

*“Video Game Livestream for Charity, Highlight from”, by /u/bottled\_fox*



*Screenshot from “Death Stranding” on PS4, published by Sony Interactive Entertainment*

A left-wing podcaster who goes by the name “Blackjack” live-streamed the popular video game “Death Stranding” on his Twitch channel, pledging that all donations made during the stream will be given to the National Alliance to End Homelessness. Several guests appear on his stream to chat about the game, its theme of mutual aid, and the subject of homelessness in the United States. After a couple hours into the stream, Congressman P.B. Fox himself joins the Discord chat...

**Blackjack:** Oh, someone joined that chat! Who could it be this time?

**Fox:** Hello.

**Blackjack:** It’s the wily— the cunning— the elusive P.B. Fox! Welcome to the stream, Congressman.

**Fox:** Thanks. This is... different.

**Blackjack:** What, never been on a gaming livestream before?

**Fox:** Yes, but I’m talking about the game.

**Blackjack:** Oh yeah. \*chuckles\*

**Fox:** From what I’m getting here, you’re delivering a bunch of packages, correct?

**Blackjack:** Astute observation, Mr. Fox. I’m taking these components to a Wind Farm and connecting it to the, uh, chiral network.

**Fox:** Chiral network?

**Blackjack:** Yeah, it's like the internet, but cooler.

**Fox:** How so?

**Blackjack:** You can, like, replicate stuff through it. Even whole roads and bridges. It makes getting around a lot easier.

**Fox:** I can imagine. Your guy looks like he's struggling with all that weight he's carrying.

**Blackjack:** You should've been here when I had to carry the President's dead body, through the mountains, so it can be cremated.

**Fox:** That makes no sense.

**Blackjack:** If not cremated she would've turned into a BT— a ghost. And you do *not* want to get eaten by a BT.

**Fox:** Oh really.

**Blackjack:** Yeah, it causes an explosion with a radius of several miles.

**Fox:** Wonderful.

**Blackjack:** Oh, and here comes the timefall...

**Fox:** What does that do?

**Blackjack:** It's rain that accelerates time, damages your packages and equipment, and indicates that BTs are nearby.

**Fox:** Yikes.

**Blackjack:** Uh oh, looks like this forest is crawling with BTs. I better tread carefully, because I've got no way to fight back yet. Oh, thank you to samusaran256 for donating \$50!

**Fox:** You fulfilled your mission. It will revive peace in space. But, it may be invaded by the other Metroid. Pray for a true peace in space!

**Blackjack:** I see that you're a Metroid fan.

**Fox:** Oh, big time. I had a GameCube when I was in college, and I'd play way too much Smash Bros. and Metroid Prime.

**Blackjack:** Ever played Metal Gear Solid?

**Fox:** I've played both of the PS2 ones. They were good.

**Blackjack:** Well the same guy who made those games also made this one.

**Fox:** Huh. Never heard of him.

**Blackjack:** Shhhh, BB. Quiet down...

**Fox:** Why do you have a baby in a jar?

**Blackjack:** So I can see the BTs.

**Fox:** Makes sense.

**Blackjack:** You probably don't want to spend this whole time talking about video games, am I right?

**Fox:** I'm so bemused by this game that it makes it hard to focus on anything else, honestly.

**Blackjack:** Well it's about to get more bemusing, because, oh God...

**Fox:** They're pulling you down! Resist!

**Blackjack:** I'm trying... almost free... phew.

**Fox:** Close call.

**Blackjack:** Indeed. I would've had to run away from a miniboss if they pulled me down into the tar.

**Fox:** So, there is one subject I wanted to bring up, since this is all about homelessness.

**Blackjack:** It's actually about the necessity and fear of human connection, as far as I can tell, but yes, let's talk homelessness.

**Fox:** Lately the Socialist party has been talking about making rent controls part of the platform.

**Blackjack:** Is that something you support?

**Fox:** If properly implemented, sure. But that's not as easy as, say, expanding federal housing subsidies to cover more people.

**Blackjack:** Yes! Made it to my destination.

**Fox:** So I think rent controls are a solid idea on the municipal levels, where most of the issues are happening anyway.

**Blackjack:** Connecting to the chiral network now...

**Fox:** However, there's really only one way that is guaranteed to solve homelessness.

**Blackjack:** Oh great, I'll have to go through the forest a second time.

**Fox:** And that's giving everyone a home. But nobody is entitled to a home, or land, especially a century after the enclosure happened.

**Blackjack:** Uh huh.

**Fox:** So as far as I can tell, homelessness is inevitable under capitalism. People don't care enough, and aren't really incentivized to under a capitalist system.

**Blackjack:** Yes, but look at this! The BTs are gone now, and there's bridges that make it easier to get across. And these structures were built by other players, in their games, and now they're in mine.

**Fox:** That's actually really interesting.

**Blackjack:** Yeah, we're all helping each other get through the game. A lot of people just spend hours building things to make travelling easier.

**Fox:** So this game is actually about mutual aid.

**Blackjack:** I guess so.

**Fox:** Huh. Maybe I should let the game do the talking then.

**Blackjack:** I wish it were that easy!

**Fox:** Well, it's been great talking to you again, Blackjack.

**Blackjack:** Yeah, stop by on the podcast anytime!