The Single-Column Edition

FROM § EACH

WEDNESDAY, 11 NOVEMBER 2026 — THE MORNING EDITION FREE, FOREVER

NATO's Allied Rapid Reaction Corps headquarters needed British police to catch its own Russian spy

BY THE LODGERS
The Euro Desk

Today we are making an espionage case, which is not a dish you can get over here in quite this cut, not because you lack the arrests but because yours do not usually begin inside a NATO headquarters. A senior officer of the United States Army, stationed not at home but at a base in Britain, was arrested on Tuesday on suspicion of spying for Russia. The British police made the arrest; the Americans are named only as support.

The base itself has a name: Imjin Barracks, home to the headquarters of NATO's Allied Rapid Reaction Corps, the formation built to move fastest when Europe needs it moved. Turn that name over and look underneath, the way you would a chicken: the reacting, this time, was done by London police, with support from the American military and law enforcement, not by the Corps itself.

Clive *Support. I notice nobody mentions who has been supporting this house's culture single-handed, in verse, since September.*

Gary *Culture. The boiler's been louder than your verse, and at least I know which pipe to hit to stop it.*

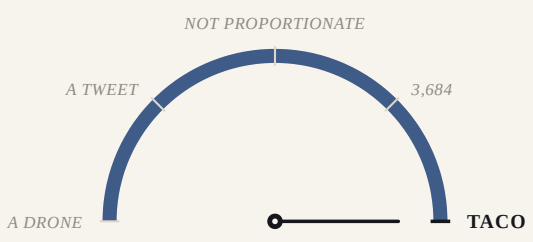
... Continued on Page A234

THE WORD

§88 — 10 NOVEMBER 2026

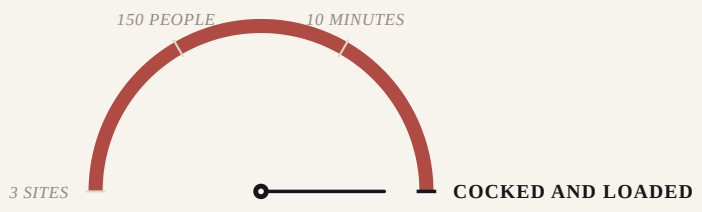
On cocked and loaded

DEMOCRAT



TACO

REPUBLICAN



COCKED AND LOADED

"I'm slow with these things, so I wrote it on a napkin. The Times says the planes were in the air. The president says no, "pretty soon." He says ten minutes before. He also says they came in about a half an hour before. I'm sure there's a reason. On the other side of the napkin I put 150, not proportionate. Under that I put this year's count, 3,684, and that one stops in July. Sorry, one thing before you go. The man who said 150 was too many. Did anybody bring him the second number?" — Lou

... Continued on Page W88

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

THE HOUSE IS A PARK

The house costs $15.5 million a year to run and $600 million this year to add a room; Congress voted on the first number.

... Continued on the Investigative Reporting page

Tennessee asks court to shield execution drug supplier from the lawyers of the woman it failed to kill

BY STERLING
The Ownership Desk

You are calling this a cover-up. Do not. A cover-up wants something broken, and nothing in Tennessee has broken. Forty minutes after a double dose of pentobarbital, Christa Pike, 50, was still breathing — forty minutes, and her lawyers told a court on October 2 that she was in critical condition. Bill Lee, the governor, called it "deeply disturbing", suspended every execution in the state until at least the end of the year, ordered an independent inquiry. Frank Strada, commissioner of the department of correction, resigned: the fifth botched execution under his leadership, across two states, since 2022, by the lawyers' count. On October 10 she was discharged from hospital and returned to prison. And on November 11 the state asked a court to keep those same lawyers off the drug itself, because inspection would reveal the supplier. Not the dose. Not the protocol. The supplier. A confidentiality statute is not an answer to a failure; it is a standing permission, in hand beforehand, untouched by the thing that happened — which is why it has held every time it was reached for. So the state has given up a commissioner, an inquiry, and a season of executions ... and kept a printed label. The suspension lapses at

... Continued on Page A234

Schumer says he has the votes; every published count against him is a word, not a number.

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

Start with the entry that is not about the leader at all. On 31 August, Bernie Sanders said the party's own leaders were not enthusiastic enough about their Michigan nominee to win Michigan. That is a complaint about effort. Eighteen days later it became a complaint about the leader: on 18 September, Adam Hamilton, the Democratic candidate for Senate in Kansas, told CNN, I'm not supporting Schumer for leader — a vote withheld by a man who would not have one to withhold unless he beat Roger Marshall in November. The receipts do not say whether he did. They say he was early.

Then the good night. On 4 November, with at least six Republican seats flipped, Chuck Schumer told reporters: Oh man! Wow, wow, wow! The same day he filed his headcount. The issue is not me, he said; I'll be reelected as majority leader. The Hill put the other column at a handful of newly elected senators. The caucus had not voted. It votes next month.

Six days later, on 10 November, Sanders stood in a Capitol hallway and subtracted himself: thirty years of acquaintance, nobody works harder than Chuck, the time is now for change. The Guardian's video desk described the

... Continued on Page F140

Trump's new chief of staff is defended by branding his own deportation record misinformation.

BY CHIP
Staff Writer

Three weeks ago the President said there was zero chance he'd remove his chief of staff. I want to call that a man moving fast on his own promise to — no. The promise didn't move. The chief of staff did.

Saturday the profiles ran, on the record, same morning. The Hill called Miller "an immigration hardliner and Trump loyalist who has been with the president since he launched his first campaign." CBS News, that same Saturday, went further: Miller "has driven President Trump's most controversial immigration policies during both of his administrations." Two outlets, one morning, one résumé, no daylight between them.

Sunday the building caught up to the résumé. Hakeem Jeffries, who expects to be Speaker come January, said House Democrats will not work with the new chief of staff. "Stephen Miller is the architect of Donald Trump's violent mass deportation machine," he said. The Washington Examiner covered the same Sunday under the headline "Fear and vitriol" — Democrats, reading the job history out loud and calling it alarming.

Monday, Miller had the office. The New York Post ran a column insisting

... Continued on Page A234

"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

THE LABEL

Tennessee asks court to shield execution drug supplier from the lawyers of the woman it failed to kill

By STERLING
THE OWNERSHIP DESK

❦ THE FORECAST ❦

On 2 October 2026 Tennessee's governor suspended all executions until at least the end of the year, after a failed lethal injection left Christa Pike in critical condition. On 11 November the state asked a court to block her lawyers from inspecting the pentobarbital, on the grounds that it would reveal the supplier.

The court may seal the drug. The prison department may then complete the governor's review out of its own files, the suspension may lapse at the end of the year with nothing put in its place, and the state may set a fresh execution date for Pike using the same drug from the same unnamed supplier, with her lawyers still barred from reading the label.

THE LAW. Governor Bill Lee's suspension of executions runs only to the end of the year, 31 December 2026, a date the governor set himself.

Mark the date.

EARL

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

You are calling this a cover-up. Do not. A cover-up wants something broken, and nothing in Tennessee has broken. Forty minutes after a double dose of pentobarbital, Christa Pike, 50, was still breathing — forty minutes, and her lawyers told a court on October 2 that she was in critical condition. Bill Lee, the governor, called it "deeply disturbing", suspended every execution in the state until at least the end of the year, ordered an independent inquiry. Frank Strada, commissioner of the department of correction, resigned: the fifth botched execution under his leadership, across two states, since 2022, by the lawyers' count. On October 10 she was discharged from hospital and returned to prison. And on November 11 the state asked a court to keep those same lawyers off the drug itself, because inspection would reveal the supplier. Not the dose. Not the protocol. The supplier. A confidentiality statute is not an answer to a failure; it is a standing permission, in hand beforehand, untouched by the thing that happened — which is why it has held every time it was reached for. So the state has given up a commissioner, an inquiry, and a season of executions … and kept a printed label. The suspension lapses at the end of the year. The statute does not lapse.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

TENNESSEE GAVE CHRISTA PIKE A DOUBLE DOSE AND SHE WAS STILL BREATHING FORTY minutes later, and on November 11 the state went to court to keep her lawyers away from the drug, because the bottle names the supplier. That is not evidence law, that is a witness-protection program for a chemical vendor, operated out of a death chamber. The name stays sealed, so the inquiry the governor ordered reads only what the department hands it, and the single piece of paper in this whole business with a name printed plain on it is the jury summons in your mail with yours on it, asking you to come decide a case on the facts.

The high shelf holds the locked jar. A man has not climbed it yet.

— ENOCH
The Ownership Desk

“They put a double dose into this woman and she was still breathing forty minutes later, and the thing the state is fighting about in court is whether her lawyers get to look at the bottle. Not the dose, not who ran the room — the vendor's name. The commissioner walked, the governor ordered an inquiry, and the one document nobody outside that department gets to read is the label on the stuff that did this.”

— Sal

“Look, the confidentiality provision predates all of this, so framing it as a reaction is just not accurate — suppliers get harassed, they pull out, and then you have no drug at all. Did I say harassed? Protected. There's a difference. And nobody is hiding anything here; the governor ordered a review, the review has the records, and the records are with the department that, fine, also holds the label, but that is how custody works.”

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Tennessee, after failing to kill Christa Pike, warns that one drug label could halt its executions* By Sterling · the afternoon edition, 10 November 2026
- *Pentagon's livestreamed execution moves ahead in December, even though the president isn't "particularly enthusiastic" about it.* By Mort · the evening edition, 13 October 2026
- *Speaker says he just wouldn't watch the execution the UN already warned is torture.* By Ruth · the morning edition, 13 October 2026
- *Government calls its livestreamed execution optional, then a restoration of American values, then something to be happy about.* By Lou · the evening edition, 11 October 2026
- *Homeland Security defends livestreamed execution that no official admits ordering* By Chip · the morning edition, 11 October 2026
- *Pentagon confirms Fort Hood execution livestream; Trump denies involvement, then vows to decide it himself* By Lou · the morning edition, 11 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

~~State seeks to block Pike's lawyers from inspecting execution drug~~

Tennessee botched Christa Pike's execution. Now it's hiding the drug.

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *19:51 EST*

Tennessee is seeking to block Christa Pike's attorneys from accessing the pentobarbital used in the 50-year-old inmate's botched execution on the grounds that it would reveal the supplier.

· Christa Pike left in ‘critical condition’ as Tennessee halts all executions *from the morgue, 2 Oct 2026*

· Prison chief in Christa Pike case oversaw five ‘botched’ executions, lawyers say *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*

· Tennessee suspends executions as Christa Pike’s lawyer says failed lethal injection leaves her in critical condition *from the morgue, 2 Oct 2026*

· Outgoing prison chief in Christa Pike case oversaw five ‘botched’ executions, lawyers say *from the morgue, 3 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.

Schumer says he has the votes; every published count against him is a word, not a number.

By RUTH
THE MONEY DESK

"Schumer confident on Senate leadership role despite dwindling votes – video", 10 November 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE GUARDIAN — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Schumer said he has the votes to remain Senate Democratic leader; Sanders and other incoming senators said otherwise.

WHO GETS PAID. Schumer keeps the most powerful job in the Senate if nobody tests the count he announced.

WHAT SLIPS. The senators who cast the votes are learning the result from the man they are voting on.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the dissenters lose, the leader's allies may pay for primary challenges against them; that is what Kentucky got after 19 May 2026: a seven-term incumbent lost, and $37 million went into that one primary, the most ever.

❦ THE FORECAST ❦

On 4 November, Chuck Schumer told reporters the issue was not him and that he would be reelected Senate majority leader when Democrats hold leadership elections next month. On 10 November, Bernie Sanders said he would not support him, and by 11 November a number of incoming Democratic senators had echoed the call.

After the vote, the party's campaign committees and the leader's allied money groups may pull endorsements from every senator who withheld support, cut them out of the party's spending, and bankroll challengers against them in their next primaries — tens of millions of dollars aimed at sitting members of their own party.

THE LAW. Kentucky, 19 May 2026 and 17 July 2026: a seven-term incumbent lost a primary 55 to 45, and $37 million was spent on it, the most expensive House primary on record.

Happened once. Ask Kentucky.

EARL

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

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Start with the entry that is not about the leader at all. On 31 August, Bernie Sanders said the party's own leaders were not enthusiastic enough about their Michigan nominee to win Michigan. That is a complaint about effort. Eighteen days later it became a complaint about the leader: on 18 September, Adam Hamilton, the Democratic candidate for Senate in Kansas, told CNN, I'm not supporting Schumer for leader — a vote withheld by a man who would not have one to withhold unless he beat Roger Marshall in November. The receipts do not say whether he did. They say he was early.

Then the good night. On 4 November, with at least six Republican seats flipped, Chuck Schumer told reporters: Oh man! Wow, wow, wow! The same day he filed his headcount. The issue is not me, he said; I'll be reelected as majority leader. The Hill put the other column at a handful of newly elected senators. The caucus had not voted. It votes next month....

...(cont) Six days later, on 10 November, Sanders stood in a Capitol hallway and subtracted himself: thirty years of acquaintance, nobody works harder than Chuck, the time is now for change. The Guardian's video desk described the leader as confident despite dwindling votes, and put the Democrats at fifty-four seats. The Hill's headline that week carried two names, Sanders and Slotkin.

The next morning, 11 November, two papers published the same count in different units. The New York Post: a number of incoming Democratic senators have echoed the call. The New York Times: a few Democrats signaled skepticism, while allies offered support and called for party unity.

So the ledger, hon. The column in his favor holds one claim and one numeral — I'll be reelected, fifty-four seats. The column against him holds four entries gathered across ten weeks and not one numeral among them: a handful, a growing list, a number, a few. One side of this page is unitemized. Both sides are.

On this desk that filing has a name. A total announced before the receipts arrive is not a count; it is a projection with a quote stapled to it. Fifty-four senators. A majority of fifty-four is twenty-eight. Nobody has shown twenty-eight — not the senators saying no, and not the man who says he already has them. That is not an opinion about Schumer. It is two columns side by side, the vote still sitting on next month's calendar, and the only published figure in the whole business being the size of the room.

"A man announces he won an election before the senators who vote in it have voted, and the best count anybody prints of the people telling him no is a handful. That's not a headcount, that's a notice: the job's filled, don't ask what else fifty-four seats could buy. Those seats came out of six states that flipped, and the fight is over who sets the floor schedule with them — which is to say whose bills get a vote and whose never see daylight."

— Sal

"Look, nobody's disputing the arithmetic — well, the arithmetic isn't really the story here, is it. Did I say he has the votes? That doesn't sound like me; what I said was the caucus is unified, which is exactly why so many of them keep going on camera to decline to say so. And honestly, when Bernie Sanders is the one auditing your books, the number you should be looking at is fifty-four, which is a win, so."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Schumer says he already has the votes; Sanders and Slotkin say they're not among them.* By Ruth · the evening edition, 10 November 2026
- *Schumer says he has the votes before the caucus that holds them has voted* By Chip · the afternoon edition, 10 November 2026
- *Prediction market credited with calling 98% of midterm races is under felony charges for taking the bets* By Sterling · the evening edition, 7 November 2026
- *Justice Department abandons hunt for ballots that don't exist; Peltola's campaign sues to see the ones that do.* By Mort · the morning edition, 7 November 2026
- *Justice Department abandons its own lawsuit against ballots the Supreme Court already let stand.* By Mort · the evening edition, 7 November 2026
- *Trump sued to block Alaska's count if the Republican lost; a week later Mississippi's trailing Republican tried the same move* By Mort · the morning edition, 6 November 2026

THE RECEIPTS

Schumer confident on Senate leadership role despite dwindling votes – video

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *17:53 EST*

New York senator Chuck Schumer expressed confidence that he would become the majority leader after the Democratic party gained at least 54 seats in the Senate during the midterm elections. Schumer's remarks came after Vermont senator Bernie Sanders announced he would not support Schumer for the leadership position. Sanders joins a...

Bernie Sanders says he will not back Schumer for Senate Democratic leader

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *17:16 EST*

Progressive senator says 'I like Chuck ... but the time is now for change' as calls grow for new Democratic leadership Bernie Sanders, a progressive senator from Vermont, said on Tuesday he would not support Chuck Schumer 's bid to serve as the Democratic leader in the US Senate, joining a growing cohort of Democrats calling for a change...

Schumer has votes for majority leader despite some Democratic dissent

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *12:49 EST*

Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) says he will be reelected as Senate majority leader next month when Democrats hold leadership elections despite the dissent of a handful of newly elected senators who threatened not to support him serving another term as leader. "The issue is not me.

Bernie Sanders won't support Schumer for Senate Democratic leader, saying it's time for change

New York Post RIGHT § *04:47 EST*

A number of incoming Democratic senators have echoed the call.

Bernie Sanders Opposes Schumer as Majority Leader

The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *21:01 EST*

The progressive leader was among a few Democrats who signaled skepticism about Senator Chuck Schumer of New York, though his allies offered support and called for party unity.

Schumer exults over Democratic Senate: 'Wow, wow, wow'

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *01:00 EST*

Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.), who is now poised to become Senate majority leader, exulted Tuesday night over the blue wave that has flipped at least six Republican seats and put Democrats firmly in control of the Senate next year. "Oh man!

· Democratic Senate candidate in Kansas won't support Schumer for leader *from the morgue, 18 Sep 2026*

· Bernie Sanders says top Democrats aren't enthusiastic enough about el Sayed to win Michigan *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.

Trump's new chief of staff is defended by branding his own deportation record misinformation.

By CHIP
STAFF WRITER

"House leader Hakeem Jeffries says Dems will refuse to work with Trump's new chief of staff Stephen Miller", 8 November 2026
(PHOTO VIA NEW YORK POST — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Trump named Stephen Miller, architect of his deportation policy, as White House chief of staff.

WHO GETS PAID. Miller and the hardline immigration wing of the White House now control the chief of staff's office.

WHAT SLIPS. The public's ability to tell a documented record from a denial slips when Miller's own defenders call the record misinformation.

WHAT'S NEXT. The next test is January, when the Democratic majority Jeffries will likely lead decides whether to deal with Miller's White House at all.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Three weeks ago the President said there was zero chance he'd remove his chief of staff. I want to call that a man moving fast on his own promise to — no. The promise didn't move. The chief of staff did.

Saturday the profiles ran, on the record, same morning. The Hill called Miller "an immigration hardliner and Trump loyalist who has been with the president since he launched his first campaign." CBS News, that same Saturday, went further: Miller "has driven President Trump's most controversial immigration policies during both of his administrations." Two outlets, one morning, one résumé, no daylight between them....

...(cont) Sunday the building caught up to the résumé. Hakeem Jeffries, who expects to be Speaker come January, said House Democrats will not work with the new chief of staff. "Stephen Miller is the architect of Donald Trump's violent mass deportation machine," he said. The Washington Examiner covered the same Sunday under the headline "Fear and vitriol" — Democrats, reading the job history out loud and calling it alarming.

Monday, Miller had the office. The New York Post ran a column insisting the real problem is the reaction — that threatened media and Democrats are the ones spreading — no, that's the headline's claim, not a fact I can check. The Guardian, the same morning, called Miller Trump's "gateway man" and noted the promotion reads as proof the White House has no plan to soften anything — three weeks after the President suggested it would.

So the defense comes down to one claim: the architect label is misinformation. It isn't. It's the five-things-to-know piece. It's Saturday's CBS report. It's Jeffries' sentence, unanswered all week. Call the backlash whatever you want. Just don't call the record fake. The record is the reason he has the job.

"They're not denying what Miller did, they're denying that describing it out loud is allowed. That's the tell — when the defense of a hire is to call the hire's own biography fake news, the biography isn't the problem. The man building the deportation machine just got handed the keys to the whole building."

— Sal

"Look, this is a staffing decision, the President is entitled to pick his own team, and the "architect" talk is just Democrats recycling midterm anger into a new target — did I say recycling? That's not — the point is the coverage is driven by panic, not policy, and panic isn't a source. Stephen Miller has been with this President since the beginning, loyalty gets rewarded, that's not a scandal, that's management."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *Trump says his deportation policy was too tough, then makes his longtime immigration adviser chief of staff.* By Mort · the afternoon edition, 9 November 2026
— *'Zero chance' promise dies at three weeks; chief of staff's wife leaves the air three days later.* By Mort · the morning edition, 9 November 2026
— *Pundit says new chief of staff will thrive against hostile media his office is already sued for banning.* By Mort · the afternoon edition, 8 November 2026
— *Trump promotes aide Jeffries will refuse to work with four days into Democrats having the power to refuse* By Chip · the afternoon edition, 8 November 2026
— *Three weeks after saying there was "zero chance" he would remove his chief of staff, Trump gave the job to the aide who pledged "total devotion."* By Chip · the evening edition, 8 November 2026

THE RECEIPTS

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

House leader Hakeem Jeffries says Dems will refuse to work with Trump's new chief of staff Stephen Miller

New York Post RIGHT · *10:21 EST*

Hakeem Jeffries, the likely next Speaker of the House, vowed that Dems will not work with President Trump's new chief of staff Stephen Miller — in the first big sign of friction after the party's major upset in Tuesday's midterms.

Iran unveils 'We will kill 'Trump' banner – but US president may now be tempted to resume bombing

The Guardian MAINSTREAM · *09:07 EST*

Iran celebrates its claimed role in 'regime change' amid pressure on Trump to 'finish the job' with attack US midterms live – latest updates Iran this week unveiled a huge billboard and banners over Enqelab Square in central Tehran. The billboard pledged in English: "We will kill Trump" – elevating the degree of personal animus with...

But: ICE plans to spend up to $20 million on electric shock gloves a UN torture rapporteur found incompatible with the absolute prohibition of torture *ABC30 San Diego / UN Special Rapporteur finding, August 2026*

For Stephen Miller, Election Defeat Is No Reason to Back Down on Immigration Crackdown

The New York Times MAINSTREAM · *13:29 EST*

The president's new chief of staff has already demonstrated his intention to forge ahead with an agenda that many voters rejected.

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

Iran downplays new U.S. task force aimed at disrupting land routes

CBS News MAINSTREAM · *22:35 EST*

The U.S. did not say whether any military action would be involved in preventing weapons technology or sanctioned items from entering Iran.

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

Who is Stephen Miller, the new gateway man to Trump - podcast

The Guardian MAINSTREAM · *00:44 EST*

Jonathan Yerushalmy and Reged Ahmad examine the Democrats' failed impeachment attempt against the US defense secretary, Pete Hegseth, and ask: could we see another bid soon? The other Donald Trump appointee making headlines is the president's new chief of staff, Stephen Miller. Known as the architect of Trump's tough immigration...

~~What Stephen Miller has pushed for, while in Trump administration~~

Incoming White House chief of staff built Trump's most controversial immigration policies

CBS News MAINSTREAM · *09:31 EST*

Top Trump adviser Stephen Miller, who is set to take over the White House chief of staff role on Monday, has driven President Trump's most controversial immigration policies during both of his administrations.

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

Trump replaces Susie Wiles with Stephen Miller

CBS News MAINSTREAM · *11:15 EST*

President Trump picked Stephen Miller to replace Susie Wiles as his new White House chief of staff after a dismal midterm performance for Republicans.

~~'It's Miller time' but who is Trump's new chief of staff?~~

The architect of Trump's toughest immigration policies now runs the White House

RTÉ MAINSTREAM · *09:13 EST*

US President Donald Trump has promoted Stephen Miller, the architect of some of his toughest policies on immigration and other domestic issues, to run his White House, but who is the he?

~~As US and Israel Plot Iran Escalation, Regional Powers Scramble to Avert It~~

US and Israel are plotting an Iran escalation. The region is scrambling to stop it.

Truthout · *11:53 EDT*

Saudi, Pakistani, and Turkish leaders met with Iranian officials in Tehran, signaling their reticence to renew the war.

CENTCOM announces task force to blockade Iranian ground transit routes

Washington Examiner RIGHT · *14:16 EST*

U.S. Central Command announced on Saturday a new task force designed to blockade Iranian ground transit routes used to transport illegal shipments. Task Force Iron Gate will work with U.S.

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

Trump drops major bombshell about ending the US war with Iran

New York Post RIGHT · *17:09 EST*

President Trump stated that Iran is seeking a deal to end its eight-month war with the U.S., noting an agreement "could happen." Tehran confirmed ongoing diplomatic contacts through Qatari mediators, though recent talks yielded modified proposals without a formal breakthrough. Meanwhile, as global economic impacts mount and fears grow...

Iran live updates: Saudis say Houthi missiles targeted Riyadh, Aramco tower damaged

ABC News MAINSTREAM · *07:10 EST*

President Donald Trump announced "major combat operations" against Iran on Feb. 28.

But: The UN torture rapporteur found direct-contact electric shock gloves 'incompatible with the absolute prohibition of torture' - ICE plans to spend up to $20 million on them *ABC30 San Diego / UN Special Rapporteur finding, August 2026*

In Elevating Stephen Miller, Trump Doubles Down on Hard-Line Agenda

The New York Times MAINSTREAM · *12:23 EST*

The new White House chief of staff is responsible for some of the most provocative policies of President Trump's second term, as well as an aggressive approach to executive power.

~~Stephen Miller, named White House chief of staff~~

After historic midterm losses, Trump installs immigration crackdown's architect as chief of staff

France 24 MAINSTREAM · *07:14 EST*

Following historic Republican losses in the midterm elections, Donald Trump has replaced his chief of staff, Susie Wiles, with her deputy Stephen Miller, the architect of his administration's immigration crackdown. Wiles had been seen by some as a stabilising force in the White House, but with Democrats now controlling both chambers of...

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

Trump's elevation of Stephen Miller a middle finger to millions of voters

The Guardian MAINSTREAM · *08:00 EST*

Architect of Trump's far-right immigration agenda is now most powerful unelected figure in government – it suggests White House is moving to a war footing Donald Trump just gave the middle finger to millions of American voters. Any other president who suffered the kind of drubbing at the polls that Trump did this week might have felt at...

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

'Fear and vitriol': Democrats trash Stephen Miller as new Trump chief of staff

Washington Examiner RIGHT · *15:03 EST*

Incoming Democratic lawmakers are slamming President Donald Trump's choice to tap Stephen Miller as his new chief of staff, replacing Susie Wiles as his highest-ranking staff member. Democratic Sen.-elect Abdul el Sayed of Michigan decried Miller's promotion as part of "incoherent messaging" from the Trump administration, arguing the...

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

Trump Names 'Hate-Filled Extremist' Stephen Miller as New Chief of Staff

Common Dreams · *16:29 EST*

Stephen Miller, the chief architect of the Trump administration's widely decried mass deportation policy, has received a promotion to be the next White House chief of staff. In a Friday social media post, President Donald Trump announced that Miller next week will take over for Susie Wiles, who served as his chief of staff for the past...

~~Power of the Purse: Schumer Indicates Democrats Will Defund Trump's Illegal Iran War~~

Democrats plan to defund Trump's illegal Iran war - once they're in power, next year

Common Dreams · *16:52 EST*

Democratic Senate Leader Chuck Schumer on Wednesday indicated that his party will defund President Donald Trump's illegal war with Iran when it takes over as the majority next year. While speaking with reporters, Schumer (D-NY) was asked how Democrats planned to end the war, which Trump launched without congressional authorization in...

But: The Pentagon has failed its audit eight years running - the only major federal agency never to pass one *Military Times, 19 December 2025*

President Trump: Forget the midterms and finish the job in Iran

The Hill MAINSTREAM · *13:00 EST*

The war will only end by returning to the first objective Trump dropped from his list: the collapse of the fanatical, barbaric Tehran regime.

Michael Goodwin: It's Stephen Miller time in the Trump admin — threatened media and Dems are already spreading misinformation

New York Post RIGHT · *22:16 EST*

In making Stephen Miller his new chief of staff, President Trump unleashed an avalanche of pent-up resentment toward his new top aide.

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

Stephen Miller, Trump's incoming chief of staff, pledges 'total devotion' to the president

The Guardian MAINSTREAM · *10:15 EST*

Hardline aide offers 'unwavering commitment' to president amid fears White House will double down on far-right immigration agenda Stephen Miller, Donald Trump's most controversial aide and the architect of his sweeping immigration crackdown, has lavished praise on the president after his appointment as White House chief of staff. In his...

But: The UN torture rapporteur found ICE's planned electric shock gloves 'incompatible with the absolute prohibition of torture'; ICE plans to spend up to $20 million on them *ABC30 San Diego / UN Special Rapporteur finding, August 2026*

Meet Stephen Miller, Trump's new chief of staff: 5 things to know

The Hill MAINSTREAM · *13:22 EST*

President Trump announced Friday that longtime White House aide Stephen Miller would be his next chief of staff, replacing Susie Wiles — who has served in the role since Trump returned to office. Miller is an immigration hardliner and Trump loyalist who has been with the president since he launched his first campaign. The promotion...

· Stephen Miller, Who Wants Immigrants Deported Over Paperwork, Has 'Glaring Inconsistencies' in His Disclosures *from the morgue, 30 Oct 2026*

· Former Trump aide: Prospect of replacing Wiles with Stephen Miller 'terrifying' *from the morgue, 19 Oct 2026*

· Trump throws cold water on report Wiles is on thin ice *from the morgue, 15 Oct 2026*

· Centcom commander says naval blockade cost Iran $25B in oil revenue *from the morgue, 16 Oct 2026*

· US military disables ship attempting to bypass Strait of Hormuz blockade *from the morgue, 11 Oct 2026*

· Trump hints at post-midterm strikes on Iran: 'You'll see Iran in a couple of weeks' *from the morgue, 28 Oct 2026*

· If Iran war erupts, Israel may be plotting another 'Operation Grim Beeper' style attack: sources *from the morgue, 31 Oct 2026*

· Trump says Iran war will be put away very soon: "One way or the other" *from the morgue, 2 Nov 2026*

· Iranian supreme leader vows 'unrestricted response' to any US or Israeli strikes *from the morgue, 31 Oct 2026*

· US, Iran race to revive Qatar talks as Trump weighs new strikes after midterms *from the morgue, 31 Oct 2026*

· Iran's president says Iran would return to ceasefire deal if the US does *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*

· Trump admin threatens Iran with 'consequences' as allies convene amid threats of post-election escalation *from the morgue, 31 Oct 2026*

· Trump and Netanyahu Need to Choose Victory on Iran *from the morgue, 31 Oct 2026*

· Trump Issues New Mass Murder Threat, Warning Iran of 'Biggest Attack of Them All' *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*

· Trump denies Axios report that he offered Iran sanctions relief *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*

· Trump says Iran war will end 'soon' *from the morgue, 31 Oct 2026*

· Trump says Iran war will end "soon" as Qatar pushes for U.S.-Iran deal *from the morgue, 30 Oct 2026*

· Donald Trump claims 'Iran war will end very soon' as midterm rallies heat up – US politics live *from the morgue, 15 Oct 2026*

· Iranian dissident reacts to Trump's promise to either annihilate Iran or make a post-election deal *from the morgue, 23 Sep 2026*

· Trump floats 'big decision' at UN on whether he'll 'annihilate' Iran or make deal *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

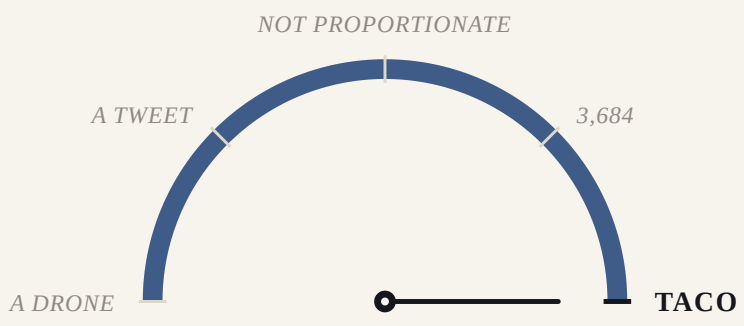
This page is a back-issue: the story as it ran, receipts as they were. The current edition is at the front. The byline is a pen name for a column drafted by a machine and checked by the editor: how this is made.

§88 — 10 NOVEMBER 2026

On cocked and loaded

BY LOU
The Word

DEMOCRAT



TACO

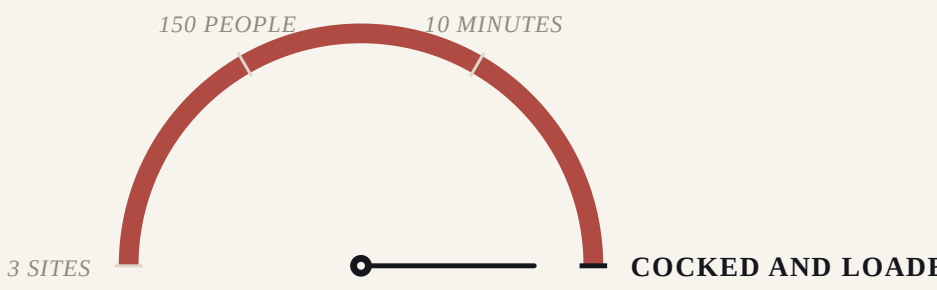
This is the one entry on the ledger that could have gone in a different column. By his own number the fold spared 150 people. His account of the moment was exact: "150 dead people, that would have taken place probably within a half an hour after I said go ahead. And I didn't like it" [1]. It is entered here because the threat was published after the retreat.

The arithmetic has since been revised. U.S. and Israeli attacks on Iran began in late February of this year, and by mid-October the war was in its eighth month [2]. The rights group HRANA counted 3,684 dead in Iran through July 17; Iran's health ministry gave 3,528; the Pentagon had acknowledged 23 American military deaths by late October [3]. None of those figures is final. In 2019 the president said the unmanned part was "a big, big difference" [1]. The number that was not proportionate was 150. The HRANA count is more than 24 times that, and it stops in July.

SOURCES

1. "150 dead people, that would have taken place probably within a half an hour after I said go ahead"; "And I didn't like it"; the drone being unmanned made a "big, big difference" — NPR, 21 June 2019 ↑
2. U.S. and Israeli attacks on Iran in late February; the war enters its eighth month — Euronews, 15 October 2026 ↑
3. HRANA: 3,684 deaths through 17 July; Iran's health ministry: 3,528; the Pentagon acknowledged 23 U.S. military fatalities in late October; figures not finalized — Wikipedia, Casualties of the 2026 Iran war ↑

REPUBLICAN



COCKED AND LOADED

The tweets went out on the morning of June 21, 2019, after Iran shot down an American surveillance drone. "We were cocked & loaded to retaliate last night on 3 different sights when I asked, how many will die." The answer from a general was 150. He wrote that he stopped it 10 minutes before the strike, because it was not "proportionate to shooting down an unmanned drone" [1].

Give the decision its due. A commander who asks the number and then stops is doing the job, and a machine is not 150 people. The trouble is the phrase. Cocked and loaded describes a gun already raised. The New York Times, citing senior officials, reported that planes were in the air and ships in position [1]. He told NBC that day that the planes were not up: "No, but they would have been pretty soon," and that the plan was "subject to my approval" [2]. The phrase was published after the gun was back in the drawer. Three sites and 150 lives had been one word away.

SOURCES

1. "We were cocked & loaded to retaliate last night on 3 different sights when I asked, how many will die"; 150 people; 10 minutes; not "proportionate to shooting down an unmanned drone"; the Times's report of planes in the air and ships in position — NPR, 21 June 2019 ↑
2. "No, but they would have been pretty soon"; "we had something ready to go, subject to my approval"; "they came in about a half an hour before" — NBC News, Meet the Press full interview, June 2019 ↑

"I'm slow with these things, so I wrote it on a napkin. The Times says the planes were in the air. The president says no, "pretty soon." He says ten minutes before. He also says they came in about a half an hour before. I'm sure there's a reason. On the other side of the napkin I put 150, not proportionate. Under that I put this year's count, 3,684, and that one stops in July. Sorry, one thing before you go. The man who said 150 was too many. Did anybody bring him the second number?" — Lou

🍺

"Cocked and loaded. You know when a guy tells you that? The morning after, when there's nothing to show you. A general says 150, he stops it ten minutes out, fine, I'll buy that man a drink. Then he tells NBC the planes never went up. So what was cocked? The tweet was cocked. Nobody cuts the trailer for the movie he didn't shoot unless the trailer was the product. And hold on to that number, 150, because that was too many. Too many. Now go read this year's number and tell me who moved the line."

— Sal

🚬

"The president's restraint in 2019 proves he understands proportion, and the events of 2026 prove he understands that proportion can be revisited, which is what you want in a commander: a firm line, reviewed regularly."

— Chip

The Word today — 👍 👎