

ABC's *Good Morning America*

10/01/25

8:02:04 a.m.

8 minutes and 57 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking at 8; House Speaker Johnson on Government Shutdown]

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS: We start with the government shutdown. Each party blocking the other's stopgap bill's to keep funding the federal government before last night's midnight deadline. We're going to hear from the House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries in a moment. First, we're joined by the Speaker of the House, Mike Johnson. Mr. Speaker, thank you for joining us this morning. The Democratic proposal is designed to prevent millions of Americans from losing their health insurance, losing Medicaid coverage, or paying higher healthcare premiums. Why are you against that?

HOUSE SPEAKER MIKE JOHNSON (R-LA): That's an absurd statement what you said there. Let's be clear about what happened last night, George.

STEPHANOPOULOS: It's a factual statement.

JOHNSON: No, George, let me tell you what happened last night and everyone can review the facts for themselves. Forty-four Senate Democrats voted to reject a clean nonpartisan resolution to keep the United States government open. Democrats side instead they wanted to give healthcare to the illegal aliens instead of keeping critical services provided for American citizens. That's what happened plain and simple. Every Democrat in the House except one voted against the clean continue resolution. It was nonpartisan in nature. There were no policy riders on it that Republicans favored. It's exactly what Chuck Schumer and other Democrats voted for in March, but they changed their tune. They changed their tune because Chuck Schumer's having political problems right now. That's just a simple fact and everybody knows it. He's trying to outrun the far-left portion of his base, so he's decided to inflict pain on the American people.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Here are the facts.

JOHNSON: That's the reality of it.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Here are the facts. The proposal does not provide healthcare for illegal immigrants. Illegal immigrants cannot buy healthcare under the Affordable Care Act.

JOHNSON: Not true. Not true, George.

STEPHANOPOULOS: They cannot receive healthcare subsidies.

JOHNSON: No.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Illegal immigrants are ineligible for Medicare, Medicaid, and the

Children's Health Program. The Democratic bill does not make them eligible.

JOHNSON: It does actually because what it does is it unwind the changes that the Republicans put into the Big Beautiful bill, the signature legislation that we passed and signed into law on July 4. That has been very successful insuring up Medicaid for the people who are actually eligible to receive it. What we've done in the bill and the CBO just verified this three weeks ago the Congressional Budget Office, nonpartisan arbiters of everything up here, they said that those provisions have helped to reduce premiums. Why? Because we got an eligible recipients off of Medicaid, illegal aliens enabled by the young men who were riding the wagon who are not eligible to be there. Medicaid is intended for specific populations of U.S. citizens. That is young, pregnant women down on their luck, the disabled, and the elderly, those resources are being drained from those folks and so, we fixed that. We reduced waste, fraud, and abuse of the program. Chuck Schumer's counterproposal on the CR would reverse that. That is a simple fact. It would mean that illegal aliens —

STEPHANOPOULOS: CBO did not say that about illegal immigrants. You've made your point there.

JOHNSON: — yeah, yeah.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Let me ask you about President Trump. He had another deepfake video overnight. How does that help the cause of getting a deal and opening the government?

JOHNSON: Look, the President uses social media for humor. He makes jokes. He does — he does lots of things. What the President did, though, in showing leadership two days ago was he brought in Chuck Schumer and Hakeem Jeffries to meet with me and Leader Thune in the Senate to try to work this out. He gave them unlimited time they had in the Oval Office and they would not come to the table to do exactly, George, what they themselves have said repeatedly over and over. We have a highlight reel playing on my social media that shows Chuck Schumer in his own words for the last decade saying a shutdown would be dangerous and disastrous and reckless. And now he is the one leading his party off the cliff. There's one question that Senate Democrats have to ask today: how long are they going to allow Chuck Schumer to do this to them so that he himself can get political cover from the far left corner of his base? He thinks — he believes he will get a challenge for the Senate from AOC. That's what changed his mind, that's what is driving this agenda and it's harming real American people. You said at the outset how many people will be unpaid. Many people will lose their jobs over this. TSA agents, you know, the troops will not be paid. They have to go to work. They won't be paid because Chuck Schumer wants to play political games with the nonpartisan resolution to keep the government operating. We're pretty angry about it.

STEPHANOPOULOS: The President also saying at the Pentagon yesterday that he wants American cities to be used as training grounds for the American military. Is this the highest and best use of the military and is this the best way to train them?

JOHNSON: I — I don't serve in the Pentagon, I run the House of Representatives and what we

need to talk about today is the harm that the American people will feel because of what Chuck Schumer is doing. Let me tell you what — what's going to be hurt today.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Well, hold on a second. As Speaker of the House —

JOHNSON: Women, infants, and children —

STEPHANOPOULOS: — do you — no, answer the question!

JOHNSON: — are not going to have nutrition programs provided.

STEPHANOPOULOS: As Speaker of the House, do you believe it's appropriate to use American cities as training grounds for the U.S. military, calling those people in the American cities the enemy within. You — I'm asking you, as Speaker of the House, do think that's appropriate?

JOHNSON: I'm — I'm not going to comment on your characterization of what the President said. I didn't get to see that speech —

STEPHANOPOULOS: Those — those are quotes.

JOHNSON: — as I was a little busy yesterday.

STEPHANOPOULOS: They're not characterizations.

JOHNSON: Well, you can take it out of context, which you often do and I don't think it's fair to the President. I can tell you what he's done, though. He's put troops and D.C. cleaned up the crime problem. People can walk to — safely to and from work today because the President takes crime seriously. Some big mayors in the blue cities are not and I think that's probably what he was addressing there, but what we need to talk about now, speaking of troops, is they won't be paid right now because the Democrats are playing political games. FEMA is not going to be provided. FEMA services will not be provided now that the governments shut down. A few flood insurance you need to renew before hurricanes come on, you can't do that right now. We — we have people — critical medical services for veterans and families, I mean, suicide prevention programs, these are really serious issues that are being caused by the government shutdown and we need the Democrats to put the politics aside and keep the — the engines running here. It's critically important for the American people and it's stunning to me that they're willing to play games like this when they themselves have said they will watch the tape through their entire careers that this should never be done.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Mr. Speaker, thank you. Nothing I said about the President was out of context. Those were direct quotes from the President, but thank you for your time.

JOHNSON: Cherry picked out of a long speech.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Let's to turn to House Leader Hakeem Jeffries. Mr. Leader, your

response, first of all, to what the speaker said there about the President's comments on the enemy within and using American cities to train the military?

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HOUSE MINORITY LEADER HAKEEM JEFFRIES (D-NY): Good morning. It was a deeply disturbing statement the President made. We need Presidential leadership that brings people together as opposed to tearing us apart. And certainly, it's the case that not a single American should ever be viewed as the enemy within or potentially as target practice for the American military, which is why the American people have rejected the deployment and occupation of American cities and towns and counties with American military troops. We have the finest military in the world and they should be used to keep us safe from external enemies.

STEPHANOPOULOS: You also heard the speaker say the Democrats want a fund for healthcare to illegal aliens and immigrants trying to reverse what was in the President's domestic sending bill earlier this year. Your response.

JEFFRIES: Donald Trump and Republicans have shut the government down because they don't want to provide healthcare to working class Americans. Federal law prohibits the use of Medicare, Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program, and the Affordable Care Act to provide health insurance in any way, shape or for undocumented immigrants period full stop. That's the law and Democrats aren't trying to change that, but what were trying to do is negotiate a bipartisan agreement that actually brings the two parties together and funds the government in a way that improves the quality of life of the American people.

STEPHANOPOULOS: It doesn't seem like that's going to happen anytime soon. Are you worried that Democrats will get blamed for shutdown and the unity's going to erode? Already, two Democrat senators and Angus King — the independent senator from Maine, who votes with the Democrats — already voted with the GOP once.

JEFFRIES: The Democrats are united in our resolve to make sure that we cancel the cuts, lower the cost, and save healthcare for the American people. We are in the midst of an incredible crisis, a healthcare crisis that Republicans have caused. Already this year the largest cut to Medicaid in American history triggering the possibility of a \$536 billion cut to Medicare as a result of the one big ugly bill that Republicans passed if we do not act by the end of the year. In the next few days, more than 20 million Americans are going to experience notices that will indicate that the premiums and co-pays and deductibles are about to skyrocket, bankrupting many Americans or preventing them from being able to get access to the health care they need. And, in the midst of all this, Republicans have effectively canceled medical research and because of the one big ugly bill, we know that hospitals and nursing homes and community-based health centers are closing across America, including many rural communities that Republicans so often represent all across America and they could care less at the medical and healthcare crisis that they have caused.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Mr. Leader, thanks for your time this morning.

JEFFRIES: Thank you.