

## 2019 1ST QUARTER MEET THE PRESS TOPICS

Chuck Todd is NBC News Political Director and the moderator of "Meet the Press," the flagship Sunday Morning public affairs program and longest-running broadcast in television history.

"Meet the Press" is seen on the NBC Television Network from 9-10 a.m. ET in most markets. In New York City and Washington D.C., the broadcast is seen from 10:30-11:30 a.m. ET.

The program re-airs on MSNBC Sunday afternoons at 2 p.m. ET/11 a.m. PT and again at 2 a.m. ET/11 p.m. PT and 4 a.m. ET/1 a.m. PT Monday. At these times, "Meet The Press" will also air on SIRIUS channel 90 and XM channel 120.

Please check local listings or the "Meet the Press" website (<http://www.nbcnews.com/meet-the-press>) for television and radio broadcast times in your area or to get transcripts of the show. Follow us on Twitter @MeetThePress and @NBCNewsPR.

**Note:** This report starts with the last Sunday of the quarter.

**MTP EXCLUSIVE – SEN. JOHN BARRASSO ON MUELLER REPORT: "I'VE CALLED FOR A RELEASE OF THE FULL REPORT"**

***EXCLUSIVE – SEN. DICK DURBIN ON ALLEGATION AGAINST JOE BIDEN: "CERTAINLY ONE ALLEGATION IS NOT DISQUALIFYING BUT IT SHOULD BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY"***

***NEW NBC NEWS/WALL STREET JOURNAL POLL – MOST AMERICANS DON'T THINK TRUMP IS IN THE CLEAR YET ON RUSSIA***

**MARCH 31, 2019** – Sen. John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) said today on *Meet the Press* that he has "called for a release of the full [Mueller] report" and said he doesn't see "a lot of difference in terms of making sure the public sees it."

When asked by moderator Chuck Todd during an exclusive interview if he thought it was appropriate for President Trump to pursue business in Russia while running for president, the chairman of Senate Republican Conference also said, "The president is an international businessman, has success all around the world. It is not surprising that, when he chose to run for president, he was continuing to do the business that he was doing beforehand."

Additionally, when asked if there should be an investigation into the investigators of the Russia probe as Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, has suggested, Sen. Barrasso said "Graham is a pit bull and I think he's headed down that route ... My opinion is, we need to get beyond this. **Watch the [full interview](#).**"

**Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.)** also joined the program for an exclusive interview and addressed Lucy Flores' allegation that former Vice President Joe Biden kissed her inappropriately saying, "I think all of us should take such allegations seriously and with respect ... Certainly one allegation is not disqualifying but it should be taken seriously."

The Senate Minority Whip also addressed the immigration debate saying, “The first thing we need to do is to meet the humanitarian needs at the border instead of building fences two or three years in the future by taking money from Department of Defense ... The president's cutting off aid to these countries will not solve that problem.” Watch the [full interview](#).

In addition, former governor and current Democratic presidential candidate **John Hickenlooper (D-Colo.)** joined Chuck Todd for an exclusive interview and also addressed the accusation against former Vice President Joe Biden saying, “It’s very disconcerting ... women have to be heard, and we really, we should start by believing them.”

Hickenlooper also said Georgia’s bill prohibiting abortion after a heartbeat is detected is “unconstitutional ... I've always come down on the side of a woman's right to take care of her own health care.” Watch the [full interview](#).

Plus, a new [NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll](#) found that 29 percent of Americans say they believe Trump has been cleared of wrongdoing, based on what they have heard about Mueller’s findings, while 40 percent say they do not believe he has been cleared and 31 percent say they’re not sure.

Democratic Pollster and NBC News and MSNBC Political Analyst **Cornell Belcher**, NBC News Chief White House Correspondent **Hallie Jackson**, *National Review* Editor **Rich Lowry**, and *Wall Street Journal* Columnist and NBC News and MSNBC Political Analyst **Peggy Noonan** joined the broadcast’s roundtable for insight and analysis on the week in politics. Watch the [full panel](#).

Read the [full transcript](#) of *Meet the Press* this morning and follow the show on [Twitter](#) and on [Facebook](#) for the latest.

## **MTP – REP. JERROLD NADLER: EXECUTIVE PRIVILEGE “CANNOT BE USED TO HIDE WRONGDOING”**

***EXCLUSIVE – SEN. MARCO RUBIO ON MAKING THE MUELLER REPORT PUBLIC: “ABSOLUTELY. I WANT TO SEE ALL OF IT”***

**MARCH 24, 2019** – Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.) said today on *Meet the Press* that executive privilege “cannot be used to hide wrongdoing” in the Mueller report.

The chairman of the House Judiciary Committee told moderator Chuck Todd, “The president must personally assert executive privilege. And I do not believe it exists here at all ... The president may try to assert it, may try to hide things behind it. But I don't think that's right or be successful.”

He continued, “It's critical that everything in that report and the underlying evidence be public, be open to the American people, that transparency is key. America needs answers as to what's been going on. And I hope that the Department of Justice will not leave things hanging by seeking to keep things secret.”

When asked how he interprets no new indictments from Robert Mueller, Rep. Nadler said, “There are lots of investigations going on by other agencies ... And there may be indictments from them. So, the story is not over. We don't know. And beyond that, we don't know the

reasons. Again, that's one of the reasons we need and the public needs to see the report." [Watch the full interview.](#)

**Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.)** also joined the program for an exclusive interview and told Chuck Todd the Mueller report should be made public saying, "I want to see all of it" including "the FISA applications because this is an extraordinary use of government surveillance power."

When asked about executive privilege, Sen. Rubio said, "I would certainly ask the president to lean towards transparency." He continued, "I've been very clear from the very beginning. I wanted the Mueller probe. I wanted it to be conducted without any interference ... when it was all said and done, the best thing for the country and for the president is for this probe to move forward and to be concluded."

Sen. Rubio also said he doesn't "understand" President Trump's continued attacks on the late Sen. John McCain. "I was an admirer of John McCain as a man, and a lot of the things he did in the United States Senate. So, no, I don't understand that feeling about him and I don't think, frankly, he is the person that should be singled out for these attacks."

When asked about the president's 24-hour reversal on the Treasury Department's announced sanctions on North Korea, Sen. Rubio said, "I've never seen that before from this or any administration ... I don't know why he would do that or why it happened the way it did. It's unusual." He continued, "I think people around the world would look at it and say from now on, when they hear about sanctions, they're going to ask for double confirmation from the White House. So, look, I wish it hadn't happened that way, and it shouldn't have happened that way."

Sen. Rubio also said, "I would love for Kim Jong-un to give up his weapons and everything else. I would. And I don't criticize the president for trying. I just never believed he would. I don't believe he ever will." [Watch the full interview.](#)

**Ari Melber**, host of "The Beat with Ari Melber" and MSNBC Chief Legal Correspondent, and former senior FBI official and former U.S. attorney and NBC News Contributor **Chuck Rosenberg** also joined the program to discuss what happens now that Special Counsel Robert Mueller has submitted his report to Attorney General William Barr. [Watch the full discussion.](#)

Chief Correspondent at the *Washington Post* **Dan Balz**, NBC News Political Analyst and **former Rep. Carlos Curbelo (R-Fla.)**, NBC News Political Analyst and **former Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.)**, and NBC News White House Correspondent **Kristen Welker** joined the broadcast's roundtable for insight and analysis on the week in politics. [Watch the full panel.](#)

Read the [full transcript](#) of *Meet the Press* this morning and follow the show on [Twitter](#) and on [Facebook](#) for the latest.

**March 15, 2019**

CHUCK TODD TRAVELS TO IOWA FOR AN INTERVIEW WITH SEN. AMY KLOBUCHAR ON MEET THE PRESS WITH CHUCK TODD THIS SUNDAY

**PLUS: EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH SEN. PAT TOOMEY**

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**Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.)**

Presidential Candidate

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EXCLUSIVE

**Sen. Pat Toomey (R-Pa.)**

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ROUNDTABLE

**Yamiche Alcindor**

White House Correspondent, *PBS NewsHour*; NBC News Contributor

**Arthur Brooks**

Columnist, *The Washington Post*; President, American Enterprise Institute; Author, "Love Your Enemies"

**Jose Diaz-Balart**

Anchor, *NBC Nightly News Saturday*; Host, *Telemundo's Noticiero and Enfoque*

**Susan Page**

Washington Bureau Chief, USA TODAY

**MTP EXCLUSIVE – SEN. SHERROD BROWN: JOE BIDEN HAD "ZERO" IMPACT ON 2020 DECISION**

**ALSO – EXCLUSIVE WITH REP. LIZ CHENEY: HOUSE DEMOCRATS ARE TRYING TO "PROTECT" CONGRESSWOMAN ILHAN OMAR, "ENABLING" ANTI-SEMITISM**

**PLUS – REP. ADAM SCHIFF EXCLUSIVE: "BEST WAY TO GET THE TRUTH WOULD BE TO PUT THE PRESIDENT UNDER OATH"**

**MARCH 10, 2019** – Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) said today on *Meet the Press* that former Vice President Joe Biden had "zero" impact on his decision not to run for president in 2020.

During the exclusive interview, his first since announcing he would not seek the presidency, Sen. Brown told moderator Chuck Todd that he has not spoken to Biden since October. "I like Joe Biden. I just haven't talked to him. And people ask me in almost every one of these states 'Is Joe Biden getting in having any impact on your decision?' And my answer was always zero."

"You can run three different ways. You can run as Eeyore, where you get up every day and, 'Oh, my God. I gotta to do this.' And I didn't want to be that. You can run as the angry candidate. I didn't want to be that. Or you can run as the sort of optimist, joyful candidate, the way I try to do my job in the Senate. I think I can do that better in the Senate, in continuing to inform this presidential race."

When asked if the Democratic Party is moving too far to the left, Sen. Brown said, “I think the more important story is how Republicans continue to move to the right ... They've all followed [President Trump's] racist actions and betrayal of workers. They followed it like lemmings off a cliff. That's the story not some degrees of differences between and among Democrats. That's the real story.” **Watch the [full interview](#).**

**Rep. Liz Cheney (R-Wyo.),** chair of the House Republican Conference, also joined the program for an exclusive interview and told Chuck Todd that the House resolution condemning anti-Semitism was “clearly an effort to actually protect [Congresswoman] Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.)” and accused House Democrats of trying to “cover up her bigotry and anti-Semitism by refusing to name her.”

Rep. Cheney went on to say that Democrats have “become the party of anti-Semitism, the party of infanticide, the party of socialism,” but when asked if President Trump has done enough to tamp down right-wing fringe anti-Semitism, Rep. Cheney said, “I don't believe this is right or left. I think that this is an issue on which all of us should come together, particularly elected officials, the president, the vice president, members of the Senate and the House no matter what your party is.”

Rep. Cheney also said she would not support President Trump's reported plan that he may charge U.S. allies hosting American troops the full price of deployments on their soil, plus 50 percent or more. “I think it would be absolutely devastating ... The notion that we are somehow now going to charge them cost plus fifty, is really -- it's wrongheaded and it would be devastating to the security of the nation and our allies.”

When asked about President Trump walking away from a deal with North Korea, Rep. Cheney said, “I think the fact that the president walked away from the summit in Vietnam is a very positive thing. I think that that was the right thing to do. We don't want a bad deal that makes us less safe.” **Watch the [full interview](#).**

**Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Calif.),** chair of the House Intelligence Committee, said that former Blackwater chairman Erik Prince was “not telling the truth” during a recent *Al Jazeera* interview in which he acknowledged an August 2016 Trump Tower meeting on Iran for the first time. “He did not disclose that meeting to our committee,” Rep. Schiff told Chuck Todd. “His interview certainly looks inconsistent with his testimony. Bob Mueller has that testimony already. And Bob Mueller will have to make the decision about whether that rises to a level of deliberate falsehood.”

When asked if Michael Cohen can be taken at his word on anything, Rep. Schiff said, “I don't think in terms of making the case to the public, and here we're not making the case to a jury, about what took place that we can rely solely on the testimony of Michael Cohen. We're going to need corroboration.”

Rep. Schiff also said that Special Counsel Robert Muller should not rely on written answers from President Trump. “The best way to get the truth would be to put the president under oath. Because as he's made plain in the past, he feels it's perfectly fine to lie to the public. After all he has said, ‘It's not like I'm talking before a magistrate.’ Well, maybe he should talk before a magistrate.” **Watch the [full interview](#).**

*Washington Post* National Political Reporter, NBC News Political Analyst and Moderator of PBS' *Washington Week* **Robert Costa**, NBC News Capitol Hill Correspondent and Host of MSNBC's *Kasie DC* **Kasie Hunt**, President of Voto Latino and NBC News Contributor **María Teresa Kumar**, and former **Gov. Pat McCrory** (R-N.C.) joined the broadcast's roundtable for insight and analysis on the week in politics. [Watch the full panel.](#)

## **MTP – SEN. MARK WARNER: “ENORMOUS AMOUNTS OF EVIDENCE” OF COLLUSION BETWEEN THE TRUMP CAMPAIGN AND RUSSIA**

***ALSO – EXCLUSIVE WITH REP. JIM JORDAN: “I DON'T THINK THE PRESIDENT'S LIED ABOUT RUSSIA AT ALL”***

***PLUS – NEW NBC NEWS/WSJ POLL: 2020 RACE WILL BE UPHILL FOR TRUMP, BUT HE HAS STRONG PARTY LOYALTY***

**MARCH 3, 2019** – Sen. Mark Warner (D-Va.) said today on *Meet the Press* that “there's no one that could factually say there's not plenty of evidence of collaboration or communications between Trump Organization and Russians.”

The vice chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee told moderator Chuck Todd, “Mr. Trump knew about the dump of the WikiLeaks material, the fact that clearly the meeting at Trump Tower, meeting which was not described appropriately in terms of offering dirt, the president's campaign manager sharing information, polling information with the Russians. The earlier instance where Russians were offering through one of the campaigns' Papadopoulos information. To me, that's all evidence.”

When asked about Michael Cohen's recent closed-door testimony before the Senate Intelligence Committee, Sen. Warner said that while some of the “tawdry and inappropriate behavior” and “some of the payoffs” came up, the focus of their investigation is on “counterintelligence, what happened in 2016,” and “what level of collaboration and collusion.” He also said Michael Cohen does not have a lot of “veracity” and that “we need to get documents, we are receiving additional documents from him to prove or disprove.”

Sen. Warner also added, “I have never in my lifetime seen a presidential campaign from a person of either party have this much outreach to a foreign country, and a foreign country that the intelligence community and our committee has validated, intervened massively in our election and intervened with an attempt to help one candidate, Donald Trump, and to hurt another candidate, Hillary Clinton.” [Watch the full interview.](#)

**Rep. Jim Jordan (R-Ohio)**, ranking member of the House Oversight Committee, also joined the program for an exclusive interview and told Chuck Todd, “I don't think the president's lied about Russia at all.”

When asked if he believes that Russia interfered in the 2016 election, Rep. Jordan said, “Yeah, I mean of course, that's what the intelligence community has told us,” but stopped short of saying they tried to help Donald Trump win: “Who knows why they did it?”

Rep. Jordan also added, “The president's surrounded himself with some people that, maybe, he shouldn't. I don't know. But when he was running this campaign, Mr. Manafort was there, was part of the campaign. Mr. Manafort had been involved with Republican politics before. Why he selected him, I don't know.”

Rep. Jordan also said that he is “not questioning or interfering” with Robert Mueller’s investigation. “I want it to conclude, I want it over with ... And then the attorney general, Bill Barr, will decide, will follow the law and release what he wants to release or maybe release the whole thing. That's going to happen, we all know that.” **Watch the [full interview](#).**

Republican pollster **Bill McInturff** of Public Opinion Strategies and Democratic pollster **Fred Yang** of Garin Hart Yang Research Group joined the program to discuss the latest [NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll](#). The poll found 46 percent of Americans approve of President Trump’s job performance, up three points from January, and 52 percent disapprove. In addition, 41 percent of registered voters said they would “definitely” or “probably” vote for Trump in 2020, versus 48 percent who said they would “definitely” or “probably” vote for the Democratic candidate. **Watch the [full discussion](#).**

National Political Columnist for Yahoo! News **Matt Bai**, *New York Times* Pentagon Correspondent and NBC News Contributor **Helene Cooper**, Editor of Commentary, *New York Post* Columnist and NBC News Contributor **John Podhoretz**, and NBC News National Political Reporter **Heidi Przybyla** joined the broadcast’s roundtable for insight and analysis on the week in politics. **Watch the [full panel](#).**

**MTP EXCLUSIVE – REP. JIM HIMES: POSSIBILITY OF COLLUSION “HAS TWISTED OUR POLITICS INTO SOMETHING UNRECOGNIZABLE FOR THE LAST TWO YEARS”**

**ALSO – EXCLUSIVE WITH FORMER DHS SECRETARY JEH JOHNSON ON BORDER SECURITY: “I AM NOT IN FAVOR OF SEEING LESS FENCING,” NOT “APPROPRIATE” FOR PRESIDENT TO INVOKE A NATIONAL EMERGENCY**

**PLUS – EXCLUSIVE WITH FORMER ACTING SOLICITOR GENERAL NEAL KATYAL ON MUELLER PROBE: “IF THIS IS A WITCH HUNT, MUELLER'S FOUND A COVEN”**

**FEB. 24, 2019** – Rep. Jim Himes (D-Conn.) said today on *Meet the Press* that “Michael Cohen is going to jail for lying to my committee” and he plans to re-ask the questions that “he felt he needed to lie to us about” when he testifies before the House Intelligence Committee this week.

“We're going to want to get to the truth, allow him to correct the record,” Rep. Himes told moderator Chuck Todd during an exclusive joint interview alongside **Governor Asa Hutchinson (R-Ark.)**.

When asked if the House Intelligence Committee can find bipartisan cooperation on issues surrounding the president, Rep. Himes said, “Well, one obvious answer to that question is that the chairman is no longer Devin Nunes ... Devin is part of that group, and it's not a huge group -- part of that group in the Congress that is really fully dedicated, facts be damned, to defending this president.”

Rep. Himes also said that the Mueller probe has become political. “The question of the Russian interference and the possibility of collusion by the president and his people has twisted our politics into something unrecognizable for the last two years, including behavior on the part of the president, attacking the FBI, attacking Bob Mueller. You know, everything about this has become political. The way to end that, of course, is for the truth to be out there.”

When asked if the RNC is rigging the rules to prevent a primary challenge against the president, Governor Hutchinson said, “This is President Trump’s RNC ... He appoints the chairman. So obviously there is something that is pro the White House and the administration ... With President Trump's record, with what he's accomplished, it'd be very difficult for somebody to mount a successful challenge at this point.” **Watch the [full interview](#).**

Former **Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson** also joined the program for an exclusive interview and addressed the alleged domestic terror plot by a U.S. Coast Guard lieutenant. Secretary Johnson said, “There is a rise in the levels of extremist, violent behavior, directed not just at people based on race, but I think what’s new is directed at people perceived to occupy a certain political ideology.”

He continued, “Leaders lead, and people really do listen to their leaders. And the level of dialogue is deviating downward, the civility of our dialogue is deviating downward, such that individuals like this Coast Guard lieutenant feel emboldened and perhaps even entitled to take matters into his own hands and carry out acts of violence.”

“It’s incumbent among all our leadership across the spectrum to raise the levels of our civil discourse to discourage violence,” Secretary Johnson said.

When asked about the ongoing debate over border security, Secretary Johnson said it was not “appropriate” for the president to invoke a national emergency to fund a border wall but that he is also “not in favor of seeing less fencing than there is now. I think that we need to continue our efforts at border security, smart border security, smart investments in use of the taxpayers’ dollars in border security.” **Watch the [full interview](#).**

Former Acting Solicitor General **Neal Katyal** and former Deputy Independent Counsel under Ken Starr **Solomon Wisenberg** also joined the program for an exclusive joint interview to break down what to expect from the coming Mueller report. “If this is a witch hunt Mueller's found a coven at this point,” said Katyal. “We're starting to already see the outlines of a Mueller report that does look like he is alleging some sort of conspiracy,” he said.

When asked whether President Trump should be allowed to read the Mueller report, Wisenberg said, “It’s perfectly fine ... I don't see any problem with that. The problem will be if the president orders [Attorney General William] Barr to do or not to do something about the report. That's when you'll have a problem, and I don't think Barr will stand for that.” **Watch the [full interview](#).**

Republican Strategist and Senior Partner at Squire Patton Boggs **Al Cardenas**, Research Fellow at the Hoover Institution and Director of Domestic Policy Studies at Stanford University **Lanhee Chen**, Distinguished Senior Fellow for Demos and Demos Action and NBC News Contributor **Heather McGhee**, and NBC News Chief Foreign Affairs Correspondent and Anchor of MSNBC’s *Andrea Mitchell Reports* **Andrea Mitchell** joined the broadcast’s roundtable for insight and analysis on the week in politics. **Watch the [full panel](#).**

**MTP EXCLUSIVE – NYC MAYOR BILL DE BLASIO: AMAZON “COULDN'T HANDLE THE HEAT IN THE KITCHEN,” “AN ABUSE OF CORPORATE POWER”**

**ALSO – EXCLUSIVE WITH SEN. RON JOHNSON: “AN AWFUL LOT OF US CONCERNED” ABOUT PRESIDENT’S NATIONAL EMERGENCY DECLARATION**

**PLUS – EXCLUSIVE WITH DNC CHAIR TOM PEREZ: CONGRESSWOMAN ILHAN OMAR TWEET WAS “WRONG” AND “DIVISIVE”**

**FEB. 17, 2019** – New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio (D-N.Y.) said Amazon’s decision to pull out of plans to build a second headquarters in New York is “an example of an abuse of corporate power,” during an exclusive interview on *Meet the Press with Chuck Todd*.

“I have no problem with my fellow progressives critiquing a deal or wanting more from Amazon ... But the bottom line is, this is an example of an abuse of corporate power. They had an agreement with the people of New York City.” He continued, “Amazon just took their ball and went home. And what they did was confirm people’s worst fears about corporate America ... I think it's going to frustrate people all over this country to see a company treat a neighborhood and city like that.”

De Blasio called Amazon's decision “arbitrary” and said, “We had an agreement ... I say there is plenty of money in this world, plenty of money in this country, but it's in the wrong hands and we're -- and Amazon is making my point for me. What they did was arbitrary and unfair to working people.”

When Chuck Todd asked de Blasio if he plans to run for president he said, “I have not ruled it out but I'm going to take this message nationally any way you slice it because this is a moment, Chuck, it's an urgent moment.” **Watch the [full interview](#).**

**Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.),** chairman of the Senate Homeland Security Committee, said he is concerned that President Trump’s declaration of a national emergency is presidential overreach but stopped short of saying it was unconstitutional. “I wish he wouldn't use it in this case,” Sen.

Johnson told Chuck Todd during an exclusive interview from Munich, Germany. “But I understand his frustration.”

“I think Congress, past Congresses have given any executive, any administration way too much power. And this would be another expansion of that power. That's why you see an awful lot of us concerned about this.”

When asked if he will support the president’s national emergency declaration, Sen. Johnson said, “I'll decide when I actually have to vote on it,” saying it depends “how quickly this money is actually going to be spent, versus what he's going to use.”

Sen. Johnson also called Democrats in Congress “hypocrites” for not supporting President Trump’s push for a border wall saying, “Democrats in Congress have supported this in the past. They just won't support it now because it's President Trump.” **Watch the [full interview](#).**

During an exclusive interview, **Tom Perez, chair of the Democratic National Committee**, responded to Sen. Johnson’s concern about President Trump’s national emergency declaration saying the Senator “understands that it's unconstitutional, but God forbid that he would say something against Donald Trump.”

When asked about Congresswoman Ilhan Omar’s (D-Minn.) recent use of anti-Semitic tropes on Twitter, Perez said he is “heartened that Congresswoman Omar apologized because what she said was wrong and it was divisive.” He continued, “The difference between Democrats and Republicans is when we see people within our own ranks do things or say things that are antithetical to our values, we are not reluctant to call them out. On the other side, unfortunately, they are enablers.”

When asked about the growing field of Democrats running for president, Perez said he welcomes a large field and that the DNC’s role is “to make sure that every candidate who runs gets a fair shake.” The DNC announced this week that NBC News, MSNBC and Telemundo will host the first Democratic presidential primary debate in June. **Watch the [full interview](#).**

Chair of the Center for African-American Studies and James S. McDonnell Distinguished University Professor at Princeton University and NBC News Contributor **Eddie Glaude Jr.**, *Los Angeles Times* Columnist and *National Review* Senior Editor **Jonah Goldberg**, *POLITICO* National Political Reporter **Eliana Johnson**, and *The Cook Political Report* National Editor **Amy Walter** joined the broadcast’s roundtable for insight and analysis on the week in politics. **Watch the [full panel](#).**

**MTP – MICK MULVANEY: “ABSOLUTELY CANNOT” RULE OUT ANOTHER GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN**

**ALSO – EXCLUSIVE WITH SEN. MICHAEL BENNET: “I’VE GOT A DIFFERENT SET OF EXPERIENCES THAN THE OTHER FOLKS” IN 2020 RACE**

**PLUS – REP. ADAM SCHIFF EXCLUSIVE: PRIORITY IS TO ENSURE PRESIDENT TRUMP ISN’T MOTIVATED BY “FEAR OF COMPROMISE”**

**FEB. 10, 2019** – Acting White House Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney said today on *Meet the Press* that “you absolutely cannot” rule out another government shutdown, when asked about negotiations over funding for President Trump’s proposed border wall.

Mulvaney told moderator Chuck Todd that negotiations are “all over the map because of the Democrats” and that “the White House, at the request of all the parties on the Hill, have sort of stepped back. We're still participating, we're still listening, we're still talking, but we're not leading the negotiations.”

When asked about a deadline for making a deal, Mulvaney said, “I've been told it's today. I was at Camp David with a couple of the conference members on Friday night and they were told to be in town today to get ready to sign a conference report.”

Mulvaney also suggested that President Trump would not have to declare a national emergency to access funds to build a border wall, saying “There are certain sums of money that are available to the president ... what we're looking at doing with President Trump is stuff that is entirely legal, stuff that is laid out in law already ... there's pots of money where presidents, all presidents, have access to without a national emergency.”

When asked why the White House did not meet the Senate deadline to provide a report on the murder of *Washington Post* columnist Jamal Khashoggi, Mulvaney said, “I honestly don't know and have not been familiar and worked into those negotiations. I do know that there are some requirements placed upon us by Congress, but I'm not aware of the status of that report.”

Chuck Todd also asked Mulvaney if the president knew anything about *National Enquirer* publisher David Pecker’s reporting on Jeff Bezos to which he replied, “I have not had one second's worth of conversation with the president of the United States about the Jeff Bezos situation.” **Watch the [full interview](#).**

**Sen. Michael Bennet (D-Colo.)**, who is considering a run for president, also joined the program for an exclusive interview and said of the current 2020 Democratic field, “I've got a different set of experiences than the other folks in the race ... we've got a million people that are going to run, which I think is great, we have to do it. And I think having one more voice in that conversation that's focused on America's future, I don't think would hurt.”

When asked about the push from Democrats on the left for Medicare for All, Sen. Bennet said it seems like a “bad opening offer for me.” “Remember when President Obama said, ‘If you like your insurance, you can keep your insurance.’ And then a few people in America actually lost their insurance because of the way that the plan worked. Now what Democrats are saying is, ‘If you like your insurance, we're going to take it away from you’ from 180 million people that get their insurance from their employer and like it, where 20 million Americans who are on Medicare Advantage, and love it.” **Watch the [full interview](#).**

**Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Calif.)**, Chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, also joined the program for an exclusive interview and discussed the parameters of his investigation into President Trump’s finances saying, “Our priority is to make sure the President of the United States is working in the national interest, that he is not motivated by some pecuniary interest or fear of compromise or actual compromise. That's the length and breadth of it.”

He continued by saying that while President Trump was a candidate, “he was telling the country he had no business dealings with Russia, he was pursuing the most lucrative deal, I think, of his life and seeking the Kremlin's help to make it happen. That's a different form of collusion, but it is equally compromising to the country because it means the President of the United States is looking out for his bank account and not for the United States of America.” [Watch the full interview.](#)

WBUR Senior Washington News Correspondent and NBC News Contributor **Kimberly Atkins**, Chief Political Analyst for CBN News and Co-Author of “The Faith of Donald J. Trump: A Spiritual Biography” **David Brody**, Daily Kos Founder and Vox Media Co-Founder **Markos Moulitsas** and NBC News Correspondent and Host of *MSNBC Live* **Katy Tur** joined the broadcast’s roundtable for insight and analysis on the week in politics. [Watch the full panel.](#)

**MTP EXCLUSIVE - CBC CHAIR REP. KAREN BASS: GOVERNOR RALPH NORTHAM HAS BEEN “COMPLETELY DISHONEST AND DISINGENUOUS,” “NEEDS TO RESIGN IMMEDIATELY”**

**ALSO – EXCLUSIVE WITH SEN. SHERROD BROWN: GOV. NORTHAM “SHOULD RESIGN NOW,” CAN CONTRIBUTE TO DIALOGUE “AS A PRIVATE CITIZEN”**

**PLUS – SEN. BROWN: “WE HAVE A PRESIDENT WHO IS A RACIST”**

**EXCLUSIVE ONE-ON-ONE WITH SEN. RICK SCOTT: “NOT MY FIRST CHOICE” TO DECLARE NATIONAL EMERGENCY TO BUILD BORDER WALL**

**FEB. 3, 2019** – Congressional Black Caucus Chair Rep. Karen Bass (D-Calif.) said today on *Meet the Press with Chuck Todd* that Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam has been “completely dishonest and disingenuous” and “needs to resign immediately” after a racist photo on his medical school yearbook page surfaced on Friday.

During the exclusive joint interview alongside **Congressional Black Caucus Whip Rep. Donald McEachin (D-Va.)**, Rep. Bass said Gov. Northam “knew this picture was there and he could have come clean and talked to African-Americans that he's close to decades ago” and that “he's forcing the wrong conversation. What he should do is resign and then if he has any integrity at all, he should participate in that conversation.”

Rep. McEachin also called for Gov. Northam to resign and said when he spoke to him on Friday that the governor “was apologetic for having been in the photograph” and that Rep. McEachin was surprised “when the next day he comes out and says it's not him.” [Watch the full interview.](#)

In an exclusive interview, **Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio)** said he agreed with Congresswoman Bass and Congressman McEachin and that Gov. Northam “should remain in the public square by explaining and talking and working to heal. But he should do it from a position of private citizen ... I think he should resign now. He then can contribute to this dialogue, but as I said he should do it as a private citizen.”

Sen. Brown also said that the “country hasn't dealt well with the issues of race” and that “we have a president who is a racist.”

“[President Trump] has built his political career knowing what he was doing on questioning the, the legitimacy and the birthplace of the President of the United States ... [There] have been all kinds of news reports about what he did early in his career on housing ... We know the president doesn't tell the truth frequently. We know he lies frequently. And we know of his racial back -- racist comments and background.”

Sen. Brown is currently on a cross-country listening tour as he considers running for president. He said, “The dignity of work is, clearly, all workers in this country and if it's, it's a pitch to the broad numbers of people in this country that aren't treated well, that work hard every day and simply aren't getting ahead. If you love your country, you'll fight for the people who make it work, across all races. And that's the theme of my campaign if there -- if I do run for president, certainly the theme of the dignity of work.” **Watch the [full interview](#).**

**Sen. Rick Scott (R-Fla.)** also joined the program for an exclusive interview and remarked on President Trump's threat to declare a national emergency to build a border wall saying, “I don't think it's the first thing you want to do is use your emergency power to do things like this, but if I was the president right now I'd be pretty frustrated.” He continued, “It's not my first choice for him to use his emergency power” but he accused Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) of “not negotiating with him in good faith.”

When asked about the ongoing political crisis in Venezuela and if President Trump should be more aggressive in forcing President Nicolás Maduro out of office, Sen. Scott said, “No. I think they've been clear. I think they've been clear that everything's on the table” and that he hopes “we never have to use military force. But everything's got to be on the table.” **Watch the [full interview](#).**

NBC News Chief White House Correspondent **Hallie Jackson**, President of Voto Latino and NBC News Contributor **María Teresa Kumar**, *New York Times Magazine* Chief National Correspondent, Author of *Big Game: The NFL in Dangerous Times* and NBC News Contributor **Mark Leibovich**, Editor of *National Review* **Rich Lowry**, and *Washington Post* columnist and NBC News Political Analyst **Eugene Robinson** joined the broadcast's roundtable for insight and analysis on the week in politics. **Watch the [full panel](#).**

**MTP EXCLUSIVE - HOUSE MINORITY LEADER KEVIN MCCARTHY: SPEAKER PELOSI IS “OUT OF STEP WITH HER OWN BASE,” NOT A WINNER IN GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN FIGHT**

**ALSO - SEN. MARCO RUBIO: “TERRIBLE IDEA” TO DECLARE NATIONAL EMERGENCY FOR BORDER WALL FUNDING**

**PLUS – EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH REP. HAKEEM JEFFRIES: IMPEACHMENT INQUIRIES ARE “NOT APPROPRIATE RIGHT NOW”**

**NEW NBC NEWS/WALL STREET JOURNAL POLL: 'WRONG TRACK': PUBLIC SOURS ON NATION'S DIRECTION AFTER SHUTDOWN**

**JAN. 27, 2019** – Today on *Meet the Press*, **House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.)** said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) is “out of step with her own base” and questioned the idea of her being a winner in the government shutdown fight saying she achieved the “status quo.”

When asked by moderator Chuck Todd during an exclusive interview what President Trump achieved from the 35-day government shutdown, Rep. McCarthy said, “Well I’m not celebrating getting something because what people are celebrating saying ‘Speaker Pelosi is strong because she got status quo?’ That’s not what the country wants. The country wants to find common ground.”

Rep. McCarthy also accused Democrats of playing politics over border security saying, “Democrats have always in the past voted for some barrier, and now they’re not going to because it’s being offered by President Trump” and said it’s “wrong” how Democrats “have changed the course of what they’ve voted for in the past.”

When asked about legislation to avoid future government shutdowns, Rep. McCarthy said he supports the idea of members of Congress not being paid during any shutdowns, similar to a bill put forward by Sen. Mark Warner (D-Va.), and said “That’s the amendment I would offer because this only harms others.” **Watch the [full interview](#).**

**Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.)** also joined the program and told Chuck Todd that it’s a “terrible idea” to declare a national emergency to build a border wall, saying he hopes President Trump doesn’t do it and that “it’s just not a good precedent to set in terms of action. It doesn’t mean that I don’t want border security. I do. I just think that’s the wrong way to achieve it. It doesn’t provide certainty. And you could very well wind up in sort of a theatric victory at the front end and then not getting it done.”

Sen. Rubio also discussed the 2013 “Gang of Eight” bipartisan immigration deal and said President Trump only wants “a fraction of what that bill in 2013 did on border security” and that he is “confident that the president is prepared to move forward on a bunch of other parts of immigration reform that people didn’t normally associate with him or his White House.”

When asked about the political crisis in Venezuela, Sen. Rubio said his preferred outcome is “that [Nicolás] Maduro leaves and that in 30 or 45 days they call an election, and they elect someone democratically, and Venezuela returns to constitutional order.” He also said the most important thing is “no harm should ever come to these diplomats” and that the U.S. “always had the right to defend its national security and national interest with the use of force, if necessary.”

On the news of former Trump campaign advisor Roger Stone being indicted by Robert Mueller, Sen. Rubio said it “should have been clear to people a long time ago that WikiLeaks and others like that could have been tools of foreign intelligence used to divide America.”

When asked if working with Wikileaks is a crime, Sen. Rubio said, “If you’re wittingly doing it, it should be considered as such. I mean you’re participating in the work of a foreign intelligence agency. But one of the keys that they do is they’re unwitting. It’s not like they have a sign on the front door that says, you know, ‘We are an instrument of Russian intelligence’ or ‘We are being used by Russian intelligence for this purpose.’” **Watch the [full interview](#).**

**Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (D-N.Y.)**, chairman of the House Democratic Caucus, joined the program for an exclusive interview and said on the topic of border security, “We concluded that spending billions on a medieval border wall that would be ineffective would be a waste of taxpayer dollars. That’s a fifth-century solution to a 21st-century problem.”

On the government shutdown, Rep. Jeffries said he supports taking a “hard look at making sure that we don’t pursue shutdowns as a means of trying to extract leverage” but said that Rep. McCarthy’s proposal of not paying members of Congress during future government shutdowns is a “gimmick.”

Also, when also asked about impeachment inquiries into President Trump, he said they are “not appropriate right now” saying “we’re not going to over-investigate.” **Watch the [full interview](#).**

Plus, a new **NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll** found that six-in-10 Americans believe the country is headed in the wrong direction, and nearly 70 percent of them have negative opinions on the state of the nation today. The poll also found that President Trump’s approval rating (43 percent of Americans approving and 47 percent who strongly disapprove) remains unchanged from last month. **Read more about the [poll](#).**

White House Correspondent for PBS NewsHour and NBC News Contributor **Yamiche Alcindor**, NBC News Senior Correspondent **Tom Brokaw**, Host of *The Hugh Hewitt Show* and NBC News Contributor **Hugh Hewitt**, and NBC News White House Correspondent **Kristen Welker** joined the broadcast’s roundtable for insight and analysis on the week in politics. **Watch the [full panel](#).**

**MTP – RUDY GIULIANI: TRUMP TOWER MOSCOW CONVERSATIONS “WENT ON THROUGHOUT 2016,” “AS FAR AS OCTOBER, NOVEMBER”**

**ALSO - EXCLUSIVE WITH SEN. MARK WARNER: GIULIANI “KEEPS HAVING TO READJUST HIS STORIES AS MORE FACTS COME OUT”**

**PLUS – REP. LIZ CHENEY EXCLUSIVE: “WHAT THE PRESIDENT HAS PUT FORWARD IS NOT AMNESTY”**

**JAN. 20, 2019** – Today on *Meet the Press*, **Rudy Giuliani** said for the first time that conversations and plans to build a Trump Tower in Moscow remained an “active proposal” and “went on throughout 2016” saying it “could be up to as far as October, November.”

When pressed on this timeline, Giuliani, lawyer for President Donald Trump, told moderator Chuck Todd that President Trump “can remember having conversations” with Michael Cohen about Trump Tower Moscow as late as October or November of 2016.

On the BuzzFeed reporting, Giuliani said he is “100 percent certain” that President Trump never asked Michael Cohen to lie to Congress. “To answer your question, categorically, I can tell you his counsel to Michael Cohen throughout that entire period was, ‘Tell the truth.’ We thought he was telling the truth. I still believe he may have been telling the truth when he testified before Congress.”

When asked about collusion between the campaign and Russia, Giuliani said, “Of course I don't know everyone on the campaign. To my knowledge there's no collusion on the campaign.” He continued, “I represent the president, I know his knowledge directly talking to him. And I'm in a strange position of having been intimately involved in a large part of the campaign. I know what I know from that, no Russian collusion.” **Watch the [full interview](#).**

**Sen. Mark Warner (D-Va.),** the vice chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, also joined the program for an exclusive interview and said Giuliani's new timeline on Trump Tower Moscow conversations “is news to me. And that is big news.” He continued by saying, “It's remarkable that we're two years after the fact and just discovering it today.”

Sen. Warner also said that this news “reinforces the fact that we have to finish our investigation” and that “we need to have Mueller finish.” He continued, “I don't often feel bad for Rudy Giuliani. This morning, just seeing that interview I almost feel bad for him. He keeps having to readjust his stories as more facts come out.”

When asked about the debate surrounding border security and the government shutdown, Sen. Warner said, “What the president proposed yesterday – increasing border security, looking at [Temporary Protection Status], looking at the Dreamers – I'll use that as a starting point,” but insisted that the first step has to be opening up the government saying, “We cannot reward the kind of behavior of hostage taking.” **Watch the [full interview](#).**

**Rep. Liz Cheney (R-Wyo.),** chair of the House Republican Conference, also weighed in on the president's recent border security proposal saying, “What the president has put forward is not amnesty” and that it is a “purely partisan game” that House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is playing and that “she ought to stop it for the good of the nation.”

Rep. Cheney also responded to President Trump's remarks yesterday that the territorial caliphate controlled by ISIS in Syria has been reduced by about “99 percent” in two years, saying that 99 percent is not enough. “We've got to ensure that ISIS is destroyed. Because if you walk away before they're destroyed, then they have the ability to create safe havens.” **Watch the [full interview](#).**

*New York Times* Chief White House Correspondent and NBC News Analyst **Peter Baker**, Host of NPR's “1A” and NBC News Contributor **Joshua Johnson**, SVP of Foreign and Defense Policy Studies at the American Enterprise Institute, and NBC News Contributor **Danielle Pletka**, and NBC News National Political Reporter **Heidi Przybyla** joined the broadcast's roundtable for insight and analysis on the week in politics. **Watch the [full panel](#).**

**MTP EXCLUSIVE – SEN. TED CRUZ ON NEW YORK TIMES REPORT OF FBI INQUIRY INTO PRESIDENT TRUMP: “I'LL CONSIDER WHATEVER EVIDENCE IS PRODUCED”**

**ALSO - EXCLUSIVE WITH SEN. TIM Kaine: TRUMP'S BORDER WALL IS A “VANITY PROJECT” AND “INEFFECTIVE”**

**PLUS – MICHAEL SCHMIDT AND BENJAMIN WITTES BREAK DOWN THE NEW YORK TIMES REPORT ON THE FBI INQUIRY INTO PRESIDENT TRUMP**

**JAN. 13, 2019** – Today on *Meet the Press*, **Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas)** said, “As a member of the Judiciary Committee, I'll consider whatever evidence is produced,” when asked about the recent *New York Times* report on the FBI inquiry into President Trump working on behalf of Russia.

“I don't know the details or the specifics there. I know what was reported publicly in the media. I sit on the Senate Judiciary Committee, so we will consider any allegations that come forward,” Sen. Cruz told moderator Chuck Todd during the exclusive interview.

Sen. Cruz also did not dismiss the report and said, “I've seen the allegations. I want to find out a little bit more about what happened there. I want to learn more than just the allegations in the press.”

When asked to weigh in on Special Counsel Robert Mueller's probe, Sen. Cruz said, “When it comes to Mueller and the Russia investigation, the mainstream media, Washington is obsessed with it. And when you get outside the Beltway, I don't find anybody concerned with this at all.” Sen. Cruz also defended President Trump's policies on Russia saying, “If you compare, objectively, President Trump's policies to Russia, compared to President Obama's policies to Russia, by any measure, President Obama was much easier, was much more gentle, on Russia.”

Sen. Cruz also responded to Rep. Steve King's recent comments lamenting that the ‘white supremacist’ label is considered offensive, saying, it was “stupid, it was hurtful, it was wrong, and he needs to stop it.” He stopped short of saying he wouldn't support him in the future but continued, “I think all of us ought to be united, regardless of party, in saying white supremacism, white nationalism is hatred, it is bigotry, it is evil, it is wrong, and I think we need that clarity and I'm certainly going to urge everyone to provide that clarity.”

On the government shutdown, Sen. Cruz said, “I hope on Monday, what we'll see is, finally, Washington coming together and opening up the government.” He said Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif) are “playing politics, because they hate Trump. And that's not a good enough reason for Chuck Schumer and the Democrats to shut down the government.” **Watch the [full interview](#).**

**Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Va.)** also joined the program for an exclusive interview and told Chuck Todd that the report on the FBI inquiry into President Trump will be a “critical issue in the Judiciary Committee hearings about the attorney general nominee.” He continued by saying the FBI “had to have a very deep level of concern about this president to take this step.”

On the Mueller investigation, Sen. Kaine said there are “nearly 100 documented instances of ties between the Trump campaign, transition and administration with Russia, bizarre failure to be honest about meetings, and now this indication that President Trump has gone to unusual lengths to hide the content of discussions with Vladimir Putin. But the right answer is, as you suggest, it is to protect the Mueller investigation at all costs, let it get to its end, make sure that the results are made public, so then can we decide.”

When asked about the debate surrounding the government shutdown, Sen. Kaine said, “We first should reopen government. Why punish people who are applying for food stamps because the president is having a temper tantrum?” “What we don't want to do is waste taxpayer money on a vanity project that's ineffective, that the president said Mexico would pay for. But

spending massive amounts on border security to keep us safe, Dems do it over and over again and it's been Republicans that have been blocking it." **Watch the [full interview](#).**

Plus, *New York Times* Correspondent and NBC News National Security Analyst **Michael Schmidt** and Lawfare Editor-in-Chief and NBC News Legal Analyst **Benjamin Wittes** joined the program to discuss the recent *New York Times* report that the FBI opened an inquiry into whether President Trump was secretly working on behalf of Russia. Schmidt said on the program, "We know the Mueller probe inherited it. We know the Mueller probe has spent an enormous amount of time trying to figure out what the president has done in office in regard to the investigation, his interference with it. They've talked to all these White House officials. Do we know if there is still this belief and aspect that the president is working for the Russians? I can't answer that." **Watch the [full discussion](#).**

Democratic Pollster and NBC News and MSNBC Political Analyst **Cornell Belcher**, Republican Strategist and Senior Partner at Squire Patton Boggs **Al Cardenas**, NBC News National Political Reporter **Carol Lee**, and Wall Street Journal Columnist and NBC News and MSNBC Political Analyst **Peggy Noonan** joined the broadcast's roundtable for insight and analysis on the week in politics. **Watch the [full panel](#).**

**MTP – WHITE HOUSE ACTING CHIEF OF STAFF MICK MULVANEY: WHITE HOUSE OFFER TO DEMOCRATS ON WALL: WILLING TO REPLACE CONCRETE WITH STEEL**

***ALSO – EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH REP. STENY HOYER: IMPEACHMENT OF PRESIDENT TRUMP IS NOT WHAT "WE'RE FOCUSED ON"***

***PLUS – EXCLUSIVE ONE-ON-ONE WITH SEN. SUSAN COLLINS: DEBATE OVER STEEL OR CONCRETE FOR BORDER WALL IS "RATHER BIZARRE"***

**JAN. 6, 2019** – Today on *Meet the Press*, Acting White House Chief of Staff **Mick Mulvaney** said President Trump is willing to "take a concrete wall off the table" in negotiations with Democratic leaders over the shutdown.

"If he has to give up a concrete wall, replace it with a steel fence in order to do that so that Democrats can say, 'See? He's not building a wall anymore,' that should help us move in the right direction," Mulvaney told moderator Chuck Todd. "If that's not evidence of the president's desire to try and resolve this, I don't know what is," Mulvaney said.

When asked where negotiations stand over the government shutdown, Mulvaney told Todd that the discussions with Democratic leadership on Saturday "immediately turned to a bunch of technical requirements or technical requests that the Democrats were asking for the first time ever in these negotiations, so I think this is going to drag on a lot longer. I think that's, that's by intention."

Mulvaney was also critical of Sen. Lindsey Graham's recent remarks that President Trump risks losing his base if he 'gives in' on border wall funding saying, "I like Lindsey Graham and he's a good friend of mine. We're from South Carolina. He's not as good a politician as Donald Trump

or else he'd be president. They both ran and one of them won and one of them lost. So, look, the President is interested in resolving this issue.” **Watch the [full interview](#).**

In an exclusive interview, **Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-Md.)**, the house majority leader, told Chuck Todd that an effort to impeach the president is not inevitable. “That's not what we're focused on. We're focused on substantive bills.” He continued, “I think impeachment talks right now are a distraction. We'll have to see what the Mueller report says. Nancy [Pelosi] and I have both said that. We have voted that way on the floor of the House of Representatives. What we want to do is concentrate on our substantive agenda.”

When asked about the ongoing debate over steel instead of concrete for a border wall, Hoyer said of the president, “It is an offer he made, and it'll be discussed.” He continued, “What we ought to do is open up the government first. And that's what we're going to do. We passed legislation last Thursday that would open up the government. I would hope that Senator McConnell would take the responsibility as the leader of the co-equal branch of government, the legislative branch, and send this to the president. That would open up government, would start serving the American people.” **Watch the [full interview](#).**

**Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine)** also joined the program and told Chuck Todd in an exclusive interview that the “debate over what the physical barrier should be constructed of was rather bizarre.” Collins said, “We do need to strengthen our border security. ... But we need to look at more than just a physical barrier we need to look at more Border Patrol agents, technology and other means as well.”

Collins also said she was “frustrated” over the government shutdown saying, “We've gotten to this point where both sides appear to be intransigent. It is not a sign of weakness to try to figure out a middle ground and I think that both sides need to indicate a willingness to listen and to compromise.” She continued by saying she would like to see Senator McConnell “bring the House-passed bills to the Senate floor” to reopen many of the government agencies. “Let's get those reopened while the negotiations continue.”

When asked about seeking re-election in 2020 Collins said, “I'm getting ready to run. But frankly, I just think it's too early to make that kind of decision. But I am getting prepared, and I'll make a final decision towards the end of this year.”

**Watch the [full interview](#).**

*New York Times* Columnist **David Brooks**, *Washington Free Beacon* Editor-in-Chief **Matthew Continetti**, former **Rep. Donna Edwards (D-Md.)**, and NBC News Capitol Hill Correspondent and Host of MSNBC's *Kasie DC* **Kasie Hunt** joined the broadcast's roundtable for insight and analysis on the week in politics. **Watch the [full panel](#).**

Read the [full transcript](#) of *Meet the Press* this morning and follow the show on [Twitter](#) and on [Facebook](#) for the latest.