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1 CREW: Ready to start [inaudible]

2 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: Okay.

3 And then, you know that mold is at an all-time
4 high today.

5 MR. BILL WHITAKER: I did not.

6 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: Which is
7 the one thing I am allergic to.

8 MR. BILL WHITAKER: Yeah?

9 CREW: [inaudible]

10 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: Okay.

11 Pollen is down.

12 MR. BILL WHITAKER: Mold is up.

13 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: Mold is
14 up.

15 CREW: That's it. Just take them off.

16 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: You know
17 how I know that, as a matter of fact? Because I
18 was watching CBS this morning.

19 MR. BILL WHITAKER: Oh, right?

20 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: And they
21 had a little streamy thing.

22 MR. BILL WHITAKER: There you go.

23 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: Now that
24 I think about it.

25 MR. BILL WHITAKER: You learn something

1 new every day.

2 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: Indeed.

3 CREW: [inaudible] I'm going to just
4 slap it once. Good?

5 CREW: Yep.

6 CREW: Coming around. John?

7 CREW: Yeah?

8 CREW: Got it on both?

9 CREW: Okay, so we need to clear the
10 background.

11 CREW: [inaudible]

12 CREW: Yes.

13 CREW: Thank you, Tim.

14 CREW: Thank you.

15 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: No
16 problem. Just do what you need to do.

17 CREW: [inaudible]

18 CREW: Everybody set?

19 CREW: Rolling, perfectly happy.

20 MR. BILL WHITAKER: Everybody happy?

21 CREW: Looks good.

22 CREW: [inaudible] looks great.

23 MR. BILL WHITAKER: You good?

24 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: I'm
25 good.

1 MR. BILL WHITAKER: All right. Well,
2 Madam Vice President, I want to thank you for
3 doing this, and thank you for inviting us into
4 your home.

5 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: Of
6 course. Of course.

7 MR. BILL WHITAKER: We're going to be
8 running this on the anniversary of the Hamas
9 attack on Israel.

10 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: Yeah.
11 October 7th.

12 MR. BILL WHITAKER: So let's just start
13 with Israel.

14 CREW: Hang on one second, Bill.

15 MR. BILL WHITAKER: Yeah.

16 CREW: Sorry, we had someone in the
17 background, and I'm afraid you're going to have
18 to re-ask that.

19 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: Okay,
20 whoever's in the dining room?

21 WOMAN: It was me. Sorry.

22 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: Okay.

23 MR. BILL WHITAKER: So yeah, just start
24 with Israel.

25 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: Okay.

1 MR. BILL WHITAKER: The events of the
2 past few weeks have pushed us to the brink, if
3 not into an all-out regional war in the Middle
4 East.

5 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: Mm-hmm.

6 MR. BILL WHITAKER: What can the U.S.
7 do at this point to stop this from spinning out
8 of control?

9 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: Well,
10 let's start with October 7th. Because obviously,
11 what we do now must be in the context of what has
12 happened. And as I reflect on a year ago, and
13 that 1,200 people were massacred, young people at
14 a festival, at a music festival, 250 hostages
15 were taken, including Americans, women were
16 brutally raped. And as I said then, I maintain
17 Israel has a right to defend itself. We would.
18 And how it does so matters.

19 And as we fast forward into what we
20 have seen in the ensuing weeks and months, far
21 too many innocent Palestinians have been killed.
22 And we know that, and I think most agree, this
23 war has to end. And that has to be our number
24 one imperative, and that has been our number one
25 imperative. How can we get this war to end?

1 Well, critical elements of that are we have got
2 to get a hostage deal and a ceasefire deal done.
3 We have to -- we have to get aid in. We have to
4 lay the path toward a two-state solution. I do
5 believe that we must maintain that as an
6 objective, no matter how out of reach it seems at
7 the moment. And the work that we have to do is
8 also pay attention to what is happening every day
9 in the region and put U.S. resources into
10 everything we can do, diplomatically and
11 otherwise, to de-escalate what is happening in
12 the region.

13 MR. BILL WHITAKER: We supply Israel
14 with billions of dollars in military aid.

15 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: Mm-hmm.

16 MR. BILL WHITAKER: And yet Prime
17 Minister Netanyahu seems to be charting his own
18 course. The Biden Administration, the Biden-
19 Harris Administration has pressed him to agree to
20 a ceasefire, he's resisted. You urged him not to
21 go into Lebanon, he went in anyway. He has
22 promised to make Iran pay for the missile attack,
23 and that has the potential of expanding the war.
24 Does the U.S. have no sway over Prime Minister
25 Netanyahu?

1 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: Well,
2 let's start with this. On this subject, the aid
3 that we have given Israel allowed Israel to
4 defend itself against 200 ballistic missiles that
5 were just meant to attack the Israelis, and the
6 people of Israel. And I think that is the most
7 recent example of why what we do to assist in
8 their defense around military aid is important.
9 And when we think about the threat that Hamas,
10 Hezbollah presents Iran, I think that it is
11 without any question our imperative to do what we
12 can to allow Israel to defend itself against
13 those kinds of attacks.

14 Now, the work that we do diplomatically
15 with the leadership of Israel is an ongoing
16 pursuit around making clear our principles, which
17 include the need for humanitarian aid, the need
18 for this war to end, the need for a deal to be
19 done which would release the hostages, and create
20 a ceasefire. And we're not going to stop in terms
21 of putting that pressure on Israel, and in the
22 region, including with other leaders in the
23 region, including Arab leaders.

24 MR. BILL WHITAKER: But it seems that
25 Prime Minister Netanyahu is not listening. The

1 Wall Street Journal said that he -- that your
2 administration has repeatedly been blindsided by
3 Netanyahu, and in fact, he has rebuffed just
4 about all of your administration's entreaties.

5 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: Well,
6 Bill, the work that we have done has resulted in
7 a number of movements in that region by Israel
8 that were very much prompted by, or a result of
9 many things, including our advocacy for what
10 needs to happen in the region. And we're not
11 going to stop doing that. We are not going to
12 stop pursuing what is necessary for the United
13 States to be clear about where we stand on the
14 need for this war to end.

15 MR. BILL WHITAKER: Just one last
16 thing. Do we have a real close ally in Prime
17 Minister Netanyahu?

18 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: I think,
19 with all due respect, the better question is do
20 we have an important alliance between the
21 American people and the Israeli people. And the
22 answer to that question is yes. And we are going
23 to do what is important to support whatever
24 leadership is in Israel, that is defending the
25 security of the State of Israel.

1 MR. BILL WHITAKER: Let's shift gears
2 here, and most basic of questions, why do you
3 want to be President of the United States?

4 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: There
5 are many reasons. But probably first and
6 foremost, I truly believe in the promise of
7 America. I do. And I love the American people.
8 You know, we are a people who have ambition and
9 aspirations and dreams, and optimism and hope.
10 If you look at the character of who we are, and
11 how we have achieved the strength that we have
12 achieved, I believe in large part it is because
13 of our character, and our belief in the promise
14 of America. And I'm running for President
15 because I want to do everything that is possible
16 to create an opportunity for people to achieve
17 those goals, those ambitions, and those dreams.

18 And that is why you will hear me talk
19 about my plan for an opportunity economy, to
20 invest in what we can do not only to bring the
21 cost of living and prices down for folks, because
22 even though we've achieved a lot of success,
23 prices are still too high. You know it, I know
24 it. But what we can do to invest in the
25 innovation that is happening in startups, in our

1 small businesses, what we can do to invest in the
2 industries of the future, what we can do to
3 maintain America's strength in the global
4 context.

5 MR. BILL WHITAKER: But that's why you
6 want to run. That's why you want to be
7 President.

8 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: That's
9 why I'm running. That, and some other reasons.

10 MR. BILL WHITAKER: But you're asking
11 the American people to make you the most powerful
12 person on the planet.

13 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: Mm-hmm.

14 MR. BILL WHITAKER: Why do you deserve
15 the American people's votes?

16 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: Well,
17 first of all, I have a career and a history of
18 being very clear that I think of my role of
19 leadership, and in particular now, for the last
20 four years as Vice President, and moving forward
21 as President, if the voters will have me, as
22 being a leader on behalf of all Americans. As
23 you know, I spent the majority of my career as a
24 prosecutor. And I'm going to tell you, I never
25 asked a victim of crime, a witness whether they

1 were a Democrat, are you a Republican, are you an
2 Independent? The only thing I ever asked folks
3 is, are you okay? And I believe that America
4 deserves a leader who works on behalf of all
5 Americans, and understands the importance of
6 knowing that the vast majority of us have so much
7 more in common than what separates us.

8 And my career and my work has always
9 been about being grounded in common sense
10 approaches to getting things done. And when it
11 comes to what we need to do as it relates to
12 national security, we just had that conversation,
13 that includes understanding and respecting the
14 power and the strength of the United States of
15 America, and our then responsibility to be a
16 global leader, to nurture and strengthen our
17 alliances around the world, to respect the U.S.
18 military, and its most noble mission, to do the
19 work of appreciating alliances, be it NATO or
20 others, to do the work of pursuing diplomacy when
21 it is in the best interest of our national
22 security and prosperity.

23 And my experiences tell me not only
24 that those must be priorities of the United
25 States of America, and the President of the

1 United States of America, and the Commander in
2 Chief of the United States of America, but also,
3 all of those experiences tell me that the
4 American people in this election have a clear
5 choice. Because on the other side of the
6 equation, we are looking at the Former President
7 Donald Trump, who has shown himself to be, when
8 he was a commander in chief, someone who gave
9 away America's standing in terms of our
10 principles of standing up to dictators and
11 autocrats. You see how he compliments Putin even
12 today, someone who was prepared to walk away from
13 our alliances. NATO is the strongest military
14 alliance the world has ever known. We have seen
15 someone, in Donald Trump, who openly criticizes
16 the United States military, men and women who are
17 prepared to at great sacrifice serve our country,
18 and defend the principles upon which we were
19 founded. He calls them suckers and losers.

20 MR. BILL WHITAKER: But Madam Vice
21 President, a quarter of registered voters still
22 say they don't know you, they don't know what
23 makes you tick. And why do you think that is? I
24 mean, you have been vice president for almost
25 four years. You've been on the national scene

1 for longer. What's the disconnect?

2 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: It's an
3 election, Bill. And I take it seriously that I
4 have to earn everyone's vote. And that's why I'm
5 traveling our country. I've seen you in a few
6 states in the last couple of days, I am talking
7 folks where they live. I am listening to folks,
8 and working to earn the vote of every American.
9 This is an election for President of the United
10 States. No one should be able to take for
11 granted that they can just declare themselves a
12 candidate, and automatically receive support.
13 You have to earn it. And that's what I intend to
14 do.

15 MR. BILL WHITAKER: Let me tell you
16 what your critics, and the columnists say.

17 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: Okay.

18 MR. BILL WHITAKER: They say that the
19 reason so many voters don't know you is that you
20 have changed your position on so many things.
21 You were against fracking, now you're for it.
22 You supported looser immigration policies, now
23 you're tightening them up. You were for Medicare
24 for all, now you're not. So many that people
25 don't truly know what you believe, or what you

1 stand for. And I know you've heard that.

2 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: So let's
3 be clear. First of all, a lot of the positions
4 that you were talking about have been discussed
5 and dispensed with in 2020, four years ago. But
6 let me be clear on something.

7 In the last four years I have been Vice
8 President of the United States. Not a senator
9 from a particular state, not coming from a
10 particular state, but Vice President of the
11 United States of America. And I have been
12 traveling our country, and I have been listening
13 to folks, and seeking what is possible in terms
14 of common ground, common sense solutions,
15 building consensus. And that is why I have taken
16 the positions that I take, not dispensing with my
17 values, but understanding we have to -- a real
18 leader has to find consensus.

19 So for example, on the issue of
20 fracking, I've been very clear since 2020, I will
21 not end fracking. I did not, as Vice President.
22 In fact, as Vice President of the United States,
23 I cast the decisive vote. I broke the tie in
24 Congress that now allows more leases for
25 fracking.

1 On the issue of healthcare in America,
2 my value has always been that access to
3 healthcare should be a right, and not just a
4 privilege of those who can afford it. Which is
5 why I cast the tie-breaking vote in the United
6 States Congress that has now allowed us to cap
7 the cost of insulin for seniors at \$35 a month.
8 The work that I have been a part of, and helped
9 lead about capping the cost of prescription
10 medication for our seniors at \$2,000 a year, all
11 born out of my belief that we need to bring the
12 price of medication down because it has been too
13 expensive for too many people, to the point that
14 they couldn't even afford to fill their
15 prescription. That's why I've been a huge
16 advocate for what we have accomplished, finally,
17 to allow Medicare to negotiate drug prices on
18 behalf of the American people.

19 MR. BILL WHITAKER: You have said that
20 your values haven't changed, but your positions
21 have. And I think people want to know is this
22 evolution, or as your critics say, opportunism.

23 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: I think
24 that we should understand the importance of a
25 leader building consensus. I believe in building

1 consensus. And I believe in finding a way that
2 the American people, and we are a diverse people,
3 geographically, regionally, based on whether it
4 be urban, rural, agricultural, we are a diverse
5 people in terms of where we are in our
6 backgrounds. And what the American people do
7 want is that we have leaders who can build
8 consensus, where we can figure out compromise,
9 and understand it's not a bad thing, as long as
10 you don't compromise your values, to find common
11 sense solutions. And that has been my approach.

12 MR. BILL WHITAKER: Let's move on to
13 the economy. As you were saying -- Well, first
14 of all, the economy and inflation, those are the
15 primary concerns of the American voters this
16 election year.

17 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: Mm-hmm.

18 MR. BILL WHITAKER: You just got some
19 blockbuster jobs report, a blockbuster job report
20 the other day, and there are lots of signs that
21 the American economy is doing very well, better
22 than most countries, I think. But the American
23 people don't seem to be feeling it. Groceries
24 are 25% higher than when you took office, and
25 people are blaming you and Joe Biden for that.

1 Are they wrong?

2 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: So you
3 are correct that under our leadership, the United
4 States of America has recovered, and is stronger
5 than any other so-called developed nation in the
6 world, in particular after the crisis that was
7 the pandemic. And understand, we came into
8 office facing a disaster, in large part because
9 of the mismanagement of the Former President
10 Donald Trump, where the economy was in a slump,
11 people were dying by the hundreds. It was a real
12 crisis. But because of our approach and our
13 work, we now have historic low unemployment in
14 America, among all groups of people. We now have
15 an economy that is thriving by all macroeconomic
16 measures. We have recovered in a way that we
17 have created almost 800,000 new manufacturing
18 jobs. We have created over 16 million new jobs
19 as a whole.

20 And to your point prices are still too
21 high. And I know that, and we need to deal with
22 it. Which is why part of my plan, you mentioned
23 groceries, part of my plan is what we must do to
24 bring down the price of groceries. I'm taking on
25 an issue I've taken on before as Attorney

1 General, the issue of price gouging. Which is
2 not all, but some corporations and businesses
3 that take advantage of a crisis, and jack prices
4 up, making the cost of groceries and other
5 everyday essentials too expensive for the
6 American people.

7 MR. BILL WHITAKER: But you're --

8 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: I'm
9 taking on the issue of housing. It's a big issue
10 in our country. It's too expensive. There were
11 generations before us that believed they could
12 achieve the American dream, which included home
13 ownership. Now I travel our country, I talk to
14 young people every day, and they are so concerned
15 they'll never be able to afford to buy a home, or
16 even start a family, because of the cost of
17 housing. So part of my plan is to put the
18 resources into partnering with builders and
19 developers, to create incentives for them to
20 build 3 million new homes by the end of my first
21 term. And my plan includes giving first-time
22 homebuyers a \$25,000 down payment assistance so
23 they can just get their foot in the door.

24 MR. BILL WHITAKER: Well, let's talk
25 about that. You want to expand the Child Tax

1 Credit.

2 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: Yes, I
3 do.

4 MR. BILL WHITAKER: You want to give
5 tax breaks to first-time homebuyers.

6 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: Yes.

7 MR. BILL WHITAKER: And people starting
8 small businesses.

9 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: Right.

10 MR. BILL WHITAKER: But it is estimated
11 by the Nonpartisan Committee for Responsible
12 Federal Budget that your economic plan would add
13 \$3 trillion to the federal deficit over the next
14 decade. How are you going to pay for that?

15 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: Okay.
16 So the other economists that have reviewed my
17 plan versus my opponent, because this is an
18 election and there are two choices, everyone from
19 Goldman Sachs to Moody's to 16 Nobel laureates,
20 so on the first point, comparing my economic plan
21 to Donald Trump's economic plan, they have
22 reviewed it, and determined that my economic plan
23 would strengthen America's economy, his would
24 weaken it. Sixteen Nobel laureates, Moody's,
25 others have determined, after reviewing what

1 Donald Trump is proposing, that he would induce
2 inflation, increase inflation, and bring about a
3 recession by the middle of next year.

4 MR. BILL WHITAKER: But --

5 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: My plan,
6 Bill, if you don't mind, my plan is about saying
7 that when you invest in small businesses, you
8 invest in the middle class, and you strengthen
9 America's economy. Small businesses are part of
10 the backbone of America's economy --

11 MR. BILL WHITAKER: But pardon me,
12 Madam Vice President, the question was how are
13 you going to pay for it?

14 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: Well,
15 one of the things is I'm going to make sure that
16 the richest among us, who can afford it, pay
17 their fair share in taxes. Listen, again, my
18 opponent, when he was President, issued a tax cut
19 for people like himself, billionaires, and the
20 biggest corporations. My perspective is
21 everybody needs to pay their fair share. It is
22 not right that teachers and nurses and
23 firefighters are paying a higher tax rate than
24 billionaires, and the biggest corporations.

25 MR. BILL WHITAKER: But, but --

1 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: And I
2 plan on making that fair.

3 MR. BILL WHITAKER: But we're dealing
4 with the real world here.

5 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: But the
6 real world includes --

7 MR. BILL WHITAKER: How are you going
8 to get this through Congress?

9 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: Well,
10 you know, when you talk quietly with a lot of
11 folks in Congress, they know exactly what I'm
12 talking about, because their constituents know
13 exactly what I'm talking about. Their
14 constituents are those firefighters and teachers
15 and nurses. Their constituents are middle class
16 hard-working folk who know that it is not right
17 that hard-working people are paying a higher tax
18 rate than the richest people, who can afford to
19 pay their fair share. So that's how we deal with
20 it.

21 But understand also that this is --
22 yes, it is about how we pay for what we're doing,
23 but understand it's not -- it doesn't end there.
24 My plan is actually about strengthening America's
25 economy. Not just netting zero, my plan is about

1 doing what we can do for small businesses and
2 startups. Right now, the tax deduction bill for
3 a startup, \$5,000. In 2024, nary a person is
4 going to be able to start a small business with
5 \$5,000. So I'm going to extend it to \$50,000.
6 My plan is about what we need to do, and yes,
7 expand the Child Tax Credit. Because for young
8 families, for the first year of their child's
9 life, \$6,000 allows them to buy a crib, a car
10 seat, and just be able to not just get by, but
11 get ahead for that most critical stage of their
12 child's development. We all benefit from that.
13 We all benefit from that.

14 MR. BILL WHITAKER: I understand. But
15 that sounds great -- it does, it all sounds good.
16 But the reality is these tax cuts have been in
17 place for years.

18 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: They're
19 about to expire.

20 MR. BILL WHITAKER: Yes, and Congress
21 has shown no inclination to move in your
22 direction.

23 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: I
24 disagree with you. There are plenty of leaders
25 in Congress who understand and know that the

1 Trump tax cuts blew up our federal deficit, and
2 care about the deficit in a way that they know we
3 must address it by making sure that our tax
4 policy reflects fairness, and again, understand
5 none of us, and certainly I cannot afford to be
6 myopic in terms of how I think about
7 strengthening America's economy. And that has to
8 include where are we investing our resources in a
9 way that we maximize the return on the
10 investment?

11 Let me tell you something. I am a
12 devout public servant. You know that. I am also
13 a capitalist. And I know the limitations of
14 government. Part of the work I've always done,
15 and the work I will do as President includes
16 engaging the private sector to join in what we
17 can do, whether it be, again, tax incentives for
18 builders or developers, or what we need to do to
19 increase the work I've already done to get some
20 of our biggest finance houses and corporations,
21 to invest in community banks, to increase access
22 to capital for small businesses.

23 MR. BILL WHITAKER: So if --

24 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: All of
25 this work must be done, but we have to have a

1 holistic approach that is comprehensive.

2 MR. BILL WHITAKER: I guess what I was
3 asking, if all of this makes so much sense, why
4 has this not been done?

5 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: Well --

6 MR. BILL WHITAKER: You are dealing
7 with a Congress that is divided, that many are in
8 opposition to not only you, but your policies.
9 So how are you going to make this come true?

10 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: Bill, if
11 I approached my life as though, well, it's never
12 been done before, therefore it cannot be done, I
13 wouldn't be sitting here in this interview with
14 you. That's the truth. But I do believe that we
15 have to have leadership in our country as we turn
16 the page on all of these, sadly, powerful forces
17 that have been trying to divide us. We have to
18 turn the page on that, and chart a new way
19 forward that is driven by building consensus, and
20 building common ground.

21 Listen, if you look at my campaign, I
22 am supported by over 200 former members of Mitt
23 Romney, Romney, John McCain, both President Bush,
24 and even former President Trump's teams. I have
25 the support of people who are -- Republicans who

1 understand what is at stake in this election, be
2 it as it relates to our democracy, and our most
3 fundamental principles, and I do believe based on
4 a collective understanding we have that America's
5 politics has to get back to the place of
6 encouraging healthy debate, but not division for
7 the sake of division.

8 MR. BILL WHITAKER: Hmm. Just a couple
9 more economic story -- questions here.

10 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: Sure.

11 MR. BILL WHITAKER: Donald Trump says
12 that tariffs on imports, well, that would be the
13 solution to all of our economic woes. You
14 criticize his plan for tariffs. Yet the Biden-
15 Harris Administration has left many of the Trump-
16 era tariffs in place, especially when it regards
17 China, and President Biden has, in fact, expanded
18 some of those tariffs. Would you continue the
19 Trump-era tariffs if you're elected?

20 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: So part
21 of the real problem that economists and others
22 have pointed out about Trump's approach in this
23 election, he is advocating what is at least a 20%
24 tariff across the board on everyday necessities
25 and goods, which economists have estimated will

1 cost the average American family more than almost
2 \$4,000 a year, more than what they're already
3 paying. For everyday goods --

4 MR. BILL WHITAKER: But you've got
5 tariffs --

6 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: Let me
7 get to my point. On everyday goods. So an
8 across the board blanket policy on tariffs for
9 everyday goods and necessities. Tariff policy,
10 we cannot afford to have that is just a blind
11 policy, without looking at what we are talking
12 about, and what will it induce, what will it
13 incentivize.

14 On the point about China, look, America
15 has to win the competition for the 21st century
16 as it relates to China. And we need to have
17 policy that includes investing in America,
18 investing in American workers, investing in
19 American manufacturing, investing in American
20 supply chain. And that is, I believe, smart and
21 important policy not only for the sake of our
22 security, but also our prosperity.

23 MR. BILL WHITAKER: So let's move on to
24 immigration. You recently visited the southern
25 border, and embraced President Biden's recent

1 crackdown on asylum seekers. And that crackdown
2 produced an almost immediate and dramatic
3 decrease in the number of border crossings, and
4 you said you would take it even further. If
5 that's the right answer now, why didn't your
6 administration take those steps in 2021?

7 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: So we
8 came into office, and almost hours, Bill, after
9 our inauguration, the first bill we proposed to
10 Congress was to fix our broken immigration
11 system, knowing that if you want to actually fix
12 it, we need Congress to act. It was not taken
13 up.

14 Fast forward to a moment when a
15 bipartisan group of members of the United States
16 Senate, including one of the most conservative
17 members of the United States Senate, got
18 together, came up with a border security bill,
19 which I support. Well, guess what happened?
20 Donald Trump got word that this bill was afoot,
21 and could be passed, knowing that it could fix
22 part of the problem, and he wants to run on a
23 problem instead of fixing a problem, so he told
24 his buddies in Congress kill the bill, don't let
25 it move forward.

1 MR. BILL WHITAKER: But Madam Vice
2 President, I've been covering the border for
3 years, and so I know this is not a problem that
4 started with your administration.

5 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: Correct.
6 Correct.

7 MR. BILL WHITAKER: But there was an
8 historic flood of undocumented immigrants coming
9 across the border the first three years of your
10 administration. As a matter of fact, arrivals
11 quadrupled from the last year of President Trump.
12 Was it a mistake to loosen the immigration
13 policies as much as you did in 2021?

14 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: So
15 regionally, and actually globally, we have seen
16 this as an issue, and America is obviously not
17 immune from this issue. But the focus has to be,
18 to your point, you've been covering it for years,
19 it's a long-standing problem, and solutions are
20 at hand. And from day one, literally, we have
21 been offering solutions which have not been
22 picked up, and then, when there was a border
23 security bill, my opponent decided to run on the
24 problem instead of fixing the problem.

25 And understand what that bill would

1 have done. That border security bill would have
2 put 1,500 more agents at the border, which is why
3 the Border Patrol Union supported it. It would
4 have put more resources into stemming the flow of
5 fentanyl. Which is a scourge.

6 MR. BILL WHITAKER: But that was just
7 this past year. That was just this past year.
8 What I was asking was, was it a mistake to kind
9 of allow that flood to happen in the first place?

10 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: I think
11 it -- The policies that we have been proposing
12 are about fixing a problem, not promoting a
13 problem. Okay? But the way --

14 MR. BILL WHITAKER: But the numbers did
15 quadruple under your watch.

16 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: And the
17 numbers today, because of what we have done, we
18 have cut the flow of illegal immigration by half.
19 We have cut the flow of fentanyl by half.

20 MR. BILL WHITAKER: But should you have
21 done that, shouldn't you have done that --

22 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: But we
23 need Congress to be able to act to actually fix
24 the problem.

25 I was just at the border.

1 MR. BILL WHITAKER: Mm-hmm.

2 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: I'm
3 talking with these incredible men and women who
4 are working around the clock, because again, they
5 don't have the resources they need. We need an
6 active Congress who carries the purse to do it.
7 Donald Trump told them don't act.

8 I talked with the Border Patrol agents,
9 some of the leaders. Part of the issue that they
10 identified is we need more asylum judges. We
11 need more processing of people who are coming to
12 our border, and the resources aren't there. You
13 know how those resources, commensurate with the
14 need, get dedicated? Congress has to act.

15 MR. BILL WHITAKER: But I guess my
16 question is, it's a pretty simple one, if this is
17 the right answer now, what you tried to do with
18 the bipartisan bill this trip --

19 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: And what
20 we tried to do on day one, Bill. And what we
21 tried to do on day one. When we came in, first
22 order of business before we did the Inflation
23 Reduction Act, before we did -- successfully, by
24 the way, without one Republican vote. Before we
25 did the bipartisan infrastructure bill, before we

1 passed the first meaningful piece of legislation
2 to deal with gun violence in America in 30 years,
3 the first, first thing we did was to offer a
4 comprehensive solution to create a pathway for
5 citizenship, and for people to earn it, and to
6 deal with what we need to do to put more
7 resources to ensure that we are able to heighten
8 our level of security at the border.

9 MR. BILL WHITAKER: So yeah, we do need
10 to move on, because our time is short. But I'm
11 trying to understand how it is that with this
12 emphasis on the border, the numbers of crossings
13 quadrupled under the first three years of the
14 Biden-Harris Administration. What -- how did
15 that happen?

16 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: There
17 are a variety of factors that relate to what we
18 have seen globally, and what we are not immune
19 from at our own border in terms of what we have
20 seen in terms of the surge of immigration and
21 irregular migration. And there are solutions at
22 hand, but we've got to have leaders who are
23 solution-oriented, which we've been and are, and
24 I am going forward, instead of leaders who want
25 to make it a problem they can run on.

1 MR. BILL WHITAKER: And talking about
2 that person you're mentioning right now, you have
3 accused Donald Trump of using racist tropes when
4 it comes to Haitian immigrants in Springfield,
5 Ohio, when it comes to birtherism, when it comes
6 to Charlottesville. In fact, you have called him
7 a racist, and divisive. Yet Donald Trump has the
8 support of millions and millions of Americans.
9 How do you explain that?

10 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: So let's
11 just break down what you just talked about, and
12 talk about it in the context of the words that
13 Donald Trump has spoken, and the actions he has
14 taken, and whether that is reflective of who we
15 are as Americans, knowing we have so much more in
16 common than what separates us.

17 We have a former President who wants to
18 be President again, who has a bouquet of
19 microphones in front of him, who has said the
20 most vile lies about a group of legal immigrants
21 in Springfield, Ohio. And if I may, Bill, let me
22 just say something. You know, from the time I
23 was a prosecutor, to attorney general, to now I'm
24 Vice President, I learned very early in my career
25 when the voters bestow on you the authority to

1 have these positions, you must be very thoughtful
2 about how you use that microphone in front of
3 you. And you know, when I was attorney general,
4 the words I spoke could move markets.

5 So the idea that the former president,
6 who again is running to be President, would use
7 that microphone in a way that is about vilifying
8 and demeaning a whole population of people, you
9 know what has happened because of that? One day
10 when this happened was a school day, picture day
11 for an elementary school. Picture day. You know
12 what picture day is for our children. They get
13 excited the night before when you put out the
14 clothes they're going to wear, they go to school
15 making sure their faces are clean, and their hair
16 is done, and they go to school for picture day.
17 You know what happened to these children? They
18 had to evacuate that day because of the fear of
19 the threats that were being issued in Springfield
20 because of the words of Donald Trump.

21 MR. BILL WHITAKER: So --

22 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: So I say
23 that I'm glad you're pointing these comments out
24 that he has made, that have resulted in a
25 response by most reasonable people to say it's

1 just wrong. It's just wrong.

2 MR. BILL WHITAKER: So you have said
3 you want to be the President of all the people.

4 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: Yes.

5 MR. BILL WHITAKER: With so many people
6 supporting Donald Trump, a man you have called a
7 racist, how do you bridge that seemingly
8 unbridgeable gap?

9 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: I
10 believe that the people of America want a leader
11 who's not trying to divide us, and demean. I
12 believe that the American people recognize that
13 the true measure of the strength of a leader is
14 not based on who you beat down, it's based on who
15 you lift up. And I have traveled around our
16 country, and I have met with people of every
17 background and walk of life, including people who
18 have supported Donald Trump in the past, who say
19 to me they're ready to turn the page. They're
20 exhausted with what he has been doing, and that
21 approach, and they want to chart a new way
22 forward for our country.

23 MR. BILL WHITAKER: So was democracy
24 best served by President Biden stepping down, and
25 basically handing you a nomination? You didn't

1 have to go through a primary process, you didn't
2 have to fight off other contenders, and that's
3 not really the way our system was intended to
4 work.

5 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: So
6 President Biden made a decision that I think
7 history is going to show is rare among leaders,
8 which was to put country before self. And I am
9 proud to have earned the support of the vast
10 majority of delegates, and to have been elected
11 the Democratic nominee to be Vice President of
12 the United States. I am honored to have received
13 the support and endorsement of over 200
14 Republicans who served in the last three
15 Republican Presidential administrations. I am
16 proud to have earned the support of leaders of
17 our national security community. I am proud to
18 have received the endorsement of leaders around
19 this country from every background and walk of
20 life, to fight in this election over the next
21 month for our democracy, and the principles upon
22 which it stands.

23 What is at stake in this election, you
24 mentioned our democracy, is whether we are a
25 nation that abides by and respects the rule of

1 law, and that we have a President who is the
2 champion of following and respecting and
3 upholding rule of law.

4 MR. BILL WHITAKER: But I would think
5 that --

6 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: Not
7 someone who has been convicted of 34 felonies,
8 who tried to overturn the free and fair election
9 which was the will of the people on January 6th.
10 Not someone who has said he would be a dictator
11 on day one. Not someone who has said, and these
12 are his words, he would terminate the
13 Constitution of the United States of America.

14 MR. BILL WHITAKER: But I think this
15 truncated process is why people think or say they
16 don't really know who you are.

17 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: Well,
18 Bill, there's no question. Look, I've been in
19 this race for 70 days, and there is work to be
20 done. It is, without any question, a short
21 period of time. There's no question about that.
22 Which is why I'm traveling around our country --

23 As I said earlier, I mean you've seen
24 me, I'm from one state to the next to the next.
25 I don't know how many states I've been in this

1 last week alone. Literally, I've lost count. So
2 it is my responsibility to earn the vote. And
3 I'm going to work to do that.

4 MR. BILL WHITAKER: Three-quarters of
5 the American voters, or likely voters, say that
6 they are concerned about the possibility of
7 election-related violence. And with two
8 assassination attempts against former President
9 Trump, the country seems near a boiling point.
10 What can you do, what should you do to lower the
11 temperature?

12 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: Well,
13 first let's start with those attempts,
14 assassination attempts on the former president.
15 I was deeply disturbed, shocked, and shaken,
16 frankly, when they happened. I called the former
17 president to check on him. But it is really
18 important that all of us speak loudly, regardless
19 of who we're voting for, to say our differences
20 have to be settled at the ballot box and not
21 through violence. We cannot lose our soul in
22 terms of who we are as Americans by resorting to
23 violence to settle our differences, much less to
24 make a decision about who's going to be the next
25 President of the United States.

1 MR. BILL WHITAKER: Let's hit on some
2 more foreign policy. Which foreign country do
3 you consider to be our greatest adversary?

4 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: Well,
5 there are different reasons that we should be
6 thoughtful about each. Most recently, I think
7 there's an obvious one in mind, which is Iran.
8 And look, I mean, Iran has American blood on
9 their hands, okay? And what we saw in terms of
10 just this attack on Israel, 200 ballistic
11 missiles, what we need to do to ensure that Iran
12 never achieves the ability to be a nuclear power,
13 that is one of my highest priorities. And that
14 must be.

15 MR. BILL WHITAKER: So if you have
16 proof that Iran is building a nuclear weapon,
17 would you take military action?

18 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: I'm not
19 going to talk about hypotheticals at this moment.

20 MR. BILL WHITAKER: What about China?
21 China is strongly asserting its dominance, its
22 control of the South China Sea, especially around
23 the Philippines.

24 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: Yeah.

25 MR. BILL WHITAKER: What is the U.S.

1 responsibility for keeping China from simply
2 taking over the South China Sea?

3 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: Well, I
4 have actually worked very closely with the
5 leaders in the Philippines on just this very
6 issue, and including the work that we are doing
7 in terms of coordination between our military and
8 training, and what needs to happen in terms of
9 protecting the freedom of the South China Sea.

10 China, first of all, we must win the
11 competition for the 21st century with China. We
12 must be able to compete and win. We should not
13 seek conflict, but we have to understand that
14 there are parameters in which we must operate
15 that include ensuring, for example, that we
16 protect American business interests. What we --

17 MR. BILL WHITAKER: So say if China
18 attacks Taiwan. Would we use military force to
19 support Taiwan?

20 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: Bill,
21 I'm not going to get into hypotheticals. But
22 listen, we need to make sure that we maintain a
23 one-China policy, and -- but that includes
24 supporting Taiwan's ability to defend itself,
25 including what we need to do to ensure the

1 freedom of the Taiwan Strait.

2 But on the issue of China, we also --
3 Again, these are not -- We cannot afford to have
4 foreign policy that is myopic.

5 We must be able to also, as it relates
6 to China, continue to do the work that we have
7 begun to deal with the flow of fentanyl coming
8 into the United States. That's a real issue.
9 Again, you talk to families around our country
10 who have -- I just, on a constant, sadly, regular
11 basis meet parents and family members of people
12 who have died from fentanyl, young people who
13 have died from fentanyl. Are we going to stop
14 trying to stem the flow from fentanyl? And we
15 have to deal with that, and understand China's
16 role in that, and our ability to work with China
17 to stop that flow. Which we have begun to do,
18 and I'm going to continue to do. We need to make
19 sure we have open lines of communication with
20 China, in particular military to military.

21 So these issues are all -- they're
22 multifaceted.

23 MR. BILL WHITAKER: So what about
24 Russia and Ukraine? What does the end of the war
25 -- what does success look like in ending the war

1 in Ukraine?

2 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: There
3 will be no success in ending that war without
4 Ukraine and the UN Charter participating in what
5 that success looks like.

6 MR. BILL WHITAKER: Would you --

7 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: That
8 being said, America must stand firm in being a
9 leader in defending international rules and norms
10 that include one of the most important, which is
11 the critical nature and importance of sovereignty
12 and territorial integrity.

13 MR. BILL WHITAKER: Would you meet with
14 President Vladimir Putin to negotiate a solution
15 to the war in Ukraine?

16 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: Not
17 bilaterally, without Ukraine, no. Ukraine must
18 have a say in the future of Ukraine.

19 MR. BILL WHITAKER: How about as
20 President, would you support the effort to expand
21 NATO to include Ukraine?

22 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: Those
23 are all issues that we will deal with if and when
24 it arrives at that point. Right now, we are
25 supporting Ukraine's ability to defend itself

1 against Russia's unprovoked aggression, and doing
2 what we can to continue to build and strengthen
3 the alliance around the support for Ukraine's
4 right to be an independent nation, free from
5 having its borders forcefully taken by Russia.
6 And we are going to continue to work closely with
7 our NATO allies to continue to reinforce
8 America's alliance in the context of NATO.

9 Again, in this election, there's a real
10 difference between me and the former president.
11 I believe in reinforcing the strength of NATO,
12 understanding again it is the greatest military
13 alliance the world has ever known. Donald Trump
14 would pull us out of NATO. Donald Trump, if he
15 were President, Putin would be sitting in Kiev
16 right now. Let's be clear about that. He talks
17 about, oh, he can end it on day one. You know
18 what that is? It's about surrender. Achieving
19 peace, and an end to this war is not synonymous
20 with surrender. Those two things are not the
21 same.

22 MR. BILL WHITAKER: It's kind of a hard
23 left turn here, but you recently surprised people
24 when you said that you are a gun owner, and that
25 if someone came into your house --

1 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: That was
2 not the first time I've talked about it.

3 MR. BILL WHITAKER: -- they would get
4 shot.

5 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: That's
6 not the first time I've talked about it. But
7 it's -- I mean, I don't talk about it a lot, but
8 --

9 MR. BILL WHITAKER: So what kind of gun
10 do you own? And when, and why did you get it?

11 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: I have a
12 Glock, and I've had it for quite some time. And
13 I mean, look Bill, my background is in law
14 enforcement, and -- so there you go.

15 MR. BILL WHITAKER: Have you ever fired
16 it?

17 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: Yes. Of
18 course I have. At a shooting range, yes, of
19 course I have. And to just give you more detail,
20 and I store it in a lock box, and it is safely
21 stored, and as any responsible gun owner does.

22 MR. BILL WHITAKER: I'm getting the
23 countdown here, but one last thing. You are
24 sitting here with us. The Trump campaign
25 canceled an interview that they had agreed to, to

1 participate in this broadcast. What do you make
2 of that?

3 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: Listen,
4 I think that -- Look, I think that your viewers
5 have options in terms of how they're going to
6 hear from him. And I invite them to watch what
7 he says at his rallies. If he is not going to
8 give your viewers the ability to have a
9 meaningful, thoughtful conversation, and question
10 and answer with you, then watch his rallies. And
11 what you're going to hear are comments about
12 fictional characters, like Hannibal Lecter.
13 You're going to hear conversations suggesting
14 that human beings are eating their pets. You're
15 going to hear conversations that are about
16 himself, and all of his personal grievances.
17 Words that are intended to divide our country is
18 what you will hear.

19 And what you will not hear is anything
20 about you, the listener. You will not hear a
21 plan about how he's going to make your life
22 better. You will not hear a plan about how he's
23 going to strengthen the middle class. You will
24 not hear about how he is going to strengthen
25 small businesses. You will not hear about how he

1 is going to strengthen the middle class. You will
2 not hear about how he is going to strengthen
3 small businesses. You will not hear about how he
4 is going to try to bring the country together,
5 find common ground.

6 And Bill, that is why I believe in my
7 soul and heart the American people are ready to
8 turn the page.

9 MR. BILL WHITAKER: You have said that
10 the country is exhausted.

11 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: Yes.

12 MR. BILL WHITAKER: With the rhetoric,
13 and the finger pointing. How about you? Are you
14 exhausted?

15 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: I'll be
16 exhausted on November 6th. Not now. Not now.
17 Too much to do. Too much to do.

18 MR. BILL WHITAKER: Madam Vice
19 President, thank you very much.

20 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: Thank
21 you. Thank you, Bill. Good to be with you.

22 CREW: Can we just get just a little
23 bit of a question, please, so I can get an over
24 the shoulder shot?

25 MR. BILL WHITAKER: Yeah.

1 CREW: One second [inaudible] okay.

2 Thank you.

3 MR. BILL WHITAKER: You need me
4 talking?

5 CREW: Yes, sir.

6 MR. BILL WHITAKER: Well, we were
7 talking about how you're going to pay for it.
8 And I mean, I truly do mean it, you know, your
9 plans are logical, make logical sense.

10 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: Mm-hmm.

11 MR. BILL WHITAKER: The way Washington
12 works is not logical. So how are you going to
13 convince a divided Congress that what you say,
14 your plans are something that they should all
15 agree to, and provide to the American people,
16 when they've shown no inclination to do that up
17 to this point?

18 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: Is that
19 what you needed?

20 CREW: Yes, sir.

21 VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: Okay.

22 CREW: Yes, ma'am.

23 Thirty seconds of silence, please, for
24 room tone.

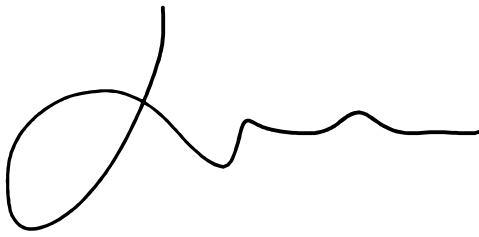
25 CREW: Mark.

1 [00:53:41.812]
2 [silence]
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4 CREW: Cameras --
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I, Lindsay Peacock, certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lindsay Peacock', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop on the left side and several smaller loops and flourishes extending to the right.

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Date: January 31, 2025