The Single-Column Edition

FROM § EACH

MONDAY, 09 NOVEMBER 2026 — THE MORNING EDITION FREE, FOREVER

Europe gets a seat on its own security plan only after Russia's envoy sat at the White House.

BY THE LODGERS
The Euro Desk

Today we are making a security framework, which is not a dish you can get over here, so I shall go slowly. You will need three ingredients, Russia, Ukraine, and all of Europe, and the third one was not asked what it fancied before the other two went into the pan.

Kirill Dmitriev, Vladimir Putin's envoy, came to the White House on a Thursday for a joint event with Ukrainian leaders celebrating the Oleshky ceasefire, the humanitarian pause Melania Trump secured for the Russian-occupied border town, in effect since 27 October after shortages there of food and medicine.

Clive *Fancied. I've asked this table twice this week what it thinks of my stanza, and the replies stand at none.*

Gary *None, and you're counting them like a winning hand. I had the shed door off three hinges by lunch.*

Le Monde has it as "Europe will be represented at US-mediated Ukraine talks in Abu Dhabi." The Washington Examiner, at home, has the same seat as "Europe wary of Trump administration's talk of broader security agreement

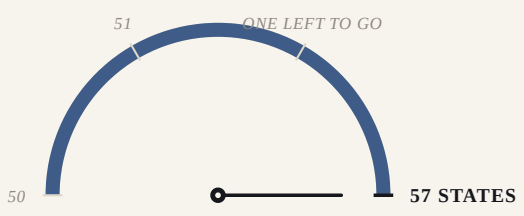
... Continued on Page A232

THE WORD

§86 — 08 NOVEMBER 2026

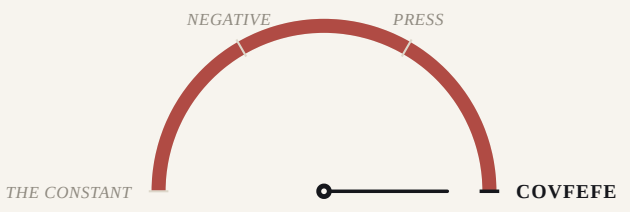
On covfefe

DEMOCRAT



57 STATES

REPUBLICAN



COVFEFE

"I keep a dictionary by the phone, the big one, my wife's mother left it to us. It goes from "covey" to "cow." There's no page for it. So I went to the press secretary, and he says the president and a small group of people know exactly what he meant. Well, fine. That's a source. Sorry, one thing before you go. That was more than nine years ago, and I'm sure they're busy people. Has anybody called them?" — Lou

... Continued on Page W86

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

THE BADGE DECIDES

The bowling-alley lights were contracted to the cent, $252,876.34, escort extra; the passes that let 78 reporters in without an escort went dark the day after a post.

... Continued on the Investigative Reporting page

Sued for defining 'medically frail' too narrowly, Nebraska's exemption misses a man with cancer.

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

Nebraska turned on its new Medicaid work-reporting rule in early May, the first state in the country to do so. The rule asks a simple thing on paper: eighty hours of work or other qualifying activities a month, documented, to keep the coverage.

By September 22, a lawsuit had landed in federal court. Medicaid enrollees, several health care advocacy organizations, and the city of Columbus, Ohio, sued over how the rule defines "medically frail," the category meant to exempt the sickest enrollees from the work test. The complaint says the definition is too narrow, catching fewer of the sick than Congress meant to protect when it wrote the work-requirement law.

The rule had already been running four months by the time that suit was filed. Nebraska did not wait on a court to answer the question before it started counting hours against people's coverage.

On October 1, human rights organizations called Nebraska the canary in the coal mine for the rest of the country, the first state to show what the new mandates look like once the paperwork starts moving and people start losing

... Continued on Page H15

Democrats win Congress, inherit Trump's unpaid $4,910 bonus and the six-year Social Security clock.

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

Let's reconcile the ledger, hon, because the pieces don't sit together yet.

In September, in Dallas, the number on the table was five thousand dollars a head, payable the day Republicans held both chambers of Congress. In October, the Treasury wrote the first check against that promise: ninety dollars, out of a Medicare improvement fund, with no date set for the remaining four thousand nine hundred and ten. That same month, on the fourth, the newspaper now worried about Social Security's arithmetic ran a different story: the Social Security check hitting a two-thousand-dollar milestone, with a 2027 raise still to be announced. Three days later, the president told reporters in the Oval Office that in his first term he had wanted Social Security "fully invested in the stock market" — wanted it, in his words, "so badly." On the fourteenth, the raise was set at 3.6 percent. Prices that same week came in at 3.7 percent. One-tenth of a point, and neither desk called the gap closed.

Then came the third of November. Republicans did not hold both chambers. Under September's own pricing, that ends the five-thousand-dollar

... Continued on Page F138

Democrats win power to rein in ICE, immediately promise not to touch its money.

BY THE WRECKING CREW
The Remedy Desk

The chief lays the job on the table the way every job starts here: a documented mess, and an uninstalled tool sitting three feet away. On October 25th, before a single ballot got counted, ICE confirmed its 60th custody death of this administration — Luis Sandoval, 48, found with a ligature around his neck inside the Folkston D. Ray Processing Center in Georgia. That's not the beginning of the story. It's the condition the next page of the calendar inherited.

Tuesday the 3rd, voters handed Democrats the "blue wave" NPR is still writing up on Monday: control of the House, and on paper, the power of the purse over the agency that had just posted number sixty. The planner looks at that and likes the shape of it. A majority that writes the appropriations bill can put conditions on the money line by line — that's the wrench sitting on the bench, untouched, waiting.

By Monday the tinkerer is laying the rest of the kit out, and some of it doesn't fit the job. Rep. Henry Cuellar, in line to chair the subcommittee that writes ICE's check, told Fox News the quiet part out loud: defunding is off the

... Continued on Page T32

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

— *Sal*

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

— *Chip*

The second winter, a man watched the pass. Salt came, and no cart brought it.

ENOCH · THE OWNERSHIP DESK

Sued for defining 'medically frail' too narrowly, Nebraska's exemption misses a man with cancer.

By RUTH
THE MONEY DESK

■ THE SHORT VERSION

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Nebraska's new Medicaid work-reporting rule cancelled a cancer patient's coverage.

WHO GETS PAID. The federal budget law's Medicaid work requirements cut enrollment rolls, saving the program money by removing enrollees like him.

WHAT SLIPS. The exemption meant to protect the medically frail fails people before any court decides whether the exemption itself is legal.

WHAT'S NEXT. The lawsuit over the exemption remains open in federal court, with no ruling date set yet.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Nebraska turned on its new Medicaid work-reporting rule in early May, the first state in the country to do so. The rule asks a simple thing on paper: eighty hours of work or other qualifying activities a month, documented, to keep the coverage.

By September 22, a lawsuit had landed in federal court. Medicaid enrollees, several health care advocacy organizations, and the city of Columbus, Ohio, sued over how the rule defines "medically frail," the category meant to exempt the sickest enrollees from the work test. The complaint says the definition is too narrow, catching fewer of the sick than Congress meant to protect when it wrote the work-requirement law....

...(cont) The rule had already been running four months by the time that suit was filed. Nebraska did not wait on a court to answer the question before it started counting hours against people's coverage.

On October 1, human rights organizations called Nebraska the canary in the coal mine for the rest of the country, the first state to show what the new mandates look like once the paperwork starts moving and people start losing coverage over it.

On November 9, a Nebraska man with cancer was told his Medicaid coverage had been cancelled under that same rule. Health clinics and groups that work with poor and working-class Nebraskans describe the rollout, in the same report, as rife with problems. He is one case in one report, not a count of how many; the story carries his name because it is the one the wire has, not because it is the only one.

A lawsuit is not a verdict. It is 48 days old, nearly seven weeks, sitting open and undecided in federal court, when his coverage stopped anyway.

The exemption that was supposed to catch a cancer patient before the work rule did was, at that moment, itself the subject of a complaint asking a judge to make it catch more people than it currently does.

That is the reconciliation, hon: the exemption on paper and the exemption in practice are two different documents, and the 48 days between the lawsuit and his case are the only ledger filed so far on the distance between them. Federal court has the complaint. Nebraska has his file. The number of other files that look like his has not been published yet.

🍺

"They call it an exemption, which is the fancy word for a door that doesn't open on time. Nebraska flipped the work rule on in May, got sued in September over how few sick people the exemption actually covers, and a month later a man with cancer lost his coverage while that case was still sitting in court. That's the con: write the safety net into the law, then let the lawsuit over whether it works outlive the people it's supposed to catch."

— Sal

🚬

"Look, eighty hours a month is nothing — that's a part-time job, people manage. And come on, the lawsuit's still pending, nothing's been proven, the exemption rule hasn't been struck down by anybody, so technically Nebraska followed the — okay, "followed the law" might be generous given the guy has cancer. I didn't say that."

— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

Nebraska rushed Medicaid work rules. Then a cancer patient was told he'd lost coverage

NPR MAINSTREAM § *05:00 EST*

Health clinics and organizations advocating for poor and working-class Nebraskans say the rollout of Medicaid work requirements has been rife with problems.

· 'Nebraska Is the Canary in the Coal Mine': Trump-GOP Medicaid Cuts Spark Mass Chaos, Coverage Loss *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*

· Lawsuit targets 'medically frail' Medicaid work requirement exemption *from the morgue, 22 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.

Democrats win Congress, inherit Trump's unpaid $4,910 bonus and the six-year Social Security clock.

By RUTH
THE MONEY DESK

"Democrats' disastrous ideas to 'fix' Social Security", 9 November 2026
(PHOTO VIA NEW YORK POST — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Trump priced a Republican Congress at $5,000 a person, paid $90, and set no date for the remaining balance.

WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no buyer yet.

WHAT SLIPS. No law or court requires the $4,910 ever be paid; the only check on it was the voters, who already cast their ballots.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the same pattern holds, the unpaid $4,910 goes the way this administration's other big numbers have gone: announced large, delivered small, never reconciled; that is what Washington got on 24 November 2025, when the efficiency office closed still claiming $214 billion in savings while independent tallies found $1.4 billion to $7 billion.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Let's reconcile the ledger, hon, because the pieces don't sit together yet.

In September, in Dallas, the number on the table was five thousand dollars a head, payable the day Republicans held both chambers of Congress. In October, the Treasury wrote the first check against that promise: ninety dollars, out of a Medicare improvement fund, with no date set for the remaining four thousand nine hundred and ten. That same month, on the fourth, the newspaper now worried about Social Security's arithmetic ran a different story: the Social Security check hitting a two-thousand-dollar milestone, with a 2027 raise still to be announced. Three days later, the president told reporters in the Oval Office that in his first term he had wanted Social Security "fully invested in the stock market" — wanted it, in his words, "so badly." On the fourteenth, the raise was set at 3.6 percent. Prices that same week came in at 3.7 percent. One-tenth of a point, and neither desk called the gap closed....

...(cont) Then came the third of November. Republicans did not hold both chambers. Under September's own pricing, that ends the five-thousand-dollar promise — no condition met, nothing further owed — and leaves the ninety dollars already paid standing as the entire bonus. What does not end on any election night is the trust fund's own clock. Its trustees, not this Congress and not this newspaper, set that clock years before the Dallas speech or the Oval Office remark about the stock market: six years to an automatic 22 percent cut.

Today's filing, from the same paper that ran the two-thousand-dollar milestone, calls the incoming Democratic majority's ideas for the fund "disastrous" and says Democrats are "throwing the system's finances even further out of whack." The six-year window and the 22 percent cut are not entries the new majority wrote. They are entries it inherited, in the same week as a four-thousand-nine-hundred-ten-dollar check that still carries no date.

The books close the same way every month: what is owed on one line, what is paid on another, and the difference sits in plain sight, under somebody else's name.

"They priced a vote at five grand a head, paid ninety bucks of it, and when the bet didn't come in, the five grand just evaporated — but the hole in Social Security didn't evaporate with it. The same outlet that called the two-thousand-dollar check a milestone three weeks ago is calling the fund a crisis the minute it's the other party's name on the account. The six-year clock keeps ticking either way, and so far it hasn't cost the people who write the headlines a dime."
— Sal

"Look, nobody's hiding the ball — the trust fund math was always going to be tight no matter who's running things, and the ninety dollars was a good-faith installment, not a broken promise, that's just how a contingent bonus works. As for the Democrats' ideas making it worse, I'd walk you through exactly how, but I don't actually have their proposal in front of me, so let's call that part still developing. Did I just defend a Medicare rider as a down payment on five grand? That doesn't sound like me."
— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *White House's answer to historic midterm losses: promote the architect of the hard-line agenda.* By The Lodgers · the evening edition, 7 November 2026
— *Trump loses both chambers, promotes the aide his party calls a megalomaniac, who pledges him loyalty within hours.* By The Lodgers · the morning edition, 7 November 2026
— *Vance's 2028 launch pad turns out to be the map Republicans just watched blow open under them.* By Lou · the morning edition, 6 November 2026
— *Blakeman calls Stefanik 'do-nothing' weeks after not doing the one thing he owes: refunding $360,000 to donors.* By Lou · the afternoon edition, 5 November 2026
— *Iran sides with Vance over Trump on why Republicans lost the midterms* By Lou · the morning edition, 4 November 2026
— *Trump blames the ballot for a loss his own nominee's leaked tape blamed on his war.* By Lou · the morning edition, 4 November 2026

THE RECEIPTS

But: "We've got to get rid of the $19 trillion in debt" - Trump promised it done "over a period of eight years", 31 March 2016 *The Washington Post, 31 March 2016 interview*

Democrats' disastrous ideas to 'fix' Social Security
New York Post RIGHT · *22:58 EST*

The program's trust fund empties out in just six years, forcing automatic 22% cuts in payments, yet the Democrats who just won control of Congress look to worsen the outlook, throwing the system's finances even further out of whack.

· Social Security Check Hits $2K Milestone With Proposed 2027 COLA Bump *from the morgue, 4 Oct 2026*

· Trump Says He Wanted to Privatize Social Security 'So Badly' During First Term *from the morgue, 7 Oct 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*

· 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.

Democrats win power to rein in ICE, immediately promise not to touch its money.

By THE WRECKING CREW
THE REMEDY DESK

"Houston to limit police cooperation with federal immigration authorities", 6 November 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE GUARDIAN — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. The Democrat set to control ICE's budget ruled out cutting its funding.

WHO GETS PAID. ICE keeps its entire budget intact, with no new conditions attached by the incoming majority.

WHAT SLIPS. Congress's power to defund or condition ICE's budget goes unused by the party that just won it.

WHAT'S NEXT. If that holds, ICE keeps operating under the same funding with no congressional check; that is what happened after Congress voted in 2019 to end support for the Yemen war, the president vetoed it, and the override failed, with support continuing 21 more months.

❦ THE FORECAST ❦

On November 9, 2026, the Democrat set to chair the House subcommittee that funds ICE ruled out cutting the agency's budget. The same week, an 8-year-old Haitian boy was placed alone in federal custody after a routine ICE check-in, one entry in a custody-death count that passed sixty in October.

Congress may leave ICE's appropriations untouched for the full term, keeping the agency fully funded through further custody deaths and child detentions, with no vote ever forcing a cut or a condition on the money.

THE LAW. Congress, 13 March to 2 May 2019: a resolution to end support for the Yemen war passed both chambers, the veto override failed 53 to 45, and support continued 21 more months.

Happened once. Ask Yemen, 2019.

EARL

More of Earl's calls, and the score, on E7

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The chief lays the job on the table the way every job starts here: a documented mess, and an uninstalled tool sitting three feet away. On October 25th, before a single ballot got counted, ICE confirmed its 60th custody death of this administration — Luis Sandoval, 48, found with a ligature around his neck inside the Folkston D. Ray Processing Center in Georgia. That's not the beginning of the story. It's the condition the next page of the calendar inherited.

Tuesday the 3rd, voters handed Democrats the "blue wave" NPR is still writing up on Monday: control of the House, and on paper, the power of the purse over the agency that had just posted number sixty. The planner looks at that and likes the shape of it. A majority that writes the appropriations bill can put conditions on the money line by line — that's the wrench sitting on the bench, untouched, waiting....

...(cont) By Monday the tinkerer is laying the rest of the kit out, and some of it doesn't fit the job. Rep. Henry Cuellar, in line to chair the subcommittee that writes ICE's check, told Fox News the quiet part out loud: defunding is off the table. Most Democrats, he said, want oversight, not a cut. Fine — oversight is a tool too, a gauge on the machine instead of a hand on the valve. A gauge doesn't stop a leak. It reads it.

The muscle doesn't wait for permission to point out what that reads like in the field. The same Monday, ABC reported an 8-year-old Haitian boy — who lost Temporary Protected Status earlier this year — was taken into federal custody alone after a routine check-in. Not a raid. A check-in: the appointment the government itself scheduled, the one people keep because skipping it is worse. He walked into an office and the office kept him.

The pilot's job is to get the assembled thing where it's going, and the pilot can read a map past this week.

The crew doesn't promise the wrench turns the bolt. It shows the wrench, shows the bolt, and shows whose hand is on the table instead of the tool. The purse sits there, installed, unused, right next to the boy's file number.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

DEMOCRATS HOLD THE ICE BUDGET PEN NOW, AND THE MAN IN LINE TO USE IT JUST told Fox News he won't cut a cent. That isn't oversight, it's a permission slip the agency signs for itself every year with a Democratic cosigner now attached. Because the pen stays capped, the check-in line that has processed sixty deaths keeps running on the same schedule it always has, which is how an eight-year-old who lost his protected status this year can walk into a routine appointment and vanish into custody alone, and it is also how your own renewal notice — the one with your name typed at the top, due back signed by the date printed in the corner — gets decided by the same office the new majority is unwilling to touch.

🍺

"They didn't take ICE's money away, they just took credit for almost thinking about it. Cuellar's holding the checkbook and he already told Fox he's not writing anything different, so that "blue wave" bought a press release, not a budget line. An eight-year-old is sitting alone in a cell this week while the one tool that could've changed that sits unused on the committee table — that's not a loophole, that's the design, fully funded, on schedule."
— Sal

🚬

"Look, nobody's defunding anything, that's just responsible border security, Cuellar said it himself, the system has safeguards — wait, the system has a sixty-person body count and an eight-year-old with no parent in the room, is that the safeguard? No, no, what I meant was oversight, stronger oversight, that's the plan, don't look at the kid."
— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

~~Democrats won big on issues like immigration. But ICE still has the money~~

Democrats vow to rein in ICE. The GOP already gave it $70 billion.

NPR MAINSTREAM § *05:00 EST*

Following Tuesday's "blue wave," Democrats have vowed to reign in ICE's power. What could they actually accomplish?

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

Houston to limit police cooperation with federal immigration authorities

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *14:29 EST*

Mayor said only immigrants that 'pose a danger' would be referred to ICE, after Democrats gain control of governor's seat The mayor of Houston on Friday said the city would limit cooperation with federal immigration authorities, heralding "a new model" of immigration enforcement after Democrats won power in Texas for the first time in...

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

Border Dem poised to wield ICE purse strings rejects socialist 'defund' push

Fox News RIGHT § *04:00 EST*

Rep. Henry Cuellar rejects the "Abolish ICE" movement, saying most Democrats oppose defunding the agency but want stronger oversight and rail guards.

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

8-year-old Haitian boy placed in federal custody alone after ICE check-in

ABC News MAINSTREAM § *20:51 EST*

An 8-year-old Haitian boy who lost Temporary Protected Status earlier this year was taken into federal custody during an immigration check-in.

· 'Dismantle ICE' Says Jayapal After 60th Death in Agency Custody During Trump 2.0 *from the morgue, 25 Oct 2026*

· ICE rapidly re-arresting immigrants released after winning court petitions *from the morgue, 2 Nov 2026*

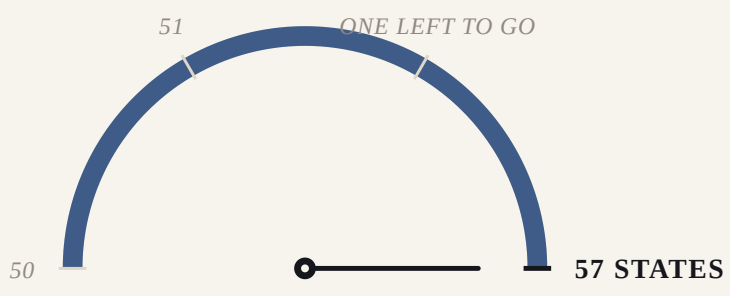
This page is a back-issue: the story as it ran, receipts as they were. The current edition is at the front. The byline is a pen name for a column drafted by a machine and checked by the editor: how this is made.

§86 — 08 NOVEMBER 2026

On covfefe

BY LOU
The Word

DEMOCRAT



57 STATES

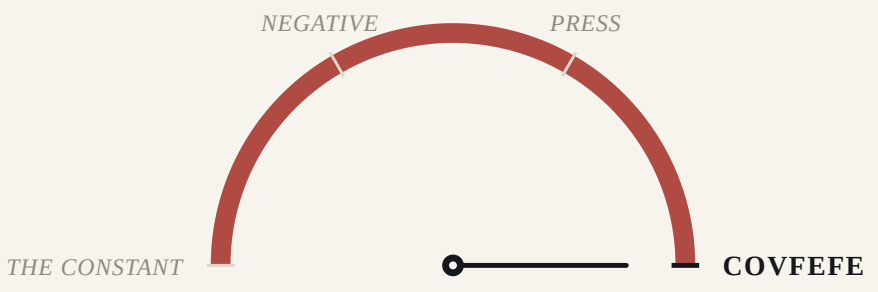
The shelf has two sides. 57 states (n., 2008): the size of the United States, per a Democratic candidate in Beaverton, Oregon, on May 9, 2008: "I've now been in 57 states. I think one left to go. Alaska and Hawaii, I was not allowed to go to even though I really wanted to visit, but my staff would not justify it" [1]. Audited as spoken, that is 60. PolitiFact notes he sounded tired [1]. In September 2018 the author of covfefe filed a complaint on the entry: "Can you imagine if I said that" [2]. He could imagine. He had notes.

The Democrats also filed on covfefe. Twelve days after the tweet, Rep. Mike Quigley of Illinois introduced the Communications Over Various Feeds Electronically for Engagement Act, the COVFEFE Act, to make presidential social media a presidential record [3]. So a typo reached a congressional bill as a backronym. No press secretary said a small group knows which seven states. The typo is bipartisan. Standing at a podium behind it is not.

SOURCES

1. "I've now been in 57 states. I think one left to go. Alaska and Hawaii, I was not allowed to go to even though I really wanted to visit, but my staff would not justify it" — Beaverton, Oregon, 9 May 2008 — PolitiFact, 30 November 2011 ↑
2. "When President Obama said that he has been to '57 States,' very little mention in Fake News Media … Can you imagine if I said that" — The Hill, 15 September 2018 ↑
3. Rep. Mike Quigley introduced the Communications Over Various Feeds Electronically for Engagement (COVFEFE) Act on 12 June 2017 to add "social media" to the Presidential Records Act — The Hill, reprinted by Rep. Quigley's office ↑

REPUBLICAN



COVFEFE

covfefe (n., 2017): the sixth word of a sentence about the press, and the last. Etymology disputed. First attested at 12:06 a.m. on May 31, 2017: "Despite the constant negative press covfefe." Deleted about six hours later. FactCheck.org's entry: likely "coverage," mistyped, sent unfinished. The author's own entry, posted afterward: "Who can figure out the true meaning of 'covfefe' ???" [1].

The press secretary was asked that day whether anyone should be concerned. He said no, and supplied the citation: "The president and a small group of people know exactly what he meant" [2]. The group was not named. Six days later the same podium ruled on the genre: "they are considered official statements by the president of the United States" [3]. The ruling carved out no exception for the unfinished. Seven months on, the same account issued another: "I too have a Nuclear Button, but it is a much bigger & more powerful one than his" [4]. The definition stays with the small group. The button stays with the man.

SOURCES

1. Tweeted at 12:06 a.m. on 31 May 2017, deleted six hours later, likely a mistyped "coverage"; the follow-up tweet asking who can figure out the true meaning — FactCheck.org, June 2017 ↑
2. "The president and a small group of people know exactly what he meant" — Sean Spicer, off-camera briefing — Yahoo News, 31 May 2017 ↑
3. "The president is president of the United States, so they are considered official statements by the president of the United States" — Sean Spicer, 6 June 2017 — NBC News ↑
4. "I too have a Nuclear Button, but it is a much bigger & more powerful one than his" — tweet of 2 January 2018 — KTVU ↑

"I keep a dictionary by the phone, the big one, my wife's mother left it to us. It goes from "covey" to "cow." There's no page for it. So I went to the press secretary, and he says the president and a small group of people know exactly what he meant. Well, fine. That's a source. Sorry, one thing before you go. That was more than nine years ago, and I'm sure they're busy people. Has anybody called them?" — Lou

🍺

"Covfefe. Everybody remembers the word. Nobody remembers the second part. Six hours it sat up there, and when the reporters asked why, a normal outfit says typo, go home. This outfit says "the president and a small group of people know exactly what he meant." A small group. Who's in it? Do they meet? Then six days later they tell you every one of these is an official statement of the president. You know what that makes covfefe? Policy. And seven months on, the same account is telling North Korea about his button. They call that communications. I call it a chain of command."

— Sal

🚬

"Covfefe was a complete thought, privately understood by the relevant stakeholders, and the fact that it has gone unexplained for nine years only shows how well the small group has kept the president's confidence."

— Chip

The Word today — 👍 👎