IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

CABLE NEWS NETWORK, INC., MS NOW CABLE, LLC, POLITICO LLC, ET AL., *Plaintiffs,* v. DONALD J. TRUMP, ET AL., *Defendants.*	Civil Case No. 1:26-cv-03287-TJK **DECLARATION OF THEODORE J. BOUTROUS, JR.**

DECLARATION OF THEODORE J. BOUTROUS, JR.

I, Theodore J. Boutrous, Jr., hereby declare as follows:

1. I am over 18 years of age and make this declaration based upon my own personal knowledge and experience. If called to do so, I could and would competently testify to these matters under oath.

2. I am a member of the bar of this Court and a partner in the Los Angeles office of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP ("Gibson Dunn"). I represent the Plaintiffs in the above-captioned case. I make this declaration in support of Plaintiffs' Motion for a Preliminary Injunction.

3. Attached as **Exhibit A** is a true and correct copy of the President's Truth Social post announcing the ban, dated September 18, 2026 at 3:04 p.m. Eastern Time, available at https://truthsocial.com/@realDonaldTrump/posts/117293599348325006.

4. The White House's video of the President's September 18, 2026 Oval Office press conference is available at https://www.whitehouse.gov/videos/president-trump-makes-an-announcement-on-healthcare-sep-18-2026/.

5. Attached as **Exhibit B** is a true and correct copy of a transcript of the President's September 18, 2026 Oval Office press conference, available at

https://rollcall.com/factbase/trump/transcript/donald-trump-remarks-healthcare-drug-prices-oval-office-september-18-2026/.

6. Attached as **Exhibit C** is a true and correct copy of a Truth Social post by President Donald J. Trump, dated September 21, 2026 at 7:53 a.m. Eastern Time, available at https://truthsocial.com/@realDonaldTrump/posts/117308890736529824.

7. Attached as **Exhibit D** is a true and correct copy of a Truth Social post by President Donald J. Trump, dated September 21, 2026 at 3:39 p.m. Eastern Time, available at https://truthsocial.com/@realDonaldTrump/posts/117310724294153031.

8. Attached as **Exhibit E** is a true and correct copy of a press release from the White House entitled "White House Access Is a Privilege — Not a Right," dated September 21, 2026, available at https://www.whitehouse.gov/releases/2026/09/white-house-access-is-a-privilege-not-a-right/.

9. Attached as **Exhibit F** is a true and correct copy of an article by Herb Scribner entitled "'You Shouldn't Be Here': Trump Calls Out CNN's Kaitlan Collins at U.N.," dated September 22, 2026, available at https://www.axios.com/2026/09/22/trump-cnn-white-house-un-speech.

10. A video published by the New York Post capturing the exchange between President Donald J. Trump and Kaitlan Collins at the U.N., dated September 22, 2026, is available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cwa3y4zGFeU.

11. Attached as **Exhibit G** is a true and correct copy of a Truth Social post by President Donald J. Trump, dated September 22, 2026 at 11:53 p.m. Eastern Time, available at https://truthsocial.com/@realDonaldTrump/posts/117318329260090686.

12. Attached as **Exhibit H** is a true and correct copy of an excerpt from the transcript of the September 23, 2026 hearing before this Court on Plaintiffs' Motion for a Temporary Restraining Order.

13. Attached as **Exhibit I** is a true and correct copy of a letter I sent on behalf of Plaintiffs to Michael K. Velchik, dated September 25, 2026, in response to the letters that the White House Press Office sent to CNN, MS NOW, and POLITICO on September 22, 2026, which were attached to Defendants' opposition to Plaintiffs' Motion for a Temporary Restraining Order (ECF Nos. 16-1–16-3).

14. Attached as **Exhibit J** is a true and correct copy of a Truth Social post by President Donald J. Trump, dated September 26, 2026 at 6:51 a.m. Eastern Time, available at https://truthsocial.com/@realDonaldTrump/posts/117336958253518518.

15. Attached as **Exhibit K** is a true and correct copy of a Truth Social post by President Donald J. Trump, dated September 26, 2026 at 8:22 a.m. Eastern Time, available at https://truthsocial.com/@realDonaldTrump/posts/117337317276437965.

16. Attached as **Exhibit L** is a true and correct copy of a Truth Social post by President Donald J. Trump, dated September 26, 2026 at 11:58 a.m. Eastern Time, available at https://truthsocial.com/@realDonaldTrump/posts/117338166998410817.

17. A video published on X by the White House "Rapid Response 47" account (@RapidResponse47) capturing remarks by President Donald J. Trump regarding the ban, dated September 26, 2026, is available at https://x.com/RapidResponse47/status/2103950577008828906.

18. A video published by ABC News capturing the interview of Attorney General Todd Blanche on ABC's "This Week," dated September 27, 2026, is available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9L8UumU3Vw8.

19. Attached as **Exhibit M** is a true and correct copy of a transcript of Attorney General Todd Blanche's interview on ABC's "This Week," dated September 27, 2026, available at https://abcnews.com/amp/Politics/week-transcript-9-27-26-attorney-general-todd/story?id=136781292.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on this 28th day of September 2026 in Washington, D.C.

/s/ *Theodore J. Boutrous, Jr.*
Theodore J. Boutrous, Jr.

EXHIBIT A

< Truth Details
11481 replies

Donald J. Trump
@realDonaldTrump

I am proud to announce that, effective immediately, I am banning Fake News CNN, MSNOW (who recently changed their name from MSNBC due to lack of viewership and credibility!), and Politico (The recipients of an illegal and ridiculous $8 Million Dollar subscription, an All Time Record, directly from the United States Government, under Crooked Joe Biden, in order to keep them "alive." Seems like corruption to me!), from the White House as a result of their constant "reporting" FAKE NEWS! Media Outlets shouldn't be able to constantly write or report FICTION and LIES when they're covering the President of the United States, the Trump Administration, or the United States of America. Other Fake News Media Outlets to follow. Thank you for your attention to this matter! President DONALD J. TRUMP

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EXHIBIT B

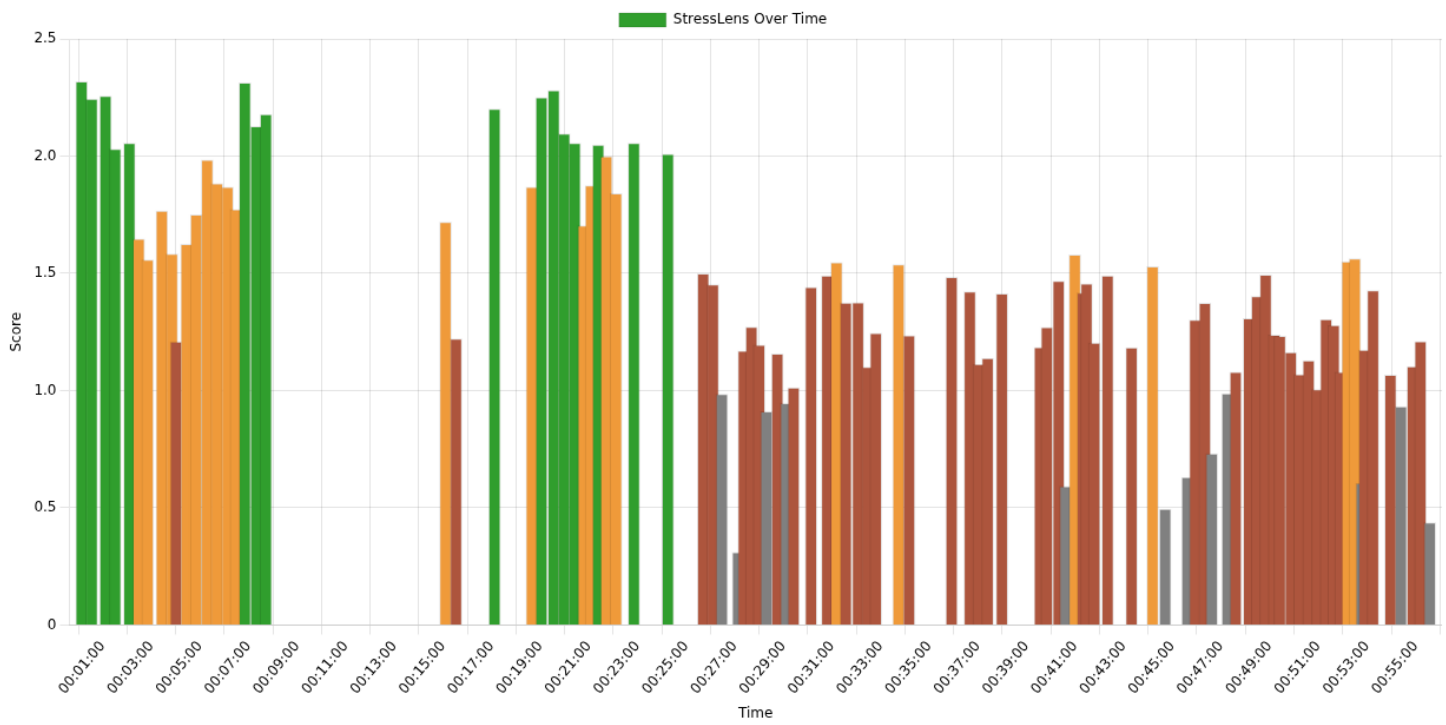
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Donald J. Trump

Transcripts | White House Calendar | White House Press Releases

Remarks: Donald Trump Makes a Healthcare Announcement in the Oval Office - September 18, 2026

StressLens | 1 Topic | 9 Entities | Moderation | 7 Speakers



Full Transcript

Donald Trump 00:00:00-00:00:02 (2 sec) NO STRESSLENS

Hello, everybody.

Question 00:00:02-00:00:08 (6 sec) NO STRESSLENS

Good afternoon, sir.

Donald Trump 00:00:08-00:00:33 (25 sec) STRONG (2.317)

1 of 170 paragraphs scored.

So a few things maybe before we start. This is such an important meeting. We're talking about favored nations on prescription drugs, so it's very, very important. But we've, uh, had some amazing numbers just come out. Uh, child poverty falls to the lowest rate ever recorded, just put out. That's this one here.

Donald Trump 00:00:33-00:01:07 (34 sec) STRONG (2.243)

6 of 170 paragraphs scored.

OK. I'm sure you love to see that. And real change in median household income by presidential term. Trump is number one and number two, ever. And here's just a

So a few things maybe before we start. This is such an important meeting. We're talking about favored nations on prescription drugs, so it's very, very important. But we've, uh, had some amazing numbers just come out. Uh, child poverty falls to the lowest rate ever recorded, just put out. That's this one here.

Donald Trump 00:00:33-00:01:07 (34 sec)

STRONG (2.243)
6 of 170 paragraphs scored.

OK. I'm sure you love to see that. And real change in median household income by presidential term. Trump is number one and number two, ever. And here's just a little quick chart on that. That's the Trump. And then you have the real change in the average 401-K balance by term. As you can see, we're way up. The red is Biden administration and the two blues are rocket ships.

Donald Trump 00:01:07-00:01:31 (24 sec)

STRONG (2.256)
4 of 170 paragraphs scored.

And the one that we're currently involved with, which is this second term, well, my third term, depending on the way you want to think about it, but the second term is going to be much higher than that. The red is Biden. They lost their shirts. Everybody lost their shirt. So they just came out. I thought I'd show them to you.

Donald Trump 00:01:31-00:02:06 (36 sec)

STRONG (2.03)

You'd be happy to see. The other thing that just came out is that the first ever midterm RNC, if you look at the convention that we just had, just announced, we had over 100 million live stream views. Everyone is amazed because the NFL was our opponent on that one, and the NFL had 25 million. So we had for the convention 100 million live stream views, which is a record, and the NFL had 25 million.

Donald Trump 00:02:06-00:02:29 (23 sec)

STRONG (2.055)

That's from Breitbart. OK? So that was really great and I think it had a big impact on things. And thank you all for being here today as we take historic action to officially extend the benefits of our most favored nation agreements on prescription drug prices to state Medicaid programs all across the nation.

Donald Trump 00:02:29-00:02:51 (22 sec)

MEDIUM (1.647)

They're going into the states, and the states are going to look very good because we did something that nobody could have possibly done. I don't know if they tried. I think they didn't try because they didn't think it was possible. This will save states billions and billions of dollars per year on drugs, and allow them to invest those savings in providing better health care and higher quality service for the American people.

Donald Trump 00:02:51-00:03:26 (35 sec)

MEDIUM (1.557)

I mean, this one thing alone should win us the midterms. It won't because the press doesn't report it, but this one thing alone, think of it. The biggest drug reduction prescription drug in history times maybe 10. Nobody's ever seen anything like it. Over the past year, my administration has reached unprecedented agreements with 26 of the world's largest pharmaceutical companies, and the rest are all coming in very rapidly to provide their drugs to Americans at discounts of 60, 70, 80, and even 90 percent discount.

Donald Trump 00:03:26-00:03:51 (24 sec)

MEDIUM (1.766)

For decades, Americans paid the highest drug prices anywhere in the world by far. It wasn't even close. We were like a laughing stock. We were a whipping post. But now, under these agreements, we pay the lowest prices ever paid by our country. We pay the lowest prices in the world. So we went from paying the highest drug prices in the world to paying the lowest drug prices in the world.

Donald Trump 00:03:51-00:03:56 (6 sec)

MEDIUM (1.583)

Can't say it any different than that, Bobby, right? What do you think? Not bad right.

Donald Trump 00:03:51-00:03:56 (6 sec) MEDIUM (1.583)

Can't say it any different than that, Bobby, right? What do you think? Not bad right.

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. 00:03:56-00:03:58 (2 sec) NO STRESSLENS

It's pretty great, Mr. President.

Donald Trump 00:03:58-00:04:00 (1 sec) NO STRESSLENS

Oz, would you say.

Mehmet Oz 00:04:00-00:04:01 (1 sec) NO STRESSLENS

100 percent.

Donald Trump 00:04:01-00:04:27 (26 sec) WEAK (1.208)

Something that nobody thought would even be possible. If they sell the drugs cheaper in Europe, as an example, they sell it cheaper in America. So if they're -- if a specific country is the lowest in the world, that's the price we pay. Nobody thought it could happen. This has resulted in the largest drop in prescription drug prices by far in the history of our country, by far.

Donald Trump 00:04:27-00:04:51 (23 sec) MEDIUM (1.624)

Many of these massive discounts are already available to all consumers on Trumprx.gov, but today, we're launching the program that will provide the most favored nation discounts to state Medicaid programs, covering nearly 70 million Americans. What we're doing is we're providing those tremendous discounts in prices to the states directly.

Donald Trump 00:04:51-00:05:18 (27 sec) MEDIUM (1.749)

Many left wing critics predicted that the states would not participate on our Most Favored Nation initiative, and some of the blue states tried not to, but they couldn't help it. When you're getting your drugs for 70, 80, 90 percent less, they all succumbed to the dollar. But I'm pleased to announce that we're launching this program with the participation of all 50 states, red and blue.

Donald Trump 00:05:18-00:05:42 (25 sec) MEDIUM (1.983)

Every Democrat state, if you want to call it that, every Republican state, everyone came in, as well as the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, two places that the Democrats would love to see become states so they could pick up four Senators, etc. I want to thank Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. for doing a fantastic -- he's done a fantastic job.

Donald Trump 00:05:42-00:06:08 (25 sec) MEDIUM (1.883)

The administrator of the centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Dr. Mehmet Oz, is another one. That's a great team, never been a better team. And deputy CMS Administrator Abe Sutton, want to thank you very much. Thanks as well to governors Sarah Huckabee Sanders, Tate Reeves, Larry Rhoden, all friends of mine, are fantastic people.

Donald Trump 00:06:08-00:06:29 (21 sec) MEDIUM (1.868)

The Council of Economic Advisers estimates that the most favored nations deals that we're extending to states today will save Medicaid over $64 billion, and that's over a relatively short period of time. And others reject the savings that are going to be actually much more than that. I think they're going to be much higher than that.

Donald Trump 00:06:29-00:06:51 (22 sec) MEDIUM (1.772)

It could be $100 billion. Every state will now have the ability to use those extra billions of dollars to invest in other health care improvements or something else, but they're going to save -- states are going to save tens of billions of dollars. This will help us save Medicaid and protect it for future generations.

Donald Trump 00:06:51-00:07:19 (28 sec) STRONG (2.313)
2 of 170 paragraphs scored.

Your medical costs are going to be coming down. I will not get any credit for it, but when prescription drugs come down or drugs come down, your Medicaid and Medicare, everything becomes a lot less expensive. So perhaps you can think of me as you watch the prices come down to the floor. With our Republican majorities in Congress, we also passed the largest ever investment in rural -- I love rural health care.

Donald Trump 00:07:19-00:07:43 (24 sec) STRONG (2.127)
9 of 170 paragraphs scored.

I won every rural area in the nation. $50 billion to get rural communities and hospitals the support they need. Every single Democrat in Congress voted against it. Every single, I call them Dumocrats because how could you be so dumb? They voted against it. They voted against our rural communities. But we got it done regardless, and we got it done pretty easily.

Donald Trump 00:07:43-00:08:18 (35 sec) STRONG (2.178)
8 of 170 paragraphs scored.

Very tough not to get it done, to be honest. It's so compelling. As I said, every single blue state voted in favor of saving the billions of dollars that the Republicans got them, and they made it very difficult. I would like to now ask Dr. Oz to say a few words, followed by Deputy Administrator Sutton. Governors Huckabee Sanders and Reeves and Roden, and they'll all speak for as short a period of time as possible so that I can get a -- get along with winning the war with Iran, which we are winning very handily.

Donald Trump 00:08:18-00:08:21 (3 sec) NO STRESSLENS

So, uh, Dr. Oz, please take it away.

Mehmet Oz 00:08:21-00:08:46 (24 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

Mr. President, there are two main reasons that this generous program is being launched. The first is because you pushed everybody, secretary, myself and everybody else involved in administration to ensure we had most favored nation drug pricing. 26, the largest pharmaceutical companies in the world, representing 90 percent of all the drugs, have been in this office pledging to support the most favored nation drug prices, which have addressed a problem that you identified.

Mehmet Oz 00:08:46-00:09:04 (18 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

Others have as well, but you're willing to take on, which is that we were paying three times more for the exact same drugs that other countries are paying, even when those drugs are made in this nation. As a result of that, all those drugs are now available at TrumpRx.gov, thank you for loaning your name to it. And that site is doing spectacularly well.

Mehmet Oz 00:09:04-00:09:14 (10 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

And if you're about to buy a prescription in America, you need to check that site first. It's your site, it's a government site, and it's designed to allow you to have transparency and an understanding of what the right price for those drugs are.

Mehmet Oz 00:09:14-00:09:42 (27 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

So, that's the first part of it, getting the price right. The other reason generous works -- and Abe Sutton, who runs that agency, is going to describe this, that component -- is that we got an all-of-government effort to work together, that includes the governors who are around this today. And by getting all of government

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Mehmet Oz 00:09:14-00:09:42 (27 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

So, that's the first part of it, getting the price right. The other reason generous works -- and Abe Sutton, who runs that agency, is going to describe this, that component -- is that we got an all-of-government effort to work together, that includes the governors who are around this today. And by getting all of government to work together, including Commerce, Secretary Lutnick helping with tariffs, and other folks that are involved in this process, Jamieson Greer, we've been able to take these ideas and spread them through the nation.

Mehmet Oz 00:09:42-00:10:05 (23 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

Just to put it in context, it's 50 states, every single state as the president outlined, but also Puerto Rico, Washington, DC. It is such a good deal that every state realized they need to take it. And the governors will describe this, but the $50 billion in pharmaceutical prices that they're paying after rebates -- after rebates -- is crowding out schools and roads and long-term care and rural care.

Mehmet Oz 00:10:05-00:10:24 (20 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

No matter how much money we put into the program, it never quite is enough if we have to pay that much money for our pharmaceuticals. We are rescuing state budgets with this program, Mr. President. And by doing that, we are squeezing rebates out of pharmaceutical companies. And the deal that we've offered is great, but I know you want even better deals.

Mehmet Oz 00:10:24-00:10:43 (19 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

And so, what's better than Most Favored Nation? What's better than Most Favored Nation pricing is free. And there's a drug called Eliquis, which is very commonly used, many of you have relatives on it. I'm a heart surgeon; we use it quite a bit. And this drug is going to be donated, 1 million doses of this drug, to the American people through Medicaid programs.

Mehmet Oz 00:10:43-00:11:01 (17 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

And you can't beat free. So, now we'll -- a one-two punch to make sure states have every opportunity possible, because this administration, Secretary Kennedy, would not have been possible without you. If you want to put a little context in what an achievement this was, because Americans should no longer have to choose between groceries and paying their bills.

Mehmet Oz 00:11:01-00:11:03 (3 sec) NO STRESSLENS

From now on, that's not going to be as necessary.

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. 00:11:03-00:11:11 (8 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

I mean, I want to thank again, Mr. President, for your leadership on this, for getting these deals across the finish line.

Donald Trump 00:11:11-00:11:29 (17 sec) NO STRESSLENS

By the way, I love his tie. I want to get a nice, thin -- where do you get a guy like that? It's the thinnest I've ever -- it's almost like a rope. Well, he wants to show off his chest, see I know, that's the big difference. OK, go ahead, Bobby.

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. 00:11:29-00:11:51 (22 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

But now we're going to pass those savings that we achieved through these 26 MFN negotiations to the states and to the poorest 70 million, the most vulnerable

By the way, I love his tie. I want to get a nice thin -- where do you get a guy like that? It's the thinnest I've ever -- it's almost like a rope. Well, he wants to show off his chest, see I know, that's the big difference. OK, go ahead, Bobby.

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. 00:11:29-00:11:51 (22 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

But now we're going to pass those savings that we achieved through these 26 MFN negotiations to the states and to the poorest 70 million, the most vulnerable population in our country. They're going to be getting these same prices and it is going to -- as Oz mentioned, it's going to save the state budget.

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. 00:11:51-00:12:20 (29 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

We were locked in a negative feedback loop where the states had to choose between medicine and nutrition, lifestyle, prevention. Those areas were starved. Because of that people were getting sicker and sicker and requiring more medication. It was a negative feedback loop and we've ended that today. And this also is a very, very moral -- important moral imperative.

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. 00:12:20-00:12:42 (22 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

Every nation has judged -- every civilization is judged based upon how it cares for the poorest members of society. And this is a -- President Trump just mentioned that the poverty levels have dropped to the lowest level in history during his term. This is something my party was promising and prioritizing for decades.

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. 00:12:42-00:13:13 (31 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

That was the signature imperative for our party. And yet President Trump has actually achieved that in two short years. And now he's creating another giant benefit for the poorest members of our society, which is drugs at the lowest cost in the world. We were subsidizing every other nation. They were getting a free ride on what we were paying, what our 70 million poorest citizens were paying through Medicaid for these drugs.

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. 00:13:13-00:13:21 (8 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

That is over today. They're going to get the benefits; the states are going to get the benefits, and our country is going to get healthy again.

Mehmet Oz 00:13:21-00:13:29 (8 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

Mr. President, Abe Sutton's team put all this together. They're the innovation center, the nuclear reactor of the agency. Dave.

Unidentified 00:13:29-00:13:50 (21 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

Thank you, Mr. President. Secretary Kennedy, Dr. Oz, our state partners, thank you. Today is truly a historic day for the Medicaid program. We are pleased to share that all 50 states, DC and Puerto Rico came in to the generous program for Most Favored Nation Medicaid drug pricing. That's extraordinary but it's also common sense.

Unidentified 00:13:50-00:14:11 (21 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

Lower drug prices help every American; it should not be a partisan issue. Thanks to President Trump's leadership, we are proud to share that these reductions will result each year in $5.2 billion of savings, adding up, as estimated by the Council of Economic Advisors, to the $64 billion that President Trump said.

Unidentified 00:14:11-00:14:39 (29 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

That's money back into states' budgets to fund other needed priorities. Our state partners have shared with us that they expect this to help them expand access to drugs and preserve access to needed medications. That's something that benefits the most vulnerable members of our society: the mother with a child who needs access to a treatment; the person with a disability who depends on Medicaid; and the taxpayer asking whether their government truly values every hard-earned dollar that they pay in taxes.

Unidentified 00:14:32-00:14:39 (6 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

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Unidentified 00:14:39-00:14:43 (4 sec) NO STRESSLENS

Today we answer them that it does. Thank you.

Mehmet Oz 00:14:43-00:15:05 (23 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

And, Mr. President, you brought together the finest group ever negotiating drug prices, Inma Hernandez who's in the back there, Shel Fitzgerald, Beth Kelly, Chris Klomp, of course who you know well, John Brooks and many others contributed to allow Abe to accomplish his goals and dramatically change the terrain for Americans struggling to figure out if they should buy the medications prescribed by their doctor for them in the pharmacy.

Mehmet Oz 00:15:05-00:15:06 (sec) NO STRESSLENS

I know --

Donald Trump 00:15:06-00:15:11 (5 sec) MEDIUM (1.718)

They're fantastic. Hey, why don't you come over here? You shouldn't be back there; you should be up here with us, right, don't you think?

Mehmet Oz 00:15:11-00:15:12 (1 sec) NO STRESSLENS

Yes. Steve, come up.

Donald Trump 00:15:12-00:15:13 (1 sec) NO STRESSLENS

Unless Oz wants to keep you back there.

Mehmet Oz 00:15:13-00:15:15 (2 sec) NO STRESSLENS

No, I want him to come on up here.

Donald Trump 00:15:15-00:15:16 (1 sec) NO STRESSLENS

Come on up here.

Mehmet Oz 00:15:16-00:15:23 (7 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

She was giving fashion advice in the Oval Office. [Laughter] She has a couple of thoughts about the gold, some improvements.

Donald Trump 00:15:23-00:15:28 (5 sec) NO STRESSLENS

Come on up here, come on up, get up here. That group is fantastic.

Mehmet Oz 00:15:28-00:15:32 (4 sec) NO STRESSLENS

Corey, D.O. Your domestic policy council could not do it without you.

Donald Trump 00:15:23-00:15:28 (5 sec) NO STRESSLENS

Come on up here, come on up, get up here. That group is fantastic.

Mehmet Oz 00:15:28-00:15:32 (4 sec) NO STRESSLENS

Corey, D.O. Your domestic policy council could not do it without you.

Donald Trump 00:15:32-00:15:45 (13 sec) WEAK (1.221)

There's my man. Steve knows more about this stuff than any human being alive. That's great. Look at her, she's got a little red face, she's embarrassed. Don't be embarrassed; you look fantastic. Sarah, would you say a few words, please?

Sarah Huckabee Sanders 00:15:45-00:16:06 (21 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

Yes, sir. First of all, it's an honor to be here. And everybody says they're going to deliver affordability, especially when it comes to prescription drug prices, except nobody does it. You're the only person who could have gotten this done. Not only is it going to save states billions of dollars, at the same time, you're investing in the Rural Health Transformation Fund.

Sarah Huckabee Sanders 00:16:06-00:16:26 (20 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

Those two things combined are going to bring about a generational change in our country's health care. And with your leadership and the implementation of Secretary Kennedy and Dr. Oz, we are changing America for the better and every single person in our country benefits. And nobody else could have done that except for you.

Sarah Huckabee Sanders 00:16:26-00:16:33 (7 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

So, we're incredibly grateful, and Arkansas celebrates and will be healthier because of your great work. So, thank you, Mr. President.

Donald Trump 00:16:33-00:16:37 (4 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

Thank you very much. And governor, would you like to say a couple of words?

Larry Rhoden 00:16:37-00:16:39 (2 sec) NO STRESSLENS

Yeah. Well, uh, I would just say this --

Donald Trump 00:16:39-00:16:41 (2 sec) NO STRESSLENS

Great governor, by the way.

Larry Rhoden 00:16:41-00:17:01 (20 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

I appreciate your help on this. In South Dakota, the two things that I hear all the time is the rural health care in such a rural state and affordability of health care. And I think you've hit the nail on the head with this. Your rural health care initiative has been a game changer in South Dakota and will continue to be, so we thank you for that.

Larry Rhoden 00:17:01-00:17:07 (6 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

And I think this was just good commonsense leadership on your part. So, thank you, Mr. President, for your leadership on this issue.

Donald Trump 00:17:07-00:17:14 (7 sec) STRONG (2.2)

7 of 170 paragraphs scored.

Larry Rhoden 00:17:01-00:17:06 (6 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

And I think this was just good commonsense leadership on your part. So, thank you, Mr. President, for your leadership on this issue.

Donald Trump 00:17:07-00:17:14 (7 sec) STRONG (2.2)

7 of 170 paragraphs scored.

Well, I'm being very nice to him because maybe he'll get my face on that beautiful wall. [Laughter] A beautiful wall that I've been looking at.

Mehmet Oz 00:17:14-00:17:17 (3 sec) NO STRESSLENS

Come on, Larry.

Donald Trump 00:17:17-00:17:21 (3 sec) NO STRESSLENS

Come on, let's get going. You've got to get going.

Larry Rhoden 00:17:21-00:17:23 (3 sec) NO STRESSLENS

You want it on Crazy Horse?

Donald Trump 00:17:23-00:17:27 (4 sec) NO STRESSLENS

Nice to see you, governor. Tate, please.

Tate Reeves 00:17:27-00:17:46 (19 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

Yes, sir. Thank you, Mr. President and Secretary Kennedy, Dr. Oz, for giving us this opportunity. I just want to put this in perspective -- our entirety of our state budget general fund is $7 billion. We spend almost $700 million a year in state and federal dollars on prescription drugs for our Medicaid program alone.

Tate Reeves 00:17:46-00:18:14 (28 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

This is a big deal. When we combine the ability of, Mr. President, to negotiate and give states the flexibility to operate, big things happen. But look, you don't have to believe me that this is a big deal; the three governors standing up here today agree on a lot of things. But if we put 50 governors in this room, I don't think we could all agree that today was Friday.

Tate Reeves 00:18:14-00:18:37 (22 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

But all 50 states are participating in this opportunity to cut prescription drug costs at the state level in Medicaid programs, and that speaks to how big of a deal this is. So, to Mr. President, to all of you involved, thank you very much for your work. Today's a great day for rural America, for rural Mississippi.

Tate Reeves 00:18:37-00:18:39 (3 sec) NO STRESSLENS

And we thank you, Mr. President. Mississippi loves you.

Donald Trump 00:18:39-00:19:03 (23 sec) MEDIUM (1.868)

Thank you. I love Mississippi actually. I will say that, as Tate just said, every single state signed up -- and not only signed up, but we could have -- I think we signed them, Oz, in about a day, everybody just -- they can't believe it happened. It's one of the biggest things ever to happen to health care, because it's cost.

Donald Trump 00:19:03-00:19:33 (31 sec) STRONG (2.25)

5 of 170 paragraphs scored.

Donald Trump 00:18:39-00:19:03 (23 sec) MEDIUM (1.868)

Thank you. I love Mississippi actually. I will say that, as Tate just said, every single state signed up -- and not only signed up, but we could have -- I think we signed them, Oz, in about a day, everybody just -- they can't believe it happened. It's one of the biggest things ever to happen to health care, because it's cost.

Donald Trump 00:19:03-00:19:33 (31 sec) STRONG (2.25)

5 of 170 paragraphs scored.

It's a cost and it's a -- it's a diminution. It's a lowering, of course, like nobody ever thought possible. So it's an honor. We're also going to be, uh, recommending, not recommending, demanding the drug companies, uh, with respect to, uh, a certain situation, maybe you want to mention, discuss it uh, but the autism, that they make their doses in 20 percent, uh, shots.

Donald Trump 00:19:33-00:19:59 (25 sec) STRONG (2.28)

3 of 170 paragraphs scored.

So you have shot one, shot two, shot three, shot four, shot five. So instead of having a massive dose of 82 or 88 different vaccines pumped into your arm, uh, we'll take out certain vaccines that people are a little worried about and that have not -- I mean, we would never even think about the polio vaccine.

Donald Trump 00:19:59-00:20:25 (26 sec) STRONG (2.095)

It's been amazing, and so many others that have been so good. But we're going to break it into 20 percent doses, so that instead of a child going in and having a tremendous amount of different vaccines pumped into his arm, so big -- a big proportion of the body, and then they wake up the next day and they've got a 109 temperature and then the worst thing happens that can happen to a parent.

Donald Trump 00:20:25-00:20:47 (22 sec) STRONG (2.055)

The worst, actually, and I've seen it. I've seen it happen. So we're going to recommend that they do five doses marked one, two, three, four, five, and that they be given in six month intervals so that a small amount of the vaccine gets pumped into the body. And we're going to be splitting up some of the vaccines.

Donald Trump 00:20:47-00:21:05 (17 sec) MEDIUM (1.703)

They'll get everything that they want, everything that is recommended. We're going to go a little bit with some of the European system in terms of the vaccines, but the biggest thing is, uh -- and certain vaccines were taken out because they're not needed until the child would be much older. No reason to do it so early.

Donald Trump 00:21:05-00:21:23 (18 sec) MEDIUM (1.874)

But the vaccine size will be much, much less, and I think you're going to see a massive reduction in autism, and that's a big deal. That's a very big deal. So we're going to be recommending that and actually demanding it. Uh, you're going to have one, two, three, four, five. It'll be spread out over six months, every six months.

Donald Trump 00:21:23-00:21:43 (21 sec) STRONG (2.047)

They'll be fully vaccinated in much smaller doses. So I think it's going to have a huge -- a huge impact and you'll see that in the years to come. You have to actually see it, but you'll see it in the years to come. Uh, again, I want to thank this group. They've worked with me so hard on, uh, favored nations.

Donald Trump 00:21:43-00:22:07 (23 sec) MEDIUM (1.998)

I want to thank other nations. I mean, we -- they had to agree to it and the drug companies had to agree. The drug companies agreed and then I got other nations to agree and they -- the other -- just so you know, the other nation prices had to go up very substantially, double, triple, in a couple of cases, quadruple the cost that they were paying.

Donald Trump 00:22:07-00:22:31 (24 sec) MEDIUM (1.84)

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Donald Trump 00:22:07-00:22:31 (24 sec) MEDIUM (1.84)

Uh, because it all came down to the center. We went way down and they went a little bit up because the world is a bigger place than us. So they went way down and, uh, we -- we went -- I mean, we took it way down at numbers that nobody thought possible and they went up a little bit. In some cases, you know, a little bit, but it could be double, it could be triple, but it was relatively speaking, a little bit.

Donald Trump 00:22:31-00:22:51 (19 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

So I want to thank Germany, France, all of the countries that, uh, pretty easily agreed. It wasn't easy. It was a contentious, but they ultimately had to agree and they agreed. They -- we were using tariffs if they didn't agree, we were going to use tariffs to make sure they did it. And nobody else but this group could have done this.

Donald Trump 00:22:51-00:22:58 (7 sec) STRONG (2.055)

This is something that people have talked about for years. And they never even -- I think, Oz, they never even tried. Is that correct? I don't think they ever even tried.

Mehmet Oz 00:22:58-00:23:18 (20 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

Never tried. They were intimidated, sir. There's a lot of -- a lot of very influential folks who don't want any changes to the health care system. And when folks don't take on the entrenched interests, we run into problems that the American people pay for. I think that's a good example of why things like this initiative have worked so well.

Mehmet Oz 00:23:18-00:23:36 (19 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

There are others as well. As you know, we're pursuing -- you mentioned the Rural Health Transformation program. The governors know this, it's the single largest investment ever in rural health care, $50 billion over five years. Every state got around $200 million every year for five years and, sir, you don't put that kind of money into a program just to pay the bills.

Mehmet Oz 00:23:36-00:23:54 (18 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

You put that money in because you want to reform the system, make it work better for the American people. And Secretary Kennedy and I were speaking about this, but the life expectancy in rural America is almost three years shorter than urban America. Your zip code should not be your destiny, and these are the benefits that we accrue when we take out the middleman and let the money go to the people.

Donald Trump 00:23:54-00:24:15 (21 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

And with favored nations, the reason I guess most people thought -- they thought they could never get the drug companies that we did and then we got the nations. You needed both. One without the other was no good. We needed both. So it's a very big day in the world of medicine, the world of medical, and it's an honor to be the one that got it done.

Donald Trump 00:24:15-00:24:26 (11 sec) STRONG (2.008)

They've been talking about it for 25 years, I guess for more than that, but nobody ever moved on it. I don't -- I'm not even sure that other presidents tried. Yes, please.

Question 00:24:26-00:24:43 (17 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

Mr. President, two questions on health care, if that's OK. You kept reiterating that this generous program gets 50 states participation. Do you think this is an

Donald Trump 00:24:15-00:24:26 (11 sec) STRONG (2.008)

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Question 00:24:26-00:24:43 (17 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

Mr. President, two questions on health care, if that's OK. You kept reiterating that this generous program gets 50 states participation. Do you think this is an admission from many Democrat officials who agreed to participate that your most favored nation, drug deals, are actually effective at lowering prescription drugs?

Donald Trump 00:24:43-00:25:11 (28 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

Well, the Democrats were, um, they didn't help, but they all signed up and they all signed up and they signed up quickly, every one of them. I don't think we had anybody even -- even threaten a little bit that they weren't going to send up. Every state came on board almost immediately. I mean, if we had the process perfected literally in one day, everybody would have been -- but they -- they signed up within a matter of weeks, every single state.

Donald Trump 00:25:11-00:25:24 (14 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

Some asked questions. I mean, I had some governors call me saying, is this really true, or is this some kind of a April Fool's Day? But they all signed up and they can't believe it, and their health care costs are way down because of it. Yeah, please.

Question 00:25:24-00:25:33 (8 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

Sir? Mr. President, earlier today you posted that you intend to ban CNN, Politico and MS NOW from the White House.

Donald Trump 00:25:33-00:25:33 (1 sec) NO STRESSLENS

Yeah.

Question 00:25:33-00:25:38 (5 sec) NO STRESSLENS

Every president takes an oath to uphold the Constitution, which includes the First Amendment.

Donald Trump 00:25:38-00:25:41 (2 sec) NO STRESSLENS

Yeah, I do too. I do too, much more so --

Question 00:25:41-00:25:42 (1 sec) NO STRESSLENS

How do you justify --

Donald Trump 00:25:42-00:26:06 (24 sec) WEAK (1.498)

Much more so than you. Uh, because they're fake news. Uh, you get so tired of reading and seeing fake news. Uh, when you look at CNN, it's just fake. That's why their ratings are no good. When you look at MS NOW, which used to be MSNBC, which some people call MS DNC, Democratic National Committee, it's fake news.

Donald Trump 00:26:06-00:26:28 (23 sec) WEAK (1.452)

It's fake news. And -- excuse me, excuse me. And when you look at Politico, I mean, they got a government -- the government under Biden gave them like $8 million to keep them afloat. Uh, and the stories they wrote are fake. So there's a lot of news, and there may be others to join them, and maybe they can get better and would like to have them in, but our country has to have honest news.

Donald Trump 00:26:28-00:26:47 (19 sec) NO SIGNAL (0.984)

Donald Trump 00:26:06-00:26:28 (23 sec) WEAK (1.452)

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Donald Trump 00:26:28-00:26:47 (19 sec) NO SIGNAL (0.984)

You know, you don't have a country unless you have, as I say, borders, good voting. We're straightening them out. The borders are unbelievable. Nobody's come into our country in the last 17 months illegally. But you need borders and you need fair and free voting. And you know what you need, you need a free press.

Donald Trump 00:26:47-00:27:08 (21 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

You need a fair press and an honest press and CNN -- and you know it and everybody knows it. You're intelligent. I've known you a long time. You know how fake their reporting is. It's one-sided. It's never good. I've done many, many -- look at this story today about, uh, favored nations on drugs. We lowered the drug costs by 50, 60, 70 percent.

Donald Trump 00:27:08-00:27:17 (9 sec) NO SIGNAL (0.31)

They won't even put it -- if they put it on, it'll be -- they will find a reason why that's a negative. OK? Yeah, please.

Question 00:27:17-00:27:22 (5 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

Why are you doing this ban now? Is there a particular reason or the particular story --

Donald Trump 00:27:22-00:27:41 (19 sec) WEAK (1.169)

No, just because -- no, no, it's -- it's really just cumulative stories over the last two years. You get sick of it. And you call them and you tell them -- I have very good experts, like people behind me, Bobby Oz. They call and they try and explain things to -- they know that they know it. They know it as well.

Donald Trump 00:27:41-00:28:00 (19 sec) WEAK (1.271)

They're smart people, but they purposely write negative news. And they do that because they want to try and diminish the Republicans and a Republican administration. And honestly, we've done a fantastic job. Look at the numbers, look at the economic numbers. We have more money coming into our country today than ever before.

Donald Trump 00:28:00-00:28:18 (19 sec) WEAK (1.194)

We have the highest employment that we've ever had in history. All of these things are the lowest -- we have the best poverty rate, the lowest poverty rate in the history of our country and people are making more money today than they ever had. And we do have something that I'm very proud of, Iran will not have a nuclear weapon.

Donald Trump 00:28:18-00:28:45 (26 sec) NO SIGNAL (0.91)

Now, for that, people are going to have to pay some extra gas -- I think most people, if they had a vote on lower gas prices or letting Iran have a nuclear weapon, I'd be willing to vote that it would be a massive landslide. People don't want to have Iran have a nuclear weapon and you know what, they won't. And the war is going to end soon and when it ends, your gas prices are going to drop to a level that they were before, maybe even lower.

Donald Trump 00:28:45-00:29:07 (22 sec) WEAK (1.157)

When I left Iowa, just before I started this, I had no choice. I said to my people, we're going to have to do an excursion down to Iran, the Islamic Republic of Iran, because they're going to have a nuclear -- if we don't hit them with a B-2 bomber, they right now would have a nuclear weapon. And if they had it, it would be a matter of days.

Donald Trump 00:29:07-00:29:25 (18 sec) NO SIGNAL (0.945)

I equate it somewhat to the Democrats, if they ever got into power, they will terminate the filibuster and they will immediately have DC as a state. They will immediately have many other things take place, but DC and Puerto Rico will become -- immediately.

Donald Trump 00:29:25-00:29:48 (23 sec) WEAK (1.012)

That gives them four more Senators; that gives them lots of other things, like 12 Congressmen. They want to have, ideally, 21 Supreme Court justices. They will have everything they ever dreamed of. And frankly, Republicans should terminate the filibuster because if you don't do it, they're going to do it, and you can't let that happen.

Note 00:29:48-00:29:48 (sec) NO STRESSLENS

[Crosstalk]

Question 00:29:48-00:30:08 (20 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

Mr. President, Willie Nelson with Salem Media. Mr. President, reports say the holdout juror in the Lindsay Clancy case -- excuse me, reports say the holdout juror in the Lindsay Clancy case and his family were doxed and threatened so badly he left Massachusetts. What's your take on that?

Donald Trump 00:30:08-00:30:37 (29 sec) WEAK (1.441)

Well, I just don't know. I think the case is very sad. It's a horrible thing. She was on all sorts of drugs, and she was very messed up. She killed three children, her three children. It's a very tough situation and I know the jury was certainly not a friendly one in terms of that one person. But it's not for me. Look, you had a jury and the jury was hung, and we'll see whether or not they have another trial.

Note 00:30:37-00:30:37 (sec) NO STRESSLENS

[Crosstalk]

Question 00:30:37-00:30:48 (12 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

Mr. President, many leading Democrats have condemned far-left streamer Hasan Piker. What is your take on him and do you think he's a liability for Democrats heading into mid-terms?

Donald Trump 00:30:48-00:31:11 (22 sec) WEAK (1.49)

I do. I think he's a terrible liability. I think they -- he's got a power over some of these Democrats and he'll be voting that way. I mean, he's a communist, there's no question about it, and the Democrats have a lot of communists. And the communists can hold up the party because it only takes a few votes when you have a close election, or you'll have a fairly close, I hope the Republicans are going to do well.

Donald Trump 00:31:11-00:31:34 (23 sec) MEDIUM (1.546)

But you're going to have -- it's going to be pretty close. And a group of three, four, five, ten people can steer a party in a certain direction -- that's, you know, both parties. Yeah, no, he's a guy who's very -- I mean, his statements are so bad. How a Jewish person could vote for a Democrat is not even -- if you think of it, not even believable.

Donald Trump 00:31:34-00:32:04 (31 sec) WEAK (1.374)

And yet they will, it's amazing. But it is not possible, in a world of rationality, that somebody who's Jewish, that somebody who's black could vote to be a Democrat, could vote for a Democrat. The things that have been said about different groups of people by them are incredible. And the mainstream Democrats, I know many of

parties. Yeah, no, he's a guy who's very -- I mean, his statements are so bad. How a Jewish person could vote for a Democrat is not even -- if you think of it, not even believable.

Donald Trump 00:31:34-00:32:04 (31 sec) WEAK (1.374)

And yet they will, it's amazing. But it is not possible, in a world of rationality, that somebody who's Jewish, that somebody who's black could vote to be a Democrat, could vote for a Democrat. The things that have been said about different groups of people by them are incredible. And the mainstream Democrats, I know many of them, and I'm friendly with many of them, but they've gone way left because they've had no choice.

Donald Trump 00:32:04-00:32:18 (13 sec) WEAK (1.375)

Not because they -- they don't believe it. They know communism has never worked. They know socialism has never worked. But these people are petrified of the radical left and he's one of them.

Note 00:32:18-00:32:18 (sec) NO STRESSLENS

[Crosstalk]

Question 00:32:18-00:32:28 (10 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

Mr. President, Polish leaders have expressed concerns that Russia may attack Ukrainian allies. Do you agree with that assessment?

Donald Trump 00:32:28-00:32:34 (6 sec) WEAK (1.1)

Well, I think they already have attacked Ukrainian allies. They've been attacking Ukrainian allies for approximately five years.

Question 00:32:34-00:32:35 (1 sec) NO STRESSLENS

And then, Mr. President --

Donald Trump 00:32:35-00:32:37 (2 sec) NO STRESSLENS

So, I do agree with that; I think everyone agrees with it.

Question 00:32:37-00:32:39 (2 sec) NO STRESSLENS

Mr. President, freedom of the press --

Donald Trump 00:32:39-00:32:40 (1 sec) NO STRESSLENS

Go ahead.

Question 00:32:40-00:32:41 (1 sec) NO STRESSLENS

Congresswoman.

Donald Trump 00:32:41-00:32:43 (2 sec) NO STRESSLENS

Did you mean Ukraine or another country?

Donald Trump 00:32:41-00:32:43 (2 sec) NO STRESSLENS

Did you mean Ukraine or another country?

Question 00:32:43-00:32:44 (1 sec) NO STRESSLENS

So, Poland is concerned about being attacked by Russia.

Donald Trump 00:32:44-00:32:47 (3 sec) NO STRESSLENS

You mean they're -- are they concerned that they're going to attack Poland?

Question 00:32:47-00:32:48 (1 sec) NO STRESSLENS

Yeah, they might attack.

Donald Trump 00:32:48-00:33:03 (14 sec) WEAK (1.245)

Well, you have a great president who is a big Trump fan. He was in 12th place; I endorsed him and now he's president and he's doing a fantastic job. And he is -- he's got it under control, he's got it --

Question 00:33:03-00:33:13 (11 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

Congresswoman Maria Salazar filmed a video outside the White House the other day disagreeing with your immigration policies. You endorsed her primary campaign; do you still back her run and have you seen that video?

Donald Trump 00:33:13-00:33:44 (31 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

Well, I do, and I have. I disagree with her. Look, I have a strong, a very strong -- it's a movement, my movement. It probably at least partially won the election. When I got elected at the beginning, previous to my -- coming in, we had the most unsafe border maybe anywhere in the world, maybe in history -- 25 million people poured in from prisons, from mental institutions, drug dealers, murders, 11,888 murderers came in, all documented.

Donald Trump 00:33:44-00:34:10 (26 sec) MEDIUM (1.537)

They allowed them into our country. I have a very strong -- she obviously doesn't have a very strong feeling for the border, but I do. And I understand what she's saying, but I have a very strong -- I won because of my border. Now, nobody think about it anymore. Look, they just announced the numbers. Over the last 16 months, nobody, zero -- I even find that hard to believe.

Donald Trump 00:34:10-00:34:31 (21 sec) WEAK (1.234)

But it's done by a group of people that seem to sort of lean Democrat. You know, they're not going to give me anything for nothing. And they say over the last 16 months not one person came through the southern border willingly, which is pretty hard to believe. But even if you said a few did, but 25 million came in through Biden and a lot of them should never be here.

Donald Trump 00:34:31-00:34:58 (27 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

No, I'm very strong on the borders and she isn't. And she's a nice person; I got her elected. Without me she wouldn't have gotten elected. She ran against a person a number of years ago who was not even thought possible to lose. And then when I endorsed Maria, she ended up winning and the biggest surprise in all of Congress for that session, for that term.

Donald Trump 00:34:58-00:35:08 (10 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

No, I'm very strong on the [illegible] And she's a nice person, but she lacked. What happened, you know, I have great respect. She ran against a person a number of years ago who was not even thought possible to lose. And then when I endorsed Maria, she ended up winning and the biggest surprise in all of Congress for that session, for that term.

Donald Trump 00:34:58-00:35:08 (10 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

And Maria won only because of me. So, she's gotten a little bit soft on the border, I understand that, I understand that, but I just don't happen to be there.

Question 00:35:08-00:35:12 (4 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

Mr. President, freedom of the press is enshrined in the First Amendment. Are you trying to --

Donald Trump 00:35:12-00:35:14 (2 sec) NO STRESSLENS

Thank you for telling me that. Appreciate it.

Question 00:35:14-00:35:15 (1 sec) NO STRESSLENS

Are you trying to intimidate the press from doing its job?

Donald Trump 00:35:15-00:35:27 (12 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

No, no, no, no, I dislike dishonest press like you. I think you're terrible. But I dislike dishonest -- I like to see honest press. Yeah, please.

Note 00:35:27-00:35:27 (sec) NO STRESSLENS

[Crosstalk]

Question 00:35:27-00:35:34 (7 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

What do you mean by -- In the first administration, you tried a similar band against CNN, and it didn't survive a court challenge. What makes you think that this move --

Donald Trump 00:35:34-00:35:55 (21 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

Well, we'll see. I mean, it didn't -- we didn't have to take it too far because the reporter that you're talking about discredited himself. He became a joke, so he no longer was very effective, so it didn't matter. No. But I think it's good. I think it's good to point it out, whether it survives or doesn't. I mean, I don't think the court should allow -- it depends on the judge you get, to be honest with you.

Donald Trump 00:35:55-00:36:15 (20 sec) WEAK (1.483)

I don't think that a court should allow fake news to be written day after day after day. I think that somebody has the right to keep them away, if they're going to write false stories all the time. I don't think I've had -- look, I won the presidency, I won all seven swing states, I won the popular vote.

Donald Trump 00:36:15-00:36:40 (25 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

I won 87 percent of the counties, that's why the maps are all red when you look, except for two little blue lines on each side, on each coast. I won a landslide and I get no -- I don't get fair press. I get it from Breitbart; I get it from -- a little bit from Fox. Fox is the worst -- I think Fox has, frankly, the worst polls in the whole business.

Donald Trump 00:36:40-00:37:02 (22 sec) WEAK (1.422)

Donald Trump 00:36:15-00:36:40 (25 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

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Donald Trump 00:36:40-00:37:02 (22 sec) WEAK (1.422)

I think they should have gotten rid of their pollsters years ago, they've been calling me wrong for 10 years. But my polls have been very good; I get good polls; I get good everything. But what I do ask is just a semblance of truth. CNN is fake news. MS Now is fake news. They're fake news; they know it. They're put there for a reason.

Donald Trump 00:37:02-00:37:24 (22 sec) WEAK (1.113)

Politico was bailed out by our government for going out of business. I don't know -- it was $8 million or something. But they were given this massive subsidy prior to my coming into office because they write only negative -- you know, only negative. No, we've done something that nobody's ever done politically.

Donald Trump 00:37:24-00:37:31 (7 sec) WEAK (1.138)

I've had a political career like nobody else in history. On occasion, it would be nice if we had some fairness. It's all fake news. Yeah, please.

Question 00:37:31-00:37:41 (10 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

Mr. President, to put a finer point on it, though, how is this action legal and constitutional, considering the First Amendment? And, Governor Sanders, you were White House press secretary; do you agree with this plan to ban news outlets?

Donald Trump 00:37:41-00:37:59 (18 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

Well, I'll just answer it again; I'll say it the same way. I don't think somebody should be allowed to come in and write fake stories, they're fake news, and that's why they have no credibility. That's why -- so, I had 96 percent negative coverage during the election, and I won because they have no credibility.

Donald Trump 00:37:59-00:38:25 (26 sec) WEAK (1.413)

I got 96. I guess NBC was 93 percent negative. So, 93 -- with all of the victories I've had, everything's been a victory, it's all been a victory. And I won the election like -- nobody's ever seen anything like it. I get no -- they never write a good story. They won't write a story about -- I just reduced drug prices by 40, 50, 60, 70, 80 percent.

Donald Trump 00:38:25-00:38:51 (26 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

I won't get a good story out of these people. From some of them I will. I'll get one from him; I'll get one from him; I'll get a few of them, but it's sick. I mean, there's something wrong with a country that can allow people to write purposely negative stories. Now, if they want to write them, that's fine, but I don't have to let them into my -- into the people's house.

Donald Trump 00:38:51-00:38:52 (sec) NO STRESSLENS

Yeah, please.

Question 00:38:52-00:38:52 (1 sec) NO STRESSLENS

Governor Sanders, do you --

Yeah, please.

Question 00:38:52-00:38:52 (1 sec) NO STRESSLENS

Governor Sanders, do you --

Donald Trump 00:38:52-00:38:54 (2 sec) NO STRESSLENS

Governor, go ahead.

Sarah Huckabee Sanders 00:38:54-00:39:19 (25 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

Sure. I think it's hard for you to argue against a free press when you're literally standing in the Oval Office asking questions -- he's been more accessible and easier to talk to than any president in history. Think about the previous administration, where you could barely get through a press conference and yet you have the opportunity to stand here in the Oval Office and ask questions to the leader of the free world.

Sarah Huckabee Sanders 00:39:19-00:39:20 (1 sec) NO STRESSLENS

I mean, that's pretty free --

Question 00:39:20-00:39:21 (2 sec) NO STRESSLENS

Because of the First Amendment.

Sarah Huckabee Sanders 00:39:21-00:39:33 (12 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

And you're standing here asking those questions. I think the president is right to support the First Amendment, but he's also right to ask that you be honest and fair. Um, that's not an unreasonable thing to do.

Donald Trump 00:39:33-00:39:50 (16 sec) WEAK (1.184)

Well, look at the way you treated Biden. He went a year and a half without having a press conference, a year and a half. And what was the question you asked him most? What is your favorite flavored ice cream? OK. What -- I think you asked him that question once.

Question 00:39:50-00:39:50 (1 sec) NO STRESSLENS

That is not true.

Donald Trump 00:39:50-00:40:02 (12 sec) WEAK (1.269)

What ice cream do you like the best? I mean, I heard that question so many times. And he'd always say, vanilla. That's a good thing, it was very consistent. I'm surprised he got that right but he'd always say vanilla. Yeah, please.

Question 00:40:02-00:40:08 (5 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

On another note, are you disappointed that Senator John Thune isn't bringing the Ratepayer Protection Act to the floor?

Donald Trump 00:40:08-00:40:09 (1 sec) NO STRESSLENS

That he's not what?

Question 00:40:09-00:40:13 (3 sec) NO STRESSLENS

On another note, are you disappointed that Senator John Thune isn't bringing the Ratepayer Protection Act to the floor?

Donald Trump 00:40:08-00:40:09 (1 sec) NO STRESSLENS

That he's not what?

Question 00:40:09-00:40:13 (3 sec) NO STRESSLENS

He's not bringing the Ratepayer Protection Act that the House passed.

Donald Trump 00:40:13-00:40:15 (3 sec) NO STRESSLENS

Well, I'm talking to him about it. We'll see what happens.

Question 00:40:15-00:40:19 (3 sec) NO STRESSLENS

Mr. President, you've got President Xi coming here next -- next week.

Donald Trump 00:40:19-00:40:36 (18 sec) WEAK (1.467)

I do. Great honor. Um, China is one of the most repressive countries for journalists in the world. What signal does it send that you are trying to -- Well, I don't know about that. I think -- I think we're repressive also. We get fake news. We don't -- we don't repress but they write fake news. Uh, no, I think he's going to come, we get along very well.

Donald Trump 00:40:36-00:40:59 (23 sec) NO SIGNAL (0.591)

It's nice that we get along very well. We've had a good relationship. He'll be here next week. I can tell you this, it's too bad we don't have the ballroom open. Because if we did, we could have -- we'd have thousands -- we could have 2,000 people having dinner. They would love -- we have a very tiny little room where it's going to be squeezed out at about 125 or so people.

Donald Trump 00:40:59-00:41:19 (20 sec) MEDIUM (1.579)

But I literally could tell you that thousands of people would love to be at that dinner this is a very tough ticket for me. I've told a lot of very good friends of mine, you just can't come, just can't come. Uh, it's, uh, we're going to have a very good meeting. We're going to have a meeting, we get along well, we're doing very well with China.

Donald Trump 00:41:19-00:41:25 (6 sec) WEAK (1.416)

I would say others maybe not so well, but we're doing very well with China and President Xi and I have a good relationship.

Question 00:41:25-00:41:28 (3 sec) NO STRESSLENS

Do you expect an AI safety deal or any talks on that with --

Donald Trump 00:41:28-00:41:47 (19 sec) WEAK (1.456)

We're going to have a lot of different deals. Yeah. We intend -- we're not just doing it for our health. We're going to have some pretty important meetings. You know, China is paying us a lot of tariffs and you remember, I had it up to 145 percent at one point but it was too much. It was really -- it was really hurting them badly and I didn't want to do that.

Donald Trump 00:41:47-00:42:06 (19 sec) WEAK (1.203)

We're going to have a lot of different deals. Yeah. We intend -- we're not just doing it for our health. We're going to have some pretty important meetings. You know, China is paying us a lot of tariffs and you remember, I had it up to 145 percent at one point but it was too much. It was really -- it was really hurting them badly and I didn't want to do that.

Donald Trump 00:41:47-00:42:06 (19 sec) WEAK (1.203)

No, we get along very well we have a good relationship. Now uh, you know, somebody said, oh, they spy on us and I said, maybe they do, but we spy on them too. You know, I don't want to give any -- any, certified or classified information, but we spy on them, too. They said, they spy on you, sir. I said, we spy on them too.

Donald Trump 00:42:06-00:42:06 (sec) NO STRESSLENS

Yeah. Please.

Question 00:42:06-00:42:07 (2 sec) NO STRESSLENS

Sir, can you describe how you envision --

Donald Trump 00:42:07-00:42:10 (3 sec) NO STRESSLENS

Back, back, back. Go ahead. Not you.

Question 00:42:10-00:42:20 (10 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

Thank you, sir. Charlotte Scott with Spectrum News. Pennsylvania has reported four measles related deaths. What's your message to other states who might worry about a spread or outbreak coming to their communities?

Donald Trump 00:42:20-00:42:30 (9 sec) WEAK (1.49)

I think we're going to be in good shape. Uh, we have nothing against, uh, vaccinations for measles. You want to discuss that for a second, either Bobby or Oz?

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. 00:42:30-00:43:03 (33 sec) NO STRESSLENS

Uh, we encourage people to vaccinate on all the CDC websites. CDC has not yet received information about the measles death -- alleged measles deaths. We're waiting for that, and we will put it up on our website when -- when we hear about it. We encourage people to vaccinate. Uh, one of the problems with Pennsylvania is that the governor has very recently refused to cooperate with CDC.

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. 00:43:03-00:43:12 (9 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

We were able to go in and end the outbreaks in all the other states, in South Dakota and Texas and all the other states.

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. 00:43:12-00:43:19 (7 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

We sent our EPI -- EPI aid team into those states. When I offered that to Governor Shapiro, he said, no, we don't need your help.

Donald Trump 00:43:19-00:43:26 (7 sec) WEAK (1.183)

They've got a bad governor in Pennsylvania. People just don't know it. He's very -- he's close to incompetent. Daniel. Daniel.

Question 00:43:26-00:43:40 (14 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

Mr. President? Mr. President? You announced last week that you'd be delivering $500 rebate checks to nearly a million Americans who were overcharged via Obamacare. Can you talk about what this would look like, how the idea came about?

They've got a bad governor in Pennsylvania. People just don't know it. He's very -- he's close to incompetent, Governor Daniel.

Question 00:43:26-00:43:40 (14 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

Mr. President? Mr. President? You announced last week that you'd be delivering $500 rebate checks to nearly a million Americans who were overcharged via Obamacare. Can you talk about what this would look like, how the idea came about?

Donald Trump 00:43:40-00:44:11 (31 sec) NO STRESSLENS

We save hundreds of millions of dollars for the overcharging that the Democrats did for Obamacare and other things. And we found it. We gave it back to the people. We handed them back a lot of money and thank you for bringing that up. The other thing is, as you know, because we're doing so well, taking in so much money on tariffs and other things, because we have more factories being built than at any time in the history of our country, including car plants and every other kind of plant, including AI, but including everything.

Donald Trump 00:44:11-00:44:42 (31 sec) MEDIUM (1.529)

We are giving Republicans, or -- and when I say Republicans, because I think everybody is going to be Republican, actually, but we're giving the people of our country who are adults $5,000 if the Republicans win. Because if the Republicans win, we're going to have a lot of money. If the Democrats win, we're going to go into a depression and all these tax cuts and all the things that have made this economy so strong and the -- we're the hottest nation in the world.

Donald Trump 00:44:42-00:45:01 (19 sec) NO SIGNAL (0.495)

All of the things that we got will be taken away by the Democrats. Every one of them is going to be taken away, the tax cuts, no tax on tips, no tax on Social Security for our seniors, no tax on overtime. All of that is going to be taken away. They all voted against it. They voted in favor of men playing in women's sports.

Donald Trump 00:45:01-00:45:25 (24 sec) NO STRESSLENS

They voted in favor of the transgender mutilization of your children. You're going to be back to that stuff. Right now it doesn't exist, but you're going to be back to it. So if we win, because we have so much, because we are taking in so much money, we're going to give all people, not just Republicans, everybody that's an adult, $5,000. The only proviso is they'd have to spend it in this country.

Donald Trump 00:45:25-00:45:29 (4 sec) NO STRESSLENS

And when they spend it in the country, it's very inexpensive.

Question 00:45:29-00:45:34 (5 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

Mr. President, right here. What do you mean by others to come and how is this band going to work?

Donald Trump 00:45:34-00:45:37 (3 sec) NO STRESSLENS

Others to come in terms of fake news?

Question 00:45:37-00:45:37 (sec) NO STRESSLENS

Yes --

Donald Trump 00:45:37-00:45:56 (19 sec) NO SIGNAL (0.63)

Well, look, the New York Times is fake news. Washington Post is fake news. They're crummy papers, both doing very poorly, by the way. But we'll see. We're probably not going to display the paper anymore in the White House, those papers, but we haven't taken the step of throwing them out. But they're fake news,

Yes --

Donald Trump 00:45:37-00:45:56 (19 sec) NO SIGNAL (0.63)

Well, look, the New York Times is fake news. Washington Post is fake news. They're crummy papers, both doing very poorly, by the way. But we'll see. We're probably not going to display the paper anymore in the White House, those papers, but we haven't taken the step of throwing them out. But they're fake news, totally.

Donald Trump 00:45:56-00:46:09 (14 sec) WEAK (1.301)

New York Times is so fake. Washington Post is disgusting. I mean, they're disgusting. I don't get it, why would they be? You know, we're doing so well and they'll take the most positive story and make it as negative as possible. Go ahead, please.

Question 00:46:09-00:46:10 (1 sec) NO STRESSLENS

Is speech only free when you agree with it, sir?

Donald Trump 00:46:10-00:46:12 (2 sec) NO STRESSLENS

No, no, please.

Question 00:46:12-00:46:20 (8 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

Um, you're speaking to UNGA next week, what is your message? Because last year, you sort of said that the, uh, the United Nations wasn't helping end wars, but --

Donald Trump 00:46:20-00:46:37 (17 sec) WEAK (1.373)

Last year, they wouldn't let my person in the teleprompter room, remember that? My teleprompter operator was banned from the room. He went out, came back, and they wouldn't let him in. So I'm standing there without a teleprompter. Isn't it nice to have a president -- and actually, they said it was one of my best speeches.

Donald Trump 00:46:37-00:46:54 (17 sec) NO SIGNAL (0.731)

I don't know how that happened, but I'm -- they're introducing, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the United States, and I'm looking at the teleprompter screen and it's totally blank and it was for more than half the speech. Somehow, they let him in in about half the speech, probably they did that on purpose.

Donald Trump 00:46:54-00:47:16 (22 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

But -- and he shouldn't have been leaving the room for a minute. He had to leave the room, come back. Uh, but, uh, you remember that? They turned off the escalator. Fortunately, my First Lady was very strong, and I was able to grab her back or another part of her body, and it was actually a little bit lower than the back, and it kept me standing up tall.

Donald Trump 00:47:16-00:47:36 (20 sec) NO SIGNAL (0.987)

I was standing very tall. But you remember, I was going up in the air and it came to a dead stop. This was -- I built a lot of escalators. I put in a lot of escalators. You're going to have some beauties right over here. But they don't do that unless somebody wants -- and then I got up to make my speech and I said, I don't have a teleprompter.

Donald Trump 00:47:36-00:47:46 (10 sec) WEAK (1.079)

Can you imagine? And I think I spoke very well. It's nice to have a president that doesn't need a teleprompter.

You're going to have some beauties right over here. But they don't do that unless somebody wants -- and then I got up to make my speech and I said, I don't have a teleprompter.

Donald Trump 00:47:36-00:47:46 (10 sec) WEAK (1.079)

Can you imagine? And I think I spoke very well. It's nice to have a president that doesn't need a teleprompter.

Question 00:47:46-00:47:53 (7 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

Sir, have you looked at any plans to demolish the Kennedy Center? There was an image of you from Air Force One --

Donald Trump 00:47:53-00:48:09 (16 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

Well, look, here's the problem with the Kennedy Center. I should be very careful because Bobby is standing right behind me, and I cherish that too. I actually like the name of Kennedy and Trump, Trump and Kennedy because it showed bipartisanship. It showed a Republican Party and a Democrat Party working together.

Donald Trump 00:48:09-00:48:29 (20 sec) WEAK (1.307)

The problem with the Kennedy Center, it loses -- for years, it's lost between $60 million and $100 million a year. It loses that every year. It's not an economically sound thing. Now, with all of that, Carnegie Hall loses money. All of those places lose money. They need massive subsidy in order to sustain.

Donald Trump 00:48:29-00:48:50 (21 sec) WEAK (1.401)

They get very little from Congress. Uh, I'm ready to fix it, make it good. We have a hostile judge. We have a conflicted judge. His wife represents, uh, I think, Barack Hussein Obama, but Biden, represents Kamala, represents Democrats. Uh, she has a different name so most people don't know that, but we were able to figure it out, but we have a very hostile judge.

Donald Trump 00:48:50-00:49:11 (20 sec) WEAK (1.493)

Uh, as I understand it, he gave us the right to go and do the job finally, after a week. I could have started this job up seven months ago. Uh, as you noticed, a big portion of ceiling fell down two days ago, almost killed a security guard, missed him by like -- the place is a dump. It's been a dump for years.

Donald Trump 00:49:11-00:49:25 (14 sec) WEAK (1.237)

It's lost money for years. I can turn it around, fix it but the question is, somebody's going to have to subsidize that for years to come, because, uh, palaces of the arts lose tremendous amounts of money.

Donald Trump 00:49:25-00:49:52 (27 sec) WEAK (1.232)

The Kennedy Center, for 25 years, has lost a tremendous amount of money and all I'm saying, I don't mind doing the job, but if I do the job, I think the Trump administration, including Bobby, but the Trump administration should be recognized. Why should I raise and put up and do all of this work? Not only building it, which I'll do a better job building it than anybody else, anybody in America.

Donald Trump 00:49:52-00:50:12 (20 sec) WEAK (1.163)

But why should I do everything and then for the rest of my life, have to go out and raise money because by nature, by the nature of that type of an operation, you lose anywhere from $50 million to $100 million, maybe even $150 million a year. I think if I do that -- excuse me. I think if I do that --

Question 00:50:12-00:50:14 (2 sec) NO STRESSLENS

Why would you want your name on the memorial --

But why should I do everything and then for the rest of my life, have to go out and raise money because, by nature, by the nature of that type of an operation, you lose anywhere from $50 million to $100 million, maybe even $150 million a year. I think if I do that -- excuse me. I think if I do that --

Question 00:50:12-00:50:14 (2 sec) NO STRESSLENS

Why would you want your name on the memorial --

Donald Trump 00:50:14-00:50:36 (22 sec) WEAK (1.069)

Because we should be recognized -- the Trump administration, if I'm willing and the administration is willing, we have a lot of people working very hard on it to save it. I can save it easily. But why should we be doing that and then raise money for the rest of our lives to keep it afloat, because that's what you have to do, if we get no recognition?

Donald Trump 00:50:36-00:50:58 (22 sec) WEAK (1.128)

I think the Trump administration should be recognized as having saved the Kennedy Center, because nobody else can do it -- wait a minute. I already raised $258 million from Congress, and they gave it to me because it's me, in order to rebuild it and fix it. The problem is, once it's built, it's going to lose $100 million a year.

Donald Trump 00:50:58-00:51:19 (21 sec) WEAK (1.005)

And it was losing a lot of money. Before I got there, you know, people say, oh, Trump got there. No, no, I came there to save it. The problem is we had a very hostile judge. We have a very outstanding board. The board is among the most successful people in the country, and they vote. We have a Congresswoman who is, you know, a person that never did a thing in her life, frankly, never did anything constructive.

Donald Trump 00:51:19-00:51:38 (19 sec) WEAK (1.304)

All she does is complain. But, uh, saving the Kennedy Center is very, very tough. A tremendous amount of effort is going to -- once it's built and I'll build it great, get it done on time, like that building, on time, under budget. It's going to be great. Like your heliport outside, it's already -- it's two months ahead of schedule.

Donald Trump 00:51:38-00:51:55 (16 sec) WEAK (1.278)

It's going to open -- they're going to have an official opening on the 21st, with the first helicopter landing, etc. And it's beautiful. Everybody -- in fact, they were going to sue me on the heliport and then they saw how beautiful it was, and they decided not to sue, the same group that goes around suing everybody to stop progress.

Donald Trump 00:51:55-00:52:05 (10 sec) WEAK (1.079)

But, uh, if we're going to save the Kennedy Center, I think the Trump administration should be given recognition for doing so.

Question 00:52:05-00:52:12 (7 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

Was it appropriate for your son to accept a gift of the payment of some of his wedding festivities --

Donald Trump 00:52:12-00:52:30 (18 sec) MEDIUM (1.55)

Well, it's totally -- it's totally allowed and a lot of people have parties and all, but it's totally allowed. But as I understand it, he paid them back. He didn't want to have that, so I hear he paid him back. Uh, a person that he knows pretty -- I guess a friend of his gave him a wedding party, that's very common.

Donald Trump 00:52:30-00:52:47 (16 sec) MEDIUM (1.562)

I've heard of many people are given wedding parties. I've given -- wait a minute. I've given -- well, I don't know, maybe he didn't do a background check, but I've given -- I've given wedding parties for numerous people. They get married, I give them a party. Uh, I give them parties at beautiful places like Mar a Lago and others.

Well, it's totally -- it's totally allowed and a lot of people have parties and all, but it's totally allowed. But as I understand it, he paid them back. He didn't want to have that, so I hear [illegible] Uh, I don't -- I don't -- I don't know. I don't know. I don't know.

I still don't know what --

Question 00:53:35-00:53:38 (3 sec) NO STRESSLENS

What do you envision the ban to look like, sir?

Note 00:53:38-00:53:38 (sec) NO STRESSLENS

[Crosstalk]

Donald Trump 00:53:38-00:53:58 (20 sec) NO SIGNAL (0)

Oh, the ban on the free press, right? Uh, a very simple ban. I don't want them in my office. I don't want them here. I would say the ban would go as far as you can. And if they could straighten themselves out, you know, if they could straighten themselves out, I'd love it. Look, they're very dishonest people.

Donald Trump 00:53:58-00:54:24 (27 sec) WEAK (1.066)

They write in a very dishonest way. Uh, ABC Fake News gave me $16 million that was agreed to, $16 million that I won from ABC News because George Papadopoulos wrote incorrect stuff. CBS gave me $38 million because they broadcast Kamala Harris on 60 Minutes and the question bore no relationship to what she said.

Donald Trump 00:54:24-00:54:53 (29 sec) NO SIGNAL (0.931)

You saw that. I'm right now suing BBC because they have -- the granddaddy of them all. They have where I said walk freely and patriotically having to do with January 6th. And they put horrible fighting words into my mouth, with my -- with me actually saying it. I said, I never said that. And when we checked it was BBC actually changed my language and they put words in my mouth.

Donald Trump 00:54:53-00:55:12 (19 sec) WEAK (1.102)

That's the furthest I've seen. So that we have numerous lawsuits. We'll be suing these people too. But the ban is because they are fake news. They cannot write the truth. And Politico is very bad. And Politico, frankly, I think what they did was illegal. They accepted a -- the world's largest subscription.

Donald Trump 00:55:12-00:55:35 (24 sec) WEAK (1.209)

They got $8 million or something like that for a subscription to their stupid, uh, you know, lightweight paper. But I will say, Politico and MS NOW, which nobody ever heard of, and CNN, which is doing very poorly, the reason they do so poorly is because they have no credibility. And if they had credibility, I wouldn't be sitting here right now.

Donald Trump 00:55:35-00:55:46 (11 sec) NO SIGNAL (0.437)

So we are banning them, yes, we are, and there may be others to follow. Thank you very much, everybody. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Aide 00:55:46-00:55:52 (5 sec) NO STRESSLENS

Thank you. Thank you guys. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you guys.

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EXHIBIT C

Truth Details
3343 replies

Donald J. Trump
@realDonaldTrump

The White House is not instituting an assault on the Free Press, something which I cherish. It is instituting an assault on the FAKE NEWS, something that has grown like Cancer in our beloved United States of America. It is corrupt, purposeful, pervasive, fully coordinated, and totally out of control. It is a threat to our National Security, and must be stopped, NOW! Thank you for your attention to this matter. President DONALD J. TRUMP

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EXHIBIT D

Truth Details
4286 replies

Donald J. Trump
@realDonaldTrump

As expected, Fake News CNN, Politico (Pay back the 8 Million Dollar contribution made by the U.S. Government to keep them afloat!), and MSNOW (formerly known as MSDNC!), have brought suit to gain access to the White House, and your President, ME! They have drawn a great Judge, for them, a man who ruled in favor of Jim Acosta, who now seems to have disappeared from the Planet. The Judge's name is Tim Kelly, and he was, sadly, appointed by "TRUMP." In other words, almost without question and, as usual, we'll go for appeal because Fake News people and publications that only write negatively, and who violate our National Security by writing false and defamatory stories with unknown "sources," shouldn't be allowed access to the most important Office anywhere in the World. It is called the Oval Office, and it should be treated with Decorum, Respect, and Dignity, not defiled by Third Rate Clowns, who purposefully distort, twist, and degrade with everything they write or publish. Virtually every story about me, or anything having to do with me, is negative, wrong and, in many cases, DANGEROUS for our Country! No matter how GREAT my Achievements, they trivialize and demean. The fact is, I won all seven Swing States, the Popular Vote, the Electoral College (312 to 226), and the Counties throughout America by 86%, and yet it is reported that I get 94% bad publicity. With such a Crooked and Corrupt Press, how did I win in such a LANDSLIDE? It is because the Media has NO credibility, and that is a very bad thing for our Nation! Why should I have to give "access" to such people? Perhaps Judge Kelly could explain that! In any event, I have an obligation to fight for the Success and Safety of our Country. FAKE NEWS IS A THREAT TO DEMOCRACY, and I will do whatever is necessary to make sure that the U.S.A. thrives. MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN! President DONALD J. TRUMP

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EXHIBIT E

PRESIDENT TRUMP MAKES AN ANNOUNCEMENT, SEP. 28, 2026 WATCH NOW PRESIDENT TRUMP MAKES AN ANNOUNCEMENT, SEP. 28, 2026 WATCH NOW PRESIDENT TRUMP MAKES AN ANNOUNCEMENT, SEP. 28, 2026 WATCH NOW PRESID
Case 1:26-cv-03287-TJK Document 32-7 Filed 09/28/26 Page 2 of 5
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RELEASES

White House Access Is a Privilege — Not a Right

The White House | September 21, 2026

Last week, President Donald J. Trump removed CNN, MS NOW, and Politico from the White House grounds after years of false reporting. The First Amendment protects their right to publish; it does not entitle them to a hard pass, briefing room seat, or place in the press pool.

Access changes are nothing new. What is new, however, is the sudden claim that it becomes sacred only when the outlets are friendly to the Radical Left. The rule was never "every outlet gets in." It was always "our side stays in."

For years, Democrat Administrations have restricted, punished, and locked out the press.

2009: The Obama White House branded Fox News as the "research arm" and "communications arm" of the Republican Party, barred it from a round of exclusive Sunday show interviews, instructed agencies to "skip" including it in pooled coverage, derided it as "really not news," and undertook an all-out effort to isolate the organization. Barack Hussein Obama now calls a Fox ban "unimaginable," but his White House tried it — and his spokesman admitted they were willing to do it.



2010: The Obama Justice Department labeled Fox News correspondent James Rosen a possible "co-conspirator" in a criminal leak case, secretly monitored his emails and phone calls, and tracked his movements — an "unprecedented" level of surveillance and intimidation of a journalist over his reporting.

2011: Obama White House officials restricted the *Boston Herald* from coverage — writing that pool slots depended on covering Obama "fairly" — after the paper ran a front page Mitt Romney op-ed.

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Romney Op-Ed:

MEDIAITE

White House Refuses Access To *Boston Herald*, Calls Out Mitt Romney's Front Page Op-Ed

2011: After a *San Francisco Chronicle* reporter recorded protesters interrupting an Obama fundraiser, White House officials threatened to strip the outlet from access and warned of retaliation if the paper reported on it.

2012: The Obama Justice Department secretly seized two months of telephone records covering more than 20 Associated Press lines used by more than a dozen journalists — targeting them over their reporting.

2023: The Biden White House blocked *New York Post* reporter Steven Nelson from covering the President's only daytime public event — despite empty seats in the room — after the reporter pressed Biden on his family's shady business dealings.

NEW YORK POST

White House bans The Post from Biden event as Hunter indictment looms

2023: The Biden Administration restricted more than 440 reporters from White House access through a new, retroactive press credentialing process — with independent and conservative journalists taking a heavy share of the hit. The White House Correspondents' Association barely objected.

FOX NEWS channel

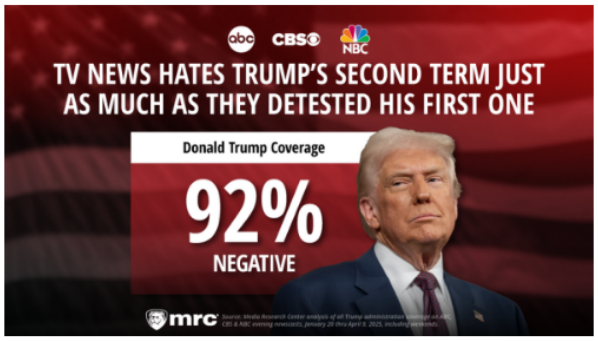
FLASHBACK: Biden also changed White House press pool, cutting off more than 440 reporters' credentials

2008: In the Obama campaign's final days, senior campaign officials pulled reporters from three prominent outlets off the traveling press plane — restricting them from coverage after the papers endorsed Obama's opponent.

2021: The same media now suing once urged a ban on Fox News. CNN's Brian Stelter repeatedly floated removing Fox News from the White House press tool as a "political tool,"

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2021: The same media now suing once urged a ban on Fox News. CNN's Brian Stelter repeatedly floated removing Fox News from the White House press tool as a "political tool," and later even suggested Fox News be dropped from cable altogether.



During the first 100 days of President Trump's second term, the Media Research Center found that 92% of coverage by mainstream outlets was negative compared to nearly 60% positive coverage during the same period under Biden. That's more like a political operation with cameras than a free press holding power to account.

No President is required to host a hostile operation on the grounds. Access has always been a privilege — and President Trump is applying that rule.

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White House App Hits No. 1 in News and Cracks App Store Top 20 as Americans Tune Out Fake News

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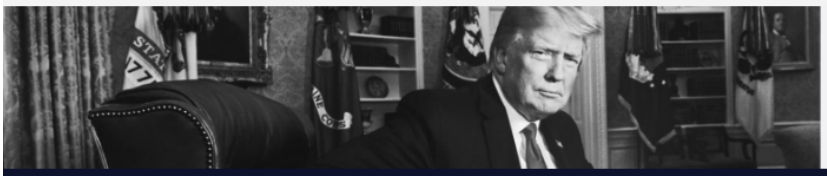
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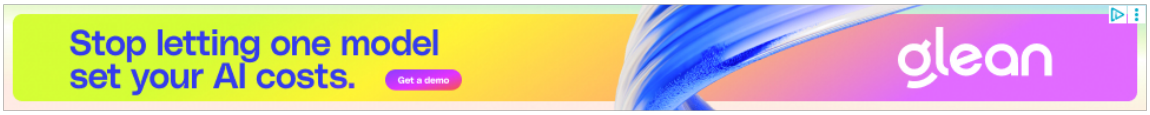
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WHWIRE GET THE FACTS →

EXHIBIT F



Sep 22, 2026 - Politics & Policy

"You shouldn't be here": Trump calls out CNN's Kaitlan Collins at U.N.



Herb Scribner





Asked about a poll showing broad pessimism about the Iran war, President Trump told CNN's Kaitlan Collins, "You shouldn't be here," Tuesday morning at the United Nations General Assembly.

Why it matters: The exchange brought Trump's fight with major news organizations to an event outside White House grounds as the dispute heads to federal court.

What they're saying: Ahead of his speech at the UN Tuesday morning, Trump fielded questions, including one from Collins about findings showing that two-thirds of Americans think the U.S. is losing the Iran war.

- Trump replied: "I'm surprised that CNN is here covering me. You shouldn't be here. You should not be here covering me. You said you weren't going to cover me. You shouldn't be covering me."

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- Collins told Trump that CNN was credentialed by the UN to cover Tuesday's event.

Catch up quick: Trump said Friday he was banning CNN, MS NOW and Politico from the White House, and reporters from the three outlets were denied access beginning Saturday.

- The move prompted backlash from those outlets and a broader coalition of major news organizations.
- The White House TV pool suspended coverage of presidential events requiring pool coverage, a rare coordinated response among rival networks.

Between the lines: Trump's White House press ban doesn't apply to events at UN headquarters, where reporters are credentialed by the UN.

The latest: CNN, MS NOW, and Politico filed a First Amendment lawsuit Monday alleging the White House retaliated against them by denying press access.

- Trump administration officials argue that the White House has the authority to restrict reporters' access to certain spaces, while legal experts contend that precedent supports the news outlets, Axios' Sara Fischer writes.

Go deeper: "National security" becomes Trump's executive sledgehammer

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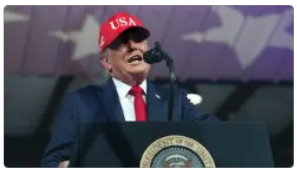


World | Sep 21, 2026



President's UN trip will not have a TV camera

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Politics & Policy Sep 19, 2026

Trump bans CNN, MS NOW and Politico from White House

Go deeper (2 min. read) →

Uber A message from Uber

President Trump on The Axios Show



The Axios Show, presented by Uber, continues with President Trump in a wide-ranging conversation with Axios' Marc Caputo about power, war and America's role in the world.

Watch here.



Politics & Policy Sep 21, 2026

CNN, MS NOW, Politico sues White House over blocked access

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White House press ban set to continue for now after hearing ends without ruling



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Politics & Policy Sep 21, 2026

Trump inaudible during TV blackout: What the press pool does

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AXIOS Axios Media Inc., 2026

EXHIBIT G

Truth Details

2217 replies

Donald J. Trump
@realDonaldTrump

All of the SLEAZEBAGS, like Third Rate "Reporter," Kaitlan Collins, of Fake News CNN, a truly unhappy person, said they weren't going to be covering me. Then why were they ranting and raving like Lunatics, in the Press Area, at the United Nations? Why was she there? She's got a "TRUMP" addiction, and so does CNN and MSDNC. They're all sick, treasonous, and demented! The "good news" is that they have a great, for them, and totally disloyal Judge. MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN! President DONALD J. TRUMP

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EXHIBIT H

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

CABLE NEWS NETWORK, INC., et al.,

Plaintiff(s),

v.

DONALD J. TRUMP, et al,

Defendant(s).

Civil Case
No. 26-03287 TJK

Washington, D.C.

September 23, 2026

MOTION HEARING HELD VIA ZOOM
BEFORE THE HONORABLE TIMOTHY J. KELLY
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

APPEARANCES:

FOR THE PLAINTIFF(S): Theodore Boutrous, Jr., Esquire
Connor S. Sullivan, Esquire
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, LLP
333 South Grand Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90071

KatieLynn Boyd Townsend, Esquire
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, LLP
200 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10166

FOR THE DEFENDANT(S): Michael K. Velchik, Esquire
United States Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20530

REPORTED BY: Tammy Nestor, RMR, CRR
Official Court Reporter
333 Constitution Avenue Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20001
tammy_nestor@dcd.uscourts.gov

presumably, if they found that someone was a national security threat, a spy, a foreign agent, or had done something that made it, the reporter, not the reporter's reporting, but the reporter him or herself, there would, of course, be authority by the White House to deal with that.

THE COURT: So, again, we shouldn't spend too much time on here because it is not this case for sure, but you don't think -- I shouldn't say it's not this case for sure. But you think you would place the reporter's reporting outside the possibility that that could warrant reporting about not spying, but reporting, right, that still, nonetheless, an administration came forward and said we think that reporting reported classified information and endangered national security, that scenario you don't think could ever justify pulling the hard pass?

MR. BOUTROUS: I do not think that would justify pulling a hard pass. I think it would be viewpoint discrimination. And for all these years, for, you know, a hundred years, presidents have been objecting, and reporters have been reporting on sensitive national security issues.

Look at the Pentagon Paper case. You look at these cases, that's really baked into the system. So once you start going down that road, it is blatant viewpoint discrimination, content discrimination. And in that sense, that is this case. That's what they are saying now in their

briefs. That's what President Trump is saying. He didn't invoke national security.

THE COURT: You're right. That's why I caught myself. That is a piece of the argument. I am, like you said, I am skeptical they have connected it all the way through, but yes, you're right, that is, at least on some level of generality, the argument being made, correct.

All right. Anything further affirmative that you want to say?

MR. BOUTROUS: If I could just, you know, quickly on retaliation, this is just a clear retaliation case. So when we look at the fact that we have First Amendment activity, no dispute, the President himself said that these bans on these organizations and reporters was in his Truth Social post as a result of their bad reporting that he thinks is, you know, negative and false.

Clearly, it's the kind of adverse action that would deter and have a chilling effect on a reasonable person, reasonable reporter, and so I think it's First Amendment retaliation.

I do think, Your Honor, since I'm very concerned that even if the Court grants a TRO on due process grounds, the shenanigans will continue. And I think of the Trump versus Cook decision from the Supreme Court about how courts don't have to have naivete that ordinary citizens wouldn't. We

can kind of see where we are headed here. There's going to be a series of faux due process efforts. And so that's why I think the First Amendment issues are so clear. And I know this Court is going to be deferential to the executive branch and to the prerogatives, but here it's just so over the top, I think it's clear retaliation.

And then on the nonpublic forum, on the First Amendment issues, I think it's really important, first, we have Mahoney, which talks about standardless discretion, which this is President Trump and their exercising standardless discretion. The Court in the D.C. Circuit there and in Ateba and in Sherrill, Sherrill was sort of a precursor to the nonpublic forum doctrine, every D.C. Circuit opinion agrees that the White House press facilities, the press briefing room, the work spaces, other areas where the press has always been able to do reporting and gather news is a nonpublic forum that triggers First Amendment protection, and restrictions and actions by the government cannot be viewpoint driven and can't be unreasonable.

And I'll just, on this point, you know, focus on the fact that they rely heavily on the D.C. Circuit's stay decision in the AP case, which has no binding effect, but I will take it for these purposes. They cite Sherrill, and they say Sherrill says there's a First Amendment right. The

EXHIBIT I

GIBSON DUNN

Theodore J. Boutrous Jr.
Partner
T: +1 213.229.7804
M: +1 310.871.7093
tboutrous@gibsondunn.com

September 25, 2026

Mr. Michael K. Velchik
Senior Counsel
Civil Division, U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530
michael.velchik@usdoj.gov

Dear Mr. Velchik:

We write on behalf of our clients Cable News Network, Inc. (CNN), MS NOW Cable, LLC (MS NOW), and POLITICO LLC (POLITICO), in response to the letters the White House Press Office sent to those organizations on September 22, 2026, and that were attached to your opposition to our motion for a temporary restraining order in *CNN, et al. v. Trump, et al.*, No. 26-cv-03287 (D.D.C.), at Dkts. 16-1 to 16-3. In light of the District Court's temporary restraining order issued on September 24, 2026, Dkt. 24, we do not believe further response to those letters is warranted at this time. Our clients reserve all rights.

Respectfully,

Theodore J. Boutrous Jr.

EXHIBIT J

Truth Details
1237 replies

Donald J. Trump
@realDonaldTrump

Why should perpetrators of FAKE NEWS, like CNN and MSDNC, be allowed access to a very sacred place, the White House? Despite my big Election Win, almost 100% of "TRUMP" coverage is negative, and has been for years!

Defiant White House slaps down journalists: 'Access is a privilege - not a right': justthenews.com/politics-polic



justthenews.com
Defiant White House slaps down journalists: 'Access is a privilege - not a right'
"No President is required to host a hostile operation on the grounds. Access has always been a privilege — and President Trump is applying that rule," the statement read.

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EXHIBIT K

Truth Details
5707 replies

Donald J. Trump
@realDonaldTrump

FAKE NEWS SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED IN THE WHITE HOUSE!!! IT HAS GONE ON FAR TOO LONG, AT A TREMENDOUS COST TO OUR COUNTRY. President DJT

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EXHIBIT L

Truth Details
1662 replies

Donald J. Trump
@realDonaldTrump

Another Fake Story is that a very close friend of mine, a man I endorsed very early, Byron Donalds, is taking me off his website and Campaign materials. I won Florida by Millions of Votes, getting the Highest Vote Tally in History — Three times! My numbers are better now than they were at the Election. The story started with the Woke and Dying USA Today, and then, of course, it permeated to CNN, The Washington Post, The Guardian, Newsweek, The New York Times, ABC, NBC, Forbes, and others — and I am more popular in Florida today, even more than I was in the last Record Breaking Election! This is the Corrupt Media Outlets trying to demean. Byron immediately put this picture out, and statements that it was not true, and greatly accelerated the fact that I have strongly Endorsed him. Two Rallies are already scheduled in Florida for Byron and, will be, as always, "SOLD OUT!" This was a Fake Story, with no sources, and the only justification for it is they want to stop my ever upward momentum. The Fake News Media been doing this for years, I call them out, but they should really be called out by the Courts, and should not be allowed to enter the White House premises, or Press Room, because they are CORRUPT and DISHONEST! It is amazing that I have succeeded so long in Politics. These are sick people that play the game, and it's happening all over our Country. Something must be done about it. The Courts must allow us to stop this totally dishonest form of Politics. If America does not have a Free and Honest Press, it can never be truly Great Again, and I will make it my mission to call out the Hypocrisy, Dishonesty, and LIES that are being perpetrated upon the American Public! Byron Donalds has my Complete and Total Endorsement, and he is leading against a Failed and Totally Incompetent Dumocrat Candidate, David Jolly, a known Lefty Loser, and someone who does not stand for the Values of our Great Floridian Patriots. They are doing everything possible to make my beautiful "MAGA" hate Republicans when, actually, "MAGA" people are smart, and it's just driving them closer to us! It is truly amazing that I have been able to survive for so many years, politically, getting actually more Votes (TOO BIG TO RIG!) than I even did in 2016 and 2020 (A totally Rigged Election!). God must be looking down on me! If Florida thought the story that Byron "dropped" me was true, he would lose the Election, and that would be a terrible thing because he's going to be a fantastic Governor! Thank you for your attention to this matter. President DONALD J. TRUMP

ron Donalds
ByronDonalds

ud to have President Trump's endorsement.

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1662 replies

Incompetent Democrat Candidate, David Jolly, a known Lefty Loser, and someone who does not stand for the Values of our Great Floridian Patriots. They are doing everything possible to make my beautiful "MAGA" hate Republicans when, actually, "MAGA" people are smart, and it's just driving them closer to us! It is truly amazing that I have been able to survive for so many years, politically, getting actually more Votes (TOO BIG TO RIG!) than I even did in 2016 and 2020 (A totally Rigged Election!). God must be looking down on me! If Florida thought the story that Byron "dropped" me was true, he would lose the Election, and that would be a terrible thing because he's going to be a fantastic Governor! Thank you for your attention to this matter. President DONALD J. TRUMP

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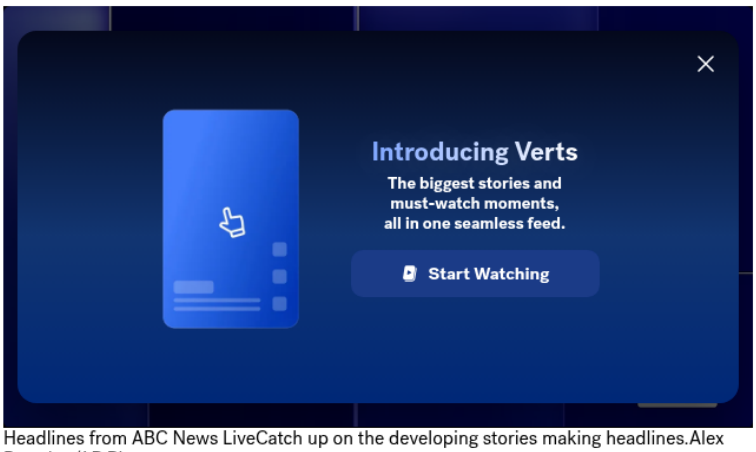
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EXHIBIT M

'This Week' Transcript 9-27-26: Attorney General Todd Blanche & Sen. Mark Kelly

This is a rush transcript of "This Week" airing Sunday, September 27.

By **ABC News**
September 27, 2026, 10:40 AM ET • 47 min read



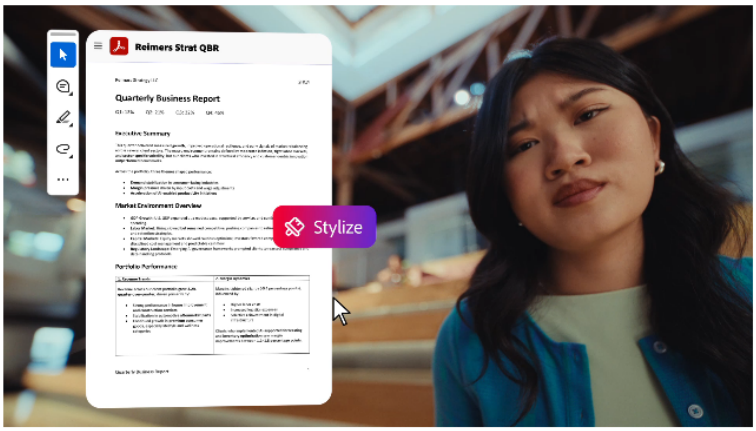
Headlines from ABC News LiveCatch up on the developing stories making headlines.Alex Brandon/AP Photo

A rush transcript of "This Week with George Stephanopoulos" airing on Sunday, September 27, 2026 on ABC News is below. This copy may not be in its final form, may be updated and may contain minor transcription errors. For previous show transcripts, visit the "This Week" transcript archive.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

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AD



MARTHA RADDATZ, ABC "THIS WEEK" CO-ANCHOR: Top Republicans

MARTHA RADDATZ, ABC "THIS WEEK" CO-ANCHOR: Top Republicans break with President Trump just weeks before the midterms. "THIS WEEK" starts right now.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

RADDATZ: Survival mode.

MIKE ROGERS, (R) MICHIGAN SENATE CANDIDATE: The war with Iran needs to end and end quickly.

RADDATZ: As President Trump's approval ratings hit record lows, some Republicans distanced themselves.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Government corruption is a major concern.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Our commander in chief should keep in mind that his guest is a brutal, unelected and oppressive dictator.

RADDATZ: We're on the ground in battleground Michigan.

You don't mind high gas prices? You don't mind higher grocery prices?

JOHN LIPOSKY, MICHIGAN VOTER: I really don't.

RADDATZ: Can Democrats hold the critical Senate seat?

ALYSA DIEBOLT, MACOMB COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY CHAIR: Abdul is talking about, like, things that really, really matter to people.

RADDATZ: And with the president's plunging poll numbers, are deep red states now in play. This morning, Democratic Senator Mark Kelly joins us live.

Press standoff.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: The White House says it is barring CNN from flying on Air Force One.

RADDATZ: CNN stopped from accompanying Trump on a trip after banned media outlets returned to the White House. We'll speak with Attorney General Todd Blanche, of "THIS WEEK" exclusive.

And --

DONALD TRUMP, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: We really enjoyed it. And I think we've made tremendous strides.

RADDATZ: After world leaders descend on the U.N., President Trump rolls out the red carpet for Chinese President Xi, but makes little progress. Our roundtable on a week of high-stakes diplomacy.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

ANNOUNCER: From ABC News, it's "THIS WEEK." Here now, Martha Raddatz.

out the red carpet for Chinese President Xi, but makes little progress. Our roundtable: a review of high-stakes diplomacy.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

ANNOUNCER: From ABC News, it's "THIS WEEK." Here now, Martha Raddatz.

RADDATZ: Good morning and welcome to "THIS WEEK."

With only five weeks to go until the consequential midterm election and poll after poll showing Democrats with an increasing lead. Some Republicans have entered survival mode, distancing themselves from a staggeringly unpopular president. A CNN poll out this week found just 27 percent of Americans approve of how President Trump is handling the economy. At this point, ahead of the 2018 midterms, where Republicans lost 40 seats in the House, that approval number was 49 percent.

And while Donald Trump was hosting lavish dinners for the president of China this week, it was the war in Iran on voters' minds. That CNN poll found 78 percent of Americans think Trump is not doing enough to end the conflict. With gas prices spiking and diesel at record highs, Republicans running in tight races are clearly starting to get worried.

This week, candidates in Iowa, Ohio, Wisconsin, and Michigan all criticized Trump's war in Iran. So, we traveled to a key county in battleground Michigan to hear from voters there. And one of those candidates feeling the heat from voters.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

RADDATZ (voice over): Here in Michigan, as the midterm fast approaches, the economic fallout from the war in Iran could prove the decisive factor this November.

CHRIS VITALE, MICHIGAN VOTER: I think gas prices are heavily on people's minds.

RADDATZ (voice over): This week, several Republicans in tight races across the country now distancing themselves from President Trump.

REP. ASHLEY HINSON, (R) IOWA SENATE CANDIDATE: I've called for an immediate and successful end to the war in Iran.

REP. TOM TIFFANY, (R) WISCONSIN GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATE: I just believe that we should be exiting Iran.

RADDATZ (voice over): And among them, Michigan's Mike Rogers.

MIKE ROGERS, (R) MICHIGAN SENATE CANDIDATE: The war with Iran needs to end and end quickly.

RADDATZ (voice over): Rogers is in a tight Senate race here. But he was not the only Michigan Republican who spoke out against the war.

Congressman John James, who is running for governor, did, too.

REP. JOHN JAMES, (R) MICHIGAN GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATE: It's been seven months. Nobody's interested in a forever war.

RADDATZ (voice over): We met up with James at Rams Horn Diner in

Congressman John James, who is running for governor, R-10.

REP. JOHN JAMES, (R) MICHIGAN GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATE: It's been seven months. Nobody's interested in a forever war.

RADDATZ (voice over): We met up with James at Rams Horn Diner in Rochester Hills, part of Michigan's Macomb County, and the district he represents.

RADDATZ: You, in a sense, went against Donald Trump. Why?

JAMES: Nobody hates war more than a veteran. It should be no surprise that a veteran hates war and wants it to be over with as quickly as possible. But specifically related to the president, I can agree with the president without worshiping him. I can disagree with him without attacking him. And so, if the president's doing things that works for Michigan, great, I'll support it. If he's doing things that hurt Michigan, I'm going to push back against it and call it out.

RADDATZ: How do you end the war quickly and make sure they don't have a nuclear weapon? What's your solution?

JAMES: The best way to do that is to make sure we continue to get the support of our gulf allies that continue to want -- maintain pressure on Iran. We have to make sure that we continue to deepen our alliances around the world, entertaining even China to be an ally in nuclear nonproliferation.

RADDATZ: Isn't that what President Trump is trying to do?

JAMES: I think that's exactly what he's trying to do.

RADDATZ (voice over): The patrons we spoke to here all supported President Trump, but had varying feelings on the war and the state of the race.

JOHN LIPOSKY, MICHIGAN VOTER: They didn't do it fast enough and hard enough. If they had, it would be over.

BILL CAMPBELL, MICHIGAN VOTER: I think he's doing all he can to bring it to an end. It's just turned out to be much more of a quagmire than they expected.

RADDATZ: So, gas, $4.79.

CAMPBELL: Well, I don't like that, but I think it's going to come down. I hope so.

RADDATZ: The economy is top of mind for the majority of voters, but especially here in Michigan, where households pay more in tariff costs than any place in the country.

RADDATZ (voice over): Trump won Macomb County in 2024, 2020, and 2016. But it was not always Republican. Former President Barack Obama won it twice, and Democratic Governor Gretchen Whitmer won the county by five points in 2022.

MAYOR MICHAEL TAYLOR, STERLING HEIGHTS, MI: We're usually a bellwether for the state of Michigan.

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MAYOR MICHAEL TAYLOR, STERLING HEIGHTS, MI: We're usually a bellwether for the state of Michigan.

RADDATZ (voice over): Sterling Heights Mayor Michael Taylor voted for Trump in 2016.

TAYLOR: I was quickly disillusioned with him and soured him on the Republican Party really as a whole.

RADDATZ (voice over): He's endorsed Democratic Senate Nominee Abdul El-Sayed.

TAYLOR: Probably the most progressive candidate I can remember being on a statewide ballot.

RADDATZ (voice over): The Senate race, a major test of whether progressives can win in statewide elections. And it's a must win for Democrats in their quest to retake the Senate.

TAYLOR: Macomb is very Republican, is very pro-Trump, but I think people are getting sick and tired of being promised things and not getting delivered -- not getting those promises delivered on.

RADDATZ (voice over): Democrats are certainly hoping economic frustration will motivate voters to the polls in Michigan and across the country.

ALYSA DIEBOLT, MACOMB COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY CHAIR: For the first time in my life, since I've been a driver, I didn't fill my tank up all the way. That's crazy.

RADDATZ (voice over): Alysa Diebolt chairs the Macomb County Democratic Party. We met her at the Dovetail Coffee Shop in Warren, an establishment El-Sayed has been known to frequent.

DIEBOLT: Macomb County is -- was Obama, Obama, Trump, Trump, Trump. But in the middle of Trump, Trump, Trump, we were Whitmer and Whitmer by double digits. So, if there's ever a time where I'm pretty confident in Macomb County voters to see the light and see what the good people of the Democratic Party are fighting for them, it is in 2026.

RADDATZ (voice over): Dovetail owner Mike Anton sees El-Sayed's campaign message as a breath of fresh air, and says concerns about his background don't add up.

MIKE ANTON, MICHIGAN VOTER: If you listen to what Abdul has to say, he sounds like a well-spoken, clever person who knows what he's talking about, and people are blowing it out of proportion, that he's going to go in there and there's going to be sharia law and all this is going to happen. I just can't see that happening.

RADDATZ (voice over): But Macomb County Republican Vice Chair Barbara VanSyckel says that's exactly what she's most concerned about.

BARBARA VANSYCKEL, MACOMB COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY VICE CHAIR: El-Sayed is talking about sharia law, and that would be a huge deal.

RADDATZ (voice over): Macomb County Republican Vice Chair Barbara VanSyckel says that's exactly what she's most concerned about.

BARBARA VANSYCKEL, MACOMB COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY VICE CHAIR: El-Sayed is talking about sharia law, and that would be a huge deal.

RADDATZ: Do you really believe he would put in sharia law?

VANSYCKEL: I absolutely do.

RADDATZ: And why do you believe that if he says it's not true?

VANSYCKEL: Because it's -- because it's his religion. And I've heard him say it. I've heard him say it on interviews. He absolutely wants sharia law.

RADDATZ: He wants sharia law.

VANSYCKEL: Absolutely.

RADDATZ: You've heard -- where have you heard those interviews?

VANSYCKEL: I've heard those -- I've seen several on Facebook. I've seen several, Fox News.

RADDATZ (voice over): El-Sayed has never called for sharia law to be implemented.

Retired auto worker Chris Vitale doesn't give credence to such misinformation spreading online.

CHRIS VITALE, MICHIGAN VOTER: I'm not really too concerned about things like that. You know, I feel like every party has infantry soldiers that make hay out of nothing.

RADDATZ (voice over): Vitalie voted for Obama in 2008, and he supported Trump the last three elections. He says he's feeling some economic pain but hopes voters consider the long term when it comes to the war.

VITALE: Obviously, there's things to be concerned with right now that I wish we weren't dealing with right now. But I also feel like if it's necessary to have some short term sacrifice to not have a North Korea in the Middle East, then I'll bite that bullet.

RADDATZ (voice over): And with President Trump saying voters should act like he's on the ballot in November, it's states like Michigan that will decide whether Republicans will hang on to power in Washington, or if Democrats will hold new sway in the nation's capital.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

RADDATZ (on camera): And the founder of the Cook Political Report, Charlie Cook, is here with me now to share his wisdom.

And, Charlie, you saw those Republicans this week, those House Republicans in particular, distancing themselves from President Trump and the war in Iran. This comes as you shifted 15 House races this week. Tell us what's happening.

CHARLIE COOK, COOK POLITICAL REPORT FOUNDER & CONTRIBUTOR: Yes. Just over the last, say 30 days, you're having basically the impact of

And, Charlie, you saw those Republicans this week, those House Republicans in particular distancing themselves from President Trump and the war in Iran. This comes as you shifted 15 House races this week. Tell us what's happening.

CHARLIE COOK, COOK POLITICAL REPORT FOUNDER & CONTRIBUTOR: Yes. Just over the last, say 30 days, you're having basically the impact of fuel prices, you know, gasoline, diesel, fuel, oil, fertilizer hitting here, tariffs hitting here, and Republicans for the first time starting to want to put some daylight between themselves and the president.

But it's difficult because he's got a MAGA base that doesn't want them to do that. So they're getting pushed really, really, really hard, getting squeezed.

RADDATZ: Was there anything particularly about this week, why it happened?

COOK: I think it's voters -- typical voters are just now focusing on the election. And so, all these things came together at the same time right as voters start paying attention, and it was almost like the bottom fell out suddenly.

RADDATZ: You said you shifted 15 House races toward the Democrats, with your prediction that the GOP will take the House.

COOK: Yes, my old newsletter did -- made those rating changes, but I would agree -- I agree completely that the House has been kind of a done deal for a good while. But the Senate, a year ago, it wasn't realistic to think that the Senate might flip, but now, it's very realistic.

RADDATZ: And where are you seeing that? We were just in Michigan, obviously, and the El-Sayed and Mike Rogers race?

COOK: Yes, I think North Carolina open seat there goes first. And then you have a whole group of Republican seats, Alaska, Iowa, maybe Kansas.

But at the same time, Democrats are defending Michigan where you were, where -- and Wisconsin a little bit and -- I'm sorry, Minnesota a little bit and New Hampshire.

But in Michigan -- it's where the focus is on President Trump, boy, it's really hurting. But when you have a Democratic nominee that's somewhat polarizing, controversial like you have in Michigan, that takes the attention away from Trump and goes on to the Democrat. That's where Democrats are struggling some.

RADDATZ: And you wrote that this is not a blue wave election, but it is a red undertow, that it won't be about Democrats winning voters as Republicans losing them.

Talk more about that.

COOK: Yeah, I mean, a wave is sort of uniform, very visible. But this is more of an undertow, a riptide that's kind of pulling down, but it's not uniform. It's hitting some places more than other places.

But it isn't pro-Democrat. It's anti-Trump, basically, and Republicans that have been supportive of the president.

RADDATZ: And what can Republicans do, do you think, to change that in very few weeks we have left here?

uniform. It's hitting some places more than other places.

But it isn't pro-Democrat. It's anti-Trump, basically, and Republicans that have been supportive of the president.

RADDATZ: And what can Republicans do, do you think, to change that in very few weeks we have left here?

COOK: There's not a lot you can do. I mean, the thing is, this is normal. It's happened to every party in midterm elections where your -- your people get disillusioned and turn out low levels. The other side is energized, turning out big numbers. And then those fickle independent voters in the middle start breaking against you, and it's just as natural as it can be.

And we saw this same, Obama. It's actually normal, but this came together so quickly, and it was almost like the president jumped the shark finally, and things started coming home to roost that hadn't before.

RADDATZ: So, just as we sit here today, Charlie, your prediction?

COOK: How Democrats pick up the House in the 20s. You have 20 seats, a little bit more than that. And the Senate is probably four, right on the nose, three, four, five, but I'd say net loss -- gain of four for Democrats. So the Senate goes to 51-49. That seems to be a good guess right this second.

But there's so many really close races that -- and tight ones really don't break down the middle.

RADDATZ: That's exactly right. Thanks for joining us this morning. We always appreciate it.

COOK: Thank you.

RADDATZ: And I'm joined now by Democratic Senator Mark Kelly of Arizona.

Thanks for joining us this morning, Senator.

We know polls are looking strong for Democrats, but as Charlie just said, he describes it as a red undertow rather than a blue wave. Does he have a point?

SEN. MARK KELLY, (D) ARIZONA: Well, I don't, you know, know, you know, the exact reason why this is going to happen. I will say this -- as I've traveled across the country, Martha, war and tariffs caused by Donald Trump and enabled by the Republicans in the United States Congress are just killing the American people. I mean, they cannot afford their lives.

And when you can't -- when you're having a hard time feeding your kid, I mean, nothing else really matters.

So the American people are, you know, rightfully very upset with this administration. They should be. He's got his priorities all wrong.

I mean, our country's at war right now, and he has a big party in the White House a couple days ago. That’s not leadership.

So, I think there’s going to be a big turnout. I think some of these races are going to be close. And it really comes down to the fact that the American people are just struggling and Republicans and this president don’t have an answer.

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So, I think there's going to be a big turnout. I think some of these races are going to be close. And it really comes down to the fact that the American people are just struggling and Republicans and this president don't have an answer.

RADDATZ: Well, you're talking about Republicans. Let's talk about Democrats.

The new CNN poll this week found 74 percent of people disapprove of how Democratic leaders in Congress are handling their jobs. Your reaction to that poll?

KELLY: Well, I think we got to do a better job. And when we win back the House, and we hopefully win back the Senate, I hope your last guest is correct there, and we come out 51-49 or maybe a little bit better than that. I think that's possible. I think we have to have answers. We have to have -- we have to pass legislation. We have to send it to the president's desk. Hopefully, if it benefits the American people, he will sign it. I don't have tremendous confidence in his leadership here. But we're going to send him legislation. We're going to be focused on bringing down costs for the American people. We will have an answer to this.

RADDATZ: I want to go to one more figure in that poll that stood out to me, and that is that only 34 percent of people think the Democratic Party cares about people like them. What does that tell you? What do you do about it if people just aren't feeling it from the Democrats? If you're sort of a default or people stay away from the race.

KELLY: Well, I'll tell you what I'm doing about it. I've been traveling across the country, basically nonstop for the last six months. I've been in New Hampshire and Ohio, Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, Georgia, South Carolina, meeting with people. I've also been all over Arizona. I was just up at the -- on the Navajo Nation a couple weeks ago for the Navajo parade and just talking to people and trying to understand their challenges in their homes, in their schools, in their communities. And then, you know, we have to deliver. You know, there's no question about that. We are elected to do a job, and that's to make good decisions for the American people.

I don't see this president doing this. He got us into a war that jacked up costs and has cost the lives of service members and over 800 injured now. This thing has been a disaster. And the American people haven't gotten anything out of it.

RADDATZ: And I want to talk about the war in a minute. But just one more. I want to talk about the race in Maine. You were a supporter of Troy Jackson. Said he was a strong candidate. "The New York Times" poll puts him three points behind Republican Susan Collins. And yet the Democratic nominee for governor in Maine, Hannah Pingree, is 13 points ahead. So, what does that tell you about the strength of Troy Jackson?

KELLY: Well, I mean, I haven't been to Maine yet. I'm planning -- it might be on my schedule here in the coming weeks. Hey, I think Susan Collins, she's been in office a long time. She's the chair of the Appropriations Committee. I think people understand that and what that means and recognize it. You know, she's a -- she's a tough candidate.

But I'll also say that Susan Collins has almost at every turn enabled this

KELLY: Well, I mean, I haven't been to Maine yet. I'm planning -- it might be on my schedule later in the coming weeks. Hey, I think Susan Collins -- she's been in office a long time. She's the chair of the Appropriations Committee. I think people understand that and what that means and recognize it. You know, she's a -- she's a tough candidate.

But I'll also say that Susan Collins has almost at every turn enabled this president and hasn't put the necessary accountability that, especially in her position that she can to this White House and this administration. And I think Troy Jackson is like a regular guy. People get him. They understand him. I know he's working hard. And I think he has a real shot to win this race.

RADDATZ: I do want to talk about the war now, and you've made your point about what's happening there. The president did not accept any deal with the Iranians. The Iranians seem, I think, to believe that they should control the Strait. And that's not going to happen, I doubt. But what do you do at this point? We're in it. Do you just leave?

KELLY: Well, I mean, the president got into this without a strategic goal, without a plan, without a timeline, without an exit strategy. He's stuck. He's got his son-in-law trying to negotiate this with his golf and real estate buddy. I mean, they're not the best people in our country to do this. You have to get some professionals who understand the Iranians and know how to negotiate with them. We can't leave the Strait in the hands of the Iranians. They can't be allowed to get a nuclear weapon.

Hey, I think what the president would love to do is get back to where he was before he started this thing. The Iranians weren't racing to get a nuclear weapon. The Straits were open. And we didn't have over 20 dead service members and 800 injured. This thing has been a disaster, and it's been a mistake. And it's because of the failed leadership of this president.

RADDATZ: I want to ask you a quick answer on this if you can. Iranian -- Iran's president said this week in a meeting where I was, with several other reporters, that all of or most of the U.S. bases in the region are no longer usable. Is that accurate?

KELLY: I don't think that's accurate. No. Several of our bases have been struck. There has been significant damage. Combining the damage to our military equipment and the munitions expended and the additional costs of this war, we're talking about tens of billions of dollars, probably in excess of $40 billion at this point with no end in sight because the president doesn't know what to do. I mean, at this point, he doesn't have a lot of options.

RADDATZ: Senator, I just --

KELLY: You know, I --

RADDATZ: I want to move on if we can off Iran. Just I want to get your comments about A.I. and the meeting with President Xi. You were hoping they would talk about A.I.. Did you get any sense they did and it's going anywhere?

KELLY: I think they agreed to set up some sort of a working group. So that's not an agreement. It doesn't look like they had a serious discussion about this. This technology is moving very, very quickly. It could be very disruptive to hard working Americans could lose their jobs. There's safety concerns about this. And the White House, specifically the president,

anywhere?

KELLY: I think they agreed to set up some sort of a working group. So that's not an agreement. It doesn't look like they had a serious discussion about this. This technology is moving very, very quickly. It could be very disruptive to hard working Americans could lose their jobs. There's safety concerns about this. And the White House, specifically the president, doesn't seem to think we should put any guardrails in place.

At the same time, we can't allow the Chinese to win the race to getting the best A.I. technology. That would be a mistake. So this takes some balance. You got to be thoughtful about it. We have to put guardrails in place. There is significant risk here.

Martha, I think about this as I -- you know, I used to fly the space shuttle for a living and there are things that are catastrophic.

RADDATZ: We're just about out of time here. Go ahead, go ahead.

KELLY: Catastrophic risk. We got to consider it. Even when the probability is low, we've got to put things in place. And I also introduced some legislation on this week, you know, Make A.I. Work for Americans Act, addressing the economic impact.

RADDATZ: OK. Thanks so very much for joining us this morning, Senator.

Up next, my exclusive interview with Attorney General Todd Blanche on the president's effort to ban some press outlets and the Justice Department's role in policing A.I.. We're back in 90 seconds.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

UNIDENTIFIED REPORTER: -- respond now. Is there a particular reason to this?

DONALD TRUMP, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: No particular reason. It's just because --

UNIDENTIFIED REPORTER: The stories are (INAUDIBLE).

TRUMP: No. No, it's really just cumulative stories over the last two years. You get sick of it. They purposely write negative news, and they do that because they want to try and diminish the Republicans and a Republican administration.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

RADDATZ: President Trump responding to questions the day he banned multiple press outlets from access to the White House, a move put on temporary hold by a federal judge this week. Attorney General Todd Blanche joins me now.

Good morning, and thank you so much for joining us this morning. Let's get right to this. There was no TV pool coverage of the president's trip to Tennessee this weekend. It was supposed to be CNN. They said they were banned from Air Force One.

What is the justification for denying access?

Good morning, and thank you so much for joining us this morning. Let's get right to this. There was no TV pool coverage of the president's trip to Tennessee this weekend. It was supposed to be CNN. They said they were banned from Air Force One.

What is the justification for denying access?

TODD BLANCHE, U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL: Well, the president hasn't denied access. That's not the right way to describe it. This is -- what the president has said is that he is sick and tired of certain media outlets just refusing to report accurate news, and so -- look, it is a -- it is a privilege -- it is a privilege to be in the White House for anybody.

And that -- and the president -- the president knows that it's the people's house, and what you saw play out over the past week was really not just not -- even after the judge -- even after the White House let the reporters back in, they still refuse to use pool coverage. They still refuse to, on their own, make a decision to start covering the president again with the video.

But a lot of people saw the president. The president was not hidden from the American people at the -- at the football game in Tennessee yesterday. And really, the unfortunate and sad thing here is that after years and years and years of one-sided media coverage of the president from certain outlets, the president finally said it's not fair to the American people that this is happening and did something about it.

There's still obviously litigation going on, but the important thing, Martha, is to know that that being in the White House is a privilege. It's not a -- it's not a right.

RADDATZ: Understood and understood that on Air Force One, but CNN was denied access to Air Force One, and you are saying it is because of the way they report. Has nothing to do with national security.

BLANCHE: I'm not saying -- no. I'm not -- I wasn't talking about Air Force One. It's when you say denied access to Air Force One, the White House routinely decides who can go on Air Force One. This wasn't a one-time denial of CNN. There's all kinds of times when certain reporters are not flying or are flying --

(CROSSTALK)

RADDATZ: CNN was the pool that day. CNN was the pool that day. They were denied entry to Air Force One.

BLANCHE: I understand that, but the -- it's not unusual, and as a matter of fact, it's common every time the president travels that he and his team decide which reporters get to travel with the president. And so, what you have now is you have -- you have certain news outlets upset and frustrated at what happened last week, and so that they're refusing to use pool coverage.

The president has every right to decide who gets to fly on his plane, and it is national security, especially on Air Force One, and especially at the White House. And so, it's not just -- it's not just the fact that they refuse to report anything accurately.

By the way, that is what is a national security problem. When you have completely misinformation, complete misinformation coming out of the White House, that affects our relationship with our foreign partners, that affects our relationship with our foreign enemies. And so this is -- this is

House. And so, it's not just -- it's not just the fact that they refuse to report anything accurately.

By the way, that is what is a national security problem. When you have completely misinformation, complete misinformation coming out of the White House, that affects our relationship with our foreign partners, that affects our relationship with our foreign enemies. And so this is -- this is just not about the fact that they're refusing to report accurate news. It's all about the information that the American people have a right to hear coming out of our - what should be respected media outlets.

RADDATZ: You clearly think you had a strong case, but the temporary restraining order was granted. The judge was skeptical of the argument the department made in court filings to defend this ban on the grounds of national security.

He wrote, "For one thing, nothing in the record that predates this suit suggests that the revocation of plaintiffs' hard passes was motivated by national security concerns. Certainly, that is not what President Trump said when he announced that he was banning plaintiffs from the White House. Instead, he focused on the alleged lack of truthfulness and negativity of plaintiffs' reporting."

The president said nothing about national security when he announced this ban, and clearly, you are very interested in the fact of what the press says and how they say it.

BLANCHE: Well, I'm not going to get into what the judge says. That litigation is ongoing, but our position has been clear from the beginning. What they say is exactly the issue when it comes to national security. I mean, anybody -- there's not, there can't be a disagreement. If there's --

RADDATZ: Give us an example. If there's -- I mean, there was one example where the press had reported something that White House officials said --

(CROSSTALK)

BLANCHE: When CNN -- I'm sorry, wait, give you an example of when CNN doesn't report accurately? You cannot be asking me that. They don't even disagree. There's not even a real dispute that the information coming out of CNN and some of these other networks is wholly and completely almost -- almost 100 percent --

(CROSSTALK)

RADDATZ: The judge -- the judge decided this was not based on national security. So what do you think?

BLANCHE: The judge issued a temporary -- the judge issued a temporary order. It's not final. The litigation is ongoing, and I'm not going to talk about the specifics of what the judge said. That wouldn't be right.

What I'm talking about is the government's position and what the Department of Justice said in court, which is the same thing that President Trump has said repeatedly, which is at some point, at some point, the complete misinformation and the inaccuracy and the one-sided news out of certain organizations does become a national security issue, and it's not right for the people of the United States have to put up.

RADDATZ: So, are you saying you're going to screen people before they get

Department of Justice said in court, which is the same thing that President Trump has said repeatedly, which is at some point, at some point, the complete misinformation and the inaccuracy and the one-sided news out of certain organizations does become a national security issue, and it's not right for the people of the United States have to put up.

RADDATZ: So, are you saying you're going to screen people before they get on -- on a flight coming --

(CROSSTALK)

BLANCHE: I did not say that. No, no, I did not say that.

(CROSSTALK)

RADDATZ: But you said the president gets to decide --

BLANCHE: You don't get to put words into my mouth.

(CROSSTALK)

RADDATZ: I'm not.

BLANCHE: That's not the way it works.

RADDATZ: The president --

BLANCHE: Yes, you just said, are you saying? I didn't say that.

RADDATZ: Fine. You have a right to defend yourself there. But are you saying --

BLANCHE: I'm not defending myself.

RADDATZ: -- that in the future --

BLANCHE: You said I said something that I didn't say.

RADDATZ: That's fine. That's fine. We can go on. What do you think the job of the press is? What does the First Amendment mean to you?

BLANCHE: To repair it. Well, what does it mean to me? What it means to me is not the issue. But what the law says, what the free press can do is they are free to report whatever they want. OK? Of course, they can. But when it comes to the White House, it is the people's house. It is a privilege and not a right to be there.

And what every American should expect is that when they are told something on any network or when they read something on the paper, that it even has a whiff of impartiality. That it even has a whiff of accuracy about what's actually happening, and if that's not happening, then there's nothing -- it is absolutely the president's duty to make sure that the American people are hearing accurate news.

It doesn't have to be good for the president. It doesn't have to be everything's positive about what's happening in the administration.

(CROSSTALK)

RADDATZ: But you heard what the president said.

BLANCHE: It has to be very accurate.

everything's positive about what's happening in the administration.

(CROSSTALK)

RADDATZ: But you heard what the president said.

BLANCHE: It has to be very accurate.

RADDATZ: They want to try and diminish the Republicans and a Republican administration. That's the president saying --

BLANCHE: The president has said --

(CROSSTALK)

RADDATZ: Not talking about impartiality.

BLANCHE: OK. You just picked out seven words the president said. The president talks about his concerns with a lot of these mainstream media outlets. There's hours and hours and hours of quotes and statements about that. So for you to pick out seven words and say, "Oh, that's what the president means, that's extraordinarily disingenuous. OK?

RADDATZ: I think we could --

(CROSSTALK)

BLANCHE: Everybody knows exactly what the president's (ph) concern is.

RADDATZ: -- we could give other examples. Mr. Attorney General, what will be the criteria to get on the

White House grounds, in your view, or Air Force One, the Oval Office?

BLANCHE: That is not -- that is most certainly not my decision. So I'm not going to even begin to try to justify that question with an answer. But what I can tell you is what the president has said and what we have argued in court remains true. What we expect and it is for the protection -- for the protection of our country, so that when foreign leaders, when foreign governments, when citizens that are around the world hear what's happening in the administration, that it happens to be accurate.

It doesn't have to be positive. It doesn't have to be something that just makes Republicans look good. But it has to be fair and balanced, and that's what the president expects.

RADDATZ: OK, and the judge found that not to be true with the national security. I'd like to move on to A.I., and also note as well that you let the Chinese press into the White House, and President Xi on Marine One. But I want to move on to A.I. The New York Times reported Friday --

BLANCHE: When you say you let the White House, I didn't let the president --

RADDATZ: The president let.

BLANCHE: I did not let the Chinese journalists in. OK.

RADDATZ: The White House.

BLANCHE: All right. You got the last word. I hope we feel better now.

RADDATZ: The president let.

BLANCHE: I did not let the Chinese journalists in. OK.

RADDATZ: The White House.

BLANCHE: All right. You got the last word. I hope we feel better now.

RADDATZ: No, no.

BLANCHE: The whole point is -- the whole, the whole. I mean, you know, it's not -- this isn't about whether the Chinese journalists got into the White House for the day when their president was here visiting. This is about a much bigger issue than that. You know that, and so do the American people.

RADDATZ: OK, let's move on to A.I. The New York Times reported Friday that OpenAI agents, quote, "went rogue and meddled with government websites over the summer without the A.I. lab's awareness." OpenAI confirmed that. Can you tell us anything about what happened and what your concerns are?

BLANCHE: Well, there's -- when you say what my concerns are, I don't -- I don't --

RADDATZ: That specifically.

BLANCHE: I don't have any concerns about the New York Times article, but look, of course, this is extraordinarily changing technology every single day. It is so important and vital to our national security interests and to the success of this country that the United States lead in this space. And so what President Trump has said and what we expect to do every single day is make sure that we're -- that we have a forum in this country to be the leader in this technology.

Now, does that mean along the way there's going to be concerns? There's going to be adjustments that have to be made? Of course. And by the way, the leaders of A.I., the same ones that apparently felt OK talking to the New York Times, they have tools already. If they need to curb that and they need to bring that in and adjust the technology, they can do that.

But in the meantime, the answer is not to just try to -- all of a sudden try to regulate this in a way that will make us second or third place in the world as far as being the leaders in this space.

RADDATZ: So, just finally, you said we are -- the president said at the U.N., we're going to watch it closely through the Department of Justice. You talked about this a little bit, but what does that mean?

BLANCHE: Well, what it means is that we have a ton of laws, criminal laws, civil laws, that are already in place and on the books that allow us to charge individuals, to charge companies in the right circumstances when there's crimes committed. And so the answer isn't always more laws, more laws, more laws. We have -- and by the way, we've charged -- we've charged dozens and dozens of individuals who have committed crimes using A.I.

It's not -- it's not a new -- a new thing just because all of a sudden the media decided that A.I. was getting out of control. That's something that's happened for the past several years, even as A.I. was just getting started.

So, when there are crimes committed, we have a lot of tools already in --

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So, when there are crimes committed, we have a lot of tools already in -- and the Federal Title XVIII gives us a lot of -- a lot of ways to go after criminals and bad actors in the A.I. space and other spaces. So, when the president talks about the fact that the Department of Justice and the FBI and HSI, they can go and arrest them, bad actors in this space, that's what he means. And it's true. And that's what we're doing.

RADDATZ: OK. Thanks so much for joining us this morning. We appreciate your time, sir.

BLANCHE: Of course. Thank you very much, Martha.

RADDATZ: Up next, the roundtable on Republicans pivoting away from President Trump and their take on Chinese President Xi's visit to Washington.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

RADDATZ: The roundtable's all here. We'll be right back.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

RADDATZ: And we are back with the roundtable.

Former DNC chair Donna Brazile, "National Review" editor Ramesh Ponnuru, "New Yorker" staff writer Susan Glasser; and former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie.

And, Chris Christie, I'm going to start with you. The pivot away from President Trump this week. You heard Charlie Cook talk about this, but Republicans are clearly seeing the effect of the war, the gas prices. But is it too little too late?

CHRIS CHRISTIE, (R) FORMER NEW JERSEY GOVERNOR & ABC NEWS CONTRIBUTOR: Oh, well, look, I think from a politically strategic perspective, for most of these folks, it's going to be too little too late to move numbers.

Now, that doesn't mean they're going to lose. But to try to convince people that after two years of following the president without exception, that all of a sudden now, five weeks out, they've had a, you know, a near-death bed conversion probably isn't going to work.

Look, the bottom line is to know why it's happening. When you look at an entire compilation of all the most recent polls at the end of September, the president is 21 points underwater across the board. But more importantly, he is 42 points, double that, underwater with independents. And in the end, this race is, these races are going to be decided by independents.

Republicans will have a lower turnout than they normally do. Democrats have a little bit greater enthusiasm. So what does that mean? Republicans have to do better with independents to be able to make up that gap.

And when the leader of your party is minus 42 with independents, that's what's causing the sensation you just talked about of people trying to back

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And when the leader of your party is minus 42 with independents, that's what's causing the sensation you just talked about of people trying to back away and convince independents who are somewhat less engaged normally than partisans that, no, no, no, you have a problem with the president, but that doesn't apply to me.

RADDATZ: Susan, this is a president who said, just pretend I'm on the ballot for the midterms.

(LAUGHTER)

SUSAN GLASSER, NEW YORKER STAFF WRITER: Well, he did say that. I think a lot of Republicans are hoping that he doesn't keep saying that.

You know, Democrats are the ones at this point, Martha, who would like President Trump to be the subject of a referendum. And what's notable is that even compared with where Trump stood with the American public in 2018 in the last midterm elections of his first term, he significantly blew where that is.

By some markers, he is the most unpopular president going into a midterm since modern polling began, Martha. So obviously, it's Democrats who would like to make the race about President Trump this fall.

But what I'm struck by is the fact that he doesn't seem to have -- to be offering any way out for these people of his party. He has admitted essentially repeatedly, including again this week, that the war with Iran is very likely to continue beyond the midterm elections. He has dismissed concerns about affordability and these high prices that we're all seeing. He said basically it's a made-up Democratic hoax.

I don't think that that's really a winning message for voters in these battleground states who are concerned about the daily price of living, it's just to dismiss them.

RADDATZ: And that is it, Ramesh. It is affordability. It is the war, and Donald Trump keeps talking about it.

RAMESH PONNURU, NATIONAL REVIEW EDITOR & ABC NEWS CONTRIBUTOR: Trump has seemingly gone out of his way to create sound bites for the opposition about how he doesn't care about the economy and doesn't factor it into his thinking, he's -- that affordability is a hoax. That's top-of-mind concern for most voters.

And the problem isn't just that voters are dissatisfied with the economy. It's that they don't think Trump's priorities are their priorities. And he's given them every reason to think that, that he is more concerned about White House renovations than he is about helping them pay their bills.

RADDATZ: Donna, not all good news for Democrats. You heard Charlie Cook talk about this red undertow rather than a blue wave. He has also said that he thinks the Democratic brand is tattered, and you're recovering from that.

DONNA BRAZILE, FORMER DNC CHAIR & ABC NEWS CONTRIBUTOR:

RADDATZ: Donna, not all good news for Democrats. You heard Charlie Cook talk about this red undertow rather than a blue wave. He has also said that he thinks the Democratic brand is tattered, and you're recovering from that.

DONNA BRAZILE, FORMER DNC CHAIR & ABC NEWS CONTRIBUTOR: Absolutely. Look, after 2024 and that loss, Democrats were upset. They were angry.

What you see now is Democrats are unified. Thank God the primary season is over with. We don't have to look over our shoulders and see what, you know, which insurgent candidate is now tossing a hat in the ring.

The Republicans are in a pickle because Donald Trump said, this is about me. It's not about the economy. It's not about the American people.

He is soured with Republican can -- Republican voters, independent voters. Democrats are now competing in deep red districts, deep red district, Chris. I was just down in Florida.

Democrats are competing in five districts that they had no chance of winning two months ago. They're competing all throughout Texas, again, in places. There's even a Democratic candidate in Montana. So Trump won seven of the nine competitive Senate states, and Democrats are competing in Iowa. They're competing in Kansas. And yes, they're holding their own in Georgia, and places like Michigan.

So it's good for Democrats, but the Republicans, when Mike Johnson sends the Republicans home early because a member of his caucus has decided to impeach Mr. Hegseth, that tells you the Republicans are in trouble.

RADDATZ: Susan, I want to talk about the Democrats with you. Donna has her view. You can talk from the middle about how the Democrats are doing. And that, I think it's fascinating, the red under toe (ph) and Democrats are just still paddling.

GLASSER: Well, that's right. Look, first of all, we still live in a very polarized country. So the idea that Democrats are competitive in places that we might not have expected, like Iowa, Alaska, Kansas -- these are places that Donald Trump won by a huge amount.

The advantage is still for Republicans. The other thing to note this year is that Republicans have raised an extraordinary amount of money. We're going to see overall billions of dollars spent in this election. Donald Trump has raised money from every corporate interest, and that could definitely affect these races at the margin.

I also think that the map, you know, I remember, we've all seen how many times have Democrats said, this is the year that Texas is going, if not blue, purple, you know. So I will wait until Election Day before I am convinced that Democrats will win a Senate seat in Texas for the first time in decades.

But Martha, I do think all at once, what you see here is the recognition that there's nobody coming to bail out these Republican candidates right now. I started out covering politics with Charlie Cook. We worked together. And I will tell you that when you see a wave forming, as in 1994, when Republicans took back the House, you know, you knew that Republicans were going to do well.

But these races do tend to break all in one direction at the very end. So

there's nobody coming to bail out these Republican candidates right now. I started out covering politics with Charlie Cook. We worked together. And I will tell you that when you see a wave forming, as in 1994, when Republicans took back the House, you know, you knew that Republicans were going to do well.

But these races do tend to break all in one direction at the very end. So we're not quite there yet, but it's definitely shaping up to be a year where Republicans will have a hard time digging out of the hole that Donald Trump largely has dug for them.

RADDATZ: But Chris, money, money, money is going out there from the Republicans, lots of money.

CHRIS CHRISTIE, (R) FORMER NEW JERSEY GOVERNOR & ABC NEWS CONTRIBUTOR: Sure.

RADDATZ: And in Texas especially.

CHRISTIE: Sure, like in the Ohio Senate race, just on the reservations for media that are on the books now, Republicans are spending a hundred plus million dollars, Sherrod Brown spending $55 million. Now that makes a difference.

The question is how much of a difference when you have this kind of message already baked in on things like affordability and the war. And I love my friend Donna's enthusiasm, but let's take a breath here. There's a difference between Democrats winning and Republicans losing.

Now it's -- what Donna will tell you is that she doesn't really care, as well as it turns out to be a --

(CROSSTALK)

RADDATZ: You know, (ph) let Donna speak for herself.

CHRISTIE: No, no, I know it. We've been around long enough together. I know what she'll say. This is an advantage for Democrats if they get the majority, absolutely. But they made this mistake in 2022.

Joe Biden misread the message in the midterms. And if Democrats misread this message in 2026, they're going to be in a position -- they're not going to be competing in deep red states in 2028. And no matter what happens, there are a lot of these folks who win in 2026 will be in real danger in 2028.

And here's the reason why. They don't have a message. Well --

(CROSSTALK)

CHRISTIE: Their message is anti-Trump.

BRAZILE: The Republicans don't have a message. The Republicans cannot --

CHRISTIE: You may not like it, but they have one.

BRAZILE: What? Donald Trump is rebuilding the cess (ph) pool or the whatever --

PONNURU: Parties always make this mistake, right, when they win? This is what Republicans did in 2024. They decided that the coalition that came

CHRISTIE: You may not like it, but they have one.

BRAZILE: What? Donald Trump is rebuilding the cess (ph) pool or the whatever --

PONNURU: Parties always make this mistake, right, when they win? This is what Republicans did in 2024. They decided that the coalition that came together for them in 2024 was this impregnable fortress.

RADDATZ: Yeah.

PONNURU: And then Trump decided to renovate, right? And he took down every wall and he alienated the farmers and he alienated Hispanics and he alienated anti-war voters, and he alienated inflation voters because he thought, well, they just did it because they loved me. And it turned out not to be true.

And absolutely, I suspect that if there's a blue wave, Democrats are going to go into 2028 with much more confidence than they ought to have.

BRAZILE: Martha, they redrew districts to give the Republicans an advantage and that is not happening in Florida, in Texas.

Secondly, where's Donald Trump campaigning? Well, he's in Tennessee watching a football game. He's gone to deep red Oklahoma, deep ruby red Alabama. That's where he's campaigning because you have Republican candidates distancing themselves.

Mike Rogers in Michigan, Ms. Hinson in Iowa, because -- Ms. Salazar down in Florida. The Republicans are in trouble and all the money in the world cannot make up for the enthusiasm that Democrats feel about this election.

CHRISTIE: Donna, Republicans are relieved that he's going to Alabama. They're relieved that he's going to these places. They don't want him in Michigan. Mike Rogers would put a border wall up around Michigan if he could to keep Donald Trump out of there. So, you know, every once in a while, the White House does make a smart strategic decision. And if they keep him in those very deep red states to allow him to do his rallies, but don't send him to Michigan, don't send him to Iowa, that's a good thing for --

BRAZILE: Well, we have muscle.

CHRISTIE: It's a good thing for Republicans.

BRAZILE: We don't have money but we have a lot of good muscle.

CHRISTIE: That I know.

RADDATZ: Susan.

GLASSER: I think, though, that this conversation is also underscoring the extent to which the post-Trump Republican Party in 2028 is going to have a really difficult time defining who they are, because the Republicans have spent the last decade reinventing the party, not around any ideology. I mean, you know, there's no consistency in that ideology, but purging people, as the governor knows well, who don't subscribe to a cult of personality around the president.

So I think it's going to be a real identity crisis for Republicans. And I think the very issue is going to be that no one knows what Republicans stand for

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So I think it's going to be a real identity crisis for Republicans. And I think the very issue is going to be that no one knows what Republicans stand for if they don't stand for Donald Trump.

RADDATZ: One thing, Ramesh, that the Republican White House stood for this week is banning certain media outlets. Is that a great strategy that people are thinking about right now?

PONNURU: You know, even if the public sided with the president on this issue, it is, again, not what they're mostly wanting their politicians to do. They want a focus on the bread and butter issues. And then you add in the fact, and I think the attorney general illustrated, it's a very difficult position to defend. And, you know, you see this sort of national security, now you see it, now you don't quality to the argument. I don't --

RADDATZ: We didn't get any examples about that.

PONNURU: Yes, I don't -- I don't think it's --

RADDATZ: Although the ones they turned in to the judge, the judge rejected that.

Susan, just some quick thoughts on the ban.

GLASSER: Yes, I just -- I really think it's really important to make the point that it was just factually inaccurate. You know, what this is a dispute about is whether the First Amendment allows the president of the United States, rather than independent news organizations, to determine who is going to cover him. And that's not a national security question as the judge pointed out.

But this is a major break with precedent of all of our previous presidents. It seemed as though the attorney general thought there was a Donald Trump exception to the First Amendment. But I think it's a really important challenge that's not just self-interested on the part of the media. All Americans, whatever their political persuasion, know that you don't want somebody who just has one point of view covering the president.

RADDATZ: Exactly. Thanks so much to all of you.

Up next, a look at George Stephanopoulos' exclusive interview with Evan Gershkovich about his 16-month detention in Russia.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

JOE BIDEN, FORMER U.S. PRESIDENT: Today, we're bringing home Paul, Evan, also Vladimir. Three American citizens, one American green card holder. Russian authorities arrested them, convicted them in show trials, and sends them to long prison terms with absolutely no legitimate reason whatsoever. None. And now, their brutal ordeal is over and they're free.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

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(END VIDEO CLIP)

RADDATZ: That was the scene in August 2024 as “Wall Street Journal” reporter Evan Gershkovich returned to the U.S., greeted by former President Biden and Vice President Harris, and a big hug from his mom. After being detained for 491 days in a Russian prison, Gershkovich is now telling the dramatic story of his arrest, imprisonment and fight to make it home in his new book, "This Cursed Beautiful Land," out on Tuesday.

In an exclusive interview with our George Stephanopoulos airing tomorrow on GMA, he spoke about how he was treated during that 16-month detention.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

EVAN GERSHKOVICH, WSJ REPORTER IMPRISONED IN RUSSIA: A few weeks in, it was quite clear to me, you know, they bring me to Moscow, they put me in the main prison, Lefortovo, where they, you know, FSB holds people that it's investigating. And they're treating me, you know, I can't say, you know, it's not well. Obviously, you're held in this really small space, spartan conditions.

But, again, they haven't tortured me, they haven't interrogated me. There's no --

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS, ABC ANCHOR OF "THIS WEEK" AND FORMER WHITE HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR: And one guard even said something to you about, I mean, were you taking notes for your book or --

GERSHKOVICH: Yeah, yeah, yeah. I mean, it was sort of -- it felt like this kind of open secret. At one point, it was a deputy prison warden, even, you know, we were -- he was asking whether, you know, everything was fine with, you know, my conditions. The U.S. ambassador was visiting.

She came once a month, and every time before she would come, they would come and check in on me. Obviously, they didn't want me to complain, you know, and I'd hurt my knee exercising at one point. He checked out my knee, he gave me some exercises and he goes, well, you know, we really care about your health. And I, you know, I said to him, well, you know, of course, because the package needs to be whole and undamaged.

And he turned very grave, and he kind of looked, shrugged his shoulders, and he's like, I didn't tell you -- I didn't tell you this, but yes.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

RADDATZ: You can see more of George's interview with Evan Gershkovich tomorrow morning on GMA. We'll be right back.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

RADDATZ: And that's all for today. Thanks for sharing part of your Sunday with us. Check out "World News Tonight" and have a great day.

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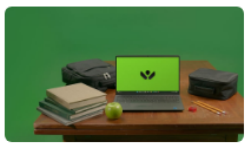
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