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[00:00:56] **Speaker 1** All right, guys, we're coming in later.

[00:00:58] **Speaker 2** Good afternoon and welcome to Milwaukee, host city for the 2024 Republican National Convention. This is a special presentation of hear announced 2024 election coverage. We are coming to you live from Media Row inside Panther Arena in downtown Milwaukee. I'm Zach Schultz, senior political reporter for Here and Now. And I am joined by our esteemed political pundits, Bill McCosh and Scott Ross. Thank you, gentlemen, both for being here today.

[00:01:22] **Speaker 1** Thanks for having us here.

[00:01:23] **Speaker 2** Well, first off, let's start with the overall atmosphere. It's hot Milwaukee. But it's a nice day. People are here. How do you feel at the beginning of this convention for the Republicans bill?

[00:01:32] **Speaker 1** I'll say it's the most unified convention I've been to. This is my fifth convention, and people here are excited about, you know, the president, they're excited about his pick for VP at some point this afternoon. We'll get to that during the program. And, they're just excited to get rolling with the general election.

[00:01:48] **Speaker 2** Scott, what are your vibes as you're walking in here today?

[00:01:50] **Speaker 3** I mean, I've seen a lot of people with smiles, like Bill said. You know, it definitely. I was, I had the squeegee off by the time I got in here because it is a sticky mess outside. But you know, what I've noticed most is just kind of how different sort of the two parties are in terms of, like their message, what they perceive as the facts, what they perceive as the truth, that sort of thing. Everybody's been very nice, but I'm seeing and hearing things that just don't compute sometimes.

[00:02:13] **Speaker 2** Well, we saw a a landslide shift occur in the nation in just the last couple of days with the attempted assassination of former President Donald Trump in Butler, Pennsylvania. We've seen a lot of tone change and messages coming from both, President Biden speaking from the white House, telling people to tamp down the rhetoric. We've heard it from Republicans. Bill, what do you think is the general fallout from what happened over the weekend going forward?

[00:02:40] **Speaker 1** I'm hoping it's positive. And I'll take the current president and the former president at their word. They've been, very gracious, both of them. It was a life changing event, and we were millimeters away from an actual assassination, which that not even an attempt has occurred in the United States of America for 43 years. 1981 Ronald Reagan was the last time that a president was shot at. So, it's a troubling time. It's a dark time, but I'm hoping that it brings people together and allows us to focus on our differences on policy. These are this is not a civil war. These are policy debates and policy differences. It should never rise to the level of violence on either side. And, you know, I think the the former first lady, Melania Trump, had the best, statement over the weekend where she just called for calm. And I think, if I'm choreographing the president's remarks, I know that he's already, ripped up his original speech for Thursday night. He's going to talk about unity. That's a win. I think if he gives a message of U.S. unity, world unity on, Thursday night, people are going to leave here. So fired up, it'll it'll be like no convention in history.

[00:03:49] **Speaker 2** Scott, how do you see the fallout playing out?

[00:03:51] **Speaker 3** Well, it was, you know, I mean, obviously this was an unacceptable event, and it took me back. You know, I was 11 years old when Ronald Reagan, when John Hinckley attempted to assassinate Ronald Reagan. I was at home that day. I was sick, so I was hanging out watching TV, which is what you do. So I watched all of that unfold. And as this was going on and I saw and heard, you know, it did take me back to that sort of ugliness about where we were, what happens, but where we don't want to go back to. Now, I will say this. I am very proud to be a Democrat today because I did hear so much, you know, legitimate concern for the president, for the, you know, for the for the gentleman who perished for the injured. And that's what we need. We need to have decency. And I will say this, I watched President Obama, President Biden speech last night, and I think he's the only one in the race who could deliver a message like that. Violence has no place in this country, in this country, period. No exceptions. We cannot allow value of violence to be normalized. I agree with that 100%. I'm sure Bill agrees with that 100%. I think the people agree with that 100%. But we've got to make sure that our elected officials aren't stoking the fires. I've seen some of that even with politicians in Wisconsin, and I don't think it's acceptable.

[00:05:01] **Speaker 1** So we're going to disagree on that a little bit. I thought President Biden's remarks on Saturday night were very good. I thought his remarks yesterday morning were also very good. I think his remarks last night on national television were unfortunate because there were two scripted. I think he's better than that. I think they should have come from the heart. It should have been authentic. They should not have been on a prompter. He could have had a couple notes in front of them. Just tell America what you want us to to to do, right? I he's flubbed a few times last night reading off that prompter, so there clearly weren't his words. So yeah, generally speaking, I'm giving him credit. And I think he was good Saturday night and Sunday morning last night. I think it was a misstep on the president's part.

[00:05:43] **Speaker 2** Do you believe that there's a real tone change, Scott? I mean, can you trust when Donald Trump says, I'm going to change my tone?

[00:05:50] **Speaker 3** It's really hard to do it because so far the campaign has been about retribution and revenge for he and his wealthy donor donors, whereas. You know, Joe Biden gets up every day and he is trying to fight for the people, Wisconsin and the people of America. So I don't I think it's going to be hard to say that because, again, we've seen some of the biggest luminaries in the Republican Party Marjorie Taylor Greene, Lauren Boebert, you know, attacking Biden and blaming him for the assassination attempt. And in fact, our own congressman in western Wisconsin, Derek Van Orden. You know, his response to it was to quote the NRA's, you know, stand your ground. And then, you know, he was on the radio earlier this morning and talking about that somehow they were behind this. It wasn't a they it was a lone nut bag, you know, from Bethel Park, Pennsylvania, a registered Republican. Not that matters. Who was behind this? It wasn't some sort of conspiracy to try and insert that into this debate at this time, especially today, when Republicans should be, you know, like Bill said, celebrating their unity, what they want to do for the for the country. I think it was unfortunate that the we that we continue to see and hear and read things like that.

[00:06:51] **Speaker 1** Yeah, I think those are limited. And I would say this my biggest concern is, is this investigation, how long is it going to take? I think it needs to be immediate. Right. And I think, the director of the, Secret Service should be, relieved of her duties. This was a massive security failure. How can someone get on a roof 150 yards from a major candidate for president? It makes no sense to me. And the fact yesterday, there were some reporting that the sniper from the U.S. Secret Service actually had this guy in his scope for a couple minutes before the shooting started. Why didn't he get the green light? Why didn't he just execute and move forward? It doesn't make sense that we would allow that to happen on Saturday. So I think we're going to have to get to the bottom of that for both candidates, frankly.

[00:07:37] **Speaker 2** But when it comes to independents, Democrats, moderates, Republicans who who may like what Trump may stand for policy wise but have moved away from him tone wise, what will it take for them to trust what Trump says in terms of his new tone, his new unity message that he'll actually follow through if he becomes president? When he's been talking about being a dictator for day one.

[00:07:59] **Speaker 1** I think, Thursday nights is a great opportunity for him to reset the tone going forward. I think there's two major takeaways from the last three weeks that are imagery that will last with voters all the way until November, the first being the debate where President Biden looked weak. That's as far as I'll go. I'll be kind about it. And then Saturday, when Donald Trump was nearly assassinated, he gets up and he pumps his fist. He looks strong. And so that's the image that's in voters minds right now. That one weak candidate, one strong candidate. And I think that works to Trump's benefit. And as we started the program, I mean, there's new polling out today that shows Trump leading in all of the swing states. So I think Republicans here have a skip in their step. And there's a long way to go. There's 113 days to go. I don't think anyone should take anything for granted. I agree with Scott. This is ultimately going to be a close race, including in Wisconsin. But I'd rather be in our position right now.

[00:08:53] **Speaker 2** When you saw the photo of Donald Trump pumping his fist with blood coming out of his mouth and in his ear, what were your thoughts like? Oh, no, Democrats just lost the race. Or is.

[00:09:01] **Speaker 3** This. No, I didn't think of that. I thought about the country first. I'm going I'm not going to lie like I was. What what is going on here? How can we how can this be happening. That's you know, and so I think that, you know, this has to you know, we have to you know, we have a political campaign. It is I still believe, despite, you know, the attempted assassination of Donald Trump, it still is, you know, a very serious contest for the direction of how the country is going to go, not just for now, but I think decades from now. And that is very serious. But we also have to, you know, note what happened. We've got to, you know, respect the fact that, lives, you know, a life was lost. And we need to make sure that we're doing what has to happen to bring this country together. Now, the problem is, this bill knows, you know, governance is supposed to be about bringing people together to solve problems. Campaigns have been about dividing people, you know, cutting off. And I know, you know, trying to.

[00:09:49] **Speaker 1** Rev up your base. Yeah.

[00:09:50] **Speaker 3** Exactly. How do you break it off? And I guess we'll see here in the state of Wisconsin, because I at least from my perspective, I don't think Donald Trump can be president without winning Wisconsin. I don't think Joe Biden can be president without winning Wisconsin. So what's going to happen over the next 113 days to make sure that you're picking up those swing voters that you need? I think the message of the Republicans is going to be problematic for that. And we'll see how the tone changes if they can soften their policy a little bit, which I, you know, which again, is a it's a it's a tall order, given what we're hearing about their policies.

[00:10:21] **Speaker 1** I think last week, the announcement of the agenda 47, which is the Republican platform that will be approved today, by the delegates, on the convention floor, set the standard. It's it's simple, easy to understand. It focuses on the issues people care about and it minimizes those that divide us. Right. Like abortion. So I think that was well crafted. And it's simple for any voter of any level of interest to, to to pay attention to.

[00:10:49] **Speaker 2** So we'll come back to the platform a little bit later. But I do have a staying on the tone of what's changed since the weekend. Even before that event, there were concerns about violence in Milwaukee. During this week, would there be white nationalists coming? It would probably be popping out of a U-Haul and engaging with counterprotesters after today. Do you think there will be political violence this week in Milwaukee?

[00:11:13] **Speaker 1** None. Not from the right. I mean, think about it. Yet our candidate was nearly assassinated on Saturday night. No cities were lit on fire like Kenosha or Minneapolis. No buildings were looted. Like Oakland, California, or many other places across the country. That's not how we act on our side. I don't expect that. I think Donald Trump will make sure that that does not happen. But I have never again. This is my fifth convention. I've never seen more law enforcement in my lifetime. So if there's any benefit from Saturday night and I want to make sure I'm careful about it. This place is locked down.

[00:11:51] **Speaker 2** Do you expect any conflict between. Not necessarily in the perimeter, but between protesters on the fringes?

[00:11:56] **Speaker 3** I'm certainly hoping not. I mean, you know, again, people are inflamed about a lot of different things, you know, and unfortunately, we can't we can't forget what's happened, you know, before Saturday, which is, you know, we had a president in Donald Trump who, you know, with the Proud Boys stand up and, you know, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah. We had, you know, notions of him, he and Republicans mocking when the speaker when Speaker Pelosi's, you know, octogenarian husband was attacked with a, with a hammer. You know, they have I think that they have some atonement, amends to do to make sure that people believe that they that they really are not condoning violence. And I because there's been a lot of a lot of terrible record, and there's certainly record, there's certainly rhetoric on the left, but not at the level of elected officials that we've seen it on, on, on the right. And I think that's where the real challenges.

[00:12:44] **Speaker 2** All right. We have breaking news. I've just been told that J.D. Vance is the pick for VP. First reactions.

[00:12:50] **Speaker 1** Well, it's he's the youngest one in the field. 39 years old. He's a brand new senator. He's an author. He's a military veteran. He's a Harvard, law school graduate. He has the rags to riches story. This guy grew up, with an addicted mother, single mother. And his grandmother basically raised him and his sister. And he is literally a rags to riches story who clawed for everything he got in his life. And I think that's I think that will resonate with America.

[00:13:16] **Speaker 2** Scott, what do you think of him?

[00:13:18] **Speaker 3** Well, I think two things. One, you know, he's our first, I guess, Netflix candidate because he had his little movie on Netflix, I guess so. And I guess the second thing is, will will it take till tonight before Democrats have videos up of JD Vance trashing Donald Trump over and over again, as he did in 2016?

[00:13:33] **Speaker 2** Well, and the question has to be why does Trump need to do a VP? Where's Mike pence? How much does that factor into? Why do people actually care why he needs a new Phoebe?

[00:13:42] **Speaker 1** Well, I don't think so. Not on our side. You know, and getting to. I went to the welcome party last night at Summerfest grounds, and I talked to several people who were not Donald Trump supporters who are now all in after Saturday night. So they don't I don't think they care that much who he picks. I would have had my preference would have been someone like Glenn Youngkin. I think he adds more to the ticket, but the more I learn about JD Vance, I'm sure I'm going to be able to be as excited about him. And I again, I think he's got the most compelling backstory. He is American, literally a rags to riches from Appalachia, to Harvard Law School to the US military to turn out the vice presidential candidate for the Republican Party.

[00:14:24] **Speaker 2** Being, does it really matter which Republican it was? I mean, every single one of them is going to have a point in time where they were trashing Donald Trump is is really weren't very many that hadn't at this point and now claim to be best friends with with him.

[00:14:35] **Speaker 3** Well, I mean, yes and no. I mean, I think the important the importance here is, is why we need a new vice presidential pick. And I think that that's I think that is important. I think the fact that what Mike pence went through and how Donald Trump, again, with January 6th, tried to overturn the results of a democratically decided election in which five law enforcement officers ended up losing their lives, 140 law enforcement officers were injured. And we try we almost had, you know, a coup basically overturning a democratically decided election in which there was a gallows and people chanting hang Mike pence. So I think that's really, really important to remember because it's such an ugly stain on our on our America, not just on our American politics. And it can never, ever something like that happen again. But, you know, the vice presidential debate, you know, the vice presidential sweepstakes are always a lot of fun. It certainly was fun. When Paul Ryan got his in 2012. It was the first time I ever saw Ryan roughed up by the media, you know? And it was it was interesting. But I do think, you know, again, it's going to be you know, I think the reason that JD Vance is the nominee is because, one, he's from Ohio and means that if he wins, the Republican governor gets to, you know, appoint the next successor. Two, I think because, you know, JD Vance or JD Vance was bought and created by Peter Thiel, the Gazillionaire. I don't even know if the word bigger than billionaire. Gazillionaire. Yeah. Venture capitalist out in, out in. California, who has, you know, staked his his his political campaign gravitas on getting candidates over the primary, who then sometimes losing the primaries? J.D. Vance is the one who didn't. Now he's going to be Donald Trump's vice presidential pick.

[00:16:12] **Speaker 1** The advantage to Vance is of the two senators that were in the finals, he and Marco Rubio. He's not impacted by the 25th amendment or the 12th Amendment, so he can continue to serve until they are sworn in. So Mike DeWine, the governor of of, Ohio, would not have to appoint someone until January of next year.

[00:16:31] **Speaker 3** Or if I'm just me, what's really going to be interesting, I think, in this is from where JD Vance is, you know, where Hillbilly Elegy and stuff is south southeastern Pennsylvania, which is right next to and shares media markets with southwestern Pennsylvania, which is a key place. And I know that because I grew up there, and it is a key place for Democrats to turn out the vote in Allegheny County, which is where Pittsburgh is. And then Republicans turning out these dark, dark red places like where I grew up and the surrounding things. And it'll be interesting to see how like, if there's any kind of like, oh, this is this guy's one of us from over in Pennsylvania in that thing normally doesn't happen because of the Cleveland Browns, but it might happen because of JD Vance just a little bit. And again, just a little bit could make a difference in this election.

[00:17:11] **Speaker 1** We got a Steelers Browns reference in I like that.

[00:17:15] **Speaker 2** Yeah excellent for Wisconsin. That's exactly what our audience is looking for.

[00:17:18] **Speaker 1** Hey hey hey.

[00:17:19] **Speaker 2** Speaking of Mike pence, did either of you see a statement from him since Saturday?

[00:17:25] **Speaker 1** I did, yeah he did. He went out Saturday.

[00:17:27] **Speaker 2** Yeah, I, I missed it. I wanted to double check.

[00:17:29] **Speaker 1** He did. Okay. From him and his wife, Karen. He put it out. No offense to the president. The president was in church when this happened, so there was a delay, and then he had to get to a studio. But pence had it out before President Biden.

[00:17:42] **Speaker 2** In terms of unifying Republicans. Ken, Saturday night's events actually bring some of those never Trump Republicans back. I mean, can we expect Paul Ryan or Mike pence or any of those other people, like all of the former cabinet members that have said Trump's unfit to serve again, will that change their position? Will they become quiet?

[00:18:03] **Speaker 1** I think they may actually become active Trump supporters. All you have to do is look at William Barr. He was not for Donald Trump in the primary process, and now he's defending him fairly regularly. So I wouldn't be surprised to see others come around as well. It's a binary choice. It is, you can have beef or chicken, beef being Trump or chicken being, Biden. And that's the choice America has. You can choose dessert first, but you're not. You're going to go to bed hungry. You're not going to get that choice. So it's really a binary choice. And I think Republicans writ large will come around and understand that.

[00:18:36] **Speaker 2** Do you think Paul Ryan's coming back around?

[00:18:38] **Speaker 3** I don't think so. And, you know, and I'm sort of programed to have having watched Paul Ryan for, you know, 25 years that he always, you know, sort of worms out when it comes to doing the smart or the I'm sorry, not the smart, but the, you know, the conscience saving thing. I think he's gone. But I do want to point out this, because I think it is very interesting that we're not going to have the former Republican president George Bush show up, and we're not going to have former we're certainly not going to have former VP Dick Cheney shot, because, you know, Trump still calling for tribunals for members of the January 6th Commission, you know, commission in, in, in, in the House of Representatives. So I think that's, you know, that's a big deal. The fact that, you know, there's no former president here when there is a Republican president alive. You know, I know that next month when we go to, you know, when we go to Chicago, I'm sure President Obama is going to be there rallying up the troops. But they're not happening here for George Bush. For which candidate? The think for tonight. I think for first, the thing about George Bush is that, you know, he is that old neocon, you know, establishment and they don't have a real voice for that. Speaking at least the program that I've seen so far, you know, and that's how was talking to them.

[00:19:43] **Speaker 2** So today I happen to go to the heritage, event there, Policy Day there is just outside the secure perimeter. I happen to see Vivek Ramaswamy speak. He he talked about project 2025, which as I know, is, you know, prior to last weekend was like the Democrats big talking point. Do you think that still resonates? Is that something that can still penetrate through the media consciousness right now?

[00:20:08] **Speaker 3** Well, if I may, here's a list of some of the things. And to no fault divorce, a complete nationwide abortion ban, including IVF and no exceptions in abortion, banning contraception, ending water protections, raising retirement age, cutting Social Security and Medicare, eliminating Department of Education tax cuts for the rich, a muslim ban guns in the classrooms, and pardoning pardoning all the January 6th terrorist insurrectionists. That policy thing is a goldmine for Democrats to talk to the independent and the swing voters who are going to decide this election in the battleground states.

[00:20:39] **Speaker 1** It's not Trump's, and Trump has disowned it multiple times already.

[00:20:42] **Speaker 3** There are 240 people affiliated with between project 25 and the Trump administration. And it's not.

[00:20:49] **Speaker 1** An interest group in DC. They have their agenda. They're hoping to get it passed. Trump has his agenda is agenda for. 27, which is the platform the Republicans are going to approve today. And that's it. So every time your viewers hear about project 2025, go ahead and look it up. I've never looked it up. I have no idea what's in it. I don't know a single Republican who has looked at it, but that's not the Republican agenda.

[00:21:10] **Speaker 2** But it doesn't matter whether it is if it can be tied to him. I guess my bigger.

[00:21:14] **Speaker 1** Question, I don't think it came from the.

[00:21:15] **Speaker 2** Landscape today is can that actually be tied to Trump anymore or can it penetrate through?

[00:21:20] **Speaker 1** I guess I didn't think it could be tied to him before Saturday night. And and I think there's even less of a chance that it can be tied to him. Now he's going to talk about his agenda on, on Thursday night, the things that are important to him, which he thinks are in alignment with the voters in America. And, that's what people ought to take home is, is what he says.

[00:21:39] **Speaker 3** I mean, in politics, perception is reality. And the Democrats are going to continue to bang this, and they should, because even if there's like some places, this tiny little Venn diagram, you know, where the republic, where Trump's agenda is outside of the heritage, it's small. The meat of this is, you know, blue and yellow making green, that's for sure. And, you know, I just want page 451. The only valid family is a working father married to a stay at home mother. And their children. Like this is like madness. You know, this is like, you know, 19th century stuff. This is not where America is. We are a much different country then. We're a better country than that. And I think that hanging, you know, the agenda of project 2025 around Trump's neck in 2024 is a good move, because people are opposed to that.

[00:22:25] **Speaker 1** I feel pretty good about that. If Democrats best argument is some special interest groups agenda to use against the president, I think we're in pretty good shape.

[00:22:33] **Speaker 2** Part of why I bring this up is basically, since Trump came down the escalator in 2015, he has defied every political death sentence that has been out there in terms of I cannot believe a candidate did that. He'll have to drop out of the race. You'll have to drop out over and over and over again. He has defied gravity in the political realm and been able to move the conversation on to the next thing. And I'm wondering if, in this era of social media, how fast we just had a new V.P. pick come out today, how much will Saturday carry over 100 days from now, and how many more things will we be talking about in between there? When? What will stick in voters minds?

[00:23:10] **Speaker 1** There will be a lot. I mean, if we would have asked 60 days ago, what are the 4 or 5 things that will change this race? Neither of us would have said a horrific debate, performance or an attempted assassination. I wouldn't have made either of our lists yet. They happen, right? So expect the unexpected. But I don't foresee anything changing the trajectory of this race unless Democrats replace Joe Biden. Then we'll see.

[00:23:36] **Speaker 2** Do you think that the there's going to be enough things that the Butler, Pennsylvania, rally is not going to be the dominant theme all the way through Election Day?

[00:23:43] **Speaker 3** Yeah. I mean, again, I think the discussion about violence is going to continue, most notably because I fear that Trump will not stop with his, inflections and suggestions of that as he has throughout, you know, again, since he came down the escalator in June 2015. But yeah, we're going to have three. I think we'll have 3 or 4 different races between now and then. Something will happen. And like you said again, the normalization of some of this activity, or at least the perception that there's so much that's why it drives, you know, liberals like me crazy when like, Biden has one bad debate. So we have to get rid of him. And Trump says, you know, 16 things before I get up for breakfast that make me go, oh my God, where am I at? You know, so.

[00:24:24] **Speaker 2** But he has been quiet recently. I mean, how much of that is is that Trump waking up to realizing, hey, maybe if I'm quiet then the other guy will do it for me?

[00:24:32] **Speaker 1** Well, I think, he and his team, I give Chris lots of ideas. Campaign manager Susie Wiles is deputy campaign manager. A heck of a lot of credit. I mean, Trump wasn't known for his discipline in 2016 or 2020 as a candidate. This time. He's been very disciplined all the way through the primary process, and particularly after the debate, the old Trump would have sort of stepped on that story and thrown Joe Biden a lifeline. He didn't. He let it. That story lasted two full weeks.

[00:24:57] **Speaker 2** Because Trump was silent.

[00:24:58] **Speaker 1** Because Trump was silent, and it was devastating and destabilizing for the Biden campaign. I don't think they'll recover.

[00:25:05] **Speaker 3** I mean, I think he did, you know, in his performance for NATO and his hour-long, taking of questions from reporters, aggressive questions from some of the most aggressive reporters in the business, you know, and so I think, the, that that's I think a non a non-issue. But what I will say is that from last Thursday, it's been 154 days as of last Thursday, where Trump stood before reporters and took questions, when is that going to end? Because again, it's that discipline. I mean, I totally get it. But once he gets in front of reporters, like it goes out the window for sure, because he gets defensive, he gets angry, he says terrible things. And that's you know, and and so we're going to have to see at some point he's going to have to do an interview with you all at some point because he hasn't not 160 days.

[00:25:48] **Speaker 2** When you took you mentioned the violent rhetoric. And we've we've heard a lot of rhetoric that this is a true both sides. There have been Democrats saying that. You know, Trump is the next Hitler project 2025 and the dictator for a day. And we've heard Trump use violent rhetoric about, you know, probably stand by, Biden.

[00:26:03] **Speaker 1** Said, put him in the bullseye. So I'm not blaming Biden for what happened Thursday.

[00:26:06] **Speaker 2** Night, but it's been it's not just one party that's used rhetoric that is inflammatory, correct. In the last few years. The reason I bring this up is today, I heard from both Newt Gingrich speaking to the Wisconsin delegation at the breakfast and from Ramaswamy at the Heritage Foundation, who both said, we were within a couple inches of a possible civil war. Is that not inflammatory in and of itself, to say that if the bullet head hit him and killed Donald Trump, that we would be in a civil war? I mean, is that a possibility, or is it even responsible to mention that as an alternative.

[00:26:38] **Speaker 1** I would have preferred they not say it that way? I think I think America, I'm not sure how we would have recovered if if the president had former president hadn't been assassinated. I mean, we we are too young to know when that happened in 1963. So, I'm hoping that we never see that in our lifetime or in my children's lifetime. It's. That would have unbelievable consequences. And I don't know what those are. I'm not going to speculate on what those may be. I wouldn't have chosen those words. But I think, again, Trump survived literally by centimeters. He's got an unbelievable opportunity to to put some distance between him and Joe Biden on Thursday night.

[00:27:20] **Speaker 2** Are we that close? Were we that close to civil war?

[00:27:24] **Speaker 3** I think it was. If you looked at, you know, if you looked at the internet for, you know, ten appalling minutes after all the stuff happened, it was it was pretty clear that things are ugly at this point. This may turn it down a little bit. Let's see what the Republicans offer here. If they offer, you know, if they offer a bold vision of positivity for the future of America, you know, that might take it down a notch if it is ugly and nasty and things we've seen in the past, I, you know, I fear, you know, because again, like, we don't want, you know, politics. There's no place in politics. There's no place in America for violence, and there's certainly no place in politics for it. And, you know, yes, there is inflammatory rhetoric. And, you know, there these are people. It is people's lives at stake, for sure. Like the quality, you know, if you're a trans person in America, you should fear the fact that, you know, of the things that Trump said. You know, if you're a woman who wants to have, you know, abortion rights, you know, you should fear what's going on with the Republicans because Trump got rid of Roe versus Wade as he is. He, you know, as he bragged. And so I think that it's really, really important. The stakes are high, but violence is never the answer. It's not going to be the answer in this election. And hopefully we've seen the last of it.

[00:28:29] **Speaker 2** So we have just a couple minutes left. Let's try and end on a little of a positive note. After all of the the necessary punches here. Yeah. What are you looking forward to? What's a positive thing that you that will come about from this week either for Milwaukee, the state for Trump, for the delegates. What are you looking for?

[00:28:46] **Speaker 1** I'm obviously most looking forward to Trump's speech on Thursday night, but I'll tell you my two sidelights. I can't wait to hear what Ron DeSantis and Nikki Haley have to say. I think it was very smart of the Trump team to put those two in, speaking lineup. They were his strongest competitors in the primary. They bring different things to the table. I think they help unify the party. So I'm really looking forward to hear what Ron DeSantis and Nikki Haley have to say. And my guess is their message will be, we got to get this done. The choice is it's a serious choice. We need to come together. We can't sit home because we don't necessarily agree with everything our nominee does or says, but that's that's what I'm looking for is what they have to say. And I think that's going to happen tomorrow night.

[00:29:29] **Speaker 2** What are the positive or bright notes you're looking forward to this week?

[00:29:32] **Speaker 3** Well, I'm looking to see the sort of rhetoric that comes out, you know, on a policy on a policy, tip that, you know, convinces independent voters that they have to stick with the Democratic president. That's the thing that I think is most important. See what they're talking about up there in terms of the things that are going to make those voters who are going to decide this election, you know, whether or not it turns them off or turns them on. I think it's going to turn them off.

[00:29:55] **Speaker 2** In terms of Milwaukee, could this be a better platform in terms of showcasing this city to the country? I mean, the weather, the way the downtown looks. I mean, what's your impression of having both of you being familiar with the city?

[00:30:07] **Speaker 1** I'm proud of Milwaukee. I'm proud of Wisconsin. I'm glad it's here. I wish the Democrats could have actually been here in person in 2020. I think it's good for the city. I think it'll help us attract other major events, like an NBA All-Star game or maybe an MLB All-Star game a second time. We had one at Miller Park at the beginning. So I think it's great for the city, it's great for the state. And regardless of which jersey you wear, red or blue, this is a green event.

[00:30:33] **Speaker 2** What do you what do you think.

[00:30:34] **Speaker 3** Oh I get yeah, obviously I agree this has been a great showcase for Milwaukee. Hopefully it continues to be a great showcase for Milwaukee. And you know go Milwaukee.

[00:30:43] **Speaker 2** All right. Well we'll leave it there today. Bill Scott, thank you so much for your insights. See you.

[00:30:46] **Speaker 1** Tomorrow.

[00:30:47] **Speaker 2** All right. And thank you for watching this, special presentation of Hearing Now's 2024 election coverage. Be sure to come back tomorrow. You'll find us here each day this week and tune into PBS evening convention coverage. We're here and now we'll have another update on the day's events. Finally, join us on Friday to wrap up the whole week, where we'll hear from our guests yet again, and we'll have a special one hour presentation of here and Now starting at 7:00. I'm Zach Schultz. Have a great day and we will see you here tomorrow. Thanks.