FROM § EACH

FIRST YEAR · SUNDAY, 18 OCTOBER 2026 — THE SUNDAY EDITION · FREE, FOREVER — EVERY CLAIM LINKED

Trump's $5,000 a head arrived as $90 out of the Medicare fund he called a pointless slush fund, with the other $4,910 due only if Republicans keep both chambers November 3

PHOTO: SURGING INFLATION COMPLICATES TRUMP'S FINAL PUSH TO SELL VOTERS ON STRONG ECONOMY (PHOTO VIA THE NEW YORK TIMES)

BY LOU
One More Question

Excuse me — before anybody clears the table, could somebody walk me through how this is actually done? Not the policy. The steps. Twenty-one million payments leave a federal fund; a person sat down and did that. Who opens the fund, who types the amount into the box, who signs under it? I'd like it start to finish, because I have the pieces written down and they don't sit together yet. Hold on. The notebook's in the raincoat. Ah — here it is.

September, Dallas. The keynote closing the first night of the midterm convention, a Wednesday: five thousand dollars to every adult citizen, he said, if the party holds both chambers. That's step one, a number said out loud. What's step two? Thursday the tenth the Washington Examiner posted a what-to-know explainer on the budgetary and economic ramifications, so someone in that building was already multiplying. Does the multiplying come before the announcement or after it? At the garage where I take my car, the estimate comes first and then I decide.

Monday the fourteenth, National Review called the dividend reckless and said the checks would make inflation worse. ...

... Continued on Page F121

The Week

11 – 17 OCTOBER 2026 · RANKED BY THE WIRE

STORY	OUTLETS	VERSIONS	ITEMS
The press secretary's three bar answers *Sunday chair: Chip*	26	5	151
The $4,910 still owed *Sunday chair: Lou*	23	4	179
The throttle on Ukraine's air defense *Sunday chair: Mort*	22	5	116
The waiver before the 320 drones *Sunday chair: The Wrecking Crew*	20	14	174
December's livestreamed execution *Sunday chair: Sterling*	20	10	113
The war already joined in writing *in the ledger, off the front*	20	9	114
The denial of a briefed raid *in the ledger, off the front*	19	1	88
One plumbing job for 174 seats *runs straight; no chair*	*18*	*1*	*79*

Outlets are distinct sources across the house's receipts; versions are how many times the house wrote it. The desks divide the list; a story the house runs straight is counted and not joked.

THE WEEK'S WORDS

Not A Second-Class Right ·Arsonists ·Over And Above ·The Most Beautiful Word ·No Tax On Social Security ·The Worst Of The Worst ·Mulligan

THE WORD

§65 — 18 OCTOBER 2026

On the king

DEMOCRAT · REPUBLICAN

$550 MILLION · *LONG LIVE THE KING*

"I'll just read the dates. February 19th last year: "CONGESTION PRICING IS DEAD. Manhattan, and all of New York, is SAVED. LONG LIVE THE KING!" June 14th: two to nearly five million people at over two thousand protests under the words "No Kings." October 18th — a year ago today — the organizers said nearly seven

... Continued on Page W65

■ THE SHORT VERSION

`typed by Dot`

WHAT HAPPENED. Op-eds in the Washington Examiner and the Hill, sixteen days apart, said nothing protects children online.

WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no buyer yet.

WHAT SLIPS. The public's memory of a $17.1 billion settlement already won slips, so Congress hears only that nothing has been tried.

WHAT'S NEXT. The settlement is still a proposed agreement, not yet entered by any court, and no hearing date appears in the record to make it final.

`On Op-ed warns Congress twice in 16 days, drops the $17.1 billion fix it cited the first time. — the column, by Ruth. The whole front, short, and the precedents, on E6`

Today

News, continued	A2
The Wire	A3
The Word	W65
Finance	F1
The Ledger	F2
The Business Desk	F3
The Money Pages, continued	F4

ASK VIVIAN

"More and more the Republican stump speeches hit on race. It really feels like Trump, Vance and the rest want white..." She answers on E5.

— this paper

White House ends forty-day briefing blackout with fourteen minutes, three friendly reporters, and a press secretary who answered "when I moved to China" when asked where she passed the bar; normal briefings resumed Tuesday and concluded Friday.

PHOTO: SCARAMUCCI REPLACED BY SHORTER UNIT OF TIME - A ZACHARIA (PHOTO VIA RTÉ)

BY CHIP
Staff Writer

The commitment made on the ninth of October was a return to normal briefings, and I would ask that the record show the briefing returned. The room had been dark forty days — the Hill printed that count on the first of September — and on Tuesday the thirteenth there was a press secretary at the lectern, on camera, taking questions. Everything after that is process, and process is not policy.

Fourteen minutes is a briefing. The Post put it at fourteen; the Washington Examiner had it a little under

... Continued on Page A215

The contribution limit died this week of natural causes, survived by a record $276 million, a $400 million party edge, and the 100 mph ceiling on Ukraine's air defense that the contractor spent three days attributing to the government that funds the terminals.

PHOTO: UKRAINE'S EXPOSURE GROWS AS SATELLITE USE IS RESTRICTED AND RUSSIA ESCALATES (PHOTO VIA THE NEW YORK TIMES)

BY MORT
The Records Bureau

... Continued on Page B42

§

The sanctions law named for the senator who championed it before dying in July ran from its 19 September signing to the Friday evening before it took effect, when a second signature waived nearly all of it, hours before 320 drones hit Ukraine's grid.

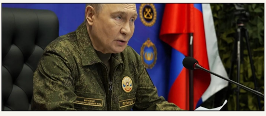

PHOTO: EASING SANCTIONS ON RUSSIA ONLY HELPS FUND PUTIN'S KILLING MACHINE (PHOTO VIA NEW YORK POST)

BY THE WRECKING CREW
The Remedy Desk

The chief puts two things on the table: a law, and the evening before it was due to work.

The mess begins as a number. The drawer filed 5

... Continued on Page B42

❦ FROM THE MAILBAG ❦

Dear Vivian,

More and more the Republican stump speeches hit on race. It really feels like Trump, Vance and the rest want white supremacy.

⁂

— Watching the Wall in West Chester. Vivian answers on E5 ☞

Homeland Security agents explained the criminal investigation the border czar confirmed in September and would not describe by searching Rep. Ilhan Omar's home on 12 October, over immigration forms her late father filled out when she was a child.

PHOTO: REP. ILHAN OMAR'S RESIDENCE SEARCHED AS PART OF ONGOING CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION: DOJ (PHOTO VIA ABC NEWS)

BY MITCH

... Continued on Page T28

> *"Don't let anybody tell you that people running Congress right now are looking out for the rich. Actually, I think we should do a little more for them"*
>
> — REP. GLENN GROTHMAN (R-WI), AUGUST 2026

The administration that will livestream a firing squad at one o'clock on December 3 has lost the same case three times since September insisting that White House press access is a privilege, not a constitutional right.

PHOTO: MAJORITY OF AMERICANS OPPOSE PUBLIC EXECUTIONS: POLL (PHOTO VIA THE HILL)

BY STERLING
The Ownership Desk

You will have been assured that nobody is obliged to watch, and that is quite true, and it is the entire defence. Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin offered it on Face the Nation that Sunday: the people against the broadcast do not have to watch it. Do note what that sentence declines to cover. Not whether it goes out. Only whether you tune in.

The schedule is the only document doing any work here. On October 8, Pete Hegseth told Real America's Voice that the execution of Nidal Hasan, the former army psychiatrist convicted of killing 13 people at Fort Hood in 2009, would be "a public event." A defense department official confirmed the same day that it would be livestreamed. Firing squad,

... Continued on Page B42

Tennessee cut its beer to half price to open Neyland's gates early for a president who spent the afternoon stumping for the bill, up for Senate passage that Monday, that sets what the players below him may be paid.

BY GUS
The Sports Desk

● HOT MIC MOMENT

Levels are down, so let me say it plainly. The United States Senate spent that Monday setting the pay terms of twenty-year-olds who were not in the room, and the senator who wrote it collected a pregame segment for his trouble. The Nation's justice correspondent has it cold — the bill threatens athletes' labor rights — in the same column that marks the Supreme Court rejecting the latest move to restrict mail-in vot-

... Continued on Page S19

Op-ed warns Congress twice in 16 days, drops the $17.1 billion fix it cited the first time.

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

Before I reconcile anything, let me show my filing. August 26: a bipartisan coalition of fifty-one state and territorial attorneys general announces a proposed agreement with Meta — up to $17.1 billion, restrictions on endless scrolling, among other changes — to do what California's attorney general called making social media "less dangerous for our kids." Proposed, note. Not signed, not entered, not finalized: a number in a press release, not yet a number in a court order. I file that detail because what happens next treats the settlement as smaller than even that.

October 2, the Washington Examiner runs an op-ed titled "We failed our children on social media. AI is our last chance to get it right." It does cite the $17.1 billion — one sentence, one paragraph — the way you'd cite a photograph of storm damage: proof the house flooded, not proof anyone has fixed the roof since. The piece's argument is

... Continued on Page F121

> *"Shut down Delaney Hall, free them all!"*
>
> — PROTESTORS OUTSIDE THE DELANEY HALL ICE FACILITY, NEWARK

> *"Access to cheap goods is not the essence of the American dream"*
>
> — TREASURY SECRETARY SCOTT BESSENT, ECONOMIC CLUB OF NEW YORK, 6 MARCH 2025

THE WIRE

Every right or mainstream headline answered before it renders.

— this paper

SAL READS THE FRONT

"Put them in the order they ran and the order does the arguing. Five thousand dollars a head arrived as ninety dollars, out of the Medicare fund he called a pointless slush fund, with the other four thousand nine hundred and ten payable only if Republicans keep both chambers on November 3. Ninety fucking dollars. Then the briefing room, dark forty days, reopened for fourteen minutes — eight of them an opening statement, three friendly reporters, and a press secretary who answered a question about where she passed the bar with "when I moved to China" — resumed Tuesday, concluded Friday. Count the rest: $276 million from the largest known midterm donor in American political history, a $400 million party edge, and a contractor spending three days attributing the 100 mph ceiling on Ukraine's air defense to the government that funds the terminals. The sanctions law named for the senator who championed it before dying in July ran from its 19 September signing to the Friday evening a second signature waived nearly all of it, hours before 320 drones hit Ukraine's grid. The administration that will livestream a firing squad at one o'clock on December 3 has lost the same case three times since September insisting White House press access is a privilege and not a constitutional right. Homeland Security searched Representative Ilhan Omar's home on 12 October over immigration forms her late father filled out when she was a child. Tennessee halved the beer and opened Neyland's gates early for the man stumping for the bill that sets what the players below him may be paid. Every one of them hangs on the same calendar. Sixteen days."

— Sal

PERSONALS Devoted professional, DC. Seeks nothing — the position is filled. "You are all that matters to me." *Brings her own printer. Signed, with all my heart.* **— Classifieds**

HELP WANTED White House press secretary position, fifth occupant sought since spring after latest departed on day five. *Legal bar admission optional; please specify which state you merely claimed to pass it in.* **— Classifieds**

FOR SALE Rival ballot measure, designed and timed to cancel out a billionaire wealth tax on the same ballot. *Billionaire financing not included — it's already paid for.* **— Classifieds**

CHIP READS THE FRONT

"Good news, seven times, and I'll take them in order. The president has delivered five thousand dollars to every adult citizen — delivered ninety dollars, strike that, the ninety is delivered and the remaining four thousand nine hundred ten is delivered on November 3 if the party holds both chambers, which is the same thing with a date on it. The money comes out of the Medicare fund he called a pointless slush fund, so the fund has been put to use. The briefing room is open: fourteen minutes, three reporters, every one of them recognized, and a press secretary who told you plainly where they passed the bar, which was when they moved to China. Mr. Musk's two hundred seventy-six million is a record, and records are good news; the party carries a four hundred million edge; and the contractor spent three days explaining that the hundred-mile-an-hour ceiling on Ukraine's air defense was the government's doing — the government that funds the terminals, which is to say ours. I'd strike that. The Graham sanctions law was signed the nineteenth of September and waived Friday evening, hours before three hundred twenty drones hit the grid; the law remains on the books. On press access we have been consistent in three courts. The December 3 execution will be livestreamed at one o'clock, and nobody is obliged to watch. Agents searched Rep. Omar's home on the twelfth over forms her late father filled out when she was a child. And at Neyland: half-price beer, gates early, sixty-eight votes on a bill setting what the players are paid. Sixteen days. I think the transparency speaks for itself."

— Chip

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

ENOCH · THE OWNERSHIP DESK

White House ends forty-day briefing blackout with fourteen minutes, three friendly reporters, and a press secretary who answered "when I moved to China" when asked where she passed the bar; normal briefings resumed Tuesday and concluded Friday.

By **CHIP**
STAFF WRITER

"Embattled new White House Press Secretary Zacharia 'let go' from her role", 16 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA FRANCE 24 — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

> The commitment made on the ninth of October was a return to normal briefings, and I would ask that the record show the briefing returned. The room had been dark forty days — the Hill printed that count on the first of September — and on Tuesday the thirteenth there was a press secretary at the lectern, on camera, taking questions. Everything after that is process, and process is not policy.
>
> Fourteen minutes is a briefing. The Post put it at fourteen; the Washington Examiner had it a little under fifteen. Inside it was an eight-minute opening statement laying out this administration's position, and then three reporters, each of whom was recognized, asked a question and got an answer. Nobody was turned away. Length is not substance. Anthony Scaramucci posted on X that same Tuesday, "The clock is running," and added, "Thus far 1/11th of a Scaramucci," which is a comment on duration, not on content....

...(cont) Then a question was shouted in the hallway afterward — which state did she pass the bar exam in — and the answer, as the Guardian printed it on Wednesday, was "when I moved to China." Now, the jurisdiction being referred to there is — China is not a jurisdiction. China is a country, and the California bar does not sit in it. That is not what I meant to say. What was being referred to was a stretch of a career, and that is the account she gave the Hill on Thursday: she misheard, and assumed the question was, "Where were you after law school?" Shouted questions get misheard. I have misheard them in this building.

On Wednesday the Campaign for Accountability filed a complaint with the State Bar of California asking it to investigate whether she had broken state law by falsely identifying herself as a lawyer. Pepperdine confirms the law degree, 2011. The BBC reported Thursday that she does not appear to be registered to the legal bar in any state where she has lived, and the White House defended her that day, because the degree is real, and because she had said she practiced international transaction law, "with all the appropriate credentials." She told the New York Times on Thursday that the confusion was one big misunderstanding. It was. Thursday she told Sean Hannity she had not passed the bar exam. The New York Post reported she failed the California exam after Pepperdine in 2011. The president had described her as an attorney. A misunderstanding, once cleared up, is still the thing we called it.

Friday, a White House press official said she was "let go," after the president signaled she was on her way out. The Guardian had the five days, from an official not authorized to speak publicly. And five days is not a tenure, it is a transition, it is — no. Five days is the tenure. Picked on the ninth, briefed on the thirteenth, gone on the sixteenth, and that is the whole of it. I would still call it a transition.

RTÉ wrote Friday that a Scaramucci has been replaced by a shorter unit of time. For context, the unit was set in July 2017, when a press secretary announced he would resign over the communications director's appointment and stepped down in August.

The position stands: the lectern is operational. It is the personnel that is between occupants, less than a month before the midterms, while the president travels the country for Republican candidates. The briefing room is open. We will take questions as soon as there is someone authorized to answer them.

THE RECEIPTS

~~Embattled new White House Press Secretary Zacharia 'let go' from her role~~

Trump picked a press secretary who hadn't passed the bar. He fired her a week later.

France 24 MAINSTREAM § *11:57 EDT*

A White House Press official said Friday that Secretary Katie Zacharia was "let go" from her role after US President Donald Trump signaled she was on her way out, a week after he picked her for the post. Zacharia's credentials as an attorney had come under scrutiny and she admitted to not having passed the bar in an interview with Fox...

Scaramucci quips about new press secretary Zacharia's tenure: 'The clock is running'

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *11:30 EDT*

Anthony Scaramucci is weighing in on Katie Zacharia's first briefing as White House press secretary, quipping that the clock is ticking on her tenure. "The clock is running," Scaramucci wrote on X on Tuesday, shortly after Zacharia wrapped her inaugural briefing at the White House as press secretary. "Thus far 1/11th of a Scaramucci,"...

White House press secretary out after less than a week

Le Monde MAINSTREAM § *14:58 EDT*

Katie Zacharia's gaffe-filled stint came as US President Donald Trump flies around the country trying to boost Republican candidates ahead of midterm elections.

Katie Zacharia admits she never passed legal exams – video

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *13:06 EDT*

In an interview with Fox News' Sean Hannity, the new White House press secretary, Katie Zacharia, admitted that she did not pass the bar exam, after facing scrutiny about her legal career before becoming the top spokesperson for Trump. Zacharia had previously said she practiced law before entering politics, and Trump had described her as...

~~Who is Katie Zacharia, Trump's next White House press secretary?~~

Trump's next press secretary comes straight from his own media company

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *16:31 EDT*

President Donald Trump tapped Katie Zacharia, a conservative commentator and communications adviser for Trump Media and Technology Group, to serve as his next White House press secretary. Zacharia will succeed Karoline Leavitt, who left the White House in August. Her appointment comes less than a month before the 2026 midterm elections...

Katie Zacharia fired after five days as White House press secretary

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *15:29 EDT*

Zacharia hosted widely panned first briefing on Tuesday and faced scrutiny after admitting she didn't pass bar exam Donald Trump's new press secretary, Katie Zacharia, was fired on Friday, just five days after she assumed the role, according to a White House official. Zacharia confirmed her departure from the White House on Friday...

Scaramucci replaced by shorter unit of time - a Zacharia

RTÉ MAINSTREAM § *16:03 EDT*

A Scaramucci has often been used as a tongue-in-cheek measure of time in politics, particularly in the Trump era.

- White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer announces his intention to resign as White House Press Secretary due to Donald Trump's appointment of Anthony Scaramucci as the White House Communications Direc *from the morgue, 21 Jul 2017*
- 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*

· Trump's Top Oil Stocks Have Made Him Up to $4.4 Million Richer During Iran War: Analysis *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*

· 'Trump Did It!': At $5.85 a Gallon, Diesel Price Hits All-Time High in US Thanks to War on Iran *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*

· Gas prices reach Labor Day high amid Iran war *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*

· Trump Hammered Over Iran War That Drove Gas Prices Above $4 Per Gallon Every Day in August for First Time Ever *from the morgue, 31 Aug 2026*

· Warsh under pressure as Fed weighs rate hike *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Inflation held at 3.4% in August in consumer price index, creating tough choice for Warsh Fed *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*

· Warsh indicates Fed could raise rates to cool inflation *from the morgue, 28 Aug 2026*

· Key U.S. Bond Rate Near 20-Year High as Oil Prices Keep Climbing *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· 10-year Treasury yield hits highest level since 2007, oil surges above $105 as Fed expected to hike interest rates *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Benchmark mortgage rate hits 14-month high as bond yields keep rising *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Benchmark mortgage rate hits highest mark in over a year *from the morgue, 3 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.

The contribution limit died this week of natural causes, survived by a record $276 million, a $400 million party edge, and the 100 mph ceiling on Ukraine's air defense that the contractor spent three days attributing to the government that funds the terminals.

By **MORT**
THE RECORDS BUREAU

"Washington limits its support to Kyiv amidst increased Russian attacks on energy infrastructure", 15 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA LE MONDE — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The contribution limit died this week in Washington, after a long illness nobody treated.

It was born of a plain notion — that there ought to be a ceiling on what one man puts into one party — and it spent its working life being walked around rather than argued with. On Monday the walking finished. The Times reported Musk the largest known midterm donor in American political history: $276 million. On September 22 the reported plan had been at least one hundred million. Three weeks on it was nearly triple, and not one rule on the books stood in the road. The money moves through America PAC, an outside group, which on September 3 disclosed its first spending of the cycle — mail advertising. Envelopes, to addresses. The Republican side carried a $400 million edge....

...(cont) Then Tuesday, with Russian missiles inbound, Ukraine's Starlink missile tracker failed. Above one hundred miles an hour the military terminals were throttled. Not a cut. Cuts are events; a limit is a setting, settings have dials, and the dial was not in Kyiv. Ukraine's army does not own those terminals. SpaceX manages them, the Pentagon funds them, and what Ukraine has is the use of other people's property for as long as the owners care to allow it.

The attributions came three times. Tuesday, Musk said any restriction on Starshield would come from the United States government. Wednesday, "Starshield systems are owned and controlled by the US government." Thursday, the government may be behind the slowdown. A senator asked that the ceiling be lifted; they had no lever but the asking. Zelensky warned the throttling would cost lives. Musk said Wednesday that Zelensky should "go". By Thursday Ukraine reported access improved and the speed ceiling still disrupting its "missions" — so the ceiling outlived all three attributions, and the only firm proposal of the week concerned who ought to be president of Ukraine.

None of this arrived from nowhere. On September 30 Hegseth named the same donor to co-lead Project Meridian, the department's study of the future of warfare, led by Pentagon official Emil Michael, with Palmer Luckey and Newt Gingrich along. On October 3 the Times noted the conflicts of interest resurfacing: billions in military contracts, a seat on the board that advises the buyer. On Wednesday CBS reported the administration may have withheld intelligence warnings to Ukraine about the Russian strikes that cut power to six hundred thousand people in Kyiv.

Watch what the numbers do in this story. On September 29 CBS reported a Pentagon personnel data breach had taken months to find; on September 30 Fox News put 2.76 million Social Security numbers to it, with the employment records attached, belonging to living Americans. A headline this month read "over 3 million" above a story still counting 2.76 million. The figures go up in the telling. The people inside them stay exactly where they were, which is on a list.

So the cause of death, entered flat: nothing illegal occurred. No rule was broken, no referee was overruled, no court was defied. The limit did not lose a fight. There was no fight, and that is the shit of it — a rule can be perfectly intact and perfectly beside the point, and calling that a loophole is penny-ante. A loophole is a flaw. This worked.

The contribution limit is survived by a record donation, a $400 million edge, and a dial in private hands set above another country's air defense. It was preceded in death by the arm's length that once stood between a contractor and the building that buys from him.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you get it in writing — one name, one office — of who may raise that ceiling, and that your senator be made to say it out loud before the next one is lowered.

THE RECEIPTS

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.

Ukraine reports U.S. early warning system shut down as Russia launched new air strikes

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *19:39 EDT*

Ukrainian officials tell CBS News that a U.S. early warning system failed amid a new wave of Russian strikes on Tuesday. CBS News' Charlie D'Agata has the details.

Zelensky laments Ukraine is 'losing America' as Congress cries foul over intel and Starlink reports

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *15:24 EDT*

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky is waving a red flag over the partnership between his country and the United States, saying he feels his administration is "losing" a strong ally in the U.S. under President Donald Trump.

~~Ukraine accuses SpaceX of restricting Starlink, disrupting military amid Trump pressure~~

Ukraine says Musk's SpaceX throttled the Starlink it depends on in war

NBC News MAINSTREAM § *08:51 EDT*

Ukrainian officials and military units accused Elon Musk's SpaceX of throttling a technology at the heart of their battlefield communications and drone operations.

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".

~~GOP Sen. Tillis asks Musk to explain Ukraine losing access to Starlink~~

A billionaire holds the off switch to Ukraine's wartime communications

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *15:22 EDT*

Sen. Thom Tillis (R-N.C.) is pressing Elon Musk to explain Ukraine's loss of military access to Starlink and expressing hope that Ukraine's restricted access to the space-based communications network was because of an error and not a deliberate decision. Tillis called on Musk in a social media post to "please tell me these overnight...

~~Ukraine slams SpaceX for cutting Starlink internet access while Russians launch brutal attacks~~

Musk's SpaceX throttled Ukraine's Starlink, Kyiv says, as Trump pressured it to halt Russian refinery strikes

New York Post RIGHT § *10:59 EDT*

Top Ukrainian officials erupted with outrage after their soldiers allegedly faced throttled Starlink access without warning in the middle of operations, as President Trump has pressured Kyiv to stop attacking Russian refineries.

~~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.

~~Ukrainian military's access to Starlink satellite internet suddenly restricted~~

Musk's SpaceX cut Ukraine's battlefield internet as Trump pushed Kyiv to halt oil strikes

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *12:18 EDT*

Launch of Russian ballistic missiles on Ukraine, with no US warning, coincides with outage of Starlink managed by Musk's SpaceX Ukraine's military has suddenly had its access to Starlink satellite internet terminals restricted as the Trump administration has increased pressure on Ukraine to halt long-range strikes on Russia's oil...

~~Ukraine says SpaceX limiting Starlink operations, impacting air defense~~

Musk's Starlink is limiting Ukraine's air defense, Kyiv says, as Zelensky warns Trump may cut intelligence sharing

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *09:51 EDT*

Ukraine is raising alarm that air defense operations are being impacted by unannounced limitations on SpaceX satellites. The disruption comes following Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky warning that President Trump has threatened to cut off intelligence sharing with the country. Limits on Starlink's services in Ukraine occurred...

What Is Starshield, SpaceX's Military-Grade Satellite Internet Service Ukraine Relies On?

The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *18:20 EDT*

For years, Ukraine's armed forces have relied on satellite communication services developed by Elon Musk's SpaceX. Recent restrictions have hampered its war effort.

~~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.

Amid Ukraine uproar, Musk says decisions to restrict Starshield up to president

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *16:19 EDT*

SpaceX CEO Elon Musk on Wednesday said decisions to restrict the speed or usage of Starlink's Starshield are made by the U.S. military and, ultimately, the president, as confusion swirls over Ukraine's loss of military access to the systems. It is not clear at this point what caused Ukraine's military to lose access to Starshield,...

~~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...

Throttling of Ukraine's Starlink Access Heightens Concerns Over Government Reliance on Elon Musk

Common Dreams § *10:53 EDT*

The Ukrainian government on Tuesday night said that its access to the SpaceX-owned Starlink satellite internet service was throttled, prompting critics to question the wisdom of depending on any company owned by far-right billionaire Elon Musk. According to a Wednesday report in The New York Times, Ukrainian officials suspect that orders...

Musk blames Trump and US military for Ukraine's Starshield restrictions

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *17:08 EDT*

SpaceX CEO Elon Musk said his company is not responsible for any speed restrictions on Starshield defense communications systems, saying that power is vested in the U.S. military and President Donald Trump. "Starshield systems are owned and controlled by the US government.

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.

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.

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.

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...

> *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 § *07:40 EDT*
>
> Trump declared a ceasefire, but both sides are still shooting.

> ~~Ukraine says SpaceX's Starshield throttling hampers defense against Russian strikes on energy sites~~
>
> ### *SpaceX capped speeds on Ukraine's military drones without warning, Kyiv says*
>
> *Washington Examiner* RIGHT § *09:31 EDT*
>
> Ukrainian officials said speed limits were imposed on military-grade Starlink terminals without warning, disrupting military missions and forcing the cancellation of some drone operations. Serhii Beskrestnov, an adviser to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on defense technology, said the restrictions apply to Starshield, SpaceX's...

- 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*
- Ukraine accuses Elon Musk of allowing Russian forces to attack Ukrainian cities after it was revealed that Starlink satellite communications interfered with a drone operation by disabling a communicat *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2023*
- The Security Service of Ukraine says that it detained two Ukrainian government protection unit colonels recruited by Russia's Federal Security Service who were planning an assassination of President V *from the morgue, 7 May 2024*
- Twelve Ukrainian servicemembers are killed and 60 more are injured in a Russian missile strike on a training camp in Dnipropetrovsk Oblast. The commander of the Ground Forces of Ukraine, Mykhailo Drap *from the morgue, 1 Jun 2025*
- With Elon Musk's Return to Washington, Possible Conflicts of Interest Resurface *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*
- Hegseth puts the future of warfare in the hands of major Maga donors *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*
- Pete Hegseth appoints Elon Musk to US taskforce on future of warfare *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*
- Elon Musk boosts GOP spending advantage with return as 2026 juggernaut *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*
- An Elon Musk insider shares what he found in Washington — and it should terrify you *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*
- Trump Accord Enshrines Light-Touch Regulation of AI *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*
- Trump says tech CEOs signed 'morally binding' document to self-regulate artificial intelligence *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*
- READ IN FULL: Trump and tech leaders' White House Accord on Super Intelligence *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*
- Soaring diesel prices take their toll on US farmers in midwest corn belt *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*
- Inflation Could Soon 'Get a Lot More Painful' as Trump's Iran War Drives Diesel Over $6 a Gallon *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*
- 'Can't Message That Away': GOP Frets as Trump Administration Desperately Spins Record-High Diesel Prices *from the morgue, 5 Sep 2026*
- 'Trump Did It!': At $5.85 a Gallon, Diesel Price Hits All-Time High in US Thanks to War on Iran *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*
- States take matters into their own hands to curb record-high diesel prices *from the morgue, 29 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*

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

The sanctions law named for the senator who championed it before dying in July ran from its 19 September signing to the Friday evening before it took effect, when a second signature waived nearly all of it, hours before 320 drones hit Ukraine's grid.

By **THE WRECKING CREW**
THE REMEDY DESK

"GOP lawmakers bash Trump's decision to waive Russia sanctions: 'Beyond irresponsible'", 17 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE HILL — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The chief puts two things on the table: a law, and the evening before it was due to work.

The mess begins as a number. The drawer filed 5 September has AAA's average for a gallon of diesel at $5.88, a record set that Saturday, with Axios reporting that incumbent Republicans were worried about the figure, their own polling placing the blame on the president. On 14 September the president posted that "Ukraine has agreed not to hit Russian Energy targets" and that Russia had agreed to do likewise. On 19 September he signed the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026, named for the South Carolina senator who championed it before dying in July: sanctions on Russia's energy sector, tariffs of up to 100 percent on buyers of Russian energy. On 21 September came the diagnosis, posted — "Russia has unfortunately lost control of its Diesel Oil Industry due to its War with Ukraine."...

...(cont) Then the run-up, which is where the parts are. In September, Representatives Joe Wilson and Keith Self asked the administration to put sanctions back on a Russian-owned refinery in Serbia. On 1 October Ukraine struck an oil facility in Russia's Samara region, analysts citing the war in Iran for the rising prices, and Britain opened talks with the European Commission, Germany, France, Italy and Ireland about drawing down emergency diesel stockpiles, the administration having told Germany and France to release theirs or face a US export ban. On 4 October Russia's defense ministry said that if the refinery strikes continued, Russian forces would hit Ukrainian military and industrial sites.

On Friday 9 October Washington signed with Moscow. The invoice went up in three lines — 300,000 tons immediately, 500,000 in November, a million after that; nearly 5 million tons to the United States and global markets "within a short period of time," by Le Monde's count — and no figure attached to any American pump. On Saturday 10 October Zelensky called it "absolutely terrible" and "not fair and not honest," an "investment in war that must be ended, not prolonged." That same Saturday the president told reporters Zelensky "could have settled this war many times" and suggested Ukraine get a new leader. The Kremlin said there would be no immediate resumption of talks. Russian strikes killed at least 20 people, including three children.

On 11 October seven senators on the Foreign Relations Committee pushed back. By 13 October his own party's newspaper had ruled the deal too small and too late for the midterms. On Friday 16 October the president called Ukraine's strikes on the refineries he had just legalized buying from "a disgrace," a refinery ceasefire having been announced on top of the deal — a ceasefire neither government said it had agreed to. That evening a second signature waived nearly all of the law, sanctions and tariffs together, the day before it took effect. Hours later more than 320 drones hit Ukraine's power grid.

So the one who takes things apart starts at the waiver. The law was not repealed; it sits on the books exactly as passed, and the only moving piece in the assembly is a signature.

The builder lays out the drawer. One statute, in force, authorizing tariffs of up to 100 percent on buyers of Russian energy. One letter, drafted in September by two House Republicans, addressed to the right office, asking that sanctions be put back on a named refinery. One committee of jurisdiction, seven of its senators on record 11 October.

The muscle takes down the reason first. The driver's part is that calendar.

The law is still law. The waiver is a signature. The grid took 320 drones. Readers judge whether the parts hold.

THE RECEIPTS

But: **Trump said he'd settle the Russia-Ukraine war within 24 hours of meeting Putin and Zelensky – CNN counted 53 such promises.** *CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*

GOP lawmakers bash Trump's decision to waive Russia sanctions: 'Beyond irresponsible'

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *09:23 EDT*

Several GOP lawmakers criticized President Trump's move to exempt Russia from the sanctions bill he signed law last month, with Sen. Thom Tillis (R- N.C.) calling the move "beyond irresponsible." Trump signed an executive order Friday evening to waive sanctions against Russia in a legislative package that was meant to put pressure on the...

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

Trump doubles down after waiving new Russia sanctions, calling it a 'very good decision'

NBC News MAINSTREAM § *22:45 EDT*

President Donald Trump waived sweeping new sanctions against Russia passed by Congress, arguing in an executive order Friday that the move "is in the national interests of the United States."

~~Trump announces immediate 'energy ceasefire' between Russia and Ukraine~~

Trump demanded Ukraine replace its leader. A day later, he declared a ceasefire.

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *10:34 EDT*

President Donald Trump on Sunday announced an immediate "energy ceasefire" between Russia and Ukraine, a day after ripping Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky for targeting Russian energy infrastructure during the war and calling for a new Ukrainian leader. "Effective immediately, there is an ENERGY CEASEFIRE in the War between Russia...

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)*

War in Ukraine: Europe stands united behind Kyiv but must revisit how to finance its support

Le Monde MAINSTREAM § *19:25 EDT*

Invited to the European leaders' summit in Brussels on Friday, Volodymyr Zelensky, weakened by what he called the 'betrayal' of Donald Trump, asked his allies for an additional €70 billion in aid for the year 2027.

~~Trump waiving sanctions 'rewards' Putin, says Zelensky~~

Trump waived the Russia sanctions he signed into law last month

RTÉ MAINSTREAM § *23:20 EDT*

Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelensky has said that US President Donald Trump's decision to waive Russian sanctions only "rewards" Vladimir Putin.

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

Trump waives several Russia sanctions as row with Zelensky intensifies

BBC News MAINSTREAM § *21:10 EDT*

The US president temporarily ends many restrictions on Moscow recently passed by Congress over "national security" concerns.

Schumer: 'Trump just gave Putin the best birthday gift he'll get this year'

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *12:06 EDT*

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) accused President Trump on Saturday of giving Russian President Vladimir Putin "the best birthday gift" after he waived new sanctions on Russia days before they were set to take effect. "By giving the Russian economy life support Trump's deal with the devil keeps getting dirtier,"

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.

Zelensky says US-Russia diesel deal is a 'birthday gift' to Putin to 'kill us, kill our children'

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *10:29 EDT*

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on Sunday said the U.S.-Russia diesel deal is a "birthday gift" to allow Russian President Vladimir Putin to "kill us, kill our children." When asked by ABC's Jonathan Karl on "This Week" about his remark that the deal helps Putin as a "gift," Zelensky explained that it "gives Putin money and...

But: Trump promised 53 separate times he would settle the Ukraine war, including "within 24 hours" - CNN count *CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*

U.S. Floats Lifeline to Russia: Allowing More Gas Sales to Europe

The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *14:00 EDT*

The Trump administration is pitching the idea as part of a peace deal with Ukraine, but Europe is wary and critics say Russia would be strengthened.

~~Graham Breaks With Trump Over Russia Sanctions Law Her Brother Championed~~

Trump exempts Russia from the sanctions law his own party wrote

The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *20:19 EDT*

Senator Darline Graham, appointed to fill the Senate seat of her late brother, Lindsey, gently disagreed with the president’s decision to exempt Russia from the sanctions legislation.

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.

~~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: "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)*

Zelensky bashes Trump over diesel deal with Russia

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *22:32 EDT*

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky bashed President Donald Trump’s deal with Russia to supply millions of tons of diesel fuel to global markets, giving arguably his most direct and biting criticism of Trump so far. Trump announced the deal on Friday in a post on Truth Social after a phone call with Russian President Vladimir Putin...

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

Trump waives tariffs on largest buyers of Russian oil

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *22:49 EDT*

President Trump prevented some new sanctions on Russia and hefty tariffs on large-scale buyers of Russian oil from taking effect late Friday, as he seeks to ease prices by tapping Russian energy.

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 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.

~~Zelensky says Russian sanctions Trump waived 'could have helped enormously'~~

Trump waived new Russia sanctions days before they were set to take effect

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *10:08 EDT*

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky decried President Trump’s late-night decision to waive sanctions and tariffs against Russia days before they were set to take effect under a new law. “At a time when the Russians have carried out such a massive attack on our energy sector, a decision was unfortunately made in America to completely...

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.

~~Trump waives Russia sanctions ordered by law named for Lindsey Graham~~

Trump waived the Russia sanctions he signed into law last month

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *23:09 EDT*

President Donald Trump signed an executive order on Friday that waived the sweeping Russian sanctions and tariffs enacted by the bill championed by the late Sen. Lindsey Graham. Trump signed the Lindsey O.

~~Massie offers rare praise for Trump on waiving Lindsey Graham's Russia sanctions~~

The White House waived sanctions built to help Ukraine fight Russia

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *14:32 EDT*

Rep. Thomas Massie (R-KY) on Saturday issued rare approval of President Donald Trump, commending the White House for lifting sanctions on Russia. The White House waived the sanctions on Friday, after the late Sen.

Tillis: Trump's Russia deal 'is tarnishing Lindsey Graham's efforts' at sanctions

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *16:20 EDT*

Sen. Thom Tillis (R-N.C.) slammed President Trump’s deal with Russia for diesel Sunday amid the energy struggles the U.S. is experiencing.

~~Trump Offers Putin Economic Relief in Hopes That Russia Will Return the Favor~~

Trump defies Congress, waives Russia sanctions to shield Republicans from gas prices

The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *19:46 EDT*

The Trump administration is ignoring the will of Congress and waiving new Russia sanctions amid fears that high energy prices will cost Republicans in next month’s elections.

Easing sanctions on Russia only helps fund Putin’s killing machine

New York Post RIGHT § *14:52 EDT*

Earlier this month, a Russian missile slammed into a housing complex in Pryluky, a Ukrainian city of no strategic value, far from the eastern front lines. Thirty apartments were destroyed. Twenty-two people were killed.

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.

~~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.”

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

Trump pauses new Russia sanctions passed by Congress amid deepening row with Ukraine

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *22:53 EDT*

President signed the legislation championed by late senator Lindsey Graham last month but has waived the restrictions as they were due to come into effect Donald Trump has put on hold a sweeping new sanctions package targeting the Russian economy, telling Congress the pause on the legislation passed by both chambers was in the national...

Zelensky blasts ‘unfortunate’ decision to pause Russia sanctions as Moscow hits power plants

New York Post RIGHT § *09:41 EDT*

Zelensky reported that Russia targeted the energy sector with over 320 drones, missiles, and munitions.

Lawmakers in bipartisan statement push back on Trump over Russian oil

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *18:54 EDT*

A bipartisan group of seven lawmakers on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee condemned President Trump’s recent deal with Russian President Vladimir Putin, which would lift sanctions on Russia and permit the flow of its oil into the global economy. “Congress explicitly banned Russian energy imports in 2022 to prevent American dollars...

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...

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...

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.

Trump Signs Order Exempting Russia From Sanctions Law

The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *04:35 EDT*

The sanctions were part of a measure that was named after Senator Lindsey Graham, the South Carolina Republican who died in July.

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 says Russia will export diesel, lifts sanctions

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *18:23 EDT*

{beacon} Energy & Environment Energy & Environment The Big Story Trump says Russia will export diesel, lifts sanctions Russia will supply the U.S. and global market with diesel, President Trump announced Friday, responding to sky-rocketing prices exacerbated by both the Russia-Ukraine and U.S.-Iran wars. © Andrew Caballero-Reynolds, AFP...

~~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...

- Trump signs Russia sanctions bill named after Lindsey Graham *from the morgue, 19 Sep 2026*
- Europe blasts Russian finance minister's attendance at Asheville G20 *from the morgue, 1 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*
- Ukraine persists with Russian oil refinery strikes, defying Trump on fuel price warnings *from the morgue, 1 Oct 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*

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

The administration that will livestream a firing squad at one o'clock on December 3 has lost the same case three times since September insisting that White House press access is a privilege, not a constitutional right.

By **STERLING**
THE OWNERSHIP DESK

"Christa Pike discharged from hospital, returned to prison after botched execution, attorneys say", 10 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA FOX NEWS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

You will have been assured that nobody is obliged to watch, and that is quite true, and it is the entire defence. Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin offered it on Face the Nation that Sunday: the people against the broadcast do not have to watch it. Do note what that sentence declines to cover. Not whether it goes out. Only whether you tune in.

The schedule is the only document doing any work here. On October 8, Pete Hegseth told Real America's Voice that the execution of Nidal Hasan, the former army psychiatrist convicted of killing 13 people at Fort Hood in 2009, would be "a public event." A defense department official confirmed the same day that it would be livestreamed. Firing squad, Fort Hood, Texas, one o'clock, Thursday, December 3. One o'clock. More than sixty-five years without a US military execution, and the thing that ends the run arrives with a start time....

...(cont) On October 9, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights told Agence France-Presse that "The livestreaming of an execution is tantamount to a public execution and would breach the absolute prohibition of torture." Absolute — absolute, you see, not a balancing exercise, not a thing weighed against a calendar. The schedule did not move. It did not move that Tuesday, when Mike Johnson said, "I wouldn't be watching," which is a viewing preference and not an instruction. It did not move on Thursday the 15th, when retired US generals called the plan barbaric.

Different building, different lawyers, same month: the question of who may watch the White House. On September 24, Judge Timothy Kelly, appointed by this president, ordered the three banned outlets' hard passes back — "immediately return, reinstate, and restore" — having found a likelihood that the ban and the revocation of credentials violated the Fifth Amendment's due process protections. Reporters from CNN, MS NOW and Politico arrived at the complex that same Thursday morning and were turned away. On October 3, the Justice Department petitioned the judge to reinstate the ban, arguing that access to the White House is a privilege and not a constitutional right, the filing reporting a conclusion of the President's: that the three had failed to maintain basic minimum "standards of professionalism." A privilege ... their word, and the position of a government that has not won with it. Kelly extended his order on October 8, for longer. Three losses on the one case since September, and the administration has vowed to appeal.

The state of Tennessee stopped. Its attempt to execute Christa Pike on September 30 left her unconscious and intubated. On October 3, Frank Strada, commissioner of the department of correction, resigned; all scheduled executions in the state were halted. On October 7, Judge I'Ashea Myles ordered that "Anything that was in the actual room" be preserved. On October 10, her lawyers said she had been discharged from hospital and returned to the prison she has lived in for thirty years.

The Pentagon's date was given on October 8 and holds. Add up, then, what the public has been handed for the end of a sixty-five-year run: one assurance that attendance is optional, one Speaker who would not be watching, one finding that the broadcast would breach an absolute prohibition. Three items, and a camera.

One o'clock, Thursday, Fort Hood.

THE RECEIPTS

~~Christa Pike discharged from hospital, returned to prison after botched execution, attorneys say~~

State's botched lethal injection left her with arm injuries, memory loss, attorneys say

Fox News RIGHT § *15:06 EDT*

Christa Pike is back at prison after surviving a botched lethal injection, but her attorneys say she still struggles with arm injuries and memory problems.

Retired US generals call on Pentagon to cancel 'barbaric' execution livestream

BBC News MAINSTREAM § *22:26 EDT*

Livestreaming the execution of Nidal Hasan "will taint the honor of the military that employs it, and a nation that allows it," 72 former officers said in a letter.

Fort Hood massacre survivor weighs in on possible Hasan execution livestream

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *10:53 EDT*

Fort Hood massacre survivor Sgt. Alonzo Lunsford shared his complicated feelings on the planned execution of convicted shooter Nidal Hasan potentially being livestreamed in December. Appearing on The Hill's partner network NewsNation's "Katie Pavlich Tonight,"

White House confirms appeal as Trump-appointed judge extends ruling restoring CNN, MS NOW, Politico access

Fox News RIGHT § *15:49 EDT*

Judge Timothy Kelly found Trump's ban on CNN, MS NOW and Politico reporters likely violated the First Amendment. The White House vows to appeal.

~~Christa Pike moved back to prison after failed execution~~

Tennessee's lethal injection failed to kill her

RTÉ MAINSTREAM § *11:43 EDT*

Christa Pike, who survived Tennessee's attempt to execute her by lethal injection, has been moved back to prison, according to a statement released by her lawyers.

~~Trump cancels public execution, but a line may already have been crossed~~

Hegseth proposed a livestreamed execution. His church calls it biblical.

NPR MAINSTREAM § *05:00 EDT*

Defense Secretary Hegseth's announcement of a livestreamed execution elicited reactions of disgust and condemnation from some faith leaders and politicians. But within his church, it's not an outlier.

~~Mike Johnson urges Trump to rethink livestreaming Nidal Hasan execution: 'I wouldn't be watching'~~

Trump wants to livestream an execution. His own Speaker says he won't watch.

New York Post RIGHT § *09:52 EDT*

House Speaker Mike Johnson appeared to publicly nudge President Trump against having the 2009 Fort Hood shooter's execution by firing squad live-streamed for the whole world to see.

~~Pentagon vows to livestream first military execution in decades~~

Hegseth's Pentagon will livestream an execution the UN says breaches the torture ban

France 24 MAINSTREAM § *06:56 EDT*

The first US military execution in more than 65 years will be livestreamed, announced the Pentagon on Thursday, after Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said it would be "public". Former Army psychiatrist Nidal Hasan opened fire at Fort Hood in Texas in 2009, killing 13 people. His execution will take place at the military base on December...

Christa Pike Hospitalized in Critical Condition After Botched Execution

Truthout § *14:08 EDT*

"I've never seen anything like what we saw Wednesday night," said one reporter who witnessed the execution attempt.

~~Majority of Americans oppose public executions: poll~~

71% of Americans oppose the Pentagon's planned livestream execution

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *21:41 EDT*

A new survey found the majority of Americans opposed publicly broadcast executions ahead of the Pentagon's planned livestreamed execution of convicted Fort Hood shooter Nidal Hasan. In the YouGov poll, 71 percent of respondents opposed "having executions broadcast live to the public," while 18 favored it and 13 percent were not sure.

~~'Medieval' and 'disturbing': US plan to livestream execution elicits global condemnation~~

Trump's Pentagon to livestream disabled man's execution by firing squad

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *12:32 EDT*

Pentagon said execution of Nidal Malik Hasan, who killed 13 people at Fort Hood in 2009, would be broadcast live US politics live – latest updates The US is facing worldwide condemnation over a "barbaric" plan to execute a disabled man by firing squad and livestream it to the public, with critics comparing the Trump administration to...

Christa Pike out of hospital and back in prison after botched execution attempt

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *13:10 EDT*

Pike's lawyers said she is back in same prison she's lived in for last 30 years and will continue to receive medical care Christa Pike has been discharged from the hospital after surviving Tennessee 's botched 30 September attempt to execute her by lethal injection and is back in prison, her lawyers said on Saturday. Pike, 50, returned...

Daughter of Fort Hood victim slams Hegseth's plan to livestream terrorist's execution: 'Nothing to do with justice'

New York Post RIGHT § *14:17 EDT*

"This does not bring anyone's family back. Livestreaming isn't closure for any of us," she said.

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

Judge forces Trump to keep letting reporters into the White House

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *00:34 EDT*

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

~~Convicted murderer Christa Pike leaves hospital, returns to prison after botched execution~~

Tennessee's execution attempt failed. She survived and went back to prison.

France 24 MAINSTREAM § *13:41 EDT*

Christa Pike's lawyers on Saturday said that the 50-year-old convicted murderer has been discharged from the hospital and returned to prison. Pike was transported to the hospital in critical condition on September 30 after she survived Tennessee's botched effort to execute her for murdering a classmate when she was a teenager.

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

UN Says Trump-Hegseth Livestream of Execution Would Breach ‘Absolute Prohibition of Torture’

Common Dreams § *11:02 EDT*

As rights advocates across the US expressed horror at the Trump administration's confirmed plans to publicly broadcast the execution of Nidal Hasan, the former military psychiatrist who was convicted of killing 13 people in a mass shooting at Fort Hood in 2009, the top United Nations human rights expert warned that the public state...

Judge grants preliminary injunction continuing to block Trump's White House media ban

ABC News MAINSTREAM § *11:04 EDT*

A federal judge late Tuesday granted a preliminary injunction continuing to block the Trump administration's move to bar CNN, MS NOW and Politico from the White House.

~~Christa Pike discharged from hospital and returned to prison, her lawyers say~~

Tennessee failed to execute her by lethal injection – twice, her lawyers say

BBC News MAINSTREAM § *11:58 EDT*

The convicted murderer was left in a critical condition after she survived two lethal injections.

~~Republican opposition grows to livestreaming execution of Fort Hood shooter~~

Hegseth's planned livestreamed execution is 'beyond disgusting,' GOP senator says

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *15:18 EDT*

Republicans are condemning the Pentagon’s plans to livestream the execution of Fort Hood shooter Nidal Hasan, with one senator calling it “beyond disgusting.” Secretary of War Pete Hegseth announced Thursday that Hasan’s execution, scheduled for Dec. 3, would be public.

Christa Pike out of hospital and recovering in prison after botched Tennessee execution

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *12:52 EDT*

Christa Pike has been released from the hospital and is back in prison after surviving an execution attempt in Tennessee that left her unconscious and on a ventilator. Pike is on death row for the premeditated torture and murder of a college classmate in 1995. The prisoner was set to be executed on Sept.

Prison chief resigns after failed execution attempt in US

RTÉ MAINSTREAM § *00:15 EDT*

The prison commissioner in the southern US state of Tennessee has resigned over the failed execution of convicted murderer Christa Pike, Governor Bill Lee has said.

~~Report: Trump Is Having Second Thoughts About Livestreaming Military Execution~~

Report: Pentagon's plan to livestream a military execution proceeds despite Trump's doubts

Truthout § *17:03 EDT*

Trump isn't “particularly enthusiastic” about Pete Hegseth's plan to livestream a military execution in December.

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

Trump's ban on CNN, MS NOW and Politico blocked again – access problems remain

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

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

Judge says Trump's White House media ban likely violated First Amendment

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *13:07 EDT*

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

Voters in Key States See AI Campaign Cash as More Politically Toxic Than AIPAC: Poll

Common Dreams § *11:10 EDT*

Polling data released Thursday shows that American voters in several key states view campaign cash from the artificial intelligence industry and Big Tech CEOs as more politically poisonous than donations from the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, Wall Street executives, and cryptocurrency firms. The poll from Data for Progress...

- Trump White House Restores Access to Politico, MS NOW, CNN Reporters Hours After Judge's Order *from the morgue, 24 Sep 2026*
- Federal judge extends order halting White House press ban while considering long-term ruling *from the morgue, 8 Oct 2026*
- Judge orders White House to temporarily restore media access for blocked outlets *from the morgue, 24 Sep 2026*
- White House again blocks CNN from press pool as Trump rages against media in wide-ranging interview – live *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*
- Trump made ‘clear’ that media ban was due to critical coverage, lawyer tells judge *from the morgue, 8 Oct 2026*
- Sunday Shows Preview: Trump bans 3 media outlets from White House; Parties make final cases as midterms approach *from the morgue, 19 Sep 2026*
- Outgoing prison chief in Christa Pike case oversaw five ‘botched’ executions, lawyers say *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*
- Judge orders officials to preserve all evidence tied to Christa Pike’s botched execution *from the morgue, 7 Oct 2026*
- Christa Pike’s lawyer says request to unshackle her was denied as he confirms she is speaking ‘limitedly’ – live *from the morgue, 7 Oct 2026*
- Christa Pike left in ‘critical condition’ as Tennessee halts all executions *from the morgue, 2 Oct 2026*
- Tennessee suspends executions as Christa Pike’s lawyer says failed lethal injection leaves her in critical condition *from the morgue, 2 Oct 2026*
- Tennessee Corrections commissioner resigns days after failed Christa Pike execution *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*
- Tennessee Prison Chief Was Hired Despite a Trail of Troubled Executions *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*
- Pike's botched execution renews death penalty scrutiny *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*
- After failed execution, health workers say Tennessee's method flouts medical ethics *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*
- Supreme Court Allows Execution of Christa Pike, Tennessee’s Lone Woman on Death Row *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*
- Federal court halts Christa Pike's execution *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*
- White House defends media outlet bans, now citing 'professionalism' standards *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*
- Vance defends White House media ban: ‘Politico is as anti-Trump as Breitbart was anti-Obama or anti-Biden’ *from the morgue, 21 Sep 2026*
- Vance defends Trump's media ban as 'totally appropriate' *from the morgue, 21 Sep 2026*
- Bill Clinton: 'There were lots of times when I wanted to ban the White House press corps' *from the morgue, 25 Sep 2026*
- Tennessee prison chief to resign after Christa Pike's failed execution, governor says *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*
- Tennessee’s prisons chief resigns after failed Pike execution, governor says *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*
- Federal Appellate Court Halts Tennessee's Planned Execution of Christa Pike *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*
- Supreme Court declines Christa Pike's clemency appeal, with Tennessee set to execute first woman in 200 years *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*
- Supreme Court allows execution of Christa Pike to go forward *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*
- Tennessee court makes last minute move to temporarily halt Christa Pike's execution *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*
- DOJ petitions judge to reinstate White House ban on CNN, MS Now, and Politico *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*
- CNN, MS NOW and Politico reporters regain entry to White House *from the morgue, 24 Sep 2026*
- Tennessee prison system head to resign after failed Christa Pike execution *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*
- Tennessee Prison Commissioner Resigns Days After Failed Execution *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*
- Tennessee prison chief resigns after Christa Pike’s botched execution *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*
- Christa Pike’s Tennessee execution halted by court an hour before it was scheduled *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*
- Christa Pike thought her arm would ‘burst open’ during botched Tennessee execution: court docs *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*
- Death row inmate unconscious on ventilator after botched execution for teen’s killing: attorneys *from the morgue, 2 Oct 2026*
- Christa Pike remains unconscious and on ventilator after failed execution in Tennessee *from the morgue, 2 Oct 2026*
- Christa Pike unconscious and intubated after failed execution, lawyers say *from the morgue, 2 Oct 2026*
- Christa Pike Was Unconscious and on Ventilator After Execution Attempt *from the morgue, 2 Oct 2026*
- How legislatures and the courts sabotage the death penalty *from the morgue, 2 Oct 2026*

· Tennessee inmate survived two lethal injections, her lawyer says in motion to halt execution *from the morgue, 28 Sep 2026*

· Tennessee Attempted to Execute a Sexual Assault Victim *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*

· Tennessee prepares to execute the first woman in over 200 years *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*

· Questions emerge after Christa Pike's botched execution *from the morgue, 2 Oct 2026*

· Tennessee executed Christa Pike by the book. She survived *from the morgue, 2 Oct 2026*

· Christa Pike in critical condition after failed execution attempts: Lawyer *from the morgue, 2 Oct 2026*

· Christa Pike’s botched lethal injection takes focus off victim, jeopardizes execution: former police chief *from the morgue, 2 Oct 2026*

· What the Modern State Gets Wrong About Execution *from the morgue, 2 Oct 2026*

· States should not blindly Alabama's use of execution by nitrogen *from the morgue, 28 Sep 2026*

· Lawyers, experts urge Tennessee governor to commute Christa Pike’s sentence after botched execution *from the morgue, 2 Oct 2026*

· Botched execution of death row inmate *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*

· After Two Botched Attempts, UN Experts Urge Tennessee Not to Try to Execute Crista Pike Again *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*

· Legal expert on what could happen after botched execution of Christa Pike *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*

· After Failed Attempt to Execute Christa Pike, Tennessee Pauses a Planned Execution *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*

· Botched US execution prompts global calls to scrap death penalty *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*

· Lone woman death row inmate Christa Pike says she’s ‘at peace’ ahead of execution — as Tennessee gov. denies last-ditch bid for clemency *from the morgue, 29 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.

Homeland Security agents explained the criminal investigation the border czar confirmed in September and would not describe by searching Rep. Ilhan Omar's home on 12 October, over immigration forms her late father filled out when she was a child.

By **MITCH**

INVESTIGATIONS

FOX NEWS digital
STOP THE GENOCIDE
END THE APARTHEID
FREE PALESTINE
POLICE HSI

"Rep. Ilhan Omar's DC home raided by DHS as part of probe into Dem's immigration paperwork", 12 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA NEW YORK POST — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

I have been reading the paperwork on this one all week, and I want to walk you through it, because the paperwork is the story.

Begin on Friday 18 September, where Fox News carried border czar Tom Homan confirming an ongoing criminal investigation into Rep. Ilhan Omar. The same headline carried Omar saying the Department of Homeland Security had not contacted her about any probe. That is as close as a public record gets to a claim and its rebuttal sharing one cab....

...(cont) On Tuesday 22 September the Washington Examiner published a piece headlined "Did Ilhan Omar marry her own brother? The claims explained," reporting that long-running rumors had returned to national attention after senior Trump administration officials indicated federal authorities are mounting an immigration fraud case against the congresswoman. Note the order. The officials indicate; the rumor returns; the explaining is left to the press.

On Tuesday 29 September, Fox News put a former federal prosecutor on the question of whether the president could revoke Omar's citizenship over the alleged brother marriage. The prosecutor's warning, in the network's own words, was that there are "very high bars" to prove marriage fraud. That is the last thing in the file before anybody knocks on a door.

They knocked on Monday 12 October. DHS investigators searched Omar's Washington home; Fox News reported it first. CBS News reported that sources put the investigation on her immigration documents — paperwork, CBS and the New York Post both say, filled out by her late father when she was a child. Common Dreams reports that Fox News said the probe concerns the naturalization paperwork her father filed when she became a US citizen in 2000, and reports as well that the search followed years of threats from President Donald Trump and other Republicans to deport her.

Now the explanation. All together now — the whole of it, as ABC News renders what a Justice Department spokesperson said on Tuesday 13 October: the search was part of an ongoing criminal investigation. Read it twice. There is a subject, a verb and an adjective. There is no statute, no name for the offense, no date for the conduct, and no reason the step came this month. Common Dreams has the one detail the department added, which is that the warrant was judicially authorized, and that is true of warrants.

Follow the clause the New York Times set under its own account that same day: the search falls inside the sixty-day window before the midterm elections, when the Justice Department has historically avoided such investigative steps related to political candidates. Historically. The Times is being polite and I will be too — a custom holds until someone tests it, and the only office that could enforce this one is the office that tested it.

One more item, from September. On Friday 18 September, the same day Homan confirmed the investigation Homan would not describe, the Washington Examiner reported that Speaker Mike Johnson had sent lawmakers home for a seven-week recess ahead of the midterms. Seven weeks. The search landed inside them.

So the file reads: a criminal fraud investigation announced on television before it was explained anywhere; a search of a sitting member's home inside the window where such searches are historically not taken; and underneath it, by the accounts of the outlets reporting the subject matter, immigration forms a father filled out for a child, the naturalization set filed, Fox News said, when she became a citizen in 2000. The father is dead. The forms cannot be asked anything. The congresswoman is a candidate, and the Times has already told you which sixty days we are standing in.

THE RECEIPTS

~~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)*

Rep. Ilhan Omar's residence searched as part of ongoing criminal investigation: DOJ

ABC News MAINSTREAM § *09:22 EDT*

A Department of Justice spokesperson said the search was part of an ongoing criminal investigation.

~~US federal agents raid home of Democratic congresswoman and Trump critic Ilhan Omar~~

Federal agents raided a congresswoman's home over paperwork her late father filed when she was a child

France 24 MAINSTREAM § *11:13 EDT*

US federal agents on Monday launched a raid on the Washington home of Democratic representative Ilhan Omar, an outspoken critic of US President Donald Trump, officials said. The raid followed a criminal fraud investigation into the Somali-born lawmaker's immigration paperwork submitted by her late father when she was a child, Fox...

~~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...

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

Rep. Omar's D.C. home searched by DHS investigators

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *19:55 EDT*

Sources say the investigation centers on Rep. Ilhan Omar's immigration documents, involving paperwork filled out by her late father when she was a child.

~~Federal Agents Search Home of Rep. Ilhan Omar~~

Justice Department breaks its own 60-day election rule to raid Ilhan Omar's home

The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *21:54 EDT*

The search takes place within the 60-day window of the midterm elections, when the Justice Department has historically avoided such investigative steps related to political candidates.

- Homan confirms 'criminal' investigation involving Ilhan Omar, says he knows 'things are going on' *from the morgue, 13 Sep 2026*
- WATCH: Ilhan Omar denies feds have contacted her after border czar Homan confirms 'criminal' investigation *from the morgue, 18 Sep 2026*
- Could Trump revoke Ilhan Omar's citizenship for alleged brother marriage? Ex federal prosecutor breaks it down *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*
- Did Ilhan Omar marry her own brother? The claims explained *from the morgue, 22 Sep 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*

- Trump's Top Oil Stocks Have Made Him Up to $4.4 Million Richer During Iran War: Analysis *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*

- 'Trump Did It!': At $5.85 a Gallon, Diesel Price Hits All-Time High in US Thanks to War on Iran *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*

- Gas prices reach Labor Day high amid Iran war *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*

- Trump Hammered Over Iran War That Drove Gas Prices Above $4 Per Gallon Every Day in August for First Time Ever *from the morgue, 31 Aug 2026*

- Warsh under pressure as Fed weighs rate hike *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

- Inflation held at 3.4% in August in consumer price index, creating tough choice for Warsh Fed *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*

- Warsh indicates Fed could raise rates to cool inflation *from the morgue, 28 Aug 2026*

- Key U.S. Bond Rate Near 20-Year High as Oil Prices Keep Climbing *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

- 10-year Treasury yield hits highest level since 2007, oil surges above $105 as Fed expected to hike interest rates *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

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

Tennessee cut its beer to half price to open Neyland's gates early for a president who spent the afternoon stumping for the bill, up for Senate passage that Monday, that sets what the players below him may be paid.

By GUS
THE SPORTS DESK

● HOT MIC MOMENT

Levels are down, so let me say it plainly. The United States Senate spent that Monday setting the pay terms of twenty-year-olds who were not in the room, and the senator who wrote it collected a pregame segment for his trouble. The Nation's justice correspondent has it cold — the bill threatens athletes' labor rights — in the same column that marks the Supreme Court rejecting the latest move to restrict mail-in voting. Somebody give me the political desk. I am wasted on pitchers.

GUS HIS SIDE

GUS: Ladies and gentlemen, this reporter has described a great many things from a press box, and pricing was not among them until Saturday, the twenty-sixth of September. On that date the University of Tennessee opened the gates of Neyland Stadium early and took fifty percent off the beer, as the No. 14 Volunteers prepared to receive the No. 1 Longhorns in the loudest house in the Big 12.

GUS: The ceremony deserves the record. The new-look Air Force One came over the rim, the crowd greeted the president with massive cheers, and before boarding he had advised a reporter, "I want real news, not fake news, like you." Inside, he vouched for the Protect College Sports Act, called the House Speaker fantastic, and put the count at sixty-eight votes, if you can believe it.

GUS: This reporter would also compliment the gals in the stands, who turned out in their best colors and lent the afternoon a charm no flyover can purchase.

GUS: The broadcast did not hold. ABC's audio turned into a static-filled mess, this after the Post reported coaches worried about disruptions. The football was first-rate — Colin Simmons recorded five sacks, Raleek Brown scored twice, and Texas escaped Knoxville. It was the president's first college game since January's national championship, when Miami defeated Indiana.

The Hill had the Knoxville appearance down as arriving ahead of senators' last chance to pass the Protect College Sports Act before recessing into a lame-duck period, and the Examiner notes it is the furthest a collegiate sports bill has ever gotten in Congress, having been introduced in May.

GUS: The road show continued. The Mobile receipts are dated Saturday, the third of October, where the president announced he would attend No. 7 Alabama against No. 2 Georgia at Bryant-Denny Stadium on the tenth. By Wednesday the seventh, Fox reported Hurricane Isaias threatening that game and the Secret Service preparing; the Post's headline carried the phrase "Nightmare scenario" in quotation marks.

TRUDY *HER SIDE*

Big 12, sugar? Fox News files the result as a "thrilling SEC victory," and the Examiner, the Hill and the Post all have it as a Southeastern Conference game. You are two conferences off. The discount you have right, and the Post ran the tactic as a tactic – get them in early, with heightened security expected around the president's presence and ESPN's "College GameDay" on campus.

Seventy-eight. The Washington Examiner prints the words: "Mike Johnson's fantastic. And we actually had 78 votes, if you can believe it." Ten votes is not a rounding error. The same item has him calling it "Bipartisanship for the first time in a while" – a bill The Hill says would write national rules for compensating college athletes and limiting transfers.

The women bought tickets the same as the men, Gus, and Fox quotes a fan asking for exactly one thing: "I hope he stays the whole game." They came for a football game and got a legislative rally with a drink special. Drink some water and sit down a minute.

Indiana defeated Miami. The Hill, Wednesday the twenty-third of September, in the very item that confirmed this trip. You have the winner and the loser traded in a title game from January. Mushrooms are said to be good for the memory; buy a pound and a notebook.

Then note who else had a microphone. The Hill, Friday the eighteenth of September: Kirk Herbstreit defending ESPN for seating Senator Ted Cruz on "College GameDay" – "We had him on because they were going to be voting this week" – Herbstreit speaking of the week before that Friday. The network booked the author; Tennessee priced the crowd.

The road show plays stadiums while the home office edits the signage. Washington Examiner, Wednesday the twenty-third of September: former Tennessee Agriculture Commissioner Charlie Hatcher, who ousted Representative Andy Ogles in the August primary, took "Pro-Trump" out of his campaign slogan in a deep-red seat.

Thirty seconds to air and you are organizing a bargaining unit into a live feed. Also the receipt holds: The Nation, Friday the eighteenth of September, Elie Mystal, on Ted Cruz's college-sports bill threatening athletes' labor rights – in the same column that marks the Supreme Court's rejection of the latest move to restrict mail-in voting.

THE RECEIPTS

- https://www.foxnews.com/outkick-sports/hurricane-isaias-threatens-georgia-vs-alabama-sec-showdown-trump-plans-tuscaloosa-visit *the receipt*
- https://nypost.com/2026/10/06/sports/possible-hurricane-threatens-alabama-georgia-game-trump-slated-to-attend/ *the receipt*
- Trump reveals he will return to Alabama in a week to watch Crimson Tide face Georgia *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*
- Trump says he will attend Georgia-Alabama football game in Tuscaloosa *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*
- Trump says he will attend Alabama vs Georgia college football game at Bryant-Denny Stadium *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*
- Trump set to attend Tennessee-Texas football game in Knoxville *from the morgue, 23 Sep 2026*
- Trump stumps for Protect College Sports Act at Texas-Tennessee game: 'Bipartisanship for the first time in a while' *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*
- No. 1 Texas escapes Tennessee with thrilling SEC victory as President Trump watches on from Neyland Stadium *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*
- Audio problems plague ABC for Texas-Tennessee after warning of possible disruptions with Trump at game *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*
- Trump met with roaring cheers at University of Tennessee-Texas Longhorns college football game *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*
- Air Force One does majestic flyover before Trump attends highly anticipated Texas-Tennessee game *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*
- Trump trolls reporter: I don't want fake news 'like you' *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*
- SEC crowd greets Trump with massive cheers ahead of Tennessee-Texas showdown *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*
- Trump to attend major Texas vs. Tennessee college football game — and coaches are worried about disruptions *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*
- Tennessee fans excited for Trump's attendance at game vs Texas: 'I hope he stays the whole game' *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*
- Trump to attend Texas-Tennessee football game as he pushes college sports bill *from the morgue, 24 Sep 2026*
- Cruz: Trump should sign college sports bill live on ESPN's 'College GameDay' once passed *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*
- Cruz faces rowdy crowd at College GameDay while promoting the Protect College Sports Act *from the morgue, 12 Sep 2026*
- GOP hopeful removes 'Pro-Trump' mention from campaign slogan in deep-red seat *from the morgue, 23 Sep 2026*
- Tennessee uses unusual alcohol tactic to get fans there early with President Trump attending Texas showdown *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*
- Live updates: Trump attends Texas-Tennessee football game in Knoxville; US, China to cut tariffs on $30 billion worth of goods *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*
- Trump wants the Protect College Sports Act passed. What to know about the legislation. *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*
- We Need to Protect College Sports from Ted Cruz *from the morgue, 18 Sep 2026*
- This week on the Hill: Senate eyes final passage on college sports bill *from the morgue, 20 Sep 2026*
- College football pressure index: Four coaches, two QBs and one coordinator under the gun in Week 4 *from the morgue, 20 Sep 2026*
- Senate votes to move forward with Protect College Sports Act *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*
- Kirk Herbstreit defends having Ted Cruz on 'College GameDay' *from the morgue, 18 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.

Op-ed warns Congress twice in 16 days, drops the $17.1 billion fix it cited the first time.

By RUTH
THE MONEY DESK

"US inflation rose to 3.7% in September in blow to Republicans before midterms", 14 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE GUARDIAN — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Op-eds in the Washington Examiner and the Hill, sixteen days apart, said nothing protects children online.

WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no buyer yet.

WHAT SLIPS. The public's memory of a $17.1 billion settlement already won slips, so Congress hears only that nothing has been tried.

WHAT'S NEXT. The settlement is still a proposed agreement, not yet entered by any court, and no hearing date appears in the record to make it final.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Before I reconcile anything, let me show my filing. August 26: a bipartisan coalition of fifty-one state and territorial attorneys general announces a proposed agreement with Meta — up to $17.1 billion, restrictions on endless scrolling, among other changes — to do what California's attorney general called making social media "less dangerous for our kids." Proposed, note. Not signed, not entered, not finalized: a number in a press release, not yet a number in a court order. I file that detail because what happens next treats the settlement as smaller than even that.

October 2, the Washington Examiner runs an op-ed titled "We failed our children on social media. AI is our last chance to get it right." It does cite the $17.1 billion — one sentence, one paragraph — the way you'd cite a photograph of storm damage: proof the house flooded, not proof anyone has fixed the roof since. The piece's argument is that nothing has protected children from social media, and nothing will protect them from AI unless Congress starts now, starting from zero....

...(cont) October 18, the Hill runs the same argument, sixteen days later, under a different masthead: "We didn't protect children from social media — we have another chance with AI." I read it twice, looking for the $17.1 billion. It is not there. Not the number, not a mention, not a clause. The first draft gave the settlement one paragraph, as evidence of the wound. The second draft gives it nothing; the wound stays on the page, the stitches come out.

Here is the reconciliation, hon. Both pieces ask Congress to build, from scratch, the research and safeguards AI needs so history does not repeat itself. Fifty-one attorneys general had already built a $17.1 billion version of exactly that, for social media, weeks before the first piece ran. Neither piece has to credit the coalition by name — neither one does, even the version that cites the dollar figure.

That is the whole filing. The mention went from one paragraph to zero. The claim went from made once to made twice. I'm not calling anyone a liar. I'm running the copy against the table, and the table does not match.

> "Fifty-one attorneys general, red state and blue state both, already made Meta agree to pay up to seventeen billion dollars for the exact thing these two op-eds say nobody has touched. The number showed up once, in the first piece, then vanished completely in the second one sixteen days later — that's not sloppy, that's a script. Forget the settlement, sell Congress on starting the fight from zero, and whoever drafts the next AI bill gets to write it on a blank page instead of against a seventeen-billion-dollar precedent."
>
> — Sal

> "Look, social media and artificial intelligence are two completely different technologies, you can't just — well, the op-ed itself is titled "AI is our last chance," comparing it directly to social media, so maybe they are the same fight. Fine, the dollar figure ran once and then didn't run again, but nobody's required to cite every state settlement in every single draft of an opinion piece — did I say every draft? It's one draft. There's only one draft."
>
> — Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Farmers who backed Trump for a decade turn two weeks before Republicans must defend Congress.* By Ruth · the afternoon edition, 18 October 2026
- *Record-low approval arrives before Vance finishes asking voters for more time.* By Ruth · the morning edition, 18 October 2026
- *Trump's $5,000 a head arrived as $90 out of the Medicare fund he called a pointless slush fund, with the other $4,910 due only if Republicans keep both chambers November 3* By Lou · the evening edition, 18 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

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

US inflation rose to 3.7% in September in blow to Republicans before midterms

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *10:29 EDT*

Final inflation report before voters go to polls comes amid widespread anger over cost of living under Trump Send us your questions on how the US economy is shaping the midterm elections Republicans are entering the midterm elections with the highest rate of inflation since the spring, according to a government report released on...

We didn't protect children from social media — we have another chance with AI

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *11:00 EDT*

The question is not whether children will grow up with artificial intelligence. They will. The question is whether, this time, we will build the research, safeguards and scientific guidance needed to understand what AI is doing to children — while we still have the opportunity to shape what comes next.

Social Security recipients to get cost of living boost — here's how much more you'll receive each month

New York Post RIGHT § *09:58 EDT*

The Social Security Administration projected Wednesday that the annual cost-of-living adjustment for older adults and people with disabilities will go up by 3.6% beginning in 2027, with some recipients complaining that is not enough to offset soaring prices.

But: **NAR puts the median first-time homebuyer at 40 years old — a record — and first-time buyers at a record-low 21% of the market** *National Association of Realtors, 2025 Profile*

Surging Inflation Complicates Trump's Final Push to Sell Voters on Strong Economy

The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *14:42 EDT*

The final inflation report before the 2026 election — showing price increases and stagnant wages — spelled bad political news for the White House.

~~'He Thinks Working People Are a Joke': Ken Paxton Floats Social Security Cuts in Leaked Audio~~

Paxton: cut Social Security, keep cutting taxes for the rich

Common Dreams § *13:37 EDT*

Ken Paxton, the Republican Party's nominee for the US Senate in Texas , expressed a willingness to cut programs such as Social Security in a leaked recording published by The Texas Tribune on Thursday. In the recording, which was made during a private meeting with donors and lobbyists last month, Paxton said he'd target "mandatory...

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

Social Security COLA set to rise by 3.6 percent in 2027

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *10:32 EDT*

Social Security benefits will increase by 3.6 percent in 2027, the Trump administration announced Wednesday. With the latest cost of living adjustment (COLA), Social Security retirement benefits will increase by $75 per month on average, according to the Social Security Administration (SSA). Last year's COLA was 2.8 percent.

Trump promised to lower prices for Americans. Here's what the data shows.

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *09:28 EDT*

Just weeks before the midterm elections, 90% of Americans say prices in the U.S. are the main factor shaping their view of the economy. These charts show why.

Here is how much prices for groceries, gas, utilities, and shelter are up under Trump

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *10:40 EDT*

Prices are up 5.4% overall since President Donald Trump entered office, according to the final inflation report before the midterm elections. The September consumer price index report showed that prices rose 3.7% on an annual basis. With that increase, prices for staples like groceries and gas, as well as for electricity and shelter, are...

- We failed our children on social media. AI is our last chance to get it right *from the morgue, 2 Oct 2026*
- $17 Billion Meta Settlement 'Will Make Social Media Less Dangerous for Our Kids,' Says California AG *from the morgue, 26 Aug 2026*
- Top OpenAI Executive Labels Social Security a 'Fraud' That Must be Dismantled *from the morgue, 26 Aug 2026*
- Trump Says He Wanted to Privatize Social Security 'So Badly' During First Term *from the morgue, 7 Oct 2026*
- In Trump's Second Term, Average US Family Forced to Spend $3,800 More on Essentials *from the morgue, 27 Aug 2026*
- Trump Hammered Over Iran War That Drove Gas Prices Above $4 Per Gallon Every Day in August for First Time Ever *from the morgue, 31 Aug 2026*
- 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*
- Trump's Top Oil Stocks Have Made Him Up to $4.4 Million Richer During Iran War: Analysis *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*
- 'Trump Did It!': At $5.85 a Gallon, Diesel Price Hits All-Time High in US Thanks to War on Iran *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*
- Gas prices reach Labor Day high amid Iran war *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*
- Warsh under pressure as Fed weighs rate hike *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*
- Inflation held at 3.4% in August in consumer price index, creating tough choice for Warsh Fed *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*
- Warsh indicates Fed could raise rates to cool inflation *from the morgue, 28 Aug 2026*
- Key U.S. Bond Rate Near 20-Year High as Oil Prices Keep Climbing *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*
- 10-year Treasury yield hits highest level since 2007, oil surges above $105 as Fed expected to hike interest rates *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*
- Benchmark mortgage rate hits 14-month high as bond yields keep rising *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- Benchmark mortgage rate hits highest mark in over a year *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*
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- Massie Moves to Force Impeachment Vote Against Hegseth, Citing Civilian Deaths *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*
- GOP Rep Thomas Massie introduces 8 articles of impeachment against War Secretary Pete Hegseth *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*
- Republican Rep. Massie moves to impeach Defense Secretary Hegseth over Iran war *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*
- Thomas Massie Forces Vote To Impeach Pete Hegseth *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*
- Pete Hegseth Faces Growing Criticism as War With Iran Rolls On *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*
- Hegseth Quietly Extends Middle East Troop Deployments Into 2027 as Iran War Drags On *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*
- Costco imposes purchase limits on motor oil, hikes prices by nearly double *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

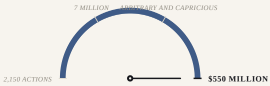
This page is a back-issue: the story as it ran, receipts as they were. The current edition is at the front. The byline is a pen name for a column drafted by a machine and checked by the editor: how this is made.

§65 — 18 OCTOBER 2026

On the king

BY LOU
The Word

DEMOCRAT



$550 MILLION

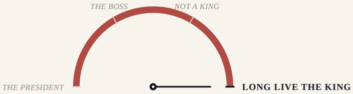
The marches. On June 14, 2025, the Crowd Counting Consortium estimated "between 2 and 4.8 million people participated in over 2,150 actions" under the words No Kings [1]. On October 18, 2025 — a year ago today — the organizers counted nearly 7 million at 2,700 locations [2]; an independent estimate put the median near 5 million [3].

The toll. On March 3 a federal judge granted the transit authority summary judgment, finding the Transportation Department's attempt to end congestion pricing "arbitrary and capricious" [4]. The state reported "over $550 million in net revenue in its first year" and "27 million fewer vehicles" in the zone [5]. The king declared it dead in February 2025. It was still collecting on its first birthday.

SOURCES

1. "Between 2 and 4.8 million people participated in over 2,150 actions" on 14 June 2025 — Crowd Counting Consortium via Waging Nonviolence, August 2025 ↑
2. Organizers counted nearly 7 million at 2,700 locations on 18 October 2025 — Variety, 19 October 2025 ↑
3. A median estimate of about 5.0 million — G. Elliott Morris ↑
4. The Transportation Department's termination of congestion pricing ruled "arbitrary and capricious" — Earthjustice, 3 March 2026 ↑
5. "Over $550 million in net revenue in its first year"; "27 million fewer vehicles" — Office of the Governor of New York, 5 January 2026 ↑

REPUBLICAN



LONG LIVE THE KING

The post, February 19, 2025, on the day his administration moved to end New York's congestion toll: "CONGESTION PRICING IS DEAD. Manhattan, and all of New York, is SAVED. LONG LIVE THE KING!" [1]. In October, the day after the second national No Kings protests, he posted an AI video of himself crowned, flying a "King Trump" jet over the marchers [2].

And the answer he gave in his own voice, the same day, to reporters at Joint Base Andrews: "I'm not a king. I work my ass off to make our country great" [3]. That is the defense, and it is not nothing: an elected president who submits to elections, courts and a two-term limit is, whatever he posts, not a monarch. The crown is a costume. Whether the costume changed what happened to the toll is on the other side.

SOURCES

1. "CONGESTION PRICING IS DEAD. Manhattan, and all of New York, is SAVED. LONG LIVE THE KING!" — Truth Social, 19 February 2025 — NBC New York ↑
2. A 19-second AI video of a crowned Trump flying a "King Trump" jet over protesters — Variety, 19 October 2025 ↑
3. "I'm not a king. I work my ass off to make our country great." — Fox News, 19 October 2025 ↑

> *"I'll just read the dates. February 19th last year: "CONGESTION PRICING IS DEAD. Manhattan, and all of New York, is SAVED. LONG LIVE THE KING!" June 14th: two to nearly five million people at over two thousand protests under the words "No Kings." October 18th — a year ago today — the organizers said nearly seven million. The next day: "I'm not a king." March of this year: a judge says the attempt to end the toll was arbitrary and capricious. First-year revenue: over five hundred fifty million. Sorry, I've got my coat on. The king declared it dead. Why is it still collecting?"* — Lou

"'"CONGESTION PRICING IS DEAD. LONG LIVE THE KING!" Then a federal judge ruled the killing arbitrary and capricious, and the thing he declared dead cleared five hundred fifty million dollars in its first year. The king has a crown, a jet in a cartoon, and one of the better-attended protest movements in American history named after him. What the king doesn't have is the toll booth."

– Sal

"The post was a joke, the crown was a joke, the video was a joke, and "I'm not a king" was entirely sincere, which is exactly how you can tell a joke from the truth: by which one he says after the protest."

– Chip

The Word today — 👍 👎