

ABC's *Good Morning America*

09/30/26

7:08:21 a.m.

3 minutes and 14 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: President Meets with Tech Execs on AI]

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS: To the White House now, where President Trump is downplaying the risks of AI, saying at a lunch with tech executives that the companies can police themselves despite warnings that AI poses a threat to humanity. Senior political correspondent Rachel Scott has the story. Good morning, Rachel.

RACHEL SCOTT: George, good morning to you. And President Trump met with some of the very tech leaders who have sounded the alarm about AI, but the President insists that there's no need for the federal government to step in and rein in this technology, instead leaving it up to the companies to regulate themselves. With the most powerful tech executives standing behind him, President Trump declaring AI leaders should police themselves after weeks of dire warnings about the threat it could pose to humanity.

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP: They're really going to be policing each other.

SCOTT: There will be no federal guardrails on AI. Instead, the President announced, several companies have signed a voluntary joint agreement, suggesting industry leaders should implement internal measures to monitor and check their own AI models, partner with external auditors to review their systems, and create an independent committee of a board of directors. But none of that is legally binding. The President was asked, what compels these companies to follow through?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE REPORTER [TO TRUMP]: Is it binding in any way?

TRUMP: I think it's morally binding, yes.

SCOTT: The President met with those top tech execs for hours behind closed doors. Some in that room have sounded the alarm. Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei has warned AI could be a risk to humanity itself if left unchecked.

DARIO AMODEI: I think the technology has very real risks, and, you know, the mechanism, how we address those risks is still under discussion.

SCOTT: And this week, Bill Gates, with this urgent warning:

BILL GATES [on NBC's *Meet the Press*, 09/27/26]: AI is certainly powerful enough to drive events up that, you know, cause a billion deaths.

SCOTT: But for weeks, the President has dismissed those concerns, rejecting calls to regulate AI

as a globalist scheme and repeatedly describing AI fears as a hoax [TO TRUMP] The leaders standing behind you have had some very serious concerns about AI. Even after meeting with them today, you're still calling this a hoax, so why should the American people take your word over this?

TRUMP: It's not a hoax. It's a very serious. That's why I changed the name.

SCOTT: Okay.

TRUMP: A hoax sounds like, you know, when you're using the former name, but this name is now superintelligent. That's not a hoax.

SCOTT: I tried asking Amodei what he wants the President to do. [TO AMODEI] You've had some serious warnings about AI. [BACK TO VOICE-OVER] But he walked away and did not answer. So again, this agreement is voluntary. It's legally non-binding. It also comes as a new poll from Quinnipiac University shows that 79 percent of voters would rather have safety when it comes to AI instead of advancements in this technology, George.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Yeah, Rachel, on another front, the President is taking some heat for these campaign season ads paid for by taxpayers. We're finding out now where exactly the money is coming from.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Sources: Trump Ads Funded by Homeland Security]

SCOTT: Yes, George. We are. We're talking about \$1.7 million in taxpayer money, and we are learning the Trump administration is using federal funds from the Department of Homeland Security, specifically border protection, to pay for a series of ads, including one that's nearly identical to an ad that ran during the President's 2024 campaign. This has drawn widespread criticism from Democrats and Republicans, calling it an egregious use of taxpayer dollars. But still, the White House is standing by this. There's no sign this is going to be pulled down, and I'm told the President has personally pushed for these ads. George.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Yeah. Hard to see the connection to border security there. Okay, Rachel, thanks very much.