FROM § EACH

FIRST YEAR · THURSDAY, 15 OCTOBER 2026 — THE EVENING EDITION · FREE, FOREVER — EVERY CLAIM LINKED

Trump threatens towns with 'backward and poor'; his own party's senator moves to leave data centers broke instead.

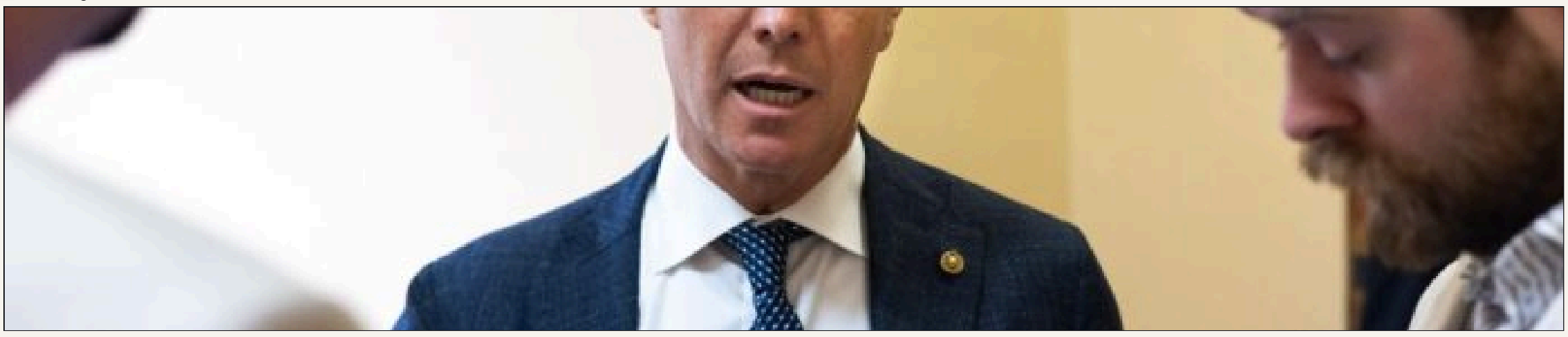


PHOTO: WASHINGTON EXAMINER

BY THE WRECKING CREW
The Remedy Desk

THE WRECKING CREW kept the blueprints from August open on the workbench. The warning did not test well close to home. Twenty-five days later, on September 25, the chief's own county, Palm Beach, took a 6-0 vote: facilities over 50 megawatts, a one-year moratorium, no new construction. The permitting authority had been sitting in the county code the whole time; the commissioners only had to use it. Memphis had already used a different tool, a zoning fight and a primary ballot, to beat Elon Musk's xAI. Washington State had wiring older than that, a utility and siting law already on the shelf.

On Thursday the crew found two more tools, both government issue, neither built for the occasion.

The tinkerer went to Washington first. ...

... Continued on Page F119

Donors gave $330 million for the ballroom; among them a pardon recipient, contractors, and one closed federal investigation.

BY STERLING
The Ownership Desk

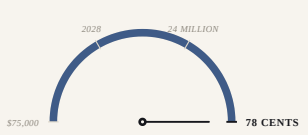
Twenty-five million dollars, handed over, purchases nothing whatever, and that is the handsome part of it. Apple gave twenty-five million to the ballroom. Nvidia gave twenty-five million and requested anonymity — requested, mind you, and did not keep it.

... Continued on Page F120

THE WORD

§62 — 15 OCTOBER 2026

On Social Security

DEMOCRAT	REPUBLICAN
	
78 CENTS	*NO TAX ON SOCIAL SECURITY*

... Continued on Page W62

Cornell bans frat parties, adds investigators, then faces a no-confidence vote over the same case.

BY MITCH
Investigations

On October 3, Cornell's own campus police logged a drug arrest at a fraternity house twenty-two hours before a former student says she was drugged and raped in that same house. On October 6, Cornell's trustees named Sally Yates, once the Justice Department's second-ranking official, to review how the university handles…

... Continued on Page A214

ICE officers shot two men with cameras off; ICE's fix lets officers keep deciding that.

BY CHIP
Staff Writer

The Government Accountability Office's Wednesday report makes a modest ask: when an ICE officer draws a weapon, the body camera should turn on by itself. ICE's answer, filed in the same report, is no. The agency would rather the officer decide, case by case, whether the camera runs. That is a defensible system, if you assume the camera gets turned on in the first place.

In September, an ICE officer shot Wilber Rafael Garcés Pérez, a 28-year-old Venezuelan man, through the window of his car while he was working a DoorDash delivery in Austin. The officer had been issued a body camera. The officer was not wear-

... Continued on Page T27

■ THE SHORT VERSION

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. A senator moved to tax data-center subsidies to zero; a Texas candidate vowed to freeze new data centers.

WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no buyer yet.

WHAT SLIPS. Nothing slips here yet.

WHAT'S NEXT. If a Texas moratorium holds, the legislature could preempt it the way it did after Denton's 2014 fracking ban, when the governor signed a law barring local bans 195 days later.

On Trump threatens towns with 'backward and poor'; his own party's senator moves to leave data centers broke instead. — the column, by The Wrecking Crew. The whole front, short, and the precedents, on E6

THE LEDGER

Rumor that Talarico died collapses in hours; his record $64 million quarter doesn't.

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

The campaign press release went out Wednesday with a number: $64 million in the third quarter. By Thursday every outlet from the Daily Caller to NBC News was using the word "record," because it is one — the most any Senate candidate has raised in a single quarter this cycle. The campaign's own accounting adds the detail that matters: ninety-seven cents of every dollar came in at $100 or less.

Ken Paxton, the man standing between Talarico and the seat, raised $18 million over the same three months. That is less than a

... Continued on Page F119

Republicans lose the same Missouri map ruling three times, propose changing how the judges are chosen

BY MORT
The Records Bureau

The Missouri Legislature enacted a congressional map in 2022. In 2025 it enacted a new one. That recitation is not mine. It is the U.S. Supreme Court's own, set down unsigned and flat this September, the way a clerk reads a ledger aloud at a wake.

The state's highest court had directed Missouri to use the older map. In September the U.S. Supreme Court left that order in place. Hours later, on September 8, a federal judge ruled that Missouri should use the new map, the one that favors Republicans, for now. One

... Continued on Page B41

Contractor who holds Ukraine's battlefield internet offers three explanations for the slowdown, lands on replacing Ukraine's president

BY STERLING
The Ownership Desk

You are looking for the lie among the three. There is none. Tuesday, with Russian missiles inbound, Ukraine's Starlink missile tracker failed, and Musk said any restriction on Starshield would come from the United States government. Wednesday he said Zelensky should "go". Today Ukraine reports access improved and the speed ceiling still disrupting its "missions" — a ceiling, do note, not a cut. The terminals belong to others. The Pentagon funds them, SpaceX manages them, and what Ukraine has is the use of another party's property at sufferance, which is possession the owner has not yet troubled to end. Someone will say the throttle has been explained. It has been ... attributed. Three times, differently, by the one man at the switch. Washington has threatened to stop passing

... Continued on Page A213

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

MISSOURI'S HIGHEST COURT DIRECTED THE STATE TO USE THE OLDER congressional map, the U.S. Supreme Court left that order in place in September, and on September 25 it ruled against the new map a third time. That isn't court reform, it's a legislature applying for the job of choosing the judges who rule on its own maps. Change who picks the judges and you change who hears the next map case, change who hears the map case and you change which district your street sits in, and the next thing with your name on it is the voter registration card in your wallet, printed with a district the legislature chose for you.

⁂

On Republicans lose the same Missouri map ruling three times, propose changing how the judges are chosen — *the column, by Mort*

ASK VIVIAN

"I loved the explanation of the national debt, but who is collecting the interest?" She answers on E5.

— this paper

THE WIRE

Every right or mainstream headline answered before it renders.

— this paper

SOURCED OR SILENT

Open any fold. Every claim linked, every link dated.

— this paper

Today

News, continued	A2
The Wire	A3
The Word	W62
Finance	F1
The Ledger	F2

PULL UP A STOOL

Sal has never once been wrong. Ask him yourself.

— this paper

"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

SERVICES Spin available. Defends the indefensible, denies he said it, corrects himself mid-sentence. *Ask for Chip. He never said that.* **— Classifieds**

FOR SALE Hummer H2. Runs great. Parked anyway. *I can't afford the fucking gas.* **— Classifieds**

FOR SALE Chest freezer, never opened. Bought during the egg thing. *Eggs came down. My planning did not.* **— Classifieds**

"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 FUTURES FILE *every date somebody set, and what was standing there when it arrived · swept 2026-09-16*

← →

THE DONOR LIST

Donors gave $330 million for the ballroom; among them a pardon recipient, contractors, and one closed federal investigation.

By STERLING
THE OWNERSHIP DESK



"Trump ballroom donors revealed in Washington Post report", 15 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE HILL — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Apple, Nvidia and dozens of other donors paid for President Trump's White House ballroom, a newly published list shows.

WHO GETS PAID. The donors themselves: companies with business before the administration, among them Apple and Nvidia, which asked to stay unnamed.

WHAT SLIPS. The public found out who paid for work on a government building only because a newspaper obtained the list.

WHAT'S NEXT. The Supreme Court cleared the project in August, so the room gets built and the published list stands as the only public record of who paid for it.

Twenty-five million dollars, handed over, purchases nothing whatever, and that is the handsome part of it. Apple gave twenty-five million to the ballroom. Nvidia gave twenty-five million and requested anonymity — requested, mind you, and did not keep it. The Adelson Family Foundation, twenty-five. Charles Ergen, co-founder and chairman of Dish Network, twenty-five. Fifty-seven names, each committed to a hundred thousand at the least, and the list runs past three hundred and thirty million dollars. Three hundred and thirty. A gift is a transfer without consideration — consideration being whatever comes back the other way — so by its own construction this money bought nothing at all. And what did Big Tech suppose it was doing? One government watchdog says those companies "bankrolled it fully expecting a return on their investment." Further down the same list, among names not published before, sit donors who have had a presidential pardon, government contracts, and at least one federal investigation closed. Most of the money arrived before the East Wing came down. The work proceeds, for now, after a ruling of the Supreme Court in August … and the house is yours. The list is not.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

Fifty-seven donors put more than three hundred and thirty million dollars into the White House ballroom, Apple and Nvidia twenty-five million each, and the published list includes donors who have had a presidential pardon, government contracts, and a federal investigation closed. That is not a building fund, that is an admission price, and the administration is working the door. Apple writes twenty-five million and becomes a known face in the room, the room is where the people who rule on Apple's business stand around, and you paid full retail for the Apple phone on your kitchen counter and got a warranty.

The lid, the neighbour lifts for
the men with carts. A man waits.

— ENOCH
The Ownership Desk

"They tell you there is no money for your kid's school, and then fifty-seven outfits come up with three hundred and thirty million for a ballroom. Apple and Nvidia put in twenty-five million apiece, and Nvidia asked that its name stay off the list. And on that same list are people who got a pardon, people holding federal contracts, and one whose federal investigation closed — you pay full freight and get a form letter."
— *Sal*

"Private money, not one dime of taxpayer funds, that is the entire point — people give to the White House all the time, it is a building, buildings need rooms. Did I say rooms? That does not sound like me. And Nvidia requesting anonymity, that is modesty, you do not put your name on a gift, which is of course why we are all sitting here reading the list of names."
— *Chip*

THE RECEIPTS

Trump ballroom donors revealed in Washington Post report
The Hill MAINSTREAM § *16:43 EDT*

Major donors to President Trump's White House ballroom project were revealed in a new list obtained by The Washington Post on Thursday. According to the Post, the list reveals more than $330 million in private donations to fund the ballroom effort, most of which was donated prior to the demolition of the East Wing in…

~~'Blatant Corruption': Donors Pouring $330 Million Into Trump Ballroom and Reaping Benefits, Exposed~~
Trump vowed to pay 'a hundred percent' himself. Donors paid $330M and got pardons, contracts instead.
Common Dreams § *15:17 EDT*

A newly revealed list of companies and billionaire CEOs who donated millions of dollars to President Donald Trump's ballroom construction project shows that Big Tech, according to one government watchdog, "bankrolled it fully expecting a return on their investment." The list, first reported by The Washington Post, doesn't just show the…

But: Sen. Blumenthal: the Secret Service diverted $1.17 billion in appropriated funds toward the ballroom project *Sen. Blumenthal, official release*

Apple, Nvidia each gave $25M to White House ballroom project, among top donors: report
New York Post RIGHT § *15:16 EDT*

The billionaire Adelson family, known for their hospitality holdings, and Charles Ergen, co-founder and chairman of Dish Network, also gave $25 million each to the project, according to a report.

· Report Details How Trump Has Handed Get-Out-of-Jail-Free Card to Wall Street and Big Tech *from the morgue, 7 Oct 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 bans frat parties, adds investigators, then faces a no-confidence vote over the same case.

By MITCH
INVESTIGATIONS



"Cornell president defends response to Jane Doe allegations in heated faculty meeting", 15 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA ABC NEWS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Cornell's faculty senate met October 14 to discuss no confidence in the president over a 2024 rape allegation.

WHO GETS PAID. Cornell's administration keeps control of the remedy, picking its own investigators and outside reviewer instead of the changes students asked for.

WHAT SLIPS. Students have no vote on the fix; only the faculty senate can act, and so far it has only talked about acting.

WHAT'S NEXT. The faculty senate has not set a date for an actual no-confidence vote; that vote, if it happens, is the next item on Cornell's calendar.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

On October 3, Cornell's own campus police logged a drug arrest at a fraternity house twenty-two hours before a former student says she was drugged and raped in that same house. On October 6, Cornell's trustees named Sally Yates, once the Justice Department's second-ranking official, to review how the university handles sexual misconduct complaints.

Wednesday, the venue changed again. Cornell's faculty senate convened, NBC News reports, to discuss whether it still has confidence in President Michael Kotlikoff over his handling of the alleged 2024 assault. All together now: the senate asked the questions, and Kotlikoff answered them — a defense of his own response, ABC reports, not an account of the allegation itself. NBC obtained audio of the exchange. CBS obtained video of it. The university's press office appears in neither byline....

...(cont) Scrutiny. Sharp questions. A faculty senate — the body with the least formal power on most campuses — produced the two recordings that made it to television this week.

Students didn't wait for the senate to finish before grading the university's other move. Cornell had already announced a ban on fraternity parties and a handful of added investigators. Students for a Democratic Cornell told Truthout that wasn't enough: "Nowhere among these measures is the institutional change that students demand." All together now: the party ban is not the policy. The added investigators are not the inquiry. The outside reviewer named October 6 is not the prosecutor. Three nouns, stacked to resemble one verb — accountability — with no name yet attached to any finding.

The same week, five hundred miles west, the University of Chicago confirmed an almost identical allegation at one of its own fraternity houses. Chicago police named a person of interest. They do not have a suspect in custody; he fled the scene.

Two universities, two fraternity houses, one semester, and so far the same four moves at both campuses: a statement, a restriction, a reviewer, a recording somebody else made public. The question the lawsuits actually ask — who did this, and who answers for it — sits where Tompkins County's district attorney left it in September, when he declined to charge the seven men the 2024 complaint names. It is now Cornell's faculty senate asking that question out loud, on a recording obtained by two networks this week.

"You get caught doing nothing for two years, so you announce a party ban, hire a couple of investigators, and bring in a big name from Washington to "review" you — and you keep the one job that actually decides anything, your own. The faculty can grill the guy for an hour on tape; they still don't get a vote that sticks, and the students who actually live in that building don't get one at all. That's the trick: four new nouns on a press release, zero names on a finding."
— Sal

"Look, the university acted — they banned the parties, they added investigators, they brought in Sally Yates, for God's sake, that's a former deputy attorney general. You want them to do what, convict somebody themselves? That's not — the process is working exactly like it's supposed to. Did I just compare a party ban to a criminal investigation? That's not what I meant, strike that."
— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *Cornell named an outside reviewer; Chicago named a person of interest. Neither named anyone responsible.* By Mitch · the morning edition, 15 October 2026
— *New York Times prints the university crisis playbook; Cornell and Chicago are already following it.* By Mitch · the morning edition, 15 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

Cornell president defends response to Jane Doe allegations in heated faculty meeting
ABC News | MAINSTREAM | *15:07 EDT*

A Cornell faculty meeting grew heated Wednesday as university President Michael Kotlikoff faced harsh questions about the school's response to an alleged 2024 gang rape.

Cornell president faces contentious faculty senate meeting over Jane Doe allegations
NBC News | MAINSTREAM | *16:35 EDT*

Cornell University's president was met with scrutiny and sharp questions from its faculty senate on Wednesday, when the group convened to discuss a no-confidence vote over the university's handling of an alleged 2024 sexual assault at a fraternity house, according to an audio recording obtained by NBC News.

Exclusive video shows Cornell University Faculty Senate meeting
CBS News | MAINSTREAM | *16:53 EDT*

Exclusive video offers insight into Wednesday's high-stakes meeting at Cornell University.

Students Say Cornell Banning Frat Parties and Adding Investigators Insufficient
Truthout | *15:40 EDT*

"Nowhere among these measures is the institutional change that students demand," said Students for a Democratic Cornell.

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ICE officers shot two men with cameras off; ICE's fix lets officers keep deciding that.

By CHIP
STAFF WRITER



"ICE rejects push for automatically activated body cameras", 15 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE HILL — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. ICE rejected a federal watchdog's call to make body cameras turn on by themselves when an officer draws a weapon.

WHO GETS PAID. ICE keeps the power to decide when, or whether, a shooting by its own officers gets recorded.

WHAT SLIPS. The chance for an independent video record of every ICE shooting slips, since the officer alone still decides when the camera runs.

WHAT'S NEXT. No date is set to revisit the rejection. The fix stays off the table after two shootings in September 2026 where the cameras were off, and the GAO report naming that gap is the only check on record so far.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The Government Accountability Office's Wednesday report makes a modest ask: when an ICE officer draws a weapon, the body camera should turn on by itself. ICE's answer, filed in the same report, is no. The agency would rather the officer decide, case by case, whether the camera runs. That is a defensible system, if you assume the camera gets turned on in the first place.

In September, an ICE officer shot Wilber Rafael Garcés Pérez, a 28-year-old Venezuelan man, through the window of his car while he was working a DoorDash delivery in Austin. The officer had been issued a body camera. The officer was not wearing it. Officials said afterward they weren't sure why....

...(cont) A second officer at the scene did have a camera running, and it caught part of the shooting — part, because a camera that is off when the trigger is pulled only records whatever someone remembers to switch on afterward. Two shootings, two cities, the same missing footage both times.

These are the cameras the GAO was reviewing when it wrote its recommendation: equipment bought with historic levels of funding funneled to the immigration agency, issued to officers in the field, and, in both shootings on the public record so far, not actually on when the officer fired. Both shootings happened before the GAO's report was finished. The fix under review was built for exactly that gap — a camera that switches on by itself the moment a weapon comes out, so the decision doesn't depend on anyone remembering, or wanting, to flip the switch. ICE's review of that fix, completed this week, was to turn it down.

ICE's position is that officer discretion should stay in charge of when the camera runs. Put plainly: the discretion that already failed twice this fall, in two different shootings, in two different cities, is the discretion the agency is choosing to keep. That isn't a defense of the policy. That's a description of it.

So the rule stands exactly as it stood before either shooting: the camera comes on when an officer decides it should. In Austin, no one decided. In New York, no one decided. The recommendation written to take that decision out of anyone's hands is the one ICE just turned down.

"They're not hiding the footage — they're skipping the step where footage exists to hide. Two men get shot, two cameras stay dark, and the agency's answer to "maybe automate that" is "we like it the way it is." That's not a glitch in the system; that's the system, and it means the only account of an ICE shooting is the one ICE decides to record."
— Sal

"Officer discretion is the whole point here — you don't want a camera making tactical calls for the men and women doing this job. Automatic activation sounds intrusive until you remember all it does is turn the camera on exactly when something happens, which is — hold on, that's just what a camera's for. Forget I said that, I'll have a better line for you by Friday."
— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

~~ICE rejects push for automatically activated body cameras~~

ICE got a record $70 billion. It still won't wear a camera that turns on by itself.

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *09:32 EDT*

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) resisted a recommendation from a government watchdog to use automated body camera activation that would engage when a weapon is drawn. A Wednesday report from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) reviewed ICE's deployment of body cameras after historic levels of funding were funneled...

· ICE officer who shot man in Austin wasn't wearing his body camera *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*

· ICE officer who shot Venezuelan man wasn't wearing body camera, sources say *from the morgue, 24 Sep 2026*

· ICE officer who shot Austin man wasn't wearing body camera: Reports *from the morgue, 23 Sep 2026*

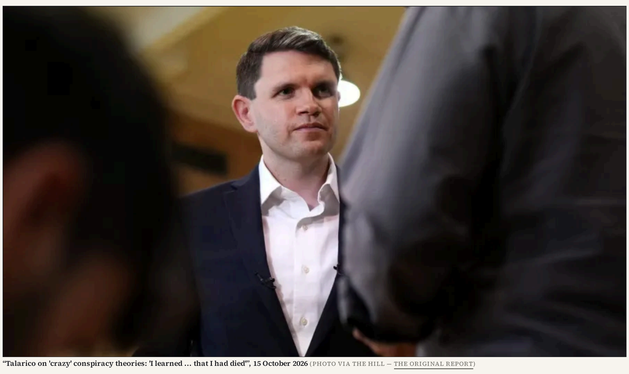
· ICE officer who shot Venezuelan man wasn't wearing body camera, sources say *from the morgue, 23 Sep 2026*

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THE LEDGER

Rumor that Talarico died collapses in hours; his record $64 million quarter doesn't.

By RUTH
THE MONEY DESK



"Talarico on 'crazy' conspiracy theories: 'I learned ... that I had died'", 15 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE HILL — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Talarico's campaign raised a record quarter the same week a rumor that he'd died collapsed.

WHO GETS PAID. Talarico's own Senate campaign, funded almost entirely by donors giving $100 or less, gains the money and the power here.

WHAT SLIPS. The press let an unverified death rumor spread across right-wing media for days before one phone call to the campaign ended it.

WHAT'S NEXT. There is no dated next step in this record yet. The one date already on the calendar is Election Day, the test both the money and the rumor were aimed at.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The campaign press release went out Wednesday with a number: $64 million in the third quarter. By Thursday every outlet from the Daily Caller to NBC News was using the word "record," because it is one — the most any Senate candidate has raised in a single quarter this cycle. The campaign's own accounting adds the detail that matters: ninety-seven cents of every dollar came in at $100 or less.

Ken Paxton, the man standing between Talarico and the seat, raised $18 million over the same three months. That is less than a third of what his opponent brought in, and it is already Paxton's high-water mark — double the $9 million he raised the quarter before. He is accelerating. He is still losing the arithmetic by a factor of more than three....

...(cont) Run the larger ledger and the quarter gets stranger. The campaign says it has raised $134 million since Talarico announced his candidacy last year. Subtract this quarter's $64 million, and the three quarters before it — the ones that built the campaign from nothing — brought in roughly $70 million combined. One quarter, by itself, came within six million dollars of matching everything the campaign had raised in all the quarters before it. The fundraising is not decelerating toward the finish; it is compounding.

Then came the other number nobody put in a press release: zero. By the weekend the rumor had an audio clip attached, allegedly an Ohio facility employee confirming a discharge. By Sunday night it had collapsed — in mere hours, the lifespan a false story gets when the only thing standing between it and the public record is a phone call to the man's own campaign, which will tell a reporter, accurately, that the candidate has the flu.

Ninety-seven percent of a record quarter came in small enough to be lunch money. The rumor built to bury it didn't survive the weekend.

FROM THE CORNER

DUTCH

TALARICO OUTRAISED KEN PAXTON THREE TO ONE ON CHECKS OF A HUNDRED DOLLARS OR LESS, AND THE SAME WEEK, AN ANONYMOUS AUDIO CLIP CLAIMING HE'D BEEN COMMITTED collapsed inside a day. That isn't a failed smear, it's a bank statement they couldn't match, dressed up as a hospital record. When the small checks outrun the money men, the only account left to drain is the candidate's own name; when that account drains dry in an afternoon, what's left on your porch Tuesday morning is the same yard sign, spelled right, still standing.

"Ninety-seven cents on the dollar from regular folks and he's still outraising the Attorney General three to one — that's not a fluke, hon, that's what happens when the con stops working on people who read their own bank statement. They couldn't kill him off at the bank, so they tried to kill him off online, and it took one phone call to prove that was garbage too. You can't out-raise small checks with a rumor that doesn't survive a weekend."
— Sal

"Look, raw dollar totals don't measure enthusiasm — Paxton's donors are quieter, more strategic, they give once and mean it. And nobody "spread" anything, people were asking legitimate questions about a candidate who vanished for nine days, that's accountability — okay, it was an anonymous audio clip about a mental health facility, that's not really accountability, that's — did I say accountability? Forget I said that."
— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

'Talarico on 'crazy' conspiracy theories: 'I learned ... that I had died'
The Hill | MAINSTREAM | *09:15 EDT*

Texas Senate candidate James Talarico (D) on Wednesday responded to the "crazy" conspiracy theories that circulated during his time away from the campaign trail with the flu, saying he learned of one rumor "that I had died." CNN's Erin Burnett asked Talarico about the theories during a town hall event, asking if the flu was...

~~Anatomy of a lie: James Talarico got the flu – sending rightwing midterm misinformation machine into overdrive~~

Trump turned a Senate candidate's 9-day absence into a conspiracy theory
The Guardian | MAINSTREAM | *06:00 EDT*

Claims that James Talarico suffered a mental health crisis spread across rightwing media, offering a warning about disinformation ahead of the US midterm election Where is James Talarico? The question ricocheted around rightwing echo chambers before metastasising into a conspiracy theory – and a reminder of the persistent danger of...

James Talarico touts record fundraising haul in Texas Senate race
NBC News | MAINSTREAM | *09:24 EDT*

Texas Democratic Senate hopeful James Talarico's campaign says it raised $64 million in the third quarter of 2026, a staggering haul that would set a new record.

Talarico announces record-breaking $64 million fundraising haul
CBS News | MAINSTREAM | *10:33 EDT*

The Talarico campaign said that brings his total fundraising to $134 million since he announced his candidacy last year.

Editor Daily Rundown: James Talarico Plays Dumb At CNN Town Hall
Daily Caller | RIGHT | *09:09 EDT*

'The bill is about our elections, right?'

~~'To End Billionaire Control Over Our Politics,' 97% of Talarico Historic Fundraising Arrives as Donations of $100 or Less~~

Musk bankrolls his opponent's money machine. 97% of Talarico's record haul came in $100 checks.
Common Dreams | *10:13 EDT*

James Talarico, the Democratic candidate for US Senate in Texas, says that his near record-breaking fundraising haul in the third quarter—one built almost entirely on small-dollar donations—is proof that grassroots energy is on his side as he faces off against the full weight of the Republican Party's money machine, including the world's...

Conspiracies mount after Texas Senate Democratic candidate James Talarico's absence for nine days due to 'nasty case of the flu'
New York Post | RIGHT | *17:26 EDT*

Senate Democratic candidate James Talarico is clearing up the timeline of his "nasty" flu diagnosis after missing more than a week of in-person campaigning in the critical Texas Senate race and sparking widespread online speculation.

~~Right-Wing Smear Campaign Against James Talarico Collapses in Mere Hours~~

MAGA influencers Sortor and Amacher fabricated Talarico's fake hospital-discharge audio
Common Dreams | *10:08 EDT*

A right-wing smear campaign against Texas Democratic US Senate candidate James Talarico fell apart in mere hours on Sunday. On Sunday afternoon, MAGA influencers Nick Sortor and Rhein Amacher posted a 45-second audio recording on social media that they claimed was of an employee at an Ohio mental health center stating that Talarico had...

But: Democrats are running an average of 11.5 points ahead of their 2024 baseline across 2026 special elections *MultiState Elections, 2026 special election tracking*

James Talarico Raises More In Third Quarter Than Any Senate Candidate In History
Daily Caller | RIGHT | *09:55 EDT*

Talarico raised record-breaking amounts of money

· Paxton raises $18M in third quarter *from the morgue, 5 Oct 2026*

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

Republicans lose the same Missouri map ruling three times, propose changing how the judges are chosen

By **MORT**
THE RECORDS BUREAU

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Missouri Republicans have proposed changing how the state's top judges are selected, after courts repeatedly blocked their congressional map.

WHO GETS PAID. Missouri Republicans, who keep a map drawn to favor them if the next court to hear it lets it stand.

WHAT SLIPS. The court that blocked the map would be filled through a process written by the side that lost in it.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the change passes, the next map case is heard by judges the legislature helped choose. Missouri already ran on conflicting orders once: on September 8 a federal judge allowed the new map for now, hours after the U.S. Supreme Court left the order for the old map in place.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The Missouri Legislature enacted a congressional map in 2022. In 2025 it enacted a new one. That recitation is not mine. It is the U.S. Supreme Court's own, set down unsigned and flat this September, the way a clerk reads a ledger aloud at a wake.

The state's highest court had directed Missouri to use the older map. In September the U.S. Supreme Court left that order in place. Hours later, on September 8, a federal judge ruled that Missouri should use the new map, the one that favors Republicans, for now. One state, two maps, three courts, one afternoon, and two instructions a county clerk could not follow at the same time....

...(cont) On September 25 the Court ruled against the new map again — the third knockdown, by Common Dreams' count. It was not a Court in a mood to refuse anybody that Friday. The same day, it greenlit the administration's voter purge database.

Then this morning's wire, from ProPublica: frustrated by losses in the courts, Missouri Republicans want to change how the state's top judges are selected.

So we gather. Died this week in Jefferson City, after three short illnesses, the practice of answering a court loss by going back to the drawing table. It was born in the plainest arithmetic there is: you lose, you read the opinion, you fix the part the opinion says is broken, you file again. It was a dull little habit. It kept the fight about the map.

Filing again is what it had already done twice. Instead the subject changed, from what the judges held to how the judges arrive. There is no scandal in that, and no mystery; it is a proposal, which is to say paperwork, and paperwork is how most of this shit actually gets done. We are told the courts are a check on the mapmakers. This week the mapmakers took an interest in the staffing.

It was preceded in death by the assumption that a party out of arguments runs out of moves. It leaves behind every voter in Missouri whose district number now depends less on a pen than on a personnel process.

In lieu of flowers, find out this week how the judges in your own state are chosen, and say the answer out loud to somebody who does not know it yet.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

MISSOURI'S HIGHEST COURT DIRECTED THE STATE TO USE THE OLDER CONGRESSIONAL MAP, THE U.S. SUPREME COURT LEFT THAT ORDER IN PLACE IN SEPTEMBER, AND ON SEPTEMBER 25 it ruled against the new map a third time. That isn't court reform, it's a legislature applying for the job of choosing the judges who rule on its own maps. Change who picks the judges and you change who hears the next map case, change who hears the map case and you change which district your street sits in, and the next thing with your name on it is the voter registration card in your wallet, printed with a district the legislature chose for you.

"They lost this map fight three times, and the last time the same Court that told them no on the map said yes to a voter purge database the same day — so it isn't like the thing is rigged against them. When you lose three hands straight and your next idea is picking the dealer, you've stopped playing cards. And the pot here is which congressman your street gets handed for the next ten years."
— Sal

"Judicial selection reform has been on the table in Missouri for years, this has nothing to do with the map — did I say the map? That doesn't sound like me. Look, a federal judge said use the new map, a state court said use the old one, so clearly the system is a mess, and fixing a mess is not the same as losing, which we didn't."
— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *Republicans ask Supreme Court for cheaper campaign ads, get cheaper campaign ads, ask again, get them again* By Ruth · the afternoon edition, 14 October 2026
— *Trump empanels a committee to fire a Fed governor the Supreme Court already said he couldn't fire.* By Ruth · the evening edition, 14 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

~~Frustrated by Losses in the Courts, Missouri Republicans Want to Change How Top Judges Are Selected~~

After losing in court, Missouri Republicans want to pick the judges themselves

ProPublica § *05:00 EDT*

The post Frustrated by Losses in the Courts, Missouri Republicans Want to Change How Top Judges Are Selected appeared first on ProPublica .

· In Win for Missouri Voters, Supreme Court Smacks Down GOP's Rigged Map a Third Time *from the morgue, 25 Sep 2026*

· Federal judge backs Missouri's new House map after Supreme Court rebuffs case *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

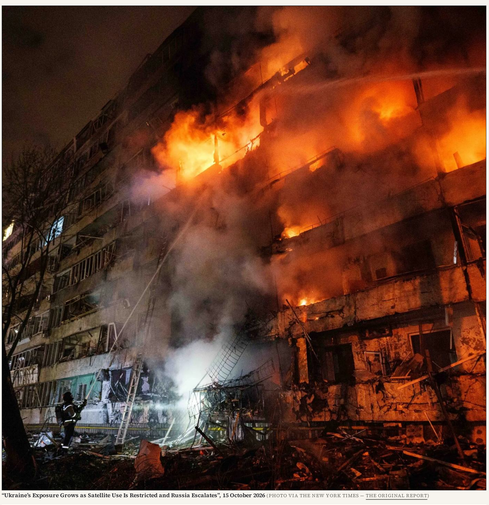
· Federal judge backs Missouri's new House map after Supreme Court rebuffs case *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*

· Federal judge backs Missouri's new House map after Supreme Court rebuffs case *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*

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Contractor who holds Ukraine's battlefield internet offers three explanations for the slowdown, lands on replacing Ukraine's president

By STERLING
THE OWNERSHIP DESK



"Ukraine's Exposure Grows as Satellite Use Is Restricted and Russia Escalates", 15 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE NEW YORK TIMES — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. The contractor who runs Ukraine's battlefield internet gave three explanations for slowing it, then said Ukraine's president should go.

WHO GETS PAID. SpaceX keeps the contract either way; the White House gains leverage over Ukraine's strikes on Russian refineries, which Trump links to diesel prices.

WHAT SLIPS. Whether Ukrainian troops get warning of incoming missiles now rests with a company and a decision no one will sign.

WHAT'S NEXT. If diesel prices keep setting policy, export limits come next; the president backed restricting diesel exports on 22 September 2026 — about 40 percent of what Americans burn.

You are looking for the lie among the three. There is none. Tuesday, with Russian missiles inbound, Ukraine's Starlink missile tracker failed, and Musk said any restriction on Starshield would come from the United States government. Wednesday he said Zelensky should "go". Today Ukraine reports access improved and the speed ceiling still disrupting its "missions" — a ceiling, do note, not a cut. The terminals belong to others. The Pentagon funds them, SpaceX manages them, and what Ukraine has is the use of another party's property at sufferance, which is possession the owner has not yet troubled to end. Someone will say the throttle has been explained. It has been ... attributed. Three times, differently, by the one man at the switch. Washington has threatened to stop passing air-strike warnings if Ukraine keeps striking Russian refineries, which Trump blames for diesel prices. Six dead in Kyiv. Six hundred thousand in the dark.

> The well, the neighbour keeps. A man drinks when the lid comes off.
>
> — ENOCH
> *The Ownership Desk*

> "First the switch isn't his, then it's Trump's, then the fix is a brand-new president in Kyiv — that's not a man who's confused, that's a man showing you what his contract lets him do. Ukraine rents its air-raid warning from a company, and the rent gets revieved when Washington doesn't like which refinery got hit. Six people are dead and 600,000 were sitting in the dark while we argued about the price of diesel."
>
> — *Sal*

> "Nobody throttled anything — the government owns Starshield, he said so himself, it's on the record, so going after SpaceX here is just absurd. Did I say nobody? I said the government controls it, which is a completely different point, obviously. And look, if Kyiv wants the warnings to keep coming, maybe stop hitting refineries; that's not a threat, that's — that's just how allies talk."
>
> — *Chip*

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Musk says Ukraine's battlefield internet throttle is not his, is asked by senator to please unthrottle it* By Sterling · the afternoon edition, 14 October 2026
- *The contractor planning the Pentagon's future of warfare imposes a 100 mph speed limit on Ukraine's air defense* By Sterling · the morning edition, 14 October 2026
- *Pentagon breach headline reads "over 3 million," the story beneath it still counts 2.76 million.* By Mitch · the evening edition, 13 October 2026
- *Record $276 million donation and $400 million Republican edge clear every campaign finance rule on the books* By Sterling · the afternoon edition, 12 October 2026
- *Coalition invokes decades-old ownership limit to stop consolidation; FCC repeals the limit, 2-1* By The Wrecking Crew · the afternoon edition, 10 October 2026
- *FCC repeals media ownership limits 2-1 while ABC quietly thins the report on Pentagon contracts for Trump's sons.* By The Wrecking Crew · the morning edition, 10 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

Ukraine's Exposure Grows as Satellite Use Is Restricted and Russia Escalates
The New York Times | MAINSTREAM | 05:06 EDT
A huge attack cut power to 600,000 people in Kyiv, and a Pentagon-funded satellite internet program appeared to be curbed without warning.

Musk says US government may be behind slowdown of Ukraine drone speeds
BBC News | MAINSTREAM | 00:30 EDT
Ukraine says Starlink access has improved but it is still facing speed limits which are disrupting its battlefield "missions".

> *But:* Trump promised he'd settle the Ukraine war within 24 hours of taking office — CNN counted 53 separate times he said it *CNN fact check, 28 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*
> Washington limits its support to Kyiv amidst increased Russian attacks on energy infrastructure
> *Le Monde* | MAINSTREAM | 04:58 EDT
> Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said he felt 'betrayed,' as the US is threatening to halt intelligence sharing and new restrictions on the Starlink satellite network hamper the country's defense capacities.

Elon Musk points to Trump for Starshield throttling in Ukraine that Zelensky warns will cost lives
New York Post | RIGHT | 19:06 EDT
Tech titan Elon Musk indicated the Trump administration, not SpaceX, caused the throttling of a military version of Starlink in Ukraine that set off panic in the war-torn country.

> ~~Bids may have withheld warnings to Ukraine on deadly Kyiv strikes~~
> *Trump administration may have withheld warnings before a strike that killed 6, cut power to 600,000: sources*
> CBS News | MAINSTREAM | 19:56 EDT
> The Trump administration may have withheld intelligence warnings to Ukraine about Russian strikes that killed 6 and cut power to 600,000 people, sources say.

U.S. Continues to Provide Intelligence to Ukraine, Officials Say
The New York Times | MAINSTREAM | 19:11 EDT
Confusion about the U.S. stance has mounted in Kyiv amid restrictions on how the military version of Starlink is used.

> ~~Ukrainian officials accuse U.S. of withholding intelligence, leading to Russian missile attack~~
> *The U.S. threatened to stop warning Ukraine about Russian strikes — Trump says the strikes raise gas prices.*
> CBS News | MAINSTREAM | 19:55 EDT
> Ukrainian officials suspect the U.S. has been withholding information about incoming Russian air strikes. The U.S.

> ~~Musk says Zelensky should 'go' as doubts grow over US support for Ukraine~~
> *Ukraine's battlefield satellites belong to one company. Musk says blame Washington for any cutoff.*
> France 24 | MAINSTREAM | 16:19 EDT
> SpaceX CEO Elon Musk on Wednesday called on Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to "go" after Kyiv raised doubts over US support for his country against the Russian invasion. A day earlier, Musk said any restrictions on Ukraine's use of the Starshield system would be due to decisions made by the US government after Zelensky called on...

> *But:* Trump promised he'd end the war within 24 hours of meeting Putin and Zelensky — CNN counted 53 separate occasions he made that promise *CNN fact check, 28 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*
> Ukraine faces loss of key satellite support amid tensions between Trump and Zelenskyy
> *ABC News* | MAINSTREAM | 22:36 EDT
> Trump declared a ceasefire, but both sides are still shooting.

Ukraine reports Starlink missile tracker shut down as Russia launched new air strikes
CBS News | MAINSTREAM | 19:39 EDT
Ukrainian officials tell CBS News that the Starlink missile tracker owned by Elon Musk failed amid a new wave of Russian strikes on Tuesday. CBS News' Charlie D'Agata has the details.

Zelenskyy vows to retaliate if Russian strikes on Ukraine's power grid continue
The Guardian | MAINSTREAM | 12:10 EDT
Ukrainian leader says he was surprised by Trump's 'energy ceasefire' announcement, posted as Russian drones hit Kyiv Volodymyr Zelenskyy has vowed to respond to Russia's continuing attacks on the Ukrainian power grid as European leaders rally around Kyiv amid a feud with Donald Trump over Ukraine's strikes on oil refineries. Speaking to...

· Facebook and Instagram starts to allow users in Eastern Europe, the Baltics, and the Caucasus to promote violence against Russians and Russian soldiers in the context of the war in Ukraine, which is n *from the morgue, 10 Mar 2022*

· A missile strike kills two people in the village of Przewodów in eastern Poland. President of the United States Joe Biden says that the missile blast in Poland was caused by a Ukrainian air defense mi *from the morgue, 15 Nov 2022*

· Russia launches dozens of ballistic missiles at Ukrainian cities for a second consecutive day with reports of power outages in Kharkiv after critical infrastructure was damaged. At least eight missile *from the morgue, 22 Mar 2024*

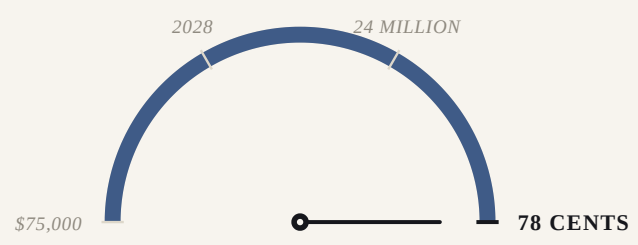
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§62 — 15 OCTOBER 2026

On Social Security

BY LOU
The Word

DEMOCRAT



78 CENTS

What they add up to. The deduction is not an exemption: it phases out above $75,000 of income for a single filer and $150,000 for a couple, and it ends after 2028 [1]. The Joint Committee on Taxation estimates that about 24 million people will still owe tax on their benefits [2]. The agency that pays them is down about 7,000 employees, to a workforce near 50,000, its smallest in decades [3].

And the number underneath all of it. The 2026 Trustees Report projects the retirement trust fund depleted in the fourth quarter of 2032, after which 78 percent of scheduled benefits would be payable; the combined funds last to the third quarter of 2034 [4]. The promise was not to hurt anybody on Social Security. Under current law, from 2032, the arithmetic takes 22 cents of every dollar.

SOURCES

1. The senior deduction phases out above $75,000 ($150,000 joint) and applies for 2025 through 2028 — Internal Revenue Service ↑
2. About 24 million people would still owe tax on their benefits, per the Joint Committee on Taxation — PBS NewsHour, 2 July 2025 ↑
3. About 7,000 staff cut; a workforce near 50,000, the lowest in decades — Federal News Network, 10 June 2026 ↑
4. OASI trust fund depleted in the fourth quarter of 2032, with 78 percent of benefits payable; combined funds to the third quarter of 2034 — National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, analysis of the 2026 Trustees Report, June 2026 ↑

REPUBLICAN



NO TAX ON SOCIAL SECURITY

The promise came in two parts. The tax: "Seniors should not pay tax on Social Security," posted in July 2024; last summer he said the bill delivered "no tax on Social Security" [1]. The program: "One thing I said and I gave my word — we're not going to hurt anybody on Medicaid, Medicare or Social Security" [2].

There are receipts on this side. The law created an extra $6,000 deduction for each person 65 and older, for 2025 through 2028, open to people who do not itemize [3]. And the agency, after cutting staff, says its phones got faster: average waits down 89 percent, from 42 minutes to under five, with more than 2,000 employees moved to the phone lines [4]. A bigger deduction and a shorter hold are things a retiree can feel. What they add up to is on the other side.

SOURCES

1. "Seniors should not pay tax on Social Security" (31 July 2024); "no tax on Social Security" (29 June 2025), rated Mostly False — PolitiFact, 30 June 2025 ↑
2. "One thing I said and I gave my word — we're not going to hurt anybody on Medicaid, Medicare or Social Security" — ABC News, 27 August 2025 ↑
3. An additional $6,000 deduction per person 65 or older for 2025 through 2028, phasing out above $75,000 ($150,000 joint) — Internal Revenue Service ↑
4. About 7,000 staff cut, a workforce near 50,000; more than 2,000 moved to phones; average phone waits down 89 percent, from 42 minutes to under 5, per the agency — Federal News Network, 10 June 2026 ↑

“My sister-in-law turned sixty-five this year, so she's the expert in our house now. She got the new deduction, six thousand dollars — but only through 2028, and it shrinks once you're over seventy-five thousand. And the tax people in Congress say about twenty-four million people will still pay tax on their benefits anyway. Then she showed me the trustees' report. The retirement fund runs out in the last part of 2032, and after that it pays seventy-eight percent. Excuse me, I forgot my hat. The deduction ends after 2028, and the fund after 2032. Which of those two was the one he promised nobody would hurt?” — Lou



“"No tax on Social Security." What passed was a six-thousand-dollar deduction for people over sixty-five, phasing out above seventy-five grand, gone after 2028 — and about twenty-four million people still owe tax on their benefits. That's not no tax. That's a coupon. And the retirement trust fund runs dry in the last quarter of 2032, when the check drops to seventy-eight cents on the dollar. He promised not to touch it. Under current law, the arithmetic touches it for him.”

— Sal



“The deduction means no tax on Social Security for everyone who wasn't paying tax on Social Security, and for the twenty-four million who still are, it's no tax on Social Security in spirit, which is the more important place to have no tax.”

— Chip

The Word today — 👍 👎