

Episode 57DFO March 19 2025 Social Security in person identity checks and Department of Defense resignations

In Episode 57DFO 1 United States Social Security Administration to require in-person identity checks for new and existing recipients 2 United States Department of Defense information Official Roughly 21000 DOD Civilians Volunteered for Deferred Resignation 3 United States **RAWSEP View** Three news items chosen from a podcast News Item 1 Trump fired two Democratic commissioners at the Federal Trade Commission which protects consumers from collusion and anti consumer practices This leaves the commission with only two Republican commissioners and without a quorum to do business News Item 2 Trump spoke with Putin over the phone on March 18 2025 News Item 3 Kennedy Junior has decided to just let Bird Flu run rampant in order to let scientists learn which birds are immune to Bird Flu Main content

1 United States Social Security Administration to require in-person identity checks for new and existing recipients **RAWSEP View** Weighing the undocumented perhaps imaginary problem of identity theft of social security information to masquerade as a Social Security recipient against the real problem of lengthy waits for Social Security service and inability for disabled people to visit Social Security offices in person does not it seem that the solution to any ID theft problem would be a video meeting between Social Security and a potential Social Security recipient This would use the latest technology to solve any problem real or imagined rather than requiring a Social Security recipient to make a visit to an office that in the near future will most probably and chaotically be closed by Trump directive anyway These last Trump directives strike RAWSEP as the most heinous yet because they deny payments that each Social Security recipient has paid into to receive but supposedly more and more chaotic Trump directives are yet to come **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization** MSN March 18 2025 WASHINGTON AP In an effort to limit fraudulent claims the Social Security Administration will impose tighter identity-proofing measures which will require millions of recipients and applicants to visit agency field offices rather than interact with the agency over the phone Beginning March 31st people will no longer be able to verify their identity to the SSA over the phone and those who cannot properly verify their identity over the Social Security my Social Security online service will be required to visit an agency field office in person to complete the verification process agency leadership told reporters Tuesday The change will apply to new Social Security applicants and existing recipients who want to change their direct deposit information Retiree advocates warn that the change will negatively impact older Americans in rural areas including those with disabilities mobility limitations those who live far from SSA offices and have limited internet access The plan also comes as the agency plans to shutter dozens of Social Security offices throughout the country and has already laid out plans to lay off thousands of workers Related video Sweeping Changes Hit Social Security What is Being Cut Money Talks News More than 725 million people including retirees and children receive retirement and disability benefits through the Social Security Administration Connecticut Rep John Larson the top Democrat on the House Ways and Means Social Security Subcommittee said in a statement that by requiring seniors and disabled Americans to enroll online or in person at the same field offices they are trying to close rather than over the phone Trump and Musk are trying to create chaos and inefficiencies at SSA so they can privatize the system The DOGE website says that leases for 47 Social Security field offices across the country including in Arkansas Texas Louisiana Florida Kentucky and North Carolina have been or will be ended Many Americans have been concerned that SSA office closures and massive layoffs of federal workers part of an effort by Trump and the Musk Department of Government Efficiency to shrink the size of the federal government will make getting benefits even more difficult Musk has pushed debunked theories about Social Security and described the federal benefit programs as rife with fraud and called it a Ponzi scheme suggesting the program will be a primary target in his crusade to reduce government spending Voters

have flooded town halls across the country to question Republican lawmakers about the Trump cuts including its plans for the old-age benefits program In addition a group of labor unions last week sued and asked a federal court for an emergency order to stop DOGE from accessing the sensitive Social Security data of millions of Americans

2 United States Department of Defense information Official Roughly 21000 DOD Civilians Volunteered for Deferred Resignation **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization** March 18 2025 A senior defense official told the media today that approximately 21000 Defense Department civilian employees volunteered to participate in the Deferred Resignation Program The DRP implemented by the Office of Personnel Management Jan 28 2025 offered most full-time federal employees including most of the nearly 900000 DOD civilians the opportunity to resign with full pay and benefits until Sept 30 2025 As part of the DOD effort to align its civilian workforce with national security priorities the department has been actively processing DRP applications while working to achieve a strategic reduction in manpower of 5 to 8% or approximately 50000 to 60000 employees

3 United States **RAWSEP View** Three news items chosen from a podcast News Item 1 Trump fired two Democratic commissioners at the Federal Trade Commission which protects consumers from collusion and anti consumer practices This leaves the commission with only two Republican commissioners and without a quorum to do business News Item 2 Trump spoke with Putin over the phone on March 18 2025 News Item 3 Kennedy Junior has decided to just let Bird Flu run rampant in order to let scientists learn which birds are immune to Bird Flu **RAWSEP View** Trump had to concede that a ceasefire was not agreed to by Putin during the Trump phone conversation with Putin Trump also had to wait several hours after the scheduled phone time to speak to Putin **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization** Substack Letters from an American Heather Cox Richardson March 18 2025 **News Item One** Trump continued his attack on the rule of law today when he fired the two Democratic commissioners at the Federal Trade Commission which protects consumers from collusion and anti-consumer practices The firings leave only two Republicans on the commission and leave it without a quorum to do business the courts have established that the president cannot fire officials in agencies created by Congress without a serious reason like neglect of duties The Trump action here is brazenly illegal under any interpretation of the law as it stands **News Item 2** Trump held a phone conversation today with Russian president Vladimir Putin allegedly about a proposed ceasefire in the invasion of Ukraine by Russia During the 2024 presidential campaign Trump boasted that he would end the war against Ukraine by Russia in a day and he is now eager for any end to the hostilities **RAWSEP View** Trump has also said in the last few days that his boast to end the war on the first day of the Trump second presidential term was sarcastic RAWSEP believes that Trump does not understand the meaning of the long three syllable complicated word sarcastic or as usual Trump is lying about the meaning of the word sarcastic and conveniently giving it a meaning that is roughly the opposite of the real meaning of sarcastic From the dictionary sarcastic means an adjective marked by or given to using irony in order to mock or convey contempt An example is given in the dictionary of sarcastic comments on their failures So given the true meaning of sarcasm when Trump said he would negotiate a Ukraine Russian peace treaty on his first day Trump given the meaning of the word sarcasm meant to convey mockery or contempt for the promise of telling the

American people he Trump would bring peace If by sarcasm Trump meant the opposite of sarcasm that would mean Trump meant to say that he would simply bring peace But Trump did not bring peace on March 18 2025 which is the Trump 99<sup>th</sup> day in office Perhaps Trump wanted to announce peace on his hundredth day but that is not possible given the failure of the phone call with Putin [RAWSEP View](#) We are truly spared from a peace brokered with loss of Ukraine property divided up between the United States and Russia as Trump clearly intended in the days leading up to the phone call The coalition of the willing of the leaders of Europe is leading to support of Ukraine for entirely different purposes which include the defense of Ukraine against Russian aggression and also include defense of the rest of Europe against Russian aggression with or without the help of the United States under Trump [But Putin seems less eager to reach a solution than to demonstrate his dominance over Trump](#) Today when the phone call was scheduled Putin was on stage at an event When his interviewer asked if he needed to go because he would be late for the call Putin dismissed the question and laughter broke out Making leaders wait is an old Putin power play But this is pretty brutal Putin is publicly mocking Trump [While the Trump team portrayed the conversation as productive Putin maintained that Ukraine was the aggressor in the war although it was Russia that invaded Ukraine Putin also demanded that the US and allies must stop all military aid and the sharing of intelligence with Ukraine conditions that would hamstring Ukrainian resistance to the Russian invasion](#) [News Item 3](#) Finally today Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F Kennedy Jr has proposed addressing the H5N1 bird flu that is decimating US poultry and cattle farms by simply letting the disease run rampant Kennedy Junior suggests such a course would permit scientists to discover birds that are immune to the disease But veterinary scientists say that letting the virus sweep through flocks is a really terrible idea for any one of a number of reasons Chickens and turkeys do not have the genes to resist the virus and every infection is a chance for the virus to mutate into a more virulent form one of which could mutate so it could spread among humans If H5N1 were permitted to infect 5 million birds that is literally five million chances for that virus to replicate or to mutate [RAWSEP View](#) The United States has the best scientific and medical minds in the world who desperately need to be used to develop a vaccine against Bird Flu It is ludicrous but so serious that it is a nightmare that Kennedy Junior a non scientist is in charge of the United States defense against Bird Flu and any other disease currently without a vaccine that will surely pop up in the next four years If anything can be labeled a threat to national security Bird Flu is