

House Oversight and Government Reform Committee

03/26/25

10:05:51 a.m.

9 minutes and 38 seconds

CONGRESSWOMAN MARJORIE TAYLOR-GREENE (R-GA): At the DOGE subcommittee, we are continuing our war on waste. That means rooting out spending that is unnecessary, wasteful, and, frankly, un-American. Today, we are looking at the more than half a billion dollars federal taxpayers spend annually to fund public radio and television, a big chunk of this subsidy flows to National Public Radio and public broadcasting Service. NPR and PBS are the big D.C.-based entities that create and distribute much of the news and educational content heard and seen on public radio and TV stations across the country. When Congress adopted the Public Broadcasting Act of 1967. It did so because it thought at the time that federal dollars were needed to provide objective news and education content to the entire nation, including rural residents who lived 'off the grid.' Fast forward a few decades and a lot has changed. The invention of the internet, for instance, and social media — it's made news and information widely available to those living in remote areas. Americans are increasingly consuming digital media and podcasts. The audience of public radio and television is declining, and I know this because I represent a rural district where farmers listen to podcasts and internet-based news while they drive their tractors. At the same time, NPR and PBS have increasingly become radical left-wing echo chambers for a narrow audience of mostly wealthy white, urban liberals and progressives who generally looked down on and judge rural America. PBS News is not just left leaning, but it is — is — actively uses taxpayer funds to push some of the most radical left positions like featuring a drag queen on the show *Let's Learn*, a show targeted toward young children ages three to eight years old. I want you to know, I grew up watching children's programming on PBS and as a mother who raised three children, I felt confident that I could leave the room while my own children were watching children's programming on PBS, but I can tell you right now, Ms. Kerger specifically, as a mother, if I had walked in my living room or one of my children's bedrooms and seeing this child predator and this monster targeting my children, I would become unglued, and that is how most parents feel all over this country. This is not the only example of them sexualizing and grooming children. They've been doing it for over the last decade. In 2015, PBS-produced Frontline, put out a documentary *Growing Up Trans* that takes viewers on an intimate and eye-opening journey inside the struggles and choices facing transgender kids and their families. This means that PBS is one of the founders of the trans child abuse industry, all while taking taxpayer money. Brainwashing and training children is an issue, so hated by parents across the country that it was a driving force in the landslide Republican and Trump victory in the 2024 election cycle and presidential race. The news that these entities produced is either resented or increasingly tuned out and turned off by most of the hardworking Americans who are forced to pay for it. They no longer view NPR and PBS as trusted news sources. As a matter of fact, with these people, they're a threat. In fact, when Elon Musk put his hand over his heart and extended it and told the American people, his heart goes out to them, PBS News posted the clip, called it a fascist Nazi salute and described how it was similar to the same he used by Nazis and their victory rallies. Not once did PBS or NPR report on the numerous accounts of Democrats making the same gesture — AOC, Kamala Harris, Barack Obama, Elizabeth Warren, somebody that lost a presidential race, Hillary Clinton, Governor Tim Waltz. Why wasn't this treated exactly the

same way? Is there not a standard in journalism today? Apparently not. “Here’s how we lost America’s trust” was in fact the title of a powerful essay written last year by Uri Berliner, a veteran NPR editor. In his essay, Berliner described how NPR’s downward spiral accelerated greatly during the first Trump administration. He said NPR dedicated efforts to damage the Trump presidency via relentless pursuit of Russiagate rumors that the Trump campaign colluded with Russia over the election. NPR hosts interviewed Adam Schiff, then the top Democrat of the House Intelligence Committee, 25 times about Trump and Russia, but they made no apologies when the Mueller report found no evidence that the Trump campaign had colluded with Russia because they did not. Berliner also described NPR’s passionate embrace of the left wing DEI ideology that Americans clearly reject as evidenced by the November elections. NPR’s language and style guides were shaped by race and gender-based affinity groups that dominated the internal culture of the organization. And NPR journalists were to ask everyone they interviewed, their race, gender, and ethnicity and enter it into a centralized tracking system. This tracking system embeds DEI into the fibers of its content. Sounds like racism to me. It’s a software attached to NPR’s content management system, where these reporters and producers submit information about their sources’ race and ethnicity, gender identity, geographic location — that’s kind of scary — and age range. The tool allows NPR to track the demographics of their sources in real time to allow for source diversity. The irony of these supposed diverse sources is that NPR has no interest, real interest in like having diverse viewpoints. Berliner tried to sound the alarm on this when he checked voter registration records on of the editors at DC’s NPR headquarters and found 87 registered Democrats and zero registered Republicans, but NPR treated Berliner like a political dissident in the old Soviet Union. He was driven out of the organization and forced to resign. Sounds like communism and the ringleader of that effort was NPR’s then newly appointed CEO Katherine Maher, who is before us today. She dismissed Mr. Berliner’s wake-up call as “profoundly disrespectful,” “hurtful,” and “demeaning.” In other words, instead of viewing it as a chance to finally right the ship at NPR, she doubled down . In doing so, she made it clear how any further internal dissent would be dealt with on her watch. That does sound like communist China at the taxpayers’ expense and no one should be surprised. NPR installed her in the top job after Ms. Maher was firmly on record with a litany — litany of public comments and social media posts displaying her ultra progressive views, her scorn for free speech, and her fondness for censorship. So, now it’s up to Congress to determine if Americans are going to continue to provide her and the organization that put her in charge willingly after they knew these things with taxpayer funds to continue to pursue their progressive or rather communist agenda . For far too long, federal taxpayers have been forced to fund biased news. This needs to come to an end and it needs to come to an end now. So I am glad Miss Maher and Miss Kerger accepted our invitation to show up today and be held accountable to the taxpayers. I look forward to them answering our questions in full public view and explaining to the American people why they think they deserve Americans hard earned taxpayer money.

(....)

10:24:03 p.m.

5 minutes and 8 seconds

KATHERINE MAHER: I welcome the opportunity to discuss the essential role of public media

in delivering unbiased, nonpartisan, fact-based reporting to Americans. Americans listen to public radio as they commute, as they work, and in the kitchen as they cook with family. Nearly 100 percent of Americans live within range of a public radio station. We cover what matters to local communities, crop prices, cookoffs, and local sports teams alongside news of the nation and the world from the halls of Congress to coverage of our troops overseas. Today, Americans have more media choices than ever. The rise of podcasting has established a competitive free market for audio news and information, and, every day, I am honored to know that we have 43 million listeners from every state in the nation. Amidst this competition, local stations choose to become members of NPR for the value we provide. For example, we are the only non-paywalled news outlet with a dedicated reporter covering veterans' issues. While NPR is only 25 percent of station programming on average, audiences for NPR bring the scale and revenue that subsidize essential local programming. Local public media journalism has never been more important to American families who consider it part of the fabric of their communities. It correlates with higher rates of civic engagement, greater civic cohesion and economic advantages such as better municipal bond readings. Recent independent polling found that more than 60 percent of all Americans and more than half of Republicans trust public broadcasting to deliver fact-based news. I understand the subcommittee has questions about funding for NPR and public radio. The vast majority of federal dollars, more than \$100 million of the 121 million annual appropriation for public radio, goes directly to 386 local, non-commercial stations across the nation. This highly efficient investment enables your local stations to raise an average of \$7 for every federal dollar. As a grantee of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, NPR received federal funding of \$11.2 million last year. These funds allow us to maintain the National Public Radio satellite system, helping safeguard our national security, civil defense, and disaster response, and enabling public radio to reach every corner of America. Additionally, these funds help protect journalists covering our troops overseas and reverse the decline of local journalism. As a recipient of federal funds, it is our responsibility to answer legitimate questions about why public funds should go to NPR, whether we are truly committed to serving all Americans and whether the institution is an effective steward of taxpayer dollars. I hear, respect, and understand your concerns regarding bias and whether public media is relevant in a commercial landscape, and I'd like to spend a minute sharing with you my actions to address your concerns. First, it is critical for NPR's newsroom to operate with the highest journalistic standards. That means that they do their jobs independently and as CEO, I have no editorial role at NPR. In other words, I do not decide what we cover or how we cover it. I lead NPR's strategy, ensuring we have resources and policies in place to serve all Americans, not just those with a specific point of view. I was brought in to NPR to revive and reorient the organization and bring public media to a wider audience, a new generation and new platforms. We have a responsibility to serve Americans across the full political spectrum in a trustworthy, nonpartisan fashion. It is essential that we deliver on this commitment, and we have work to do, and we are doing it. In May, we launched an initiative to improve our editorial review processes to make sure all pieces are fair and comprehensive. We hired new editors and analysts to ensure we're giving fair airtime to different voices and issues. We started regular meetings with our nearly 200 local newsrooms so we can plan together for the needs of their audiences and the early results are positive. Our digital platforms where we have the best data about our listeners, the political beliefs of our visitors mirror the makeup of the country across the ideological spectrum, and we're seeing growth in readers and listeners. I joined NPR because I believe that our strong and dynamic nation deserves great public media for all. Americans are

smart and curious, and they want us to cover issues that matter from the price of eggs to national security. It's our job to deliver truthful facts and information so citizens can make up their own minds. I believe Americans voted for a transformative administration, and it is our responsibility to cover that transformation fairly with integrity and tenacity. I have been CEO for one year and one day. I have made changes to leadership and planning, invested in editorial integrity, committed to expanding our audiences and our relevance for all Americans. While, we have taken significant steps in the right direction, the journey can't be completed overnight. Given the support that 75 percent of Americans have for public media, I ask Congress to give us the opportunity to continue to serve the American public. I will invite you to listen with a Fresh Air and to that end, our newsroom invites you to join us on air, and I welcome your questions.

(....)

10:29:29 a.m.

4 minutes and 52 seconds

PAULA KERGER: It is my honor to be here on behalf of the 336 PBS stations who — who serve every community in the United States. There's nothing more American than PBS. As a membership organization, our local service is at the heart of our work. Our job at PBS is to support our stations so that local stations can serve their communities. We've been proudly fulfilling our mission for nearly 60 years using the public airwaves and other technologies to help educate, engage, and inspire the American people. That mission is our guide star and remains just as important today as when the Public Broadcasting Act was signed into law in 1967. PBS stations provide something that cannot be found on commercial networks. This is because PBS stations are focused on the needs and interests of the viewers they serve, especially in rural areas. PBS stations are the only outlet providing coverage of local events, for example, high school sports, local history and culture content, candidate debates at every level of the election ballot and specialized agricultural news. Local stations also partner with other community organizations to address issues of concern like Veterans Affairs and the opioid crisis. Finally, communities depend on the essential public safety information and emergency alerts, our local stations provide. Our programming comes from our local stations. For example, *Southern Storytellers* was produced by Arkansas PBS for our national audience. This program highlighted Southern culture through its literature, music, and film. Across the country, nearly 4 million people watched *Southern storytellers*, helping Americans learn about our shared history and what brings us together as a people and a nation. Our stations pool resources to invest in programming that will benefit all Americans, ranging from history and science to art and music. For example, *Firing Line with Margaret Hoover* creates a forum for people with a wide range of views to respectfully share ideas. While programs like *Independent Lens's Matter of Mind: My Alzheimer's* explores the challenges facing many American families and we celebrate what makes our country great, a *Capital Fourth* and the *National Memorial Day* concert honor our nation's ideals, our service members and our veterans. Looking ahead, we will mark our nation's 250th birthday with a landmark initiative headlined by a new major series from Ken Burns, the *American Revolution*. Our educational programming for children is one of the most important aspects of our service to the American people. I strongly believe that the programming we offer to prepare children for the future is the most essential work that we do. Today, more than half of

all preschool-aged children are not enrolled in pre-kindergarten programs. Our content has helped tens of millions of children prepare for success in school and in life with free programming that is available everywhere children are on air, online, and in the classroom. Our educational programming is backed by scores of research studies showing that our programs like *Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood* and *Super Y* help kids develop essential skills like reading, math, and problem solving. We are proud that nearly nine out of 10 families agreed that PBS is the most trusted, safe, and educational media brand for children. Because our programming is free and universally available, we're able to reach more low-income families than any other media company. In fact, our viewers overall reflect a wide variety of communities we serve, our audience mirrors the overall U.S. population with respect to education, income, and geography. Each month, over 160 million television and online viewers explore the world through our trusted content, and more than three-quarters of Americans feel that PBS stations provide excellent value to their communities. For over two decades, the American public has consistently ranked public television as one of the best investments the government makes. More than 70 percent of the CPB funds from Congress go directly to our stations, and for every \$1 of that vital seed money, local stations raised 7 to support their work. This is one of the best, most successful examples of a public-private partnership. When I think about the need for our service, I think of a man I met during a visit to a local station in Nebraska. He was a rancher with young children. He drove hours to attend a local station event. He pulled me aside and told me this. We need PPS. We don't live near a preschool. My children have learned to read watching PBS shows, and the shows we watch on PBS are our connection to the rest of America. That is why PBS and the 336 local stations in your communities do what we do. PBS programming and the services that local stations provide bring Americans together. It is valued, needed, and trusted by the American people.

(....)

10:36:17 a.m.

3 minutes and 4 seconds

MIKE GONZALEZ: The ultimate factor is the broadcaster's unforgivable political bias. What we have today is a circular, undemocratic relationship. Democrats unanimously vote for more and more money for public media. In exchange, public media heavily tips the scale in their favor. It is a nice arrangement for them, but it must end. NPR's and PBS's full-hearted embrace of progressive views and constant denigration of conservative ones is quantifiable. I refer — [SHIFTS MIC] — you. I refer you to my written testimony besides my own examples I cite the research of Tim Graham as well as NPR veteran Uri Berliner, who says, "an open-minded spirit no longer exists within NPR." Rather than pause and reflect, NPR instead chose to circle the wagons and assassinate Berliner's character. This is part of a pattern. In 2010, NPR fired Juan Williams and vilified him as a psycho after he dared to flout the network's progressive orthodoxy. The people running NPR remain in Mr. Williams's words, "an insulated cadre of people who think they're right and who have a hard time with people who are different." They went completely off the rails when Donald Trump was elected in 2016. Coverage "veered towards efforts to topple the Trump presidency," Berliner said. NPR hitched its wagon to the false claim that Russia had colluded with the Trump campaign. It also refused to cover the

Hunter Biden lab story. After the 2020 riots, NPR firmly sided with those who affirmed without a shred of evidence that America is an oppressive society gripped by systemic racism. NPR and PBS even justified looting. Rather than just then use journalism as a truth seeking tool. NPR and PBS distorted journalism to further a political agenda. Yamic Alsinor, the liberal activist at the PBS hired to cover the White House routinely used the platform to make a substantiated allegations against President Trump. President Biden, she presented as “a moral and decent man.” Or consider Katherine Maher’s appointment as NPR CEO. A long record of comments leaves zero doubt that she’s not only a committed progressive, but someone who’s disdained for free expression disqualifies her from being anywhere close to the levers of power at a media institution. What does she think of President Trump? He’s “a deranged racist sociopath.” Ms. Maher is an American. She’s entitled to her views. The question is whether NPR is entitled to appoint her as CEO and then ask conservatives to just pony up. Public media’s main argument now is that it is essential for weather emergencies in hard to reach places and that, without public money, local news will cease to exist. But over 98 percent of Americans today have a mobile phone, even Alaska, one of our most isolated states, has high levels of internet penetration. As for the claim that the taxpayer is the last available business model for local news, NPR and PBS are asking us to believe something laughable. That the government can set can fund media structure that actually keeps the government in check. I urge you not to try to mend the public broadcasting; end it.

(....)

11:04:53 a.m.

4 minutes and 14 seconds

CONGRESSMAN MICHAEL CLOUD (R-TX): NPR fancies itself as a nonpartisan news outlet, public information outlet, even says that we should consider all things. All things are considered, yet their history of political bias has shown that there are a number of things they have not considered. They asked us not to consider that the Hunter Biden laptop was real. They dismissed the what was always the most probable theory of the COVID lab leak from Wuhan. They interviewed Russia collusion hoaxster Adam Schiff, 25 times who claimed to have a vault of information in his office, leading to the impeachment of President Trump, which of course we now know is all fraudulent...So NPR unfortunately has lost much of the — the audience that they used to have and now they have very partisan audience because of this. Who do they bring in to fix it? They bring in Ms. Maher, who has a history of common and commentary of promoting Marxist ideology, including critical theory, said we should not use the terms boy or girl, has called our President “a deranged racist sociopath” and said that “our reverence for the truth has become a distraction that is preventing us from finding consensus and getting important things done’ and one could look at that and think that maybe in your view, promoting groupthink is more important than finding the truth. I thought we liked diversity of ideas, especially, um, and, and that as an online encyclopedia that you used to manage, activism was more important than accuracy. Now, I had an uncle who used to say that, you should never let the truth get in the way of — of a good story. And while that was humorous when we were talking about weekend fishing expeditions, when we’re talking about news and information and encyclopedias and things that are of national importance, I find that very troubling. Now you are here managing

NPR, which is in part federally funded. Can we expect that you will bring the same lack of reverence for truth to your management of NPR.

MAHER: Thank you, Congressman. First of all, I do want to say that NPR acknowledges that we were mistaken in failing to cover the Hunter Biden laptop story more aggressively and sooner. Our current editorial leadership —

CLOUD: Wuhan?

MAHER: — we recognized that we weren't reporting at the time, but we acknowledged that the new CIA evidence is worthy of coverage and have covered it.

CLOUD: What have you done to clean up the bias before you? You mentioned you I wasn't there for that. What are you doing to clean up and make sure that we have unbiased —

MAHER: Thank you, Congressman. As I mentioned, I came in in May. Mr. Berliner published his story two weeks into my tenure regarding stories that had happened prior. I wished that I had had the opportunity to speak with Mr. Berliner. I would have loved to have had him engaged and come back to us with some suggestions as to what we could do editorially in order to address what he perceived as bias.

CLOUD: Now you've had a long history, including the — the thing that I mentioned about lack of reverence for truth and how reverence for truth, you've even talked about the First Amendment kind of getting in the way of what you wanted to get done and — and then you're wanting us to believe that NPR is now taking this non-biased approach. I mean, where was the come to Jesus moment for you, I guess, that has turned you around and that we can trust the American taxpayer dollars with your leadership of NPR?

MAHER: I so appreciate the opportunity to perhaps clarify some things. My talk about truth was really referencing the way that people use truth to refer to belief as opposed to facts, and my encouragement was that we focus on the facts. With regards to the First Amendment —

CLOUD: That's not what your comment said. Your comments said that truth was getting in the way of getting things done and that you were prioritizing what you wanted to get done over truth

MAHER: My —

CLOUD: — and that's really unfortunate. I want to go to a different context because you're allowed to have your political opinion. Any news organization should be going after the truth. That's what we want and expect out of news organizations, but certainly a media platform can — can have whatever opinion it wants in a free society. The question before us today as a committee is whether or not the taxpayers should be forced to pay for this kind of thing.

(...)

11:22:09 a.m.

2 minutes and 16 seconds

CONGRESSWOMAN JASMINE CROCKETT (D-TX): It should not be surprising that the President is doing everything possible to make it more difficult for the media to hold him accountable and for the public to be informed about his reckless and illegal behavior. Yet here we are. The Republicans have actually organized this goofy hearing to try to convince the American people that PBS and NPR are “domestic terrorists” or “domestic threats,” my apologies, not the incompetent, unqualified Secretary of Defense who’s texting war plans [sic] — who’s texting war plans to journalists, but it’s, it’s y’all. PBS and NPR, the American people are supposed to be worried about. You can’t make this up. It’s as stupid as it sounds. The American people should be worried about the President threatening to investigate NBC for treason for reporting on his felony convictions or arresting reporters and stripping networks of their licenses for not saying nice things about him or not using Gulf of America. The Republicans witness Mr. Gonzalez went so far as to suggest that because NPR and PBS reported on the murder of George Floyd, they “represent a danger to our physical health as well as to civic health of our body politics.” Ms. Maher, do you think reporting on the murder of George Floyd and highlighting instances of systemic racism is a domestic threat to America?

MAHER: Thank you, Congresswoman. I believe it’s our responsibility to report on all issues of interest to the American public.

CROCKETT: Thank you so much, Ms. Kerger. What about you?

KERGER: I agree. I think it’s important for us to report on the — on the important news of the day.

CROCKETT: So let’s talk about the critical role of public media. During his first term, President Trump’s own Department of Homeland Security highlighted the importance of public broadcasting’s role in public safety. In 2018, his administration stated, “PBS and local public television stations play a crucial role in protecting communities by delivering essential information to individuals and first responders. These benefits are all made possible by public broadcasting stations. Unique reach, reliability, and roll across America and are especially vital in rural and underserved areas.”

(....)

11:26:14 a.m.

1 minute and 1 second

CROCKETT: Look, the DOGE agenda isn’t about government efficiency. It’s about breeding corruption at the expense of the safety of the American people, particularly Americans living in rural or remote parts of the country. They don’t care about public safety, they don’t care about emergency management, and they don’t care about free speech, all of which are harming American people. In fact, I’m gonna skip off real quick because they have tried to come for you,



Ms. Maher, and I just want to clarify, you did not work for NPR when those statements were made. Did you?

MAHER: That is correct, Madame.

CROCKETT: And to be clear, free speech is not about whatever it is that y'all want somebody to say, and the idea that you want to shut down everybody that is not Fox News is bullshit. We need to stop playing because that's what y'all are doing in here. You don't want to hear the opinions in any of anybody else and the Constitution says "Congress shall make no law respecting or establishing of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press"

(...)

11:28:08 a.m.  
5 minutes and 4 seconds

CONGRESSMAN JIM JORDAN (R-OH): Is NPR biased?

MAHER: Congressman, I have never seen any instance of —

JORDAN: Never?

MAHER: — of political bias determining editorial decisions, no.

JORDAN: Well, Miss — Ber — Mr. Berliner, in his story, a coup — last year wrote, I've — in the DC area, editorial positions at NPR — he said he found 87 registered Democrats, zero Republicans. Is that accurate?

MAHER: We do not track the numbers or the voter registration, but I find that concerning.

JORDAN: Was an winning journalist who worked 25 years at NPR. Mr. Berliner —was he lying when he wrote that?

MAHER: I am not presuming such. I just don't have — we don't track that information about our journalists.

JORDAN: 87 to 0 and you're not biased?

MAHER: I think that is concerning if those numbers are accurate .

JORDAN: It's concern — mean, it wasn't 44-43, wasn't 60-27, it wasn't 70-17, it wasn't even 80 to 7. It was 87 Democrats, zero Republicans, and you say, NPR is not biased. How about the big stories over the last few years? According to Mr. Berliner, again, he wrote on the Trump Russia story he wrote at NPR we hit our wagon to Trump's most visible antagonist representative

Adam Schiff, and he said they interviewed him 25 times. Is that accurate?

MAHER: I was not there at the time, but those numbers sound accurate.

JORDAN: Those — those sound accurate. But then he said when the Mueller report came out and they said, Mueller said Robert Mueller said he found no evidence of collusion, he said Russiagate faded from our programming. Is that accurate?

MAHER: Again, I was not there at the time. I'm not — I couldn't say.

JORDAN: You couldn't say?

MAHER: I was not NPR at the time.

JORDAN: You didn't prepare for that. You knew we were going to ask you about this guy, didn't you? It's come up like 6,000 times already in the hearing.

MAHER: I just couldn't say whether it faded from our coverage, sir.

JORDAN: How about this? October 2020, New York Post had the Hunter Biden laptop story and one of those editors, I guess one of those 87 Democrat editors said this, we don't want to waste our time on stories that are not really stories. We don't want to waste the listeners and readers' times on stories that are just pure distractions. Was that a pure distraction story.

MAHER: Our current editorial leadership believes that that was a mistake, as do I.

JORDAN: Yeah, the whole country knows that was a mistake. Definitely impacted the election. I think it certainly impacted the election. How about the COVID origin story. That's a pretty big story too, right? Mr. Berliner said we became fervent members of the team natural origin, even declaring that the lab leak was debunked by scientists. Turns out though, the lab leak is what most people think actually caused the COVID virus.

MAHER: Sorry, sir, is there a question there?

JORDAN: There is. You guys were 0-for-3 on, on the three — the three of the biggest stories in the last five years, you guys were 0-for-3, and yet you maintain that NPR is not biased?

MAHER: Congressman, I do not believe we are politically biased. No, we are a nonpartisan organization.

JORDAN: Nonpartisan organization? What's happening to your listeners over the last five years, went up, down, or stayed the same?

MAHER: It has gone up and down and is now going back up.

JORDAN: Well, I — I — I thought 65 years ago I was at 60 million. And you said in your opening statement, I think 43 million.

MAHER: That's correct

JORDAN: So, 43 million now and it was at 60 million five years ago, I can do some math that looks like it went down

MAHER: And is now going back up.

JORDAN: And is now going back up.

MAHER: Yes, it is.

JORDAN: How much is it went back up?

MAHER: It's gone up a couple million over the past year,

JORDAN: Oh, so you — you went from 60 million to 41 million. Now you're back up to 43 million.

MAHER: In a year's time, I'm very proud of that growth, sir.

JORDAN: Okay, you're proud of that growth, okay. But over five years, it went down 18 million.

MAHER: That is correct, sir.

JORDAN: Okay. Should taxpayers subsidize NPR?

MAHER: I believe that taxpayers subsidize local stations, sir. That is the vast majority of where our federal funding —

JORDAN: I thought you said you got 11 million from Corporation of Public Broadcasting, which is taxpayer funding directly to you, right?

MAHER: — that is to support the public radio and satellite system.

JORDAN: And then local stations get from the Corporation of public Broadcasting yet, right? They get tax —

MAHER: \$100 million that goes to local stations and then those local stations buyback programming content from you. So that money goes to the local stations, comes back to you, gets routed through the local stations, all taxpayer money.

MAHER: Those fees are actually based on private donations rather than on federal funding.

JORDAN: Well, we all know money is fungible, so some of it gets put in there.

MAHER: Certainly, we could — we could agree that money is fungible.

JORDAN: More money for less listeners, you fired the guy who pointed all this out and said that you were so biased to the left that you lost listeners, which is actually happening, and you're here maintaining that, oh, you need, you need to continue to get taxpayer money?

MAHER: I did not fire Mr. Berliner, sir

JORDAN: Okay. The guy that — that left after all that, I understand, I understand. Are you — are you fundraising off today's hearing?

MAHER: Sir, I believe that there was a message that went out earlier today, letting people know we were coming in, yes.

JORDAN: Yeah, and at the bottom of the message, it said, donate now, right?

MAHER: I don't recall the exact language.

JORDAN: I can show it to you. Right there it is. Donate now. I mean, I'm not against fundraising, we all do it. I mean, I get it. But it's — I — I assume this — this — this fundraising thing is probably going to all the left listeners who are subsidized content by the taxpayers, and that's the rub.

GREENE: The gentlemen's time is expired.

JORDAN: That's the rub.

(...)

12:01:52 p.m.

5 minutes and 30 seconds

CONGRESSMAN PAT FALLON (R-TX): Ms. Maher, do you believe the national — that National Public Radio takes a balanced and fair approach to news, politics, culture, etc?

MAHER: Mr. Fallon, thank you for the question. I came into National Public Radio —

FALLON: I apologize. It's just that we have such a limited time.

MAHER: — of course.

FALLON: Do you believe that to be true?

MAHER: I believe that we have work to do. We always do in order to improve and serve all Americans.

FALLON: More accurate than not that you're fair or you're, you're either fair or you're unfair. So what do you think you are?

MAHER: I believe we wake up every day with a desire to be fair and it is part of why —

FALLON: — you're not claiming you're fair. You have a desire to be fair. Okay. So, you would not describe NPR as objective and nonpartisan?

MAHER: I would.

FALLON: You would. Okay. Ms. Kerger, same question for you. Would you believe that PBS is fair and objective and nonpartisan?

KERGER: Yes.

FALLON: Okay. Thank you. Thank you for the quick answer too. So I — I find it interesting that the CBP's recent goal was to promote efforts that ensure fact-based journalism that promotes a symphony of ideological viewpoints. You both agree with that goal?

MAHER: Yes.

FALLON: All right, wonderful. So, Ms. Kerger, in 2023, when PBS had a — a program, *Washington Week with The Atlantic*, and when President Biden's mental acuity was questioned, one of the reporters claimed the GOP was lying. Another reporter, Jeffrey Goldberg, who's been in the news of late, described Biden as quote mentally acute. Were you aware if there were any dissenting opinions on that program that day?

KERGER: I don't know from that day. No, I don't.

FALLON: No, they were not, uh, but fortunately, and there was a debate, and I believe June of 2024, where the American people in the world found out who was lying. The Democrats, Jeffrey Goldberg, and PBS. Ms. Maher, I'm sure you're aware that Hunter Biden had a laptop.

MAHER: I am, sir, yes.

FALLON: Okay. And there were many stories about said laptop.

MAHER: Yes, sir.

FALLON: And in 2020, unfortunately, NPR's managing editor for news refused to cover the

story and he branded it a “waste of time, not a real story and a distraction” and instead, unfortunately of NPR investigating, they ran a puff piece that led with “experts say attack on Hunter Biden addiction deepened stigma for millions.” It’s unfortunate that NPR ignored the Hunter Biden laptop story, but you all did quite a bit on the debunked Russian collusion. Do you know how many times NPR interviewed Adam Schiff about collusion?

MAHER: Congressman, I would love to say that we actually believe that we made a mistake on the Hunter Biden laptop story.

FALLON: Okay, and I appreciate that, thank you. How many times did you all interview Adam Schiff about the Russia collusion?

MAHER: I’m sorry, sir. I don’t have that number

FALLON: It was 25 times. You know how many time NPR interviewed the chairman of this committee, Jamie Comer, about the Biden impeachment inquiry —

MAHER: I —

FALLON: — or the Hunter Biden tax evasion and illicit business dealings with the Biden family.

MAHER: I’m sorry, sir. I don’t know.

FALLON: I believe that’s 0, so it’s 25 to 0. Ms. Kerger, you’re aware there’s a political spectrum goes all the way from the far right to the far left, and everywhere in between. Would it trouble you to hear that, for six months, there was an analysis done on PBS Newshour from June to November of 2023, where they found that far right was that term was used 162 times and far left was only used six times?

KERGER: I — I don’t know the study that you’re referring to, and I’d love — I’d be very interested in seeing it and understanding how they came up with those numbers.

FALLON: Media Research Center did a six-month analysis and it’s not how do you find it? You either say far right or it’s — terms. They used the term far right 162 times. Far left? Six times. That’s a 96-to-4 percent skew. You’re also aware that you covered the GOP and Democratic National Conventions in 2024.

KERGER: Yes, we did.

FALLON: Okay. Interestingly, 72 percent of the coverage of the GOP convention was negative. 88 percent of the Democratic convention was positive. Shouldn’t be surprising when you have anchors like Amna Nawaz, who described the Republican rhetoric as “outright racism” and “echoing white supremacy.” Ms. Maher, NPR. You believe your reporters are fair? You said —

MAHER: I —

FALLON: — you're fair and they're working at it.

MAHER: — I believe that they work to be every day, sir.

FALLON: They're nonbiased. And yet you have the voter registration issue. I mean, we're all human beings. We're all going to see through the world through a certain lens, and do you — are you aware of any Republicans, any registered Republicans in your newsroom?

MAHER: I couldn't say registered, but I know we have conservatives in our newsroom, yes.

FALLON: Okay, so the red — the recent registration, when it was looked at, 87 — 87 Democrats and zero Republicans registered.

MAHER: I found that very concerning, sir.

FALLON: Yeah. I would. Not even 40-30 or 50-20. 87-0, but it shouldn't be surprising when their own CEO says things like, "I'm so done with late stage capitalism" or calls the president of the United States "a deranged racist sociopath" or that America's "addicted to white supremacy." So billions have gone into both of your coffers over the last several decades and billions have gone into both of your coffers over the last several decades and I understand why Democrats on this committee are going to viciously and vehemently defend you all because you became a propaganda wing of the Democratic Party, 67 percent of your viewers and listeners identify as Democrat with only 12 percent conservative and you become a sandbox for leftist propagandists to frolic on taxpayer dime and no more and when you said in the beginning, you're going to promote a symphony of ideological viewpoints. Yeah, you do. If you're left leaning left, far-left —

GREENE: The gentleman's time has expired

FALLON: — or remarkably Marxist.

(...)

12:07:36 p.m.

5 minutes and 13 seconds

CONGRESSMAN BRANDON GILL (R-TX): Ms. Maher, I want to start with you. Just generally, would you generally agree or disagree with the following statement: "The history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggles"?

MAHER: I would not say I agree with that, sir.

GILL: You do not. That — that's good to hear. It's interesting because a lot of your thinking, as expressed by your public statements, is deeply infused with economic and cultural Marxism. Do you believe that America is addicted to white supremacy?

MAHER: I believe that I tweeted that, and I, as I've said earlier, I believe much of my thinking has evolved over the last half decade.

GILL: It has evolved? Why did you tweet that?

MAHER: I don't recall the exact context, sir, so I wouldn't be able to say.

GILL: Okay. Do you believe that America believes in black plunder and white democracy?

MAHER: I don't believe that, sir.

GILL: You tweeted that in reference to a book you were reading at the time, apparently *The Case for Reparations*.

MAHER: I don't think I've ever read that book, sir.

GILL: You tweeted about it. You said, you took a day off to fully read *The Case for Reparations*. You put that on Twitter in January of 2020.

MAHER: I — apologies, I don't recall that I did.

GILL: Okay.

MAHER: I — I've no doubt that your, your tweet there is correct, but I don't recall that.

GILL: Okay. Do you believe that white people inherently feel superior to other races?

MAHER: I do not.

GILL: You don't? You — you tweeted something to that effect. You said, I — "I grew up feeling superior. How white of me." Why did you tweet that?

MAHER: I think I was probably reflecting on what it was to be — to grow up in an environment where I had lots of advantages.

GILL: It sounds like you're saying that white people feel superior.

MAHER: I — I don't believe that anybody feels that way, sir. I was just reflecting on my own experiences.

GILL: You think that white people should pay reparations?

MAHER: I never said that, sir.

GILL: Yes, you did. You said it in January of 2020, you tweeted, "yes, the North, yes, all of us,



yes, America, yes, our original collective sin and unpaid debt, yes, reparations, yes, on this day.”

MAHER: I don’t believe that was a reference to fiscal reparations, sir.

GILL: What kind of reparations was it a reference to?

MAHER: I think it was just a reference to the idea that we all owe much to the people who came before us.

GILL: That — that’s a bizarre way to frame what you tweeted. Okay. How — how — how many rep — how much reparations have you personally paid?

MAHER: Sir, I don’t believe that I’ve ever paid reparations.

GILL: Okay. Just for everybody else?

MAHER: I’m not asking anyone else to pay reparations.

GILL: It seems to be what you’re suggesting. Do you believe that looting is morally wrong?

MAHER: I believe that looting is illegal, and I refer to it as counterproductive. I think it should be prosecuted to the fullest extend of the law.

GILL: Do you believe for it’s morally wrong, though?

MAHER: Of course.

GILL: Of course? Then why did you refer to it as counterproductive. They’re very different —very different way to describe it.

MAHER: It is both morally wrong and counterproductive, as well as being illegal.

GILL: You tweeted, “it’s hard to be mad about protests in reference to the BLM protest, not prioritizing the private property of a system of oppression.” You didn’t condemn the looting. You said that it was counterproductive. NPR also promoted a book called *In Defense of Looting*. Do you think that that’s an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars?

MAHER: I’m unfamiliar with that book, sir, and I don’t believe that was at my time.

GILL: You tweeted that you read that book, but —

MAHER: I — I don’t believe that I did read that book, sir.

GILL: Do you think that — a few — a few years ago, NPR educated America about “the whole community of gender queer dinosaur enthusiasts.” Do you think that that’s an inappropriate use

of tax dollars?

MAHER: I was not at NPR at the time, sir.

GILL: That's not the question though. Do you think that that's an appropriate use of our tax dollars.

MAHER: I think our tax dollars that we use are to be able to provide a wide range of perspectives.

GILL: I'll take that as a yes. You do believe that that's appropriate. Your health advisor at NPR also stated in an interview that "fear of fatness is more harmful than actual fat." Would you like to explain how fear of fatness is more harmful than actual fat. That's directly — that's an editorial at NPR?

MAHER: I am not familiar with the editorial and I don't believe that was published during my time here.

GILL: It's called, "Diet Culture Is Everywhere. Here's How to Fight It." Do you think that that's an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars?

MAHER: I think any reporting on health is an appropriate dollars, yes.

GILL: And, and you think that editorializing that fat is not unhealthy is appropriate?

MAHER: I don't know that — what that article is, sir, and I'm not familiar with it, so I couldn't say.

GILL: This is fake news. Do you think that basic accommodations like doorways or seat belts represent "latent fat phobia?"

MAHER: I don't have an opinion on that, sir?

GILL: It's also from NPR. Do you think civility is racist?

MAHER: No, sir.

GILL: No? Well, your outlet ran an article entitled, "When Civility Is Used as a Cudgel Against People of Color." That was on *All Things Considered*. Would you like to explain?

MAHER: I — I'm not on the editorial side, so I'm not familiar with that story.

GILL: You talk about how NPR is news. This is — this is editorialization, and I'll read it: "For many people of color in the United States, civility isn't so much social lubricant as it is a vehicle for containing them, preventing social mobility and preserving the status quo." This is garbage.

I'll spend all of my time doing everything I can to ensure you guys never get another \$1 of taxpayer funding. This is complete garbage.

(....)

12:15:25 p.m.

2 minutes and 37 seconds

CONGRESSMAN BRIAN JACK (R-GA): I — I'd like to spend the rest of my time talking about funding, and I know that some of my colleagues talked about it a little bit today, but could you, uh, walk us through the amount of money that NPR receives from CPB annually?

MAHER: Yes, sure, sir. we receive \$11.2 million this past year, the majority of which goes to the public radio satellite system, which we operate on behalf of the entire public radio network, um, uh. we also received a smaller amount of funding in the course of the past year that went to help us hire those additional editors and analysts in order to be able to beef up that editorial review. We received funding to support the coverage of the recent election in order to make sure that we had our journalists all across the country, and we're able to speak to Americans of all different political backgrounds.

JACK: And what percentage of your budget share comes from the federal government?

MAHER: Depending on how you count it, sir, it is, it's less than five percent.

JACK: And to help me understand too, the CPB, you know, as I understand it, we've — Congress has appropriated \$500 million to the CPB. It flows out and I think smaller radio stations go and apply for grants for it. Do you receive payment and — from smaller radio stations through licensing agreements and things of that nature?

MAHER: We do and the fees for that are designed around the amount of funding that they get from private member donations, so it's not — the fees are not designed around federal funding. They're designed around what sort of direct private support and donations they receive from members and listeners.

JACK: Well, I noted Mr. Jordan today suggested that you are fundraising off this hearing today and, and a question that I have then, if — if you receive less than five percent and over and over today, you've said that private funding helps support the mission and, and the — the work of NPR. Could NPR survive without the five percent that we give NPR annually?

MAHER: My belief is that the funding is essential to the public radio system And that is the 246 member stations with the 1,300 stations across the nation, so that we're able as a network to serve all Americans with 100 percent coverage. If federal funding for our network goes away, it means that people in rural parts of America, places where they can't afford to make private donations to support their local journalism, those will be harmed, but, sir, if I may, the bigger harm as well or the additional harm, is that Americans in places that are affluent or do have many

media choices will not be able to hear from their Fellow Americans that are often underheard?

JACK: Bottom line, if the five percent went away, would NPR still exist?

MAHER: Well, it would be incredibly damaging to the federal — to the — excuse me — to the National Public Radio system.

(.....)

12:23:42 p.m.

7 minutes and 5 seconds

GREENE: The United States is \$36 trillion in debt. In fiscal year 2024, the government spent over 1.8 trillion more than it took in and in fiscal year 2025, the interest on our debt is expected to exceed \$1 trillion. As we continue investigating waste fraud and abuse, and we can look no further than the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. The LGBTQ indoctrination of our children, the systematic racism narrative and the support for censorship being pushed by the heads of NPR and PBS are just several of the many abuses of taxpayer dollars, and if you are one of the select few who might support such content, you can personally support and fund it with your own money through private donations because the reality is the United States of America is broke and can't afford it and after all, PBS and NPR are already fundraising off of this committee hearing. The American people are closely following along today in this long awaited hearing to hear the case for why Americans' hard-earned tax dollars should continue for public broadcasting. I think from what we have heard here today, the American people will not continue to allow such propaganda to be funded through the federal government with their hard-earned tax dollars. The Corporation for Public Broadcasting that we give over half a billion dollars to no longer serves the public. It serves a narrow audience of wealthy liberal elites who are out of touch with everyday Americans. Not only have the times changed and the American people who once needed these outlets can now access the news anywhere at any time, but the content that is being put out through the state-sponsored outlets is so radical it is brainwashing the American people and more significantly, American children with un-American, anti-family, pro-crime fake news. The American people do not support their taxpayer dollars going to NPR articles like, "How Is Sex Determined? Scientists Say It's Complicated," which discusses how biological sex is not limited to male or female or another article about how stories on crime are rife with misinformation and racism, or about how birds and trees are racist. Over a seven month period, the Media Research Center discovered the PBS NewsHour gave over 90 percent of the airtime to the left on gender ideology stories, 90 percent. As mentioned earlier, PBS was the outlet that the child predator drag queen on the education show for kids ages three-to-eight years old and to clarify the record, because our witness Ms. Kerger lied under oath and said it wasn't featured on PBS. This show was aired on PBS on April 1, 2021, and we will take a look at this video right now. We're using a TV today because our audio system is having problems. Let's go ahead and watch this video.

[DRAG QUEEN CLIP]

GREENE: “The hips go swish, swish, swish.” “The shoulders go shimmy, shimmy, shimmy.” That’s repulsive. That’s not what children ages three to eight should ever be watching a grown biological man posing as a woman and by the way, Ms. Kerger, that was aired on April 1st, 2021 and then, something happened. It wasn’t an accident and it wasn’t just for a brief time that it was up. It was aired April 1st, and then somehow it expired May 24th. Later, later on, it was taken down. Wonder, I wonder why. I wonder why that was taken down. Another egregious example includes back in 2010 PBS’s Travis Smiley stated that Christians blow up people every single day. Haven’t seen that ever happen in my life. And today, if you look on NPR’s website, there is still zero mention of any negative coverage of any Democrat today and trust us. They’re more than plenty of examples to pull from. How about a member from this committee making fun of the governor of Texas for having a disability and living his life in a wheelchair, Ms. Maher? From headlines to podcasts, documentaries, to children’s programming, NPR and PBS have all but abandoned their promise to deliver unbiased, nonpartisan, in fact-based reporting. The American people have woken up to this nonsense and blatant disregard for truth and truth matters and they will not put up with it any longer, contrary to the beliefs of the head of NPR, Maher, truth is not subjective. It’s actually very important, and there are not multiple truths. There’s just one. For a civilization to exist, objective truth must exist. It must be embraced. It must be protected. It is not a distraction and despite many attempts to whitewash it, truth will prevail. The Corporation for Public Broadcasting is using taxpayer dollars to actively suppress the truth, suppress diverse viewpoints, and produce some of the most outlandish ludicrous content. After listening to what we’ve heard today, we will be calling for the complete and total defund and dismantling of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Here’s how it works. In America, every single day — every single day, private businesses operate on their own without government funding. We believe that you all can hate us on your own dime.