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**Heartland Forward 2023 Summit**

**Rt. Hon. Boris Johnson**

**Host: Heartland Forward 2023 Summit**

**Introducer & Moderator: Steuart Walton, Board of Directors at Walmart**

**Bentonville, Arkansas**

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**STEUART WALTON:** All right, well, this is my last session, so if you are tired of me, just hang tight, but Boris, thank you for being here today.

**RT. HON. BORIS JOHNSON:** Thank you, very much, Steuart for having me here. It’s fantastic to be here.

**STEUART WALTON:** You’ve traveled a long way, and we’re really proud to have you in our town, and I grew up here. Tell me about your first impressions.

**RT. HON. BORIS JOHNSON:** I just, well, I want to say thank you. It’s a fantastic honor to be here. I didn’t have a very firm concept of the afterlife. I don’t know what it’s going to be like, but I was cycling along one of your trails this afternoon, and I thought it must be kilometers an hour, but it was miles, and I was going so fast on one of your e-bikes. Twenty-five miles an hour I was going, and it was so beautiful. And everybody seems so tranquil and so happy. And the sky had that zap of blue, and the leaves that golden color you only get in America. And I just thought it was it was heaven. Absolute heaven. It’s my idea of paradise. And I think you’ve done an amazing job.

(Applause.)

I mean, I just, I love – I was with your brother, earlier on today, with the kind fathers of Bentonville and the mayor, Mayor Orman, if he’s here, and I was being very militant about cycling.

**STEUART WALTON:** Good.

**RT. HON. BORIS JOHNSON:** I got some gentle pushback, I mean.

**STEUART WALTON:** Oh, not the first time you’ve had a little gentle pushback.

**RT. HON. BORIS JOHNSON:** No, not at all, no. No, it was considerably more gentle than some of the pushback I’ve had.

**STEUART WALTON:** Okay, let’s touch base real quickly here on the UK. I lived in the UK for eight years, and it’s a second home to me.

**RT. HON. BORIS JOHNSON:** That’s fantastic.

**STEUART WALTON:** But it’s been going through a little bit of a roller coaster politically, with three Prime Ministers in three months, within the last year, and that’s a lot for any country to go through.

**RT. HON. BORIS JOHNSON:** Yeah, I mean, there’s a ready supply of ex-prime ministers now. I think, I mean, well, actually, there’s not as many as there are Italian ex-prime ministers, but there’s – you know, there must be about a half-dozen of us by now, and I – look, what is this all about? I really just urge you to do one thing. Do not get too downcast by what you read and what you see in some of the, particularly the British media, about Brexit, okay? That’s fundamentally what this is all about. It’s a national hysteria about a revolutionary step we took seven years ago, or more.

And it’s about how we decided to – which by the way, the United States of America would not dream of accepting the erosions of independence that are entailed in membership of the European Union, which is a project to create a single – as a single state, effectively, a single, federated body. And we have to get out at some stage. And the trouble was the people – and we’re at a Heartland Summit and we’re talking about the wisdom of the people, and the people of the United Kingdom were profoundly wise and right in what they decided to do, but alas, 70% of the establishment, the ruling classes, if I can use that phrase, here – surely I can.

The ruling classes opposed Brexit, and we still do, and they regarded me as being the pied piper who would somehow bewitch people into thinking this was a good idea, and you know, they want to reverse it. And part of what you’re seeing now is the sort of tumor that follows a big decision like that, but I just want to say Brexit was the right thing for the UK to do. It has an ancient tradition of parliamentary sovereignty, and it’s what the U.S. would have done – I mean, it’s what you did (inaudible) by the way. Let’s be in no doubt, right? No one is going to reverse that. I mean, you could reverse what you did, but you’re not going to.

You know, in the last couple of years, it’s enabled us to sort of – when I was Prime Minister, it enabled us to do some things we would not have been able to do before. We were the first country in the world to have a licensed and effective vaccine. We put Pfizer and AstraZeneca into someone’s arm, not the same person, at least, but before anybody else, and that was because we were out of the EU system. And we were doing tons of stuff.

So everybody here in Bentonville, which is wonderful, don’t be too gloomy about the stuff you’ll see about Britain, because it’s the right thing for the medium in the long term.

**STEUART WALTON:** The thing that struck me about it is, as a citizen, you very rarely get the opportunity to have a say in the reduction of bureaucracy, right? And so through that lens, I can

understand why it was close, and to some extent, why even it succeeded. It’s fascinating. hear your take on it. Are there any lessons in that, anything that we can sort of take here in America?

**RT. HON. BORIS JOHNSON:** Yeah, I think there are, and I think – look, analogies are very dangerous between the UK and the U.S. You know, people – Donald Trump said that I was Britain’s Trump, which didn’t do me much good at the time, but anyway. Really, and nor would I want to blight the chances of President Trump now by offering my endorsement of him, right now.

So you know, look, analogies are very dangerous, but it is certainly true that people in the UK felt left out, and they felt left behind, and there were millions and millions of people, particularly after the banking crisis of 2008, who thought – those guys, not a single one of them lost their jobs. No one was punished, but my income is not going up, and they felt they weren’t getting a fair suck of the sauce bottle, as they say in Australia.

And it was a very strong feeling. And Britain is – London in the southeast. I used to be the Mayor of London for a long time, but London and the southeast are the most productive regions in the whole of Europe, with amazing per capita productivity, but you’ll find in other parts of the UK, you’ve got just as much genius and just as much talent, but the people don’t – a speaker was saying the same thing just now, that they didn’t have the access. They didn’t have the opportunity, and the vote about Brexit was really – it was partly about sovereignty, and it was partly about control, but it was also saying, "The system isn’t working, and we want you to focus on us." You know, "Focus on us, instead of trying to fix all your problems by being members of this great 580 million EU.

Do you see what I’m saying? They were saying, "What about me? What about my kids? What about their skills? What about their infrastructure? Yes, it’s brilliant, and you have all these fantastic Polish and Czech graduates coming in to do stuff for us, and making the UK economy even more dynamic, but don’t forget about us," and that’s what they were saying.

Do you see what I’m trying to say? And so it was a wakeup call for the ruling classes and the establishment. And I think in some ways, what happened in the U.S. was kind of similar. There were people on either coast of the United States, in the middle, in the heartland, who felt what is just as much – actually, the truth is, America is far more evenly balanced. There is far more economic equality in the U.S., across the regions. There’s massive disparity of wealth, but regionally, it’s far less imbalanced than the UK.

**STEUART WALTON:** Than the UK.

**RT. HON. BORIS JOHNSON:** And you know, what I mean, the U.S. is rich and varied sameness, right? It has massive strengths, virtually everywhere, whereas the UK, it’s changing, and it needs to change, because the UK was too imbalanced. And so the Brexit vote was partly a vote for change and for a focus on the areas that needed it. And my concept was about leveling up.

**STEUART WALTON:** Yes. I want to talk about that.

**RT. HON. BORIS JOHNSON:** And getting people opportunities where they didn’t have that before.

**STEUART WALTON:** Yeah, so you talked about not having a firm notion of the afterlife, and I don’t either, and I don’t either.

**RT. HON. BORIS JOHNSON:** Who does?

**STEUART WALTON:** Exactly, on a day like this, in Bentonville, it seems like –

**RT. HON. BORIS JOHNSON:** Are we supposed to have plumb notion of the afterlife?

**STEUART WALTON:** That’s a good question.

**RT. HON. BORIS JOHNSON:** I think – I don’t think – (inaudible) the Church of England describes –

**STEUART WALTON:** It’s a bit of hubris – if you haven’t – but on day like –

**RT. HON. BORIS JOHNSON:** It is a bit like Bentonville.

**STEUART WALTON:** Yeah, on a day like this in Bentonville, you might be tempted to think something along the lines of "we’ve got it made," and so what else could we possibly need here?

**RT. HON. BORIS JOHNSON:** Yes. Yes.

**STEUART WALTON:** And I actually think that’s the single biggest threat to this region, that’s we face, and I think it’s a threat to our country in general, which is this notion of complacency. And I feel like, that to take action requires a need to be identified, and if you assume or have a point of view that you don’t have needs, you won’t take action. And in your conversation about leveling up, you talked a lot about this. We can’t be complacent about the way things are, and it was about sharing the prosperity and creating prosperity outside of the Southeast of London.

**RT. HON. BORIS JOHNSON:** Yes, yes. I mean, look, I’ll give you – who was it? Was it? Somebody was just talking about – was it Olivia? Somebody, or your – who was talking about broadband just now?

**STEUART WALTON:** Olivia.

**RT. HON. BORIS JOHNSON:** Olivia, right. I was paying attention. Okay, and I can tell you, in the UK, when I became the Prime Minister, 7% of the country, 7% of households had gigabit broadband. And in Spain, they were up to like 80%. I mean, what the – what on earth? And so there were lots of rural areas where people just didn’t have the broadband they needed.

And I remember saying this in a group of Lancashire farmers, and I said to them, "What’s the …" They seemed to be complacent, you know, but then I mentioned broadband, and they all started hammering their thorny fists on the on the table and demanding better broadband for whatever purposes they needed it. They wanted better broadband, and there was massive inequality in the UK in internet connectivity. And that is a huge drag on progress, on equality, on growth. on investment. If rural communities don’t have gigabit broadband, they’re not going to get – the people are going to leave, and they’re going to go somewhere that does. And so we had a huge rollout of – part of the leveling-up program was to do big infrastructure stuff, and I mean, not just cycling, but you know how important that is. And to do high-speed rail, but you know, I mean, guess how many lines – guess how many miles of high-speed rail have been built in the UK since 1990, and guess how many have been built in China, since 1990, roughly?

**STEUART WALTON:** Zero in the UK?

**RT. HON. BORIS JOHNSON:** Zero in the UK and 25,000 miles in China, okay? And it’s a massive problem, and so if you want to level up, in all those areas – there’s wonderful northern cities and historic places full of talent, but you’ve got to have proper connectivity, and you’ve got to have high-speed rail, and you’ve got to have gigabit broadband. Every village in the UK should have – there’s so much internet connectivity bursting through there wind skirts, or whatever, but they don’t know where to get it.

**STEUART WALTON:** You had these points on this leveling up –

**RT. HON. BORIS JOHNSON:** And so that’s what we did – well, that’s point, gigabit.

**STEUART WALTON:** Broadband.

**RT. HON. BORIS JOHNSON:** Gigabit, get everybody gigabit, and so we – so I think, in two-and-a-half years, we went from 7% to 70% gigabit coverage in the UK, and it made a huge difference to people. And my father lives on a very remote farm in Somerset, which is in the west of England, and you know, very, very remote. I think they must have been making a special effort to get him gigabits, because they – and it was a total disaster.

The van fell off into the river, trying – I don’t know why I’m telling you all this, but it was a – only to show – and he doesn’t need it, really, because you know – I mean, I don’t know what he watches, but you know, he doesn’t really need two-bit broadband, but they gave it to him anyway, and he can now watch about 58 movies, all at once.

You know, he’s got absolutely everything his heart could possibly desire, and the same is true across the whole world – well, across large parts of the UK, and so I’d say that things are – technical infrastructure, gigabit communication, telecommunication of all kinds, you’ve got to have that. It’s basic hygiene now. Hygiene. You’ve got to have proper mass transit for – so the high-speed rail networks, the Northern Powerhouse Rail, we needed to do all that, but the most important things is skills. It’s all about – it’s obviously not a novel thought.

It’s all about people growing – wherever they are, growing up feeling that they have access to the best possible training. It doesn’t have to be a great university education. It could just be a technical education, and I’m not saying just, you know? A technical education is much more valuable, but you’ve got to have skills, and that’s one of – that’s one, and it has been one of the UK’s biggest weaknesses. Massive strengths in London in the southeast, massive – you know, the best universities in the world, but not good enough on skills.

Technology, infrastructure skills, I’d say are the three things.

**STEUART WALTON:** Interesting. There are bright spots in many industries across the U.S. and also here in Arkansas. And healthcare and health research is one that continues to thrive.

**RT. HON. BORIS JOHNSON:** Yes, I was discussing it this morning with your aunt.

**STEUART WALTON:** Yeah, right. (Laughter.)

**RT. HON. BORIS JOHNSON:** Who I disturbed, her breakfast. No, she hadn’t had breakfast, I don’t think. That was the problem. Had you had breakfast yet? No. (Laughter.) We were up early, cycling around the place. And she appeared in her toweling dressing gown, and we talked about – she’s fantastic. We talked about her vision for health care in Arkansas. Am I right?

**STEUART WALTON:** Yeah, no, that sounds like Alice. (Laughter.)

**RT. HON. BORIS JOHNSON:** And she was actually inspirational, and she was – because you can imagine, in London and then as Prime Minister, I did a lot of work, trying to fix a lot of the problems we have. And it seemed to me she had all the right answers.

It’s technology, and it’s about getting people to take personal responsibility. You’ve got to focus on health and not sickness. We have a national health service that tries to tackle sickness. By the time you’re dealing with people’s sickness, it’s probably too late, sadly, particularly for – or often too late for some diseases. And it’s all about getting people to look after themselves.

**STEUART WALTON:** And so, the UK is got some fantastic aspects to its healthcare and some great healthcare companies, which you mentioned. Within the U.S., I think a lot of people are maybe a little bit dismayed with the cost of our system and the quality of our outcomes. If you were given the “healthcare czar” in our country, what would be the first two things you’d do?

**RT. HON. BORIS JOHNSON:** Wow.

**STEUART WALTON:** This is going off script, so bear with us. (Laughter.)

**RT. HON. BORIS JOHNSON:** Okay, okay. Well, look, in my country, the National Health Service is our – it’s a semi-sanctified being, and quite properly. It incarnates, for many, many people in my country, it incarnates values that are very, very important to British people, because no matter who you are, no matter how poor you are, you’re going to get the best possible treatment that the state can provide, and so is everybody else.

And we came up with it in 1948. It has all sorts of flaws, but we are never going to get rid of it. I’ll tell you something, the UK, that’s our system. So, that’s the first thing I would say.

Now, are there things you can do to get people, like I was saying, to be more responsible about their own health? Yes, of course. And your aunt showed me the various gizmos. She has a ring, and your brother has a watch. I have nothing, I’m ashamed to say. (Laughter.) I just have “memento mori” telling me, (foreign language). I’ve just got the constant knowledge of my own mortality.

But everybody has gizmos now that can tell them what to do. And there’s a thing called the ZOE app. Have you heard of the ZOE app?

**STEUART WALTON:** I’m not sure we have that here.

**RT. HON. BORIS JOHNSON:** Whoa, whoa, whoa, you do. (Laughter.) Oh, okay, you have things like it. You put it on your arm, and it tells you what your blood sugar is. Have you got that?

**STEUART WALTON:** Yeah.

**RT. HON. BORIS JOHNSON:** Okay, well, maybe it’s not called the ZOE app. It’s called something like that. What do you call it here?

What? Metronics? CGN. That’s Chinese General Nuclear. (Laughter.) Be careful what you’re putting on your arm there. (Laughter.) That’s the future.

Now, people will respond to these tools and these opportunities in different ways. Not everybody will be prompted by the technology to do things in the same way as everybody else, but it has fantastic potential.

**STEUART WALTON:** Shaping health outcomes, changing behaviors.

**RT. HON. BORIS JOHNSON:** Yeah, just trying to nudge people into making wiser choices about what they’re doing could save us a huge amount of money, from the point of view of the taxpayer funded system, and save people, and increase people’s years of good life. What’s the word I want? There’s some phrase.

Years lived happily and healthily. That’s what we’re trying to maximize. We don’t just want longevity, for the sake of longevity. Do we? Well, we might do because, of course, we want longevity. We want as many years as possible that are happy and healthy.

**STEUART WALTON:** Health span. There’s lifespan and health span. You want to expand in the health span.

**RT. HON. BORIS JOHNSON:** That’s it, health span. Yeah.

**STEUART WALTON:** One healthy thing to do is get on a bike. (Laughter.)

**RT. HON. BORIS JOHNSON:** It is. It is, and I felt very guilty this afternoon, because these wonderful E-bikes, they give you – I mean, as I say, I thought this must be kilometers, but it was, in fact, miles because it was so effortless. And I felt rather – I felt I should have been doing it by my own muscular effort.

**STEUART WALTON:** That’s kind of old-fashioned thinking.

**RT. HON. BORIS JOHNSON:** Is it?

**STEUART WALTON:** Yeah.

**RT. HON. BORIS JOHNSON:** Who rides a normal push bike? Yeah.

Okay, who rides an E-bike? Okay, it’s creeping up here.

**STEUART WALTON:** Oh, it’s creeping up, creeping up.

**RT. HON. BORIS JOHNSON:** Okay, okay. Well, if it helps people, and it encourages people to cycle, then it’s a good thing.

**STEUART WALTON:** Yeah, it does, I think. You just don’t have to work as hard if you don’t want to. And in the summer here, it gets quite hot. Working at all will cause you to break a sweat. And there’s just some real advantages to the E-bike.

**RT. HON. BORIS JOHNSON:** We don’t worry about that in the UK. (Laughter.) We don’t have to worry about the sweat thing.

**STEUART WALTON:** The rain is more of an issue, isn’t it, the mist?

**RT. HON. BORIS JOHNSON:** Exactly. No, we’re irrigated and washed by the brains of… (Laughter.)

**STEUART WALTON:** Okay. Well, maybe a lot of people –

**RT. HON. BORIS JOHNSON:** We’re lucky. And also, I don’t know, I think I’m not saying we’re not as obsessive about our personal hygiene as the Americans. (Laughter.)

**STEUART WALTON:** You aren’t. (Laughter.)

**RT. HON. BORIS JOHNSON:** No, we are. Hang on, I don’t like your round of applause for that. (Laughter.) We are, but it’s generally cooler. It’s generally cooler.

**STEUART WALTON:** Yeah, fair enough. One thing that a lot of people here might not know is during your time as the mayor of London, Lord Mayor of London – or, no, the mayor. Lord Mayor is –

**RT. HON. BORIS JOHNSON:** Mayor, yeah, yeah. Lord Mayor is something else.

**STEUART WALTON:** Mayor of London, essentially your “transportation czar.”

**RT. HON. BORIS JOHNSON:** Yes.

**STEUART WALTON:** Is the mayor of London a kind of glorified way of saying (crosstalk/inaudible)?

**RT. HON. BORIS JOHNSON:** Yes. Yes, right, that’s right.

**STEUART WALTON:** One of the things that Boris was able to accomplish there was building an enormous network of bicycle superhighways and improving the bicycle infrastructure across the city in a really dramatic way. And so, I’d love for this crowd to hear how you used cycling and building cycling infrastructure to bridge political divides and move London towards a better future.

**RT. HON. BORIS JOHNSON:** Yeah. When I decided to run for mayor, it was basically because I was on my bike, and cycling to I think the parliaments, or something like that, and I almost got killed by an enormous bus, a bendy bus. Do you know these bendy buses?

**STEUART WALTON:** You got rid of them.

**RT. HON. BORIS JOHNSON:** I got rid of them. (Laughter.) And I became mayor. I said, “Who put that thing on the road? And how can I remove him from office?” And it was Ken Livingston, who was a –

**STEUART WALTON:** Communist.

**RT. HON. BORIS JOHNSON:** Communist, exactly. (Laughter.) A terrible guy.

**STEUART WALTON:** His nickname was Red Ken, if anybody remembers. (Laughter.)

**RT. HON. BORIS JOHNSON:** And he loved the – like all socialists, he wanted to put people into communist forms of transport that were run by the state, where they were basically imprisoned in big, state-owned machines, like tube trains, or trains or buses, and where the people could go on strike, and where they were stuck in traffic. He loved all that. He loved that communist stuff.

But I wanted people to be free. (Laughter.) And I wanted to be able to get to the front of the traffic line, the traffic jam and go my own speed. And I couldn’t think of anything more liberating than being on a bicycle. I couldn’t understand why people didn’t do it.

And so, I did all sorts of things. I put in a cycle hire scheme, which was very popular.

**STEUART WALTON:** Boris Bikes.

**RT. HON. BORIS JOHNSON:** That’s right, that’s right. I said I would, if they gave me £50 million, I said I’d change my name to Barclays Johnson – (laughter) – because they were the first sponsors. It was Santander. We did all sorts of things. We put in the cycle hire scheme. We put in the cycle lanes.

And look, I want to be very clear about this. You’ve got to do both things. Hear ye, you can’t just put in cycle lanes. If you are militant about cycling as I am, you’ve got to help. You’ve got to help and encourage people who are nervous about it, right, because a lot of people are.

Hands up, who’s a bit nervous about it. Mm-hmm.

Hands up, who, frankly, doesn’t want to be floating around with lots of fast moving, gigantic trucks of the kind that you have in United States. Yeah, right.

So, you’ve got to have two things. You’ve got to put people – you’ve got to find segregated space. And you’re doing that, and I love it. It’s beautiful, but you’ve got to realize that pedestrians also contest that space. And they’re not so enraptured by cyclists as I am. But then you’ve got to recognize that there’s a further stage, and that is the general public carriageway, the Kings Highway, as we call it in my country. And you’ve got to allow people, encourage people to get on the Kings Highway as well.

Now there, your eyes are suddenly going glassy. And you’re thinking, is this guy for real? But I am. You’ve got to have shared space. If you’re going to have proper urban cycling, you need to – someone tried to drop that from the (inaudible) ceiling – but you need the motorists to know that there are going to be cyclists on the road as well. And they need to change their mindset, and they need to recognize that they’re going to have to be careful.

And we did that in London. And what I did was, my masterstroke – well, if I say so myself – (laughter) – was I said that the cycle hire scheme was going to be available. And we flooded the town with these big, big, big burley –

**STEUART WALTON:** Yeah, I had the key, stick it in.

**RT. HON. BORIS JOHNSON:** Yeah, and in fact, they were very, very popular; they still are. But I said, no helmets. Oh, see, look at the shock. (Laughter.) I said, no helmets, because I didn’t want anything to interrupt people’s desire to pick up the bike. I didn’t want them to say, oh, that looks good. I’ll take that. I need to get home, and I can’t get a taxi. I didn’t want them to say, oh, but I haven’t got a helmet. I wanted them to do it anyway. And the result was that everybody started to do it.

And cycling, the problem with cycling is it tends to be the preserve of fit, middle-class, male professionals, right? And when I say, middle-class in Britain means affluent, right? That’s a comment on the different economic vocabulary of our country. And I wanted everybody to do it.

And so, suddenly, you had people wobbling down the middle of the road like drunken French onion sellers, okay? (Laughter.) And the motorists, the motorists – you’re thinking I’m crazy, but I did the right thing – the motorists knew that they had to respect the presence of the cyclists on the road. And that meant that all the cyclists grew in confidence, and they started to use the road more and more.

And so, you’ve got big Pelotons of cyclists, composed of all sorts of people. And at the end of eight years – and all sorts of ethnic backgrounds, by the way, which is very important because it tended to be very monocultural, cycling. And by the end of eight years of work, we’ve massively increased the number of cyclists. And in absolute terms, we have reduced the numbers of people being killed or seriously injured, not just in relative terms, but absolute terms.

**STEUART WALTON:** Fantastic.

**RT. HON. BORIS JOHNSON:** And that was because the streets had become palpably safer for cyclists, because the motorists knew they were going to find cyclists there in numbers.

**STEUART WALTON:** Fascinating.

**RT. HON. BORIS JOHNSON:** And that was – sorry to (crosstalk/inaudible) –

**STEUART WALTON:** No, no, I was just –

**RT. HON. BORIS JOHNSON:** I’m just telling you. And so, yes, cycle lanes are great, but you’ve got to go the whole way, okay? You heard it from the Messiah. (Laughter.) I’m just telling you. No, I’m sorry, no, I don’t mean. I’m not the Messiah, by the way, just (inaudible/laughter) of doubt.

**STEUART WALTON:** A cycling Jesus. (Laughter.)

**RT. HON. BORIS JOHNSON:** No. But I’m telling you, you need to civic – you need to take some difficult choices. And you’ve got to recognize the road space is jealously contested. And if you’re going to favor cycling, which you should, I think what you’re doing is magnificent, then you’ve got to –

**STEUART WALTON:** Lean into it.

**RT. HON. BORIS JOHNSON:** Lean in.

**STEUART WALTON:** Yeah, lean in. So, one question to wrap it up. What’s next for you?

**RT. HON. BORIS JOHNSON:** I’m very busy. I’ve got a lot of books I’m writing. I’ve got two books I’m writing. I continue to follow politics with keen interest, see what’s going on there. I have I have three children under four years old now. And so, this very evening, London is six hours ahead, as I’m sure you know. And my wife has been sending me voice notes, which I could play you, consisting of my youngest son crying. (Laughter.)

I’ve got to get back. The message could not be clearer, from mission control. (Laughter.) I’m under all the pressure. That’s basically what the next step is.

**STEUART WALTON:** Well, on that note, it means the world –

**RT. HON. BORIS JOHNSON:** But it’s been great to be here. And thank you.

**STEUART WALTON:** It means the world that you came.

**RT. HON. BORIS JOHNSON:** Thank you very much for the pleasure.

**STEUART WALTON:** Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

END