

NBC Nightly News with Hallie Jackson

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6:30:05 p.m. [TEASE]

29 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking News; Trump Defends Threat to Chicago]

HALLIE JACKSON: Tonight, the defense from President Trump after Illinois's governor accuses him of wanting to go to war with Chicago. The president, before attending the U.S. Open today, leaning into a new push of what he calls Chipocalypse.

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP: We're not going to war. We're going to clean up our cities.

JACKSON: His administration launching a new immigration crackdown in another blue city, but on his handling of the economy, our new poll finding frustration on the economy from many Americans. Our Steve Kornacki will break it down.

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6:31:33 p.m.

4 minutes and 47 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking News; Trump Responds to Threat Against Chicago]

JACKSON: We begin tonight with President Trump defending his threat to send the military into Chicago, but insisting he's not preparing to go to war there, after backlash over his post about that Democratic-led city. It comes as the Trump administration ramps up its immigration crackdown with a new push in Boston, and new developments tonight after the largest DHS enforcement operation in a single location ever at a Hyundai facility in Georgia. You can see it there. South Korean officials now say more than 300 workers from that country are detained during that raid, will be flown back home later this week. All as our new NBC News pulling out today shows the President's approval rating at just 43 percent, with just half of Americans say they disapprove of his job performance. Our Yamiche Alcindor starts us off.

YAMICHE ALCINDOR: Tonight, President Trump taking in the U.S. Open men's final, as a guest of Rolex, receiving both cheers and boos from the stadium crowd. [CHEERS AND BOOS] Fans frustrated by delays getting through security. The President taking a quick trip to New York after defending his plan to send the military into Chicago, and after sharing this A.I. image on a Saturday, saying Chicago was about to find out why it is called the Department of War. Illinois Governor JB Pritzker calling him a wannabe dictator, and accusing him of threatening to go to war with the nation's third-largest city. [TO TRUMP] Are you threatening to go to war with Chicago?

TRUMP: When you say that, darling, that's fake news.

ALCINDOR [TO TRUMP]: But why use the Department of Defense?

TRUMP: Listen – [SCREEN WIPE] – we're not going to war. We're going to cleanup our cities. We're going to clean them up, so they don't kill five people every weekend. That's not war. That's common sense.

ALCINDOR: Others, including protesters, criticizing the deployment.

CHICAGO PROTESTERS LINA ALVAREZ: It hurts to see servicemembers I consider brothers and sisters westernized against my community.

ALCINDOR: Still, the Trump administration wrapping up focus on immigration. Federal officials saying today they have begun a new operation in Massachusetts after immigration officials earlier this year made arrests in Boston.

FEDERAL OFFICIAL: We have a search warrant for the whole site.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking News; South Korean Officials Negotiate Deal After Immigration Raid]

ALCINDOR: Meanwhile, today, South Korean officials said 300 South Korean workers were detained during a massive immigration raid on a Hyundai facility in Georgia, will be returned to the country on a chartered flight. The raid on Friday was the largest single site enforcement operation in Homeland Security history, with DHS saying they arrested 475 workers.

JACKSON: Yamiche is joining us now from the White House. And, Yamichie, a top administration official now says new migration action could come within days, right?

ALCINDOR: That's right. Today, Tom Homan, the President's border czar said Chicago and most sanctuary cities should absolutely expect to see federal forces brought in this week, and that using the National Guard is on the table. Hallie?

JACKSON: Yamiche Alcindor at the White House, thank you. President Trump is also facing growing pressure on the economy, as our new NBC News poll shows, it still at the top issue for people across the country. Today, the White House is defending job performance.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking News; White House Defends Trump Economic Policy]

TREASURY SECRETARY SCOTT BESENT [on NBC's *Meet the Press*]: We are going to push through with the economic policies, that will set the economy right, I believe, by the fourth quarter, we are going to see a substantial acceleration.

JACKSON: Let's go to Steve Kornacki now who he is posted up for us at the big board. Steve, it's good to see you. Get specific with us now about what people say they care about the most when it comes to economic issues.

STEVE KORNACKI: Yeah, Hallie, our NBC Decision Desk poll ran a bunch of concerns by people asking which one is the most important. You can see here, there's unemployment is on the list, there is government debt, student loans, yet overwhelmingly, 45 percent said inflation and the cost of living is the top economic concern to them, and we saw this across age groups, Hallie.

JACKSON: Given how critical that is, Steve and how much the President leaned into this issue on the campaign trail, it's worth noting that some folks say they are not happy with how he is handling the economy now.

KORNACKI: Yeah, you remember the campaign trail, and certainly if you go back to Donald Trump's first term, when it came to the economy he got high marks, higher than he did on other topics. Not the case now. Our new poll shows 39 percent of Americans say they approve of how Trump is handling inflation. 61 percent say they disapprove. These are numbers we've now seen throughout Trump's second term, dangerous numbers, certainly, in terms of standing on the economy, and then there's this as well, asking folks, are things getting better? Are they better now compared to a year ago, when it comes to your personal financial situation? Not even a quarter of Americans are saying yes. 34 percent – about a third – of them are saying worse. More troubling here for Trump, I think, Hallie, is when you look at Independence, this number saying worse is at 42 percent. The number saying better, just 16.

JACKSON: Steve Kornacki, thank you.