

ABC's *Good Morning America*

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7:01:42 a.m. [TEASE]

18 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: New This Morning; Tense Hearing]

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS: Heated hearing with President Trump's pick to take over the Department of Homeland Security.

SENATOR RAND PAUL (R-KY): Tell the world why you believe I deserve to be assaulted from behind, have six ribs broken, and a damaged lung. Tell me to my face why you think I deserved it.

STEPHANOPOULOS: What Senator Markwayne Mullin said in the tense exchanges.

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7:12:11 a.m.

2 minutes and 28 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Homeland Security Secretary Nominee Grilled on Capitol Hill]

STEPHANOPOULOS: Now to the heated confirmation hearing for President Trump's nominee to run the Department of Homeland Security, Senator Markwayne Mullin. Things got personal. He was grilled by fellow Republican Rand Paul. Jay O'Brien is on Capitol Hill with the latest on that. Good morning, Jay.

JAY O'BRIEN: George, good morning to you. Markwayne Mullin is still on track to be confirmed as the next DHS secretary, but his nomination causing a last minute stir after that fiery hearing yesterday. This morning, fiery personal questions for President Trump's pick to take over the Department of Homeland Security, Senator Markwayne Mullin. Fellow Republican Rand Paul, accusing Mullin of having, "anger issues" and bringing up his own assault by a neighbor in 2017.

PAUL: Tell the world why you believe I deserve to be assaulted from behind, have six ribs broken, and a damaged lung. Tell me to my face why you think I deserved it.

O'BRIEN: After a heated back and forth, Mullin responding:

SENATOR MARKWAYNE MULLIN (R-OK): I said I could understand because of the behavior you were having that I can understand why your neighbor — why the neighbor did what he did.

O'BRIEN: Paul, the chairman of the Senate Homeland Security Committee, then queuing up a

video of Mullin, a former MMA fighter, challenging a union leader to a brawl in the middle of a Senate hearing.

PAUL: Yes. 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: Mullin assuring the committee the two have moved on. That union leader sitting behind 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: The Oklahoma Republican, promising a change of tone at DHS from the tumultuous tenure of Secretary Kristi Noem, including requiring ICE agents obtain warrants signed by a judge before entering a home or business, but Mullin confronted about his own comments in the wake of the killing of Alex Pretti in Minneapolis.

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? Would you be, basically — well, you did. You responded as Secretary Noem. Are we going to just expect that same behavior all over again?

MULLIN: No, senator. Those words probably should have been retracted. I shouldn't have said that. The words should probably have been retracted. I shouldn't have said that. And, as secretary, I wouldn't.

O'BRIEN: The senator telling his colleagues he owns his mistakes.

MULLIN: I went out there too fast. I was responding immediately without the facts that's my fault.

O'BRIEN: And there will be a critical committee vote on Mullin's nomination today. Senator Paul tells me he's going to vote no, but Mullin is likely to get the support of at least one Democrat, Pennsylvania's John Fetterman, George.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Okay Jay, thanks very much.