

*NBC Nightly News with Tom Llamas*

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6:37:07 p.m.

4 seconds

HALLIE JACKSON: And the man picked to lead that department next facing heat on Capitol Hill.

(...)

6:37:56 p.m.

1 minute and 29 seconds

TOM COSTELLO: Democrats and Republicans both insist they want to fund Homeland Security.

SENATOR JONI ERNST (R-IA): Why are we not funding the agencies that protect Americans?

SENATOR GARY PETERS (D-MI): We have put on the floor bills to fully fund TSA, and my Republican colleagues have objected.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking News; Trump's Homeland Security Pick Grilled]

COSTELLO: But Republicans object to Democratic demands to include ICE policing reforms, part of a contentious confirmation hearing for Senator Markwayne Mullin to replace outgoing DHS secretary Kristi Noem. Mullin refused to apologize for calling Senator Paul a snake, and understand why his neighbor attacked him in 2017 causing serious injuries.

SENATOR RAND PAUL (R-KY): I just wonder if someone who applauds violence against their legal opponents is the right person to lead an agency that has struggled to accept limits to the proper use of force..

SENATOR MARKWAYNE MULLIN (R-OK): As far as me saying that I invoke violence, I don't.

COSTELLO: Mullin softened some position on immigration policies and defended officers who shot and killed two Americans in Minneapolis. He said he regrets the statements he made about Alex Pretti.

MULLIN: I was responding immediately without facts. That won't happen as secretary.

PETERS: Would you apologize to the family of Alex Pretti?

MULLIN: Well, sir, I just said I regret the statement.

PETERS: Is that the same as an apology?

MULLIN: We'll let the investigation go through and if I'm proven wrong, then I will, absolutely.