

# [***White House Pauses Liquified Natural Gas Export Approvals; War Between Israel and Gaza Nears Four Months; Border Fight Between White House And Texas Governor Abbott Escalates; Interview With Senator James Lankford (R-OK); Interview With Senator Rick Scott (R-FL); Trump Slams Bipartisan Border Deal; Biden Hits The Trail in South Carolina; Haley Increases Attacks on Trump After E. Jean Carroll Defamation Verdict; House Homeland Security Committee Set to Vote on DHS Secretary Mayorkas Impeachment; U.S. Pauses Aid to U.N. Agency Aiding Gaza After 12 Workers Linked to Oct. 7 Terror Attack; Turkey Approves Sweden NATO Membership; Ukraine Pushes for NATO Membership Amid War with Russia***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6B6M-K5F1-JCS1-6000-00000-00&context=1516831)

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**Body**

SHANNON BREAM, FOX NEWS ANCHOR: I'm Shannon Bream.

Standoff in Texas as Governor Abbott refuses to comply with the Supreme Court decision allowing federal border agents access to a heavily traveled illegal entry point for migrants.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

GOV. GREG ABBOTT (R), TEXAS: Texas, very simply, is securing the border.

KARINE JEAN-PIERRE, WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY: They have to choose whether they want to solve a problem or, you know, get in the way and score political points.

BREAM (voice-over): Half the country's governors are backing Texas in its fight with the Biden administration, all of them Republicans.

Here in Washington, the administration releases record-breaking numbers for the southern border amid bipartisan immigration reform talks in the Senate now being blasted by GOP presidential front-runner, President Donald Trump.

TRUMP: Rather have no bill than a bad bill.

SEN. MITT ROMNEY (R-UT): The idea that someone running for president would say, please hurt my country so I can blame my opponent and help my ***politics*** is a shocking development.

BREAM: We'll speak with the top GOP border negotiator, Oklahoma Senator James Lankford, and Florida Republican Senator Rick Scott who opposes what he knows of the deal.

Plus, growing outrage over 12 United Nations aid workers in Gaza, funded in part by U.S. tax dollars, accused of participating in the October 7th terrorist attacks against Israel.

PETER DOOCY, FOX NEWS WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT: There are 12 people who are accused --

JOHN KIRBY, NSC SPOKESMAN: It's bad -- it's bad if there's one.

BREAM: We'll get reaction from House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Michael McCaul and we'll sit down with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg as all 31 member states plus Sweden take part in the largest military exercise since the Cold War.

Then, Presidents Biden and Trump eager to start the general election despite Nikki Haley's determination to stay in the race.

TRUMP: Nikki Haley, have you ever heard of her? I didn't know she was still campaigning.

NIKKI HALEY (R), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: You can't bully your way through the process.

BREAM: We'll ask our Sunday panel if there's still a path to the GOP presidential nomination for Nikki Haley.

All right now on "FOX News Sunday".

(END VIDEOTAPE)

BREAM (on camera): Hello from FOX News in Washington.

Stunning numbers for the month of December arrived in a Friday afternoon news dump. Customs and Border Patrol Protection confirming that the U.S. southern border saw more than 302,000 migrant encounters, breaking the record previously set in September and marking the first time that number has surpassed the 300,000 mark.

The hot-button election year topic comes as House Republicans move forward with impeachment of DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas.

FOX News can report this morning there will be two articles impeachment laid out by the House Homeland Security Committee set to be marked up this week. The first will focus on GOP accusations that Secretary Mayorkas willfully and systematically refused to comply with the law. The second article argues that Secretary Mayorkas has breached public trust, making false statements and obstructed oversight of the Department of Homeland Security. In a moment, we will speak with the GOP's lead negotiator on the border, Oklahoma Senator Lankford and Florida Republican Senator Rick Scott who is opposed to what he knows of the deal so far.

But, first, we turn to FOX News correspondent Matt Finn live from the southern border as the standoff between Texas officials and the federal government heats up.

Hello, Matt.

MATT FINN, FOX NEWS CORRESPONDENT: Hello, Shannon.

Shelby Park where I'm standing has been one of the hottest spots for illegal immigration anywhere on the southern border. It was just last month that up to 4,000 migrants a day were illegally crossing right here. Texas got so fed up, it kicked out the Biden administration and took the border battle into its own hands.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

FINN (voice-over): Texas is not giving in to the Biden administration's demand that it allows U.S. Border Patrol back into Shelby Park after Governor Abbott kicked out Biden's border agents three weeks ago.

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton fired back on Monday with demands of his own, asking the Biden administration to prove it has ownership over the park which Texas insists it has the constitutional right to seize.

KEN PAXTON, TEXAS ATTORNEY GENERAL: We're saying, hey, show up and give us the information that demonstrates that you're correct and I doubt they'll be able to do that.

FINN: At the heart of the dispute, Texas does not want the federal government removing its growing razor wire barrier that's serving as a wall. U.S. Custom and Border Protection says Border Patrol does not want to rip down the wire, rather cut it only in emergencies, writing: Border has no plans to remove infrastructure, c-wire, placed by Texas along the border. Our posture remains the same. If we need to access an area for emergency response, we will do so.

Paxton tells FOX he'd be open to cutting wire if someone's life is in danger, but Texas's resounding message has been it doesn't want Biden's border agents back in the park.

DAN PATRICK (R), LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF TEXAS: Look, why do they need to be here? They don't have enough Border Patrol people anyway. We got it covered.

Mr. President, Mr. President, you say you want to secure the border, Texas has secured it, leave it alone.

FINN: Meanwhile in Washington, the Senate is trying to hammer out a bipartisan immigration bill. Paxton says Republicans should not approve a Biden plan that allows for any illegal crossings.

PAXTON: Why we want to rubber stamp on what the Biden administration is doing and that's effectively what the Republicans would be doing. So, I am absolutely opposed to that bad idea.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

FINN (on camera): And President Biden says if the Senate is serious about passing that bipartisan border bill, he will sign it -- Shannon.

BREAM: All right. Matt Finn, live at the southern border, Matt, thank you very much.

Joining us, Oklahoma Republican senator, the GOP's lead negotiator on this potential border deal in the Senate, James Lankford.

Senator, welcome back to "FOX News Sunday".

SEN. JAMES LANKFORD (R-OK): Thanks. Good morning to you.

BREAM: OK. So, you were here a month ago. You said you were getting close then. You say you're even closer now.

So, let's talk about the rumors and give you a chance to respond to some of the critics who say they don't like what they know of this deal. There's something akin to a Title 42 power that would allow everyone at the border to be turned away once there was a ruling average over a week of 5,000 people showing up.

Here's Senator Ted Cruz on that idea.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

SEN. TED CRUZ (R-TX): This bill normalizes 5,000 people a day coming in, 5,000 people a day is over 1.8 million a year. That's called an invasion.

By the way, under Joe Biden, we've had 9.6 million. So, the great compromise is we're for two-thirds of Joe Biden's open borders. We'll let in 6 million instead of 9 million. This makes utterly no sense.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BREAM: Is that part of the deal? And would you convince someone like Senator Cruz to vote for it?

LANKFORD: Yeah, the challenge that Senator Cruz has and a bunch of other folks is they're so waiting to be able to read the bill on this and this has been our great challenge of being able to fight through the final words to be able to get the bill text out so people can hear it.

Right now, there's Internet rumors. It's all that people are running.

It would be absolutely absurd for me to agree to 5,000 people a day.

This bill focuses on getting us to zero illegal crossings a day. There's no amnesty. It increases a number of Border Patrol agents and it increases asylum officers. It increases detention beds so we can quickly detain and then deport individuals.

It ends catch-and-release. It focuses on additional deportation flights out. It changes our asylum process so that people can get a fast asylum screening at a higher standard and then get returned back to their home country.

This is not about letting 5,000 people in a day. This is the most misunderstood section of this proposal. And let me tell you briefly what it is.

You know, last four months, we've had seven days -- in four months, we've had seven days that we had less than 5,000 people. This is set up if you have a rush of people coming at the border, the border closes down, no one gets in.

This is not -- this is not someone standing at the border with a little clicker and saying, I'm going to let one more in, we're at 4,999 and then it has to stop. It is a shutdown of the border and everyone actually gets turned around.

BREAM: OK.

LANKFORD: That's the focus that we have right now, is how do we actually intervene in this administration and turn people around and not let people in?

BREAM: So, there may be some initial measurements. You get to that rule 5,000 in a week and then it's zero from that point on. But there is some initial measurement.

Our Bill Melugin is reporting that the number would dial back then to about 3,750 a day at the border, and then once you hit that for about two weeks, the gates would open again.

Can you confirm or deny that?

LANKFORD: Yeah, it's not -- again, it's not gates opening. It's a misunderstanding of the bill itself. It's how many can we process and actually deport.

When you raise the standard for people coming across, when you increase the detention beds, when you increased deportation flights, you're not letting people in. And people are thinking about how the Biden administration is running it now.

Right now, the Biden administration is allowing, for instance, 1,500 people a day just to come to the ports of entry, get a work permit and get released into the country. People coming between ports of entry get what's called a notice to appear and get released in the country.

All of that stops. We're focused on how many people can we process quickly and then deport out of the country, not release into the country.

It would be absolutely absurd for anyone to be able to propose something, to say we're just going to slow the number of releases. We're focused on how do we actually enforce our border and get us back to zero people actually crossing the border illegally. Every administration has struggled to be able to get authorities in place to be able to actually enforce our border. Let's put them in place.

BREAM: So, Senator Mike Lee -- you brought up the idea of work permits. He's addressed this, too, because I know you've said you want to set the bar higher for getting in on asylum. So, you say a lot of people won't make it through that initial screening process and they'll be immediately turned away.

His concern is for people who do make it through, that right now they'd have to wait 180 days for a work permit. He says now, that period would go away. People would get work permits immediately, turning up the electromagnet to bring people into this country.

LANKFORD: Yes. So, there's two different ways you're getting work permits.

If you come to a port of entry, right now, the Biden administration is just giving a work permit the first day you walk across the border. You don't have to apply for asylum. You don't have to qualify for anything. It's literally just show up, tell us your name and you're in the country.

They're just asking, they, quote/unquote, tell us in advance that you're coming. That's their only limitation on it.

The second group is people apply for asylum. They don't actually qualify for asylum. They just apply for it. If they apply for it 180 days, they get a work permit.

These are the folks that are driving all the blue cities crazy, because they are wandering around all of these different cities.

And that we end both of those, to be able to make sure that the only people that are getting a work permit coming to this process are the people that have gone through a strenuous evaluation, have been evaluated, are likely to be able to end up with asylum. Those are the individuals because they're most likely going to stay here. That's a fraction of the people that go to the process. The vast majority of people that actually go through this process will be turned around and were deported.

We are still the United States of America. We are still open to legal immigration in the process and if people are legally going through the process and they qualify and they've gone through the vetting in such, yes, we would still continue to be able to have those work permits. But we're stopping the free work permit, pass out at the border. And the -- if you just sign up and give us your name, you'll get a work permit, those just end.

BREAM: OK. President Biden spoke at this -- about this last night on a campaign rally, and he said essentially if the bill were law today, it would shut down the border right now and fix this whole thing.

So, a lot of Republicans are saying he has things he could use now, executive power and laws that are not being enforced. So, why give him this in an election year, the cover of this deal that, you know, critics say is still going to let a lot of people in, but he gets to take a victory lap that he's gotten something done?

LANKFORD: Yeah, well, it's definitely not going to let a bunch of people in. It's focused on actually turning people around on it.

It is interesting, Republicans, four months ago, would not give funding for Ukraine, for Israel and for our southern border because we demanded changes in policy. So, we actually locked arms together and said, we're not going to give money for this. We want a change in law.

And now, it's interesting, a few months later, when we're finally getting to the end, they're like, oh, just kidding, I actually don't want a change in law because of presidential election year.

We all have an oath to the Constitution and we have a commitment to say we're going to do whatever we can to be able to secure the border.

Just as a quick -- for instance, the last four months, we've had 50 people cross our border on the terror watch list, 50. We've had tens of thousands that were declared by this administration a national security risk that came across the border and were released.

It is our constitutional obligation to be able to secure our country as fast as we can secure our country. This puts in mandatory pieces that haven't been there in the past, to make this administration actually enforce the law.

But I tell you, I don't -- I don't know of anyone that believes that if President Trump was elected, if he was president right now, this border would not have this problem.

So, the thought that somehow President Biden can be pro-national security president in the final last months of this is not believable. We've had millions of people illegally cross because he opened up our border, he literally invited the world to be able to come and they came. That's why we have this chaos.

We've got do something now to be able to stop it, and then able to put new tools that even Trump administration was looking for when they were president, put those tools in place for every president from here on out.

BREAM: Senator Lankford, keep us up to date on the text. Thank you for your time.

LANKFORD: Will do.

BREAM: All right. Joining us now, Florida Republican Senator Rick Scott.

Welcome back to "FOX News Sunday".

All right. You heard the explanation there --

SEN. RICK SCOTT (R-FL): Thanks, good morning, Shannon.

BREAM: -- from your colleague, Senator Lankford, who by all accounts is a well-respected person on Capitol Hill and within the Senate.

He talks about just the last few months the terror watch people that have come through, the special interest aliens.

And it comes on the back of this letter from a number of former FBI executives warning congressional leaders saying this: It would be difficult to overstate the danger represented by the presence inside our border of what is comparatively a multi-division army of young, single adult males from hostile nations. The country has been invaded, an invasion that will continue as long the nation's enemies perceive it will be tolerated.

So, do you agree with that assessment by the way? And if so, why not take something that would stop some of the traffic sooner rather than later?

SCOTT: Well, first, I think James is -- he's smart, he's hard working, he knows the issue. He's on a suicide mission.

The Democrats do not want to secure the border. I'm a business guy. I never did a business deal where the other side did not want -- have the same goal I have. Democrats don't want to secure the border. That's number one. Number two is, right now this border could be secure, but we know we have a lawless administration, completely lawless Biden administration.

So the only way this is going to happen is if we have accountability that forces Biden to enforce the law. We could change all these laws. There's laws now. Trump secured the border. Biden decided to open the border and the exact same laws. We don't need a new bill. We need something to enforce to force Biden to comply with the law.

Now, James is doing the best he can to try to explain the bill that, unfortunately, I don't know why they don't share it with us. I mean, I'd rather be for something, but we don't get anything. But what we do know, Biden's lawless. He doesn't want to secure the border. Biden's don't -- Biden -- the Democrats don't want to secure the border.

And McConnell has told Lankford that he cannot put accountability measures in there to require Biden to secure the border today. He said that will not happen.

BREAM: So what about the issue, though, if you have this ruling number that when you hit 5,000, which is going to happen very quickly at this border, it would be mandatory that the border closes down. Is that not some measure of accountability that it will at least stop the flow temporarily until maybe you have a reelection or a different president?

SCOTT: Well, Biden could do that today. Why does he do it today? I mean, he doesn't need any of this to secure the border. Trump secured the border with exact same laws. I mean, there -- unless there's some accountability measure that forces Biden to secure the border, tied to Ukraine, tied to something else, unless there's something like that, Biden's not going to comply with the law.

If it was important for him to comply with the law, he would do it right now. If we can't force Biden to secure the border, we need to shut the border today. I can tell you, everybody in Florida, I mean, we love immigration, legal immigration.

We don't want drugs, we don't want human traffickers, we don't want criminals, we don't want terrorists. It needs to be done today. And the only way that's going to happen is we get a bill that forces Biden to do it.

And there's -- and we've -- and we've been told McConnell will not allow James Lankford to put that in the bill. It's not in the bill. So, I mean, what --

BREAM: You've done negotiations before, so you know what this is like, that until that deal is done, this is a lot of tenuous back and forth. So hopefully you'll see the tax we all will very soon.

But I want to ask you about the accusation that you guys actually don't want to get a bill done. "Washington Post" says this, "Democrats are offering something Republicans have wanted for years. But Dear Leader Trump says no, and suddenly GOP senators are afraid to say yes." How much of your objection is based primarily on the former president's objection to this bill that he hasn't seen either?

SCOTT: He's irrelevant to this conversation. He's not in office, all right. And by the way, I talked to President Trump. He's never asked me to be opposed to something. But you know what? The American voters are in the same position Trump's in, in the same position I'm in.

We need to secure the border today. And the only way you can do that with a lawless administration is you have to make them do it. You have to tie it to something. And what I don't get is Mitch McConnell doesn't want to do that.

It's the most important thing we want out of this bill. And what -- and by the way, we got to be very careful. We don't codify Biden's open policies. And we don't hamstring Trump when he wins the presidency. But this is, if you don't -- if you don't want to secure the border today, don't be blamed on Trump. Say you don't care what the voters think. It's not all what Trump thinks. It's the voters who want to secure the border today.

BREAM: OK, before you go, I want to ask you about a case that you have some involvement with. This is a government contractor who worked to get IRS records and leak them, including for President Trump and thousands of other people.

You have said in a letter to the Attorney General, you were impacted by this too, and you don't think the DOJ is taking this seriously enough. "Wall Street Journal" says about this, this man's going to be sentenced tomorrow, that Mr. Littlejohn doesn't dispute that he stole tax records. He gave the files to the 'New York Times' and Progressive Website 'ProPublica.' Mr. Littlejohn's lawyers say he decided, quote, 'the American public had a right to know the president's tax information."

Will you be at that sentencing tomorrow? What would you like to see?

SCOTT: I'm going to be there. He released my tax return. He intentionally took the job to release Trump's tax return. And he did over 7,500 people. And he's going to be -- he's going to plead guilty to one case.

I mean, this is just -- this is an example of the Justice Department deciding, oh, if you do something against Republicans, who cares? If you do it against Democrats, that's bad. But if you do it against Republicans, oh, we'll just give you a slap on the wrist.

BREAM: We will follow that case. Senator Scott, thanks for your time.

SCOTT: Thanks.

BREAM: Up next, as more Republicans line up behind the former president, Nikki Haley rakes in the cash after Trump essentially threatens to blacklist anyone who donates to her campaign. We're bringing our Sunday panel on whether Haley has a genuine path forward. That's next.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

BREAM: Both President Biden and former President Trump cruised to victories in New Hampshire. Now, the eyes of 2024 campaigns shift toward the South Carolina primary. The GOP will vote February 24th, but the Democrats moved up their primary day to this coming Saturday.

"Fox News" White House Correspondent Peter Doocy joins us live from Columbia, South Carolina where the president's traveling to rally support, ahead of the vote. Hey Peter.

PETER DOOCY, FOX NEWS WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT: Shannon, South Carolina saved President Biden in 2020. He was as low as primary candidates get, but limped in here, then won. Now, he is hoping to use this state's diverse primary base as a springboard for a second term.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

JOE BIDEN, (D) U.S. PRESIDENT: If I were smart, I'd say thank you and leave.

DOOCY (voice-over): He stayed with a pitch to South Carolina's black Democratic primary voters.

BIDEN: More black Americans have health insurance than ever in history.

AUDIENCE: Amen.

BIDEN: A promise made and a promise kept.

DOOCY: Both Biden and RNC Chair Ronna McDaniel believe November's GOP nominee will be Donald Trump.

RONNA MCDANIEL, RNC CHAIRWOMAN: I'm looking at the math and the path going forward, and I don't see it for Nikki Haley.

DOOCY: Haley, not happy.

NIKKI HALEY, (R) PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: I let her know how disappointed I was.

DOOCY: The RNC resolution was floated and pulled this week to declare Trump, the party's presumptive nominee. Meanwhile, Trump is now taking incoming from Haley and President Biden for the same thing. A statement Trump made that Nikki Haley was in charge of Capitol security January 6th.

BIDEN: Have you noticed? He's a little confused these days.

HALEY: I think he was a bit confused, and so we'll let that pass.

BIDEN: He apparently can't tell the difference between Nikki Haley and Nancy Pelosi.

DOOCY: Trump insists he's good.

TRUMP: I'll tell you what, I feel sharper now than I did 20 years ago. I really do. I don't know. It's probably not true.

DOOCY: But Trump remains the Democrats' top target.

BIDEN: You're the reason Donald Trump is a loser. And you're the reason we're going to win and beat him again.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

DOOCY (on camera): We didn't hear President Biden say Nikki Haley's name once last night, even here in his home state -- I mean, her home state. His campaign speech has been retooled. It is now being road tested, and the really, really fiery lines, have nothing to do with anything Biden did in office or would do with the second term. They are all about Trump. Shannon?

BREAM: All right, Peter Ducey live in South Carolina. Thank you so much, Peter.

It's time now for our Sunday group, "USA Today" White House Correspondent Francesca Chambers. "Fox News" Senior Political Analyst, Juan Williams. "The Heritage Foundation" President, Kevin Roberts. And "The Hill" National Political Reporter, Julia Manchester.

All right, have you recovered from Iowa? New Hampshire? It's good to see all of you here. But now we're on to a Southern warmer, sunnier place. But here's where we are. Nikki Haley reacting to this huge verdict against President Trump on Friday, making this point, she says, he wants to be the presumptive Republican nominee and we're talking about $83 million in damages, not talking about fixing the border, not talking about tackling inflation. America can do better than Donald Trump and Joe Biden.

Francesca, the White House has got to love this. Although they seem to be moving on to the general, they're going to enjoy the infighting.

FRANCESCA CHAMBERS, USA TODAY WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT: Well, their strategy at this point is to focus on Donald Trump. They do believe that he will be the nominee. So they're using this runway right now to go ahead and focus on who they believe will be their opponent.

But Nikki Haley there making those comments both on X. She touched on this last night in South Carolina as well. She said Russia and China and Iran have got to love this as well. That this is going to be a distraction for him if he's still in these legal battles if he wins the presidency.

But Haley still isn't going for that knockout punch against Donald Trump. You know, she's got one foot in and one foot out of this attack Trump strategy. And part of the reason is if you look at Fox's survey of voters in New Hampshire, you know, nearly two-thirds of them, they don't think that Trump did anything wrong here.

But she's got to find a way to start cutting into his votes with rural voters heading into South Carolina or boost her support among suburban voters if she wants to have a chance.

KEVIN ROBERTS, PRESIDENT, HERITAGE FOUNDATION: Yeah, trailing by double digits, well into them. They're in South Carolina. President Trump, though, reacting on social media as well, saying in part, "Our legal system is out of control and being used as a political weapon. They have taken away all First Amendment rights. This is not America."

Juan, you and I talked to voters all over these last two states, and they said that's the reason they're rallying to him. Does this work for him?

JUAN WILLIAMS, FOX NEWS SENIOR POLITICAL ANALYST: Well, it works with the base. It works with the MAGA base. There's nothing that seems that will deter them from supporting the former president. But there's also a reality, as we learned in Iowa and New Hampshire, where you get, you know, a tremendous number of independents and even some Republicans who say they will not vote for Donald Trump.

And it's kind of -- it's kind of odd, because as we've just pointed out, he won. He won both states. But the fact is that, you know, 35% of Republicans I see here in my notes in New Hampshire said they will not vote for Trump if he's the party's nominee. 58% of independents in New Hampshire, 55% in Iowa, voted against Trump.

So when independent suburban moms hear that a jury found him liable for sexual assault and now giving him this -- I mean, it introduces some of what Nikki Haley's talking about in her message that there's this unhinged sense of chaos and trouble that follows Donald Trump.

BREAM: Well, and that was another thing that we heard from Haley voters in these early states that was the attraction to him. Even if they like him or to her, they may like him and his policies, but they like her offering what she says is the chaos free option.

"Wall Street Journal" had an opinion piece by Peggy Noonan in the last day or two and it talks about Nikki Haley going for broke, saying, she should stay in this race. And this is the advice coming from a veteran speechwriter and man about Washington who says this, "Admit you are not as entertaining or maybe exciting as he is, but that's OK, you're not running to entertain but to lead. A rabid squirrel in a chemistry lab is exciting to watch but can do a lot of damage."

Kevin does she make the rabid squirrel arguments?

ROBERTS: No, it's a ridiculous argument. There's a lot of wish casting, including by Ms. Noonan, and even this morning, Shannon, Nikki Haley is not going to deliver a knockout punch on President Trump. And do you know why? It has nothing to do with squirrels and a cage. It has everything to do with the fact that people recognize, A, these cases, all of them, all of these legal cases are illegitimate. And B, President Trump is focused on what the people care about, securing the border, addressing the economy, and public safety.

Until and unless Ambassador Haley and the radical left and President Biden wrap their heads around that, President Trump will continue to lead in every single poll that has come out in the last several months.

BREAM: Well, we saw -- we see his rallies. We saw another one last night where he is talking about all of these things and making the case that there really isn't -- that, you know, he's moved on to the general as well.

Very interesting piece in the "Intelligencer" in "New York Magazine," talked with a woman who was a big supporter of President Trump in 2016. She really soured when January 6th and some other things that happened. She said she didn't want him to run. She was not going to vote for him. But now where we are in the primary, she had a choice to make.

The headline is "Trump Haters Turn Trump Voters: Why Are They Giving Him a Second Chance?" She said this with all of those things in the background, more than anything, she did not want another four years of Democratic control of the White House.

So, Julia, will there be those who have somehow broken with President Trump, said, I'm never going to vote for him again? Will there be more that match this woman's thought, OK, if it's him and Biden, I'm going to do it again?

JULIA MANCHESTER, THE HILL NATIONAL POLITICAL REPORTER: Absolutely. But I think there's also a group of voters who look at Trump versus Biden and saying we've been giving this awful choice of these two men once again in 2020. I think 2020 was, you know, a very traumatic year for the country and the world for many reasons, but also it was a very ugly election year and this really harkens back to it.

So I think that's why there's so much interest in a third party. Now, do I think a third-party nominee is going to win the presidency? Likely not. However, I think there is polling that would suggest there's interest in that and that's why they're gravitating towards it.

BREAM: Yeah. And one of the leaders by the way of "No Labels" third party said that they actually feel like after Iowa, New Hampshire, they're more likely to run a 3rd party bid, so we'll see.

Panel, don't go far. That's it for now. But up next, we're to go back to our top story the crisis at the border. We've got breaking details about the articles of impeachment drafted by the House Homeland Security Committee against DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, got a copy of my hands. We'll get reaction from House Foreign Affairs Chair, Michael McCaul, next.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

BREAM: You're looking at live pictures in Eagle Pass, Texas. That is the border area much under dispute right now. Tensions ramping up this week between Texas Governor Greg Abbott and the White House over the administration's response there at the southern border.

And now after multiple hearings over dereliction of duties, House Republicans are set to move forward with articles of impeachment, even a House-wide vote to actually impeach DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas.

Joining me now to discuss Texas Republican Congressman Michael McCaul. Welcome back to Fox News Sunday.

REP. MICHAEL MCCAUL (R-TX): Thanks for having me, Shannon.

BREAM: All right, so we have brand new here. The two articles of impeachment, willful and systemic refusal to comply with the law and breach of the public trust.

Now, is he just the messenger carrying out the policies for the administration? Why go after him when this may go nowhere in the Senate?

MCCAUL: He knows better and I -- you know, I served -- Chairman Homeland Security when J. Johnson, he was the Deputy. He was a U.S. Attorney in Los Angeles. He knows better. This is not by accident, it's by design.

And he -- I call him the architect of destruction. Eight million encounters, 300 on the terror watch list, 200 million people dead now, thanks to fentanyl poisoning, that this one man is responsible for. I think that is a dereliction of duty.

And you know, we looked at the founding fathers here. They didn't have a lot of federal criminal statutes. Breach of the public trust is sufficient to impeach. And you know, I think it's important that we respond to the American people.

BREAM: All right, here's a response from a Democratic congressman, colleague of yours, Jake Auchincloss was on "Fox" yesterday. Here's what he said.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

REP. JAKE AUCHINCLOSS (D-MA): Impeachment is grossly inappropriate for policy differences. If Republicans are serious about border policy, then let's engage on this bipartisan border policy bill. Impeaching Secretary Mayorkas is an admission by the GOP in the House that they don't actually have plans, they just have anger.

BREAM: You're angry?

MCCAUL: Yeah, my constituents are angry. I just got back from Texas. I was down at the border. I saw -- it's worse than it's ever been, Shannon. The detention spaces are overflowing again, and all the, you know, notice to appear and they're let into our society.

It's unsustainable, and it's causing so injurious to the state is what the founding fathers said. This is the greatest injury I think I've seen. And it was really because of the change in policy by executive fiat and changing executive orders from the previous administration.

I love the fact we're going to try to do legislation up here, but the fact is President Biden can change this tomorrow. If he just changed the executive orders they did on day one, remain in Mexico came out of my committee, and it simply says you're detained, but you remain in Mexico pending the adjudication of political asylum.

Therefore, catch and release is over, and it stopped, and it secured the border. This President could do the same thing, but he chooses not to.

BREAM: OK, quickly, if the Senate deal comes together, but it's DOA in the House as we keep hearing, will the House vote on some measure for Ukrainian aid that's not attached to the border? Or does it have to be a deal package deal for you?

MCCAUL: I mean, that's gone back and forth. And, you know, that's kind of a leadership question. I could see it tied to maybe Israel and Indo-Pacific. You know, my thoughts, you know, in Ukraine, we can't abandon our allies and surrender to Putin and Ukraine like we did in Afghanistan.

BREAM: But maybe border splits apart from those potentially?

MCCAUL: Well, it seems to me that that's of course things are currently. I don't know if the Senate version is going to be sufficient in the House. I don't know if Speaker Johnson will put it on the floor, unless there's significant policy changes like the ones I'm talking about.

BREAM: And we don't know the text yet. So we'll see, there's a lot of pressure.

MCCAUL: And we don't.

BREAM: OK, so let's talk about this given your foreign policy connection as well. This U.N. agency that we fund to the tune of billions of dollars with U.S. funds, it's supposed to help people within the Gaza Strip and beyond.

There are accusations that several of the employees were somehow directly involved in the massacres, the terror attacks on October 7th. We're among the countries that have suspended funding to them but there has long been a history of questions and problems about their activity.

How do we get aid to people in the region who desperately needed civilians and, you know, also decide how we're going to hold this agency accountable?

MCCAUL: Well, you do through other NGOs like the World Food Program and others. I mean the United Nations Relief Agency, the previous Trump administration cut all funding for a reason, just for this reason. The idea that UNRWA was actually supplying, you know, harboring weapons to assist with Hamas' invasion of Israel.

Now, those are the allegations that have come out of Israel. We're investigating, but if they're true, think how outrageous that is. And we do have reporting that UNRWA is using money to give aid to Hamas.

And that's why I've advocated to cut that funding. The administration finally, after they allowed it, put a pause on it just a couple days ago. This is -- and they're going to testify before my committee, and we're going to get some answers.

BREAM: OK, another foreign policy issue. Bipartisan group of House members wrote a letter to the President on Friday about the strikes on the Houthi targets, all that's going on in the Red Sea. They say this, "We believe the U.S. unauthorized strikes in Yemen violate the Constitution. We urge your administration to seek authorization from Congress." They say it's up to Congress debating, putting U.S. troops, U.S. dollars in line with attacks like these. Where are you on this?

MCCAUL: Well, this goes back to the authorization of use of military force. My committee would pass this. Right now, they're using Article 2 self- defense, right? Houthi rebels, they've shut down the Red Sea, by the way. You know, 450% increase in shipping going through there, so inflation and energy.

But the bottom line is, to some extent, I agree that Congress should authorize, but I would authorize. I -- in fact, in my AUMF proposal, we authorized use of force against not -- these Iranian proxies, not Iran itself, but the proxies of Iran. That's what's changed since 9/11. Houthi rebels are causing so much destruction in this projection of weakness that this administration has, whether it be, you know, with Russia, China, and the Ayatollah, has brought this on.

BREAM: All right, we'll see if the White House does come to you on this.

Mr. Chairman, always good to see you.

MCCAUL: Thanks, Shannon.

BREAM: Thanks for coming in.

Also joining us now, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg.

Welcome to Fox News Sunday, as we continue our international affairs conversation. Good to have you.

JENS STOLTENBERG, NATO SECRETARY GENERAL: Thanks so much for having me.

BREAM: OK, so you are now launching what's being described as the largest military exercise since the Cold War, tens of thousands of troops, tons of countries, air power, ships out there. As we're looking at what's happening in the Middle East, China actually points to you guys and says you're the reason that things are unstable, you're a walking war machine, NATO is, everywhere it goes.

What's your message to China and what's the broader message you hope to communicate through this exercise?

STOLTENBERG: NATO is a defensive alliance, and the purpose of NATO is to preserve peace, to prevent war. And this exercise is to demonstrate our strength, how North America and Europe can work together, not to provoke a conflict, but to prevent a conflict, as NATO has done for 75 years. Peace in Europe is there because we stand together in North America and Europe.

BREAM: I would imagine that part of the messaging, this show of force, is for Russia as well. Putin said early on that part of his problem in this incursion, this war with Ukraine, has started because he didn't want NATO to expand.

It looks like Sweden is now going to join if the objections from Hungary are out of the way. I talked with Sweden's Defense Minister about this a few weeks ago.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

PAL JONSON, SWEDISH MINISTER OF DEFENSE: I always say that the Swedish and Finnish NATO membership, that's the mother of all unintended consequences for Russian thinking. Russia did not see that Sweden or Finland would join the alliance, and this was not planned, but that's of course a consequence.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BREAM: Obviously not a consequence that Russia wants. Do you have any thoughts about whether they may see this as a provocation? There may be some reaction from Mr. Putin once Sweden officially joins.

STOLTENBERG: President Putin is getting the exact opposite of what he wanted. He wanted less NATO. He's getting more NATO. He's getting more NATO troops in the eastern part of the alliance, in the Baltic region, in Poland.

But he's also -- he's also getting two new NATO members. Finland has already joined, and now Sweden will soon become a member. This is not a provocation. This is a way for NATO allies to stand together, and now two more allies.

And this reflects that we are in a more dangerous world, because Putin has used force, invaded another country, Ukraine. And therefore these countries, which have decided for years to stand to be outside of NATO, now have decided to join, and we welcome them.

BREAM: And you've also talked about a path for Ukraine to join NATO as well. Do you worry, given Putin, given his actions, that once NATO does join -- once Ukraine joins NATO, that the rest of that task force then is going to be potentially drawn into a military war with Putin?

STOLTENBERG: So again, NATO is there to prevent war, and we have done so successfully. I'm from Norway, and Norway is bordering Russia. We actually border the Soviet Union. The only NATO island (ph) border Soviet Union NATO also established.

Soviet said, that was a provocation that Norway became a member. It was not a provocation, it's a right of every sovereign nation to choose their own path, and that is the right Norway has, Sweden, Finland have, and also Ukraine.

It is important that Putin doesn't get his way in Ukraine because that will embolden other authoritarian powers. To date Ukraine tomorrow it may be Taiwan. So it's a good deal for us, for the United States to support Ukraine and also at some stage invite them to become a full member of the Alliance.

BREAM: And obviously as you know, you've heard throughout our show, Ukraine, the funding for it here from the U.S. is tied up with a big dispute over our border and other political issues. You're going to meet with a lot of top defense officials and with lawmakers on the Hill this week. What will your message be to them about Ukraine funding from the U.S.?

STOLTENBERG: So, first of all, I understand that the border issue is important. That's important in the United States, as it is in many other NATO allies. But it's not for NATO to give advice on actually -- on exactly how different allies are dealing with border issues.

What matters is that Ukraine gets continued support, because we need to realize that this is closely watched in Beijing. So, it's not only making Europe more vulnerable, but all of us, also United States more vulnerable if Putin gets what he wants in Ukraine.

And this is actually a good deal because we -- by - by using fraction of the U.S. defense budget, we have been able to destroy and degrade the Russian army substantially, and therefore, we should continue to do so, because not least knowing that most of this money is actually spent in the United States, we buy U.S. weapons to support Ukraine. This occurs jobs in America and makes it all -- makes us all safer.

BREAM: There's been some growing skepticism on the Hill. So, we'll see how your meetings go.

Mr. Secretary General, thank you for stopping in.

STOLTENBERG: Thank you.

BREAM: Good to see you..

Up next, the Biden administration makes a move on America's energy sector that critics say is actually going to hurt our economy, and maybe even our national security. But climate activists say this is long overdue. Our Sunday panel debates the fallout, next.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

BIDEN: Look, we have to fight for clean air in our communities. And to lower costs for American families. Including in energy costs. Today's pause on new natural gas export approvals recognizes the climate crisis for that it is, the existential threat of our time. It's a threat. A serious threat.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BREAM: President Biden following his decision to place a freeze on all approvals for liquefied natural gas export projects.

We are back with the panel now to talk about this.

OK, "The Wall Street Journal" editorial board does not love this idea, saying this, "the administration hopes its climate gesture will boost the president's flagging political support among young people. Who cares about the real-world impact or the signal to allies and adversaries that the U.S. isn't a reliable partner?"

Juan, they say it was a TikTok influencer on the climate who went to the White House and partially convinced them to do this.

WILLIAMS: I find that highly dubious, but possible because TikTok is an influence and what this message is, according to "The Wall Street Journal," is really aimed at young voters who are concerned with climate change. I think we have to just put this in some context. The Biden administration doesn't talk about it, but oil production, liquid natural gas production, under this administration, is at record highs. The United States is setting records as the number one producer of oil liquid natural gas in the world.

But Biden also is saying, and I think he's saying it to that young voter cohort, Shannon, that we care about climate change. The United States. Now, obviously, "The Wall Street Journal" business community would say, well, wait a second, if we're -- if we've got liquid natural gas and other countries are demanding it, why not give it to them? So, their response is, in cases of unanticipated emergencies, national security, we will deal with them. But they are very intent in this political year in sending a political message.

BREAM: Well, and, Julia, Senator Jack Reed, a Democrat, obviously, said that "This is actually good news for American consumers. It will increase the supply of domestic natural gas, which should create downward pressure on prices for Americans to heat their homes and power their businesses."

MANCHESTER: Right. And I mean that's important right now in the economy and with Americans not really feeling or saying they're not feeling the effects of the booming economy. But, you know, to Juan's point and, you know, that discussion on ***politics***, I think this is very -- this is definitely a way for the Biden administration to really galvanize that young voter base. That is a part of this coalition that Biden relied on to get elected in 2020, and that many Democrats rely on that are breaking from him. And I think it's very serious. We're seeing it in the polls. They're breaking from him on issues like the environment, like the war in Gaza and Israel. So, this is something the Biden administration is really trying to reach across to those voters to galvanize them. We don't know if it will work yet. There's obviously a number of issues. But the Trump campaign obviously going on the offensive against this. So, I'm curious to see how this is going to work with more independent voters.

BREAM: Yes, and you talk about the economic tie-in because all of our considerations are daily life. I mean people are feeling it there. Even though there was good news on the fourth quarter, which all Americans should be celebrating,

"The American Prospect" has this warning, though. It says, "It's a mistake to keep harping on how great the economy is, since it's only marginally better for most working families. What Biden needs to do is make the election future oriented, talk about how much more needs to be done, could be done in a second Biden term."

Kevin, they are not walking away from Bidenomics. He's still harping on this, on -- on the trail.

ROBERTS: It's - it's very bizarre. I mean the policy, as you might imagine, coming from the president. The Heritage Foundation has some faults, but just politically it's bizarre. And for that matter, a component of this, this LNG decision, is bizarre. Number one, it doesn't help. So, 2.3 billion people still living in poverty in the world. The best way they can get out of that is by access to natural gas. What are they doing instead? They're using coal. It aids Russia. And the third thing is, and this actually ties into the question about the economy, Shannon, this is retribution. I mean we're living at a time when most of the commentary by media, not you, are focused on retribution by President Trump. This is retribution for Texas, God bless Texas, for standing up on the border. That's what Americans realize. It's about the border, it's about the economy, it's about public safety. And the more President Biden does this kind of thing, the less likely it is he'll be re-elected.

BREAM: Well, I have heard this allegation that because Texas has, I think, three locations for the liquefied natural gas, that this is something to do with the border. That people would play ***politics*** in Washington is taking our breath away. I'm sure we're all stunned by that. It's just an allegation.

OK, but back to the economic issue. Pew Research has new polling out on this, saying, "economic ratings" mean far less -- they "remain far less positive than before the pandemic." And they go on to say, "More Americans believe economic conditions will be worse a year from now than better." And that's really tough in a re-election year.

CHAMBERS: And actually last night in South Carolina, President Biden, he didn't use the word Bidenomics last night. Instead, he talked about the $1,400 checks that his administration, through pandemic assistance sent to people, $300 for children. So, he was talking about tangible things that Americans could -- could, you know, hold in their hands versus some of these roads and bridges and things that were just not connecting with voters. But it's still just not helping his numbers, Shannon.

BREAM: I mean -

WILLIAMS: Yes, but consumer confidence sentiment is rising. The question, does it - does it keep rising -

BREAM: Uh-huh.

CHAMBERS: It is but it's not helping his poll numbers.

WILLIAMS: Not now, but does it keep rising going towards November?

BREAM: Yes, does it - does it peak in time?

WILLIAMS: I mean the fact is, the economy -- the stock market is unbelievable right now.

BREAM: Well, again, when people are buying grocery and gas and all these things, there's that daily measurement for them. So, we'll see where it gets to in November of this year.

All right, panel, thank you very much. We'll see you next Sunday.

Up next, Fox News foreign correspondent Trey Yingst joins us live from Israel with more on those shocking allegations that employees of a U.N. agency supported with your U.S. tax dollars were directly involved in the October 7th terror massacre.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

BREAM: U.S. forces and Houthi rebels continue to trade blows around the Red Sea as the conflict in the Middle East escalates amid the ongoing war in Gaza.

Fox News correspondent, foreign correspondent, Trey Yingst joins us live from Tel Aviv with the very latest.

Hello, Trey.

TREY YINGST, FOX NEWS FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT: Shannon, good morning.

It's day 114 of the war between Israel and Hamas as concern grows about the possibility of that conflict expanding across the region.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

YINGST (voice over): Chaos erupts at the overcrowded Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis. Palestine being treated on the floor. There is simply no space left for the injured.

"The simplest things in the hospital, such as painkillers and anesthesia tools, are not available," Doctor Mohammed Harara (ph) explains. "We're trying our best to deal with patients that arrive, and we're trying to keep them alive."

With the Israeli air and ground campaign against Hamas entering its 17th week, fighting is intensifying around Gaza's second largest city. At an evacuation corridor, civilians chant, "The people want to overthrow Hamas." Thousands of vulnerable Gazans are on the move again, running out of places to go. Israel's ongoing campaign comes as the country braces for another war. Israeli forces launched new drills this weekend to prepare for conflict with the Iran-backed Lebanese militant group Hezbollah. And with Israel's key ally, the United States, engaging Iran backed Houthi rebels in Yemen, including new strikes Saturday morning to destroy an anti-ship missile. There are growing fears about the possibility of a broader regional war.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

YINGST (on camera): Diplomatic efforts are ongoing to calm the region as CIA Director William Burns is in Paris, along with the Qatari prime minister, the Egyptian and the Israelis, trying to hammer out the details of a possible ceasefire that could include the release of hostages.

Shannon.

BREAM: Trey, thank you.

That's it for today. Thank you for joining us. We'll see you next FOX NEWS SUNDAY.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

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