The Single-Column Edition

FROM § EACH

☼ SATURDAY, 24 OCTOBER 2026 — THE AFTERNOON EDITION FREE, FOREVER

Taken aback voters blame billionaires, Republicans make no case for the economy.

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

On October 15, a Harris poll asked key voting groups — independents, rural voters, and some Republicans — how the economy is doing. Nearly 61 percent filed the country under recession. Sixty-five percent of independents called it worse than a year ago.

Three days later, on October 18, Republican operatives learned who those voters hold responsible. A CNN report, relayed by Common Dreams, said the operatives were "taken aback": the rural voters the party has counted on for a generation are not blaming Democrats for the economy. They are blaming billionaires.

Run the filing against the table and the gap has a size. Six days — October 18 to October 24 — sit between that private alarm and the public response it produced. On October 24, the Washington Examiner counted the economic argument Republicans have made for Donald Trump's record since the alarm went off.

The same day, CBS reported that financial stress and the state of the economy rank among the key issues for midterm voters. Grist reported, also on

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THE WORD

§71 — 24 OCTOBER 2026

On windmills

DEMOCRAT

1.7 BILLION

REPUBLICAN

WINDMILLS

"I'm a bird man, a little. I keep a feeder on the porch, and the thing that gets the birds at my house is my neighbor's cat, Duchess. So when he said the windmills "wipe them all out," I looked it up. The wildlife numbers: turbines, a hundred forty thousand to three hundred twenty-seven thousand birds a year. Vehicles, eighty-nine to three hundred forty million. Cats, one point seven to three point four billion. Sorry, I'm going — Duchess is probably on the feeder right now. Of the things on that list, which one got the executive order?" — Lou

... Continued on Page W71

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

THE RESCUE IS A LOAN

One section of the federal passport rules refuses the book to a parent more than $2,500 behind on child support, and lets the State Department refuse it to an American who has not paid back the seat on the flight out of a war.

... Continued on the Investigative Reporting page

Trump priced Congress at $5,000, paid $90, his own voters are not buying the rest.

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

Here's how the file runs, in order, dollar by dollar.

In September, at the Republican midterm convention in Dallas, the president priced a Republican Congress at five thousand dollars a head — every adult citizen, paid out, if the party held both chambers of Congress past November.

In October, the first installment cleared: ninety dollars, drawn from a Medicare improvement fund the president has called a pointless slush fund. No date has been set for the other four thousand nine hundred and ten dollars.

Run that against the promise and the gap sits in plain numbers: one dollar delivered for every fifty-six promised, one point eight percent of the account paid, ninety-eight point two percent unscheduled. The same October carried a second account with the same shape. A 2027 Social Security raise, set that month at three point six percent, met prices running three point seven percent the same month — the number announced again landing short of the number that shows up.

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Fox runs 'networks call riots peaceful' story twice, each time beside networks' own tear-gas footage.

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

Nationwide, arrests since late September had already passed 6,600. The next day the same tactics crossed into Brussels — tear gas, water cannons, baton charges — as tens of thousands rallied over the same cost-of-living and austerity fights.

That is one filing, dated, on the books.

Five days later, the week it had filed against repeated itself. CBS reported police firing tear gas and making dozens of arrests, a week after 3,000 buildings nationwide were damaged or looted. NBC reported that Paris had shut the Louvre and other museums as police deployed in large numbers for a new round of protests, students and workers marching again over school funding and the cost of living.

The same day, October 24th, Fox filed the complaint again — "Networks show France burning but highlight 'peaceful' protesters" — a second entry, five days after the first, posted against a second week of tear gas, dozens of arrests, and a closed national museum.

That is the whole transaction, reconciled: two filings, five days apart, each

... Continued on Page F126

Vance tells Republicans to stop whining about ad his own party calls the worst politics imaginable

BY LOU
One More Question

I have to hand it to the gentleman's campaign for the candor, at least at first. A lot of ads in a tight race get laundered through some group most people couldn't name, a filing nobody traces back to anybody. Not this one. On October 21st, Vivek Ramaswamy stood up and said the ad was his — his campaign made it, his campaign is paying to run it. I wrote that down, because you don't see a candidate take the credit out loud that often. Then I read the rest of that same story. The headline on it called the ad his campaign had just claimed, word for word, "the most disgusting, pathetic ad ever created in the history of political ads." Is that a credit you take, or a credit you own up to?

Same day — and I checked the dates twice, because I didn't believe these happened within hours of each other — the vice president told reporters he was disgusted. Not by the ad. By the Republicans complaining about it. He called that whining, on camera, and told them what's coming from him in 2028 would be more of it — his own word for it was "venom." I don't have an opinion about 2028. I have the word, and I have the date he used it: the 21st, same day as the credit-taking.

... Continued on Page A221

Alaska pipeline got a podium, then a waiver, then a Russian financier, then a seat in peace talks

BY MITCH
Investigations

On September 30th, the president stood in front of a map of Alaska and introduced a $54 billion piece of a $200 billion deal — a gas pipeline, eight nuclear plants, a power grid — with Senator Dan Sullivan placed at center stage and Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick beside him. All together now: read the backdrop, not the speech. The financing behind the U.S. firm folded into that pipeline went unannounced from the podium — not a name missing from a list, a line item missing from the ledger.

Eight days later, on October 8th, the administration exempted winter exploration projects on Alaska's North Slope from environmental review. The Washington Examiner's word for it was "accelerating" — the review outrun by about a week.

Today, The New York Times supplies the line item. Documents and interviews show a Russian energy giant secretly financed the U.S. firm now sitting inside the pipeline Trump unveiled beside Sullivan. The same deal, the Times reports, has been discussed in the talks meant to end the war that financier is fighting. Not a rumor passed at a briefing — documents, interviews, on the

... Continued on Page F125

Musk blamed Washington for the Starlink slowdown he ordered, then restored it the day the public noticed.

BY MORT
The Records Bureau

The cap died Saturday, after a week on a restriction the contractor would not explain. It was born the week of October 14, when the Times reported the same company's owner the largest known donor of this midterm cycle, $276 million, and the question of why Ukraine's battlefield internet had slowed to 100 mph went unanswered while the money question got answered in full. By the 17th, Zelensky said Starshield was still restricted and called the breakdown a "planned operation" to target Kyiv; the company and the White House each pointed at the other, the oldest malarkey in Washington. By the 20th, the Wall Street Journal reported, and The Hill confirmed, that Musk himself had ordered the slowdown — the true explanation arriving three days after the denial.

That same day, Zelenskyy said Washington gave no warning before Russia struck Kyiv's power plants, called it a "denial of reality," and revived his charge that Washington was withholding intelligence to pressure Kyiv toward a settlement it has not agreed to. The power went out in Kyiv the same week the internet stayed capped in Kyiv, and the explanation for both arrived

... Continued on Page B44

Justice Department vows not to improperly block any election, tries to block three this month.

BY LOU
One More Question

The letter the Department of Justice sent to counties across California this week is nicely done, and I don't say that about much coming out of Washington lately. Clean letterhead, the seal placed where a designer would want it, each sentence built short and plain, the way a lawyer builds a sentence for a judge to read twice. Somebody put real care into it. Then you get to the number sitting one lawsuit over — twenty thousand ballots in Los Angeles County alone that the same Department has asked a federal court to set aside before anyone finishes counting them — and the letterhead stops being the interesting part.

I wrote the word in quotes because he said it like it was carrying weight the rest of the sentence wasn't.

September 10th: a federal appeals court looked at an earlier version of this — an order restricting mail-in voting — and called it "likely unlawful." That's the First Circuit's language, not mine.

October 6th: the people who rate these races for a living moved Alaska's Senate seat from "Toss-up" to "Leans Democrat."

... Continued on Page B44

California billionaires bankroll ad campaign to defeat tax on California billionaires

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

Proposition 40 asks about 250 people in California to hand over 5 percent of their net worth, one time, to fund the state's health care system. Two of those 250 — Sergey Brin and Peter Thiel — are already paying. Just not into the account the measure names.

In August, Common Dreams reported that groups backed by mega-billionaires, including Brin and Thiel, had launched an advertising blitz against the measure, run through two organizations: Building a Better California and Californians Against Wasteful Spending and Higher Taxes.

By September, the fight had drawn a letter from Nobel-winning economists calling the measure "a turning point in the battle between democracy and oligarchy." The same dispatch that carried their quote also reported the measure polling at 52 percent — a number from the reporting, not from the letter, sitting next to it in the same piece.

Roughly 250 Californians hold an estimated $2.3 trillion in combined wealth. A one-time 5 percent tax on it could raise up to $100 billion. Ninety percent of that goes to healthcare; the rest splits between education and food

... Continued on Page F125

"Read the page top to bottom and notice what connects it: somebody priced something you thought was yours — your ballot, your checkup, your tank of gas — and mailed you the bill with a flag stamped on it. I started circling the good news. Still holding the pen."

— *Sal*

"Every story on this page is a success that hasn't been explained to you properly yet."

— *Chip*

Snow held the fox's prints till the thaw,
while the farmer mended the door.

ENOCH · THE OWNERSHIP DESK

Trump priced Congress at $5,000, paid $90, his own voters are not buying the rest.

By RUTH
THE MONEY DESK

"Trump's $5,000 dividend promise met with skepticism ahead of Election Day", 24 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA WASHINGTON EXAMINER — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Trump priced a Republican Congress at $5,000 per adult in September and paid $90 of it in October from a Medicare fund.

WHO GETS PAID. Congressional Republicans, who keep both chambers if voters decide the election before any date is set for the rest of the money.

WHAT SLIPS. Voters decide the election without anyone naming a date, a fund, or a mechanism for the $4,910 still owed them.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the pattern holds, most of the $4,910 stays undelivered or unverified; that is what Washington got after 24 November 2025, when the federal efficiency office closed claiming $214 billion saved while outside tallies found only $1.4 billion to $7 billion actually delivered.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Here's how the file runs, in order, dollar by dollar.

In September, at the Republican midterm convention in Dallas, the president priced a Republican Congress at five thousand dollars a head — every adult citizen, paid out, if the party held both chambers of Congress past November....

...(cont) In October, the first installment cleared: ninety dollars, drawn from a Medicare improvement fund the president has called a pointless slush fund. No date has been set for the other four thousand nine hundred and ten dollars.

Run that against the promise and the gap sits in plain numbers: one dollar delivered for every fifty-six promised, one point eight percent of the account paid, ninety-eight point two percent unscheduled. The same October carried a second account with the same shape. A 2027 Social Security raise, set that month at three point six percent, met prices running three point seven percent the same month — the number announced again landing short of the number that shows up.

Today's wire carries the next entry. The Washington Examiner, the same outlet that reported the September promise, reports skepticism among the president's most loyal voters — people, by the paper's own account, who do not need convincing of much. The five-thousand-dollar dividend, it finds, is not resonating with them either, days before those same voters decide whether Republicans keep the two chambers the president named as the condition for paying the rest.

So the ledger, reconciled: ninety dollars moved. Four thousand nine hundred ten dollars has not, and carries no date, no fund, no mechanism anyone has named for how it would be paid. The question on the ballot is also the payment plan — vote to keep the chambers, and the remaining ninety-eight percent arrives on a schedule nobody has written down yet.

Ten days are left to decide it, hon.

"They priced a Congress at five grand a head, mailed ninety bucks out of the Medicare till, and now they're asking the same voters to keep them in power before anybody sets a date on the rest. That's not a dividend — that's a layaway plan where the store already took your deposit and never named the day you get the couch. Ten days left to find out if the other forty-nine ten ever shows up."

— Sal

"Look, nobody said the five thousand clears before the votes are counted — that's just how an incentive works, you deliver the majority, then the number follows. The ninety dollars is a good-faith installment, the timeline was never the promise, the amount was the promise. Did I say "timeline"? Forget I said that."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *Paxton told donors "everybody's numbers are down." Three weeks later, the polls agree.* By Mort · the afternoon edition, 19 October 2026
— *Trump preemptively blames Cornyn for Paxton's Senate loss, two weeks before Texans vote.* By The Lodgers · the afternoon edition, 18 October 2026
— *Op-ed warns Congress twice in 16 days, drops the $17.1 billion fix it cited the first time.* By Ruth · the afternoon edition, 18 October 2026
— *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

~~Trump's $5,000 dividend promise met with skepticism ahead of Election Day~~

Even Trump's most loyal voters don't believe his $5,000 promise.

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *07:00 EDT*

President Donald Trump's promise to give Americans a $5,000 dividend check if Republicans retain control of Congress after the 2026 elections is not resonating with even his most loyal voters across the country. Trump first made the promise back in September during the Republican National Convention in Dallas, Texas. The proposal, which...

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

· Trump promises $5,000 dividend for every American adult if GOP wins midterm elections *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Social Security COLA set to rise by 3.6 percent in 2027 *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Social Security recipients to get cost of living boost — here's how much more you'll receive each month *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Surging Inflation Complicates Trump's Final Push to Sell Voters on Strong Economy *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· US inflation rose to 3.7% in September, figures show *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Trump promised to lower prices for Americans. Here's what the data shows. *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Here is how much prices for groceries, gas, utilities, and shelter are up under Trump *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Top OpenAI Executive Labels Social Security a 'Fraud' That Must be Dismantled *from the morgue, 26 Aug 2026*

· 'He Thinks Working People Are a Joke': Ken Paxton Floats Social Security Cuts in Leaked Audio *from the morgue, 8 Oct 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*

· Goldman Sachs warns oil prices could hit $120 as U.S. fuel costs surge *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*

· 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.

Fox runs 'networks call riots peaceful' story twice, each time beside networks' own tear-gas footage.

By RUTH
THE MONEY DESK



"BROADCAST BIAS: Networks show France burning but highlight 'peaceful' protesters", 24 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA FOX NEWS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Fox News ran the same 'peaceful protesters' complaint twice in five days, each time after French police tear-gassed crowds.

WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no buyer yet.

WHAT SLIPS. Nothing slips here yet.

WHAT'S NEXT. No vote or hearing sits on the calendar for this. If Fox repeats the complaint, it will be the third filing since October 8th; the first two ran five days apart, on October 19th and October 24th, each one dated to a week of tear gas, arrests and a shuttered Louvre.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Nationwide, arrests since late September had already passed 6,600. The next day the same tactics crossed into Brussels — tear gas, water cannons, baton charges — as tens of thousands rallied over the same cost-of-living and austerity fights.

That is one filing, dated, on the books....

...(cont) Five days later, the week it had filed against repeated itself. CBS reported police firing tear gas and making dozens of arrests, a week after 3,000 buildings nationwide were damaged or looted. NBC reported that Paris had shut the Louvre and other museums as police deployed in large numbers for a new round of protests, students and workers marching again over school funding and the cost of living.

The same day, October 24th, Fox filed the complaint again — "Networks show France burning but highlight 'peaceful' protesters" — a second entry, five days after the first, posted against a second week of tear gas, dozens of arrests, and a closed national museum.

That is the whole transaction, reconciled: two filings, five days apart, each one dated to a week that produced exactly the facts Fox says the coverage was missing — tear gas, arrests, a shuttered Louvre. Run the complaint once and it is a media critique. Run the identical complaint again five days later, against the identical set of facts, and the complaint has become the event it describes: a story that files itself each time the gas canisters go off, regardless of what else prints that week.

Nothing here required France to change its schedule. The tear gas fired on its own timeline: late September, then October 8th, then October 24th. The arrest count climbed on its own, past 6,600 before the first filing, against 3,000 buildings damaged before the second. The Louvre closed its own doors. Fox's filing arrived both times, five days apart, dated to match the week.

Two entries, one complaint, five days between them, hon. The column closes there because the receipts do.

"French riot police tear-gas a crowd, make dozens of arrests, and the Louvre shuts its doors — and Fox runs a story complaining that somebody called it peaceful. Five days later the same week happens again and Fox runs the same story again. That's not coverage of an event, that's a standing order against the event."

— Sal

"Look, the point stands — footage shows burning cars and the coverage leans on the word "peaceful," that's a real gap. Did I say gap? I mean a framing question, worth raising once. Raising it again five days later against the same footage, that's — okay, that's not a coincidence, but it's not a strategy either."

— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

Police fire tear gas, arrest dozens as France sees more protests

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *11:54 EDT*

France is seeing more protests a week after 3,000 buildings were damaged or looted. Demonstrations are also underway in other European cities.

~~BROADCAST BIAS: Networks show France burning but highlight 'peaceful' protesters~~

Cost of living and crumbling public services fuel unrest in Macron's France

Fox News RIGHT § *09:00 EDT*

Emmanuel Macron's government faces mounting unrest as networks blamed 'hijacked' protests over cost of living and declining public services in France.

Paris shuts Louvre and other museums as police deploy in big numbers for new protests across France

NBC News MAINSTREAM § *10:09 EDT*

PARIS — Thousands of students and workers marched in Paris and other French cities Saturday over school funding and soaring living costs.

· Police fire tear gas at barricaded high school in Paris as protests spread to Belgium *from the morgue, 8 Oct 2026*

· Police and masked protesters clash in Brussels as anti-austerity rally of thousands *from the morgue, 9 Oct 2026*

· BBC calls France protests 'mostly peaceful' as footage shows rioters torching cars, battling police *from the morgue, 19 Oct 2026*

· 'This Is Going Global': Anti-Austerity Protests Spread From Spain and France to Chile, Belgium, and Beyond *from the morgue, 8 Oct 2026*

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Vance tells Republicans to stop whining about ad his own party calls the worst politics imaginable

By LOU
ONE MORE QUESTION

"How Vivek Ramaswamy's Ruthless Ad in Ohio Divided Republicans", 24 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA THE NEW YORK TIMES — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Ramaswamy's campaign spent $4 million airing an ad with Acton's estranged mother calling her a liar; Ramaswamy then accused Acton of lying about it.

WHO GETS PAID. Ramaswamy's own gubernatorial campaign and Vance's 2028 operation, which Vance called a dry run for the same approach.

WHAT SLIPS. Ohio voters' ability to judge the race on the governor's record slips behind a family dispute manufactured for television two weeks before they vote.

WHAT'S NEXT. Court records already contradict the ad's central claim and Cook Political Report moved the race to the Democrat; the next marker is Election Day, 3 November 2026, ten days off.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

I have to hand it to the gentleman's campaign for the candor, at least at first. A lot of ads in a tight race get laundered through some group most people couldn't name, a filing nobody traces back to anybody. Not this one. On October 21st, Vivek Ramaswamy stood up and said the ad was his — his campaign made it, his campaign is paying to run it. I wrote that down, because you don't see a candidate take the credit out loud that often. Then I read the rest of that same story. The headline on it called the ad his campaign had just claimed, word for word, "the most disgusting, pathetic ad ever created in the history of political ads." Is that a credit you take, or a credit you own up to?

Same day — and I checked the dates twice, because I didn't believe these happened within hours of each other — the vice president told reporters he was disgusted. Not by the ad. By the Republicans complaining about it. He called that whining, on camera, and told them what's coming from him in 2028 would be more of it — his own word for it was "venom." I don't have an opinion about 2028. I have the word, and I have the date he used it: the 21st, same day as the credit-taking....

...(cont) My notebook gets crowded fast after that. The day before, Sherrod Brown, running for Senate in that same state, had asked his Republican colleague Jon Husted to condemn the ad. On the 21st, Husted said something short of that — he said he wouldn't have run it. That's not the same sentence. One says the ad is wrong. The other says it isn't how he'd have spent the money. I keep that kind of distinction the way I keep the papers in my glovebox — the registration says one thing, the insurance card says something close to it, and a trooper who only glances figures they match. The New York Times, by midweek, was already calling the ad one that had divided the party.

Four million dollars went into putting it on statewide television. That's the number in the filing. I don't have an opinion about that number, either. I have it sitting next to the one that stopped me, from today: a Republican commentator, Scott Jennings, paid to argue this side of things, went on the record calling the ad — and I want to read this back exactly — "the worst politics you could imagine." And still, CBS reported today, the President himself joined the vice president in defending it. I was about ready to close the notebook on that.

Excuse me — before you go. Did you catch the other part from today? Vivek Ramaswamy accused his opponent, Amy Acton, of lying about the ad, about what her own mother says in it. The Guardian ran the court records against that claim today. The records didn't back up the mother's claim. They contradicted it.

I didn't have that part when I started this column. Now that the record has gone the other way, is "worst" still the word, or do we need one the paper hasn't used yet?

"You put out an ad calling a woman a liar using her own estranged mother, your running mate tells his own party to quit crying about it and previews more of the same for 2028, and when the record finally shows up, it's the mother's story that falls apart, not the daughter's. That's not a messaging problem, that's the product. The only people in Ohio who haven't figured out what this costs are apparently running the party."

— Sal

"Look, the ad speaks for itself — I mean that's not what I — the campaign is being transparent, they took ownership immediately, that's accountability, that's refreshing honestly. Senator Husted said he wouldn't have run it personally, which, fine, that's one data point, doesn't mean the party — and Scott Jennings, he's an independent voice, he doesn't speak for — did I just cite Scott Jennings against my own argument? That's not — let me start over."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *Vance calls the ad a preview of 2028 'venom' already costing Republicans the Ohio governor's race.* By Ruth · the evening edition, 24 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

How Vivek Ramaswamy's Ruthless Ad in Ohio Divided Republicans
The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *05:03 EDT*
The fallout from Vivek Ramaswamy's brutal spot targeting his Democratic rival in the Ohio governor's race showed that even in the Trump era, a political attack can be seen as going too far.

~~Jennings: Ramaswamy's campaign tactics 'worst politics you could imagine'~~

Ramaswamy's campaign spends $4 million on ad starring opponent's estranged mother
The Hill MAINSTREAM § *08:57 EDT*
Republican commentator Scott Jennings took a swipe at Ohio gubernatorial candidate Vivek Ramaswamy (R) for using a controversial campaign ad featuring his opponent's estranged mother. The ad, which Ramaswamy's campaign is now spending $4 million to broadcast statewide, features Democratic gubernatorial candidate Amy Acton's mother, Donna...

~~Ramaswamy Takes Full Credit for Most 'Disgusting, Pathetic Ad Ever Created in the History of Political Ads'~~

Ramaswamy's campaign spent $4 million on a mother-attack ad that skipped federal disclosure rules
Common Dreams § *09:40 EDT*
Vivek Ramaswamy, the Republican Party's gubernatorial nominee in Ohio, confirmed on Wednesday that his campaign was behind a widely condemned attack ad featuring Democratic opponent Amy Acton's estranged biological mother, sparking fresh outrage less than two weeks before Election Day in the critical battleground state. Ramaswamy went...

Trump, Vance defend controversial Ramaswamy attack ad; Obama campaigns with Amy Acton
CBS News MAINSTREAM § *10:13 EDT*
An ad released by Ohio's Republican gubernatorial candidate Vivek Ramaswamy has drawn bipartisan backlash. Olivia Gazis has more.

Ramaswamy accuses Acton of 'lying' about attack ad, but court records contradict mother's claim – as it happened
The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *22:01 EDT*
This live blog is now closed. Sign up for the Breaking News US email With less than two weeks until the midterms, my colleague Jonathan Freedland and Guardian US columnist Moira Donegan are answering your questions in this week's episode of Politics Weekly America. They break down the final stretch ahead of these hugely consequential...

· Ohio Sen. Jon Husted says 'I would not have run' Ramaswamy ad against Amy Acton *from the morgue, 21 Oct 2026*

· Ramaswamy pours $4 million into ad featuring Amy Acton's estranged mother *from the morgue, 21 Oct 2026*

· Brown calls on Husted to condemn ad featuring Acton's mother *from the morgue, 20 Oct 2026*

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

THE FINANCING

Alaska pipeline got a podium, then a waiver, then a Russian financier, then a seat in peace talks

By MITCH
INVESTIGATIONS



"In U.S. Gas Talks With Kremlin, Hidden Financing for Alaska Project Emerges", 24 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE NEW YORK TIMES — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. A Russian energy giant secretly financed the U.S. firm now folded into Trump's Alaska gas pipeline.

WHO GETS PAID. The Russian energy giant that financed the firm gains a seat in the U.S. talks meant to end the war it is fighting.

WHAT SLIPS. The public's chance to learn who financed the pipeline slipped when the administration exempted the project from environmental review eight days after the unveiling.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the pipeline's role in the peace talks holds, Congress is unlikely to get a vote on its terms; that is what Congress got after 16 April 2019, when the president vetoed its Yemen withdrawal resolution and support continued 21 more months.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

On September 30th, the president stood in front of a map of Alaska and introduced a $54 billion piece of a $200 billion deal — a gas pipeline, eight nuclear plants, a power grid — with Senator Dan Sullivan placed at center stage and Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick beside him. All together now: read the backdrop, not the speech. The financing behind the U.S. firm folded into that pipeline went unannounced from the podium — not a name missing from a list, a line item missing from the ledger.

Eight days later, on October 8th, the administration exempted winter exploration projects on Alaska's North Slope from environmental review. The Washington Examiner's word for it was "accelerating" — the review outrun by about a week....

...(cont) Today, The New York Times supplies the line item. Documents and interviews show a Russian energy giant secretly financed the U.S. firm now sitting inside the pipeline Trump unveiled beside Sullivan. The same deal, the Times reports, has been discussed in the talks meant to end the war that financier is fighting. Not a rumor passed at a briefing — documents, interviews, on the record, dated this week.

Walk it in order. A company financed a firm. The firm was folded into a pipeline. The pipeline got a podium, a senator, a South Korean investment partner, and eight days to outrun its own environmental review. Then the pipeline turned up in the talks meant to end a war its financier is fighting. Each step sits on its own receipt; none of them needed the others to happen, and all of them did.

What the filing does not say matters as much as what it does. It does not say the financing paid for any war. It does not say the pipeline caused the talks. It says only that the money was never on the backdrop, and the backdrop is where the public was supposed to find out whose name belonged on the project before the bulldozers moved. The review that would have asked that question was waived on October 8th. The disclosure that would have answered it arrived on October 24th, sixteen days later, from a newspaper, not from the agency that granted the waiver.

That is the whole filing: a podium, a waiver, and a receipt, in that order, each one dated.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

A Russian energy giant financed the U.S. firm that is now part of the Alaska gas pipeline Trump unveiled beside Senator Sullivan, and the project cleared environmental review in eight days. That isn't an energy rollout, it's a seat held open at the table for a financier already fighting the war that table is supposed to end. The money stayed off the backdrop so the review could move fast; the review moved fast so the deal could close before anyone asked whose name belonged on it; the only name you will find on any of it, in the end, is yours, on the heating bill.

"They didn't put the financing on the backdrop because the backdrop is the only paperwork most people ever read. The review got waived in eight days flat, and the receipt didn't show up for sixteen more — from a newspaper, not the agency that signed the waiver. That's not a loose end, that's the business model."

— Sal

"Look, international capital in American energy infrastructure is a feature, not a bug — of course money moves across borders on a project this size, that's just how energy markets work. The disclosure timing is really a paperwork sequencing question that any big infrastructure deal runs into, nothing more. ...did I just call a waived environmental review a sequencing question? That's not usually my line, but sure, we'll go with it."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *Alaska pipeline unveiled, fast-tracked past review, secretly financed by Russia — now a bargaining chip in Ukraine peace talks.* By Mitch · the evening edition, 24 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

~~In U.S. Gas Talks With Kremlin, Hidden Financing for Alaska Project Emerges~~

Russian state energy giant secretly bankrolled the U.S. firm now in Ukraine peace talks

The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *09:20 EDT*

Interviews and documents show a Russian energy giant secretly funded a U.S. firm. The deal has been discussed in talks to end the war in Ukraine.

· Trump puts Sullivan at center stage during Alaska pipeline reveal *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*

· Trump fast-tracks Alaska drilling, exempting some projects from environmental reviews *from the morgue, 8 Oct 2026*

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

Musk blamed Washington for the Starlink slowdown he ordered, then restored it the day the public noticed.

By MORT
THE RECORDS BUREAU

"Ukraine reports Starlink operating again after slowdown", 24 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA THE HILL — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. SpaceX restored full Starlink and Starshield speeds to Ukraine on October 24, after a week-plus of throttling it had blamed on the government.

WHO GETS PAID. SpaceX and its owner, the largest known donor of this midterm cycle at $276 million, keep sole control of the terminal Ukraine's government funds but cannot command.

WHAT SLIPS. Oversight slips here: a private contractor can cap a government's wartime internet for over a week with no public explanation, and only a backlash, not a rule, brings it back.

WHAT'S NEXT. There is no hearing, deadline, or vote on the calendar yet that would force a public accounting of who ordered the slowdown or why it ended when it did.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The cap died Saturday, after a week on a restriction the contractor would not explain. It was born the week of October 14, when the Times reported the same company's owner the largest known donor of this midterm cycle, $276 million, and the question of why Ukraine's battlefield internet had slowed to 100 mph went unanswered while the money question got answered in full. By the 17th, Zelensky said Starshield was still restricted and called the breakdown a "planned operation" to target Kyiv; the company and the White House each pointed at the other, the oldest malarkey in Washington. By the 20th, the Wall Street Journal reported, and The Hill confirmed, that Musk himself had ordered the slowdown — the true explanation arriving three days after the denial.

That same day, Zelenskyy said Washington gave no warning before Russia struck Kyiv's power plants, called it a "denial of reality," and revived his charge that Washington was withholding intelligence to pressure Kyiv toward a settlement it has not agreed to. The power went out in Kyiv the same week the internet stayed capped in Kyiv, and the explanation for both arrived on the same clock: late, and from someone else's mouth....

...(cont) On Saturday the cap lifted. CBS and The Hill reported Starlink's speeds restored; the Washington Examiner reported Starshield fully unlocked, more than a week after the system appeared to be mysteriously restricted. Zelensky confirmed it himself, on social media, in the afternoon. The cause of death went unlisted. The restriction had lasted exactly as long as it went unnoticed, and it died the moment it didn't.

It was not Ukraine's first drone season. On September 20, during its own parliamentary elections, Ukraine flew more than 1,000 drones at Russia in what Moscow's mayor called the largest attack yet; on October 6 it sent 650 more at the capital. On Saturday it hit a missile-parts plant, the same day the cap lifted, with a drone swarm grounding flights over Moscow and clearing a government tower. The war did not pause for the terminals to come back on; it simply had more light to work by once they did.

The cap is survived by the question of who holds a war's own eyes, and by the week it took Washington and the company to settle, between them, who would answer for it. It is preceded in death by the warning Kyiv did not get on the 20th, and by the explanations offered before the one that was true.

In lieu of flowers, a written accounting of who ordered the slowdown, filed before the next terminal goes dark.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

THE COMPANY HOLDING THE ONLY TERMINAL THAT CARRIES UKRAINE'S TARGETING DATA also cut the largest single check of this election cycle, and for a week it let the government absorb the blame for a speed limit the company had set itself. That isn't an outage, it's a loyalty test the government pays for and has no vendor left to replace. A company that bankrolls the people meant to regulate it does not get overruled, it gets covered for — the firm sets the limit, the government fields the calls, and the firm lifts the limit the moment the public starts watching, the exact arrangement you'd be living under if the power company funding your mayor's campaign set your thermostat and only turned the heat back on once the complaints made the news.

"The guy who owns Ukraine's battlefield internet spent a week letting the government take the blame for a cap he set himself, and the second the world noticed, the cap disappeared. That's not customer service, that's a confession with a release date. You want to know who actually runs a country's air defense? Check whose finger's on the speed dial, not whose name is on the ballot."

— Sal

"Look, a private company has every right to manage its own satellite bandwidth, war or no war — that's just sound infrastructure policy. And the government never formally submitted the usage request through the proper channel, so really this is a paperwork story, not a — did I just say the paperwork mattered more than the drones? That's not — let's just say both sides could've communicated better."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *Sixth officer charged with misusing Flock cameras since the bill to defund them reached committee.* By The Wrecking Crew · the afternoon edition, 23 October 2026
— *Trump's fourth fuel rescue of the fall ships via tanker that arrives after Americans already voted* By Ruth · the morning edition, 23 October 2026
— *Trump's fourth wartime-statute invocation this fall: $150 million for diesel, after a donor's $6.6 billion shipyard* By Sterling · the evening edition, 23 October 2026
— *Musk's Starlink block survives the president's announcement that it was lifted* By Mort · the evening edition, 23 October 2026
— *Trump invokes wartime powers twice for one gas pipeline: $200 billion from Seoul, $42 million from you* By Sterling · the afternoon edition, 20 October 2026
— *Musk to give every American child SpaceX stock; parental consent optional under the Trump Accounts program* By Sterling · the afternoon edition, 19 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

Ukraine says Starlink speed restored after long disruption
CBS News MAINSTREAM | *09:49 EDT*
SpaceX's military-grade version of the Starlink internet service has become the backbone of Ukraine's drone operations.

Ukraine reports Starlink operating again after slowdown
The Hill MAINSTREAM | *08:07 EDT*
Ukraine's Starlink satellite links have been restored after the country experienced limitations with accessing this critical technology, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky announced Saturday. SpaceX's military-grade version of Starlink, called Starshield, supports Ukraine's drone operations and communication. Zelensky confirmed the...

Ukraine blows up Russian missile-parts plant as drones ground flights in Moscow
New York Post RIGHT | *11:22 EDT*
Ukraine hit a key Russian plant that makes components for Moscow's missiles as a drone swarm disrupted air travel across the Russian capital, grounding flights and forcing an evacuation at a skyscraper housing several government ministries.

~~Starshield systems unlocked in Ukraine after uproar about military restrictions~~
Ukraine's wartime satellites answer to a private company, not Kyiv
Washington Examiner RIGHT | *09:40 EDT*
Ukraine announced Saturday that it has regained full use of its Starshield system, more than a week after the military system appeared to be mysteriously restricted for use in the country. Starshield is the military version of Starlink, the communications satellite system developed by Elon Musk's SpaceX, that Ukraine relies on to boost...

· US gave us no warning of Russian strikes on Kyiv power plants, Zelenskyy says *from the morgue, 20 Oct 2026*

· Ukraine launches 650 drones toward Moscow in large-scale aerial attack *from the morgue, 6 Oct 2026*

· Ukraine carries out 'largest ever' drone attack on Moscow *from the morgue, 20 Sep 2026*

· Musk ordered Starlink slowdown in Ukraine: WSJ *from the morgue, 20 Oct 2026*

· Zelensky says Starshield still restricted in Ukraine as Musk and White House refuse to take responsibility *from the morgue, 17 Oct 2026*

· Ukraine's Exposure Grows as Satellite Use Is Restricted and Russia Escalates *from the morgue, 15 Oct 2026*

· Musk says US government may be behind slowdown of Ukraine drone speeds *from the morgue, 15 Oct 2026*

· Ukraine faces loss of key satellite support amid tensions between Trump and Zelenskyy *from the morgue, 15 Oct 2026*

· U.S. may have withheld warnings to Ukraine on deadly Kyiv strikes *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Ukrainian officials accuse U.S. of withholding intelligence, leading to Russian missile attack *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Ukraine reports Starlink missile tracker shut down as Russia launched new air strikes *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· U.S. Continues to Provide Intelligence to Ukraine, Officials Say *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Elon Musk points to Trump for Starshield throttling in Ukraine that Zelensky warns will cost lives *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Musk says US govt responsible for any Starshield restrictions affecting Ukraine *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Washington limits its support to Kyiv amidst increased Russian attacks on energy infrastructure *from the morgue, 15 Oct 2026*

· 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*

· Zelenskyy vows to retaliate if Russian strikes on Ukraine's power grid continue *from the morgue, 12 Oct 2026*

· Musk blames Trump and US military for Ukraine's Starshield restrictions *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Amid Ukraine uproar, Musk says decisions to restrict Starshield up to president *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Zelensky laments Ukraine is 'losing America' as Congress cries foul over intel and Starlink reports *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· GOP Sen. Tillis asks Musk to explain Ukraine losing access to Starlink *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· 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*

· What Is Starshield, SpaceX's Military-Grade Satellite Internet Service Ukraine Relies On? *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Ukraine slams SpaceX for cutting Starlink internet access while Russians launch brutal attacks *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Throttling of Ukraine's Starlink Access Heightens Concerns Over Government Reliance on Elon Musk *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Ukrainian soldiers in combat have access to Starlink satellite internet restricted *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Ukraine says SpaceX limiting Starlink operations, impacting air defense *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Ukraine says SpaceX's Starshield throttling hampers defense against Russian strikes on energy sites *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· Ukraine says new Starlink restrictions disrupt military as it reels from intel gaps and Trump clash *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· 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 INTERVENTIONS

Justice Department vows not to improperly block any election, tries to block three this month.

By LOU
ONE MORE QUESTION

"Trump administration sues to block possible Democratic win in Alaska Senate race", 24 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA FRANCE 24 — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. The Justice Department sued to halt California's count, sued to block Alaska's results, and told counties to flag noncitizen ballots.

WHO GETS PAID. Senator Dan Sullivan and the Republican Party benefit, since both lawsuits move only where Republicans are currently behind.

WHAT SLIPS. The count itself slips: a federal agency is asking courts to stop ballots from being tallied before states finish certifying them.

WHAT'S NEXT. If this pattern holds, expect the count-halt suits enjoined the way the administration's broader mail-ballot order was; that is what happened after 25 March 2025: a partial block within 30 days, then a permanent one fifteen months later, after the election it targeted was long over.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The letter the Department of Justice sent to counties across California this week is nicely done, and I don't say that about much coming out of Washington lately. Clean letterhead, the seal placed where a designer would want it, each sentence built short and plain, the way a lawyer builds a sentence for a judge to read twice. Somebody put real care into it. Then you get to the number sitting one lawsuit over — twenty thousand ballots in Los Angeles County alone that the same Department has asked a federal court to set aside before anyone finishes counting them — and the letterhead stops being the interesting part.

I wrote the word in quotes because he said it like it was carrying weight the rest of the sentence wasn't....

...(cont) September 10th: a federal appeals court looked at an earlier version of this — an order restricting mail-in voting — and called it "likely unlawful." That's the First Circuit's language, not mine.

October 6th: the people who rate these races for a living moved Alaska's Senate seat from "Toss-up" to "Leans Democrat."

October 13th, a Tuesday: the Department sent Los Angeles County a thumb drive with a password written on it by hand, and asked the county to check names against it. The county said no. Two days later, the Department sued the state of California to stop the count instead.

I tried this out on my own life, the way I do. Picture the toll plaza, the EZ-Pass lane, and the gate doesn't lift. Somebody waves you to the shoulder and says your transponder's on a list of ones that might not be yours — can't say why, can't say for how long, the bridge stays open, just not to you yet. That's what "segregate" means when it isn't your glovebox doing the sorting. It's a county clerk's office, and the ballot doesn't move until somebody with a badge clears it.

And today: the Department sued to block Alaska from certifying its Senate race, but only if the Republican loses it. A columnist on Fox Business said this week that the man running against the Senator happens to also be named Dan Sullivan, which he called "a whole bowl of wrong." I went looking for a second source on that. The wire service covering the lawsuit describes the race as two Republicans confusing voters with similar names. The ratings service that moved the race in October names the Democrat in it as Mary Peltola. I've read all three descriptions twice now and still can't get two of them to agree on who's running. Which one is on the ballot?

So that's the ledger as I have it: one letter, two lawsuits, two states, zero proven fraudulent votes in any of the three. Is that the same Department a federal appeals court already told, back in September, that the last version of this was likely against the law?

Oh — one more thing, before I let you go, since the page is already open. I'm sorry to come back to this, but the promise in the spring wasn't that his Department wouldn't block a certification — it was that it wouldn't do it the wrong way. I've been through the whole notebook since, front to back, and I still can't find the page where one of these three was done the right way. Can you?

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT IS SUING TO FREEZE BALLOTS IN LOS ANGELES AND SUING again to block Alaska's results, both filed before a single fraudulent vote turned up anywhere. That isn't an integrity check, it's an insurance policy against losing. A county cannot certify until the Department says so, which means the ballot with your name on the envelope does not finish being a vote until somebody in Washington checks whether your side needed it.

"They promise, on the record, not to improperly block a state's count, then run three different versions of blocking it before a single fraudulent vote shows up: a letter telling counties to set ballots aside, a lawsuit freezing twenty thousand of them in Los Angeles, and a second lawsuit today aimed only at the one race their guy is currently losing. That's not an integrity check, that's a kill switch they reach for when the math turns against them. Twenty thousand ballots in one county is a lot of people's votes sitting in a drawer because a map turned the wrong color."

— Sal

"Look, nobody's blocking anything, the Department is simply making sure every ballot that gets counted is a legitimate one — which is why we're asking a court to stop counting twenty thousand of them until we're sure. And the Alaska situation is just about voter clarity, two men named Dan Sullivan on one ballot, which we also happened to notice right around the time our guy started losing. Did I say "right around the time"? That's — that's not how I meant that to come out."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Justice Department demands verification for ballots it is also asking a federal court to stop counting.* By Lou · the evening edition, 24 October 2026
- *Justice Department vows it won't improperly block election certification, sues to block election certification* By Lou · the afternoon edition, 23 October 2026
- *Trump calls for Omar's ouster over a 'fake name' that federal investigators already built into her salary probe.* By Ruth · the evening edition, 23 October 2026
- *Federal investigators call Omar's legal name fake the same week they open a probe into her $174,000 salary.* By Lou · the afternoon edition, 22 October 2026
- *Agents raided her home over her father's old paperwork; reporters only ask if she married her brother.* By Lou · the morning edition, 22 October 2026
- *Trump calls Omar and Walz '100% guilty' of 'Minnesota fraud,' threatens jail or deportation.* By Lou · the afternoon edition, 20 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

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

Trump administration sues to block possible Democratic win in Alaska Senate race

France 24 MAINSTREAM § *07:40 EDT*

US President Donald Trump said Friday that he had instructed his administration to file a lawsuit to block the certification of the US Senate race in Alaska if Republican Senator Dan Sullivan loses, arguing that voters would be confused because two Republicans on the ballot have similar names. The legal battle is ramping up questions...

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

Courts Reject Trump's Attempt at Deploying ICE to Intimidate Voters

Truthout § *09:18 EDT*

A judge ordered Homeland Security to stop sending agents door to door in nine key states to hunt for "voter fraud."

~~Facing an electoral wipeout, Trump goes after the system~~

DOJ would block Alaska's Senate count only if the Republican loses.

Politico MAINSTREAM § *07:00 EDT*

The move by the Justice Department to try and preemptively block Alaska's Senate results if Republican Sen. Dan Sullivan loses stunned officials in both parties.

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)*

Justice Dept. Demands That California Counties Help Identify Noncitizen Voters

The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *02:21 EDT*

Election officials across the state received letters from the agency saying if they fail to comply, they "risk significant federal scrutiny."

Alaska Senate race featuring two Dan Sullivans is 'blatantly corrupt': Joe Concha

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *10:49 EDT*

Washington Examiner columnist Joe Concha slammed Democrats in Alaska over voter corruption, saying they "put up a guy named Dan Sullivan" with a different middle name to "confuse" voters.

· Sabato's Crystal Ball shifts Alaska and South Carolina Senate races in favor of Democrats *from the morgue, 6 Oct 2026*

· Appeals Court Rejects 'Likely Unlawful' Trump Push to Undermine Mail-In Voting as Supreme Court Looms *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· US justice department sues California over alleged noncitizen voting *from the morgue, 15 Oct 2026*

· Trump knocks Alaska voting system: 'How stupid are we to do this?' *from the morgue, 9 Oct 2026*

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

California billionaires bankroll ad campaign to defeat tax on California billionaires

By RUTH
THE MONEY DESK



“Are California voters about to impose 'world's first' tax on billionaires?”, 23 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA BBC NEWS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. California voters decide whether to tax billionaires to fund healthcare.

WHO GETS PAID. Sergey Brin and Peter Thiel, who are funding the ad campaign against the tax aimed at their own fortunes.

WHAT SLIPS. The voters' independent judgment on the measure slips under an ad campaign funded by the billionaires it would tax.

WHAT'S NEXT. Voters decide November 3, ten days from today; the result itself is the next entry on this record.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Proposition 40 asks about 250 people in California to hand over 5 percent of their net worth, one time, to fund the state's health care system. Two of those 250 — Sergey Brin and Peter Thiel — are already paying. Just not into the account the measure names.

In August, Common Dreams reported that groups backed by mega-billionaires, including Brin and Thiel, had launched an advertising blitz against the measure, run through two organizations: Building a Better California and Californians Against Wasteful Spending and Higher Taxes....

...(cont) By September, the fight had drawn a letter from Nobel-winning economists calling the measure "a turning point in the battle between democracy and oligarchy." The same dispatch that carried their quote also reported the measure polling at 52 percent — a number from the reporting, not from the letter, sitting next to it in the same piece.

Roughly 250 Californians hold an estimated $2.3 trillion in combined wealth. A one-time 5 percent tax on it could raise up to $100 billion. Ninety percent of that goes to healthcare; the rest splits between education and food assistance. The tax reaches 250 names. The ad campaign against it was funded, in part, by two of those same names.

Voters decide this on November 3 — ten days from today. Until then, some of the people Proposition 40 would tax are paying to make sure it doesn't pass, under organization names that describe themselves as fighting waste.

The gap here isn't complicated, hon. It's the gap between what a measure is called and whose money shows up opposing it. Building a Better California doesn't put Brin's or Thiel's name on its letterhead. Proposition 40 doesn't put their names on the ballot either — it just sets a threshold, $1 billion in net worth, that both men clear by a wide margin.

Ten days out, the ledger reads the way ledgers usually read. The tax has a target list. So does the opposition's checkbook. They are the same list.

“Two guys named Sergey Brin and Peter Thiel are bankrolling ads telling the rest of us that taxing billionaires is a bad idea, and wouldn't you know it, they're billionaires. The group calls itself "Californians Against Wasteful Spending" — turns out the waste they mean is their own money going toward somebody else's hospital bill. Ten days before the vote, and the only people spending real money on this fight are the 250 people who'd have to write the check.”

— Sal

“This isn't about protecting two guys' net worth, it's about protecting California's tax base from capital flight — wealthy people leave states that tax them, that's just basic economics. Though I guess if they were planning to leave, they wouldn't still be here funding ad campaigns to stop the tax... did I say that? Forget I said that. The point is uncertainty is bad for business, full stop.”

— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

~~Are California voters about to impose 'world's first' tax on billionaires?~~

Billionaires, not taxpayers, would fund California's healthcare gap

BBC News MAINSTREAM § *19:11 EDT*

Voters are about to decide if the mega-rich among them should hand over billions of dollars to pay for improvements to healthcare.

~~A Wealth Tax on Billionaires? California Voters to Decide Prop 40~~

250 billionaires hold $2.3 trillion. California is asking for 5%.

Democracy Now! § *08:47 EDT*

As voters across the United States cast ballots on November 3, Californians are weighing whether to approve a one-time 5% tax on the wealth of billionaires in the state. The tax would apply to roughly 250 Californians who now hold an estimated $2.3 trillion in wealth. Supporters say the wealth tax could raise up to $100 billion, with...

· Nobel-Winning Economists Say California Billionaire Tax Could Be ‘Turning Point in the Battle Between Democracy and Oligarchy’ *from the morgue, 21 Sep 2026*

· Billionaire-Backed Groups Launch Ad Blitz Against California Wealth Tax *from the morgue, 25 Aug 2026*

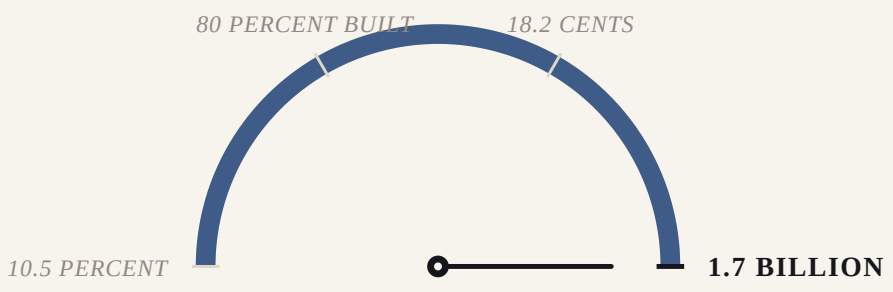
This page is a back-issue: the story as it ran, receipts as they were. The current edition is at the front. The byline is a pen name for a column drafted by a machine and checked by the editor: how this is made.

§71 — 24 OCTOBER 2026

On windmills

BY LOU
The Word

DEMOCRAT



1.7 BILLION

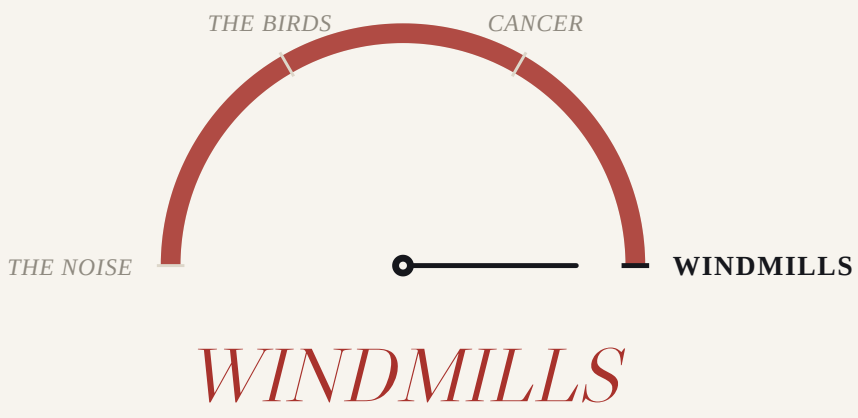
The graveyard, counted. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates put annual U.S. bird deaths from wind turbines at 140,438 to 327,586; from power lines, 8 to 57.3 million; from vehicles, 89 to 340 million; from windows, 365 to 988 million; and from cats, 1.7 to 3.4 billion [1]. Wind generated 464 billion kilowatt-hours in 2025, about 10.5 percent of U.S. utility-scale electricity [2].

And the farm that got stopped. In August 2025 the Interior Department issued a stop-work order to Revolution Wind, a $6.2 billion, 704-megawatt project off New England that was 80 percent complete; in September a federal judge enjoined the order, finding the developer "demonstrated likelihood of success on the merits" [3]. The government now forecasts residential electricity at 18.2 cents a kilowatt-hour this year, up from 17.3 cents in 2025 [4]. The windmill is a graveyard for birds by one ten-thousandth of the cat.

SOURCES

1. Annual bird deaths, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates: turbines 140,438–327,586; power lines 8–57.3 million; vehicles 89–340 million; windows 365–988 million; cats 1.7–3.4 billion — E&E News ↑
2. Wind generated 464 billion kWh in 2025, about 10.5 percent of U.S. utility-scale generation — Energy Information Administration ↑
3. Stop-work order on the $6.2 billion, 704-megawatt Revolution Wind project, 80 percent complete; enjoined on 22 September 2025 — Utility Dive ↑
4. Residential electricity forecast at 18.2 cents per kWh in 2026, up from 17.3 cents in 2025 — EIA Short-Term Energy Outlook, 9 September 2026 ↑

REPUBLICAN



WINDMILLS

The case against, in his own words at a Republican dinner in April 2019: "If you have a windmill anywhere near your house, congratulations, your house just went down 75 percent in value. And they say the noise causes cancer." And on birds: "It's like a graveyard for birds … the windmills, they wipe them all out" [1]. In September 2025: "Any Country that relies on Windmills is DEAD" [2].

The strongest version of the administration's case is not the birds but the radar. In December the Interior Department paused leases on five offshore projects, citing turbine "clutter" that "obscures legitimate moving targets and generates false targets" on military radar; the secretary said "the prime duty of the United States government is to protect the American people" [3]. A national-security reason is a real reason, and it is stated plainly. The birds and the cancer are on the other side.

SOURCES

1. "Your house just went down 75 percent in value. And they say the noise causes cancer"; "It's like a graveyard for birds" — NRCC dinner, 2 April 2019 — FactCheck.org ↑
2. "Any Country that relies on Windmills is DEAD" — Truth Social — Newsweek, 8 September 2025 ↑
3. Leases paused on five offshore wind projects over radar "clutter" that "obscures legitimate moving targets and generates false targets"; "The prime duty of the United States government is to protect the American people" — U.S. Department of the Interior, 22 December 2025 ↑

"I'm a bird man, a little. I keep a feeder on the porch, and the thing that gets the birds at my house is my neighbor's cat, Duchess. So when he said the windmills "wipe them all out," I looked it up. The wildlife numbers: turbines, a hundred forty thousand to three hundred twenty-seven thousand birds a year. Vehicles, eighty-nine to three hundred forty million. Cats, one point seven to three point four billion. Sorry, I'm going — Duchess is probably on the feeder right now. Of the things on that list, which one got the executive order?" — Lou

"Windmills, he says, are "a graveyard for birds." So somebody counted the graveyards: turbines, a hundred forty thousand to three hundred twenty-seven thousand birds a year. House cats, one point seven to three point four billion. Windows, up to nearly a billion. If he wanted to save the birds, he'd have signed an order against the cat. Instead he stopped a wind farm that was eighty percent built, and a judge restarted it. The birds are still waiting on the cat."

— Sal

"The president's concern for the birds is sincere and ongoing, and the fact that cats kill ten thousand times more of them only proves the cats have better lobbyists."

— Chip

The Word today — 👍 👎