

*ABC's World News Tonight with David Muir*

03/18/26

6:31:11 p.m. [TEASE]

13 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: DHS Nominee Mullin Grilled]

DAVID MUIR: Also tonight, the heated moments during the Senate confirmation hearing for the President's pick to replace Kristi Noem to run Homeland Security. The fiery moments right here as Senator Markwayne Mullin is questioned by lawmakers on both sides.

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6:38:36 p.m.

2 minutes and 24 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Fiery DHS Nominee Mullin Hearing]

MUIR: Meantime, also on Capitol Hill, heated moments during the Senate confirmation hearing for President Trump's pick to replace Kristi Noem to run Homeland Security. Senator Markwayne Mullin questioned about potential anger issues and about what he said about that ICU nurse killed by federal agents in Minneapolis. Jay O'Brien on the Hill.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking News; Fiery DHS Nominee Mullin Hearing; Sen. Rand Paul Accuses Colleague of Anger Issues]

JAY O'BRIEN: Tonight, the surprisingly personal confrontation on Capitol Hill, Republican Senator Rand Paul accusing President Trump's nominee for Homeland Security Secretary, his Senate colleague Markwayne Mullin, of having serious anger issues. Paul bringing up his own assault by a neighbor in 2017.

SENATOR RAND PAUL (R-KY): You told the media that I was a freaking snake and that you completely understood why I had been assaulted. I was shocked that it would justify and celebrate this violent assault. That caused me so much pain in my family, so much pain. I just wonder if someone who applauds violence against their political opponents is the right person to lead an agency that has struggled to accept limits to the proper use of force.

O'BRIEN: Paul then playing a video of the time Mullin, a former MMA fighter, tried to fight a union leader in the middle of a Senate hearing.

PAUL: Let's go ahead and roll the tape.

MULLIN [on 11/14/23]: You want to run your mouth? We can be two consenting adults. We can finish it here.

SEAN O'BRIEN [on 11/14/23]: Okay, that's fine. Perfect.

MULLIN [on 11/14/23]: You want to do it now?

O'BRIEN [on 11/14/23]: I'd love to do it right now.

MULLIN [on 11/14/23]: Well, stand your butt up then.

O'BRIEN [on 11/14/23]: You stand you butt up.

SENATOR BERNIE SANDERS (I-VT) [on 11/14/23]: Hold it. No, stop it.

O'BRIEN [on 11/14/23]: Is that your solution, every [INAUDIBLE]

SANDERS [on 11/14/23]: No, no. Sit down.

MULLIN [on 11/14/23]: Look at you.

SANDERS [on 11/14/23]: You know, you're a United States Senator.

O'BRIEN: Mullin responding that union leader was with him today supporting him.

MULLIN: Both of us have had conversations. Both of us have shaken hands and both as agreed we could have done things different.

O'BRIEN: Mullin asked about the violence surrounding the administration's crackdown in Minneapolis, federal officers killing two protesters, Renee Good and Alex Pretti.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking News; Fiery DHS Nominee Mullin Hearing; Mullin: Regrets Remarks About Alex Pretti]

SENATOR GARY PETERS (D-MI): You, sir, you called Alex Pretti, "a deranged individual that came in to cause max damage." Could we expect those kinds of quick responses if you are confirmed as secretary?

SENATOR MARKWAYNE MULLIN (R-OK): No, senator. Those words probably should have been retracted. I shouldn't have said that. Sometimes I make mistakes and I own it. That one I went out too fast. I was responding immediately without the facts. That's my fault.

O'BRIEN: And David, Mullin is on track to be confirmed. Senator Paul telling me he is a no. Mullin likely to get the support of one Democrat, Pennsylvania's John Fetterman, David.

MUIR: You'll keep watching it for us. Jay O'Brien, thank you.