The Single-Column Edition

FROM EACH

TUESDAY, 27 OCTOBER 2026 — THE EVENING EDITION — FREE, FOREVER

Brazil cancels Flávio Bolsonaro's passports for defying a surrender order; he leaves for Florida anyway.

BY THE LODGERS
The Race Desk

On Tuesday Flávio Bolsonaro left Brazil for the United States, two days after he lost Sunday's runoff to Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, and his passports were already cancelled by Brazilian police when he went.

You will need what went into the pan earlier: a consulate that shut its shutters, a Meta algorithm let run for Bolsonaro, four million votes that Lula took anyway, and on 26 October a word from the American president — rigged. On 1 October Brazil's attorney general had already called the meddling behind it intolerable, after the Guardian reported Washington pushing funds toward a campaign against Brazil's supreme court.

CLIVE *Rigged. That's a word I'd been saving for the response in verse, and some senator's walked off with it before I'd even scanned the first line.*

GARY *A response in verse. We've got a landlord who hasn't responded to anything since March, in prose or otherwise, and that's the rigging I live under.*

Now comes the order itself, worth turning over and looking at underneath. Brazil's Supreme Court told Bolsonaro to surrender his passports, over an investigation into money laundering, and underneath, the order did not

… Continued on Page A227

THE WORD

974 — 27 OCTOBER 2026

On the mantle

DEMOCRAT



TACO

REPUBLICAN



THE MANTLE

"I'm the guy who can't afford the thing, so I read the invoice twice. Thirty-five days. Eleven billion dollars, says the Congressional Budget Office, three billion of it not coming back. Wall money in the deal he signed: zero. This year: a stopgag, 370 to 48, signed September 2, good through December 11. Bills finished out of twelve: none. Sorry — I forgot my pen — the vote is in a week and the cliff is in six. Who picked those two dates?" — Lou

… Continued on Page W74

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

THE RATION LINE

Tehran meters gasoline at a 110-liter monthly quota and prices a sangak loaf by provincial order; Washington keeps the lettered list that says which cargo crossing the strait a U.S. insurer may cover.

… Continued on the Investigative Reporting page

Pretti family demands Justice Department release evidence file it stopped sending four days earlier

BY THE WRECKING CREW
The Kennedy Desk

The chief lays the file on the table first: in January, federal agents in Minneapolis shot Alex Pretti, an ICU nurse and U.S. citizen, and in the same crackdown shot Renee Good. Two bodies, one state, and by March Minnesota had already sued the federal government just to see what its own officers wrote down.

For seven months the only paperwork that moved fast was the smear: by August, Pretti's family was hearing officials describe their son as an "assassin" and a "domestic terrorist," a label applied to a man they'd just finished calling a nurse.

Then came the part with the receipts. On October 23, Minnesota told a court that the flow of evidence had not slowed — it had stopped. The federal government, the state said in a filing, is no longer sharing anything related to either shooting. Four days later, Pretti's parents stood in front of cameras and asked the Department of Justice "to do what is right," saying the government had ignored them, then misled them.

The planner studies that timeline and likes what it reveals: the state's law-

… Continued on Page T30

Pollster fakes polls to expose zero scrutiny; GOP leaders prove it, call the real ones fake too.

BY LOU
Chief Metro Quantizer

I want to start with a word, not a number, if that's all right with you.

The Washington Examiner printed the word "fake" twice in six days. I know because I've got both copies — not framed, nothing like that, just folded under a coffee cup at the corner store where I do my reading some mornings, and when I finally laid them side by side on the counter the clerk thought I was comparison shopping. On the 21st, "fake" described a polling company. On the 27th, it described the polls everybody else runs. Same paper. Same word. Six days apart.

Let me back up, because the file on this is thicker than one word, and I don't want to leave anything out. On September 2nd, Senate Majority Leader John Thune told reporters he "worries about losing" the Senate majority he runs, and called himself, in his own word, "a realist." Eight days after that, at his own party's midterm convention, the crowd booed him off the stage — I've got that one circled, don't ask me why: circle things, it's a habit from the job. On October 15th, Speaker Mike Johnson said it's hard to get Republicans to respond to "our own" pollsters. His words, our own, like there's a company

… Continued on Page A223

Nine months after seizing 35 percent of Venezuela's oil, Washington offers the country statehood, gas still at $4.15.

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

A reconciliation is two columns and the difference between them. Here is the ledger, opened to a new line.

What came out the other side was an asset entry: 65 billion barrels of oil, 35 percent of the claim assigned to the Pentagon. That is the opening balance, and it has not moved since.

On August 28, analysts told Congress to halt what they called a colonial push for the oil fields, before any deal was finished. A gift is not supposed to carry a 35 percent federal stake. The filing does not reconcile with the press release.

On September 1, the framing split in two: one column called it the biggest oil deal in a generation, the other called it theft at gunpoint. Both columns cited the same stake. The same week, diesel reached $5.85 a gallon, a record, and regular gasoline reached $4.15 over Labor Day, also a record. Two days later that, an administration official denied stealing Venezuela's oil, in the same appearance where he said Venezuela was now "forced to work" with the United States. A country that is forced to work with you is not a partner in a

… Continued on Page F128

Rogers vowed not to touch Michigan's abortion law, then banked a check from the PAC rewriting it.

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

The number that matters first is thirteen. That is the point margin by which Michigan voters amended their state constitution in 2022, putting the right to abortion care beyond the legislature's reach. Mike Rogers read the returns. He told reporters he had no interest in "going back to Washington, DC to decide what the people of Michigan decided to do." That was the promise. The ledger says something else.

While he held his House seat, Rogers was a sponsor of four fetal "personhood" bills aimed at banning nearly all abortions nationwide. The PAC did not misread his file. It read it correctly.

Set the two documents side by side and the gap is not a matter of interpretation. A candidate said the 2022 vote was settled. A donor built to unsettle it wrote a check eleven days before polls close.

The money keeps company. Eight days before the PAC check, on October 15, Kristi Rogers stood in the parking lot of a Freedom Fuel station in Detroit, handing out $10 gas cards while wearing a sticker reading "Mike Rogers for Senate."

… Continued on Page F128

Supreme Court denies three ways to pause a deportation, all in one Tuesday ruling.

BY MITCH
Immigration Grist

All together now — read what that order actually does, clause by clause. First: a judge may not pause a deportation while its appeal is still pending. Second: the rule that let immigration judges administratively close a deportation case — frozen since the Trump administration declined to defend it in June — stays frozen. Third: the application three Democrat-led cities filed October 15, asking the Court to halt the Justice Department's deal with Texas, is denied. Three cities asked. The Court said no to all three.

The order never calls the underlying policy lawful. An unsigned order rarely does. It only declines, in the same breath, to be the reason any of it stops.

This is not the first time this fall the Court has made that exact move. On September 24, Attorney General Todd Blanche said the administration would appeal after the 1st Circuit dissolved a stay and let stand a ruling against the government's third-country deportation framework. Five days later, on September 29, the Supreme Court granted that appeal, 6 to 3, staying the lower court, clearing the government to resume sending people to countries

… Continued on Page B46

Fox Sports tracks cheerleader's split loyalty by boyfriend's stat line, skips the union she just won.

BY GUS
The Sports Desk

HOT MIC MOMENT

…they cut my live shot for this, and nobody upstairs minds. Column inches for a boyfriend's stat line, nothing for a labor union forming inside the building that employs him. A sports page that tracks a cheerleader's romance but skips her own union vote has already decided which workers get covered. Hand this story to the political desk before the next team tries the same trick.

… Continued on Page S19

Newsom endorses cancelling California's billionaire tax and banning the next one; the $333 million ad machine is redundant

BY STERLING
The Ownership Desk

Two hundred and fifty Californians hold two point three trillion dollars, and Proposition 40 asks the state to take five per cent of it once. Once — one-time, the measure says, a single levy. Ninety per cent of the proceeds to healthcare, the rest to schools and food. Up to a hundred billion dollars. You are waiting for the lawsuit. There is no need of one. In August the advertising opened, from groups behind which sit Sergey Brin and Peter Thiel: Building a Better California, and Californians Against Wasteful Spending and Higher Taxes, a handsome name. By this week the Silicon Valley club is a three hundred and thirty-three million dollar machine working next week's elections. Three hundred and thirty-three. Forbids. And what does a prohibition do that a counter-argument does not? It binds the legislature that comes after, and the legislature that comes after is not asked. Debru Carthan, of the healthcare workers' union leading the campaign: "He's showing California his true colors." The vote is the third of November. Ninety per cent of a hundred billion dollars was healthcare.

… Continued on Page F128

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

— Sal

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

— Chip

By spring the dog sleeps in the shed.
A man finds fewer hens at dusk.

ENOCH · THE OWNERSHIP DESK

NO ANSWER

Pretti family demands Justice Department release evidence file it stopped sending four days earlier

By THE WRECKING CREW
THE REMEDY DESK



“Minnesota officials say US government stopped sharing evidence on fatal ICE shootings”, 23 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE GUARDIAN — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The chief lays the file on the table first: in January, federal agents in Minneapolis shot Alex Pretti, an ICU nurse and U.S. citizen, and in the same crackdown shot Renee Good. Two bodies, one state, and by March Minnesota had already sued the federal government just to see what its own officers wrote down.

For seven months the only paperwork that moved fast was the smear: by August, Pretti's family was hearing officials describe their son as an "assassin" and a "domestic terrorist," a label applied to a man they'd just finished calling a nurse....

...(cont) Then came the part with the receipts. On October 23, Minnesota told a court that the flow of evidence had not slowed — it had stopped. The federal government, the state said in a filing, is no longer sharing anything related to either shooting. Four days later, Pretti's parents stood in front of cameras and asked the Department of Justice "to do what is right," saying the government had ignored them, then misled them.

The planner studies that timeline and likes what it reveals: the state's lawsuit was never going to be enough on its own, because a civil suit only forces the other side to hand over what it already decided to hand over. Which is where the tinkerer goes to work. The federal government did not need Minnesota's cooperation, a new statute, or an act of Congress to open a second track — the civil-rights pattern-or-practice review the Justice Department is already authorized to launch on its own agencies, no state subpoena required, no family request necessary. It sits in the same building as the evidence that stopped moving. Nobody has touched it.

The muscle goes first on the excuse, because the excuse is load-bearing: "ongoing investigation" cannot cover an investigation that, by Minnesota's own filing, isn't being shared with anyone investigating it. Knock that wall down and there is nothing behind it but the choice not to open the drawer.

The pilot's job is simpler than it sounds: fly the file to where the family already is. Nine months after a nurse died on a Minneapolis street, the tool that doesn't need the state's permission, doesn't need a new vote, and doesn't need the file Minnesota can't get — is still sitting closed, in the one office that owns the key.

FROM THE CORNER

DUTCH

THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT CAN OPEN A CIVIL-RIGHTS REVIEW OF ITS OWN AGENTS WITHOUT asking Minnesota's permission, the state has been suing since March for the same file, and this month that office told the court it had stopped sending anything at all. That is not an investigation sitting on pause, it is an investigation the government chose not to start because the subject would be itself. Because that drawer stays shut, the state attorney general's office has to build the Pretti and Good file one subpoena at a time, and subpoenas get billed by the hour, so the invoice for investigating a federal shooting lands on your property tax statement instead of Washington's budget.



“They didn't lose the file, they stopped sending it — same office that was calling the man they shot an assassin. The tool that opens that office without needing Minnesota's lawsuit or the family's request has sat on a shelf nine months. That's not a gap in the system, that's the system deciding not to look at itself.”

— Sal



“There's an open investigation, you don't just hand over evidence mid-process, that's standard protocol. ...Although the state's filing says sharing didn't slow, it stopped completely, so that's — that's probably a staffing hiccup, not a decision. Did I just call a total stop a staffing hiccup? That doesn't sound like me.”

— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

Minnesota officials say US government stopped sharing evidence on fatal ICE shootings

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *08:46 EDT*

State authorities investigating killings of Renee Good and Alex Pretti said federal officials paused transfer of evidence The federal government has stopped sharing evidence with Minnesota authorities who are investigating the killings of Renee Good and Alex Pretti by federal officers during a violent anti-immigration, anti-protest...

~~Federal government stopped sharing information in Good, Pretti killings, Minnesota officials say~~

DOJ hid evidence on killings by its own agents, Minnesota says

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *12:38 EDT*

Minnesota officials said the Department of Justice (DOJ) has stopped sharing evidence related to the killings of Alex Pretti and Renee Good by immigration officers earlier this year. Minnesota officials said in a court filing reviewed by The Associated Press that the federal government stopped sharing evidence related to the two shooting...

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

Alex Pretti’s parents demand DOJ release evidence of fatal ICE shooting

NBC News MAINSTREAM § *15:24 EDT*

The parents of Alex Pretti, the ICU nurse and U.S. citizen who was killed in Minneapolis said they were “begging” the Justice Department “to do what is right.”

Alex Pretti’s Parents Say Federal Government Is Silent on Investigation

The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *14:20 EDT*

The parents of the Minneapolis nurse who was fatally shot by federal agents in January said on Tuesday that the government had ignored and misled them.

· 'What Did He Do to Deserve to Be Murdered?' Alex Pretti's Family Speaks Out Months After Fatal ICE Shooting *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.

Pollster fakes polls to expose zero scrutiny; GOP leaders prove it, call the real ones fake too.

By LOU
ONE MORE QUESTION



“Johnson and Thune adopt Trump’s messaging on ‘fake’ polling as GOP looks to project midterm optimism”, 27 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA WASHINGTON EXAMINER — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Speaker Johnson and Majority Leader Thune called midterm polling that shows Republicans losing "fake" on television this week.

WHO GETS PAID. Republican congressional leadership gets a ready-made excuse that protects its own hold on the top two jobs ahead of a predicted loss.

WHAT SLIPS. Voters lose a clear read on whether the party's own leaders believe their own numbers, the first check before anyone casts a ballot.

WHAT'S NEXT. With no comparable case yet on record, here is what's on the calendar: the midterm elections, seven days off, on November 3rd, when the real numbers get tested whether anyone calls them fake or not.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

I want to start with a word, not a number, if that's all right with you.

The Washington Examiner printed the word "fake" twice in six days. I know because I've got both copies — not framed, nothing like that, just folded under a coffee cup at the corner store where I do my reading some mornings, and when I finally laid them side by side on the counter the clerk thought I was comparison shopping. On the 21st, "fake" described a polling company. On the 27th, it described the polls everybody else runs. Same paper. Same word. Six days apart....

...(cont) Let me back up, because the file on this is thicker than one word, and I don't want to leave anything out. On September 2nd, Senate Majority Leader John Thune told reporters he "worries about losing" the Senate majority he runs, and called himself, in his own word, "a realist." Eight days after that, at his own party's midterm convention, the crowd booed him off the stage — I've got that one circled, don't ask me why I circle things, it's a habit from the job. On October 15th, Speaker Mike Johnson said it's hard to get Republicans to respond to "our own" pollsters. His words, our own, like there's a company line and a separate truth running underneath it. On October 19th, that same newspaper ran a piece asking whether losing ought to have consequences for Johnson. So going into last week, the record already had a Speaker blaming his own side's numbers and a Majority Leader telling reporters, on the record, that he might lose.

Now here's the part that sent me back to the newsstand. By the next day the Examiner had its own headline up about an industry that keeps falling for fake polls. Fair enough. That's one use of the word, and it comes with a confession attached.

On the 27th — the same week, the same paper — Johnson and Thune are reported to have both adopted the president's line that the polling showing Republicans behind is "fake," the same week Johnson's office put out a wire of endorsement statements for a leadership job he already holds.

I've worn the same raincoat through more elections than I can count on one hand, and the lining's never needed a label to tell me it keeps the water out. A poll works or it doesn't. So when I had both Examiners on the counter, the 21st and the 27th, same typeface, same word, I had to wonder: is there a difference between a poll a company admits, in writing, to inventing, and a poll two party leaders call fake without admitting anything at all? And if there's exactly one outfit in this whole stack whose business is confirmed, on the record, to be making numbers up, and it isn't the one Johnson and Thune are pointing at — which one are they pointing at?

Oh — before I let you go, one more thing, and then I'll get out of your hair. The other story — the one with Johnson and Thune and the word "fake" — has no correction running against it yet, far as the stack in front of me shows. So if a paper prints two stories with the same word in the same week, and only one of them has somebody owning up to making the numbers up, which one would you check first?

“You got a company that admits, in writing, to inventing poll numbers just to prove nobody checks — and six days later the Speaker and the Majority Leader borrow that company's own word for the polls that are actually real. That's not confusion, that's a script: when the truth shows up losing, you reach for the one word a confessed liar handed you for free. Whoever loses the majority next week, the word "fake" already won.”

— Sal

“Look, the polling industry has a credibility problem, that's just a fact, Wedgewood proved it themselves — did I say "proved"? I mean one company admitted to one stunt, that's hardly the whole industry. The Speaker and the Leader are just raising legitimate questions about methodology, same as any — okay, calling Nate Silver's numbers fake isn't exactly a methodology critique, is it. I'll check my notes and get back to you on this one.”

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *Republicans call the polls wrong on Fox, call themselves realists about losing on local TV.* By Chip · the afternoon edition, 27 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

~~Johnson and Thune adopt Trump’s messaging on ‘fake’ polling as GOP looks to project midterm optimism~~

Republicans call the polls 'fake' because the polls show them losing.

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *14:26 EDT*

The top two Republicans in Congress are getting on board with President Donald Trump’s attacks on polling for the midterm elections, as nationwide surveys indicate the GOP is likely to perform poorly next week. Trump has railed against polling as “fake,” particularly after it was revealed that a group included by multiple top polling...

Nate Silver on What the Polls Say — and What His Gut’s Telling Him

The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *16:41 EDT*

The election forecaster Nate Silver breaks down the likelihood of a G.O.P. wipeout.

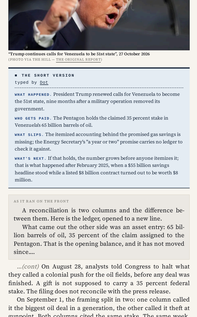
· The polling industry keeps falling for (and promoting) fake polls *from the morgue, 21 Oct 2026*

· Pollster admits to fabricating data for ‘social experiment’ to expose flaws of industry *from the morgue, 21 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.

Nine months after seizing 35 percent of Venezuela's oil, Washington offers the country statehood, gas still at $4.15.

By WILTON
THE MONEY DESK



"Trump continues calls for Venezuela to be 51st state", 27 October 2026 (Imagine.org, via AMI-Images, Inc. — THE PRINCIPAL PAPER)

★ THE SHORT VERSION
TYPED BY Nat

WHAT HAPPENED. President Trump renewed calls for Venezuela to become the 51st state, nine months after a military operation removed its government.

WHO GETS PAID. The Pentagon holds the claimed 35 percent stake in Venezuela's 65 billion barrels of oil.

WHAT SLIPS. The itemized accounting behind the promised gas savings is missing; the Energy Secretary's "at least or two" promise cannot be judged to check it against.

WHAT'S NEXT. If that holds, the number grows before anyone itemizes it; that is what happened after February 2025, when a $55 billion savings headline stood while a listed $8 billion contract turned out to be worth $4 billion.

AS FAR AS THE POOL

A reconciliation is two columns and the difference between them. Here is the ledger, and the difference.

The claim: that same day the other side was an asset entry: 65 billion barrels of oil, 35 percent of the claim assigned to the Pentagon, 51 percent to the Energy Secretary, and it has moved since.—

(cont'd) On August 28, analysts told Congress to halt what they called a colonial push for the oil fields, before any deal was finished. A gift is not supposed to carry a 35 percent federal stake. The filing does not reconcile with the press release.

On September 1, the framing split in two: one column called it the biggest oil deal in a generation, the other called it that at gunpoint. Both columns cited the same stake. The same week, diesel reached $4.89 a gallon, a record, and regular gasoline reached $4.15 over Labor Day, also a record. Two days after that, an administration official denied stealing Venezuela's oil, in the same appearance where he said Venezuela was now "forced to work" with the United States. A country that is forced to work with you is not a partner in a gift.

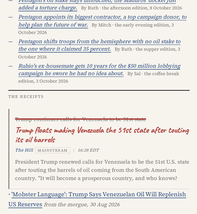
That is the balance sheet nine months in: a 35 percent stake, a record pump price, and a savings promise still dated "a year or two" out, with the itemized account of what it is measured against.

On Monday, the President added a new line to the ledger: he no longer only discussing the oil beneath Venezuela. He is discussing Venezuela. "It will become a prosperous country," he said, "and we like that." Maybe someday soon, it will become a prosperous 51st state." The east side of the ledger just grew by one government. The savings column, the one gas prices were supposed to land in, still reads the same number it read in September. The filing does not say when that number changes. It says the country is becoming the assets.

Hon, that's not a reconciliation. That's an acquisition with a press tour.



"You don't invade a country, take 35 percent of its oil, and then call it a gift — a gift doesn't come with a federal ownership stake attached. And now the pitch isn't just the oil under their ground, it's the ground itself: make it the 51st state, like that's a reward and not just a bigger line on the same balance sheet. The gas price never moved. Only the ledger did."
— Sol



"Look, statehood is an investment in the region's future, and frankly a prosperous 51st state is good for everybody, that's fact — okay, 'everybody' might be doing some work there. And the Energy Secretary did say prices come down, he just said it takes a year or two, which, I mean, that's not nothing, that's a specific — it's not that specific. Did I say 'gift'? That's not my line, that's the President's line, I'm not touching that one."
— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

Trump floats making Venezuela the 51st state after touring its oil haven

Trump floats making Venezuela the 51st state after touring its oil haven

The Hill · MAINSTREAM · 16:38 EDT

President Trump renewed calls for Venezuela to be the 51st U.S. state after touring the barrels of oil currently under the control of the country. "It will become a prosperous country, and who knows?

'Mobster Language': Trump Says Venezuelan Oil Will Replenish US Reserves *from the morgue, 29 Aug 2026*

Yet Another Trump Grift': Congress Called to Stop US Takeover of Venezuelan Oil Fields *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*

Trump admin's list of US-designated 'foreign terrorist' groups in Latin America expands to 21 *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*

Top Trump official reveals how 30-minute military op unlocked Venezuela oil windfall for US buyers *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*

Ex-Venezuelan first lady Cilia Flores seeks release from NYC jail, citing heart ailment *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*

New York City protest once again demands release of Maduro and Flores *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*

Trump Official Denies Stealing Venezuela's Oil One Hour After Boasting Country is 'Forced to Work' With US *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*

The Biggest Oil Deal or Theft at Gunpoint? U.S. Claims Majority Control of Venezuela's Oil Reserves *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*

Tehran threatens attacks after U.S. strikes Iranian tankers *from the morgue, 7 Sep 2026*

US forces take out 3 Iranian oil tankers in retaliation *from the morgue, 7 Sep 2026*

Oil prices up as Iran says it will expand control over Strait of Hormuz *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*

Iran live updates: Trump speaks to MBS, says everything will 'work out fine' *from the morgue, 13 Sep 2026*

Iran threatens retaliation against U.S. tanker strikes *from the morgue, 7 Sep 2026*

U.S. gas prices hit record high for Labor Day *from the morgue, 7 Sep 2026*

Ship tracking websites, including Kpler, MarineTraffic, and TankerTrackers, show that three Iranian oil tankers, including two from the National Iranian Tanker Company, have escaped the blockade that *from the morgue, 17 Jun 2026*

Iranian state media reports that the United States Navy attempted to capture an Iranian oil tanker. The oil tanker was boarded, commandeered and then returned by Iranian NEDSA marines in a helicopter *from the morgue, 3 Nov 2021*

US strikes Iranian rocket launchers in first attack since late July *from the morgue, 30 Aug 2026*

An Iranian Navy commander claims on state television that the Iranian Navy forced a U.S. submarine to surface as it transited the Strait of Hormuz and that the submarine violated Iranian territorial w *from the morgue, 20 Apr 2023*

Trump Threatens to Rename Strait of Hormuz for Himself as War Pushes Diesel Prices Toward Record High *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*

Trump floats renaming Strait of Hormuz after himself *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*

U.S. strikes targets in Iran near Strait of Hormuz as Iran says it is retaliating *from the morgue, 1 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*

'Trump Did It': At $5 a Gallon, Diesel Price Hits All-Time High in US Thanks to War on Iran *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*

Price of diesel in U.S. hits record as Vance downplays Iran war impact *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*

Diesel prices hit record high as wars disrupt supply *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*

Trump vows response to Iran's retaliatory strikes: 'We're going to hit them hard' *from the morgue, 31 Aug 2026*

Trump threatens Iran against retaliation for latest U.S. strikes *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*

Live updates: US, Iran ramp up strikes; incumbents hold on in Massachusetts *from the morgue, 7 Sep 2026*

Trump calls Iran conflict "small potatoes" *from the morgue, 7 Sep 2026*

Labor Day gas prices are highest ever for holiday *from the morgue, 7 Sep 2026*

How 'Hypermilers' Are Trying to Beat High Gas Prices *from the morgue, 7 Sep 2026*

Fuel prices at record Labor Day high in US thanks to Iran War and refinery issues *from the morgue, 7 Sep 2026*

Oil Prices Rise Slightly After U.S. and Iran Trade Strikes *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*

USS Lincoln heads home as war with Iran escalates *from the morgue, 7 Sep 2026*

Lawler disagrees with Trump on Iran war: 'It is certainly not small potatoes' *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*

OPEC Plus to Keep Oil Production Steady *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*

Iran War Has Cost the Average American More Than $1,200 Over Six Months, Economist Estimates *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*

Trump says military conflict in Iran is 'small potatoes for us' *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*

Wright: US has 'a lot of leverage' in Venezuela after oil deal reached *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*

White House unveils new details of Venezuela agreement *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*

Chris Wright explains how Venezuelan crude will 'fill' the Strategic Petroleum Reserve *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*

Energy Secretary Wright says Venezuela oil deal will bring down gas prices in a year or two *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*

Chevron to expand in Venezuela, days after the U.S. and Venezuela strike oil deal *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*

Venezuelan oil flows will lower gas prices in 12-24 months, Wright says in Caracas *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*

Trump says Venezuelan oil will replenish Strategic Petroleum Reserves *from the morgue, 31 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.

Rogers vowed not to touch Michigan's abortion law, then banked a check from the PAC rewriting it.

By **RUTH**
THE MONEY DESK



“Mike Rogers Receives Last-Minute Donation From Anti-Abortion PAC”, 27 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA TRUTHOUT — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Mike Rogers took a donation from an anti-abortion PAC on October 23, 2026.

WHO GETS PAID. The National Pro-Life Alliance PAC and the personhood-bill sponsors Rogers once joined get a senator they can count on.

WHAT SLIPS. The 13-point vote Michigan cast in 2022 to protect abortion rights slips if voters elect a senator who breaks that promise.

WHAT'S NEXT. Michigan decides the Senate seat in seven days, on November 3, 2026.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The number that matters first is thirteen. That is the point margin by which Michigan voters amended their state constitution in 2022, putting the right to abortion care beyond the legislature's reach. Mike Rogers read the returns. He told reporters he had no interest in "going back to Washington, DC to undo what the people of Michigan decided to do." That was the promise. The ledger says something else.

While he held his House seat, Rogers was a sponsor of four fetal "personhood" bills aimed at banning nearly all abortions nationwide. The PAC did not misread his file. It read it correctly....

...(cont) Set the two documents side by side and the gap is not a matter of interpretation. A candidate said the 2022 vote was settled. A donor built to unsettle it wrote a check eleven days before polls close.

The money keeps company. Eight days before the PAC check, on October 15, Kristi Rogers stood in the parking lot of a Freedom Fuel station in Detroit, handing out $10 gas cards while wearing a sticker reading "Mike Rogers for Senate."

Joe Manchin, the former Democratic senator, endorsed Rogers on CNBC last month, calling him "a good person" who will "do a great job." Manchin did not mention the PAC check. It had not been written yet. It has been written since, and it sits in Rogers's own campaign filing, not in an opponent's ad script.

Hon, the file and the vote do not reconcile. Thirteen points said one thing in 2022. The donor list says another thing now. Michigan picks which document is the senator in seven days.



“They tell you a campaign promise means something — it means something until the check clears. Rogers said he'd leave the abortion vote alone, then nine days before election day he's banking money from the outfit that writes the ban bills. That's not a flip, that's the plan showing through the fabric.”

— *Sal*



“A campaign can't police every dollar that comes in the door — a donation isn't an endorsement, it's just money people send because they like a candidate's chances. Mike's position on the 2022 vote hasn't changed, he just also happens to take checks from the people whose entire mission is changing it. That's not a contradiction, that's — okay, that one's a little hard to square.”

— *Chip*

THE RECEIPTS

Mike Rogers Receives Last-Minute Donation From Anti-Abortion PAC

Truthout § *15:55 EDT*

While in office, he was a sponsor of four fetal “personhood” bills that aimed to ban nearly all abortions nationwide.

~~Rogers Cashes Checks From Anti-Abortion Extremists in Final Days of Senate Campaign~~

Rogers vowed not to 'undo what Michigan decided.' He just took $5,000 from a total-ban PAC.

Common Dreams § *15:04 EDT*

Michigan voters were clear in 2022 when they voted by a 13-point margin to codify the right to abortion care in the state constitution, and the state's Republican US Senate candidate, former Rep. Mike Rogers, claimed two years ago that he had no interest in "going back to Washington, DC to undo what the people of Michigan decided to do.”...

· Joe Manchin says he’s not OK with Abdul el Sayed becoming senator, says Mike Rogers will ‘do a great job’ *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

· 'Mike Rogers Is Watching You': Abdul El-Sayed Hits GOP Opponent Over Support for Mass Surveillance *from the morgue, 7 Oct 2026*

· Obama to appear at Abdul El-Sayed rally in critical Michigan Senate race *from the morgue, 5 Oct 2026*

· Mike Rogers' Wife Hands Out $10 Gas Cards, Begging Michiganders to Vote for Her Husband *from the morgue, 15 Oct 2026*

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Supreme Court denies three ways to pause a deportation, all in one Tuesday ruling.

By **MITCH**
INVESTIGATIONS



"SCOTUS won't restore policy that lets immigration judges close deportation cases", 27 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA ABC NEWS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. The Supreme Court turned down three requests to pause deportations while the policy is still being challenged in court.

WHO GETS PAID. The Justice Department and Texas, whose joint settlement ends the rule and keeps the deportation program running.

WHAT SLIPS. A court's power to pause a deportation while its appeal is still being decided slips here.

WHAT'S NEXT. If this holds, removals continue until oral argument in December; that is what happened after the Supreme Court's stay on September 29, when deportations to third countries resumed while the case was still being argued.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

All together now — read what that order actually does, clause by clause. First: a judge may not pause a deportation while its appeal is still pending. Second: the rule that let immigration judges administratively close a deportation case — frozen since the Trump administration declined to defend it in June — stays frozen. Third: the application three Democrat-led cities filed October 15, asking the Court to halt the Justice Department's deal with Texas, is denied. Three cities asked. The Court said no to all three.

The order never calls the underlying policy lawful. An unsigned order rarely does. It only declines, in the same breath, to be the reason any of it stops....

...(cont) This is not the first time this fall the Court has made that exact move. On September 24, Attorney General Todd Blanche said the administration would appeal after the 1st Circuit dissolved a stay and let stand a ruling against the government's third-country deportation framework. Five days later, on September 29, the Supreme Court granted that appeal, 6 to 3, staying the lower court, clearing the government to resume sending people to countries that are not theirs, and setting oral argument for December. The justices did not rule on the legality of the policy then either. They just let it run.

What "let it run" means showed up on 60 Minutes on October 23: immigration judges had already ruled, case by case, that specific people could not be sent to specific countries because they would likely face persecution or torture there. The third countries took them anyway. Some forced the deportees back out, into the nations the judges had already ruled against.

That is the pattern under Tuesday's order. The Court does not need to decide a case is right. It only needs to decline, again and again, to decide it is wrong before the removal happens. By the time December's argument arrives and the justices finally reach the merits of the third-country framework, the people that finding was written to protect will already be wherever the deal sent them. The docket stays open. The door, as of Tuesday, does not.

"They didn't need to win the case, they needed the courts to stay quiet long enough for the removals to finish first — that's the whole move. The Justice Department sues its own rule, hands Texas the win in a deal its opponents call collusion, and three cities asking for a timeout get the same one-word answer three times. By the time anybody with a robe looks at whether any of this was legal, the people it was supposed to protect are already wherever the deal sent them."

— *Sal*



"This is the Court simply respecting a consent judgment two parties reached in good faith — a deal's a deal. Sure, the Justice Department sued its own rule and then declined to defend it in court, but that's not collusion, that's efficient litigation. Did I say that? That doesn't sound like me."

— *Chip*

THE RECEIPTS

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

SCOTUS won't restore policy that lets immigration judges close deportation cases

ABC News MAINSTREAM § *16:17 EDT*

The Supreme Court has declined to unfreeze a Biden-era policy that allowed immigration judges to temporarily close deportation cases for immigrants.

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

SCOTUS Rejects Dem Bid To Revive Lax Biden-Era Deportation Rule

The Federalist RIGHT § *14:24 EDT*

The U.S. Supreme Court on Tuesday declined to restore a Biden-era regulation allowing for certain deportation proceedings to be temporarily paused. The decision was seemingly unanimous.

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

60 Minutes investigates "third-country deportations"

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *19:24 EDT*

As the Trump administration seeks to carry out the largest deportation in American history, it is removing more and more people to countries they are not from and often have no ties to. It's called "third-country deportation." A 60 Minutes investigation reveals how some of these third countries are forcing deportees back to the nations...

~~Supreme Court Bars Judges From Pausing Deportations While Appeals Are Decided~~

SCOTUS ruling rests on a DOJ-Texas deal called 'egregious collusion'

Truthout § *17:20 EDT*

The agreement between the DOJ and Texas at the center of the case was labelled as "egregious collusion" by opponents.

· Todd Blanche vows Supreme Court appeal after court blocks third-country deportations *from the morgue, 24 Sep 2026*

· Supreme Court OKs Third-Country Deportations—For Now—Despite 'Cascade of Human Rights Violations' *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*

· Supreme Court allows third-country deportations to continue ahead of December oral arguments *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*

· Democratic cities urge Supreme Court to stop deal ending Biden-era immigration rule *from the morgue, 15 Oct 2026*

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Fox Sports tracks cheerleader's split loyalty by boyfriend's stat line, skips the union she just won.

By GUS
THE SPORTS DESK



“Dallas Cowboys cheerleaders unionize after years of fighting for fair pay”, 23 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE GUARDIAN — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

HOT MIC MOMENT

...they cut my live shot for this, and nobody upstairs minds. Column inches for a boyfriend's stat line, nothing for a labor union forming inside the building that employs him. A sports page that tracks a cheerleader's romance but skips her own union vote has already decided which workers get covered. Hand this story to the political desk before the next team tries the same trick.

GUS HIS SIDE

GUS: This reporter has walked today's NFL wire, and the top story out of Dallas carries no fumble, no sack — only a matter of the heart.

GUS: Be that as it may, this reporter presses on.

GUS: And there stands the signature Dallas Cowboys cheerleader story of the season — a young woman's heart, torn by television.

GUS: Still, this reporter would note these are, at bottom, young ladies performing game-day pageantry, and a bargaining unit seems a heavy accessory for pom-poms.

TRUDY HER SIDE

> *Gus, there's no split loyalty if the man wears the same star on his helmet she does. The headline says it plain: "Eagles boyfriend." He plays for Philadelphia. That's the whole reason anybody's watching this.*

> *Jerry Jones hasn't coached a single down in thirty-some years of owning that team. He's the owner. He signs the checks — including, four days ago, a very different kind of check.*

> *It isn't. On Friday, October 23rd, the Cowboys voluntarily recognized the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders Association as the squad's own collective bargaining representative, closing out years the cheerleaders spent advocating for fair pay themselves. That ran four days before this one — and this one left it out entirely.*

> *Those young ladies just finished negotiating their own contract after years of asking, and the team signed it without a fight. That's not heavy, that's overdue — and you've now mixed up two different headlines, sugar. Go lie down before your next live shot.*

> *Settle down — nobody's handing you the political desk, and that was never meant for air. But the receipt backs you up anyway: the Guardian confirmed it was October 23rd, the Cowboys' own release called it voluntary recognition, after years the squad spent fighting for it themselves.*



“They'll spend four hundred words on whose jersey she's rooting for and zero on the fact that the cheerleaders had to organize a union just to get fair pay in the first place. That's the whole con: romance sells papers, overdue wages don't. Those women still show up Sunday whether the column notices or not.”

— Sal



“Look, a gossip column covers gossip, that's the format, nobody's burying anything — okay, technically the same outlet ran the actual union recognition four days earlier and then left it clean out of the roundup, but that's just an editorial call, that's not a pattern. Did I say pattern? Scratch that, strike it, I never said pattern.”

— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

Dallas Cowboys cheerleaders unionize after years of fighting for fair pay

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *18:40 EDT*

Team elects to voluntarily recognize union Squad members have advocated for better wages The Dallas Cowboys cheerleaders have unionized, in a watershed labor victory that comes after years of fighting for fair pay. The Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders Association (DCCA) was voluntarily recognized by the Cowboys as the collective bargaining...

Cowboys cheerleader forced to watch Eagles boyfriend get lit up on national TV, Jerry's happy & Cornjerkers

Fox News RIGHT § *09:15 EDT*

Screencaps covers Cooper DeJean's rough night against Cee Dee Lamb, online grocery shopping debates, and Cowboys cheerleader Abby Summers' split loyalties.

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THE LEDGER

Newsom endorses cancelling California's billionaire tax and banning the next one; the $333 million ad machine is redundant

By STERLING

THE OWNERSHIP DESK



"How Billionaires Are Fighting the Prop 40 California Wealth Tax", 27 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA THE NEW YORK TIMES — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. California's governor endorsed a ballot measure that cancels the billionaire wealth tax and bans future taxes on owning assets.

WHO GETS PAID. The roughly 250 California billionaires facing the tax, including the donors behind the anti-tax ad groups, Sergey Brin and Peter Thiel.

WHAT SLIPS. Voters lose the power to tax great wealth later; the ban keeps the question off every ballot after this one.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the rival measure passes November 3, the wealth tax is gone and cannot be put back by vote; that is what Denton, Texas got after 4 November 2014, when almost 59 percent banned fracking and the state barred cities from regulating oil and gas 195 days later.

Two hundred and fifty Californians hold two point three trillion dollars, and Proposition 40 asks the state to take five per cent of it once. Once — one-time, the measure says, a single levy. Ninety per cent of the proceeds to healthcare, the rest to schools and food. Up to a hundred billion dollars. You are waiting for the lawsuit. There is no need of one. In August the advertising opened, from groups behind which sit Sergey Brin and Peter Thiel: Building a Better California, and Californians Against Wasteful Spending and Higher Taxes, a handsome name. By this week the Silicon Valley club is a three hundred and thirty-three million dollar machine working next week's elections. Three hundred and thirty-three. Forbids. And what does a prohibition do that a counter-argument does not? It binds the legislature that comes after, and the legislature that comes after is not asked. Debru Carthan, of the healthcare workers' union leading the campaign: "He's showing California his true colors." The vote is the third of November. Ninety per cent of a hundred billion dollars was healthcare.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

PROPOSITION 40 WOULD TAKE FIVE PERCENT OF THE WEALTH OF ABOUT 250 Californians once, raising up to $100 billion, with ninety percent of it going to healthcare. Against it stand groups funded by Sergey Brin and Peter Thiel, a $333 million ad operation, and a rival measure the governor endorsed that cancels the tax and forbids any new tax on owning assets — that is not a campaign against a tax, that is a wall built across the ballot so the question can never be put to you again. The tax dies on November 3, so the hundred billion never arrives, so the healthcare and the education and the food money stay unfunded, and what goes missing is the food help that puts Monday's dinner on your kitchen table.

Next spring, no hens. Under the neighbour's floor, the fox makes a den.

— ENOCH

The Ownership Desk

"Two hundred and fifty people are sitting on two point three trillion dollars, they get asked for five percent one time, and the answer is a three hundred and thirty-three million dollar ad machine. Ninety percent of that tax was healthcare money — and the governor of the same party as the people who wrote it endorsed the measure that cancels it and bans the next one. They keep telling you there's no money for clinics. The money's right there, and in seven days it gets fenced off."

— Sal

"Look, a one-time tax on 250 people is still a tax on the job creators who fund this entire state, and nobody purchased that second ballot measure — the governor endorsed it himself, which is exactly my point. Did I say purchased? That doesn't sound like me. The ads are speech, three hundred and thirty-three million dollars of speech, and if voters agree with the speech, that's democracy."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *Israel lobby routed $13.1 million under other groups' names; the open question is a registration form* By Sterling · the evening edition, 27 October 2026

— *The Treasury secretary told a House committee the department is examining whether it needs Congress at all to mail the $5,000 the president promised adults for keeping Congress Republican, in the same week 750,000 people lost their health coverage with no vote required.* By Mitch · the midnight edition, 4 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

~~How Billionaires Are Fighting the Prop 40 California Wealth Tax~~

Billionaires spent $333 million to kill a tax on billionaires

The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *10:55 EDT*

The latest Silicon Valley billionaire club is a $333 million political ad machine that is heavily engaged in next week's elections.

~~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…

· Newsom Endorses Ballot Measure That Would Cancel Out Billionaire Tax—and Ban Future Wealth Taxes *from the morgue, 11 Oct 2026*

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

· Newsom battles with California Democrats over billionaire tax proposal *from the morgue, 13 Oct 2026*

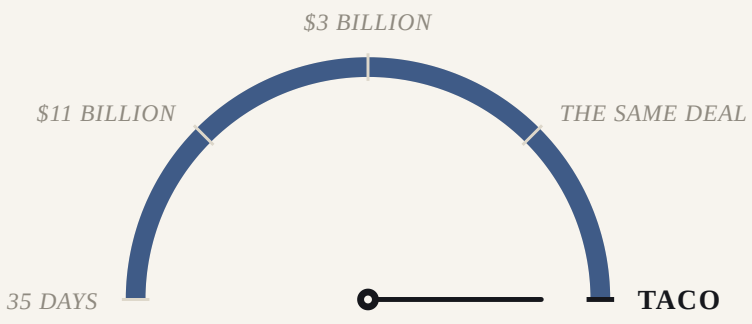
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§74 — 27 OCTOBER 2026

On the mantle

BY LOU
The Word

DEMOCRAT



TACO

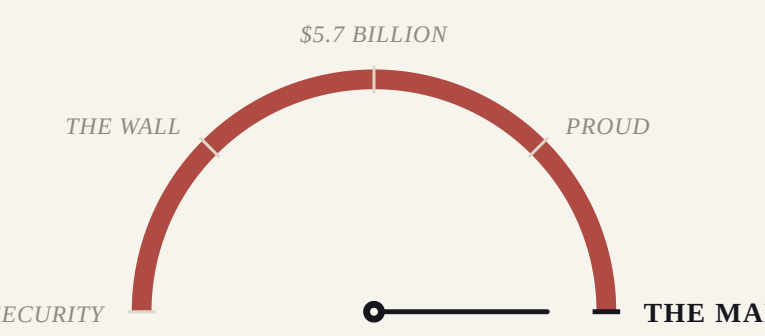
The bill for the mantle, from the government's own accountant: the Congressional Budget Office put the cost of the shutdown at $11 billion, about $3 billion of it never recovered [1]. Wall money obtained: zero; the bill signed to end it was the one on the table before it started [2]. That is the oldest entry on this ledger with a dollar figure: the threat cost more than the fold recovered, and the fold was to the original offer.

Now the callback, seven days before the vote. The fiscal year turned October 1 with no shutdown, because a stopgap passed the House 370 to 48, the Senate's version 90 to 6 in July, and the president signed it September 2 [3][4]. The continuing resolution runs to December 11; of the twelve appropriations bills, none has been enacted [3]. The mantle stayed in the closet through the election, and the cliff was moved to five weeks after it. The last time it came out it cost $11 billion and bought the deal already on the desk.

SOURCES

1. The partial shutdown cost about $11 billion, of which about $3 billion is not expected to be recovered — Congressional Budget Office, 28 January 2019 ↑
2. The shutdown ended with no wall funding, on the deal previously rejected — NBC News, January 2019 ↑
3. The House passed the stopgap 370–48, following the Senate's 90–6 in July; the continuing resolution runs to 11 December 2026 with none of the twelve appropriations bills enacted — Government Executive, 1 September 2026 ↑
4. The president signed the funding bill on 2 September 2026, avoiding a shutdown ahead of the midterms — Fox News, 2 September 2026 ↑

REPUBLICAN



THE MANTLE

The sentence was said on camera in the Oval Office on December 11, 2018, to the two Democratic leaders, and it is rare in the genre for asking for the blame in advance: "I am proud to shut down the government for border security, Chuck … I will take the mantle. I will be the one to shut it down" [1]. The demand was $5.7 billion for the wall. The case as made: a border is a line, a line needs a barrier, and a government that will not fund the barrier can close until it does.

That is a coherent position, and taking the mantle is the honest way to hold it — you own the shutdown so the other side cannot. The shutdown ran 35 days, the longest in the country's history, and ended when the president signed a bill reopening the government with no wall money in it: the same deal he had rejected before it began [2]. The mantle was taken. What it was worn for is priced in the next column.

SOURCES

1. "I am proud to shut down the government for border security, Chuck … I will take the mantle. I will be the one to shut it down" — CNN, 11 December 2018 ↑
2. The 35-day shutdown ended with a bill containing no wall money — the same deal previously rejected — NBC News, January 2019 ↑

“I'm the guy who can't afford the thing, so I read the invoice twice. Thirty-five days. Eleven billion dollars, says the Congressional Budget Office, three billion of it not coming back. Wall money in the deal he signed: zero. This year: a stopgap, 370 to 48, signed September 2, good through December 11. Bills finished out of twelve: none. Sorry — I forgot my pen — the vote is in a week and the cliff is in six. Who picked those two dates?” — Lou

🍺

“"I will take the mantle. I will be the one to shut it down." Thirty-five days, eleven billion dollars, three of it gone for good, and he signs the deal he'd already refused — no wall money in it. This year the stopgap passed the House 370 to 48 and he signed it the next day, no mantle. The next cliff is December 11, after the election, and none of the twelve bills is done. The mantle's in storage till it's useful.”

— Sal

🚬

“The shutdown was leadership, ending it was leadership, and signing this year's stopgap without a fight was leadership of a quieter kind, the kind you do before an election so that you can do the other kind after one.”

— Chip

The Word today — 👍 👎