BERNIE SANDERS THINKS THAT ELON MUSK IS SATAN

By SARAH EWALL-WICE, SENIOR U.S. POLITICAL REPORTER

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Bernie Sanders may have found his perfect supervillain in billionaire **Elon Musk** as the **Vermont** senator kicked off a national 'fighting oligarchy' tour in **Nebraska** where his supporters were 'feeling the bern.'

The 83-year-old progressive and former presidential candidate issued a call to action on Friday night where he warned what happens now will not just impact future generations but the planet.

'Trumpism will not be defeated by politicians inside the **DC** beltway. That is not going to happen. It will be defeated by millions of Americans in Nebraska, in **Iowa**, in Vermont,' Sanders said.

He said they need to come together at the grassroots level 'in a movement which says no to oligarchy, no to authoritarianism, no to kleptocracy, no to massive cuts in programs that the working class desperately needs.'

Sanders spoke before a packed room in downtown Omaha with more fans waiting in the overflow outside.

According to his team, 2,400 people were in attendance, but 800 were turned away at the door because it was full. Another 130,000 people tuned in to watch online.

His base is fired up about the whirlwind first month of President Trump's second term and activities of Musk, as the world's wealthiest man and his DOGE team slash the U.S. government.

Sanders supporters were outraged by what is happening in Washington and had no problems voicing their frustrations. They screamed their support at times and even teared up at other moments as they nodded along to his remarks.

While Trump was a target of much of the wrath receiving boos and one person even yelling 'fascist,' there were also were shouts of 'fire Elon,' '**Tesla** sucks' and 'Elon's a Nazi.'



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Senator Bernie Sanders kicked off his 'fighting oligarchy' national tour with a rally in Omaha, NE on February 21 where he took aim at President Trump and Elon Musk

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‘This country today under Trump faces a series of crises unprecedented in our modern history, and what we do now will impact not only our lives, but the lives of our kids, grandchildren, future generations and whether the planet itself survives,’ Sanders said.

The senator will hold a second event in Iowa City, Iowa on Saturday as he hits the road to discuss how Americans can fight back against Trump and Musk.

He vowed to take his message to every corner of the country.

‘We are rapidly moving toward an oligarchy form of society in which a handful of multi-billionaires not only have extraordinary, extraordinary wealth but unprecedented economic, media and political power,’ Sanders said as the crowd booed.

The senator spoke of Trump’s inauguration and how the three wealthiest people in the country, Musk, Jeff Bezos and Mark Zuckerberg, were sitting right behind the president as he was sworn in. He also noted Trump’s billionaire Cabinet nominees in the third row.

Sanders has long raged against billionaires, but with his latest tour, he now has an image to point to of the richest men sitting behind the president in Washington as the senator talks about the struggles of the working class.

‘Democracy is not about billionaires buying elections. It’s about one person, one vote,’ Sanders said, referencing that Musk spent $270 million to help get Trump elected.

‘When we are taking on Trumpism, we are taking on oligarchy,’ he declared.



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Billionaire and DOGE leader Elon Musk watching President Trump speak in the Oval Office on February 11



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Sanders noted how billionaires Mark Zuckerberg (far left), Jeff Bezos (center) and Elon Musk (far right) were all seated just behind Trump for his Inauguration in the U.S. Capitol on January 20 in his speech

The progressive senator invoked moments throughout history where people have risen up to enact change from the American Revolution, the fight for Universal suffrage to the Civil Rights Movement and ending segregation and more.

'We can defeat them. I know how much money they have. I know their ownership of the people. I know they can buy and sell politicians. I know all of that,' Sanders said.

'But this I also know, that when we stand together and not let them divide us up... we can defeat them, and we must defeat them,' he declared.

The senator urged people to call their lawmakers and directed people to his website to get their numbers.

Sanders claimed that lawmakers are influenced by their donors but said people need to force them to pay attention to their constituents who won't send them back to Washington unless they do.

He specifically name dropped GOP Congressman Don Bacon who represents Omaha.

The Vermont senator and former presidential candidate is targeting working class districts won by President Biden in 2020 and Republican House members in 2024 with the tour.

Nebraska's Second Congressional District, which includes Omaha and its suburbs, voted for Biden by nearly six points in 2020. Kamala Harris also won the district in 2024 but by a narrower margin.

However, it has been represented by Bacon since 2017, who recently won reelection in 2024 by less than two points.

The race for the seat is considered one of the biggest toss-ups in next year's midterms and could help decide the fate of the House as Republicans currently cling to a razor-thin majority in Congress.



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The Vermont senator blasted Trump's recent social media post where he wrote he who saves his country does not violate any law.

Sanders argued that the president believes 'he can do anything he wants to do. The law does not apply to him.'

'That is how he has been behaving, in violation of the Constitution and federal laws,' he said as his supporters groaned.

He also slammed the president for attacking the First Amendment for his criticism of the media and blasted Trump's recently calling Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky a 'dictator.'

'Everybody in the world knows that Putin started the war except Donald Trump,' Sanders said.

Sanders has had a huge grassroots following ever since he ran for president in 2016. The crowd remained engaged throughout the speech as some people sported Sanders gear from his first presidential bid.

Others held up blue dots as Omaha is a known blue dot in an otherwise red state.

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