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Here's Donald Trump's Presidential Announcement Speech

June 16, 2015

Wow. Whoa. That is some group of people. Thousands.

So nice, thank you very much. That's really nice. Thank you. It's great to be at Trump Tower. It's great to be in a wonderful city, New York. And it's an honor to have everybody here. This is beyond anybody's expectations. There's been no crowd like this.

And, I can tell, some of the candidates, they went in. They didn't know the air-conditioner didn't work. They sweated like dogs.

They didn't know the room was too big, because they didn't have anybody there. How are they going to beat ISIS? I don't think it's gonna happen.

Our country is in serious trouble. We don't have victories anymore. We used to have victories, but we don't have them. When was the last time anybody saw us beating, let's say, China in a trade deal? They kill us. I beat China all the time. All the time.

When did we beat Japan at anything? They send their cars over by the millions, and what do we do? When was the last time you saw a Chevrolet in Tokyo? It doesn't exist, folks. They beat us all the time.

When do we beat Mexico at the border? They're laughing at us, at our stupidity. And now they are beating us economically. They are not our friend, believe me. But they're killing us economically.

The U.S. has become a dumping ground for everybody else's problems.

Thank you. It's true, and these are the best and the finest. When Mexico sends its people, they're not sending their best. They're not sending you. They're not sending you. They're sending people that have lots of problems, and they're bringing those problems with us. They're bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists. And some, I assume, are good people.

But I speak to border guards and they tell us what we're getting. And it only makes common sense. It only makes common sense. They're sending us not the right people.

It's coming from more than Mexico. It's coming from all over South and Latin America, and it's coming probably— probably— from the Middle East. But we don't know. Because we have no protection and we have no competence, we don't know what's happening. And it's got to stop and it's got to stop fast.

Islamic terrorism is eating up large portions of the Middle East. They've become rich. I'm in competition with them.

They just built a hotel in Syria. Can you believe this? They built a hotel. When I have to build a hotel, I pay interest. They don't have to pay interest, because they took the oil that, when we left Iraq, I said we should've taken.

So now ISIS has the oil, and what they don't have, Iran has. And in 19— and I will tell you this, and I said it very strongly, years ago, I said— and I love the military, and I want to have the strongest military that we've ever had, and we need it more now than ever. But I said, "Don't hit Iraq," because you're going to totally destabilize the Middle East. Iran is going to take over the Middle East, Iran and somebody else will get the oil, and it turned out that Iran is now taking over Iraq. Think of it. Iran is taking over Iraq, and they're taking it over big league.

We spent \$2 trillion in Iraq, \$2 trillion. We lost thousands of lives, thousands in Iraq. We have wounded soldiers, who I love, I love — they're great — all over the place, thousands and thousands of wounded soldiers.

And we have nothing. We can't even go there. We have nothing. And every time we give Iraq equipment, the first time a bullet goes off in the air, they leave it.

Last week, I read 2,300 Humvees— these are big vehicles— were left behind for the enemy. 2,000? You would say maybe two, maybe four? 2,300 sophisticated vehicles, they ran, and the enemy took them.

Last quarter, it was just announced our gross domestic product— a sign of strength, right? But not for us. It was below zero. Whoever heard of this? It's never below zero.

Our labor participation rate was the worst since 1978. But think of it, GDP below zero, horrible labor participation rate.

And our real unemployment is anywhere from 18 to 20 percent. Don't believe the 5.6. Don't believe it.

That's right. A lot of people up there can't get jobs. They can't get jobs, because there are no jobs, because China has our jobs and Mexico has our jobs. They all have jobs.

But the real number, the real number is anywhere from 18 to 19 and maybe even 21 percent, and nobody talks about it, because it's a statistic that's full of nonsense.

Our enemies are getting stronger and stronger by the way, and we as a country are getting weaker. Even our nuclear arsenal doesn't work.

It came out recently they have equipment that is 30 years old. They don't know if it worked. And I thought it was horrible when it was broadcast on television, because boy, does that send signals

to Putin and all of the other people that look at us and they say, “That is a group of people, and that is a nation that truly has no clue. They don’t know what they’re doing. They don’t know what they’re doing.”

We have a disaster called the big lie: Obamacare. Obamacare.

Yesterday, it came out that costs are going for people up 29, 39, 49, and even 55 percent, and deductibles are through the roof. You have to be hit by a tractor, literally, a tractor, to use it, because the deductibles are so high, it’s virtually useless. It’s virtually useless. It is a disaster.

And remember the \$5 billion website? \$5 billion we spent on a website, and to this day it doesn’t work. A \$5 billion website.

I have so many websites, I have them all over the place. I hire people, they do a website. It costs me \$3. \$5 billion website.

Well, you need somebody, because politicians are all talk, no action. Nothing’s gonna get done. They will not bring us— believe me— to the promised land. They will not.

As an example, I’ve been on the circuit making speeches, and I hear my fellow Republicans. And they’re wonderful people. I like them. They all want me to support them. They don’t know how to bring it about. They come up to my office. I’m meeting with three of them in the next week. And they don’t know— “Are you running? Are you not running? Could we have your support? What do we do? How do we do it?”

I like them. And I hear their speeches. And they don’t talk jobs and they don’t talk China. When was the last time you heard China is killing us? They’re devaluing their currency to a level that you wouldn’t believe. It makes it impossible for our companies to compete, impossible. They’re killing us.

But you don’t hear that from anybody else. You don’t hear it from anybody else. And I watch the speeches.

I watch the speeches of these people, and they say the sun will rise, the moon will set, all sorts of wonderful things will happen. And people are saying, “What’s going on? I just want a job. Just get me a job. I don’t need the rhetoric. I want a job.”

And that’s what’s happening. And it’s going to get worse, because remember, Obamacare really kicks in in ’16, 2016. Obama is going to be out playing golf. He might be on one of my courses. I would invite him, I actually would say. I have the best courses in the world, so I’d say, you what, if he wants to— I have one right next to the White House, right on the Potomac. If he’d like to play, that’s fine.

In fact, I’d love him to leave early and play, that would be a very good thing.

But Obamacare kicks in in 2016. Really big league. It is going to be amazingly destructive. Doctors are quitting. I have a friend who's a doctor, and he said to me the other day, "Donald, I never saw anything like it. I have more accountants than I have nurses. It's a disaster. My patients are beside themselves. They had a plan that was good. They have no plan now."

We have to repeal Obamacare, and it can be— and— and it can be replaced with something much better for everybody. Let it be for everybody. But much better and much less expensive for people and for the government. And we can do it.

So I've watched the politicians. I've dealt with them all my life. If you can't make a good deal with a politician, then there's something wrong with you. You're certainly not very good. And that's what we have representing us. They will never make America great again. They don't even have a chance. They're controlled fully— they're controlled fully by the lobbyists, by the donors, and by the special interests, fully.

Yes, they control them. Hey, I have lobbyists. I have to tell you. I have lobbyists that can produce anything for me. They're great. But you know what? it won't happen. It won't happen. Because we have to stop doing things for some people, but for this country, it's destroying our country. We have to stop, and it has to stop now.

Now, our country needs— our country needs a truly great leader, and we need a truly great leader now. We need a leader that wrote "The Art of the Deal."

We need a leader that can bring back our jobs, can bring back our manufacturing, can bring back our military, can take care of our vets. Our vets have been abandoned.

And we also need a cheerleader.

You know, when President Obama was elected, I said, "Well, the one thing, I think he'll do well. I think he'll be a great cheerleader for the country. I think he'd be a great spirit."

He was vibrant. He was young. I really thought that he would be a great cheerleader.

He's not a leader. That's true. You're right about that.

But he wasn't a cheerleader. He's actually a negative force. He's been a negative force. He wasn't a cheerleader; he was the opposite.

We need somebody that can take the brand of the United States and make it great again. It's not great again.

We need— we need somebody— we need somebody that literally will take this country and make it great again. We can do that.

And, I will tell you, I love my life. I have a wonderful family. They're saying, "Dad, you're going to do something that's going to be so tough."

You know, all of my life, I've heard that a truly successful person, a really, really successful person and even modestly successful cannot run for public office. Just can't happen. And yet that's the kind of mindset that you need to make this country great again.

So ladies and gentlemen... I am officially running... for president of the United States, and we are going to make our country great again.

It can happen. Our country has tremendous potential. We have tremendous people.

We have people that aren't working. We have people that have no incentive to work. But they're going to have incentive to work, because the greatest social program is a job. And they'll be proud, and they'll love it, and they'll make much more than they would've ever made, and they'll be— they'll be doing so well, and we're going to be thriving as a country, thriving. It can happen.

I will be the greatest jobs president that God ever created. I tell you that.

I'll bring back our jobs from China, from Mexico, from Japan, from so many places. I'll bring back our jobs, and I'll bring back our money.

Right now, think of this: We owe China \$1.3 trillion. We owe Japan more than that. So they come in, they take our jobs, they take our money, and then they loan us back the money, and we pay them in interest, and then the dollar goes up so their deal's even better.

How stupid are our leaders? How stupid are these politicians to allow this to happen? How stupid are they?

I'm going to tell you— thank you. I'm going to tell you a couple of stories about trade, because I'm totally against the trade bill for a number of reasons.

Number one, the people negotiating don't have a clue. Our president doesn't have a clue. He's a bad negotiator.

He's the one that did Bergdahl. We get Bergdahl, they get five killer terrorists that everybody wanted over there.

We get Bergdahl. We get a traitor. We get a no-good traitor, and they get the five people that they wanted for years, and those people are now back on the battlefield trying to kill us. That's the negotiator we have.

Take a look at the deal he's making with Iran. He makes that deal, Israel maybe won't exist very long. It's a disaster, and we have to protect Israel. But...

So we need people— I'm a free trader. But the problem with free trade is you need really talented people to negotiate for you. If you don't have talented people, if you don't have great

leadership, if you don't have people that know business, not just a political hack that got the job because he made a contribution to a campaign, which is the way all jobs, just about, are gotten, free trade terrible.

Free trade can be wonderful if you have smart people, but we have people that are stupid. We have people that aren't smart. And we have people that are controlled by special interests. And it's just not going to work.

So, here's a couple of stories happened recently. A friend of mine is a great manufacturer. And, you know, China comes over and they dump all their stuff, and I buy it. I buy it, because, frankly, I have an obligation to buy it, because they devalue their currency so brilliantly, they just did it recently, and nobody thought they could do it again.

But with all our problems with Russia, with all our problems with everything— everything, they got away with it again. And it's impossible for our people here to compete.

So I want to tell you this story. A friend of mine who's a great manufacturer, calls me up a few weeks ago. He's very upset. I said, "What's your problem?"

He said, "You know, I make great product."

And I said, "I know. I know that because I buy the product."

He said, "I can't get it into China. They won't accept it. I sent a boat over and they actually sent it back. They talked about environmental, they talked about all sorts of crap that had nothing to do with it."

I said, "Oh, wait a minute, that's terrible. Does anyone know this?"

He said, "Yeah, they do it all the time with other people."

I said, "They send it back?"

"Yeah. So I finally got it over there and they charged me a big tariff. They're not supposed to be doing that. I told them."

Now, they do charge you tariff on trucks, when we send trucks and other things over there.

Ask Boeing. They wanted Boeing's secrets. They wanted their patents and all their secrets before they agreed to buy planes from Boeing.

Hey, I'm not saying they're stupid. I like China. I sell apartments for— I just sold an apartment for \$15 million to somebody from China. Am I supposed to dislike them? I own a big chunk of the Bank of America Building at 1290 Avenue of the Americas, that I got from China in a war. Very valuable.

I love China. The biggest bank in the world is from China. You know where their United States headquarters is located? In this building, in Trump Tower. I love China. People say, “Oh, you don’t like China?”

No, I love them. But their leaders are much smarter than our leaders, and we can’t sustain ourself with that. There’s too much— it’s like— it’s like take the New England Patriots and Tom Brady and have them play your high school football team. That’s the difference between China’s leaders and our leaders.

They are ripping us. We are rebuilding China. We’re rebuilding many countries. China, you go there now, roads, bridges, schools, you never saw anything like it. They have bridges that make the George Washington Bridge look like small potatoes. And they’re all over the place.

We have all the cards, but we don’t know how to use them. We don’t even know that we have the cards, because our leaders don’t understand the game. We could turn off that spigot by charging them tax until they behave properly.

Now they’re going militarily. They’re building a military island in the middle of the South China sea. A military island. Now, our country could never do that because we’d have to get environmental clearance, and the environmentalist wouldn’t let our country— we would never build in an ocean. They built it in about one year, this massive military port.

They’re building up their military to a point that is very scary. You have a problem with ISIS. You have a bigger problem with China.

And, in my opinion, the new China, believe it or not, in terms of trade, is Mexico.

So this man tells me about the manufacturing. I say, “That’s a terrible story. I hate to hear it.”

But I have another one, Ford.

So Mexico takes a company, a car company that was going to build in Tennessee, rips it out. Everybody thought the deal was dead. Reported it in the Wall Street Journal recently. Everybody thought it was a done deal. It’s going in and that’s going to be it, going into Tennessee. Great state, great people.

All of a sudden, at the last moment, this big car manufacturer, foreign, announces they’re not going to Tennessee. They’re gonna spend their \$1 billion in Mexico instead. Not good.

Now, Ford announces a few weeks ago that Ford is going to build a \$2.5 billion car and truck and parts manufacturing plant in Mexico. \$2.5 billion, it’s going to be one of the largest in the world. Ford. Good company.

So I announced that I’m running for president. I would...

... one of the early things I would do, probably before I even got in— and I wouldn't even use—you know, I have—I know the smartest negotiators in the world. I know the good ones. I know the bad ones. I know the overrated ones.

You get a lot of them that are overrated. They're not good. They think they are. They get good stories, because the newspapers get buffaloed. But they're not good.

But I know the negotiators in the world, and I put them one for each country. Believe me, folks. We will do very, very well, very, very well.

But I wouldn't even waste my time with this one. I would call up the head of Ford, who I know. If I was president, I'd say, "Congratulations. I understand that you're building a nice \$2.5 billion car factory in Mexico and that you're going to take your cars and sell them to the United States zero tax, just flow them across the border."

And you say to yourself, "How does that help us," right? "How does that help us? Where is that good"? It's not.

So I would say, "Congratulations. That's the good news. Let me give you the bad news. Every car and every truck and every part manufactured in this plant that comes across the border, we're going to charge you a 35-percent tax, and that tax is going to be paid simultaneously with the transaction, and that's it.

Now, here's what is going to happen. If it's not me in the position, it's one of these politicians that we're running against, you know, the 400 people that we're (inaudible). And here's what's going to happen. They're not so stupid. They know it's not a good thing, and they may even be upset by it. But then they're going to get a call from the donors or probably from the lobbyist for Ford and say, "You can't do that to Ford, because Ford takes care of me and I take care of you, and you can't do that to Ford."

And guess what? No problem. They're going to build in Mexico. They're going to take away thousands of jobs. It's very bad for us.

So under President Trump, here's what would happen:

The head of Ford will call me back, I would say within an hour after I told them the bad news. But it could be he'd want to be cool, and he'll wait until the next day. You know, they want to be a little cool.

And he'll say, "Please, please, please." He'll beg for a little while, and I'll say, "No interest." Then he'll call all sorts of political people, and I'll say, "Sorry, fellas. No interest," because I don't need anybody's money. It's nice. I don't need anybody's money.

I'm using my own money. I'm not using the lobbyists. I'm not using donors. I don't care. I'm really rich. I (inaudible).

And by the way, I'm not even saying that's the kind of mindset, that's the kind of thinking you need for this country.

So— because we got to make the country rich.

It sounds crass. Somebody said, "Oh, that's crass." It's not crass.

We got \$18 trillion in debt. We got nothing but problems.

We got a military that needs equipment all over the place. We got nuclear weapons that are obsolete.

We've got nothing. We've got Social Security that's going to be destroyed if somebody like me doesn't bring money into the country. All these other people want to cut the hell out of it. I'm not going to cut it at all; I'm going to bring money in, and we're going to save it.

But here's what's going to happen:

After I'm called by 30 friends of mine who contributed to different campaigns, after I'm called by all of the special interests and by the— the donors and by the lobbyists— and they have zero chance at convincing me, zero— I'll get a call the next day from the head of Ford. He'll say. "Please reconsider," I'll say no.

He'll say, "Mr. President, we've decided to move the plant back to the United States, and we're not going to build it in Mexico." That's it. They have no choice. They have no choice.

There are hundreds of things like that. I'll give you another example.

Saudi Arabia, they make \$1 billion a day. \$1 billion a day. I love the Saudis. Many are in this building. They make a billion dollars a day. Whenever they have problems, we send over the ships. We say "we're gonna protect." What are we doing? They've got nothing but money.

If the right person asked them, they'd pay a fortune. They wouldn't be there except for us.

And believe me, you look at the border with Yemen. You remember Obama a year ago, Yemen was a great victory. Two weeks later, the place was blown up. Everybody got out— and they kept our equipment.

They always keep our equipment. We ought to send used equipment, right? They always keep our equipment. We ought to send some real junk, because, frankly, it would be— we ought to send our surplus. We're always losing this gorgeous brand-new stuff.

But look at that border with Saudi Arabia. Do you really think that these people are interested in Yemen? Saudi Arabia without us is gone. They're gone.

And I'm the one that made all of the right predictions about Iraq. You know, all of these politicians that I'm running against now— it's so nice to say I'm running as opposed to if I run, if I run. I'm running.

But all of these politicians that I'm running against now, they're trying to disassociate. I mean, you looked at Bush, it took him five days to answer the question on Iraq. He couldn't answer the question. He didn't know. I said, "Is he intelligent?"

Then I looked at Rubio. He was unable to answer the question, is Iraq a good thing or bad thing? He didn't know. He couldn't answer the question.

How are these people gonna lead us? How are we gonna— how are we gonna go back and make it great again? We can't. They don't have a clue. They can't lead us. They can't. They can't even answer simple questions. It was terrible.

But Saudi Arabia is in big, big trouble. Now, thanks to fracking and other things, the oil is all over the place. And I used to say it, there are ships at sea, and this was during the worst crisis, that were loaded up with oil, and the cartel kept the price up, because, again, they were smarter than our leaders. They were smarter than our leaders.

There is so much wealth out there that can make our country so rich again, and therefore make it great again. Because we need money. We're dying. We're dying. We need money. We have to do it. And we need the right people.

So Ford will come back. They'll all come back. And I will say this, this is going to be an election, in my opinion, that's based on competence.

Somebody said — thank you, darlin'.

Somebody said to me the other day, a reporter, a very nice reporter, "But, Mr. Trump, you're not a nice person."

That's true. But actually I am. I think I am a nice person. People that know me, like me. Does my family like me? I think so, right. Look at my family. I'm proud of my family.

By the way, speaking of my family, Melania, Barron, Kai, Donnie, Don, Vanessa, Tiffany, Ivanka did a great job. Did she do a great job?

Great. Jared, Laura and Eric, I'm very proud of my family. They're a great family.

So the reporter said to me the other day, "But, Mr. Trump, you're not a nice person. How can you get people to vote for you?"

I said, "I don't know." I said, "I think that number one, I am a nice person. I give a lot of money away to charities and other things. I think I'm actually a very nice person."

But, I said, “This is going to be an election that’s based on competence, because people are tired of these nice people. And they’re tired of being ripped off by everybody in the world. And they’re tired of spending more money on education than any nation in the world per capita, than any nation in the world, and we are 26th in the world, 25 countries are better than us in education. And some of them are like third world countries. But we’re becoming a third world country, because of our infrastructure, our airports, our roads, everything. So one of the things I did, and I said, you know what I’ll do. I’ll do it. Because a lot of people said, “He’ll never run. Number one, he won’t want to give up his lifestyle.”

They’re right about that, but I’m doing it.

Number two, I’m a private company, so nobody knows what I’m worth. And the one thing is that when you run, you have to announce and certify to all sorts of governmental authorities your net worth.

So I said, “That’s OK.” I’m proud of my net worth. I’ve done an amazing job.

I started off— thank you— I started off in a small office with my father in Brooklyn and Queens, and my father said — and I love my father. I learned so much. He was a great negotiator. I learned so much just sitting at his feet playing with blocks listening to him negotiate with subcontractors. But I learned a lot.

But he used to say, “Donald, don’t go into Manhattan. That’s the big leagues. We don’t know anything about that. Don’t do it.”

I said, “I gotta go into Manhattan. I gotta build those big buildings. I gotta do it, Dad. I’ve gotta do it.”

And after four or five years in Brooklyn, I ventured into Manhattan and did a lot of great deals—the Grand Hyatt Hotel. I was responsible for the convention center on the west side. I did a lot of great deals, and I did them early and young. And now I’m building all over the world, and I love what I’m doing.

But they all said, a lot of the pundits on television, “Well, Donald will never run, and one of the main reasons is he’s private and he’s probably not as successful as everybody thinks.”

So I said to myself, you know, nobody’s ever going to know unless I run, because I’m really proud of my success. I really am.

I’ve employed—I’ve employed tens of thousands of people over my lifetime. That means medical. That means education. That means everything.

So a large accounting firm and my accountants have been working for months, because it’s big and complex, and they’ve put together a statement, a financial statement, just a summary. But everything will be filed eventually with the government, and we don’t [use] extensions or anything. We’ll be filing it right on time. We don’t need anything.

And it was even reported incorrectly yesterday, because they said, “He had assets of \$9 billion.” So I said, “No, that’s the wrong number. That’s the wrong number. Not assets.”

So they put together this. And before I say it, I have to say this. I made it the old-fashioned way. It’s real estate. You know, it’s real estate.

It’s labor, and it’s unions good and some bad and lots of people that aren’t in unions, and it’s all over the place and building all over the world.

And I have assets— big accounting firm, one of the most highly respected— 9 billion 240 million dollars.

And I have liabilities of about \$500 million. That’s long-term debt, very low interest rates.

In fact, one of the big banks came to me and said, “Donald, you don’t have enough borrowings. Could we loan you \$4 billion?” I said, “I don’t need it. I don’t want it. And I’ve been there. I don’t want it.”

But in two seconds, they give me whatever I wanted. So I have a total net worth, and now with the increase, it’ll be well-over \$10 billion. But here, a total net worth of—net worth, not assets, not— a net worth, after all debt, after all expenses, the greatest assets— Trump Tower, 1290 Avenue of the Americas, Bank of America building in San Francisco, 40 Wall Street, sometimes referred to as the Trump building right opposite the New York— many other places all over the world.

So the total is \$8,737,540,00.

Now I’m not doing that...

I’m not doing that to brag, because you know what? I don’t have to brag. I don’t have to, believe it or not.

I’m doing that to say that that’s the kind of thinking our country needs. We need that thinking. We have the opposite thinking.

We have losers. We have losers. We have people that don’t have it. We have people that are morally corrupt. We have people that are selling this country down the drain.

So I put together this statement, and the only reason I’m telling you about it today is because we really do have to get going, because if we have another three or four years— you know, we’re at \$8 trillion now. We’re soon going to be at \$20 trillion.

According to the economists— who I’m not big believers in, but, nevertheless, this is what they’re saying— that \$24 trillion— we’re very close— that’s the point of no return. \$24 trillion.

We will be there soon. That's when we become Greece. That's when we become a country that's unsalvageable. And we're gonna be there very soon. We're gonna be there very soon.

So, just to sum up, I would do various things very quickly. I would repeal and replace the big lie, Obamacare.

I would build a great wall, and nobody builds walls better than me, believe me, and I'll build them very inexpensively, I will build a great, great wall on our southern border. And I will have Mexico pay for that wall.

Mark my words.

Nobody would be tougher on ISIS than Donald Trump. Nobody.

I will find — within our military, I will find the General Patton or I will find General MacArthur, I will find the right guy. I will find the guy that's going to take that military and make it really work. Nobody, nobody will be pushing us around.

I will stop Iran from getting nuclear weapons. And we won't be using a man like Secretary Kerry that has absolutely no concept of negotiation, who's making a horrible and laughable deal, who's just being tapped along as they make weapons right now, and then goes into a bicycle race at 72 years old, and falls and breaks his leg. I won't be doing that. And I promise I will never be in a bicycle race. That I can tell you.

I will immediately terminate President Obama's illegal executive order on immigration, immediately.

Fully support and back up the Second Amendment.

Now, it's very interesting. Today I heard it. Through stupidity, in a very, very hard core prison, interestingly named Clinton, two vicious murderers, two vicious people escaped, and nobody knows where they are. And a woman was on television this morning, and she said, "You know, Mr. Trump," and she was telling other people, and I actually called her, and she said, "You know, Mr. Trump, I always was against guns. I didn't want guns. And now since this happened"— it's up in the prison area— "my husband and I are finally in agreement, because he wanted the guns. We now have a gun on every table. We're ready to start shooting."

I said, "Very interesting."

So protect the Second Amendment.

End— end Common Core. Common Core should— it is a disaster. Bush is totally in favor of Common Core. I don't see how he can possibly get the nomination. He's weak on immigration. He's in favor of Common Core. How the hell can you vote for this guy? You just can't do it. We have to end education has to be local.

Rebuild the country's infrastructure.

Nobody can do that like me. Believe me. It will be done on time, on budget, way below cost, way below what anyone ever thought.

I look at the roads being built all over the country, and I say I can build those things for one-third. What they do is unbelievable, how bad.

You know, we're building on Pennsylvania Avenue, the Old Post Office, we're converting it into one of the world's great hotels. It's gonna be the best hotel in Washington, D.C. We got it from the General Services Administration in Washington. The Obama administration. We got it. It was the most highly sought after— or one of them, but I think the most highly sought after project in the history of General Services. We got it. People were shocked, Trump got it.

Well, I got it for two reasons. Number one, we're really good. Number two, we had a really good plan. And I'll add in the third, we had a great financial statement. Because the General Services, who are terrific people, by the way, and talented people, they wanted to do a great job. And they wanted to make sure it got built.

So we have to rebuild our infrastructure, our bridges, our roadways, our airports. You come into La Guardia Airport, it's like we're in a third world country. You look at the patches and the 40-year-old floor. They throw down asphalt, and they throw.

You look at these airports, we are like a third world country. And I come in from China and I come in from Qatar and I come in from different places, and they have the most incredible airports in the world. You come to back to this country and you have LAX, disaster. You have all of these disastrous airports. We have to rebuild our infrastructure.

Save Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security without cuts. Have to do it.

Get rid of the fraud. Get rid of the waste and abuse, but save it. People have been paying it for years. And now many of these candidates want to cut it. You save it by making the United States, by making us rich again, by taking back all of the money that's being lost.

Renegotiate our foreign trade deals.

Reduce our \$18 trillion in debt, because, believe me, we're in a bubble. We have artificially low interest rates. We have a stock market that, frankly, has been good to me, but I still hate to see what's happening. We have a stock market that is so bloated.

Be careful of a bubble because what you've seen in the past might be small potatoes compared to what happens. So be very, very careful.

And strengthen our military and take care of our vets. So, so important.

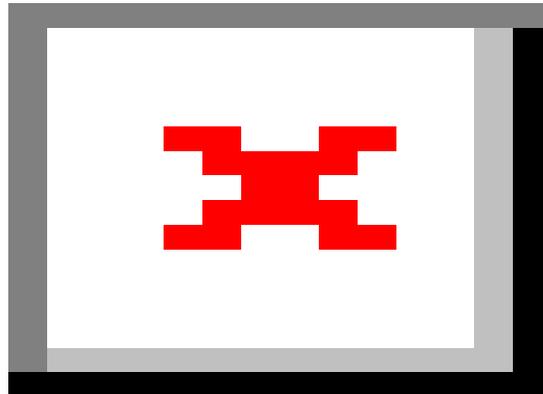
Sadly, the American dream is dead.

But if I get elected president I will bring it back bigger and better and stronger than ever before, and we will make America great again.

Thank you. Thank you very much.

Appendix B: MSNBC, 9/08/15

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZSdJLxpV6uY&feature=youtu.be>



Note: Video available as mp4 upon request

Appendix C: New York Times, 7/30/16

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/07/31/us/politics/donald-trump-khizr-khan-wife-ghazala.html?_r=0

Donald Trump Criticizes Muslim Family of Slain U.S. Soldier, Drawing Ire

By MAGGIE HABERMAN and RICHARD A. OPPEL Jr.
JULY 30, 2016

Donald J. Trump belittled the parents of a slain Muslim soldier who had strongly denounced Mr. Trump during the Democratic National Convention, saying that the soldier's father had delivered the entire speech because his mother was not "allowed" to speak.

Mr. Trump's comments, in an interview with George Stephanopoulos of ABC News that will air on Sunday, drew quick and widespread condemnation and amplified calls for Republican leaders to distance themselves from their presidential nominee. With his implication that the soldier's mother had not spoken because of female subservience expected in some traditional strains of Islam, his comments also inflamed his hostilities with American Muslims.

Khizr Khan, the soldier's father, lashed out at Mr. Trump in an interview on Saturday, saying his wife had not spoken at the convention because it was too painful for her to talk about her son's death.

Mr. Trump, he said, "is devoid of feeling the pain of a mother who has sacrificed her son."

Gov. John Kasich of Ohio, a rival of Mr. Trump's in the Republican primaries who has refused to endorse him, castigated him on Twitter. "There's only one way to talk about Gold Star parents: with honor and respect," he wrote, using the term for surviving family members of those who died in war.

And Hillary Clinton, Mr. Trump's Democratic opponent, said he "was not a normal presidential candidate."

"Someone who attacks everybody has something missing," she told a crowd at a campaign stop in Youngstown, Ohio. "I don't know what it is. I'm not going to get into that."

Mr. Khan's speech at the convention in Philadelphia was one of the most powerful given there. It was effectively the Democratic response to comments Mr. Trump has made implying many American Muslims have terrorist sympathies or stay silent when they know ones who do. Mr. Trump has called to ban Muslim immigration as a way to combat terrorism.

At the convention, Mr. Khan spoke about how his 27-year-old son, Humayun Khan, an Army captain, died in a car bombing in 2004 in Iraq as he tried to save other troops.

He criticized Mr. Trump, saying he “consistently smears the character of Muslims,” and pointedly challenged what sacrifices Mr. Trump had made. Holding a pocket-size copy of the Constitution, he asked if Mr. Trump had read it. Mr. Khan’s wife stood silently by his side.

Mr. Trump told Mr. Stephanopoulos that Mr. Khan seemed like a “nice guy” and that he wished him “the best of luck.” But, he added, “If you look at his wife, she was standing there, she had nothing to say, she probably — maybe she wasn’t allowed to have anything to say, you tell me.”

Mr. Trump also told Maureen Dowd of The New York Times on Friday night, “I’d like to hear his wife say something.”

In a statement late Saturday, Mr. Trump called Captain Khan a “hero,” and reiterated his belief that the United States should bar Muslims from entering the country.

“While I feel deeply for the loss of his son,” he added, “Mr. Khan, who has never met me, has no right to stand in front of millions of people and claim I have never read the Constitution, (which is false) and say many other inaccurate things.”

Even given Mr. Trump’s reputation for retaliating when attacked, his remarks about the Khans were startling. They called to mind one of his earliest counterpunches of the campaign, when he responded to criticism from Senator John McCain of Arizona, once a prisoner of war in Vietnam, by saying at a forum in Iowa, “I like people that weren’t captured.”

But Mr. McCain has a long history in the public eye. The Khans, before their convention appearance, had none.

“Trump is totally void of any decency because he is unaware of how to talk to a Gold Star family and how to speak to a Gold Star mother,” Mr. Khan said on Saturday.

Ms. Khan did speak on Friday to MSNBC’s Lawrence O’Donnell, saying she “cannot even come in the room where his pictures are.”

When she saw her son’s photograph on the screen behind her on the stage in Philadelphia, she said, “I couldn’t take it.”

“I controlled myself at that time,” she said, while choking back tears. “It is very hard.”

In his interview with The Times, Mr. Khan said his wife had helped him craft his convention speech, and told him to remove certain attacks he had wanted to make against Mr. Trump.

But on Saturday, he unmuzzled himself. “Unlike Donald Trump’s wife, I didn’t plagiarize my speech,” Mr. Khan said, referring to how several lines from a Michelle Obama speech found their way into Melania Trump’s address at the Republican National Convention.

“I also wanted to talk about how he’s had three wives, and yet he talks about others’ ethics and their religion,” Mr. Khan said. “She said, ‘Don’t go to his level. We are paying tribute to our son.’”

Mr. Trump’s comments provoked another avalanche of criticism on social media, and again put Republican leaders in a difficult position, facing new demands that they repudiate their presidential nominee.

Even before Mr. Trump’s remarks to ABC News, Mr. Khan had asked that Senator Mitch McConnell, the majority leader, and Paul D. Ryan, the House speaker, denounce Mr. Trump.

On Saturday, neither directly addressed Mr. Trump’s new comments. Don Stewart, a spokesman for Mr. McConnell, referred to Mr. McConnell’s response last year that a ban on Muslims entering the United States would be unacceptable.

AshLee Strong, a spokeswoman for Mr. Ryan, delivered a similar response: “The speaker has made clear many times that he rejects this idea, and himself has talked about how Muslim Americans have made the ultimate sacrifice for this country.”

In the same ABC News interview, when Mr. Stephanopoulos said that Mr. Khan had pointed out that his family would not have been allowed into the United States under Mr. Trump’s proposed ban, the candidate replied, “He doesn’t know that.”

And when asked what he would say to the grieving father, Mr. Trump replied, “I’d say, ‘We’ve had a lot of problems with radical Islamic terrorism.’”

Mr. Stephanopoulos also noted that Mr. Khan said that Mr. Trump had “sacrificed nothing,” and had lost no one.

“I think I’ve made a lot of sacrifices,” Mr. Trump replied. “I’ve worked very, very hard. I’ve created thousands and thousands of jobs.”

Some of the fiercest condemnations on Saturday came from Republicans who have argued — unsuccessfully to date — that Mr. Trump is unfit to be president.

Tim Miller, a former communications director for Jeb Bush’s presidential campaign, called Mr. Trump’s comments “inhuman.”

“Memo to Trump supporters,” Peter Wehner, a speechwriter for President George W. Bush, wrote on Twitter. “He’s a man of sadistic cruelty. With him there’s no bottom. Now go ahead & defend him.”

Reihan Salam, a conservative writer for National Review and a frequent Trump critic, said that Mr. Trump had an opportunity to declare remorse for the Khans while still holding to his own views as a candidate.

“He might have asked why Humayun Khan had died in the first place — because of a war that many, if not most, Americans regard as a tragic blunder,” he said.

“There was really no benefit for Trump in suggesting that Ghazala Khan had been muzzled,” he added, “because she could easily come out and say that she had been too grief-stricken to speak, which she did.”

Ibrahim Hooper, the spokesman for the Council on American-Islamic Relations, said on Saturday, “It’s really despicable that anyone, let alone a presidential candidate, would choose to dishonor the service of an American who gave his life for this nation.”

Ms. Khan, he said, “was obviously there to support her husband, who was offering what many people believe was the most impactful speech of the entire convention.”

As is often the case, Mr. Trump, who has had no campaign events this weekend, managed with a few words to overshadow Mrs. Clinton, who was making several stops in Ohio and Pennsylvania with her running mate, Senator Tim Kaine of Virginia.

In the ABC News interview, Mr. Trump also hedged over whether he would participate in the three scheduled debates with Mrs. Clinton. He insinuated that she had worked to schedule two during football games so viewership would be lower, and said that the National Football League had sent him a letter complaining about the timing.

The debates were scheduled in September of last year by the bipartisan Commission on Presidential Debates. And while Joe Lockhart, a spokesman for the National Football League, said the league was not thrilled about the scheduling, “we did not send a letter to Trump.”

Appendix D: United States Army Website, accessed 8/19/16

<https://www.army.mil/goldstar/>

The term Gold Star family is a modern reference that comes from the Service Flag. These flags/banners were first flown by families during World War I. The flag included a blue star for every immediate family member serving in the armed forces of the United States, during any period of war or hostilities in which the armed forces of the United States were engaged. If that loved one died, the blue star was replaced by a gold star. This allowed members of the community to know the price that the family had paid in the cause of freedom.

The United States began observing Gold Star Mother's Day on the last Sunday of September, in 1936. The Gold Star Wives was formed before the end of World War II. The Gold Star Lapel Button was established in August 1947.

Today, the nation recognizes the sacrifice that all Gold Star Family members make when a father, mother, brother, sister, son, daughter, or other loved one dies in service to the nation. Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day is the last Sunday of September and Gold Star Spouses Day is April 5. The strength of our nation is our Army. The strength of our Army is our Soldiers. The strength of our Soldiers is our families. The Army recognizes that no one has given more for the nation than the families of the fallen.

Appendix E: HR 2029, Vote #193, 4/30/15

<http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2015/roll193.xml>

FINAL VOTE RESULTS FOR ROLL CALL 193

(Republicans in roman; Democrats in *italic*;
Independents underlined)

H R 2029 YEA-AND-NAY 30-Apr-2015 7:14 PM

QUESTION: On Passage

BILL TITLE: Making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes

	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	PRES	<u>NV</u>
REPUBLICAN	236	4		3
DEMOCRATIC	19	159		10
INDEPENDENT				
TOTALS	255	163		13

---- YEAS 255 ---

Abraham	Granger	Perry
Aderholt	Graves (GA)	<i>Peters</i>
<i>Aguilar</i>	Graves (LA)	<i>Peterson</i>
Allen	Graves (MO)	Pittenger
Amash	Griffith	Pitts
Amodei	Grothman	Poe (TX)
<i>Ashford</i>	Guinta	Poliquin
Babin	Guthrie	Pompeo
Barletta	Hanna	Posey
Barr	Hardy	Price, Tom
Barton	Harper	Ratcliffe
Benishek	Harris	Reed
<i>Bera</i>	Hartzler	Reichert
Bilirakis	Heck (NV)	Renacci
Bishop (MI)	Hensarling	Ribble
Bishop (UT)	Hice, Jody B.	Rice (SC)
Black	<i>Higgins</i>	Rigell
Blackburn	Hill	Roby

Blum	Holding	Roe (TN)
Bost	Hudson	Rogers (AL)
Boustany	Huelskamp	Rogers (KY)
Brady (TX)	Huizenga (MI)	Rohrabacher
Brat	Hultgren	Rokita
Bridenstine	Hunter	Rooney (FL)
Brooks (AL)	Hurd (TX)	Ros-Lehtinen
Brooks (IN)	Hurt (VA)	Roskam
<i>Brownley (CA)</i>	Issa	Ross
Buchanan	Jenkins (KS)	Rothfus
Bucshon	Jenkins (WV)	Rouzer
Burgess	Johnson (OH)	Royce
<i>Bustos</i>	Johnson, Sam	<i>Ruiz</i>
Byrne	Jolly	Russell
Calvert	Jordan	Ryan (WI)
Carter (GA)	Joyce	Salmon
Carter (TX)	Katko	<i>Sanchez, Loretta</i>
<i>Cartwright</i>	Kelly (PA)	Sanford
Chabot	King (IA)	Scalise
Chaffetz	King (NY)	Schweikert
Clawson (FL)	Kinzinger (IL)	Scott, Austin
Coffman	Kline	Sensenbrenner
Cole	Knight	Sessions
Collins (GA)	<i>Kuster</i>	Shimkus
Collins (NY)	Labrador	Shuster
Comstock	LaMalfa	Simpson
Conaway	Lamborn	<i>Sinema</i>
Cook	Lance	Smith (MO)
<i>Costa</i>	Latta	Smith (NE)
Costello (PA)	LoBiondo	Smith (NJ)
Cramer	Long	Smith (TX)
Crawford	Loudermilk	Stefanik
Crenshaw	Love	Stewart
<i>Cuellar</i>	Lucas	Stivers
Culberson	Luetkemeyer	Stutzman
Curbelo (FL)	MacArthur	<i>Takai</i>
Davis, Rodney	<i>Maloney, Sean</i>	Thompson (PA)
Dent	Marchant	Thornberry
DeSantis	Marino	Tiberi
DesJarlais	Massie	Tipton
Diaz-Balart	McCarthy	Trott
Dold	McCaul	Turner
Duffy	McClintock	Upton
Duncan (SC)	McHenry	Valadao
Duncan (TN)	McKinley	Walberg
Elmers (NC)	McMorris Rodgers	Walden

Emmer (MN)	McSally	Walker
Farenthold	Meadows	Walorski
Fincher	Meehan	Walters, Mimi
Fitzpatrick	Messer	Weber (TX)
Fleischmann	Mica	Webster (FL)
Fleming	Miller (FL)	Wenstrup
Flores	Miller (MI)	Westerman
Forbes	Moolenaar	Westmoreland
Fortenberry	Mooney (WV)	Whitfield
Foxx	Mullin	Williams
Franks (AZ)	Murphy (PA)	Wilson (SC)
Frelinghuysen	Neugebauer	Wittman
<i>Gabbard</i>	Newhouse	Womack
Garrett	Noem	Woodall
Gibbs	Nugent	Yoder
Gibson	Nunes	Yoho
Gohmert	Olson	Young (AK)
Goodlatte	Palazzo	Young (IA)
Gosar	Palmer	Young (IN)
Gowdy	Paulsen	Zeldin
<i>Graham</i>	Pearce	Zinke

---- NAYS 163 ---

<i>Adams</i>	<i>Fudge</i>	Mulvaney
<i>Bass</i>	<i>Gallego</i>	<i>Murphy (FL)</i>
<i>Beatty</i>	<i>Garamendi</i>	<i>Nadler</i>
<i>Becerra</i>	<i>Grayson</i>	<i>Napolitano</i>
<i>Beyer</i>	<i>Green, Al</i>	<i>Nolan</i>
<i>Bishop (GA)</i>	<i>Green, Gene</i>	<i>Norcross</i>
<i>Blumenauer</i>	<i>Grijalva</i>	<i>O'Rourke</i>
<i>Bonamici</i>	<i>Gutiérrez</i>	<i>Pallone</i>
<i>Boyle, Brendan F.</i>	<i>Hahn</i>	<i>Pascrell</i>
<i>Brady (PA)</i>	<i>Hastings</i>	<i>Pelosi</i>
<i>Brown (FL)</i>	<i>Heck (WA)</i>	<i>Perlmutter</i>
<i>Butterfield</i>	<i>Himes</i>	<i>Pingree</i>
<i>Capps</i>	<i>Honda</i>	<i>Pocan</i>
<i>Capuano</i>	<i>Hoyer</i>	<i>Polis</i>
<i>Cárdenas</i>	<i>Huffman</i>	<i>Price (NC)</i>
<i>Carney</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Quigley</i>
<i>Carson (IN)</i>	<i>Jackson Lee</i>	<i>Rangel</i>
<i>Castor (FL)</i>	<i>Jeffries</i>	<i>Rice (NY)</i>
<i>Castro (TX)</i>	<i>Johnson (GA)</i>	<i>Richmond</i>
<i>Chu, Judy</i>	<i>Johnson, E. B.</i>	<i>Roybal-Allard</i>

<i>Cicilline</i>	<i>Jones</i>	<i>Ruppersberger</i>
<i>Clark (MA)</i>	<i>Kaptur</i>	<i>Rush</i>
<i>Clarke (NY)</i>	<i>Keating</i>	<i>Ryan (OH)</i>
<i>Clay</i>	<i>Kelly (IL)</i>	<i>Sánchez, Linda T.</i>
<i>Cleaver</i>	<i>Kennedy</i>	<i>Sarbanes</i>
<i>Clyburn</i>	<i>Kildee</i>	<i>Schakowsky</i>
<i>Cohen</i>	<i>Kilmer</i>	<i>Schiff</i>
<i>Connolly</i>	<i>Kind</i>	<i>Schrader</i>
<i>Conyers</i>	<i>Kirkpatrick</i>	<i>Scott (VA)</i>
<i>Cooper</i>	<i>Langevin</i>	<i>Scott, David</i>
<i>Courtney</i>	<i>Larsen (WA)</i>	<i>Serrano</i>
<i>Crowley</i>	<i>Larson (CT)</i>	<i>Sewell (AL)</i>
<i>Cummings</i>	<i>Lawrence</i>	<i>Sherman</i>
<i>Davis (CA)</i>	<i>Lee</i>	<i>Sires</i>
<i>Davis, Danny</i>	<i>Levin</i>	<i>Speier</i>
<i>DeGette</i>	<i>Lieu, Ted</i>	<i>Swalwell (CA)</i>
<i>Delaney</i>	<i>Lipinski</i>	<i>Takano</i>
<i>DeLauro</i>	<i>Loebsack</i>	<i>Thompson (CA)</i>
<i>DelBene</i>	<i>Lofgren</i>	<i>Titus</i>
<i>Denham</i>	<i>Lowenthal</i>	<i>Tonko</i>
<i>DeSaulnier</i>	<i>Lowey</i>	<i>Torres</i>
<i>Deutch</i>	<i>Lujan Grisham (NM)</i>	<i>Tsongas</i>
<i>Dingell</i>	<i>Luján, Ben Ray (NM)</i>	<i>Van Hollen</i>
<i>Doggett</i>	<i>Lummis</i>	<i>Vargas</i>
<i>Doyle, Michael F.</i>	<i>Lynch</i>	<i>Veasey</i>
<i>Duckworth</i>	<i>Maloney, Carolyn</i>	<i>Vela</i>
<i>Edwards</i>	<i>Matsui</i>	<i>Velázquez</i>
<i>Ellison</i>	<i>McCollum</i>	<i>Visclosky</i>
<i>Engel</i>	<i>McDermott</i>	<i>Walz</i>
<i>Eshoo</i>	<i>McGovern</i>	<i>Waters, Maxine</i>
<i>Esty</i>	<i>McNerney</i>	<i>Watson Coleman</i>
<i>Farr</i>	<i>Meeks</i>	<i>Welch</i>
<i>Fattah</i>	<i>Meng</i>	<i>Wilson (FL)</i>
<i>Foster</i>	<i>Moore</i>	
<i>Frankel (FL)</i>	<i>Moulton</i>	

---- NOT VOTING 13 ---

<i>Buck</i>	<i>Neal</i>	<i>Wagner</i>
<i>DeFazio</i>	<i>Payne</i>	<i>Wasserman Schultz</i>
<i>Herrera Beutler</i>	<i>Slaughter</i>	<i>Yarmuth</i>
<i>Hinojosa</i>	<i>Smith (WA)</i>	
<i>Lewis</i>	<i>Thompson (MS)</i>	

Appendix F: The Hill, 4/29/15

<http://thehill.com/homenews/house/240483-democrats-line-up-against-spending-bill-after-obama-veto-threat>

House Dems bolster Obama veto threat

By Mike Lillis - 04/29/15 12:44 PM EDT

Bolstering a White House veto threat, House Democrats on Wednesday began lining up against a Republican bill funding the Veterans Affairs Department next year.

"I won't support it," Rep. Joseph Crowley (N.Y.), vice chairman of the Democratic Caucus, said Wednesday, "and I don't believe our Caucus will support that, either."

Addressing the Democrats at a closed-door caucus meeting in the Capitol Wednesday, VA Secretary Robert McDonald warned the lawmakers that the GOP's \$77 billion bill funding the department and military construction projects in fiscal 2016 falls short of the resources needed to provide health and other services to the nation's veterans.

Relaying McDonald's message, Rep. Xavier Becerra (Calif.), chairman of the Democratic Caucus, said the GOP's bill would scale back health benefits for roughly 70,000 veterans, while also denying funds for medical research, education and veterans' cemeteries.

"The secretary came and sent a very strong message, something we rarely hear: 'Please don't let this funding bill become law, if you care about our veterans. We must do better for them,'" Becerra said.

Passed with bipartisan support by the House Appropriations Committee last week, the bill provides a 5.6 percent increase for the VA over 2015 levels, but falls more than \$1 billion shy of the figure President Obama had included in his 2016 budget request.

Appropriations Chairman Hal Rogers (R-Ky.) hailed the measure as "a balanced, thorough bill that will help improve the quality of life ... [and] address the current and future needs of our veterans."

The Democratic leaders see it differently, accusing the Republicans of adhering to spending levels dictated by the "incoherent" sequester law at the expense of veterans.

"We should not use the excuse — anyone in Congress — that sequester made you do this," Becerra said. "If we divest in the Veterans Administration for something as incoherent as a bad law ... then we're doing injustice and disservice to our veterans."

Scheduled for a floor vote Wednesday evening, the VA funding bill is expected to pass with overwhelming Republican support.

But the White House on Tuesday issued a statement threatening to veto the measure, saying it “fails” to fund building upgrades on military bases and expansions to medical facilities used by veterans.

The staunch opposition from leading Democrats suggests the president's House allies would be able to sustain a veto if GOP leaders passed the bill and attempted to override the president.

Appendix G: Dallas News, 5/06/16

<http://www.dallasnews.com/news/politics/2016/05/06/rep-will-hurd-keeping-distance-from-donald-trump-pushes-back-against-pete-gallego-attack-ads>

Rep. Will Hurd keeping distance from Donald Trump, pushing back against Pete Gallego attack ads

Updated: This post was updated at 1:40 p.m. with additional context and statements from Hurd.

WASHINGTON -- One-term Republican Rep. Will Hurd is keeping his distance from Donald Trump and pushing back against an onslaught of Democratic efforts to tie him to the presumptive nominee.

In one of the most closely watched races in the country, Hurd, of San Antonio, is facing a rematch with former Rep. Pete Gallego, a Democrat he bested for the 23rd Congressional District seat in 2014.

This week, the Gallego camp unveiled a new online ad in which it accused Hurd of “ducking and dodging” Trump’s controversial remarks on women, minorities, the disabled and more. Hurd, who has said little publicly about the New York businessman, made clear this week that he's not on board with Trump's sentiments.

“Until the presumptive nominee shows he can respect women and minorities and presents a clear plan to protect our homeland, I am going to reserve my endorsement,” Hurd said in a provided statement on Friday. “I hope in the next seven months he can show this because I am not supporting Hillary Clinton.”

Democrats nationwide, and in Texas, in particular, are seeking to capitalize on Trump’s controversial comments in order to win back coveted congressional seats this fall.

Texas Democrats have already attempted to portray Hurd, a former CIA officer, as “worse” than Trump when it comes to policies affecting the diverse southern district.

The ad from the Gallego camp states that Hurd “couldn’t be bothered to stand up for women,” following a clip of Trump saying Fox News host Megyn Kelly had “blood coming out of her wherever” while asking him tough questions during a televised debate.

And after Trump’s description of some Mexican immigrants as rapists and criminals, “nothing but cricket sounds” came from Hurd, the ad continues.

“One would think that Rep. Hurd would speak out when his constituents are being berated, insulted and dragged through the mud on a regular basis by Donald Trump,” Gallego wrote in an opinion piece this week.

The Gallego video ends with a photoshopped image of Hurd wearing Trump's trademark "Make America Great Again" white baseball cap.

The attack was unveiled the same week that Trump became the GOP's presumptive nominee after Texas Sen. Ted Cruz and Ohio Gov. John Kasich dropped out of the presidential race.

Almost immediately, the Hillary Clinton campaign unleashed a compilation of criticisms hurled at Trump by fellow Republicans.

Trump, whom Texas Democrats have called their "best ally" in state contests, has emerged as a wild card in the election, with Republicans and Democrats alike debating the impact that he could have on down ballot races.

"We don't know. We literally don't know," Rep. Greg Walden of Oregon, chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee, said of Trump on April 15.

Rep. Ben Ray Lujan of New Mexico, who heads the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, told reporters in Washington last week, "I don't think anyone truly knows what Donald Trump at the top of the ticket will mean across the rest of the country."

Hurd accused the Gallego camp of seizing upon the Trump issue in order "to promote fear and avoid talking about how Pete Gallego was a failure in Congress."

His campaign points out that -- unlike Gallego -- Hurd has seen two of his bills become law. Gallego, however, successfully sponsored amendments to legislation.

The Republican said his opponent "blindly supported Barack Obama and all of his policies" and now "blindly supports a candidate who is under investigation by the FBI," referencing the FBI investigation into the use and security of Clinton's private email server.

"I'm willing to go against some in my own party for what I think is best for America and Texas," Hurd said. "Is my opponent willing to do the same?"

Hurd, an African-American representing a predominantly Hispanic district, is so far better funded than his Democratic rival.

He's raised about \$2.1 million for his 2016 re-election bid, and has nearly \$1.4 million in cash on hand, according to the March 31 report filed with the Federal Election Commission.

Gallego has raised less than half of that -- at \$970,000 -- with about \$620,000 in cash on hand.

Appendix H: El Paso Times, 08/03/16

<http://www.elpasotimes.com/story/news/2016/08/03/hurd-slams-but-still-might-vote-trump/87974328/>

Hurd slams, but still might vote for Trump

Marty Schladen, El Paso Times 4:13 p.m. MDT August 3, 2016

AUSTIN — Donald Trump’s controversial statements seem to be coming at a quickening pace, putting the Republican incumbent in Texas’ only competitive congressional district in an ever tighter squeeze.

U.S. Rep. Will Hurd on Tuesday slammed the Republican nominee again, but he continued to leave room for Trump to redeem himself.

“That’s why my position is where it is,” Hurd said. “I haven’t endorsed the guy because until he has a clear national security plan, until he shows he can respect minorities and women, I’m going to withhold that. I’m not going to support (Democratic nominee) Hillary Clinton, but there are 100 days left until the election for him to convince me and the American people.”

Trump’s place at the top of the Republican ticket is excruciating for Hurd, said Mark Jones, a Rice University political scientist.

The first term Republican represents a district that runs all the way from San Antonio into El Paso County. It’s so evenly split between the parties that it’s switched in each election since 2010, with Democrats winning in presidential years and Republicans winning in midterms.

Now Hurd is trying to win in a presidential year in a district that is 70 percent Hispanic on a ticket with Trump, who kicked off his campaign calling Mexican immigrants criminals and “rapists.”

“It without question puts (Hurd) in a difficult position,” Jones said. “In 2014, (Texas) Gov. Greg Abbott was going to be a big boost for him. In this election Trump is going to be a drag. He starts off with a lodestone around his neck.”

Hurd's challenger, former U.S. Rep. Pete Gallego, faces challenges of his own because Hillary Clinton is running atop the Democratic ticket, Jones said.

Hurd has criticized Gallego's support of Clinton, particularly her handling of classified information on a private server, which Jones said adds to doubts that many Anglo voters in the district have about her trustworthiness.

But even though Clinton is the second-most unpopular major-party nominee since 1976, the demographics of Congressional District 23 mean that Trump — the most unpopular nominee

since 1976 — is even more of a drag on Hurd, Jones said. In other words, Clinton is pushing some voters to Hurd, but Trump seems to be pushing even more to Gallego.

"Clinton's unpopularity keeps Gallego from taking full advantage of Trump's even greater unpopularity," Jones said.

Last week, Trump made Hurd's political life even more difficult.

While the Democratic National Convention was underway, the Republican presidential nominee called on Russia to “find” and release more than 30,000 of Clinton's emails that were deleted from a private server that also contained official, classified information from when she was secretary of state.

“Finding” such emails would amount to illegal espionage on the part of a hostile government that already is suspected of hacking into the Democratic National Committee’s email system, many experts said.

Then, after the convention ended, Trump got into an ongoing spat with the family of Capt. Humayun Khan, who died in combat in Iraq 12 years ago.

On the last night of the convention, Khan’s father, a Muslim lawyer who emigrated from Pakistan, accused Trump of never having read the Constitution. He also said Trump had “sacrificed nothing and no one” for his country.

Trump, who at various times has called for a temporary ban on Muslim immigration, said Khizr Khan had “no right” to attack him. The real estate developer also appeared to draw an equivalence between sacrifices he’d made in his business career and the sacrifices Khizr and Ghazala Khan had made as Gold Star parents.

Hurd, a former CIA officer who has served in war zones, joined the chorus of condemnation Tuesday.

“I’ve had the honor of serving alongside many American heroes from all types of religious backgrounds and beliefs,” he said. “No one should ever question their service or their sacrifice on behalf of a great nation. My most sincere respect and deepest gratitude go out to the entire Khan family.”

Trump “should be like the rest of Americans and respect the sacrifice that the Khan family has made on behalf of this nation,” Hurd said

Gallego said it’s not enough for Hurd to criticize what Trump says while holding out the possibility that he still might vote for him.

“Donald Trump is a danger to our country and our families and our values,” Gallego said. Hurd “didn’t step up when Mr. Trump denigrated Mexican-Americans, denigrated women, people

with handicaps or (U.S. Sen.) John McCain” — the Arizona Republican who spent five years in a North Vietnamese prisoner-of-war camp.

Gallego is making a moral argument against Trump’s objectionable statements, but Hurd has practical politics to consider, Jones said. This was always going to be a difficult year for the incumbent, but it likely would be impossible if Hurd were to come out and say he’s not voting for Trump, who has the support of a great majority of Republican voters, Jones said.

“You still have to mobilize the Republican base to come out and support you,” Jones said.

Even if Hurd were to decide that Trump is leading the party to unmitigated disaster in 2016, there could be long-term consequences for abandoning him, Jones said. Any chance of a 2018 rematch would be harmed if Texas Republicans saw Hurd as disloyal, he said.

Trump’s apparent call for the Russians to hack into Clinton’s emails seems to have particularly outraged Hurd, who worked in cybersecurity during his service with the CIA.

He said his work in Afghanistan made him familiar with the online practices of Russian spy agencies. While it’s still not known whether they hacked Democratic National Committee emails with an eye toward influencing the American election, it’s certainly possible, Hurd said.

“Do the Russians have the capability to do such a thing? Yes,” he said. “Do they have the motivation to do such a thing? Yes. Should we be surprised that the Russians have done something like this? Absolutely not.”

Gallego said that Trump’s call for the Russians to hack Clinton “borders on treason.”

Hurd responded by criticizing both Trump and Clinton, whom Gallego supports.

“Under no circumstances should a nominee of a major party ever invite espionage on another candidate — just like a major party nominee should never believe they’re above the law and blatantly misuse classified information,” Hurd said.

He was referring to FBI Director James Comey’s statement last month that Clinton had improperly handled classified information on her private server. Comey said, however, that it didn’t rise to the level of a prosecutable offense.

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