

President rejects Iran's seven-day offer to reopen the Strait and reschedules the bombing for after the midterms; his U.N. ambassador goes on Fox to say the \$6.48 diesel came from Ukraine

BY LOU

One More Question

I wrote down everything that came across the wire on Thursday the seven-teenth. Just that one day. In order, the way it reached me, and then I'll stop.

Every Democrat in the Senate except Senator Fetterman signed a letter pressing Secretary Hegseth for a cost breakdown of the war in Iran. The Pentagon's policy chief, Elbridge Colby, briefed the Senate Armed Services Committee behind closed doors, and lawmakers of both parties came out saying they had not gotten clear answers. Fox News published a poll: seventy percent of voters say the president lacks a clear strategy, sixty percent say the military action was the wrong decision. The U.N. fact-finding mission on Iran reported "reasonable grounds" to believe the United States committed war crimes in two airstrikes; the Times wrote that the mistakes behind the deaths of more than a hundred children "went beyond negligence." U.S. officials told CBS that Iran had downed at least two American drones. Iran called the American account of an Air Force colonel's rescue "fictional and unacceptable." And the President told Axios, "I have a big decision coming up. Do I want to go in and annihilate them, or do I not?"

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THE WORD

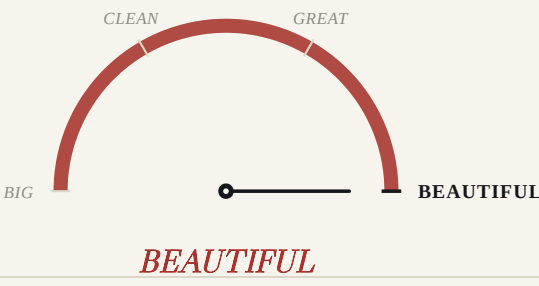
\$44 — 27 SEPTEMBER 2026

On beautiful

DEMOCRAT



REPUBLICAN



"My nephew's in law school, and he looked this up for me, because I didn't believe it. The One Big Beautiful Bill — when it became Public Law 119-21, it didn't have that name. It doesn't have a short name at all; the Senate took it out. So I asked him what's still in it, and he sent me the budget office's pages. Three point four trillion added to deficits over ten years. Ten million more people uninsured by 2034. The bottom tenth of households, down twelve hundred dollars a year; the top tenth, up thirteen thousand six hundred. Sorry, you've been very patient. If the Senate took the word out and the budget office left those numbers in, which of the two is

the law?" — Lou

... Continued on Page W44

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

THE FLOOR NEVER FALLS

Above a fixed dollar floor, Congress is notified. Below it, Congress is not. The floor was set in 1981; the only amendment since raised it.

... Continued on the Investigative Reporting page

The president priced a Republican Congress at \$5,000 an adult, the Treasury secretary told the House the department is examining whether Congress is needed, and 750,000 Americans lost their health coverage that week.

BY MORT

The Records Bureau

The authorization requirement — the plain old arrangement in which Congress votes and then the Treasury spends — died Tuesday in a hearing room, before lunch. It is survived by an examination at the Treasury Department. A rule dies and no casserole comes. That is the shit of it: it takes two sentences and a lunch break.

Here is the week, laid out the way we lay these out.

On Wednesday the ninth, at the party's midterm convention in Dallas, the president said American adults would receive \$5,000 if Republicans keep control of Congress come November. By Thursday the tenth the Washington Examiner had an explainer up — "Trump's promised \$5,000 'dividend' checks: What to know" — the sort of clean work a paper does when it believes something is going to happen. Late that Wednesday, hours after the president spoke, Bret Baier put the total to the vice president on Fox, roughly \$1.3 trillion, and said critics would call it bribing voters. "I can hear the critics' heads exploding," Baier told Vance.

Then the objections came in on schedule, from his own side, which is

... Continued on Page F4

Priced by the budget office at \$38 billion, a figure it calls conservative, the war is being paid at the pump by the farmer who voted for it and now says he can't stay in business.

BY CHIP

Staff Writer

The line is farmers first, and the line holds. Walk the week with me and you will see it holds.

Tuesday the 15th, the Congressional Budget Office closed its books and priced the war at \$38 billion. In a federal budget that is a rounding er— it is not a rounding error, I would never say that, it is \$38 billion of real money, and the Budget Office calls that figure conservative. Conservative is our word. It means careful. It also means the number has room to go up, which is not the point I was making. The point I was making is that we are careful.

Wednesday the 16th, the Speaker sent the House home a day earlier than scheduled for a seven-week recess so members could "go home to their districts and make the case to the American people." Representative Massie, of our own party, says the early adjournment blocked his impeachment effort against the Secretary. Both things can be true. One of them is a calendar. Also Wednesday, Truthout reported the President has made more stock trades since 2025 than all 535 members of Congress combined, more than 80 trades per market day in his first 17 months. That is confidence in American

... Continued on Page F3

Nine months after the military removed Venezuela's president, the 30-minute operation that booked 65 billion barrels — 35 percent of it to the Pentagon — leaves the driver stretching a gallon at a record \$4.15 until the savings arrive in a year or two.

BY RUTH

The Money Desk

A reconciliation is two columns and the difference between them, and you do not need an opinion to run one. You need the filings and a straight edge. Here are the filings for one fortnight.

Friday, September 4. Energy Secretary Chris Wright was back in the United States from Venezuela, and CBS reported that Wright said the new oil deal between the two nations would bring gas prices down in a year or two. Filed that same Friday, by the Washington Examiner: the national average price of diesel reached \$5.85, passing the all-time high of \$5.81 set in May 2022 after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The asset side opens with a promise. The price side opens with a record.

Sunday, September 6, The Hill printed the count. The administration had reached a deal granting it control of more than 65 billion barrels, and Wright's assessment was, "We have a lot of leverage over Venezuela." The New York Times priced that same Sunday at nearly \$4.15 a gallon, with Brent up about 1 percent as trading resumed. Sixty-five billion barrels in the asset column, a national average of nearly \$4.15 in the price column, both filed on

... Continued on Page F2

The stadium that cut its beer to half price to fill the seats by kickoff roared for the man stumping from the stands for a bill The Nation says threatens athletes' labor rights, and the Senate is expected to pass it Monday.

BY GUS

The Sports Desk

HOT MIC MOMENT

Put me on the political desk, because here is what that stadium was rented to sell. The top item on the Senate's calendar for the two weeks the House is gone is, per NBC, an NCAA-backed bill setting federal guidelines for the athletes. The Nation ran it Friday: the bill threatens athletes' labor rights. The labor rules get sold from the fifty-yard line, and the man in the upper deck pays half price for the beer that seated him in time to cheer.

... Continued on Page S2

"Count the times this page says "historic," then count the ones with a number next to them. The difference is the news."

— Sal

"The economy is historic, the process is ongoing, and the timeline is the timeline. Beyond that I refer you to the timeline."

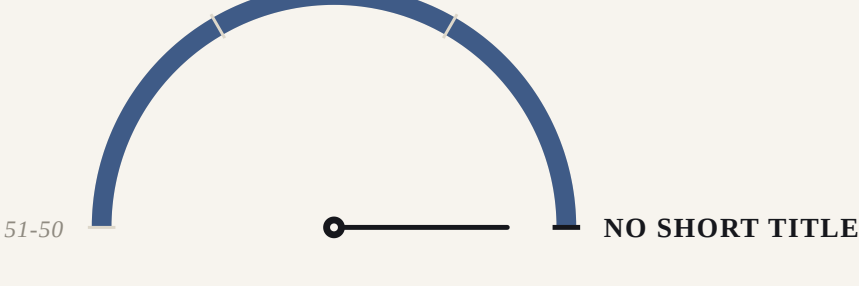
— Chip

On beautiful

BY **LOU**

The Word

DEMOCRAT



NO SHORT TITLE

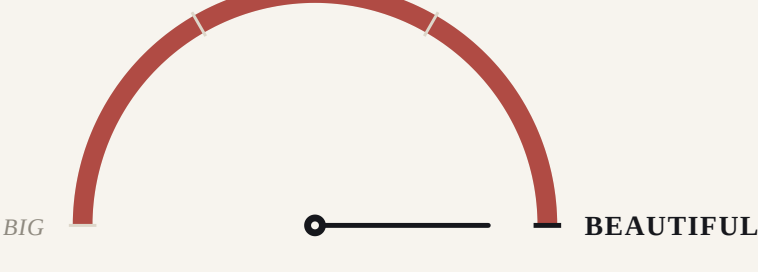
The adjective did not make it into the law. The short title "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" was struck in the Senate, and Public Law 119-21 carries only its official title: "An Act to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of H. Con. Res. 14" ¹.

What stayed in, by the Congressional Budget Office's final count: \$3.4 trillion added to deficits from 2025 through 2034, and 10 million more people uninsured in 2034 ². Its distributional analysis found the lowest tenth of households losing about \$1,200 a year, 3.1 percent of income, while the top tenth gains about \$13,600 ³. And the clean coal: on Lazard's latest cost tables coal runs \$72 to \$177 a megawatt-hour against \$40 to \$98 for utility solar, and coal-mining employment went from 40,500 in January 2025 to 38,100 in August 2026 ^{4,5}. Beautiful was the one word the Senate removed.

SOURCES

1. [The short title was struck in the Senate; the law's official title is "An Act to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of H. Con. Res. 14" — GovTrack, H.R. 1 \(119th\)](#) ↑
2. [Public Law 119-21 adds \\$3.4 trillion to deficits over 2025–2034 and increases the uninsured by 10 million in 2034 — Congressional Budget Office, 21 July 2025](#) ↑
3. [The lowest decile loses about \\$1,200 a year \(3.1 percent of income\); the top decile gains about \\$13,600 — Congressional Budget Office, 11 August 2025](#) ↑
4. [Unsubsidized levelized cost: coal \\$72–\\$177 per MWh; utility-scale solar \\$40–\\$98 — Lazard LCOE+, June 2026](#) ↑
5. [Coal mining employees: 40,500 in January 2025, 38,100 in August 2026 — Bureau of Labor Statistics, series CES1021210001, via FRED, 4 September 2026](#) ↑

REPUBLICAN



BEAUTIFUL

It is his favorite adjective, and he put it on the paperwork. The reconciliation bill went to the Senate as the One Big Beautiful Bill, passed there 51 to 50 on July 1, and was signed on July 4, 2025 ¹. His April 2025 order on coal is titled "Reinvigorating America's Beautiful Clean Coal Industry" ².

The argument for the adjective is the argument for the bill as its backers made it: that one package moving taxes, the border and spending together beats a dozen separate fights, and that a president who believes the package is good for the country is entitled to name it that way. What the word promised is on this side. What the Senate did to the word, and what the Congressional Budget Office found inside the law, is on the other.

SOURCES

1. [H.R. 1 \(119th Congress\) passed the Senate 51–50 on 1 July 2025 and was enacted as Public Law 119-21 on 4 July 2025 — GovTrack](#) ↑
2. [Executive Order 14261, "Reinvigorating America's Beautiful Clean Coal Industry," 8 April 2025 — The White House](#) ↑

“My nephew's in law school, and he looked this up for me, because I didn't believe it. The One Big Beautiful Bill — when it became Public Law 119-21, it didn't have that name. It doesn't have a short name at all; the Senate took it out. So I asked him what's still in it, and he sent me the budget office's pages. Three point four trillion added to deficits over ten years. Ten million more people uninsured by 2034. The bottom tenth of households, down twelve hundred dollars a year; the top tenth, up thirteen thousand six hundred. Sorry, you've been very patient. If the Senate took the word out and the budget office left those numbers in, which of the two is the law?” — Lou



“The One Big Beautiful Bill. Except it isn't — the Senate struck the name, and the law went on the books as "An Act to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of H. Con. Res. 14." They took beautiful out and left the rest in: three point four trillion in new deficits, ten million more uninsured, twelve hundred dollars a year out of the bottom tenth and thirteen thousand six hundred into the top. Beautiful was the one word that couldn't survive the Senate.”

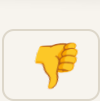
— *Sal*



“The short title was removed for procedural reasons, which is itself a beautiful feature of our process, and the budget office's numbers are projections — which is to say, estimates of exactly how beautiful it will turn out to be.”

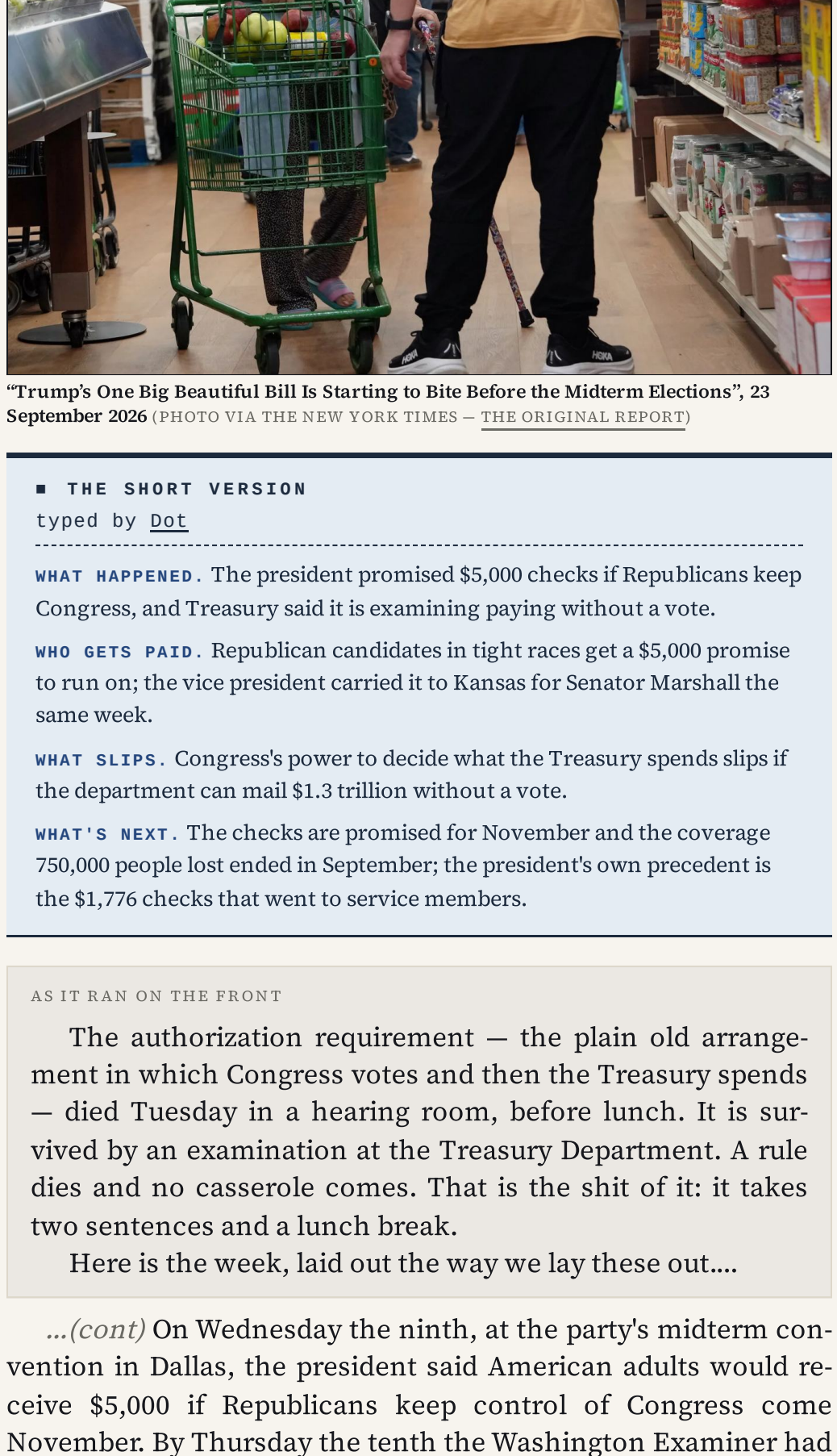
— *Chip*

The Word today —



The president priced a Republican Congress at \$5,000 an adult, the Treasury secretary told the House the department is examining whether Congress is needed, and 750,000 Americans lost their health coverage that week.

By **MORT**
THE RECORDS BUREAU



"Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill Is Starting to Bite Before the Midterm Elections", 23 September 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE NEW YORK TIMES — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by [Dot](#)

WHAT HAPPENED. The president promised \$5,000 checks if Republicans keep Congress, and Treasury said it is examining paying without a vote.

WHO GETS PAID. Republican candidates in tight races get a \$5,000 promise to run on; the vice president carried it to Kansas for Senator Marshall the same week.

WHAT SLIPS. Congress's power to decide what the Treasury spends slips if the department can mail \$1.3 trillion without a vote.

WHAT'S NEXT. The checks are promised for November and the coverage 750,000 people lost ended in September; the president's own precedent is the \$1,776 checks that went to service members.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The authorization requirement — the plain old arrangement in which Congress votes and then the Treasury spends — died Tuesday in a hearing room, before lunch. It is survived by an examination at the Treasury Department. A rule dies and no casserole comes. That is the shit of it: it takes two sentences and a lunch break.

Here is the week, laid out the way we lay these out....

...(cont) On Wednesday the ninth, at the party's midterm convention in Dallas, the president said American adults would receive \$5,000 if Republicans keep control of Congress come November. By Thursday the tenth the Washington Examiner had an explainer up — "Trump's promised \$5,000 'dividend' checks: What to know" — the sort of clean work a paper does when it believes something is going to happen. Late that Wednesday, hours after the president spoke, Bret Baier put the total to the vice president on Fox, roughly \$1.3 trillion, and said critics would call it bribing voters. "I can hear the critics' heads exploding," Baier told Vance.

Then the objections came in on schedule, from his own side, which is how the arrangement was supposed to work. Friday, Susan Collins called the proposal "extraordinarily costly" and noted it carried no income cap. Saturday, at the Kansas State Fair, a debate moderator put the cost at \$1.2 trillion and asked the two candidates where they stood; Roger Marshall appeared to shift. Sunday, Mike Flood said the priority should be funding the troops and replenishing stocks amid the Iran war. Lawler, the same day, deflected and asked how you pay for it. The Hill printed Monday what the president had said Sunday outside Air Force One: the checks will "happen 100 percent" if the GOP keeps its majority. That same Monday, National Review called the dividend reckless and said the checks would make inflation worse and echo the sort of "socialism" the president decries, and Guy Benson said on Fox News that conservatives would scream "bloody murder" if a Democratic president offered a dividend to maintain power. Also that Monday, MAGA Inc. deployed the vice president to Kansas to help Marshall, whose race the Cook Political Report rates likely Republican.

Six days of arguing about the price. That part is penny-ante.

By Tuesday The Hill had the fiscal hawks on the record: they would not support giving away money to people who don't work or pay taxes. And on Tuesday, before the House Financial Services Committee, Secretary Bessent said Treasury was examining whether the money could be issued without authorization from Congress. In the same testimony he defended a faltering bond-market intervention. That was the death. Not a vote lost, not a bill killed — a department saying out loud that it is looking into whether the vote is required, while the members whose votes it needed were still on television explaining they would not give them.

Senator Bernie Moreno was still trying it the long way, with legislation, funded through market access fees. Somebody ought to note that. It used to be the only way, and a whippersnapper reading this in ten years will want to know it was tried.

The authorization requirement is survived by 750,000 Americans removed from their health coverage. Your check is promised for November. The coverage ended in September.

It is preceded in death by the \$1,776 checks that went to service members, which the president offered as the precedent for this one.

In lieu of flowers, ask whoever wants your vote in November to say, on the record and before any check is printed, whether the Treasury may spend money Congress has not voted.

THE RECEIPTS

Many Americans are relying on multiple forms of credit to cover expenses. When is it a warning sign?

CBS News | MAINSTREAM | 09:15 EDT

Using several types of credit isn't always a problem, but certain patterns signal that your debt is unsustainable.

~~Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill Is Starting to Bite Before the Midterm Elections~~

Trump's signature law cut SNAP by \$187 billion - the largest cut ever, hitting one in five American kids

The New York Times | MAINSTREAM | 11:45 EDT

The tax cuts in President Trump's signature achievement were the Republicans' answer to voters' economic struggles, but its health care and food assistance cuts are taking a toll.

~~Trump Promises Americans \$5K Checks If GOP Wins Midterms, Raising Legal Questions~~

Paying voters \$5K is a crime under two federal laws - and grounds for impeachment

Truthout | 13:39 EDT

Two federal statutes forbid paying people to vote, and the Constitution lists bribery as an impeachable offense.

But: 'We've got to get rid of the \$19 trillion in debt' - Trump promised it done in eight years, March 2016 The Washington Post, 31 March 2016 interview

Top Republicans didn't expect Trump's dividends. Now they're scrambling.

Politico | MAINSTREAM | 18:33 EDT

As they gathered in Dallas, GOP lawmakers wavered from full-on embrace to full-on avoidance of the president's promise of \$5,000 checks to Americans.

~~Pickering and Unacceptable: Anger Mounts as Trump and Vance Gleeefully Rip Healthcare From 750,000~~

Vance cuts a \$2.2 billion health care cut for 750,000. The ballroom cost \$400 million.

Common Dreams | 10:44 EDT

Anger and alarm are growing over the Trump administration's Tuesday announcement that it is removing at least 750,000 people from their Affordable Care Act coverage because they were "fraudulently" enrolled, a claim that drew deep skepticism from health policy experts and advocates. Cynthia Cox, senior vice president at IKFF, said fraud...

Ansarallah advances on Bab al-Mandab; Trump offers to pay Americans \$5,000 for midterm votes; U.S. kills 3 in Caribbean boat strike

Drop Site News | 10:34 EDT

Drop Site Daily: September 10, 2026

• [Trump gave 'the red meat,' Vance was playing for independents: Bob Cusack](#) *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*

• [Fox News's Baier presses Vance on Trump's \\$5K dividend promise](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [Pritzker: Vance is Trump's 'chief bootlicker'](#) *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*

• [Bessent Defends Faltering Bond Market Intervention](#) *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

• [Bessent says Treasury is 'examining' ability to cut \\$5,000 checks without Congress](#) *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

• [Bessent's move to tamp down rising rates backfires as bond yields jump, stocks tumble](#) *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*

• [The bond market is revolting — and your mortgage is the first casualty](#) *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*

• [Fiscal hawks skeptical of Bessent's claim that US can 'grow our way out' of \\$40 trillion debt](#) *from the morgue, 27 Aug 2026*

• [Bessent blasts Warren's 'sciolistic' letter about yen policy](#) *from the morgue, 29 Aug 2026*

• [Soros-funded Philadelphia district attorney insinuates Trump is a '35-time felon,' calling \\$5,000 dividend a bribe](#) *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

• [Soros-funded Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner's terrible, horrible, no good, very bad Thursday](#) *from the morgue, 31 Aug 2026*

• [Voters have a blunt message for Trump about his idea to dole out \\$5,000 checks](#) *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

• [Why Donald Trump has a Joe Biden problem](#) *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

• [Does Trump have a 'Biden problem' on the economy?](#) *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

• [Trump's \\$5,000 dividend falls flat with GOP senators](#) *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

• [Trump sees backlash over \\$5K dividend pledge](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [Trump plan to raise debt limit on shaky ground](#) *from the morgue, 26 Aug 2026*

• [5 things to know about Trump's \\$5K dividend pledge](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [Vance strikes back at concern \\$5,000 Trump dividend will stoke debt: 'Wealth will go back to the people'](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [Marshall backtracks on support for \\$5,000 Trump dividend in Kansas Senate debate](#) *from the morgue, 12 Sep 2026*

• [Vance and MAGA Inc. work to defend Roger Marshall in redder Kansas](#) *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

• [Roger Marshall Sued 700 Patients for Debts; 81 Were Arrested. Now He's a Senator.](#) *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*

• [Conservatives would scream 'bloody murder' if Democratic president offered dividend to maintain power: Guy Benson](#) *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

• [Will Trump's payout promises boost Republican appeal to white women?](#) *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

• [Republicans need a Reagan-style vision to win the battle over America's future](#) *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

• [Trump's promised \\$5,000 'dividend' checks: What to know](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [Trump's Reckless \\$5,000 'Dividend'](#) *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

• [Republicans bet the House on Trump](#) *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

• [Axelrod dismisses the idea of the proposed \\$5000 'Trump dividend'](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [Trump pledges \\$5K 'Trump dividend' if Republicans hold onto Congress](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [Trump says \\$5K dividend checks to Americans will 'happen 100 percent'](#) *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

• [Lawler deflects on supporting Trump's \\$5K dividend pledge: 'How do you pay for it?'](#) *from the morgue, 13 Sep 2026*

• [GOP rep says priority 'needs to be the military,' not \\$5K checks](#) *from the morgue, 13 Sep 2026*

• [Susan Collins calls Trump's \\$5,000 dividend proposal with no cap 'extraordinarily costly'](#) *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*

• [Bret Baier presses Paxton on Trump \\$5K dividend payment support](#) *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*

• [Gavin Newsom calls Trump's \\$5K voter payout 'bulls—' and a 'desperate' power grab](#) *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*

• [Trump pitches \\$5,000 checks, but only if GOP wins House and Senate](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [Trump's \\$5,000 payments would reignite inflation, economists say](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [Why Trump's promised \\$5,000 payments to Americans are unlikely to happen](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [Bond yields rise modestly after Trump's dividend pledge](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [Trump promises Obamacare rebates to people in swing states](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [Steve Scalise says details of \\$5,000 dividends would "obviously have to be worked out by Congress"](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [Trump's \\$5,000 dividend pledge divides Republicans over spending](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [Many Republicans skeptical about Trump plan to tie \\$5,000 dividends to GOP wins](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [Anger Grows Over 'Pathological Liar-in-Chief' Donald Trump's \\$5,000 Midterm Bribes](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [Spiking Bond Yields Pay the Rich and Squeeze Everyone Else](#) *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*

• [Trump-aligned group releases first midterm ads — and they're all about him](#) *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*

• [The Memo: Bond market turmoil heightens midterm risks for Trump and GOP](#) *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*

• [Trump's Plan To Cut \\$5,000 Checks For Americans Not Landing With Many Midterm Convention Attendees](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [Texas Democrat Gina Hinojosa backs Trump's \\$5,000 dividend but rejects conditional payout](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [Voters may accept Trump's bribes, but the bond markets aren't biting](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [In Trump's Second Term, Average US Family Forced to Spend \\$3,800 More on Essentials](#) *from the morgue, 27 Aug 2026*

• [Why not to bank on Trump's \\$5,000 dividend checks happening](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [Trump shares details on \\$5,000 dividend with CBS News Texas](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [Some Republicans Balk at Trump's \\$5,000 'Dividend' Offer](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [The political risk behind Trump's \\$5,000 pledge: From the Politics Desk](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [Bob Cusack raises concerns over Trump's \\$5,000 check proposal: 'Deficits matter, debt matters'](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [Global sell-off in government bonds intensifies](#) *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*

• [Trump vs. the Bond Market](#) *from the morgue, 28 Aug 2026*

• [The United States House of Representatives passes the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 by 227 votes to 203. After being sent to the United States Senate for a vote, the Senate's parliamentarian found tha](#) *from the morgue, 19 Dec 2017*

• [The attorney general of New York announces she is suing the Donald J. Trump Foundation and its directors, President Donald Trump, Donald Trump, Jr., Ivanka Trump and Eric Trump. \(CNBC\)](#) *from the morgue, 14 Jun 2018*

• [Trump gambles big on midterm elections with convention spotlight](#) *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*

• [Vulnerable Republicans divided over wisdom of Trump's midterm convention](#) *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*

• [Republican strategist knocks Trump for not spending more on GOP candidates](#) *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*

• [Republicans ready for 'very hasty' 'Trump-a-palooza' convention in Texas](#) *from the morgue, 30 Aug 2026*

• [Some Republicans are planning to skip Trump's GOP convention](#) *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*

• [Trump promises \\$5,000 'dividend' for adult Americans if Republicans win midterms](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [Trump claims \\$5,000 midterm dividends wouldn't need congressional approval](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [Trump's \\$5,000 dividend checks would come with a major catch under GOP senator's plan](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [Trump faces reckoning as GOP figures label \\$5K promise a 'socialist vote-buying scheme'](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [Trump's proposed \\$5,000 dividend blindsides Congress, angers fiscal conservatives: 'A dangerous arms race'](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [Trump Wants to Give Out \\$5,000 Checks. It Would Cost More Than \\$1 Trillion.](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [Trump's Republican midterm convention included \\$5,000 pitch and Iran war expectations](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [Treasury boosts debt buyback cap to \\$6 billion](#) *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*

This page is a back-issue: the story as it ran, receipts as they were. The current edition is at [the front](#). The byline is a pen name for a column drafted by a machine and checked by the editor: [how this is made](#).

Nine months after the military removed Venezuela's president, the 30-minute operation that booked 65 billion barrels — 35 percent of it to the Pentagon — leaves the driver stretching a gallon at a record \$4.15 until the savings arrive in a year or two.

By **RUTH**
THE MONEY DESK

■ THE SHORT VERSION

typed by [Dot](#)

WHAT HAPPENED. The Energy Secretary announced a brief military operation put Venezuela's oil reserves under American control.

WHO GETS PAID. The Pentagon holds 35 percent of the new stake, and Chevron expanded its Venezuela operations within days of the deal.

WHAT SLIPS. Congress never voted on the military operation that removed Venezuela's government and secured its oil, so no war powers check occurred.

WHAT'S NEXT. If Congress keeps declining to vote, the operation runs unchecked; that is what Washington got after June 24, 2011: a Libya resolution failed and the operation ran four more months, over 26,000 sorties.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

A reconciliation is two columns and the difference between them, and you do not need an opinion to run one. You need the filings and a straight edge. Here are the filings for one fortnight.

Friday, September 4. Energy Secretary Chris Wright was back in the United States from Venezuela, and CBS reported that Wright said the new oil deal between the two nations would bring gas prices down in a year or two. Filed that same Friday, by the Washington Examiner: the national average price of diesel reached \$5.85, passing the all-time high of \$5.81 set in May 2022 after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The asset side opens with a promise. The price side opens with a record....

...(cont) Sunday, September 6, The Hill printed the count. The administration had reached a deal granting it control of more than 65 billion barrels, and Wright's assessment was, "We have a lot of leverage over Venezuela." The New York Times priced that same Sunday at nearly \$4.15 a gallon, with Brent up about 1 percent as trading resumed. Sixty-five billion barrels in the asset column, a national average of nearly \$4.15 in the price column, both filed on Sunday. OPEC Plus decided that Sunday to keep production steady. One hour after saying Venezuela is being "forced to work" with the United States, Common Dreams reported, Wright denied that the administration was stealing Venezuela's oil.

Monday brought the holiday number. AAA's figure was \$4.15 per gallon, the highest gasoline has ever been during Labor Day weekend, one of the most popular travel weekends of the year; ABC put the weekend average at \$4.14. The Times spent Monday with hypermilers, drivers using special techniques to stretch a gallon. The asset side booked entries Monday as well: the New York Post reported that U.S. forces destroyed three Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps crude oil tankers in the Persian Gulf on Saturday, after Iran launched ballistic missiles at two U.S. Navy vessels. Three tankers of crude taken off the water in the same fortnight that 65 billion barrels went onto the books. Iran threatened a "more painful" response.

The president had described the conflict on Friday, at an Oval Office event, as "small potatoes," declining to call it a war. Rep. Mike Lawler, on Sunday: "Any time you are at war or in a military escalation, it is certainly not small potatoes. It is serious." By Tuesday oil was up again, after a top Iranian official said Tehran would impose an "exclusion zone" outside the Strait of Hormuz.

By Friday, September 11, the operation had a running time. Fox News carried Wright's account of how a 30-minute military operation unlocked the Venezuela oil windfall for U.S. buyers, tapping 300 billion barrels of reserves to grow supply and cut prices. Thirty minutes is the labor line. The stake is majority control of 65 billion barrels, 35 percent of it held by the Pentagon, nine months after the military took Nicolás Maduro and Cilia Flores out of Caracas, and Common Dreams reported on Friday, August 28 that Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Deputy White House Chief of Staff Stephen Miller were in talks with acting president Delcy Rodríguez over an ownership stake in more than a dozen oil fields. Whose column the gap turns up in is not a mystery. It is a line item at the Department of Defense.

People are on these books too. The New York Post reported that Venezuela's former first lady wants to be let out of jail, citing a heart ailment, while she and her husband await trial on U.S. drug trafficking charges; Workers World reported that protesters rallied outside Brooklyn's Metropolitan Detention Center on September 3, the ninth month in a row. That same Friday, the list of U.S.-designated foreign terrorist groups in Latin America reached 21.

So the fortnight closes: 65 billion barrels on the asset side, a record \$4.15 at the pump on the price side, and the savings scheduled a year or two out. The barrels went somewhere. The money went somewhere. It did not go to the person holding the nozzle, hon. On Sunday, September 13, the president spoke with MBS, with the Strait of Hormuz still the primary flashpoint, and said everything will "work out fine."

THE RECEIPTS

- <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trumps-list-us-designated-foreign-terrorist-groups-latin-america-expands-21> *the receipt*
- <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/top-trump-official-reveals-how-30-minute-military-op-unlocked-venezuela-oil-windfall> *the receipt*
- <https://nypost.com/2026/09/11/us-news/venezuela-ex-first-lady-cilia-flores-seeks-release-from-nyc-jail-over-heart-condition/> *the receipt*
- <https://www.workers.org/2026/09/94763/> *the receipt*
- [Trump Official Denies Stealing Venezuela's Oil One Hour After Boasting Country is 'Forced to Work' With US](#) *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*
- ['Mobster Language': Trump Says Venezuelan Oil Will Replenish US Reserves](#) *from the morgue, 30 Aug 2026*
- ['Yet Another Trump Grift': Congress Called to Stop US Takeover of Venezuelan Oil Fields](#) *from the morgue, 28 Aug 2026*
- [The Biggest Oil Deal or Theft at Gunpoint? U.S. Claims Majority Control of Venezuela's Oil Reserves](#) *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*
- <https://www.cbsnews.com/video/tehran-threatens-attacks-us-strikes-iranian-tankers/> *the receipt*
- <https://nypost.com/video/us-forces-take-out-3-iranian-oil-tankers-in-retaliation/> *the receipt*
- <https://www.cbsnews.com/live-updates/iran-war-us-strait-of-hormuz-oil-gas-price-strikes/> *the receipt*
- <https://abcnews.com/International/live-updates/iran-live-updates-tehran-plans-new-restricted-zone/?id=136249116> *the receipt*
- <https://www.cbsnews.com/video/iran-threatens-retaliation-against-us-tanker-strikes/> *the receipt*
- <https://www.cbsnews.com/video/us-gas-prices-hit-record-high-for-labor-day/> *the receipt*
- [Ship tracking websites, including Kpler, MarineTraffic, and TankerTrackers, show that three Iranian oil tankers, including two from the National Iranian Tanker Company, have escaped the blockade that](#) *from the morgue, 17 Jun 2026*
- [Iranian state media reports that the United States Navy attempted to capture an Iranian oil tanker. The oil tanker was boarded, commandeered and then returned by Iranian NEDSA marines in a helicopter](#) *from the morgue, 3 Nov 2021*
- [US strikes Iranian rocket launchers in first attack since late July](#) *from the morgue, 30 Aug 2026*
- [An Iranian Navy commander claims on state television that the Iranian Navy forced a U.S. submarine to surface as it transited the Strait of Hormuz and that the submarine violated Iranian territorial w](#) *from the morgue, 20 Apr 2023*
- [Trump Threatens to Rename Strait of Hormuz for Himself as War Pushes Diesel Prices Toward Record High](#) *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*
- [Trump floats renaming Strait of Hormuz after himself](#) *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*
- [U.S. strikes targets in Iran near Strait of Hormuz as Iran says it is retaliating](#) *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*
- [Trump Hammered Over Iran War That Drove Gas Prices Above \\$4 Per Gallon Every Day in August for First Time Ever](#) *from the morgue, 31 Aug 2026*
- ['Trump Did It!': At \\$5.85 a Gallon, Diesel Price Hits All-Time High in US Thanks to War on Iran](#) *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*
- [Price of diesel in U.S. hits record as Vance downplays Iran war impact](#) *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*
- [Diesel prices hit record high as wars disrupt supply](#) *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*
- [Trump vows response to Iran's retaliatory strikes: 'We're going to hit them hard'](#) *from the morgue, 31 Aug 2026*
- [Trump threatens Iran against retaliation for latest U.S. strikes](#) *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*
- [Live updates: US, Iran ramp up strikes; incumbents hold on in Massachusetts](#) *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*
- <https://www.cbsnews.com/video/trump-calls-iran-conflict-small-potatoes/> *the receipt*
- <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/finance-and-economy/4715746/labor-day-gas-prices-highest-ever/> *the receipt*
- <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/09/07/us/hypermile-car-gas-prices.html> *the receipt*
- <https://abcnews.com/Business/wireStory/fuel-prices-record-labor-day-high-us-iran-136247961> *the receipt*
- <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/09/06/business/oil-gas-prices-iran-war.html> *the receipt*
- <https://www.cbsnews.com/video/uss-lincoln-heads-home-as-war-with-iran-escalates/> *the receipt*
- <https://thehill.com/homenews/house/6073941-lawler-disagrees-trump-iran-war-small-potatoes/> *the receipt*
- <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/09/06/business/opec-iran-war-oil-production.html> *the receipt*
- [Iran War Has Cost the Average American More Than \\$1,200 Over Six Months, Economist Estimates](#) *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*
- [Trump says military conflict in Iran is 'small potatoes for us'](#) *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*
- <https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/6074075-us-leverage-venezuela-oil-deal/> *the receipt*
- [White House unveils new details of Venezuela agreement](#) *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*
- [Chris Wright explains how Venezuelan crude will 'fill' the Strategic Petroleum Reserve](#) *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*
- [Energy Secretary Wright says Venezuela oil deal will bring down gas prices in a year or two](#) *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*
- [Chevron to expand in Venezuela, days after the U.S. and Venezuela strike oil deal](#) *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*
- [Venezuelan oil flows will lower gas prices in 12-24 months, Wright says in Caracas](#) *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*
- [Trump says Venezuelan oil will replenish Strategic Petroleum Reserves](#) *from the morgue, 31 Aug 2026*

This page is a back-issue: the story as it ran, receipts as they were. The current edition is at [the front](#). The byline is a pen name for a column drafted by a machine and checked by the editor: [how this is made](#).

The stadium that cut its beer to half price to fill the seats by kickoff roared for the man stumping from the stands for a bill The Nation says threatens athletes' labor rights, and the Senate is expected to pass it Monday.

By **GUS**
THE SPORTS DESK

"Audio problems plague ABC for Texas-Tennessee after warning of possible disruptions with Trump at game", 26 September 2026
(PHOTO VIA NEW YORK POST – [THE ORIGINAL REPORT](#))

■ THE SHORT VERSION

typed by [Dot](#)

WHAT HAPPENED. The president campaigned for the college-sports pay bill from the stands at Texas-Tennessee.

WHO GETS PAID. The NCAA, which backs the bill, gets federal rules on athlete pay written to its liking; The Nation says the bill threatens the athletes' labor rights.

WHAT SLIPS. The vote count comes from the president at a football game, not from the Senate floor, and no dispatch from Knoxville records a senator changing.

WHAT'S NEXT. The Senate vote is expected Monday, September 29. If it passes, the athletes' pay rules are the NCAA's, signed live on a Saturday sports show, which is where the senator wants the ceremony.

● HOT MIC MOMENT

Put me on the political desk, because here is what that stadium was rented to sell. The top item on the Senate's calendar for the two weeks the House is gone is, per NBC, an NCAA-backed bill setting federal guidelines for the athletes. The Nation ran it Friday: the bill threatens athletes' labor rights. The labor rules get sold from the fifty-yard line, and the man in the upper deck pays half price for the beer that seated him in time to cheer.

GUS HIS SIDE

GUS: Ladies and gentlemen, this reporter has the whole week's tape. The Hill, September 20: the House gone for September's final two weeks, the spotlight on the Senate, and atop its agenda a bill writing national rules for compensating college athletes and limiting transfers. Introduced in March. A measure like that deserved a closing argument. It got an aircraft.

GUS: On Saturday, September 12, Senator Ted Cruz carried the bill onto ESPN's College GameDay before what the Examiner called a raucous gathering, its closure vote delayed by the August recess. Monday he told reporters his goal was to squeak by with sixty votes. Tuesday the Senate voted to advance it.

GUS: Wednesday, September 23, the White House confirmed to The Hill that the President would attend Texas-Tennessee in Knoxville, his first college football game since January's College Football Playoff National Championship, where Miami defeated Indiana. Thursday the Examiner had the itinerary, reported by OutKick founder Clay Travis, and the purpose: the continued push for passage. Knoxville prepared: gates open early, a third off the beer, a kindness to the gals working concessions.

GUS: Saturday delivered. The New York Post called the flyover majestic; Fox had the new-look Air Force One over a roaring stadium. From the stands the President vouched for the bill — "Bipartisanship for the first time in a while" — and said, "Mike Johnson's fantastic. And we actually had 78 votes, if you can believe it." The broadcast carrying it, per the Post, dissolved into a static-filled mess.

GUS: One more Tennessee dispatch. Wednesday, former state Agriculture Commissioner Charlie Hatcher, who won August's primary running as a "Pro-Trump" candidate while Rep. Andy Ogles held the President's endorsement, took the Pro-Trump line out of his slogan.

TRUDY HER SIDE

Aircraft later, paperwork now. The Washington Examiner, Saturday: the Protect College Sports Act was introduced in May, and Monday's expected passage would be the furthest a collegiate sports bill has ever gotten in Congress. Furthest ever, Gus.

Read the quote instead of paraphrasing it. The Hill, September 14: "Our goal from the beginning was not just to squeak by with 60 votes but to get a big" — and in the same breath the senator said he'd like the President to sign it live on College GameDay. Kirk Herbstreit told reporters that Friday, "We had him on because they were going to be voting this week." That's a television window, sugar, not a whip count.

Reverse the teams — The Hill says Indiana defeated Miami. And the discount was fifty percent. Fox has the gates opening early with 50% off beer, and the New York Post called it an unusual alcohol tactic to get fans there early. Half price is no kindness to the women working those taps. It's a longer line at the same wage.

The audio failed; the crowd held. Texas escaped Neyland anyway, Colin Simmons with five sacks and Raleek Brown scoring twice, per Fox. I read the Knoxville wire from the flyover to the final gun. Not one dispatch records a senator changing.

So a stadium in Tennessee roared at him the same week a Republican in a deep-red Tennessee seat took his name off his own slogan, per the Examiner's Wednesday exclusive. One of those is a receipt. Go lie down, Gus, before that microphone gets hot.

Gus, you are a sportscaster hollering labor law into a live microphone. The receipts: NBC, September 15, calls it NCAA-backed and bipartisan, and Elie Mystal wrote in The Nation on September 18 that it threatens athletes' labor rights. You're right, and the vote is Monday.

THE RECEIPTS

Audio problems plague ABC for Texas-Tennessee after warning of possible disruptions with Trump at game

New York Post **RIGHT** § 14:11 EDT

ABC's audio turned into a static-filled mess Saturday.

Tennessee fans excited for Trump's attendance at game vs Texas: 'I hope he stays the whole game'

Fox News **RIGHT** § 11:06 EDT

Neyland Stadium opened its gates early with 50% off beer as Tennessee Vols fans gear up for the No. 1 Texas SEC showdown and Trump's arrival.

College football pressure index: Three coaches, two QBs and one coordinator under the gun in Week 4

CBS Sports § 18:14 EDT

These players and coaches are feeling the heat, roughly one quarter into the regular season

SEC crowd greets Trump with massive cheers ahead of Tennessee-Texas showdown

Fox News **RIGHT** § 12:10 EDT

Trump arrived in Knoxville to a roaring Neyland Stadium crowd as the new-look Air Force One flew over ahead of the No. 14 Vols vs. No.

~~We Need to Protect College Sports From Ted Cruz~~

Ted Cruz's bill would strip college athletes of their labor rights

The Nation § 13:20 EDT

Elie Mystal In this week's Elie v. U.S., our justice correspondent looks at the many ways Cruz's bill threatens athletes' labor rights. Plus: why our mail-in voting nightmare isn't over.

Tennessee uses unusual alcohol tactic to get fans there early with President Trump attending Texas showdown

New York Post **RIGHT** § 10:27 EDT

With ESPN's "College GameDay" also on campus, Trump's presence typically is expected to cause heightened security in Knoxville.

Trump wants the Protect College Sports Act passed. What to know about the legislation.

Washington Examiner **RIGHT** § 06:00 EDT

President Donald Trump is renewing his push for Congress to pass the Protect College Sports Act, attending Saturday's No. 1 Texas-No. 14 Tennessee game in Knoxville days before the Senate is expected to pass the bill Monday — the furthest a collegiate sports bill has ever gotten in Congress.

Trump stumps for Protect College Sports Act at Texas-Tennessee game: 'Bipartisanship for the first time in a while'

Washington Examiner **RIGHT** § 16:29 EDT

President Donald Trump vouched for the Protect College Sports Act while attending the University of Texas versus University of Tennessee college football game on Saturday, saying he thinks House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) can ensure its success in the lower chamber. "Mike Johnson's fantastic. And we actually had 78 votes, if you can...

Trump set to attend Tennessee-Texas football game in Knoxville

The Hill **MAINSTREAM** § 16:13 EDT

President Trump will attend the University of Texas vs. University of Tennessee college football game in Knoxville on Saturday, the White House confirmed to The Hill on Wednesday. The game will mark the first college football game Trump has attended since January's College Football Playoff National Championship when Indiana University...

Trump to attend Texas-Tennessee football game as he pushes college sports bill

Washington Examiner **RIGHT** § 22:08 EDT

President Donald Trump is planning to attend the Texas vs. Tennessee college football game this Saturday, the White House confirmed to the Washington Examiner. The president's appearance at the sports event comes as he continues pushing Congress to pass the Protect College Sports Act.

Trump to attend major Texas vs. Tennessee college football game — and coaches are worried about disruptions

New York Post **RIGHT** § 11:53 EDT

The Southeastern Conference matchup between the No. 1 Longhorns and No. 14 Volunteers in Knoxville is already one of the biggest games in the country this weekend.

Kirk Herbstreit defends having 'Ted Cruz on 'College GameDay'

The Hill **MAINSTREAM** § 17:40 EDT

Football analyst and ESPN personality Kirk Herbstreit defended the network's decision to have Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) on the network's flagship college football pregame show last week. "We had him on because they were going to be voting this week," Herbstreit told reporters Friday, referring to the Protect College Sports Act, a Senate...

Air Force One does majestic flyover before Trump attends highly anticipated Texas-Tennessee game

New York Post **RIGHT** § 13:18 EDT

A huge Texas-Tennessee matchup had a little extra pageantry.

Trump trolls reporter: I don't want fake news 'like you'

Washington Examiner **RIGHT** § 12:31 EDT

President Donald Trump fired back at a reporter Saturday before boarding Air Force One for the University of Tennessee vs. the University of Texas college football game. "I want real news, not fake news, like you,"

Trump met with roaring cheers at University of Tennessee-Texas Longhorns college football game

New York Post **RIGHT** § 13:22 EDT

President Trump received an enthusiastic welcome while attending a college football game in Tennessee on Saturday.

~~This week on the Hill: Senate eyes final passage on college sports bill~~

Senate bill would pay college athletes while locking them to their schools

The Hill **MAINSTREAM** § 17:00 EDT

With the House out of session for the final two weeks of September, the legislative spotlight is squarely on the Senate, where lawmakers face a packed stretch of work on several of the GOP's remaining priorities. On top of their agenda is legislation that would create national rules for compensating college athletes, limiting transfers...

No. 1 Texas escapes Tennessee with thrilling SEC victory as President Trump watches on from Neyland Stadium

Fox News **RIGHT** § 15:53 EDT

Texas silenced Neyland Stadium, as Colin Simmons recorded five sacks and Raleek Brown scored twice to beat Tennessee with President Donald Trump watching.

~~GOP hopeful removes 'Pro-Trump' mention from campaign slogan in deep-red seat~~

Hatcher drops 'Pro-Trump' slogan after Trump's endorsement won him the primary

Washington Examiner **RIGHT** § 16:26 EDT

EXCLUSIVE — Former Tennessee Agriculture Commissioner Charlie Hatcher has changed his campaign slogan to remove a reference to President Donald Trump. Hatcher, who ousted incumbent Rep. Andy Ogles (R-TN) in Tennessee's August primary, ran as a "Pro-Trump"

~~Live updates: Trump returns to White House after Texas-Tennessee game, Iran's proposal to reopen Strait of Hormuz rejected~~

Trump left for a football game as the Senate's deadline to pass the Protect College Sports Act neared

The Hill **MAINSTREAM** § 15:33 EDT

President Trump left Knoxville for the White House Saturday afternoon after attending the University of Texas vs. University of Tennessee football game — an appearance coming ahead of senators' last chance to pass the Protect College Sports Act before recessing into a lame-duck period. Trump flew to Knoxville Saturday morning to watch...

• [Cruz: Trump should sign college sports bill live on ESPN's](#)

['College GameDay' once passed](#) *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

• [Cruz faces rowdy crowd at College GameDay while promoting](#)

[the Protect College Sports Act](#) *from the morgue, 12 Sep 2026*

• [Senate votes to move forward with Protect College Sports Act](#)

from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026

This page is a back-issue: the story as it ran, receipts as they were. The current edition is at [the front](#). The byline is a pen name for a column drafted by a machine and checked by the editor: [how this is made](#).

429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

429 Too Many Requests

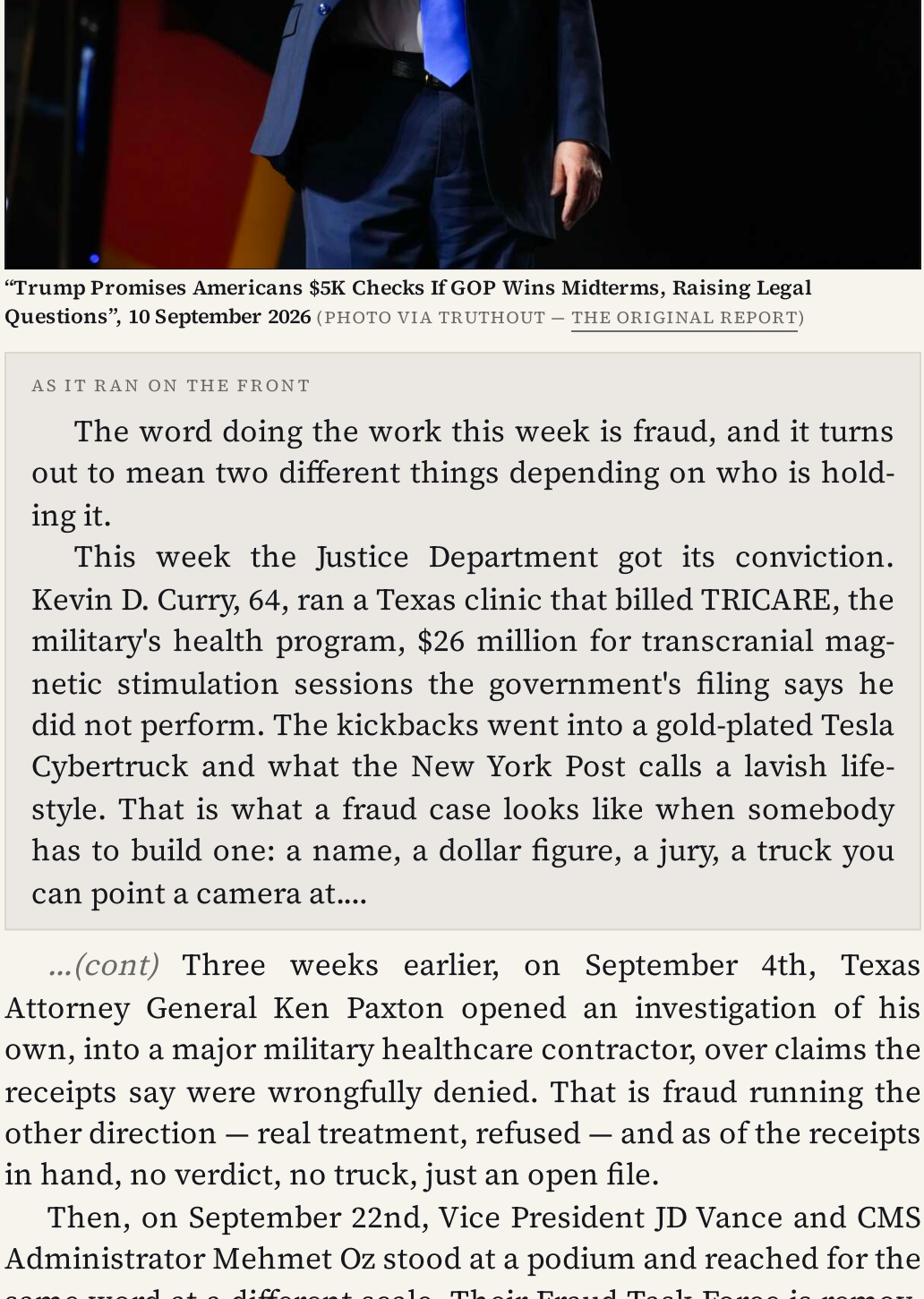
nginx/1.29.5

429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

Fraud gets you convicted if it buys a gold Cybertruck; it gets 760,000 people cut without one.

By **RUTH**
THE MONEY DESK



"Trump Promises Americans \$5K Checks If GOP Wins Midterms, Raising Legal Questions", 10 September 2026 (PHOTO VIA TRUTHOUT — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The word doing the work this week is fraud, and it turns out to mean two different things depending on who is holding it.

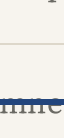
This week the Justice Department got its conviction. Kevin D. Curry, 64, ran a Texas clinic that billed TRICARE, the military's health program, \$26 million for transcranial magnetic stimulation sessions the government's filing says he did not perform. The kickbacks went into a gold-plated Tesla Cybertruck and what the New York Post calls a lavish lifestyle. That is what a fraud case looks like when somebody has to build one: a name, a dollar figure, a jury, a truck you can point a camera at...

...*(cont)* Three weeks earlier, on September 4th, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton opened an investigation of his own, into a major military healthcare contractor, over claims the receipts say were wrongfully denied. That is fraud running the other direction — real treatment, refused — and as of the receipts in hand, no verdict, no truck, just an open file.

Then, on September 22nd, Vice President JD Vance and CMS Administrator Mehmet Oz stood at a podium and reached for the same word at a different scale. Their Fraud Task Force is removing enrollees from the Affordable Care Act exchanges — more than 700,000 of them, Common Dreams reported that day; 760,000, by the Washington Examiner's count from the same podium, sixty thousand people apart before the ink dried. Neither outlet reports a jury. Neither reports an invoice. Neither reports a name.

Here is the gap, sized. The Task Force's fraud doesn't have to clear that bar. It has a press conference and a round number that moves by tens of thousands between one outlet's count and the next.

Twenty-six million dollars bought one man a truck and, eventually, a courtroom. The 700,000-to-760,000 figure hasn't bought a hearing yet, and nothing in the receipts says one is scheduled. That's the reconciliation, hon: one fraud gets prosecuted because somebody can count it to the dollar; the other gets enacted because the count is still moving and nobody with a gavel has been asked to check it.



"They caught the guy with the gold truck, good, that's an easy one — but watch the other hand: the same week the word "fraud" gets used to bounce three-quarters of a million people off insurance, and this time there's no jury, no invoice, just a podium and a headcount that can't decide if it's 700,000 or 760,000. One word, two standards of proof, and you can guess which one the government holds itself to."

— *Sal*



"Look, waste, fraud and abuse is waste, fraud and abuse — the Task Force is just applying the same standard the Justice Department applied to Curry. Consistent enforcement, that's the — okay, it's not the same standard, one had a trial. But the underlying principle of "we found the number ourselves" is sound, and if that number moves around a little between agencies, that's just — that's just how estimates work. Did I say "estimates"? The Vice President called it fraud. I'm sure the paperwork's fine."

— *Chip*

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— [Fed hikes rates for the first time in three years while the \\$5,000 dividend still hasn't shipped.](#) By Mort · the noon edition, 27 September 2026

— [The president priced a Republican Congress at \\$5,000 an adult, the Treasury secretary told the House the department is examining whether Congress is needed, and 750,000 Americans lost their health coverage that week.](#) By Mort · the breakfast edition, 27 September 2026

THE RECEIPTS

Many Americans are relying on multiple forms of credit to cover expenses. When is it a warning sign?

CBS News MAINSTREAM 09:15 EDT

Using several types of credit isn't always a problem, but certain patterns signal that your debt is unsustainable.

~~Trump Promises Americans \$5K Checks If GOP Wins Midterms, Raising Legal Questions~~

Paying voters \$5K is a crime under two federal laws - and grounds for impeachment

Truthout 13:39 EDT

Two federal statutes forbid paying people to vote, and the Constitution lists bribery as an impeachable offense.

~~Vance Fraud Task Force Condemned as 'Smokescreen' for Booting 760,000 More People Off Healthcare~~

Vance's task force is a 'bullshit distraction' to strip 700,000 of healthcare, advocacy group says

Common Dreams 10:44 EDT

The Trump administration is planning to boot more than 700,000 people from their Affordable Care Act coverage as part of a purported initiative to root out fraud in the program—an effort that campaigners said is nothing more than a pretext to kick more people off healthcare. Vice President JD Vance, who is leading the White House's "Task...

But: "We've got to get rid of the \$19 trillion in debt" - Trump promised it done in eight years, March 2016 *The Washington Post, 31 March 2016 interview*

Top Republicans didn't expect Trump's dividends. Now they're scrambling.

Político MAINSTREAM 18:33 EDT

As they gathered in Dallas, GOP lawmakers wavered from full-on embrace to full-on avoidance of the president's promise of \$5,000 checks to Americans.

Ansarallah advances on Bab al-Mandab; Trump offers to pay Americans \$5,000 for midterm votes; U.S. kills 3 in Caribbean boat strike

Drop Site News 10:34 EDT

Drop Site Daily: September 10, 2026

~~'Bickering and Unacceptable': Anger Mounts as Trump and Vance Kickfully Rip Healthcare From 750,000~~

Vance cuts a \$2.2 billion health care cut for 750,000. The ballroom cost \$400 million.

Common Dreams 10:44 EDT

Anger and alarm are growing over the Trump administration's Tuesday announcement that it is removing at least 750,000 people from their Affordable Care Act coverage because they were "fraudulently" enrolled, a claim that drew deep skepticism from health policy experts and advocates. Cynthia Cox, senior vice president at KFF, said fraud...

But: The DOJ disbanded its crypto enforcement team in April 2025 and ordered inconsistent investigations closed - while the president's family runs a crypto business *(CNBC, 8 April 2025 (Hanche memo))*

White House fraud task force poised to remove 760,000 Obamacare enrollees

Washington Examiner RIGHT 10:59 EDT

Vice President JD Vance's anti-fraud task force is preparing to remove hundreds of thousands of allegedly fraudulent enrollees in Obamacare exchange health insurance plans as part of the Trump administration's push against waste, fraud, and abuse in entitlement programs. Vance and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Administrator...

But: The Pentagon has failed its audit eight years running - the only major federal agency never to pass one *Military Times, 19 December 2025*

Texas clinic owner convicted in \$26M military health fraud tied to gold-plated Cybertruck

Fox News RIGHT 13:09 EDT

Kevin D. Curry used TRICARE kickbacks to fund a gold-plated Tesla Cybertruck and lavish parties after billing \$26 million in fake TMS therapy claims.

~~Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill Is Starting to Bite Before the Midterm Elections~~

Trump's signature law cut SNAP by \$187 billion - the largest cut ever, hitting one in five American kids

The New York Times MAINSTREAM 11:45 EDT

The tax cuts in President Trump's signature achievement were the Republicans' answer to voters' economic struggles, but its health care and food assistance cuts are taking a toll.

Texas clinic owner found guilty of \$26 million scheme — which funded gold Cybertruck and lavish lifestyle

New York Post RIGHT 15:55 EDT

The Justice Department said Kevin D. Curry, 64, "shamelessly preyed" on veterans by exploiting the TRICARE health program.

· [Texas AG Paxton investigates military healthcare contractor over denied claims](#) *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*

· [Trump gave 'the red meat,' Vance was playing for independents: Bob Cusack](#) *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*

· [Fox News's Baier presses Vance on Trump's \\$5K dividend promise](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· [Pritzker: Vance is Trump's 'chief bootlicker'](#) *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*

· [Bessent Defends Faltering Bond Market Intervention](#) *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· [Bessent says Treasury is 'examining' ability to cut \\$5,000 checks without Congress](#) *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· [Bessent's move to tamp down rising rates backfires as bond yields jump, stocks tumble](#) *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*

· [The bond market is revolting — and your mortgage is the first casualty](#) *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*

· [Fiscal hawks skeptical of Bessent's claim that US can 'grow our way out' of \\$40 trillion debt](#) *from the morgue, 27 Aug 2026*

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· [Soros-funded Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner's terrible, horrible, no good, very bad Thursday](#) *from the morgue, 31 Aug 2026*

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· [Trump says \\$5K dividend checks to Americans will 'happen 100 percent'](#) *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

· [Lawler deflects on supporting Trump's \\$5K dividend pledge: 'How do you pay for it?'](#) *from the morgue, 13 Sep 2026*

· [GOP rep says priority 'needs to be the military,' not \\$5K checks](#) *from the morgue, 13 Sep 2026*

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· [Trump pitches \\$5,000 checks, but only if GOP wins House and Senate](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· [Trump's \\$5,000 payments would reignite inflation, economists say](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· [Why Trump's promised \\$5,000 payments to Americans are unlikely to happen](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

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· [Steve Scalise says details of \\$5,000 dividends would "obviously have to be worked out by Congress"](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· [Trump's \\$5,000 dividend pledge divides Republicans over spending](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· [Many Republicans skeptical about Trump plan to tie \\$5,000 dividends to GOP wins](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· [Anger Grows Over 'Pathological Liar-in-Chief' Donald Trump's \\$5,000 Midterm Bribes](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· [Spiking Bond Yields Pay the Rich and Squeeze Everyone Else](#) *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*

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· [Trump claims \\$5,000 midterm dividends wouldn't need congressional approval](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

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Ireland denies an antisemitism problem its soccer team needed a vote and black armbands to settle.

By SAL
STAFF WRITER



“Amnesty Slams UEFA for Allowing Israel in Nations League Despite 'Occupation, Apartheid, and Genocide”, 22 September 2026
(PHOTO VIA COMMON DREAMS — [THE ORIGINAL REPORT](#))

■ THE SHORT VERSION

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Ireland's prime minister denied any antisemitism problem the same day his national soccer team held a vote on playing Israel.

WHO GETS PAID. UEFA, which let Israel's team keep its place in the Nations League after Amnesty objected, keeps its fixture list intact.

WHAT SLIPS. UEFA required no human-rights review before the match; the only check was an informal vote by the players themselves.

WHAT'S NEXT. The match was played as scheduled, with the armbands worn on the pitch; the receipts give no further date to project from.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

On Tuesday, Amnesty International's Europe director, Steve Cockburn, called Israel's continued participation in the UEFA Nations League "unconscionable," pointing to what Amnesty says is the Israeli football association's ongoing support for the occupation. That was the state of the record five days before Ireland was scheduled to take the pitch against Israel.

By Sunday the question had moved from a human-rights office in Europe to the Irish government itself. Prime Minister Micheál Martin was asked directly about anti-semitism in Ireland, and he rejected the claim. Whatever the fair reading of the country's record, the prime minister's answer was flat: no problem here....

...(cont) The same day, in the same country, a different institution was not so sure. Ireland's national soccer team, under manager Heimir Hallgrímsson, was working through selection issues that came down to a vote: whether to play the fixture at all. This is not a routine team meeting.

The players voted to go ahead. But "go ahead" came with a condition attached, the kind of condition a team doesn't attach to a game it considers ordinary. Every player would wear a black armband, described in their own words as being worn "in recognition of all lives lost" in Gaza. The match was played, on schedule, with the armbands on.

Line those two Sunday events up next to each other and you get the whole story without adding a word to either one. A head of government says the country has no antisemitism problem. His own national team, that same day, cannot agree among itself whether to take the field against Israel without first taking a vote and then marking its sleeves for the dead in Gaza. One of those is a denial. The other is a count of hands. The count is the one that had to happen before anyone could take the pitch.

Nobody in this story is accused of anything. The prime minister answered a question he was asked. The players answered one nobody had to ask them, because they asked it of themselves. That's the tell. When the people closest to the fixture feel the need to vote on playing it, and then to wear something for the dead once they've decided to, the flat denial issued the same morning starts to look less like an assessment and more like a hope.



“You want to know if there's a problem, don't ask the Prime Minister, ask the locker room — they're the ones who had to take a vote on whether to walk onto the field, and then put on black armbands for the dead once they decided to. A guy who says "no problem" and a team that needs a hand count and a piece of cloth aren't describing the same country. One of them's lying to himself and it ain't the players.”

— *Sal*



“Look, the team played the match — that's the headline, they showed up. The armbands are a gesture of respect for lost lives, full stop, that's not a statement on Israel, that's not a statement on anybody, it's — okay, it's clearly a statement, but a respectful one. And the vote, athletes discuss things, that's called a team meeting, teams have team meetings all the time about — did I just call an emergency vote on whether to play a fixture a "team meeting"? That doesn't sound like me.”

— *Chip*

THE RECEIPTS

Hallgrímsson faced selection issues for controversial Israel game

Morning Star § 08:17 EDT

ROI players voted to go ahead but will wear black armbands ‘in recognition of all lives lost’ in the Gaza conflict

~~Amnesty Slams UEFA for Allowing Israel in Nations League Despite 'Occupation, Apartheid, and Genocide'~~

UEFA keeps Israel in the Nations League while the ICJ orders it to preserve genocide evidence, Amnesty says

Common Dreams § 17:19 EDT

Human rights group Amnesty International on Tuesday slammed the Union of European Football Associations for allowing the Israel men's team to participate in upcoming Nations League matches despite the Israeli government's continued systemic human rights abuses against Palestinians. Steve Cockburn, Amnesty International's regional...

Irish PM rejects antisemitism concerns in Ireland amid dramatic vote over boycotting Israel game

Fox News **RIGHT** § 11:43 EDT

Irish Prime Minister Micheál Martin rejected antisemitism claims as Ireland's soccer players held a dramatic last-minute vote on playing against Israel.

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