

ABC's *Good Morning America*

04/01/26

7:02:46 a.m.

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[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: President Trump Trump to Address the Nation on War With Iran]

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS: We're going to begin with President Trump. He's set to address the nation tonight on the war with Iran. And just moments ago, he said that he strongly considering pulling out of NATO. That is a massive statement. Chief Washington correspondent Jon Karl here with the latest. Good morning, Jon.

JONATHAN KARL: Good morning, George. Five weeks into a war that most Americans say they do not support, Donald Trump says U.S. troops are now "finishing the job." Just days ago, President Trump threatened a major escalation of U.S. attacks on Iran. But now he is signaling that U.S. troops may head home within a couple of weeks.

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP: We're finishing the job, and I think within maybe two weeks, maybe a couple of days longer to do the job.

KARL: It's not the first time the President has said a two week deadline, many of which have come and gone without consequence. But this talk of an exit comes as Americans are feeling the pain of war. Iran continues to block virtually all ship traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, causing oil prices to skyrocket globally, the average price of gas in the United States now tops \$4 a gallon. In Florida, it's \$4.22, up nearly \$1.30 since the war began. It's worse out west. \$4.93 a gallon in Nevada and nearly \$6 a gallon in California.

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[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Trump to Telegraph: "Strongly Considering Pulling Out of NATO"]

KARL: And President Trump will address the nation tonight in what the White House says is an important update on Iran. This comes as a new Ipsos poll out this week shows 60 percent of Americans disapprove of U.S. military strikes on Iran, and that nearly two thirds of Americans want to see the U.S. — to — work to end the conflict quickly, George.

STEPHANOPOULOS: And Jon, as we've been saying, just moments ago, the President gave this interview to a British newspaper. Already drawing reaction across Europe.

KARL: Yeah, this is something else, you know, asked directly, would you consider withdrawing from NATO. And look at his answer. He says, "oh, yes, I would say it's beyond reconsideration. I was never swayed by NATO. I always knew they were a paper tiger. And Putin knows that too,

by the way.” And we heard from the British prime minister, Keir Starmer, saying — reminding Donald Trump and the rest of the world that the only time that Article V self-defense has been invoked is after the United States was attacked on September 11.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Right. He is saying this is not NATO’s — NATO’s war. President gave you a lot of time yesterday.

KARL: Yeah. Look, I have to say one thing that struck me. I spoke to him for about 20 minutes, yet — in the middle of the day, in the middle of the work day, he seems like somebody who doesn’t have a concern in the world. He seems extremely confident that the war is going to be just fine, that Americans will turn around and support it. The prices will come back down. He spent a lot of time, George, talking not just about Iran, but about the ballroom that he is building, which was stopped yesterday, about the fact that his signature is going to be on the dollar bill, that they’re renaming the airport in Palm Beach. Even talking about plans for the library that his son Eric is working on in Florida. He really seemed like a man that was not troubled at all by what was going on.

STEPHANOPOULOS: In the middle of the war.

KARL: All in the middle of the war.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Yeah. Jon Karl, thanks very much.

ROBERTS: That says a lot.

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7:08:13 a.m.

2 minutes and 26 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: President Trump Signs Executive Order on Voting]

STEPHANOPOULOS: And we’re going to get the latest now on President Trump’s attempts to interfere with the midterm elections, signing an executive order on mail-in voting. The critics are preparing to challenge in court, calling it unconstitutional. Chief White House correspondent Mary Bruce has the story. Good morning, Mary.

MARY BRUCE: Good morning George. And this is just the latest in a series of actions taken by the President to undermine confidence in the nation’s elections ahead of the midterms. This time, the President is targeting mail in ballots as he continues to spread these false claims that U.S. elections are rife with fraud. This morning, with the midterms fast approaching, President Trump attempting to crack down on mail-in ballots.

TRUMP: I think this will help a lot with elections.

BRUCE: The President signing an executive order directing his administration to create a list of confirmed U.S. citizens eligible to vote in each state and to ban the Postal Service from sending ballots from voters not on that approved list. The order also says states that do not comply could lose federal funding, but the Constitution gives states, not the president or the federal government, the power to run elections. Election experts say the order is unconstitutional and not enforceable. Democrats labeling it illegal and a blatant, unconstitutional abuse of power. Minority Leader Chuck Schumer saying bluntly: “See you in court. You will lose.” Top election officials in Oregon and Arizona — states that rely heavily on mail in voting — already vowing to sue.

TRUMP: I believe it’s foolproof and maybe it’ll be tested. Maybe it won’t.

BRUCE: For months, the President has railed against mail-in voting, claiming without evidence that it leads to “cheating.” But cases of fraud involving mail-in ballots are extremely rare. And just last week, the President himself cast a ballot by mail voting in a Florida special election, even though he was in town when early in-person voting was available.

TRUMP [on 03/26/26]: You know what? Because I’m President of the United States.

BRUCE: The President has increasingly sought to sow distrust in the nation’s elections ahead of the midterms. He rely called to nationalize elections, and the Justice Department is attempting to force at least 29 states to turn over voter data. All this as Trump remains fixated on his 2020 defeat. The administration investigating his false claims that he won the states of Georgia and Arizona in that race. And for weeks, the President has been pushing for Congress to pass the SAVE Act, which would impose new restrictions on voting in mail-in ballots. But, George, that bill has no clear path forward.

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7:12:56 a.m.

2 minutes and 26 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Democrats to Probe Hegseth Investment Report]

STEPHANOPOULOS: Want to get more on Secretary Hegseth now from Elizabeth Schulze. Elizabeth, we reported yesterday this report that Secretary Hegseth may have tried to invest in defense stocks before the war began. Investigations of that now?

ELIZABETH SCHULZE: Yeah. Good morning. George. Democratic lawmakers are now launching an investigation after that explosive report from the *Financial Times*. It claimed a broker for Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth tried to make a multi-million dollar investment into a fund with defense stocks weeks before the Iran war. So, the top Democrat on the House Oversight Committee, writing in a letter to Hegseth “attempting to profit from a war you helped engineer using insider information is shocking and outrage.” A spokesman for Hegseth says the article is entirely false and fabricated, and is demanding a retraction from the paper. The House

committee also sent letters to BlackRock and Morgan Stanley seeking more information. Both companies declined to comment. The SEC, which would typically investigate insider trading, also not commenting here. So, Hegseth's latest financial disclosures show no major investment in defense stocks. He did sell shares of big companies, including Walmart, Apple, and Costco about one week before President Trump announced his sweeping tariffs last year, Robin.

ROBERTS: All right, Elizabeth. Going to turn now to a federal judge in Philadelphia allowing the Trump administration to collect information about Jewish people on the campus of the University of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania, over the objection of student and faculty groups. Chief investigative correspondent Aaron Katersky has more. Good morning to you, Aaron.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Judge Allows the Collection of List of Jewish Employees at UPenn]

AARON KATERSKY: Good morning. Robin. This judge in Philadelphia ordered the University of Pennsylvania to turn over a list of Jewish employees so the Trump administration can investigate claims of anti-Semitism. U-Penn said it's going to appeal after campus groups argued requiring the school to furnish lists of Jewish faculty and staff evoked the tactics of Nazi Germany before the Holocaust. The judge calling that comparison unfortunate and inappropriate. And though he conceded the administration's subpoena was ineptly worded, he ordered Penn to comply. The judge saying the administration had an understandable purpose to find out if Penn's Jewish community experienced or witnessed anti-Semitism in the workplace. Now, the Ivy League school said it does not keep lists of employees, religions and while committed to confronting antisemitism, the school said requiring Penn to create lists of Jewish faculty and staff and to provide their personal contact information raises serious privacy and First Amendment concerns, guys.

ROBERTS: It does. All right. Thank you so much, Aaron.