

"I'll Be There With You"

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President Trump's lengthy diatribe to a gathering of true believers on January 6, 2021, is available annotated at *The Washington Post* website.¹ Accompanying commentary by the *Post*'s Aaron Blake exposes many Trump falsehoods and is well worth a read.

The speech is a rousing example of instigation. "Fight" (or variations) is mentioned 16 times; "tough," four; "tougher," three; "strong" or words containing it, five times; and "weak," 12.

Trump says "peacefully" just once. Excerpts from the speech and audience responses appear below in red type and italics; my observations are in regular, black type.

Crowd: *Fight for Trump. Fight for Trump. Fight for Trump. Fight for Trump. Fight for Trump. Fight for Trump.*

Trump: *Thank you.*

Crowd: *Fight for Trump.*

Trump: *And Rudy, you did a great job.*

Crowd: *(Applause.)*

Trump: *He's got guts. You know what? He's got guts. Unlike a lot of people in the Republican Party, he's got guts, he fights, he fights...*

...All Vice President Pence has to do is send it back to the states to recertify, and we become president, and you are the happiest people...

And I actually, I just spoke to Mike. I said, Mike, that doesn't take courage, what takes courage is to do nothing. That takes courage, and then we are stuck with a president who lost the election by a lot, and we have to live with that for four more years. We're just not going to let that happen.

Many of you have traveled from all across the nation to be here, and I want to thank you for the extraordinary love. That is what it is; there's never been a movement like this ever, ever for the extraordinary love for this amazing country. And this amazing movement. Thank you.

¹ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/interactive/2021/annotated-trump-speech-jan-6-capitol/>

Crowd: *We love Trump! We love Trump! We love Trump! We love Trump! We love Trump! We love Trump! We love Trump! We love Trump! We love Trump!*

And *Hitler's Willing Executioners*² loved der Führer and he led them to ruination and shame.

Trump: *For years, Democrats have gotten away with election fraud and weak Republicans. And that's what they are. There's so many weak Republicans. And we have great ones. Jim Jordan and some of these guys, they are out there fighting. The House guys are fighting, but it's—it's incredible.*

Many of the Republicans, I helped them get in. I helped them get elected. I helped Mitch get elected. I helped—

Crowd: *(Booing.)*

Trump: *...The weak Republicans—and that's it, I really believe it. I think I'm going to use the term.*

The weak Republicans. You've got a lot of them and you've got a lot of great ones. But you've got a lot of weak ones. They've turned a blind eye.

...Even as Democrats enacted policies that shipped away our jobs, weakened our military, threw open our borders, and put America last. Did you see the other day where Joe Biden said I want to get rid of the America-first policy. What's that all about? Get rid of—how do you say I want to get rid of America first? Even if you're going to do it, don't talk about it, right?

Crowd: *(Laughter.)*

Unbelievable, what we have to go through. What we have to go through — and you have to get your people to fight. And if they don't fight, we have to primary the hell out of the ones that don't fight. We primary them.

Crowd: *(Applause.)*

Trump: *We're going to—we're going to let you know who they are. I can already tell you, frankly.*

But this year, using the pretext of the China virus and the scam of mail-in ballots, Democrats attempted the most brazen and outrageous election theft. And there's never been anything like this. It's a pure theft in American history. Everybody knows it.

² Daniel Goldhagen Alfred A. Knopf Publication 1996

That election, our election was over at 10 in the evening. We're leading Pennsylvania, Michigan, Georgia. By hundreds of thousands of votes, and then late in the evening or early in the morning, boom. These explosions of bullshit, and all of the sudden—

Crowd: *(Applause.)*

Trump: *All of a sudden, it started to happen.*

Crowd: *Bullshit. Bullshit. Bullshit.*

Trump: *...And you know what else? We don't have a free and fair press. Our media is not free, it's not fair. It's suppresses thought. It suppresses speech, and it's become the enemy of the people. It's become the enemy of the people. It's a—it's the biggest problem we have in this country. No Third World countries would even attempt to do what we caught them doing. And you'll hear about that in just a few minutes...*

Now it is up to Congress to confront this egregious assault on our democracy. And after this, we're going to walk down and I'll be there with you. We're going to walk down—

Crowd: *(Applause.)*

Trump: *—we're going to walk down to the Capitol—*

Trump had no intention of walking to the Capitol, but the idea he would lead those assembled, in my opinion, had a lot to do with the crowd's resolve. And the violence that ensued. *They thought they were acting with the President's approval and participation.*

Crowd: *(Applause.)*

Trump: *—and we're going to cheer on our brave senators and congressmen and women, and we're probably not going to be cheering so much for some of them.*

Crowd: *(Laughter.)*

Trump: *Because you'll never take back our country with weakness. You have to show strength and you have to be strong.*

Crowd: *(Applause.)*

Trump: *We have come to demand that Congress do the right thing and only count the electors who have been lawfully slated. Lawfully slated.*

Crowd: *(Applause.)*

Trump: *I know that everyone here will soon be marching over to the Capitol building to peacefully and patriotically make your voices heard...*

...The American people do not believe the corrupt fake news anymore. They have ruined their reputation.

Crowd: *(Applause.)*

Trump: *But you know, it used to be that they'd argue with me. I'd fight. So, I'd fight, they'd fight, I'd fight, they'd fight, bump, bump, you'd believe me, you'd believe them.*

Somebody comes out.

You know, they had their point of view, I had my point of view. But you'd have an argument. Now what they do is they go silent. It's called suppression and that's what happens in a communist country. That's what they do. They suppress. You don't fight with them anymore unless it's a bad story. If they have a little bad story about me, they make it ten times worse and it's a major headline.

And then out of the blue...

Trump: *But Hunter Biden, they don't talk about him. What happened to Hunter? Where's Hunter? Where is Hunter? They don't talk about him.*

Crowd: *(Applause.)*

As if he ran against Hunter.

He justifies losing in the Supreme Court and at the Department of Justice *not* because he is in the wrong. Nope.

Trump: *You know I read a story in one of the newspapers recently how I control the three Supreme Court justices. I control them. They are puppets.*

I read it about Bill Barr; that he is my personal attorney, that he will do anything for me, and I said you know it really is genius because what they do is that and it makes it really impossible for them to ever give you a victory because all of the sudden Bill Barr changed, if you hadn't noticed.

I like Bill Barr, but he changed because he didn't want to be considered my personal attorney.

That is, Barr *hasn't* ruled against Trump because Trump did something wrong; he ruled against him to avoid the appearance of favoritism.

Same with the Supreme Court, according to Trump.

Trump: *And the Supreme Court, they rule against me so much, do you know why? Because the story is—I haven't spoken to any of them, any of them since virtually they got in—but the story is that they are my puppet, right?*

That they are puppets, and now the only way they can get out of that because they hate that; it's not good on the social circuit, and the only way they get out is to rule against Trump, so let's rule against Trump, and they do that. So, I want to congratulate them.

Trump then accuses "the media" of conspiring against him. But admires the tactic he believes they are using.

Trump: *But it shows you the media is genius. In fact, probably if I was the media, I would do it the same way. I hate to say it, but we have got to get them straightened out. Today for the sake of our democracy, for the sake of our Constitution, and for the sake of our children, we lay out the case for the entire world to hear. You want to hear it?*

Crowd: (Applause.)

Next, Trump presents what he views as evidence of election fraud that benefitted Biden—all of it rejected by objective reviews, including in courts.

Trump: *So, I mean, I could go on and on about this fraud that took place in every state and all of these legislators want this back. I don't want to do it to you because I love you and it's freezing out here.*

Crowd: (Laughter.)

Trump: *But I could just go on forever. I can tell you this—*

Crowd: *We love you, we love you, we love you.*

And then it's back to "tougher."

Trump: *...The Republicans have to get tougher. You're not going to have a Republican Party if you don't get tougher. They want to play so straight. They want to play so serious. "The United States, the Constitution doesn't allow me to send them back to the states." Well, I would say yes, it does, because the Constitution says you have to protect our country, and you have to protect our Constitution, and you can't vote on fraud, and fraud breaks up everything, doesn't it? When you catch somebody in a fraud, you are allowed to go by very different rules. So I hope Mike has the courage to do what he has to do, and I hope he doesn't listen to the RINOs and the stupid people that he's listening to.*

All of these tech monopolies are going to abuse their power and interfere in our elections, and it has to be stopped; and the Republicans have to get a lot tougher, and so should the Democrats.

They should be regulated, investigated, and brought to justice under the fullest extent of the law. They are totally breaking the law.

Crowd: (Applause.)

Wait! Aren't right-wingers supposed to be against regulation? *Nah.* That's just persuasive-with-certain-folks hot air exactly the same as "law and order." They're for one and against the other *unless* they're the ones breaking the law or smarting from an unregulated enterprise they don't control. Then it's different!

Trump: *Together we will drain the Washington swamp, and we will clean up the corruption in our nation's Capitol. We have done a big job on it, but you think it's easy; it's a dirty business. It's a dirty business. We have a lot of bad people out there. Despite everything we have been through, looking out all over this country and seeing fantastic crowds, although this I think is our all-time record.*

When it comes to thievery in office, Trump and his minions are hands down the worst the US presidency has experienced. For support, visit "Ten Reasons Trump is the Most Corrupt President in U.S. History."³

Then he punches up *xenophobia*—another hot button with supporters.

Trump: *...You know the wall is built; we are doing record numbers at the wall. Now they want to take down the wall. Let's let everyone flow in. Let's let everybody flow in.*

The problem isn't job seekers from outside the US. The problem is American employers, from families hiring cleaning and landscaping help to businesses—including Trump's!—deploying undocumented workers. Until US employers stop hiring them, illegals seeking jobs will continue finding ways to enter the US. Many are desperate.

Trump begins his close with *good old nationalism*.

Trump: *...As this enormous crowd shows, we have truth and justice on our side. We have a deep and enduring love for America in our hearts. We love our country. We have overwhelming pride in this great country. We have it deep in our souls. Together we are determined to defend and preserve government of the people, by the people, and for the people.*

³ ."<https://www.republicreport.org/2020/ten-reasons-trump-is-the-most-corrupt-president-in-u-s-history/>

Crowd: (Applause.)

Trump: *Our brightest days are before us. Our greatest achievements still wait. I think one of our great achievements will be election security, because nobody, until I came along, had any idea how corrupt our elections were.*

He quickly returns to "fight."

Trump: *And again, most people would stand there at 9 o'clock in the evening and say, "I want to thank you very much," and they go off to some other life. But I said something is wrong here, something is really wrong, can't have happened, and we fight.*

We fight like hell, and if you don't fight like hell you're not going to have a country anymore.

"Fight like hell"—a clear call to action.

Trump: *Our exciting adventures and boldest endeavors have not yet begun. My fellow Americans, for our movement, for our children, and for our beloved country, and I say this despite all that has happened, the best is yet to come.*

Crowd: (Applause.)

Trump: *So we are going to walk down Pennsylvania Avenue—I love Pennsylvania Avenue—and we are going to the Capitol.*

And we are going to try and give—the Democrats are hopeless, they are never voting for anything, not even one vote—but we are going to try to give our Republicans—the weak ones because the strong ones don't need any of our help—going to try and give them the kind of pride and boldness that they need to take back our country. So let's walk down Pennsylvania Avenue.

Crowd: (Applause.)

Trump: *I want to thank you all. God bless you and God bless America. Thank you all for being here. This is incredible.*

Naturally, poor, beleaguered, imaginary god is invoked—yet again—to wrap things up.

Crowd: (Applause.)

Trump: *Thank you very much.*

Crowd: (Applause.)

Trump: *Thank you.*

For about seven hours⁴ after Trump stopped talking, the US Capitol was besieged by an angry mob. Some wielded baseball bats, flagpoles, and other makeshift weapons; others had chemical sprays.

Five individuals died.⁵ Four law enforcement officers charged with protecting the capitol committed suicide after the attack.⁶

Damages were estimated at \$30 million.⁷

President Biden was inaugurated 14 days later.

Trump continues to push the Big Lie that he, not Biden, actually won the election—*by a landslide*.

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⁴ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_the_2021_United_States_Capitol_attack

⁵ <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/11/us/who-died-in-capitol-building-attack.html>

⁶ <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/officer-who-responded-us-capitol-attack-is-third-die-by-suicide-2021-08-02/>

⁷ <https://www.npr.org/sections/insurrection-at-the-capitol/2021/02/24/970977612/architect-of-the-capitol-outlines-30-million-in-damages-from-pro-trump-riot>