|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Dow Jones Factiva |  |

Top of Form

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE** BRIT HUME, FOX NEWS HOST: The presidential race tonight is a near tie.

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton leads Republican Donald Trump by three points in a two-way race and just 2.1 points in a four-way race. That according to the RealClearPolitics polling average. One month ago tonight, she led by nearly seven points in a four-way race.

Good evening from Washington, I'm Brit Hume.

Tonight, one big question concerns undecided voters. Fully 13 percent of voters polled say they don't back either major party candidate yet at least according to a new "Wall Street Journal" poll.

Among them 52 percent are suburban voters. 33 percent whites with a college degree and 48 percent are people who hope the Republicans will continue their control of Congress. 79 percent have negative views of both Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump.

For some thoughts on this tonight, we start with former senior advisor to President George W. Bush, Karl Rove, who joins me from New York.

Hi, Karl.

KARL ROVE, FORMER DEPUTY SENIOR ADVISOR AND CHIEF-OF-STAFF TO G.W. BUSH: How are you, Brit?

HUME: I'm well, buddy.

Listen, what do you -- what do you think about? This looks like an unusually high number of undecideds at this stage.

Am I right about that?

ROVE: Absolutely. Since this summer, we've had roughly, half again as many undecided voters as we've had in any election since 1992. And we also have had two different kinds of undecided voters.

We've traditionally had in presidential election years undecideds who are not very partisan. They tend to be a little bit more non-white. A little bit younger, a little bit less affluent. But they look like the rest of the electorate generally except that they don't take in much information.

They don't really care about politics much and they make up their minds very late and they are driven by the personal characteristics of the candidates.

But in this election, we got a second kind of undecided voter. I call him the unconvinced undecideds.

They are highly-informed. They are well-educated. They tend to be in suburban areas and metropolitan regions. They have the dynamic that you saw -- that you described earlier. In this election, they tend to be more Republican than Democrat. And they don't like either candidate.

Eight out of ten of them. Nearly eight out of 10 of them have negative feelings about Donald Trump and eight out of 10 have negative feelings about Hillary Clinton.

And it's going to be interesting to see how they come out on this thing because they are likely, more likely to participate in the election than the traditional undecideds.

HUME: Right. The conventional wisdom about undecided voters is that it's easy to overestimate their impact, because most of them end up not voting. These people according to the profile we get from this poll look like the kind of people who do vote.

ROVE: Absolutely. And they are sitting there, waiting to get the right kind of signal to vote. Now interestingly enough, Donald Trump has an easier avenue to get to them in my opinion.

Not only because they tend to be more Republican. 48 percent of them say regardless of who gets elected president, they want a Republican Congress. 25 percent of them say regardless of who gets elected, they want a Democratic Congress. So they look sort of like they are Republicans, soft Republicans in the suburbs.

He has to reassure them that he is up to the job. She has got to persuade them that they ought to vote for her.

Those are two different things. One where you've got to give sort of the message of, you know, look, I realize we got differences, but at the end of the day, I'm the change agent that you can have confidence in.

She's got to persuade them, look, I know you want change. I know you don't like me. I know you distrust me. I know you are upset about the last eight years, but you know what? Stay with us, continuity, because he is too extreme. A lot easier to do what he needs to do than what she needs to do.

HUME: In the end, Karl, I mean, it's occurred to me as you suggest that a lot of voters just don't want to vote for her.

ROVE: And that all other things being equal, this would be a year in which it would be a pretty easy task for a Republican to be elected.

Donald Trump is proving that it's a difficult task. What is he basically, you know, really have to do here to get these people, you know, A, to vote and B, to vote for him?

ROVE: Well, look, it's like fine art. We know it when we see it. And I think Americans saw it in Mexico City.

I thought that news conference afterwards was presidential. He was not -- he was not angry. He was not pounding the table. He wasn't calling people names. He looked and acted and sounded like a president.

I thought the event on Saturday morning in Detroit. He -- you know, there was a guy who looked like a president.

Thursday night, where he is playing to the crowd, and angry, and you know, out of control at times, that's the kind of thing that I think causes this group of unconvinced, undecideds to say, you know what? I'm going to be sitting on the sidelines a little bit more.

HUME: Well, with these numbers, Karl, it does look like there are plenty enough of them that they could decide the election either way, right?

ROVE: Exactly. And, look, in the last month, he has cut that lead from 7.9 to 3 points. And he has done so by after three terrible weeks following the convention. And he has done so by moving those undecideds into his column. And the kind of people we're talking about are the people who fuelled that movement that has closed the gap. More by leaving her than coming to him, but none the less coming to him.

HUME: Yes. And I guess one of his worries has to be that those voters won't go to -- you know, the other party candidates, which I guess was a possibility.

Karl, thank you. Great to see you.

ROVE: Great to see you.

HUME: Hope to see you again soon.

ROVE: Absolutely.

[19:05:25] HUME: A little later, we will be joined by former speaker of the House Newt Gingrich who has advised Donald Trump on many things to discuss with him. How the Republican nominee might prepare to debate Hillary Clinton.

Stay with us.

Today in Philadelphia, Donald Trump put some more meat on the bones of his campaign as he made what was billed as a major speech on military preparedness. Here is a little of what he said.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

DONALD TRUMP, U.S. REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE: In 2010, the United States spent $554 billion on non-war based defense spending. In the year, and I have to say, currently, we're spending $548 billion, a cut of 10 percent. And that number is going down very rapidly, looking into the future unless I become your president.

This reduction was done through what is known as sequester, which you have all heard about or automatic defense budget cuts. Under the budget agreement, defense took half of the cuts even though it makes up only one sixth of the budget. So they put it all in defense.

As soon as I take office, I will ask Congress to fully eliminate the defense sequester and will submit a new budget to rebuild our military. It is so depleted. We will rebuild our military.

(APPLAUSE)

We will build an active army of around 540,000 as the army's chief-of-staff has said he needs, desperately, and really must have to protect our country.

We now --

(APPLAUSE)

We now have only 31 brigade combat teams or 490,000 troops, and only 1/3 of combat teams are considered combat ready. That's not good for our country.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

HUME: Here to discuss military preparedness and the Trump plan for it is an authority on the subject, Retired Army General Bob Scales. Author of a new book called "Scales on War: The Future of America's Military at Risk."

Bob, hi. Good to see you.

BOB SCALES, RETIRED ARMY GENERAL: Hi, Brit. Good to be here.

HUME: First of all, give me the -- if you can, the sense of what your book is getting at.

SCALES: Yes, my book is all about three numbers, Brit. 81, four, and one. In wars fought since the end of World War II period, we call the American era of war.

81 percent of those who died at the hands of the enemy are made up of less than four percent of the total uniformed people in D.O.D. and they receive less than one percent of the budget.

And these are close-combat soldiers, infantry men, not soldiers and marines, infantry men.

And so -- and oh, by the way, most of our enemies have been infantry men. And the enemy knows, because they have a vote that the surest way to end a war against the United States is strike our vulnerable center of gravity which is dead Americans.

And so what I ask in the book very simply is this, our close combat soldiers and marines are our most vulnerable. Why don't we do more to protect those who are most likely to die?

HUME: Let's just look for a moment, here, bob, at the Trump proposal, some of the specifics of that.

SCALES: Yes.

HUME: Active army 540,000, as you heard him say. Marine Corps based on 36 battalions. Navy approaching 350 surface ships and submarines. Air Force of at least 1200 fighter aircraft.

Are those the kind -- is that the kind of thing we need to do or is that emphasize in the wrong places.

it goes a long way to fixing the problem. You cannot defend the nation in our future wars. You can't even defeat ISIS with a ground combat force, soldiers and marines and solve that small. And an increase --

HUME: By the way, he wants to go to 540. What are we now about 480 something?

SCALES: About well over 490 going down to 450. The marines are at 24 combat battalions. He wants to raise it to 36.

HUME: Right.

SCALES: In addition, I think he's got to increase special operating forces, who of course are elite fighting forces. All that's good.

My only quibble with this idea is he hasn't talked about modernizing these forces. I mean, if we continue as we are now, my grandson will be commanding a battalion of Reagan era tanks. So it's not just enough to increase numbers. We have to increase the quality of the force, and I guarantee you, the Russians and the Chinese are rapidly at work doing that very same thing.

HUME: Now, all of this is going to cost a lot of money to do this.

SCALES: Yes.

HUME: And the additional things that you think are needed. Do the things that he has described strike you? The policies he described as likely to finance that?

[19:10:11] SCALES: Boy, that's a good question. And what he suggests doing is cutting the federal bureaucracy to include the military bureaucracy.

The question is, is this 40, 50 billion additional dollars, can you get that? Can you squeeze the orange that much to get that much juice out of it? I'm not sure about that. But I am sure that you cannot defend this nation on 2.5 percent of our G.D.P. devoted to fighting our wars. You can't do it.

HUME: It was saying, General, at one hand, we do need a robust economy.

SCALES: It all starts with that, doesn't it? Because if you increase the proportion of the budget to 3 percent, you grow the economy at 4.5 percent a year, we are going to make those numbers easily. If we don't, we're in trouble.

HUME: Bob Scales, great to see you.

SCALES: Thank you.

HUME: Back on the campaign trail.

Let's look at Arizona, where a new poll shows the state is a toss-up this election even though a Democrat hasn't carried Arizona in 20 years.

The "Arizona Republic" poll shows Clinton with a 1.6 point lead in a four- way race. That, of course, is well within the margin of error. That same poll found that 23 percent of Arizona voters have not made up their mind on which candidate they will vote for.

We turn now to Arizona Republic political reporter Dan Nowicki -- excuse me, Dan -- who joins us from Arizona.

Hi, Dan, what's going on out there?

DAN NOWICKI, ARIZONA REPUBLIC REPORTER: Hi, Brit.

Yes, we have a new poll out. It just came out today and it shows that Arizona is a toss-up. It's no longer the, you know, the G.O.P. stronghold that it's been since, really since 1948.

President Bill Clinton carried Arizona in 1996. So before that, you have to go way back to Harry Truman in 1948 before you find a Democrat who was able to win Arizona.

This year it's really close. Our polls showed Hillary Clinton leading Donald Trump by about a percentage point. So it's really could go either way. About 23 percent undecided.

HUME: Right. I see. We talked about 23 percent undecided. What is the cause of that?

I mean, we just talked about the fact that there is unusually high number of undecideds nationwide with Karl Rove.

In Arizona, are there particular reasons for that? Is it the fact that the people have misgivings about the candidates? What?

NOWICKI: I think the **immigration** issue is so important in Arizona. And Arizona, despite its reputation sometimes, they really have a sophisticated view of **immigration**.

And some of the Trump policy proposals like we are going to build a wall and have Mexico pay for it, you know, it may play better around the country than it does here in Arizona.

HUME: Really?

(CROSSTALK)

NOWICKI: Yes.

(CROSSTALK)

HUME: Arizona, who are hugely affected by **immigration** are not as excited about that proposals than the rest of the country? Really, that's interesting.

NOWICKI: Well, because, even though we get the impact, you know, the negative impact of illegal **immigration**, we also understand how it works and fits into the economy.

And in our "Arizona Republic" poll that came out today, we asked them questions about **immigration**. And majority of the voters did not like the idea of building a border wall. And they were very much opposed to the idea of kind of mass deportation of all the undocumented **immigrants** who are in the country now.

HUME: Now, how's John McCain doing? I mean, when I was out there not too many months ago, he was having a big fundraiser out there and I saw about half of the U.S. Senate in the hotel. I was there for other reason, but I saw that.

And I thought, you know, these guys were clearly out there because they think he is in trouble? Is he still in trouble? How is it going?

NOWICKI: Well, Senator McCain is taking the race very seriously. It's going to be a close race. I think everyone is kind of assuming it's going to be a single-digit race all the way until the end.

I think, McCain is a little bit better position now that he's gone through his primary. For a while, he has taken a beating from the right and the left. And though Democrats are trying to tie him to Trump, and he was kind of being very delicate, doing a delegate dance there, because he didn't want to kick the hornets' nest of the Trump supporters before he got to his primary. But not actually behind them. It's a general election. I think he is in much better shape.

HUME: Last poll I saw on Senate race out there had it at about 8 points for McCain. Is that still the case?

NOWICKI: I think that's a pretty reasonable assumption. There was kind of a partisan poll that had it tied. And then there was a "CNN" poll that had kind of a bigger lead for McCain that most people kind of view as an outlier. So probably somewhere in between. So probably 7 or 8 points is probably where it's at.

HUME: OK. Arizona state to watch.

Dan, thanks very much.

NOWICKI: Thanks, Brit.

HUME: House Republicans are expanding their investigation into the firm that deleted large amounts of Hillary Clinton's emails after Congress had subpoenaed the material.

"Fox News" chief intelligence correspondent Catherine Herridge is with us since she is covering that story.

Hi, Catherine. What do you know?

CATHERINE HERRIDGE, FOX NEWS CHIEF INTELLIGENCE CORRESPONDENT: Thank you, Brit.

Well, based on our reporting today, we were able to determine that really the key month in all of this is March of 2015. We've got a graphic here for you to look at the timeline.

March 2nd is when the "New York Times" first reported that Clinton was using a personal email account. By the 3rd and 4th of that month --

HUME: So this is March 2nd of last year, right?

HERRIDGE: That's correct.

[19:15:17] HUME: OK.

HERRIDGE: By the third and fourth, Congress had sent a preservation order for the Clinton emails as well as a subpoena for the Clinton emails.

HUME: And did that go to that firm, the IT firm.

HERRIDGE: By March 9th, the IT firm Platte River Networks in Colorado had been notified that there was a preservation order. Then on March 25th, Clinton's legal team so that David Kendall and Cheryl Mills have a conference call with the firm in Colorado. And then on the 31st, the IT firm deletes the archive backup of Clinton's emails.

And so the case the Republicans are making is that there was an order to preserve the records, a conference call by Clinton's lawyers and then the records are deleted.

HUME: Right. When that preservation order was issued, to whom was it issued?

HERRIDGE: It was issued to the Clintons, to the State Department and then also to the IT management firm in Colorado.

HUME: So that firm they're investigating is called Platte River.

HERRIDGE: Correct. That's correct.

HUME: All right. So Platte River had notice of this.

HERRIDGE: Had notice, correct.

HUME: So it clearly had to apply to them, right?

HERRIDGE: It would. This is the issue for the obstruction. And this committee is so serious about the issue they are prepared to subpoena the engineer from that firm and bring them to Washington.

(CROSSTALK)

HUME: Now, that engineer was interviewed by the FBI, was he not?

HERRIDGE: That's correct. But the name is redacted.

HUME: So we don't know who it is. They must know.

HERRIDGE: The FBI knows, but not even the committee knows. And they are demanding that that be at least released to them so that they can issue a subpoena if that's required.

HUME: Now, if -- I assume that the suspicion on the part of the committee members is that this was done after a subpoena had been issued, or is about to be issued and a notification gone out to hold the documents that that would have amounted to obstruction of justice or destruction of it, right?

HERRIDGE: That's right.

HUME: So what's the next -- so where do we go from here?

HERRIDGE: The congressional committee, the Oversight Committee has to move very quickly. Because as you can appreciate, they are now up against a very tight timeline.

They've got to get all of this accomplished or whatever progress they can make really by the end of September. Because come October, everyone is going to be out campaigning. So they are moving very quickly on this issue. And the FBI director is also going to be back on the Hill to testify about the investigation.

HUME: Do you know when that might be?

HERRIDGE: I believe it's the third week of September. Everything is moving. It's like a train moving down the track very quickly.

HUME: We've had a lot of trains running down, a lot of congressional tracks in my experience and sometimes they derail and never get where they are going.

Catherine, thanks very much.

HERRIDGE: Thank you.

HUME: New concerns over how easily this year's election might be, here's a quote, "rigged." Our political panel will be here to discuss that next.

Also, the first presidential debate is just 19 days away. Former speaker of the House Newt Gingrich is here to discuss how Republican candidate Donald Trump may be getting ready for that big debate. Straight ahead.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[19:21:35] HUME: New concerns tonight over the possibility of a rigged election right here in the U.S.

Earlier today, Defense Secretary Ash Carter warned Russia to stay out of the U.S. election.

The FBI, meanwhile, is currently investigating allegations that the Russians hacked the Democratic National Committee earlier this year.

Mr. Carter's stern warning to Russia came as concerns arose within the U.S., the election could be rigged here as well.

James Carville, remember him, said this earlier today.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

JAMES CARVILLE, POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: By and large, American elections are pretty much on the up and up. I mean, it is very, very -- I cannot tell you that somebody cannot rig a voting machine, 100 votes here or 100 votes there, that's possible.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

HUME: He went on to say, of course, that those kinds of numbers simply aren't enough to throw elections, even local elections as a rule.

Our political panel is here now.

"The Washington Times," Stephen Dinan and the "Boston Globes," Tracy Jan.

Tracy, we've heard a lot of buzz this year, it seems to me, about the election being rigged. Trump predicting it might be rigged and all the rest of it. What would it take to actually rig a presidential election?

TRACY JAN, BOSTON GLOBE: You're right. Trump has paved the way for, if he loses, saying that the election is -- people cheated. And there is a -- it is a legitimate concern. There is a device out there. It's $15. You can just plug it in to the voting machine when you vote and you can put -- cast multiple ballots. And I think 73 percent of ballots are cast by paper and the rest are electronic. So it is vulnerable.

HUME: So you've got a 27 percent chunk of the votes cast that could be influenced by this device, or is it more than that?

JAN: It's more than just the device. The device is one way. I mean, the chances of it happenings are probably slim. Like a lot of the --

HUME: There's a lot of voting machines, wouldn't it?

JAN: You would, and a lot of -- but the problem is a lot of these electronic ballots are in critical swing states: Pennsylvania, Florida, Virginia, North Carolina.

HUME: These are the ones that has no paper trail?

JAN: Right.

HUME: So there is no way to go back and determine whether the vote was honest or not by checking against the paper?

JAN: Right.

HUME: So, is it conceivable that -- I mean, I can understand the local election. I can kind of see that, particularly, you know, local office. National election, Stephen, is it conceivable, really?

STEPHEN DINAN, WASHINGTON POST: I mean, all you have to do is go back to 2,000 to look, an instance where you were talking about a few hundred votes that separated candidates in the most critical state there in Florida, of course.

Look, as you said earlier, you are talking about a quarter of the ballots that are on machines where there is no paper trail. There is some where you still vote electronically, but there is still a paper trail that comes out of that and you can go back and track it down.

So even though a voter is going in and seized an electronic machine, that doesn't necessarily mean that's a no paper trail machine. But about a quarter of the machines are electronic only.

There are literally, you know, Web videos out there showing people who are able to crack these sorts of things. You know, with the problems you have with being able to steal ATM numbers and whatnot, yes. There is absolutely a chance that people could get to these machines.

Now, having said that, you actually to have, by and large, you have to have physical access to the machine. And you have to basically have enough of a chance to be able to put whatever device you need to put on to that machine.

Is it a large problem? No. But there is a chance. And it's going to feed into exactly what we were talking about a minute ago with both sides now raising the possibility of a rigged election. And, you know, the fears of Russia added into that.

HUME: Is the worst issue the fact that this buzz about it -- I mean, it does seem like it would be very hard. I mean, an awful lot of things would have to come together for you to throw a presidential election.

In Florida, obviously, in 2000 it came down to, you know, just a few places.

DINAN: Right.

HUME: But you have to know that ahead of time, you know, in order to --

DINAN: And you would have to have a coordinated effort. I mean, imagine, the effort from, basically, you would have to have a lot of people getting together to want to do this on a lot of different machines. The conspiracy level to actually throw the election is probably very unlikely.

HUME: Yes, staggering. Right.

DINAN: But the ability to sort of mess with it on a lower level is there.

HUME: That's right. And that, of course, it does raise a question, Tracy, that you have people who -- the people are worried about it, all that does is diminish confidence in the process.

[19:25:45] JAN: That's right. You have optics look really bad. And if, let's say, Hillary wins and Trump loses and there are plenty of people that would buy into the fact that the elections was rigged.

HUME: Most of them are on my Twitter feed. I hear from them all the time.

JAN: They get on mine, too.

HUME: Yes.

DINAN: If you go back to 2004, the votes in Ohio, there was some question about the votes being cast in Ohio and Democrats actually tried to challenge the Ohio vote in the House of Representatives there. So that's how much, you know, there was some people who came out of that election saying Bush was not a legitimate second term president because of that after the first term.

HUME: As I recall, Bush won the state of Ohio in 2004 by 116,000 votes. For that to have been fraud, would have been quite an undertaking.

DINAN: Yes, but you did have folks even with that level saying they disbelieved the results, and that Ohio was enough to swing the overall election. So it's just sort of a symbol of how badly you can have just the mere questions about the votes affecting the next president.

HUME: Steve and Tracy, thanks very much.

The first presidential debate is just over two weeks away. But how should political newcomer Donald Trump prepare? Former speaker of the House Newt Gingrich is here next.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

DONALD TRUMP (R), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: When you have people that are cutting Christian's heads off, when you have a world at the border and at so many places that it's medieval times.

HILLARY CLINTON (D), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: I have a plan that I have put forward to go after ISIS. Not to contain them but to defeat them. And it has three parts.

TRUMP: I will tell you what, with Hillary Clinton. I said be at my wedding and she came to my wedding. You know why? She had no choice, because I gave to a foundation that, frankly, that foundation is supposed to do good. I didn't know her money would be used on private jets going all over the world. It was.

CLINTON: I have been for the Brady Bill. I have been against assault weapons. I have voted not to give gun makers and sellers immunity.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

HUME: It seems like a long time ago, doesn't it? That was the two major party candidates in the primary dates. The first general election debate now just 19 days away. So you would have to think that Donald Trump, being new to this and new to governance would be a disadvantage. Former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich joins us, now he is adviser to Trump on a number of things. This is a challenge for him, wouldn't you say?

NEWT GINGRICH, FORMER SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE: Well, it's a challenge. But I think you have to be very careful about him. Because Trump is like one of those, little bit like Babe Ruth. He is like one of those great natural athletes, who doesn't do well that well in practice. Some extra adrenaline, I guess.

HUME: The question is does he practice at all?

GINGRICH: Yeah. I think he practices all the time, but not the way normal people do. My sense is if he sees you he will say gee, Brit, how do you think if she does this I do that. It will be 40 seconds. And he will listen very carefully and lock him back here. Next person he sees, he sees Julio Giuliani comes to me and says, gee if she did this and I do that or the moderator does this. How about if I do that? So what you get is this constant thinking about it. It is very different and I think in his case it may be right. I never did practice sessions when I ran. And the reason is.

HUME: But, Mr. Speaker, by the time you ran for president and participated in those debates, you had been around Washington and steeped in these issues and the details of these issues for years and years.

GINGRICH: Right.

HUME: So you had stuff in your head you didn't know was there.

GINGRICH: But, so does he.

HUME: About foreign policy and defense?

GINGRICH: If we get down into who is the Prime Minister of the President of Gambia, he is going to lose.

HUME: No, I get that, right, so people are not going to hold that against him.

GINGRICH: Right.

HUME: What I'm thinking though is these questioners are going to ask him questions that require some level of detailed knowledge about the world and about America. She will be able to answer them with specificity.

GINGRICH: Right.

HUME: It would be seems to me difficult for him to do so at the same level and so how does he deal with that possibility?

GINGRICH: First of all, I don't think he should try. I mean, I think the worst thing you could do to Donald Trump is try to figure out a way in 20 days to fill his brain with enough details that he can sound like a good graduate student. The best thing you can do is give him the confidence. He is so much faster than she is. Look at all the debates he was in. These were first rate talents. Ted Cruz was a good debater. Jeb Bush in a different world would have been a great candidate. Marco Rubio was a very solid person.

HUME: Yeah, but did he that by turning those debates into kind a personal brawls and they worked like crazy for him.

GINGRICH: What do you think is he going to do with this one?

(CROSSTALK)

HUME: That is what I'm getting at, can he do that in a sort of subdued atmosphere of a presidential debate.

GINGRICH: I will be very -- we can talk after the debate.

HUME: I look forward to that.

GINGRICH: I will be very shocked if a Donald Trump debate is a subdued debate.

(LAUGHTER)

I think he is going to come in being Donald Trump. He is going to debate as Donald Trump. And after the debate, he is going to say to the American people hey, you want a guy who is brash and aggressive and fights for America, I'm available. If you want somebody over here, who studied everything and failed totally, she is available.

Take your pick.

(LAUGHTER)

HUME: All right. Let me put myself in the shoes of undecided voter, who really doesn't want to vote for Hillary Clinton.

GINGRICH: Or Donald Trump and they are sitting there going, what am I going to do?

HUME: What am I going to do?

There are a lot of people like that as you well know.

GINGRICH: That is right.

HUME: And they are thinking I don't want to vote for her, but can I really vote for him? Will the country be safe in his hands? Does he know and grasp enough about the world so that I can confidently vote for him? And he does not succeed in speaking knowledgeably of the facts of the world, and isn't that a risk, that I am going to take here?

(CROSSTALK)

GINGRICH: Again, I think people -- people tend to forget who this guy is. There is a Trump tower in Dubai. There is a Trump tower in Panama. You know, he owns a place in Scotland. He has done business all over the planet. It's not like this guy showed up on Tuesday morning direct from the cattle barn. He is a worldwide figure.

HUME: Well, if he had, it would have been a great cattle barn.

GINGRICH: It would have been huge. I think what he has got to do. My strongest advice is, one, remember that the moderator is a bigger threat than Hillary. You have got to be able to think about what the moderator is asking you and never allow them to put you in a box.

Two, never let Hillary get you upset. Whatever she says is fine. And just go great job Hill, nice try. Go to the next topic.

Three, you want to refrain things in the terms of his world view. His world view is dramatically different than hers. He believes in America first. He doesn't belief in a lot of the stuff that she has been doing. He doesn't believe in the war that she has been fighting.

HUME: You think on the question of not letting her get under his skin that he can swing that.

GINGRICH: I have been fascinated to watch and see.

(LAUGHTER)

HUME: Thanks very much. I appreciate it, thanks for coming in.

Another big day on the trail, you will hear from the best moments from that, next.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

HUME: Today on the trail, the campaign turns back to the big apple. Republican Donald Trump spend spent the day focusing on national security as you heard earlier in Pennsylvania and New York while Democrat Hillary Clinton spent the day at her home in Chappaqua. Her family hit the trail in her place. Both candidates will participate in a commander-in-chief forum tonight. Here is a look of the few moments from the trail today.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

TRUMP: Russia has defied this administration at every single term. Putin has no respect for President Obama and has absolutely no respect for Hillary Clinton. Sometimes it seemed like there wasn't a country in the Middle East that Hillary Clinton didn't want to invade, intervene in, or topple. She is trigger happy and very unstable whether we like it or not, that is what's going on.

BILL CLINTON, FORMER U.S. PRESIDENT: You should vote for Hillary, because she is the best change maker I ever knew. As president Obama said, she is the most qualified person we have had a chance to vote for in modern times including him and me.

(CHEERS)

(APPLAUSE)

And because we are stronger together, God bless you. Thank you.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

HUME: It's always fun to hear the big dog out on the campaign trail. He still seems to have this when he needs to have his fast ball. Our political panel now back with this. What about the Trump - he has been encouraged to look focus on Hillary Clinton, hit her hard, go after her. You heard a good solid dose of the kind of things he says. Is that stuff effective or is the medicine too strong? Tracy?

JAN: It's never too strong. I mean his base eats it up.

HUME: No, I understand that. But he needs to expand his base.

JAN: That is true. And he looked very -- he looked a lot more presidential today. I mean, today his speech was more sober. It was less bombastic. It was reminiscing of his Mexico visit, less of the **immigration** speech that he delivered.

HUME: You thought -- what you heard him say about Hillary, she is unstable. You think, I mean how is that in your view to play with the undecided voters?

JAN: She says it so much now that it is almost not even -- it's not.

HUME: But do you think it's a credible argument? I mean, Hillary has all kinds of issues and he calls her crooked Hillary.

JAN: She calls him unstable.

HUME: Yeah, she calls him unstable. That is for sure. But is that a case that will win over people like the voters we have been talking about tonight?

JAN: Well, I think when he is talking about how she doesn't look presidential. And you know the fact that she is the first female candidate of a major party. I think that does more to hurt her credibility among the women moderates that he needs.

HUME: Stephen, what are your thoughts?

DINAN: You know, his biggest problems are not when he is attacking her. His biggest problems are when he gets sucked into attacks on other people like the Khans at the convention and what not. At this point, you know as long as he doesn't say something that comes across as impossibly sexist or impossibility racist. His attacks on her are probably not going to be a problem for him. His main job is to get out of his own way and let her continue to be Hillary Clinton. And the more she does that the worse she is playing with voters. You know, when she -- emails, the Clinton foundation, when those stories start to hit, his numbers go up, more importantly, her numbers go down. And those voters either end up in the ether, which are not going to vote or they are not going to show up and end up in the undecided. Whatever it is the math end up working out for him better, when he stays out of his way.

HUME: Yeah, what I'm sort of getting out here is, it looks to me is the news -- the mere news coverage of the issues that surround her and swirl around her and the issue of her credibility, that seems to me to have done a lot of harm. And the question I have is whether he capitalizes on that effectively by saying the kinds of things that you hear him saying or whether you know, what he needs to do is be more focused on, for example, the quite detailed military proposals he had today.

DINAN: Yeah, the problem with military proposals is that he laid out a lot that was very interesting in them. The financing is a real problem for him. There are giant holes there. The more you get into that policy, for example, there is no detail on actually taking on ISIS. He said he would punt to the generals. Those policy details don't work very well for him. It's good for him to give them?

HUME: But don't you think they want to know that he has them though.

DINAN: That is reassuring, yes. He needs to do the bare minimum he can to reassure voters that he can be a stable force and has something to bring to the White House and then stay out of his way and let Hillary Clinton do what Hillary Clinton is going to do. This election is a referendum on Clinton and it is a referendum on Obama.

HUME: Steve and Tracy thank you very much. North Carolina is very close. Tonight our man Griff Jenkins visited the Tar Heel state to talk with some Swing State voters. It will be interesting to hear what they have to say. Stay tuned.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

HUME: North Carolina that is very much a Swing State in this year's election. And that is where we are taking you tonight. In our continuing series called "The Deciders", which focuses on everyday voters in Swing State around the country This edition involves the heavily Republican Interbank's of North Carolina. We're not everyone is particularly excited about the Republican candidate and one of their most important industries, shrimp. Our man Griff Jenkins has the story.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

GRIFF JENKINS, FOX NEWS PRODUCER: This is Beaufort, North Carolina. Home of the Beaufort Inlet Seafood Company, since 2011 this massive facility hauling in nearly 4 million pounds of shrimp each in every year. Meet Brent Fulcher, he is a third generation shrimper, his big dream that his kids and their kids can keep the shrimping legacy alive, their biggest challenges, severe weather and overregulation.

BRENT FULCHER, BEAUFORT INLET SEAFOOD COMPANY: Whether you want to 100,000-pound haul or 20,000-pound haul or 5,000-pound haul, you know, it's just depending upon on how the season is, how mother nature is treating you, and, also, how regulations is effecting how you are able to work or not work.

JENKINS: So who does Brent want in the oval office?

FULCHER: I think that I'm probably going to have to vote for Trump. He appears to be pretty stout business person.

JENKINS: But there are some rough waters between this business owner and one captain who hit the water for him.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I am for Hillary.

JENKINS: Hillary?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yeah. I don't think much of Trump.

JENKINS: You don't like Trump?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: No. He isn't going to help the poor man.

JENKINS: You think Donald Trump understands how hard this job is? What it is like to go out.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: No, he don't. No, he don't.

JENKINS: But the team is drilling in the big catch of the day aren't all necessarily on the same page.

Trump, Clinton, what do you think?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I don't know what to say about this election. It's a little different from what we are all used to.

JENKINS: Are you undecided? Do you think you will event actually vote for one or the other or you think maybe you are going to just sit this one out.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I'm not going to vote for either one of them.

JENKINS: Out here, with the men and women keeping one of the America's oldest industries alive, I'm Griff Jenkins for "On The Record"

(END VIDEO CLIP)

HUME: North Carolina really is a genuine tough-up state. Consider this, in 2008 they didn't went for President Obama, in 2012 for Governor Mitt Romney. This year the most recent CNM poll has Hillary Clinton leading by just a single point among likely voters in the state that occurs well within the polls 3.5 margin of error.

Charlotte Observer Political Reporter Tim Funk is covering the race in North Carolina. He joins us now. Hi, Tim, welcome.

TIM FUNK, CHARLOTTE OBSERVER POLITICAL REPORTER: Hi Brit, How are you?

HUME: I'm well, buddy.

FUNK: Absolutely.

HUME: What are you seeing there in the last few days?

FUNK: Well, you know, I think it's the closest race in the country. We have certainly been getting a lot of attention. Now Hillary Clinton is coming in tomorrow to Charlotte to have a rally at Historic Black College. We had Trump Tuesday night in Greenville, North Carolina, which is where a lot of the old Jesse helms Democrats still live. We had Bill Clinton in Durham. We had Tim Kaine in Chapel Hill and Wilmington all this week and we would have had Mike Pence, but he had to cancel over the weekend, because of the hurricane was bearing down. He was supposed to be in Fayetteville which is where Fort Bragg is. So, we are not starving for attention here, and I think it could go either way, really.

HUME: Do you see any -- I mean if you were looking at ahead in the next few weeks, you know. Where are the undecided voters? What are their concerns, as far as you can tell, what kind of thing might swing this election one way or the other in this state?

FUNK: Well, you know, it's interesting. In North Carolina, the big cities, the big urban areas tended to go increasingly Democratic and areas in small towns go Republican. So, the suburbs will decide, I think, where North Carolina goes. And last weekend I went to the suburbs in Charlotte and interviewed a bunch of several white college educated women. And, you know, traditionally Republican friendly territory.

But I have to tell you. First of all, they don't like either one of them. But, Trump, they found several of them said they are really turned off by Trump. They called him a Bully. They said he might get us into a war. Hillary they don't like. They had some problems with her ethics issues. And think she is sort of a politician.

Some of them are looking at Gary Johnson who could pull in the double digits here. But I think Trump could win some people over by stressing jobs and his business background and I think Hillary Clinton, even if they don't like her they think she is smart and could be a good president or at least a competent president. That is where I would look.

HUME: Well, I would not want to have to be you and try to pick a winner in this deal. I mean, what about the - I mean, how much, in your view, will depend on the debate, particularly the first debate?

FUNK: I think it could be huge. I remember in 1980, on that old -- when Ronald Reagan was actually behind in the polls, or neck in neck with Jimmy Carter but then in that debate he convinced people that he was presidential. I mean, up to that point people wondered about whether he had the smarts and whatever, and I think the polls went overnight went in his direction. Trump could potentially do that as well. I'm not sure he has got the discipline to study the issues and really be on his game. But, there is a higher bar for Clinton. I think she has got to do a lot of different things. And I think if she shows him up to be not particularly ready for the presidency that could change a lot of minds.

HUME: Thanks, Tim, good to have you on. Hope to see you again.

FUNK: Thank you.

HUME: Coming up, not just the poll numbers, Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton in another kind of race. Stay tuned.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

HUME: Time now for the nightly feature we call campaign flash. First is some good news for presidential candidate Donald Trump. The candidate raised about $90 million in his campaign -- for his campaign in August. That is a big haul for a candidate who didn't put much effort into fundraising until June. In a rally yesterday he credited his own contributions plus small donor contributions to the campaign. His rival though, Hillary Clinton, raised 143 million in the same period. That, of course, is 50 percent more. Meanwhile WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange indicated his organization will release a number of Hillary Clinton's email in the coming weeks. The NSA Secrecy Organization is famous for releasing secret information and is threatening to release a bombshell as the election approaches. Thanks for being with us. Don't miss.

"The O'Reilly Factor" is on, tonight.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE** [19:00:00] BRIT HUME, FOX NEWS HOST: With 62 days until the election, the presidential race has clearly tightened.

The RealClearPolitics average of the latest polls shows Hillary Clinton with a 3.3 point lead. Down from as much as 9 points less than a month ago. And tonight, a new "CNN" poll of likely voters shows Donald Trump with a slim 2 point lead over Clinton in a four way race.

That, of course is, within the margin of error. Suggesting at least in this poll that the race is now a dead heat.

Good evening. I'm Brit Hume in Washington. And I will be here through Election Day with a 90-hour on this extraordinary political season.

My friend Greta Van Susteren has left "Fox News," and I will have more to say about that later in the hour.

One other poll number of interest tonight, that "CNN" survey shows Donald Trump with a 20-point lead over Clinton among independent voters with 49 percent for the Republican candidate, and as you can see, 29 percent for Secretary Clinton. The remainder is split between libertarian candidate Gary Johnson and Green Party candidate Jill Stein.

We will get to what the candidates were doing and saying in a moment, but first some analysis of the new poll data from John Kraushaar, politics editor at National Journal here in Washington.

Good evening, Josh. Welcome.

JOHN KRAUSHAAR, POLITICS EDITOR, NATIONAL JOURNAL: Great to be here, Brit.

HUME: So we know the race has tightened. Do what do you attribute it? Is this Trump rising? Is this Clinton sinking or what?

KRAUSHAAR: It's pretty fascinating. Clinton is losing ground in the polls, but Trump isn't really gaining. But the numbers you talked about among independent voters. Donald Trump is doing better than Mitt Romney did in the 2012 exit polls with independent voters, with blue-collar, white voters. So we have this educational divide within the electorate.

Where the "CNN" poll shows Trump doing much better than Mitt Romney did with blue-collar voters, but doing much more poorly than he did with white- collar voters.

HUME: Let me just stop you. The margin -- the difference in the margin, at least in this poll between what Trump is doing with independents and what Romney -- Romney won the independents if my memory serves in 2012 by 5 percentage points, leading by 20.

If that were to hold through Election Day, what is that suggest to you.

KRAUSHAAR: If that holds, we're going to have a very competitive general election.

Now some Clinton campaign operatives think that the "CNN" polls is an outlier. It was done during Labor Day weekend, but it's pretty clear that Hillary Clinton is losing ground. Her favorable numbers are now just as poor as Donald Trump's in that same "CNN" poll.

HUME: Right.

KRAUSHAAR: So it's really a race to the bottom with Hillary Clinton is doing her darnedest to poll as poorly as Donald Trump is.

HUME: Would you think that -- so none of this in your view is attributable to the fact that Trump has changed his style since his new campaign team came on board in the sense that he is not laying about himself with the same freedom that he used to, the same free willing style.

He is giving more set speeches. He's outlining more specifics. If that hasn't helped him, has it at least arrested the sinking of the decline that he seemed to undergo there for a while?

KRAUSHAAR: He certainly has the opportunity to pivot, but his own numbers have been remarkably consistent ever since the Republican and Democratic convention, about negative 20 favorable rating. And it really stuck at that 40 percent mark.

Now with a lot of third party candidates, Gary Johnson and Jill Stein eking out a lot of votes as well. The magic number for this election could be closer to 40 percent than 50 percent.

So Donald Trump is certainly in this election, but he has some fundamental challenges with Republicans, Republican women in particular and also college educated white voters.

HUME: Is it possible that this aversion that we are seeing with Hillary Clinton, which is really manifest in the current polling is such that Trump's challenge really is to simply become an acceptable alternative, that he doesn't have to be loved by everybody. Is that possible?

KRAUSHAAR: It's possible. And when you look at the issues, the top two issues, the economy and terrorism, Donald Trump holds an advantage over Hillary Clinton in the "CNN" poll and a lot of the other polls that have been conducted recently.

His biggest weakness is people still don't see him as a plausible commander-in-chief. And that those numbers have been remarkably consistent throughout much of his campaign.

If he can pivot, if he can have a more moderate message in these final couple of months, it's possible. I mean, this is certainly a race to the bottom and Trump is still in this election.

HUME: But winnable.

KRAUSHAAR: It's winnable, but he has a lot of challenges.

HUME: Got it.

Josh, thanks. Thanks for being here. I hope to see you again.

HUME: As the polls tighten, both candidates are focusing on the so-called battleground states and it proved decisive in recent elections.

Right now, Donald Trump is getting ready to speak in North Carolina.

Here's a glimpse at the campaign trail earlier today.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

DONALD TRUMP, U.S. REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE: ISIS just evolved out of all of the turmoil, all of the weakness, all of the stupidity of decisions from Hillary Clinton, from Barack Obama. And ISIS started off on a small area and now I read the other day, they are in 28 different states or nations. 28. Think of it.

HILLARY CLINTON, U.S. DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE: When it comes to fighting ISIS, he has been all over the map. You would have to literally map it out. He has talked about letting Syria become a free zone for ISIS. Look at the map, Donald.

(LAUGHTER)

[19:05:02] He's talked about sending in American ground troops, not on my watch. That is not what we are going to do.

TRUMP: The Middle East now is a total catastrophe between the migration and all of the problem and all of the death. And I'm talking death on both sides, folks. I'm talking death on both sides.

Look at the people. You know, they blow up a city and they say two people were wounded, all right. You know the real numbers. OK. The real numbers are astronomical. Astronomical.

And we started this whole thing. And I'll tell you what, we are going to solve the ISIS problem, but we have to also get back and we have to solve it big league and strongly and swiftly. But we have to get back to rebuilding our country because our country is going to hell.

CLINTON: He says he has a secret plan to defeat ISIS. But the secret is he has no plan.

I will work closely with our allies, not just to contain ISIS but defeat them.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

HUME: "Fox News" chief political correspondent campaign Carl Cameron is on the trail with Donald Trump in Greenville, North Carolina.

Carl, what's Trump trying to accomplish down there tonight?

CARL CAMERON, FOX NEWS CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT: Well, as you said, Brit, he's going to two very important battleground states, Virginia and North Carolina.

The polls are quite tight in both although Clinton has a bit of a larger lead in Virginia, whereas North Carolina looks to be more of a toss-up.

And today's message for both of the candidates was about national security, making the United States save again, dealing with foreign conflicts around the world.

And part of the remark that you play from Donald Trump there in the beginning of this, where he was talking about civilian casualties really raised a lot of eyebrows, particularly because the speech that he was delivering this afternoon was in Virginia. The state with a very, very significant military population. Both active and retired.

And to suggest that the United States is in some way engaged in concealing the amount of civilian casualties as a result of the bombing is not the kind of thing that you hear from Republican candidates very often, often from liberals. But Donald Trump has been consistent with his resistance that he was early oppose to the Iraq war and he suggested that because we started that in his words, that there is good reason for the United States to withdraw from some of it overseas military actions.

And to that degree, he went so far as to say today that he wasn't going to take issue with China over North Korea. He's going to make that to be China's problem, potentially abandoning yet another alliance with the South Koreans in much the way he suggested that NATO would have to be dramatically reformed or we could potentially even pull out of that alliance. A very, very bold statement, and always peppered with as it is this evening here in Greenville, North Carolina.

Plenty of attacks on Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama. And today, Trump said that they had effectively turned the United States into a third world nation and we would be better off if they had done nothing in the Middle East over the last 8 years.

Brit?

HUME: OK, Carl. Thanks very much. It gives us a sense of Trump today and this evening.

CAMERON: It's good to hear your voice, Brit. Thank you.

HUME: One of the biggest prizes this election year, the State of Florida as in many elections past.

The new "Mason-Dixon" Poll shows Hillary Clinton with a slight 2-point lead in the sunshine state, but that's nearly a point less than the 2.7 percent lead she holds in the RealClearPolitics average in that state.

Support for both candidates is split across the usual demographic line. Democrats, women, minority voters heavily favoring Secretary Clinton. Republicans, men, unaffiliated voters and non-Hispanic whites showing strong support for Donald Trump.

The "Tampa Bay Times" Adam Smith is covering the election in Florida. He joins us now.

Adam, welcome and thank you for coming in.

How do you see the race in Florida shaping up? Who's gaining ground? Who's not? How's it look?

ADAM SMITH, TAMPA BAY TIMES: You know, it's Florida, so Florida is always a nail biter. You can count on that. And that pretty much of a toss-up here.

What is surprising in a way is that it's as close as it is considering that Hillary Clinton has been vastly outspending Donald Trump. She has got a -- he has got a fraction of her campaign apparatus on the ground. This is a state where probably at least 30 percent of the vote is going to be non- white, which was theoretically not good for Donald Trump. And, yet, it's neck and neck.

HUME: You know, I'm sure you can see it. I can't obviously from my standpoint.

Are you seeing heavy ad spending by Hillary Clinton? And what are you seeing, if anything, from Donald Trump's side?

SMITH: Donald Trump has just started, but it's overwhelmingly Hillary, pro-Hillary Clinton. I should say it's really anti-Donald Trump ads. That's mostly what we are seeing here in Florida.

And, nationally, I think the two biggest markets for TV buying, number one is Orlando. Number two is Tampa Bay in my neck of the woods.

HUME: Right. You know, there has been a lot of talk this year about whether these big ad buys make a difference. It didn't seem too very much in the Republican primary, at least in the Republican side. But these ads that the Clinton camp is putting up, I'm sure they have been poll tested and focus group tested.

Do you see in the numbers down there that they have made a real difference?

[19:10:12] SMITH: Well, no, because it's a tight race. And he -- it's been fairly steady. If anything lately, she's lost a little bit of ground like you say. The average, she's up maybe a little less than three point. So that's neck and neck.

And I can tell you in my neck of the woods, Tampa Bay is sort of the rule of thumb. Who wins Tampa Bay, this is the swing voter area, wins the state of Florida.

There are some swing districts, legislative and congressional districts where Donald Trump is actually pretty strong. He's not at all the drag on down ballot Republicans that a lot of people thought he would be.

HUME: So how's that -- so what does that mean? Or what, if you can tell, for the Marco Rubio race to stay in the Senate?

SMITH: You know, I think that's going to be -- a lot is going to depend on what happens with Hillary Clinton and Trump. But I think so far Marco Rubio, like most people view him as the negligible favorite. And I think in a way that probably works out pretty well for both of them.

That Donald Trump could give him a little bit of an edge in North Florida where Trump is strong and Rubio could give Trump a little bit of a help in Miami-Dade, a big population area, where Trump is especially weak.

HUME: Adam, very interesting stuff. Thank you very much.

SMITH: Thanks.

HUME: And another day, another email issue for Hillary Clinton.

Newly released emails show Hillary Clinton's aides trying to influence questions at a 2013 Senate hearing on the attack on the U.S. consul in Benghazi, Libya.

"Fox News" chief intelligence correspondent Catherine Herridge tells the story.

Hi, Catherine.

CATHERINE HERRIDGE, FOX NEWS CHIEF INTELLIGENCE CORRESPONDENT: Thank you, Brit.

The emails were obtained by the group Citizens United and show Clinton's media gatekeeper Philippe Reines wrote to Chelsea Clinton with an update on the 2013 Benghazi hearing before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. At that time the acting chairman was New Jersey Democrat Robert Menendez.

And the email reads in part, quote, "We wired that Menendez would provide an opportunity to address two topics we needed to debunk. Her actions, whereabouts on 9/11 and this email from Chris Stevens about moving locations.

That is a reference to Ambassador Chris Stevens who is one of the four Americans killed in the 2012 terrorist attack along with Foreign Service officer Sean Smith and former Navy SEALS Tyrone Woods and Glen Doherty who died defending the CIA base.

The first question from Senator Menendez covered both topics.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Can you give us your insights on the decision-making process regarding the location of the mission? And as part of that, can you also, in your response, you touched upon it in your opening statement, but, what actions were you and your staff taking the night of September 11th and into September the 12th?

CLINTON: Well, first, you're right, Mr. Chairman, that there was an ongoing discussion.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

HERRIDGE: We asked the Clinton campaign in the senator's office if they coordinated in advance of the hearing what was meant by this term wired and how these emails are consistent with the principle of independent congressional oversight. Both offices acknowledged receipt of "Fox News" but, Brit, they chose not to comment.

HUME: You know, Catherine, I have been around this town a few years and covered many hearing and even was a witness in a couple of many years ago. And the one thing that was pretty clear to me when I was doing that was that the partisan divide in the committee determined the questions.

HERRIDGE: Right.

HUME: And it was very clear that the members of the Congress, friendly to the administration asked questions that were friendly to the administration.

HERRIDGE: Right.

HUME: So, I know this can be made to sound like manipulation of an independent process, but is there anything new here?

HERRIDGE: Well, I think what's to you is that we know the horse trading goes on behind the scenes.

HUME: Right.

HERRIDGE: But I think it's highly unusual to see it in such sort of black and white and stark terms. I found it interesting that neither the Clinton campaign nor the senator's office chose to defend that email exchange.

HUME: Yes, I guess it's pretty black and white. This is what we in this business would like to call a rare glimpse.

HERRIDGE: Exactly.

HUME: Thank, Catherine.

HERRIDGE: Sure.

HUME: Here is what could be a clue as to why those national poll numbers have tightened.

In a new "CNN" poll, 50 percent of likely voters say Donald Trump, Donald Trump is the more trustworthy candidate. Just 35 percent trust Hillary Clinton more than Trump.

The ON THE RECORD panel is here. "The Washington Examiner" Susan Ferrechio and "RealClearPolitics," A.B. Stoddard.

Welcome to you both.

A.B. STODDARD, REALCLEARPOLITICS: Thanks, Brit.

SUSAN FERRECHIO, WASHINGTON EXAMINER: Thank you.

HUME: So what about that number? That's a little bit of a change. What do you say, A.B.?

STODDARD: I think it's a big deterioration for her, because she always counted on having the buffers of Trump's numbers. His unfavorables and his honest and trustworthy numbers being worse than hers.

And I actually see the drop in her poll numbers happening really as a result of the push back by Democrats on the record, including Ed Randall, former governor of Pennsylvania and others saying, really, they need to stop taking donations to the foundation and really neutralize or shutter the Clinton Foundation now.

A bunch of editorial boards across the paper wrote -- newspaper articles.

(CROSSTALK)

HUME: Editorial -

STODDARD: Editorial boards of newspapers.

What it does is to people who are going to oppose Trump, and might have voted for Hillary is repel them even further into the arms of Gary Johnson or just staying home, and that's bad for her numbers on the margin.

HUME: Susan, does it seem to you and what you are seeing here, in this number that Trump has helped himself?

[19:15:27] SUSAN FERRECHIO, WASHINGTON EXAMINER: Yes, absolutely. I think it's a combination of things. It's exactly what A.B. was saying.

HUME: And this is kind of a reversal. She was the more trustworthy candidate for a long time.

FERRECHIO: That's right. Well, look at how Trump has acted lately. He has stayed on script. He's really pretty much avoided the big gaffes that happened at the convention and right after it. And he stayed on course.

And I say the combination of that and Clinton's downfall with the whole trustworthy issue and the emails and the foundation, the combination of those things, plus, we know the polls always tighten up post convention. That's a natural part of the process pollsters will tell you and have told me. It's those three things and that's why we are seeing this sort of dead heat.

HUME: You know, my recollection of all of this is that convention bounce is, which normally are available to both candidates and they do get a little bump out of their conventions and then those things subside.

Am I wrong or does it seem a little bit more than that? I mean, this looks like the kind of tightening you see at the very end of a race, doesn't it?

STODDARD: Yes, I think it was always going to be the case that Donald Trump was going to get back within nipping distance of her and it was going to tighten up again.

Josh was right. He has a ceiling. He's not really busting through that ceiling.

HUME: Right.

STODDARD: And actually the two-week **immigration** flip-flop I thought was really erratic and a huge mistake and off script. But if you look at what has been revealed as I said about the foundation and in focus groups and polling, people are very upset by that even more than the email story, which they basically don't understand. I think it just has depressed her numbers and she might not get them back.

HUME: Well, she now is saying and has said in the last couple of days in these brief meetings with reporters that the decisions about how the Clinton Foundation are going to be managed and the family role in it and her daughters role in it are going to be postponed until after the election.

What effect from that?

FERRECHIO: I think it's negative. And, in fact, you have other Democrats already saying actually these things should be taking place now. They recognize that the public doesn't like this. That the drip, drip of all the revelations, the speaking fees Clinton receives a front-page story in the "The Washington Post" today about millions of dollars as an honorary chairman of something.

I mean, this kind of stuff resonates with voters. They look at the Clintons and they say, wait a second, you know, are they really going to represent me? And it just doesn't smell right. And I think that's why you see Democrats kind of panicking about it. And I think it's why Clinton has finally decided to come talk to reporters about -- she will do it when the polls tighten and here she is.

HUME: We're going to have a little of that in a moment.

Susan and A.B., please stay with us.

Both major party candidates holding what amounted to duelling news conferences on board their planes. And we will hear from both of them in just a minute.

Also, an alarming confrontation in the Persian Gulf. Iranian Naval vessels once again confronting U.S. Naval ship in international waters.

Ambassador John Bolton is here ready to discuss that in just minutes.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

[19:21:38] HUME: Presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump held what, you know, from looking at him you might have thought were duelling news conferences on board their planes yesterday.

These encounters with the press marked a big shift from Mrs. Clinton, who up until the holiday weekend hadn't held a formal news conference, as everybody knows, yet this year.

Take a look.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

TRUMP: The crime rate is through the roof. Through the roof. People can't walk down the street without getting shot. I will stop that.

There are no jobs. I'm going to bring back jobs. The Democrats haven't done it. You know, the level of poverty is 40 percent. The youth can't get jobs. 58 percent unemployed. And I say, I mean, I'm going to fix it.

CLINTON: I think there could be actions taken that would be in America's interest that would raise incomes, produce more jobs for Americans.

TRUMP: We'll bring back jobs. Jobs is the whole deal. It's going to be so vital to this country to bring back our jobs.

CLINTON: We also have to honor our alliances. We have five treaties in Asia, where we are pledged to defend those five nations. And Donald Trump has acted as though that's, you know, that's an option. That's not how great countries behave.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

HUME: And (INAUDIBLE), Hillary Clinton was back on her plane and spoke to reporters there again today.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

CLINTON: When I became Secretary of State, the Clinton Foundation, a world renown charity, went above and beyond anything that had ever been expected from any charity disclosing every donor. We have 330,000 donors. Nobody has ever, ever made that kind of disclosure.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

HUME: OK, panel.

Setting aside for a moment the veracity of what either candidate said. What about the effect of this decision by Secretary Clinton to come back and talk on the airplane? It didn't look like she had any trouble with the sessions.

FERRECHIO: Well, right.

STODDARD: Yes.

FERRECHIO: You know, the media is not exactly pressing her a lot on the email or the foundation issues. They are asking, peppering here with those questions here and there. But mostly, they are pretty friendly to her.

And I will say generally, the press is -- can be friendly to the candidate when they're traveling on the same plane. That was his case with Mitt Romney as well, when I was on that campaign plane.

So I'm not saying they are showing it over biased. But it wasn't like they were nailing her with question after question about the email, which would have been unflattering thing. And she wouldn't have appeared the next day. I can guarantee you.

So as long as it continues to be, you know, a positive thing for her, which she can talk about the issues and look presidential and sound like she has more detailed plans and that Donald Trump is not fit for the presidency, we will probably see her continue with these.

HUME: What do you think, A.B.?

STODDARD: I think that hiding was bad for her. I think that she doesn't have a good answer for why she stowed government records on a rogue server that was vulnerable to hacking.

She has no good answers for what she did. But, actually, Donald Trump usually doesn't give an answer in any of his multiple interviews, either. He filibusters around and circles around and talks about polls or whatever he wants to when he is asked about ISIS. He just answers what he wants to.

If she is there and she continues to say, I've held press conferences, seven of the last nine days I've taken a punch of questions on the foundation, it's going to be better for her.

FERRECHIO: Notice that she has them on her campaign plane. You need to make this point. It's really important to know this. It's more controlled. You are dealing with a known group of people who are almost vetted because the campaign itself decides who gets on those planes.

[19:25:10] HUME: Well, up to a point. I mean --

FERRECHIO: Up to a point, though, they have a say. They can look at an organization and say we don't have room for you.

STODDARD: Because the Trump campaign has banned "The Washington Post" and other --

FERRECHIO: And both campaigns have done this over the years. It's not just new to this year so if she was at a general press conference, when they would not have that control, it wouldn't have been as flattering.

HUME: I'm going to ask you about that. So she has this little short sessions with the press, which is open to anybody can ask anything, right?

FERRECHIO: Right.

HUME: Where there are no restrictions.

And as we heard, they did ask some questions, some challenging questions about these issues. Does she really have anything to fear from a full blown, full-dressed news conference?

FERRECHIO: I think so. Because you are bringing in people who don't travel, don't have the money to travel with campaigns like some conservative outlets who are not traveling with the campaigns.

It's a bigger group of people. It's a little more unruly, I would say, when you have these big general press conferences. The last one she had, with the famous press conference from -- when was it? December of 2015.

I think that was when she said what do you mean? Wipe it with a cloth?

HUME: Oh, yes.

FERRECHIO: How long did that meme carry on, you know, damaging her over the months? So I think that's -- it didn't look up.

HUME: That's still ricocheting around out there.

FERRECHIO: I mean, I think there's a reason why it's on the plane. I don't know if she will eventually move them somewhere else, but that's my view.

HUME: Susan and A.B., thank you. Nice to see you both.

STODDARD: Thanks.

HUME: House Oversight Committee Chairman Jason Chaffetz is here.

He's calling for a new investigation into Hillary's email practices. We will find out what that is all about -- next. Stay tuned.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

HUME: Fresh calls for another investigation into Hillary Clinton's email practices. House Oversight Committee Chairman Jason Chaffetz is now asking federal prosecutors to investigate whether Clinton and her aides destroyed evidence and obstructed justice by deleting e-mails. Republican vice presidential candidate Mike Pence brought up the e-mail scandal on the trail today.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

GOV. MIKE PENCE (R-IN), VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: It was a long time ago when I was still a boy that I remember a president who deleted 18 and a half minutes of tape and was held accountable for that. And now Hillary Clinton deleted almost 18,000 email emails. That doesn't look like politics, folks, that looks like obstruction.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

HUME: The chair of the House Oversight Committee, Congressman Jason Chaffetz of Utah joins us now. Congressman, you have asked federal investigators in the person of the U.S. attorney in Washington in this letter you've written to go into this. What's your point? What's the key -- what's the heart of what you are asking for and why?

REP. JASON CHAFFETZ (R-UT), HOUSE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN: Well, shortly after Benghazi, we put a letter in place saying please preserve all your e-mails. That was...

HUME: When you say we, you mean your committee.

CHAFFETZ: The oversight committee of which I was the chair of the subcommittee on September 20th, 2012. Fast forward, all the way to 2015...

HUME: Now, this was -- this was in the form of a letter asking that documents be preserved. It wasn't a subpoena.

CHAFFETZ: Yes. It was not a subpoena. But then you go and look at what Trey Gowdy did as the chairman of the Benghazi committee and you go to March 3rd, 2015, he sent a preservation letter the next day on March 4th, chairman Gowdy puts out a subpoena. Then on March 10th of 2015, Hillary Clinton goes out in front of the press and says that she has preserved these things.

But then you go to March 25th, which is days later, after years of not producing these emails to Congress, on March 25th there is a conference call between Platte River Network who is housing these emails.

HUME: These are the provider of the server, right?

CHAFFETZ: Yes. Where supposedly many of these emails, which are federal records -- they're not Hillary Clinton's emails, they are federal records - - are now housed, and there is a conference call between the management and the engineer at Platte River Networks and David Kendall, her lead attorney and Cheryl Mills her former chief of staff and counsel.

Less than a week later there is a work order to destroy the documents and then suddenly the documents are destroyed. Now we know from the FBI there were federal records in there.

HUME: Right. You know that -- do we know who asked that this be done?

CHAFFETZ: This is why our committee continues to investigate. We were shocked when director Comey came before the committee and said that he did not look at anything that Hillary Clinton had said under oath. They are doing an investigation of Hillary Clinton and they don't look at what she said under oath?

So, we have a duty and responsibility to preserve these federal records and to make sure this never happens again and to hold people accountable.

HUME: But you're turning now to the U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia who is a part of the Justice Department, which is part of the Obama administration, and what I could only describe as the fond hope that you might trigger some kind of investigation. You don't really think that will happen, do you.

CHAFFETZ: I think we have a duty and obligation to call upon the administration to do that and it may carry over.

HUME: I get that.

CHAFFETZ: But we also want to do stuff ourselves. Congress has been fairly feckless along the way.

HUME: Is that why you are trying to get the courts and Justice Department involved?

CHAFFETZ: Well, you look at what Judicial Watch and some of these other groups have been able to do. They were able to get into the courts. It seems that the Clintons are a little bit afraid of the courts but not so afraid of Congress. But we do have subpoena authority. We are going to have a series of hearings based on the information that we have learned and gleaned since the FBI investigation concluded.

And we have a duty and responsibility to do that. FOIA requests, Freedom of Information Act, we got to bring up people on what are these redactions and classifications, and I want to get to the nerds, I want to get to the geeks, the people who actually understand these.

HUME: You mean the techies?

CHAFFETZ: The techies.

HUME: I understand that, congressman. Thanks for being here. Nice to see you sir.

CHAFFETZ: Thank you.

HUME: And the president of the Philippines is expressing regret over vulgar, to say the least, words he used to describe president Obama. Ambassador John Bolton will be here to discuss that next. Stay tuned.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

HUME: A war of words of sorts during president Obama's final tour of Asia. The president of the Philippines is apologizing tonight after making vulgar, to say the least, comments about president Obama. The two leaders were set to meet today but that meeting was abruptly called off following the foul mouth remarks.

Former U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. John Bolton is here. Let's just get this on the record. What did the president of the Philippines call our president.

JOHN BOLTON, FORMER U.S. AMBASSADOR: Well, he called him a son of a bitch which is not something that you normally say about or to the president of the United States.

HUME: Or anybody else if you're the president of another country.

BOLTON: Yeah, this man is obviously not politically correct. Obama called him a colorful fellow, which is a very diplomatic turn of phrase. Obama did the right thing by canceling the meeting. You can't have a meeting with your counterpart talking like that.

But it just shows why presidents or presidential candidates need to think carefully about what they say because the Philippines and the United States have critical interests at stake in the South China Sea where Philippines...

HUME: Tell me a little bit about what those are, I mean, we've got base there. We have had over the years, right. Go on.

BOLTON: We'll, we've got an Islamic insurrection in part of the country. We have vital strategic interest as China makes essentially claiming the entire South China Sea as a province of China affecting navigation through those waters and undersea mineral rights. Philippines unable, obviously, to stand up to China on their own as Vietnam is unable as the other claimants, they need the United States in there.

We need to coordinate with China. We need to have this heads of state meeting. But as I said, the president was right not to say I'm not going to have a meeting under these circumstances.

HUME: Let me turn to another issue in that part of the world, which is we've learned at Fox that Iranian ships have harassed another American vessel in the Persian Gulf, a naval vessel. That aggression part of a notable increase as you know, Mr. Ambassador, in such confrontations since that nuclear deal went into effect. Twice as many confrontations in the first half in 2016 as compared to the first half of 2015, your thoughts?

BOLTON: Well, in the immediate circumstance, this is both dangerous and reckless on their part. It's training for the kinds of runs they would make against U.S. naval vessels if they ever did want to engage in hostility. It's a propaganda exercise to say the least. But I think the bigger picture is this. This is a substantial piece of evidence that the hypothesis that the Obama administration pursued through the nuclear deal is incorrect.

The nuclear deal is not changing Iran's broader international behavior in any material respect. The statistics that you just explained show their behavior is getting worse. Quite a part in the fact the nuclear deal is a wretched (ph) deal, a strategic mistake on its own.

HUME: I understand your sense about that, but let me ask you this. So, here you are, you got your ships on the water out there. It's international waters, they have every right to -- they every right to be there, and they are being harassed by these pesky little smaller speed boats, really fast boats. Should we blow a couple of them out of the water or is that too big a step?

BOLTON: Well, I think an American naval vessel is entitled to take action in self-defense if it discerns hostile intent and they are pretty close to the line. In fact, in the second...

HUME: How would you define that?

BOLTON: Well, you have to look at whether they're making a run at you such that they could launch a torpedo, they could a launch a missile. And you don't have to wait to be fired upon in those circumstances. You can go first. But I would say this, as irritating as this is and as potentially dangerous as it is, there is going to be a military confrontation.

We need to pick the time and the place where we want it to our advantage. I'm not sure that's what the president is thinking but a president looking to be elected on November the 8th ought to be thinking about what he or she is going to do on January the 20th, 2017, when it becomes their responsibility.

HUME: So, it's not your argument that we should start shooting them?

BOLTON: No. I think you've got to look at each one. I'm not saying that our navy should do anything that puts its sailors or its ships in jeopardy. If they feel they need to, they should act. But fundamentally as I say, as irritating as this behavior is, that alone should not make us move. We should decide what we're going to do at a time and place that suits us. Not the Iranians.

HUME: Ambassador Bolton, thanks very much. Nice to see you.

BOLTON: Thank you, Brit.

HUME: And Republican senators are saying the Obama administration made a ransom payment to Iran and now they are introducing legislation that would make that illegal. One of the co-sponsors of the legislation will join us next. Stay tuned.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

HUME: Congressional Republicans are making further criticisms of the Iranian nuclear deal tonight. Republican senators accusing the Obama administration of making a ransom payment to Iran, and now they're introducing legislation that would block further payments and prohibit ransom all together. On the campaign trail today, Republican presidential candidate Trump, Donald Trump that would be, ripped the nuclear deal. Watch.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

DONALD TRUMP (R), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: What we've done is created a monster. We've created in three years, four years, if you look at -- if you take a look at Iran from four or five years ago, they were dying. They had the sanctions. They were being choked to death and they were absolutely dying. They weren't even going to be much of a threat. They didn't have anything going. And now they are a power. That deal is a disaster for us. It's a shorter road to nuclear weapons and it's an incompetently negotiated deal.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

HUME: One of the co-sponsors of that bill related to the alleged ransom is Senator John Barrasso of Wyoming. He joins us now.

SEN. JOHN BARRASSO (R), WYOMING: Thanks for having me.

HUME: Nice to see you sir. So, first of all, this bill would have no effect on what's already been paid, is that correct?

BARRASSO: Well, it tries to recapture that money from Iran but we know how tough that is. When you go after...

HUME: What ransom -- let's just look at the numbers for a second, $400,000 we know was paid in cash...

BARRASSO: And then another $1.3 billion.

HUME: And then another $1.3 billion.

BARRASSO: Yes.

HUME: That was done by bank draft, right?

BARRASSO: Yes.

HUME: So a total of $1.7 billion. How would you recapture?

BARRASSO: Well, we want to make sure no additional money is spent until reparations have been made by Iran for what money is owed to Americans after the hostages were held for 444 days, back when Jimmy Carter was president. They are owed over $50 billion. We want that back. We want no additional payments and the goal is to recapture this as well.

HUME: Where does this $50 billion figure come from?

BARRASSO: This is money that is owed reparation to U.S. citizens who were held hostages for 444 days.

HUME: And by what authority were those reparations ordered?

BARRASSO: There is court ruling to do that. Bruce Laingen, who was Charge d'affaires at the time, and those other hostages, but that's been waiting a long time as well. You know, if you are trying to get hostages back, they should have done this before the president negotiated.

HUME: Well, let me ask you this, if they owed us $50 billion and we owed them some -- we owed the money, now we know $1.7 billion that has been sent to them, why would we pay them before they paid us?

BARRASSO: Well, you should never do that. The president should have never paid for hostages. Our policy should be to never pay for the release of hostages. We should have gotten the hostages back before the president proceeded with the Iran deal in the first place.

HUME: So this bill would compel the president or the administration to do what exactly? To seek this money?

BARRASSO: To seek the money back and to allow no more money being paid by a fund called the Judgment Fund. Nothing else...

HUME: Now, can you get this to a vote in the senate?

BARRASSO: Well, we're going to push for that. I can assure you that Harry Reid and those folks will filibuster or fight it and I don't know that the president would sign it. But it's a sign that says what the president did is wrong. The president is not feared and he is not respected worldwide. We saw that this weekend in China.

HUME: I get that.

BARRASSO: And my big concern is over the end of his term, I think these foreign leaders around the world, many of them concern themselves macho men, I think they can smell the fear of Barack Obama and they are going to go more. We're going to see it with Putin. I think we're going to see it with Iran. We're going to it see it certainly with North Korea and possibly with China and I think possibly with Assad.

HUME: All right, senator. Thanks very much for coming in. It's nice to see you, sir.

BARRASSO: Thanks for having me.

HUME: Now, to our continuing series, "The Deciders." Tonight, our man, Griff Jenkins talks to a swing state to swing state voters at a family farm in St. Louis, North Carolina. That's not far from where Donald Trump has been holding that rally this evening.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

BURT PITT, OWNER OF PITT FAMILY FARM: Well, I'm the sixth generation farmer and I'm living in the same house that all six generations have been in.

GRIFF JENKINS, FOX NEWS WASHINGTON BASED CORRESPONDENT: Meet Burt and Gwinn Pitt. Owners of the Pitt family farm in St. Louis, North Carolina.

B. PITT: I feel like there is a lot on my shoulders to keep the farm going.

JENKINS: Like many North Carolinians they've farmed tobacco in these fields for decades. But sharp falls in commodity prices meant tough times on the family farm.

B. PITT: Everybody wants cheap food, including me. But we are raising cotton (ph) at same price or lower than we did in 1991, 25 years ago. Corn is at 7-year low, soybeans at 7 and 8-year low as far as prices that we sell. A lot of people in the United States and North America don't realize that it's hard for us to pay bills because our inputs have not gone down. They are not at a 25-year low.

JENKINS: But these farmers found salvation in the sweet potato.

This is a sweet potato. It's a big crop in North Carolina, no?

GWINN PITT: It really is. Agriculture is the number one industry in North Carolina so therefore we are looking for other things to grow and sweet potatoes seem to be a great crop this year.

JENKINS: Sweet potatoes are actually roots that grow underground. Once they are big enough. A tractor uproots the crop leaving them ready to be harvested by hand.

JENKINS: What kind of grade would this get? This is a big one.

G. PITT: Jumbo.

JENKINS: That's good.

G. PITT: That's good.

JENKINS: Under the North Carolina sun, it's pain-staking, labor-intensive work. And that's why these farmers rely on migrant workers.

G. PITT: We depend on these workers. **Immigration** is a big issue with us now. But we've got to have the workers come in or these crops will sit here and rot in the fields. And we can't seem to get American workers.

JENKINS: Many come from Mexico, attracted by higher wages here than back at home. The program is totally legal. To qualify, employers, like the Pitts, need to meet certain conditions. The jobs must be temporary. They can't use the visa to take jobs from Americans. They need to prove that the migrant workers won't lower wages for Americans and they need to get a certificate from the government. When the season ends, the migrants are supposed to return south of the border.

B. PITTS: I couldn't do this work day after day. So, I -- we are so dependent on migrant work. Hispanic workers who come do our manual labor such as this.

JENKINS: But even with those views on Mexican migrant workers, these North Carolina farmers are staunch opponents of illegal **immigration** and even spoke highly of Donald Trump's speech on **immigration**. So, just what will these swing state voters do in November? Undecided or Trump?

G.PITT: Trump.

JENKINS: Burt, have you decided who you're voting for?

B. PITTS: I'm voting for Donald Trump.

G. PITT: He's a businessman. He's been through it. Agriculture is an industry. We do -- I mean, I think he understands it and I think he's willing to come out and see and listen to his advisors. I think he would be someone that would listen and help us out when it's needed.

JENKINS: In St. Louis, North Carolina, in the sweet potato fields for "On The Record," I'm Griff Jenkins.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

HUME: Thank you, Griff. Coming up, Donald Trump just wrapped up his rally down in Greenville, North Carolina. That, plus more highlights from the trail today. Our campaign flash is next.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

HUME: Time now for this thing that we call "Campaign Flash" first, to Greenville, North Carolina, where Donald Trump just wrapped up a rally where some supporters arrived as early as 9:00 this morning. Meanwhile, Hillary Clinton rallying with hundreds of supporters in Tampa, Florida tonight. She holds a slight lead as we reported in the Sunshine State according to the RealClear Politics Average. But as we've noted that lead is well within the margin of error for most polls.

Finally, a word about Greta Van Susteren. As I noted earlier, she has left Fox News saying, "Today, the place just didn't feel like home anymore." I count Greta a friend and I'm sorry to see her go. All of us here certainly wish her well. She made a big contribution and we will miss her. In the meantime, I will try to carry on in the hopes her audience will stick with us. Don't worry I will only be here through the election. And thank you for being with us tonight. We will see you again tomorrow night right here at 7:00 eastern. Up next, "The O'Reilly Factor." Good night.

END

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE** GRETA VAN SUSTEREN, FOX NEWS HOST: This is a "Fox News" alert.

Hurricane Hermine is now life threatening, and she is unleashing her wrath on Florida's West Coast right now. In just a short time, she will officially make landfall.

"Fox" team coverage and Florida's west coast meteorologist Rick Reichmuth is tracking the storm's every move. Hurricane coverage in minutes.

But right now it's all 2016 and the big news. Hot off his trip to Mexico City, Donald Trump delivered a hard line speech on **immigration** that happened late last night. Trump laid out his plans on how he says he will put an end to illegal **immigration**.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

DONALD TRUMP, U.S. REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE: Mexico will pay for the wall.

She doesn't know what she's doing except open borders and let everybody come in and destroy our country, by the way.

There are at least 23 countries that refuse to take their people back after they have been ordered to leave the United States, including large numbers of violent criminals. They won't take them back, so we say OK, we'll keep them. Not going to happen with me, folks. Not going to happen with me.

Between 9/11 and the end of 2014, at least 380 foreign-born individuals were convicted in terror cases inside the United States. We've admitted nearly 100,000 **immigrants** from Iraq and Afghanistan. In these two countries according to Pew research, a majority of residents say that the barbaric practice of honor killings against women are often, or sometimes justified.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

VAN SUSTEREN: Former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani traveled with Donald Trump to meet with the president of Mexico.

Mayor Giuliani goes ON THE RECORD.

Good evening, sir.

RUDY GIULIANI, FORMER NEW YORK CITY MAYOR: Hi, Greta, how are you?

VAN SUSTEREN: Good. So, Mr. Mayor, what do you think Donald Trump learned from meeting with President Nieto? What did he walk away with?

GIULIANI: Well, I think it was enormously instructive. First of all, we found four or five areas of mutual cooperation, where we can really improve our relationship with Mexico.

We also found a few areas where there are disagreements. But the reality is the reason to secure the border from Mexico to the United States is not just because of Mexico, it's because it's an open pathway for people from anywhere, including terrorists that ISIS might try to get in who can sneak in with the people who are coming in who are looking for work. And I think that what we learned is that in some of our trade problems, we have very similar problems with China as Mexico does.

VAN SUSTEREN: I don't mean to underestimate the importance of the south border and those issues, but one thing that sort of gets lost in sort of the discussion because everyone likes to talk about who is paying for the wall and who is not going to pay for the wall, and how big the wall is going to be.

But we have -- the estimates are about 11 or 12 million people in the United States who are undocumented. They are here illegally. But about half of them have overstayed their visas. And, you know, all the concentration is on the south border. But we got -- half of this 11 million, they got legal visas and they say I'm staying. What about those?

GIULIANI: Well, those -- those people have -- there has to be enforcement against them. However, I think if you listen to Donald Trump's speech last night, clearly what his first area of concentration is going to be is to secure the United States so that people can't come in without being identified.

Number two, to make sure that we focus, first, on the criminal illegal aliens.

Now, there are a lot of them. They are not the vast majority. But it's a big number. It's a big number for law enforcement. Maybe it's 500,000. Maybe it's a million. I don't know exactly the number. You are only going to find out when you focus on it.

VAN SUSTEREN: So what happened -- and he addressed that. He talked about having some sort of deportation force to go out and get those -- I mean, people who have got like armed robberies and things like that who are in this country and in here illegally as a second issue.

This deportation force, are they going to go out -- do we give them due process? Are we just going to throw them back in? If we're given due process, where do we get these judges? What's the plan?

GIULIANI: Greta, it's no different than when I was U.S. attorney. You know, you can't prosecute every crime. So you have to have priorities. You have to figure out what are your priorities.

And I think the speech last night was brilliant in the sense that it set out a priority. The priority is let's go after the criminals first and get them out of here.

And I think what we've learned in Mexico, in sitting down with President Pena Nieto is that there are a lot of common issues where they have similar problems that we have.

For example, they have a tremendous illegal **immigration** problem from the southern part of Latin America that they're dealing with. And some of the people coming over the border are not Mexicans, but they are people from Guatemala, people from Honduras, people from El Salvador and then other people who try to sneak in with them.

So I think that we found about three or four areas where we can work very, very closely in a constructive way with the Mexican government.

We can also -- we can also, with Mexico, give them the kind of help that we gave Colombia, which I'm very familiar with, from both the justice department side of my private security business. The help that we gave Mexico in wiping out the cartels there. Mexico is a different country today than it was 10 or 15 years ago. It's a rejuvenated country because they got control of it. They got rid of the cartels.

We can give Mexico that kind of help, and I think that we have to approach this from a positive point of view. And I think the thing that the American people are going to learn about Donald Trump, as we move along in this campaign and the debates is, this man is an ingenious negotiator. He knows how to find common ground, even where there is disagreement. And the reality is the focus here is going to be on the criminal, illegal **immigrant**.

(CROSSTALK)

VAN SUSTEREN: All right, one quick question -- let me just ask you one quick question. And I do appreciate the danger of that southern border of Mexico. Honduras is the most dangerous country and they've got problem there.

Just give me some local color. Do you think that President Nieto -- do they seem to like Donald Trump? Did they laugh with him or anything?

GIULIANI: We had a very, very good conversation. That's why we made up those hats that said "Make Mexico Great Also." And we brought about 40 or 50 hats with us. And we came home with only two.

And by the time we got home, that one was taken. And Senator Sessions and I both wore those hats, because we believe we can do this in a way in which we maximize our relationship with Mexico which, after all, is one of our allies. We don't want -- we have a problem of illegal **immigration** into the United States.

VAN SUSTEREN: Mr. Mayor, thank you for joining us.

GIULIANI: Thank you.

VAN SUSTEREN: And last night, Donald Trump vowed to put an end to the catch and release program.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

DONALD TRUMP, U.S. REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE: We will begin working on an impenetrable, physical, tall, powerful, beautiful, southern border wall. We will use the best technology including above and below ground sensors, that's the tunnels.

Number two, we are going to end catch and release. Under my administration, anyone who illegally crosses the border will be detained until they are removed out of our country and back to the country from which they came.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

VAN SUSTEREN: What do law enforcement along the border think about Donald Trump's plans?

A special ON THE RECORD border panel is here. Vice president to the National Border Patrol Counsel Art Del Cueto and Pinal County sheriff Paul Babeu.

Nice to see both of you, gentlemen.

ART DEL CUETO, VICE PRESIDENT, NATIONAL BORDER PATROL COUNSEL: Thanks, Greta. Nice to be on

PAUL BABEU, PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA SHERIFF: Thank you.

VAN SUSTEREN: Sheriff, first to you, because I understand that you were there last night at the speech.

BABEU: Yes.

VAN SUSTEREN: Did Donald Trump say something that you found particularly instructive or helpful to your job?

BABEU: Absolutely. Well, I'm in law enforcement. And this noble idea of enforcing the law. To actually have consequences, where the law applies for you and I and every American citizen. But it doesn't appear that there is any law for illegals because there is no consequences.

Catch and release is alive and well. And then the same fact he is talking about criminal illegals. The last three years, President Obama has released 84,000 criminals. Many of them violent offenders and those people have no business here. And they should be deported. Never to return again to America.

Because our job is tough enough as cops, and it just become far more complicated releasing these violent criminals into our communities.

VAN SUSTEREN: Art, do the -- remember, the border patrol and people who have the obligation to watch that border, do they feel like they have gotten the resources and support from the Obama administration. And, if not, do they expect to get it from Secretary Hillary Clinton or from Donald Trump?

DEL CUETO: You know, you have somebody like Donald Trump that actually reached out to us. And he is actually asking us what it is we need.

And, you know, there is a lot of resources that we still need. We need more agents out there on the ground. And most importantly, just like the Sheriff Babeu just said, a lot of it has to with enforcing the laws.

We already have laws on the books right now. We need to be allowed to enforce those laws. And catch and release is not part of enforcing our laws.

VAN SUSTEREN: Is there some other way, Art, that you need to be able to enforce the law. That you are not getting the authority? I mean, you pick somebody up, and other than releasing them, I take it, can you do something else?

DEL CUETO: Well, I think since we are the border patrol and we're right on the border, how about sending them back to their country of origin. And a lot of these people that we catch that are Mexican, we can take them back to Mexico. I mean, the border is just down the road from where we are patrolling. We do the proper vetting. We do the proper checks on them. See if they have committed crimes in the United States and return them to their country.

But allowing them to stay here without proper vetting first and foremost is a problem. And second of all, they just allow them to stay here is a problem all in itself.

VAN SUSTEREN: Sheriff, are you telling me that in this catch and release, it's that if you catch someone here in the United States, on the border coming illegally, persons not supposed to be here, that you release them here in the United States, that you can't return them to their host, to Mexico in this instance?

BABEU: Yes. We work closely with our heroes in the border patrol. And basically as our -- and other border patrol agents have told me, they feel they are handcuffed.

Imagine a cop saying that they are handcuffed because -- they are disrespected because their authority as law enforcement, there is no consequences. They are literally released in some cases without any notice to appear back into our community.

VAN SUSTEREN: Well, they're not going to come back anyway. I mean, that notice to appear, I mean, like --

BABEU: True.

VAN SUSTEREN: I mean, like, what percentage actually appear. As a criminal defense lawyer. And you get a notice to appear in most instances. You know, it's not likely you are going to show up.

BABEU: That's what's so crazy about this is the president, instead of putting our citizens, our senior citizens, our military veterans first, he's literally made this his top priority. And this is upside down priorities for our country. It's got to stop.

VAN SUSTEREN: All right. Let's bring in the viewers to vote.

Viewers, now is your chance to vote at home on Twitter.

Do you think our border will ever be secure? Tweet yes or no using #Greta. We'll show you your live Twitter votes throughout the show.

All right, one final question to you.

I've been asked about this wall. If the wall is built, people wonder, can you just sort of dig under the wall. We know we've seen tunnels. So how effective would this wall be? Or just sort of partial deterrent?

DEL CUETO: I think it's very effective. And I put it to people this simply.

Do you lock your doors at night when you go to bed? And you do.

Can they still break in? They can still break in. But just because somebody can still break in doesn't mean, you don't do the effort.

And the effort is that wall, plus other things that we have been in direct communication with Donald Trump, he is taking our advice. And hopefully, you know, when he gets into office, he will see what we're explaining to him and he will take all the explanations and all the examples that we have given and he takes them and he uses them. The wall is a big thing. The wall is a huge thing.

VAN SUSTEREN: Sheriff, Art, thank you both.

DEL CUETO: Huge deterrent. Thank you. Thank you.

VAN SUSTEREN: Thank you, both.

DEL CUETO: Thanks, Greta.

VAN SUSTEREN: Hillary Clinton is spinning off charges from many news organizations that she is in hiding. Secretary Clinton has a light schedule and is not holding regular news conferences.

The ON THE RECORD political panel is here. From "The Washington Post," Abby Philip and from the "Boston Globe," Matt Viser.

Matt, is this just the media sort of being annoyed that they are not getting face time with the secretary. I mean, she's giving some interviews and she's talking a little bit, but is this a legitimate beef?

MATT VISER, BOSTON GLOBE: I think it is. I mean, it has been 272 days since the last time she had a press conference where she took eight questions. And I think it's important for voters to have access to their candidate and to hear what people are wondering and have questions about.

How damaging will it be to her in the long term? I don't know.

VAN SUSTEREN: And is it any different than her sitting down with someone from one of the networks and talking for half an hour? Is it any different to have a bunch of reporters in the room firing questions off?

ABBY PHILLIP, THE WASHINGTON POST: Well, someone who covers her on the trail every day. I mean, I will tell you, at some of these interviews and the gaggles that they talk a lot about are very brief. They are like four or five or six minutes long. That's not enough time to really get a substantive exchange with someone. It's very horrid. I don't think it serves her or the press for that matter.

I agree with Matt. I understand that voters maybe don't care too much about this. But I think they have a right to dig a little bit deeper. Dig beyond the headlines and get her to sort of deliver some substantive answers to questions from the people who cover her the most closely. And who know the day-to-day and the policies as they come out.

VAN SUSTEREN: Matt, it seems to me, like she is going to get ask these questions at the debate. So why doesn't she do a dry run now.

VISER: And the bar get raised the longer she goes without it. And the other thing is bad for her. I mean, it's not like she's own practiced. I mean, as secretary of state, she had press conferences in every country that she would go to and take questions. So it's not like she doesn't know how the game works.

VAN SUSTEREN: So why isn't she doing this, Amy? I mean, and what's the point. I mean, she had -- Matt makes a good point. I have traveled with her overseas, eight trips with her. I saw her take questions. So why isn't she answering questions now?

PHILIP: Your guess is as good as mine. I mean, from our perspective, it definitely seems like the campaign is doing what all campaigns want to do which is control the message.

That being said --

(CROSSTALK)

VAN SUSTEREN: Which is now just emails and that she is hiding. The message they're all controlling is that we're all talking about her hiding.

PHILIP: But, you know, I mean, at this point, I think, it's gone into unprecedented territory now. There is a story line about Hillary Clinton not wanting to take questions when, as everyone knows, she is perfectly capable of answering questions.

So, you know, we will see how this shakes out. You know, we are going to get to these debates. Some of these questions are going to be asked. But, again, I mean, the traveling press corps sees her every day. They understand what is going on day-to-day in this campaign: what she is doing, what her campaign is doing.

VAN SUSTEREN: But she won't answer questions.

(CROSSTALK)

PHILIP: I think there is a good reason for them to want to ask her some questions.

VAN SUSTEREN: What do you want to ask her? You got one question. Let's say you get one question. What do you want?

VISER: I mean, I think the emails still raise a legitimate issue, with the emails and the Clinton foundation now sort of in one sort of super scandal.

VAN SUSTEREN: What's your one question?

PHILIP: A little day-to-day developments. We want to -- yes, we want to know some of those answers. And it's not just about the emails. It's also just about what are her policies and what do they mean for the American people?

VAN SUSTEREN: Well, at least, we're going to hear at least from her on debate night. But she would be wise to have sort of a dry run and have a press conference.

Anyway, Abby, Matt, thank you both.

VISER: Thanks.

VAN SUSTEREN: This is a "Fox News" alert.

Florida is bracing for Hurricane Hermine. The storm surge is about to slam head on into Florida. This will be the first hurricane to make landfall in Florida in 11 years.

ON THE RECORD has live team coverage throughout Florida. Plus, the forecast.

First let's get right to "Fox's" Steve Harrigan live in Cedar Key, Florida.

Steve?

STEVE HARRIGAN, FOX NEWS CORRESPONDENT: Greta, even though landfall is supposed to be six hours away, parts of the Coast of Florida are already getting hit very hard.

Over the last hour, we have seen the wind here pick up considerably. There are at least parts of five counties where there is a mandatory evacuation in effect. 51 counties where there is pedestrian evacuation in effect.

Real danger, the long term danger, as the storm passes through is going to be storm surge. Change in update in that evaluation. They were talking about a 3 to 6-foot surge. Now they are saying it's going to be 11 feet. That's unheard of here in these parts of Florida in the last 100 years.

11 feet would be over my head. That means a lot of these buildings could be under water over the next 24 hours. The hard part is, it's going hit at 1 o'clock in the morning. So even getting people to help them (INAUDIBLE).

Greta, back to you.

VAN SUSTEREN: Steve, thank you, and obviously stay safe.

"Fox" Tampa Bay reporter Gloria Gomez is about 130 miles away from Steve in the much more populated Tampa Bay area.

Gloria, tell me what's going on there.

GLORIA GOMEZ, FOX TAMPA BAY REPORTER: Greta, pretty uneventful so far. We have squalls coming in and out once in a while, where the winds pick up. But nothing significant.

Also, the flooding has not been really bad here. It's mostly been a day off for kids to kind of just enjoy the scenery. I'm going to step out of the way. Show you.

We've had kids canoeing. Mothers bringing out their babies in strollers. It's just almost been an event to just take a look at. But nothing significant. The flooding has been very limited. You will see that once in a while the Tampa Bay area here, where Bayshore Boulevard -- you have runners here. They have been jogging and working out.

You will see the waves crashing up against the wall here, but pretty uneventful here. And the residents out here are enjoying it so far.

Let's just keep our fingers crossed that it stays that way here in the Tampa Bay area.

Back to you, Greta.

VAN SUSTEREN: Gloria, thank you, and also stay safe.

"Fox News" chief meteorologist Rick Reichmuth is tracking it all.

Rick?

RICK REICHMUTH, FOX NEWS METEOROLOGIST: OK. Well, first of all, Tampa is not at the center of that. So that's why we are seeing conditions certainly better. But they do have tropical storm warning in effect. Because we will be seeing the bands go through that will bring winds in excess of 40 miles an hour.

The worst of it is to the north of that, where you see this spread to the west of Apalachicola around Panama City and then throughout the big bend of Florida.

And now we have tropical storm watches in effect from areas just to the north of Cape Hatteras all the way up through New Jersey. So we are going to be watching a prolonged event. We won't be done with this until maybe Thursday of this coming week.

In the short-term, take a look at this. The last few images on satellite getting much better organized and will be strengthening storm getting close to land.

When you have a strengthening storm that usually is much more damaging and that's what we're watching. So while we have a 75 mile-an-hour category one hurricane, we will likely see this strengthening and seeing winds gusting probably in excess of 90 miles an hour.

Tallahassee I'm very concerned about. We're going to see probably a lot of wind damage and power outages in Tallahassee.

And, Greta, as I was mentioning, here we go the Georgia, Carolina coast line are going to be dealing with this tomorrow. And by Saturday and Sunday, this storm stalls out here. We could be talking about major coastal erosion and beach damage across much of New Jersey and Long Island in a storm that sits out here potentially Wednesday into Thursday, battering parts of the northeast.

Greta?

VAN SUSTEREN: Rick, thank you.

REICHMUTH: You bet.

VAN SUSTEREN: And, of course, stay with "Fox News". We'll keep checking on this dangerous hurricane.

And a U.S. sailor used Secretary Clinton as a courtroom defense for mishandling classified information. But it didn't work. The judge put him behind bars. That sailor's mother is here next.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

VAN SUSTEREN: This is a "Fox News" alert.

Hurricane Hermine is bringing heavy rain, flooding and wind along the Gulf Coast and potentially life threatening hurricane is now going to hit Florida tonight.

Tens of millions of people are in her path. And after Florida, she is headed up the east coast.

ON THE RECORD will take you back to Florida with any breaking news.

And do you remember Kristian Saucier, the U.S. Navy SEAL who tried to use Hillary Clinton as a courtroom defense? Saucier was sentenced to one year in prison for using his cell phone to take these pictures in the classified engine room of a nuclear sub.

Now, those pictures are now declassified. Saucier's lawyers argued that what Hillary Clinton did was far worse and Secretary Clinton received no punishment.

Christian's mother Kathleen Saucier and Kristian's lawyer Greg Rinckey both go ON THE RECORD.

Good evening to both of you.

Kathleen, first to you. Why do you think your son got treated unfairly?

KATHLEEN SAUCIER, MOTHER OF NAVY SAILOR KRISTIAN SAUCIER: Well, it seems to me there is a clear double standard. I think he was treated unfairly because his name is not Clinton.

VAN SUSTEREN: And the judge said, what? I mean, raised in court. What did the judge say?

SAUCIER: As far as what the judge said? The judge stated he felt that my son had no intent to do any harm. That he had made a mistake as a 22-year- old young man. And that he offered the least possible sentence he could under the charges that my son was facing which was mishandling classified information.

VAN SUSTEREN: Greg, this is a young man, a sailor who, from all accounts, was looking forward -- I mean, he was very excited about being in the military. He was inspired by 9/11 to serve his country.

When he went into court, the prosecutor -- federal prosecutor wanted him to get five or six years. He only got a year.

Do you think that there is a double standard like his mother that -- since Secretary Clinton obviously didn't get charged, and this young man did, he pled guilty, he has got a year in prison?

GREG RINCKEY, KRISTIAN SAUCIER'S LAWYER: Yes, absolutely I do. I believe that the Justice Department is politicized in this country. And, you know, if your name is -- if you're powerful and you have a name recognition, your not going to be prosecuted.

VAN SUSTEREN: Kathleen, were you questioned during the investigation?

SAUCIER: Yes, I was. I was.

VAN SUSTEREN: And what are they asking you about?

SAUCIER: Actually, they were implying that I was a co-conspirator to take photos and sell photos to the Russians at which point I actually laughed during that part of the investigation because I've spent probably the last 25 years of my life devoted to community service, and particularly the last nine years to military and veterans and it was far from the truth.

And they weren't willing to listen at all to any documentation or evidence that I had to show such that I was not in anyway involve in that. And at that point, that was when I also recognize that this was something a little bit greater than my son taking six photos.

VAN SUSTEREN: You know, Greg, when you listen to this story and you look at this young man and you look at the allegation, they think the mother is doing something sinister as well. What was with this prosecution? Do they genuinely believe this?

I know you say the Justice Department was politicized. Were they gunning for them? Or just unfair. You know, what's your overall thought?

RINCKEY: I don't really understand what took the prosecution so long in this case and also the fact that the Navy declined to prosecute this case. The assistant United States attorney, and when he looked at it, and we believe they decline to prosecute it, and yet the assistant United States attorney in Connecticut took it.

I don't really understand why they were so hard pressed to go after my client. Clearly, he was not a spy.

These photographs were taken seven years ago by a young man who was looking to take photographs to have some mementos that he could show his kids where he worked on the sub. So I really don't have the answer to that.

VAN SUSTEREN: Kathleen, Greg, thank you both for joining us. And, obviously, I know it's a tough time for your family, Kathleen.

SAUCIER: Yes. And I would like to just say one last thing, Greta, to get it in. If I would gladly sit in the front row of a presidential debate and look right at Hillary Clinton, while she tries to explain to the American public why she is not held to the same standard that my son, a United States Navy Sailor is.

VAN SUSTEREN: Thank you both for joining us. Thank you.

SAUCIER: Thank you.

VAN SUSTEREN: And who is going to have to break out his wallet? Donald Trump or the president of Mexico?

The two men are battling over who will pay for Trump's border wall?

Dr. Ben Carson is here next.

Plus, Hurricane Hermine is getting close to slamming Florida. When will it hit? We will go back to Florida, straight ahead.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

VAN SUSTEREN: Who is going to pick up the tab? Donald Trump says Mexico. The president of Mexico says no way. Mexico is not paying for Trump's proposed border wall. And yesterday, in Mexico, Donald Trump said he and President Nieto did not discuss who would pay for the wall, but later President Nieto tweeted that he did not tell Trump Mexico would not pay for the wall. So, someone lying? The answer is, no. The president of Mexico, the spokesperson clarifying to the "Wall Street Journal", that Trump was not lying, because Trump never responded to the president's comments. There was no actual discussion and today, after some back and forth, Trump tweeted this "Mexico will pay for the wall.", but President Nieto firing right back with this tweet that we have now translated into English. I repeat what I said personally, Mr. Trump. Mexico would never pay for a wall. Former presidential candidate and Donald Trump supporter Dr. Ben Carson goes "On The Record". Good evening, sir.

BEN CARSON, FORMER 2012 GOP PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE AND DONALD TRUMP SUPPORTER: Hi, Greta.

VAN SUSTEREN: Well, I think we are sort of a long way off to the wall being built if one is going to be built, but the question. Who is going to pay for it? How is Donald Trump going to get Mexico to pay for this?

CARSON: Well, recognize that a lot of money is going to be saved by enforcing our borders and by not giving, you know, various types of benefits to people who are here illegally. That money is money that we otherwise would not have had and that can be applied to the wall and various other things. That is I believe the spirit in which that comment is made. I don't think Mexico is going to write a check out and say here, pay for the wall.

VAN SUSTEREN: If you talk to the Trump presidential, the President thinks that is going to happen either. What should we do about, I mean this is, it is such a complicated issue of **immigration**, I mean you got some arm bandit coming over the border, but then you got some grandmother who has been here for 30 or 40 years and there's grandchildren born here in America, I mean it is a whole long spectrum of who is here. How do we, I mean how is Donald Trump going to decide who stays and who goes? I know he says is he going to go after the bandits first? But what about the grandmother with all the grandchildren and they have been working here for years?

CARSON: Well, recognize that once we secure the border and begin to apply the laws that we already have on the books which we have not done with Republican and Democrat administrations in the past, we may have a very different situation here. Also, when we enforce e-verify and overstaying of VISA and you know, we shutdown the sanctuary cities, it's going to be a completely different picture.

So to try to determine on the basis of what is going on today in this functional **immigration** system doesn't make any sense.

VAN SUSTEREN: Well, there is a little bit, because lot of people are trying to decide how to vote, and a lot of Hispanics, maybe Hispanic family has worried about their grandmother who is sitting in the other room who is not an American, but they are, because they have been born here in the United States. They are worried about it. I assume they want to know if Donald Trump is going to deport that person. I think they need to know more details rather than sort of the wall and the bandit. I mean, nobody wants an armed robber or whatever from any nation, any place.

CARSON: Well, recognize that what he said is that if they want to become American citizens and they want to have voting rights, then they are going to have to basically go through the same process that anybody else would have to go through. And nobody else gets to come here and you know get some special privileges. So, they will have to go through the same things. Now, those who don't want to go through that, you know, there is potential that they could become guest workers or something of that nature. But they won't be official American citizens.

VAN SUSTEREN: I think the guest worker program is one that been hotly debate, the Democrats don't want the guest workers. A lot of Republicans do want guest workers. And maybe the solution is whoever is president to work with congress and finally get us, you know, some union.

CARSON: It works very well with Canada. Canada works it very well. We could learn from them.

VAN SUSTEREN: Indeed. We ought to bring them down here and talk to them, because we certainly have a mess. Anyway, Dr. Carson, thank you for talking to us.

And this is crazy video. A SpaceX rocket exploding on the launch pad, what went wrong? That is next. Plus, this is frightening. Tens of millions of people right now are in the path of hurricane Hermine. Florida Governor Rick Scott saying it could be life-threatening, live reports plus the forecast, coming up.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

VAN SUSTEREN: Look at this. A SpaceX rocket exploding on the launch pad, you can see the rocket and the satellite on board, engulfed in flames as they are completely destroyed. Fox Orlando Reporter Derrol Nail is live in Cape Canaveral, Florida. Derrol, tell me what happened.

DERROL NAIL, FOX ORLANDO REPORTER: Well, SpaceX says at the moment they don't know the root cause of what happened to this rocket and they are still investigating. But SpaceX CEO Elon Musk says that the explosion originated in the upper portion of the rocket where the second stage is and specifically the propellant tanks and that oxygen tank that helps fuel it in space where there is no oxygen.

Take again at a look at that video and that is what you see, here in this incredible visual of the powerful explosion and fire that engulfed the rocket and launch pad this morning just after 9:00 a.m. Eastern here at the Cape Canaveral Air Force station in Florida.

The blast is so intense it separate the top of the rocket for communication satellite resided, sending it falling several 100 feet to a fiery destruction on the ground. Now, that second stage oxygen tank that I mentioned earlier is also what exploded in June of 2015 from the same location, completely destroying this SpaceXFalcon 9 rocket two minutes into flight. But SpaceX engineers determined a faulty strut inside the oxygen tank broke loose during flight and caused the explosion.

SpaceX upgraded that component and flew nine successful missions afterwards. Now this represents a huge set back for a company that was on the leading edge of the commercialization of space but late today, NASA issuing a statement that they stand fully behind their commercial partner, SpaceX which they have a multibillion-dollar contract with to eventually launch human astronauts into space to the ISS on that Falcon 9 rocket.

VAN SUSTEREN: Derrol, thank you.

Get ready to speed read the news. Tonight the San Francisco 49ers is facing off against the San Diego Chargers. But in battle 49ers Quarterback Colin Kaepernick has said he refuses to stand during our National Anthem tonight. He is protesting the treatment of African-Americans but Kaepernick might run into some trouble. San Diego is a big military town and tonight is the Charger's 28th Annual Salute to the military.

And take a look at this massive crocodile caught in Australia. Wildlife officials in the Northern territory, wrangling this 13-foot crocodile. The croc put up a fight before officials were able to tape his or her jaw shut. The officers were called in, because the croc was eating cows. And get this. Officials are still searching for another crocodile that is even bigger, wow.

And, now so much cuter animals, three bears spotted roaming around the Pasadena, California. Homeowners called police when the bears took a dip in someone's pool. Then two of the bears were hungry. They wanted a snack so they headed to a dumpster. Finally a brave dog started barking and chased the bears away. Authorities are monitoring the bears and hope the bears will wander away on their own.

And that is tonight's speed read.

And in three minutes, we are getting closer to hurricane Hermine blasting Florida. Heavy rains are already there. How bad is it going to get? That is next. And don't forget to watch Hannity tonight 10:00 pm Eastern, Tucker Carlson is in for Sean, he is joined by Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus. That is tonight 10:00 p.m. on Hannity.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

VAN SUSTEREN: This is a Fox News alert. Hurricane Hermine burring down on the gulf coast, she is fierce. Hermine expected to make landfall tonight and it will be Florida's first hurricane landfall in 11 years. "On The Record" has live team coverage in Florida to the forecast. Let's start with Fox News Correspondent Steve Harrigan who has been battling rain all day. Steve?

HARRIGAN: Greta, that landfall is still five hours out. Already we are seeing the line between the Gulf of Mexico and the streets here in Florida beginning to blur. The water keeps creeping up. It's about chin level now. And the real question is how high is it going to get? The winds we know already hurricane strength, over 75 miles per hour. And the part of the storm to the right or to the east is really going to get hit hard. That is where we are now in Cedar key, Florida about 140 miles north of Tampa.

Bigger problem over the next 12 hours is going to be the storm surge. And that is really part of the danger of what we're seeing. A slow meandering rainstorm for a while and it just turned into a hurricane. We have seen revived predictions over the past few hours. Originally people were planning on 3 to 6 foot storm surge and now they are talking about 11 feet. That would be well over my head. So when you look across the area of all these stores and houses, the 800 people that live here they could very much be under water in the next 12 hours. The scene has changed. There has been a mandatory evacuation here in effect this afternoon.

And Governor Rick Scott of Florida has been warning over and over again, this is a life-threatening storm and it could turn very well to be just that in the next 12 hours. Greta.

VAN SUSTEREN: You know, Steve, the pictures behind you is just unbelievable. It looks incredibly dangerous. I think of all the people down there who might need extra care, elderly people down there who might not have evacuated, even those, mandatory evacuation. There is a lot of potential heartache that could happen in the next 12 hours.

HARRIGAN: Potential heartache and a real challenge on all sides for those who might be trapped and for those trying to rescue them. Already the sheriff here has said. If the winds are over 40 miles per hour, which, you know, it certainly will be very soon, those EMP's, emergency rescuers are not going to go out. And even if they can go out, if the water is over my head, it's going to be an amazing challenge just to reach the people.

And factor into that, if phone lines are down and electricity is out and sewage and water are out, it's really going to be a very difficult scenario. And even the roads in and out of some places on islands like this could be shut down very soon. Moving around, finding people, rescuing them is going to be a real challenge. That is why we have heard all the warnings from Florida's governor today of life-threatening storm. What looked like a rainstorm now could be a real challenge for the people in at least five counties along Florida's coast. Greta?

VAN SUSTEREN: Steve, thank you. You and your cameraman, be safe. So how bad could this get? Fox News Chief Meteorologist Rick Reichmuth is tracking it all. Rick, we have seen Steve show the horrible pictures there and the danger. Tell me what you know.

REICHMUTH: I will tell you it's looking actually a little bit scarier on satellite representation. The latest from the hurricane center has it as 75 mile-per-hour storm. But take a look at this satellite image. We have been watching it a long time. It hasn't been much of a storm but it strengthened to a hurricane and take a look at these last couple of images right there, we have a very distinct center and eye forming. It's a strengthening storm as it's moving closer to shore. Now we are here at Cedar Key, the town of about 800 people. Not a lot of population here and that is good news for the storm surge.

But take a look at this, Tallahassee is sitting about 350,000 and we are going to potentially be watching a hurricane go right over that city. And it is a town with a lot of big live oak trees that are very susceptible to wind damage. We could see a lot of tree damage and a lot of power damages and potentially really dangerous situation in the heavily populated area of Tallahassee tonight.

This is a radar picture. Tornado concerns anywhere you see this red box where the tornado watch we will see that extended throughout the evening here as the storm moves on shore. But these bands of very heavy rain are going to pack a lot of rain, there is going to be a lot of flooding and the wind will continue to get worse. The center of the storm likely cutting here, right just to the east of Apalachicola and making landfall and then probably the center of it, cutting right over the Tallahassee area.

I want to show you one last thing. We're not done with this storm once it moves on shore. It brings very heavy rain and flooding across the Carolina coast line, tomorrow into tomorrow night. And then Saturday afternoon in to Sunday and maybe as far away as Wednesday and Thursday, we are going to watch this storm here. Don't know exactly what kind of shape it will be in, Greta, a tropical storm, a hurricane, or some sort of a kind of a hybrid storm. That we are going to be talking about potentially major damage to the beaches across the northeast.

This is the big weekend everybody is trying to sneak out a last little bit of summer. This is going to be a dangerous one at the beaches, all of the eastern seaboard. Hate to bring you that kind of news. But immediately Florida and then all weekend long we have it across the eastern seaboard.

VAN SUSTEREN: Rick, thank you.

REICHMUTH: You bet.

VAN SUSTEREN: And take a look at this. This is what hurricanes look like from space. NASA releasing this video showing the spectacular views 257 miles above the earth. Cameras outside the International Space Station capturing three different hurricanes, the video shows Hurricane Lester, Hurricane Madeline in the Pacific Ocean and you can see Hurricane Gaston in the Atlantic Ocean.

And coming up, who is the real pig? One hint, he the throws a pig skin, start guessing. I will tell you off the record.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

VAN SUSTEREN: Let's all go off-the-record. Ok. It's time for San Francisco 49ers owner Jed York to do the right thing, cut Quarterback Colin Kaepernick. The fans on all teams deserve more. We don't want to watch him. And he could use one season not playing, sitting in living room, watching football on big screen TV. That would give this obnoxious quarterback a chance to think, to decide, if the best way to tell people his views and even provoke change is by being obnoxious and insulting. Yes, of course, he has a first amendment right not to stand for the National Anthem.

But we have a first amendment right to tell him we don't want to watch him. And if you were on the fence about this one, check out these photos. That is Kaepernick wearing socks depicting cops as pigs. That was on August 10th, during the 49ers training camp. And we put on those pig socks. Do you think he was thinking about the five Dallas cops who were gun downed protecting the first amendment right to protest cops or New Jersey Transit Police Officer Victor Ortiz, who risked his life to rescue a stranger, on the train with tracks. Not likely. So, it's time for Kaepernick to get cut for one season. Give him a time-out, because right now, he is a disgrace to the NFL. He is no role model. Actually, he is the pig.

And that is my off-the-record comment tonight. Live twitter voting rights and you're voting results on your screen right now. Do you think our border will ever be secure? And the results are 67 percent say yes and 33 percent say no.

Don't forget, to vote on Twitter every night. That is all for now. We will see again tomorrow night, right here at 7:00 p.m. Eastern. Up next, "The O'Reilly Factor" and make sure you go to my Facebook page and like it. There is so much going on beyond "On The Record" so go to my page. I have a special page did I today. Good night from Washington.

END

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |

Bottom of Form