

White House press briefing [via Newsmax]

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1:48:06 p.m.

18 minutes and 14 seconds

VICE PRESIDENT JD VANCE: I will now take questions from all of you. Let me start here with Nick, who I believe is in the new media chair. Nick, what have you got for me?

NICK GILBERTSON: Thanks, Mr. Vice President. Today is the first White House press briefing since the departure of the great Karoline Leavitt. A key part of her legacy-defining — part was bringing more voices, not less, into this room, and that's something our founder, Andrew Breitbart, certainly believed in. From the first briefing, she, you know, added this seat, the new media seat that I'm in today. What does the President, what do you, and what does the White House plan to do to continue that legacy and to empower new media?

VANCE: Sure. So, before I answer that question, let me just say a word about Karoline Leavitt, who is an amazing person and an amazing mom, was an amazing colleague here at the White House and was not just a person who stood up here and answered your questions, and I think did so admirably, but was also just an amazing part of the very cohesive team that we had working here in the West Wing. Just an amazing person. She texted me this morning and wished me good luck because obviously going up against all of you is — is very, very dangerous business. But she — she's — she's going to do great in whatever she does next. And we're very grateful to her. So, Karoline, if you're watching, which hopefully you're not, but if you're watching, thank you for your service. Thank you for your friendship and thanks for doing a great job. And yes, one of her legacies, one of her many legacies, I would say, is that she opened up this room to non-legacy media. And why does that matter? I mean, if you look at one of the biggest transformations that have existed in this country over the last 20 or 30 years, it's the rise of digital technology. Now, that means a lot of different things for a lot of different people. But for this industry, what it's meant is that a lot of people have been able to get access to information, have been — been able to get access to telling stories to the American people, not because they have a credential or not because they have a connection, but because they have something interesting to say, and I would certainly put you in that category, Nick, and obviously our friends at Breitbart. But for too long, this room and I think this city have tried to lock out non-legacy media. They've seen it as a threat to themselves, and we actually think that it's an amazing way to democratize access to information. You should not have to have a fancy credential or a lot of money to tell a story to the American people, and if you think of, like, the heart of the First Amendment is that all of us are allowed to speak, but if only some people are actually given a microphone, if only some media outlets are actually given access, then it strikes not just the heart of your ability to tell a story. It actually makes it harder for people to get

access to their First Amendment rights, and, you know, with all due respect to all the people in this room, there are a lot of Americans who felt like they were not properly represented by the information that was on the airwaves, the traditional media, so we're going to stay committed to that legacy. We're going to build on that legacy, and I think that you and a lot of other new media types should certainly expect to have a lot of access in the in the months and years to come, just as the traditional media does, and I do think, you know, not to not to brag on my boss too much, but I do think the President has set us about to be the most transparent administration in history, and we have done that with flying colors. If you just look back to the last administration, I mean, even the Democrats in the room, and I know you guys, if you're being honest, most of you are Democrats, you would have to admit that the level of access, the level of access to the president of the United States, the Vice President, the senior team here, it's just completely off the charts. Now, why does the President do that? He doesn't do it just because, you know, he wants to or it's fun, though. I think he definitely has a little bit of fun with it. He does it because he believes that part of governing a constitutional republic is to make yourselves accessible to the American people. So, we do that, and we're going to do that with non-traditional media. We'll continue to do it with traditional media, and that will certainly be a big part of our approach as we continue to govern the country, and, I think, govern it well. Great. [TO DOOCY] Peter.

PETER DOOCY: Are we talking to you as the Vice President or the press secretary?

VANCE: So, I'm not Marco. I have not yet accepted any additional jobs, though I guess the fraud task force is my — is my — co-chair is my second additional job. It's funny, before I came out here, I was talking with the President in the Oval Office, and he said, if — he said, be careful; I want you to do well. But if you do too well, I might make you the press secretary. So, I've got to screw up a little bit because I'm busy enough as it is. But I'm very much up here as the Vice President of the United States.

DOOCY: I do have a political one. And then something a little bit more upbeat.

VANCE: Okay.

DOOCY: First —

VANCE: Politics can be upbeat.

DOOCY: — it — well —

VANCE: It can be upbeat. Peter.

DOOCY: — it's almost — it's almost Labor Day. Labor Day is traditionally the real kickoff for campaign season. Midterm voters are looking for somebody to blame for high prices on things like gas, energy. Why shouldn't they blame Republicans?

VANCE: Well, I'd say a few things. First of all, if you look at how endemic inflation became during the Biden administration, and this is not to cast blame because I don't really care who's to blame for it. I care about how to fix it, and that's what we've been working to do. So, inflation under the last administration hit a record high of about 9.5 percent, and, it's funny, during the 2024 campaign, the President and I would say this is the highest inflation in American history. And people would come back and say, no, no, no, it's not the highest inflation in American history. It's just the highest inflation in the last 60 or the last 48 years. It's like, well, that's still very, very bad. So, what happened with that is that when prices get baked in like that, it takes a little bit of time for us to undo some of the damage. Now, you know, we have done a lot of things in order to build upon the great success of the first Trump administration and deliver wins for working people: no taxes on Social Security, no taxes on tips, no taxes on overtime. We've seen \$19 trillion of new investment come into the country, but most of that is building new factories and new facilities. Those factories are being built. So, if you're a construction worker, that's great, and, obviously, we love our construction workers. However, it takes time to build those factories and employ the rest of the workers. And then, of course, to make the stuff that's going to be made at those factories. So, I guess my point is that because America's inflation problem wasn't created in a day, it was created by very bad policies that the Biden administration, trillions of dollars of new spending that was going more to fraudsters than it was to the American people. It takes a little bit of time to rebuild the foundation of America's middle-class economy. I think we've made incredible strides. But our argument to the American people is, look, it's very simple. You don't even have to listen to what we say. Listen to what the Democrats have said. If you think that inflation is a problem, if you think affordability is a problem, number one, we're doing everything we can to bring down prices. But what do the Democrats say? They say that they want to undo taxes. They want to increase taxes on Social Security and tips. If you're worried about affordability, how was the Democrats' tax increase going to make your life more affordable? One of the things I'm most proud of that the President has done is Trump Rx. If you look, we have almost 800 medications now that are part of Trump Rx, the most significant reduction in prescription drug costs that we've seen in 60 years. And again, that's going to accelerate as this program actually gets implemented. The Democrats did nothing. So, while they're out there bragging that they're going to reverse the very policies that are making some of these prescription drugs more affordable, we're saying we're going to double down on the policies that are going to make prescription drugs more affordable. So, I think if you just listen to what the Democrats are saying, what they're telling you is that every inflation problem that you're worried about today, they're going to make worse, and they're going to undo our very good efforts to try to bring down the inflation and to make that reduction in inflation sustainable.

DOOCY: And I did just want to ask you, there have been reports about this, but I have not heard you talk much about it. You have lost a ton of weight lately. How much sauerkraut do you eat every day?

VANCE: Oh, my Lord. Okay, so when you're the Vice President of the United States, and one of the first questions at a press conference in the White House is how much weight you've lost, you must have gotten very fat. That's one thing that I take from that question. So, I'll tell you a little story, Peter. So, every Lent, I try to, like, you know, I'm a devout Christian. I try to take it very seriously. So, I try to do some kind of self-denial. And so, I was talking to my wife on Fat Tuesday, Mardi Gras, and I was like, I think I'm going to give up sugar, and I think I'm going to give up social media, okay? So, if I wanted to tweet something, I'd tell these guys to tweet something for me and I'd, you know, otherwise try to stay off social media. So, I call Bobby Kennedy and I'm like, I know you're really into health. I'm thinking about giving up sugar. What do you think? And Bobby Kennedy says, no, no, no, no, I've got something that's way better than that and way more intense. And basically, it's like, yeah, I eat a lot of high-protein stuff, and I eat a lot of sauerkraut. And let's just say that if that was Fat Tuesday, Fat Wednesday never came. So, my advice to you is that if you want to lose weight, call Bobby Kennedy. And if you want to enjoy what you eat, do not call Bobby Kennedy. [TO GUTIERREZ] Yeah. What's up man?

GABE GUTIERREZ: Thank you, Mr. Vice President. On July 2, Treasury Secretary Bessent was asked when Americans could see \$3 gas again, and he said maybe by Labor Day. Things haven't worked out that way. But do you have a new timetable for Americans on when they could expect lower gas prices, and should they not expect to see \$3 gas again until at least 2027?

VANCE: Well, in defense of Scott, he said, maybe by Labor Day, because we're talking about things that are inherently unpredictable. And I think it's important. You know, I'm a strong believer that the American people are our fellow citizens, and we should speak with them honestly about these things, and the fundamental reality is that the reason gas prices are so high right now is because the Iranians are shooting at commercial shipping. Even, by the way, when they signed an agreement that said, we're going to stop shooting at commercial shipping, they almost immediately went back to shooting at commercial shipping, and I actually think that this drives home a couple of points. Number one, it's why things like the Venezuela oil deal are so important is because we've learned that we can't be over-reliant on anybody for the world's supply of energy and gas. It's one of the reasons why the President has pursued an energy dominance agenda, because, yes, gas prices are higher in the United States. They're way worse everywhere else in the world because of what the President did, particularly during the first administration, to make us more energy dominant. I also think it drives home, frankly, the ridiculous atrophy that we saw in our European allies and their inability to actually do anything to help keep world energy markets supplied. So, when the Iranians shoot at commercial

shipping, obviously, that means some ships don't want to go through. A lot of ships have gone through. We've got about 15 million barrels out of the Strait of Hormuz just yesterday, despite the fact that the Iranians continue to ship or continue to shoot, I should say, what does anybody in the world done? Why is it incumbent upon the United States of America to be the only country in the world that can actually ensure world energy markets continue to stay supplied? And the answer is because we're the only country that has the capability of doing it. And so, what the President has said is we really have two options here. We could leave, and the entire world would be way worse off, because there would be no guaranteed access to oil and gas. By the way, the Gulf Arab countries are telling us that would be the worst thing in the world, or we can accept the Iranians are going to shoot at ships like crazy people, and we're going to do what we have to do in order to ensure that their efforts don't lead to a worldwide energy crisis. Now, we've been quite successful up to this point. Gas, frankly, could have been much, much higher were it not for our efforts. But I'm not going to make a promise about when it's going to return to \$3. What I will say is that we have to remember why are we doing this? Number one, it's so that Iran never has a nuclear weapon. And number two, what we're doing right now is protecting commercial shipping in order to ensure that we don't have a worldwide energy crisis. The only reason, the only reason we do not have a worldwide energy crisis is because of the leadership of the President and also because of the fine work of our military, from Pete Hegseth on down, but the Iranians are doing what the Iranians do. I think that they're losing their capabilities by the day. I think they're realizing, by the way, that their control over the Strait of Hormuz is effectively gone, and it's a diminishing asset. So, if you go back three months ago, how much oil and gas was coming out of the strait under Iranian threats, it was virtually nothing. Now, it's almost back to where it was before the conflict even started. So my advice to the Iranians is stop acting like crazy people and stop shooting at commercial shipping. And in the meantime, we've got to do what we've got to do, despite what a foreign country is going to do in the Strait of Hormuz.

GUTIERREZ: And the Iranians say that an attack on a wedding celebration earlier this week killed several people, injured dozens of others. I know CENTCOM says it's investigating, but have you been briefed on that attack? And what's the U.S. response to that?

VANCE: So, I've been briefed to the extent that I know that we're investigating. I've seen the same public media reports everywhere else. I will say that the Iranian state media has not been a very good scribe about what's happened in the conflict thus far. So I'm extremely skeptical of this. What I can say with 100 percent confidence is that unlike the IRGC, the United States never targets civilians in combat. We never will do that. We never have done that. And unfortunately, obviously, sometimes things happen. But in this particular case, I don't think that we have any information one way or the other. We're investigating it because obviously we care. We want to know. And if we do make mistakes — again, this is a big difference between us and Iran. When

our military makes mistakes, they learn from them to try to get better from them. So we're investigating it very fully.

WEIJIA JIANG: Thank you, Mr. Vice President. Do you share any of the concerns of Secretary Driscoll and several Republican lawmakers about the current state of the Army, specifically about the departure of so many generals and other top officials?

VANCE: Well, first of all, look, Dan is obviously a very good friend of mine. I think he was a great secretary of the Army. Pete is also a very good friend of mine, and I think he's an amazing Secretary of War. And, you know, fundamentally where I — look, there are a lot of issues where I agree with Pete on the issue. Where I'm in the most strident agreement with Pete is that we needed to have a culture shift at the Department of War. We have to ask ourselves the very difficult questions, and it has nothing to do — I want to be clear. This has nothing to do with the amazing troops that we have, the amazing military officers, non-commissioned officers and enlisted personnel that we have. But America has fought a lot of wars since I've been alive 42 years, and we have won almost none of them until Donald J. Trump became the president of the United States. What does that say about the culture of military leadership, the way that we did planning? And what does it also say, frankly, about the political leadership that we've had in the White House at the Department of War for 40 years of, frankly, military misadventures? What Pete came in wanting to do was revive the warrior spirit in the United States of America. And I think you see evidence of that happening in a lot of different ways. Two important ways is, number one, we have recruitment at all-time highs. We had recruitment problems under the Biden administration because people didn't want to join a woke military, and what I mean is they didn't want to join any military that was geared towards a particular political narrative. They just wanted to join a military that was willing to defend America's interests and do so at the very highest levels of professionalism and excellence. That is what the military, under President Trump's leadership is geared towards doing. The second way that I judge just that esprit de corps, that warrior spirit that you see at the Pentagon, is when you go out and talk to troops today, they talk about how much better it is, how much prouder they are, how much more they feel supported from Washington as opposed to, frankly, oppressed by Washington. We're trying to bring the best and the brightest into the United States military and support them in every way that we can. If you recall, under the Biden administration, guys were getting fired because they were making their own health care decisions, and the Biden administration was treating them like they were convicted criminals. We're not doing that. We're taking things in a much different direction. So, I feel like the military is in a much better place than it was 18 months ago. Of course, there's a lot of work still to do, and, of course, some of that work is going to take years because, frankly, the rot got so deep under previous administrations. [SHOUTING] Let's see, sorry, I'm sorry. I'm always confused a little bit by the chaos here. And unfortunately, I'm old and blind now. But let's go to Kerry Picket.

KERRY PICKET: Tucker Carlson has called for the President's impeachment, and many accuse him of trying to jeopardize U.S.-Israel relations. What do you say to those who are uneasy with your close relationship with Carlson, and claim that you're avoiding addressing a lot of these issues, which may be causing divisions within the GOP?

VANCE: Well, look, I'm not avoiding addressing anything. Everybody knows that Tucker Carlson and I are friends. And I think it's very obvious that Tucker has said some things that I disagree with. He said some things about the President of the United States that I think are just wrong. I think yesterday somebody sent me a clip that said that he would support el-Sayed over Rogers. I think el-Sayed's a crazy person, and I think whatever your views on Mike Rogers specific policy prescriptions, I'd like to have a non-crazy person like Mike Rogers representing Michigan in the United States Senate, rather than a crazy person like el-Sayed. That said, what my attitude towards this and I try to — I try to practice what I preach, and I remember when I became the vice presidential nominee, one of the hardest things for me personally is not when people attacked me, but when people attacked my wife, including friends of hers who knew her heart, who knew what a good person she was, and I remember thinking to myself, what a travesty it is that in the United States of America, we let political disagreements define who our friends are going to be and not going to be. So, yeah, Tucker is a friend of mine. Tucker is a friend, despite the fact that we disagree on a number of things, and I'm not going to play the game where I throw friends under the bus because I have political disagreements with them. I think that is a terrible place for the United States to go, and if you have a disagreement with somebody politically, even over a deeply held issue, you should still be friends with that person, because the whole republic depends on people of different perspectives being able to talk to one another. That's how I try to live my life, and I encourage everybody else to do the same.

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2:08:32 p.m.

1 minute and 37 seconds

EMILY GOODIN: Why are you going to New York on 9/11 instead of the President? Is it because it's the 25th anniversary? Is there some special security concern? We know the President's been a target before.

VANCE: No, I don't think it's a special security concern, though. Actually, I will — we'll follow up with Secret Service just to get you an answer on that. But that's not what I've heard. I mean, you know, you have a Vice President, you have a President, and there are two, very frankly, we'd like to be three or four places on 9/11, but you can't have one person be in multiple locations at the exact same time. And so, we just decided as a team that I would go to New York for 9/11 and the President would stay here in D.C., of course, to commemorate what happened at the

Pentagon, because that was a critical part of — of the tragedy of 9/11 as well. I will say that as much as it's — it's tragic, and it was a terrible day, I am looking forward to it because it's such an amazing honor to be able to get to go to New York and to share in that moment, you know, where the — the — the parents and the kids read the names of the people who lost their lives. I did it once before, I think during the 2024 campaign. It's one of the most amazing experiences of my life, and I encourage every American, particularly the people who are young enough to not really remember that day, just to tune in for a couple of hours and see what it meant. And I think that sense of commonality and common purpose that we all had on 9/11, that's something that we should really try every single day to get back to, and if even just for a day, even if just for a few hours, I would encourage people to tune in. I'm also, as you guys can probably guess, I'm really looking forward to hanging out with Joe Biden. I'm sure that we'll have many, many intense intellectual conversations. And, you know, it'll be great. We'll have a great time with Joe Biden, the other presidents.

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2:24:21 p.m.

5 minutes and 33 seconds

LIBBEY DEAN: First question on Iran, but also, I want to ask you about East Palestine on Iran. How concerned should Americans be about these cyberattacks by Iranian hackers? And then also on East Palestine, you called for an investigation on Friday into that train derailment. I mean, it's been three years. NewsNation has been talking with some of the people who live in that community, who say their health concerns have been suppressed. Would you consider an emergency declaration to give those people the federal help that they need while that investigation that you called for plays out?

VANCE: Well, on East Palestine, I wouldn't want to commit to something unless I would know that it would do some good. And so, having been asked that question, I'll think about it. I've never thought about whether that's necessary to facilitate people getting what they need. But on the broader issue, you know, what we've learned over the last couple of months is something that I suspected but, frankly, could never prove, which is that the Biden administration radically underestimated the risks to the people of East Palestine, and that their Environmental Protection Agency wasn't being honest with the American people about what the consequences of that train derailment were. So, yes, we want that to be investigated. We want the Biden administration officials to be investigated about whether they were, you know, hedging, whether they were lying, whether they were doing something malicious, and that's what motivated the letter that Lee Zeldin and I sent. And then your first question was about — remind me?

DEAN: How concerned should Americans be about these cyberattacks by Iran?

VANCE: I see, yeah. So, you know, look, I'll tell you that we're concerned about everything because that's our job, and I think you always have to, of course, balance when you're an American citizen. You have to balance, obviously, assessing the real risks that are out there, but also going about living your life because none of us can be too overwhelmed by risk or by fear. What I would say is that we feel quite confident the homeland is safe. We also feel quite confident that the Iranians are going to try to do a lot of things that they don't have the capability to do, and that your government, the American people, should know that your government is obsessively focused on both, anticipating any potential cyber threats, but also responding to them appropriately and ensuring they don't happen. So, you know, if you look at the Iranian ability to disrupt the normal lives of Americans, I think it's quite limited. It's not zero, but it's quite limited. I'd be much more worried about cyber attacks from other actors. But again, we're doing everything we can to stay ahead of this stuff, and I think we're the best government in the world at anticipating and preventing cyber attacks. So, what I would say to the American people is it is a risk that's out there, but I don't think it's wise to worry about these amorphous risks. You elect a government that's going to fight for you, that's going to defend you, and that's what we're doing every single day. [SHOUTING]

CHRISTIAN DATOC: Two questions. One foreign, one domestic. First, since this economic D-Day announcement pertaining to Iran, has President Trump spoken directly to President Xi, asking him to stop Chinese banks from lending financial services to Tehran?

VANCE: So, we've certainly had a number of conversations with the Chinese. And frankly, I think the Chinese have been responsive to some of the requests that we've made. I actually don't know whether the President has spoken directly to Xi, but we will get an answer for you and follow up.

DATOC: Okay. Thank you, sir. And then, I know you don't want to talk about your own potential 2028 prospects, but Senator Ted Cruz and your good friend, Secretary Hegseth, apparently have been privately and publicly in the case of Senator Cruz positioning for 2028, could you see yourself supporting either one of them for a presidential campaign?

VANCE: That's an innovative way to ask the question, but I'm still not going to take the bait. Let me — look, first of all, I'd encourage any Republican, if you care about the country, and I think all of us do, you should be focused not on a job a few years from now, you should be focused on the midterms, and that's the approach that I've taken. I think people sometimes don't believe me because they assume you're the Vice President, you must think about this all the time. What I'm focused on, man, is trying to get as many Republicans elected, elected as possible so that we can do as much good as possible for the second two years of the Trump administration. That's a

long time. There's a lot of opportunity there, and this job is so crazy. Look at this, guys. We're at the White House. That's the front lawn of the White House. We get an opportunity to come to work every day and make 350 million people's lives better. That's what we have to be focused on. And so, politically, I'm very much focused on the midterm elections. I mean, Pete is a great guy. And yeah, I could see myself supporting a whole host of people. But most importantly, right now, I've got a lot of people that I'm supporting right now to get elected for the November 2026 elections. And on Ted Cruz, I mean, look, man, he's just clearly — Ted is a very authentic and likable guy, and I'm sure he'll do great. News — *Newsweek! Newsweek!*

LEONARD FELDMAN: Can you tell me — Maria Bartiromo just left Fox News. Is she going to be the next White House press secretary?

VANCE: I don't know, man. No, I don't think so. You know, I just saw the news literally as I walked out before. I love Maria. I think she's an amazing person, an amazing talent. I don't get involved in the personal drama of — of media stations. In fact, I'd like to invite Peter Doocy to come up here and ask answer a question about what happened to Maria. But I think whatever, whatever she does, look, she's — she's going to do great. And I wish her all the best. She's a very, very dear friend. I haven't even talked to her, so I don't know the back story about why she's decided to leave Fox News.

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2:30:11 p.m.

4 minutes and 29 seconds

OWEN JENSEN: Anyway, nine justices. We all know growing up in grammar school. There are nine justices on the U.S. Supreme Court. How long does it stay that way, based on what happened yesterday in the House?

VANCE: What do you mean?

JENSEN: You know, going forward, how confident are you that will remain at nine?

VANCE: Well, look, our commitment in the Trump administration is that we would like to have nine Supreme Court justices. That's the way that it's been for a long time. And we think that's the — the way that it should stay. We also know that Democrats have explicitly promised that they will pack the United States Supreme Court if they're given additional power. And, again, this is this is why I think that the choice in this election is not between this set of policies that are good and this set of policies that are not so good. The choice in the election really is between crazy people who are trying to rig the game and common sense people who you may have disagreements with from time to time, but at least they're rooted in common sense. The Democrats are saying — they're actively bragging that they don't like the rules of the game,

meaning Americans vote for House members, Americans vote for senators, and then we all try to make the best government and the best rules and the best legislation in the interest of the American people. They're saying that they think that the rules don't allow them to run roughshod over the American Constitution, so they want to change the rules. They want to add additional states so that there can be more Democratic senators. Note they're not proposing to add territories that are heavily Republican. They just want to add the territories that are heavily Democratic. They also, of course, want to pack the Supreme Court. So, how long will it last? I think, frankly, so long as Republicans are in power, we're going to have a Supreme Court that is good and honest and fair to the Constitution. [TO BALDWIN] What's up, man? Yeah, you're right here.

DANIEL BALDWIN: Thank you, Mr. Vice President. You mentioned something very interesting earlier. You said you wanted to — the President was focused on creating a nation of builders. The ISM manufacturing PMI showed that manufacturing activity in the U.S. expanded for eight consecutive months. When you've hit the trail, particularly in the Rust Belt, have you noticed the trickle-down effect of the tax cuts and the trade policy of the president having a positive effect on U.S. manufacturing? And does that make ideas like the Foundry School, which you were talking about at the Institute of Peace, that much more important?

VANCE: Yeah. So, let me just take — I'll take a couple more questions here, but I appreciate you asking that. So, what I think President Trump will be remembered by, rightfully so, is for a renaissance in American building and American manufacturing — that he is the President who said 40 years of bipartisan policy where we ship American jobs, we ship American industry, we ship American pharmaceuticals, we ship everything overseas, and hope that it's all going to work out for the American people. He said enough. This is a terrible idea, and it happened because we were being taken advantage of both by corporations that were shipping American industry overseas, but also by other nations that were getting rich by pursuing policies that the United States leadership was too unwise to pursue themselves. So, you're right, the manufacturing index is at the highest level that it's been. By the way, after many left-of-center economists and many Democratic politicians predicted that the manufacturing index would fall to historic lows, it is now at historic highs. The tax cuts have been a major part of this, one of the most important data points in the economy — and again, this takes a little bit of time to bear fruit, is that you're seeing businesses buy capital equipment, buying the big machinery, buying the things that allow them to hire people and build more stuff. They're buying that stuff at a record level, and that's because of the Working Families Tax Cuts, because we invested in people who are building and making right here in the United States of America. When those pieces of equipment get online, and then you got to hire the workers who actually run those pieces of equipment, what does it mean? It means more products and lower prices for American consumers. It also means good, middle-class manufacturing jobs for American

workers. But it's not if I'm being honest, it's not just the carrot. It's also been the stick. I do not think that you could have the beginning of a manufacturing renaissance, were it not for President Trump's willingness to penalize corporations and foreign countries that take advantage of the American worker. So, it's been both. It's been the tax cuts that induce people to invest in our country, and it's been his willingness, and sometimes him following up with action to say that if you're going to shut down an American factory and put an American worker out of a job, then we are going to charge you a big fat tariff on anything you try to send back into the United States of America. That's done as much as anything to protect American jobs and protect American workers.

(....)

2:37:10 p.m.

3 minutes and 20 seconds

MARY MARGARET OLOHAN: On the first one, were you or the President involved in the deportation of Milo Yiannopoulos? And when did you learn about that activity? And then on the second one, could you give us your elevator pitch for why Americans should choose between — why Americans should choose Republicans over Democrats in the midterm elections?

VANCE: Yeah. So, on Milo, I won't speak for the President, but I found out, I think, like so many others found out, if you can imagine, we are — because the last administration brought in so many illegal aliens, I don't keep track of every single person that DHS deports. So, I found about it — out about it publicly. I'm not sure if the President knew about it beforehand, but I'm sure we can follow up with the President and get you an answer to that question. It's interesting. I didn't expect to be asked that. That's one thing I did not talk to him about before I came out here for the briefing. And then, look, my elevator pitch is actually it's very simple. Do you want to live in a country that has safety and security and prosperity? If the answer is yes, and I think most Americans do, then vote for congressional Republicans over congressional Democrats. On every single issue, the Democrats have taken the side of fraudsters, of criminals, and of far-left interest groups over the side of the American people. Let me choose just a few issues. Okay, so, on fraud, we are trying to take money out of the hands of fraudsters so that people who rely on Medicaid or people rely on food stamp benefits, they're able to get what they need because we've ensured that Americans — people's tax dollars, actually go where it's supposed to go, rather than fraudsters. Democrats have fought for the fraudsters, and Republicans have fought for the people who deserve these benefits, and the American taxpayers who are paying those benefits. If you look at oil and gas policy, Democrats, for a generation, have gone to war against energy. We've tried to make it easier to build additional energy capacity, and we've done that for the past 18 months. If you look at crime, we have had, I think, the most successful anti-crime policy maybe in the history of — I can't think of a single

18-month period where you've seen violent crime drop so significantly thanks to the work of a single administration, and, at every step of the way, the Democrats have fought us to open prisons. They fought us to prevent us from putting people, violent criminals behind bars. They fought us on basic things like funding and supporting law enforcement. They fought us on giving tax breaks to our police officers. So, on every issue where we've been successful in promoting law and order, the Democrats have been for the criminals, and we've been for the American people. And finally, just — just one other very, very important issue, and that's building in the United States of America. This guy, Abdul el-Sayed, he says that he stands for working people. Well, if you stand for working people, then why have you supported the same policies that for 40 years shipped the Michigan auto industry to foreign nations? We are the people who have been fighting for the jobs of Michigan auto workers. We've been the people willing to stand up both to the big corporations, but the big foreign competitors and say, you are not allowed to steal American industry anymore. So, on all these issues, Democrats stand for somebody else. The Republicans stand for you. My argument to the American people is not that you're going to agree with us on every issue, but there are a bunch of crazy people like the common-sense people to Washington, and we'll keep on doing great work.