



LOW ON AMMUNITION Soldiers in the Donetsk region in March. The aid from the House bill was met with relief in Ukraine. Page A9.

How Johnson Transformed On Ukraine

By CATIE EDMONDSON
WASHINGTON — For weeks after the Senate passed a sprawling aid package for Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan, Speaker Mike Johnson agonized over whether and how the House would take up funding legislation that would almost certainly infuriate the right wing of his party and could cost him his job.

He huddled with top national security officials, including William J. Burns, the C.I.A. director, in the Oval Office to discuss classified intelligence. He met repeatedly with broad factions of Republicans in both swing and deep red districts, and considered their voters’ attitudes toward funding Ukraine. He thought



Speaker Mike Johnson after a \$95 billion package passed.

about his son, who is set to attend the U.S. Naval Academy in the fall.

And finally, when his plan to work with Democrats to clear the way for aiding Ukraine met with an outpouring of venom from ultraconservatives already threatening to depose him, Mr. Johnson, an evangelical Christian, knelt and prayed for guidance.

“I want to be on the right side of history,” Representative Michael McCaul of Texas, the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, recalled the speaker telling him.

Mr. Johnson’s decision to risk his speakership to push the \$95 billion foreign aid bill through the House on Saturday was the culmination of a remarkable personal and political arc for the Louisiana

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BIPARTISAN PUSH A foreign aid bill was the result of a necessary alliance. News Analysis. PAGE A16

For Democrats, An Echo of ’68 In War Protests

By JEREMY W. PETERS
It’s a nightmare scenario for Democrats: Protesters disrupt their convention this summer; they clash with the police; chaos seems to take hold.

It may not be imaginary. As protests over Israel’s war in Gaza continue to intensify, especially on college campuses, activists are preparing to be in Chicago this summer for the Democratic National Convention.

The very idea sends some Democrats right back to 1968, when their convention, also in Chicago, was overshadowed by infighting and violence between the police and antiwar protesters. Back then, many voters watching the nightly news got the impression that the party could not control its own delegates, never mind a country that was wrestling with an unpopular war.

Protests over the Israel-Hamas war could also complicate this year’s convention and the Democratic messaging for President Biden, whom Republicans have eagerly cast as too indulgent of chaos and disorder in American society. Last week, Fox News and other conservative outlets repeatedly showed demonstrations that made the country seem on the edge: Columbia University sending in the police to arrest students on campus; protesters shouting “genocide!” at President Biden at a campaign stop; demonstrators chaining themselves to cars to block traffic, creating gridlock.

“The whole Republican message is, ‘The world is out of control and Biden is not in command,’” said David Axelrod, the Democratic strategist and adviser to former President Barack Obama. “They will exploit any images of disorder to abet and support it.”

Certainly, there are differences between now and 1968, starting with how conventions are run. They are much more tightly programmed, with fewer, if any, floor fights. And the United States has a long, vibrant history of embracing raucous political protest, toward idealistic ends.

But the 1968 convention stamped Democrats with a legacy that is hard to shake.

The convention was preceded by the assassinations of Robert F. Kennedy and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Hubert Humphrey had won the Democratic nomination after President Lyndon B.

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U.S. Is Considering Sanctions For Israeli Military Battalions

This article is by Isabel Kershner, Adam Rasgon and Julian E. Barnes.
The United States is considering imposing sanctions on one or more Israeli battalions accused of human rights violations during operations in the occupied West Bank, according to a person familiar with the deliberations.

Israeli leaders, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, on Saturday called the possibility of the Biden administration’s placing such sanctions “the peak of absurdity and a moral low” at a time when Israeli forces are fighting a war in Gaza against Hamas. Mr. Netanyahu said in a social media post that his government would “act by all means” against any such move.

The news about the possible sanctions, reported earlier by Axios, came only a day after the House approved \$26 billion for Israel and humanitarian aid for civilians in conflict zones, including Gaza. The sanctions, if imposed,

Accusations of Rights Abuses in West Bank — Aid Unimpeded

would not hold up the military aid that was just approved in Congress.

On Sunday, Palestinians in the West Bank went on a general strike to protest a deadly Israeli military raid at a refugee camp. At least 10 people were killed in the raid on Saturday, the latest operation in a sweeping economic and security clampdown in the Israeli-occupied territory.

Since the Hamas-led Oct. 7 attacks on Israel, hundreds of Palestinians have been killed and detained in raids in the West Bank, which Israeli officials describe as counterterrorism operations against Hamas and other armed groups.

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Trump’s Prosecutors Have Evidence, but a Steep Task

POLITICAL MEMO Stripped of Control, Defendant Shrinks

By MAGGIE HABERMAN
“Sir, can you please have a seat.”

Donald J. Trump had stood up to leave the Manhattan criminal courtroom as Justice Juan M. Merchan was wrapping up a scheduling discussion on Tuesday.

But the judge had not yet adjourned the court or left the bench. Mr. Trump, the 45th president of the United States and the owner of his own company, is used to setting his own pace. Still, when Justice Merchan admonished him to sit back down, the former president did so without saying a word.

The moment underscored a central reality for the presumptive Republican presidential nominee. For the next six weeks, a man who values control and tries to shape environments and outcomes to his will is in control of very little.

Everything about the circumstances in which the former president comes to court every day to sit as the defendant in the People v. Donald J. Trump at 100 Centre Street is repellent to him. The trapped-in-amber surroundings that evoke New York City’s more crime-ridden past. The lack of control. The details of a case in which he is accused of falsifying business records to conceal a payoff to a porn star to keep her claims of an affair with him from emerging in the 2016 election.

Of the four criminal cases Mr. Trump is facing, this is the one that is the most acutely personal. And people close to him are blunt when privately discussing his reaction: He looks around each day and cannot believe he has to be there.

Asked about the former president’s aversion to the case, a campaign spokeswoman, Karoline Leavitt, said that Mr. Trump “proved he will remain defiant” and called the case “political lawfare.”

He is sitting in a decrepit courtroom that, for the second half of last week, was so cold his lead lawyer complained respect-

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Defense Planning to Attack Cohen’s Credibility

By BEN PROTESS and JONAH E. BROMWICH
In the official record, the case is known as the People of the State of New York v. Donald J. Trump, and, for now, the people have the stronger hand: They have insider witnesses, a favorable jury pool and a lurid set of facts about a presidential candidate, a payoff and a porn star.

On Monday, the prosecutors will formally introduce the case to 12 all-important jurors, embarking on the first prosecution of an American president. The trial, which could brand Mr. Trump a felon as he mounts another White House run, will reverberate throughout the nation and test the durability of the justice system that Mr. Trump is attacking in a way that no other defendant would be allowed to do.

Though the district attorney, Alvin L. Bragg, has assembled a mountain of evidence, a conviction is hardly assured. Over the next six weeks, Mr. Trump’s lawyers will seize on three apparent weak points: a key witness’s credibility, a president’s culpability and the case’s legal complexity.

Prosecutors will seek to maneuver around those vulnerabilities, dazzling the jury with a tale that mixes politics and sex, as they confront a shrewd defendant with a decades-long track record of skirting legal consequences. They will also seek to bolster the credibility of that key witness, Michael D. Cohen, a former fixer to Mr. Trump who previously pleaded guilty to federal crimes for paying the porn star, Stormy Daniels.

Daniel J. Horwitz, a veteran defense lawyer who previously worked in the Manhattan district attorney’s office prosecuting white-collar cases, said prosecutors could be expected to corroborate Mr. Cohen’s story wherever possible.

“The prosecution has layers upon layers of evidence to back up what Michael Cohen says,” Mr. Horwitz said.

Both sides will lay out their cases in opening statements on Monday, offering dueling interpretations of the evidence some

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In the Age of Ozempic, She’s Fighting for the Freedom to Be ‘Fat’

By LISA MILLER
The sheet-pan chicken and roasted broccoli are out of the oven, and white rice is steaming on the stove. Virginia Sole-Smith, who has spent a decade writing about how women think and feel about their bodies — and how they pass along those feelings to their children through food — is about to serve dinner to her daughters, Violet, 10, and Beatrix, 6.

Sole-Smith tries not to be a short-order cook. “Respect the labor,” is how she puts it, reminding her children that if they don’t like what she has prepared, there’s other stuff to eat in the house. A pullout shelf in the pantry holds Tate’s chocolate chip cookies, Goldfish crackers, pea snaps and chocolate kisses. There are raspberries and grape tomatoes in the fridge.

What Sole-Smith hopes to model, she said in a five-hour interview at her home in Cold Spring, N.Y., is “that you can be a mom who doesn’t live solely in service of other people.” That “you deserve time to yourself and that you’re a person with needs, that those needs matter.”

She ferries the girls’ plastic plates to the front-porch table, evading the miniature Bernedoodle, Penelope. A year ago, Sole-



The “fat activist” Virginia Sole-Smith at home in Cold Spring, N.Y., where there are no food rules.

Smith published “Fat Talk: Parenting in the Age of Diet Culture,” a guide to helping parents grapple with their discomfort and anxiety about weight and food. At the moment when Ozempic-like drugs are enabling people to become

thin, Sole-Smith has become one of the country’s most visible fat activists, calling out the bias and discrimination faced by people in bigger bodies, especially from doctors and research scientists.

She asserts her own right to be

“fat,” the preferred adjective in her corner of the internet. In Sole-Smith’s house there are neither “good” or “bad” foods nor “healthy” or “unhealthy” ones; doughnuts and kale hold equivalent

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The rise in counterfeit or expired plates is making it more difficult to enforce traffic laws, officials say. PAGE A19

Police Oversight Is Hindered
A New York case underscores pushback civilian boards are getting from those they’re supposed to monitor. PAGE A21

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After Britain’s next election, David Lammy is likely to be foreign secretary. A longtime friend of Democrats, he’s now forging ties on the right. PAGE A4

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A U.S. swimmer who won silver in Tokyo calls for a review, while a U.K. gold medalist demands bans. PAGE A6

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David H. Pryor, 89, was sometimes said to be more liberal than the voters in Arkansas who elected him. PAGE B7



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The Martha Graham troupe performed “The Rite of Spring,” above, and welcomed FKA twigs for a solo. PAGE C6

New ‘Cabaret’ on Broadway
Eddie Redmayne and Gayle Rankin headline in a buzzy revival that rips the skin off the 1966 musical. PAGE C1

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An Unusual Path to Paris
Most Olympic hopefuls don’t try to juggle collegiate and elite training. Oregon State’s Jade Carey, who won a gold medal at the 2021 Tokyo Games, intends to change that. PAGE D1

Former Yankee Faces 100
Pitcher Art Schallack, the oldest living former major league player, was a member of three World Series championship teams. “It was a thrill just to be on the mound,” he said. PAGE D2

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Manischewitz Makeover
The 136-year-old Jewish pantry staple is revamping its brand and its packaging as it targets a new generation of hosts: millennials. PAGE B1

