people are getting sick, Senator? And you can't —

CRUZ: Well, you —

CUOMO: — test them?

CRUZ: — you don't send them to —

CUOMO: And they don't wear masks —

CRUZ: — nursing homes.

CUOMO: — and you tell them not to?

CRUZ: You don't send them to nursing homes.

CUOMO: Oh. So, and the nursing homes was the sum total of the entire problem in the country? That's what it was?

CRUZ: It led to —

CUOMO: Seven million cases?

CRUZ: — 33,000 deaths compared to Texas having 15,000 deaths and Texas has 50 percent more population than New York does.

CUOMO: And what about all the cases that they had?

CRUZ: So — so you —

CUOMO: And how many people got sick —

CRUZ: — should be —

CUOMO: — by the refusal to shut down businesses?

CRUZ: — you know what? Our —

CUOMO: You say you want to open them—

CRUZ: — objective —

CUOMO: — up, but you won't discuss —

CRUZ: — should be —

CUOMO: — how.

CRUZ: — to preserve — our —

CUOMO: You say you

CRUZ: — objective —

CUOMO: — introduced a bill, but you won't talk about the President and his failure, the testing has to be done at the federal level, Ted. You know this.

CRUZ: Well, I —

CUOMO: You understand a little bit about state economics, you know the governor can't do it himself, right?

CRUZ: Well, actually governors have taken the lead and have had much greater success. Texas record — on every level — is —

CUOMO: They had to.

CRUZ: — much better than New York and New Jersey and Massachusetts —

CUOMO: That's not true.

CRUZ: — and Pennsylvania.

CUOMO: Look at New York's numbers. Look at the rate every day in testing.

CRUZ: 33,000 deaths versus —

CUOMO: My brother puts it out —

CRUZ: — 15,000 deaths.

CUOMO: — every day. They were the hub of where people were coming. You guys want to celebrate —

CRUZ: And —

CUOMO: — China, you let in 40,000 people, it had already moved to Europe.

CRUZ: — so — so — Chris —

CUOMO: You let in 10s of thousands of people —

CRUZ: — does it trouble you —

CUOMO: — it went to the hubs.

CRUZ: — does it trouble you —

CUOMO: That's why we got so sick here.

CRUZ: — at all that New York and New Jersey had the highest death rates in the country?

CUOMO: Of course.

CRUZ: Does that make you pause —

CUOMO: It all troubles —

CRUZ: — and say, gosh —

CUOMO: — me, Ted.

CRUZ: — were — but — but —

CUOMO: And to watch guys like you standby and —

CRUZ: — but, Chris, does —

CUOMO: — stroke your beard —

CRUZ: — it make you think —

CUOMO: — like a wiseman instead of telling —

CRUZ: — Chris —

CUOMO: — the President to get on it, when you have power —

CRUZ: — Chris —

CUOMO: — is a problem —

CRUZ: — how about telling your brother to get on it? And how about —

CUOMO: My brother will stand on his own —

CRUZ: — thinking about —

CUOMO: — record.

CRUZ: — public policy.

CUOMO: Why don't you talk to the President the way you talk to my brother, Ted? You afraid of him? You think he'll smack you down at home?

CRUZ: Oh, yeah.

CUOMO: Is that what it is —

CRUZ: I'm terrified —

CUOMO: — like he shut you up in the primary?

CRUZ: — of the Cuomo's. You guys are really tough.

CUOMO: I'm not the Cuomo's. I'm talking about the President. My brother's not the President. I'm talking about the President. The one who called you a liar, the one who said —

CRUZ: And let me —

CUOMO: — your wife was ugly, that guy. You know, the guy now —

CRUZ: — look, I — I —

CUOMO: — who you won't say anything about.

CRUZ: — I — I recognize that you like — you actually wonder why you don't have a lot of Republicans that want to come on your show —

CUOMO: I have more than any —

CRUZ: — cause you come here and scream at me —

CUOMO: — other show.

CRUZ: — you yell at me and insult —

CUOMO: I'm not —

CRUZ: — insult me.

CUOMO: I'm not yelling at you —

CRUZ: — and that's fine.

CUOMO: I'm raising my voice to match your own, because you want to play games, Ted —

CRUZ: And you were yelling at me and insulting me —

CUOMO: — and people are dying.

CRUZ: — that — that — that's okay, Chris. I — you're perfectly fine to scream and yell because, you know what?

CUOMO: Oh, but you don't?

CRUZ: You're doing it because you don't want to discuss the substance, like —

CUOMO: I had you on —

CRUZ: — you invited me to be on the show —

CUOMO: — to discuss these things.

CRUZ: — to actually talk about the Supreme Court and talk about the book, *One Vote Away*. And instead, you just want to repeat insults over and over and over again.

CUOMO: Oh, but you're not?

CRUZ: Let's actually talk about the Supreme —

CUOMO: You just bring up —

CRUZ: — Court.

CUOMO: — my brother for half the interview because you're a fair guy?

CRUZ: Well, you —

CUOMO: You play it so straight down —

CRUZ: — you —

CUOMO: — the middle.

CRUZ: — you were just —

CUOMO: — right?

CRUZ: — you were just playing in a biased way attacking —

CUOMO: Because the President —

CRUZ: — Texas, Florida —

CUOMO: Cause the President's not atop —



CRUZ: — and Georgia —

CUOMO: — the food chain?

CRUZ: — coincidentally happen to be Republican states —

CUOMO: Huh.

CRUZ: — the death rates — they are markedly worse and we should ask, when the death rates are markedly worse in some states than others, we should ask a reasonable question.

CUOMO: Yeah, why didn't the President —

CRUZ: Were there public policy mistakes —

CUOMO: — help sooner?

CRUZ: — where the decisions —

CUOMO: That's the question.

CRUZ: — that led to that?

CUOMO: Why didn't the President help sooner?

CRUZ: And — and by the way —

CUOMO: Why didn't he help —

CRUZ: — let me ask —

CUOMO: — the places that got hit hardest first —

CRUZ: — you want to talk about the President specifically, Chris?

CUOMO: — when they were all Democratic?

CRUZ: You want to talk about the President specifically? Was it the right decision or the wrong decision when the President halted air travel in and out of China?

CUOMO: Right Trum — right decision. Should have done it sooner.

CRUZ: It was the right decision. Even —

CUOMO: Should not have let 40,000 people repatriate. Next question.

CRUZ: Okay, Okay, so I agree with you on that, I called for him to —

CUOMO: Next question.

CRUZ: — do it the day before he did it, but Joe Biden denounced it as racist —

CUOMO: No, he didn't.

CRUZ: — and xenophobic.

CUOMO: No, he didn't.

CRUZ: Yes, he did.

CUOMO: No, he didn't.

CRUZ: And Nancy Pelosi, that week —

CUOMO: I'll bet you dinner —

CRUZ: — brought up a — a vote in the House —

CUOMO: — I'll bet you dinner Biden didn't denounce it.

CRUZ: — for Democrats to — to stop the ban.

CUOMO: I'll bet you dinner that Biden didn't say that. You were right about Pelosi —

CRUZ: He most certainly did.

CUOMO: — and it was a bad move. You're wrong.

CRUZ: He most certainly did it.

CUOMO: You're right about Pelosi —

CRUZ: And by the way —

CUOMO: — and it was a bad move.

CRUZ: — and — and by — by the way, Chris, you know, your colleagues at CNN, this is sort of the talking point, I — with — with Jake Tapper actually read the Biden tweet to him, I don't have it in front of me now, but — but he denounced it as racist and xenophobic. *The New York Times*, who you had Tom Friedman on, had multiple articles saying it was a mistake. It was terrible to halt air travel into and out of China.

CUOMO: You heard what I just said, right?

CRUZ: I could tell you I chaired a hearing in the Senate —

CUOMO: You know what I just said?

CRUZ: — where the expert said — so you — I agree with you now.

CUOMO: Ah, oh, good.

CRUZ: But you know what?

CUOMO: Now? I've only said this.

CRUZ: The Democratic Party didn't say it then. The Democratic —

CUOMO: I'm not part of the Democratic Party.

CRUZ: — Party denounced it then.

CUOMO: Let me ask you one other thing while I have you and I think it's almost as important as what you say about when we're shutting down and when we didn't cause that's in the past. What the President said about the election, senator, seriously, now, I'm happy to joust, but not when it's existential, okay. That's why I come at you with the pandemic because, for me, I don't play politics with it. I'm a little insulted by that, but I'll make it.

CRUZ: You don't play politics?

CUOMO: I'm —

CRUZ: You only —

CUOMO: — I'm make —

CRUZ: — attack Republicans over it. But you're not playing politics.

CUOMO: I have Republicans on all the time —

CRUZ: It just happens to be red states.

CUOMO: — who are willing —

CRUZ: No, no, no. But the only states —

CUOMO: — to come back all the time.

CRUZ: — you attack — you attack Texas, Florida and Georgia.

CUOMO: No. I point out —

CRUZ: Is there anything similar about those states?

CUOMO: — please, senator. You sound silly. I talk about people and how they're struck in those states all the time. I care about them, and I want them to be better. I don't want them to sick and go through what I did —

CRUZ: You want them to be Democrats.

CUOMO: — so that's why —

CRUZ: You want them to be Democrats.

CUOMO: I do it with Democrats too.

CRUZ: No, no. Look —

CUOMO: I do it with them too. Anybody —

CRUZ: — look — you —

CUOMO: — who's not doing the right thing. I talk about the kids in class as a national problem. But let me ask you this it, the President has been hinting very strongly that if the election doesn't go his way, it will have to have been fraudulent and you just heard Tom Friedman and his concerns. If your state and the other states certified their results as they always do, and say no, this is it. Our count's legit. We'll check as the law allows, but it's legit. And the President says, no, not good enough for me, I don't want a transfer of power. What would you do?

CRUZ: So that's not going to happen. There's going to be a peaceful transfer of power, but let me say something, I wish the two political sides actually had conversations where we listened to each other. I have to admit it was surreal listening to you and Tom Friedman talking about what — what you think Trump is going to do on the election because from my perspective, I think it's

projection, I think the one that's going to challenge the election in all likelihood is Joe Biden. Hillary Clinton told —

CUOMO: Biden said last night he would accept the results.

CRUZ: — but Hillary Clinton told Biden in no way should you concede defeat and — and —

CUOMO: Who cares what she said?

CRUZ: — not only that, it's interesting Tom Friedman talked about *Bush v. Gore*. So, I was one of the lawyers who represented George W. Bush —

CUOMO: I remember.

CRUZ: — in *Bush v. Gore*. There's a chapter in my book *One Vote Away* that talks about *Bush v. Gore* and — and elections. And, by the way, it was Al Gore who challenged the outcome of that election.

CUOMO: Yep.

CRUZ: It was Al Gore who filed litigation.

CUOMO: Yep.

CRUZ: And it took 36 days of chaos, it went to the supreme court twice. And ultimately, it was resolved.

CUOMO: Yes.

CRUZ: Bush — the ballots were counted four times. Bush won all four times and, at the end of the process, there was a resolution.

CUOMO: Yes.

CRUZ: It's one of the many reasons why nine justices on the Supreme Court matters. We need a resolution — and what my book does — I'd like to say a second about it if I could.

CUOMO: I haven't stopped you. Keep talking, brother.

CRUZ: Okay. Before — before I was in the Senate, I was a Supreme Court litigator. That was my profession — was arguing cases at the Supreme Court. Each chapter in the book talks about a different constitutional right, whether free speech, religious liberty, the Second Amendment and what I would say — look. I recognize a lot of your listeners are of a different political affiliation than I am and that's —

CUOMO: But I invited you on —

CRUZ: Okay. We're a big —

CUOMO: — so please finish your point.

CRUZ: — we're a big country, so my point is if folks at home want to understand why so many millions of people are deeply concerned about protecting free speech and religious liberty and how those rights, the Second Amendment, how they hang in the balance —

CUOMO: Mmmhmm.

CRUZ: — the book tells the inside story of what's happening with the justices, what's happening with the courts, what's happening with the landmark cases on those rights. Many of which I helped litigate. And I do think on *Bush v. Gore*, for example, we could easily find ourselves in November and December and January in the midst of nationwide litigation. It could be brought by Joe Biden or it could Republicans. Either side could bring litigation and I would encourage folks, if you want to understand the issues more, even if you don't necessarily agree with me, I think the book is a helpful tool to understanding these issues and what's really going on —

CUOMO: Good.

CRUZ: — at the court.

CUOMO: And I hope you —

CRUZ: And I'll tell you the —

CUOMO: — stand by what you said about the peaceful transfer of power. I hope if you can —

CRUZ: — and you know what?

CUOMO: — see an obvious political play. I hope you speak up, Senator, cause that's why you're in office.

CRUZ: So — and I hope Joe Biden does too, if Joe Biden loses, I — I hope that you'll stand —

CUOMO: He'll stand by —

CRUZ: — by it as well

CUOMO: — his result. If he doesn't he's a liar, and he should be called out as the such unless they can bring up a material issue on either side, then obviously, you got to have the system put to work. But that's not what we're talking about, at least not yet. Senator Ted Cruz, appreciate you finally taking the invitation. Good luck with the book, the book is *One Vote Away*.