

Notes: "Speaker 1" is O'Brien. Every time there is a gap is when he is interrupted with cheers from the MAGA delegates.

Speaker 1 0:05

Greetings, delegates and guests. I'm Sean O'Brien, general president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

Speaker 1 0:21

I'd like to give my peeps from the greatest state in the nation, Massachusetts, some props. What's up? First, I want to thank the hardworking chiefsters and union members here in Milwaukee who played vital roles in the building and operations of this convention.

Speaker 1 0:46

I also want to thank President Donald Trump for opening the RNC doors for the teamsters union and invited me to speak before you tonight.

Speaker 1 1:02

I travel all across this country and meet with my members every week. You know what? I see? An American worker being taken for granted, workers being sold out to big banks, big tech, corporates and the elite. And I'm not the only one who sees this. Everyday families see it. The American people aren't stupid. They know the system is broken. We all know how Washington is run. Working people have no chance of winning this fight. That's why I'm here today, because I refuse to keep doing the same things my predecessors did

Speaker 1 1:50

today. Today, the Teamsters are here to say we are not beholden to anyone or any party. You

Speaker 1 2:04

we will create an agenda and work with a bipartisan coalition ready to accomplish something real for the American worker.

Speaker 1 2:18

And I don't care about getting criticized, it's an honor to be the first Teamster in our 121 year History to address the Republican National Convention

Speaker 1 2:41

several months ago, I asked the RNC and the DNC for the opportunity to speak. To be frank, when President Trump invited me to speak at this convention, there was political unrest on the left and on the right. Hard to believe anti union groups demanded the president rescind his invitation. The left called me a traitor,

Speaker 1 3:22

and this is precisely why it's so important for me to be here today.

Speaker 1 3:34

Think about this. Think about this. The Teamsters are doing something correct if the extremes in both parties think I shouldn't be on this stage,

Speaker 1 3:50

President Trump had the backbone to oppose the donors to this Republican convention, and that's unprecedented. If no other nominee in the race would have invited the Teamsters into this arena. Now you can have whatever opinion you want, but one thing is clear, President Trump is a candidate who is not afraid of hearing from new, loud and often critical voices, and I think we all can agree whether people like him or they don't like him, in light of what happened to him on Saturday, he has proven to Be one tough S.O.B.

Speaker 1 5:08

now, when I won the presidency of the Teamsters in a national election two and a half years ago, we started reaching across the aisle. In the past, the teams have endorsed GOP candidates, including Nixon Reagan and George HW Bush, but over the last 40 years, the Republican Party has really pursued strong relationships with organized labor. There are some of the party who stand in active opposition to labor unions. This too must change, and I want to be clear. At the end of the day, the Teamsters are not interested if you have a D, R or an i next to your name, we want to know one thing, what are you doing to help American workers.

Speaker 1 6:09

As a negotiator, I know that no window or door should ever be permanently shut in my administration, the Teamsters reached out to eight Republican senators who stood up for railroad teams over a fight for paid sick leave. Josh Hawley was one of them.

Speaker 1 6:34

We started talking. Senator Hawley changed his position on national right to work. Then we started walking. Senator Hawley walked up to picket line in St Louis and a UAW picketing line in Wentzville, Missouri. More than that, I want to recognize Senator Hawley for his direct, relentless and pointed questioning of corporate Talking Heads, lawyers, CEOs and apologists. He has shown he is not willing to accept their pillaging of work in people's pocketbooks. I know from a career in negotiating that you get nowhere by slamming your fist on the table, the first step is to listen the Teamsters and the GOP may not agree on many issues, but a growing group has shown the courage to sit down and consider points of view that aren't funded by big money think tanks. You us, senators like JD Vance, Roger Marshall and representatives Nicole Malliotakis, Mike Lawler and Brian Fitzpatrick are among elected officials who truly care about working people, and this group is expanding and is putting fear into those who have monopolized our very broken system. In America today, there are far too many people on both sides of the aisle still caught up in knee jerk reactions to unions who subscribe to the same tired clap trap that unions destroy American companies. Take a moment to consider United Parcel Service, which is the largest private sector logistics company and it's been unionized for more than 100 years. More than 350,000 teams make it run. We work for good middle class wages, quality health care and secure pensions. There are work rules that ensure fairness and due process for both sides. UPS is the most efficient package delivery company in the world.

Speaker 1 8:59

But let's not forget that now UPS doesn't provide these great wages and benefits out of the kindness of its heart. UPS, does it? Because the team says, fight for it all 350,000 of us.

Speaker 1 9:17

You know hubris, hate when working people joined together to form unions. But for a century, major employers have waged a war against labor by forming corporate unions of their own. We need to call the Chamber of Commerce and the business roundtables what they are. They are unions for big business. And here's another fact against gigantic multinational corporation: an individual worker has zero power. It's only when Americans band together in democratic unions that we win real improvements on wages, benefits and working conditions. Companies like Amazon are bigger than most national economies. Amazon is valued over \$2 trillion that makes it the 14th largest economy in the world. What is sickening is an Amazon has been has abandoned any national allegiance. Amazon's sole focus is on lining its own pockets. Remember, elites have no party. Elites have no nation. Their loyalty is to the balance sheet and the stock price at the expense of the American worker.

Speaker 1 10:40

In my office in Washington, DC, I can see the United States Capitol from my window, I see well intentioned people arrive in Washington and get eaten up by an unforgiving system. The responsibility to average Americans takes a back seat. The objective now becomes survival, fundraiser after fundraiser, corporate consultants, hedge every initiative the hill crawls with lifers, bouncing from government jobs to corporate jobs and back again. I think we can all agree, DC is a pretty treacherous area. Most legislation is never meant to go anywhere, and it's all talk. And in America, talk isn't cheap. It's very expensive, and it comes at the cost of our own country. Working people know our system is broken. The elites are not laboring on behalf of workers. There is a political caste system that prevents citizens from accessing their representatives to hold them accountable. For a moment in time, working people in America were seen as essential. Sadly, it took a global pandemic for political and corporate elites to notice this fact, but ask yourself this question, since the end of the pandemic, when was the last time you heard major news outlets regularly to refer to workers as essential? You have it the men and women who provide goods and services, deliver packages, stock grocery shelves, care for patients, pick up your trash and keep our communities safe, are taken for granted all the while, the stock market boom, housing crisis hit recognized and corporate salaries skyrocket, but the income of everyday

Americans are shrinking in the face of inflation, at the gas pumps, at the grocery store, with the electrical bill and with the Car Insurance, this has got to change.

Speaker 1 13:01

Never forget, American workers own this nation. We are not renters, we are not tenants, but the corporate elite treat us like squatters, and that is a crime. We've got to fix it. Now. This will shock you. This will shock you, to paraphrase Senator Mark Wayne Mullen, it's time for both sides of Congress to stand their butts up. We need trade policies that put American workers first. It needs to be easier for companies to remain in America. We need legal protections that make it safer for workers to get contract, we must stop corporations from abandoning local communities to inflate their bottom line. We need meaningful bankruptcy reform today, corporate vultures buy up companies like yellow freight with the intent of driving them into bankruptcy and feasting on their remains. The courts leave workers begging for crumbs as third tier creditors. Labor law must be reformed. Americans vote for a union, but can never get a union contract. Companies fire workers who try to join unions and hide behind Toothless laws that are meant to protect working people, but are manipulated to benefit corporations. This is economic terrorism at its best, an individual cannot withstand such an assault. A fired worker cannot afford corporate delays, and these greedy employers know it. There are no consequences for the company only the worker. We need corporate welfare reform under our current system, massive companies like Amazon, Uber, Lyft and Walmart take zero responsibilities for the workers they employ. These companies offer no real health insurance, no retirement benefits, no pay leave, relying on underfunded public assistance, and who foots the bill? The individual taxpayer. The biggest recipients of welfare in this country are corporations, and this is real corruption. We must put workers first. What could be more important to the security of our nation than a long term investment in the American worker? In 2021 teams is nationwide. Elected me to fight for them, and that's precisely what I'm doing. Something is wrong in this country. Need to say it out loud. I will always speak for America and the American worker, both Union and non union. I challenge each and every one of you and especially my friends on the Democratic side, to embrace cooperation, to truly collaborate, to achieve meaningful and

productive change, to ensure we make this great nation the world, in this world, the bigger, faster and strongest nation in the entire world. I I love this country. The Chiefs just love this country. Our 1.3 million members move America on the roads, in the ports, on the rail and in the air, and at the end of the day, if the power is to be stopped from raising my voice on behalf of American workers, I will not have one single regret. I still carry my commercial driver's license. I still have my place on the union seniority list. You'll find me back in Boston driving a tractor trailer, delivering equipment for Shaughnessy and Ahern, because I have the protection of a union contract that gives me the freedom to speak my mind and to fight like hell. God bless the greatest nation. Thank you very much. You