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9 minutes and 29 seconds

BILL MELUGIN: So, look, that was an interesting press conference. And you guys have been talking about Jen — Jen Psaki's comments that she doesn't believe the migrants down here intend to stay for a long time. That's news to these folks down here. If they were to actually come down here and talk to them, I think they would realize that they're not traveling from halfway around the world to go on a little camping trip for a few days under this bridge and then just go back into Mexico. They intend to stay. They know, under the Biden administration, if they can step foot on U.S. soil, they will have a chance to be released into the U.S., either with a future court date or something else, they know that. The word about that has spread, and that is just a basic reality of why so many people are showing up in this surge right here. What does catch and release look like? Look at this video that we just shot in Del Rio today. These are migrants being dropped off, busloads of them at a local NGO here in Del Rio. They get some food, they get some water, they get some supplies, then they either get put on buses to other cities in the U.S. or we've seen it at the Del Rio airport today: flights, full of Haitians going wherever they want.

One of our cameramen had a Haitian — had Haitians on his flight today. Journalists have been playing out, seeing Haitians all over their flights and it's in direct contrast to what DHS Secretary Mayorkas said here on Monday. Remember, he had a message for the migrants: Do not come, your journey will not succeed. You will be sent back. That is not the case. Maybe it is for a majority of single, adult men and non-pregnant, single, adult women, but my border patrol sources here on the ground in Del Rio are telling me, as it stands right now, they are flat out releasing all family units and any women who are claiming they are pregnant. They want to get this camp cleared out as fast as possible. So, what they're doing is they have two options: They can let them go with an NTR — a notice to report — or an NTA — a notice to appear. What's the difference? A Notice to Report means they're asking the migrants, "hey please, will you show up to this ICE office in the future within 60 days and report?" An NTA is more strict. An NTA says, "you must show up to this office on this exact date." Well, my sources here on the ground tell me they're doing for predominately NTR's right now. Why?

He tells me NTR's take about 20 minutes or so for a border patrol agent to process while an NTA can intake upwards of an hour. And again, the idea, the optics of this camp are horrible. It's third world-like conditions down here. They want to get it cleared out as fast as possible. You can take a live look at our drone right now and still see the size of this camp. At Saturday morning, it was about 15,000 in size. It's now down to around 6,000. Again, they are getting as many people out as they can, but again, the administration made it sound like all these people were going to be sent back to Haiti, don't come here because you're not going to get in, you're not going to get a chance to stay, that is just not true. Under this administration, catch and release has been happening ever since the Biden administration came into office. The National Border Patrol Council — the union representing Border Patrol officers — says more than 600,000 illegal immigrants have been released into the country ever since the Biden administration came into term and this isn't a problem — this isn't something that just started right now here in Del Rio.

Fox News has been at the border all year long. We've shown those images in McAllen, Texas of busload after busload after busload of migrants being dropped off at the bus station to be taken wherever they want. We've shown them on the airplanes with their manilla folders, getting to go wherever they want. The bottom line here is when you talk to the migrants, when you talk to the border patrol agents, when you're actually on the ground talking with the people dealing with this, talking to the people who are showing up here, you will understand why they are coming. The word is out right now that they believe, under this administration, they have a chance to stay. Many migrants have told me, under Donald Trump, they felt his policies were cruel, they didn't want their family separated, they didn't want to have to wait in Mexico for their asylum cases to play out. They feel, under this administration, they have a better chance and you're seeing these record high numbers. I mean, we have two months in a row now of more than 200,000 people showing up at our southern border. Those numbers are just not sustainable. And then when you have a small sector like this here in Del Rio, it — it — you saw how long it took for them to plug up these migrants coming across the border. The word was out to come right now.

Now they say their tracking other caravans — 20,000 in Columbia, others gathering in Reynosa, Mexico across from McAllen, it's a problem the administration is going to have to address. And they keep — they keep hiding behind Title 42, saying we're getting rid of people via Title 42. It's not immigration policy. It's a public health order. Well, a federal judge just shot down of Title 42 last week, saying the administration can only use it for two more weeks, so Title 42 might be going out the window in the near future. It depends how the administration responds to it if they're going appeal. But every border agent we talked to on the ground says, if Title 42 were to go away, this surge — this border crisis that we've been experiencing, will absolutely explode. Because what does Title 42 do? It means that — normally, when you deport somebody, you have to go into deportation proceedings, they have to see an immigration judge, they get their chance in court. Under Title 42, that's not the case. Because of Covid-19, they get put on a bus, they get taken right across the bridge and dropped — dropped back off into Mexico. Once the word gets out that Title 42 could go, border agents say expect surge on top of the surge on top of the surge, and things could get much worse in the near future. So, if the administration is going to continue to use Title 42 as their policy, they may not have that much longer. They got it — and look, it's bipartisan. Obviously, we know this. Congress hasn't done anything on immigration in decades, but the situation, as it stands right now, being at the border for months now, it's just a head scratcher that we — we just keep banging our head against the wall as a country and not changing anything because these poor border agents out here, they deserve better. They're completely overwhelmed. And it's not fair to these migrants either because they're coming here, believing something and — you see the conditions here. It's — it's not okay for anybody, so something's got to change. I'll get off my bully pulpit. I'll send it back to you guys.

SHANNON BREAM: Hey, Bill, it's Shannon here. And you're right. I mean, we think about these people being exploited by cartels and coyotes, they — you know, the freedom they now feel, those nefarious organizations at the border is also a resulting ripple effect of this. I want to touch back about something you mention. And I know you talked to folks down there, many times in their native language and you found that these are not people who are just showing up from Haiti, somehow got to place where they could migrate into Mexico —

MELUGIN: No.

BREAM: — and come through. I know that you've talked to people who have been other countries for years and they've been waiting there for an opportunity for possibly this administration to change, a policy change that would now allow them to make this surge because, you know, NBC had the headline — NBC News — that 20,000 Haitian folks were waiting in Columbia —

MELUGIN: Mmhmm.

BREAM: — to potentially surge the border. That doesn't happen overnight, so where — can you tell us about where these people have been the last few years before they showed up in recent weeks?

MELUGIN: Shannon, every single Haitian that I've talked to in this camp all week long has told me they've been living in one — one country: Chile. Almost all of them have been living there. You take a walk 100 yards away from us, what you'll find on the grounds are ripped up IDs, documents and discarded passports and IDs, almost all of them are from Chile. And people often ask: Well, why are they tearing them up? Why are they getting rid of their travel paperwork and their ID cards before they come in? Well, that's because, typically, U.S. policy for asylum is asylum will be rejected if the government knows that these migrants have settled in another country before they come to the United States. So, yes, a lot of these migrants told me they've been living in Chile since 2014, 2016, years. And when I asked them why/d you come now? They all — they all say the same thing. We felt now is the right time. Now is the opportunity to come. And it's absolutely true. I — people — people keep asking on Twitter: "Well, how — how are people walking from Haiti to del Rio? There's a huge ocean. There's the Gulf. They're not. They've been in Chile for a long time now, and they've been waiting. And they've just, for whatever reason, decided now is the time they want to try to come here to the United States. And from what they have been telling us and from what we've been seeing, they know, once they cross the river, they can set foot right here in the U.S., if they've got a child, if they've got a pregnant wife, if they're a family, they're going to get released with a piece of paper and if they want to, they can disappear into the shadows, and a lot of them do.

ROBERTS: So, Bill, on — on that point with all these people that have been in — in places like Brazil or Chile, or this other group that's in — in Columbia. You know, part of claiming asylum is credible fear. If you've been in Brazil or Chile, which are both modern countries for years, how do you come to the United States and suddenly claim credible fear?

MELUGIN: Well, that's the thing, Chile has one of the strongest economies in all of South America. And look, there are legitimate people claiming asylum in these groups that come over.

ROBERTS: Mmhmm.

MELUGIN: But a large majority of the people I've talked to for the past five months now our economic migrants. When I ask them, "why do you come," they want a better job. They're not

making enough money down there. They want a better financial situation for their family. They tell me they want to send money back to their family in countries in Central or South America. Those are not grounds for asylum . Do we want to help everybody? Should everybody who wants a better job be let into the country? That's something politicians are going to have to decide. But American asylum requirements are very strict. They have very specific criteria and you don't have over a million people coming over the border who are going to meet all of that criteria.

ROBERTS: Yeah.

MELUGIN: A large amount of the people we talk to will straight up tell you they want work here.

ROBERTS: Mmhmm.

BREAM: Bill Melugin, you and your team are doing an incredible job down there —

ROBERTS: Sure are.

BREAM: — showing us pictures and stories that no one else is. Thank you to all of you. Appreciate it, Bill.

ROBERTS: Thank, Bill.

MELUGIN: Thanks.