

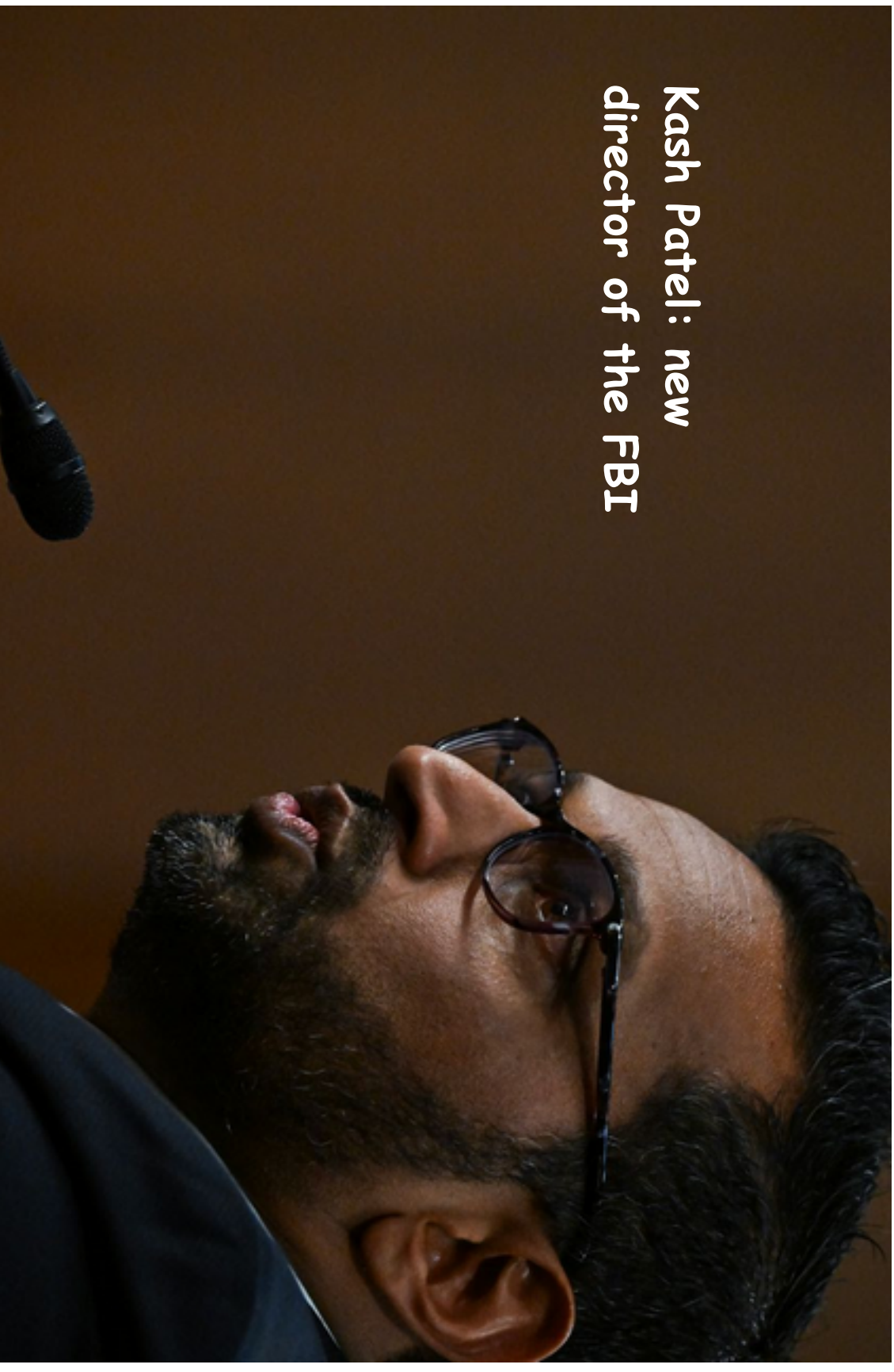
Press review Winter break 2025

Iowa lawmakers voted to remove transgender people's civil rights protections.



- **What to know:** The Iowa Senate and House passed the legislation overwhelmingly along party lines after protesters packed the galleries and hallways of the Capitol in Des Moines.
- **Zooming out:** Iowa would be the first state to revoke nondiscrimination protections for transgender people. It follows recent actions by Trump to roll back transgender rights.

Kash Patel: new
director of the FBI



Trump announces conservative podcaster Dan Bongino as FBI deputy director

The appointment of Bongino, a former Secret Service agent and NYPD officer turned conservative radio host, puts a second Trump ally at the top of the agency.

Updated February 24, 2025



Bongino has built a media empire adopting pro-Trump views, including widely debunked claims about the “rigging” of the 2020 presidential election.

Draft executive order calls for closing Education Dept.

Education Secretary Linda McMahon has said that congressional approval is needed to close the agency. Deep cuts to the workforce are expected in the short term.

Updated yesterday at 11:41 a.m. EST

President Donald Trump is set to issue an executive order directing his newly confirmed education secretary to work to close the department she now leads, two people familiar with the situation said.

A draft of the executive order that circulated on Wednesday recognizes that the president does not have the power to shutter the Education Department. It would take an act of Congress and 60 “yes” votes in the Senate, which is unlikely given that Republicans hold only 53 seats.

Rather, the draft calls on Education Secretary Linda McMahon to “take all necessary steps” to facilitate the closure of the department “to the maximum extent appropriate and permitted by law.”

Officials including McMahon have suggested that might include trying to shift some of the agency’s functions to other parts of government — though that would also face legal hurdles because the agency’s major programs are assigned by law to the Education Department.



Education Secretary Linda McMahon leaves the House chamber Tuesday after President Donald Trump’s address to a joint session of Congress. (Jose Luis Magana/AP)

The United States declared measles eliminated in 2000, meaning the disease had not spread domestically for more than 12 months. It credited the achievement to widespread immunization campaigns after the vaccine became available in 1963.

However, the national vaccination rate for measles has dropped in recent years, particularly since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic. Even a small decline in vaccination can significantly increase the likelihood of an outbreak. Measles can “easily cross borders” in any community where vaccination rates are below 95 percent, according to the CDC.

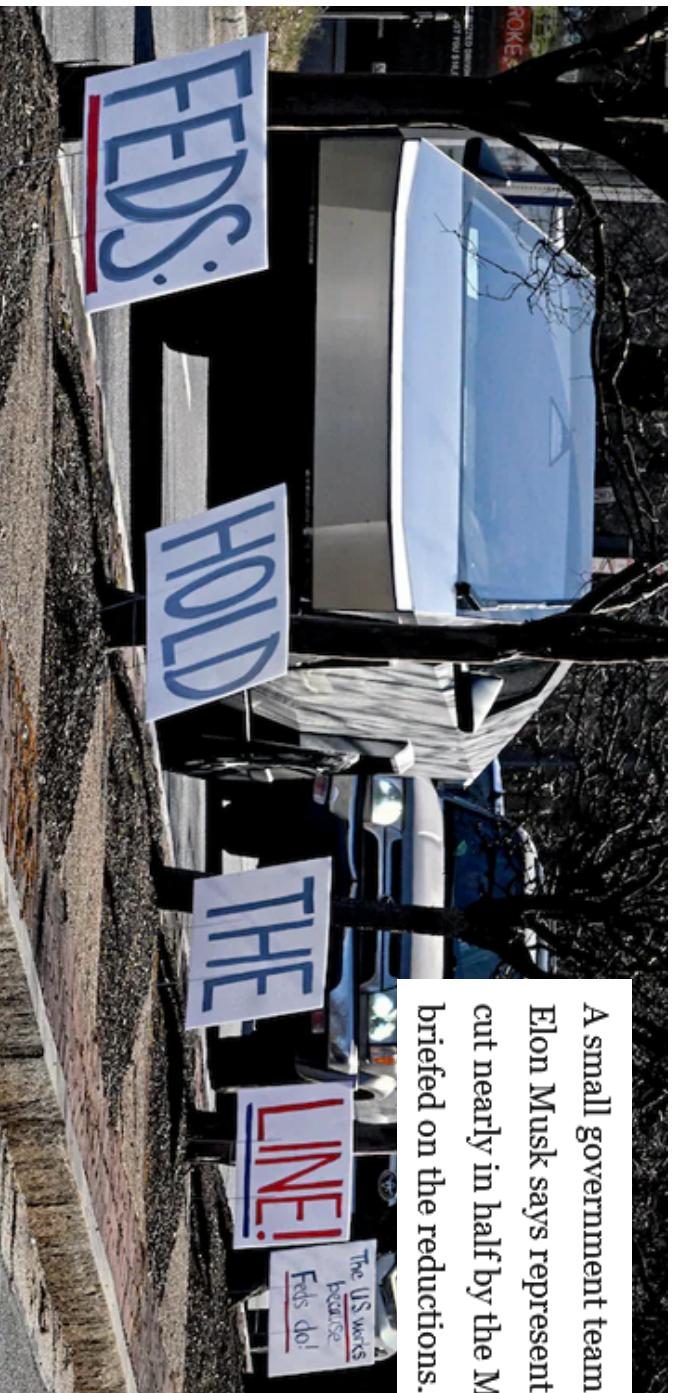


Measles, once eliminated in the U.S., sickens 99 in Texas and New Mexico

Health authorities warned of further spread. Most U.S. measles cases this year involved people 19 and under and those without a confirmed vaccination.

February 24, 2025

A small government team regulating the sort of autonomous cars that Elon Musk says represent the future of Tesla, his car company, is getting cut nearly in half by the Musk-led U.S. Doge Service, according to people briefed on the reductions.



The Washington Post

Democracy Dies in Darkness

DOGE employee cuts fall heavily on agency that regulates Musk's Tesla

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is losing about 10 percent of its workforce through firings and buyout offers, according to people briefed on the cuts.

February 20, 2025





<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nkMVb0Rnp1A>



I was thinking of responding in this manner:

1. Didn't vote for Elon on Monday.
2. Didn't vote for Elon on Tuesday.
3. Didn't vote for Elon on Wednesday.
4. Didn't vote for Elon on Thursday.
5. Didn't vote for Elon on Friday.

1d Like Reply

5.5K   



To: hr@opm.gov >

What Did You Do Last Week?

Dear Elon,

Here's what I did last week:

1. Got blitzed on ketamine
2. Ignored my children
3. Tweeted 1,782 times
4. Wore weird sunglasses inside
5. Got humiliated by astronauts

Honestly, I think I should be fired for this, but that's your call man!

Meow,
Jenny 🐱



George Conway ✓
@gtconway3d

[#Emails2DOGE](#)

cc: HR@OPM.gov



1. Mocked and trashed Trump & his boss Elon mercilessly on TV and on social media and podcasts

2. Got my kid's Corgi fixed so she can't have puppies (Elon, you really need to get fixed yourself)

3. Looked up why ketamine abusers need to wear sunglasses 🕶️

4. Read lots of court decisions and filings explaining how Trump & his boss Elon violated the Constitution and laws of the United States

5. Made this list and encouraged other people to make and post lists of their own to mock Trump & his boss Elon

8:31 PM · Feb 22, 2025 · **95.8K** Views



Elon Musk 
@elonmusk



Follow



Several administration officials tell workers not to reply to Musk email

Leaders at defense and intelligence offices were particularly wary of Musk's demand over the weekend asking workers to outline what they did last week.

Updated February 23, 2025

Failure to respond will be taken as a resignation.

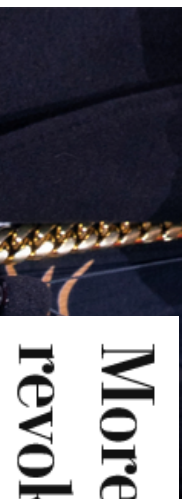
2:46 PM · Feb 22, 2025 · **7.4M** Views

Elon Musk attends Trump's first Cabinet meeting of new term

Updated February 26, 2025 at 8:00 p.m. EST | Published February 26, 2025 at 6:37 a.m. EST



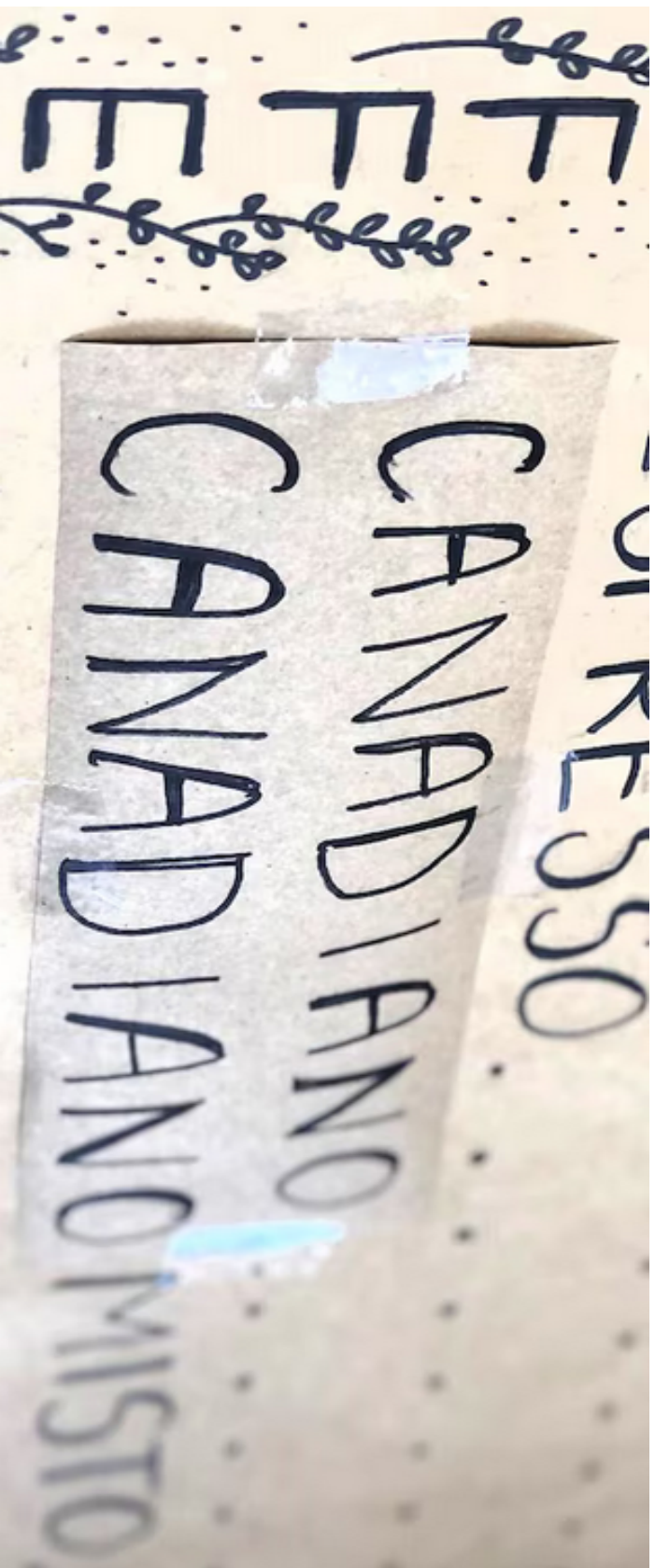
Members of President Donald Trump's Cabinet on Feb. 26 applauded CEO Elon Musk after being asked by reporters and Trump, if they were "unhappy" with DOGE. (Video: The Washington Post)



More than 230,000 Canadians sign petition to revoke Musk's citizenship

The effort, which is not expected to succeed, appears to reflect anger over Musk's alliance with Trump, who has threatened Canada with tariffs and annexation.

February 25, 2025



Americanos are now 'Canadians' in Canadian cafes protesting Trump

Some coffee shops are showing their support for Canada by changing the name of 'Americanos' to "Canadians."

Yesterday at 10:49 p.m. EST



Macron tries to sway Trump as U.S. backs Russia over Ukraine in U.N. vote

The French president is seeking to preserve U.S.-European ties even as the United States under Trump may no longer be a reliable partner against Russia.

Updated February 24, 2025

The United States voted with Russia, North Korea and 15 other Moscow-friendly countries Monday against a U.N. resolution condemning Russian aggression in Ukraine and calling for the return of Ukrainian territory. The resolution, sponsored by representatives from Kyiv, passed overwhelmingly in the U.N. General Assembly.

The U.S. delegation also abstained from voting on its own competing resolution that simply called for an end to the war, after European-sponsored amendments inserting new anti-Russian language in the resolution were approved in the 193-member body by a wide margin. The amended U.S. resolution also passed.

U.S. votes against U.N. resolution condemning Russia for Ukraine war

Washington's shift on the conflict marks a major break with Europe and coincides with the Trump administration's bid to repair relations with Moscow.

Updated February 24, 2025



Trump administration

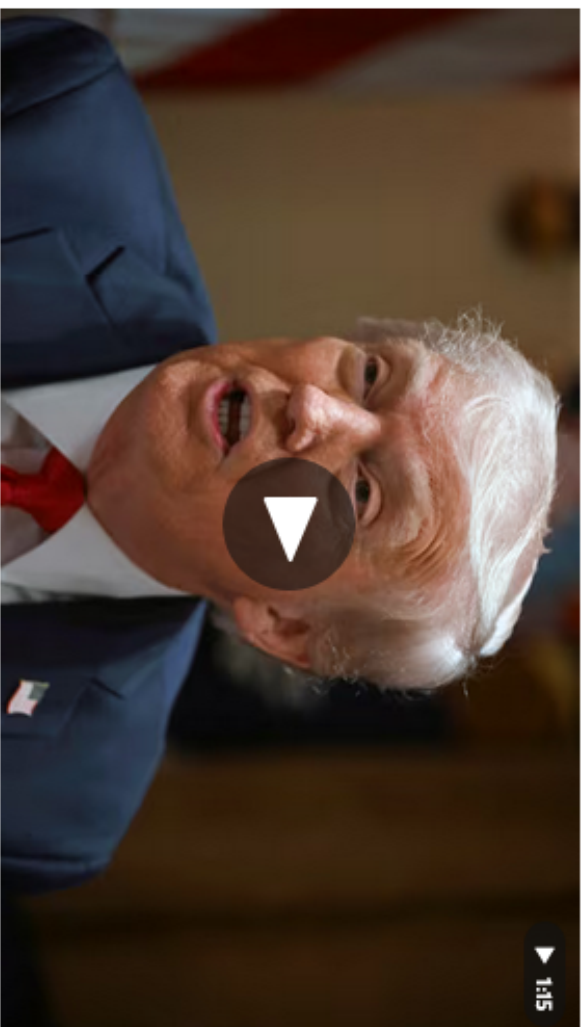
Dominic Rushe in New York

Wed 26 Feb 2025 19.25 CET

 Share

Trump vows to slap 25% tariffs on EU and claims bloc was 'formed to screw US'

EU said it will reply 'firmly and immediately' to 'unjustified' trade barriers, signaling it's ready to retaliate against levies



■ Trump vows 25% tariffs on EU and says bloc was 'formed to screw US' - video

Donald Trump has threatened to slap 25% tariffs on the **European Union**, claiming the 27-country bloc was "formed to screw the United States".

Speaking at his first cabinet meeting on Wednesday, the US president said he would soon release details of the latest tariff threat. "We have made a decision and we'll be announcing it very soon. It'll be 25%," he said.

The EU vowed to respond "firmly and immediately" to "unjustified" trade barriers, signaling that it stands ready to retaliate swiftly against new tariffs.

Trump tariffs

**Callum Jones in New York
and Helen Davidson in
Taipei**

Tue 4 Mar 2025 15.46 CET



China and Canada retaliate after Trump trade tariffs come into effect

Markets tumble around world as US president's levies against Canada, Mexico and China are implemented

● [Business live - latest updates](#)



📷 Exports from Canada and Mexico face tariffs of 25% under Trump's direction. Photograph: José Luis González/Reuters

Trump tariffs

Trudeau condemns 'dumb' Trump trade war as Canada strikes back with tariffs

Canada's prime minister says the US president wants to usher in the 'complete collapse' of the Canadian economy

Leyland Cecco in Toronto

Tue 4 Mar 2025 19.37 CET



Justin Trudeau has claimed the aim of a “dumb” trade war launched by **Donald Trump** is to usher in the “complete collapse” of the Canadian economy and make it easier for the United States to annex **Canada**.

Speaking hours after the US **slapped 25% taxes on Canadian and Mexican goods** - and a 10% levy on Canadian energy exports - the prime minister announced retaliatory tariffs on US exports and said his country would remain defiant against the aggression.

“We’ve been in tough spots before ... but we have not only survived, we have emerged stronger than ever, because when it comes to defending our great nation, there is no price we all aren’t willing to pay, and today is no different,” he said.



goods in Ottawa, on Tuesday. Photograph: Spencer Colby/EPA

o reporters about new tariffs being imposed by the US on Canadian

Canada

Canada goose fights off bald eagle in rare, symbolism-laden battle on ice

Photographer captures 20-minute clash between birds emblematic of Canada and US amid high trade tensions

Leyland Cecco in Toronto

Wed 5 Mar 2025 19:48 CET

 Share



📷 A Canada goose faces off against a bald eagle in Burlington, Ontario. Photograph: Mervyn Sequeira

For the second time in weeks, a [Canadian](#) icon has [emerged as the unlikely victor](#) in an existential battle on the ice.

Canada

Leyland Cecco in Toronto

Thu 6 Mar 2025 13.00 CET

 Share

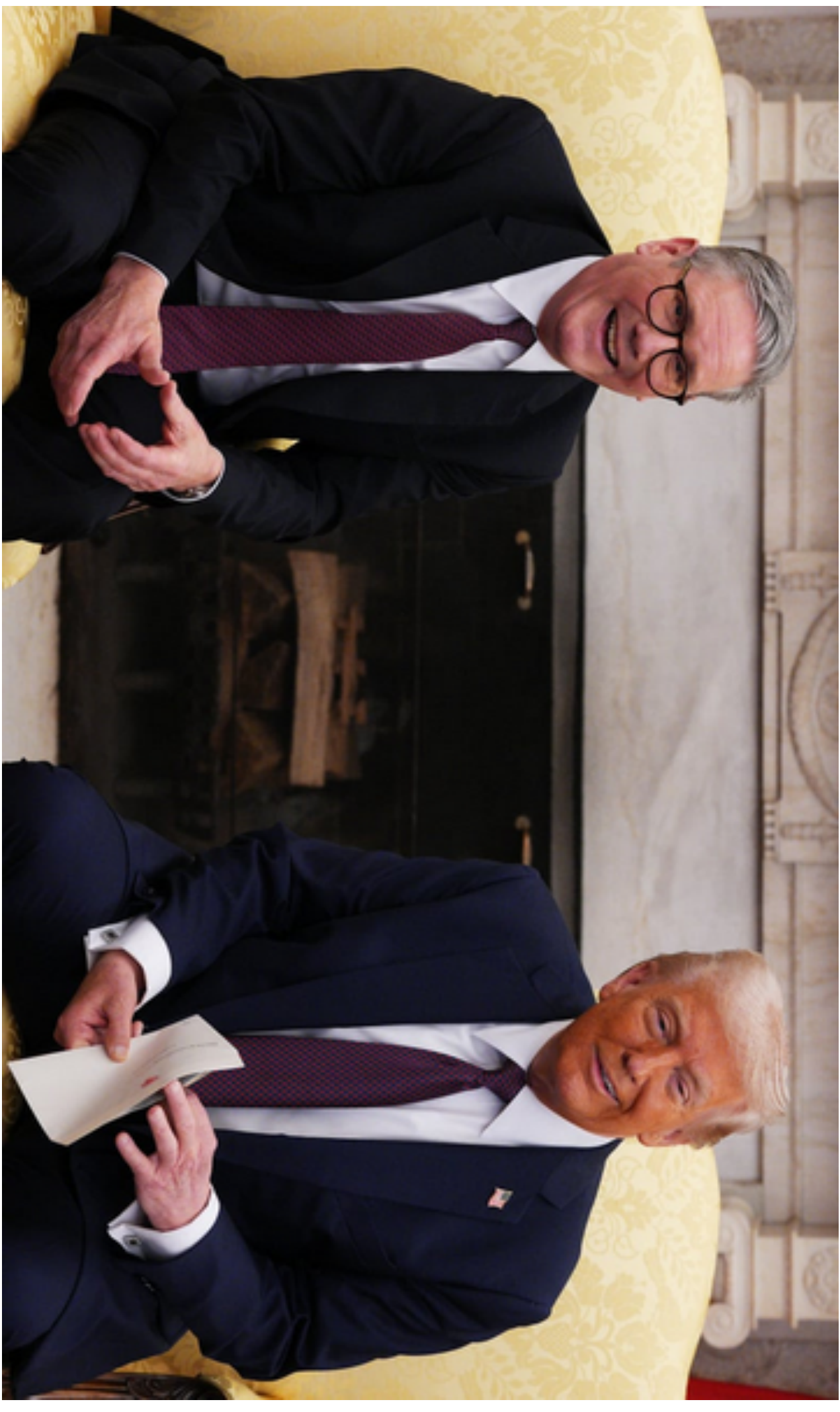
[https://
www.theguardian.com/
world/2025/mar/06/
we-are-canadian-ad-
trump](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/mar/06/we-are-canadian-ad-trump)

'We are not the 51st anything': viral Canada ad gets Trump-inspired update

Remake of 2000 Molson beer ad has the same message as Trump threatens tariffs: Canada will not cower to the US



 Jeff Douglas in We Are Canadian video advert. Photograph: Jeff Douglas



How the Trump-Zelensky Oval Office meeting spiraled into chaos

White House officials were expecting a positive meeting and said they had little reason to anticipate animosity before things deteriorated.

Yesterday at 9:01 p.m. EST



President Donald Trump, Vice President JD Vance and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky engaged in an argument about the Russia-Ukraine war on Feb. 28. (Video: The Washington Post, Photo: Jabin Botstford/The Washington Post)

First Edition



03/03/2025

Monday briefing:
UK and Europe pick up the pieces after White House car crash

Ukraine

US suspends all military aid to Ukraine in wake of Trump-Zelenskyy row

Decision affects ammunition, vehicles and other equipment including weapons in transit

● [Europe live - latest updates](#)

**Andrew Roth in
Washington and Oliver
Holmes**

Tue 4 Mar 2025 12.04 CET

[Share](#)



Ukrainian servicemen search for a target with a US Stinger air defence missile launcher in Zaporizhzhia. Photograph: Andriy Andriyenko/AP

US stops sharing intelligence on Russia with Ukraine

US no longer providing information about targets in Russia, in latest blow after halting military aid

Luke Harding in Kyiv and Dan Sabbagh in London

Wed 5 Mar 2025 18.56 CET

 Share



 Ukrainian service personnel fire a howitzer towards Russian troops at a frontline position near Pokrovsk. Photograph: Inna Varenystia/Reuters

The US has stopped sharing intelligence with **Ukraine** after Donald Trump's suspension of military aid on Monday, in another serious blow to Kyiv in the war with Russia.

White House officials indicated that both bans could be lifted if peace talks make progress.

European Union

Jennifer Rankin in Brussels

Thu 6 Mar 2025 20:57 CET



European leaders holding emergency talks in Brussels have agreed on a massive increase to defence spending, amid a drive to shore up support for Ukraine after Donald Trump **halted US military aid** and intelligence sharing.

It came as French president **Emmanuel Macron** warned on Thursday night that “the only imperial power that I see today in Europe is Russia” and called Vladimir Putin as “an imperialist who seeks to rewrite history” after the Russian president appeared to compare him to Napoleon Bonaparte.

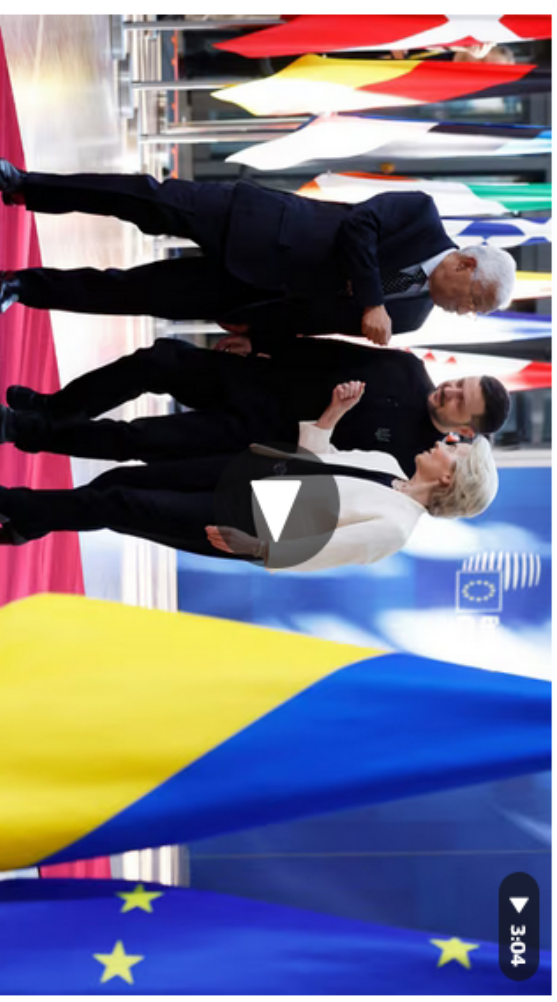
Macron also hit back at Russian reactions to his description of Moscow as an existential threat to Europe, saying the Kremlin had clearly been piqued by the fact their game had been uncovered. Macron said Russia reacted the way it did to **his speech warning that Russian aggression “knows no borders”** because it was true.

The European show of unity was marred by Hungary’s prime minister, **Viktor Orbán**, failing to endorse an EU statement on Ukraine pushing back against Trump’s Russia-friendly negotiating stance.

The European Commission president, **Ursula von der Leyen**, who presented to leaders an €800bn (£670bn) plan to increase European defence spending, said it was “a watershed moment for Europe” and also for Ukraine.

‘Watershed moment’: EU leaders agree plan for huge rise in defence spending

Leaders endorse Ursula von der Leyen proposal as French president calls Vladimir Putin ‘an imperialist who seeks to rewrite history’



EU leaders pledge support to Ukraine and boost defence spending - video

Takeaways from Trump's address to Congress



By [Kevin Liptak](#), CNN

🕒 7 minute read · Updated 12:49 AM EST, Wed March 5, 2025



Supreme Court says judge can force Trump administration to pay foreign aid

The 5-4 order prompted a blistering dissent from conservative justices who said the judge may have overstepped his authority.

Updated March 5, 2025

A sharply divided Supreme Court on Wednesday denied the Trump administration's request to block a lower court order on foreign aid funding, clearing the way for the State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development to restart nearly \$2 billion in payments for work already done.

Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. and Justice Amy Coney Barrett joined the court's three liberal justices in the 5-4 order, which was the high court's first significant move on lawsuits related to President Donald Trump's initiatives in his second term.



People protest the Trump administration's decision to shut down the U.S. Agency for International Development on Capitol Hill in Washington on Feb. 5. (Demetrius Freeman/The Washington Post)





The Guardian

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FsIDp883c0I>

Jeff Bezos' revamp of 'Washington Post' opinions leads editor to quit

FEBRUARY 26, 2025 · 3:06 PM ET



The *Washington Post*'s billionaire owner, Jeff Bezos, announced a sweeping new libertarian vision for the paper's opinion sections on Wednesday, just four months after his decision to kill a presidential endorsement of Kamala Harris triggered hundreds of thousands of subscribers to cancel.

Post Opinions Editor David Shipley, whom Bezos recruited from Bloomberg Opinions in 2022, chose to resign rather than stay to oversee the paper's revamped sections.

"We are going to be writing every day in support and defense of two pillars: personal liberties and free markets," Bezos [wrote in a memo to staffers](#) announcing the changes. "We'll cover other topics too of course, but viewpoints opposing those pillars will be left to be published by others."

Newspaper op-ed sections have incorporated opposing views for years. The term "op-ed" is literally an abbreviation for pieces running "opposite the editorial pages" that often conflicted with a publisher's editorial line. But Bezos characterized that practice as outdated.

The *Washington Post* owner Jeff Bezos attends a luncheon following the inauguration of President Trump in January. Bezos says the newspaper's editorial section will publish only "in support and defense of two pillars: personal liberties and free markets."

Kevin Dietsch/Getty Images/Getty Images North America

Companies start landing on the moon as space agencies foot the bill

Firefly Aerospace successfully reached the lunar surface, to be followed in short order by space companies Intuitive Machines and Ispace.

Updated yesterday at 12:48 p.m. EST



Firefly Aerospace became the second U.S. company to land on the moon on March 2 with its debut Blue Ghost lander, kicking off a two-week research mission. (Video: Reuters)



