

[Southern Border Shutdown Threat; Migrant Influx; Russia-Ukraine Showdown; Interview with Valeriy Chaly; General Motors Layoffs and Closings; President Trump Expresses Skepticism Regarding Government Report on Dangers of Climate Change; President Trump Campaigns in Mississippi for Republican Senate Candidate; U.S. Border Patrol Clashes with Members of Migrant Caravan](#)

Fox News Network FOX SPECIAL REPORT WITH BRET BAIER 6:00 PM EST

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Guests: Valeriy Chaly, Chris Stirewalt, Charles Lane

Body

JESSE WATTERS, FOX NEWS HOST: I am not.

DANA PERINO, FOX NEWS HOST: You've got a puppy. You do not even like dogs, Jesse.

WATTERS: I do like dogs now.

PERINO: That's a cute puppy.

WATTERS: I love this dog. It's a mini poodle. His name is Rookie. It's a boy.

PERINO: Oh my God.

WATTERS: And he's already trained.

GREG GUTFELD, FOX NEWS HOST: Already trained?

WATTERS: Already. You know why, Greg?

PERINO: Congratulations.

WATTERS: Animals are great.

PERINO: I want to meet him.

WATTERS: All right. Set your DVRs. Never miss an episode of THE FIVE.

SPECIAL REPORT up next. Bret.

Southern Border Shutdown Threat; Migrant Influx; Russia-Ukraine Showdown; Interview with Valeriy Chaly; General Motors Layoffs and Closings; President Trump Exp....

BRET BAIER, FOX NEWS ANCHOR: Congrats on the puppy. Thanks, Jesse.

President Trump threatens to close the U.S.-Mexico border permanently if Central American migrants who tried to storm into the country are not deported.

Russia seizes Ukrainian ships and sailors, the world expresses outrage. I will speak with Ukraine's ambassador to the U.S. live.

Plus huge layoffs and plant closings for General Motors.

This is SPECIAL REPORT.

Good evening. Welcome to Washington. I'm Bret Baier.

Wall or no wall, President Trump says he will close the southern border permanently if there is more trouble at the crossings. The threat comes after hundreds of migrants from a caravan that originated in Central America rushed past Mexican riot police and rushed the border at the entry point in San Ysidro, California. That led to a temporary closing of the checkpoint in both directions.

It has, we should note, reopened but for how long is really the big question tonight.

We have Fox team coverage. Jeff Paul is just south of the border in Tijuana, Mexico where residents are growing increasingly aggravated with the influx of migrants there.

But we start off with Chief White House Correspondent, John Roberts and the increasingly difficult policy and politics of immigration. Good evening -- John.

JOHN ROBERTS, FOX NEWS CHIEF WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT: Bret -- good evening to you.

This is a real "I told you so" moment for President Trump. For weeks he has been warning now that certain people in that migrant caravan may try to storm the U.S. border in much the same way they did southern Mexico a number of weeks ago. But it has not diminished the President's critics one bit.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

DONALD TRUMP, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: We've -- during certain times, as you know, closed the border. They are not coming into the United States. They will not be coming into our country.

ROBERTS: Leaving the White House for campaign events in Mississippi, President Trump today weighed in on yesterday's confrontation at the San Ysidro border crossing.

The President insisting border patrol agents had no choice but to use tear gas even though women and children were among those who tried to storm the border.

TRUMP: They had to use because they were being rushed by some very tough people. And they used the tear gas. And here's the bottom line. Nobody is coming into our country unless they come in legally.

ROBERTS: Earlier today President Trump threatened to effectively shut down of cross-border commerce between the U.S. and Mexico. In a tweet saying "Mexico should move the flag-waving migrants, many of whom are stone-cold criminals, back to their countries. They are not coming into the U.S.A. We will close the border permanently if need be. Congress, fund the wall."

Democrats, already highly critical of the President's move to put troops on the border, didn't like the scenes from yesterday one bit.

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SENATOR BEN CARDIN (D), MARYLAND: There is a better way to handle this. The United States has caused -- the Trump policies that has caused anxiety at the border.

ROBERTS: But President Trump got full-throated support from South Carolina Senator Lindsey Graham who tweeted "I support President Trump's decision to close the border until we can get a handle on the chaos created by the broken laws governing asylum. We must get money for border security/wall and must change asylum laws."

Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen, who President Trump is thinking about replacing, defended yesterday's border closure in a pointed statement saying "DHS will not tolerate this type of lawlessness and will not hesitate to shut down ports of entry for security and public safety reasons."

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: The most tumultuous order of all was this summer's separation of children from their parents.

ROBERTS: Both DHS and the President also took aim at a "60 Minutes" last night about the Trump administration's zero tolerance policy which resulted in hundreds of migrant children being separated from their parents earlier this year.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I never thought that they would separate him from me.

ROBERTS: A DHS spokeswoman called the segment "flawed reporting which displayed disregard for the truth and a fundamental misunderstanding of our nation's immigration system."

President Trump again pointed out his administration is not the only one who have separated children from their parents when they cross the border illegally.

TRUMP: Obama had a separation policy, but people don't like to talk about that.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

ROBERTS: In shutting down the San Ysidro crossing and threatening to close the border altogether, President Trump is sending a signal to Mexico that he is not afraid to affect cross-border commerce between the United States and Mexico in order to get action on immigration.

But the people he really needs to convince are Democrats down the street on Capitol Hill, and for the moment Bret, they appear unmoved.

BAIER: John Roberts, live on the north lawn. John -- thanks.

Well, the violence has ebbed and the teargas drifted away, but there is still considerable tension on the U.S.-Mexico border tonight in California following Sunday's stampede by Central American migrants there on the border.

Correspondent Jeff Paul is in Tijuana tonight. Good evening -- Jeff.

JEFF PAUL, FOX NEWS CORRESPONDENT: Good evening -- Bret.

Yes, the scene here in Tijuana outside the main migrant shelter is overwhelming. You have people moving in every direction. Thousands of migrants from Central America living inside, others spilling out to the street where they are living in tents.

But despite those crowds, it is relatively calm compared to what just played out at the border.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

PAUL: Chaos and confusion along the U.S.-Mexico border on Sunday as a group of migrants from the Central American caravan rushed the border.

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Dozens ran across the almost dry Tijuana riverbed and some tried climbing the fence from the Mexican side. Border patrol says that some migrants began throwing rocks, hitting but not injuring four agents who then deployed pepper spray balls and canisters of teargas.

MYRNA LISETTE AMAYA, HONDURAN MIGRANT (through translator): When we went to that side it was when they started throwing teargas at us and there were many children who fainted, many young children fainted. My daughter also got gassed. Pregnant women and there were also many men who also fainted.

PAUL: Border patrol says it followed the agency's policies on using less than lethal force.

CARLA PROVOST, U.S. BORDER PATROL CHIEF: Our agents were being assaulted, a large group rushed the area, and they were throwing rocks and bottles at my men and women, putting them in harm's way as well as other members of the caravan. We needed to disperse the group. And with that assaultive nature it was imperative that we disperse them from the area.

PAUL: 69 people were arrested for trying to illegally cross the border. The actions also prompting the closure of the busy San Ysidro port of entry between San Diego and Tijuana, backing up traffic for miles and causing U.S. businesses to close for the day.

Just days ago, the mayor of Tijuana declared a humanitarian crisis and asked the United Nations for help to deal with the 5,000 Central Americans living in his city. Tijuana residents saying those staying in shelters and on the street as they wait for their asylum claims to be processed are becoming an issue.

LUIS ENRIQUE MATEO, TIJUANA, MEXICO RESIDENT (through translator): In my more than 20 years working here I've never seen a situation of this kind. It's as if we are in a war zone.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

PAUL: Now, despite that showing of force from authorities on both sides of the border, migrants say they remain defiant and are hoping to one day gain access into the United States -- Bret.

BAIER: Jeff Paul, live in Mexico tonight. Jeff -- thanks.

Let's get reaction to all of this -- the conflict along the border, from senior political analyst Brit Hume who joins us tonight. Good evening -- Brit.

Your thoughts on this situation as it developed over the weekend?

BRIT HUME, FOX NEWS SENIOR POLITICAL ANALYST: Well, what's remarkable to me about this, Bret -- is that isn't this sort of episode yesterday exactly what President Trump was worrying that would happen and that caused him to make that show of force along the border?

I mean you remember when he got that question from that CNN guy Acosta that -- in which he, Acosta, asserted that, you know, migrants would not be rushing the border, charging the border, and Trump said we have a difference of opinion about that.

Well, this episode yesterday suggested that this very kind of thing that the President said he was concerned about can indeed happen. And it is not the first time.

Five years ago on Thanksgiving weekend at San Ysidro, at the border point there, a bunch of migrants broke loose and rushed the border and they were subdued with teargas, and the other nonviolent methods that were used yesterday. No howls of outrage at the Obama administration about that that I can remember -- Bret. So I think we kind of know what is going on here, don't we?

BAIER: Yes. I mean to your point, you have Democratic Senator from Hawaii, Brian Schatz tweeting "Teargas across the border against unarmed families is a new low."

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And you just mentioned this November 2013. This is from the "San Diego" Tribune of that incident, "A group of about 100 people trying to illegally cross the border Sunday near the San Ysidro port of entry threw rocks and bottles at U.S. border patrol agents who responding by using pepper spray and other means to force the crowd back into Mexico. So finish the thought. I mean, why do you think this is just all politics?"

HUME: Well, I think -- look, I think that what we have discovered through time here is that this president engenders outrage on the left And the left seize and its politicians and supporters will seize on whatever they can with precious little reflection on whether what he is doing is really a complete departure from what has been done before.

And it turns out in this particular instance as in others related to immigration it really is not. Now, that is in no way to say, because we are not getting at this Bret, right now, whether this is his immigration policies are the best or whether they are not.

But there is a tremendous amount of shoe on the other foot disease going on here when you've got people all up in arms. And Brian Schatz even -- in addition to what you quoted him as saying, said in a tweet that he later deleted, that this was a violation against chemical weapons usage, or suggested as much. I mean this is how far people go.

There really is a kind of Trump derangement syndrome that sets in here. And we see examples of it on this immigration policy all the time.

The President is simply saying you shouldn't be allowed to cross the border illegally even for the purpose of seeking asylum which is legal. Well, that seems to me to be kind of, you know, not a particularly controversial position, but it is controversial with some as we see.

BAIER: That's right. Brit -- as always, thank you.

More on this with the panel --

HUME: Thank you -- Bret.

BAIER: -- policy and politics.

Meantime the U.S. and much of the world criticizing Russia tonight for its seizure of Ukrainian ships and sailors on the Black Sea.

Correspondent Trey Yingst tells us where things stand right now.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

TREY YINGST, FOX NEWS CORRESPONDENT: Martial law will be imposed in Ukraine after Russia captured 23 sailors in a fierce firefight off the coast of Crime.

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko's request passed parliament this afternoon and goes into effect on Friday for 30 days. Troops have been put on military alert and the two nations appear to be on the brink of war.

Yesterday a Russian Coast Guard vessel rammed into a Ukrainian tugboat sparking one of the largest clashes between Russia and Ukraine, since annexation of Crimea in in 2014.

President Trump says the United States is working with European partners to ease tension.

TRUMP: We do not like what is happening either way. We don't like what is happening. And hopefully it will get straightened out. I know Europe is not -- they are now thrilled. They are working on it, too. We are all working on it together.

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YINGST: Monday's vote for martial law will allow Ukraine to have increased defense capabilities as Ukrainian cabinet members have suggested that Sunday's incident could be the first step towards fully blocking Ukrainian access to the Black Sea.

PETRO POROSHENKO, UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT (through translator): Russia has been conducting hybrid war against our country for over 50 years. But by attacking Ukrainian military boats it's moved on to a new stage of aggression.

YINGST: The U.N. Security Council met today in an emergency session where U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Nikki Haley released a formal warning towards Russia and called for the release of captured the Ukrainian ships and crew, while de-escalating the tension created.

NIKKI HALEY, U.S. AMBASSADOR TO THE U.N.: In the name of international peace and security, Russia must immediately cease its unlawful conduct and respect the navigational rights and freedoms of all states.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

YINGST: So far Russia is blaming Ukraine for starting this incident as the country's foreign minister Sergey Lavrov says that Russia isn't concerned about the potential of international sanctions as punishment for open firing on a Ukrainian vessel -- Bret.

BAIER: Trey -- thank you. Let's dig deeper into the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. Valeriy Chaly is the Ukrainian ambassador to the U.S. He joins me here live.

Mr. Ambassador -- thanks for being here.

VALERIY CHALY, UKRAINIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S.: Thank you for having me.

BAIER: Where do things stand tonight? Tensions it seems are high. What can you say about tonight? What is happening with your sailors, your ships and this situation?

CHALY: First of all I appreciate such a strong message to Russia, and its act of aggression against a sovereign country. We unfortunately do not know anything about our soldiers, 23 soldiers, six of them wounded and one of them in very difficult condition. And that is more the problem, our people. We now fight for our people. And we ask all the political leaders including the United States leadership to just help us in that.

BAIER: Right. So you heard Russia from the U.N. and other places saying that this was a violation of their sovereignty. And they paint this situation completely differently -- your reaction to that?

CHALY: It's a trick again because it's not absolutely. Crimea put (ph) into the declaration, we appreciate. We call that the (INAUDIBLE) declaration. That's nonrecognition of Russian attempts, annexation of Crimea. And this position of the United States share that most of the nation is (INAUDIBLE). And only such countries like when Israel or North Korea or Iran not sure of that -- so that is the main thing.

This act of aggression in international waters, in international area, not Russian area -- that is very important. And you just demonstrated the video, it is a very clear demonstrate where it happened, when it happened and how our vessel have been attacked by the Russian military.

BAIER: We can put the map up there, this is the Kerch Strait and where this happened, really, from Odessa on the Black Sea to Mariupol and what it seems like is that they are trying to -- Russia is trying to solidify this area to Crimea, almost like a bridge to Crimea.

CHALY: You know, Russia built a bridge. According to international law, that's to violate maritime law. That's very clear, for everybody understandable. And we all understand this next attempt of violation of international law. What's Russia doing now. They try to change rules by force.

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So not making peace, but next step of aggression. That is a problem come because it is a challenge for all of us. It is not only about Ukraine, it's about all the allies of the United States in the region.

BAIER: There are people in the U.S. who are scared that this develops into a serious tension because they fear perhaps that the U.S. will be drawn into some action in Ukraine, what do you say to them tonight?

CHALY: First of all, we hear and appreciate the strong messages from the Congress. And comments of even President, I know that President Trump commented something but we know that action is more important than just comments.

And we are waiting for the very strong position of the United States, leadership of the United States. We still count and I think it continues. Our military assistance to Ukraine. When we received journalists (ph), immediately the level of shelling decreased immediately, very significantly.

That's why we plan to improve our capabilities of the navy, and we now discovering with the United States and other countries.

BAIER: So those actions may be coming in coming days?

CHALY: It's another coming days, you know. It is our strategic partnership for a long time. Ukraine now on the front, including our (INAUDIBLE). Now believe me, not only we, but we are really concerned about that our friends, the countries of NATO in the Black Sea. And by the way, other countries who can be next after aggression, now will be on the frontline, (INAUDIBLE) will be next?

BAIER: I talked to your President Poroshenko last year. He said that negotiations with Russia were improving although there were Russian separatists and Russians inside your country. Essentially Ukraine is still at war, is what he kind of told me.

In 2016 I asked him about the 1994 agreement, where you, Ukraine gave up your nuclear program in exchange at the time for Russia to respect your borders. Here is his answer.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

BAIER: The 1994 agreement, Ukraine agreeing to give up its nuclear materials. But that was in exchange at that time for Russia to respect its boundaries?

POROSHENKO: Ukraine voluntarily gave up the third biggest nuclear weapons arsenal in the world. And of course, we do it in exchange of the security assurance, and they guaranteed the territorial integrity and sovereignty of my country.

And unfortunately, in the year 2014 one of the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council became an aggressor. And annexed the Crimea, and make an aggression on the east of my country.

BAIER: After Russia's actions do you now look back in retrospect and say, maybe we should have held on to the nuclear material as a dealmaker?

POROSHENKO: You are absolutely right.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BAIER: So do you look at this as a step backwards now? Do you think that the tensions have increased exponentially over the last two years? Where do you see it tonight?

CHALY: I think it's an important point, because and it is a test for all of us including -- Ukraine but including the United States. We are ready for such next step where Russia aggressive step or not. I just mention, what the President mentioned about the Budapest memorandum. Russia broke this, but instead of this they deployed

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nuclear carriers in Crimean peninsula change and they changed this very beautiful peninsula from resort to military base. They use this military base for Syria. They now try to restore facilities of Soviet Union nuclear storages. That is a real threat.

And that is why I agree with you. This absolutely important demonstration of ultimate goal of pressure, destroy international order to prevail and control Black Sea. And if we allow them to do that, they will go for that.

BAIER: Mr. Ambassador -- we appreciate your time on this very news-making night. We appreciate it.

CHALY: Thank you for the thoughts.

BAIER: Up next, stocks react to Black Friday, Cyber Monday, and disturbing news about job cuts at a major American manufacturer.

First though, here's what some of our Fox affiliates around the country are covering tonight.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Touchdown confirmed.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BAIER: WSVN in Miami as the Insight lander touches down on the surface of Mars. The probe ended its six-month, 300 million-mile journey a few hours ago. It will dig into the Marian surface to measured heat and seismic activity and try to determine why Mars is so different from earth.

Fox 5 in New York with hearings at the New Jersey state house over the legalization of recreational marijuana. The bill would legalize the possession and personal use of once ounce or less of marijuana for people at least 21 years old.

And this is a live look at Chicago from our affiliate Fox 32. The big story there tonight, more than seven inches of snow fell at O'Hare International Airport from Sunday to Monday. It is the fifth largest November snowfall in Chicago history. Part of a major winter storm that grounded hundreds of flights and stranded thousands of holiday passengers unfortunately traveling through the Midwest.

That is tonight's live look outside the Beltway from SPECIAL REPORT. We'll be right back.

BAIER: You will soon be able to purchase romaine lettuce again following warnings about e Coli. The head of the Food and Drug administration said today he believes all of the contaminated lettuce has been discarded.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

SCOTT GOTTLIEB, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION COMMISSIONER: It was purged the market of the produce that was probably contaminated which is for now isolated we think to California. And now stores can start restocking with produce that's being harvested from Florida, North Carolina, and other parts of the country.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BAIER: The warning is still in place, the CDC says 32 people were sickened in 11 states.

Stocks were up today on the first full day of trading of the holiday shopping season. The Dow gained 354 today. The S&P 500 finished ahead 41, the Nasdaq surged 143. So a big positive day on Wall Street even as it appears that the tough times are back for one American automaker.

Susan Li of the Fox Business Network joins us from New York with some disturbing news from General Motors. Good evening -- Susan.

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SUSAN LI, FOX BUSINESS NETWORK CORRESPONDENT: Hi -- Bret.

General Motors is cutting over 14,000 jobs in North America. That's 50 percent of salaried staff and nearly a quarter of its executives. It's GM's biggest round of job cuts since filing for bankruptcy nearly ten years ago during the global financial crisis.

Plants Michigan, Ohio, Maryland, and Canada will be affected. GM CEO Maria Barra says that this is about making sure that GM is lean and agile to get in front and lead in autonomous and electric vehicles."

President Trump meantime is not happy.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

TRUMP: We do not like it. I believe they will be opening up something else and wherever. I was very tough. I spoke with her when I heard that they were closing. And I said, you know, this country has done a lot for General Motors, you better get back in there soon back to Ohio. And you better get back in there soon.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

LI: Ohio Senator Rob Portman also tweeting out his displeasure saying "I am deeply frustrated with GM's decision to shut down its plants in Lordstown, and I'm disappointed with how the hardworking employees have been treated throughout this process."

While the United Auto Workers' union which represents workers at GM's U.S. factories says, "The UAW and our members will confront this decision by GM through every legal, contractual and collective bargaining avenue."

Now, as for GM stock, it has had the best rally in a month, as plant closures will saved the company over \$4 billion over the next two years, cash that GM needs as U.S. car sales fell for the first time in seven years last year and it's forecast to shrink again this year.

Meantime, while GM cars are not selling, Americans are spending online. Cyber Monday is expected to break records in 2018 with 80 percent more being bought online and sales forecast come in at nearly \$8 billion.

Bret -- back to you.

BAIER: That's a big number. Susan -- thank you.

British Prime Minister Theresa May met with her cabinet and spoke to lawmakers today to push for acceptance of the Brexit separation agreement she has agreed with the European Union. The deal needs to be approved by parliament first, but scores of legislators from both the opposition and May's governing conservative party say they will oppose it.

President Trump said late today the current deal calls into question whether the U.K. will be able to trade with the U.S. He called it a good deal for the E.U.

Up next, the detailed government report on climate change met with some skepticism at the White House.

BAIER: There are increasing concerns tonight on Capitol Hill about the possible environmental and economic effects of climate change. This follows a 1,600 plus page government report released Friday evening with some dire predictions, essentially met today with a shrug from the commander-in-chief. Chief Congressional Correspondent Mike Emanuel has the latest tonight.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

MIKE EMANUEL, FOX NEWS CHIEF CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENT: Paris is burning. Deadly protests continue after the French government imposed a new carbon tax. France is planning to spend about \$15.2 billion by

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2022 to develop its transportation infrastructure. Back in the U.S., 13 federal agencies here in Washington rolled out a serious warning about the environmental and economic threat of climate change for the United States. President Trump isn't sold.

DONALD TRUMP, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: I don't believe it. You are going to have to have China and Japan and all of Asia, and all of these other countries, you know, it addresses our country. Right now, we are the cleanest we have ever been.

EMANUEL: The 1,600-page report's findings include temperatures in the U.S. are 1.8 degrees higher than 100 years ago, seas are nine inches higher, heatwaves, hurricanes, and wildfires are more severe. Climate change could cut GDP by 10 percent by 2100 if there are no changes.

SEN. BEN SASSE, (R) SENATE JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE: Reasonable people can differ about how much and how rapidly, but I think it is clear that it is changing and it's clear that humans are a contributing factor.

AMY KLOBUCHAR, (D) SENATE COMMERCE AND SCIENCE COMMITTEE: You're going to see devastation to our crops. You're already seeing the hurricanes because of the ocean warming, and you are certainly seeing in vivid color those horrible wildfires out west.

EMANUEL: As for those devastating wildfires, some California lawmakers say hotter, drier weather has been a key factor.

REP. JOHN GARAMENDI, (D) CALIFORNIA: Climate change is a very real part of this problem, no doubt about it. But also it is the management. The forests have not been properly managed for the last 70 years.

EMANUEL: Utah Senator Mike Lee says that he hasn't seen an effective solution.

SEN. MIKE LEE, (R) UTAH: All of the proposals I've seen so far that would address any of these issues would devastate the U.S. economy and have little or no benefit.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

EMANUEL: Critics are using this as an opportunity to go after President Trump for withdrawing from the 2015 Paris climate accord championed by his predecessor. The White House notes the development of this reports began under President Obama, and says that the next one will provide more transparent and data driven information. Bret?

BAIER: Mike, thank you.

Former Trump campaign foreign policy adviser George Papadopoulos has started his two-week prison sentence. The federal bureau of prisons says Papadopoulos arrived today at a minimum security camp in Oxford, Wisconsin. He pleaded guilty last year to lying to federal agents about his interactions with Russian intermediaries during the 2016 presidential campaign.

Speaking of campaigns, as we told you earlier, President Trump is in Mississippi right now for a pair of rallies to try to keep a Senate seat in Republican hands. The president has just finished the first event in Tupelo and is moving on to the second in Biloxi. He's trying to push incumbent Cindy Hyde-Smith over the top into tomorrow's runoff against Democrat Mike Espy. Correspondent Peter Doocy is Biloxi tonight.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

PETER DOOCY, FOX NEWS CORRESPONDENT: In Mississippi, the run-up to the runoff has revolved around race And now features a rumor about the Republican.

MIKE ESPY, (D) MISSISSIPPI SENATE CANDIDATE: I heard in Washington that they are calling her the hanging senator.

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DOOCY: Democrat Mike Espy's campaign continues to focus heavily on Republican senator Cindy Hyde-Smith's hot mic moment.

SEN. CINDY HYDE-SMITH, (R) MISSISSIPPI: If he invited me to a public hanging, I'd be on the front row.

DOOCY: Hyde-Smith insists the comment was a joke.

HYDE-SMITH: For anyone that was offended by my comments, I certainly apologize.

DOOCY: But now she is laying low, and Espy is hammering her hanging remarks.

ESPY: They were hurtful to the millions of people in Mississippi of good will who just can hear what that means, and they can sense that it is a throwback to an bygone error that we are not going back to again.

DOOCY: Senator Hyde-Smith also being scrutinized for sporting part of a Confederate uniform in an old snapshot, and for joking about making it harder for young liberals to vote. Now a cascade of corporate contributors have asked for their donations back, but Hyde-Smith is trying to change the subject away from accusations she's a racist and towards Espy's time as a lobbyist.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Have you ever been paid \$750,000 from a foreign dictator charged with crimes against humanity? Mike Espy has. It's true. Espy was a registered foreign agent for the Ivory Coast, and he lied about it.

DOOCY: Espy's record also includes an indictment for charges of accepting improper gifts as Bill Clinton's agriculture secretary, charges he later beat.

ESPY: I was indicted, but an indictment is an accusation.

DOOCY: Despite all the controversy, President Trump is doubling down with a double rally day.

DONALD TRUMP, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: We're going to do two, and I hope you are all coming.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

DOOCY: This is the first time ever President Trump has had two big rallies in a single day for a single candidate other than himself. And a lot of the big issues that voters were worried about three weeks ago, like Brett Kavanaugh, are ancient history, so now Republicans are trying to make this runoff all about Trump. Bret?

BAIER: Peter Doocy in Biloxi. Peter, thanks.

The increasingly difficult politics and policy of immigration and border security, President Trump talking tough after Sunday's violence. So what is next? The panel is next, after a break.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

SEN. BEN CARDIN, (D) SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE: Here We look at children being subjected to teargas. That is the United States causing that. That's outrageous.

DONALD TRUMP, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: That they had to use because they were being rushed by some very tough people, and they used tear gas. And here's the bottom line. Nobody is coming into our country unless they come in legally.

REP. ELIJAH CUMMINGS, (D) HOUSE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE: They should be able to come in and seek asylum. That's the law.

RODNEY SCOTT, SAN DIEGO SECTOR BORDER PATROL: It they were truly asylum seekers they would've just walked up with her hands up and surrendered, and that did not take place.

Southern Border Shutdown Threat; Migrant Influx; Russia-Ukraine Showdown; Interview with Valeriy Chaly; General Motors Layoffs and Closings; President Trump Exp....

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BAIER: Well, what is the situation on the border? What's next here? The president tweeting "Mexico should move the flag-waving migrants, many of whom are stone cold criminals, back to their countries. Do it by plane, do it by bus, do it any way you want, but they are not coming into the USA. We will close the border permanently if need be. Congress, fund the wall!"

That's the background. We bring in the panel, Chris Stirewalt is politics editor here at FOX News, Mollie Hemingway, senior editor at "The Federalist," and Charles Lane, opinion writer for "The Washington Post." OK, Mollie, listen, the White House senior officials saying that this was very predictable. In fact, the president predicted that this would happen, this confrontation along the border after the confrontations with this caravan in Mexico and Guatemala. What about this over the weekend and where we go?

MOLLIE HEMINGWAY, SENIOR EDITOR, "THE FEDERALIST": It does seem like this is turning out to be an even bigger story than we thought it was going to be around the election when people were talking about it. I think a lot of people thought it was just being talked about for political gain. While we have this problem here, this is not the only caravan that will come, and we really do not have a good way of handling problems at the border. We have asylum laws that are clearly being exploited, and we don't have a political class that seems to care enough about what to do about it.

BAIER: Chris?

CHRIS STIREWALT, FOX NEWS POLITICAL EDITOR: Just as Democrats are not able to see how, just to Mollie's point, validates what the president was talking about. Yes, the president was fearmongering and exploiting the caravan during the election, because that's what politicians do during elections. But the fact that they can't see how this vindicates part of it is part of their blindness on the issue. But for Republicans, their blindness is this -- it is not a good look to have teargas canisters flying and women and children running away. There has to be a better solution.

BAIER: True. To that point, senior aides at the White House say nonlethal teargas, Border Patrol said they used it, they deployed it, much like they did in 2013 under the Obama administration, and no one was injured because of the actions of the Border Patrol. That's what they say. Chuck?

CHARLES LANE, OPINION WRITER, "WASHINGTON POST": Look, in all of these cases, the vivid images on television obviously are just the tip of an iceberg of a much more complex reality, and I think everyone is rushing to judgment based on the images on television. If you are Ben Cardin, as he was doing there, it's the image of the family being teargassed. If you are the president, it is the images of these immigrants, some of them throwing rocks. I saw that video, too.

The truth of the matter in a way everybody has got a little bit of the truth. It's true that our asylum laws create a perverse incentive for people to come to the border thinking that they are going to be able to get across and then claim asylum and stay here for years. It's also true that there are people with legitimate asylum claims who are being turned away now because of the chaos.

And to Chris's point, in an ideal world we would have Democrats and Republicans capable of legislating something permanent, but instead both of them are busy exploiting this for political again. And it is very sad, because all these people, these thousands of people who are very poor at the border have been led to believe that they are headed towards the land of opportunity, and instead they are stuck here in this crisis.

BAIER: There's a lot of things that Congress could do legislatively on the big picture on a number of different parts of immigration policy. But even, Mollie, in a lame duck Congress, the White House is saying they could change the situation with treating Central American migrants the same as Mexican migrants, instead of having it treated differently, that you have to accept them. They handling of families at the border and how you've dealt with out of legislatively. And also raising the asylum standard beyond what the executive order does, which is port of entry, but raise the asylum standard so that it's uniform across the border.

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HEMINGWAY: Yes, and it would be wonderful of them to take advantage of that opportunity now or to have it be a more bipartisan thing in the coming Congress where Democrats control the House and Republicans control the Senate.

This is clearly, like the way that the laws were set up, things are clearly different than what we thought at the time. These are people who have been offered asylum in the countries that they have traveled to on their way to the U.S. border, so the idea that this is just a group of people that are in need of asylum to flee their home country is not an accurate portrayal of what is happening since they have already declined asylum in other countries. And it is clear that something needs to be done. And the constitution does say this is to be handled by Congress, and they have completely abdicated their responsibility.

LANE: I just want to mention here that the role of Mexico going forward is going to be very pivotal. Our paper has reported that there are talks going on between the Trump administration and the incoming Mexican administration --

BAIER: I talked to someone today that said that very thing.

LANE: Right. And frankly there's a community of interest developing between the U.S. and Mexico. Mexico is not happy about the irregular flow of people in large numbers through the country. You had the tape of the people in Tijuana who are not happy about the large numbers camped out, the trouble and diversion of resources that come along with that. One way to skin this cat would be to set up an asylum procedure whereby the people wait in Mexico and are given an asylum here and there, but that would require resources from the U.S. side. That would require the money and the trained personnel to process them.

BAIER: They are saying that those conversations are positive. That are in the middle, Mexico is, of transitioning from one administration to another, and that is a tough time when you are dealing with two different people leading the country.

STIREWALT: But Obrador has a window of opportunity here. He is coming in. He's very popular. He's got a mandate. He takes office on Saturday. This is a time where Mexico could really bail us out, but we, to Chuck's point, have to sweeten it. The United States has to make this very attractive for Mexico. But if we do, they could get us out of this jam.

BAIER: We will follow it all. Next up, Cyber Monday, Black Friday, and GM's moves.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

DONALD TRUMP, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: General Motors announced that they are adding or keeping 900 jobs right here in Michigan, and that is going to be over the next 12 months, and that's just the beginning, folks. In fact, I told them, that's peanuts. That's peanuts.

(APPLAUSE)

TRUMP: We don't like it. I believe they will be opening up something else. I was very tough. And I said this country has done a lot for General Motors, you better get back in there soon, that's Ohio, and you better get back in there soon. So we have a lot of pressure on them.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BAIER: We'll see if the pressure works. Right now General Motors is saying it will cut 15 percent of its salaried workers, that's about 14,500 jobs, 25 percent of its executives to streamline decision-making, it says. Plans to halt production at five plants in U.S. and Canada, that's Detroit, Michigan, Ohio, Maryland, another plant in Warren, Michigan, all on a day when there is a lot of good news about the economy and how much people are spending out there.

We are back with the panel. Let's start with GM and the president's comments.

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LANE: You mentioned Ohio, which they are trying to make him the red state, and they've been making a lot of progress, but if you start laying people off on Trump's watch, not so good for him. That plant, Lordstown, Ohio, builds a Chevy Cruze, which is a small sedan. Too bad because in America, now, the cars that are hot are crossovers and SUVs. And whatever GM said about shifting to autonomous vehicles and electrics, what is really going on here and it's going on across the board in the auto industry is a big shift following consumer demand into crossovers and SUVs. All of the companies are restructuring to meet that demand, and this is business. That's the way that it's going to be.

BAIER: Here's President Trump on the Chevy Cruze.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

DONALD TRUMP, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: They say that the Chevy Cruze is not selling well. I say, well, then get a car that is selling well and put it back in. So I think you are going to see something else happen there, but I am not happy about it. Their car is not selling well, so they will put something else.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

LANE: He can order them to do whatever they want. He might make their life easier by relaxing some of the tariffs which have added to their costs, although that isn't the fundamental cause. But I repeat, this is about big trends and consumer demand, and that is the market.

HEMINGWAY: Manufacturing jobs in general have been doing very well. In July there was a year -- that marked a year of growth of 327,000 manufacturing jobs, October was another good month with 32,000 manufacturing jobs. So this story is not about the economy in general, or even manufacturing jobs in general.

However, it really is a sad story, particularly for people in Michigan and Ohio. It is sad to lose these factories. It's very frustrating, and there are a lot of factors that go into it. We talked about consumer demand. It's also about unions and the role that they have played in making work less attractive in those states.

BAIER: I want to put up a couple charts -- the economy changes since President Trump took office, real GDP growth, we put this up all the time, it keeps on changing for the positive. Consumer confidence has taken another big jump, average hourly earnings, if you look at the Dow since the election of President Trump, you can see all that has happened there despite some rocky times there over recent weeks and months, people are still making money. And now with Black Friday and Cyber Monday, there is this confidence and people who are selling things.

STIREWALT: There is anxiety, too, because the housing starts, the housing market is showing some softness, car sales are down. A lot of this relates to what? The interest rates. Federal Reserve is pulling back the punch bowl. Interest rates are going up after a long time where they were essentially zero. And because of concerns about inflation the Federal Reserve is pulling back a little bit.

We're going to find out whether this is a good economy or not, because we have had the federal government spending \$1 trillion extra of deficit spending, we've had the interest rates at basically zero for now a decade. Now we're going to find whether it can do without the stimulus.

BAIER: Can you do it in 10 seconds?

LANE: I was just going to say, the interest rates are another thing that has been hurting GM sales because as they go up, it is tougher to buy a car.

BAIER: That was nine.

(LAUGHTER)

BAIER: When we come back, an inside look at Christmas at the White House.

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BAIER: It is a great time of year at the White House. First Lady Melania Trump has unveiled the first family's Christmas theme, American treasures. Each room inside the White House highlights different American cities, presidents, and traditions. There are more than 14,000 red ornaments hanging from 29 trees this year. And there's a gingerbread house, you see there, it's a rendition of the National Mall, 225 pounds of gingerbread dough, 25 pounds of chocolate, and 20 pounds of white icing. That is quite something to see inside the White House.

Thanks for inviting us into your home tonight. That's it for this SPECIAL REPORT, fair, balanced, and unafraid.

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