TRUMP'S IMAGINARY HELICOPTER FRIENDS AND BACON EMERGENCY

Three quarters of the way through yesterday's Trump presser, Meghan McCain RTed a clip Aaron Rupar posted and predicted "Vice President Harris is going to win."

Meghan McCain ✔
@MeghanMcCain

Vice President Harris is going to win.

> **Aaron Rupar** ✔ @atrupar · 20h
> Trump on his January 6 speech: "Nobody has spoken to crowds bigger than me. If you look at Martin Luther King when he did his speech, his great speech, and you look at ours ... we had more."
>
> LIVE MAR-A-LAGO
>
> BREAKING NEWS
> CNBC: 2-TO-1 SAY TRUMP BETTER FOR ECONOMY
> 0:48 35 PT LIVE SOME VULNERABLE DEMOCRATS WON'T ATTEND DNC... MARQUETTE POLL: HARRI

7:43 PM · Aug 8, 2024 · **5.7M** Views

In Rupar's clip, Trump was, for the second time in an hour, lying about how big his crowds were. Parts of answers taking up six minutes of the 1:04 press conference (marked in blue below) were dedicated to lying about his crowd sizes, and claiming the Vice President's were smaller — by an order of magnitude — than they actually are.

Over six more minutes (marked in red) — as well as one claim in his opening statement — were lies about how well he's doing in the polls.

Another six minutes (marked in green) were dedicated to lies about how unfair his own prosecutions are, except the one before the "brilliant" Aileen Cannon, through whose intervention, he "won" his stolen documents case.

For much of the rest, Trump couldn't decide whether Kamala Harris and Joe Biden were stupid, or they were super smart for managing to steal the 2020 election.

And that's before Trump confused Black former San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown with white former Governor Jerry Brown and then invented a dangerous helicopter trip he shared with one, on which whoever it was badmouthed Kamala, something both Willie and Jerry, along with Gavin Newsom, who was probably on the trip Trump lied about, disavowed. Newsom told the NYT that they had discussed "everyone else."

> The subject of Ms. Harris, with whom Mr. Newsom had enjoyed a friendly rivalry, did not come up on the helicopter, he added. "We talked about everyone else, but not Kamala," he said with a laugh.

Given the close relationship Newsom's former spouse, Kimberly Guilfoyle, currently has with Don Jr, that "everyone" may well suggest that Trump confused Kamala with his son's long-term partner.

It was a shitshow.

And yet, aside from that story busting Trump for confusing Willie and Jerry Brown, outlets like the NYT have largely memory holed what a shit show it was. The press conference itself appeared on neither the dead tree front page nor the digital front page (the very good story on the Willie and Jerry confusion didn't make it into the paper, nor does it currently appear on my digital front page).

Time in House Paved the Way For Walz's Rise

Democrat Successful in Conservative District

By CATIE EDMONDSON and LUKE BROADWATER

WASHINGTON — Representative Tim Walz was traveling across his conservative, rural district in 2014, holding town halls across southern Minnesota, when a voter confronted him with a prickly question about his support for the Affordable Care Act.

President Barack Obama's signature legislation was supposed to save families thousands of dollars in health care premiums but still proved costly for some, the voter said. "What happened?" the man demanded.

Some Democrats in politically vulnerable swing seats like Mr. Walz's who had supported the bill tried to backpedal from their vote, a choice that voters punished them for at the ballot box later that year.

Not Mr. Walz.

Instead, Senator Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota, who shared the stage with Mr. Walz, recalled in an interview that he stood by his decision. "He didn't try to hide from the vote," she said. "He leaned into it."

Mr. Walz acknowledged there was still work to be done on health care but defended the law to the crowd. "Don't pretend that there was some type of safe harbor before this where everything was just peachy keen," he said.

Mr. Walz, who served in the House for more than a decade, often took liberal votes even as a politically vulnerable incumbent, including pushing the Affordable Care Act and the failed climate

TRUMP REINVENTS PLATFORM IN A BID TO COURT VOTERS

FROM TAXES TO TIKTOK

Economic Agenda Vastly Different From Term in White House

By ALAN RAPPEPORT

WASHINGTON — At his convention speech last month, former President Donald J. Trump declared that his new economic agenda would be built around a plan to eliminate taxes on tips, claiming that the idea would uplift the middle class and provide relief to hospitality workers around the country.

"Everybody loves it," Mr. Trump said to cheers. "Waitresses and caddies and drivers."

While the cost and feasibility of

Donald J. Trump's agenda has some notable reversals.

the idea has been questioned by

Golden Again
Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone won a second straight gold in the 400-meter hurdles, doing so at the Paris Games in a world-record-setting 50.37 seconds. Her compatriot, Noah Lyles, took bronze in the 200 meters, later revealing he has Covid. Sports Page B6.

CHANG W. LEE/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Paris Strategy Of the Dutch: Fist Taps Only

This article is by Rory Smith,

A City Plagued by Opioids Responds With Silence

By ADAM WILLIS and ALISSA ZHU

Focused on Legal Fight, Baltimore's Leaders Cede Transparency

BALTIMORE — For years, Baltimore's leaders gave overdoses little public attention, even as the death rate swelled to unprece-

session, at the request of Mr. Scott's administration.

The administration said that holding any of the public meetings would jeopardize a lawsuit the city had filed accusing numerous opioid makers and distributors of

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In response to Joe Biden's similarly awful performance at the debate, the NYT dedicated weeks to demanding he drop out.

Not Trump.

The horse race journalists have rabidly been demanding that Kamala — who has been rather busy of late — give an interview or press conference. They've no doubt been goaded into doing so by Trump, because both he and JD have been demanding it too.

But if yesterday is any indication, there is no imaginable value to reporting from most of these horserace journalists. They're just props in Trump's reality show in which he attracts the biggest crowds in history.

0:00 to 11:03: Lies about his preference to run against Kamala, lies about polls, lies about Kamala's role as Border Czar, lies about migration. Lies that people can't buy bacon. Misreads which debate is on September 10 (NBC rather than ABC). Attacks Kamala as "barely competent." Lies about prisons being emptied out into the US. Accuses Kamala of being nasty to Biden. Claims "the presidency" was taken away from Biden. Lies that he's leading. Lies about cherishing the Constitution. Falsely claims that Biden is a very angry man. Attacks Pelosi as

crazy. Lies that Kamala was "appointed to head the border." Cites Project 2025 source Tom Holman.

11:03 to 13:18: Explains that he hasn't recalibrated strategy at all. Claims Kamala destroyed San Francisco and California. Claims Bob Tisch, who is dead, would hate what San Francisco has become. Claims Kamala is weak on crime but then claims "they" weaponized law enforcement against him. Lies that he "won" the documents case and complains that nobody wrote about it. Calls Aileen Cannon brilliant. Claims that Biden lost his documents case because he didn't have Presidential immunity and Presidential Records Act, neither of which relate to why Cannon dismissed the case. States that Kamala could not pass her bar exam.

13:18 to 14:53: Claims he's getting other voters (this appears to be a question about how Kamala's entry in the race affects his support).

14:53 to 15:45: Claims Josh Shapiro is a terrible guy. Lies that Kamala was worse than any of her VP candidates.

15:45 to 16:13: Follows up on debates and states that CBS will do a VP debate. Claims JD Vance is doing a fantastic job.

16:13 to 20:18: Starts by scoffing, "give me a break." Lies about crowd sizes. Claims Kamala had only 2,000 people on Wednesday. Lies about crowd size some more. Claims his crowds are 30 times bigger. Claims he's happy the reporter asked the question. Claims Republicans, and he as the candidate, have the enthusiasm. Claims that if all cars were electric, you would have to rebuild every bridge in the US. Claims he has had the biggest crowds in history. Lies that he has hundreds of thousands at his rallies.

20:18 to 21:49: Claims he got Brian Kemp elected, but doesn't know whether they can repair their differences. Lies that he's leading in GA by a lot and PA by a lot. Complains that Kemp doesn't like him even though he got him elected. Claims that given his margins in AL and

SC, it's impossible he lost GA. Lies that all he wants is honest elections.

21:49 to 22:38: Claims that Biden didn't say Trump wouldn't allow the peaceful transfer of power if he loses. Claims Biden doesn't know what he said. Claims Biden should have brought this up at the debate.

22:38 to 24:26: Complains, "what a stupid question." Makes excuses for why he's not campaigning. Lies that he's leading by a lot. Claims Kamala is not smart enough to do a press conference. Claims Russia, China, and North Korea don't respect us anymore. Describes going to Montana (he first says it's Wyoming) to help Tim Sheehy win the Senate race.

24:26 to 25:18: Trump applauds Elon Musk for endorsing him. Claims a lot of people are talking about the show.

25:18 to 26:06: [Possibly a follow-up on Xitter] Trump assures he'll great along great with Xi Jinpeng. Describes there used to be a sofa where he has made journalists stand up. Claims China was taking advantage of the US.

26:06 to 28:17: [a question from Maggie Haberman] Claims people aren't talking about January 6 and January 6 defendants were treated unfairly. Claims they weren't there through him. Claims January 6 was the biggest crowd he's ever spoken to. Claims it's hard to find a picture of the crowd, and lies there were pictures of the "very small number of people" who went to the Capitol. Lies that he spoke in the same place that MLK Jr spoke and his crowd was bigger.

28:17 to 30:11: Implies that Kamala's pick as the nominee violates the Constitution. Repeats his claims about Biden being forced out of the race. Calls her "the first loser" again (referring to her dropping out of the 2020 race first). Asserts that Biden regrets picking Kamala and claims she turned on Biden.

30:11 to 30:46: Asserts that Hillary was far superior, in terms of intelligence, than anyone

else he has run against. States that Hillary was her own worst enemy.

30:46 to 34:59: After instructing yet another journalist to speak up, points out how big the room is, then asserts Mar-a-Lago is worth $18 million (a misrepresentation of what Judge Engoron has ruled). Lies that the abortion issue is "tampered down." Lies that "they" wanted to bring abortion back to the states, "and I did that." Claims 82% of Republicans do believe in exceptions. Claims that abortion will be a very small issue in the election. Lies that Democrats do abortions after birth, claiming that Walz supports that. Then raises Glenn Youngkin (seemingly confusing VA and MN). Calls Walz and Kamala "progressive," then claims no one knows what it means. Repeats that abortion is not a big factor anymore. Repeats again that "that issue" is very much subdued.

34:59 to 37:17: Claims you can't take away guns, they need weapons for protection, entertainment, and hunting. Suggests that Chicago's shooting rates are due to its tough gun laws. Claims Afghanistan doesn't have shooting problems. Calls Afghanistan the worst embarrassment to the history of the country. Calls Milley incompetent. Claims DOD "took out the soldiers first." Claims the Afghans who fell off a transport plane fell from a height three times higher than the World Trade Center.

37:17 to 38:56: Lies that Ka-Mala [which he pronounced correctly earlier in the press conference] is not in favor of giving Israel weapons. Lies that Kamala has been very very bad to both Israel and Jewish people. Mispronounces Ka-Mala again, and claims that Jews who vote for her should have their head examined. Claims he gave "them" Golan Heights and the Capitol of Israel, Jerusalem, built the embassy, gave them no Iran deal. Claims he would have had a deal one week after the 2020 election. Claims he hit Iran a couple times. Returns to what he gave Israel, the Abraham Accords. Repeats that any Jewish person who votes for Ka-Mala and her new

friend ought to have your head examined.

38:51 to 39:09: States that the FBI has done a very good job with the investigation into Thomas Crooks and "this other lunatic they have in custody" (probably a reference to Asif Merchant).

39:09 to 40:02: Claims to know Willie Brown very well (he's confusing Willie Brown with Jerry Brown, and even still inventing a close call). Invents a false story about almost dying in a helicopter with him. Lied that Willie Brown told him terrible things about Kamala. Claims Willie Brown had a big part in what happened with Ka-Mala. Lies that Willie Brown was not a fan of Kamala at that point.

40:02 to 40:40: [I missed one single answer question here.] Defers telling what his vote on the abortion referendum will be. Claims he'll hold a press conference to announce how he'll vote. Predicts it'll go in a more "liberal" way than people expect.

40:40 to 42:38: Asserts his tax cuts were the biggest in history and included generous support for childcare. States the tax cuts "are coming due." Lies that not renewing them creates a four times tax increase. Lies that Democrats would offer no security. Repeats "transgender" several times. Repeats his plan to eliminate taxes on Social Security and tips.

42:38 to 44:10: Agrees that Steve Bannon's prosecution was politically motivated. Claims again "they" have weaponized government against him. Lies that Biden's DOJ was behind the NY cases. Attacks mail-in ballots.

44:10 to 45:01: Makes excuses for Elon Musk.

45:01 to 47:20: Lies that there are polls that show he'll win in a landslide. Exaggerates inflation. Claims people are paying $5 to $7 to pay for gas. Claims the Strategic Reserve has never been this low. Claims oil will soon be at $100 a barrel. Mispronounces Ka-Mala again and repeats his claim that she's not as smart as

Biden.

47:20 to 47:50: Dodges a question about mifepristone. Repeats that you have to give a vote on abortion.

47:50 to 48:09: Claims Kamala is not as smart as Biden again.

48:09 to 49:01: Observes that Kamala is a woman and "represents certain groups of people." Lies that Kamala is going way down in the polls. Calls Gavin Newsom, "Gavin New-Scum." Repeats her claim that Kamala destroyed California. Compares her to prosecutors who've prosecuted him.

49:01 to 49:50: After asking four different journalists to help him hear what a journalist asked, mocks the idea of doing a daily press briefing. Promises total access. Promises more access than you want.

49:50 to 52:33: Lies about his encouragement of "Lock her up" chants and his efforts to prosecute her. Attacks her for a claimed non-response to a subpoena. Claims he thought it was bad to consider putting Hillary in jail. Attacks Hillary for being "pretty evil." Lies that the MAGA base is 75% of the country. Describes that China and Russia are natural allies but they have combined, along with Iran.

52:33 to 54:50: Claims he wants the election to be about policy. Accuses Kamala of being incompetent. Claims Kamala can't do better than Biden. Jokes that Biden was never the brightest bulb in the ceiling. Claims Kamala wants to defund the police. Repeats his claim that guns are about self-protection.

54:50 to 56:21: Claims that if he loses there will be a Depression. Lies about his the debt incurred in his administration. Claims he had the perfect number on inflation. Notes they sell hats and claims that proves he's been right about everything.

56:21 to 58:12: [A second Maggie question.]

Claims there was a process behind his pardons. Describes that some of the people he pardoned were harshly treated. Repeats again that "for the most part" his pardons went through his pardon commission. Claims that he let out a lot of low income people who weren't backed by insiders. Claims that, "for the most part," he didn't pardon people involved in killings.

58:12 to 59:15: States that the Federal Reserve gets things wrong a lot. Claims Jerome Powell works on gut feeling. Claims they get along fine. Asserts that the President should have a say in rates cuts. Asserts he has better instincts than Powell.

59:15 to 59:51: Addresses cannabis legalization.

59:21 to 60:42: Directs a reporter to ask Kamala something about her race. Notes that he once supported her. Claims Kamala is being disrespectful regarding her identity.

60:42 to 61:18: States that he's pretty much recovered from the wound to his ear. Asserts he's a fast healer. Shows where the injury was, misdescribes it as the "lobe" of his ear. Points to his scar on the top of his ear.

61:18 to 62:31: Promises the largest mass deportation in the history of the country. Claims local police "know everything about the people." After claiming that both Biden and Kamala are stupid repeatedly, Trump asserts they're not stupid because anyone who (he claims) can cheat in elections like they do is not stupid. Lies that Democrats are trying to get immigrants to vote.

62:31 to 63:46: Disclaims any plans to dismantle Social Security. Promises to eliminate taxes on Social Security and tips again.

63:46 to 64:32: Attacks sanctuary cities. Boasts about property in California. Lies that the country has become a crime-ridden mess.