



President Trump Addresses Key Issues Facing the Nation in Exclusive CNBC Interview

The White House | April 21, 2026

This morning, President Donald J. Trump joined CNBC's *Squawk Box* for an [exclusive interview](#), delivering candid, wide-ranging remarks on some of the most pressing issues facing the country.

ON THE PHONE

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP

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Here's what you missed:

- **President Trump highlighted America's powerful negotiating position with Iran:** "What I think is that we're going to end up with a great deal. I think they have no choice... We're in a very strong negotiating position to do what other Presidents should've done during a 47-year period — we've had 47 years with these bloodthirsty people." ([Watch](#))
- **President Trump outlined the benefits of a responsible agreement for the Iranian people:** "Iran can get themselves on a very good footing if they make a deal. They can make themselves into a strong nation again, a wonderful nation again. They have incredible people, but they seem to be bloodthirsty. They're led by some very, very unfortunately tough people — and I don't mean tough in a good way... They have to use reason and they have to use common sense, and they can get themselves into a great position to make themselves into a great country — but a legitimate country, not a country based on death and horror." ([Watch](#))
- **President Trump stressed the U.S. remains prepared to take decisive action if negotiations fail:** "I expect to be bombing because I think that's a better attitude to go in with — but we're ready to go." ([Watch](#))
- **President Trump criticized Radical Left Democrats for undermining America's interests:** "I watch this Low IQ guy, Hakeem Jeffries— he's a totally Low IQ person — and he's always ranting and raving, 'Oh, this war is so terrible.' They shouldn't be saying that when we're in the midst of a negotiation because it does hurt us somewhat. It gives the other side some hope, and I don't want them to have hope." ([Watch](#))
- **President Trump warned of the catastrophic consequences of failing to confront the Iranian threat:** "Do you want to see a bad stock market? Try blowing up the Middle East, and then Europe, and then they come for us. We're not going to let that happen." ([Watch](#))
- **President Trump reaffirmed American strength and independence:** "NATO said to me, 'No, we'll send somebody as soon as it's over'... We don't need

them. We'll never need them. Actually, they'll need us — they need us desperately because they're a paper tiger.” ([Watch](#))

- **President Trump voiced strong support for his nominee to lead the Federal Reserve, Kevin Warsh:** “I want Kevin. I think Kevin’s great. He’s central casting in a true sense. I think he’s going to do a great job.” ([Watch](#))
- **President Trump discussed his views on interest rates:** “I’ve been in favor of interest rates rate rises to stop inflation. I think it sort of is effective. But there’s one thing and nobody ever talks about it but me, unfortunately... We should have the lowest interest rate in the world.” ([Watch](#))
- **President Trump addressed challenges facing the airline industry:** “Spirit is in trouble and I’d love somebody to buy Spirit. It’s 14,000 jobs... But with American, it’s doing fine, and United is doing very well... I don’t like having them merge.” ([Watch](#))
- **President Trump criticized the impact of NIL policies and court decisions on college sports:** “Look what happened with NIL — they destroyed college sports, the courts... They had such a great system. It was a scholarship system. You get free college if you’re a good athlete, you get this, you get that, and it took care of every sport — fencing, not only football. Now, it’s all football, and the football is bringing down colleges because they’re losing [money]... The court system — a person that never had anything to do with sports, very liberal leaning, Democrat, liberal — she decided that the sports system that was in place for 150 years is no good... And because of that, college sports is a disaster right now.” ([Watch](#))

[Click here](#) to watch the full interview.