



Less than a month ago, the establishment was panic-stricken when Vermont's fire-breathing socialist Senator Bernie Sanders surged into the lead and posed an existential threat to the establishment's survival.

Biden performed poorly in candidates' debates, rambling through often incoherent responses and raising grave doubts about his age-related intellectual agility. Forgetting what state he was in or who he shared the platform with was evidence, his opponents said, of a man in decline.

He was battered into a fourth-place finish in the Iowa caucuses, fifth in the New Hampshire primary and teetered on the ragged edge of irrelevancy.

In the face of this crisis, the establishment overcame its hand-wringing paralysis and closed ranks behind Biden. His outlook turned in the South Carolina primary and he went on to storm through the subsequent primaries, devastating Sanders, piling up double digit blowout victory margins and chasing the competition out of the race altogether.

Suddenly, speculation about a brokered convention turned into speculation about vice presidential selection.

Sanders was on the ropes and whatever glimmer of hope existed that he could climb back into contention was extinguished when the coronavirus epidemic forced a virtual shutdown of campaign activities and

