



GOVERNMENT

FULL MEASURE WITH SHARYL ATTKISSON

Oct 1

30 min.

Today we begin with an extraordinary interview with a sitting member of Congress. It will make you mad but it's something you should hear. Republican Ken Buck is speaking out of school about the shocking, transactional nature of Washington politics. About party elites he says, "live like kings and govern like bullies." And he's lifting the curtain on why he says nothing gets done in Congress, describing collusion between Democrats and Republicans to fleece taxpayers on behalf of special interests.

Rep. Ken Buck: The game here is not to take a tough vote. Nobody wants to take a tough vote, Democrats and Republicans, there's a quiet conspiracy going on that 'If you don't make me take a tough vote I won't make you take a tough vote.'

A "tough vote," says Congressman Ken Buck, means anything that cuts spending or programs that benefit political and corporate interests.

Rep. Buck: And the result is that the ability to cut federal programs or to reduce spending in other ways, or to get our tax structure under control-simplify the tax structure is very, very difficult. And that results in higher spending.

He says it's why Congress consistently spends wildly more money than it receives from taxpayers: six hundred billion dollars last year alone. Why the federal debt has been allowed to balloon to record levels: the U.S. owes about \$20 trillion dollars it doesn't have on hand.

Sharyl Attkisson: Is there an element of that Democrats and Republicans may appear to disagree with things in public and yet privately agree because sometimes they cater to the same interests?



Rep. Buck: Sure, I think Democrats and Republicans disagree on some social issues and make a big deal out of that, and disagree on some other major issues. But for the most part, there's agreement behind-the-scenes not to make waves and to get things done quietly. Not good things, but things that involve spending more money. If I scratch your back you'll scratch my back.

Sharyl Attkisson: Is what you describe what some Americans might call 'the establishment'?

Rep. Buck: Absolutely. The 'establishment' are the Republican leadership and the Democrat leadership getting along and pretending not to. But clearly getting along.

A former federal prosecutor, Buck has been in Congress less than three years.

He says his education from Washington D.C.'s school of hard knocks began right after his election during his orientation trip to the Capitol.

Rep. Buck: And that's when a lot of the rules were explained to us about the dues to the NRCC other requirements.

He was stunned, he says, to find the NRCC-- the National Republican Congressional Committee-- just like its counterpart for Democrats, requires hefty party dues, especially if members hope to aspire to meaningful positions.

Rep. Paul Ryan: Talk about a record \$30.1 million right here in this room. Give yourself a big round of applause.

Rep. Buck: It's mildly offensive to think that to serve on a committee in Congress you need to pay a private political organization dues, and that's what they were asking for.

Sharyl Attkisson: Did you have any idea before you were elected that that was the case?

Rep. Buck: I did not know that there were mandatory dues here, no.



Sharyl Attkisson: How did they tell you?

Rep. Buck: Ah, well it's not a big secret. They have a big chart in the National Republican Congressional Committee offices, and you can see everybody's name and the dues that they owe and how much they've paid.

Sharyl Attkisson: What was going through your mind when you started to hear this news?

Rep. Buck: Well, as Freshmen we have to raise \$200,000 and that's a lot of money. You know I just finished campaigning and raising money, and now I had to go back to donors and ask them for money again.

Buck reveals the unwritten rules and outlines the allegations in his book: "Drain the Swamp: How Washington Corruption is Worse than You Think."

He says to meet fundraising quotas, members of Congress spend hour upon hour of public work time asking for money from the very interests they're supposed to oversee, ending up beholden to them instead of the public at large.

Sharyl: For people who really have no idea how things work up here, can you tell us how the special interests and corporate interests, for example, actually influence members? How does that happen?

Rep. Buck: It starts with committee assignments. If you're on the transportation and infrastructure committee, the transportation bill will come before your committee and all over town there will be receptions and the members on the transportation committee will be invited to those receptions, expected to attend those receptions and receive donations as a result of that. They know the easy money, the low-hanging fruit, is gonna be at receptions that are given right before a major piece of legislation goes to committee. Everything is called 'across the street' because at the Capitol behind me, you can't accept money there. You can't give money there, but once you walk across the street then the bags open up.

Sharyl Attkisson: Restaurants around here?



Rep. Buck: Restaurants, the Republicans, the Capitol Hill Club has a lot of different receptions and dinners.

Industries paying for those receptions and dinners include tobacco, telecommunications, pharmaceutical, TV broadcasting, beer and wine, defense and Hollywood. Democrats have their own fundraising hangout nearby: The National Democratic Club.

Rep. Buck: I've attended receptions where I've had 10, 12 corporations represented and they have made their case to me on why they need me to vote a certain way on a piece of legislation. And I know that if I accommodate them, I will have a reception later on where they will support me.

Sharyl Attkisson: You're describing an entire system where almost every consideration that ought to be for constituents is instead about special interests and corporate interests and donations.

Rep. Buck: It surprised me when I got here and I've been involved in politics since I was a teenager, and getting to this place is really shocking. To see the influence that money has in politics.

Early on, Buck challenged GOP leadership on a vote he felt would give President Obama too much power on trade issues. Republican leaders retaliated by trying to oust him as president of his freshman class. But he went on a public offensive and survived. He says he's watched colleagues get punished for doing what they think is right instead of what party bosses demand; booted from committee positions and even denied dining room privileges.

Rep. Buck: The incentive structure right now is to vote for more money. You never vote for less money, because someone's gonna get mad if you vote for less money. And so as long as the American public doesn't stand up and demand that members of Congress are accountable, Congress will continue acting the way it does.

Sharyl Attkisson: Do you think a lot of people come to Washington really hoping it will be different and planning to work for their constituents and just find out it can't be done?



Buck: I absolutely think most members come here with the best intentions. And I think within a year or two they realize that there is no hope of changing this place. And a lot of them leave fairly early on. Others become disillusioned and some others just settle into the swamp and enjoy it.

Sharyl Attkisson: I've not heard another sitting member of Congress talk about these things. What happens to you now because of this?

Buck: You know I didn't come here with any friends, Sharyl, and I'm not leaving with any friends and I'm okay with that. I didn't come here to make friends. And so, if I'm gone in a couple of years, I did what I came here to do and that's hopefully make Americans aware that this place is broken.

Buck says solutions include requiring a balanced budget meaning Congress wouldn't be able to spend more money than it has and they'd be forced to make the tough choices they now avoid and term limits to restrict the number of years people can serve in Congress.

FULL MEASURE WITH SHARYL ATTKISSON

Oct 8

30 min.

The US boasts of the best military in the world. So you might be surprised to hear that the incentive and benefits structure virtually guarantee that the best people don't stay in their jobs very long. That's the conclusion of Tim Kane, a former US Air Force captain, and economist with the Hoover Institution, who has written a new book called "Total Volunteer Force."

Tim Kane: The biggest perverse incentive, I think, is that the pay structure's based almost entirely on seniority. So you could be a captain in the Army and I might be a captain in the Army that is four years senior to you. You have a more important job than I do, but you're paid less because I'm senior. That doesn't make sense anymore. We can pay people based on the skills they have and the role that they're fulfilling. The biggest perverse incentive though is they've got a retirement system that, even if you serve



nineteen years in the military, you would get no retirement. You hit that twenty-year gate, though, and you get half-pay for the rest of your life. Well that creates a bubble of people from about year twelve to year twenty, and then you see about fifty percent drop-off in every branch where the individuals, officers and enlisted, get out.

Sharyl Attkisson: The system the way it is, would you say, obviously makes people want to stay in twenty years to get the retirement, but then leave quickly?

Tim Kane: Yes.

Sharyl Attkisson: So the good talent isn't necessarily sticking around?

Tim Kane: We're talking about enlisted soldiers and sailors, who are thirty-eight years old and qualify for lifetime retirement. Now, thirty-eight years old, even in the military today, you're in the prime of your life. You understand things really fully in an organization and more deeply, and I so I think we're losing people at peak productivity. And a bigger challenge is we're not letting individuals specialize. It's up or out, up or out, up or out, so you're constantly forced to go up in rank, even if you might be the best fighter pilot, or you might be the best cyber warrior. Nope, time for a middle-management desk job. That just is bad management.

Sharyl Attkisson: You've also said 'neutered command authority over personnel decisions makes it difficult to match the right people with the right jobs, hurts readiness and prevents toxic and predatory individuals from being weeded out.'

Tim Kane: You might be captain of a U.S. Navy destroyer and there are two-hundred to three-hundred people who work for you on that ship. How many do you select, or hire or screen? The answer is zero.

I'm recommending in this book, not to create an 'old-boys club', but at least give some discretion to commanders. Send them three names and let them do an interview and a background check. Why this is important?

The odds of a woman in uniform being sexually assaulted are ten times higher than the odds of a woman on a college campus. And that's because



the military is not weeding out the bad apples, and I think that's because it's a centralized bureaucracy

Sharyl Attkisson: Who has to be the ones to change that, because Defense Secretary Gates and Carter have tried to do some of that, but it hasn't worked.

Tim Kane: You know, there's one individual, Donald Trump, could establish another presidential commission, and we've already got a name for it. Just like the Gates commission, back in the late sixties, we could have another Gates commission and ask the former Secretary of Defense to just focus for a year or two on this issue, come up with some reforms that Congress would vote 'yea' or 'nay'. And this is an easy fix.

Sharyl Attkisson: In the past when we've had commissions, a lot of times Congress doesn't take the recommendations of the commissions.

Tim Kane: You know what's really beautiful about military personnel reform is it's not partisan. You won't find Democrats, or Democratic staffers because I've met with them, they're not opposed to the Republicans on the same committee. It's really bureaucratic inertia.

Sharyl Attkisson: But for those of us who aren't in the military, how does this impact our national readiness and our national security?

Tim Kane: I'd like to see us win all of our wars. I had a commander, one of our commanders in Afghanistan, that said to me 'do you realize we've been in Afghanistan for over ten years and we've had over ten commanders of all of our forces there? Can you imagine in World War II saying 'Ike, you did really well in nineteen-forty-two, but it's somebody else's turn', and rotating, giving everybody a turn. Up or out, up or out, move the system. This doesn't make sense. Let people specialize at their best and finish the job.

On the positive side, Kane says the corporate world can learn a few things from how the military works. Top of that list learning from the military leadership culture, and its commitment to a shared purpose.



FULL MEASURE WITH SHARYL ATTKISSON

Oct 15

30 min.

By now you're familiar with the sights of devastation from Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria. What you may not know is just how bad things were for the U.S. territory before the storm hit. It's a story of corruption and waste and—Puerto Rican officials say—a lesson for all of us.

Alberto Martinez was born and raised in Puerto Rico. He recorded these pictures after Hurricane Maria.

Alberto Martinez: Puerto Rico was already suffering a financial crisis, now it's been wrecked by Hurricane Maria.

Martinez also showed us around Puerto Rico over the summer before Hurricane Maria. For all intents and purposes, already bankrupt.

Alberto Martinez: This is the Ponce de Leon Avenue on Santurce. My school is on this avenue...

A college professor, Martinez is planning to include Puerto Rico's example in a course at the University of Texas on money and corruption.

Alberto Martinez: Now it's just a bunch of shut down storefronts with graffiti.

He blames more than a decade of poor tax and business policies, and big banks that convinced politicians to borrow like there was no tomorrow.

Alberto Martinez: Sales taxes are too high. Rent prices are too high. Business to business expenses are too high. So if you can't do business in Puerto Rico and the customers just don't have the money, eventually store after store have to shut down.

Rodrigo Masses has also been tracking Puerto Rico's financial downfall, as the head of a group representing manufacturing and service industries.

Sharyl Attkisson: Puerto Rico racked up, as of 2016, \$118 billion dollars in debt and unfunded pension liabilities with no way to pay it back. In simple terms, what's your understanding of how we got here?



Rodrigo Masses: Well basically, you know the answer is very simple: in the way that all countries get in debt. We tried to finance debt with debt. And in the end, we forget to grow the economy, or we cannot grow the economy, and therefore there's no way to comply with our obligations.

Sharyl Attkisson: Who do you blame for getting in that situation in the first place?

Rodrigo Masses: I think we blame our self, ourselves are to fault in this process. So, we together, politicians, of public sector, we are the one to blame.

It's the reason why before Hurricane Maria, Puerto Rico governor Ricardo Rossello already faced a near impossible climb.

Sharyl Attkisson: With the fiscal crisis, you were handed quite a mess.

Ricardo Rossello: That's right.

Sharyl Attkisson: You knew this going in.

Ricardo Rossello: We just didn't know the magnitude of it. We knew it was bad.

On his first day as governor last January, Rossello declared a fiscal emergency and ordered government operating expenses to be cut across the board.

Sharyl Attkisson: How bad is it in a word or two?

Ricardo Rossello: This might be hard for some of our viewers to explain to. But we had sort of a bank, a government-owned bank, which had the purpose of developing infrastructure and so forth but, essentially, became another agency, and did not serve its purpose. It became a black hole in and of itself. Government was ran, essentially, as a big Ponzi scheme, and we were at the last level.



Sharyl Attkisson: It sounds like, at least, mismanagement and perhaps even corruption.

Ricardo Rossello: Yes, certainly. Certainly, mismanagement, certainly a total lack of accountability in Puerto Rico, managerial foresight, and certainly corruption.

As Puerto Rico silently accrued deep debt, a stunning 46 percent of Puerto Ricans fell into poverty. And government became wildly bloated.

Puerto Rico's current Secretary of Education makes more from her government work than the US Secretary of Education, who is not taking the salary. Puerto Rico's chief of security makes 50% more than the head of the FBI.

The whole territory is smaller than Los Angeles County: just 100 miles long and 35 miles wide. But it has 78 municipalities, each with its own separate governing structure. 78 mayors, 78 legislatures. And 135 government agencies.

Ricardo Rosello: Well, I have 135 agencies, which we have in Puerto Rico, can I consolidate many of them? Can I eliminate some of them? We are doing that path. So our expectations is, by the end of the four years, we're going to reduce 135-agency government to about a 35-agency government. That's going to provoke a lot of savings for Puerto Rico.

Sharyl Attkisson: And criticism.

Ricardo Rossello: And criticism, but I ran on that platform.

The governor's supporters are behind him. But his austerity measures aren't popular with residents like single mom Ana Candelario. With basic groceries costing more than the U.S. average, she and other government workers may be facing a pay cut.

Ana Candelario: Last week I went to the bank to make an arrangement to reduce my mortgage and also the student loan that I have right now.

Even if Puerto Rico wanted to ignore its fiscal crisis, it couldn't...



Congress took control last year by passing PROMESA: the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management and Economic Stability Act. A seven-member board appointed by President Obama was given the power to restructure and negotiate with creditors.

Then, Maria hit.

Rob Bishop: They have to start over again. So they came up with a plan originally; this changes the dynamics of that plan. So they're] gonna have to redo the overall funding plan again.

Congressman Rob Bishop heads the congressional committee that oversees Puerto Rico.

Sharyl Attkisson: Can you explain how Puerto Rico's bad financial situation will impact how they recover from the hurricane?

Rob Bishop: It exacerbates the problem for them. When you're that far in debt and you have to restructure everything, including the grid, yes, it makes it more difficult to borrow money. People are not going to lend money if they don't think it's going to be paid back.

As the fiscal oversight board PROMESA goes back to the drawing board, it's drawing criticism for the money it's spending—to rein in Puerto Rico's spending. The Congressional Budget office estimates that operating PROMESA will cost \$370 million over five years.

PROMESA executive director Natalie Jaresko is getting paid \$625,000 a year. 50% more than the salary of the President of the United States. It's one reason PROMESA has stoked longstanding resentment of U.S. domain over Puerto Rico.

Alberto Martinez: “This sign right here, “No white person, no rich person represents us. Go to hell the fiscal control board and the gringo government,” that is the American government.

Sharyl: The head of the Fiscal Board is making \$625,000 a year, which is roughly 50% more than the President of the United States. What do you think of those criticisms that they have about the cost of this?



Rep. Rob Bishop: That's one of the things we will be looking at in oversight hearings as time goes on. This is not an easy process.

As Puerto Rico grapples with its double disasters: the hurricane and fiscal crisis, Governor Rossello warns there are lessons for those of us on the mainland.

Gov. Rosello: There needs to be a continuous question asked on any country, the United States, or any country, if I continue this rate of debt or you know fiscal liabilities, where am I going to end up in ten years? What is that going to have in terms of the impact to services we can give our communities and our citizens? What's that going to do to healthcare, for example, or education? So, yes, it is a critical question that needs to be asked.

Alberto Martinez: Twenty years ago it used to be a main business center, instead now we have dozens and dozens of shut down stores.

As for Professor Martinez, he says he's got all the material he needs to teach the Puerto Rico section of his college course on money and corruption.

Alberto Martinez: The synopsis would be: Puerto Rico allowed itself to be hoodwinked by big bankers into creating debt it could never possibly pay. There were no consequences for the politicians, and there still are no consequences. Instead, they're filthy rich and this is happening in many other places throughout the states.

Jaresko, the head of the fiscal board appointed to guide Puerto Rico, was busy on the job and not available for an interview. As for her \$625,000 salary, a spokesman told us her success in her former job as Finance Minister of Ukraine qualifies her to lead Puerto Rico's long road to recovery in its "long-running financial crisis of staggering complexity."



FULL MEASURE WITH SHARYL ATTKISSON

Oct 22

30 min.

Antonio Carpio is a Supreme Court Justice in the Philippines. A man who has played David to China's Goliath in an international dispute in the South China Sea.

Antonio Carpio: There was a standoff sometime in April of 2012 between Philippine coast guard vessels and China's coast guard vessels.

Claiming historic rights in 2012, China seized the Philippine waters known as Scarborough Shoal, in one of the world's busiest commercial waterways, hundreds of miles from the Chinese coast. When China refused to back down, there didn't seem to be much the small island country could do to reclaim its territory. Until Carpio and other Philippine officials decided to sue.

Antonio Carpio: We had no choice, but since we didn't have the military capability to retake Scarborough shore, we had to bring a suit against China. We have to sue China before a tribunal at the UN convention.

This past July, the international tribunal ruled that China's territorial land grab was illegal. But that didn't end the dispute.

Sharyl Attkisson: The Philippines won its lawsuit against China, correct?

Antonio Carpio: Yes.

Sharyl Attkisson: What was the impact. Did China change its ways?

Antonio Carpio: China did not. China said that we are not complying with the ruling.

China's claims over almost the entire China Sea is upending order the U.S. has helped keep since World War II. And it's concerning concern to five other nations that have become prosperous, in part, by using these busy shipping lanes where they claim maritime territory. Will China move to



control or even block them? At his nomination hearing, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson talked tough.

Rex Tillerson: They're taking territory or declaring territories that are not rightfully China's. The island building in the South China Sea in many respects in my view building islands and then putting military assets on those islands is akin to Russia's taking of Crimea.

The history of the seas and the laws that rule them were written over centuries and with blood. The permanent US Navy was founded in 1794 to battle Barbary pirates who threatened the freedom of navigation and trade in the Mediterranean.

In the 21st century, an age old problem and a potential new battle on the seas.

Until a few years ago, these little reefs and sand cays in the Spratly Islands, off the coast of the Philippines and South Vietnam, were largely uninhabited, wanted only as fertile fishing grounds. Now, the Chinese have converted them into military outposts equipped with runways and sophisticated radar towers.

Armed Service Member: And currently what we're looking at is some construction on a landing ship.

Sharyl: And Chinese navy ships have recently warned and harassed ships at sea, including US Navy ships which they see as meddling in their business.

Chinese Military: This is the Chinese Navy. This is the Chinese Coast Guard. Please go away quickly.

Sharyl Attkisson: Looking at the primary trade route, which now is a point of contention, at least as far as China is concerned, and the militarization they're having there. How do you see this as potentially impacting things for everybody?

Antonio Carpio: Well over a little over half of the world trade in goods traded by ships, seaborne trade, over half of that passes through the South China Sea. And a lot of that passes through the narrow Strait of Malacca.



80 percent of the energy supplies of China passes through the Strait of Malacca. It's a choke point. So if that is blocked, the entire economies in Asia, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and China cannot export to Europe. And they cannot import gas and oil from the Middle East, because of all of this passes through the Strait of Malacca.

Sharyl Attkisson: Should we be worried about that?

Lindsey Graham: You should be worried.

Senator Lindsey Graham serves on the Armed Services committee and is pressing for the U.S. to take a stronger stance in the South China Sea.

Lindsey Graham: Cause the last thing you want is a Communist dictatorship to be able to control an entire part of the world. Instead of negotiating who owns an island, they just build a military base on the island. They don't respect the rule of law.

Sharyl Attkisson: Can you explain in a sentence, why we ought to care, why a guy that's minding his own business in the Midwest ought to care?

Senator Graham: The sea lanes that we all use to ship products in and out of the country, go right by China. That part of the world is the growing part of the world, in terms of economic opportunity. The Pacific sea lanes, the South China Sea are essential to, to do business. The last thing you want to do is give up market share to China, withdraw from Asia, and allow them to militarily dominate the sea lanes. History has shown us the people that control the seas, do very well.

Sharyl Attkisson: Why is the challenges that China has made, so important to the global community do you think?

Antonio Caprio: Because we have this law of the sea, we're 167 countries have ratified, and China is saying we are not bound by that. And if China can claim the South China Sea as its internal lake, Russia might claim the Arctic Ocean. India might claim the Indian Ocean. So then the entire order of the oceans and seas in our planet will break down. Every country will assert what it can claim through might, through naval power. And then we'll have wars.



FULL MEASURE WITH SHARYL ATTKISSON

Oct 22

30 min.

American homes in Houston, the Florida Keys, and Puerto Rico, are not the only things underwater this season, so is the entire National Flood Insurance Program, or NFIP. The Hurricanes accounted for an additional \$16 billion in claims to the NFIP, which was already nearly \$25 billion in debt before the storms hit. Steve Ellis, the Vice President of Taxpayers for Common Sense, thinks it's high time that the flood insurance program gets reformed, to stop subsidizing risky building.

Steve Ellis: the fundamental responsibility of government is to protect their citizens. But here you have a program that's subsidizing people to actually build in harm's way to stay in harm's way.

Scott Thuman: Are you saying that they're almost encouraged to keep building in places that they're at high risk?

Steve Ellis: Absolutely. The basically this program is subsidizing people to rebuild and stay in these areas.

Scott Thuman: Because it's so cheap.

Steve Ellis: Exactly.

Scott: Just how cheap? Nationwide, the average flood policy through the program costs only \$712 a year, according to the Natural Resources Defense Council. Cheap rates lead to hefty payouts, and multiple claims. According to a recent report by Pew Charitable Trusts, there are 150,000 insured homes that have flooded at least twice. They represent only 1% of the properties in the program, but account for up to 30 percent of all payouts, at a cost of \$12.5 billion.

So if we look at the statistics that show that maybe only 1% of the homes in the program are part of that repetitive loss, yet they are getting more than 30% of the pay-out.



Steve Ellis: Exactly they making up a disproportionate amount of the losses even though they are a small number of the properties in the program.

Scott: Well how are we not fixing that.

Steve Ellis: Well it's never politically popular to actually raise somebody's insurance rates and then also there is a kind of an American shake your fist at Mother Nature and we will rebuild sort of aspect there as well. And so we just were big hearted people but we can't afford to be soft headed.

And can't keep affording big bailouts, Ellis says. On the House side, Congress voted to forgive 16 billion dollars of debt incurred from recent hurricane claims.

So lesson learned? Not exactly. Mick Mulvaney, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, wrote to the Senate, quote The NFIP is simply not fiscally sustainable in its present form. The White House wants major reforms: no coverage for new homes in flood plains. no subsidized rates for people who can afford to pay market rates. And no coverage for extreme repetitive loss properties. But those reforms weren't included in the House bill. And until reforms are made, Ellis says the program creates a vicious cycle, for the homeowner and the taxpayer.

Steve Ellis: You know I'm not here to say you can't build. It's just we shouldn't have to subsidize you to build and to rebuild in those areas, and so those are the sort of issues, it becomes less about what people do on their property and becomes more about what is the federal government, what is Uncle Sam or sometimes Uncle Sucker, doing to subsidize high risk development.



FULL MEASURE WITH SHARYL ATTKISSON

Oct 29

30 min.

Today we investigate the incredible case of a US federal agent who survived a brutal attack by Mexican drug cartel thugs. It shows how violent cartels are wreaking havoc south of the border. But it also says a lot about serious shortfalls inside the US government which is still stonewalling on unanswered questions -- six long years later.

Victor Avila: I fought the assignment. I challenged it.

Sharyl Attkisson: You were supposed to drive down an extremely dangerous and maybe forbidden road, right?

Victor Avila: Correct.

Victor Avila was a special agent with US Immigration and Customs Enforcement or ICE in Mexico. On February 15, 2011, he and fellow ICE Agent Jaime Zapata got an unusual assignment: a task that required them to travel an infamous Mexican highway to pick up equipment.

Sharyl Attkisson: And the assignment was unusual because there was an edict not to travel on that road, is that correct?

Victor Avila: Correct. The U.S. Ambassador to the Regional Security Office of the U.S. Embassy had issued a notice of alert, prohibiting all U.S. personnel to drive on Highway 57 northbound, specifically to Monterrey.

Sharyl Attkisson: Because the cartels control that highway.

Victor Avila: Correct. There was numerous amounts of violence and shootings involving the Mexican government and military and the cartels.

Sharyl Attkisson: Why would you be sent on an assignment that's so dangerous, that defies instructions?

Victor Avila: I don't know.



Not only that, they were sent on the forbidden road without the normal armed escort vehicle. So they were all alone, on the way back with Agent Zapata driving, when two SUVs approached and forced them off the highway. Zetas cartel members surrounded them, shoved the barrels of a handgun and an AK47 rifle into their slightly cracked-open window and opened fire.

Victor Avila: During the shooting I saw Jaime get hit. He said: I'm hit, I'm shot. The handgun was shooting. I grabbed the handgun and burned my hand trying to stop it from shooting. And I tell Jaime, go, go, go, go. Like step on the gas. Jaime was already severely wounded and he, I grabbed the handle from the Suburban. I slammed it down in gear and pushed his right leg onto the accelerator. The Suburban went into the median of Highway 57.

Sharyl Attkisson: At what point did you get shot?

Victor Avila: I was shot during that time, I didn't realize. I didn't know that I had been shot. I was bleeding profusely from my chest and my leg and I had a lot of shrapnel and glass from my face.

911 Call: This is Victor Avila from ICE. We are shot! We are shot! We are on the highway.

Over 100 rounds were fired. Agent Zapata didn't make it. That's Avila in a wheelchair at the funeral. This past July, Avila and his family were there when the final two of seven known attackers were convicted in Washington D.C. federal court. But that hardly closed the book on unfinished business. Like why the feds were investigating but didn't manage to stop, two suspects who trafficked some of the murder weapons.

In 2012, I first uncovered internal case files showing that in June 2010, the government opened a case named 'Baytown Crew' against this Texas man, Manuel Barba. According to documents, while under federal investigation, Barba took delivery of ten AK47s. Federal agents even recorded Barba talking of having sent the firearms to Mexico and obliterating the serial numbers before they were trafficked. One of those weapons was used in the shooting incident which killed Special Agent Zapata... according to court documents.



Meantime, federal agents were also investigating another suspect, Otilio Osorio, as he trafficked a different weapon used in the shooting.

Victor Avila: I was very familiar with Fast and Furious and was following it. I never knew that we would end up being somewhat tied to that.

Avila sees an eerie similarity to the government's Fast and Furious scandal that was unfolding at the exact same time. In Fast and Furious, federal agents secretly allowed thousands of weapons to be trafficked to Mexican drug cartels. One was used in the murder of Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry, not long before Agents Avila and Zapata were shot.

Victor Avila: We want answers from the assignment, why the ICE supervisors and the U.S. Embassy ignored the alert from the U.S. Ambassador. Why they put us on this road without any operational plan, without an escort. What specifically did the government know and evade and cover-up about the transmission of those weapons to Mexico?

When Avila got stonewalled, Congress demanded the Inspector General investigate and Avila filed a civil suit against the government. Meantime, he returned to work but says he was marginalized, repeatedly transferred against his wishes, and eventually felt forced to retire.

Victor Avila: I never, never imagined that the treatment would be what, what it is. I never expected and I never felt entitled to any special treatment after being shot. All I wanted was to continue with my life and possibly my career. But my career ended that day.

In March, years after Congress demanded an investigation, the Inspector General finally issued a report. Incredibly, it found that Barba was a known criminal in federal custody before he trafficked one of the murder weapons. He was let loose because the feds wanted to use him as an informant. But that left Barba free to lead the Baytown Crew trafficking ring that sent firearms to Mexican drug cartels, including one used in Agent Zapata's murder. All these errors had significant consequences, concluded the IG.



Victor Avila: To this day, I, I don't know of anyone being admonished, held accountable at all, to this day.

Documents Avila says are crucial for his lawsuit were kept secret as part of President Obama's unusual Fast and Furious claim of executive privilege.

Victor Avila: To this day we have not received any documents related to either the firearms or any of the investigative documentation related to our shooting.

Sharyl Attkisson: Are these documents part of what's been withheld after President Obama issued an executive privilege claim?

Victor Avila: That's correct.

Sharyl Attkisson: There is a new President. There is a new Attorney General. How come you can't get the documents now?

Victor Avila: We're trying. We're trying and my goal is to have this new administration lift that order and allow us the ability to view all the documents and get answers to our questions.

Sharyl Attkisson: What are people to make of the story that you've told and things that happened to you?

Victor Avila: I believe part of my duty as a survivor is to continue to tell the story. It's important for me that Jaime's death not go in vain. He paid the ultimate sacrifice for his country. And we deserve answers just like the Zapata family deserves answers.

The Department of Justice did not respond to our request for comment. There has been no movement on Agent Avila's request for additional documents. The men convicted in July are expected to be sentenced next month.



FULL MEASURE WITH SHARYL ATTKISSON

Oct 29

30 min.

Americans returning from trips abroad marvel at high-speed rail in other countries, particularly in comparison to what we have to offer here at home. You could say we have a bit of train envy. Almost every American urban worker dreams of shortening commute times. Some cities are pursuing the dream, but Full Measure correspondent Joce Sterman found a lot of critics and billions of your tax dollars that have already run off the rails. Some cities are building the dream but Full Measure correspondent Joce Sterman found a lot of critics, and billions of your tax dollars already spent.

When East met West in the Utah desert 150 years ago, the completion of the first transcontinental railroad in the United States opened the country to both travel and transport of goods. It was the beginning of a new age. A century and a half later railroads still serve America, but the American commuter is feeling the need, for speed. Just ask Lisa Marie Alley, the Chief of Communications for California High-Speed Rail Authority. She told Full Measure, “When we offer them this opportunity to get from LA, if you will, to Palmdale in 17 minutes versus a two and a half hour drive, what’s that going to mean for business and for the future?”

In 2008, California voters approved a measure that would propel a 520-mile high-speed rail project towards reality. Construction began in 2015 on the line that will eventually connect San Francisco and Los Angeles, cutting the six-hour trip by more than half. It’s considered the future of travel in the United States, but it’s a future built on the backs of American taxpayers, with more than \$3-billion in federal money invested so far.

Republican Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy has called the rail project in his home state a boondoggle. California Democrats, including U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein have backed hundreds of millions of dollars in additional money for support projects.

But McCarthy has said the effort should be stopped immediately. He’s been a vocal critic as far back as 2012. In a House Transportation Committee meeting that year he said, “I know Hollywood happens to be in California



but this is not a Kevin Costner movie. If we build it, I don't know if they will come. And that is not how we play with taxpayers money."

Still, near Fresno, the foundation is being laid for the system, with viaducts and crossings being built. It will be nearly a decade before riders can hit the rails. And a Federal Railroad Administration report cited by lawmakers in a letter to Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao called the project over-budget and behind schedule.

"I would disagree we're behind schedule or over-budget. We always have to predict what our budget is going to be," Alley said during a recent interview with Full Measure at the authority's Sacramento office. "We anticipate right now our system will cost \$64-billion, but if a city wants a different type of viaduct or a community wants something differently, we're going to work with them to make sure that we're giving them what works for them. And I know people think it's the Christmas morning scenario where after we voted for this, we're going to wake up and it's done. But these things take time."

Alley says the high-speed rail project has already created hundreds of construction jobs and put businesses from 35 states to work. And California isn't the only state with eyes and plans for bullet trains. Projects have also been launched in Texas and along the east coast, where newer train technology could ease the nightmare of snarled highways on the busy mid-Atlantic corridor.

Wayne Rogers is the CEO of Northeast Maglev, which is spearheading the effort between DC and New York. He said, "One of the things I think is important is not just look at it like a fast train. What we're really doing is shrinking geography. We're taking all the cities between Washington and New York and shrinking them down to one hour between all of those. So with that, it's going to change where you live, it changes where you work."

Maglev trains use transport technology that floats the cars on a magnetic field. It is what speeds passengers in places like Germany and Japan. The FRA awarded \$28-million dollars to officials in Maryland just to study the impact of a Maglev in the Northeast. But that project also has a unique pledge from the Japanese to cover half the estimated \$10-billion cost. Rogers says they'll need a mix of funding to cover the rest, leaning heavily



on private investors just like California. Texas Central, which is leading the project in that state, says it won't seek any public funds.

"I think everyone can agree the private sector can do it faster, do it cheaper than the government would. So in our case it's privately led but that doesn't mean there's no role for government whatsoever. Everybody's going to work together, multiple states to get this done," Rogers explained while talking with Full Measure from the project's Baltimore headquarters.

Full Measure asked specifically if private funding had been obtained for the Northeast project. Rogers told us, "We have some that are doing that right now.

Obviously as you get to the next stages you would need more and more money as it develops."

Back in California, high-speed train dreams have moved from paper plans to concrete platform, there's a long track ahead, to find the funds to finish the job. When asked about private funding for the high-speed rail effort, Alley said, "So we're not at that point to have those types of commitments. We need to get our system up and running. That's what attracts the private sector funding."

Rail projects launched under President Obama have been left to see if ongoing support from the Trump administration will materialize. So far the administration has offered no public endorsement of the efforts. And some in California claim the whole concept, for now, has run off the rails. Shawn Steel, former chairman of California's Republican Party, penned a recent op-ed on the topic, saying it's time to fold.

"The theory is well, we've put so much money in, we've got to keep going. No! That's the wrong idea," Steel explained. "It's a failed concept in the first place. So the proper thing to do is stop the bleeding because it's the old adage if you're in a hole, the first thing you've got to do is stop digging. And that's what the bureaucrats are doing, they're continuing to dig the hole and it's getting deeper."



FULL MEASURE WITH SHARYL ATTKISSON

Nov 5

30 min.

Sharyl: On Russia, nobody admitted it during the campaign that we now know it was the Hillary Clinton campaign that funded that so-called dossier that had all the negative information that's unproven about you apparently in an attempt to affect the election. It was given to the FBI. What do you make of that?

President Trump: Well I think it's terrible I think it's despicable the amount of money that I hear being thrown around is ridiculous. Somebody said that this guy Steele that wrote it and we'll figure that out eventually that he paid money to the Russians. And frankly, if that was, in fact, Russia involved they don't like me very much just the opposite of what people were saying. And you know I have said over the last period of time the last person they want is me because I want a strong, strong military which I've proven in many ways and that was part of my campaign. And I also want lower oil prices and lots of oil which is not good for Russia. So I would think I would be the last one. But when you look at that horrible dossier which is a total phony fake deal like so much of the news that I read when you look at that and take a look at what's gone on with that and the kind of money we're talking about it is a disgrace.

Sharyl: The origins of the dossier supposedly is conservative funding. What does that tell you?

President Trump: Well I heard the other day that it might be and then I heard that basically they started something but the Democrats really took it up and started it and then the question is did the FBI get involved with it. And did the FBI use it. Because if they did that's a real problem for them. So we'll find out. But I have a feeling that the Democrats started it I'm sure the conservatives started something else but it was a much more mellow situation and they did say they didn't hire Steele and the phony people that worked on it.

Sharyl: Do you think Mueller is doing a good job?

President Trump: But we're going to see. Look all I can say is that I have nothing to do with Russian collusion nothing whatsoever and everybody



knows it and nobody really has even been able to find you know with all of these committee meetings. They walk out even the other side they say well there's been no collusion yet but we continue to look.

I've been watching this for how long has it been a year? It's very unfair. It's very bad for our country. But with all of the work that the Democrats are trying to do to obstruct and to you know false charges every time I see them walking out they're saying even Dianne Feinstein that no collusion and I respect her for saying it. I'll be honest with no collusion. But there are at these meetings and they go through documents and there is no collusion. Russia wouldn't help me. And I think the last one Russia would want to be president is me because of my attitude on oil and because of my attitude on the military and strength.

Sharyl: Do you think you would ever consider trying to have Mueller removed are you planning to stay out of that?

President Trump: Well I hope he's treating everything fairly and if he is I'm going to be very happy because when you talk about innocent I am truly not involved in any form of collusion with Russia. Believe me. But the last thing I can think of to be involved in.

Sharyl: Who wasn't you remember who convinced you to take Paul Manafort on as the campaign manager?

President Trump: Well it was a friend of mine who was a businessman very successful businessman and a good person. And you know Paul was not there very long. What people don't mention Paul was not there for a very long period of time.

Sharyl: What was it that convinced him that he had to be let go?

President Trump: Well I think we found out something about him may be involved with or with certain nations and I don't even know exactly what it was in particular but there was a point at which we just felt Paul would be better off because we don't want to have any potential conflicts. And if there was a conflict I don't want to be involved in any conflicts even though it was I could have kept them longer. I don't think anybody would have



complained. But we don't want to have any potential conflicts of interest at all.

Sharyl: Have you questioned why the businessman who brought you his name do you want to say who that is.

President Trump: I don't want to get him involved he's a private person.

Sharyl: Have you questioned why he brought him to the campaign or you think that was just it just happened in a way.

President Trump: Look people don't realize Paul Manafort worked for Ronald Reagan. He worked for Bob Dole. I think the firm was involved with many people I don't have to mention names but I heard they were involved with John McCain who's an honorable guy. They were involved with many people I mean many many people. I certainly wasn't the first. This was a firm that was well known in Washington for years and represented many many big people politically speaking. And Ronald Reagan being number one. So the reputation I always felt was very good and I had him for a very short period of time you know he was only in there for a very finite period of time. But you know I feel badly for him because I was going to be really a very nice person.

Sharyl: Last question on this topic have you been told to expect to be questioned by the special counsel. Are you prepared for that?

President Trump: No. Nobody's told me. As far as I'm concerned I have been told that we were under investigation. I'm not under investigation. You know when it comes to Russia collusion. They're looking at the wrong person absolutely the wrong person. So I don't even to the best of my knowledge my lawyers told me I'm not even under investigation. I have not been told that at all.

Sharyl: On Terrorism. You've just called for an end to the diversity lottery visa that allows Sayfullo Saipov into the U.S. what would replace it what's your idea in a nutshell?

President Trump: Why don't think replace it. I think that the whole element. Are you talking about the lottery system. It's a ridiculous thing. We do we



take it like a lottery like who knows who they put in there. And I guarantee you these countries they don't put their finest in the lottery system. They put people probably in many cases that they don't want. Why is this country doing it. The lottery system has to end. And what we want Sharyl we want it very badly and we want it you know as far as immigration is concerned we've been treated so badly and we've handled immigration prior to me because we have been very tough on it but we've handled immigration in the United States so poorly. We want a merit-based system

Sharyl: When it comes to Islamic extremist terrorism. Do you think Americans are safer today than they were a year ago two years ago?

President Trump: I think we are. I think that we have a much tougher vetting process. I call it extreme vetting. We are very strong with our vetting. But people can slip through. But I say as strong as we are we have to get stronger. This person came in through a lottery and not only came in through a lottery but you have this whole system where you can bring people with you chain migration it's horrible it's horrible. Somebody had mentioned he may have brought. And he only had a green card. But twenty three people may have come in indirectly or directly through him. Now I don't want those people and family members whoever they may be I don't want them and you saw what he did and you saw his evilness because they go back to the town or they go back to the area where he grew up not where he's lived even you go back to the country as I understand it. I mean this is not the kind of people we want in the United States so we have to get rid of chain migration.

Sharyl: I feel like ordinary Americans every time there's another terrorist attack or a similar pathology they start to feel helpless now that there's been tough talk for years and yet nothing concrete they can point to that will prevent another one. I think some people are actually adjusting their expectations and thinking this is our new way of life.

President Trump: I know they are in a lot of people do that. And frankly the Democrats have been absolutely terrible on immigration because they want anybody to come in. You know they obstruct make it very tough and they want on immigration and crime. I mean they want people to just pour in over the border.

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That's not going to happen. And we're stopping it. Now we want a merit-based system.

I don't want people to come into our country but it's got to be a merit-based system and we can take that for the norm. What you just said we cannot just say oh well it's going to happen let's get used to it. We cannot allow it to happen. And we're getting I can tell you the Trump administration is getting tougher and tougher and tougher and we are now as you know looking at different forms of the wall. The wall is going to happen. The vetting is now at a point that is the toughest it's ever been and we're now going to make it even tougher. But this person this animal that did what he did in the West Side of Manhattan we just can't allow this to continue.

In 2018, will I, or most Americans anyway, be able to fill out their taxes on a postcard do you think?

President Trump: Well I do think so. I do think so and I actually had one over here someplace but I won't show you all the way.

Sharyl: I want to see it.

President Trump: I don't think I have it in here It's too bad. Does anybody have one? But we have literally a one page form smaller than this is the size of that.

Shayrl: Smaller than this?

President Trump: About half the size of that. And most people will be able to do that. Most people will be able to fill out their taxes on average very small form.

Sharyl: You know Democrats and Republicans have told me and others behind the scenes that almost every decision is made in Washington is not really necessarily about the people it's about the interests that are lobbying them and pressing for different measures. Who is it that's fighting for a piece of this tax reform maybe fighting against the interests of ordinary Americans.



President Trump: The swamp, Sharyl. The swamp. It's unbelievable. Every single deduction everything there. People are fighting for right or wrong. I mean in some cases it's a good thing that they're fighting other cases. Everybody knows it's wrong but they're fighting nevertheless because people benefit by it. But it's a middle class tax cut. It's a massive tax cut. It's also reform it's also simplification.

But more than anything else it's a tremendous tax cut. It's going to be great for the middle class and great for jobs and business. And when I say great for business I'm doing that because of jobs.

Sharyl: Mortgage interest deduction after all the negotiations do you think it stays?

President Trump: Well we're going to see. I mean look we will be talking about certain elements and we're going to see we have. Nothing. We're going through a very complicated process right now. There are many many things such as that right now totally up in the air. We're going to see you know the Senate has something to say about it too. I can tell you this The House has been amazing. I have watched what they've done and will look into make it as final as possible but the Senate is going to come out with their version and then everybody's going to sit in a room and hopefully it's going to happen. And I think it will happen because people know we're one of the highest taxed nations in the world. We're not competitive with other nations. And now we're going to be among the lower taxed nations. I'd like to say it's the lowest but we can't get there yet. We may get there in the future.

Sharyl: It sounds like there are odds that even though the House has gotten their tax plan out there maybe this doesn't go through. If the Senate fights with the House and Republicans don't all get on board.

President Trump: I don't think so. I'll tell you what. I've been doing a lot of this. We've actually had a lot of bills passed despite what people think I think I heard that number 70 and it's almost a record. And you know if you listen to the fake media the fake news from some of these people like CNN they are so false in so many different networks. I mean the level of false reporting to me somebody said what's the biggest surprise. The amount of dishonesty of the press. But if you listen to a lot of the media you know I didn't do well with bills passed meaning Congress meaning Senate and



House. Well the fact is that we've almost we're almost at the top of the pack. We have I think it's approximately 70 bills have been passed and many of them very important in addition to that we have Justice Gorsuch who is fantastic. We're putting in tremendous numbers of federal judges which is the great unsung thing that we're doing we're opening up the regulations. Now we're going for the massive tax cuts. I mean we've done really a lot. And I'm very proud of it. We've had, I think, a great nine months.

Sharyl: The current head of the IRS John Koskinen gave false information to Congress and the targeting of conservatives disobeyed a federal judge's order to provide documents. Presided over the IRS when subpoenaed documents were destroyed and taxpayers were hacked. Awarded a lucrative contract to Equifax after the credit bureau failed to protect the credit of 145 million Americans. Why is he still the head of the IRS.

President Trump: Well a lot of people have been asking their question from long previous to me this is taking a long time ago we're just picking now a new head of the IRS and he will be looking at that I'm sure. But I have just made my decision as to who it is it will be announced very shortly and I'm sure they will be looking at that.

Sharyl: You can announce it now.

President Trump: I could do that exactly where we'll be. Probably another short period of time we'll be announcing the truth. Really a terrific person will be heading up the IRS so that they'll take a look at every.

Sharyl: Koskinen is retiring. Is that right?

President Trump: Well actually he had a term at a time and his term ended someplace like within the last week or so. And he will leave as for the term you know that was not one that was under my purview. He had a term and he went up to a certain point and then he leaves we have a number of them. They were appointed by President Obama but they didn't end in January. They end in a term his term ended in October or November or something and that's when he leaves.



Sharyl: On North Korea, in a recent poll 50 percent of Americans said it's somewhat likely that North Korea will use a nuclear weapon to attack America. Do you agree?

President Trump: Well I think that's a shame that it's so many. No, I don't agree. I actually don't. I hope that something's going to be worked out if it's not it's not.

But I really do hope that something is going to be worked out. We'll see what happens. I do believe that China where I'm going very soon and President Xi has been working. I really feel this. He's been working very hard to see if he can do something but we're going to see. But I think that estimate hopefully is extremely high.

Sharyl: Do you think there's work you can personally do on this trip that will lessen the threat.

President Trump: I mean we're going to see what happens. I can tell you that there's not going to be something bad happening in terms of what we're going to do or maybe what they're going to do. But I can tell you that we are very very strong nation getting stronger all the time not only our economy but our military.

You see what we've done with ISIS in eight months. I've done more than the previous administration done during the entire two terms of the administration, and we are going to have to solve problems like North Korea and North Korea is a big big problem. Hopefully, it can be worked out. Maybe it won't be able to but hopefully, it can be work.

Sharyl: Would you ever consider sitting down with a dictator and someone mentioned to me that President Nixon went to China to meet with Mao Reagan met with Gorbachev is there any parallels there would there be a scenario in which you could envision doing that.

President Trump: Well I'm meeting with different people from different countries meaning as you know China Japan South Korea we're meeting with a lot of different countries I'm going to Vietnam I'm going to the Philippines after that for big conferences so I'll be meeting with a lot of people. I would sit with anybody I feel. I don't think it's strength or weakness. I think sitting down with people is not a bad thing. So I would



certainly be open to doing that. But we'll see where it goes. I think we're far too early.

Sharyl: I don't know how closely you're monitoring some of the military movement but three U.S. aircraft carrier groups I'm told will be in the area of North Korea during your visit of Korea. What is North Korea's dictator to make of that? Surely that's some sort of perhaps message.

President Trump: I don't know if it's a message look we have a very very getting stronger military. We are spending a lot of money on our military that we weren't spending over the past long period of time it's been depleted and now it's growing very fast. We're ordering new ships we're adding tremendous numbers of plane the greatest plane in the world right now. As you know the F-35 were under tremendous numbers of fighter jets we're ordering beautiful new equipment for the Army for the Marines the Air Force is really looking strong and it really was not looking as good as it should look. Now we're putting yourself in a position where we'll be stronger than we ever have been ever in our history proportionately and otherwise.

FULL MEASURE WITH SHARYL ATTKISSON

Nov 12

30 min.

President Trump arrives in Manila, the capital of the Philippines, today. The last stop in his Southeast Asian trip. There he will meet another unconventional President, reviled internationally by some. but extremely popular at home despite his radical tactics. In some ways, Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte is like President Trump. Both rose through populist campaigns. There are, however, some key differences. For today's cover story, we traveled to the southeast Asia nation to examine some of



the most bizarre politics in the world. A caution: some of the material is graphic.

Love him or hate him, Rodrigo Duterte is one president whose delivering on his biggest campaign promise. To crack down on drug crimes by targeting not only traffickers but addicts. And killing them in cold blood. Three months after he was elected last year, Duterte a former prosecutor compared himself to Hitler with the distinction that his victims would be criminals.

Rodrigo Duterte: Hitler massacred 3 million Jews. Now there is 3 million, what it is, 3 million drug addicts. I'd be happy to slaughter them.

Antonio Trillanes: Well last May 2016 we had our election and the Filipino people elected President Rodrigo Duterte, who unfortunately has authoritarian tendencies and who pledged during the campaign that he would kill 100,000 Filipinos.

Senator Antonio Trillanes is another product of the Philippines' bizarre politics.

Antonio Trillanes: Just keep on driving

In 2003, he attempted a coup against the allegedly corrupt president at the time, he was imprisoned, ran for the Senate from jail and won. Today he's one of the few members of Congress opposing President Duterte.

Sharyl Attkisson: Is it true that the president has basically given the authority to citizens to shoot and gun down people if they're drug dealers?

Antonio Trillanes: Yes, he has done that several times publicly, he called for the police to kill suspects, the ordinary civilians to kill the sons or daughters of their neighbors or suspected users, and he even called on the migrant workers to come back home so that they can help in the purging of Philippine society.

Sharyl Attkisson: How many people have been killed because they are drug users or drug pushers since Duterte has been elected?



Antonio Trillanes: By our own estimates and projections, it has exceeded 10,000 people killed already.

A new documentary, Duterte's Hell, depicts the brutal reality. Suspected drug dealers and users gunned down without trial.

Mother: He's not a dog, my son. He's not a dog or a pig to kill like them.

Congressman Gary Alejano has filed an impeachment complaint against President Duterte. Like Senator Trillanes, he was in on that 2003 coup attempt, served time and now serves in Congress.

Gary Alejano: Well the basis of the impeachment complaint is that we have been opposing the policies of the President especially on the issue of policy on killing, or extrajudicial killing without going through due process of law, and respect for human rights.

Sharyl Attkisson: Is that popular here?

Gary Alejano: It depends on the propaganda of the President. He changed the definition of the rule of law. And he changed the definition of human rights. If you are a criminal you're not any more human, and you don't have human rights. So he is pursuing populist policies and programs using the gov't, and that is why he has high ratings.

High ratings most national leaders only dream of. During our summer visit, Duterte's popularity hit a stunning 82 percent. Needless to say the whole impeachment idea hasn't gained much ground. Besides his brutal war on drugs, Duterte's popularity is also rooted in his tough stance against Islamic extremist terrorists.

Lito Sobejana: Our national leadership is very aware of what is happening around the country, especially the ISIS trying to create chaos.

General Lito Sobejana says with ISIS moving into the southern Philippines President Duterte is doing what it takes to battle a savage enemy including declaring martial law.



Sharyl Attkisson: Do you think that is helping the security situation, the martial law?

Lito Sobejana: It will definitely help us resolve this problem.

On the streets of Zamboanga in the Mindanao province where there's martial law, we traveled with heavily armed protectors. And found popular support for President Duterte.

Sharyl Attkisson: What is your opinion of the president?

Filipino teenager: Um about the president? I think he's brave, and he is really capable president in this country.

Sharyl Attkisson: Why do you say you think he's brave?

Filipino teenager: Because he stop the drug here in our country.

Sharyl Attkisson: You've seen a difference?

Filipino teenager: Yes a lot of difference.

Sharyl Attkisson: What do you think of president Duterte?

Filipino Woman: Well he's a very good leader uh asides from the past president.

Sharyl Attkisson: What do you like about his leadership?

Filipino Woman: Strong and determined.

Sharyl Attkisson: Strong and determined.

Filipino Woman: Yes.

Jose Cuisia: Especially with what's happened.

Jose Cuisia was the Philippines' ambassador to the US under the last president.



Sharyl Attkisson: Are you more optimistic or pessimistic then about things under this President?

Jose Cuisia: It's very difficult to say because there have been certainly benefits or I would say very positive developments. Criminality has come down because of the fear precisely that's been instilled by the president, even among criminals. There's been a big drop. But on the other hand there's also concern that human rights violations are on the rise.

When it comes to the odd political dynamics in the Philippines, perhaps our strangest interview was with Congressman Harry Roque.

Sharyl Attkisson: Is Duterte a popular president? It is too complicated of a story to tell in a word?

Harry Roque: Well I think Americans will have difficulty trying to understand why the president remains as wildly popular as he is today. 82 percent approval rating that's fantastic as far as polling is concerned. And I think it's because he has shied away from the mold of a traditional politician who's sweet talking, promising the heaven and earth. Here is a guy who is you know no pretension. You know, he resorts to foul language, he doesn't care about niceties, and he's saying I'm going to deliver, I'm going to clean up our streets, I'm going to make our communities safer, and to his credit, after a year communities are safer and that's why people are saying maybe he is the kind of leader that we have long waited for.

But while he considers President Duterte a friend and ally in the same breath, he says the President may be held criminally liable for encouraging the street killings of drug criminals.

Sharyl Attkisson: There are many people who are criticizing the president. What is your position on the criticisms that he's facing?

Harry Roque: Warning the President unless he investigates, prosecutes, and punishes the responsible individuals for the drug killings, that he himself may incur criminal responsibility pursuant to what is known as command responsibility knowing that the crime is happening and not doing anything to investigate and prosecute these crimes.



Sharyl Attkisson: Make sure I have it clear, do you like President Duterte and do you support President Duterte?

Harry Roque: Yes. I like President Duterte, I support President Duterte, but, you know, within the framework of the rule of law and the promotion of human rights I think as a friend I have warned him that he better start prosecuting and sending the killers to jail because if he does not, he may end up in jail himself.

As if an exclamation point on the whole strange political dynamics in the Philippines our last word with Senator Trillanes.

Antonio Trillanes: Mr. Duterte ordered a hit on me and I confirmed that with at least 4 credible sources. He wants me killed and uh but we just need to do what we have to do.

Sharyl Attkisson: How come you don't have bodyguards around you all the time?

Antonio Trillanes: uh they're they're around.

Since our interview, Harry Roque has become the spokesperson for President Duterte. We reached out for comment on the allegation that the President put out a 'hit' on Senator Trillanes and did not receive a response.

FULL MEASURE WITH SHARYL ATTKISSON

Nov 12

30 min.

It was a year ago today the media was reeling over the election of Donald Trump to the presidency of the United States. Among the shock and awe



was an admission by many that the media had gotten it wrong. We thought it was a good time to look back at what we called The Big Miss.

Donald Trump: I am officially running for President of the United States.

The big miss started from day one.

Mara Liasson: I think this is Donald Trump's biggest day. And he will be ignored from henceforth. Actually, I hope he will.

Never before have so many in the media worked so hard to convince the public that a candidate couldn't and shouldn't win.

ABC clip: And uh we better be ready he might be leading the Republican ticket.

George Stephanopoulos: I know you don't believe that.

Chris Matthews: It was not close it was over tonight very clear result Hillary won big time. It was a shutout.

Going into election night, the poll analyst site five-thirty eight showed Hillary Clinton with a 71 percent chance of winning. Slate.com was off by more than a half million votes in Florida alone and incorrectly predicted Clinton would win the Sunshine State. At 9:18 pm, the Detroit Free Press incorrectly called Michigan for Hillary Clinton. In the end, Trump won the state and the election. All forcing a massive media mea culpa in the reality hangover the morning after.

Larry Sabado: We were wrong, ok? The entire punditry industry, the entire polling industry the entire analyst industry, and I want to use this to take my fair share of the blame, we were wrong.

Sharyl Attkisson: How do you explain to them that maybe we didn't see what was going on around us, in front of our nose?

Frank Senso: I say we didn't see what was going around us in front of our nose.



Frank Sesno teaches ethics in journalism to students at George Washington University.

Frank Sesno: I say that the story that took place, and this is to the lesson, this is also the lesson of journalism, that the story of the year in my view, is the story out there in America that neither the media nor the political ruling class saw, heard, got, or suspected.

In the end, Trump was elected in spite of much the media being against him. Partly, perhaps, because of it.

Donald Trump: See the dishonest people back there. The media, they are totally dishonest. They are so dishonest.

It became a rallying cry among his supporters.

Crowds at rally: CNN sucks, CNN sucks.

Howard Kurtz: I'm now for media buzz, Donald Trump.

Howard Kurtz is a media critic and host of media buzz on Fox News.

Howard Kurtz: This was the worst election for the media in my professional lifetime. I mean I don't think it's the kind of thing where a month or two from now, we all just move on. There was a level, a fundamental level of distrust toward the press. A lot of it from the right, but some of it toward the left which didn't like the way that we collectively covered Hillary Clinton.

Sharyl: The Big Miss may reflect growing global skepticism of information provided by once-trusted institutions like we saw after the wrong predictions about the UK vote to exit from the European Union or "Brexit."

Howard Kurtz: The punditry, the prediction, the polls all came up woefully short in this campaign. If we don't do better next time, the remaining credibility that the news business has is going to shrink even further.

So how are we doing a year later? Seems the Big Miss keeps on rolling. As in, just this week there was the Koi fish Controversy. The media seemed to



hyperventilate as they showed video of President Trump supposedly impatiently dumping a whole box of fish food into the pond at the Akasaka palace in Japan.

In fact, the whole video revealed that President Trump merely followed the lead of his host, Japan's prime minister, who had dumped all of his food into the pond. Politifact reported the media just got it wrong.

FULL MEASURE WITH SHARYL ATTKISSON

Nov 19

30 min.

President Trump returned this week from a key trip to Southeast Asia claiming victory in expanding trade and putting America first. But China President Xi Jinping has his own plan to put China first and it's already working. We traveled to three countries in Southeast Asia: South Korea, the Philippines, and Singapore to find out about the Chinese initiative called One Belt One Road. It may be the biggest threat of its kind to America, that you've never heard about.

Our first stop, Singapore. The ships at harbor stretch to the horizon. The port's key position at the Strait of Malacca has made Singapore rich. The Strait of Malacca is a crucial shortcut between India and Asia. Economically and strategically, one of the most important shipping lanes on the planet. Which makes Singapore critical to China's new plan to dominate the world economy.

China calls it One Belt, One Road.

Chan Heng Chee: And they just took.

Chan Heng Chee is Singapore's Ambassador at Large.

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Sharyl Attkisson: Is what China is doing the biggest global outreach by any country, you think, of all time?

Chan Heng Chee: Well, when Xi Jinping announced the one belt, one road initiative, everyone thought it was a grand vision, is the greatest vision of all times. It's a vision that captures the old silk road economic initiative.

The old silk road refers to a network of trade routes used for hundreds of years to move goods like silk and spices. China intends to spend a trillion dollars to build new connections among Asia, Europe and Africa, developing supply routes over land and water, putting China in a position to control trade and dictate terms. It's already building coal power plants in Pakistan. Buying interest in foreign oil companies. And building a 6 billion dollar railway that will connect 8 countries.

Sharyl Attkisson: How do you think, if you are someone looking after US interests, that the United States ought to view this strategic move by China?

Chan Heng Chee: I think the United States should pay attention to this and if the United States sees itself as a global leader then you would ask yourself, oh what are they doing that I'm not doing? And actually, you know, if this succeeds, where am I?

Today's western influence on Singapore is obvious in its city center dressed to the nines. But China's influence is rising. It's already is spending one-third of its One Belt One Road investments in Singapore and recently closed an 11 billion dollar deal to buy a Singaporean warehouse and logistics firm. Will China's tempting investments reorder the world order and pull U.S. allies in a different direction? Kirk Wager is the former US Ambassador to Singapore. He says the U.S. may be losing ground.

Kirk Wagner: That's been a little bit of a frustration for me. Now, we have 37 hundred American companies that are based here in Singapore. Some people are getting the memo. But there are 21 thousand American companies in Mexico.

Sharyl: What does Singapore do? What do these other Southeast Asian nations do with two great world powers trying to befriend and court them?



Chan Heng Chee: You know, most ASEAN countries, the 10 countries in Southeast Asia really don't want to choose. They would like to be in the center, you know? And I've said, trade is promiscuous. You can trade with as many partners as you'd like. Some countries have found the United States less willing to engage them, you know, and so they've been engaging far more with China.

Against the opulence of Singapore, The Philippines is a rustic cousin. Almost 13 million people live in the capital of Manila, a chaotic collection of wealthy sky rise neighborhoods built around a colonial-era polo club. The Philippines is another key country in China's One Belt One Road initiative. By all accounts, Filipino President Duterte, elected last year, is pivoting away from the US toward China saying One Belt One Road lines up with his own goal of upgrading his nation's infrastructure.

Jose Cuisia: This administration particularly has indicated that they're shifting away from the US, which I think is a mistake in my own view.

Jose Cuisia was the Philippine Ambassador to the U.S. until last year.

Jose Cuisia: the president would like to develop stronger ties with China and Russia. He believes that we've been too close to the US and that he would like to strengthen relationships by showing that he is not as closely affiliated with the US as the previous administrations.

Gene Yu: I think that from a geopolitical perspective, the Philippines is at an absolute critical juncture, I don't want to call it a battle, but essentially the competition over influence.

Gene Yu is a former US Army Green Beret who now runs a security business in the Philippines, Black Panda.

Gene Yu: In my opinion, One Belt One Road is essentially China's answer to the Marshall Plan of what the States did after World War II.

In the Marshall Plan, named after Secretary of State George Marshall, the US spent the equivalent of 103 dollars billion to rebuild 16 European



countries and secure alliances. China's investment and potential payoff are even bigger.

Solita Monsod: It's not exactly that way.

Professor Solita Monsod, a Filipino economic, is skeptical of deals being offered by China such as loans so risky that Western countries won't make them, and borrowing countries won't be able to pay the money back.

Sharyl Attkisson: I don't mean to cast aspersions on China's initiative, but it's almost like bribery it seems to me.

Solita Monsod: Well what else is it? The fact is that China is willing to give softer loans, etc, and the clients are too anxious to get this money.

She sees uncertainty in the prospect of a rising China.

Sharyl Attkisson: Why do you think the United States should be concerned about that?

Solita Monsod: So China gets, you know South Asia and the Pacific, then it will look forward more and it will start bullying if it can. The same way that the United States did 100 years ago or 50 years ago. I would rather have the evil I know than the evil I don't know. Let's put it that way.

The last stop in our examination of One Belt One Road is Korea.

Sharyl Attkisson: Do you view the potential changes as something favorable for the region and the world?

Congresswoman Hye-hoon Lee: I'm very concerned that China is becoming the biggest country in the world.

Congresswoman Hye-hoon Lee leads South Korea's opposition party.

Congresswoman Hye-hoon Lee: China's attitude toward our society is pretty much hostile.



Announcer: And it's up to the infantry to clear out the pockets of dire hard communists.

China has been hostile since the 1950s when it backed communist North Korea in the Korean War. In contrast, the US has stood by South Korea.

Announcer: A once proud capital of the Korean republic is a mass of ruins. And watched it grow from one of the poorest countries in the world to one of its biggest economic success stories. Today, 10 million people live in the modern, bustling capital city of Seoul. For all of South Korea's ties to the US, China is South Korea's number one trade partner. And in a position to tighten the screws. So earlier this year, when South Korea positioned U.S. anti-missile batteries amid North Korea's aggressive missile launches, China called that provocative and slapped South Korea with threats and trade cuts.

Congressman Kim Byeong-gi serves on South Korea's defense and intelligence committees. He wants China to use its influence to rein in North Korea. China is exerting more economic influence in South Korea, as well as military influence in North Korea.

Congressman Kim Byeong-gi: China and North Korea has developed a strategic partnership, and if China really thinks that we are good friend, China should make their bad friend do the right things.

Sharyl Attkisson: Is China exerting more influence than before?

Ra Chong-il: China is a big political and economic power and growing sort of a military power as well.

Political science professor Ra Chong-il was a campaign adviser to South Korean president Moon Jae-in, who was elected in May. In the end, he suspects China's One Belt One Road is less about spreading prosperity and more about China trying to build a more dominant role on the world stage.

Ra Chong-il: China is just beginning to throw its weight about to its neighbors. I think it is just the beginning.



In China, President Trump was offered lavish treatment, full of pomp and ceremony but few commitments. Of the competition for Southeast Asia, President Xi simply said, "The Pacific is big enough to accommodate both China and the United States."

FULL MEASURE WITH SHARYL ATTKISSON

Nov 19

30 min.

Many of us complain about the high price of airline tickets. There are bargains out there, but they may not help you, even though you're paying for them. Cheap tickets to out-of-the-way airports are part of a federal program using your tax dollars to keep small, rural airports open. And they may cater to some special interests. Our Lisa Fletcher shows us why some think these flights are a 'plane waste.'

Archive Film: These were the days when people said autocars, not practical.

That was America in 1954.

Archive Film: Airplanes aren't an occasional sight anymore. They are common.

It's why Congress passed the Airline Deregulation Act in 1978.

Archive Film: Airport expansion must be considered: Longer runways, future parking space, and more hangars.

The law allowed airlines the freedom to decide which markets to serve and what prices to charge. But lawmakers worried that smaller rural towns might be forgotten as airlines moved to larger more lucrative markets. So they approved The Essential Air Services Program or EAS as part of The Deregulation Act.



Rep. Tom McClintock: It's the least essential program in the entire federal government.

For nine years California Republican Tom McClintock has been fighting to eliminate EAS.

Rep. Tom McClintock: Rural life has great advantages. It also has some disadvantages. But it is not the job of hardworking taxpayers, who choose to live elsewhere to level out the differences. It shells out up to a thousand dollars per ticket in subsidies to pay for empty and near-empty planes to fly from small airports usually which are within an hour's drive of a major commercial terminal.

Lisa Fletcher: Is part of the controversy with this issue, who's defining essential?

Mike Cestari: Very much so. We have line of sight from.

Mike Cestari is the chief commercial officer with Southern Airways Express. They fly to 22 cities, 12 are subsidized routes.

Mike Cestari: We think our job is to be efficient with the use the of Essential Air Service funds and to work closely with our communities to see that the customer base grows in these communities rather than shrinks.

EAS subsidizes 115 rural airports in the lower 48 states. In 2012 the Department of Transportation spent 193 Million on EAS. In 2014, that number rose to 268 million spending roughly 977 dollars per passenger.

Lisa Fletcher: Is taxpayer money what's being used here?

Mike Cestari: Basically this program is funded by user fees. There's a program where international airlines that overfly the United States pay a tariff that partially funds it. And the rest of it comes from various ticket taxes and the like.



Rep. Tom McClintock: That's absolutely wrong. About 150 million dollars a year comes directly out of the US Treasury paid by US taxpayers. The balance comes through higher prices that other airline passengers have to pay for their tickets in order to subsidize these near empty flights.

To receive EAS subsidies, the communities have to be located more than two hundred miles from the nearest large or medium-hub airport. But there are exceptions, we booked a flight from Baltimore to Lancaster Pennsylvania. A distance of only 90 miles but still an EAS subsidized route. The ticket cost us 49 dollars including taxes. Without subsidy, we would have paid roughly two hundred bucks. This flight's gonna take us 40 minutes, had we driven, it would have been an hour and 45 minutes. This plane holds eight passengers. Today, it's about half full.

David Eberly: In Lancaster's situation, it's our dream that we get off of essential air services eventually.

David Eberly is Director of Lancaster Airport.

David Eberly: I think every airport has its own story. They need to look at what's service is provided to that essential air service. How many flights a day and where is that flight going to and what does that do for that community? And then the impact if it's pulled.

Lisa: EAS was originally only designed to last ten years. But with every new Congress, the legal battle over EAS is given new wings.

Rep. Tom McClintock: It's the canary in the coal mine. If we can't cut this ridiculous program, then we have no chance of bringing our spending under control before we bankrupt our country. An airline so reckless with its funds, would quickly bankrupt itself. Well the same holds true of governments.

Nearly 40 years later, it continues to be the center of debate.

Lisa: What's the hang up?

Rep. Tom McClintock: The hang-up is that Congress I think is congenitally unable to pronounce the word no.



FULL MEASURE WITH SHARYL ATTKISSON

Nov 26

30 min.

It's hard to believe, but we are now 16 years into the Global War on Terror. Today, there are some signs of success in the Middle East against the Islamic extremists known as ISIS. U.S. and coalition forces have retaken Iraq's capital, Mosul, from ISIS hands. And the terrorists are losing ground in Syria. But knocking down ISIS in one spot, means their battled-hardened fighters are turning up in new places you probably haven't heard much about. That happened this summer, when ISIS-linked insurgents joined established Islamic extremists in the Philippines. We went to southeast Asia and the islands of the southern Philippines region of Mindanao... where kidnappings, firefights and the threat of terrorism is growing. These tropical islands and pristine beaches disguise a dangerous reality. After our nighttime arrival, in a province named Mindanao, in the southern Philippines, we're riding in a caravan guarded by armed security forces, Mindanao is the target of US State Department warnings due to terrorist fighting and kidnappings.

Sharyl Attkisson: This is Zamboanga City which is under martial law as the country attempts to contain Islamic extremist violence which has been bubbling up recently.

We were invited to board military fast boats accompanied by heavily armed commandos. It's the safest way to see the worst areas.

Our guide is a hero in this longstanding war against Islamic terrorists: General Lito Sobejana. He heads up a Joint Task Force of the Philippine military.

Today, the general and his men are actively working to save more than a dozen kidnap victims held by Islamic extremists. The day before, one of the general's men was shot and six terrorists killed.

Sharyl Attkisson: Was the fighting yesterday related to the kidnappings or something different?

Lito Sobejana: Yes it's part of our rescue effort.



The battle actually goes back decades.

Lito Sobejana: (gestures) That island is the island province of Basilan. I was stationed there in the 90s, and I was even wounded in that island. Seriously wounded.. because I had five gunshot wounds all over my body.

Sharyl Attkisson: Fighting Abu Sayyaf?

Lito Sobejana: Fighting Abu Sayyaf.

Abu Sayyaf is considered one of the most violent Islamic jihadist groups--responsible for the Philippines's worst terrorist attack, the 2004 bombing of a ferry that murdered 116 people.

Sobejana received the Philippine medal of honor for his heroics in fighting Abu Sayyaf in the 90s. Two decades later, Abu Sayyaf is now said to be lining up with ISIS- prompting some to make the argument that Islamic extremism in the Philippines deserves more of the world's attention.

Lito Sobejana: We are now in the middle of the two islands of Santa Cruz. These islands are part of Zamboanga

Earlier, we spoke with General Sobejana at Camp Navarro, headquarters of the Western Mindanao Command.

Sharyl Attkisson: Could you explain in just a sentence or two to the American audience what the fighting is about?

Lito Sobejana: Well initially we followed the ideology of establishing Islamic independence in Mindanao

Islamic separatists here in the southern Philippines, he says, have been using violence to try to break away and establish an islamic state.

We're there when the General takes a call from the frantic wife of a hostage. If she doesn't pay ransom, the terrorists say they'll behead him. But there's a strict no ransom policy.



ISIS didn't pioneer the notion of violently establishing an international Islamic state or "Caliphate." Muslim extremists in Mindanao have been conducting a terrorist campaign for an independent Islamic state since the 1970s.

Gene Yu: We've had reports and information coming in that there's foreign fighters from Saudi and Yemen, ec cetera, down in Mindanao for four years now.

Gene Yu is a former Green Beret with US Special Forces, supporting Philippine troops fighting the terrorists. He now helps run a private security firm here.

He says with ISIS losing its footing in Iraq and Syria seasoned fighters fleeing the Mideast are now showing up in the Philippines where there are many sympathizers.

Gene Yu: These guys are battle hardened fighters or terrorists that have survived essentially the war going head to head with western military special operations. These people are not dumb. Okay, they're not incompetent fighters, right, to survive that long, only the best guys have survived that long...

In May, fighting escalated when hundreds of terrorists attacked the Philippine Army in the region's island city of Marawi, population 200,000. Civilians were taken hostage, thousands fled— nearly the entire city was later evacuated. After months of fighting, 400 terrorists were dead... so were more than a 100 civilians and Philippine troops.

After the latest siege in Marawi, the Philippines has requested additional support from America in its ongoing fight against Islamic extremists.

At a recent hearing in the U.S., Joints Chiefs of Staff Vice Chairman Gen. Paul Selva suggested that with ISIS now moving into the Philippines, it might be time for a new commitment. Or else, he said, there would be a possible "long-term catastrophe."

Paul Selva: "In every case where we see that the resurgence of terror networks, particularly in the fragile areas of the southern Philippines, I



think it's worth considering whether or not we reinstate a named operation,"

The ongoing battle is what prompted Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte to declare emergency martial law in May in the Muslim-majority region. It allows the military to act as the police and to make arrests without warrants.

The declaration of martial law has sparked some criticism both in the Philippines and internationally.

We were there in July when their Congress voted overwhelmingly to extend martial law through the end of the year.

We also found support on the streets of Zamboanga From people actually living under the terrorist threat.

Sharyl Attkisson: Do you support the martial law?

Woman: Yes for the peace and order in this country, especially Mindanao.

Sharyl Attkisson: Do most people support martial law do you think, most people who live here?

Woman: Yes.

This man sells pork at a local market and worries about terrorists coming from the Mideast and connecting with local groups like Abu Sayyaf.

Man: This martial law here in the Philippines, in Mindanao, is favorable for us

Here in the southern Philippines there are places where tourists and locals can't move freely without fear of being snatched off the street by Muslim terrorist thugs who raise money demanding ransom

One tourist was beheaded in April. Four more victims were captured right before our visit.



Lito Sobejana: Well right now uh in my area of responsibility, that is the whole province of Basilan, there are 20. It used to be 16 and then there were 4 additional victims.

Sharyl Attkisson: Kidnapped?

Lito Sobejana: Kidnap victims yes and we are trying our best to rescue them safely. Uh we have the policy of no ransom so we do not allow ransom money to get into the hands of the abductors

He knows where the terrorists are, he says, but can't simply blow them up because they hide among their wives, children and community.

Meantime, General Sobejana continues in his third decade of fighting a familiar and brutal enemy.

Sharyl Attkisson: We have talked to some observers who really want this, obviously, to get under control because they fear people like the Islamic State and other extremists could see this as an opening. This region to come in and spread more ideologically based violence here. Do you worry about that happening?

Lito Sobejana: Well I think there are indicators that they are here already.

Sharyl Attkisson: Should we be worried about that?

Lito Sobejana: well i think we should do something about this so that their number will not become large

They're working to keep a migrating threat in the war on terror from establishing a new beachhead in Southeast Asia.

As for the battleground in the city of Marawi.. after three months of fighting Philippine troops have retaken control. The government estimates it will cost over a billion dollars to rebuild what the Islamic terrorists destroyed.



FULL MEASURE WITH SHARYL ATTKISSON

Nov 26

30 min.

Since the Cold War, the federal government has been preparing for a worst case scenario a nuclear attack, or other strike that could shut down how we run the nation. Those plans are part of programs carried out in secret, and paid for with billions of your tax dollars. The problem: some claim the plans for what is called continuity of government doesn't work and we have no idea where those billions of dollars are going. Joce Sterman has more.

September 11, 2001, the nation is under attack.

In New York, the Twin Towers are on fire after two airliners fly into the buildings.

In Washington, the Pentagon burns.

And in Sarasota, Florida, President George Bush leaves a classroom of schoolchildren, to begin a series of flights on Air Force One to Barksdale air force base in Louisiana.

President George W. Bush: Freedom itself was attacked this morning.

Then to Offutt air force base in Nebraska before returning to Washington later that afternoon.

Vice President Dick Cheney is whisked to a secure underground location. The government went into survival mode.

Garrett Graff: None of these programs worked in the way we had hope that they were.

Garrett Graff is author of a book called 'Raven Rock: The Story of the US Government's Secret Plan to Save Itself, While the Rest of Us Die'.

Garrett Graff: The only time we have ever paid real close attention to these plans is after realizing in an emergency they don't work.

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Joce Sterman: Does that highlight the need for more transparency?

Garrett Graff: It highlights both the need for more transparency but also more exercises.

Continuity of government plans have been around since President Truman and the dawn of the atomic age and each administration has added their own touches.

The Greenbrier – the secret bunker built beneath a resort that would have housed members of congress - was built on Eisenhower’s watch.

John F. Kennedy’s press secretary Pierre Salinger organized what was called a doomsday press corps.

Along with additions, Graff discovered big concerns.

Garrett Graff: This is a shadow government we want as a country but we don’t know where they are. We don’t know how many there are. We don’t know what we’re spending on them and we don’t have any real idea on whether it will work.

Graff’s book highlights a DoD report that came to light during JFK’s time in office called cog severely lacking. President Carter’s team called it a worry to all familiar with it.

9/11 exposed major flaws in the system from communications problems on air force one to even the heroic actions of leaders themselves.

Garrett Graff: Donald Rumsfeld at the Pentagon did exactly the wrong thing for these plans and procedures by going to the crash site, by helping to evacuate the wounded - literally carrying stretchers out of the Pentagon, which was an amazing thing for him to do for a leadership perspective. And exactly the wrong thing to do for him to do from a constitutional perspective. This is the central tension of these plans.

Graff estimates as much as two-billion dollars a year is allocated for continuity plans.



But that's an estimate at best that he determined by looking at costs piecemeal in black budgets spread across government agencies from the Department of Defense to the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Actual spending is even hidden from the Government Accountability Office and the lawmakers who approve it, sparking floor speeches like this one from Representative Peter Defazio in 2007.

Rep. Peter Defazio on House floor: Maybe there's something there that's outrageous. The American people need their elected representatives to review this plan for the continuity of government.

John Fortier: We found there were many members who understood it was a problem but didn't want to consider all of those worst case scenarios.

John Fortier led a commission established after 9/11, to examine the legal and constitutional questions that must be answered, to ensure a continuity of government.

John Fortier: It was in a way like people avoiding writing their will, not wanting to think about their own demise.

Among the commission's recommendations: a constitutional amendment to speed filling vacant house seats after a massive crisis, and a plan considering people outside D.C. for the line of succession

16 years later, after research, congressional momentum and two official reports, none of the group's recommendations have been implemented.

John Fortier: We really have not fixed our fundamental problem. The House of Representatives still today - if something big were to happen - many members killed, we would not have a good way for getting that body back into being for two to six months at a time when you really needed that body.

Joce Sterman: What do you think is the biggest consequence of not having this plan ironed out before something happens?

John Fortier: I think the biggest problem is chaos.



So formulating a plan, Fortier says - even an imperfect one, is better than none to keep the government going when a crisis occurs.

FULL MEASURE WITH SHARYL ATTKISSON

Dec 3

30 min.

America's border dysfunction was highlighted again this week by not guilty verdicts for the illegal immigrant who fired the shot that killed Kate Steinle in a sanctuary city. This week we take you on a dangerous and sobering journey to see first hand what's happening on our Southern border - without the spin. We visited one of the busiest ports of entry for both legal and illegal traffic. It's the predominantly Hispanic city of Laredo, Texas. During our visit, one overarching theme emerged: despite what you may think: they're bullish on border security.

When it comes to what defines the border town of Laredo, Texas, Mayor Pete Saenz says it's their complex relationship with Mexico.

Pete Saenz: Laredo is the number one land port of the entire Americas. We do over 200 billion dollars worth of trade here in our port of Laredo. There's a lot of foot traffic as well, people commute daily. They come, they shop, they work, they come visit family.

There's no wall here, not even a fence. The only thing that separates two nations is the Rio Grande River. Seventeen thousand pedestrians a day cross the river using the Gateway to Americas bridge. When we tried it out, the Mexicans didn't even check passports or ID as we entered Nuevo Laredo, Mexico.

Pete Saenz: Culturally, we're Hispanic primarily. 95 percent Hispanic. We're very closely connected to Mexico. We're true Americans, but of course, our culture is tied to Mexico, since we're here in the border, we have family on the other side, in the Mexican side.

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With such close ties, you might be surprised to hear the prevailing view.

Pete Saenz: On the US side, we want a secured border. We definitely need that frankly. We're one of the first proponents of that.

Laredo police chief Claudio Trevino.

Claudio Trevino: We have a border, we respect the border, we enforce the border and we are not, definitely not, a sanctuary city. Never been one.

Like other U.S. border communities, Laredo has suffered the impact of human trafficking and Mexican drug cartels. In 2016, the Border Patrol picked up more than 36 thousand illegal immigrants in the two counties that make up the Laredo sector.

Sharyl Attkisson: That doesn't count the ones who got away.

Joe Baeza: Yes.

Joe Baeza is Laredo Police Department's public information officer.

Joe Baeza: We understand that a lot of people who aren't from the border communities have a perception that because we're the same ethnicity that somehow we're more inviting, more compassionate, with regards to just opening up the borders and allowing everybody just to kind of pour on into the United States, but that couldn't be further from the truth. We understand the volatility in Mexico.

To see for ourselves, we donned bulletproof vests and boarded an airboat escorted by armed Border Patrol agents. Gabriel Acosta is Assistant Chief Patrol Agent for the Laredo Sector.

Sharyl Attkisson: I notice that some parts of the river are very narrow, it looks like would not be hard to float or swim across.

Gabriel Acosta: It's very easy to cross this river and in some places, it's as shallow as like two feet.

We're about to witness that first hand. Our interview is interrupted by a call.



Gabriel Acosta: Where? 1-17?

Border Patrol cameras have spotted a group of illegal immigrants in the river less than a half mile away. We race to the scene and find three men scurrying back to the Mexican side.

Gabriel Acosta: As soon as we started heading back down river, that's when they realized, hey, the boats are coming, let's head back south.

They're not drug traffickers, Acosta tells us, or they'd be waving the middle finger.

Gabriel Acosta: You literally have seconds to make the interdiction.

Then they're in a car, and they're gone.

Gabriel Acosta: Or then they're in a car, and they're gone. You saw the lookout on the Mexican side. I guarantee you there's lookouts on the US side, that were calling the all clear.

As both a candidate and as President, Donald Trump has promised to stem the illegal traffic.

Donald Trump: We've got a border, the southern border is like a piece of Swiss cheese, and we'll talk about it, we will build the wall, yes. We will build the wall.

In Laredo, they credit the President's message with a new trend.

Sharyl Attkisson: What are the patterns you're noticing in 2017?

Gabriel Acosta: We've noticed a drop of at least 30 percent compared to this time last year here in this geographical area in the south Texas corridor, and then throughout the entire southwest border, we're looking at over 60 percent fewer apprehensions.

Sharyl Attkisson: That's pretty huge.



Gabriel Acosta: It is.

Sharyl Attkisson: Do you attribute that in part to the idea they may have that it's, they're not going to be able to stay, or that it would be more difficult?

Gabriel Acosta: Absolutely.

As soon as we're back on land, another call comes in, this time underground sensors have tipped-off agents to a group of drug traffickers.

Scott Goot: Out in this area.

Scott Good leads the Laredo Sector Border Patrol.

Scott Good: They absconded back to Mexico and left the marijuana here which will be taken back to Laredo Sector to be processed for destruction. I know if you see some of these agents, you know, they're covered in sweat, they're out running, chasing people down on foot through this brush. You know, vehicles can't get through this.

While here, there's word that two illegal immigrants have been caught in the area we just left. As dusk falls, we go on patrol around a 7-mile stretch of Laredo sector. We locate the spot in thick vegetation by the river where agents think drug traffickers brought ashore the pot. The brush around the Rio Grande is full of well-worn paths that agents say have been used for illegal traffic for years. In this environment, it's not difficult for criminals to give Border Patrol the slip. Agents risk their lives, tracking suspects on foot, sometimes alone, where they may come face-to-face with heavily armed cartel thugs.

Scott Good: The smugglers don't care at all about human life. They're very callous. They see people as a commodity, just like the marijuana that they cross or the cocaine that they cross.

Sharyl Attkisson: Your bulletproof vest and the weapon you're carrying, reminds us all these aren't all just nice people trying to enter. You also deal with a violent criminal element.



Gabriel Acosta: We do.

Gabriel Acosta: We do on a daily basis. The United States Border Patrol is the most assaulted law enforcement agency in the United States. Our agents get assaulted on a daily basis, multiple times a day.

When dark falls, we work our way to the edge of the Rio Grande and look through infrared binoculars. That's a person standing on the Mexican bank, maybe a lookout or someone waiting for the chance to cross. Not far away, we hear radio chatter that two more illegal immigrants have been picked up. On our way back to the SUV, we see two agents patrolling on ATVs. We hear more radio chatter eight illegal immigrants have come ashore. Six are eventually caught, two escape back south. Meantime, we're onto a group that a Border Patrol camera spotted crossing the river and loading into a light blue Grand Marquis.

Dispatch: in color Grand Marquis

Local police join the chase. When the suspects don't pull over, the cops give up for safety reasons and let them go. Here in the field, it's easy to see that the best technology they have only goes so far. Cameras and sensors can spot the illegal immigrants and drug traffickers. But catching them is another matter. It's a numbers game. A certain number will slip through. Most Americans will never visit a US border town. One thing the officials in Laredo want the rest of the country to know is, they're in the fight.

Gabriel Acosta: People are getting the message that if you do come across illegally, and you're apprehended, you will be sent back.

Pete Saenz: There's a misconception out there, just because we are so closely tied with Mexico, our culture is Mexican-y, Spanish. It doesn't mean that we're not Americans. You know, we've died for our country, we're here for our country, we salute the flag, so we are full-blooded Americans. Obviously, we lean towards our culture, just like any other ethnicity, but we're Americans first, and that's important.

Just last month, a Texas border patrol agent died on the job. President Trump cited the death as another reason to build a border wall.

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FULL MEASURE WITH SHARYL ATTKISSON

**Dec 3
30 min.**

In 2011, Congress passed the Budget Control Act, to supposedly help limit spending of your tax dollars. But the Pentagon has extra wiggle room thanks to an obscure account that's existed for decades. Our Lisa Fletcher dug into that with one government watchdog who calls it "The Pentagon's Slush Fund."

Ryan Alexander: These are the types of things that taxpayers should be mad about. Congress should really live by the rules that they set, and not use gimmicks, and, and, you know, escape valves to get around the rules that they set for themselves.

The gimmick that Ryan Alexander, the President of Taxpayers for Common Sense, is talking about is the Overseas Contingency Operations account, a special fund that the Pentagon gets to draw from, separate from its annual budget. As the name implies, the money is meant for unplanned and overseas military projects.

Ryan Alexander: The idea is that when there when they need stuff for the wars that we're fighting, that goes into the OCO account. But what's happened is that all sorts of things that should be in the base budget have moved over to the OCO account.

Things like 115 million dollars for a new Army base in Cuba; 13.4 million dollars for an aircraft parking apron in Djibouti; 15 million dollars for a Consolidated Squadron Operations Facility in Qatar to name a few.

Ryan Alexander: For example in this year's OCO bill, there's twenty-five million dollars for a dormitory in Turkey, construction for a dormitory in Turkey.

Lisa Fletcher: That doesn't sound like something that needs to be done quickly on a contingency basis.

Ryan Alexander: I think that when you're building a dormitory in a country where we've had a long military presence that's NATO ally, to call it a contingency is a little absurd.



Alexander says the account has been even bigger in years past.

Ryan Alexander: At its height, OCO was at a hundred and eighty-seven billion, and that was in the fiscal year 2008. To put that in context, that's the equal amount to the combined budgets of the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Interior last year.

Although the Overseas Contingency Operations fund is currently only at 74 billion, Alexander believes there's still plenty of projects in there that are clearly not for war planning that are enabling the Pentagon to bust its budget.

Ryan Alexander: There are so many line items in the OCO account that simply aren't what the account's designed for. And that's important because Congress set limits for itself. And by pushing money out of those limits and into the Overseas Contingent Account, they're going around their own rules, they're circumventing the law.

Lisa Fletcher: In effect, is this money-laundering by the Pentagon?

Ryan Alexander: Well, I think money laundering might be a little strong, but it is, kind of, it is a good analogy, cause it is moving money, changing accounts.

Lisa Fletcher: I mean, taxpayers have to play by the rules and they're the ones ultimately paying for this and it doesn't sound like the Pentagon is playing by the rules. Or Congress is playing by the rules.

Ryan Alexander: Well, the Pentag-right. The Pentagon is looking for every dollar it can get. So, Congress's willingness to give so much money to the Pentagon is definitely at the root of the abuse of the overseas account. Congress wants to be able to go home and say that they are strong on defense, that they have spent money on programs that might create jobs in their districts, and so by pushing spending into the overseas account, they get to have it both ways. They get to say we're being fiscally responsible, we're living by the limits, but we're funding whatever we want.



Lisa Fletcher: It seems like we want to support the troops is a bit of a red herring used to mask what the real purpose of some of this money being spent is.

Ryan Alexander: You know, the kind of, universal truth of wanting to support the troops, it has been used to justify abusive spending practices for a long time.

There are multiple "slush fund" or "off budget" accounts that exist or are proposed - the latest of which is dubbed the National Defense Restoration Fund. It allows the secretary of defense to spend close to \$30-billion with only 30 days notice. Alexander says it's poised to "set the land speed record for waste."

FULL MEASURE WITH SHARYL ATTKISSON

Dec 10

30 min.

Earlier this year we interviewed Congressman Ken Buck, a Republican who exposed the Washington DC swamp where he says Democrats and Republicans collude behind the scenes to work in the interest of big money donors rather than the American public. At that time, he rightly predicted that, once again, Congress would not follow its prescribed practices for passing a budget. Here's his explanation of why.

Rep. Buck: There is broad agreement on the Hill that we should pass 12 appropriations bills. We should have hearings, we should have debate on the floor, we should pass them from the House, they should be passed in the Senate, and the president should sign 12 bills.

The 12 spending bills are: Agriculture, Justice and Science, Defense, Energy, Financial, Homeland Security, Interior and Environment, Labor, Education and Welfare, Legislative, Veterans and military construction, Foreign affairs, and Transportation and Housing. Since 1977, there have



only been four years when Congress has passed all twelve appropriations bills on time: 1977, 1989, 1995, and 1997. There have been 18 so-called Government shutdowns during that period when the budget technically ran out for short periods.

Rep. Buck: So we don't pass those bills, we haven't passed those bills in a long time. And then we'll pass an omnibus bill sometime right before Christmas.

Omnibus means for everything and when Congress passes an omnibus, it puts all the spending in one single bill. The question is why?

Rep. Buck: The reason that we don't pass 12 appropriations bills is because it's a lot easier to put provisions for special interests groups into an omnibus bill. And the reason they always have the omnibus bill right before Christmas is they hold it over our heads because they say we're gonna shut down government, this is gonna be terrible, you're not gonna go home for Christmas if you don't vote for this bill. And so there's a lot of outside pressure that comes in from spouses, families, others to get a bill passed. And again it's not in constituents' interest. We should have regular order.

Buck says there's another little-known budget abuse. Most people don't know it but most spending laws are supposed to last just five years. After five years, Congress is supposed to do oversight and pass them again, if warranted. But that's not what they do.

Rep. Buck: We are spending one-third of our budget on unauthorized programs. We don't do the oversight because it would be a tough vote.

Sharyl Attkisson: So you say one-third of the money we spend is on unauthorized programs, what does that mean?

Rep. Buck: It means that when a new spending program is passed, it has a 5-year sunset on it. At the end of 5 years, that is supposed to that program is supposed to expire unless Congress reauthorizes the program. Congress doesn't reauthorize the programs and they continue to get funding. Congress doesn't reauthorize programs because it's a tough vote. It requires people to cut positions or requires people to spend more



money. And so to avoid a tough vote, Congress just allows programs to continue.

Sharyl Attkisson: And one-third of the money in our budget today is going for bills that were never reapproved after they've expired? They don't technically exist but for they're funded.

Rep Buck: Exactly. And the rules are waived to allowed unauthorized programs to receive appropriations.

Sharyl Attkisson: And is that under Democrats and Republican leadership?

Rep Buck: It is under Democrats and Republicans yes.

Sharyl Attkisson: So they don't authorize them, but the programs still continue?

Rep. Buck: They don't reauthorize them but the programs still continues.

Sharyl Attkisson: Where does this culture of ethical lapses begin, and where does it end? How can it end?

Rep. Buck: It began long before I got here, and I think it's become part of the culture of this institution which is why I think we need to have change, we need to change the incentive structure that we have here in Congress. The incentive structure right now is to vote for more money. You never vote for less money, because someone's gonna get mad if you vote for less money. So as long as the American public doesn't stand up and demand that members of Congress are accountable, then Congress will continue acting the way it does.

This week, Representatives Buck and Kathleen Rice launched the bipartisan Congressional Reformers Caucus in the House. They were joined by 17 others, pledging to work across the aisle for common sense reforms to Congress and the legislative process. The failure to pass those appropriations bills, as Congressman Buck said has real consequences. The Secretary of the Navy backed that up just this week. Navy Secretary Richard Spencer says the Navy has wasted 4 billion dollars in taxpayer money since 2011. That's because of inefficiencies caused by those



temporary spending bills when the regular budget doesn't get passed. Spencer says the wasted money could have bought: A squadron of F-35 fighter jets, 2 of the best-guided missile destroyer ships, 3-thousand harpoon missiles, and 2-thousand tactical Tomahawk cruise missiles. According to Secretary Spencer, quote: We have put \$4 billion in a trash can, poured lighter fluid on it, and burned it because of Congress' failure to go through the normal budget process.

FULL MEASURE WITH SHARYL ATTKISSON

Dec 10

30 min.

The county fair is still one of the best places to see a slice of America and eat a slice of many things that should be forbidden in the human diet. We found it's also a good place to ask people how they balance the budget for their families and what they think of the way Congress handles our money.

Sharyl Attkisson: Would you say you and your family are spenders or savers?

Stephanie: I would say we're definitely spenders.

Sharyl Attkisson: Should the government have a similar philosophy? I mean based on what you're saying, take care of what you need to now and at some point, we can worry about figuring out how to pay for it, or should they be more careful?

Stephanie: I think they should be more careful. I think we should take a critical look at what we are spending our money on. I think there's a lot of money spent frivolously, but there's not enough money spent on social programs

Sharyl Attkisson: Would you consider yourself a spender or a saver?

Kristian: A saver.



Megan: I'm more of a spender.

Sharyl Attkisson: She's honest. I like that.

Megan: Kind of a little bit of both, but more of a spender.

Sharyl Attkisson: And what's your philosophy?

Megan: I'm more impulsive. If I see something that I really and I really got to have it, I am a good bargain shopper too.

Sharyl Attkisson: So what are your thoughts about what we as a nation, and I don't mean a political party, just we as a country. What should we be doing?

Fair attendee: Definitely not printing more money. I don't think that's going to solve anything.

Kristian: We should not be spending money we don't really need to spend on like large projects you're talking about right now? They could probably put that on hold.

Sharyl Attkisson: Would you consider yourself a spender or a saver?

Tony: Probably in the middle. I try to save. So I guess I'm a spender because I spend a lot. I don't get to save as much.

Sharyl Attkisson: What should be the government's philosophy? Does it have to be similar to yours? Do what you can now and maybe worry later about it?

Tony: Well, no. As far as the government is concerned because it's everybody is a bigger picture, I think it should be more so for the future. You got kids and people coming along with the generations. If you ruin everything now, everybody is screwed.

Sharyl Attkisson: Maybe they should be managing their money a little?

Tony: A whole lot better. A lot better than me.



Sharyl Attkisson: Are you more of a spender or a saver do you think?

Clarence: Saver.

Sharyl Attkisson: Why is that?

Clarence: From childhood, I guess. I'm kind of deprived so I would say.

Sharyl Attkisson: Is it the thought that you want to be prepared and be sure that you have money down the road?

Clarence: Well, we're pretty far down the road.

Sharyl Attkisson: Alice, would you say you're in the same boat? Are you a spender or a saver?

Alice: Oh no, I'm a spender.

Sharyl Attkisson: What do you think about the way the government is handling its finances?

Clarence: It's pretty incredible that they can't keep to a budget. I mean it's absolutely asinine. We keep incurring that they just raise the debt ceiling.

Alice: Do they have a budget? I think they just spend.

Sharyl Attkisson: Are you a spender or a saver?

David: Half and half.

Sharyl Attkisson: What should the government be looking to do?

David: Take Trump's money and put it all in there.

Sharyl Attkisson: Would you consider yourself a spender or a saver?

Caylin: Spender just because there's a lot of things to buy.



Sharyl Attkisson: But our country right now is in 20 trillion dollars debt. Which means we owe that much that we don't have. What do you think about that?

Caylin: There's just so many different things that you have to think about. Is it safety and funding roads and schools? I don't think there's a way to get out of it at this point.

Dirren: I think we can slice the Congress in half and get some people in there who really care about the country. That would help.

Sharyl Attkisson: Okay.

Dirren: Like me. I should go for president. I was thinking about it one day.

Sharyl Attkisson: Well, it depends on your platform, I might vote for you.

Dirren: I'll be independent.

Great folks, ideas, and fun at the fair.

FULL MEASURE WITH SHARYL ATTKISSON

Dec 17

30 min.

This week, Democrats demanded President Trump be investigated for alleged sexual misconduct; Republicans demanded the special counsel on Russia be investigated for alleged conflicts of interest. Meantime, new sexual harassment probes started up recently in Congress, including against Congressmen John Conyers and Trent Franks and Senator Al



Franken... before he announced his resignation. We investigated what Congress' ethics committees really do.

Meredith McGehee: People who live in glass houses don't like to throw stones. That's the truth, on the House and the Senate side.

Meredith McGehee is executive director of Issue One, a nonprofit working to drain the Washington swamp. That includes reforming how Congress investigates misconduct within its own ranks.

Sharyl: Is it accurate to say that all of the ethics bodies that oversee Congress in some way are created by or beholden to Congress?

McGehee: Absolutely. The people that sit on the ethics committees, one day they're judging whether or not their colleague has violated congressional ethics rules; the next day they're probably going on the floor trying to convince them to vote for one of their amendments. So there's a built in conflict of interest.

The House and Senate ethics committees were formed in the 1960s, equally divided between Democrats and Republicans. Even for serious violations, harsh punishment is rare. When the House Ethics Committee found Congressman Charles Rangel guilty of 11 violations including to failing to pay significant taxes while he chaired the House tax committee. Rangel received a censure: the equivalent of a strongly worded letter.

Sharyl: The House members serve two-year terms, but these proceedings and ethics committees sometimes take a long time. So they're getting to, in essence, serve out a term while their case is being deliberated?

McGehee: Some of these investigations go on for month after month after months that stretch into years.

Congressman David McKinley was re-elected twice during a House Ethics Committee probe that took five years. When they found he repeatedly "disregarded" their written advice and violated House rules regarding his private business. His punishment was merely the letter saying so Now that this letter has been issued, the Ethics Committee wrote: this matter is closed. The Senate Ethics Committee, McGehee says, is even more



problematic, with the vast majority of 677 allegations over the past decade dismissed and only five letters of admonition.

Sharyl: Where does a letter of reprimand go, for a member of Congress? I guess into their file?

McGehee: I guess into their file; the circular file I guess. And we don't even know in the public record exactly what that Senate Ethics Committee has done. They make no public comment. They have no public record of a particular senator or staff. And then at the end of the year put out a few numbers that are pretty meaningless.

McGehee says serious dysfunction dates back to the late 80s when the ethics committees figured into an all-out partisan war.

McGehee: Some people may remember the days when there were allegations made against the House Speaker; Speaker Wright. He had received some benefits from the books that he was trying to sell. Lobbyists and others were buying them.

The House Ethics Committee cited Speaker Jim Wright, a Democrat, for five ethics violations. He became the first Speaker to resign amid misconduct allegations.

Jim Wright: All of us, in both political parties, must resolve to bring this period of mindless cannibalism to an end. There has been enough of it.

Democrats soon got payback against the Republican who'd led the ethics assault against Wright: Newt Gingrich. The House Ethics Committee investigated him for conflicts of interest when he became Speaker in 1995. Gingrich got slapped with a reprimand and a \$300,000 fine. Meantime, over in the Senate, the Ethics Committee found five US Senators guilty of lapses ranging from poor judgment to improper interference with an investigation Keating Five savings and loan scandal. McGehee says there was a ceasefire when both sides decided they were getting hurt.

McGehee: People referred to it for a long time as an ethics truce in which neither party would file an ethics complaint against the other because they



were afraid if they did one, then the other side would do one, and so they just had a truce.

During that truce, a flurry of public scandals focused attention on Congress' ethics challenges. Republican leader Tom DeLay, nicknamed The Hammer for his tough party tactics, was caught up in various conflicts of interest. But DeLay's conflicts netted nothing stronger from the House Ethics Committee than a letter stating: it is clearly necessary for you to temper your future actions

McGehee: From the ethics viewpoint, really, the hammer never came down on The Hammer.

There were bribery scandals involving Congressmen James Traficant, Duke Cunningham and William Jefferson; all of whom went to prison. And Congressman Mark Foley, who allegedly sent sexually explicit messages to teenage boys; current and former Congressional pages. Amid the public outrage over Congress behaving badly, the House created a new Office of Congressional Ethics in 2008 to investigate complaints. Notably, it doesn't have the power to punish. It can only refer cases to the House Ethics Committee where fellow members of Congress decide their colleagues' fate.

McGehee: They did not give the Office of Congressional Ethics subpoena power. It's very hard for any investigative body to do a very good job when they have no subpoena power. What's happened now 10 years later is because they don't have subpoena power, the K Street lawyers who are now representing members and staff, they're telling their clients, 'don't cooperate.'

During its 10 years, the House Office of Congressional Ethics has received 182 complaints. Most were dismissed. Only a relative handful resulted in any discipline, which McGehee says amounted to a slap on the wrist. How does it impact what we're looking at today when people hear members of Congress being accused of improprieties that the ethics committees, whatever they are, will take care of this?

McGehee: Well, it's interesting when the Ethics Committee feels like it's politically convenient, all of a sudden they can take on a case. Some of



your folks may recall Senator Vitter had been involved in a prostitution ring. The Senate Ethics Committee had said Well, first, none of this occurred while he was a Senator. so we have no jurisdiction. Now comes Senator Franken. They want to investigate something that happened before Senator Franken was a Senator. So suddenly they say OK we'll take the case, where they precisely had refused to take a case before that on exactly the same kinds of issues.

Sharyl : What do you conclude from that?

McGehee: What I conclude from this is that the Senate Ethics Committee is a place where you go when you have political hot potato and you don't know what else to do with it. And they can change the rules to deal with whatever is politically convenient for that moment. And that's not a Republican or Democratic issue. The Senate Ethics Committee is the perfect place to let it go and cool off.

McGehee says only public pressure can change the dynamic that's long dominated the system Congress set up to police itself.

McGehee: There is a tendency to want to go for a slap on the wrist to let something that's very heated and radioactive at the moment referred to the Ethics Committee and then let it cool down and maybe even be forgotten. And so it is kind of this dead letter office in many cases where they're more interested in protecting each other than they are in ensuring high ethical standards.

This week a top congressional ethics official who oversees investigations into the misconduct of lawmakers was charged in a federal lawsuit of verbally abusing and physically assaulting women. Omar Ashmawy, denies the charges that stemmed from a bar brawl in Pennsylvania in 2015.



FULL MEASURE WITH SHARYL ATTKISSON

Dec 17

30 min.

Vice President Pence heads to Israel soon. That after President Trump's decision to move the US embassy from Tel Aviv to the capital, Jerusalem: a city long divided by religion, politics and history.

In whatever form it takes, prayer is at the center of Jerusalem's story. This ancient city settled 3000 years before Christ is important to three religions. For Jews, the focus is the Western Wall, a relic, and physical link to one of their faith's earliest places of worship. For Muslims, Jerusalem is home to Islam's third holiest site, from where the prophet Mohammed ascended to heaven. And for Christians, this is where Jesus was crucified and resurrected.

It's because this city is so integral to three major faiths and millions of followers that Jerusalem has found itself destroyed at least twice, besieged dozens of times, attacked over 50 times, trading hands by Empires in passing. 70 years ago the State of Israel was formed but not accepted by all of its Arab neighbors.

In 1967, Israel fought Egypt, Jordan and Syria, in the six-day war, gaining territory and effective control of Jerusalem. Another brief but bloody war in 1973, Arab states fought back, though Israel prevailed, its leaders came away understanding they might not continue winning wars against surrounding Arab states. Five years later, With America playing the role of mediator, an historic agreement. The Camp David accords framed Israel as most of us know it, with a process to recognize the rights of the Palestinians within 5 years. The Palestinian Issue is still part of the problem with Jerusalem, and to a degree where the middle east peace issue still lies.

In September of 2000, Ariel Sharon, a famous Israeli military leader and eventual prime minister, made a visit to the Temple Mount that inflamed the Palestinians, and began rioting and an ongoing uprising, that lasted over 4 years and killed thousands. It was called the Second Intifada. Now, some believe, President Trump's decision to move the US embassy to Jerusalem, might trigger the third. Palestinian leaders called for three days of rage.

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While there were demonstrations and minor violence, so far mostly words, not war.

Tzipi Livni is a member of the Israeli Parliament and former foreign minister.

Scott Thuman: We've seen some relatively tense times over the last few days ever since the President's announcement. How do you see this playing out?

Tzipi Livni: Now basically as an Israeli and a Jew, I was more than pleased. I understand that in Israel it created joy and gratitude. You know on the other side you can see some frustration. But I do believe that the future will be defined, not by the statement or the declaration, but the decisions that the leaders need to make right now. And I hope that their agenda will not be taken by the extremists in the region. The religious ideological Islamists groups in the region.

Scott: That then leads right into the question of people who claim that perhaps this may spark the Third Intifada. The president's decision may do that, is that possible?

Tzipi Livni: It's possible, but I hope not. And this is why I cited this as the role of leaders because I believe that statement coming from Israel and those from the Palestinian side are very important. And the president made it clear in the declaration that what he is doing is basically describing the realities. And he said in the speech and this is a very important message saying that this declaration doesn't prejudice future agreements. That it's not about the borders between Israel and the future Palestinian state. Or the boundaries of Jerusalem. Or the sovereignty of Israel in Jerusalem. And this is the message that we should put a spotlight on today. Saying okay, yes, we have this declaration. Jerusalem is the capital of Israel and for many years, since 1949. And yet, let's negotiate.

Scott: But that's what we're hearing from some on the Palestinian side, they say in fact, this damages peace negotiations.

Tzipi Livni: It's their decision. The declaration itself shouldn't and doesn't damage peace negotiations. As long as the Palestinians, instead of



focusing on the declaration, would focus on how to relaunch peace negotiations. And there is no excuse for terror. There is no excuse for violence.

Scott: Livni admits almost none of this is sitting well with the Arab and Muslim population. And as a results we have seen some rocket fire over the last few days. So in the coming weeks, we'll take a closer look at this issue from the Palestinian side as well.

FULL MEASURE WITH SHARYL ATTKISSON

Dec 17

30 min.

A bill calling for American businesses to check the immigration status of all employees is moving through Congress. It's called e-Verify, and Congressman Lamar Smith, who's on committees that oversee immigration issues, explains how it would work.

Rep. Lamar Smith: E-verify system where we check the status of individuals, whether they're eligible to work in the United States or not by simply checking their Social Security number to see if it's a legitimate. It's virtually free, it's easy, it's simple, it's 99 percent effective, probably the most effective of any government program we could possibly have. And it saves jobs for American citizens and for legal immigrants who are entitled to work in this country so we think it's a good system and very much needed.

Sharyl: E-verify is already available. What's the difference between employers being able to use the system now and what the bill calls for?



Rep. Lamar Smith: Well, right now about a third of all the workforce is under E-verify, and it's a voluntary program today. 1500 employers voluntarily sign up for it new every single week, and the bill simply requires all employers to use E-verify.

Sharyl: This idea has been attempted before.

Rep. Lamar Smith: It has.

Sharyl: How have you overcome the objections if you have to people who say they don't want their current illegal employees flagged by implementing the E-verify system?

Rep. Lamar Smith: This bill does not apply to current employees. It only applies to individuals who are new hires, who are applying for jobs in the future, so it's not going to impact the current workforce.

Sharyl: In the big picture, why do you think this is important to do?

Rep. Lamar Smith: This is important for two reasons, if we have an E-verify program, it's going to turn down the attraction of the jobs magnet, and if illegal immigrants know they cannot get a job in the United States, then they are going to be less likely to come into the United States so it's going to reduce illegal immigration. The other half is that it's going to save these jobs for unemployed and underemployed American citizens. Right now, a lot of those jobs, illegal immigrants stole something like six to seven million jobs in the country today, and these jobs should be going to the unemployed American citizens.

Sharyl: So, you mentioned this being part, potentially, of an immigration package, so it's passed as a free standing bill but then incorporated into a package?

Rep. Lamar Smith: It wouldn't surprise me if some kind of a final immigration package didn't have E-verify to make sure that only American workers get jobs, didn't have some sort of border security in the sense of more structures along the border. Maybe some form of immigration reform to reduce chain migration, where you have one individual today conceivably bringing in lots of family members who are not immediate



family members, need to reduce that. It wouldn't surprise me if it didn't have some narrow form of what's called DACA, which is a category of young people who came into the country at a very young age and have lived here most of their lives, that could be part of the package as well.

Sharyl: That they would be allowed to stay?

Rep. Lamar Smith: They would be allowed to stay in the United States. So it's four or five components of a larger, broader immigration package, and it wouldn't surprise me if we don't see that before the end of the year. The president would like to see it by December.

Sharyl: And, no offense, but as an outsider watching Congress try to get some things done, it seems a lot hasn't gotten passed even that which there was thought to be broad base support for so what do you, what odds do you place on an immigration package?

Rep. Lamar Smith: You're right, Congress needs to produce, we need to show we can govern. I think congress will come back for healthcare reform. Tax reform is coming up, I think that the House will pass tax reform by the end of the year. And I think the House will pass immigration reform by the end of the year. I cannot speak for, nor do I take any responsibility for what the Senate does, and that's sometimes the problem.

Smith says e-Verify is supported by the Chamber of Commerce, the restaurant industry and, according to a poll, a majority of Americans. Why do employers support the system? If they use it, they cannot be prosecuted for accidentally hiring illegal immigrants.

An update more than five years after terrorist attacks on U.S. compounds in Benghazi, Libya that claimed four American lives. Believe it or not, we recently received some documents from the State Department in response



to a Freedom of Information request that reveal more secrets are being obscured by the government.

You might wonder what secrets could be left surrounding the Islamic extremist terrorist attacks on Americans in Benghazi, Libya on September 11, 2012. After all, there have been countless document leaks, hearings and probes.

Over the years we discovered that State Department security was lax despite many warnings. That rescues that could have been attempted, were not. And that Obama officials pursued a false narrative, blaming protesters for the attacks while knowing from the start it was Islamic extremist terrorists.

In November, the Libyan ringleader was convicted of terrorism charges but he was not held directly responsible for the murders of four Americans. Five years after the attacks, the State Department released 11 outstanding documents with excisions, lots of them.

One example is an email chain the morning after: Draft Security Council Press Statement on Attacks Against U.S. Diplomatic Personnel. The whole thing is blanked out.

Marked Importance: High, State Department official Eric Pelofsky writes numerous top government officials including Secretary of State aides Philippe Reines, Victoria Nuland, Patrick Kennedy and Thomas Nides. Folks, writes Eric. Everything else is redacted.

A reply to that email is also entirely blocked out except for the signature line: Thanks, Alyce.

Several emails to and from Benjamin Fishman, who sat on President Obama's National Security Counsel, were blocked out entirely including one circulated to White House and State Department officials Denis McDonough, Jake Sullivan and WJ Burns, Sept. 12, 2012.

Under the law, responses to Freedom of Information requests are due within about 30 days. So five years is overdue to say the least. This FOI



response shows two things: the FOI process is broken and there are some secrets about Benghazi that may never be revealed.

2 NEWS ON KJZZ

Gun Lobby Numbers (Aired 10/03/2017 @ 9pm, 2:00 minutes) – Money is at the core of much of the ongoing gun debate and we looked into how much money Utah's members of Congress get from the gun lobby. According to the Center of Responsive Politics, Utah lawmakers get 122-thousand dollars from gun rights lobbyists, who gave a total of 6-million dollars to senators and representatives last year. Our story lets viewer know where their elected officials are getting their money and how it might impact the decisions they make while in office.

Huntsman in Russia (Aired 10/03/2017 @ 9pm, 2:15 minutes) – Huntsman in Russia Former Utah Governor and New Ambassador to Russia, Jon Huntsman Junior, had his first meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin. In his new role as Ambassador to Russia, Huntsman will face plenty of challenges including his first confrontation with Russian leaders. Political Science Professor, Tim Chambliss, says Huntsman's calm temperament, diplomatic skills and distance from President Trump makes him the right man for the job. This story gives our viewers a look at all the challenges Huntsman could face in his new position and lets them know Huntsman will be back in Utah this weekend for a ceremonial swearing-in ceremony.

Gun Control Debate (Aired 10/4/2017 @ 9pm for 1 minute, 30 seconds) - Utah gun control laws would do little to stop an attack, like the one in Las Vegas, from happening here, agreed both a gun lobbyist and a liberal state senator. But that doesn't mean we need tighter gun control laws, said Clark Aposhian of the Utah Shooting Sports Council. However, Utah Senator Jim Dabakis, encouraged Utah lawmakers to embrace moderate views. Both parties agreed mental healthcare needed to be a top priority if gun control laws are to be reformed. They also agreed a person committed to causing harm will do so.



Bump Stock Ban (Aired 10/5/2017 @ 9pm, 2:00 minutes) – Stephen Paddock used a device called a “Bump Stock” to shoot bullets faster as he targeted the crowd. Now lawmakers are weighing a ban on the bump stock. The NRA supports the ban, which was a surprise for many because the NRA has fought hard to squash gun control for years. Today, it appears they’re willing to concede on one specific thing. While still beating the drum saying gun control won’t stop mass shootings. The viewer learns the latest on the Bump Stock ban, that’s a direct result of the deadly shooting at the concert in Las Vegas just days before.

Biskupski Endorsement a Mistake (Aired 10/9/2017 @ 9pm for 1 minute, 30 seconds) - Former two-term mayor of Salt Lake City, Rocky Anderson, publicly apologized for endorsing Jackie Biskupski for city mayor in 2015 in a Facebook post. He felt he had to apologize when he saw a Facebook memory post come up in his feed. Anderson said he was encouraged by some of her promises to combat homelessness, improve air quality, revitalize Salt Lake City as a cultural center, and increase accessibility. Since then, Anderson says those promises have not been seen. Biskupski’s office declined to comment to 2News when we contacted them Monday afternoon.

U of U Election Researchers (Aired 10/10/2017 @ 9pm, 2:30 minutes) – A professor at the University of Utah claims social media companies played an integral part in getting Donald Trump elected. Assistant Professor, Shannon McGregor, says part of the reason Trump was elected is because of direct assistance from Google, Facebook and Twitter. People with the tech giants and the presidential campaigns told McGregor that the social media companies offered free help to Trump's bare bones campaign. This story explains the kind of information that was given to Trump’s campaign from the social media sites and gives a local expert an opportunity to provide perspective on a big national story.

BLM Firefighters (Aired 10/12/2017 @ 9pm, 2:00 minutes) – Utah Firefighters are already in the thick of the fire fight in California. Others could get the call at any time to head West. Two BLM engine teams from the West Desert district are ready to go. The viewer learns what resources Utah is sending to help fight the big fire that’s burning thousands of acres and hundreds of homes.

Body Camera Policy (Aired 10/17/2017 @ 9pm for 1 minute, 30 seconds) – Salt Lake City now has a new policy in place for releasing police body camera footage. Under the new policy body cam footage will be made public after ten



days from the incident. The city says it's all about being more transparent with the community. Salt Lake District Attorney Sim Gill says the ten days gives his office the time they need to properly do interviews and figure out what happened in the case. But members of Utah Against Police Brutality and Black Lives Matter held an evening rally protesting the new policy. They say ten days is much too long and gives the city and county time to edit out details or video that may be critical for the public to see.

3rd District Debate (Aired 10/18/2017 @ 9pm, 2:15 minutes) – Utah voters will soon take part in a special election to replace Jason Chaffetz, who resigned from his seat in the House of Representatives, and the candidates are debating the issues. One of the first questions went straight to gun control following the recent mass shooting in Las Vegas. All of the republican candidates say they all support the second amendment but agree something needs to be done to curb gun violence. The democratic candidate said it is time to change our country's gun culture. Our story gives viewers a run down on where each candidate stands on the big issues, giving them information they need to know before casting their ballots.

Gary Ott Dies (Aired 10/19/2017 @ 9pm, 2:00 minutes) – Utah's Political Leaders are reacting to the death of former county recorder Gary Ott. Ott's health was in the decline for a few years, but he publicly fought to stay in office despite calls for his resignation. Even after his death, there was some controversy. Charged tweets from some Salt Lake County Republicans accuse DA Sim Gill of not taking action in an elderly abuse investigation of the people who worked closely with Gary Ott. The viewer learns more about the controversial story that was centered at the Recorder's office for years, and how even after his death, it was still stirring up trouble among politicians.

Polygamist town elections (Aired 11/2/2017 @ 9pm for 1 minute, 30 seconds) - City council and mayoral candidates in Hildale are preparing for one of the biggest, most unique political elections the town has seen in years. The election is set to take place on Tuesday November 7. According to Washington County, there are 8 candidates, and 3 of the 8 candidates are former Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints members. The other 5 are still active FLDS church members. Washington County Clerk and Auditor, Kim Hafen, tells 2News this election has more competition than in the past.



Curtis to Washington (Aired 11/09/2017 @ 9pm, 2:30 minutes) – Utah's newest member of congress is heading to Washington D.C. John Curtis is taking over the empty third district seat that was once held by Jason Chaffetz. Curtis will be sworn into office in just a matter of days and then he'll have to start voting on some tough issues right off the bat. This story lets our viewers know what bills Curtis will be voting once in office and allows him to explain what he still needs to do to be ready to cast those votes.

Officer Brotherson (Aired 11/6/2017 @ 9pm, 2:00 minutes) – On the one-year anniversary of his death, the mother of Cody Brotherson spoke to KUTV. The West Valley City Police officer was killed in the line of duty on November 6th, 2016. Dozens gathered to light luminaries in honor of Brotherson. The West Valley City Police Department announced a section of 41st South will be named in honor of Brotherson. The viewer hears from the fallen officer's mother, and learns how the city is honoring him in the city he died serving.

Operation Rio Grande (Aired 11/9/2017 @ 9pm, 2:00 minutes) – The third phase of Operation Rio Grande is now in full swing in Downtown Salt Lake City. The effort is designed to help members of Utah's homeless population find jobs, so they can reintegrate themselves back into society. Police, as well as small business owners, helped kick off the project during a press conference. The viewer learns the latest on the massive plan downtown to cut down crime and help the homeless find lives off the streets.

Blood Draw Law (Aired 11/15/2017 @ 9pm, 2:00 minutes) – A bill to protect healthcare workers now heads to the state legislature. The arrest of nurse Alex Wubbles at the University of Utah triggered the change. The house committee gave unanimous support for a bill that would clarify that blood can only be taken from a patient if the patient has given consent or if the officer has a warrant. The representative of the bill says it will protect patients, healthcare workers and the police.

Blood Draw Bill (Aired 11/15/2017 @ 9pm for 1 minute, 30 seconds) - A legislative committee gave a unanimous yes vote to a bill that would clarify the conditions under which law enforcement can draw blood. The draft legislation, sponsored by Representative Craig Hall mandates that a police officer receive a warrant for a blood draw, if the patient does not consent. This would include if a patient is unconscious or incapacitated. Hall adds that there are hundreds of



court cases on the books in Utah that deal with blood draw procedures. The statute, he said, would simplify the law.

Hale Centre Theatre (Aired 11/16/2017 @ 9pm, 2:00 minutes) – Hundreds of people gathered in Sandy for the grand opening of a brand new hi-tech theatre. The “Center State” is inside the new Hale Centre Theatre. Crews spent the last two years building the theatre. The very first performance, “Aida” is happening on a 360-degree stage that twists, turns and moves in all directions. “Aida” will run through the Spring and will be followed up with 9 other productions. The viewer learns about the new entertainment in Sandy and its impact on the city’s economy.

Air Ambulance Bill (Aired 11/17/2017 @ 9pm, 2:00 minutes) – An expensive trip in a medical helicopter can add a lot of stress after an emergency. Now a new bill may help Utah’s medical choppers bring their costs down. A trip on a helicopter could range from a few dollars to several thousand depending on your insurance. Air ambulance companies nationwide are now supporting two bills in Washington that would provide more money per trip to cover costs of transporting Medicare patients. The viewer learns how some lawmakers are working to help cut costs of medical chopper trips in emergency situations.

Bike Share Program (Aired 11/17/2017 @ 9pm, 2:00 minutes) – A bike share program is starting up in St. George. The goal is to cut down traffic in the city. Starting next year bike stations will be scattered all around town. Everything from payment to finding the nearest bike station will be done right from your phone on the “Zagster” app. There will be 10 stations and about 60 bikes available to rent. The hope is to start placing the stations to get up and running by January. The viewer learns about the program in the city of St. George that is helping people find an affordable way around the city to cut pollution

Draper Police Chief Fired (Aired 11/22/2017 @ 9pm for 1 minute, 30 seconds) - The Draper City Council fired police chief Bryan Roberts Tuesday night, but the reason why Roberts was removed is not clear. The council passed a resolution to terminate Roberts, citing his firing is “in the best interest of the city.” Chief Roberts has been with Draper City for the past five years. He came to Draper after serving as the Chief of Police for the Menlo Park Police Department in Palo Alto, CA.”



Point of Mountain Plan (Aired 11/28/2017 @ 9pm, 2:00 minutes) – Drivers that hit this stretch of road know it. Traffic at the Point of the Mountain is a mess, and growth in the area is exploding. In just three short decades, it could be dramatically different, according to a new study released today. According to the study, they say by 2050 the growth will be out of control and not slowing down. That's why lawmakers put together a Point of Mountain commission studying a variety of scenarios to handle growth that is expected. The viewer learns about housing, transportation, jobs, recreation, and mass transit that the study is looking into and how they're handling growth.

More Cops in SLC (Aired 11/29/2017 @ 9pm, 2:00 minutes) – A “yes” vote from the city council before the end of the year could mean as many as 50 new police officers patrolling the streets of Salt Lake City. However, it could cost somewhere in the region of four to five million dollars during this fiscal year, and that could lead to a rise in taxes. At last night's city council meeting, the police department requested an additional 27 officers. The city council suggested upping the number to 50 instead, saying constituents are concerned about safety.

More Police Officers Wanted (Aired 11/29/2017 @ 9pm for 1 minute, 30 seconds) -The City Council is hoping to hire 50 new police officers to patrol the streets of Salt Lake City. At Tuesday's city council meeting, the police department recommended hiring 27 more officers. Council members suggested upping that to 50 new hires. They say the idea is to ease concerns about crime for constituents, who've long been worried about safety. The cost of hiring the new officers is estimated at between four and five million dollars for the remainder of the fiscal year. It would cost about three million annually after that.

Cost of More Officers (Aired 11/29/2017 @ 9pm for 1 minute, 30 seconds) - An additional 50 officers will cost taxpayers approximately \$3-million a year. But adding more officers could actually make up some of that debt. Right now officers are working so much overtime, the department is having trouble filling current staff shortages. Hiring more cops would cut back on overtime, and allow new officers. The Salt Lake City council will be holding public hearings about how they are going to pay for the proposed surge in officers.

Tax Credit Follow (Aired 11/29/2017 @ 9pm, 2:30 minutes) – Senators Mike Lee and Marco Rubio just introduced a new amendment on the senate tax bill, which they say provides a larger share of tax relief for American families. Rubio and Lee claim their amendment would increase the child tax credit, fix the



marriage penalty and increase the corporate income tax rate to pay for the changes. But one advocate for children in Utah says the proposed tax reform bill will hurt large families in our state. This story breaks down the numbers for our viewers and explains the impact on bigger families, which are common here in Utah.

K9 Retiring (Aired 12/1/2017 @ 9pm, 2:00 minutes) – A Southern Utah police dog who survived a shooting, is off duty for good. She's now retired from the police force. Tess' handler took a job in Utah County and purchased his partner so she could retire. The 6-year-old K9 was shot during a pursuit back in August. Tess made a full recovery and will now be enjoying naps and chasing balls, instead of bad guys. The viewer learns an update on the police dog that was hurt months before and is now moving on to retirement.

Trump Modifies Monuments (Aired 12/4/2017 @ 9pm for 1 minute, 30 seconds) -President Donald Trump took the rare step of scaling back two sprawling national monuments in Utah. The decision marks the first time in a half century that a president has undone these types of land protections. Tribal and environmental groups oppose the decision and are expected to go to court in a bid to stop the President and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. Environmental and tribal groups say the designations are needed to protect important archaeological and cultural resources. Trump argued that the people of Utah know best how to care for their land.

Police Brutality (Aired 12/6/2017 @ 9pm, 2:00 minutes) – A man who's claiming to be the victim of police brutality is now behind bars. Police arrested 61-year-old Jackie Sanchez, during a press conference at his attorney's office. He was announcing a lawsuit against Salt Lake Police Officer Ben Hone, who released his K9 on Sanchez in July. The viewer learns about a bizarre arrest in a bizarre situation in Salt Lake City.

Utah County Commissioner (Aired 12/6/2017 @ 9pm, 2:00 minutes) – Calls tonight for a Utah County Commissioner to leave office after allegations of intimidation, bullying and sexual harassment. Greg Graves faces a number of complaints just months into his first term. Utah County hired a private attorney to investigate and allegedly found a string of inappropriate and offensive behavior. Fellow commissioners are calling for Graves to step down. We reached out to Graves, but he was not available for comment. The viewer learns about the



allegations against the commissioner and what fellow commissioners have to say about the accusations.

FULL MEASURE WITH SHARYL ATTKISSON

Dec.31

30 min.

Americans returning from trips abroad marvel at high speed rail in other countries, particularly in comparison to what we have to offer here at home. Quickening the commute is a dream of almost every American urban worker, and we have a bit of train envy. Some cities are building the dream, but Full Measure correspondent Joce Sterman found a lot of critics, and billions of your tax dollars that have already run off the rails.

When East met West in the Utah desert 150 years ago, the completion of the first transcontinental railroad in the US opened the country to both travel and transport of goods. It was the beginning of a new age. A century and a half later, Railroads still serve America, but the American commuter is feeling the need, for speed.

Lisa Marie Alley: When we offer them this opportunity to get from LA, if you will, to Palmdale in 17 minutes versus a two and a half hour drive, what's that going to mean for business and for the future?

Lisa Marie Alley is a spokesperson for California's high speed rail authority. In 2008, the state's voters gave the go-ahead to finance the massive project, but it's taken almost a decade for construction to start, on a 520 mile high speed train system connecting San Francisco and Los Angeles. Once complete, the bullet train will ride along this track, cutting the six hour trip by more than half. It's considered the future of travel in the United States, but a future built on the backs of US taxpayers, with more than three billion dollars invested so far.

Congressman Kevin McCarthy: To date the project in California has been the biggest recipient of federal money, billions of dollars.



Republican House Majority leader Kevin McCarthy calls the rail project a boondoggle. California Democrats, including US senator Dianne Feinstein are backing hundreds of millions in additional money. McCarthy says it should be stopped immediately. He's been a vocal critic as far back as 2012.

Congressman Kevin McCarthy: I know Hollywood happens to be in California but this is not a Kevin Costner movie. If we build it, I don't know if they will come. And that is not how we play with taxpayers money.

Near Fresno, the foundation is being laid for the system, viaducts and crossings being built. But it will be nearly a decade before riders can hit the rails. A federal railroad administration report cited by lawmakers called the project over budget and behind schedule.

Lisa Marie Alley: I would disagree we're behind schedule or over budget. We always have to predict what our budget is gonna be. We anticipate right now our system will cost 64 billion dollars. And I know people think it's the Christmas morning scenario where after we voted for this, we're gonna wake up and it's done. But these things take time.

Alley says the high speed rail project has already created hundreds of construction jobs and put businesses from 35 states to work. California isn't the only state with plans for high speed rail projects. They have also been launched in Texas and along the East Coast where new train technology could ease the nightmare of snarled highways on the busy Mid-Atlantic corridor.

Wayne Rogers: One of the things I think is important is not just look at it like a fast train. What we're really doing is shrinking geography. We're taking all the cities between Washington and New York and shrinking them down to one hour between all of those. So with that, it's going to change where you live, it changes where you work.

Wayne Rogers is the CEO of Northeast Maglev. That's the transport technology that floats trains on a magnetic field. It is what speeds passengers in places like Germany and Japan. 28 million was awarded by the FRA just to study the impact of a Maglev train in the Northeast. That project has a unique pledge from the Japanese to cover half the estimated



10 billion dollar cost. Rogers says they'll need a mix of funding to cover the rest, leaning heavily on private investors, just like California. Texas says it won't seek any public funds.

Wayne Rogers: I think everyone can agree the private sector can do it faster, do it cheaper than the government would. So in our case it's privately led but that doesn't mean there's no role for government whatsoever. Everybody's gonna work together, multiple states to get this done.

Joce: And have you secured specific private funders for this project yet?

Wayne Rogers: We have some that are doing that right now. Obviously as you get to the next stages you would need more and more money as it develops.

In Fresno, where California dreaming of high speed trains has finally moved from plans to concrete platforms, it's a long track ahead, to find the funds to finish the job.

Joce: Does the project have any firm investors locked down ready to fund this project and make sure it can be sustained?

Lisa Marie Alley: So we're not at that point to have those types of commitments. We need to get our system up and running. That's what attracts the private sector funding.

Rail projects launched under President Obama have been left to seek ongoing support from the Trump administration which has so far offered no public endorsement. And some in California claim the whole concept, for now has run off the rails. Shawn Steel is the former Chairman of California's Republican party.

Shawn Steel: The theory is well, we've put so much money in, we've got to keep going. No! That's the wrong idea. It's a failed concept in the first place. So the proper thing to do is stop the bleeding, because it's the old adage if you're in a hole, the first thing you've got to do is stop digging.