The Single-Column Edition

FROM § EACH

THURSDAY, 15 OCTOBER 2026 — THE MORNING EDITION — FREE, FOREVER

Retired US generals call Pentagon's planned execution livestream barbaric; inside the defense secretary's church, it's a biblical mandate.

BY THE LODGERS
The Euro Desk

Today we are making a livestreamed execution, which has no name over here because this is not done anymore, so I shall go carefully. You will need one convicted man, one camera, and a secretary of war who has already chosen a word for it.

The man is Nidal Hasan, the former Army psychiatrist convicted of killing 13 people in the 2009 mass shooting at Fort Hood. The execution is set for the military base on December 3, the first US military execution in more than 65 years. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said on Thursday it would be public; the Pentagon later called it livestreamed.

Clive *Public. I read my stanza aloud in the kitchen on Tuesdays, which is the only broadcast this house has ever licensed.*

Gary *Licensed. Three people heard it last Tuesday, and two left before the rhyme, which is the ratings Clive won't print.*

The same day, the United Nations' human rights office said the livestreaming "is tantamount to a public execution" and breaches "the absolute prohibition of torture," and a Republican senator told the Washington Examiner it

... Continued on Page A213

THE WORD

§61 — 14 OCTOBER 2026

On the most beautiful word

DEMOCRAT

$1,100

REPUBLICAN

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WORD

"I brought the receipts, because that's what the word is, really, a receipt. Last fiscal year, a hundred ninety-five billion in customs duties, up from seventy-seven. That's the part in the speeches. Then the Fed's economists: nearly ninety percent of the burden fell on American firms and consumers. Then February, the Court. Then July: twenty-six billion collected, thirty-six billion paid back. Sorry, I'm going, I'm going — if the word is so beautiful, why did the government spend July returning it?" — Lou

... Continued on Page W61

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 state, two maps, three courts, one afternoon, and two instructions a county clerk could not follow at the same time.

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

... Continued on Page B41

Inflation prints 3.7%, gas up 9% in a month; president reports very little inflation

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

The September consumer price report landed Tuesday: prices up 3.7 percent over the year, higher than expected, with the heavy lifting done by gasoline, up 9 percent in a single month. That is page one of the file. Page two arrived Wednesday in Kalispell, Montana, where the president told a rally, "We have very little inflation." NBC spoke with people who had driven to that rally to hear it. They said they feel the pinch.

So we reconcile. The difference between 3.7 percent and "very little" is not a rounding convention or a seasonal adjustment. It is two different accounts of the same month, filed by the same government, one of them typed up by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and one of them delivered standing up.

The public has already filed a third. A Harris poll for the Guardian, out the same day, finds 61 percent believe the country is in a recession and 65 percent of independents say the economy is worse; three-quarters are worried about a recession arriving. The Guardian notes, correctly, that by the standard definition the country is not in one. Nobody at the pump is reading the standard definition. They are reading the sign, and the sign moved 9 percent

... Continued on Page F119

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 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.

... Continued on Page A213

Trump's Russian diesel deal paused the war five days, longer than any Senate hopeful will defend it.

BY CHIP
Staff Writer

Start before the deal, because the pushback did too. In September, Representatives Joe Wilson and Keith Self asked the administration to put sanctions back on a Russian-owned refinery in Serbia — a different refinery, the same complaint: Russian fuel keeps finding a market no matter which hand is on the valve. On October 1, Ukraine was still hitting refineries inside Russia itself, and the White House was already blaming those strikes, not the war in Iran analysts also cited, for the diesel prices climbing into the midterms.

On October 10 the trade got made. Sanctions on Russian diesel came off, the strikes were supposed to stop, and the president told Zelensky, in public, to find a new president if the arrangement bothered him that much.

On October 11, members from both parties told the president to "immediately reverse course" on a deal they described as 800,000 tons of Russian diesel over two months. He did not reverse course. On October 12 the president called his own party's skeptics people who "can't be serious," and the number in public use had already grown: nearly five million tons of Russian

... Continued on Page A213

Her debut briefing panned as stilted, the press secretary calls confusion over her law license "one big misunderstanding."

BY LOU
One More Question

Here's a question I already know the answer to: how many states has the new White House press secretary passed a bar exam in. Give me a second, I like to check myself even when I already know, that's just something about how I was raised. Here it is — BBC News, Wednesday: she "does not appear to be registered to the legal bar in any state where she has lived." Zero. I'm only going to say that number once, so file it where you need to.

Let me back up, because none of this starts on a Wednesday.

October 9th, the Guardian, the same story run twice that day: the president announces he's picked a conservative commentator for press secretary, calls her a "devoted fan," and she's in to replace Karoline Leavitt, who left at the end of August after having her second child. Same day, the Washington Examiner has the rest of it — she's forty-one, she came out of the press shop at the Department of Homeland Security, she lasted a matter of weeks there before leaving abruptly, and the people who worked with her at DHS say the pick caught them off guard too.

Tuesday the 14th, she gives her first briefing. CBS brings on two strategists

... Continued on Page A213

A dozen subpoenas and a seized phone later, the president says he had nothing to do with it.

BY LOU
One More Question

Did the President have anything to do with the investigation into Congresswoman Omar? I think I already know this one. Give me a second — I wrote it down the day he said it, because it seemed like the kind of thing a man says only once. Here it is. Monday afternoon, a reporter asked him straight, and he told them the investigation into the congresswoman has "nothing to do with" him. That's a direct quote. I underlined it.

Okay. Now what day was that?

I'm out in the garage when I start working this one through, because the car's acting up again — turns over three times before it catches — and I've got the hood up, and I'm thinking about days of the week the way you think about things when your hands are busy and your head isn't. Monday. That's the day he said it. So I go sit in the driver's seat a minute, just to get the order straight, because order is the whole thing here.

Monday morning, before the President says a word to anybody, federal agents in HSI jackets are already at Congresswoman Omar's house in Washington. They've got a warrant. They take her phone. I wrote this down

... Continued on Page T27

New York Times prints the university crisis playbook; Cornell and Chicago are already following it.

BY MITCH
Investigations

I read two stories filed under the same byline's logic this week: one explaining, step by step, how a university in trouble manages a crisis, the other showing a university in trouble managing one exactly that way. The paper invited its readers to notice the overlap. I didn't need the invitation. Cornell did the noticing for me.

The how-to piece names the moves a school under scrutiny tends to make: add rules, hire an outside investigator, and, sometimes, change the leadership. All together now — step one. On Tuesday, Cornell's president, Michael Kotlikoff, announced a ban on fraternity parties. Step two: on October 6, the university's trustees had already announced that Sally Yates, a former deputy attorney general, would review how Cornell handles misconduct complaints. All together now — step three: a resolution of no confidence, introduced by the Faculty Senate on October 6, was still waiting for its vote, the same day faculty members stood at a public meeting and told the president, politely, that a fraternity ban two years late does not return anyone's two years.

The two years matter. The lawsuit behind all of it says a Cornell student

... Continued on Page A213

> "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

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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Inflation prints 3.7%, gas up 9% in a month; president reports very little inflation

By RUTH
THE MONEY DESK



“Key US voters say economy is getting worse ahead of midterms, exclusive poll finds”, 15 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE GUARDIAN — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. The president told a Montana rally the country has very little inflation, the day the government's inflation report said otherwise.

WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no buyer yet.

WHAT SLIPS. The government's own price report stops being the government's answer, so voters are left checking inflation against their own gas receipts.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the podium number keeps outranking the printout, the next official figure comes with no itemized backup at all; that is what Washington got on 24 November 2025, when the efficiency office closed claiming $214 billion saved while outside tallies found roughly $1.4 billion to $7 billion. The midterms are less than three weeks out.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The September consumer price report landed Tuesday: prices up 3.7 percent over the year, higher than expected, with the heavy lifting done by gasoline, up 9 percent in a single month. That is page one of the file. Page two arrived Wednesday in Kalispell, Montana, where the president told a rally, "We have very little inflation." NBC spoke with people who had driven to that rally to hear it. They said they feel the pinch.

So we reconcile. The difference between 3.7 percent and "very little" is not a rounding convention or a seasonal adjustment. It is two different accounts of the same month, filed by the same government, one of them typed up by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and one of them delivered standing up....

...(cont) The public has already filed a third. A Harris poll for the Guardian, out the same day, finds 61 percent believe the country is in a recession and 65 percent of independents say the economy is worse; three-quarters are worried about a recession arriving. The Guardian notes, correctly, that by the standard definition the country is not in one. Nobody at the pump is reading the standard definition. They are reading the sign, and the sign moved 9 percent in thirty days.

This is not a mood that showed up with the CPI release. On 21 September, an NBC poll had 55 percent saying the administration's policies made economic conditions worse against 26 percent saying better. On 23 September, rural approval was reported slipping on the cost of living, which is the column that was supposed to be load-bearing. On 28 September, food bank directors described demand up and shipping costs up, which they tied to higher energy costs from the Iran war and to cuts in food assistance. Food banks keep a ledger too, hon, and theirs is in cases, not percentages.

The approval numbers are the same reconciliation in another currency. Reuters/Ipsos had 32 percent on 5 October and 32 percent again on 6 October, a record low that did not move. Wednesday's Fox News poll put overall approval at 36 percent and disapproval at 64 — also a record low across both terms, and that one is Fox.

Four surveys, one price index, one speech. Five of the six agree. The administration's position is that the sixth is the accurate one, and that the gasoline receipt in your glovebox is a misunderstanding of very little.

“The man says "very little inflation" on the same day the government he runs says 3.7 percent and gas jumped nine points in a month — he's not arguing with the Guardian, he's arguing with his own Bureau of Labor Statistics. And the folks who drove to Kalispell to cheer told a reporter in the parking lot that they feel it, because a tank of gas doesn't care who you voted for. When the official number and the podium number stop matching, the only ledger left is the one in your glovebox, and the food banks already know how that one reads.”

— Sal

“Look, 3.7 is a backward-looking number, it's one month, it's gas — strip out gas and you're basically talking about very little inflation, which is, I believe, exactly what he said. Did I say strip out gas? That doesn't sound like me, gas is important, obviously. And the 61 percent recession thing? The Guardian itself admits we're not in a recession, so what you've got there is a vibes problem, not an economy problem, and you can't poll your way out of a vibes problem three weeks before an election.”

— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

> ~~Trump insists inflation is low as CPI report shows a 3.7% increase~~
>
> *Gas prices jumped 9% in a month. Trump says inflation is low.*
>
> *CBS News* MAINSTREAM § *19:49 EDT*
>
> President Trump hunted for silver linings in the higher-than-expected September inflation numbers. The surge in prices was fueled by a 9% month-over-month jump in gas prices. Nancy Cordes reports.

Key US voters say economy is getting worse ahead of midterms, exclusive poll finds

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *05:00 EDT*

Nearly 61% believe country is in recession and 65% of independents say economy is worse, according to new Harris poll Send us your questions on how the US economy is shaping the midterm elections With the midterm elections less than three weeks away, key voting groups including independents, rural voters and even some Republicans are...

Trump’s approval rating hits record low in Fox News poll

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *23:01 EDT*

President Trump’s overall approval rating hit a record low for either of his terms, according to a new Fox News survey amid growing voter dissatisfaction with his handling of key issues. The Fox News poll found 36 percent of respondents approved of Trump’s overall handling of the presidency, while 64 percent disapproved. The decline...

> ~~Trump touts booming economy at Montana rally, but supporters feel the pinch~~
>
> *Inflation rose 3.7% this year. Trump: 'We have very little inflation.'*
>
> *NBC News* MAINSTREAM § *01:20 EDT*
>
> KALISPELL, Mont. — On a day when the U.S. inflation rate was shown to have climbed 3.7% over the past year, President Donald Trump said at a rally in Montana on Wednesday, “We have very little inflation.”

· Majority of voters say Trump’s policies worsened the economy: Poll *from the morgue, 21 Sep 2026*

· Trump approval ratings plummet to new low, polls show *from the morgue, 5 Oct 2026*

· Trump approval rating mired at record low: Poll *from the morgue, 6 Oct 2026*

· Economic frustrations chip away at Trump's rural support *from the morgue, 23 Sep 2026*

· US Food Banks Under Strain as Trump Policies Drive Up Costs *from the morgue, 28 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 reviewed 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, 12 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, 25 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.

> ~~U.S. 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, 25 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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Trump's Russian diesel deal paused the war five days, longer than any Senate hopeful will defend it.

By CHIP
STAFF WRITER

"Trump calls for Ukraine to replace Zelenskyy after clash over Russia diesel deal: 'Get a new president'", 10 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA FOX NEWS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Start before the deal, because the pushback did too. In September, Representatives Joe Wilson and Keith Self asked the administration to put sanctions back on a Russian-owned refinery in Serbia — a different refinery, the same complaint: Russian fuel keeps finding a market no matter which hand is on the valve. On October 1, Ukraine was still hitting refineries inside Russia itself, and the White House was already blaming those strikes, not the war in Iran analysts also cited, for the diesel prices climbing into the midterms.

On October 10 the trade got made. Sanctions on Russian diesel came off, the strikes were supposed to stop, and the president told Zelensky, in public, to find a new president if the arrangement bothered him that much....

...(cont) On October 11, members from both parties told the president to "immediately reverse course" on a deal they described as 800,000 tons of Russian diesel over two months. He did not reverse course. On October 12 the president called his own party's skeptics people who "can't be serious," and the number in public use had already grown: nearly five million tons of Russian diesel in total, 300,000 of it promised "in the immediate future" — a separate figure, from a separate day, that the two camps have not reconciled in public. Call the gap between those numbers leverage, which is the word for it, or call it — no. Call it what the invoice will call it eventually.

Five days is what the pause actually bought. From the sanctions relief on October 10 to the refinery strikes resuming on October 15, that is the whole life span of the ceasefire this deal was supposed to buy. Zelensky called the American pullback of support "dangerous" and said of the pause, "we're done." He is done pausing.

The same day, the Washington Examiner went looking for the Republican Senate candidates in the thirteen most contested races to ask what they made of the deal that caused it. On this one, the paper could not put a name to a single candidate on the record, for it or against it. I was going to call that restraint. It is restraint, the kind campaigns practice before a primary — a season this deal's own five-day shelf life did not survive, and neither, it turns out, will my sentence.

"Six senators, both parties, told him to reverse course and he waved them off as not serious; five days later the war he said this fixed was back on. The candidates who'd normally run ads bragging about a deal like this can't say the word diesel out loud three weeks before an election. The price went up, the war didn't stop, and the people whose names are on a ballot are the ones holding still."

— *Sal*

"The president secured a diesel supply when allies were scrambling, and senators grandstanding about tonnage doesn't change the delivery math. Sure, the strikes started back up, but that's Kyiv's call, not a failure of the deal — wait, the entire premise of the deal was that the strikes would stop, so that is actually a failure of the — did I say premise? Scratch that. I meant optics."

— *Chip*

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Deal meant to cut pump prices promotes refineries from liabilities to goldmines* By Ruth · the morning edition, 14 October 2026
- *Trump's Russian diesel deal ruled too small, too late for the midterms, by his own party's newspaper.* By Ruth · the evening edition, 13 October 2026
- *DOJ tells judge who called it 'beyond the pale' that nearly 300 more trees are already marked.* By Mort · the evening edition, 12 October 2026
- *Six strikes into his energy ceasefire, Trump buys Russian diesel anyway and calls it the right choice.* By Ruth · the evening edition, 12 October 2026
- *Trump declares immediate energy ceasefire, Russia hits Ukraine's power plants within hours.* By Ruth · the afternoon edition, 12 October 2026
- *White House says self-ads were already scheduled to end, a court just ordered them canceled anyway.* By Ruth · the afternoon edition, 12 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

But: 'I'll meet with Putin. I'll meet with Zelensky... And within 24 hours, that war will be settled' - Trump, CNN town hall, 10 May 2023. CNN counted 53 separate occasions he promised it. *CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*

Trump calls for Ukraine to replace Zelenskyy after clash over Russia diesel deal: 'Get a new president'

Fox News RIGHT 15:54 EDT

President Donald Trump demanded Volodymyr Zelenskyy stop striking Russian oil refineries, warning the attacks worsen global diesel and fuel supplies.

But: Trump promised to settle the Ukraine war with Putin within 24 hours - on 53 separate occasions *CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*

Trump says Russia will release millions of tons of diesel to help with costs

CBS News MAINSTREAM 12:08 EDT

Russian President Vladimir Putin agreed to release 300,000 tons of diesel immediately and millions more over the coming months.

But: Trump promised to settle the war within 24 hours - on 53 separate occasions, CNN counted *CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*

Trump rips into Volodymyr Zelensky — insisting it's time for Ukraine to 'get a new president'

New York Post RIGHT 16:56 EDT

President Trump ripped into Volodymyr Zelensky on Saturday telling reporters outside the White House that it's time for Ukraine to "get a new president."

But: Trump promised to personally end the Russia-Ukraine war within 24 hours - and repeated that promise on 53 separate occasions *CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*

Zelensky Says Ukraine Will Resume Russian Refinery Strikes, Defying Trump

The New York Times MAINSTREAM 06:00 EDT

President Volodymyr Zelensky made the announcement in an interview with The Financial Times. He had paused the strikes to comply with a demand from the United States.

~~Zelenskyy furious as Trump announces deal to buy Russian diesel~~

Trump funds Russia's war - the one he vowed to end in 24 hours, 53 times

The Guardian MAINSTREAM 06:09 EDT

US president says agreement needed to lower fuel prices, but move likely to create fresh crisis with Ukraine and Nato allies Donald Trump is on a fresh collision course with Volodymyr Zelenskyy and European allies after his stunning agreement to buy Russian diesel upended years of US and western pressure on the Kremlin to end its war...

But: Trump promised he'd meet Putin and Zelensky and settle the war within 24 hours — 53 separate times, CNN counted *CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*

Trump and Putin sign diesel deal, angering Ukraine and its allies

Le Monde MAINSTREAM 05:38 EDT

The US president announced Friday that Russia has committed to supplying nearly 5 million tons of diesel fuel to the United States and global markets 'within a short period of time.' The deal has sparked outrage across Europe.

~~Trump announces deal for Russian diesel as Zelensky calls it a gift to Putin~~

Diesel prices doubled since the Iran war began. Now Trump wants Putin to fix it.

BBC News MAINSTREAM 10:24 EDT

Ukraine's president sharply criticised the move, calling it an "investment in war that must be ended, not prolonged".

But: Trump promised he'd settle the Ukraine war within 24 hours of talking to Putin and Zelenskyy - he's said some version of that 53 separate times *CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*

Trump says Ukraine needs a new leader after diesel deal with Russia

The Guardian MAINSTREAM 16:42 EDT

US president suggests Ukrainian president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, has not done enough to end war Donald Trump has said Ukraine needs "a new leader", a day after making a deal with Vladimir Putin to buy large quantities of Russian diesel. The US president suggested Volodymyr Zelenskyy has not done enough to end the war with Russia and...

But: Trump promised to settle the war within 24 hours - on 53 separate occasions, CNN counted *CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*

Trump says Ukraine needs 'a new leader who can make a deal'

Washington Examiner RIGHT 13:38 EDT

President Donald Trump on Saturday called for new leadership in Ukraine, marking a dramatic shift in the United States's relationship with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. Trump has long pushed Russia and Ukraine to make a deal ending the war between the countries, which has now stretched over four-and-a-half years and appeared to...

~~Trump rips Zelensky amid Russia diesel deal feud: 'I suggest they get a new leader'~~

The White House lifted sanctions on Russian diesel. Then it blamed Zelensky for the war.

The Hill MAINSTREAM 14:26 EDT

President Trump on Saturday pushed back on criticism from Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to the White House's decision to lift sanctions on Russian diesel amid the Russia-Ukraine war. The president told reporters outside the White House that Zelensky "could have settled this war many times," but "chose not to."

Trump says GOP opponents of diesel deal 'can't be serious'

Washington Examiner RIGHT 17:54 EDT

President Donald Trump pushed back Monday on criticism from Republicans over his deal to procure Russian diesel fuel. Last week, Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin announced an agreement that would see Russia export nearly 5 million tons of diesel to the United States, including 300,000 tons in the immediate future. Trump has...

~~'We're done': Ukraine resumes strikes on Russian oil refineries as anger mounts with Trump~~

The US withdrew support 'critical' to Ukraine's defense, Zelensky says

NBC News MAINSTREAM 05:01 EDT

Ukraine has resumed strikes on Russian oil refineries as President Volodymyr Zelenskyy angrily accused the United States of the "dangerous" withdrawal of support critical to its defense against Russia.

But: Trump promised to settle the war within 24 hours - on 53 separate occasions, CNN counted *CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*

'Time for Ukraine to get new president,' says Trump after Zelensky condemns diesel deal

BBC News MAINSTREAM 21:41 EDT

Ukraine's leader had said the deal with Russia to release diesel into the US would help Moscow fund the war.

But: Trump promised to settle the war within 24 hours - CNN counted 53 separate occasions he made that promise *CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*

Rebuking Ukraine Over Oil Strikes, Trump Says It Should 'Get a New President'

The New York Times MAINSTREAM 15:28 EDT

Hours after President Trump said the United States would buy Russian diesel, the Kremlin said there would be no immediate resumption of discussions to end the war.

Ukraine will keep hitting Russian refineries - Zelensky

RTÉ MAINSTREAM 00:35 EDT

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said his country would resume hitting Russian oil refineries.

But: Trump promised 53 times he'd end the war within 24 hours *CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*

Trump says Ukraine needs new president, blames Zelenskyy for diesel prices

CBS News MAINSTREAM 21:59 EDT

President Trump's criticism of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy comes after Russian strikes killed at least 20 people, including three children, in Ukraine.

The GOP Senate candidates skirting Trump's diesel deal with Putin

Washington Examiner RIGHT 05:00 EDT

A group of Republican Senate candidates in battleground races have yet to weigh in on President Donald Trump's controversial deal for Russian diesel, even as the chorus of candidates trying to create daylight with the president grows louder by the day. Of the 13 most competitive Senate races, seven Republicans have expressed skepticism...

Six senators demand Trump 'immediately reverse course' on Russian diesel deal

Washington Examiner RIGHT 15:54 EDT

A group of Senators released a statement regarding President Donald Trump's deal with Russia to release 800,000 tons of diesel over the next two months, demanding he "immediately reverse course." Senators from both sides of the aisle signed onto the statement opposing Trump's announced deal with Russian President Vladimir Putin for...

· Ukraine persists with Russian oil refinery strikes, defying Trump on fuel price warnings *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*

· GOP Reps urge Trump to reimpose sanctions on Russian-owned Serbian refinery *from the morgue, 28 Sep 2026*

· Trump: Russia has 'lost control' of its diesel industry as prices soar *from the morgue, 21 Sep 2026*

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

· Trump calls on Ukraine to halt strikes on Russian diesel fuel *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

· Trump blames Ukraine for diesel fuel price spike, urges Zelensky to stop hitting Russian refineries *from the morgue, 13 Sep 2026*

· Trump calls out Zelensky over rising diesel prices *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Britain in talks with European allies over release of emergency diesel stockpiles amid Trump pressure *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*

· Russia's Lavrov blasts US, Western allies as "warmongers" in fiery UN tirade *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*

· Russia and China unite against US over Iran and Cuba in UN speeches *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*

· U.S. military lays groundwork for potential action around Cuba *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*

· The United Nations Security Council has resoundingly rejected a United States bid to extend a global arms embargo on Iran. In a Security Council vote, United States only got support from the Dominican *from the morgue, 14 Aug 2020*

· U.S. Threatens New Economic War on Iran by Targeting China & Tehran's Other Top Trading Partners *from the morgue, 25 Aug 2026*

· In Defiant UN Speech, Iranian President Says US and Israel Are the Real Terrorists *from the morgue, 23 Sep 2026*

· Trump slams reporting on removal of his endorsements from GOP candidate's website *from the morgue, 27 Sep 2026*

· Donalds removes several Trump mentions from campaign website *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*

· GOP hopeful removes 'Pro-Trump' mention from campaign slogan in deep-red seat *from the morgue, 23 Sep 2026*

· Where Trump's 2026 endorsement record stands after primary season *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*

· U.N. experts say U.S. may have committed war crimes with 2 Iran strikes *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*

· Trump Says 'Big Decision' Coming on Whether to 'Annihilate' Iran *from the morgue, 18 Sep 2026*

· Pentagon No. 3 frustrates senators in closed-door briefing on Iran war, Trump defense strategy *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· Senate Democrats, minus Fetterman, urge Hegseth to provide receipt for Iran war costs *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· Hegseth on "devastation" to Iran's capabilities *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Trump admits Iran war will not end before midterms *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*

· Iran War Trump Said Would Be Quick Has Now Lasted 6 Months With 'No End In Sight' *from the morgue, 28 Aug 2026*

· CBO Finds Trump's Iran War Has Already Cost Nearly $40 Billion—And That's a 'Conservative' Estimate *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Tillis supports Hegseth impeachment resolution: 'He needs to go' *from the morgue, 18 Sep 2026*

· Massie Files Impeachment Articles Against Hegseth for Illegal Iran War, Boat Murders *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Massie launches effort to impeach Hegseth *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Tillis urges Trump to fire Hegseth over 'inept management' of military *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*

· Tillis renews calls for Hegseth's firing after Driscoll's departure: 'I have never witnessed more inept management' *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*

· Farmer who voted for Trump says farmers are "all just in survival mode" *from the morgue, 18 Sep 2026*

· Farmer who voted for Trump says "I can't stay in business" amid rising costs *from the morgue, 18 Sep 2026*

· Massie says he's convinced enough Republicans to pass Epstein Files II discharge petition *from the morgue, 18 Sep 2026*

· Massie names Epstein 'coconspirators,' discusses new Epstein files legislation *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*

· Read Thomas Massie's eight impeachment charges against Pete Hegseth *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Fake Republican midterm convention site still redirects to Epstein files *from the morgue, 7 Sep 2026*

· Trump says he has a 'big decision' coming up on Iran: 'Do I want to go in and annihilate them' *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· Fox News Poll: 71% think Trump administration lacks plan to end Iran war *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· Iran recently downed at least 2 American drones, officials say *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· Big Oil Stocks Surged Due to Iran War—and New Filings Show How President Trump Cashed In *from the morgue, 27 Aug 2026*

· Live updates: Energy secretary downplays rising gas prices as US, Iran trade strikes *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*

· U.S. Strike on Iranian School May Have Been War Crime, U.N. Report Says *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· UN Inquiry Finds US Strike on Minab, Iran That Killed 123 Children Was War Crime *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· UN investigators conclude 'reasonable grounds' to believe certain US strikes in Iran were war crimes *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· UN Suspects US War Crimes in Iran *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· US Condemned for 'War Crimes' After Bombing of Wedding Party in Iran *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*

· US investigating if missile hit Iranian wedding ceremony, killing 4 *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*

· Trump says he has a 'big decision coming up' on Iran *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· White House issues explosive response to UN-backed report claiming US committed war crimes against world's No.1 sponsor of terror, Iran *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· Human rights experts: 'Reasonable grounds' to believe US committed war crimes with Iran strikes *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· US Energy Consumers Have Spent $121 Billion Extra Since Trump Launched Iran War: Moody's *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· Iran downed at least 2 American drones in recent days, U.S. officials say *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· Iran: Account of US Air Force colonel's rescue 'fictional' *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· Consumer Burden of Trump Iran War Exceeds $100 Billion as Oil Prices Pass $100 a Barrel *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*

· 'A Serious and Alarming Threat': US Bombing, Blockade Deepen Iran Medical Crisis *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*

· Consumer Confidence Hits Lowest Level in Months as US Faces 'Trump's Reckless Tariffs and War With Iran' *from the morgue, 25 Aug 2026*

· U.S. Air Force officer rescued from Iran speaks for the first time to 60 Minutes *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*

· Rep. Thomas Massie forcing vote on Pete Hegseth's impeachment *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*

· Did Johnson Just Adjourn Congress for 7 Weeks to Avoid Massie's Impeachment Articles Against Hegseth? *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*

· The Hitchhiker's Guide to Massie saying Johnson is sending the House home early to prevent Hegseth impeachment *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*

· 'You're Elected to Fight and Kill the Other Side': How Congress Lost Its Way *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*

· Army combat veteran challenging Mike Lawler calls Hegseth national security 'hazard,' backs impeachment *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*

· Former Air Force secretary says he 'couldn't serve' in Trump administration *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*

· Former Air Force secretary: Hegseth's Pentagon 'dysfunctional' *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*

· House Republicans split over leaving Washington early for campaign trail *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*

· Since 2025, Trump Made More Stock Trades Than All 535 Congress Members Combined *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*

· Fossil Fuel Advertising Contracts Hit Record High as Big Oil Pockets Billions From Iran War *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*

· 'How are we gonna get through this?' Many Americans are struggling as prices rise *from the morgue, 16 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.

Her debut briefing panned as stilted, the press secretary calls confusion over her law license "one big misunderstanding."

By LOU

ONE MORE QUESTION

"Katie Zacharia Is Trump's New Press Secretary. But Is She a Lawyer?", 15 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA THE NEW YORK TIMES — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. White House press secretary Katie Zacharia held her first televised briefing without naming a state where she passed the bar.

WHO GETS PAID. The Trump White House keeps a self-described "devoted fan" of the president at the podium, loyalty valued over verified credentials.

WHAT SLIPS. Reporters' basic fact-check function slips when a direct question about her law license gets a non-answer instead of a record.

WHAT'S NEXT. No hearing, filing or deadline is on the calendar; the credential check by the BBC, the Guardian and the Times stands unresolved as she keeps briefing from the podium.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Here's a question I already know the answer to: how many states has the new White House press secretary passed a bar exam in. Give me a second, I like to check myself even when I already know, that's just something about how I was raised. Here it is — BBC News, Wednesday: she "does not appear to be registered to the legal bar in any state where she has lived." Zero. I'm only going to say that number once, so file it where you need to.

Let me back up, because none of this starts on a Wednesday....

...(cont) October 9th, the Guardian, the same story run twice that day: the president announces he's picked a conservative commentator for press secretary, calls her a "devoted fan," and she's in to replace Karoline Leavitt, who left at the end of August after having her second child. Same day, the Washington Examiner has the rest of it — she's forty-one, she came out of the press shop at the Department of Homeland Security, she lasted a matter of weeks there before leaving abruptly, and the people who worked with her at DHS say the pick caught them off guard too.

Tuesday the 14th, she gives her first briefing. CBS brings on two strategists afterward, Sawyer Hackett and Harrison Fields, to talk about how it went — because how it went is already being called awkward and stilted. I don't have it down as their word. I have it down as "critics."

Same day, after the briefing is done, a reporter asks the follow-up — which state did she pass the bar exam in. I wrote her answer down exactly, because I didn't trust myself to get it right from memory: "when I moved to China." China is a country. I'm going to leave that sitting right there.

Wednesday, the BBC runs the line I opened with. Also Wednesday — today, the 15th — the New York Times puts the question straight in its headline: "Katie Zacharia Is Trump's New Press Secretary. But Is She a Lawyer?" Inside the piece, she tells them the confusion is the result of one big misunderstanding.

I've got a glovebox in that car of mine that needs a fan belt worse than it needs anything else in there, but there's a registration in it, and an insurance card, and if a trooper ever asked me where I'm licensed to drive, I wouldn't tell him a story about a place I moved to once. I'd open the glovebox. That's the whole use of a glovebox — it's not there to help you remember, it's there to prove it. My dog doesn't carry papers like that in the yard, but then nobody's pulled her over, either.

One answer, a country where a state was asked for. One phrase, offered today, calling the whole thing a misunderstanding.

Oh — hang on, one more thing before you go. The Times asked her straight out whether she's a lawyer. I'm not going to answer that for you. But when they asked her which state let her practice, what's the answer she gave them? Was it a state at all?

"This isn't a résumé typo, this is the government's own spokesperson who can't name a single state where she's licensed to argue a case, and when reporters finally pin her down she names a country instead, like that's an answer. She stands at that podium every day speaking for the administration's legal positions, and the only credential check she's gotten so far is from the press she's supposed to be managing. That's the con: the paper she can't produce is the paper nobody at the top ever asked her to show."

— Sal

"Look, nobody said "law license," they said "legal background," there's a real distinction there — okay, she did call herself a lawyer, I've seen the clip, but the American people don't vote on bar exams, they vote on results, and— did I just say the bar doesn't matter? That's not what I meant to say, let's move on to the next question."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Asked which state licensed her to practice law, the new press secretary answered: "when I moved to China"* By Lou · the afternoon edition, 14 October 2026
- *The US answer to three deaths at Riyadh's airport was filed days earlier: back the Saudi offensive.* By Sterling · the afternoon edition, 9 October 2026
- *Riyadh's airport struck again, called deadliest yet, same as September, same as 2018.* By Sal · the afternoon edition, 8 October 2026
- *Twenty years after Russia cut Europe's gas, Kushner is negotiating America's cut of selling it back* By Sterling · the morning edition, 8 October 2026
- *OpenAI pledges to cut election spending; the same month it fired the researchers flagging its risks.* By Ruth · the late evening edition, 5 October 2026
- *California's wildfire accountability bill dies in Sacramento, resurfaces as a lawsuit against homeowners' own insurer.* By The Wrecking Crew · the early evening edition, 5 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

Katie Zacharia Is Trump's New Press Secretary. But Is She a Lawyer?

The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *04:00 EDT*

Katie Zacharia told The New York Times that the confusion over her legal credentials was the result of one big misunderstanding.

Trump's press secretary pick Katie Zacharia comes from Noem-Lewandowski era at DHS

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *19:12 EDT*

President Donald Trump has tapped former Department of Homeland Security public affairs official Katie Zacharia as White House press secretary, a choice that caught current and former DHS officials who had worked with Zacharia off guard. Zacharia, 41, worked for several weeks earlier this year as deputy spokeswoman for the 270,000-person...

Trump says he picked 'devoted fan' Katie Zacharia to be next press secretary

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *17:39 EDT*

Zacharia will replace Karoline Leavitt, who left the role at the end of August after giving birth to her second child Donald Trump on Friday announced that he had picked Katie Zacharia to be the next White House press secretary, lining up a conservative commentator he called a "devoted fan" to be his most prominent spokesperson. Zacharia...

Trump's new press secretary faces scrutiny over claims to be a lawyer

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *15:12 EDT*

Katie Zacharia describes herself as a lawyer but no public record shows she has been licensed in the US states where she resided Donald Trump 's new press secretary, Katie Zacharia, has repeatedly described herself as a lawyer. But when asked after her inaugural press briefing on Tuesday to name the state where she passed the bar exam...

> ~~White House defends new press secretary amid questions about her legal credentials~~
>
> ### Trump's press secretary isn't licensed to practice law anywhere she's lived
>
> *BBC News* MAINSTREAM § *04:41 EDT*
>
> Katie Zacharia does not appear to be registered to the legal bar in any state where she has lived.

Katie Zacharia draws criticism after press secretary debut

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *19:16 EDT*

Katie Zacharia held her first briefing as White House press secretary on Tuesday, with critics calling it awkward and stilted. Political strategists Sawyer Hackett and Harrison Fields join "The Takeout" to discuss.

· Karine Jean-Pierre equates messaging challenges Trump administration faces to Biden era *from the morgue, 2 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.

DENATURALIZATION FILE

A dozen subpoenas and a seized phone later, the president says he had nothing to do with it.

By LOU
ONE MORE QUESTION

"Ilhan Omar investigation seeks to denaturalize and deport congresswoman: Report", 15 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA WASHINGTON EXAMINER — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Federal agents raided Representative Ilhan Omar's home and seized her phone the same day the President denied involvement.

WHO GETS PAID. The Department of Homeland Security's enforcement arm gains a tool to remove a sitting opposition lawmaker through denaturalization.

WHAT SLIPS. The line between an independent investigation and election politics slips, since the raid and subpoenas landed just weeks before voters decide her seat.

WHAT'S NEXT. No comparable case is on the record yet; what's on the calendar is her November reelection, with the investigation still open against her by then.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Did the President have anything to do with the investigation into Congresswoman Omar? I think I already know this one. Give me a second — I wrote it down the day he said it, because it seemed like the kind of thing a man says only once. Here it is. Monday afternoon, a reporter asked him straight, and he told them the investigation into the congresswoman has "nothing to do with" him. That's a direct quote. I underlined it.

Okay. Now what day was that?...

...(cont) I'm out in the garage when I start working this one through, because the car's acting up again — turns over three times before it catches — and I've got the hood up, and I'm thinking about days of the week the way you think about things when your hands are busy and your head isn't. Monday. That's the day he said it. So I go sit in the driver's seat a minute, just to get the order straight, because order is the whole thing here.

Monday morning, before the President says a word to anybody, federal agents in HSI jackets are already at Congresswoman Omar's house in Washington. They've got a warrant. They take her phone. I wrote this down too — more than a dozen grand jury subpoenas, out to her relatives, and those went out the Friday before, so whoever decided to do this had the whole weekend to think about it. Monday morning, the agents go in. Monday afternoon, the President stands in front of the cameras and says what I underlined.

Here's the question I actually wrote down to ask, the one a page can answer: is the investigation into paperwork the congresswoman's own late father filled out for her when she was a child — immigration paperwork, from back when she wasn't old enough to sign her own name to anything — and is the stated aim of that investigation, by the reporting, to take her citizenship and remove her from the country? I've got that on the same page, lower corner, because I had to read it twice to believe it was the lede and not the kicker.

I go back inside — there's a dog that hangs around the corner store and follows me home some days, doesn't belong to anybody in particular, just shows up — and I'm thinking about the drawer in my own house with the kids' old paperwork in it, report cards, a copy of a birth certificate, that kind of thing. Nobody's ever subpoenaed my brother-in-law over what's in that drawer. I don't say that to brag. I say it because it's the only part of this I can check against my own life, and it doesn't check out, and I wrote that down without meaning to.

So here's where I land, which is nowhere, because landing isn't my job. The agents went in Monday morning. The President spoke Monday afternoon. The investigation, the Justice Department says, was carried out under a warrant a judge signed. Whether the warrant and the denial trace back to the same building is not written on my page, and I'm not going to pretend it is.

Oh — before I close this up. One thing I almost walked out the door without asking. That paperwork the whole investigation runs on, the one from when she was a kid — whose name is on it?

Hers. It's always been hers.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

FEDERAL AGENTS SEARCHED A SITTING CONGRESSWOMAN'S HOME AND SEIZED HER PHONE over immigration paperwork her father filled out when she was a child, subpoenaing her relatives the Friday before, and that same Monday the President told reporters the investigation had nothing to do with him. That is not an investigation, it is a deportation case run on a warrant so the man at the podium never has to put his own name on it. The paperwork that gets reopened decades later starts as somebody else's case and ends as the drawer in your hall closet, the one with your kid's birth certificate in it, that sits untouched until the week somebody decides it shouldn't.

"They raided her house the exact same day the man said it had nothing to do with him — that's not a coincidence, that's a timestamp. They went after paperwork her own father filled out when she was a kid, aiming to take the citizenship and the seat both. This is what "nothing to do with it" looks like now: a warrant in the morning and a podium in the afternoon."

— Sal

"It's a judicially authorized warrant, so let's be clear, this is not political — a judge signed off on it, full stop. The President's been crystal clear he has nothing to do with it, and he's never once talked about wanting her gone, deported, denaturalized — wait, did I say that? Forget I said that, that's not where I was going. Point is, the timing with the midterms is just how the calendar happens to work out sometimes."

— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

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

Ilhan Omar investigation seeks to denaturalize and deport congresswoman: Report

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *21:04 EDT*

The Trump administration's criminal investigation into Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN) is aimed at seeking to build a basis to strip the congresswoman of her U.S. citizenship and deport her, according to a new report.

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

Federal agents seize phone of Rep Ilhan Omar in raid tied to immigration fraud probe

Fox News RIGHT § *19:18 EDT*

Federal agents raided Ilhan Omar's D.C. home and seized her cellphone as part of a criminal fraud investigation into her immigration paperwork.

~~Trump says he's not involved in investigation into Ilhan Omar~~

Trump denies role in Omar raid, says agents watching her "very carefully"

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *18:41 EDT*

President Donald Trump denied having involvement in the raid on Rep. Ilhan Omar's (D-MN) Washington, D.C., home by federal agents as part of a criminal investigation on Monday. Trump told reporters Monday afternoon that federal investigators are looking at Omar "very carefully,"

~~Ilhan Omar's Home Raided by DHS Following Trump-GOP Deportation Threats~~

DOJ raided a sitting congresswoman's home over a claim an immigration expert calls 'even weaker than it already seems'

Common Dreams § *11:04 EDT*

Following years of threats from President Donald Trump and other Republicans to deport Rep. Ilhan Omar, the Minnesota congresswoman's Washington, DC home was raided on Monday morning by agents with the Department of Homeland Security. The US Department of Justice (DOJ) has confirmed that the raid was carried out as part of a judicially...

~~Ilhan Omar's phone seized and relatives subpoenaed in criminal inquiry, source says~~

Federal agents seized Omar's phone and subpoenaed her relatives weeks before her reelection, sources say

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *18:22 EDT*

Federal authorities issued more than a dozen grand jury subpoenas in inquiry into potential immigration fraud US politics live – latest updates Federal authorities investigating the Minnesota representative Ilhan Omar seized the Democratic lawmaker's phone and have issued more than a dozen grand jury subpoenas, including to some of her...

~~Ilhan Omar's relatives subpoenaed as part of immigration probe~~

ICE subpoenaed Omar's relatives Friday. It searched her home Monday.

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *19:54 EDT*

The subpoenas were issued on Friday, just days before Omar's home in Washington, D.C., was searched early Monday morning by investigators from ICE's investigative unit.

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

Rep. Ilhan Omar's phone seized by feds during DHS raid tied to potential immigration fraud

New York Post RIGHT § *20:59 EDT*

Investigators issued more than a dozen subpoenas to Omar's family members over questions about her immigration paperwork.

~~Rep. Ilhan Omar's DC home raided by DHS as part of probe into Dem's immigration paperwork~~

DHS raided a sitting congresswoman's home over paperwork her father filed when she was a child

New York Post RIGHT § *08:08 EDT*

The raid is part of an investigation into Rep. Ilhan Omar's immigration documents, which were filled out by her late father when she was a child.

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)*

Ilhan Omar says she will not be silenced after federal agents raid her home

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *12:20 EDT*

Trump and key allies have accused Omar of immigration fraud, and have called to expel her from the country Federal agents searched Representative Ilhan Omar 's home on Monday morning as part of a criminal investigation, according to the Department of Justice and reports in the Associated Press and Fox News. In a social media post later...

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.

New York Times prints the university crisis playbook; Cornell and Chicago are already following it.

By MITCH
INVESTIGATIONS

"Letitia James has never let the facts or law get in her way", 15 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA WASHINGTON EXAMINER — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Cornell's president rolled out a fraternity ban, an outside review, and a no-confidence vote after a gang-rape lawsuit surfaced.

WHO GETS PAID. Sally Yates, hired by Cornell's trustees to review the case, and the administration she is reviewing both get to manage the story.

WHAT SLIPS. The faculty's chance to hold the administration accountable slips, since leadership keeps announcing fixes before the no-confidence vote can happen.

WHAT'S NEXT. The next test is Cornell's own no-confidence vote, still pending as of October 15, after the review and the fraternity ban were already announced.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

I read two stories filed under the same byline's logic this week: one explaining, step by step, how a university in trouble manages a crisis, the other showing a university in trouble managing one exactly that way. The paper invited its readers to notice the overlap. I didn't need the invitation. Cornell did the noticing for me.

The how-to piece names the moves a school under scrutiny tends to make: add rules, hire an outside investigator, and, sometimes, change the leadership. All together now — step one. On Tuesday, Cornell's president, Michael Kotlikoff, announced a ban on fraternity parties. Step two: on October 6, the university's trustees had already announced that Sally Yates, a former deputy attorney general, would review how Cornell handles misconduct complaints. All together now — step three: a resolution of no confidence, introduced by the Faculty Senate on October 6, was still waiting for its vote, the same day faculty members stood at a public meeting and told the president, politely, that a fraternity ban two years late does not return anyone's two years....

...(cont) The two years matter. The lawsuit behind all of it says a Cornell student was given drugs and alcohol and then assaulted by seven men at a fraternity chapter house in 2024. The district attorney in Ithaca decided there wasn't enough evidence to bring charges. The lawsuit went forward anyway, filed in September, against the university and the fraternity. Everything above — the ban, the reviewer, the resolution — happened in the two years and the two months since that decision, in the order the paper says it usually happens.

The order is the part worth sitting with. On Sunday, at 1:50 in the morning, a 21-year-old woman reported being sexually assaulted at a fraternity house near the University of Chicago. The report on it does not call the timing a coincidence; it calls it what follows a gang-rape report at a fraternity house at Cornell. The playbook published this week was already running two states over before the paper that printed it had reached anyone's doorstep.

A document meant to describe a pattern turned out to be a form. Fill in the university's name, the fraternity's letters, the date of the Faculty Senate meeting. Leave the two years blank. That part fills itself in.

"This is the whole racket: write the manual after everybody's already memorized it. Cornell didn't need the New York Times to tell it what to do — it had already banned the frat parties, hired the Obama-administration lawyer, and sat through the no-confidence hearing before the ink was dry. The kid who got hurt gets a lawsuit; the school gets a flowchart."

— Sal

"Look, nobody's saying Cornell has a problem, we're saying the DA looked at the facts and decided there wasn't enough there — and fine, yes, the Washington Examiner says Letitia James "has never let the facts or the law get in her way," but that's not about Cornell, that's a totally separate point I'm bringing up for no reason. Did I say "no reason"? Forget I said that."

— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

Letitia James has never let the facts or law get in her way

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *05:00 EDT*

Choosing which laws to enforce and which cases to pursue is an inherently political decision. Resources are limited, and priorities must be set. But when electing law enforcement officials, especially a state's highest law enforcement official, voters should ask candidates to base their decisions on the facts and the law.

Sexual assault reported at frat house near University of Chicago

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *19:32 EDT*

Alleged assault follows report of gang-rape at frat house at Cornell, which ignited national uproar and criticism online A 21-year-old woman reported being sexually assaulted last weekend at a fraternity house near the University of Chicago, as Greek life nationwide faces renewed scrutiny for recurrent misconduct. The incident allegedly...

The Crisis Playbook for Universities in Trouble

The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *23:09 EDT*

Schools under scrutiny as Cornell is often follow a sort of public relations playbook, adding rules, hiring outside investigators and sometimes making leadership changes.

Details as police investigate alleged sexual assault off University of Chicago's campus

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *19:57 EDT*

Police are investigating a newly reported sexual assault at an off-campus fraternity house near the University of Chicago. Lilia Luciano reports.

~~Cornell's President Grilled by Faculty Senate Over Handling of Crisis~~

Cornell president's fix for the crisis: ban frat parties

The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *20:40 EDT*

Ahead of a vote on a resolution of no confidence in Michael I. Kotlikoff, some faculty members said they were not swayed by steps he announced on Tuesday, including banning fraternity parties.

Exclusive video shows Cornell University Faculty Senate meeting

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *23:36 EDT*

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

~~Cornell president pressed by angry faculty members frustrated by his handling of gang rape case~~

Cornell president admits missteps on gang rape case, defends his leadership anyway

New York Post RIGHT § *03:36 EDT*

Kotlikoff acknowledged some missteps, but also defended his leadership as he took questions from the university's Faculty Senate.

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

· Cornell faculty prepare no-confidence vote against administration *from the morgue, 6 Oct 2026*

· Students protest Cornell University's response to gang-rape allegations – video *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*

· Former Obama official will review Cornell's handling of sexual misconduct complaints *from the morgue, 6 Oct 2026*

· Trump is fueling a culture of misogynistic impunity *from the morgue, 6 Oct 2026*

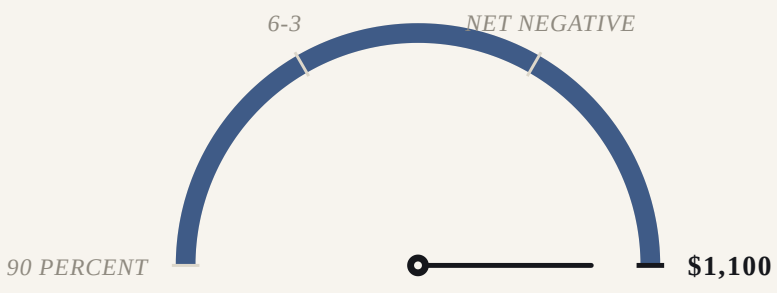
This page is a back-issue: the story as it ran, receipts as they were. The current edition is at the front. The byline is a pen name for a column drafted by a machine and checked by the editor: how this is made.

§61 — 14 OCTOBER 2026

On the most beautiful word

BY LOU
The Word

DEMOCRAT



$1,100

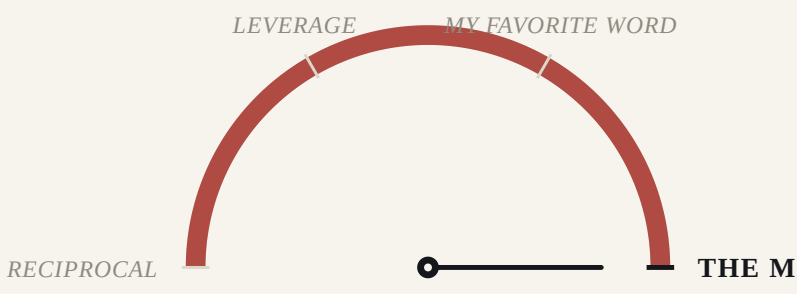
Who pays. Economists at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York found that "nearly 90 percent of the tariffs' economic burden fell on U.S. firms and consumers" [1]. The Yale Budget Lab estimates household costs "about $1,100 annually under current law," with the average statutory tariff rate at 11 percent [2].

And what happened to the word in court. In February the Supreme Court held, 6 to 3, that the emergency statute behind most of the 2025 tariffs does not authorize them [3]. By the end of July about $100 billion of roughly $166 billion in voided duties had been refunded, and in July customs collections ran backwards: $26 billion in, $36 billion out [4]. The replacement 10 percent tariff expired on July 23 at its 150-day limit, and new tariffs under a third statute took effect the next morning [5]. The most beautiful word has now been written under three laws since last spring. The $1,100 is written on one household at a time.

SOURCES

1. "Nearly 90 percent of the tariffs' economic burden fell on U.S. firms and consumers" — Federal Reserve Bank of New York, Liberty Street Economics, 12 February 2026 ↑
2. "Estimated household costs due to tariffs total about $1,100 annually under current law"; average statutory rate 11.0 percent — Yale Budget Lab, 24 August 2026 ↑
3. The Supreme Court held 6–3 on 20 February 2026 that IEEPA does not authorize tariffs — Congressional Research Service, LSB11398 ↑
4. July customs duties: $26 billion gross, $36 billion refunded; about $100 billion refunded of roughly $166 billion in IEEPA duties by 31 July — Fortune, reporting CBO, 10 August 2026 ↑
5. The Section 122 surcharge "expired at midnight on July 23, 2026"; Section 301 tariffs of 10 or 12.5 percent took effect 24 July — Holland & Knight, July 2026 ↑

REPUBLICAN



THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WORD

The line, from the Economic Club of Chicago in October 2024: "To me, the world's most beautiful word in the dictionary is tariffs. It's my favorite word" [1]. It was not an idle preference; it became the center of the economic program.

And on its own terms it produced money. The federal government collected $195 billion in customs duties in fiscal 2025, up from about $77 billion the year before [2]. That is the strongest case for the word: a tax levied at the border that more than doubled a revenue line in a year, and gave a president one lever to pull on every trading partner at once. A favorite word that does that is not nothing. Who ends up paying it is on the other side.

SOURCES

1. "To me, the world's most beautiful word in the dictionary is tariffs. It's my favorite word." — Economic Club of Chicago — Chicago Sun-Times, 15 October 2024 ↑
2. $195 billion in customs duties in FY2025, up from about $77 billion in FY2024 — Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget ↑

“I brought the receipts, because that's what the word is, really, a receipt. Last fiscal year, a hundred ninety-five billion in customs duties, up from seventy-seven. That's the part in the speeches. Then the Fed's economists: nearly ninety percent of the burden fell on American firms and consumers. Then February, the Court. Then July: twenty-six billion collected, thirty-six billion paid back. Sorry, I'm going, I'm going — if the word is so beautiful, why did the government spend July returning it?” — Lou

“"The world's most beautiful word in the dictionary is tariffs." Customs money more than doubled last year, a hundred ninety-five billion, and he's right, that's a lot of money. Then the New York Fed looked at who paid it: nearly ninety percent Americans. Then the Supreme Court looked at the law: not allowed. Then the refunds started, and in July the customs line ran backwards. The most beautiful word in the dictionary costs you about eleven hundred dollars a year. Look it up.”

— Sal

“The refunds are simply the beautiful word in reverse, which is still the beautiful word, and the eleven hundred dollars is what Americans pay for the privilege of living in a country with the world's most beautiful vocabulary.”

— Chip

The Word today — 👍 👎