

ABC's *Good Morning America*

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21 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking Overnight; President: Iran Could "Take Out" LA]

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS: President Trump facing backlash after saying Iran could take out Los Angeles or San Diego, two American cities run by Democrats.

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP: They could take out a city, let 'em take — let it — let 'em out Los Angeles, let 'em take out San Diego. That's — this is a very small price to pay and it's going to be over with very soon.

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7:12:03 a.m.

2 minutes and 57 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking Overnight; Trump's California Comments Spark Backlash]

STEPHANOPOULOS: Also on Iran, the President is sparking a fierce backlash after suggesting a campaign rally that Iran could take out Los Angeles or San Diego. American cities run by Democrats. Senior political correspondent Rachel Scott is at the White House. Gd morning, Rachel.

RACHEL SCOTT: George, good morning to you. With less than 30 days until the midterm elections, President Trump is out on the campaign trail, defending the war in Iran. But it's those comments he made about the regime taking out two American cities that is prompting swift and fierce backlash this morning. This morning, President Trump, facing growing criticism after suggesting Iran could "take out" Los Angeles or San Diego, two American cities run by Democrats.

TRUMP: They could take out a city, let 'em take — let it — let 'em out Los Angeles, let 'em take out San Diego. That's — this is a very small price to pay and it's going to be over with very soon.

SCOTT: Those comments sparking fierce backlash from Democratic leaders in California. Governor Gavin Newsom calling President Trump deranged and dangerous. The mayor of San Diego, Todd Gloria, writing, "San Diego is not collateral damage. We are not expendable. And we are never a 'small price to pay.'" And LA Mayor Karen Bass adding, "the role of a President is to protect the country, not to actively threaten it and encourage attacks on American lives." The President, who was campaigning in Nebraska, defending the war he started in Iran, calling rising fuel prices artificial. But under pressure to ease the pain before the midterms, Trump

signing an executive order aimed at bringing down the cost of diesel.

TRUMP: Let's look at that. Isn't that nice?

SCOTT: The President won Nebraska by 20 points, but the Senate race is tight. Farmers there and in battleground states across the country have been hit hard by those record diesel prices, now at \$6.30 a gallon. The President's executive order will temporarily allow the use of so-called red dye diesel, a tax-free fuel typically reserved for heavy machinery like farm equipment and construction. But some analysts warn the effects will be limited and will not have much impact on prices due to a lack of global supply. So, diesel has skyrocketed about 77 percent this year due to this ongoing war with Iran now in its seventh month. President Trump promises that it will be over soon, but this deadline has shifted multiple times, and right now there is no end in sight, George.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: President Backs Down on Taxpayer-Funded Ads]

STEPHANOPOULOS: And, Rachel, on another front, the President was also taking some heat for using taxpayer dollars to pay for ads featuring himself. But at least he's saying he's backing off of that.

SCOTT: Yeah, the White House has been defending this move for — for days, George. But now suddenly, the President is reversing course, saying that he will stop using taxpayer money for a series of TV ads, including one that is nearly identical to an ad that ran during the 2024 campaign. The President says he will now use money from his super PAC to pay for those ads. These have cost the American people about \$1.5 million dollars so far. The President provided no details on whether he would reimburse American taxpayers for the ads that are currently running, George.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Okay, Rachel, thanks very much.