The Single-Column Edition

FROM § EACH

WEDNESDAY, 14 OCTOBER 2026 — THE MORNING EDITION FREE, FOREVER

Trump empanels a committee to fire a Fed governor the Supreme Court already said he couldn't fire.

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

On October 2, the Justice Department told Bloomberg News it would not reopen the investigation into Jerome Powell, the former Federal Reserve chair, over cost overruns tied to the central bank's building renovation project. Attorney General Todd Blanche said he had not ruled out continuing to look, which is the same sentence building inspectors use when they close a file and keep the folder. The money attached to that file was real: a renovation, a budget, an overrun large enough that the department had opened a criminal inquiry into it in the first place. It is now closed.

One week later, on October 9, the president opened a different kind of file. He announced a committee to investigate Lisa Cook, a sitting Fed governor, over allegations of mortgage fraud — this after the Supreme Court had already ruled, in June, that his first attempt to fire her was unconstitutional. The new committee does not report to a court. It reports to the White House, which will consult with Justice Department officials on what to do with what it finds. A hearing is set for November 5, at the White House, which Cook "shall" attend, in the committee's own word for it.

... Continued on Page F119

THE WORD

§60 — 13 OCTOBER 2026

On 145 percent

DEMOCRAT

TACO

REPUBLICAN

OVER AND ABOVE

"I'll be quick, you've got people waiting. 145 — that's April of last year. 30 — that's May, Geneva. 100, "over and above" — that's October 10, and the index lost two point seven percent by the close. Dropped — that's October 30, at the summit, with a tariff cut thrown in. Then a year of quiet, and the year ends November 10. Oh — one more thing. The election is November 3. Who set that clock?" — Lou

... Continued on Page W60

The $4,910 Trump still owes is arriving as two pardons for diesel mechanics.

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

The first number came out of Dallas on a Wednesday in September, during the president's address to the Republican Party's midterm convention: five thousand dollars to every American adult, he said, if Republicans keep control of Congress. Nothing in the pledge specified how, when, or from which account.

By the third of October, Washington had an answer, and it was ninety dollars. The administration announced a one-time ninety-dollar payment to twenty million Medicare beneficiaries, drawn, by one outlet's reporting, from the Medicare Improvement Fund. The remaining four thousand nine hundred ten dollars of the September pledge was given no date.

Three days later, in Nebraska, the president signed an executive order onstage at another rally. It waived the off-road requirement for red-dyed diesel, fuel that is already tax-exempt when used in farming and construction, framed as relief from diesel costs ahead of the midterms. No dollar figure came with the order; the fuel in question had not been paying the tax in question.

... Continued on Page F118

White House defies order to restore banned reporters, is ordered to restore them again, for longer

BY MITCH
Investigations

FAKE NEWS." U.S. District Judge Timothy Kelly, a Trump appointee, granted a temporary restraining order telling the White House to "immediately return, reinstate, and restore" the outlets' hard passes, finding a likelihood that the ban was unconstitutional.

The government's answer to a federal order to restore access was to not restore access. That same Thursday, administration officials turned the three outlets' reporters away at the gate anyway, a denial Common Dreams's reporting described plainly as a violation of the judge's own ruling — officials told to give the passes back, and the passes did not come back.

Two weeks later, at a hearing on whether to extend that order, the lawyer for the media coalition told Judge Kelly something closer to a closing argument than a complaint: the president, the lawyer said, had made "clear" that the ban followed the outlets' coverage, not any neutral rule about who gets a badge. The Guardian reported the lawyer called Trump "the strongest witness" for the journalists' own case, said aloud in that courtroom. All together now — the government did not need to build a defense, because the man who

... Continued on Page B41

Cornell president calls his handling of the rape case a 'misstep' as faculty votes whether they trust it.

BY LOU
One More Question

I went down to the county building Tuesday morning to renew the placard on the car — the fan belt complains on every hill — and I did not end up where I was sent; every door in that building pointed me to another, and here is what I picked up along the way, none of it mine.

First stop was Window Six, Motor Vehicles, which turns out is not where you renew a placard. The clerk told me that before she told me anything else. While she stamped a form for the man ahead of me, her radio was running a story about Cornell's president going on camera on October 4th to call the allegations against students at a fraternity there "deeply disturbing," and to say the university "must do better," and to call it "a defining moment in Cornell's history." Was that said on camera, or in writing? On camera.

She sent me to the annex.

The annex sent me to Records, where a man with his desk covered in folders had a newspaper open to a story about students painting "SMASH THE PATRIARCHY" on the building that houses that same president's office, demanding his resignation, and underneath that, smaller, a line about the uni-

... Continued on Page A212

Elon Musk named America's top midterm donor and accused by France of election interference on the same day.

BY THE LODGERS
The Euro Desk

Today we are making a single political donor large enough to be mistaken for a party, which is not a dish you get over here. You will need one man, $366 million, and a federal filing due Thursday that has not been cooked yet.

Measure before you fold: more than $276 million of it arrived since July alone, on top of the nearly $300 million he put behind Donald Trump's 2024 re-election. None of it has touched the pan until Thursday's filing says so.

Clive *A party of one. I've been saying for years that's the only kind worth joining — mine, specifically, once the collection is out.*

Gary *Your collection is a few poems and a biro. Call me when it's winning somewhere that isn't this kitchen.*

Begin on 7 September, when Germany's AfD won a regional election in Saxony-Anhalt and its candidate, Ulrich Siegmund, thanked him by name for his "clear and highly important perspective on the political developments of our time." Money and opinion go into the same bowl here, and nobody separates them again.

Rob *Thanked by name. Heavy, that. Nobody's thanked me by name since I*

... Continued on Page A212

Fox calls second Talarico rumor 'mind-numbing malpractice,' then asks why the proof didn't come sooner

BY CHIP
Staff Writer

Ladies and gentlemen, the record is clear, and I would like to walk you through it so clearly that you forget what you just heard me say.

On August 27th, Talarico led Paxton in this race. By October 5th his own colleague, Representative Jasmine Crockett, was telling reporters she supports all Democrats — "yes, that includes James Talarico" — which is not how you talk about a man having a normal month. He had been off the trail nine days with a case of the flu. On October 8th our committee's spokesman asked the campaign to "stop the lies and release proof of life." The President of the United States took it further, floating that the candidate was actually in Ohio. Our side printed flyers. We were asking a serious question, and the seriousness is the part I am stuck defending, because four days later the campaign released security-camera footage — his own cameras, in his own house — placing him in Texas the entire time Ohio was supposedly happening. That's not a rebuttal. That's a timestamp. I don't have a rebuttal to a timestamp.

So naturally, this week, a second rumor started: Ohio again, but upgraded — not just hiding, but checked into a psychiatric hospital. And naturally, the

... Continued on Page A211

Bill to abolish ICE, close Guantanamo, ban wall money filed weeks after being called a 'socialist pipe dream.'

BY MITCH
Investigations

I keep a folder for documents that answer each other, and this week it got thick enough to need a second rubber band.

Start where the folder starts. Thursday, October 8th, about four in the afternoon, in Marble Hill: an ICE agent shot and wounded Oscar Belgal, twenty-eight, sitting in his car with his five-year-old beside him. The next night, people marched under a two-word banner that has been treated like it couldn't be filed: Abolish ICE. By Monday, Mayor Mamdani had ordered a sweeping review — of the NYPD's use-of-force policy. The gun that fired belonged to a federal agency. The review landed on the local one. He called the agents who did the shooting "mass shooters," a description I have not found him using for his own department, which he was reviewing at the time.

Tuesday, the folder got its second half. Agents raided the home of Rep. Ilhan Omar. The same day, Rep. Delia Ramirez introduced a bill titled the Reimagining Safety Act. All together now — the clauses: it abolishes ICE. It abolishes Customs and Border Protection. It dismantles the Department of Homeland Security down to the studs, the agency built in 2003 after

... Continued on Page T27

Treasury's third-largest sanctions fine ever amounts to four cents per dollar Wall Street banks pocketed in profit.

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

The Treasury Department announced, on a Tuesday afternoon after markets closed, that Bank of America would pay more than $1.21 billion for violating sanctions and anti-money-laundering law — the third-largest penalty the department has ever issued. Regulators found the bank failed to report billions of dollars in suspicious transactions, including payments that may have involved Chinese money-laundering networks and criminals operating along the southern border. The department's own language stops at "may." So does ours.

Third-largest is accurate, as far as it goes. The department has issued only two sanctions fines bigger than this one in its history. What the announcement does not say is what else happened this week on the same ledger: America's biggest banks reported nearly $32 billion in combined profit. Set the fine beside the profit and it comes to about four cents on the dollar. Four cents, hon, is a tip. It is not a sanction.

Bank of America has sat at this table before. In January 2013, it was one of ten lenders that paid $8.5 billion to stop a government review of foreclosure

... Continued on Page F118

> "Nothing up there is a conspiracy. That's the part that should worry you — it's all on the record, filed, stamped, and in a couple of cases notarized."
>
> — *Sal*

> "Nothing here is a scandal. A scandal requires surprise, and I can assure you nobody involved was surprised."
>
> — *Chip*

The hens, a man counts in spring. The fox counted in winter.

ENOCH · THE OWNERSHIP DESK

THE LEDGER

The $4,910 Trump still owes is arriving as two pardons for diesel mechanics.

By RUTH
THE MONEY DESK

"Trump Adds Another Giveaway to His Midterm Pitch: Pardons.", 14 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA THE NEW YORK TIMES — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. On October 14, Trump pardoned two Alaska diesel mechanics onstage at a midterm rally.

WHO GETS PAID. Senator Dan Sullivan's reelection campaign and the other down-ballot Alaska Republicans the rally was staged to help.

WHAT SLIPS. A federal conviction for defeating diesel pollution controls gets erased by a signature instead of a court.

WHAT'S NEXT. No date has been set for the remaining $4,910, and the receipts put the midterm elections weeks away.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The first number came out of Dallas on a Wednesday in September, during the president's address to the Republican Party's midterm convention: five thousand dollars to every American adult, he said, if Republicans keep control of Congress. Nothing in the pledge specified how, when, or from which account.

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This week, in Alaska, at a rally backing Senator Dan Sullivan and other Republicans on the ballot, the diesel thread came back from the other direction. The president signed pardons onstage for Zachary Czubak and Patrick Fleming, co-owners of an Anchorage repair shop who had pleaded guilty in 2022 to conspiring to violate the Clean Air Act by tampering with the devices that monitor diesel emissions. He called them wrongly charged. The New York Times, writing the same day, named the pardons for what they were on the ledger: another giveaway, added to a midterm pitch that already ran to checks and a diesel order.

Reconciling the column: in five weeks, the pledge has produced one payment that has been announced, not shown delivered; one tax exemption extended to fuel that was already exempt; and two Clean Air Act convictions voided by signature. The $4,910 balance from September carries no due date in any receipt filed since. What the documents show moving, line by line, is forgiveness — of a tax position already in place, and of a federal pollution conviction — and forgiveness requires no appropriation, no check, and no entry in the Treasury's ledger. The $5,000 would.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

In September Dallas priced a Republican Congress at $5,000 a head; in October Washington announced $90 of it with no date for the rest; this week Anchorage got two pardons instead, signed onstage, for men convicted of defeating the diesel emissions controls on their trucks. That is not a dividend, it is a layaway plan, and the only thing paid in full this month is forgiveness for somebody else's smog. Because $90 is the only number from that pledge the government has put its name on, and because clemency costs the Treasury nothing to itemize, the next favor signed at a rally is a pardon instead of a check, and it lands on your kitchen counter next to that $90 one, both signed, only one of them can be deposited.

"They promised five grand and mailed ninety bucks; the next two signatures at that podium went to a couple of mechanics, not to you. Forgiving a federal conviction costs the government nothing — writing a check costs real money — so guess which one they keep handing out for free. The other $4,910 isn't delayed, it's priced to arrive exactly nowhere before the votes are counted."

— Sal

"These are hardworking small-business owners who got hit with regulatory overreach, and pardoning them isn't a campaign gift, it's correcting an injustice — did I just call tampering with emissions monitors an injustice? Strike that. And the $90 check is real money in real mailboxes, which proves the president keeps his word, except for the $4,910 part, which isn't broken, it's just — pending."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *Trump priced democracy at $5,000 a head, delivered $90, drew an ethics alarm over the unpaid $4,910.* By Ruth · the morning edition, 11 October 2026

— *Trump priced a Republican Congress at $5,000 an adult in September, sent the first $90 out of a Medicare fund in October, and has set no date for the other $4,910.* By Mitch · the evening edition, 11 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

Trump Adds Another Giveaway to His Midterm Pitch: Pardons.
The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *23:49 EDT*

The president has stepped up his offers of financial rewards to voters with just weeks until the midterms. On Tuesday at a rally in Alaska, he announced pardons.

~~Trump pardons two vehicle repair shop owners during Alaska rally~~

Trump pardons two men for illegally disabling diesel pollution-tracking devices
NBC News MAINSTREAM § *21:56 EDT*

During his rally in Alaska, President Trump pardoned Zachary Czuback and Patrick Fleming, co-owners of a vehicle repair shop in Anchorage. Both pleaded guilty in 2022 to violating the Clean Air Act by tampering with federally mandated and monitored devices that tracked vehicles' diesel emissions.

~~Trump pardons two truckers at Alaska rally: 'Clean as a newborn baby's a**'~~

Trump turns a presidential pardon into a campaign rally prop
Washington Examiner RIGHT § *21:38 EDT*

President Donald Trump pardoned two truckers Tuesday night during a campaign rally backing Sen. Dan Sullivan (R-AK) and other down-ballot Republicans in Alaska. According to the president, the two truckers in question had been "wrongly charged"

~~Trump pardons diesel mechanics 'wrongfully charged' during Biden admin at Alaska rally~~

Trump pardons two men who pleaded guilty to violating the Clean Air Act, at his campaign rally
New York Post RIGHT § *23:32 EDT*

Trump signed the pardons for Zachary Czubak and Patrick Fleming, who both pleaded guilty in 2022 to one count of conspiracy to violate the Clean Air Act, midway through his midterm election rally.

But: The 2025 reconciliation law cut SNAP by $187 billion, the largest cut in the program's history — it feeds one in five American children *Congressional Budget Office estimate, via CBPP SNAP tracker*

'Trump dividend': Can promising voters a check help win an election?
Le Monde MAINSTREAM § *20:40 EDT*

Donald Trump is promising $5,000 to every adult US citizen if both chambers remain Republican after the midterm elections on November 3. In his column, Le Monde's Pascal Riché recalls that Silvio Berlusconi and Emmanuel Macron also used financial incentives during their campaigns.

· Trump, Who Calls Medicare for All Too Expensive, Vows $5,000 to Every US Adult—If GOP Wins Midterms *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Trump signs order waiving off-road rule for red-dyed diesel at Nebraska rally *from the morgue, 6 Oct 2026*

· Trump's promised $5,000 'dividend' checks: What to know *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· EXCLUSIVE: Trump Admin Sends Out Nearly 21 Million Medicare Improvement Fund Payments *from the morgue, 8 Oct 2026*

· Trump to Send $90 Medicare Checks, Says Americans Can 'Rest Assured' $5,000 Will Follow After Midterms *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*

· Trump says US to send one-time $90 payment to 20m seniors enrolled in Medicare *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*

· Trump announces US will send $90 checks to 20 million seniors enrolled in Medicare *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*

· Trump to give $90 one-time payment to 20 million Medicare beneficiaries *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*

· U.S.-Russia Talks on Ukraine Now Involve an Oil Deal Tied to Trump Allies *from the morgue, 4 Oct 2026*

· Trump says Ukraine and Russia have agreed to energy target ceasefire *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

· Witkoff touts 'substantive progress' after peace talks with Ukraine, Russia *from the morgue, 7 Sep 2026*

· Trump envoys hail 'encouraging' talks in Kyiv to end Russia-Ukraine war *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*

· Witkoff, Kushner to visit Moscow and Kyiv in renewed push to end Russia-Ukraine war *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*

· Analysis Finds Up to 10 Million People Have Lost Healthcare Coverage During Trump's Second Term *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*

· Treasury confirms plan to auto-enroll millions of children in Trump accounts *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*

· The Big Beautiful Bill Is Starting to Bite Before the Election *from the morgue, 23 Sep 2026*

· 'Sickening and Unacceptable': Anger Mounts as Trump and Vance Gleefully Rip Healthcare From 750,000 *from the morgue, 23 Sep 2026*

· Many Americans are relying on multiple forms of credit to cover expenses. When is it a warning sign? *from the morgue, 23 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*

· 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 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*

· GOP leaders blindsided by Trump's promise of $5K checks *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*

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.

White House defies order to restore banned reporters, is ordered to restore them again, for longer

By MITCH
INVESTIGATIONS

“Federal Judge Again Blocks Trump’s Ban on CNN, MS NOW and Politico”, 14 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA THE NEW YORK TIMES — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. A federal judge again blocked the White House's ban on CNN, MS NOW and Politico from the grounds.

WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no buyer yet.

WHAT SLIPS. The public's access to unfiltered coverage of the White House slips each time the administration stalls on restoring the passes a court already ordered returned.

WHAT'S NEXT. If this pattern holds, the fight moves to appeal and drags on rather than ending; that is what the Associated Press got after 11 February 2025, when its own Oval Office ban was enjoined and then stayed on appeal, with the case still open a year and a half later.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

FAKE NEWS." U.S. District Judge Timothy Kelly, a Trump appointee, granted a temporary restraining order telling the White House to "immediately return, reinstate, and restore" the outlets' hard passes, finding a likelihood that the ban was unconstitutional.

The government's answer to a federal order to restore access was to not restore access. That same Thursday, administration officials turned the three outlets' reporters away at the gate anyway, a denial Common Dreams's reporting described plainly as a violation of the judge's own ruling — officials told to give the passes back, and the passes did not come back....

...(cont) Two weeks later, at a hearing on whether to extend that order, the lawyer for the media coalition told Judge Kelly something closer to a closing argument than a complaint: the president, the lawyer said, had made "clear" that the ban followed the outlets' coverage, not any neutral rule about who gets a badge. The Guardian reported the lawyer called Trump "the strongest witness" for the journalists' own case, said aloud in that courtroom. All together now — the government did not need to build a defense, because the man who signed the ban had already supplied the plaintiffs' best evidence against it, in public, before the suit was even filed.

That is three separate findings now, from the same judge, each one further into the record than the last: a likely constitutional violation in September, a violation of his own order that same week, and a second, longer-running finding of a likely constitutional violation in October.

None of it resolves the access problems entirely. The Times notes the ruling lets the outlets back on the grounds without settling every remaining dispute between them and the building they cover. The lawsuit goes on. The passes, for the moment, are the passes. And in three rounds of filings described in these reports, the administration has yet to offer the court a reason for the ban other than the one its own target already gave away for free.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

JUDGE KELLY ORDERED THE HARD PASSES RESTORED, THE ADMINISTRATION LEFT THEM pulled past that order's own deadline, and in the next hearing the outlets' lawyer told him the president had already explained why: the coverage. That is not a credentialing dispute, it is the government deciding whose badge survives contact with the truth. A press pass is permission to do your job inside a building, permission handed out by the people that job is supposed to watch, and the next badge pulled over reporting somebody upstairs did not care for is the one with your name already printed on it.

“They ban the outlets for the coverage, a judge — one of Trump's own appointees — tells them to knock it off, and they do it again anyway until he has to say it twice, louder. Three rulings in, the only witness proving the ban was retaliation is the man who signed it. That is not a legal strategy, that's a guy confessing on the way out the door and being surprised there's a stenographer.”
— Sal

“Look, any White House sets its own guest list, that's facility management, there's nothing constitutional about who gets a hard pass to walk the grounds — this is just an access question. And it's not like the administration's own side said the ban was about the coverage, that was the other side's lawyer characterizing — okay, it was their lawyer, quoting him, in open court. The point is, the judge who found all this was appointed by — huh. Yeah, that part isn't landing the way I wanted either.”
— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

~~Federal Judge Again Blocks Trump’s Ban on CNN, MS NOW and Politico~~

Trump’s ban on CNN, MS NOW and Politico blocked again — access problems remain

The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *01:33 EDT*

The ruling will allow the outlets to enter the White House grounds while they sue to overturn the ban. But it doesn’t resolve all of their access problems.

Federal judge grants preliminary injunction continuing to block Trump's media ban

ABC News MAINSTREAM § *01:19 EDT*

The same judge issued a temporary restraining order last month.

Judge blocks Trump's White House ban targeting CNN, MS NOW and Politico

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *23:51 EDT*

U.S. District Judge Timothy Kelly said the White House's revocation of hard passes for CNN, MS NOW and Politico journalists likely violated their First and Fifth Amendment rights.

~~Judge extends White House access to banned media outlets CNN, MS Now and Politico~~

Judge forces Trump to keep letting reporters into the White House

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *00:34 EDT*

District court judge Timothy Kelly was ruling after the Trump administration blocked access to the three outlets in September A federal judge ordered the White House on Tuesday to continue allowing journalists from CNN, MS Now and Politico to access the building as the media coalition’s lawsuit against the Trump administration plays out....

· Violating Federal Judge's Order, Trump White House Denies Access to Politico, MS NOW, CNN Reporters *from the morgue, 24 Sep 2026*

· Trump-Appointed Judge Orders President to Restore White House Access to CNN, MS NOW, and Politico *from the morgue, 24 Sep 2026*

· Trump made ‘clear’ that media ban was due to critical coverage, lawyer tells judge *from the morgue, 8 Oct 2026*

· Sunday Shows Preview: Trump bans 3 media outlets from White House; Parties make final cases as midterms approach *from the morgue, 19 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.

Cornell president calls his handling of the rape case a 'misstep' as faculty votes whether they trust it.

By LOU
ONE MORE QUESTION

“Cornell University faculty to begin debating no-confidence resolution”, 14 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA ABC NEWS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Cornell's president admitted missteps in handling gang-rape accusations as faculty opened debate on a no-confidence vote.

WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no buyer yet.

WHAT SLIPS. Nothing slips here yet.

WHAT'S NEXT. The faculty senate opened debate on the no-confidence resolution on October 14, 2026; no vote date is on the record yet.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

I went down to the county building Tuesday morning to renew the placard on the car — the fan belt complains on every hill — and I did not end up where I was sent; every door in that building pointed me to another, and here is what I picked up along the way, none of it mine.

First stop was Window Six, Motor Vehicles, which turns out is not where you renew a placard. The clerk told me that before she told me anything else. While she stamped a form for the man ahead of me, her radio was running a story about Cornell's president going on camera on October 4th to call the allegations against students at a fraternity there "deeply disturbing," and to say the university "must do better," and to call it "a defining moment in Cornell's history." Was that said on camera, or in writing? On camera....

...(cont) She sent me to the annex.

The annex sent me to Records, where a man with his desk covered in folders had a newspaper open to a story about students painting "SMASH THE PATRIARCHY" on the building that houses that same president's office, demanding his resignation, and underneath that, smaller, a line about the university promising a "serious look" at its fraternities. He didn't look up. Did the paint go up before that promise of a serious look, or after? After — the promise came first.

Records sent me to the basement for reasons nobody there could explain, and in the basement there was a bulletin board with two notices on it, from two different wire services, both dated the same Monday, both about the Cornell faculty senate introducing a resolution of no confidence over how the administration handled "the alleged 2024 sexual assault at a fraternity house." Did one wire service report that, or two? Two — the same resolution, the same day, filed twice.

Somewhere down there somebody renewed my placard almost without my noticing, which is the only part of the morning that went the way I'd planned. I kept standing there anyway, because the walk wasn't finished.

I already knew, from before I got to that building, that nine days after the "serious look" was promised, Cornell banned every fraternity party on campus for the rest of the academic year. Did that ban stop at parties, or did it also put trained sex-assault investigators on the campus police staff? Both. The county building didn't hand me either fact. I brought them in with me.

What the building didn't have, and what I only found out standing in the parking lot afterward, is this week's piece. The university's president sat down with the New York Times and used a word — "missteps" — to describe how his administration handled the rape accusations against those students. And on that same Wednesday, the Cornell faculty senate opened its debate on a resolution to formally declare no confidence in exactly that handling.

I want to be careful here, because I'm not a professor and I don't sit on a faculty senate, and I don't know how many votes it takes there to pass a resolution of no confidence, or how many it takes to fail one. That's not a number I have.

What I have is a sequence: a serious look, promised on a Monday. A ban, nine days after. And now, missteps, admitted the same week a faculty opens the floor to vote on whether they still have confidence in the man admitting them.

Excuse me — one more thing before you go. Did the president's interview reach the Times before the faculty senate opened its debate that Wednesday, or after? Both are dated the same day, October 14th, and the page I'm holding doesn't tell me which one happened first.

“Call it what it is: the man they're voting on just handed the no-confidence committee its own evidence, in the Times, free of charge. That's not an apology, that's a confirmation — and notice who's actually sitting in judgment on it. Not the student who says she was gang-raped. A faculty senate, voting on a word he chose himself, the same week he chose it.”
— Sal

“"Missteps" is just a leader being candid about a process that's always evolving — accountability, growth, that kind of thing. And the timing, admitting it the same week as the no-confidence vote, actually shows real transparency, not... okay, hearing it back, that timing does look bad. Did I say "evolving"? That doesn't sound like me.”
— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *Cornell vows a "serious look" at frats, bans them all nine days after the state seizes the case.* By Lou · the evening edition, 13 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

Cornell University faculty to begin debating no-confidence resolution
ABC News MAINSTREAM § *05:17 EDT*
Cornell University’s faculty senate on Wednesday will begin deliberating a no-confidence resolution to condemn the school’s response to sexual violence on campus.

Five Key Moments From The Times’s Interview With Cornell’s President
The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *23:16 EDT*
Michael Kotlikoff addressed concerns over the university’s handling of a former student’s claims that she was gang-raped at a fraternity party.

~~Cornell’s President Acknowledges Missteps in Handling of Rape Accusations~~
Cornell’s president apologizes for mishandling a sexual assault case
The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *21:47 EDT*
In an interview with The New York Times, Michael Kotlikoff addressed his administration’s handling of sexual assault accusations brought by a former student.

· Cornell faculty plan no-confidence vote to increase pressure on president for handling of rape case *from the morgue, 6 Oct 2026*

· Cornell president calls gang rape allegations 'deeply disturbing' *from the morgue, 4 Oct 2026*

· Student protests erupt at Cornell over mishandling of gang-rape allegations *from the morgue, 6 Oct 2026*

· Cornell faculty senate introduces no-confidence resolution over handling of alleged 2024 sexual assault *from the morgue, 6 Oct 2026*

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Elon Musk named America's top midterm donor and accused by France of election interference on the same day.

By THE LODGERS
THE EURO DESK

“Elon Musk Becomes the Largest Known Donor to This Year’s Midterms”, 13 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA TRUTHOUT — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Elon Musk became the single largest donor of the 2026 U.S. midterm elections.

WHO GETS PAID. Republican Senate candidates, and the party's fight to keep control of the chamber, get the money.

WHAT SLIPS. The only check on how much one person can spend to shape an election slips here, since no limit stopped him.

WHAT'S NEXT. The next fixed event is Thursday's federal filing, which only records the money after it has already been spent; nothing on the calendar sets a limit on what comes after.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Today we are making a single political donor large enough to be mistaken for a party, which is not a dish you get over here. You will need one man, $366 million, and a federal filing due Thursday that has not been cooked yet.

Measure before you fold: more than $276 million of it arrived since July alone, on top of the nearly $300 million he put behind Donald Trump's 2024 re-election. None of it has touched the pan until Thursday's filing says so....

Clive *A party of one. I've been saying for years that's the only kind worth joining — mine, specifically, once the collection is out.*

Gary *Your collection is a few poems and a biro. Call me when it's winning somewhere that isn't this kitchen.*

Begin on 7 September, when Germany's AfD won a regional election in Saxony-Anhalt and its candidate, Ulrich Siegmund, thanked him by name for his "clear and highly important perspective on the political developments of our time." Money and opinion go into the same bowl here, and nobody separates them again.

Rob *Thanked by name. Heavy, that. Nobody's thanked me by name since I did the shopping, and I did do the shopping.*

Keith *You bought lentils, Rob. I could move his old opinions as a job lot if the shopping's what we're calling it now.*

By 22 September, with his spending already put at $100 million, Common Dreams asked why Democrats hadn't taken the shot. On Tuesday, France's foreign minister, Jean-Noël Barrot, warned of foreign interference ahead of its 2027 election and named him for using X to sway debate — the same day the Guardian put his total at $366 million, ahead of Thursday's filing.

This is not new dough. In December 2022, Twitter suspended the accounts of several journalists who had reported unfavorably on him, after an incident involving his son's location data. Same bowl, four years apart; only the sum has grown.

Le Monde filed this one as "online harassment" of Europe's leaders. At home the Guardian simply calls him the "biggest donor" of the midterms cycle; nobody has decided yet which word is the polite one.

Take the $366 million by both ends: more than $276 million moved in under three months, and the filing meant to account for it arrives only Thursday, after the spending. You will be looking for the ceiling past which one person cannot buy an election. There is none; that is what the filing is instead of.

Clive *No ceiling. I've long said the attic is where the real work happens — unbothered, unfiled, un-everything.*

Rob *Unfiled. That's the meter, that is. Nobody's filed anything on the meter in years and I'm still the one reading it by candle.*

It serves the Senate races he is targeting to decide who controls the chamber; the bill goes to whichever side is still counting the $366 million once Thursday's filing lands.

Gary *Senate control. Put me down for a stake in that too — cheaper than fixing the boiler, and at least someone else's filing is already late.*

“Funny how it works: $366 million makes you America's top donor, but the same guy saying things online makes him France's top election threat. It's the same business model, buying influence here and exporting it for free over there, and somebody's left holding the filing.”

— Sal

“He's a private citizen spending his own money — that's protected speech, that's the First Amendment, and France doesn't get a vote on how we run our elections. Except now France says he's interfering in theirs, which is, well, also just speech, same amendment, works both ways — did I say that? Forget it.”

— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

~~Elon Musk Becomes the Largest Known Donor to This Year’s Midterms~~

The world’s first trillionaire just became the midterms’ largest known donor.

Truthout § *15:44 EDT*

Alex Gibney, director of the new documentary Musk , discusses the rise of the world’s first trillionaire.

France accuses Elon Musk of 'online harassment' of Europe leaders

Le Monde MAINSTREAM § *12:55 EDT*

French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot warned Tuesday of foreign interference in France's presidential election in spring 2027. He singled out US tech billionaire Elon Musk for using social network X to attempt to influence debate in European democracies.

~~Elon Musk becomes biggest donor of US midterms cycle with $366m spent~~

$366m buys a year of classroom supplies for 409,000 teachers.

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *13:13 EDT*

Musk’s midterm donations, mostly for rightwing candidates and causes, surpass his contributions to Trump in 2024 Send us your questions on how the US economy is shaping the midterm elections Elon Musk has become the biggest political donor of the 2026 US midterm elections cycle, funneling about $366m into political groups and campaigns...

· 'Take the Open Shot': Democrats Rebuked for Refusing to Target Elon Musk Over $100 Million Midterm Spending Spree *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*

· Far-Right Alternative for Germany Thanks Elon Musk After Regional Election Win *from the morgue, 7 Sep 2026*

· French President Emmanuel Macron announces an emergency summit in Paris, France, between European leaders following a controversial speech given by U.S. Vice President JD Vance at the Munich Security *from the morgue, 15 Feb 2025*

· Twitter suspends the accounts of several journalists who reported on negative news relating to Elon Musk and Twitter. Musk accuses these journalists of posting links to real-time location data. The su *from the morgue, 15 Dec 2022*

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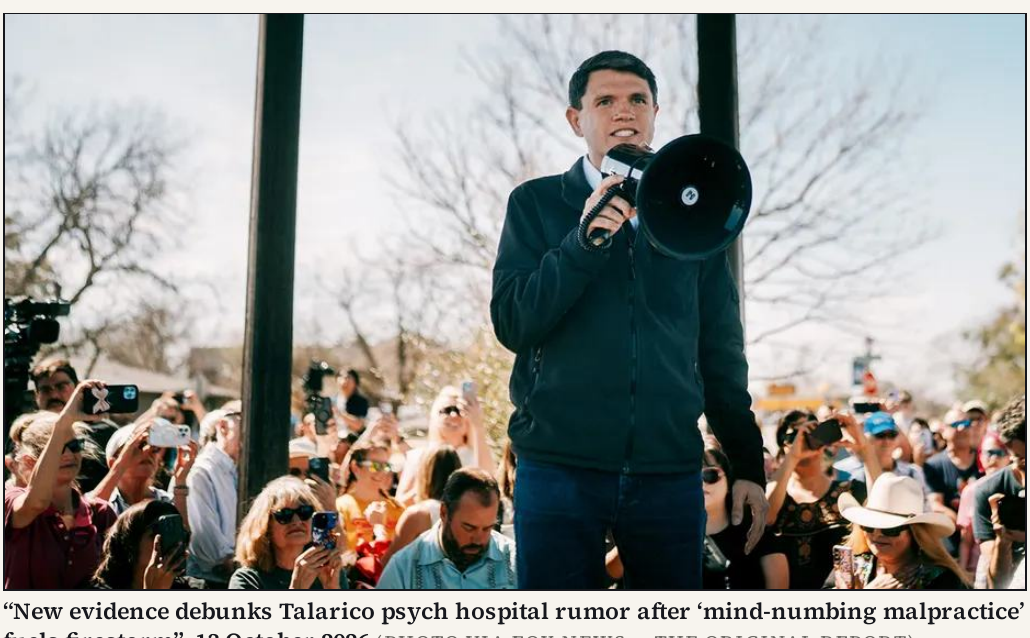
Fox calls second Talarico rumor 'mind-numbing malpractice,' then asks why the proof didn't come sooner

By **CHIP**
STAFF WRITER



"New evidence debunks Talarico psych hospital rumor after 'mind-numbing malpractice' fuels firestorm", 13 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA FOX NEWS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. James Talarico's campaign released security-camera footage debunking a second Ohio rumor, a psychiatric-hospital stay, on October 13.

WHO GETS PAID. Ken Paxton's Senate campaign gets a news cycle spent on invented rumors instead of on the race itself.

WHAT SLIPS. Fox News's own panel kept repeating a rumor its newsroom could have checked before airing it, so the press's own fact-check function is what slips.

WHAT'S NEXT. Election Day is under a month away, and the campaign has now spent two cycles answering invented rumors instead of making its case to voters.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Ladies and gentlemen, the record is clear, and I would like to walk you through it so clearly that you forget what you just heard me say.

On August 27th, Talarico led Paxton in this race. By October 5th his own colleague, Representative Jasmine Crockett, was telling reporters she supports all Democrats — "yes, that includes James Talarico" — which is not how you talk about a man having a normal month. He had been off the trail nine days with a case of the flu. On October 8th our committee's spokesman asked the campaign to "stop the lies and release proof of life." The President of the United States took it further, floating that the candidate was actually in Ohio. Our side printed flyers. We were asking a serious question, and the seriousness is the part I am stuck defending, because four days later the campaign released security-camera footage — his own cameras, in his own house — placing him in Texas the entire time Ohio was supposedly happening. That's not a rebuttal. That's a timestamp. I don't have a rebuttal to a timestamp....

...(cont) So naturally, this week, a second rumor started: Ohio again, but upgraded — not just hiding, but checked into a psychiatric hospital. And naturally, the campaign did what it did the first time, because this is apparently a format now: it released footage. Debunked again, one day after the first debunking, not thirteen — I need to be precise about that, because precision is the only thing I have left. Fox News's own panel, on Fox News's own air, called continuing to repeat the rumor "mind-numbing malpractice." That's not a rival network distancing itself. That's Fox's panel describing Fox's own coverage, and I am told that sentence does not help the case I am making, and I am making it anyway, because that is the job.

None of this proves he wasn't somewhere once. We asked where he was; he was home. We asked again, with a different diagnosis; he was home again. Thirteen days to manufacture the first question. One day to manufacture, and lose, the second. The arithmetic is not on the side I currently represent. I will be here all week, defending claims that stop being true somewhere around the middle of the sentence I'm using to defend them.

"They spent two weeks yelling "prove he's alive," got a security tape, then one day later yelled "prove he's not in a psych ward," got another tape — that's not reporting, that's a protection racket where the only thing being protected is the rumor. Fox's own panel is calling it malpractice on Fox's own air, and a Senate seat is still being fought over with invented hospital stays instead of what either man would do with the job."

— Sal

"Look, the campaign had the footage the entire time, so if anyone's at fault here it's — wait, they're the ones who released it, which means we're blaming them for not debunking our own invented story fast enough. That's not a message, that's a confession with a run-time."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Republicans demanded proof of life, then placed him in Ohio; his security camera placed him in Texas* By Chip · the evening edition, 13 October 2026
- *Texas Senate candidate vanishes with flu, returns to multiple exclusive interviews confirming he had the flu* By Chip · the morning edition, 12 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

New evidence debunks Talarico psych hospital rumor after 'mind-numbing malpractice' fuels firestorm

Fox News RIGHT § *15:16 EDT*

James Talarico's campaign provided security footage to debunk the Ohio rehab rumor, but critics ask why the evidence wasn't released sooner.

Talarico's 'Nasty Flu' Timeline Raises A Lot Of Questions

The Federalist RIGHT § *15:30 EDT*

His strange departure from a very important and very expensive Senate race is a lot like his relationship status: It's complicated.

· Trump fuels rumors about James Talarico's campaign trail absence *from the morgue, 8 Oct 2026*

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Bill to abolish ICE, close Guantanamo, ban wall money filed weeks after being called a 'socialist pipe dream.'

By MITCH
INVESTIGATIONS

"House Dem pushes bill to abolish Homeland Security after Ilhan Omar raid, NYC ICE shooting", 13 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA NEW YORK POST — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Representative Delia Ramirez introduced a bill to abolish ICE and Border Patrol, dismantle Homeland Security, and close Guantanamo Bay.

WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no buyer yet.

WHAT SLIPS. The mayor's review checks his own police department, not the federal agency whose agent fired the shots.

WHAT'S NEXT. If that holds, the bill sits without a vote while ICE keeps operating; that is what happened in Washington on 24 June 2011, when a resolution to stop the Libya operation failed 123 to 295 and the operation ran four more months.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

I keep a folder for documents that answer each other, and this week it got thick enough to need a second rubber band.

Start where the folder starts. Thursday, October 8th, about four in the afternoon, in Marble Hill: an ICE agent shot and wounded Oscar Belgal, twenty-eight, sitting in his car with his five-year-old beside him. The next night, people marched under a two-word banner that has been treated like it couldn't be filed: Abolish ICE. By Monday, Mayor Mamdani had ordered a sweeping review — of the NYPD's use-of-force policy. The gun that fired belonged to a federal agency. The review landed on the local one. He called the agents who did the shooting "mass shooters," a description I have not found him using for his own department, which he was reviewing at the time....

...(cont) Tuesday, the folder got its second half. Agents raided the home of Rep. Ilhan Omar. The same day, Rep. Delia Ramirez introduced a bill titled the Reimagining Safety Act. All together now — the clauses: it abolishes ICE. It abolishes Customs and Border Protection. It dismantles the Department of Homeland Security down to the studs, the agency built in 2003 after September 11th. It closes Guantanamo Bay. It bans federal wall funding. It ends immigration detention outright and moves the whole system to civil court, under the Justice Department, where a judge instead of an agent decides who stays.

I have read a lot of bills that gesture. This one does not gesture. It names the things it ends.

Here is the other half of the folder, dated three weeks earlier. September 21st, a line I'd underlined without knowing why yet: abolishing ICE was a "socialist pipe dream," the kind of thing serious people in Washington did not do. That sentence and this bill now sit three weeks apart in the same filing cabinet.

I am not going to tell you the pipe dream has landed, because a bill introduced is not a bill passed, and I don't know how many votes it has — nobody's counted them for me yet. I will tell you what I do know. The agency that fired the shots answered to no mayor's review. The man who wrote the pipe dream line didn't have to run a background check on who'd read it back to him first.

"They call it a pipe dream right up until a kid in the back seat gets shot at, and then suddenly there's a real bill with real clauses — abolish ICE, close Guantanamo, no more wall money. The agency that pulled the trigger doesn't answer to any mayor's review; it answers to a bill sitting in the same building that laughed at it three weeks ago. That's the whole con: they get to call it fantasy right up until the day it's filed."

— Sal

"Abolishing the agency that secures the border isn't a serious proposal — it's a talking point, not legislation. Except it is legislation, introduced this week, by a sitting member of Congress. That's not the point I wanted to make."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Agents the mayor says looked like 'mass shooters' prompt sweeping review of the NYPD's use of force* By Lou · the evening edition, 13 October 2026
- *Mamdani orders sweeping review of the one agency that didn't open fire* By Lou · the evening edition, 12 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

But: **Republicans' reconciliation package puts $70 billion into ICE's department** *NBC News, May 2026*

House Dem pushes bill to abolish Homeland Security after Ilhan Omar raid, NYC ICE shooting

New York Post RIGHT § *14:20 EDT*

Illinois Rep. Delia Ramirez is pushing to abolish the Department of Homeland Security and cease all immigration detentions in the US in the wake of the raid on "Squad" Rep. Ilhan Omar's home and the shooting of Oscar Belgal in the Bronx.

But: **ICE plans to spend up to $20 million on direct-contact electric shock gloves a UN torture rapporteur found incompatible with the absolute prohibition on torture** *ABC10 San Diego / UN Special Rapporteur finding, August 2026*

'Squad' Democrat formally introduces bill to abolish ICE, Border Patrol and dismantle DHS

Fox News RIGHT § *16:35 EDT*

The sweeping bill would ban federal border wall funding, close Guantanamo Bay and dismantle Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Customs and Border Protection.

~~After Raid of Omar's Home and Latest ICE Shooting, Ramirez Unveils Bill to 'Dismantle' DHS~~

Ramirez bill would 'dismantle' DHS - Congress just gave ICE $70 billion more.

Common Dreams § *15:47 EDT*

In response to the agency's rampant abuses during President Donald Trump's second term, many elected Democrats have warmed to the idea of abolishing US Immigration and Customs Enforcement. But one progressive lawmaker is pushing to go a step further: abolishing the entire Department of Homeland Security. Rep.

· Think 'abolish ICE' is a socialist pipe dream? Look at how mainstream Democrats vote *from the morgue, 21 Sep 2026*

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THE LEDGER

Treasury's third-largest sanctions fine ever amounts to four cents per dollar Wall Street banks pocketed in profit.

By RUTH
THE MONEY DESK

"Wall Street Banks Pocket Nearly $32 Million As Americans Struggle To Make Ends Meet", 13 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA DAILY CALLER — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. The Treasury fined Bank of America for violating sanctions and anti-money-laundering laws.

WHO GETS PAID. Wall Street's biggest banks, who reported $32 billion in profit the same week the fine was announced.

WHAT SLIPS. The public never gets an itemized accounting of how much illicit money moved through the bank against what it paid back.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the pattern holds, the $1.2 billion figure may prove to be the headline, not the itemized total; that is what Washington got after 19 February 2025, when a federal savings claim's own receipts were cut in half under scrutiny while the bigger headline number stood.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The Treasury Department announced, on a Tuesday afternoon after markets closed, that Bank of America would pay more than $1.21 billion for violating sanctions and anti-money-laundering law — the third-largest penalty the department has ever issued. Regulators found the bank failed to report billions of dollars in suspicious transactions, including payments that may have involved Chinese money-laundering networks and criminals operating along the southern border. The department's own language stops at "may." So does ours.

Third-largest is accurate, as far as it goes. The department has issued only two sanctions fines bigger than this one in its history. What the announcement does not say is what else happened this week on the same ledger: America's biggest banks reported nearly $32 billion in combined profit. Set the fine beside the profit and it comes to about four cents on the dollar. Four cents, hon, is a tip. It is not a sanction....

...(cont) Bank of America has sat at this table before. In January 2013, it was one of ten lenders that paid $8.5 billion to stop a government review of foreclosure paperwork from the Great Recession, and separately agreed to pay $11.6 billion to Fannie Mae, the mortgage finance company that had bought the loans. The review ended before the counting did. That discount was a payout too. It went to the man holding the paper, not the customers whose paperwork started this column.

The pattern is not only the bank's. In March 2023, when a different lender, Silicon Valley Bank, failed — the second-largest bank collapse in American history — the government's response was speed, a weekend seizure, assets handed to the FDIC, not a public accounting of the gap between what the bank owed and what it had kept.

Every one of these records — 2013, 2017, 2023, and this week — arrives with a dollar figure and a superlative attached. None of them has yet closed the gap between what a bank pays when it is caught and what it keeps when it is not. The announcement says historic. The arithmetic says routine.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

THE TREASURY FINED BANK OF AMERICA $1.2 BILLION, ITS THIRD-LARGEST SANCTIONS penalty ever, the same week the industry banked $32 billion in profit. That is not a fine, it is a cover charge. Because the bank's profit already priced in the loss before Treasury announced the number, because the balance still has to come from somewhere, the difference does not vanish — it reappears as the next fee printed on your mortgage statement.

"They hit Bank of America with the third-biggest fine the Treasury's ever handed out and call it accountability — it works out to about four cents per dollar the whole industry just banked in profit. The same bank paid $8.5 billion back in 2013 to stop regulators from finishing a foreclosure audit, and that audit still hasn't been finished. The fine's not the punishment, it's the toll booth, and the bill lands on whoever's checking account doesn't have room at the top."

— Sal

"Look, a $1.2 billion penalty is the third-largest the Treasury's ever imposed — that's accountability, full stop, case closed. Sure, it's a fraction of what the industry reported in profit this quarter, but profit isn't — wait, is profit even the right comparison there? The point is the bank paid, the system worked, and if the number looks small next to $32 billion that's just how big banks are — that's not a talking point, forget I said that."

— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

Wall Street Banks Pocket Nearly $32 Million As Americans Struggle To Make Ends Meet

Daily Caller RIGHT § *14:38 EDT*

America's biggest banks reported nearly $32 billion in profits as inflation and borrowing costs continued pressuring household finances.

~~This Billionaire Family is Suffocating Rural America~~

Four companies set the price of fertilizer in America

More Perfect Union § *17:01 EDT*

Just 4 companies control almost all the fertilizer in America. Now the Kochs are planning a billion-dollar merger to drive up prices for farmers—and suffocate rural America—even more. The post This Billionaire Family is Suffocating Rural America appeared first on More Perfect Union .

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 (Blanche memo)*

Bank of America ordered to pay historic $1.2 billion over alleged sanctions law violations

NBC News MAINSTREAM § *16:15 EDT*

The fine is the third-highest penalty ever issued by the Treasury Department, which found that the bank failed to report billions in suspicious transactions.

Bank of America hit with $1.2B fine for money laundering, sanctions violations

New York Post RIGHT § *16:47 EDT*

The fines on America's second-biggest bank amount to the third-largest in the department's history.

Treasury fines Bank of America $1.2 billion for violating anti-money laundering laws

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *16:32 EDT*

The Treasury Department announced that it is imposing more than $1.21 billion in penalties on Bank of America for violations of sanctions and anti-money laundering laws, including by facilitating payments that may have involved Chinese money laundering networks and criminals operating on the southern border. The Treasury announced the...

· For $8.5 billion, ten banks settle to stop mortgage foreclosure process audits. The United States government regulators had been engaged in a loan-by-loan review of home loan practices during the Grea *from the morgue, 7 Jan 2013*

· Berkshire Hathaway Inc has become the largest shareholder of Bank of America by exercising its right to acquire 700 million shares at a steep discount, more than tripling an investment it made six yea *from the morgue, 29 Aug 2017*

· American commercial bank Silicon Valley Bank is forcibly shut down by regulators for the U.S. state of California, and its assets controlled by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, after the ban *from the morgue, 10 Mar 2023*

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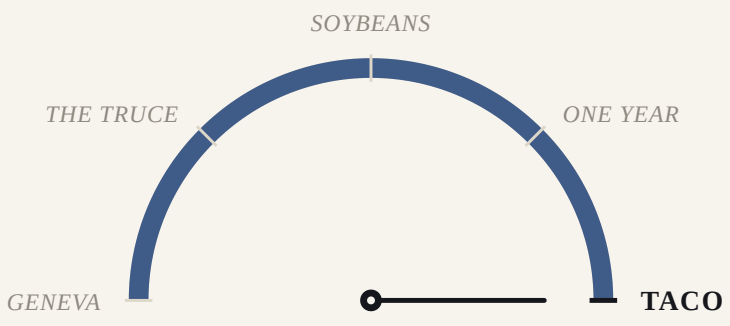
§60 — 13 OCTOBER 2026

On 145 percent

BY LOU
The Word

DEMOCRAT



TACO

The folds, in order, with the paperwork. May 2025: 145 percent became 30 under a 90-day Geneva truce [1]. October 30: the 100 percent threat was dropped at the summit with Xi and the existing China tariffs were cut [2]. The White House's own fact sheet lists the terms: the fentanyl tariff down ten points; the reciprocal-tariff suspension extended to November 10, 2026; China to suspend its rare-earth controls for one year; soybean purchases resumed [3].

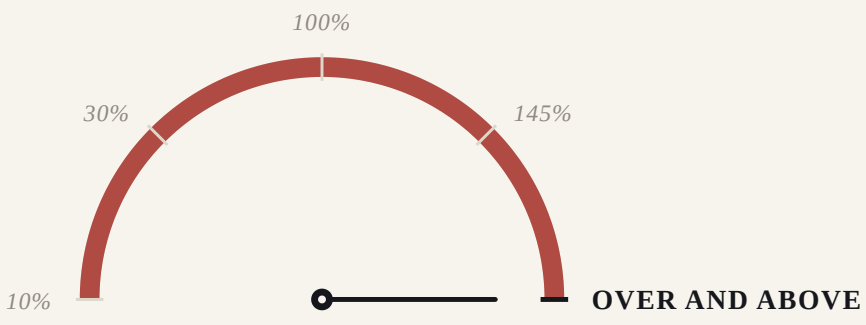
Then a fold that was not his. On February 20 the Supreme Court held, 6 to 3, that the emergency statute behind these tariffs does not authorize them, voiding both the reciprocal tariffs and the fentanyl tariffs on China [4]. Within hours the White House terminated them and imposed 10 percent under a different law, opening fresh investigations to build the rest back [5]. So the American half of the bargain was struck down in February. The half still standing is China's: the rare-earth suspension, one year from November 10, 2025.

It runs out November 10, 2026. The election is November 3.

SOURCES

1. 145 percent cut to 30 percent under a 90-day truce reached in Geneva — PBS NewsHour, May 2025 ↑
2. The 100 percent threat dropped at the Trump–Xi summit; a one-year truce and a cut to existing China tariffs — CNBC, 30 October 2025 ↑
3. Fentanyl tariff cut ten points effective 10 November 2025; reciprocal-tariff suspension to 10 November 2026; China suspends rare-earth controls one year; soybean purchases — White House fact sheet, 1 November 2025 ↑
4. The Supreme Court held 6-3 on 20 February 2026 that IEEPA does not authorize tariffs, invalidating the reciprocal tariffs and the fentanyl-related tariffs on China, Canada and Mexico — Congressional Research Service, LSB11398 ↑
5. The IEEPA tariffs were terminated after the decision; a 10 percent global tariff was imposed under Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974 and new Section 301 investigations opened — White & Case ↑

REPUBLICAN



OVER AND ABOVE

The strongest version of the case, in the president's words on October 10, 2025, because the escalation was an argument: China had "taken an extraordinarily aggressive position on Trade in sending an extremely hostile letter to the World, stating that they were going to, effective November 1st, 2025, impose large scale Export Controls on virtually every product they make," and the answer would be a 100 percent tariff "over and above any Tariff they are currently paying," plus export controls "on any and all critical software" [1]. The S&P 500 fell 2.71 percent that day [1].

That is the doctrine at full strength: they restrict the rare earths, we restrict everything, and the number is the message. It was the second time the number had been the message; in April of last year the rate on Chinese goods reached 145 percent [2]. "Over and above" is where the dial stops because the dial has nowhere further to go, and that turns out to be the problem with the dial.

SOURCES

1. Truth Social, 10 October 2025: China's "extremely hostile letter," export controls "effective November 1st," a 100 percent tariff "over and above any Tariff they are currently paying," controls "on any and all critical software"; S&P 500 down 2.71 percent — CNN, 10 October 2025 ↑
2. Tariffs on Chinese goods escalated to 145 percent in April 2025, then cut to 30 percent under the Geneva truce — PBS NewsHour, May 2025 ↑

"I'll be quick, you've got people waiting. 145 — that's April of last year. 30 — that's May, Geneva. 100, "over and above" — that's October 10, and the index lost two point seven percent by the close. Dropped — that's October 30, at the summit, with a tariff cut thrown in. Then a year of quiet, and the year ends November 10. Oh — one more thing. The election is November 3. Who set that clock?" — Lou

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"A hundred and forty-five percent, then thirty. Then a hundred more, "over and above," effective November 1, and by October 30 it's a one-year truce and a tariff cut. The number isn't a policy, it's an opening bid he makes against himself. And the truce expires November 10 — a week after the vote — so the next bid is already on the calendar."

— Sal

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"One hundred forty-five percent was strength, thirty was flexibility, one hundred was resolve, and dropping it was statesmanship — four different virtues, which is more than most administrations manage on a single country."

— Chip

The Word today — 👍 👎