

**View from the Speaker's Office:  
An Interview with Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)**

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**Interview with Nancy Pelosi**

**Interviewer: Manu Raju**

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In this one-on-one interview, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi will discuss the legislative landscape, including policies to address a range of important challenges — such as climate change, infrastructure and healthcare access — while also finding ways for Congress to pay for its priorities. She will offer her perspective on a number of key fiscal policy deadlines later this year, including required action on the debt ceiling and discretionary funding in order to avoid another government shutdown.

This interview with **Speaker Nancy Pelosi** was conducted by **Manu Raju**, senior congressional correspondent for CNN, as part of the 2019 Fiscal Summit.

\* \* \*TRANSCRIBER NOTE: OVERTALK/MUMBLING/SOUND QUALITY DIFFICULT AT TIMES, AUDIBLE TRANSCRIBED.\* \* \*

**ANNOUNCER:** Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and senior political reporter for CNN, Manu Raju. (APPLAUSE)

**MANU RAJU:** Thank you, thank you.

**MANU RAJU:** Thank you all. Thank you for having me. Thank you for being here, Speaker Pelosi.

**NANCY PELOSI:** My pleasure.

**MANU RAJU:** And as I was saying to you backstage-- congratulations on the Warriors making it (CLAPS) to game six (LAUGHTER) of the NBA finals. Sorry about Kevin Durant's injury, it was a very grisly injury. Hope he's okay.

And-- I do-- before we get into the issues of the conference, I do want to talk about some of the issues that have been in the news over the past week. You were traveling abroad, and you were in Normandy. The president was in Normandy, too, and he made some comments about you.

He was sitting in the American cemetery-- in Normandy and rather-- probably the most aggressive remarks I've heard from a president make about a Speaker of the House. He said that-- you were nervous. He called you a "disaster." He also called you a "nasty, vindictive, horrible person." (LAUGHTER)

**MANU RAJU:** This is not me. This is the president saying this. (LAUGHTER) He later went on to tweet that you were a disgrace to yourself and your family. So I mean, how do you (LAUGHTER) react to the president of the United States calling this-- calling you, the Speaker of the House, insulting you like that?

**NANCY PELOSI:** Well, what bothers me more is that we're talking about instead of how to reduce the national debt. (APPLAUSE) And-- let's just say this: we were in Normandy and that morning, before the president made his statement, I was being interviewed by MSNBC.

And they-- asked me about the president, and I said-- "We're here about our veterans, and I have a rule for any code" and (NOISE) you can ask anyone, Democrat or Republican, always say, "The first rule about code is we never criticize a president of the United States when we are overseas." Th-- we just don't do that.

We have plenty of time to do that back home, but when we travel, we don't, and especially when we're here to honor the courage of our veterans and thank them for that courage, and also to salute-- the cooperation and collaboration of our country with our allies in the greatest Naval invasion in the history of the world, to save civilization as we know it today and our freedoms.

So my-- I said, "Basically I'm not here to say anything about the president." And we had the same backdrop, the tombs-- the tombstones of our veterans, who are buried in Normandy. The president took a different tact. (LAUGHTER) I-- I don't think it--

(OVERTALK)

**MANU RAJU:** But how do--

(OVERTALK)

**NANCY PELOSI:** --I'm done with him. I-- I don't even want to talk about it. (LAUGHTER)

**MANU RAJU:** But how do you—

(OVERTALK)

I mean, you have to work with him. How do you work with him after he levels such an insult against you overseas?

**NANCY PELOSI:** I-- I-- I just consider the source. (LAUGHTER)

**MANU RAJU:** What-- what do you mean by that?

**NANCY PELOSI:** Hmm--

**MANU RAJU:** What--

**NANCY PELOSI:** I mean, my stock goes up every time he attacks me, so what-- what can I say? (LAUGHTER) But let's not-- let's not spend too much time on that, because that's his victory. The-- the diverter in ch-- the diverter of attention in chief, you know? We'll talk about this instead of talking about the fact-- that we-- the president is-- his behavior, in terms of-- tariffs and trade and all the issues, in terms of what we need to do for our country, to solve some of the challenges that we face.

Infrastructure-- infrastructure-- infrastructure; we thought that we had a working relationship with him on that. He's always talked about-- infrastructure as a priority, and I believed him in that regard, but when it came time to pay for it, he diverted attention to-- personal nastiness. But you know, again, that's not-- that's-- that's not the point. It's a waste a time.

**MANU RAJU:** But he-- he was apparently set off by remarks you reportedly made in private, saying that you'd rather see him in prison than impeached? Is that--

(OVERTALK)

**MANU RAJU:** --is that how you really feel?

**NANCY PELOSI:** --I don't-- I don't care what motivates him, and we never know. But in front of the tombstones of our fallen, when we're there to observe the 75th anniversary of Normandy, you be the judge as to whether you think it's appropriate for the president to take that tact. That's all I'm going to say about it.

**MANU RAJU:** But it--

**NANCY PELOSI:** I don't care what you ask anymore--

(OVERTALK)

**NANCY PELOSI:** I'm not gonna talk about him anymore. (LAUGHTER)

**MANU RAJU:** But I want to know--

**NANCY PELOSI:** I came here--

**MANU RAJU:** --did you actually say that? Did you actually say the-- the president-- you would rather see him in prison than impeached?

**NANCY PELOSI:** When we have conversations in our caucus, they stay in our caucus. Do people think that there's some-- impeachable offenses that the president committed? Yes. How serious are they? Are they criminal? Many of-- people think they are. And--

**MANU RAJU:** Do you think they are?

**NANCY PELOSI:** But that's not the per-- I'm here to talk about--

**MANU RAJU:** And we will-- we will get into that.

**NANCY PELOSI:** I'm not--

**MANU RAJU:** I promise you--

(OVERTALK)

**NANCY PELOSI:** --I'm not going to that place of what happens within our caucus. What we're talking about is what's happening within our country, about how we go forward with investments in the future, to educate a workforce for the 21st century, workforce development essential to infrastructure development, our for-the-people agenda.

For the people; that was what we ran on. That's what we are delivering for the people; healthcare-- with lowering the cost of healthcare, by lowering the cost of prescription drugs, and-- guaranteeing and strengthening the preexisting condition benefit. L-- lowering healthcare costs, bigger paychecks by building infrastructure of America in a green way, for the future, and cleaner government.

HR1 to stop it-- we won the Congress, a 40-seat net gain in the Con-- in the most gerrymandered, voter-suppressed-- political-- arena in history, and yet we won 40 seats, but that's not what we have to make-- end the voter suppression, have-- people choosing their representatives, rather than representatives choosing their constituents-- through-- partisan gerrymandering.

So that is our agenda. That's the bill that we are passing, whether-- and the-- and we want the Senate to pick up some of the legislation and go forward, in terms of the Dreamers, the Equality Act, the LGBTQ-- we began Gay Pride Week. We passed-- a couple weeks ago the Equality Act, which ends discrimination against the LGBTQ community. The Dreamers-- the gold standard of immigrants to our country, these lovely young people who through no fault of their own-- they didn't make the decision to come here. They contribute so much to our military, to our teaching force in our country, to healthcare, all the rest-- and-- and-- and the list goes on. Equal pay--

(OVERTALK)

**NANCY PELOSI:** --for equal work for women-- Violence Against Women Act, the list goes on--

(OVERTALK)

**NANCY PELOSI:** --gun violence-prevention and-- and the rest.

**MANU RAJU:** You talk a lot though about legislating and investigating as part of the priority--

(OVERTALK)

**NANCY PELOSI:** --and wait a minute--

(OVERTALK)

**MANU RAJU:** --finish my question.

**NANCY PELOSI:** No, wait a minute. Legislating, investigating, litigating. I want you to add the litigating part.

**MANU RAJU:** Okay, litigating. That's a-- I'm glad you mentioned that, because one argument that people are making in your caucus is that opening up an impeachment inquiry would strengthen your case in court. So why are you against an impeachment inquiry?

**NANCY PELOSI:** Well, it-- is that true? Will it open--

(OVERTALK)

**MANU RAJU:** Some people argue that.

**NANCY PELOSI:** (UNINTEL PHRASE), but that's-- I mean, we-- we have to-- that's a question to be asked. If you open an impeachment inquiry, does it in-- do you get more information? You still end up in the court. So if you want to go down that path, if you want to go down the pa-- now I'm glad you asked that question. So if you want to talk about that-- I thought we were talking about-- reducing the--

**MANU RAJU:** No, we'll get--

**NANCY PELOSI:** --national debt--

**MANU RAJU:** --we'll get there.

**NANCY PELOSI:** --but-- this is very important to our country, as to who we are. We have situation where the Russians, by all accounts, with full confidence of our intelligence community, as-- made an assault on our election, an attack on our democracy.

The president of the United States calls it a "hoax." The president of the United States sides with Putin and not with our intelligence. We must pass legislation to make sure they cannot do it again. According to the FBI, 24/7, they are working to do it again. So we have a-- to protect our democracy with what we do.

And at the same time, we have to see what happened in all of that and the question-- and that's a good question that you ask Manu. Is it-- do you get more information by having an inquiry than if you just have investigations?

- NANCY PELOSI:** Well, I don't have a straight answer on that. But even if you could, you can't do it without going to the courts.
- And I maintain to go to the courts, we have to have the strongest possible case, ironclad. We've won in the ca-- courts, and when the-- the-- couple of the things that Mr. Cummings has put forth, Mazer (PH), the President's accounting firm, they should release their documents. On the Deutsche Bank, Maxine Waters' case, we won that case in court. Of course, they'll appeal, because they want to obstruct-- the American people from having the truth. So it-- the question you ask, do we get more by having an inquiry? Some say yes, some say no.
- MANU RAJU:** If a majority--
- NANCY PELOSI:** Some say--
- (OVERTALK)
- MANU RAJU:** --of your caucus-- if a ma-- majority of your caucus wants to go forward with an impeachment inquiry, would you go for it?
- NANCY PELOSI:** It's not-- it's not even close in our caucus--
- (OVERTALK)
- MANU RAJU:** But eventually, if it gets--
- (OVERTALK)
- NANCY PELOSI:** --well, you know what? Why are we speculating on hypotheticals? What we're doing is winning in court. We won a victory, getting the documents from the judiciary-- the Justice Department today, for fear of further going to court, although we're still going to hold the attorney general in contempt today-- the path that we are on is a path that I think-- look, I want to tell you something--
- (OVERTALK)
- MANU RAJU:** You said you're not impacted--
- NANCY PELOSI:** --nothing as much as-- nothing as divisive in our country, on my view, than impeachment. Our founders gave us so much to be grateful for. They were a blessing intellectually, in values and all the rest. Thank God they made our Constitution amendable. They had that wisdom, as well.
- But they gave us guidance in this way. They said, "E pluribus unum." "From many, one." They couldn't imagine how many we would become or how different we would be from each other, but they knew we had to be one. So we're trying to make-- a decision as we go forth that are unifying, not dividing.

**MANU RAJU:** 'Cause--

(OVERTALK)

**NANCY PELOSI:** --infrastructure; the president he wants to do that. Lowering the cost of prescription drugs; the president says he wants to do that. Cleaner government, not so sure about that, but nonetheless, it is part of our agenda. And as we do that-- and as we do that, we try to find as much common ground as possible while maintaining the boldest common denominator. Impeachment, if you g-- if you're going down that path, you don't go to court with your weakest case. As long as you keep getting more information to build your case--

**MANU RAJU:** Jerry Nadler said--

**NANCY PELOSI:** --you have a--

**MANU RAJU:** --last wee--

**NANCY PELOSI:** --responsibility to do that.

**MANU RAJU:** Last week, Jerry Nadler said that impeachment inquiry, it may come to that. You've said in the past there's-- you're not on a path to impeachment. Are you still-- how do you reconcile those two things

(OVERTALK)

**NANCY PELOSI:** But it's not-- off the table. You-- you can't-- I don't think you should impeach for political reasons, and I don't think you should not impeach for political reason. It's not about politics. It's not about Democrats and Republicans. It's not about par-- partisanship.

It's about patriotism to our country. It's upholding the Constitution of the United States. If in fact the Executive branch can say, "You can never have oversight over us," you have destroyed the system of checks and balances, which is the wisdom and the heart of our Constitution. And if you go down that path, then you look to the Bill of Rights and the assaults that they make on the press, et cetera-- then you are undermining the Constitution, not honoring your oath of office to support and defend.

And part of-- of all of that is again our responsibility, our oath of office, and it's-- what is appalling is the lack of respect for the oath of office that the Republicans in Congress, in the House, and in the Senate have for their own oath of office, to strengthen the institution in which they serve. And it's not about Congress. It's about the American people. We're about-- we are representatives of the American people, who deserve-- to know-- to know the truth.

- MANU RAJU:** Before we move on to the other issues-- very quickly though, but if-- if you really believe the president may have committed crimes in office, isn't it your obligation to mount an impeachment inquiry?
- NANCY PELOSI:** My obligation is to do whatever we do in the most effective way possible.
- MANU RAJU:** And you believe he committed crimes in office?
- NANCY PELOSI:** I think it's a-- the Mueller Report very clearly spells out at least ten or 11 instances of obstruction of justice, but I'm not here to have that discussion here. That's for the committees. We have six committees that work on this, one doing taxes-- Ways and Means committee, Maxine, Financial Serv-- Maxine Waters, Financial Services, Jerry Nadler, Judiciary, Elijah Cummings, the Government Oversight committee-- Eliot Engel, Foreign Affairs committee. Th-- they're all doing their work-- very well, and I believe in the committee system, and it will bubble up from there.
- MANU RAJU:** Another issue over the weekend was the president backing off his threat on tariffs on Mexico. He says that he deserves credit for enforcing-- forcing Mexico to take a tougher line on the immigration (LAUGHTER) issue. Do you--
- NANCY PELOSI:** If I had been--
- MANU RAJU:** --think the president--
- NANCY PELOSI:** --invited to talk about the president, I would have had--
- MANU RAJU:** But do you think the president--
- NANCY PELOSI:** --more important--
- MANU RAJU:** --deserve any credit--
- NANCY PELOSI:** --work to do at home.
- MANU RAJU:** But do you think the president deserves credit on tariffs? (LAUGH) (APPLAUSE)
- NANCY PELOSI:** Really. (APPLAUSE) Really. No, everybody—  
(OVERTALK)
- knows that those issues were-- if they were agreed to, they were agreed to long before the president made the announcement, A, but they were designed to take your attention away from the Mueller Report. Look at the timing. This all happened a while back, and even now the foreign minister of Mexico is saying, "That's not really-- the way the president described it is not really the way-- what we have agreed to."

**NANCY PELOSI:** But the fact is that I come here each year very complimented to have the invitation of the Peterson family. Pete Peterson, to me, was a national hero. I loved him very much. He was the personification of the American dream. Greek American family, rising to the heights up Mount Olympus of ec-- of financial community in our country, always sensitive to the needs of working people, always teaching us-- that-- the increase in the national debt was a tax on our children and that we had to hold it in check and be creative in how we did it. And he always said to me, "Nancy, keep your eye on the-- tax expenditures in-- in the budget-- in the budget." So I feel very honored always to be invited to this.

**MANU RAJU:** I want to ask you a question about the budget. And one--

(OVERTALK)

**NANCY PELOSI:** Oh my goodness. (LAUGHTER)

**MANU RAJU:** I know, exactly. (LAUGHTER) I-- I'm so used--

(OVERTALK)

--we still ha-- we still have time to talk (APPLAUSE) about that. So--

(OVERTALK)

**NANCY PELOSI:** --but I will not be part of the diversionary tactics of the White House--

(OVERTALK)

**MANU RAJU:** But there is a legislative--

**NANCY PELOSI:** -- that you are obviously akin to.

**MANU RAJU:** One big legislative issue on your plate is what to do about the U.S./Mexico trade agreement. What do you-- how do you pin the prospects of that-- pas-- passage of that, if you were to gauge--

(OVERTALK)

**NANCY PELOSI:** How did a policy issue slip in there?

**MANU RAJU:** (LAUGH) We're gonna get to it, I told you.

**NANCY PELOSI:** The-- I-- I was-- beli-- I originally thought that the U.S./Mexico/Canada, whatever we're calling it, NAFTA-- after-NAFTA, NAFTA 2.0, what-- they have all the different names for it, but this current-- attempt and agreement, I thought that would be the easiest trade bill we've ever-- had the opportunity to pass, because the-- those who were unhappy with NAFTA really want to have a new NAFTA, and that includes many people in the Democratic party.

**NANCY PELOSI:**

I myself voted for NAFTA. I didn't-- I was disappointed in how it was implemented, but there were some winners and there were some losers, and there's no question about the fact that many people lost jobs in our country because of it. Many people gained jobs. It depends where you are regionally, as trade usually is-- measured. It's-- it's-- frequently regional.

But th-- so we have a-- what I-- I met yesterday with Chairman Grassley. I don't know if that's news or if he's-- we did get our picture taken together, so maybe it's out there that we met-- with Senator Grassley and-- and ranking member Brady, who was with you earlier, and Richie Neal (PH), the corresponding-- our chair of the Ways and Means committee.

I think that has such a nice ring to it, Richie Neal, chair of the Ways and Means com-- (LAUGHTER) anyway, we met, and our concerns are as follows: overarching enforcement. You must have enforcement, or else you're just having a conversation.

So if you don't have enforcement, you're just having NAFTA again with sprinkles on top or some-- but you're not having a new NAFTA, because enforcement is very essential to-- implementing a trade agreement. Our three areas of concern under that overarching (UNINTEL) are workers' right-- what does it mean to America's working families? Secondly, environment. What does it mean, in terms of the environment? Big disappointment, some of what-- happened with NAFTA in terms of the environment. And the third, which is a big concern in my caucus, is the-- pharmaceutical-- the prescription-- the pharmaceutical-- how pharmaceutical drugs are treated in the-- in the agreement.

More on the subject, if you ask me, but those are the three areas. Now then there are overarching three categories. If you don't have enforcement, it's no use even having the conversation on the other things. And then there's some what we call "dogs and cats," different things from around the country, not to be considered anything but a compliment, because we all love our dogs and cats. (LAUGHTER) But these are parochial-- more parochial issues--

(OVERTALK)

**MANU RAJU:**

You think that has a chan-- what do you think the chances are of passage right now?

**NANCY PELOSI:**

I-- I-- I-- I've always-- we're on a path-- we want to be on a path to yes, but we-- the big difference is if you say that-- you have enforcement because you passed a law in the U.S. to make sure we enforce it, that's not good-- it has to be in the agreement. Now we are studying some approaches which I'm optimistic-- Sherrod Brown and Ron Wyden have an approach-- that-- that could be an answer to it, which would be-- acceptable to the administration and to the other-- countr-- to Mexico and to Canada.

**MANU RAJU:**

So-- and so--

- NANCY PELOSI:** By the way, I saw the prime minister in Normandy, as I said to you earlier, and-- well, it would not have been appropriate to have a bet on a game in Normandy. As soon as we got home, we have a bet on the game. (LAUGHTER)
- MANU RAJU:** On the issue of the debt-- you have to raise the debt ceiling this year. You're also talking about raising-- budget caps, but right now the debt is at \$22 trillion. How come dealing with the national debt in a serious way is not a bigger priority in this Congress?
- NANCY PELOSI:** Well, we had a-- well-- ask the Republicans who passed the biggest increase in the national debt with interest, \$2 trillion addition to the national debt, and then they say it-- it's gonna pay for itself. Well, it isn't. Bruce Bartlett, the person who worked with Jack Kemp with supply-side economics, he testified to us-- I-- I believe in supply-side, but anybody who tells you that the de-- the-- tax cut's gonna pay for itself, it-- it's not true. It's nonsense.
- And he even used the full words of "BS," the full words. This is a-- an accolade (SIC)-- an acolyte of-- supply-side economics. So this is not-- the-- it just took us to a terrible place, that 83% of the benefits could be-- for the top 1%. We all agree that we want it to lift, to make a change in the corporate rate, to make-- in terms of competitiveness and the rest, but the-- what they did was so-- and-- and you can't do it. I mean, it's in the dark of night, the speed of light, no hearings. Now they're saying, "Help us fix this. Help us fix that."
- Well, no, let's just, in a bipartisan way-- we don't want to deal with it a non-part-- in a Democratic way. We want to do it in a bipartisan way, because if you're gonna have a tax plan that is sustainable, as the '86 was-- whether you like it or not, it was bipartisan. Took a long time to pass with hearings and the rest-- with understanding the ramifications of it, and instead they go in the dark of night, speed of light, as I say. So-- so that-- I mean, that is the one thing that they did pass. Our HR1 is cleaner government. Their HR1 is tax breaks for the wealthiest people in our country, adding \$2 trillion to the national debt--
- MANU RAJU:** But there are some things that your-- in your caucus that people are pushing that could add significant amounts to the debt. Critics say the Medicare-for-all, for one-- Medicare-for-all and the Green New Deal.
- NANCY PELOSI:** Yeah.
- MANU RAJU:** Do you support those two plans specifically--
- NANCY PELOSI:** The-- the-- everything is on the table to be reviewed. But what I do support is pay-as-you-go, and I take some (APPLAUSE) heat in my caucus for that. Pay-as-you-go, this is something that we worked on since the '80s, when you could see that the Reagan budgets were, you know, increasing-- defense spending, and it was engineering to reduce the domestic side.

- NANCY PELOSI:** So pay-as-you-go, George Miller of California introduced that as a congressman, even before I was in Congress, and-- it was implemented when President Clinton became president, and even somewhat with President George Herbert Walker Bush, who was so courageous, going to-- Andrews Air Force Base and engaging in the discussion and saying, "I said during the campaign, 'Read my lips, no new taxes,' but what-- who would I be as a person if I saw an opportunity for our country and didn't take advantage of it?" God bless George Herbert Walker Bush--
- MANU RAJU:** It—there is spending legislation on the floor and debate within your caucus about allowing-- the Hyde Amendment to continue-- to move forward, of course allowing-- prohibiting federal funding for abortion services. Would you draw a red line and say the Hyde Amendment will not pass the House under your speakership?
- NANCY PELOSI:** What do you mean, it will not pass? It is-- it is-- it's the law of the land--
- (OVERTALK)
- MANU RAJU:** Will you prevent it from-- will you prevent it from moving forward in additional--
- (OVERTALK)
- NANCY PELOSI:** No, I do not support the Hyde Amendment. I don't think it's good public policy. And I don't-- I wish we never had a Hyde Amendment-- but-- that is the law of the land right now, and I don't see that there's an opportunity to get rid of it with the current-- occupant of the White House and-- and some-- in the United States Senate.
- But it-- it-- we-- mu-- I-- believe it's something that we have to get people ready for, that we have to get rid of that. But getting back to the deficit, when I send my members-- the national debt. When I send my members to these meetings, you know, the (UNINTEL), this eight-- th-- this-- you know, th-- those different groups that they've had over time, I always say, "You know our caucus. You know our values. You have no instruction except to be"-- and I'm agnostic. "Be agnostic. Put a-- in the center of the table growth that creates good-paying jobs, and then whatever solutions come forward, whether they're from the right or from the left, be open to them, on what we can do together to reduce the debt to-- by-- as we create good-paying jobs, increase-- the confidence of workers that"-- or that-- and that's what increasing paychecks, I see it directly related--
- (OVERTALK)
- NANCY PELOSI:** --to addressing the budget deficit.
- MANU RAJU:** We're-- we're-- we're running-- running out of time. Just two quick things. In your caucus, there's a push--
- NANCY PELOSI:** Did you come to hear about some of this other stuff? (LAUGHTER) I-- I--
- (OVERTALK)

- MANU RAJU:** But they're-- in your caucus--
- NANCY PELOSI:** I didn't come--
- MANU RAJU:** --there's-- there--
- NANCY PELOSI:** --to talk about.
- MANU RAJU:** There is a push from some of your members to prevent members from becoming lobbyists, lawmakers from becoming lobbyists. Would you support legislation to prevent lawmakers from eventually becoming lobbyists?
- NANCY PELOSI:** N-- no. I-- I don't even know what you're talking about. I mean--

(OVERTALK)

- MANU RAJU:** Some of your members have talked a--
- NANCY PELOSI:** Well, I understand that, but-- (LAUGH) I have 238 members-- and-- and they have beautiful exuberance of all of these ideas. And-- they haven't really worked them through to a place where (LAUGH) we're having any discussion about them. But if you want to talk about my members and how great they are-- as I say to them, our diversity of opinion, of-- generationally, gender-- gender identity, ethnically, regionally, in every way-- did I say "geographically" twice? Our diversity is our strength. And again, even of difference of opinion. Every view is valuable to us. Our diversity is our strength, but our unity is our power, and what-- that is what the president fears most.
- MANU RAJU:** So la-- you know, a last thing as we wrap up here: when you look back in (UNINTEL) period of American history, how do you think that historians will eventually record this moment in American history?
- NANCY PELOSI:** Well, I think that-- what I say to my members is that-- at th-- in the time of our Revolution, when the times were dark and this or that, Thomas Paine said, "The times have found us. The times have found us." And I think that the times have found us now.

Not that we place ourselves in a category of greatness of our Founders, but the sense of urgency, of protecting our Constitution, protecting America-- what is America is it our Constitution and the freedoms contained therein. What is America?-- is the people, a nation of immigrants by and large, the beautiful diversity of America, to pr-- to value that. What is America? The great landmass from sea to shining sea and even beyond that, that God has given us, that's being degraded.

Undermine the Constitution, degrade the environment and the land-- disrespect the people, undermine our values that-- and our budget-- budget should be a statement of our national values. What is important to us as a nation should be demonstrated in how we allocate our resources, how we-- husband our resour-- in terms of investing as well as covering the cost of. And I do think the times have found us to make a very big difference in how we go forward.

**NANCY PELOSI:**

And part of what we want to do is in the most transparent way, the public can see what the decisions are-- are and how they're affected by them, the American people are affected by them, in the most transparent way, in the most bipartisan way.

Responsibility to find common ground wherever we can, but to stand our ground, like a rock-- that was Thomas Jefferson speaking right there. Like a rock where we can, but the boldest common denominator, working together; transparent, bipartisan, unifying. E pluribus unum. Thank you all very much.

**MANU RAJU:**

Thank you--

(OVERTALK)

**MANU RAJU:**

Thank you, Speaker Pelosi. (APPLAUSE) Thank you.

\* \* \*END OF TRANSCRIPT\* \* \*