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To: (b) (6)
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Date: Friday, May 26, 2017 11:39:49 AM

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The Daily 202



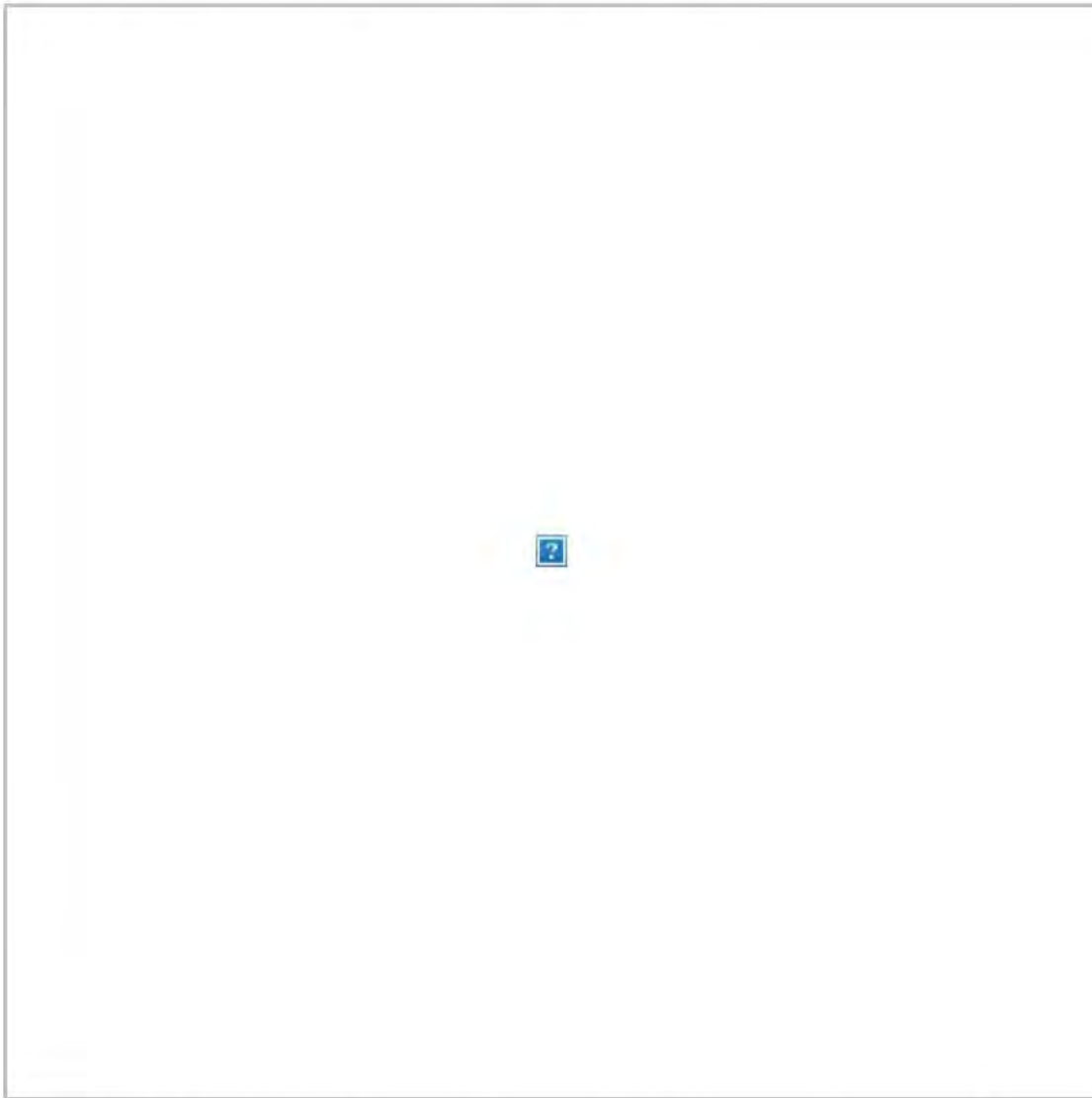
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Gianforte's victory after assaulting reporter reflects

rising tribalism in American politics



Greg Gianforte apologizes for assaulting reporter during acceptance speech



BY JAMES HOHMANN

with Breanne Deppisch

THE BIG IDEA: Greg Gianforte admitted to attacking a reporter and apologized during his victory speech last night, as he kept Montana's sole House seat in Republican hands. Now he and his party's leaders are trying to move on.

On the eve of the special election, the [wealthy technology](#)

entrepreneur flipped out when the Guardian's Ben Jacobs asked him about the CBO's score of the health care bill. He now faces misdemeanor assault charges for reportedly throwing Jacobs to the ground and breaking his glasses.

"I made a mistake," the congressman-elect said at his party in Bozeman. "Not in our minds!" yelled a supporter. David Weigel, who was there, reports that [some in the crowd laughed](#).

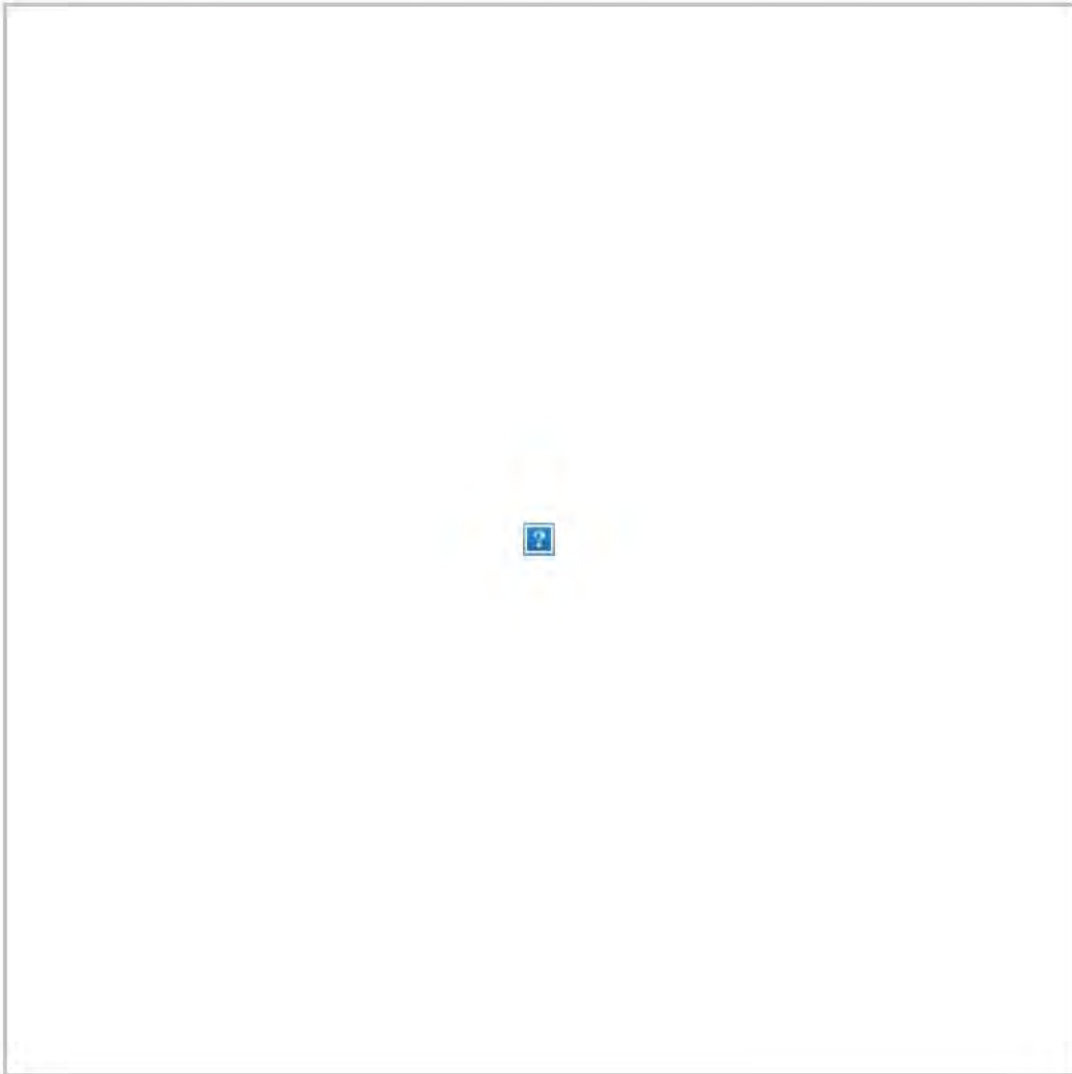
-- After his comfortable [six-point victory](#), Republican congressional leaders are making clear there will be no meaningful consequences for his behavior. "Elections are about choices and Montanans made their choice," Speaker Paul Ryan said in a statement this morning. "Rep.-elect Gianforte is an outsider with real-world experience creating jobs in Montana. He will bring that experience to Congress, where he will be a valuable voice in the House Republican Conference."

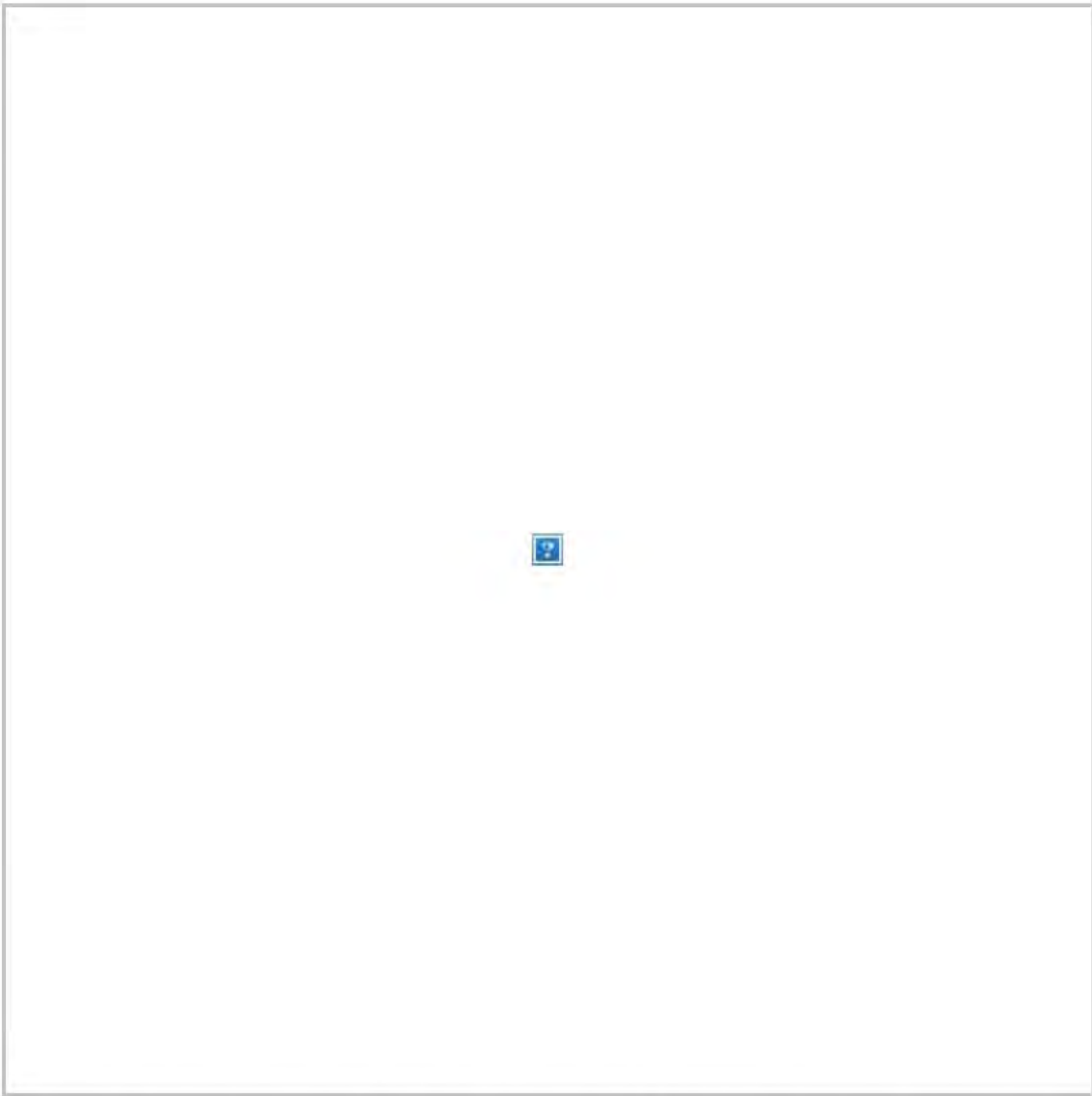
Without being asked, Donald Trump turned to a group of photographers following him in Europe this morning and declared: "Great win in Montana." Then he walked away without saying anything else. In a robo-call recorded shortly before the election, he called Gianforte "my friend" and "a wonderful guy." "You'll be very proud of him for years to come," Trump told voters.

A spokesman for Mike Pence, who traveled to Montana two weeks ago to stump with Gianforte, [declined to comment yesterday](#), and the vice president skipped his only public event of the day so he did not need to weigh in.

A Republican congressman from San Diego, who is under

criminal investigation by the Justice Department, said this to an AP reporter:

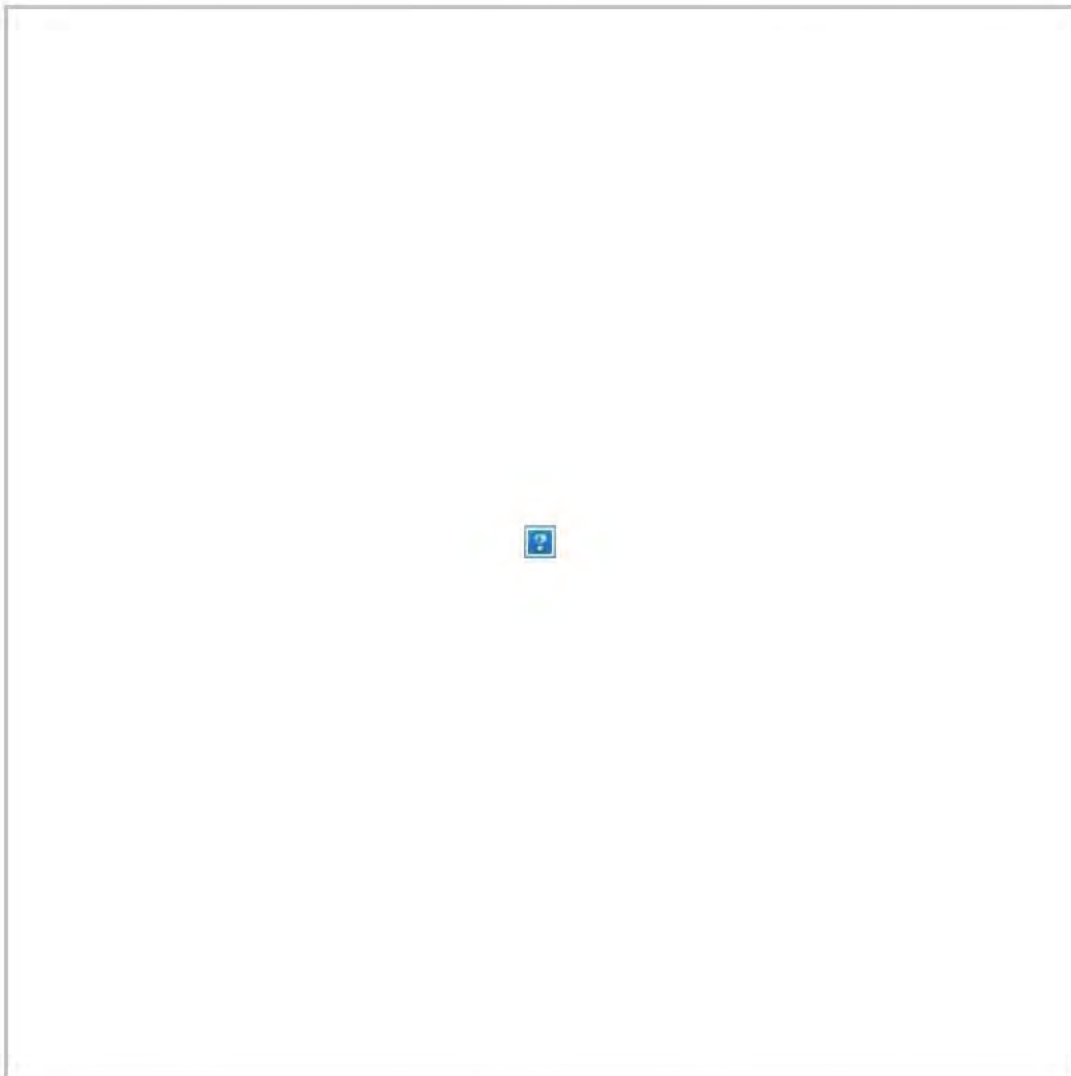




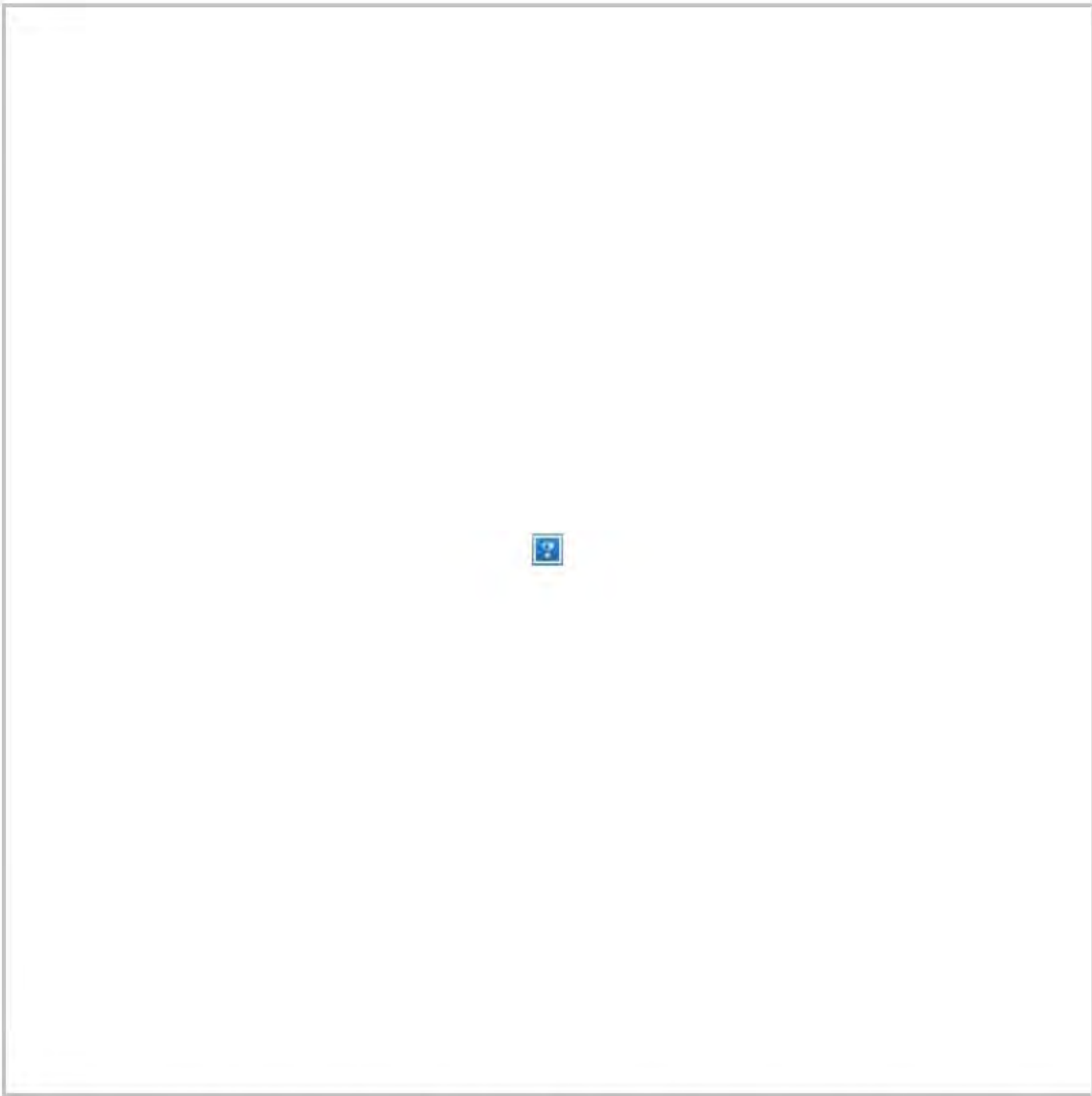
Corey Lewandowski reaches between Trump and a Secret Service agent towards Michelle Fields after a news conference in Jupiter, Florida, last March. (Joe Skipper/Reuters)

-- **Michelle Fields, the former Breitbart News reporter who Corey Lewandowski grabbed when she tried to ask Trump a question last year, believes some Republicans “have put party over civility.”** “From the age of the Gipper to our era of the Groper, the state of our politics has declined drastically,” she writes in [an op-ed for the New York Times](#). “It’s hard to imagine the late, great William F. Buckley cheering on a politician who assaulted a reporter. But Buckley’s nephew, Brent Bozell, did just that on Twitter in the

aftermath of the Jacobs's incident." Bozell runs the Media Research Center:



“Had Ben been attacked by a Democrat, many on the right who are refusing to believe the assault occurred — or outright praising it — would be hailing him as a victim of liberal rage,” Fields adds. “Had Hillary Clinton’s campaign manager, rather than Mr. Trump’s, grabbed my arm, I would not have been abandoned by many of my friends and mentors at Fox News, or my employer, Breitbart News. But I was inconvenient to their political narrative.”



Laura Ingraham addresses the Republican National Convention in Cleveland last summer. (Michael Robinson-Chavez/The Washington Post)

-- The Montana donnybrook quickly became a Rorschach Test that highlighted the divide within the conservative media between the serious and unserious outlets. It also showcased how many prominent figures on the right reflexively rally behind Republican politicians, whether the president or a House candidate, even when they are very clearly in the wrong. This is part of a growing tribalism that contributes to the polarization of our political system.

FoxNews.com published a first-person account yesterday by veteran correspondent Alicia Acuna, who witnessed the incident: “Gianforte grabbed Jacobs by the neck with both hands and slammed him into the ground behind him.”

Very tellingly, upstart conservative outlets that are trying to steal Fox’s market share by getting to the network’s right spent yesterday trying to poke holes in the story.

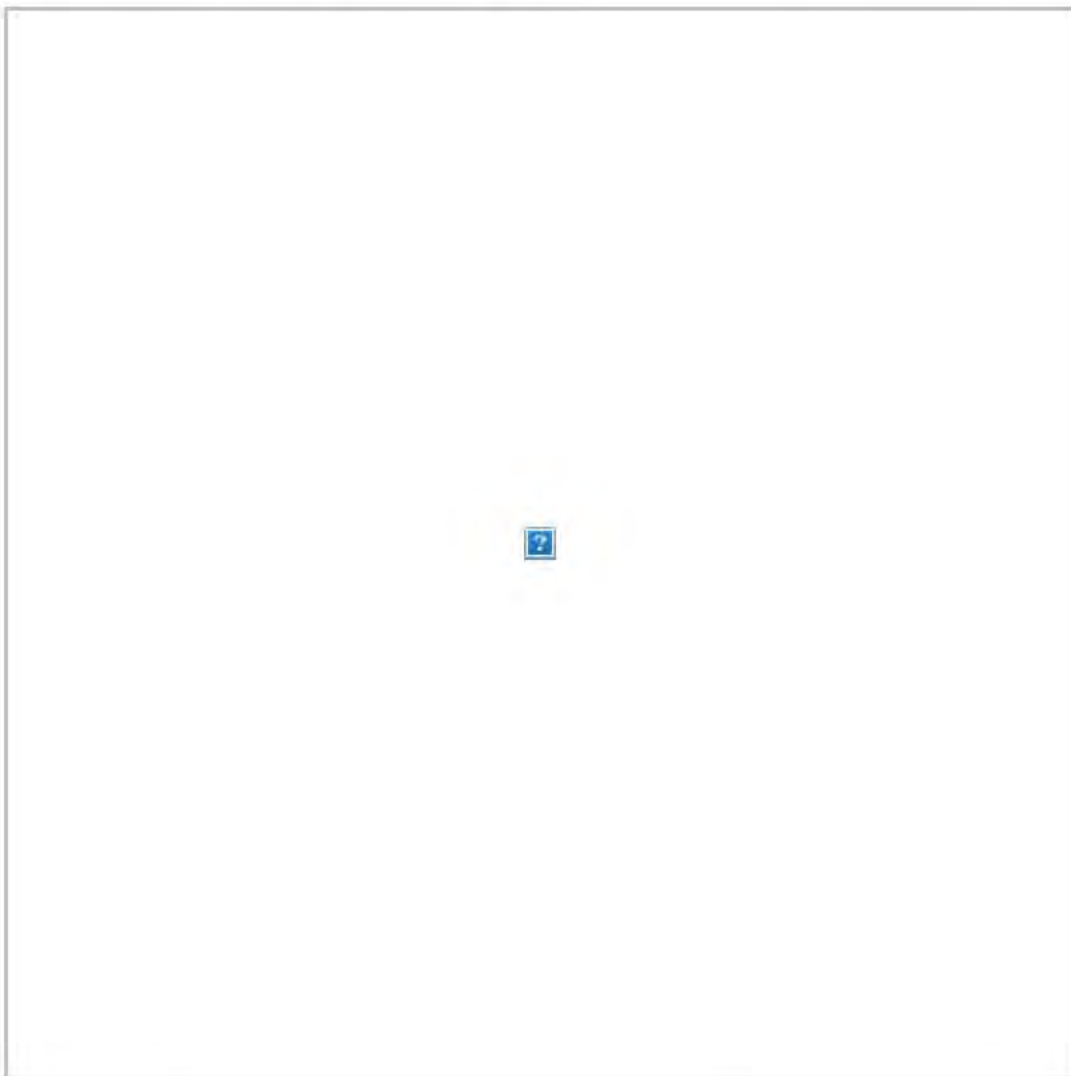
Laura Ingraham aggressively questioned the Fox reporter on her radio show: “You can’t body-slam someone by holding both hands on the neck. That’s impossible...Didn’t he grab him near the neck and throw him down? Just asking.” Acuna held firm: “I saw both his hands go up not around his neck in a strangling type of way, but more just on each side of his neck, just grabbed him. I guess it could have been on his clothes, I don’t know. I can’t say that for sure. But he grabbed him and slammed him down. ... He had one hand on each side of his neck.”

“Acuna’s account in her interview with Ingraham was consistent with what she published on FoxNews.com, not to mention Jacobs’s own version of events,” Erik Wemple writes. “Now have a look at [the headline on LifeZette](#), where Ingraham serves as editor in chief: ‘Montana Assault Witness Changes Story, Says No Neck Grab; Reporter says firsthand account misstated key aspect of Gianforte incident.’ [BuzzFeed has deemed this story ‘FAKE.’”](#)

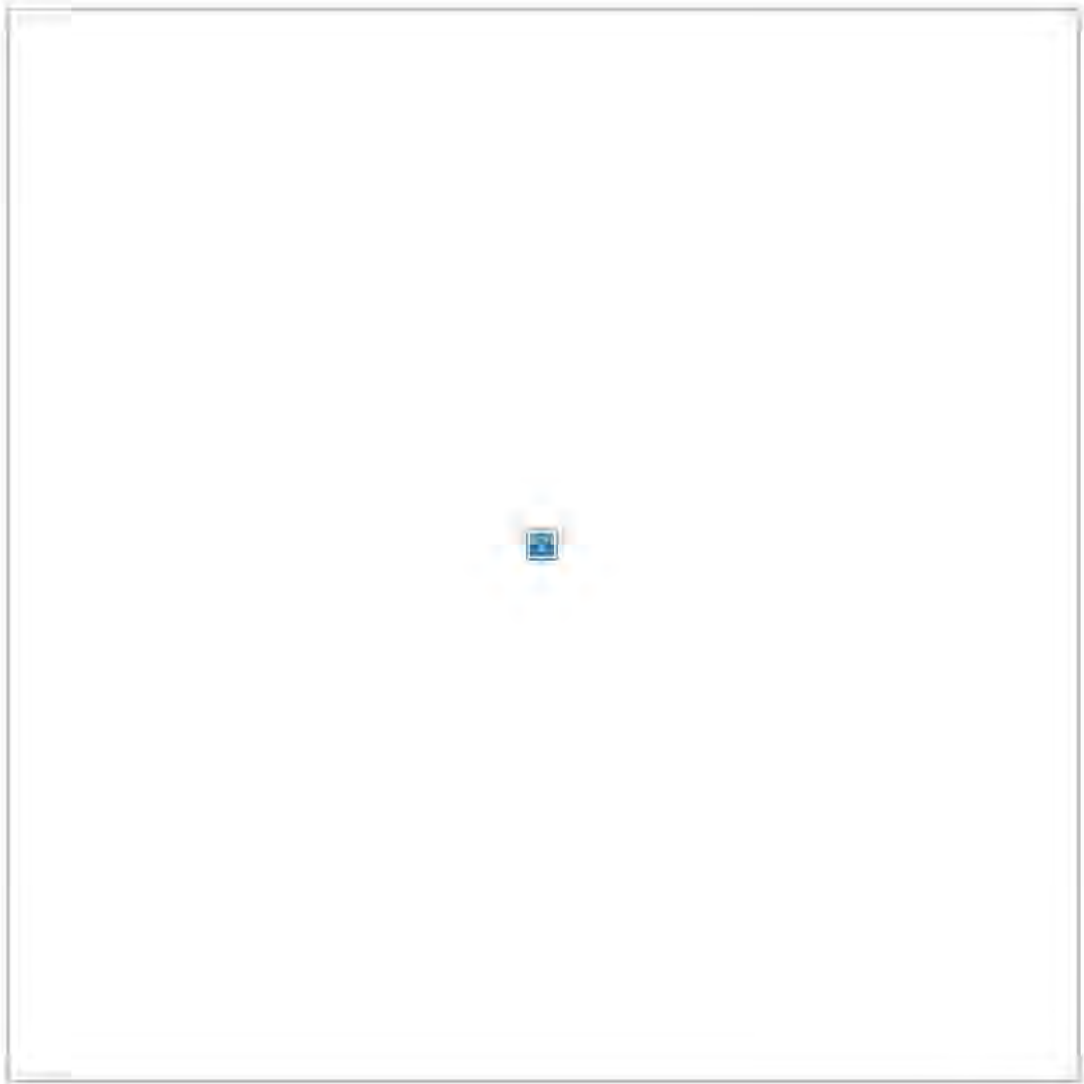
But fake stuff gets around, Erik notes: On his radio show yesterday afternoon, [Rush Limbaugh falsely told his listeners](#) that the Fox reporter had basically recanted her story. He also called Jacobs “a

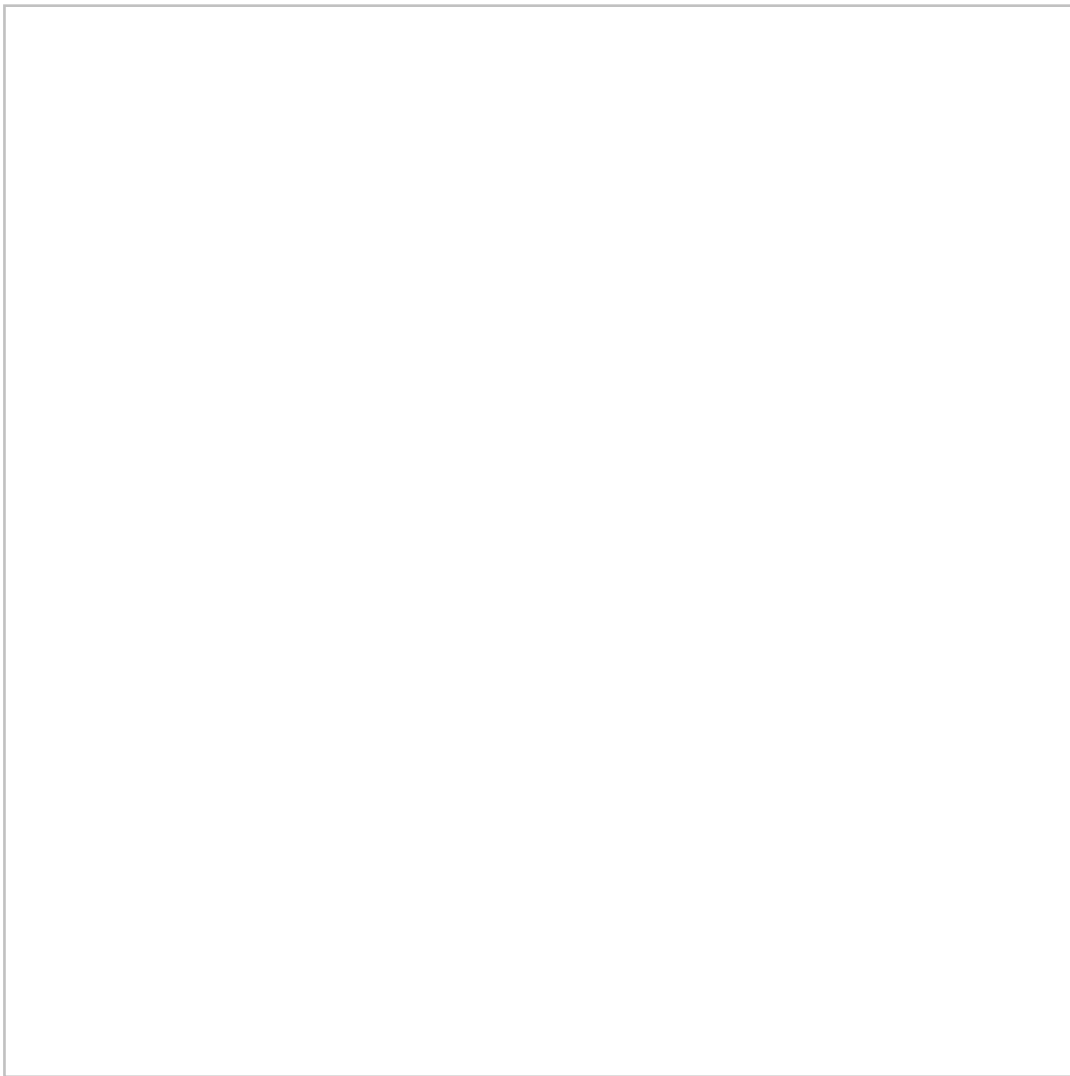
pajama boy journalist” who was “insolent ... disrespectful ... whiny and moany.” [RealClearPolitics](#) reported wrongly that Acuna was “walking back” her claims. The headline on the Drudge Report was: [“Witness Changes Story.”](#)

And while the news division at Fox covered the story seriously and showed integrity, at least one commentator said *on the air* that the reporter had it coming:



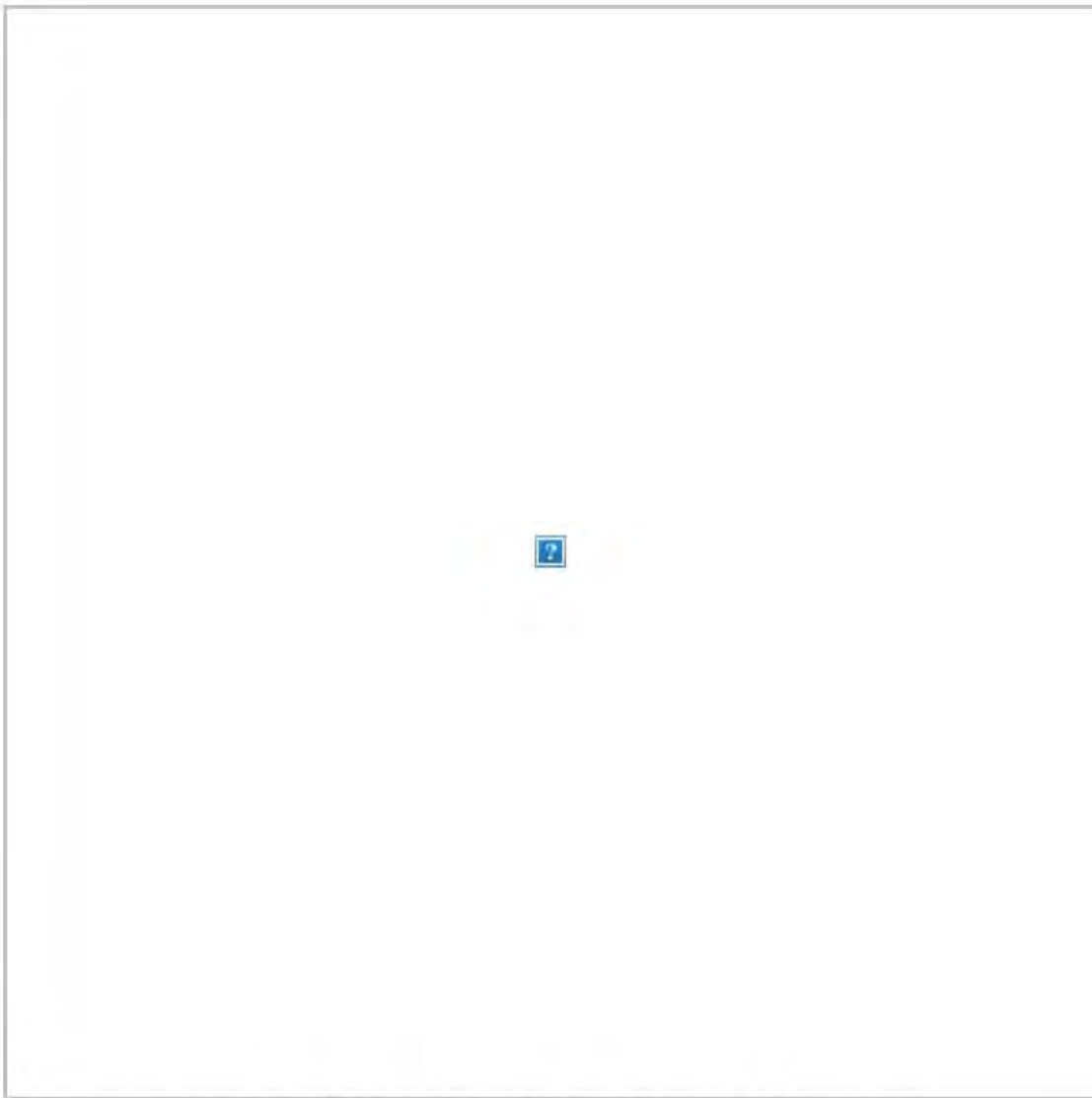
... to which Republican focus group guru Frank Luntz replied:





The fever swamps of the internet went even further, though: Mike Cernovich, who has a wide following on the fringes and [friends in the White House](#), raised the bar for required evidence. “Although there is an audio recording of the incident, he said video was needed for the story to be reliable,” [Abby Ohlheiser reports](#). “Gateway Pundit wrote that it was ‘strange’ there was no video.”

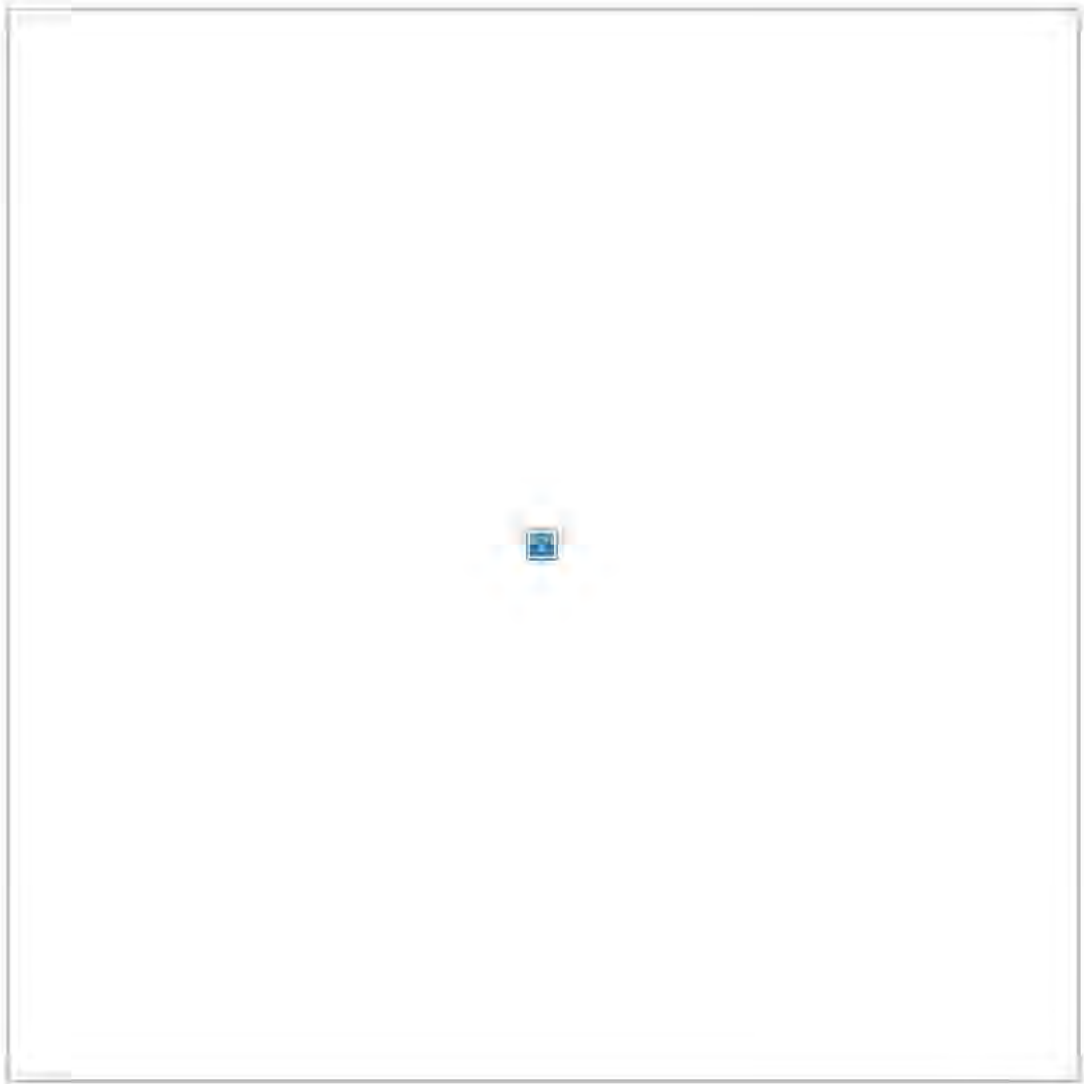
It should go without saying that this really does a disservice to the well-intentioned people who look to these sites for honest information. Remember, Gianforte himself has now admitted wrongdoing and apologized.

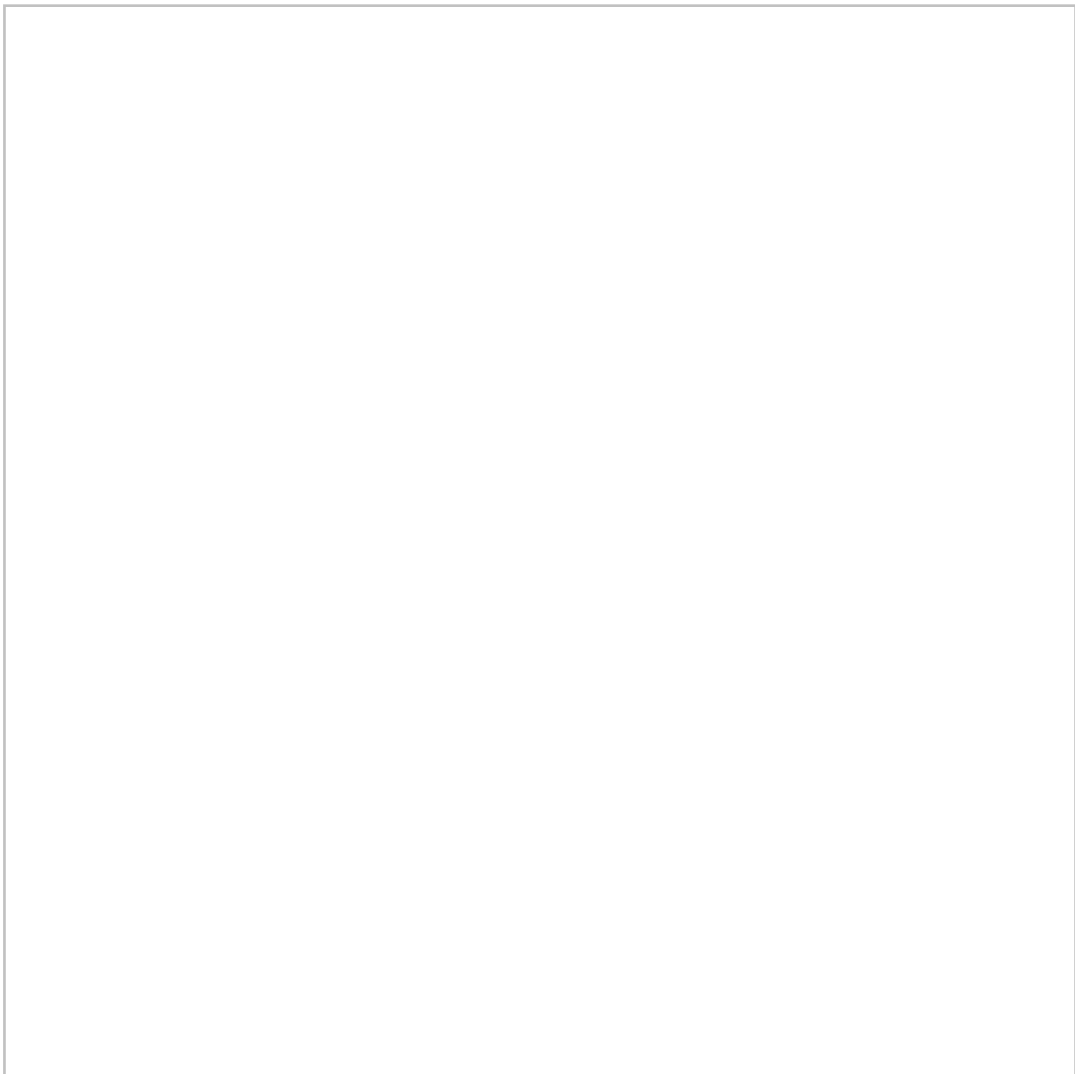


Montana voters react to GOP candidate's alleged assault of a reporter

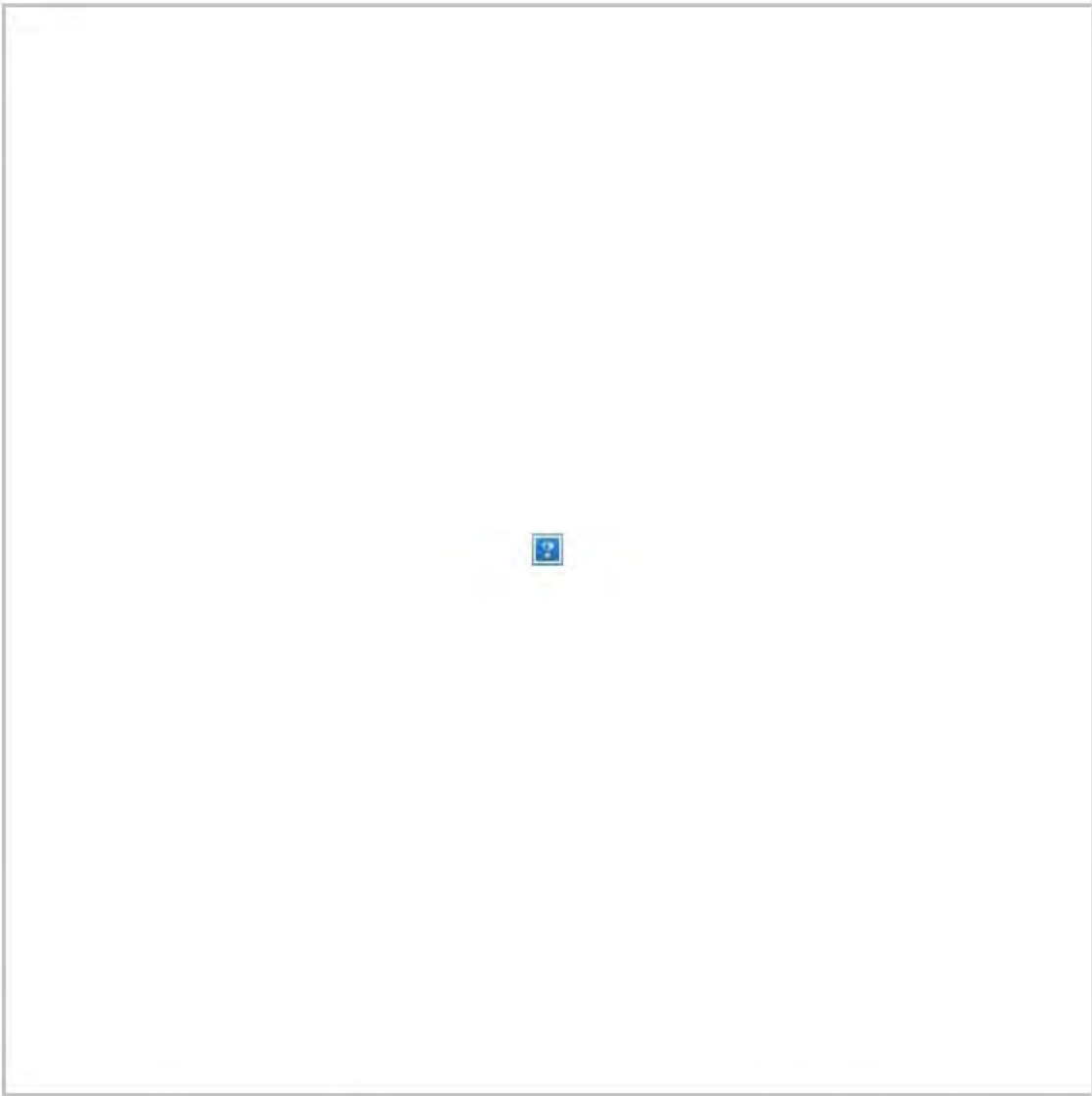
-- Many rank-and-file Republican voters, who follow the cues and signals of their leaders, defended their nominee's behavior. "I understand the frustration of someone being right in your face," Luanne Biggs, who voted for Gianforte, told [the Bozeman Daily Chronicle](#). "I feel like it's a little set up."

CNN correspondent Kyung Lah went to a polling place to interview voters and reported that nearly everyone she talked with said they weren't changing their vote:





Recall that many of these sorts of voters began identifying with the term “deplorable” after Clinton described some of Trump’s supporters that way during the 2016 campaign. That is why, even before the polls closed yesterday, many Democratic voters in Montana expressed skepticism that the attack on Jacobs would change the outcome of the race. “Greg thinks he’s Donald Trump,” Brent Morrow, 60, told Weigel. “He thinks he could shoot a guy on Fifth Avenue and get away with it.”



Supporters watch as Greg Gianforte is declared the winner of the Montana special election at the Hilton Garden Inn in Bozeman. (Rachel Leathe/Bozeman Daily Chronicle via AP)

-- But at least those people were talking about what happened. The Montana NBC Affiliate reportedly refused to cover the Gianforte story at all on Wednesday night, a shocking blackout. Irate sources inside 30 Rock appear to have called up [New York Magazine's Yashar Ali](#) to complain: "KECI news director Julie Weindel was called by NBC News to see if KECI would cover the story or had any footage of the Gianforte incident that NBC News and its affiliates could use. ... **She was unyielding in her refusal to share any**

footage she may have had access to, or run a report on the story. ... Weindel said that they weren't covering the story, though it was running in outlets across the country at the time, explaining, 'The person that tweeted [Jacobs] and was allegedly body slammed is a reporter for a politically biased publication.' Weindel then added, 'You are on your own for this.' ... **The station was acquired, last month, by the conservative media conglomerate Sinclair Broadcasting.**"

-- Here's why that's a big deal: Sinclair Broadcasting just struck a deal with Tribune Media to buy dozens of local TV stations.

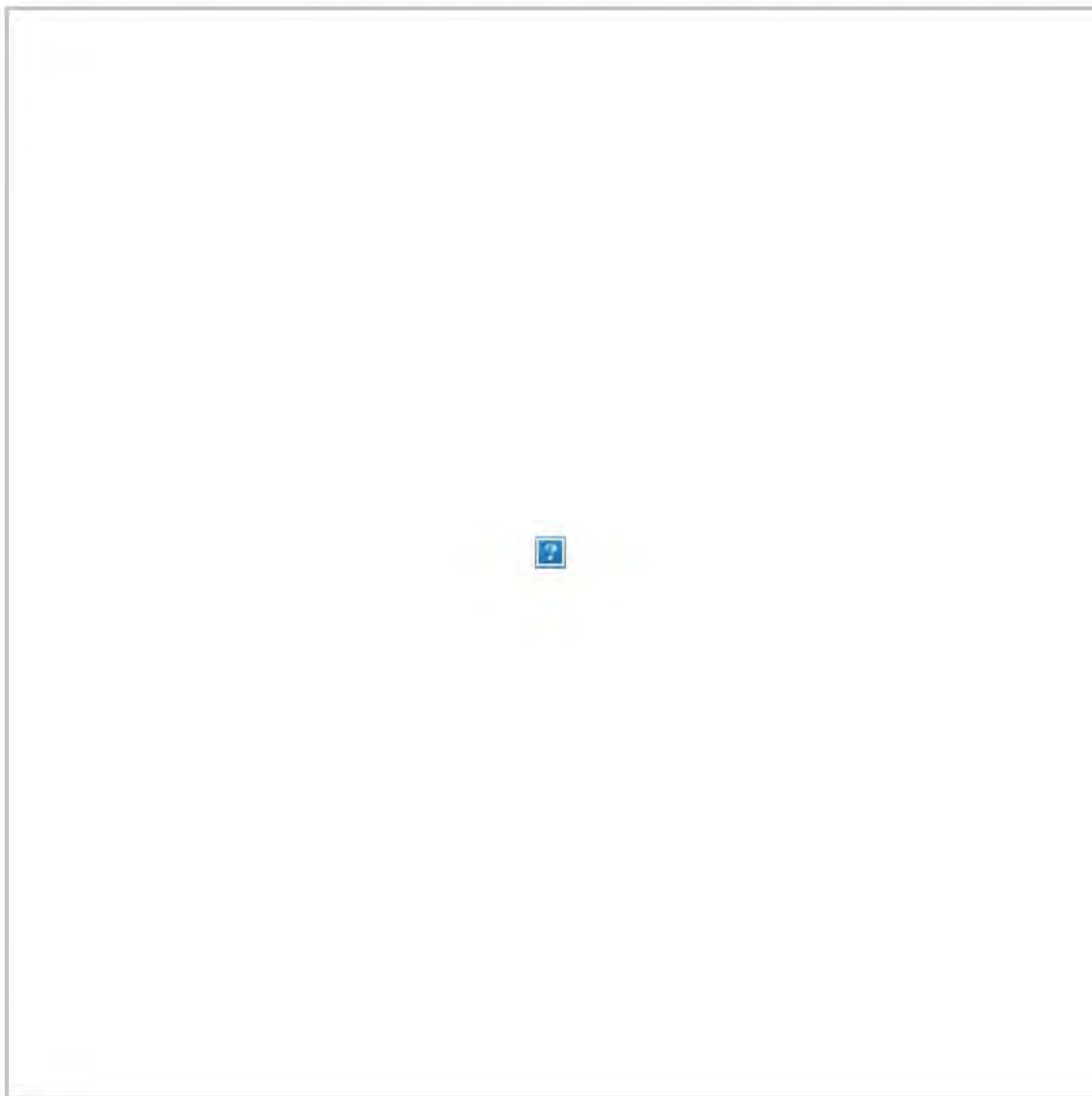
"Already, Sinclair is the largest owner of local TV stations in the nation. If the \$3.9 billion deal gets regulatory approval, Sinclair would have 7 of every 10 Americans in its potential audience," [Margaret Sullivan explained in a column last weekend](#). "Sinclair would have 215 stations, including ones in big markets such as Los Angeles, New York City and Chicago, instead of the 173 it has now. There's no reason to think that the FCC's new chairman, Ajit Pai, will stand in the way. Already, his commission has reinstated a regulatory loophole — closed under his predecessor, Tom Wheeler — that allows a single corporation to own more stations than the current 39 percent nationwide cap..."

"When Sinclair bought Washington's WJLA-TV in 2014, the new owners quickly moved the station to the right ... It added conservative commentary pieces from a Sinclair executive, Mark Hyman, and public affairs programming with conservative hosts. **(The deal would give Sinclair a second Washington station, WDCW.)**

And Sinclair regularly sends 'must-run' segments to its stations across the country. One example: an opinion piece by a Sinclair executive

that echoed President Trump's slam at the national news media and what he calls the 'fake news' they produce...

“During the presidential campaign, Trump’s message came through loud and clear on Sinclair’s stations, many of which are in small or medium-sized markets in battleground states such as Wisconsin, Ohio and Pennsylvania. Jared Kushner, the president’s son-in-law, even bragged, [according to Politico](#), that the campaign cut a deal with the media conglomerate for uninterrupted coverage of some Trump appearances. Is there a link between such content — and the expectation of more — and the loosening of federal rules?”



Trump stands with other NATO leaders in Brussels. (Stefan Rousseau/Getty)

THE BIGGER PICTURE:

-- “The darker forces that propelled President Trump’s rise are beginning to frame and define the rest of the Republican Party,” Karen Tumulty and Robert Costa explain. “When Gianforte assaulted a reporter ... many saw not an isolated outburst by an individual, but the obvious, violent result of Trump’s charge that journalists are ‘the enemy of the people.’ ... Trump — and specifically, his character and his conduct — now thoroughly dominate the national political conversation. Traditional policy arguments over whether entitlement programs should be overhauled, or taxes cut, are regularly upstaged by a new burst of pyrotechnics. ... Trump’s barrage of news-making and controversy drives the GOP even at its lowest levels, with his raucous populism and blustering behavior reshaping its identity. Candidates often are either adopting aspects of his persona or finding themselves having to fitfully explain why they back him despite them.”

-- Many right-wing intellectuals blame Trump for corrupting the conservative movement so much that Gianforte can get away with hitting a reporter:

Charlie Sykes, a conservative former talk-show host in Wisconsin, told Karen and Bob: “Every time something like Montana happens, Republicans adjust their standards and put an emphasis on team loyalty. They normalize and accept previously unacceptable behavior.”

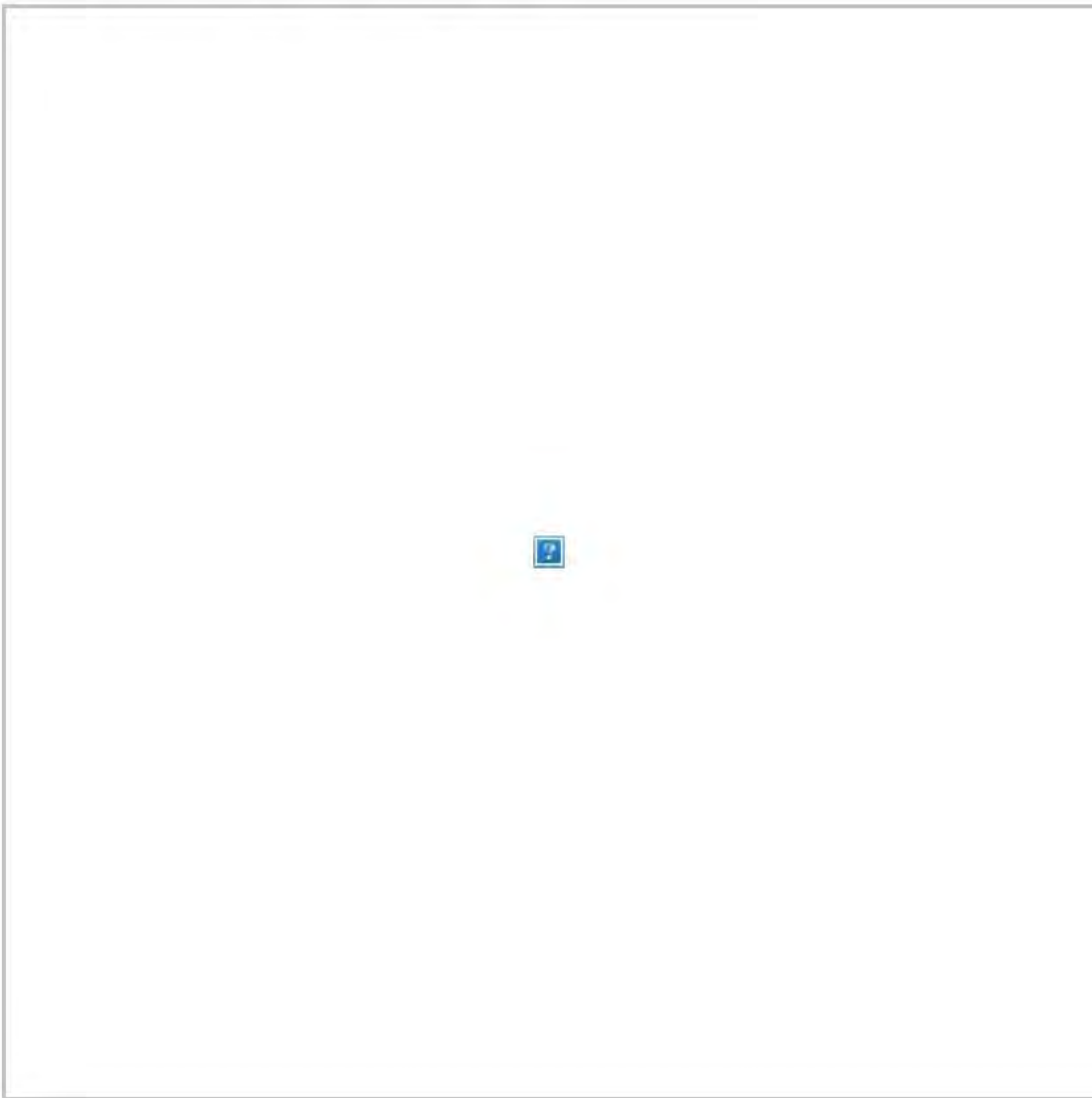
Michael Gerson, a top speechwriter for George W. Bush, recalls

a few of the conspiracy theories that the president has floated in his column for today's Post: "Who raised the possibility that Ted Cruz's father might have been involved in the assassination of John F. Kennedy? Who hinted that Hillary Clinton might have been involved in the death of Vince Foster, or that unnamed liberals might have killed Justice Antonin Scalia? Who not only questioned President Barack Obama's birth certificate, but raised the prospect of the murder of a Hawaiian state official in a coverup? 'How amazing,' Trump tweeted in 2013, 'the State Health Director who verified copies of Obama's 'birth certificate' died in plane crash today. All others lived.' We have a president charged with maintaining public health who asserts that the vaccination schedule is a dangerous scam of greedy doctors. We have a president charged with representing all Americans who has falsely accused thousands of Muslims of celebrating in the streets following the 9/11 attacks. ... This is a concrete example of the mainstreaming of destructive craziness."

"Respectfully, I'd submit that the president has unearthed some demons," Rep. Mark Sanford (R-S.C.) told Mike DeBonis at the Capitol. "I've talked to a number of people about it back home. They say, 'Well, look, if the president can say whatever, why can't I say whatever?' He's given them license. ... There is a total weirdness out there. People feel like, if the president of the United States can say anything to anybody at any time, then I guess I can too. And that is a very dangerous phenomenon."

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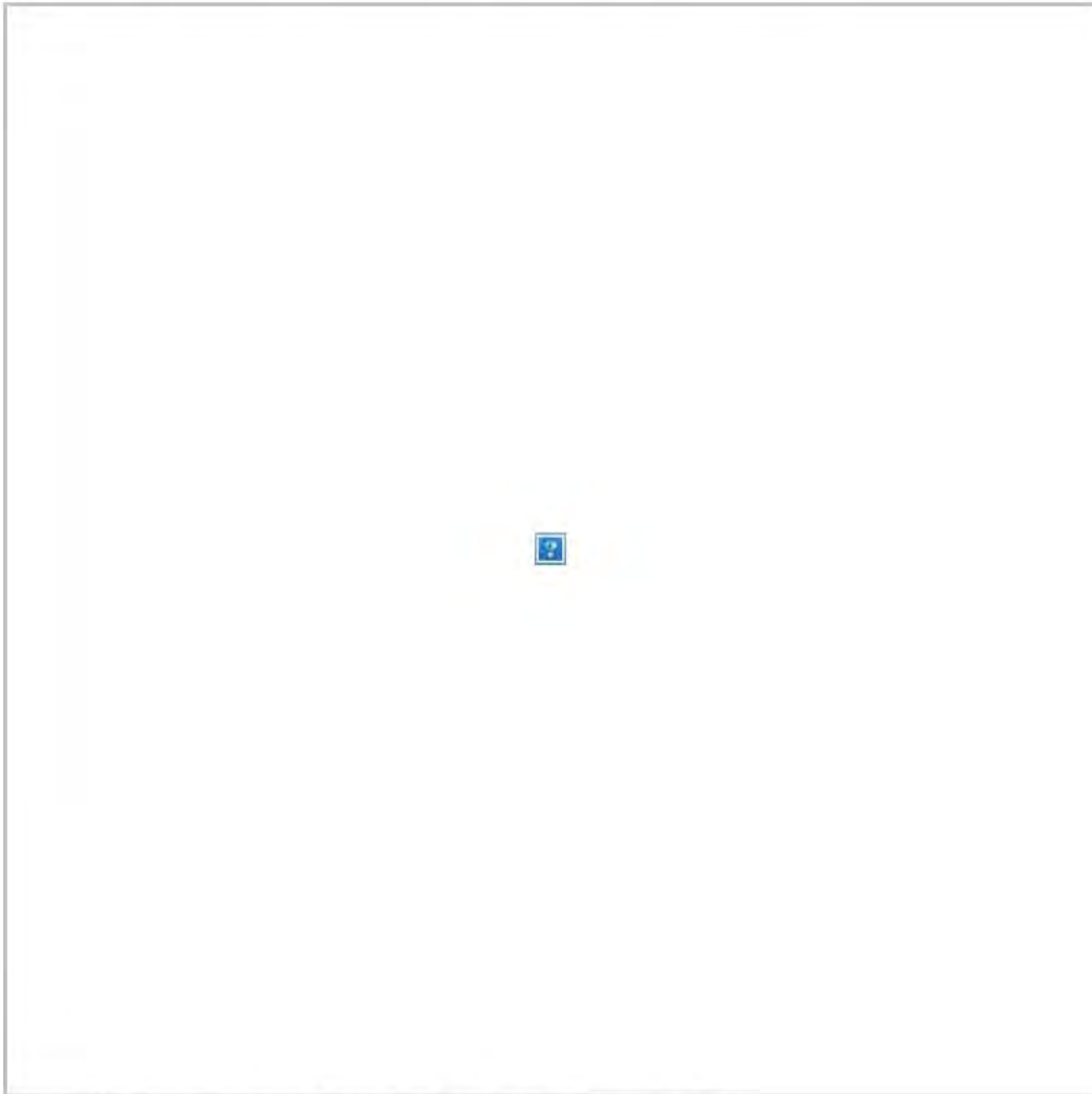
WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING:



An image grab taken from Egypt's state-run Nile News TV channel shows the remains of a bus that was attacked while carrying Egyptian Christians. (AFP/Getty Images)

-- Gunmen killed at least 23 Coptic Christians in Egypt after attacking a bus traveling to Friday mass, the latest in a string of violence aimed at the country's Christian minority. [Heba Farouk reports](#): "There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but the Islamic State has claimed responsibility for previous attacks against Egypt's Christians, which comprise about 10 percent of the

population. ... A spokesman for Egypt's Health Ministry said there were also 16 wounded in Friday's attack south of Cairo. The ambulance authority said 40 people were riding in the bus on their way from the city of Beni Suef just south of Cairo to Minya, about 150 miles south of Egypt's capital. A journalist at the Copts united website said **many of the victims appeared to be children.**"



Jared Kushner is now a focus in the Russia investigation

THERE IS A BEAR IN THE WOODS:

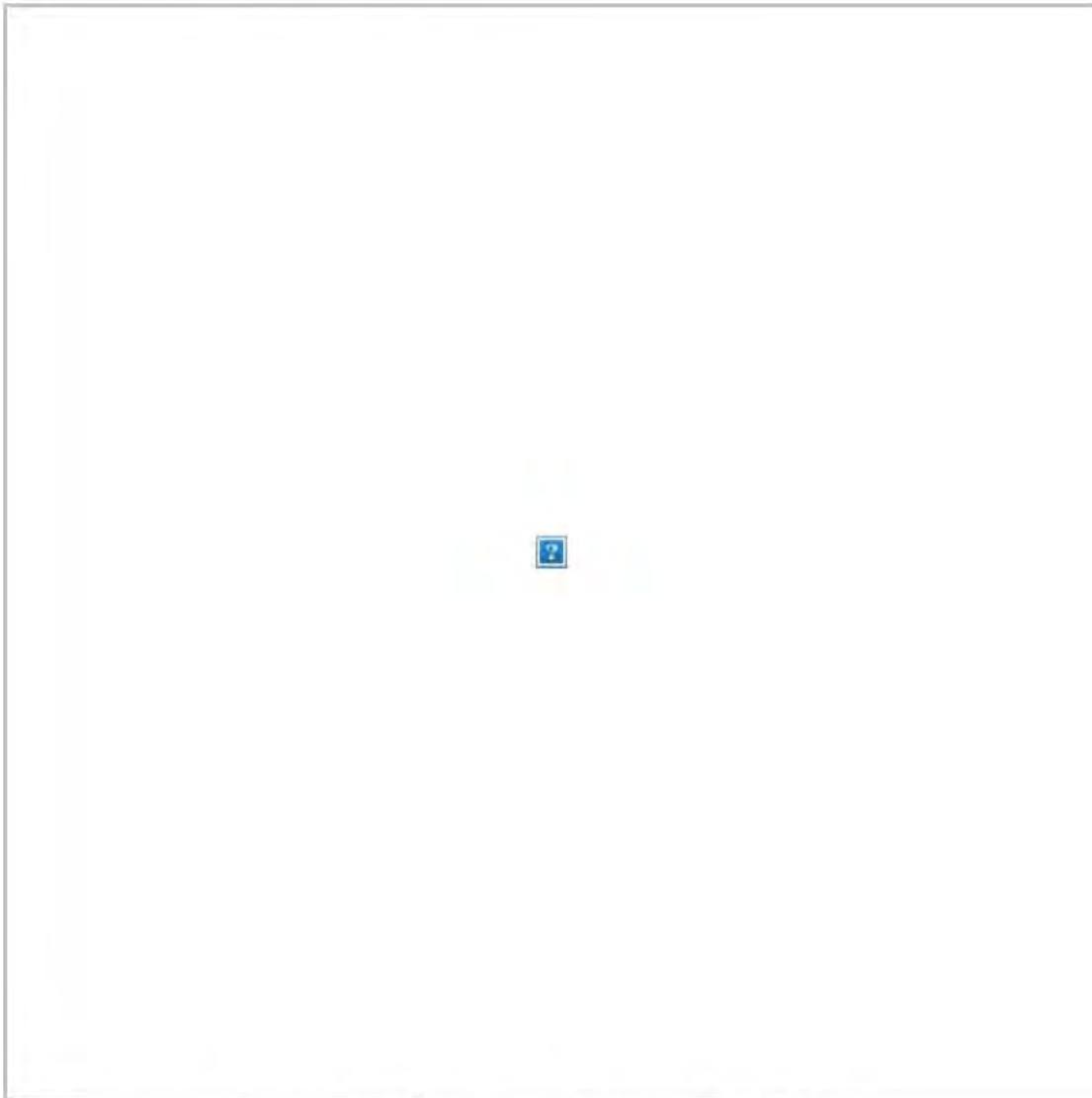
-- **["Jared Kushner is now a focus in Russia investigation,"](#)** by
Matt Zapotosky, Sari Horwitz, Devlin Barrett and Adam Entous:

“Investigators are focusing on a series of meetings held by ... President Trump’s son-in-law and an influential White House adviser, as part of their probe into Russian meddling in the 2016 election and related matters ... Kushner, who held meetings in December with the Russian ambassador and a banker from Moscow, is being investigated because of the extent and nature of his interactions with the Russians ... FBI agents also remain keenly interested in former Trump national security adviser Michael Flynn and former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort, but Kushner is the only current White House official known to be considered a key person in the probe.

- “In addition to possible coordination between the Kremlin and the Trump campaign to influence the 2016 presidential election, **investigators are also looking broadly into possible financial crimes...**
- “**In early December, Kushner met in New York with the Russian ambassador to the United States, Sergey Kislyak, and he later sent a deputy to meet with Kislyak.** ... Kushner also met in December with Sergey Gorkov, the head of Vnesheconombank, which has been the subject of U.S. sanctions following Russia’s annexation of Crimea and its support of separatists in eastern Ukraine. ... **Kushner omitted from security-clearance forms his December meetings** with Kislyak and Gorkov.
- “**A small group of lawmakers known as the Gang of Eight was recently notified of the change in tempo and focus in the investigation at a classified briefing...**

-- One of Jared's lawyers, Jamie Gorelick, said he'll cooperate:

"Mr. Kushner previously volunteered to share with Congress what he knows about these meetings. He will do the same if he is contacted in connection with any other inquiry."



What you need to know about former Trump adviser Carter Page

-- You can't make it up: Carter Page was welcomed into the Trump campaign after Richard Nixon's son-in-law, Ed Cox, made an introduction. Cox, the chairman of the New York Republican Party, told The Post in an interview yesterday that Page, an acquaintance from business and political circles, had reached out to

him in early 2016 expressing interest in joining the Trump campaign.

That details comes from this must-read story --> “‘Anyone ... with a pulse’: How a Russia-friendly adviser found his way into the Trump campaign,” by Tom Hamburger and Rosalind S.

Helderman: “A top Trump adviser, Sam Clovis, then employed what campaign aides now acknowledge was their go-to vetting process — a quick Google search — to check out the newcomer. He seemed to have the right qualifications, according to former campaign officials — head of an energy investment firm, business degree from New York University, doctorate from the University of London. ... He joined a new Trump campaign national security advisory group, and in late March 2016, the candidate pointed to Page, among others, as evidence of a foreign policy team with gravitas.

“But what the Google search had not shown was that Page had been on the FBI’s radar since at least 2013, when Russian officials allegedly tried to use him to get information about the energy business. By the summer of 2016, Page, who had been recently named as a Trump adviser, was under surveillance by FBI agents who suspected that he may have been acting as an agent of the Kremlin. As part of its broader investigation into potential collusion between the Trump campaign and the Russian government, the FBI continues to examine how Page joined the campaign...

“Multiple people familiar with campaign operations ... said that Page and others were brought into the fold at a time of desperation for the Trump team. As Trump was starting to win primaries, he was under increasing pressure to show that he had a legitimate, presidential-caliber national security team. The problem he

faced was that most mainstream national security experts wanted nothing to do with him.

- “Everyone did their best, but there was not as much vetting as there could have been,” former campaign manager Corey Lewandowski said. (Several former officials recall that when Page first showed up at Trump Tower, Lewandowski introduced him to other campaign aides.)
- **Another longtime campaign official put it this way: “Anyone who came to us with a pulse, a résumé and seemed legit would be welcomed.”**
- “We were not exactly making due diligence the highest priority,” another campaign veteran added.

“In his defense, Page in recent weeks has sent a series of meandering letters to investigators. He has quoted Maroon 5 lyrics, cited the writings of George Orwell and said he is being persecuted because of his Catholic faith.”

Sam Clovis, who "vetted" Page (by Googling him), is now a top official inside the Agriculture Department. He's spoken critically of the U.S. sanctions that were imposed on Russia after the invasion of Ukraine...

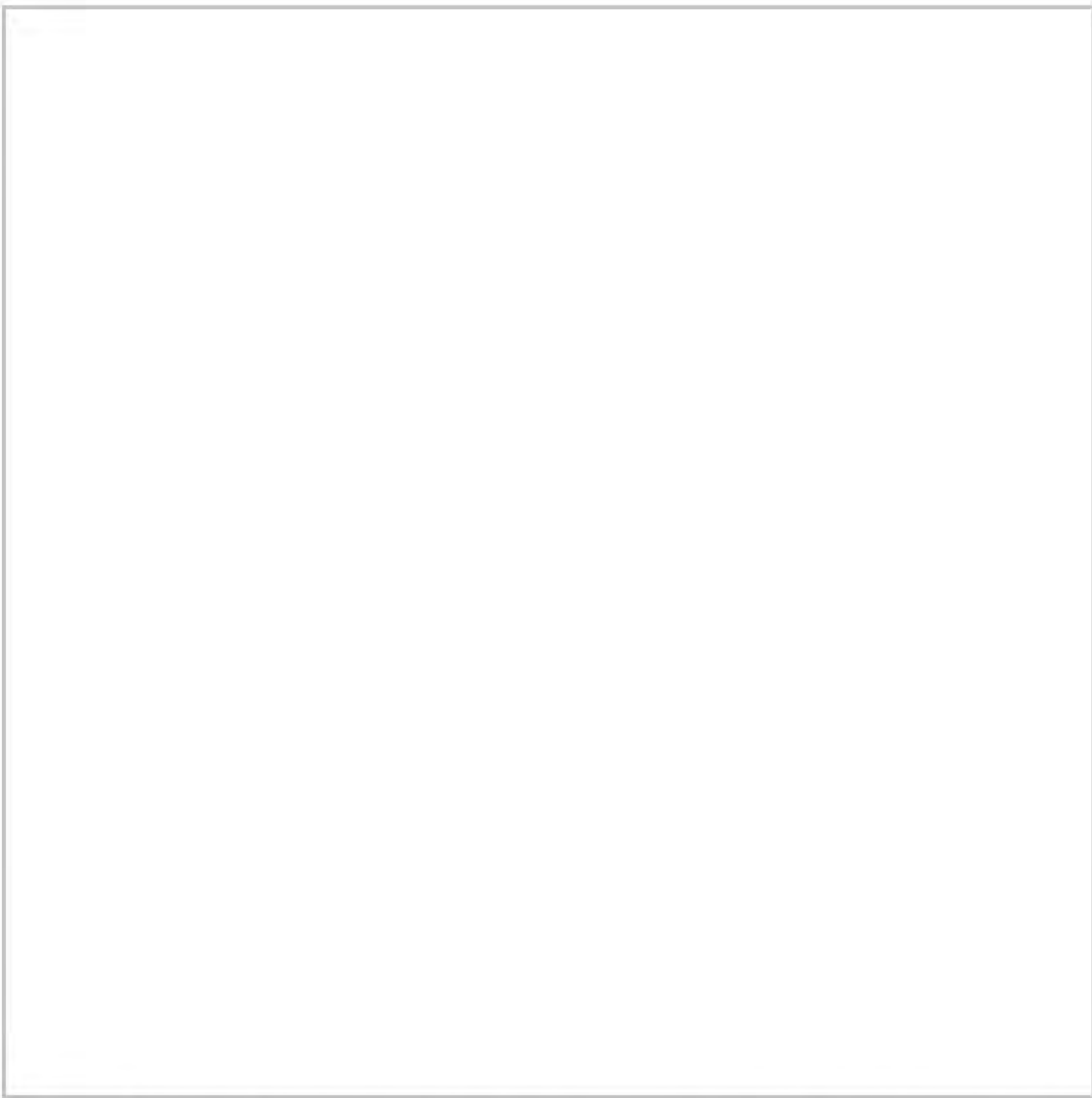
CHECKED AND BALANCED:

-- **The Fourth Circuit – in a 10-to-3 *en banc* beatdown – left in place the freeze on Trump’s revised entry ban, handing the administration yet another legal blow in its efforts to block the issuance of new visas to citizens of six Muslim-majority countries.** [From Ann E. Marimow and Robert Barnes](#): “Attorney General **Jeff Sessions vowed to appeal to the Supreme Court.** ... The Richmond-based court said the president’s power to deny entry into the United States is not absolute and sided with challengers, finding that the travel ban ‘in context drips with religious intolerance, animus and discrimination.’ The president’s authority, the court said, ‘cannot go unchecked when, as here, the president wields it through an executive edict that stands to cause irreparable harm to individuals across this nation,’ according to the majority opinion written by Chief Judge Roger L. Gregory and joined in part by nine colleagues.”

-- **Blue slips are in danger: While Trump steps up his efforts to remake the judicial branch, Senate Republicans are threatening to alter a long-honored custom that allows Democratic senators to block some judicial choices from their states.** [Robert Barnes and Ed O’Keefe report](#): “Leaders are considering a significant change to the Senate’s ‘blue slip’ practice, which holds that judicial nominations will not proceed unless the nominee’s home-state senators signal their consent to the Senate Judiciary Committee. Adherence to the custom has waxed and waned, depending on the views of Senate leaders. But **the rule was strictly observed during the Obama administration, and GOP opposition to [Obama’s] nominees partly explains why Trump entered office with more**

than 120 judicial vacancies to fill. Removing the blue-slip obstacle would make it much easier for Trump's choices to be confirmed...

“The Senate acted Thursday on Trump’s first appeals-court nomination, elevating U.S. District Judge Amul Thapar of Kentucky to the ... 6th Circuit ... Thapar was confirmed 52 to 44 on a party-line vote ... Thapar’s nomination did not raise blue-slip concerns, because both of Kentucky’s senators are Republican and Thapar is a favorite of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.). ... (But, but, but:) **The vacancy for which Thapar was nominated exists only because McConnell refused to return a blue slip for Obama’s nominee,** Kentucky Supreme Court Justice Lisabeth Tabor Hughes. The seat has been vacant since 2013, and Tabor Hughes never received a hearing, because blue slips were not returned.”



Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James scores a layup against the Celtics at TD Garden in Boston last night. (Greg M. Cooper-USA Today Sports)

GET SMART FAST:

1. **LeBron James passed Michael Jordan last night as the NBA's all-time playoff scoring leader**, accomplishing the feat in a win over the Celtics. That 135-102 victory, in which James scored 35 points, sent his Cavaliers into a finals showdown with the Warriors. ([Des Bieler](#))
2. **A U.S.-led airstrike carried out on a building in Mosul detonated a cache of ISIS explosives, killing more than 100**

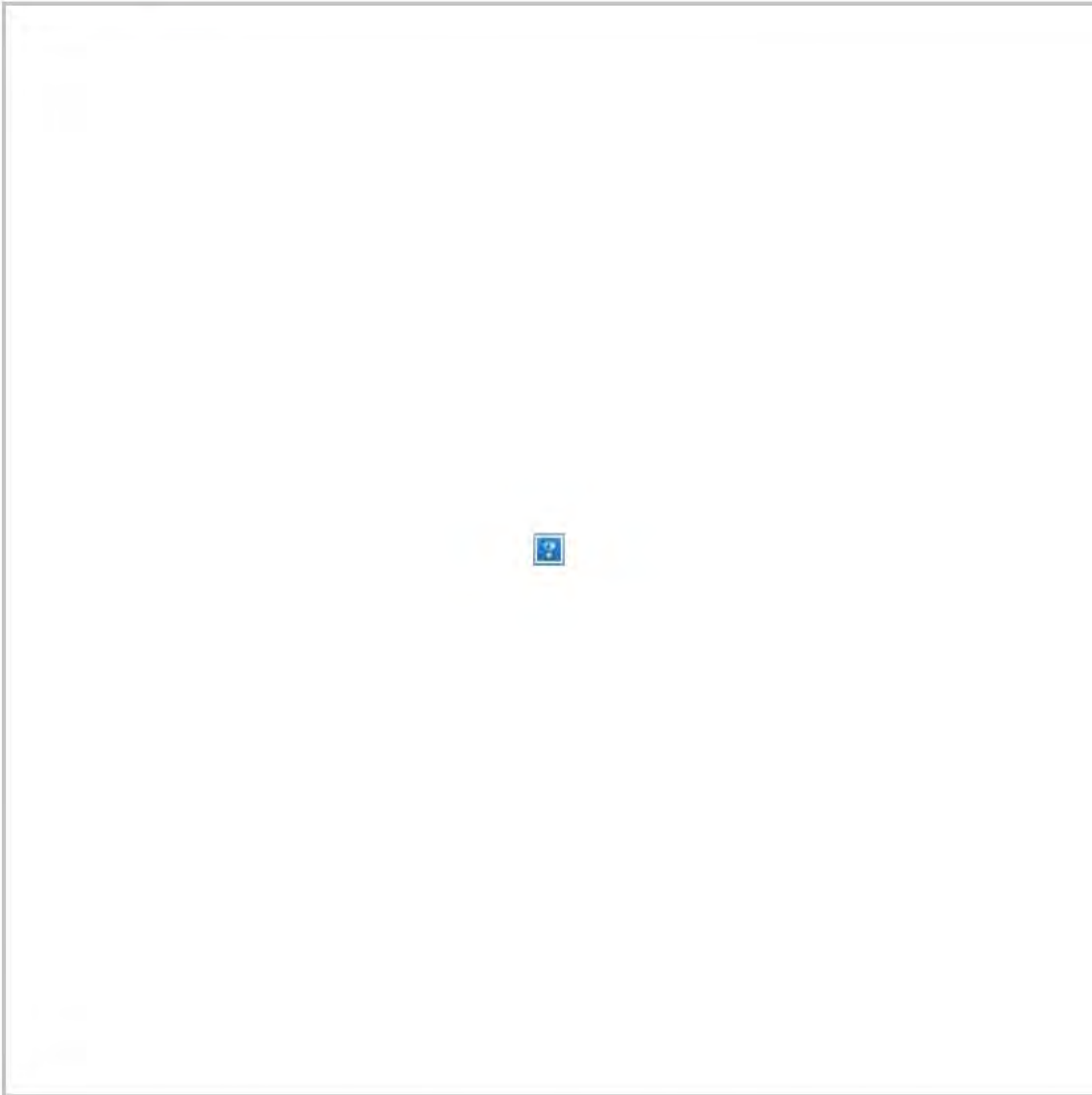
Iraqi civilians in March, Pentagon officials acknowledged.

([Thomas Gibbons-Neff](#))

3. **Former Greek prime minister Lucas Papademos was wounded in a car explosion in Athens.** Police say his injuries were not life threatening. ([AP](#))
4. **An Alabama prisoner dubbed the “Houdini of death row” for dodging execution seven times was finally put to death early Friday.** He shot his lover’s husband in a 1982 murder-for-hire scheme. He was first sentenced to death more than three decades ago. ([Derek Hawkins](#))
5. **In Ohio, a group of GOP activists and major donors are encouraging “Hillbilly Elegy” author J.D. Vance to run for Senate.** Loyalists to John Kasich think he stands a better chance of beating Sen. Sherrod Brown (D) next year than state Treasurer Josh Mandel. ([Buzzfeed](#))
6. **Rep. Elijah Cummings, the top Democrat on the House Oversight Committee, is recovering at a Baltimore hospital after undergoing “minimally invasive” heart surgery.** He will remain in the hospital for several days and will return to work shortly thereafter. ([Politico](#))
7. **The Republican National Committee is backing a petition that would allow political campaigns and businesses to leave automated messages on your voicemail, without your phone having to ring.** Under consideration by the Federal Communications Commission, which has been asked to review ringless voicemail, the proposal would free tele-marketers from restrictions that prevent them from robo-calling people's cellphones without first getting their permission. ([Hamza Shaban](#))

8. **Twenty-one people across the U.S. were indicted in a modern-day sex-slave ring** – accused of luring vulnerable young women into the country and forcing them into prostitution until they could pay off tens of thousands of dollars in “bondage debts.” Authorities described the trafficking operation as one of the most elaborate and extensive in modern memory. ([New York Times](#))
9. **A Caltech astrophysics professor accused of harassing two female graduate students was also investigated for creating an imaginary female researcher**, whom he listed as his co-author on major research papers and lauded for her “continued inspiration.” ([Buzzfeed News](#))
10. **A mother who attended every college class with her son so he could obtain a graduate degree after being paralyzed in an accident received the surprise of a lifetime during his graduation Saturday: an honorary MBA degree of her very own.** ([New York Times](#))
11. **A Missouri man with a sweet tooth sued Hershey’s over two \$1 boxes of candy** – accusing the company of being “misleading, deceptive and unlawful” and purposely underfilling its packages. He’s seeking \$5 million. ([Abha Bhattarai](#))
12. **New Zealand cricket star Doug Bracewell attempted to justify his third drunken driving conviction by arguing that the death of his girlfriend’s pet cockatoo made him do it.** His lawyer said he drove drunk out of “genuine concern” for his partner and not because he was wantonly disregarding the rules of the road. ([Marissa Payne](#))
13. **Two Texas teachers sparked outrage after presenting a**

“Most likely to become a terrorist” award to a seventh-grade girl during a class assembly. The 13-year-old – a Salvadoran American and honor student – says she was stunned by the certificate, which her teachers handed to her, laughing, just one day after the Manchester Arena terrorist attack. ([Amber Ferguson](#))



Trump and British Prime Minister Theresa May at NATO headquarters in Brussels.
(Dan Kitwood/AFP/Getty Images)

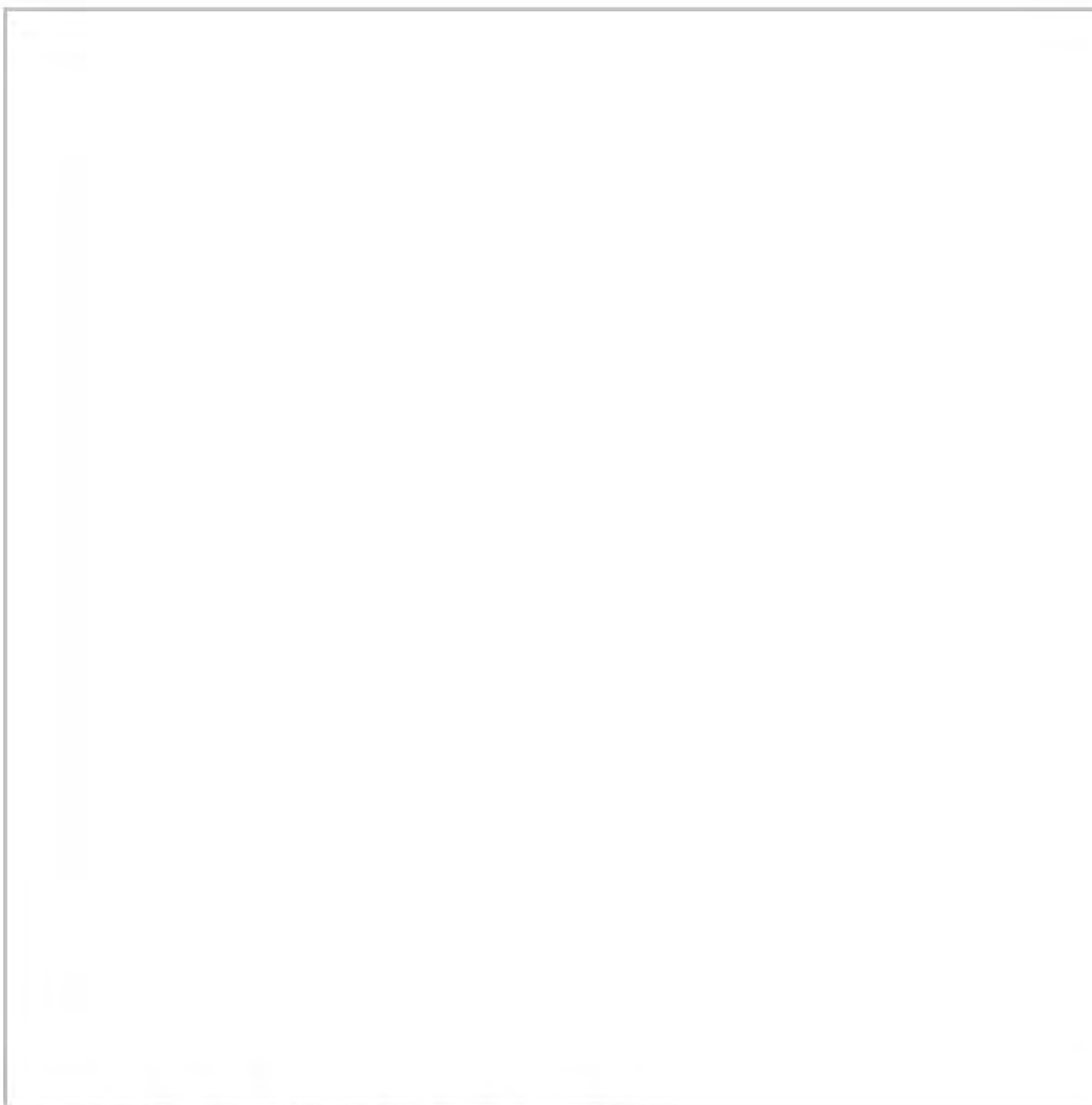
THE KREMLIN IS WINNING SO MUCH THAT IT IS GOING TO GET TIRED OF WINNING:

-- Trump exported the confrontational, nationalist rhetoric of his campaign in Brussels on Thursday, scolding European leaders for not footing more of the bill for their own defense, and lecturing them to stop taking advantage of U.S. taxpayers. Philip Rucker, Karen DeYoung and Michael Birnbaum report: “Speaking in front of a twisted shard of the World Trade Center at NATO’s gleaming new headquarters in Brussels, Trump upbraided America’s longtime allies for ‘not paying what they should be paying.’ He used a ceremony dedicating the memorial to NATO’s resolve in the aftermath of the 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States as a platform to exhort leaders to ‘focus on terrorism and immigration’ to ensure their security...

"He held back from the one pledge NATO leaders most wanted to hear: an unconditional embrace of the organization’s solemn treaty commitment that an attack on a single alliance nation is an attack on all of them. Instead, European leaders gazed unsmilingly at Trump while he said that ‘23 of the 28 member nations are still not paying what they should be paying’ and that they owe ‘massive amounts’ from past years — a misstatement of NATO’s spending targets, which guide individual nations’ own domestic spending decisions. **The harsh tone had a toll, as Trump was left largely on his own after the speech as leaders mingled and laughed with each other, leaving the U.S. president to stand silently on a stage ahead of a group photo.** The long day of gruff Brussels meetings was a contrast to his friendlier encounters in the Middle East, where Trump last weekend embraced the authoritarian Saudi monarchy and said he had been wowed by King Salman’s wisdom.”

-- It was a jarring dissonance: Trump tells Middle Eastern autocrats he will never lecture them over their human rights abuses. Then he flies to Europe and lectures our closest allies.

-- Make no mistake: Vladimir Putin saw Trump's behavior in Brussels, and he will be emboldened by it. Eastern Europeans depend on the U.S. security guarantee to avoid falling back under the yoke of Russian rule. Putin is not paying a heavy price for illegally invading Ukraine. What's to stop him from taking, say, Estonia? How does he not take away from yesterday's event that he could probably get away with it? Words matter, and Trump projected major weakness -- putting another crack in the Western alliance.

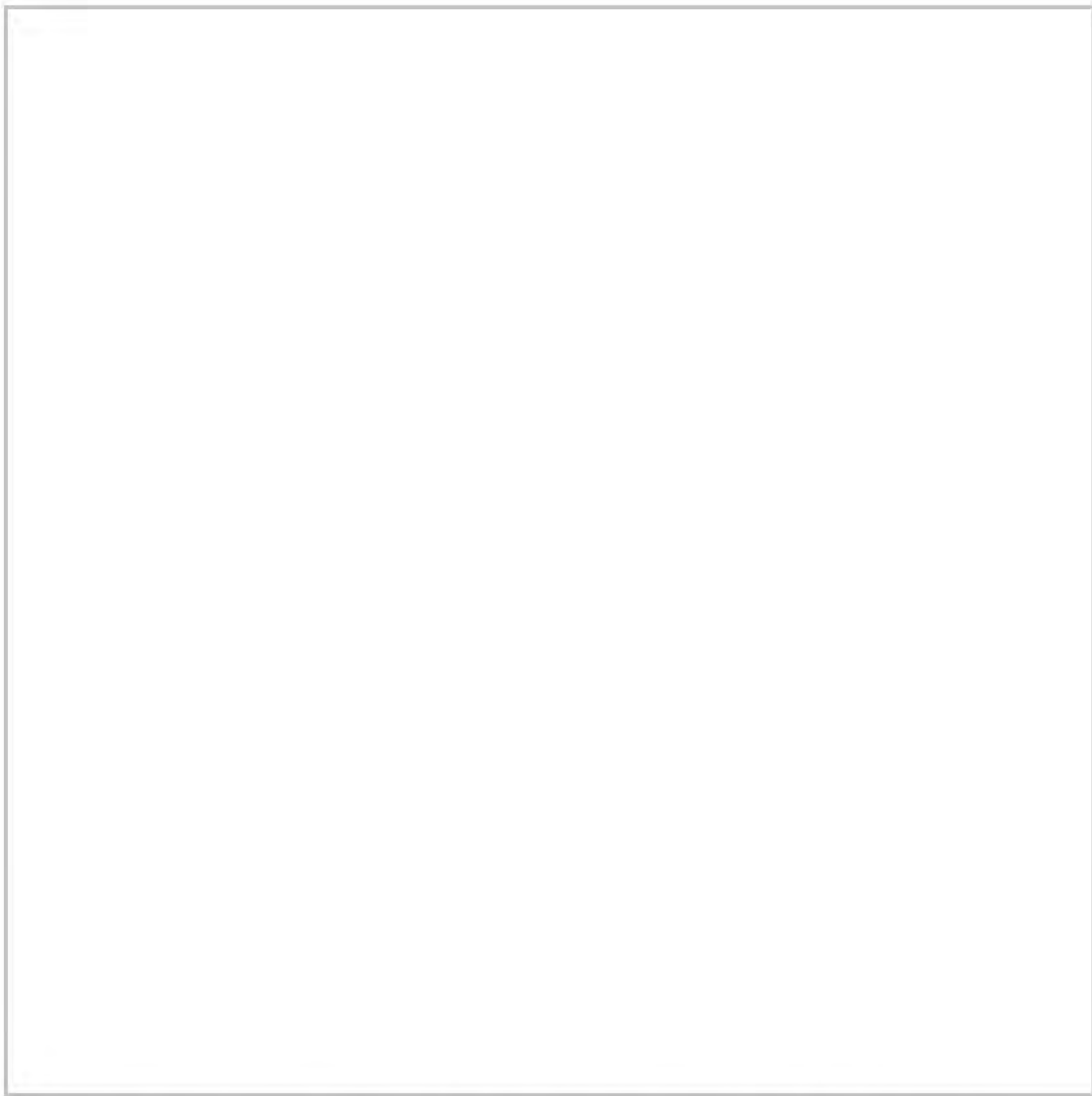


Trump pushes past Montenegrin prime minister

-- LEADING FROM THE SIDE: In a widely-shared moment from the summit, **Trump appeared to physically *push aside another NATO leader to get a spot at the front before a group picture***, [David Nakamura writes](#). “That prompted pundits to joke that after eight years of [Barack Obama’s] cautious foreign policy, the U.S. was no longer ‘leading from behind.’ But Trump’s remarks at the event celebrating the Article 5 mutual defense treaty left the impression of a president who continues to lead from the side — with one foot in and one foot out when it comes to U.S. multilateral commitments. **Whether it’s NATO, the Paris climate pact, the Iran nuclear deal or the NAFTA**

trade accord, the Trump administration has wavered and equivocated, failing to offer a full-throated endorsement and allowing such agreements to continue in an awkward state of limbo without U.S. leadership and nourishment. Thursday's ceremony ... was supposed to put an end to the uncertainty among U.S. allies and partners in Europe. Trump's aides had laid the groundwork, hinting [that Trump] would directly endorse Article 5. Instead, [he] found no space to do so in his 900-word address."

-- For NATO countries, the upshot is their relations with the Trump administration continue to be defined by uncertainty and anxiety even as the president wraps up a foreign trip that was intended to reaffirm U.S. global leadership: "It creates a hedging behavior," said Ian Bremmer, president of a global risk consulting firm ... Trump's posture "makes it more likely these countries are going their own way ... There will be some move towards more coordination of European-only security, and there will be less coordination with the United States."



Vladimir Putin meets with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi at the Kremlin yesterday. (EPA/Sputnik/Pool)

MOUNTING EVIDENCE OF MOSCOW MEDDLING:

-- Wall Street Journal, **“How Alleged Russian Hacker Teamed Up With Florida GOP Operative,”** by Alexandra Berzon and Rob

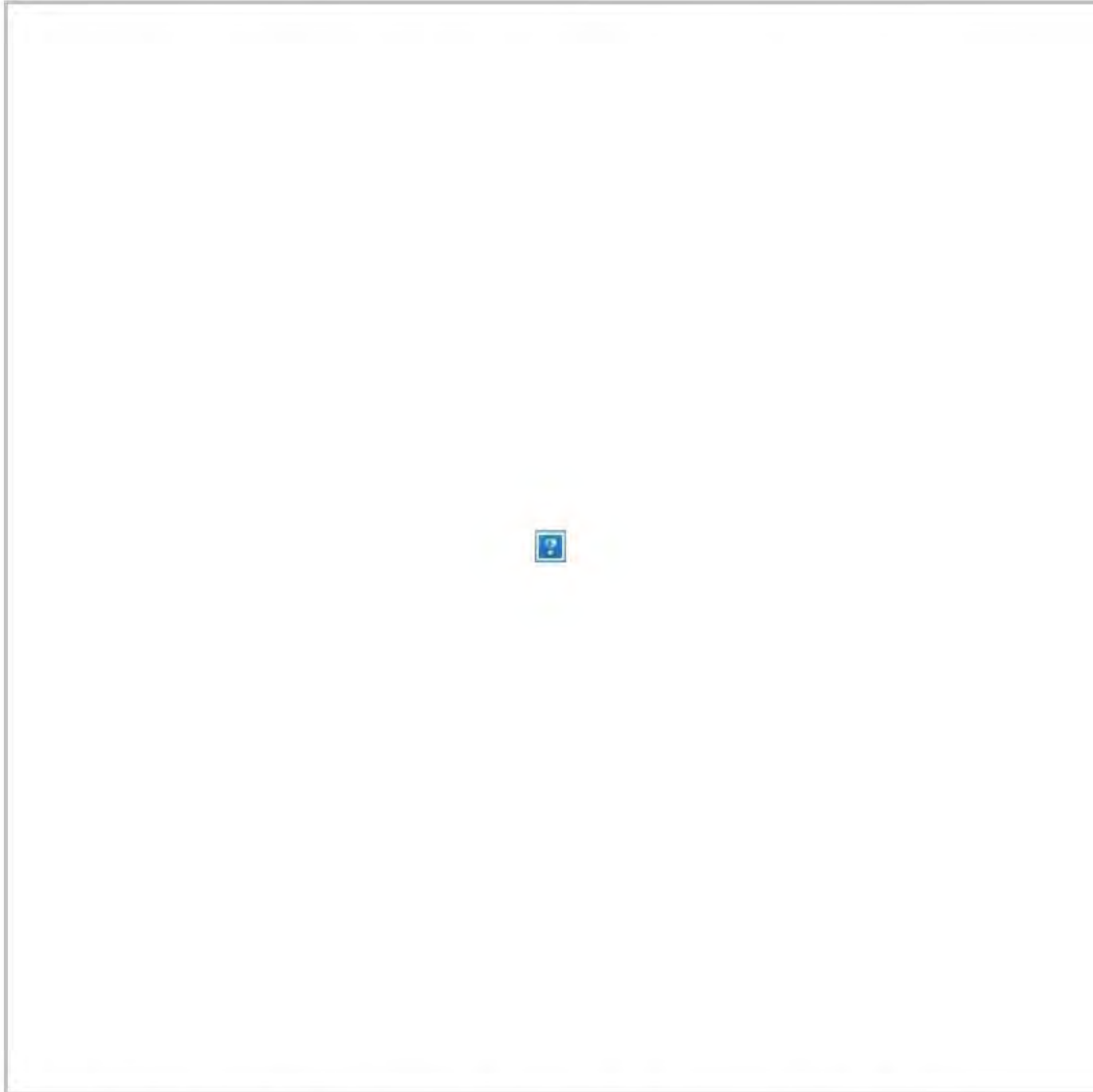
Barry: “The hacking spree that upended the presidential election wasn't limited to [DNC] memos and Clinton-aide emails posted on websites. The hacker also privately sent Democratic voter-turnout analyses to a Republican political operative in Florida named Aaron Nevins. Learning that hacker ‘Guccifer 2.0’ had tapped into a

Democratic committee that helps House candidates, Mr. Nevins wrote to the hacker to say: 'Feel free to send any Florida based information.' Ten days later, Mr. Nevins received 2.5 gigabytes of [DCCC] documents, some of which he posted on a blog called HelloFLA.com that he ran using a pseudonym. Soon after, the hacker sent a link to the blog article to Roger Stone, a longtime informal adviser to [Trump], along with Mr. Nevins' analysis of the hacked data."

-- **“Researchers say they’ve uncovered a disinformation campaign with an apparent Russian link,”** by David Filipov in **Moscow**: “Researchers have discovered an extensive international hacking campaign that steals documents from its targets, carefully modifies them and repackages them as disinformation aimed at undermining civil society and democratic institutions ... The investigators say the campaign shows clear signs of a Russian link. Although [the study] does not demonstrate a direct tie to the Kremlin, it suggests that **the attackers are aiming to discredit the Kremlin’s opponents**. The report also demonstrates overlap with cyberattacks used in the U.S. and French presidential elections ... **The campaign has targeted more than 200 government officials, military leaders and diplomats from 39 countries, [as well as journalists and activists]**. The attackers seek to hack into email accounts ... steal documents and slightly alter them while retaining the appearance of authenticity. These forgeries, which the researchers have dubbed ‘tainted leaks,’ are then released along with unaltered documents and publicized as legitimate leaks.”

Chilling quote: “Tainted leaks plant fakes in a forest of facts in an attempt to make them credible by association with genuine, stolen

documents,” said John Scott-Railton, a senior researcher at the Citizen Lab. “We expect to see many more of them in the future.”



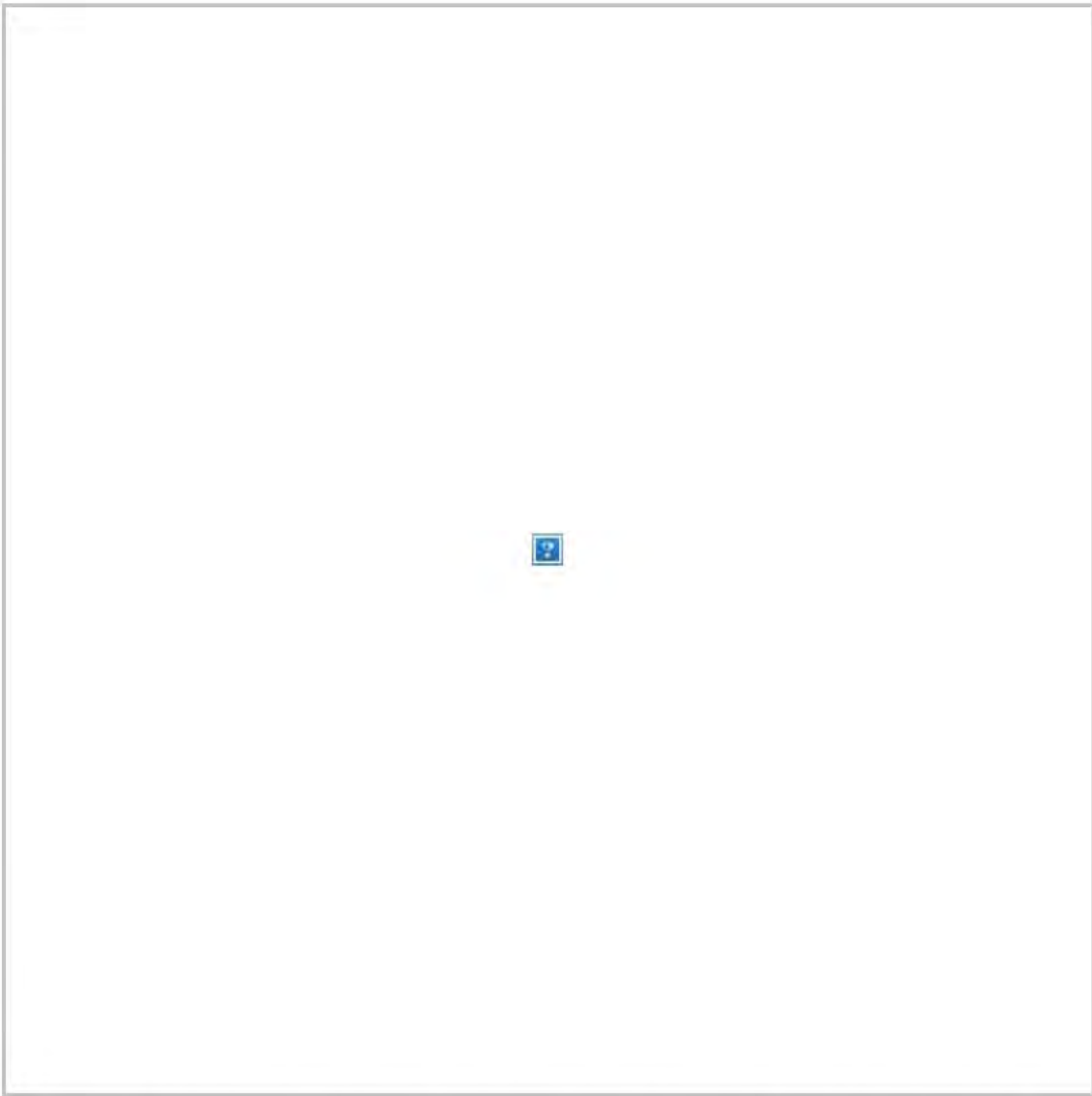
Sen. Bob Corker (R-Tenn.) talks with reporters on Capitol Hill. (J. Scott Applewhite/AP)

CONGRESS LOSING PATIENCE:

-- Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Bob Corker issued a rare challenge to the Trump administration: Prove to us that you are making progress with Russia soon, or he will move forward with sanctions. [Karoun Demirjian reports](#): “[Corker] has resisted efforts to debate and pass a bipartisan bill codifying existing

executive sanctions against Russia for its aggressive actions in Syria and Ukraine and imposing additional sanctions over allegations of Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential election. Corker had argued that it was premature to consider such a measure before congressional investigators completed their probe ... On Thursday, Corker noted that [Rex Tillerson] had also asked him for ‘a short window of opportunity ... to change the trajectory of our relationship with Russia’ pertaining to Syria. But **Corker’s patience with Tillerson appears to be nearing its end.** ‘Unless Secretary Tillerson can come in early in this next work session’ to tell senators that ‘these things are occurring that are changing the trajectory’ of U.S.-Russian relations, Corker said he would recommend that the committee ‘quickly’ move a bill to impose tougher sanctions on Moscow.”

-- The Senate Intelligence Committee voted yesterday to give its ranking Republican and Democrat solo subpoena power for the duration of the investigation into Russian interference. [Karoun Demirjian reports](#): “Chairman Richard Burr told reporters that the vote to leave subpoena decisions up to him and Vice Chairman Mark Warner was unanimous. He would not say when, or with whom, he and Warner planned to exercise their new authority. The move may be a sign that congressional investigators are anticipating a fight in their efforts to compel certain witnesses to cooperate with their probe and want to accelerate the process by which the committee can subpoena testimony or documents from people involved.”



Trump had lunch last week with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in the Cabinet Room. (Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post)

THE TAKEOVER:

-- Federal agencies are quietly retooling their missions to avoid being targeted by the Trump administration. [Chris Mooney and Lisa Rein report](#): "'Climate change' is out. 'Resilience' is in. 'Victims of domestic violence' are now 'victims of crime.' Foreign aid for refugee rights has become aid to protect 'national security.' 'Clean energy investment' has been transformed into just plain 'energy' investment. The federal government is undergoing a rebranding under [Trump] —

although not all at his direction. As Trump sets new priorities for Washington sharply at odds with what the town has seen for the past eight years, **some officials working on hot-button issues such as the environment, nutrition and foreign aid are changing the names of offices and programs that might draw skepticism from the conservative Republican leaders he has installed atop agencies.** While entire departments are changing their missions under Trump, many of these rebranding efforts reflect a desire to blend in or escape notice, not a change in what officials do day-to-day — at least not yet, according to 19 current and former employees ... 'I do think it exemplifies a general sense of looking at our programs, looking at the way we characterize our activities, and trying to rebrand or repaint them in ways that hopefully make them less of a target,' said one Energy Department employee."

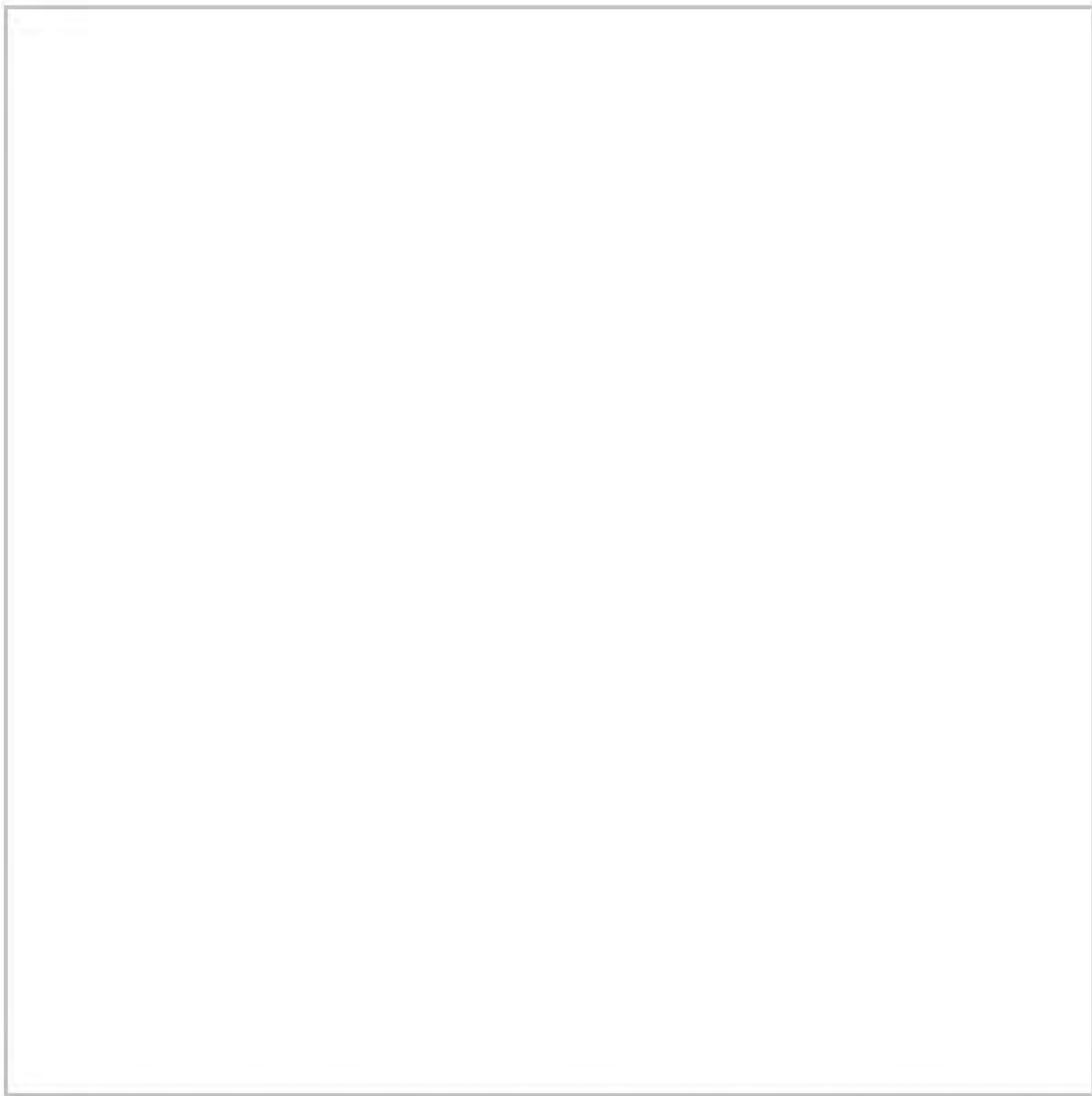
-- **“At Trump’s urging, states try to tilt Medicaid in conservative directions,”** by Amy Goldstein and Juliet Eilperin: “Wisconsin is preparing to recast its Medicaid program in ways that no state has ever done, requiring low-income adults to undergo drug screening to qualify for health coverage and setting time limits on assistance unless they work or train for a job. The approach places BadgerCare, as the Wisconsin version of Medicaid is known, at the forefront of a movement by Republican governors and legislatures that is injecting a brand of moralism and individual responsibility into the nation’s largest source of public health insurance. From Maine to Arizona, some states are seizing on an invitation by the Trump administration to redesign a program that was created as part of the 1960s Great Society and now covers 69 million Americans. Although [Trump] and his advisers talk of tailor-made innovation to match need, the states’

strategies draw on a similar repertoire — monthly premiums for people below the poverty line, time limits for coverage and fees for emergency room visits, among others. All are influenced by more conservative values that long ago filtered into welfare and other anti-poverty programs. The approach places BadgerCare, as the Wisconsin version of Medicaid is known, at the forefront of a movement by Republican governors and legislatures that is injecting a brand of moralism and individual responsibility into the nation's largest source of public health insurance."

TRUMP AGENDA STALLS OUT ON THE HILL:

-- **“With proposed Trump cuts, chances fade for a bipartisan infrastructure deal,” by John Wagner:** “When he took office, some otherwise deeply disappointed Democrats thought they might be able to work with him on one marquee campaign promise: pumping \$1 trillion into the nation’s roads, bridges, airports and other long-neglected infrastructure. But **any prospects for cooperation on that front seemed to largely evaporate this week**, when Trump released a budget proposal that included deep cuts to existing infrastructure programs — angering Democrats and prompting many to question the president’s commitment to an issue he trumpeted as a candidate. Trump’s budget proposes \$200 billion in new federal spending on infrastructure over the next decade, an amount his administration argues will be sufficient to spur a promised \$1 trillion in new investments once new spending by the private sector and state and local governments are factored in ... 'It makes us very dubious of any attempt to do infrastructure by this administration,' Chuck Schumer said."

-- **Top White House aides are trying to assemble a plan for keeping the administration's policy goals alive.** [Politico's Josh Dawsey, Alex Isenstadt and Eliana Johnson report](#): "When a group of nearly a dozen state GOP chairs walked into the Oval Office last week, they expected to be inside for only a few minutes to say a brief hello and take pictures. Instead, Trump spoke with them for nearly half an hour, inviting them to sit down on the couches. He wanted to know how his policies were playing ... and peppered them with questions. Among the concerns he brought up[:] the Russia probe. ... **A senior administration official described 'paralysis' setting in as more of the White House's time and resources are consumed by the Russia probe.** With so much energy being directed toward the investigation, this person said, it is becoming harder to see how any policy goals get accomplished. 'They are back trying to get this under control,' said one person. 'Trump is not happy about all of this. Everyone knows it. They aren't sitting around working on the budget all day.'"



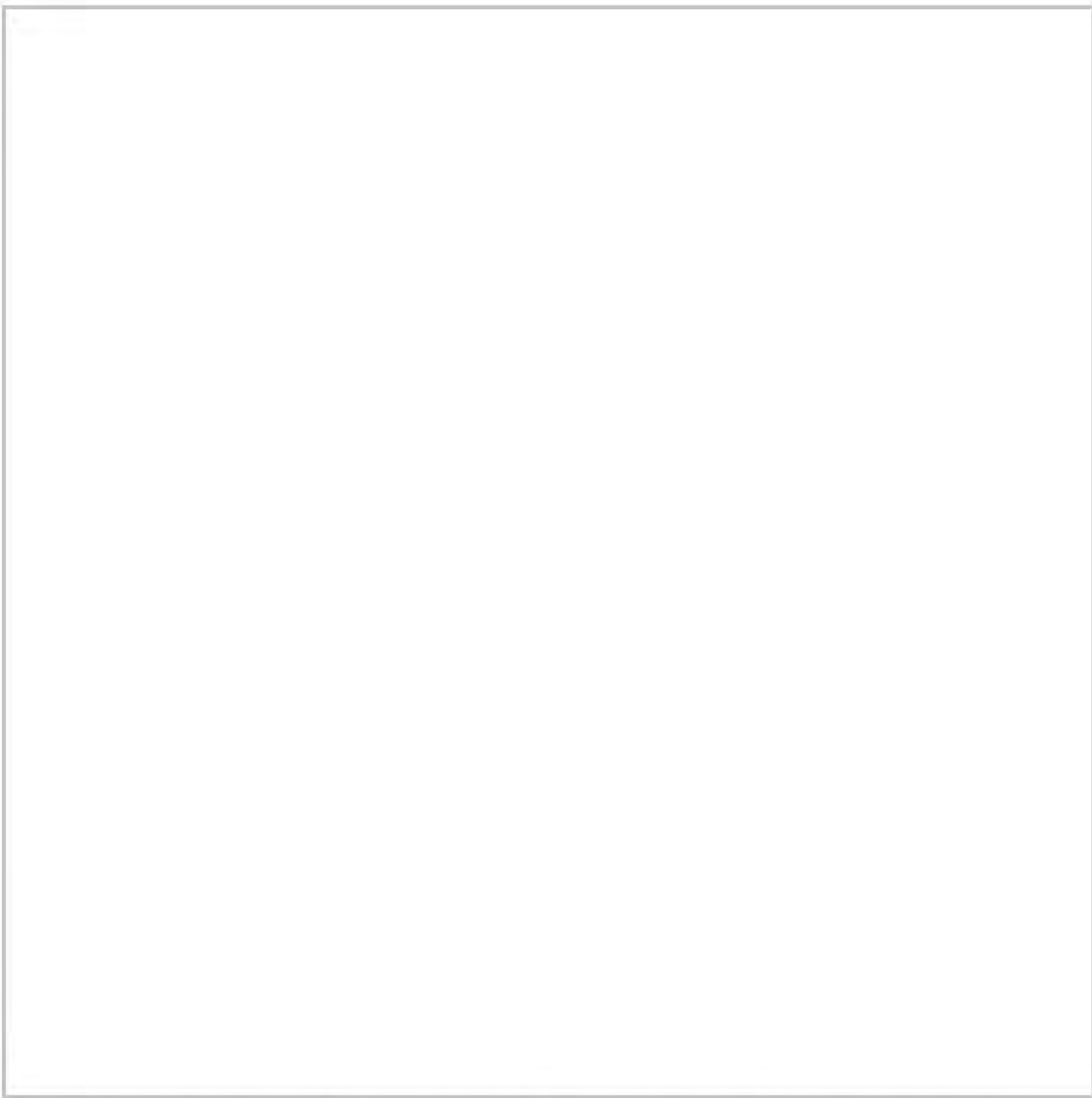
David Clarke, sheriff of Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, speaks at the NRA meeting in Atlanta last month. (Scott Olson/Getty Images)

ALL THE PRESIDENT'S MEN:

-- Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, "**Sheriff David Clarke directed staff to hassle a plane passenger after a brief exchange,**" by **Daniel Bice**: "Sitting on the tarmac at the [DFW] International Airport on Jan. 15, Clarke sent a text message to one of his captains after a brief verbal exchange with a passenger. The sheriff explained in the text what should be done when Riverwest resident Dan Black got off the plane. 'Just a field interview, no arrest unless he become an

[expletive]...' Clarke wrote Captain Mark Witek. 'Follow him to baggage and out the door,' Clarke continued. 'You can escort me to carousel after I point him out.' A copy of the text messages was provided by an attorney for Black, who is suing the sheriff [over the incident]. Records show the matter, which has drawn national attention, was big enough that federal investigators looked at Clarke and his staff's handling of the case. Black, 24, says he was detained, interviewed and escorted out of Mitchell International Airport on Jan. 15 by a half-dozen deputies after a brief run-in with the sheriff on the plane. He says in the federal suit that he was the victim of an unlawful stop and arrest. Since Black went public with his complaint, Clarke has threatened and belittled his fellow passenger, calling Black a 'snowflake' and saying anyone, including Black, who harasses him on an airplane might get 'knocked out.'"

-- Reminder: Clarke says he is up for a top job at DHS.



Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner arrive in Rome. (Filippo Monteforte/Getty)

JARED GETTING MORE PRESS SCRUTINY:

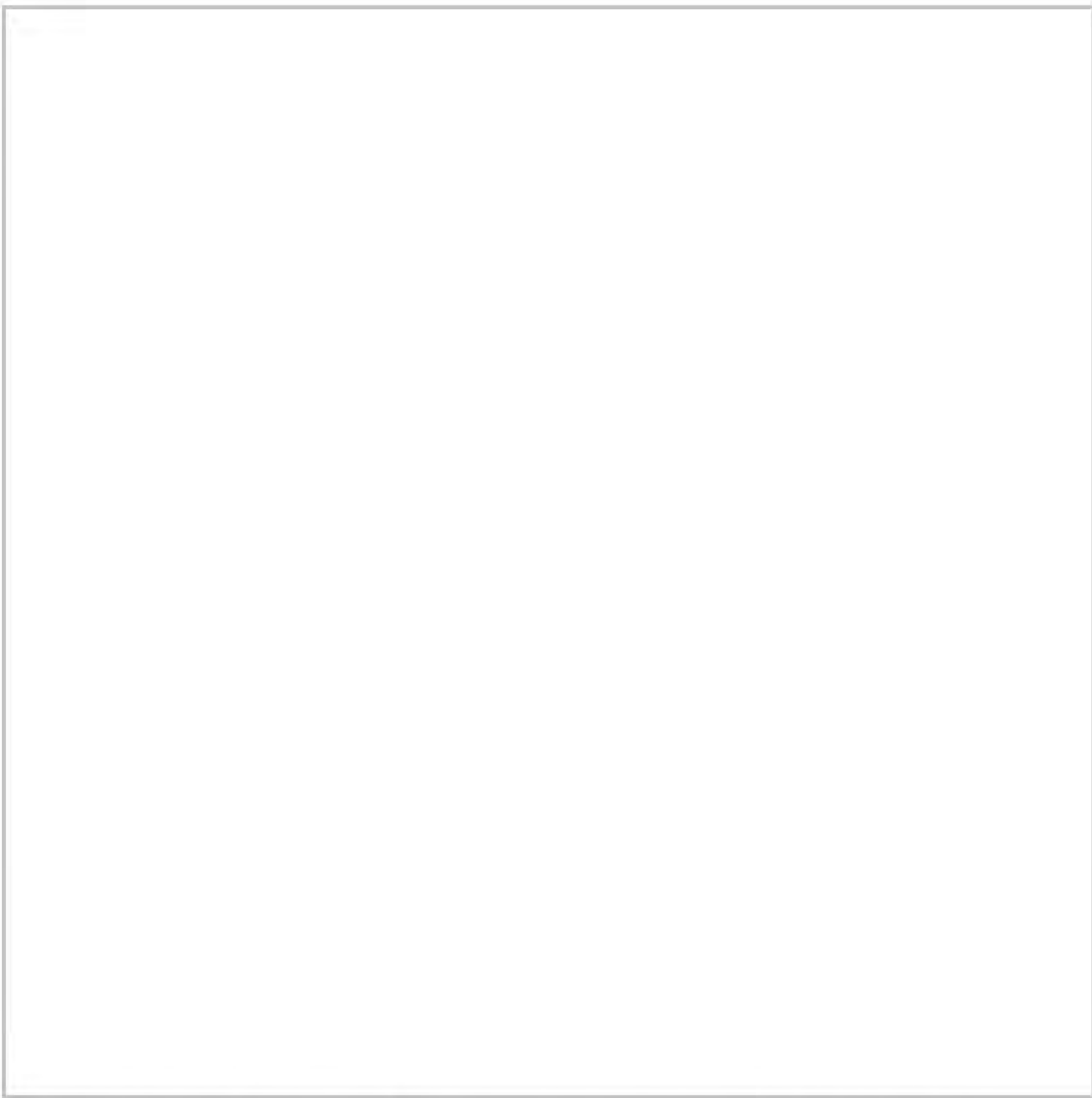
-- Bloomberg, “[The Kushners, the Saudis and Blackstone: Behind the Recent Deals](#),” by Caleb Melby and Hui-yong Yu:

“When Saudi Arabia announced last week a \$20-billion investment in a U.S. infrastructure fund managed by Blackstone Group LP, many noticed that it came shortly after ... Kushner personally negotiated a \$110-billion arms sale to the country. What went unnoticed -- and is largely unknown -- is how important Blackstone is to the Kushner family company. Since 2013, Blackstone has loaned more than \$400

million to finance four Kushner Cos. deals -- two of which have not been reported -- making it one of the business's largest lenders. And their ties go beyond the loans. Stephen Schwarzman, Blackstone's co-founder and chief executive officer, heads Trump's business-advisory council and was in Riyadh with the president and Kushner. The Saudi promise to invest in Blackstone's fund drove the firm's stock up more than 8 percent. ... The sequence of the deals and the intertwined personal relationships of the principals raise concerns about conflicts of interest."

-- Artnet, "**Jared and Ivanka Failed to Disclose Their Multimillion-Dollar Art Collection,**" by **Christian Erin-Madsen & Jeremy Olds & Renata Mosci & Sam Bloch**: "Since their wedding in 2009, Jared Kushner and Ivanka Trump have amassed a formidable collection of contemporary art. The walls of the couple's \$4 million Park Avenue condo are filled with works by both blue-chip and emerging artists [and] is estimated to be worth millions. Yet in required financial disclosures, Kushner ... failed to report the couple's art collection. The omission stands in contrast to disclosures from other senior members of the Trump administration. In recent months, Trump's top cabinet picks have revealed considerable art holdings as part of required financial disclosures. **[Wilbur Ross] disclosed an art collection worth at least \$50 million. [Steven Mnuchin] revealed his stake in a \$14.7 million Willem de Kooning painting, plus other artworks** ... Responding to an inquiry about the collection's exclusion from Kushner's financial disclosures, a lawyer advising Kushner [said] the art holdings would be added to a new version of his disclosure form. 'Mr. Kushner and Ms. Trump display their art for decorative purposes and have made only a single sale,' [he said]."

-- Politico Magazine, "[Meet the Real Jared Kushner](#)," by David Freedlander: "The widespread assumption liberals make about Kushner seems to be this: Because he is soft-spoken, slim and handsome, with degrees from Harvard and NYU and a family that donates to Democrats, he couldn't possibly be the same guy knifing his West Wing rivals and urging the president to go to war with the Justice Department and the FBI. But that assumption is wrong [and] **those who know him from his days as a young New York real estate magnate and newspaper publisher say that America is just getting to know the Jared Kushner they have always known,** that beneath the unflappable golden exterior is someone unafraid to bungee jump or to counter-punch when he feels slighted ... **It has always been part of the Kushner Way: unfailingly polite and urbane on the surface, while searching for the soft underbelly to stick the knife in.**"



Charlotte Campbell, mother of Manchester attack victim Olivia Campbell.
(Reuters/Stefan Wermuth)

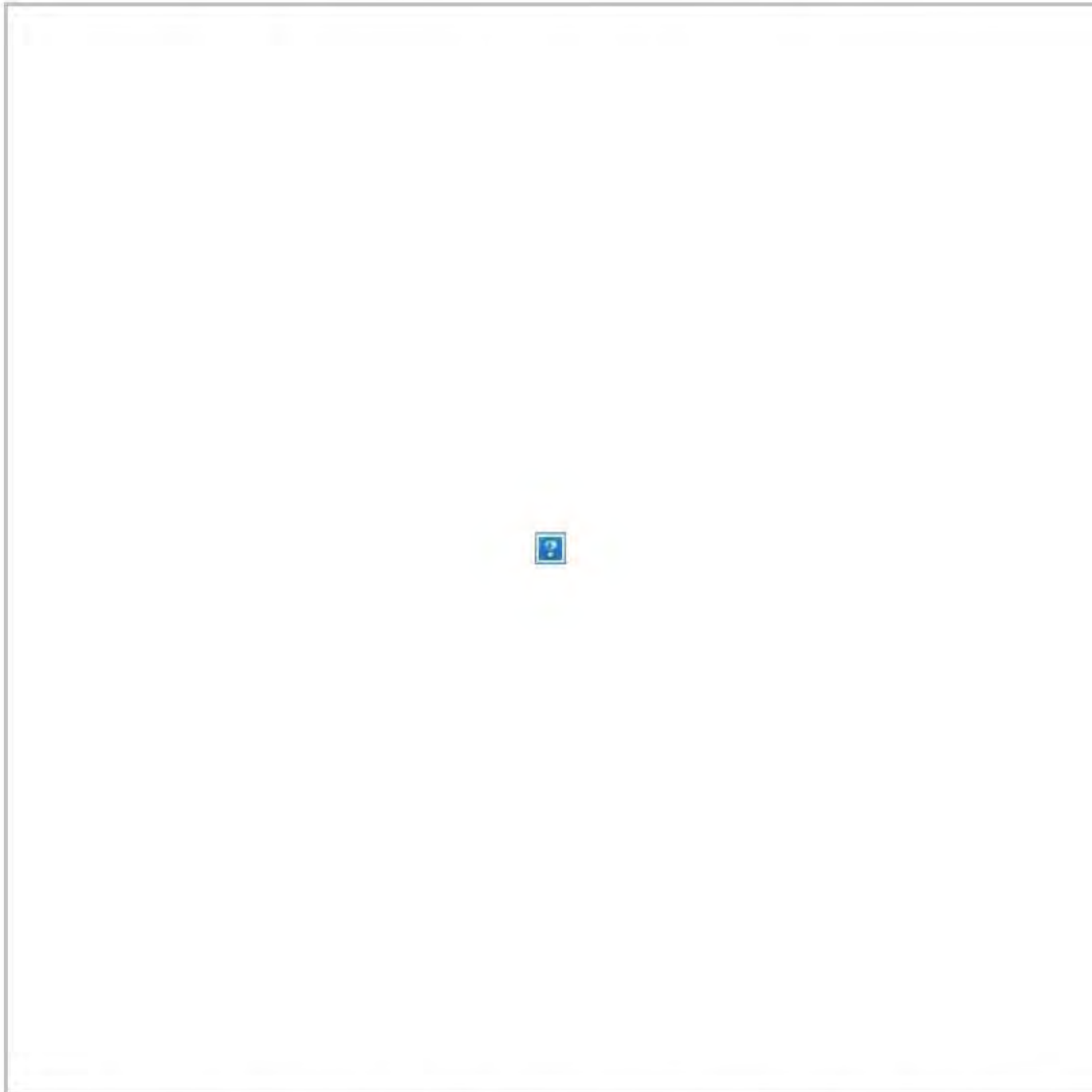
THE NEW WORLD ORDER:

-- **“British investigators searching for clues to the motives and possible accomplices of the suicide bomber who killed at least 22 at a concert in Manchester are increasingly focusing on Libya — and the Islamic State’s presence,”** [Sudarsan Raghavan reports](#): “Authorities say that Salman Abedi, a British citizen of Libyan descent, spent four weeks in Libya, returning to Manchester days before he carried out Monday night’s attack ... His brother, Hashem

Abedi, was arrested in the capital, Tripoli, on Tuesday on suspicion of having ties to the group, and authorities say he was planning an attack in this Mediterranean city. [Now], investigators are trying to find out whether a network of plotters extended all the way to Libya. Did anyone help Salman Abedi build the bomb, and did he receive other assistance from [ISIS] cells or operatives in Libya? But pursuing leads in this fractured North African nation is rife with obstacles. Rival militias control different regions, even enclaves within the capital, as a civil war spreads economic and political instability across the country. Three governments are competing for authority ... [And] after six years of civil conflict and a revolving door of political and military players, it is also unclear whether Britain and its Western allies have reliable contacts and sources to help with the probe in Libya.”

-- **“Duterte justified martial law over the ‘beheading’ of a police chief — who is still alive,”** by Emily Rauhala: “When [Rodrigo Duterte] explained his decision to declare martial law across a wide swath of the southern Philippines, he described one of the most chilling scenes imaginable: a beheading. In a news conference that made headlines around the world, Duterte said that [a police chief was slaughtered by terrorists on his way home]. ‘They decapitated him then and there,’ he said. The Philippine president’s claim spread like wildfire, with much of the local and foreign press reporting it as fact. Soon, unconfirmed reports of ‘beheadings’ became a major part of the Philippines storyline. But the Malabang police chief is alive — [The Post] spoke to him on Friday. And the Post could find no new evidence of televised beheadings ... It is not yet clear whether the police chief story was a mix-up or a careful bit of messaging. **What is certain, though, is that the inaccurate report shaped how the**

martial law news was covered — and potentially how it was received by the government of the United States.”



Gallatin County Sheriff Brian Gootkin speaks to the press about Greg Gianforte's involvement with reporter Ben Jacobs at a press conference on Wednesday night. (Janie Osborne/Getty Images)

A TROUBLING TREND BACK HOME:

-- It's not just Ben Jacobs. There has been a spate of physical violence against journalists recently, [Paul Farhi reports](#): Three weeks ago, Nathaniel Herz of the Alaska Dispatch News said he was questioning state Sen. David Wilson (R-Wasilla) in the

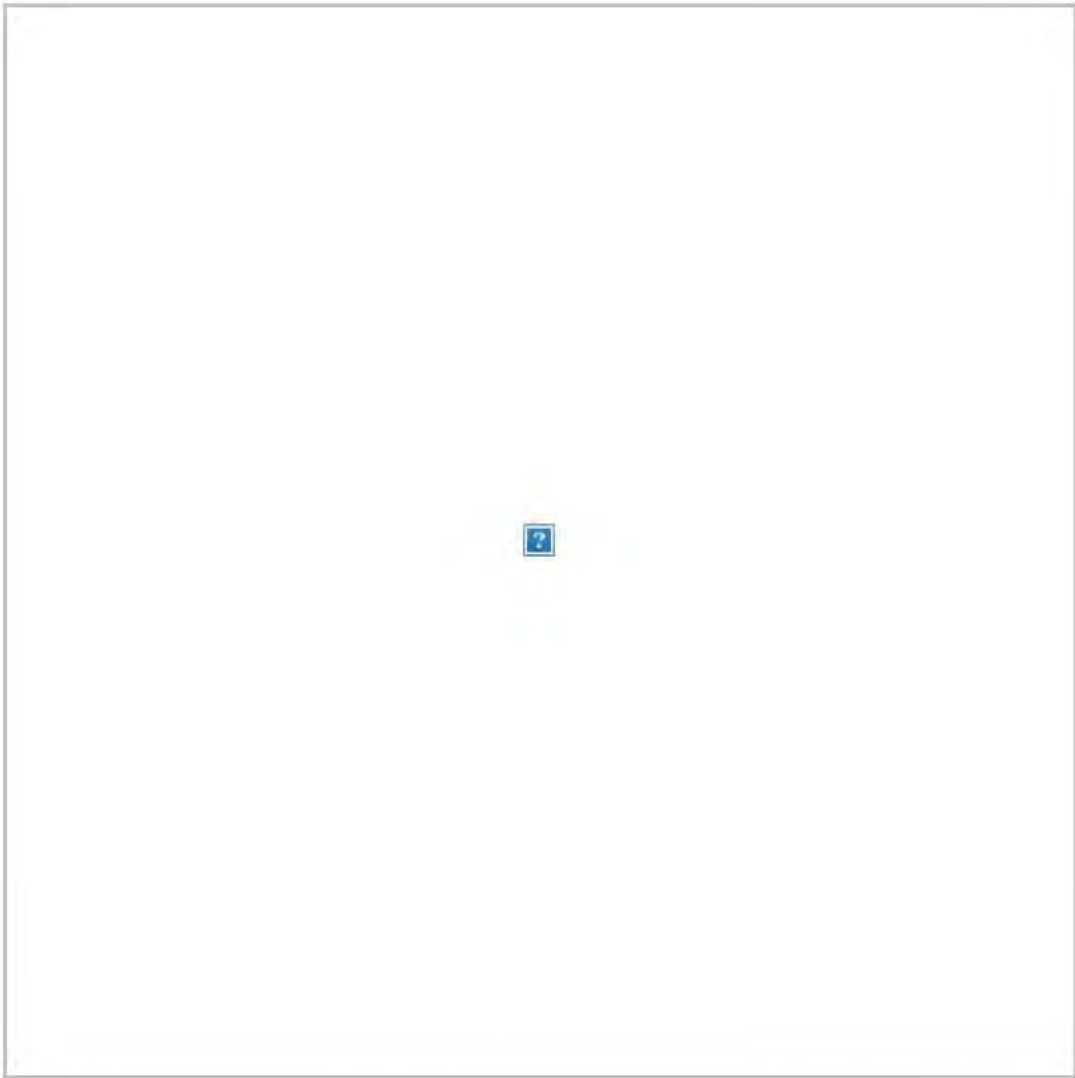
capitol in Juneau when the legislator turned and slapped him across the face. Herz, who recorded the confrontation, filed a report with the Juneau Police Department, which has turned the case over to the state's Office of Special Prosecution.

“CQ Roll Call reporter John Donnelly said he was pinned against a wall (last week) by security guards at the Federal Communications Commission as he sought to question agency officials. The FCC has apologized repeatedly for its treatment of Donnelly.

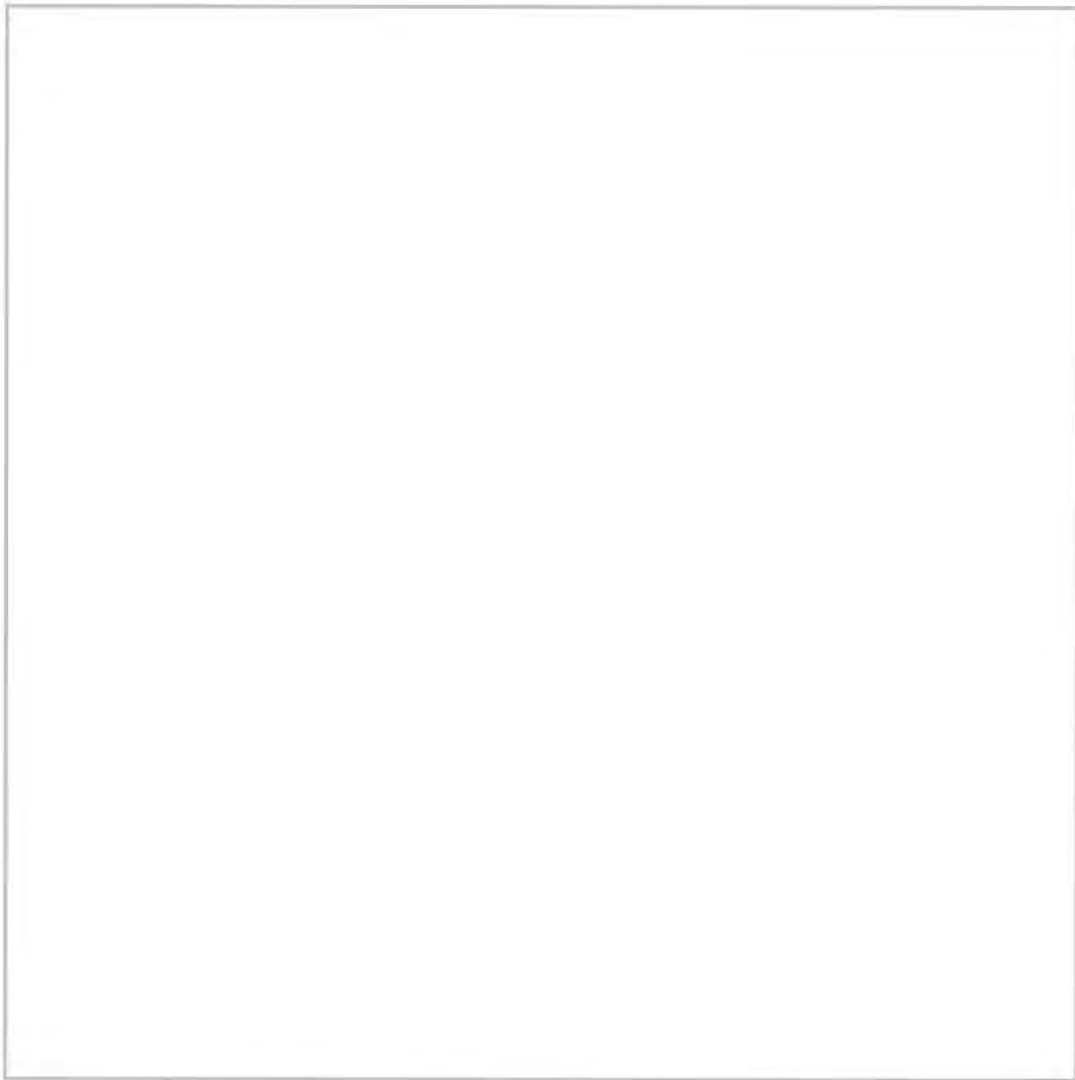
“Reporter Dan Heyman of the Public News Service was handcuffed and arrested on May 9 as he tried to question Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price and presidential adviser Kellyanne Conway in the West Virginia state capitol. After Conway and Price declined to respond to his repeated questions, Heyman was charged with ‘willful disruption of government processes’ by police. He spent seven hours in jail before being released.”

SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:

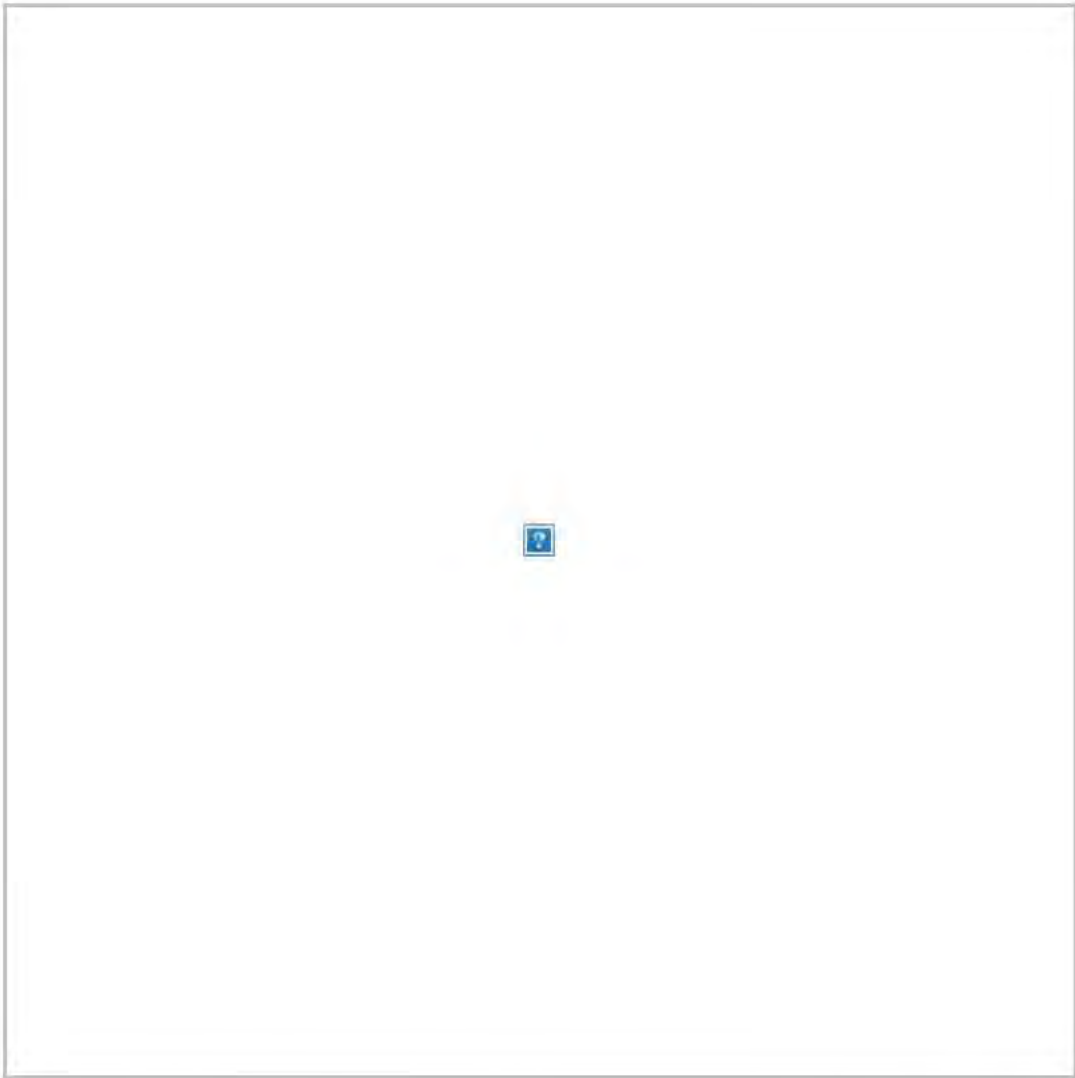
Tan. Rested. Ready. It's Jeb!



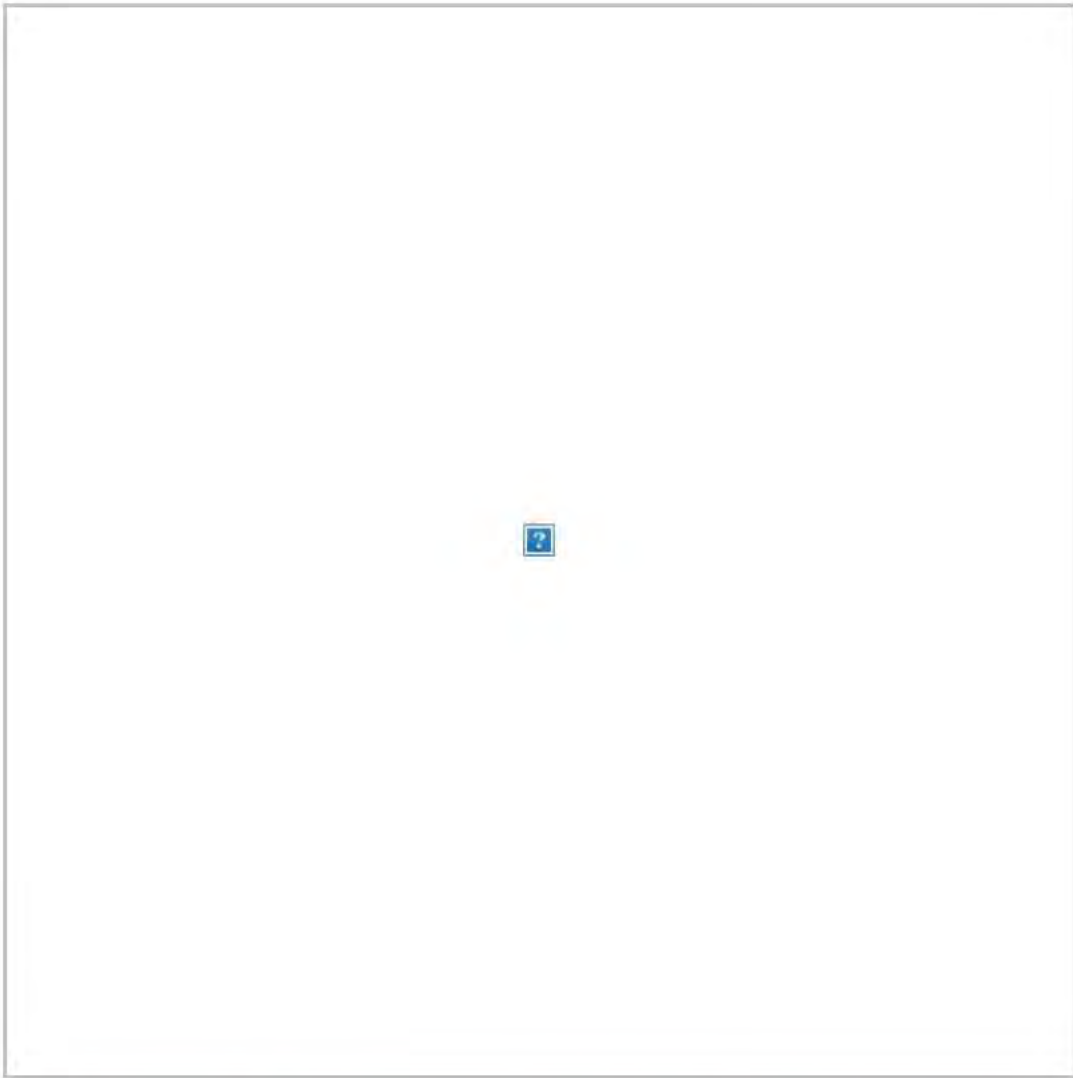
Trump highlighted a poll that shows [a majority of Americans do not approve](#) of how he's doing. Rasmussen is not respected by any serious pollsters -- as a rule, we don't cite it in stories -- and the overall polling average puts Trump's approval rating at below 40 percent:



A congressman from South Carolina claimed that CNN retracted a story about Jeff Sessions concealing his contacts with Russian agents on his security clearance form. The story is accurate (DOJ confirmed it) and has not been retracted:



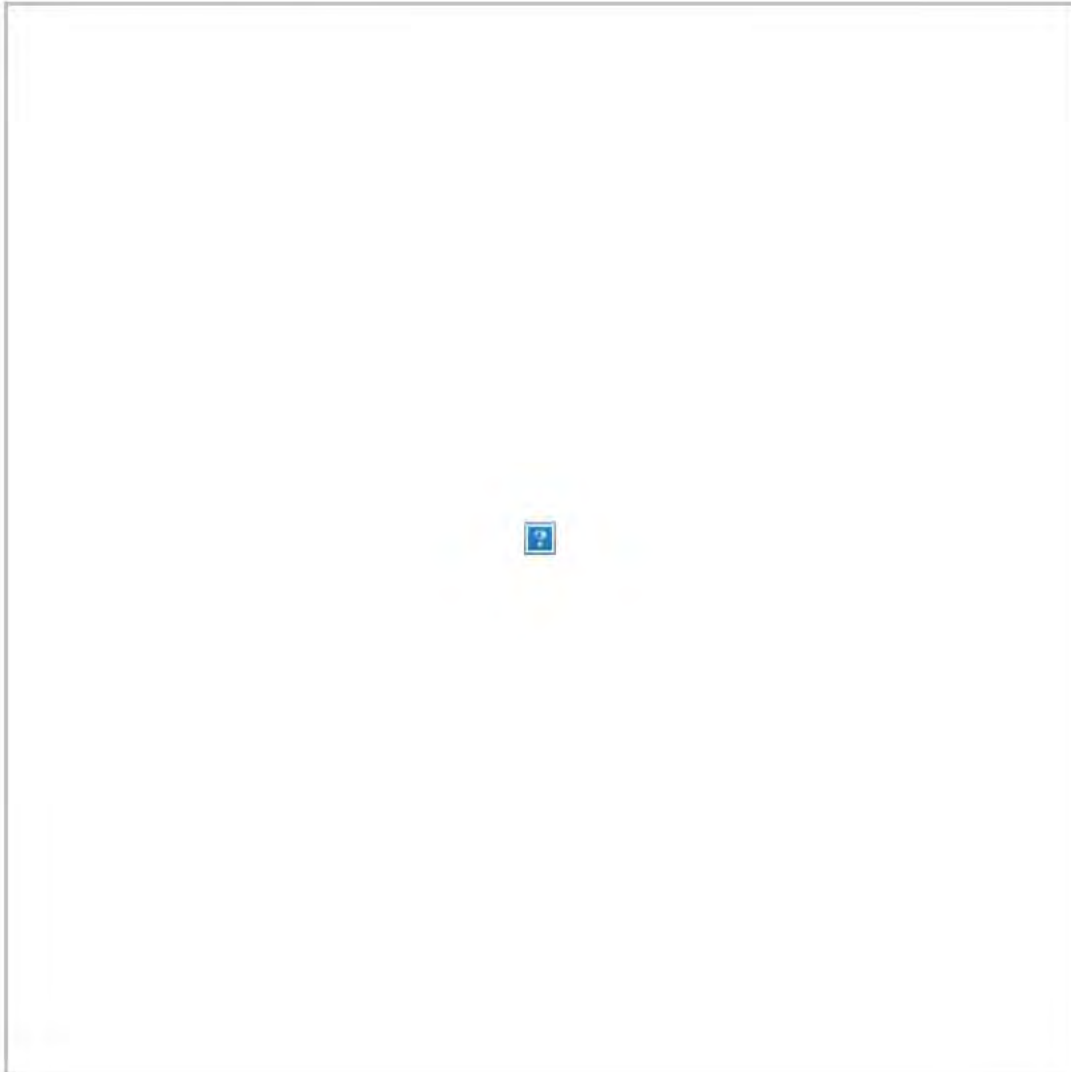
One of The Post's congressional correspondents warned Sen. Richard Burr (R-N.C.) to move his car:



-- **“On Trumps’ first official trip, world gets its first real look at their marriage,” by Krissah Thompson:** “If every marriage is a mystery, political marriages are the Twilight Zone. Really, who knows what goes on in the confines of any relationship they are not a part of? So first couples — like celebrities — are subject to endless analysis and interpretation of their every interaction. Seeing the Trumps together over the course of their nine-day trip aroused the fascination Americans have with all White House marriages. Do they hold hands? (Not regularly.) Glance at one another lovingly or roll their eyes? (Neither, at least before the cameras.) For months,

Trump’s critics have questioned whether the first couple is happily married. Their friends insist that they are.”

After the first lady was caught on camera batting away the president's hand two days in a row, the couple has made a big deal about how they are holding hands:



GOOD READS FROM ELSEWHERE:

-- The Atlantic, “[First He Became an American—Then He Joined ISIS](#),” by Seamus Hughes and Bennett Clifford: “When the FBI

discovered a network of Bosnian-Americans giving support to terrorists, they also discovered Abdullah Ramo Pazara, a U.S. citizen and a battalion commander in Syria.”

-- **New York Times, “For Army Infantry’s 1st Women, Heavy Packs and the Weight of History,” by Dave Philipps:** “Rain pounded the roughly 150 troops of Alpha Company, who ranged in age from 17 to 34, as they stood in formation during a tornado warning, waiting to hear if it was too stormy to train. If the downpour let up, they would practice rushing out of armored vehicles. If not, they would tramp back to the foxholes where they had slept the night before and bail out the standing brown water with canteen cups. **Either way, by day’s end they would be wet, tired, hungry and cold: the four pillars of misery the Army has long relied on to help whip recruits into cohesive fighting teams. ‘Misery is a great equalizer,’ one male recruit said with a resigned grin.** ... The first group of women graduated from Army infantry training last week, but with soldiers obscured by body armor, camouflage face paint and smoke grenades, it was almost impossible to tell that the mixed-gender squads in the steamy woods here were any different from they have been for generations. [And] that’s just how the Army wants it.”

HOT ON THE LEFT:

“‘Are you illegal?’ A policeman’s question to a Honduran who had just been run over by a car,” from Univision:
“Everything was recorded on the body cameras of

HOT ON THE RIGHT:

“This Democrat’s crude Facebook jokes have party leaders trying to push him out of primary,” from Fenit Nirappil: “Democratic state lawmakers in Virginia

the police who responded to the accident. Marcos Antonio Huete, a 31-year-old Honduran immigrant, was lying on a sidewalk next to his bicycle after being hit April 27 by a GMC Sierra pickup truck on his way to work in Key West in the Florida Keys. 'You illegal? Are you a legal citizen or no? Speak English? You got ID? Passport, visa, or what?' a Monroe County sheriff asked Huete insistently, according to the video. Still on the ground, Huete answers with monosyllables before using a cell phone to call his sister, who arrived at the scene soon after ... An ambulance is only called after a second officer asks him in Spanish if he needs medical care."

are trying to push a first-time candidate out of a primary contest for a House of Delegates seat, after learning he made a series of sexist and racist online comments. House Democratic leaders took the rare step last week of asking Tom Brock of Virginia Beach to step aside, saying they need to hold their own accountable ... A 2011 Facebook exchange surfaced in which Brock posted racist jokes. 'Q: Why do kids prefer white teachers over black teachers? A: It is easier to bring an apple than a watermelon,' Brock posted."

DAYBOOK:

Trump is in Italy: He had a bilateral meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe before participating in a welcome ceremony and reception for G7 leaders. This afternoon, POTUS has some meetings before attending the La Scala Philharmonic Orchestra concert. Then

he'll go to dinner with President Sergio Mattarella of Italy.

Pence is delivering the commencement address at the United State Naval Academy.

QUOTE OF THE DAY:

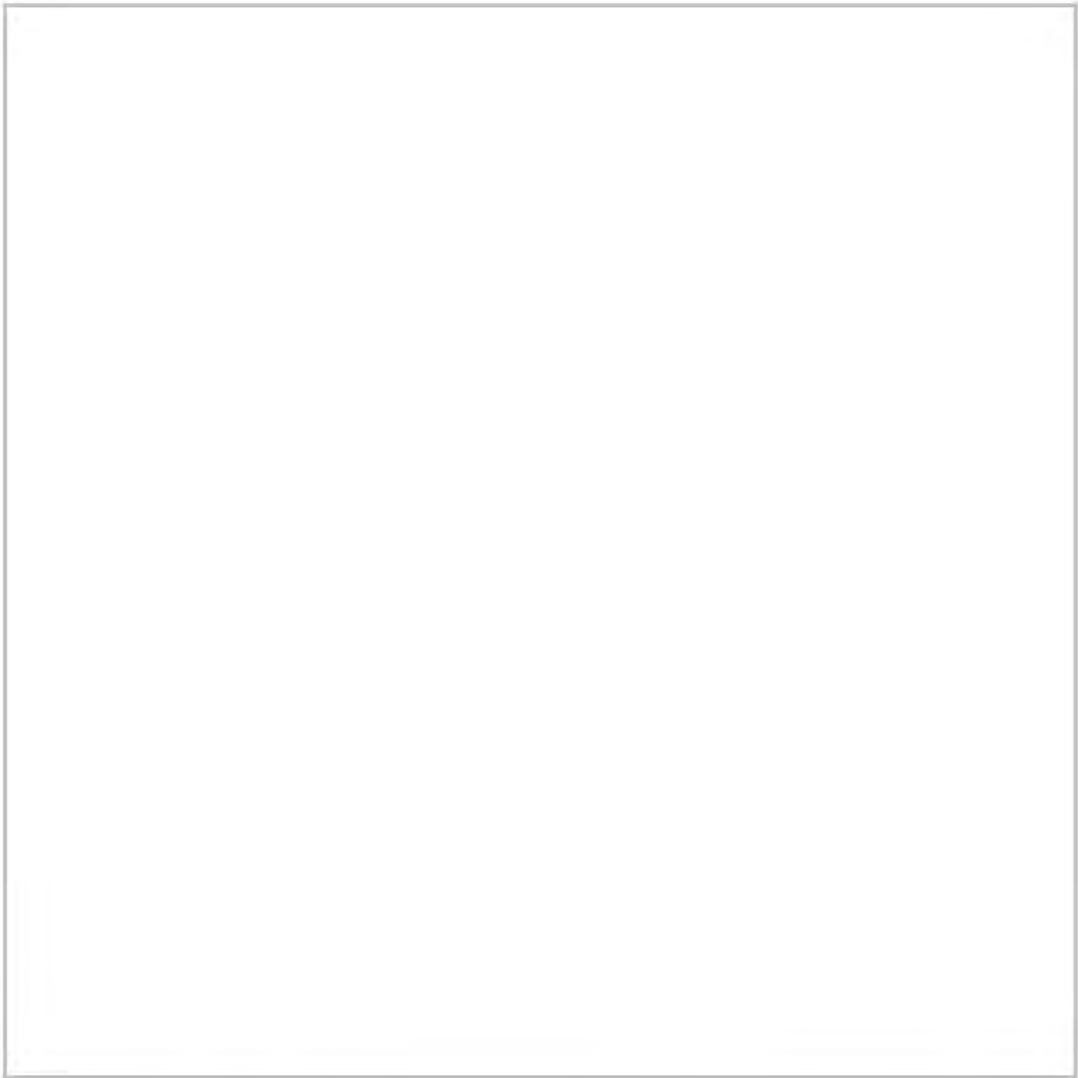
Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, delivering the commencement speech at Harvard, called for a new "social contract" and even floated a universal basic income — the idea that everyone should receive a base salary. He acknowledged that this won't be cheap: "And yes, giving everyone the freedom to pursue purpose isn't free. People like me should pay for it. Many of you will do well and you should too." (Hayley Tsukayama)

NEWS YOU CAN USE IF YOU LIVE IN D.C.:

-- TGIF! (And finally a partial day of sun!) The [Capital Weather Gang](#) forecasts: "It's a decent day to travel/escape as skies show us a bit more sunshine. Still, we do have some possible clouds and showers—especially this morning—with afternoon having best chance for dry weather and sunshine. Mid-70s to around 80 degrees appears possible by late afternoon."

-- The Nationals [lost to the Mariners](#) 4-2.

-- A Maryland judge ordered a temporary halt to the state's [medical marijuana program](#), barring the commission of new licensing until a hearing over regulators' alleged failure to consider



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From: (b) (6) gton Post
To: (b) (6)
Subject: Republicans want to get to yes on the health care bill
Date: Friday, June 23, 2017 8:37:58 AM

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The Daily 202



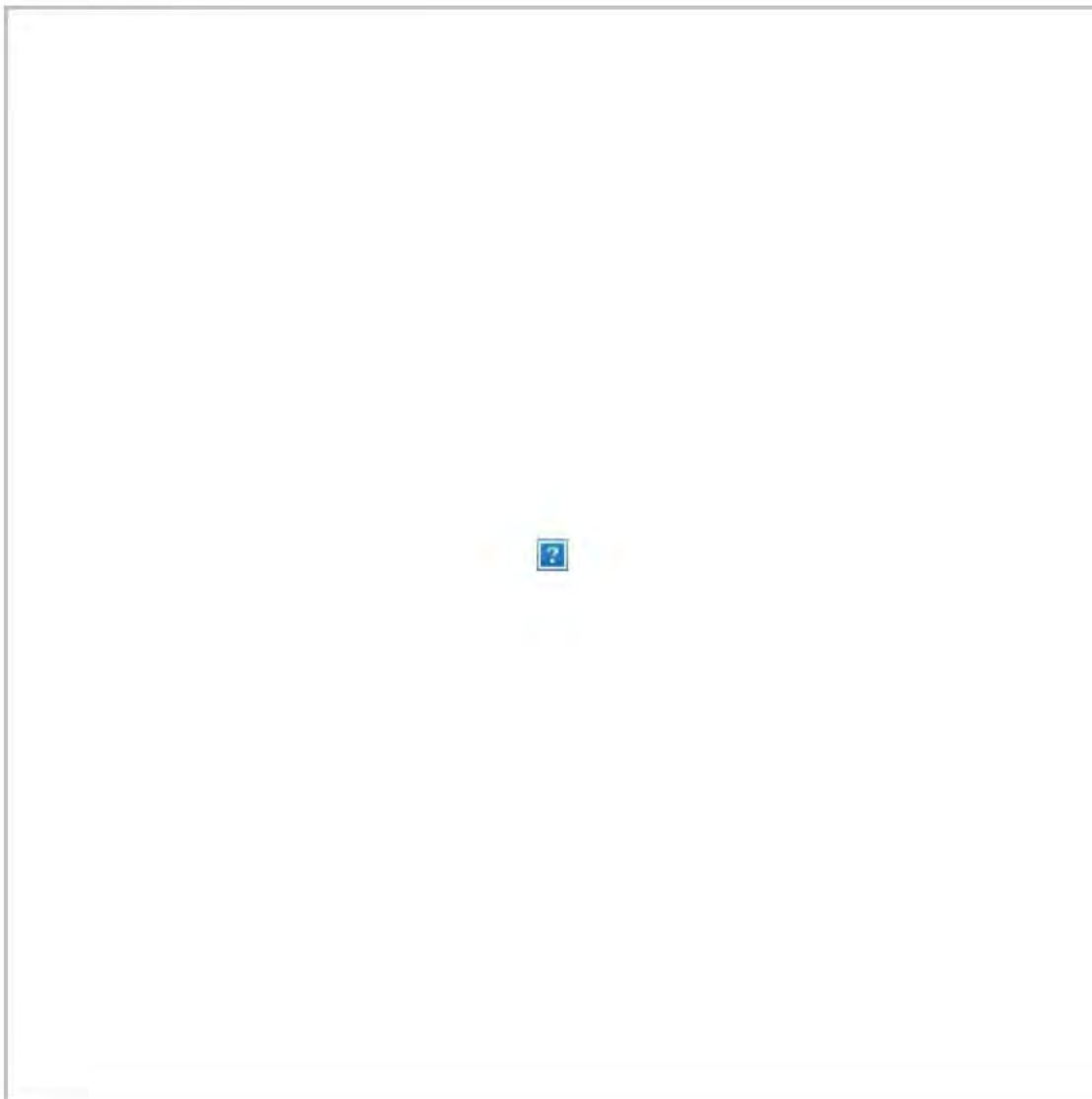
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Senate Republicans want to get to yes on the health-

care bill



Ted Cruz leaves the Senate floor after a vote yesterday. The Texas senator is one of the holdouts on the health care bill, but he's widely expected to come around. (Astrid Riecken/For The Washington Post)



BY JAMES HOHMANN

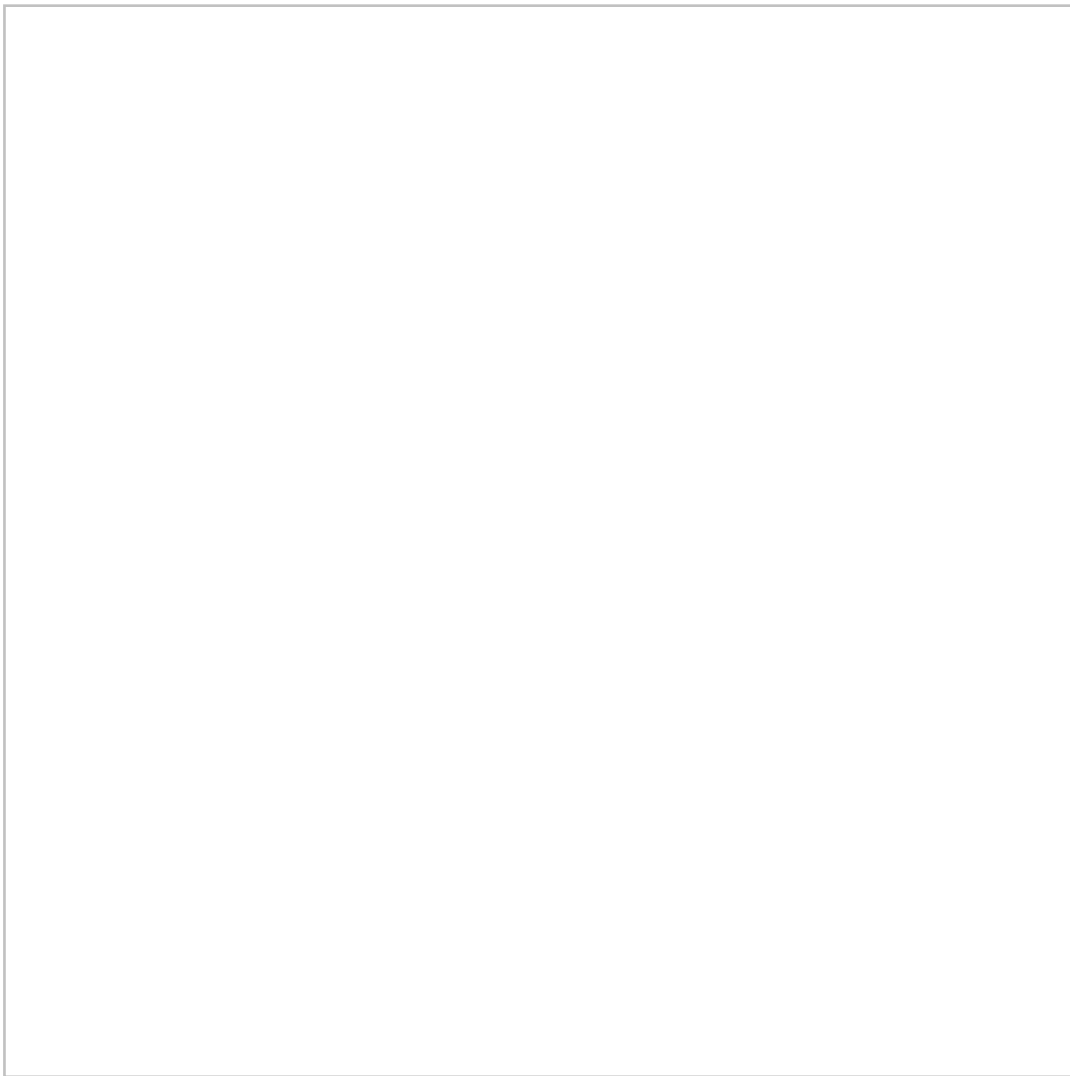
with Breanne Deppisch and Joanie Greve

THE BIG IDEA: Much of the concern that Republican senators expressed yesterday about the draft health-care bill felt more like political posturing than genuine threats to torpedo the effort.

There are not currently the 50 votes necessary to advance [the legislation that Mitch McConnell unveiled Thursday](#). There will need to be concessions and compromises, and there are [several ways the push could still fall apart](#) in the coming days.

But pretty much every Republican, including the current holdouts, wants to pass something. And no GOP senator wants to bear the brunt of the blame from the base for inaction. That factor must not be discounted.

-- President Trump, who endorsed the Senate bill last night, also badly wants to get something done, and he's made clear that he'll sign whatever makes it through Congress.



-- Ted Cruz carried around a “path to yes” memo in his suit coat pocket yesterday that contained a list of his asks. “This current draft doesn’t get the job done, but I believe we can get to yes,” said the Texan, who is up for reelection next year and has been trying to rebrand himself as an effective legislator. “We continue to have positive, productive conversations.”

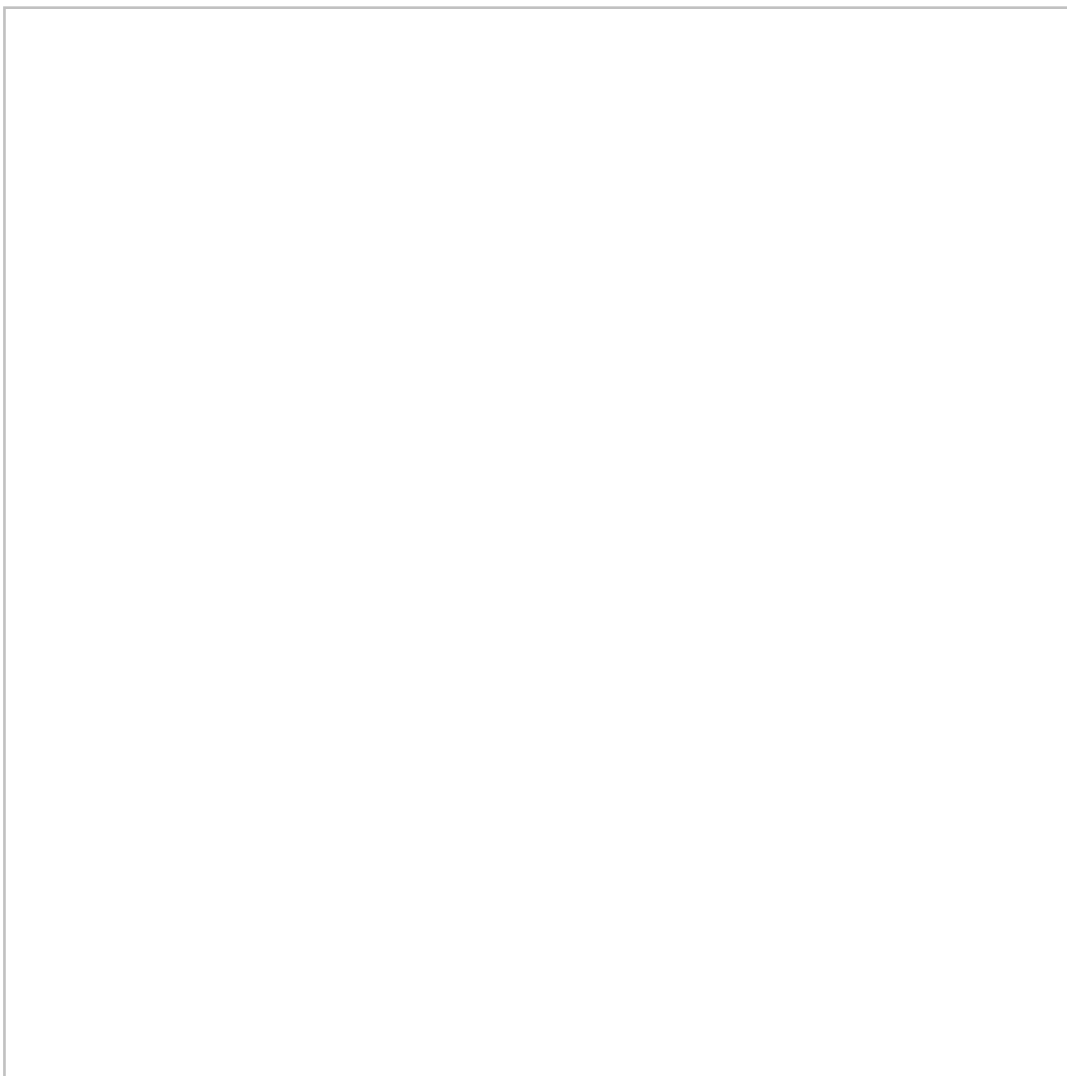
Cruz issued a joint statement with three other conservatives — Sens. Rand Paul of Kentucky, Ron Johnson of Wisconsin and Mike Lee of Utah — saying that they cannot support the legislation as it stands. **Parse their words carefully, and it’s notable how many outs they**

gave themselves.

Here is the statement in full (I've added italics on the wiggle words):

“Currently, for a variety of reasons, we are not ready to vote for this bill, but we are open to negotiation and obtaining more information before it is brought to the floor. There are provisions in this draft that represent an improvement to our current health care system, but it does not appear this draft as written will accomplish the most important promise that we made to Americans: to repeal Obamacare and lower their health care costs.”

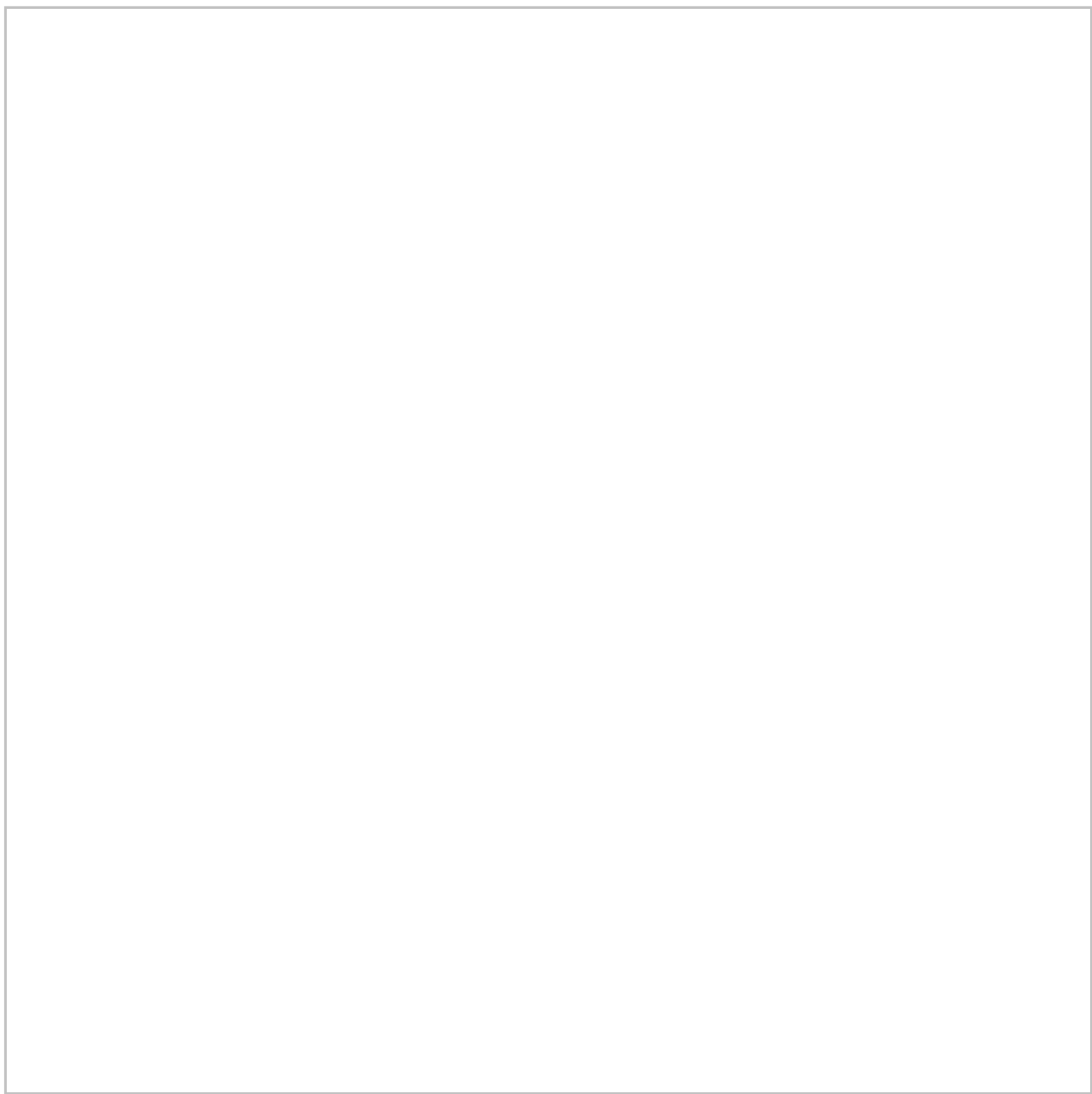
Many believe Cruz is bluffing and will come around, even with small concessions that let him save face. As Republican strategist John Weaver, who played top roles on the presidential campaigns of John McCain and John Kasich, put it:



-- An **NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll**, which was in the field earlier this week and published yesterday, helps explain the balancing act we're seeing from so many Republicans: Only 16 percent of Americans believe that the House health care bill is good, down from 23 percent last month. Even among Republicans, just one in three view the measure positively. But the public is basically split down the middle over Obamacare, with 41 percent saying the 2010 law is a good idea and 38 percent saying it's a bad idea. Asked if Congress and the president should continue their efforts to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, the split is similar: 38 percent say yes, 39 percent say no, and 20 percent have no opinion. But here's

the rub: 71 percent of Republicans want Congress to continue its effort to repeal the ACA, and only 12 percent of GOP voters want to move on. Independents also slightly favor forging ahead with repeal, 38 percent to 32 percent.

Those numbers demonstrate why lawmakers are eager to be perceived as extracting concessions (so they can say they made improvements), but the partisan breakdown also shows why most GOP senators are willing to get behind what remains an unpopular piece of legislation. Even as they do so, however, they are carefully positioning themselves. A bunch of Republicans who will vote yes next week released noncommittal statements yesterday suggesting that they are keeping an open mind. [Marco Rubio](#), for example, said that he's studying the bill and will "decide how to vote ... on the basis of how it impacts Florida."

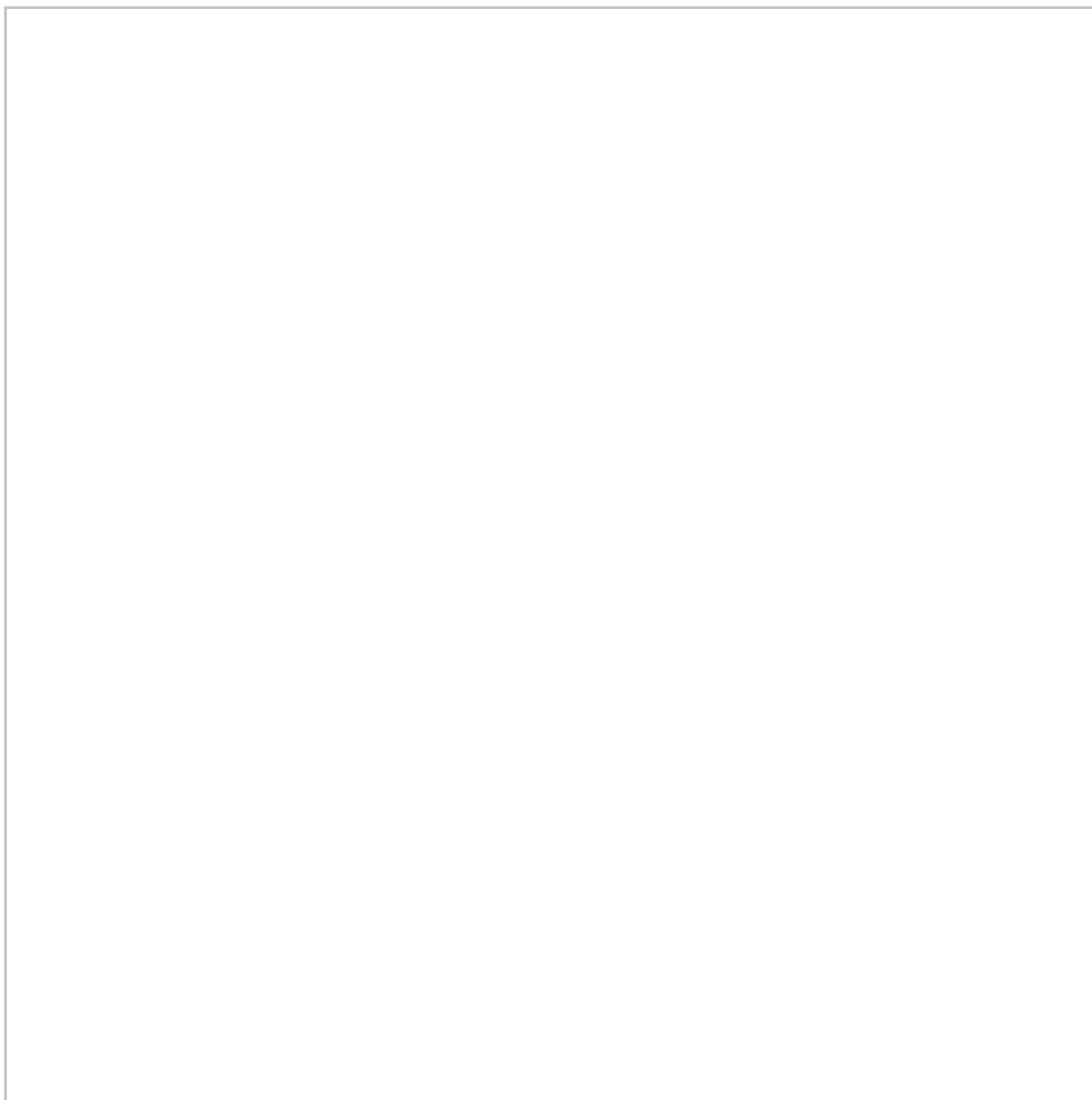


McConnell outlines Senate health-care proposal

-- McConnell can only afford two defections, and he's facing objections from the right and the middle. But if anyone can thread this needle, it's the Senate majority leader. "McConnell unveiled his proposal knowing full well that — as currently written — it lacks the votes to win approval," [congressional correspondent Paul Kane writes](#). "But using a time-honored tactic of congressional leadership, the Kentucky Republican decided it was time to call the bluff of his GOP colleagues. ... Republicans now head into five or six days of intense negotiations ... Many GOP senators complained bitterly about the secretive process, while privately breathing a sigh of

relief that they didn't yet have to take a position on the emerging legislation.”

There are some obvious “gives” that could get a few of the wavering moderates on board: “Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine) told reporters Thursday that she and Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) would try to amend the Planned Parenthood restrictions during next week's ‘vote-a-rama,’ a period when senators can offer unlimited amendments to the health-care measure,” Kane reports. “GOP insiders expect Sens. Rob Portman (R-Ohio) and Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.), who oppose the bill's deep cuts to Medicaid, to be mollified by more cash to combat the opioid epidemic.” That might leave Rand Paul as the biggest hurdle, but McConnell could afford to lose the junior senator from his state. ([We're keeping a running whip count here.](#))



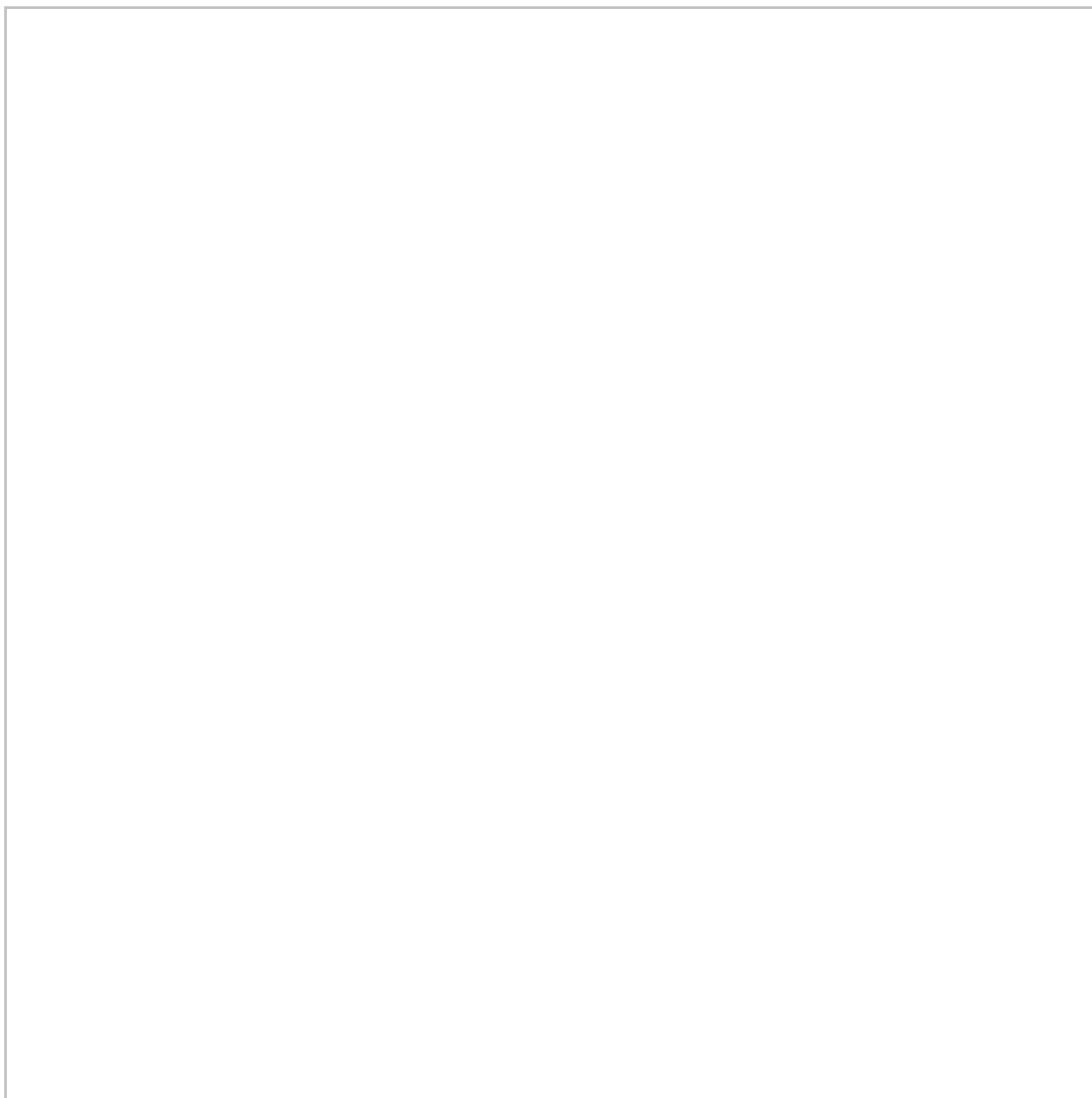
Four Republican senators say they oppose the Senate GOP health-care plan

-- McConnell explicitly urged GOP senators to withhold statements announcing outright opposition to his proposal yesterday so that everyone can retain flexibility, Politico's Burgess Everett reports. "McConnell's strategy has been a slow burn, allowing his members to vent in private party discussions while gradually writing a bill that takes in their considerations over the past six weeks. He's had more than 30 meetings with his members (about the proposal)."

John Thune, No. 3 in GOP leadership, is warning the

conservative holdouts that Republicans will be stuck with a single-payer system if they don't pass this bill. "If you get 80 percent of what you want in a circumstance like this, it's going to have to be a victory because we're not going to get 100 percent," he told Burgess. "If we don't get this done and we end up with Democratic majorities in '18, we'll have single payer. ... (McConnell) believes that, given the amount of input we've had from everybody, we'll get to 50."

Pat Toomey (R-Pa.) freely acknowledged problems with the Senate bill, but he also said that he's "likely" to vote for it because it will be better than the status quo. "I don't have a list of things at this point I must change," Toomey said on [a conference call](#) with reporters, making a statement that reflects the mindset of most Senate Republicans. "Everything I want is not going to happen in one bill."



Health-care bill faces opposition from Democrats, four GOP senators

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE SENATE BILL—

ON TIMING:

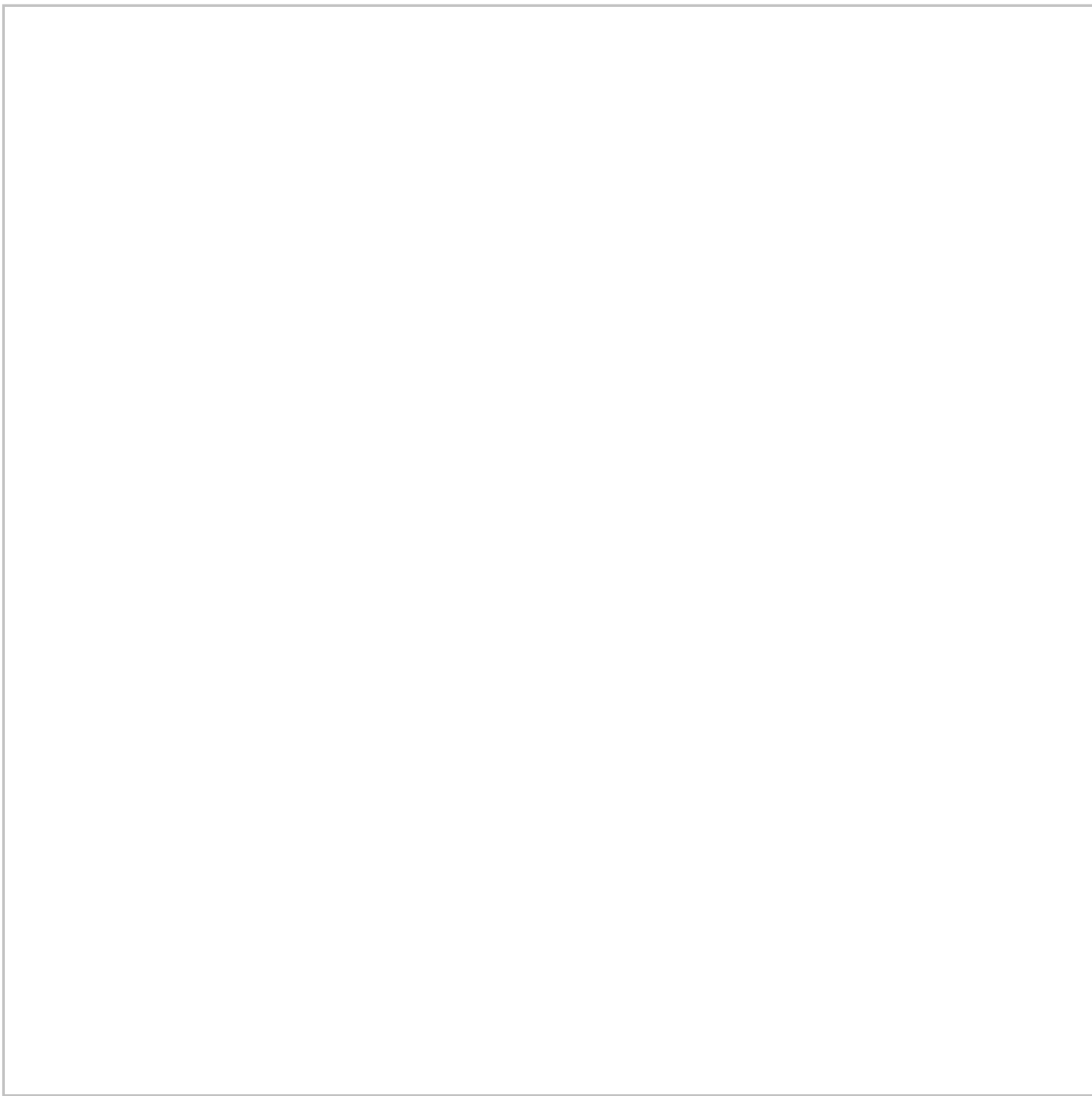
-- The Congressional Budget Office said it expects to release a score for the Senate bill “**early next week.**”

-- Despite grumbling from some members of his conference, **McConnell still plans on holding a final vote next week.** ([Sean Sullivan](#), [Kelsey Snell](#) and [Juliet Eilperin](#))

-- Democrats have little power to stop the vote from occurring, though 20 senators filed procedural motions designed to throw sand in the gears. Republicans will have to address each individually. This will slightly delay holding a vote and could mean some late nights next week, but it won't stop passage if Republicans have 50 votes. ([Kelsey Snell and Elise Viebeck](#))

-- House Democrats, including Steny Hoyer, say they are on guard for a quick vote if the bill passes the Senate next week. But, again, there's very little they can do to stop it if Republicans have the votes. ([Mike DeBonis](#))

-- Vice President Pence expressed hope last night that the bill will be signed into law before the end of the summer. ([John Wagner](#))



Paul Ryan holds a ceremonial swearing-in ceremony for Rep. Greg Gianforte (R-Mont.) on Wednesday. (Aaron P. Bernstein/Reuters)

THE HOUSE VS. THE SENATE:

-- Overall, the Senate bill does not go as far as the House bill in rolling back the Affordable Care Act. (Our graphics team visualized the similarities and differences between the plans. Read the full text of the Senate's 142-page bill [here](#).)

-- The Senate version says insurers could not deny coverage based on preexisting conditions.

-- Like the bill that passed the House last month, the Senate measure phases out expanded Medicaid funding for states, but it does so more gradually between 2020 and 2024.

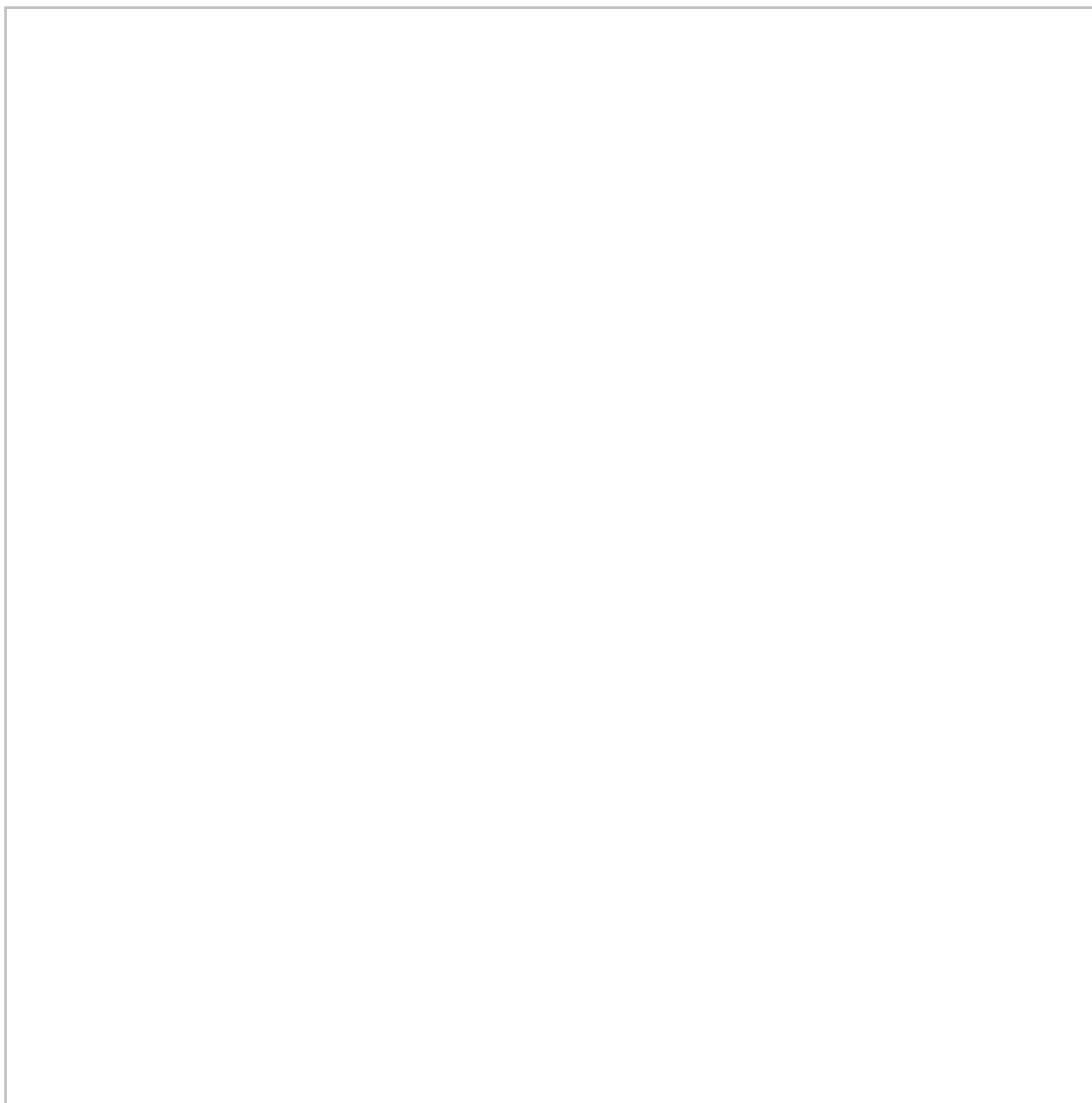
-- But because of an accounting gimmick, the Senate bill guts Medicaid much more drastically over the long-term than the House bill. [Max Ehrenfreund reports](#): “Through 2025, both bills would adjust the cap based on a measure of how rapidly medical costs are expanding — a measure known as the CPI-M. **Starting in 2025, however, the Senate bill would change the formula**, instead funding Medicaid based on a measure of how rapidly all costs are rising, ... General costs, however, typically rise more slowly than medical costs ... After a decade or two, that discrepancy would add up to of hundreds of billions of dollars.”

-- The Medicaid cuts in the Senate proposal could disproportionately hurt rural hospitals, 700 of which across the country already teeter on the brink of closure. ([NPR's Bram Sable-Smith](#))

-- The Senate bill would cut almost \$1 billion in funding for the Prevention and Public Health Fund, which provides 12 percent of the CDC's budget, starting this October. [Lena H. Sun reports](#): “The money supports programs to prevent bioterrorism and disease outbreaks, as well as to provide immunizations and screenings for cancer and heart disease ... About \$625 million goes directly to states and communities to address their most pressing health needs, including drug misuse, infectious diseases, lead poisoning, obesity, diabetes, hypertension, cancer and tobacco use.”

-- The bill appropriates only \$2 billion in fiscal year 2018 to address the opioid drug epidemic, Vox's Ella Nilsen reports. This is less than the **\$45 billion over 10 years** that Republican Sens. Rob Portman and Shelley Moore Capito requested and far less than **\$190 billion over 10 years**, which is what a Harvard health economics professor estimated this week was needed to truly address the problem.

-- Both House leaders, Paul Ryan and Nancy Pelosi, argued that the Senate bill is not radically different from what their chamber passed last month. The Speaker is saying this so that it's easier to get his members on board. The Minority Leader is saying it to make the point that the Senate version is not a meaningful improvement on the toxically unpopular House bill. ([Mike DeBonis](#))



What's in the Senate health-care bill?

WHAT THE BILL DOES TO PREMIUMS:

-- Republican promises to stabilize individual health insurance markets could prove hollow. [Amy Goldstein explains why:](#)

“Republicans have vowed for months to ... stave off the collapse of the nation’s most fragile health insurance markets, which serve people who buy coverage on their own. In the Senate, that turns out to be a short-term goal. **(The Senate bill) would keep billions of dollars flowing — but only for two years — to health plans that have been begging for continued help with the expense of**

millions of lower-income customers in ACA insurance marketplaces. After 2019, the payments would stop...

“The cutoff of those payments would coincide with the end of subsidies that help the vast majority of people with ACA health plans afford their premiums. The subsidies would be replaced with smaller tax credits ... The new credits would not reach as many middle-income Americans, and although they would be available for the first time to people below the poverty line, the amounts could be too small to be useful...

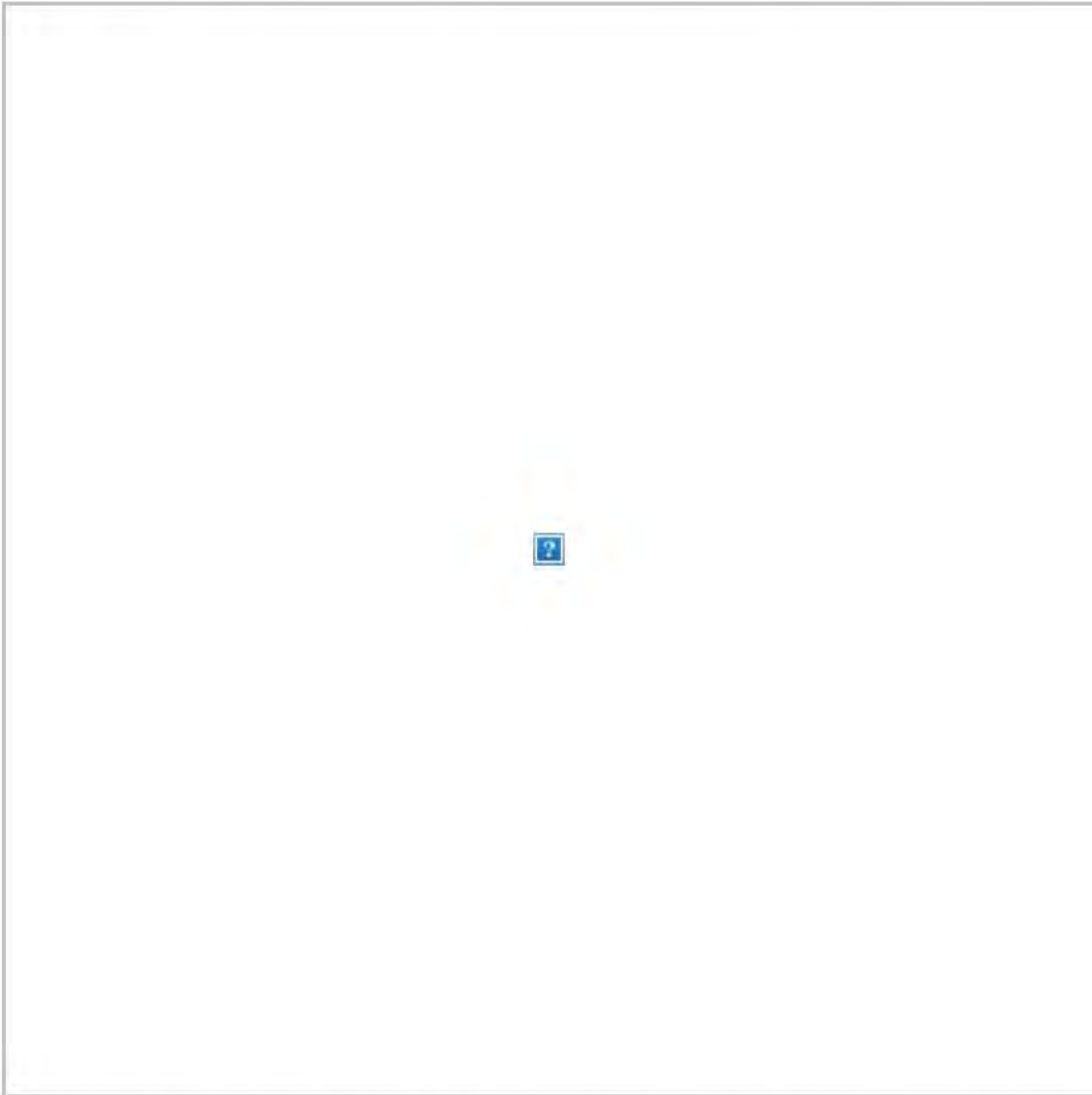
“Taken together, these and other features of the Better Care Reconciliation Act could drive prices up after a few years for people who buy individual insurance — a core group the ACA is designed to help. After the next three years, it also would begin a sharp downward path in federal support for Medicaid, the cornerstone of the nation’s health-care safety net for the past half-century.”

-- **Laurie McGinley, Lenny Bernstein and Lena H. Sun provide a few illustrative examples of Americans who could be significantly impacted if the Senate bill becomes law,** including a 44-year-old breast cancer survivor, a 27-year-old man receiving drug treatment through Medicaid and a 59-year-old man who works as an independent contractor.

-- One way to think about all of this: **Obamacare cut the uninsured rate almost in half by redistributing resources from the wealthy to the poor.** This bill seeks to undo that redistribution, [The New York Times’ Margot Sanger-Katz explains.](#)

Sarah Kliff [summarizes it this way on Vox:](#) **“The bill asks low- and**

middle-income Americans to spend significantly more for less coverage.”



An aide for Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.) carries a sign that shows opposition to the House Republican bill for a floor speech yesterday. (Jacquelyn Martin/AP)

STAKEHOLDERS PANNED THE BILL:

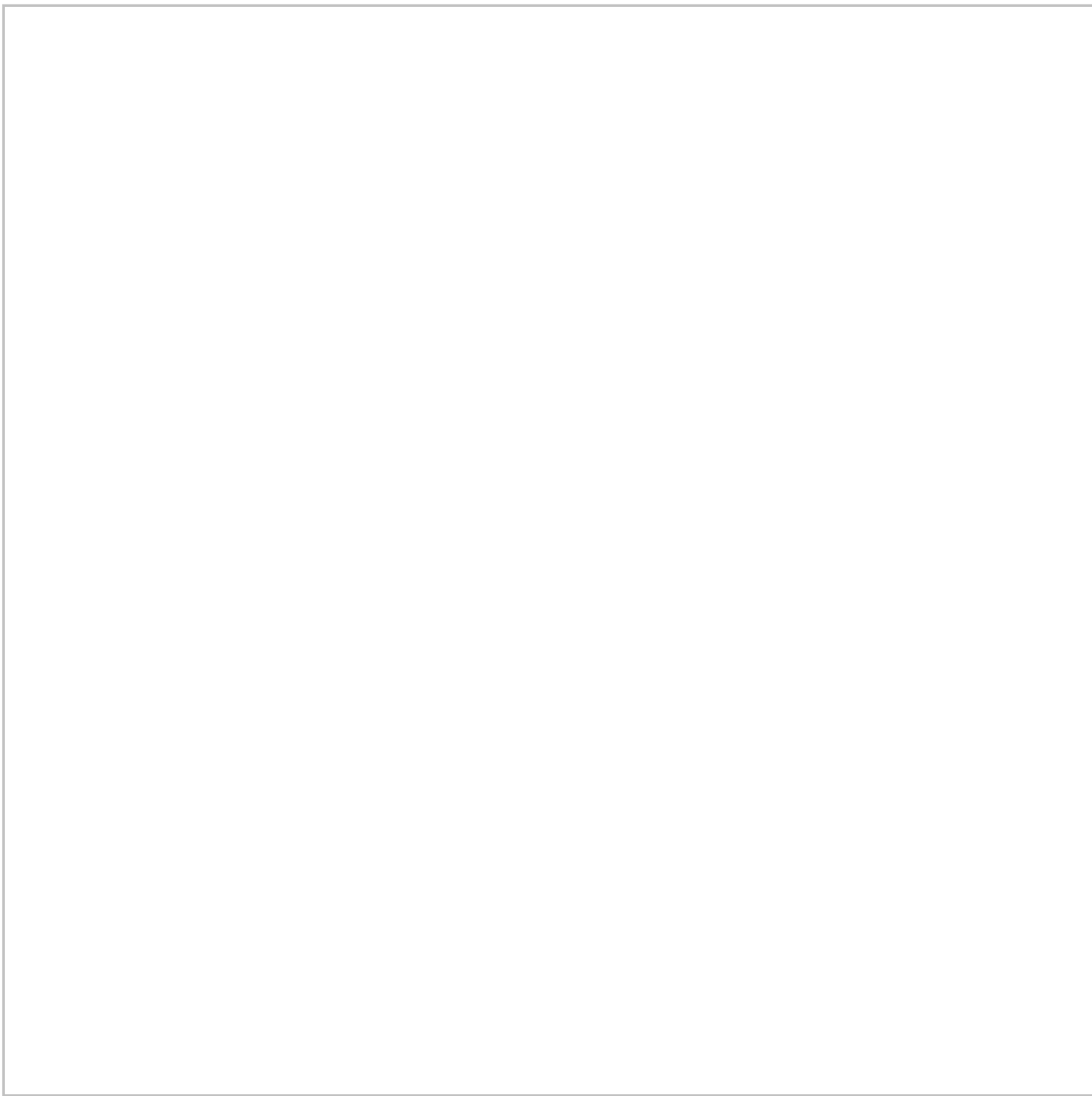
-- Hospitals decried the cuts to Medicaid, with the chief executive of the American Hospital Association calling them “unsustainable.”
([Juliet Eilperin](#))

-- The AARP said the Senate bill allows insurance companies to

charge the elderly up to five times more than young people. The senior's lobby is mobilizing its membership against what it calls an "age tax." ([The Hill](#))

-- A chorus of providers warned that the Senate bill would "turn back the clock on women's health." "This legislation deliberately strips the landmark women's health gains made by the Affordable Care Act and would severely limit access to care," the president of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists [wrote in a statement](#).

-- One exception: Insurance executives are happy because the Senate bill reverses a provision in Obamacare that penalized their companies for excessively paying top staff. ([Ehrenfreund](#))



Barack Obama signs a bill into law in 2015. (Jonathan Ernst/Reuters)

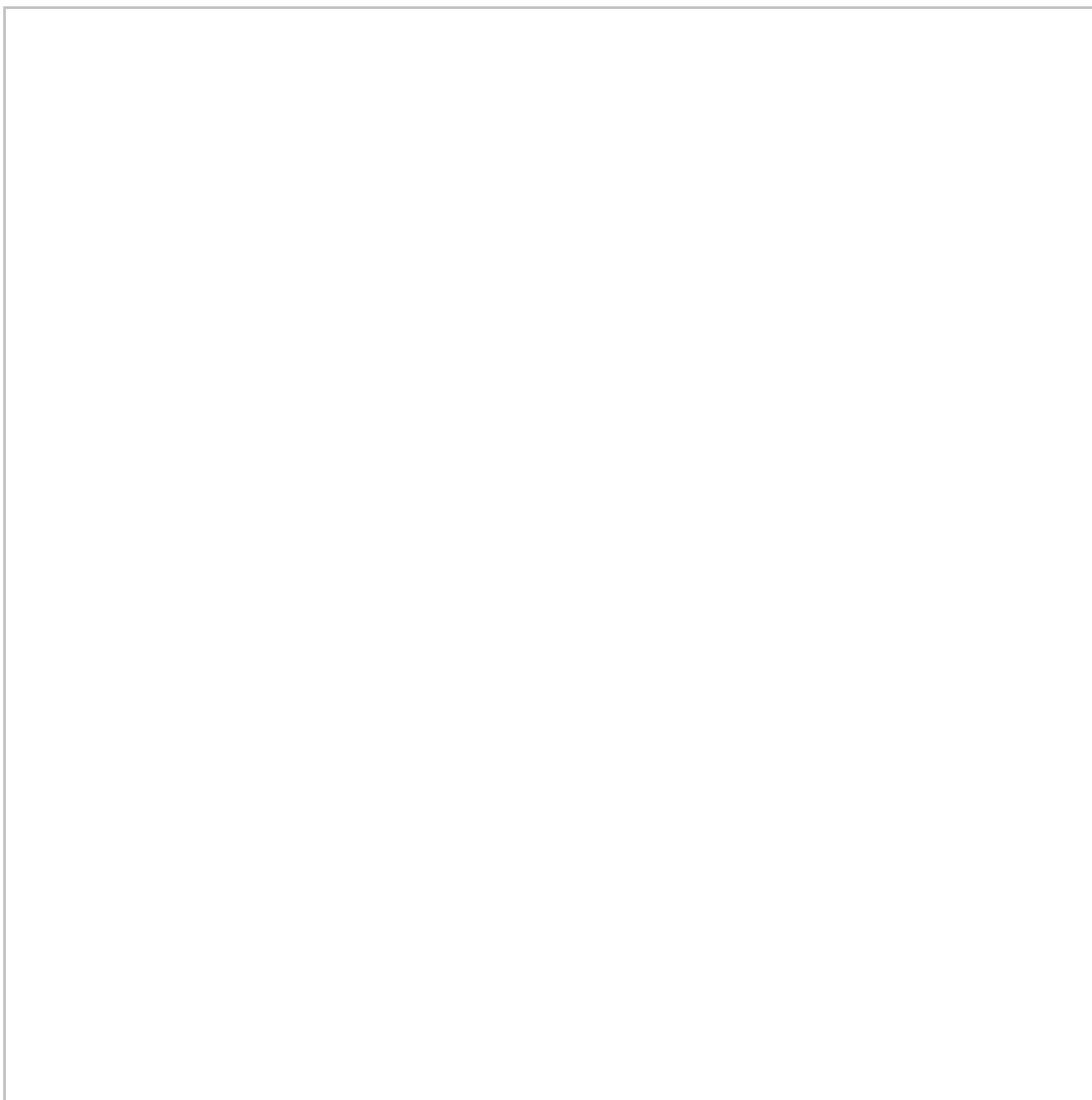
BARACK OBAMA EMERGES FROM COCOON TO DEFEND SIGNATURE ACHIEVEMENT:

-- The former president made a rare public statement to denounce the Senate proposal. “Simply put, if there’s a chance you might get sick, get old, or start a family — this bill will do you harm,” [he wrote](#). “And small tweaks over the course of the next couple weeks, under the guise of making these bills easier to stomach, cannot change the fundamental meanness at the core of this legislation.”

-- **“The 44th president did not mention his successor ... but his scathing criticism and urgent tone ... set up a direct public fight with the current White House occupant** over the future of the nation’s health care system,” [David Nakamura writes](#).

-- On a related note, **Obama will soon hit the campaign trail again**. He plans to stump with Ralph Northam, the Democratic candidate in the Virginia governor’s race. ([Fenit Nirappil](#))

-- **Obama didn’t go as far as many Democrats on the Hill**: Chuck Schumer called the draft **“a step to eradicating Medicaid.”** “People will die,” Elizabeth Warren said in [a floor speech](#). “These cuts are blood money.”



Protesters block hallway outside McConnell's office

BIG PROTESTS CREATED BAD VISUALS ON THE NIGHTLY NEWS:

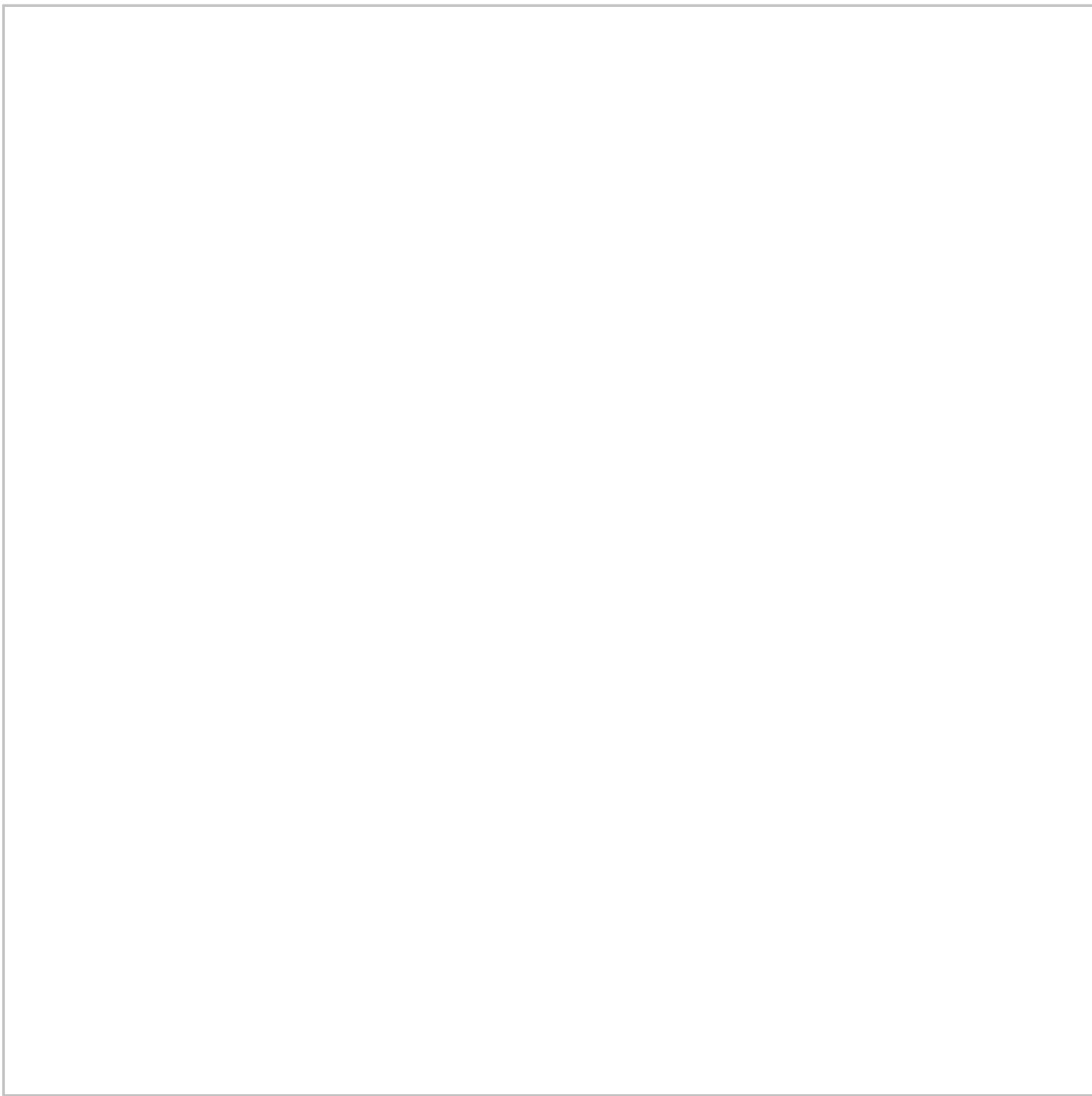
-- Forty-three disability advocates protesting the Senate draft were arrested outside of McConnell's office. "The protesters staged a 'die-in' in front of the office, with many of the protesters in wheelchairs removing themselves from the chairs then lying on the floor," [Perry Stein reports](#).

-- "Parents of sick kids try to remind Congress what the health-

care debate should be about,” by Petula Dvorak: “These kids smiled, giggled and then their tubes gurgled to show what’s at stake here. It was real-life lobbying done by a brigade of 12 intrepid families who pushed their way through Capitol Hill’s offices. ... ‘We heard from a lot of families that it’s really, really difficult to get in touch with any of their representatives,’ [one of the parents, Elena Hung] said. ‘They say, ‘Call your representatives,’ but most of these offices aren’t even taking calls.’ So they showed up in person.”

Welcome to the Daily 202, **PowerPost's** morning newsletter.
[Sign up to receive the newsletter.](#)

WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING:



Russian President Vladimir Putin meets with Barack Obama on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Sept. 2016. (Photo by Alexei Druzhinin/AFP/Getty Images. Photo illustration by Nick Kirkpatrick/The Washington Post.)

-- If you read one story today: The Post just published a detailed, inside look at how the Obama administration sought to punish Russia for its interference in the 2016 elections. Here are a few of the most interesting nuggets from the story by national security correspondents Greg Miller, Ellen Nakashima and Adam Entous:

“Early last August, an envelope with extraordinary handling restrictions arrived at the White House. Sent by courier from the

CIA, it carried 'eyes only' instructions that its contents be shown to just four people: President Barack Obama and three senior aides." The envelope contained allegations that Russian President Vladimir Putin was directly and personally trying to influence the U.S. elections, but went even further: "The intelligence captured Putin's specific instructions on the operation's audacious objectives — defeat or at least damage the Democratic nominee, Hillary Clinton, and help elect her opponent, Donald Trump."

"The material was so sensitive that CIA Director John Brennan kept it out of the President's Daily Brief, concerned that even that restricted report's distribution was too broad. The CIA package came with instructions that it be returned immediately after it was read. To guard against leaks, subsequent meetings in the Situation Room followed the same protocols as planning sessions for the Osama bin Laden raid."

"The Obama administration secretly debated dozens of options for deterring or punishing Russia, including cyberattacks on Russian infrastructure, the release of CIA-gathered material that might embarrass Putin and sanctions that officials said could 'crater' the Russian economy ... in late December, Obama approved a modest package combining measures that had been drawn up to punish Russia for other issues."

Some former Obama officials don't think they did enough to stop Putin's meddling. "It is the hardest thing about my entire time in government to defend," said a former senior Obama administration official involved in White House deliberations on Russia. "I feel like we sort of choked."

Brennan "convened a secret task force at CIA headquarters composed of several dozen analysts and officers from the CIA, the NSA and the FBI. The unit functioned as a sealed compartment, its work hidden from the rest of the intelligence community ... They worked exclusively for two groups of "customers," officials said. The first was Obama and fewer than 14 senior officials in government. The second was a team of operations specialists at the CIA, NSA and FBI who took direction from the task force on where to aim their subsequent efforts to collect more intelligence on Russia."

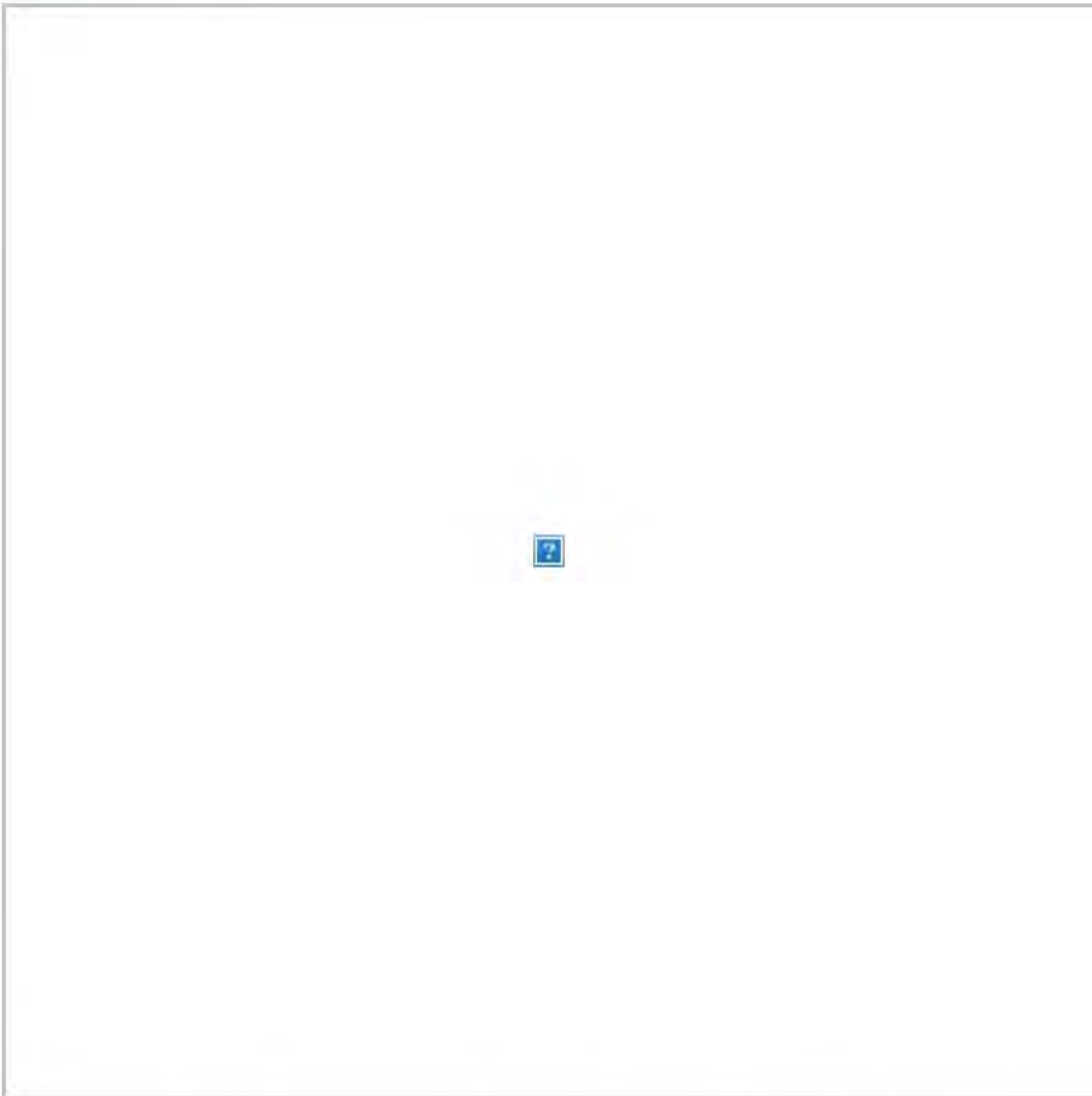
It was not until after Labor Day that Brennan had reached all members of the "Gang of Eight" in Congress. In September, Jeh Johnson, Jim Comey and White House Homeland Security adviser Lisa Monaco briefed congressional leaders, but it quickly "devolved into a partisan squabble" in which Democrats wanted to make the threats public while McConnell was "skeptical."

The Obama administration sent two other warnings to the Kremlin: On Oct. 7, Susan Rice summoned Russian Ambassador to the U.S. Sergey Kislyak and handed him a message for Putin; and on Oct. 31, there was a final pre-election message sent "via a secure channel to Moscow originally created to avert a nuclear exchange."

Following Trump's surprising win, the administration crafted a plan to form a commission headed by then-Secretary of State John Kerry to create a bipartisan commission and make recommendations about how to prevent future election meddling. Denis McDonough planned to "tabledrop" the plan at the next National Security Council meeting but then began criticizing it as

weak. It didn't happen.

Obama appears to have taken serious and secretive cyber countermeasures against Russia post-election by "authorizing a new covert program involving the NSA, CIA and U.S. Cyber Command": "The cyber operation is still in its early stages and involves deploying 'implants' in Russian networks deemed 'important to the adversary and that would cause them pain and discomfort if they were disrupted,' a former U.S. official said." ([Read the whole story here.](#))



Maj. Gen. Wayne W. Grigsby, Jr. (Staff Sgt. Carlin Leslie/U.S. Air Force)

GET SMART FAST:

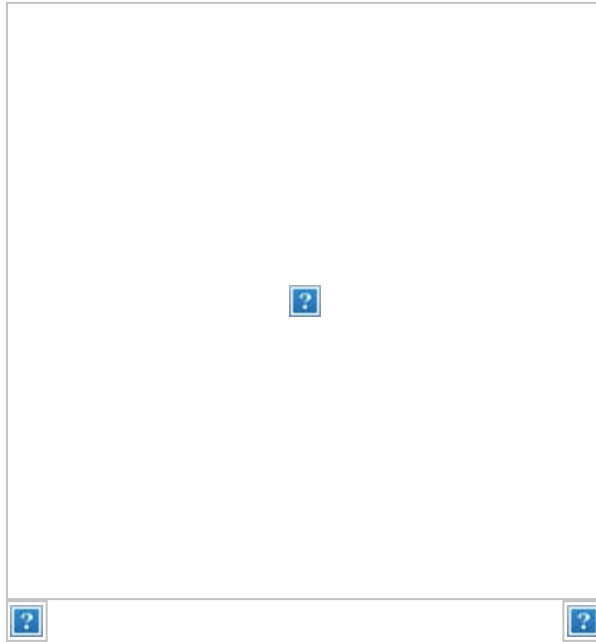
1. **The Army demoted the former commander of the 1st Infantry Division for having an “inappropriate relationship” with a junior officer.** Investigators said Wayne W. Grigsby Jr. called and texted a female captain “more than 850 times” and was found to be spending time at her home. ([Craig Whitlock](#))
2. **The “Pizzagate” gunman was sentenced to four years in prison.** ([Spencer S. Hsu](#))
3. **Canada revealed that one of its Special Operations snipers shot an ISIS fighter from over two miles away in Iraq.** ([Thomas Gibbons-Neff](#))
4. **The government may not strip someone’s U.S. citizenship for lying during the naturalization process without “proving the falsehood is relevant,” the Supreme Court ruled,** siding with a Bosnian immigrant who faced criminal charges for lying on her application about her husband’s military service. ([Robert Barnes](#))
5. **A federal appeals court panel upheld all but one conviction of former CIA officer Jeffrey Sterling,** who in 2015 was found guilty of giving information to a journalist about a highly classified operation in Iran. But Sterling has steadfastly denied he was the source, and evidence against him is largely circumstantial. ([Matt Zapotosky](#))
6. **A federal appeals court in Chicago upheld a lower court’s decision to overturn the conviction of “Making a Murderer” subject Brendan Dassey,** affirming that his 2005 confession to the murder of Teresa Halbach was coerced. ([WBAY](#))

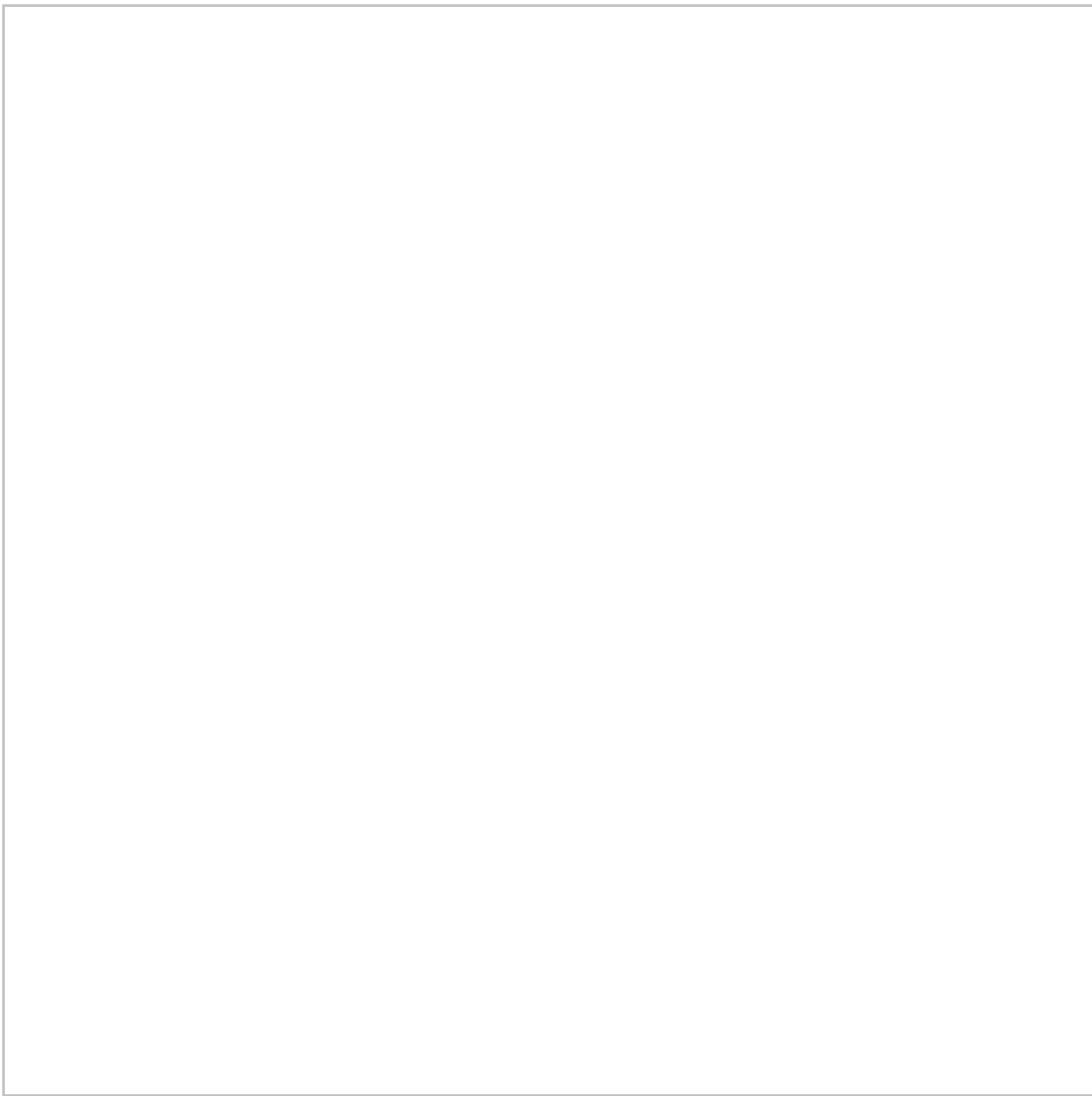
7. **Conservative radio host Hugh Hewitt has been given his own Saturday-morning show on MSNBC**, joining Greta Van Susteren and Nicole Wallace as the network seeks to broaden its lineup. ([The Hollywood Reporter](#))
8. **The Census Bureau reported that every racial and ethnic minority grew faster than whites between 2015 and 2016.** Mixed-raced and Asian Americans were the fastest growing groups at 3 percent. ([NPR](#))
9. **The Federal Communications Commission recommended a Florida man pay a \$120 million fine after he allegedly used robo-calls to trick people into fraudulent travel deals.** Adrian Abramovich is said to have made almost 100 million such calls in three months. ([Reuters](#))
10. **Uber employees are circulating a petition in support of ousted CEO Travis Kalanick returning in an active role.** Over 1,000 employees clicked to support the petition. ([The New York Times](#))
11. **The British government has ordered tests on the exterior of around 600 high-rise apartment buildings in England,** seeking to avoid another catastrophic fire after a 24-story apartment tower in London burned down last week. ([Karla Adam](#))
12. **A French fitness blogger and Instagram model died after a pressurized whipped-cream can hit her in the chest.** Rebecca Burger suffered cardiac arrest from the impact and died in the hospital the following day. ([Amber Ferguson](#))
13. **Johnny Depp invoked John Wilkes Booth to make an assassination joke about President Trump.** He asked a crowd at the U.K.'s Glastonbury Festival, "When was the last time an

actor assassinated a president?” ([CNN](#))

14. **It’s so hot in England that schoolboys are wearing skirts.**

Dozens of teenage males at a school in Exeter began sporting the new look this week after their headmaster refused to relax dress codes during a massive heat wave. ([Lindsey Bever](#))





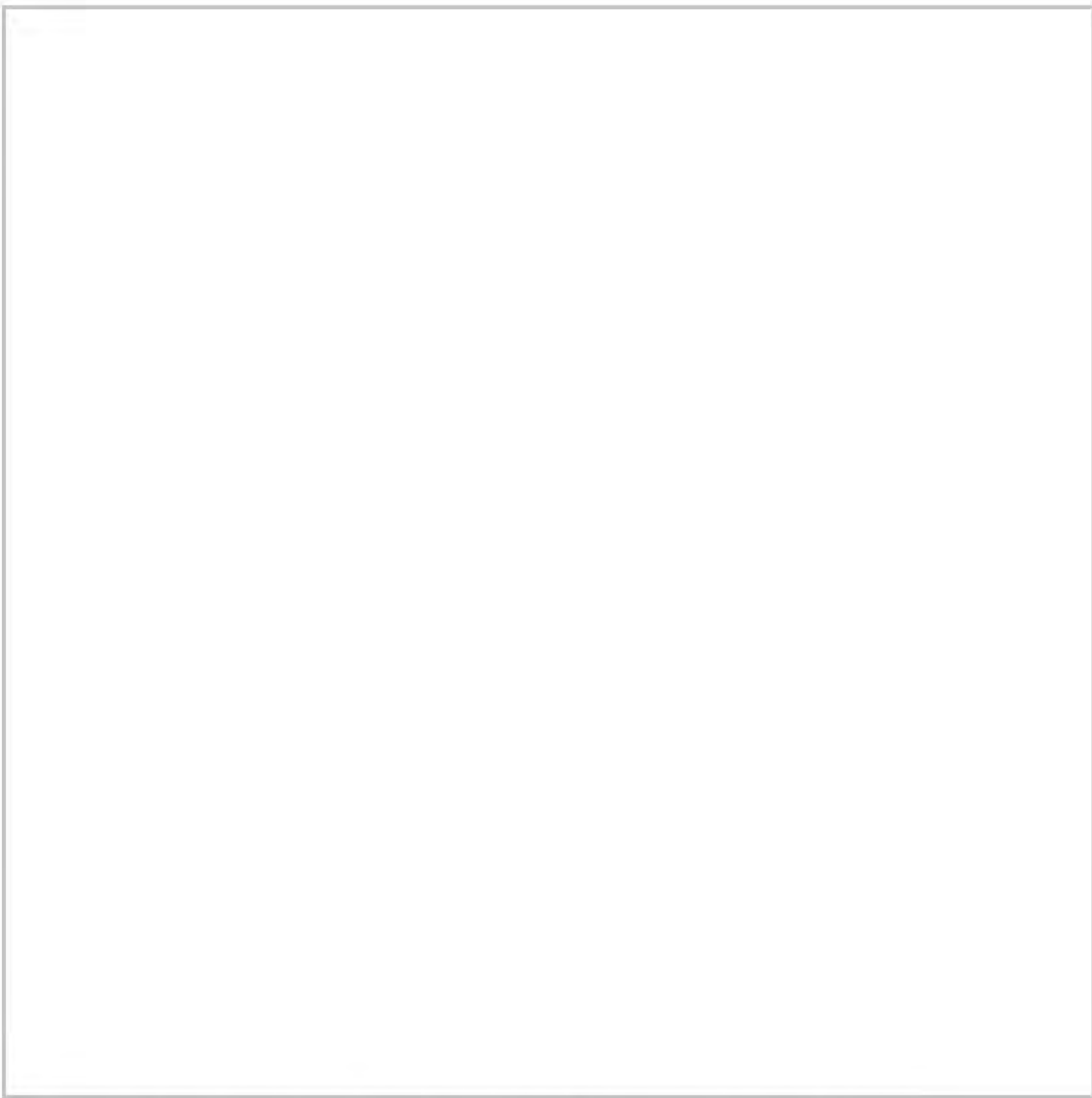
Trump's personal attorney, Marc Kasowitz, speaks to reporters after James Comey's June 8 testimony. (Yuri Gripas/Reuters)

LAWYERING UP:

-- Trump's days now begin with a morning call to his lawyers about the ongoing Russia investigations. [Ashley Parker and Philip Rucker report](#): "The calls — detailed by three senior White House officials — are part strategy consultation and part presidential venting session, during which Trump's lawyers and public-relations gurus take turns reviewing the latest headlines with him ... His advisers have encouraged the calls ... in hopes that he can compartmentalize the

widening Russia investigation. By the time the president arrives for work in the Oval Office, the thinking goes, he will no longer be consumed by the Russia probe that he complains hangs over his presidency like a darkening cloud. It rarely works, however. **Asked whether the tactic was effective, one top White House adviser paused for several seconds and then just laughed.”**

-- The latest lawyer to join Trump’s team is an ex-Marine who likens some cases to war. "I fight hard," John Dowd told [Reuters in an interview](#). "I believe that's what I'm supposed to do. I am not a snowflake, I can tell you that." The 76-year-old Washington lawyer, who retired from the firm of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld in 2014, brings criminal defense and government investigation experience that has been missing from Trump's outside legal team.



Trump sits during a meeting with House and Senate Leadership. (Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post)

TRUMP SAYS THERE ARE NO TAPES:

-- **“How Trump's dubious claims make the entire government react,”** by **Abby Phillip**: “The words leapt from the president's mind to Twitter at 8:26 a.m. on the Friday after he fired the FBI director, setting off a cascade of activity inside and outside of the federal government. **‘James Comey better hope that there are no ‘tapes’ of our conversations before he starts leaking to the press!’** **Trump wrote.** With that tweet, **Trump immediately deepened his**

own legal and political quagmire, evoking comparisons to former [Nixon] and prompting Comey to release previously undisclosed memos of his conversations with the president, which ultimately led to the appointment of a special counsel ... Far from knocking down the assertion that Trump had recorded conversations in the White House, his aides refused to give a definitive answer for weeks. On Thursday, 42 days later, [Trump] finally did. **As most in Washington had anticipated, Trump said he did not have any such tapes.** The incident highlights a new reality for Washington, which now must spring into action to bolster or refute presidential assertions of dubious origin and with no evidence to back them up. In many cases, the claims have had the opposite effect than what the president presumably intended — feeding into doubts about his credibility, deepening his legal woes and generating unflattering accounts that dominate the news for weeks at a time.”

Even when Trump has walked back a questionable comment, he has sometimes planted a new and similarly unsubstantiated claim: Yesterday, for example, in denying that he created tapes, Trump suggested that he may have been surveilled. “With all the recently reported electronic surveillance, intercepts, unmasking and illegal leaking of information, I have no idea whether there are ‘tapes’ or recordings of my conversations with James Comey,” he wrote.

-- The language of Trump’s tweets refuting the existence of tapes was reviewed by multiple lawyers before publication, the [New York Times’ Mark Landler and Maggie Haberman report](#): “The White House counsel’s office reviewed the language in the tweet ... and Mr. Trump’s personal legal team was aware of it. The wording did not

change significantly over the past few days. But by giving the president some room to claim he might have been referring to someone other than himself doing the taping, his wording could diminish the possibility that his original tweet could have been interpreted as pressure on Mr. Comey before his testimony to the Senate.”

-- Trump ally **Roger Stone** said this of the tweets’ careful phrasing: “Perhaps (Marc) Kasowitz [Trump’s personal lawyer] wants to get this off the table because he’s got bigger fish to fry. I think they’re just trying to clear the deck.”

-- Newt Gingrich said in an interview that, by alluding to possible tapes, the president was trying to get inside Comey’s head. He told the Associated Press: “I think he was, in his way, instinctively trying to rattle Comey ... He's not a professional politician. He doesn't come back and think about Nixon and Watergate. His instinct is: 'I'll outbluff you.'”

-- Unleashing on Twitter, Trump also called the idea of Russia’s election meddling a “big Dem HOAX” and accused Obama and his administration of not doing enough to “stop” Russian interference. Philip Rucker reports: “The president appeared to be referring to Wednesday's congressional testimony by Jeh Johnson, Obama's former homeland security secretary, who said that after the [DNC's] email servers were hacked, the DNC declined an offer by the [DHS] to help the party committee, which also had been in touch with the FBI, identify intruders and patch vulnerabilities. DNC officials said it did not hear from DHS until months after the hack had been made public and after the FBI had worked to close the intrusion, and that

the DNC provided the DHS a detailed report on the incident. **In another Thursday tweet, Trump wrote, 'If Russia was working so hard on the 2016 Election, it all took place during the Obama Admin. Why didn't they stop them?'** In a third tweet ... Trump sought to use Johnson's testimony as proof of his vindication in the Russia investigation ... Yet Johnson is not involved in Mueller's expanding federal investigation into Russian interference and therefore would not have the knowledge or authority to exonerate Trump.”

-- The search for Sean Spicer's replacement as press secretary continues as the White House faces a near-daily barrage of complaints about its treatment of the press. CNN's Dylan Byers reports: “So far, all that search has revealed is that the people the White House wants aren't interested in the job and the people who are interested in the job aren't wanted by the White House. **Amid this chaos, the White House press office has opted for an ad-hoc strategy intended to screw with the media ... and make them look ridiculous.** It will go several days without a briefing; then, when media frustration over the lack of access reaches a fever pitch, it will hold a conventional briefing. The next day, it may hold the briefing off camera, starting the process over again. **The result is a toxic relationship between the White House, which thinks the press should be less adversarial, and the media, which believes its job is to be adversarial.**” (The White House barred cameras and live-audio broadcasts from [yesterday's briefing](#) for the second time in four days. Spicer also once again dispatched his deputy, Sarah Huckabee Sanders, to field reporters' questions.)

Russian President Vladimir Putin. (AP/ ITAR-TASS)</p>□



Russian President Vladimir Putin. (AP/ ITAR-TASS)

THERE'S A BEAR IN THE WOODS:

-- “The hacking of state and local election databases in 2016 was more extensive than previously reported, including at least one successful attempt to alter voter information, and the theft of thousands of voter records that contain private information like partial Social Security numbers,” [Time Magazine’s Massimo Calabresi reports](#): “In one case, investigators found there had been a manipulation of voter data in a county database but the alterations were discovered and rectified ...

Investigators have not identified whether the hackers in that case were Russian agents. **The fact that private data was stolen from states is separately providing investigators a previously unreported line of inquiry in the probes into Russian attempts to influence the election.** In Illinois, more than 90% of the nearly 90,000 records stolen by Russian state actors contained drivers license numbers, and a quarter contained the last four digits of voters' Social Security numbers [and] Congressional investigators are probing whether any of this stolen private information made its way to the Trump campaign."

-- A group of 19 Democratic senators urged the Energy Department to investigate Russia's capability to hack and disrupt the U.S. electric grid, re-upping the request after the Trump administration refused to respond to an earlier letter in March. [Dino Grandoni reports](#): "In April, [Rick Perry] directed his department to conduct a wide-ranging study of U.S. electricity use. But that forthcoming analysis will focus on the degree to which tax and subsidy policies, including those that benefit wind and solar power, 'are responsible for forcing the premature retirement of baseload power plants; such as coal-fired or nuclear plants.' ... In their letter, [lawmakers] asked the president to shift priorities. Recent research from the cybersecurity firm Dragos revealed that **Russian-allied hackers have created a cyberweapon ... capable of disrupting electric systems. That malware, researchers said, was used against Ukraine in December."**

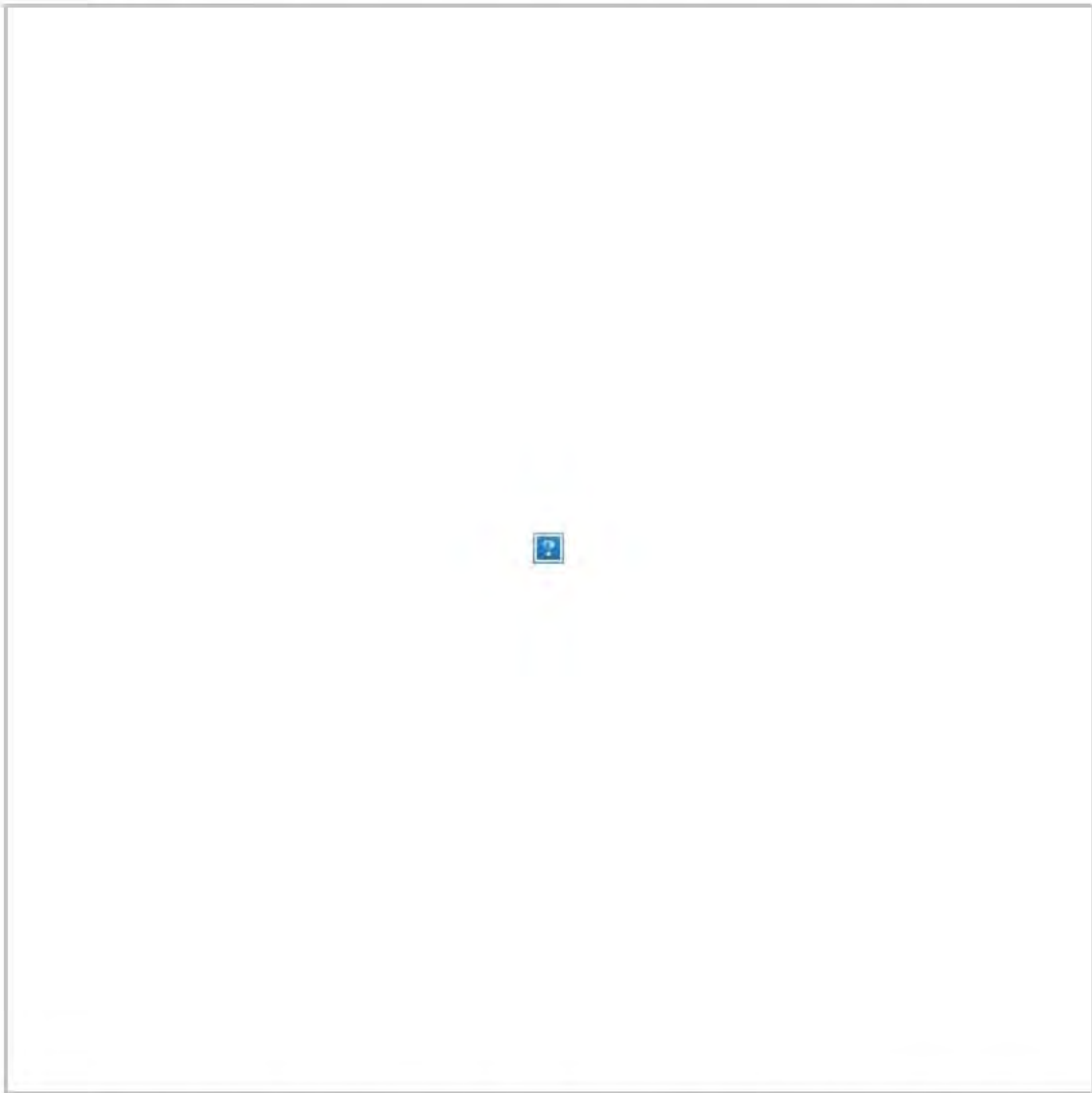
-- The House and Senate appear to have resolved a procedural issue on a measure to implement new sanctions against Russia

and Iran. [Mike DeBonis reports](#): “The House objected to the Senate’s Countering Iran’s Destabilizing Activities Act that was passed earlier this week, arguing that it flouted the constitutional provision requiring revenue-raising bills to originate in the House. That prompted accusations from Democrats that the House Republican leaders were trying to stall the bill at Trump’s request ... House aides said Thursday a solution was being crafted in coordination with the Senate ... **What remains to be seen is how swiftly the matter will come to the House floor.**”

-- Members of Trump’s voter-fraud panel have suggested refocusing their inquiries — on Russia’s 2016 election interference. [The Boston Globe’s Annie Linskey reports](#): “The call, by the secretaries of state in New Hampshire and Maine, presents a potential change in direction for a special commission that has widely been seen as a political smoke screen to justify the president’s unfounded claims about widespread fraud by individual voters in such places as New Hampshire and California. **'There’s stuff coming out now that states were hacked in this election,' said New Hampshire Secretary of State Bill Gardner, a member of the commission** ... He said, as a member of Trump’s voter-fraud commission he wants to understand whether other states’ computerized election systems were victimized and remain at risk.”

- Trump announced three more appointees to the panel this week, and some of them are surprised they were tapped. [HuffPost’s Sam Levine reports](#): “The three officials named were Luis Borunda, the deputy secretary of state of Maryland; David Dunn, a former Arkansas Democratic state lawmaker; and Mark

Rhodes, a county clerk in West Virginia ... In a Thursday interview, **Dunn sounded openly stunned he was chosen for the role and admitted he did not have any expertise in elections or voting issues.** 'I don't know why this has fallen on my shoulders,' he told HuffPost ... 'I'm just a very small old country boy from Arkansas in this bigger commission with Vice President Pence, and I'm just going to do the best I can, to be honest.'"



Nancy Pelosi speaks during a weekly news conference in Washington. (AP/J. Scott Applewhite)

PELOSI DEFENDS HERSELF, AS CRITICS PLOT COUP:

-- A group of unhappy Democratic lawmakers met Thursday to discuss the possibility of potentially replacing Nancy Pelosi as House minority leader, Politico's John Bresnahan and Heather Caygle report: "Led by Reps. Kathleen Rice, Seth Moulton, and Tim Ryan, the faction believes Pelosi has to go in order for Democrats to have a chance to win the House back in Nov. 2018. Ryan unsuccessfully challenged Pelosi for party leader back in November. The unhappiness within Democratic ranks has spiked since their loss in the special election in Georgia on Tuesday."

-- Pelosi defended herself at a news conference and in an interview. She said her critics are more interested in promoting themselves than helping the party win back the majority. "You want me to sing my praises?" she asked defiantly. "Well, I'm a master legislator. I am a strategic, politically astute leader. My leadership is recognized by many around the country, and that is why I'm able to attract the support that I do. ... I respect any opinion that my members have. But my decision about how long I stay is not up to them."

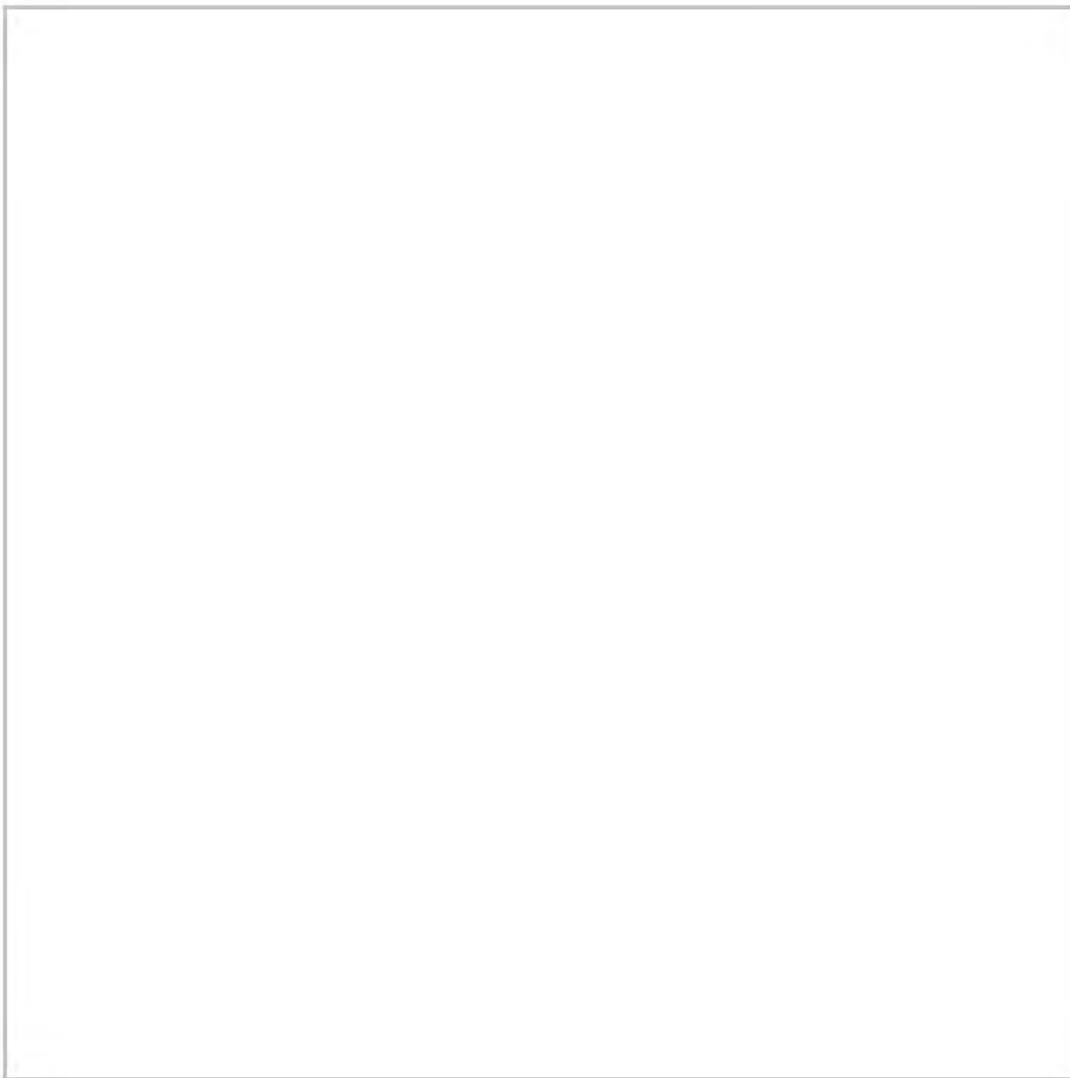
-- In an interview with the New York Times' Jonathan Martin and Matt Flegenheimer, Pelosi stood her ground and "was often as dismissive of critics in her own party as she was of the Republican opposition." Some highlights from their interview:

- On her inter-party opposition: "Everybody wants leaders. Not a lot of people want to be led."
- On Democrats who lean on her fundraising abilities but "would just as soon avoid being photographed with her": "You know

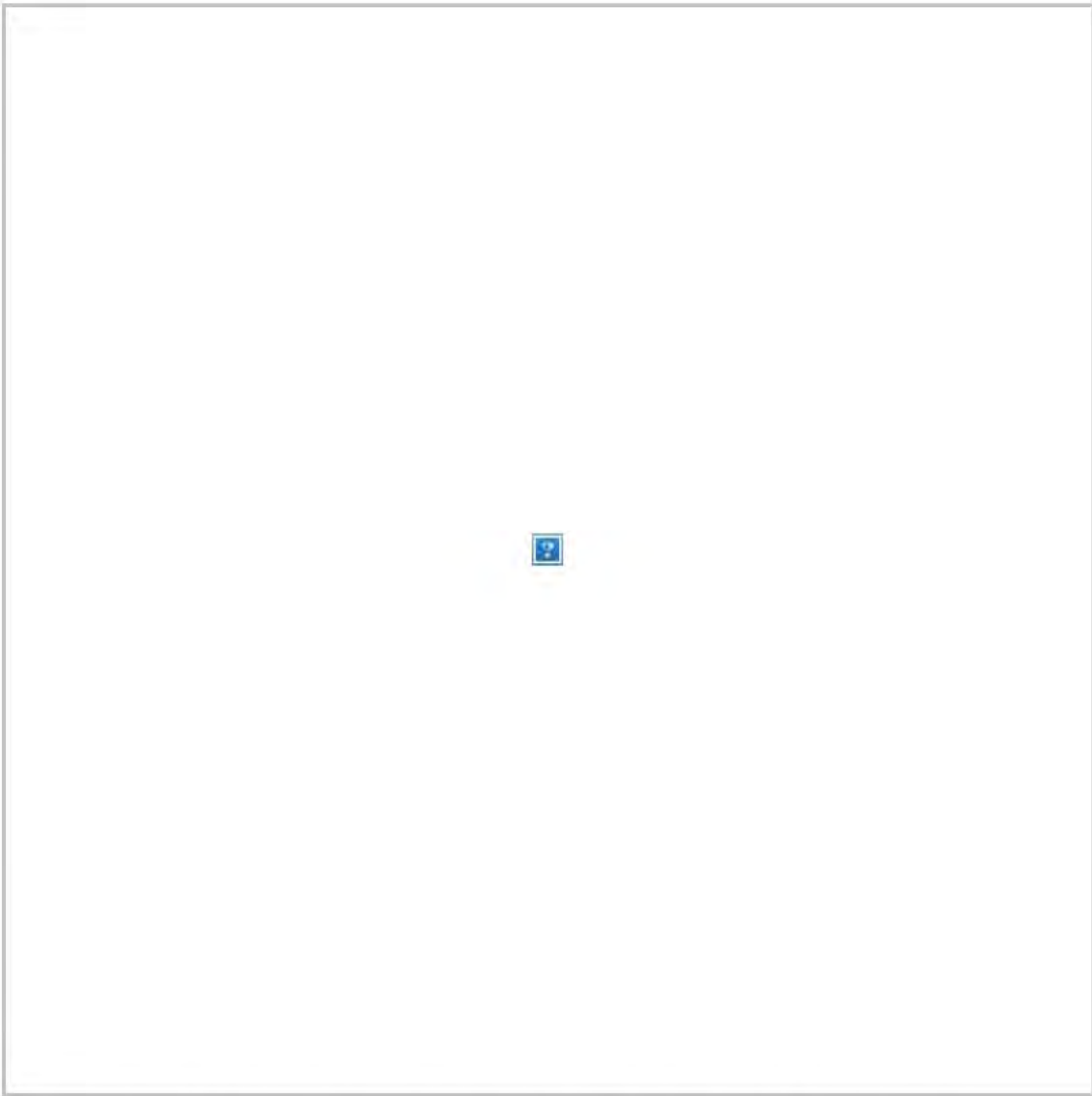
what? I want them to win. I want them to win. If I were bothered by that, I wouldn't be raising the money. What is curious to me is people say, 'Raise us all the money and then step aside.' It's like, what?"

- On restlessness among Democrats: "I think there was a level of disappointment after the election for president, because I think a number of people here thought they were destined for the administration."
- On caucus members who capitalize on opposing her: "It may serve their purpose statewide to say, 'I fought the leadership.' And I respect that."
- On her allies: "People just flock to support me."

-- Pelosi's team pushed back other ways:



-- Meanwhile, Democrats have an eight-point lead on the generic ballot test, which can indicate which party has an edge in the 2018 midterms and whether “wave” conditions exist that could augur a sweep. A fresh [NBC News/WSJ poll](#) finds that Democrats have a 50 percent to 42 percent advantage on the question of who Americans want to be in control of Congress after the 2018 midterms. [John Harwood points out](#), “That’s the largest lead either party has held on that generic ballot question in the NBC/WSJ poll since 2013, and **the first time either party reached 50 percent on that question since 2008.**”



Donald Trump addresses a crowd at Boeing's South Carolina facilities in February. (Sean Rayford/Getty Images)

THE TRUMP AGENDA:

-- A Boeing plant that Trump visited in February, where he pledged to “fight for every last American job,” announced layoffs. [Danielle Paquette reports](#): “The company has yet to notify the affected employees — who work in operations management, engineering, quality control and training, among other roles — and represent a tiny sliver of its workforce in the state. Boeing would not say how many, exactly, could lose their jobs and when the dismissals

will begin. The South Carolina plant was Trump's first company visit outside the Beltway after he became president. The point of the trip was not to unveil a major economic policy or promote a new White House initiative, though. Rather, Trump celebrated the launch of the company's new Dreamliner model."

-- Six hundred of the Carrier jobs that Trump claimed to have saved before he took office are headed to Mexico. [CNBC's Scott Cohn reports](#): "The deal ... was billed not only as a heroic move ... but also as a seismic shift in the economic development landscape. Nearly seven months later the deal has not worked out quite as originally advertised, and the landscape has barely budged. 'The jobs are still leaving,' said Robert James, president of United Steelworkers Local 1999. 'Nothing has stopped.' In fact, after the layoffs are complete later this year, a few hundred union jobs will remain at the plant."

-- Congressional Democrats have raised the issue of deported veterans to the president, who seemed sympathetic to the former service members. But his staff was less so. [Buzzfeed's Adrian Carrasquillo reports](#): "'We should do something about this,' Trump said, according to sources familiar with the meeting attended by Democratic Reps. Vicente Gonzalez, Stephanie Murphy and Kyrsten Sinema. A staffer quickly told the president the issue is that the men subsequently committed crimes, which eventually led to their deportation ... The Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) has recently taken up the deported veterans issue in a major way ... **Democrats are also divided on how to approach the Trump administration on immigration issues.** CHC members were

particularly rankled that their colleagues — especially Gonzalez — went to dinner with the president and want Trump to apologize for his comments about Mexicans during the campaign or at least be confronted on the issue before engaging further with him.”

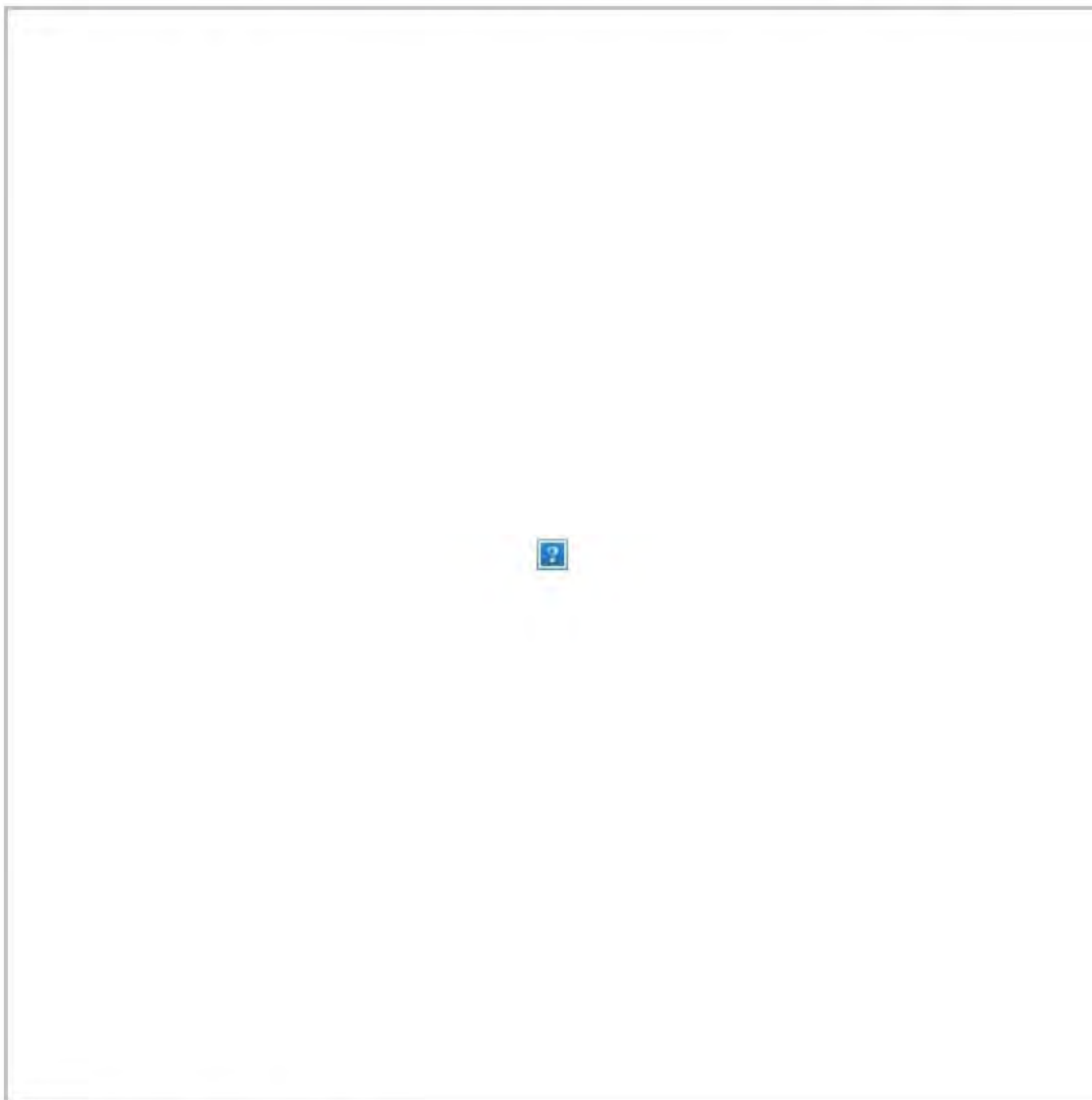
-- Congressional Republicans may model their tax reform negotiations off of the health-care talks in terms of secrecy.

[Politico's Bernie Becker and Aaron Lorenzo report](#): “Both senior administration officials and congressional leaders are already telegraphing that the tax reform measure they hope to move this fall will largely be shaped among themselves in private meetings. While many griped about the secrecy surrounding the health legislation, few rank-and-file Republicans seem to be objecting to that approach on tax reform ... Despite the lack of vocal protest so far, there’s a lot of time for another secretive legislative process to cause headaches for top Republicans, especially given the criticism aimed at the Senate GOP — including from their own members — for how they’ve put together their Obamacare replacement.”

-- Former lobbyist Jack Abramoff, who served three years in prison for conspiracy and tax evasion, briefly returned to lobbying earlier this year and attempted to arrange a meeting between Trump and the controversial president of the Republic of the Congo. [The Center for Public Integrity's Carrie Levine reports](#):

“Abramoff ... was aiding an Italian national hoping to earn a consulting contract with the Republic of Congo that, in part, sought to polish its image in the United States. There’s no evidence that a meeting or phone call between Trump and Congolese President Denis Sassou Nguesso ever took place ... Abramoff this month filed

his retroactive lobbying disclosures at the request of the Department of Justice and promptly terminated his association with the Italian national ... Abramoff [went] to great lengths to secure a meeting with Trump for Sassou Nguesso ... Abramoff 'flew to Palm Beach on his own initiative, and without any compensation' the filing says."



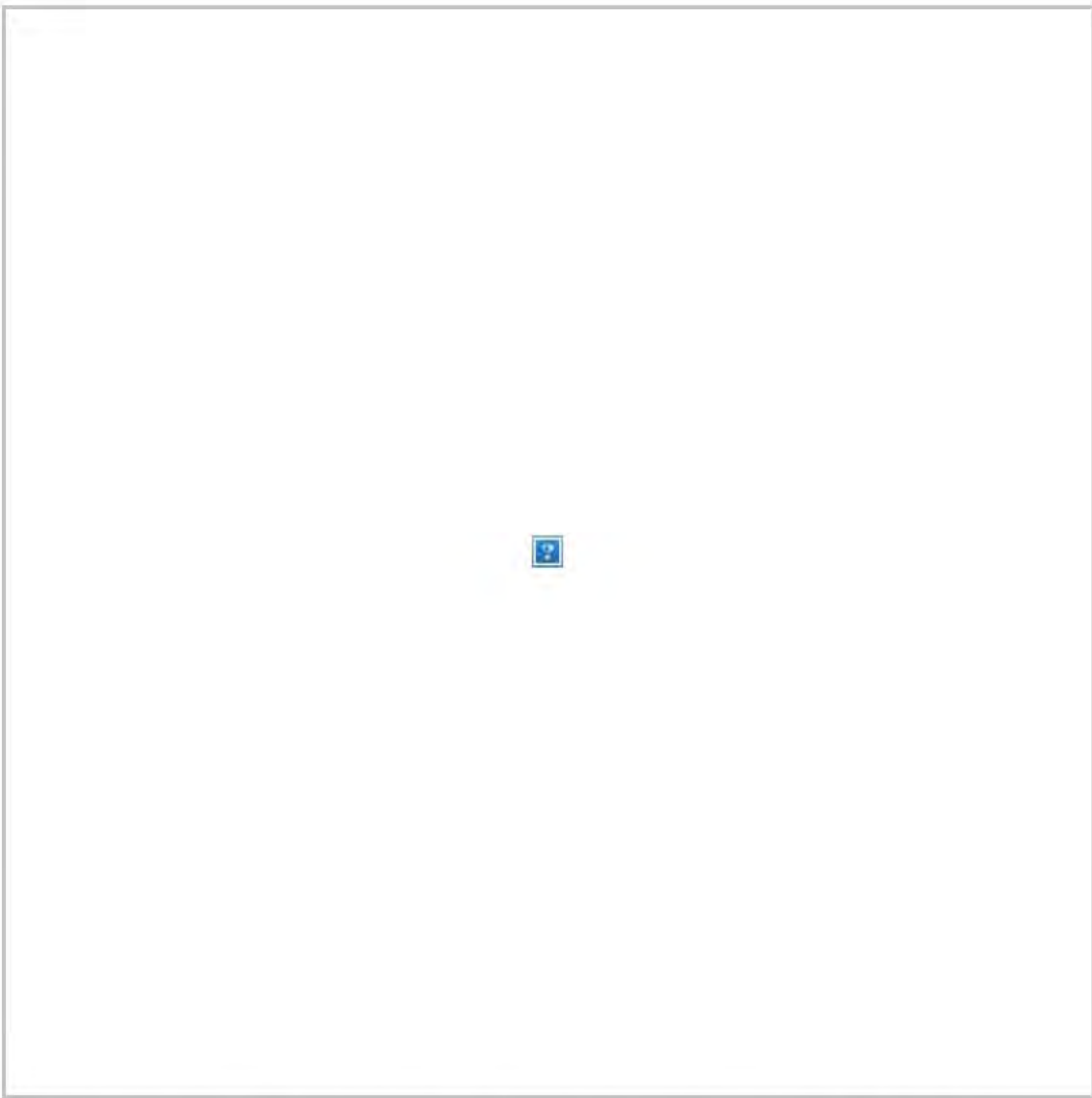
PERSONNEL IS POLICY:

-- **“Before William C. Bradford was appointed by the Trump administration to run the Energy Department’s Office of Indian Energy, he tweeted a slew of disparaging remarks about the real**

and imagined ethnic, religious and gender identities of [former president Obama, Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, TV host Megan Kelly] and Japanese-Americans during World War II," [Dino Grandoni scoops](#): "Bradford was recently appointed as director of DOE's office in charge of assisting Native American and Alaskan tribes and villages with energy development. ... The Trump official's tweets came before he joined the administration and include a response to a story about [Zuckerberg], urging lowans to vote against Trump ... in which Bradford said: 'Who is this little arrogant self-hating Jew to tell anyone for whom to vote?' Bradford also had some choice words for [Obama] in December 2016 ... Referring to an unclear 'mission in Tehran,' Bradford asked 'How else can a Kenyan creampuff get ahead?'"

"At DOE, Bradford is charged with helping Native Americans and Alaskan tribes and villages obtain electricity and reduce energy costs. But his tweets before joining the Trump administration display a lack of sensitivity to issues of race and gender. Bradford took aim at Japanese-Americans on the anniversary in 2016 of the opening of internment camps to detain them during World War II, saying 'It was necessary...'"

-- Trump has announced that two owners of sports franchises will become ambassadors. AP reports: "He'll nominate New York Jets owner Woody Johnson to be the U.S. ambassador to the United Kingdom ... Trump also announced his choice of Jamie McCourt, an attorney and former co-owner of the Los Angeles Dodgers baseball team, to be the U.S. ambassador to Belgium."



Justin Trudeau and Trump at the G7 Taormina summit. (Sean Gallup/Getty)

THE NEW WORLD ORDER:

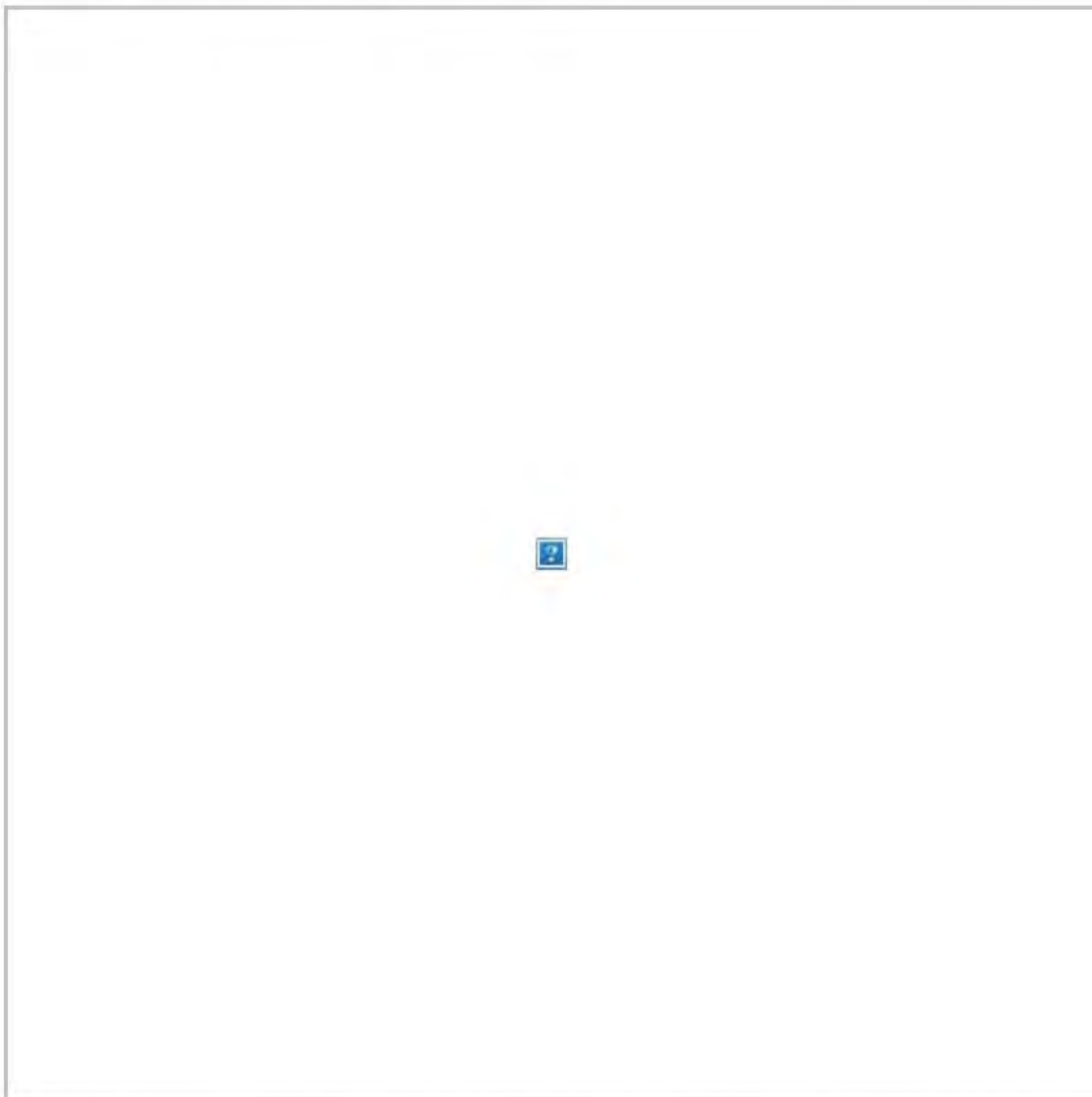
-- As world leaders struggle to accommodate Trump's brash, unpredictable brand of leadership, Canada is pursuing a wholly different approach: simply going around him. [The New York Times's Max Fisher reports](#): "As [Trump] disrupts alliances across the map, nearly every level of government in Canada has taken on new duties in a quietly audacious campaign to cajole, contain and if necessary coerce the Americans. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's strategy for managing Mr. Trump is unlike anything tried by another

ally. And he has largely succeeded where even experienced leaders like Angela Merkel of Germany have fallen short. ... **By organizing a grass-roots network of American officials, lawmakers and businesses, Canada is hoping to contain Mr. Trump's protectionist and nationalist impulses.** Though emphasizing the benefits of harmony, the Canadians are not above flexing muscle, with a provincial government at one point quietly threatening trade restrictions against New York State. 'We don't have the luxury that the Germans have of an ocean between us,' Mr. Burney said. 'And we don't have a Plan B.'"

-- **The president's decision to retain ownership of Trump properties around the world could become an impediment when making difficult diplomacy decisions.** [Foreign Policy's Phillip Y. Lipsky writes](#): "While the president faces incentives to protect Trump properties from the consequences of conflict, adversaries may actually be emboldened by their perception that he will act cautiously. Trump properties are physical, immovable assets largely unprotected against hostile action. **The president's failure to divest from his business empire gives U.S. adversaries an instrument of personal coercion.** All manner of U.S. adversaries, including sovereign states and terrorist organizations, could seek to influence the president's foreign policy by threatening Trump assets."

-- **British Prime Minister Theresa May promised in remarks yesterday that European Union citizens who have settled in the United Kingdom would have an option to stay after Brexit, but the details of how remain unclear.** [The New York Times' James Kanter reports](#): "More than three million citizens of other European

Union countries live in Britain, while more than one million Britons live in the other 27 nations. Many of these people have formed families and raised children, and have been anxious about their status since the referendum a year ago when British voters decided to leave the union ... A key issue is setting a cutoff date for European Union citizens living in Britain to qualify for what is called settled status, allowing them to remain indefinitely.”



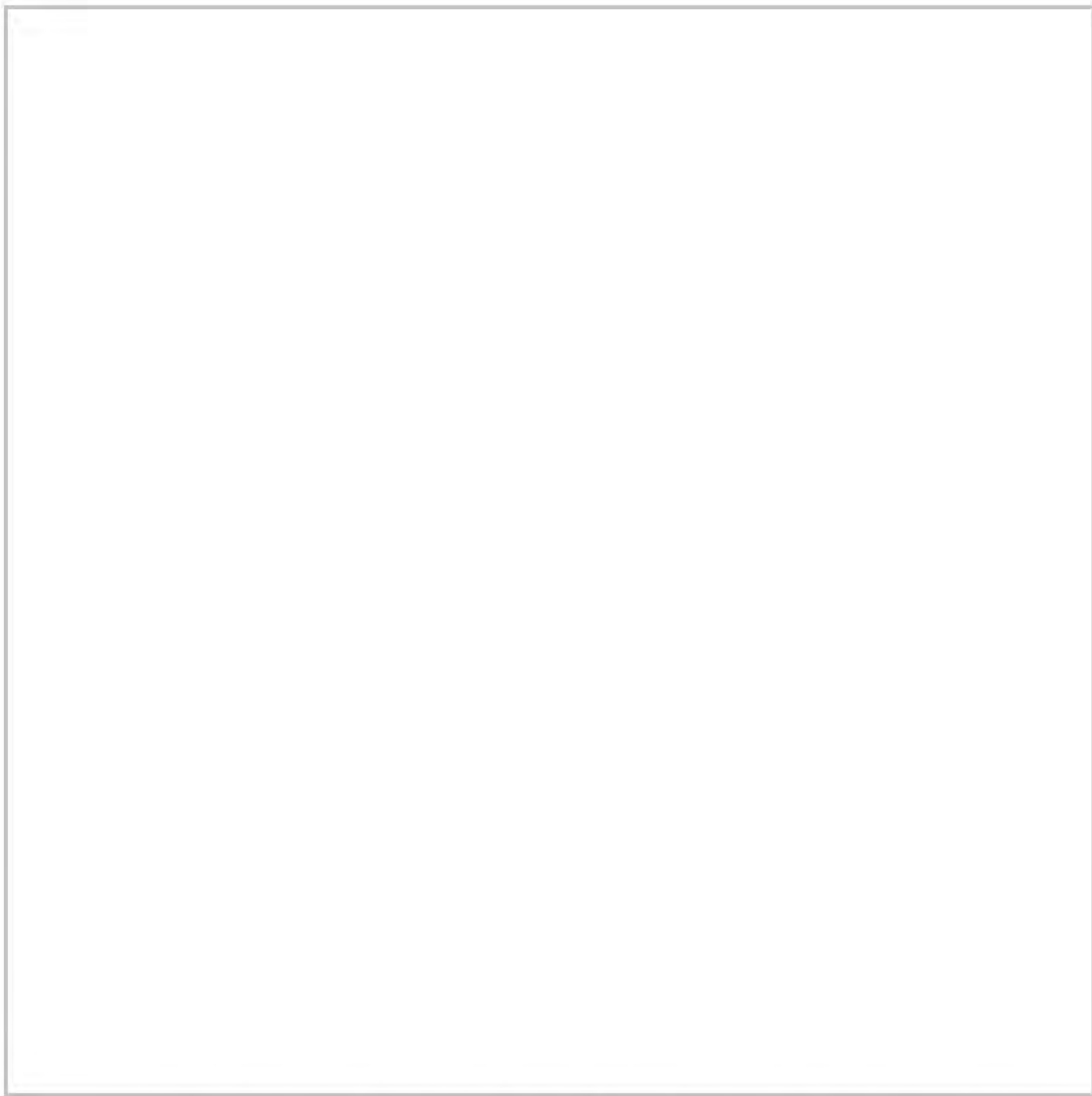
A Yemeni man describes how his son was detained by Yemeni forces allied to the UAE who raided his home in the southern village of Abr Lasloun. (AP/Maad El Zikry)

-- **“The [UAE] and allied security forces maintain a secret network of prisons in Yemen where dozens and perhaps hundreds of people are detained, routinely abused and in some cases severely tortured, according to separate reports released Thursday by Human Rights Watch and the [AP],” Kareem Fahim reports:** “The investigation by the AP also found that forces from the United States, a close counterterrorism ally to the UAE, had participated in interrogations of prisoners in Yemen. American forces had been ‘yards’ away from a facility where torture took place, one Yemeni security officer told the news agency. ... In its report, Human Rights Watch said it documented the cases of at least 38 people detained or arrested by Yemeni forces that are financed, armed or trained by the UAE. **Witnesses told the AP of a torture method known as the ‘grill,’ [in which] victims were ‘tied to a spit like a roast and spun in a circle of fire.’** That method and others were used at a detention complex at an airport in the southern city of Mukalla — one of at least 18 secret prisons in southern Yemen ... run by the UAE or its allied forces.”

- The government of the UAE denied the existence of a clandestine prison network, saying “there are no secret detention centers, and no torture of prisoners is done during interrogations.”
- Pentagon officials also pushed back, saying that “under no circumstances do DoD personnel participate in violations of human rights.”

-- **Newly elected French President Emmanuel Macron proposed a large expansion of his counter-terrorism powers on Thursday –**

alarming civil liberties advocates even as his supporters said the plans will help keep French citizens safe. [James McAuley and Michael Birnbaum report](#): “The changes proposed seek to wind down a state of emergency that gave French security officials broad powers and was imposed after the November 2015 Paris attacks. ... Some of those powers would be made permanent, including the ability to temporarily shutter places of worship that promote extremism and conduct searches with fewer restrictions. The draft also strips some oversight powers from judges and gives security officials more latitude to act without judicial review. Critics of the emergency powers say that they have been applied indiscriminately, not just to combat terrorism. Even some analysts who believe the expanded powers can be useful in disrupting terror plots say that the efficacy wears off as militants find new ways to evade detection.”



The casket of Otto Warmbier is carried to the hearse followed by his family and friends in Wyoming, Ohio. (John Sommers II/Reuters)

WAPO HIGHLIGHTS:

-- **“Let’s bring it in’: Otto Warmbier’s family and friends celebrate his life at memorial,”** by **Susan Svrluga**: “Families wearing blue and white Wyoming T-shirts, holding homemade cardboard signs and American flags, waited by the edge of the main street for Otto Warmbier’s funeral procession to drive by. As the memorial attended by thousands at the town’s high school ended, people in black dresses and dark suits joined those along the street.

Many were hugging; the ceremony, a celebration of Warmbier's life, had been funny and eloquent, much like the 22-year-old University of Virginia student who was beloved in this small suburb of Cincinnati and far beyond. Friends and family shared memories of, as one put it, 'this inspiring goofball of a man,' and the essential lessons they had learned from him: Work hard, explore everything, love people, think deeply and laugh easily."

-- **"Navy sailors made tough call to seal flooding ship**

compartments, unclear if survivors were inside," by Thomas

Gibbons-Neff and Dan Lamothe: "With water rushing around them, sailors aboard the beleaguered USS Fitzgerald faced an agonizing decision. They had made several rescue attempts into the flooded portions of the 505-foot destroyer, which had collided off the coast of Japan with a much heavier container ship early morning Saturday. But they didn't know how many of their fellow shipmates were still trapped inside or even alive, and time was running out. The sailors either had to close off the flooded areas of the ship, or they feared the entire destroyer might go down, according to three active or former members of the Navy familiar with the incident. They decided to seal the compartments shut. By Sunday, the toll of the accident became clear."

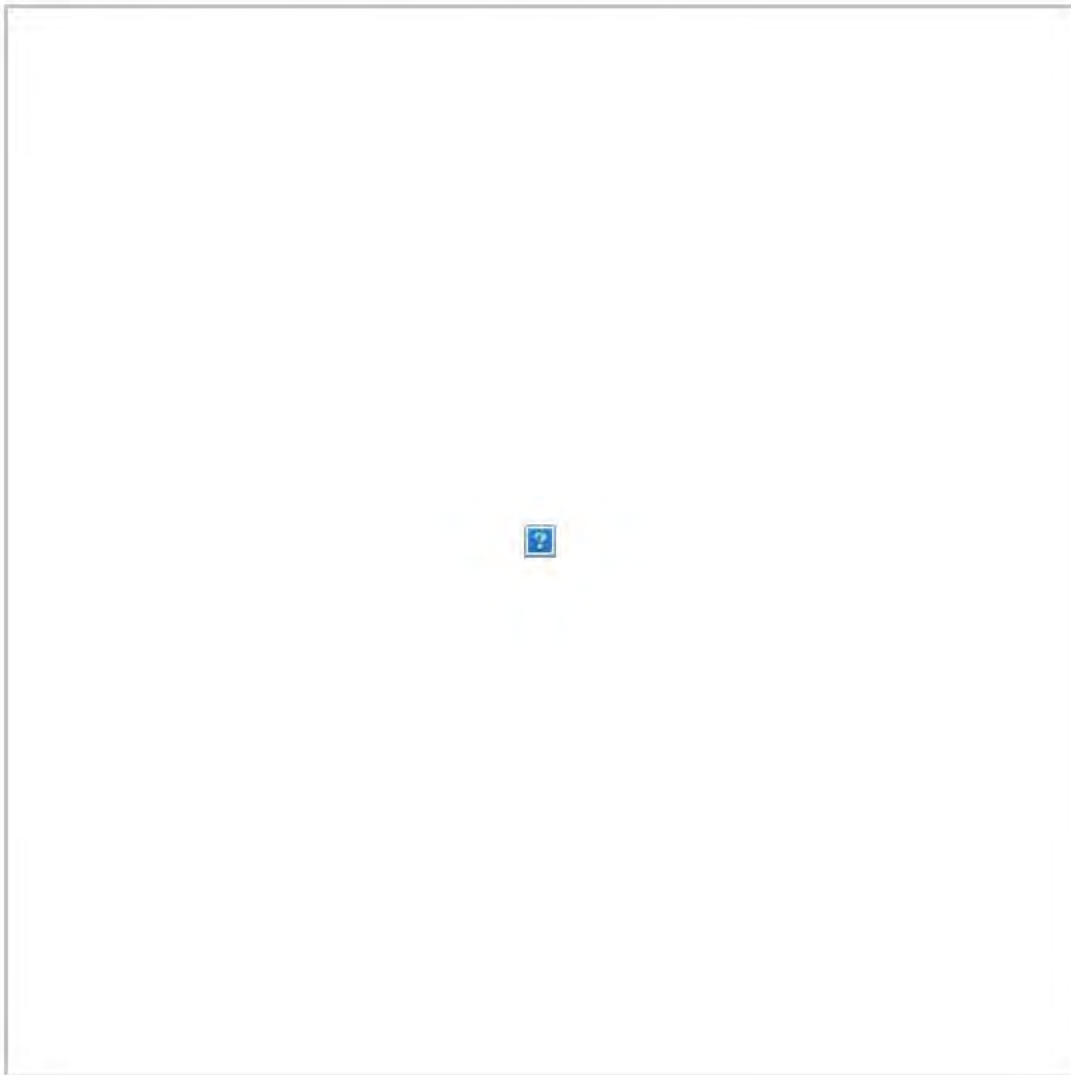
-- **"Former CIA officer accused of selling top secret information**

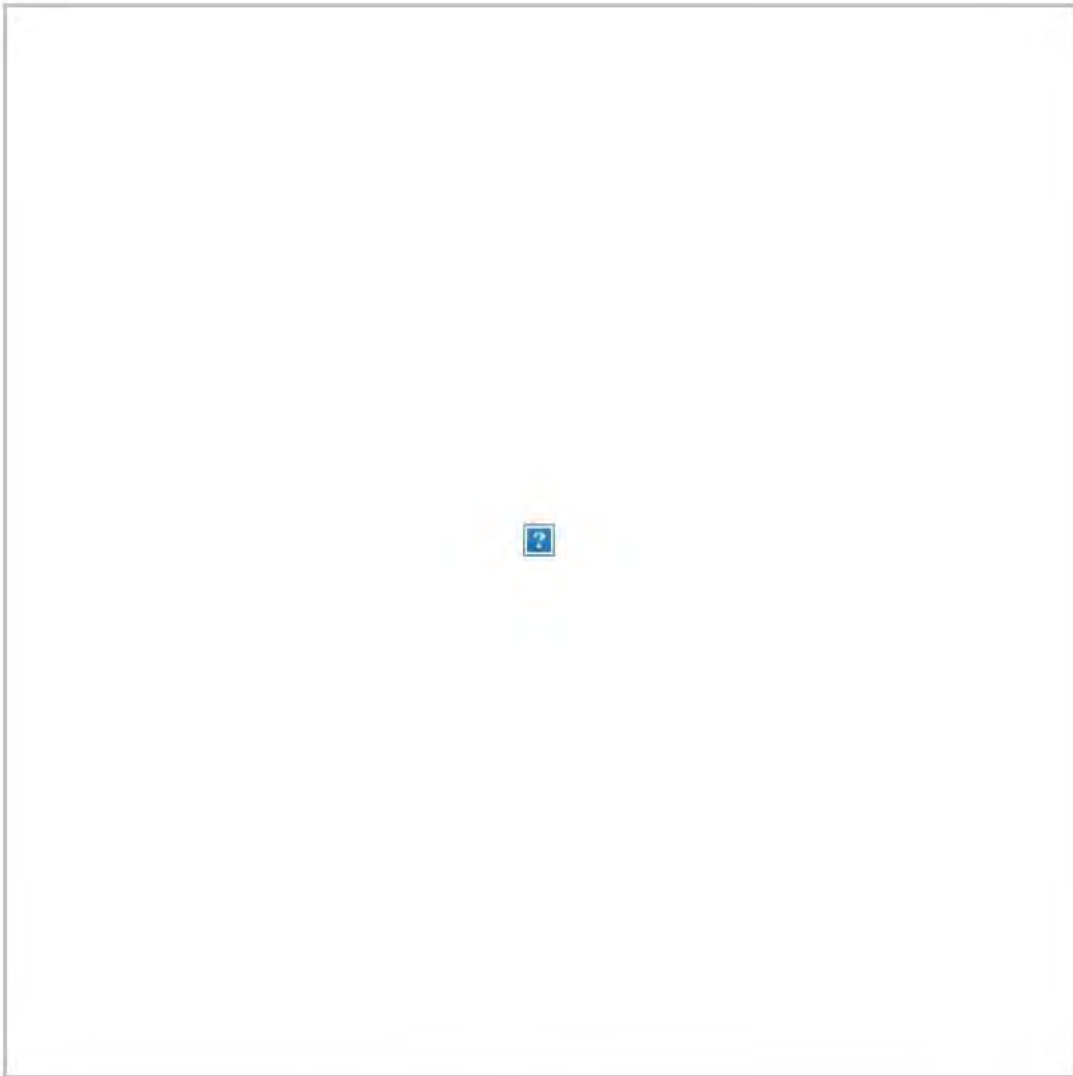
to China," by Rachel Weiner: "Kevin Patrick Mallory, 60, of Leesburg, Va., was arrested Thursday and appeared briefly in front of Judge Theresa Buchanan on counts of delivering defense information to aid a foreign government and making false statements. He asked to be represented by a public defender. Mallory had a top secret

security clearance until he left the government in 2012, prosecutors say, having worked at various government agencies and defense contractors ... Prosecutors say Mallory sent three documents containing classified information, one of which was labeled top secret, to a Chinese intelligence operative in May.”

SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:

Lawmakers of both parties posted images of themselves reading the Senate health-care bill when it was finally released yesterday following an exceptionally private process to craft it:





GOOD READS FROM ELSEWHERE:

-- Pew Research Center, "[America's Complex Relationship With Guns](#)," by Kim Parker, Juliana Menasce Horowitz, Ruth Igielnik, Baxter Oliphant And Anna Brown: "Integrated into the fabric of American society since the country's earliest days, guns remain a point of pride for many Americans ... At the same time, the results of gun-related violence have shaken the nation, and debates over gun policy remain sharply polarized. A new Pew Research Center survey attempts to better understand the complex relationship Americans have with guns and how that relationship intersects with their policy

views. The survey finds that Americans have broad exposure to guns, whether they personally own one or not. At least two-thirds have lived in a household with a gun at some point in their lives ... Today, three-in-ten U.S. adults say they own a gun, and an additional 36% say that while they don't own one now, they might be open to owning a gun in the future."

-- **Bloomberg, "The Woman Behind Trump's Empire of Swag," by John McCormick:** "Two years ago, [Christl] Mahfouz, 39, was running a business on the verge of collapse, selling uniforms to oil and gas workers after the 2014 crash in oil prices. She was desperate to avoid bankruptcy. A devout Catholic, she says, 'I turned to God and said, "Please help me."' The answer to her prayers, it turns out, was Trump."

-- **The New York Times, "A Cyberattack 'the World Isn't Ready For,'" by Nicole Perlroth:** "There have been times over the last two months when Golan Ben-Oni has felt like a voice in the wilderness. On April 29, someone hit his employer, IDT Corporation, with two cyberweapons that had been stolen from the [NSA]. Mr. Ben-Oni, the global chief information officer at IDT, was able to fend them off, but the attack left him distraught. In 22 years of dealing with hackers of every sort, he had never seen anything like it. Who was behind it? How did they evade all of his defenses? How many others had been attacked but did not know it? The strike on IDT ... was similar to WannaCry, [the cyberattack that ravaged computers at hospitals, universities, and business around the world] in one way: Hackers locked up IDT data and demanded a ransom to unlock it. But what Mr. Ben-Oni had witnessed was much worse ... [and for IDT], the ransom

demand was just a smoke screen for a far more invasive attack that stole employee credentials. With those credentials in hand, hackers could have run free through the company's computer network, taking confidential information or destroying machines. **'The world is burning about WannaCry, but this is a nuclear bomb compared to WannaCry,'** Ben-Oni said. 'This is different. It's a lot worse. It steals credentials. You can't catch it, and it's happening right under our noses.'"

-- **Politico Magazine, "Jane Sanders Lawyers Up,"** by Harry Jaffe:

"Sanders is used to fielding softball questions from an adoring local press, but his inquisitor, Kyle Midura of Burlington TV station WCAX, had a rare opportunity to put him on the spot. Investigative reporters had been breaking stories about a federal investigation into allegations that the senator's wife, Jane Sanders, had committed fraud in obtaining bank loans for the now defunct Burlington College, and that Sanders's Senate office had weighed in ... Sanders and his wife have been trying to ignore the federal investigation since reporters for VTDigger, an online publication, confirmed the FBI's involvement in April. The original request for an investigation into the potential bank fraud did indeed come from Brady Toensing, an attorney who chaired Trump's Vermont campaign, and whose January 2016 letter to the U.S. attorney for Vermont put federal agents on the trail."

-- **New York Times Magazine, "Trained to Kill: How Four Boy Soldiers Survived Boko Haram,"** by Sarah A. Topol: "The four children, from a fishing village in Nigeria, were among thousands abducted by Boko Haram and trained as soldiers. They learned to

survive, but only by forgetting who they were.”

-- **New York Magazine, “Sarah Palin’s Latest Business Venture: Running a Right-Wing Content Farm,”** by Olivia Nuzzi: “You might call it fake news or propaganda, with headlines like, ‘YES! Trump Fulfills Campaign Promise to Help the Coal Industry’ (approximately 70 jobs were created, by a private company, at a coal mine in Pennsylvania) or ‘EVIDENCE FOUND! Trump Was Right on Voter Fraud ...’ (12 people in Indiana were charged with submitting fraudulent voter-registration applications, while Trump claimed that ‘millions’ of undocumented immigrants had voted illegally in the 2016 election). Palin [pens a few of the articles herself] ... with titles like ‘INSANE’; ‘Trig’s School of Life. We’re all learning!’; ‘Alpha Males ... Hot Hot Hot’; and ‘You, Sir, Are Unfortunately Being Used by Democrats.’”

HOT ON THE LEFT:

“In S. Fla., racial epithets, arrests in tense protests over Confederate street names,” from Politico: “A black South Florida lawmaker said Wednesday he was called the N-word and a “monkey” during a clash of protests in Hollywood, Fla., over three streets named after Confederates, including a founder of the Ku Klux Klan. State Rep. Shevrin

HOT ON THE RIGHT:

“Republican Coal King Sues HBO Over John Oliver’s Show,” from The Daily Beast: “A Republican coal baron is suing John Oliver, HBO, Time Warner, and the writers for Oliver’s show over the most recent episode of Last Week Tonight. The suit, filed [in] Marshall County, West Virginia, holds that Oliver and his team ‘executed a meticulously planned

Jones, a Democrat who represents the area ... recounted the 'ugly' scene on Twitter and in [an interview], during which he said that others were verbally abused as well. The Confederate controversy, which has surfaced before in Hollywood, has flared anew in the South Florida city, and across [the] Deep South ... The movement gained momentum after the city of New Orleans on May 19 removed its famed statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee ... Meanwhile, in Tampa on Wednesday, the Hillsborough County Commission voted 4-3 against removing a memorial to the Confederate ...”

attempt to assassinate the character of and reputation of Mr. Robert E. Murray and his companies' by airing an episode that ripped into him. 'They did this to a man who needs a lung transplant, a man who does not expect to live to see the end of this case,' reads the complaint ... At the heart of Murray's complaint is Oliver's discussion of the collapse of one of his mines in Utah, which killed nine people. Oliver said on the show that a government report concluded the collapse happened because of unauthorized mining practices, and also noted that Murray holds the collapse actually happened because of an earthquake. The complaint says Murray directed Oliver's team to studies supporting that argument—and that he deliberately ignored them.”

DAYBOOK:

President Trump will meet with three of his Cabinet secretaries in the

morning: Rex Tillerson, John Kelly and Jim Mattis. He will then sign a bill addressing accountability at the VA.

Vice President Pence will travel to Colorado Springs to give a speech at Focus on the Family's 40th anniversary celebration. He will also visit the Schriever Air Force Base and the Cheyenne Mountain Complex before attending a fundraising event for Colorado's Sen. Cory Gardner.

QUOTE OF THE DAY:

Nancy Pelosi defended herself from criticisms after Democrats lost in Georgia. **"I think I'm worth the trouble," she said at a press conference yesterday.**

NEWS YOU CAN USE IF YOU LIVE IN D.C.:

-- D.C. will experience mugginess and possibly some showers as the city prepares for the remnants of Tropical Storm Cindy, the Capital Weather Gang forecasts: "There's a decent chance much of the day is dry, with the best odds of rain generally ending near sunrise from overnight activity. The next bigger batch comes tonight, but isolated or scattered showers and storms are possible this afternoon into evening. Any that pop up could become strong to locally severe, with a short-lived tornado or wind damage possible. Mid-to-upper 80s are possible even with clouds, but some sunshine could boost temperatures into the low 90s as well."

- The two candidates in Virginia's gubernatorial race traded barbs over the Senate's health-care bill, [Fenit Nirappil reports](#).**

- James L. Shea jumped into an already-crowded Democratic primary race to unseat Larry Hogan as Maryland's governor next year, [Josh Hicks and Fenit Nirappil report](#): "[Shea] led one of Maryland's largest law firms and had chaired the University System of Maryland Board of Regents."**

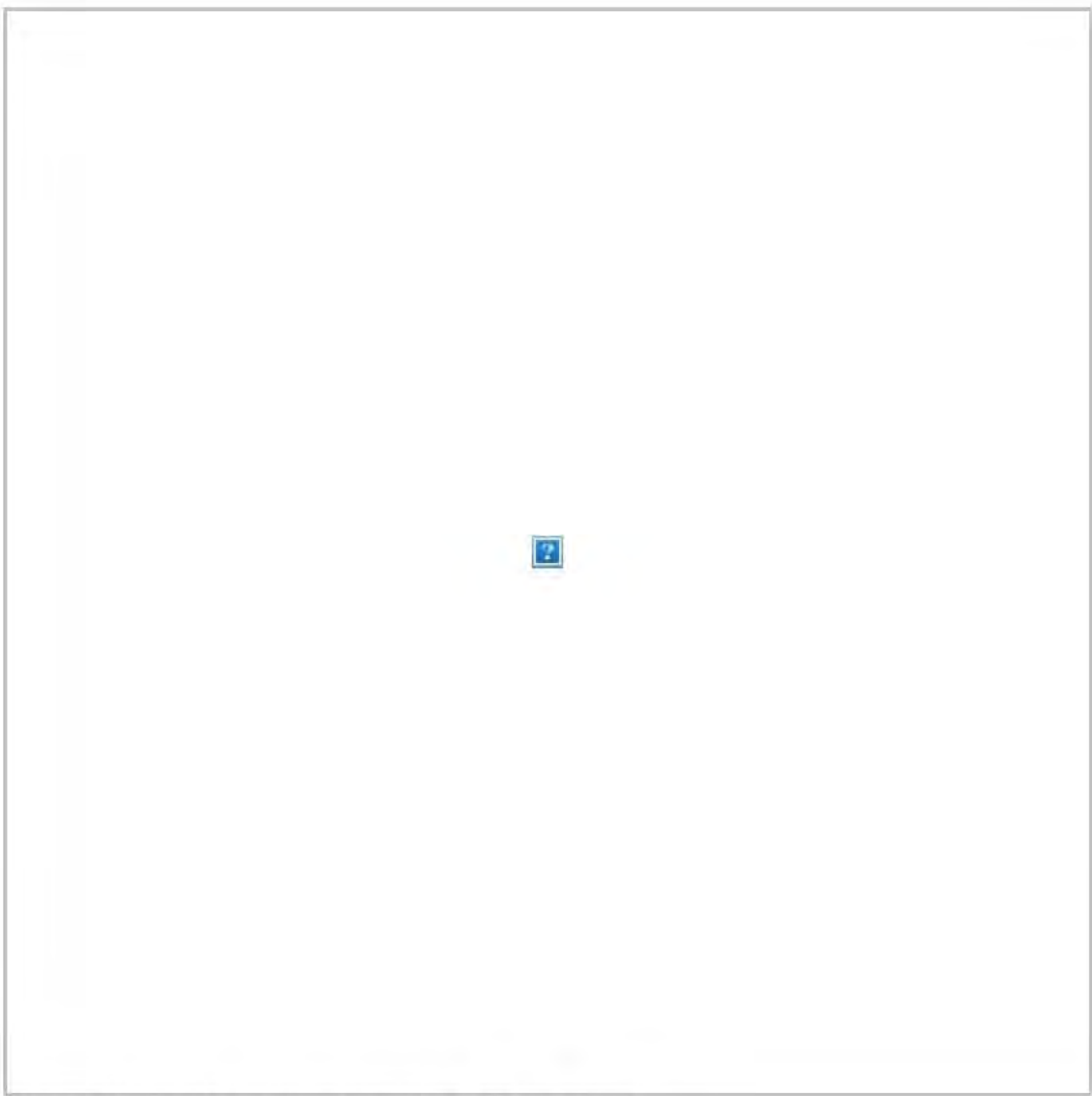
- The Supreme Court rejected a new trial request from the men convicted of the 1984 D.C. gang murder of Catherine Fuller, [Robert Barnes reports](#).**

- 21 business groups in the D.C. area have signed a letter to regional political leaders outlining a plan to fix Metro's finances and restructure its board, [Robert McCartney reports](#). At least six other plans have been presented to revamp the transit agency.**

- An argument over the involvement of white nationalist Richard Spencer has led to dueling conservative rallies in D.C. this Sunday, [Justin Wm. Moyer and Perry Stein report](#).**

VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

Jimmy Kimmel talked to kids about health care:



Heroic elephants rescue drowning calf from pond

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Subject: [REDACTED]'s chaotic White House once again makes a bad story worse
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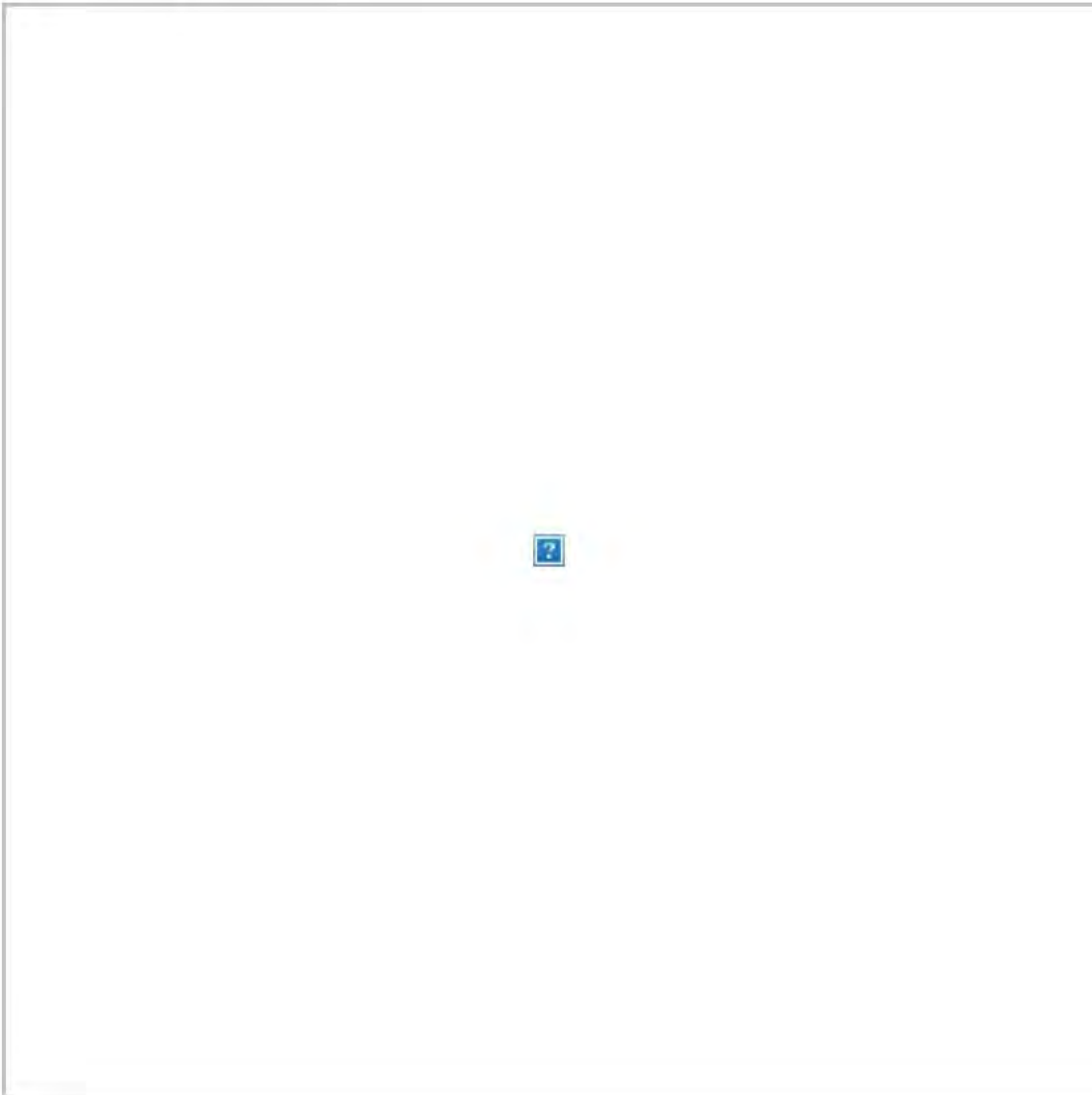
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Trump's chaotic White House once again makes a

bad story worse



Donald Trump huddles with Sergey Lavrov, Vladimir Putin's top diplomat, at the White House last Wednesday. Fourth from the right is Russian Ambassador Sergei Kislyak. (Handout from the Russian Foreign Ministry Photo/Via AP)



BY JAMES HOHMANN

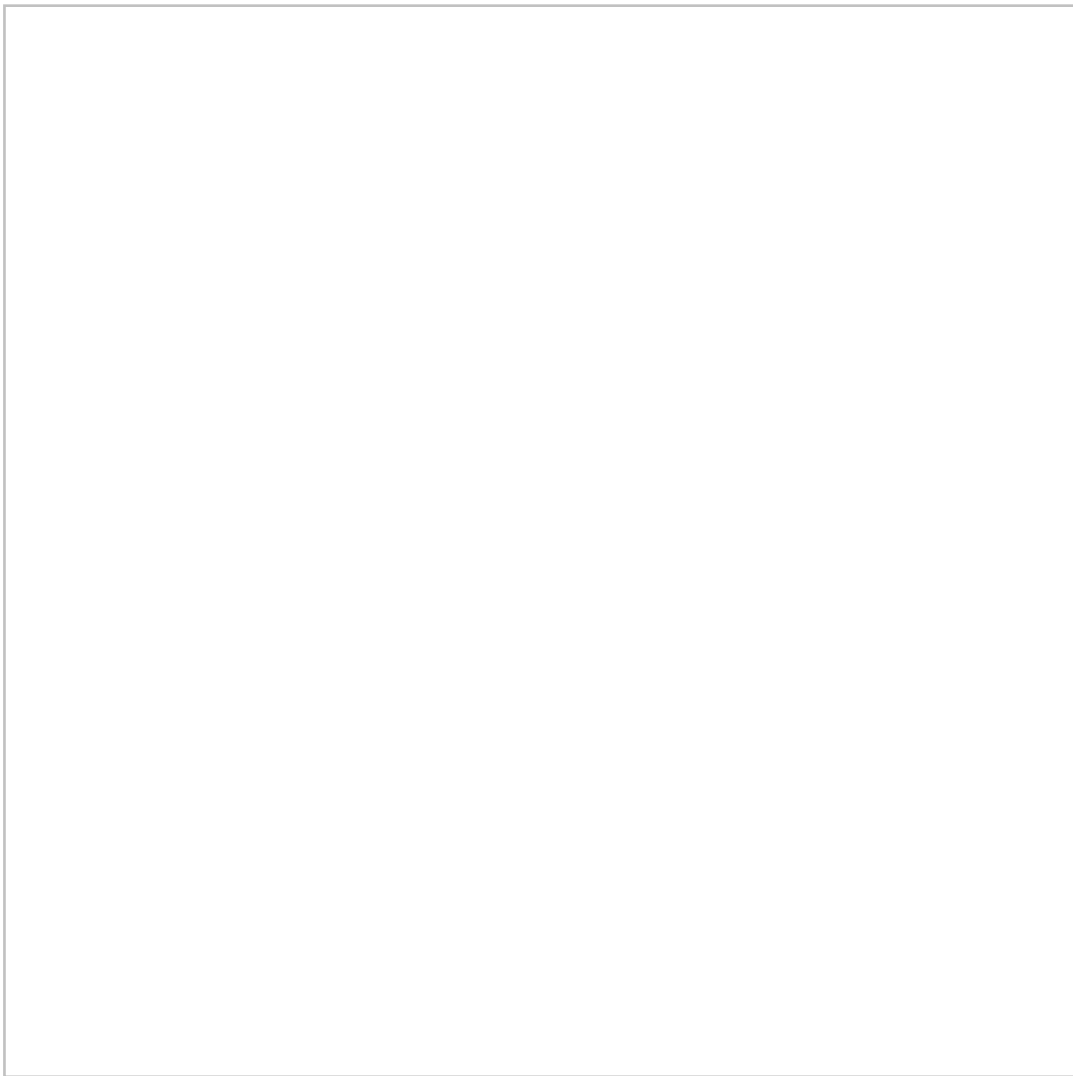
with Breanne Deppisch

THE BIG IDEA: This time it did not even take 24 hours for Donald Trump to throw his staffers under the bus and contradict their denials.

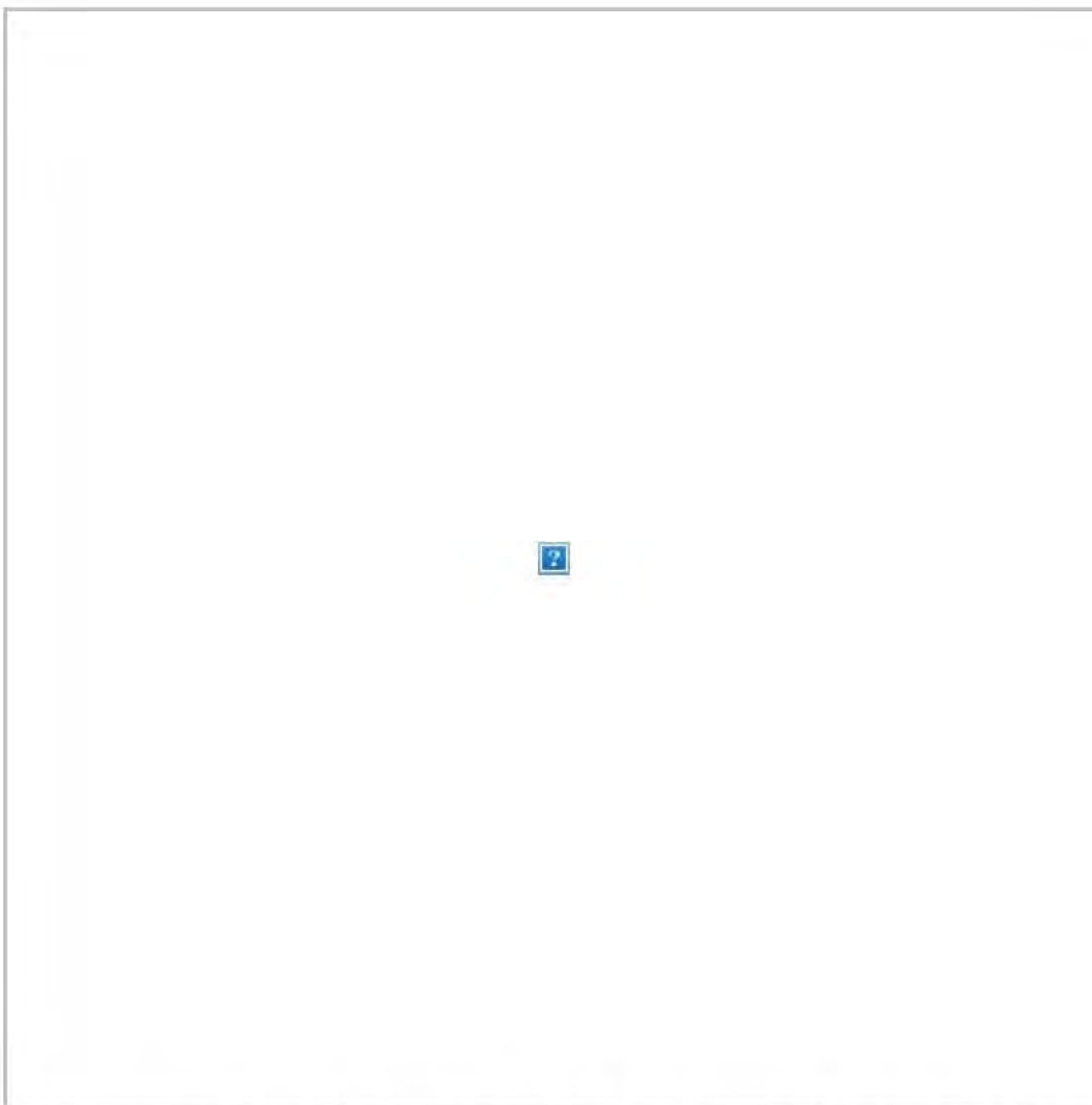
The president revealed highly classified (code word) information to the Russian foreign minister and ambassador during an Oval Office meeting last week, potentially endangering a coveted intelligence asset, compromising a crucial alliance and undermining the war effort against ISIS.

After [The Post broke the story](#), senior White House aides quickly denied it. “I was in the room. It didn’t happen,” said National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster. “This story is false,” added Dina Powell, his deputy.

Then, on Twitter this morning, Trump essentially acknowledged that the Post’s reporting is accurate, defended his decision to share the information and complained about the leak that it allowed what he’d done to get out:



This feels like a replay of last week, when the president acknowledged that the FBI's Russia probe was on his mind as he decided to fire James Comey and confessed that he had made up his mind before receiving a recommendation from the deputy attorney general. That undercut every White House talking point. Making matters worse, Trump said last Friday that his aides should not be expected to be accurate all the time and declined to express confidence in his press secretary.



McMaster: Trump 'did not disclose any military operations that were not already publicly known'

-- The already dysfunctional West Wing has plunged deeper into a state of crisis. Here are some vignettes from last night that show just how messy everything has become:

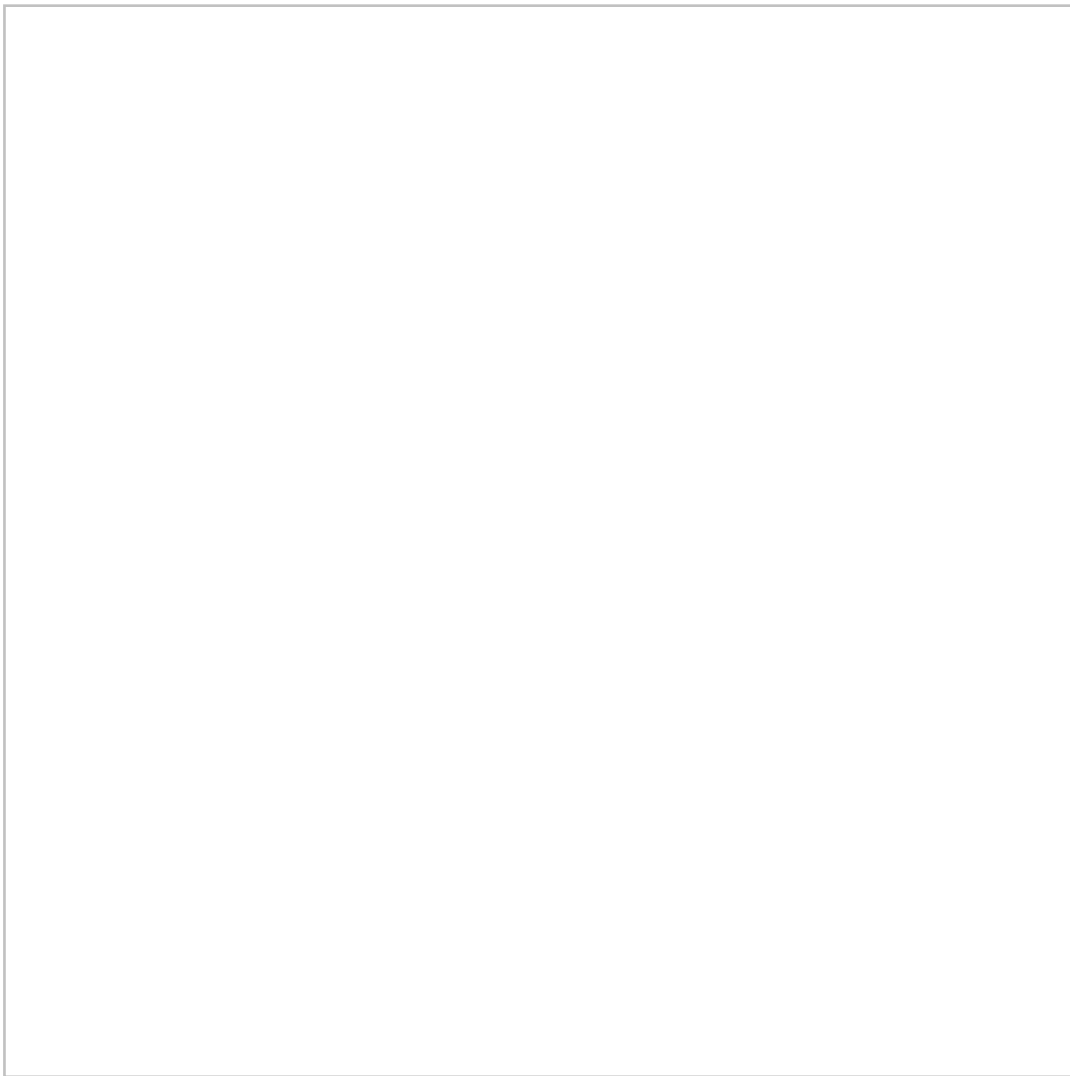
From [the Times's Matthew Rosenberg and Eric Schmitt](#): **"Before The Post's article was published, its impending publication set off a mild panic among White House staff members**, with the press secretary, Sean Spicer; the deputy press secretary, Sarah Huckabee Sanders; and the communications director, Mike Dubke, summoned

to the Oval Office in the middle of the afternoon. Jared Kushner, the president's son-in-law and one of his advisers, was not in the meeting. But **internally, Mr. Kushner criticized Mr. Spicer**, who has been the target of his ire over bad publicity for the president since Mr. Trump fired the F.B.I. director, James B. Comey, last week.”

From [the Associated Press's Jill Colvin and Catherine Lucey](#):

“Reporters started gathering in the hallway outside Spicer’s office right after the Post story broke. As the group grew to more than 20 people, press aides walked silently by as journalists asked for more information. Soon, three of the four TV channels being played in the press area were reporting the Post story. ... **McMaster, who would later deliver a televised denial, stumbled into the crowd of journalists as he walked through the West Wing. ‘This is the last place in the world I wanted to be,’ he said, nervously, as he was pushed for information. ‘I’m leaving. I’m leaving.’”**

From BuzzFeed’s White House correspondent:



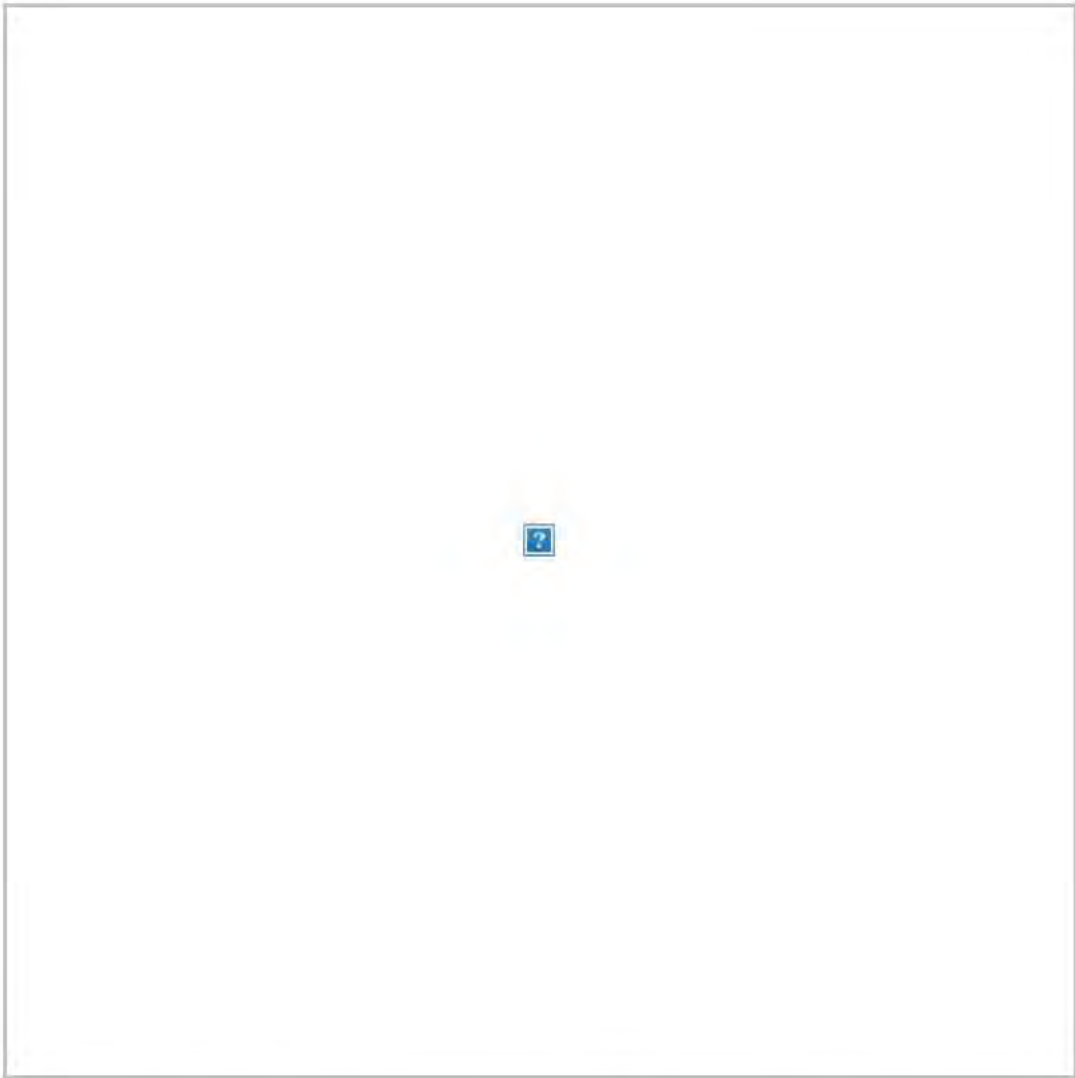
From [NBC News's Hallie Jackson](#): “A smaller group of reporters began trickling back toward Spicer's office about 7:30 p.m. ... **An aide who was walking by deflected an inquiry about the Post piece, saying: ‘I'm dealing with other dumpster fires.’** ... (Sarah Huckabee) Sanders then emerged from the West Wing, saying: ‘We're not answering any other questions right now, so you guys can clear this hallway.’ Asked whether McMaster or anyone else would clarify matters, she repeated: ‘Tonight, we are not doing any other questions. At this moment.’ What about Tuesday, the reporters asked — would McMaster still brief the media about the president's foreign trip, as previously planned? **Raising her voice to be heard over the**

din, Sanders replied: ‘Guys. I've said all we're going to say!’”

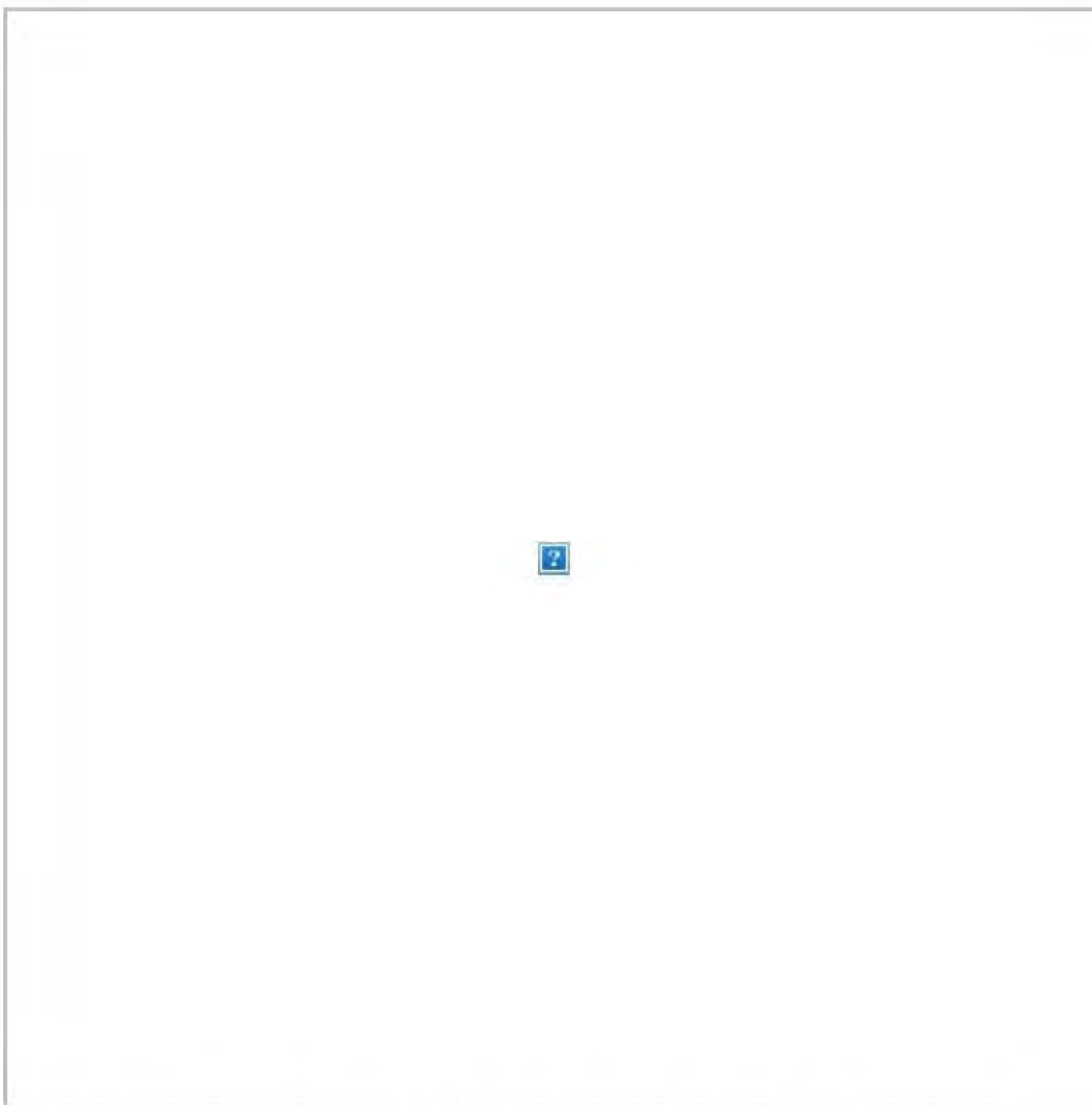
-- “Obviously, they are in a downward spiral right now and have got to figure out a way to come to grips with all that’s happening,” Bob Corker (R-Tenn.), the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, told reporters at the Capitol. “The chaos that is being created by the lack of discipline is creating ... a worrisome environment.”

-- In an [interview with Bloomberg TV this morning](#), Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said: "We could do with a little less drama from the White House." With characteristic understatement, he added: "I think it would be helpful if the president spent more time on things we’re trying to accomplish and less time on other things.”

-- GOP Rep. Mike Gallagher of Wisconsin, a Marine veteran, called for the White House to turn over transcripts of Trump’s meeting with the Russians to Congress.



Democrats are certain to amplify this. The big question driving today is: How many more Republicans will follow?



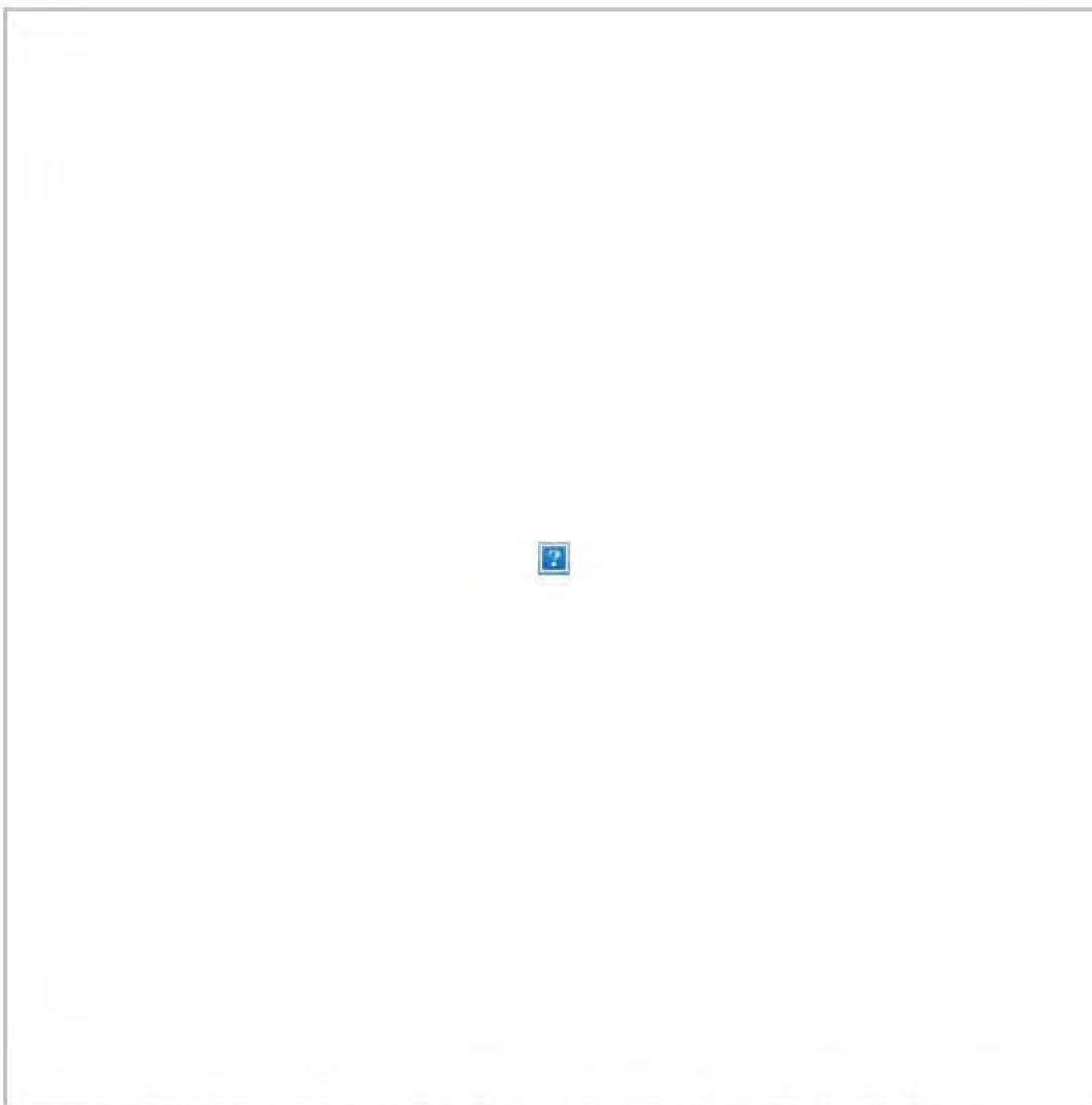
Trump revealed highly classified intel in Oval Office meeting with Russians

-- If you missed their scoop, Greg Miller and Greg Jaffe explain why what Trump did is so problematic: “The information the president relayed had been provided by a U.S. partner through an intelligence-sharing arrangement considered so sensitive that details have been withheld from allies and tightly restricted even within the U.S. government. **The partner had not given the United States permission to share the material with Russia, and officials said Trump’s decision to do so endangers cooperation from an ally that has access to the inner workings of the Islamic State. ...** Exposure of an intelligence stream that has provided critical insight

into the Islamic State, officials said, could hinder the United States' and its allies' ability to detect future threats. ... The identification of the location (where the intelligence was gathered) was seen as particularly problematic ... because Russia could use that detail to help identify the U.S. ally or intelligence capability involved. Officials said the capability could be useful for other purposes, possibly providing intelligence on Russia's presence in Syria. Moscow would be keenly interested in identifying that source and perhaps disrupting it. ... The officials declined to identify the ally but said it has previously voiced frustration with Washington's inability to safeguard sensitive information related to Iraq and Syria."

"It is all kind of shocking," said a former senior U.S. official who is close to current administration officials. "Trump seems to be very reckless and doesn't grasp the gravity of the things he's dealing with, especially when it comes to intelligence and national security. And it's all clouded because of this problem he has with Russia."

-- Other outlets confirmed The Post's reporting last night, including the [New York Times](#), [Wall Street Journal](#), [CNN](#) and [Reuters](#). One U.S. official told [BuzzFeed](#) that, "It's far worse than what has already been reported."



What Trump's classified revelations to Russian officials mean for allies

-- Bigger picture, Trump's disclosure to the Russians is part a pattern of poor judgment.

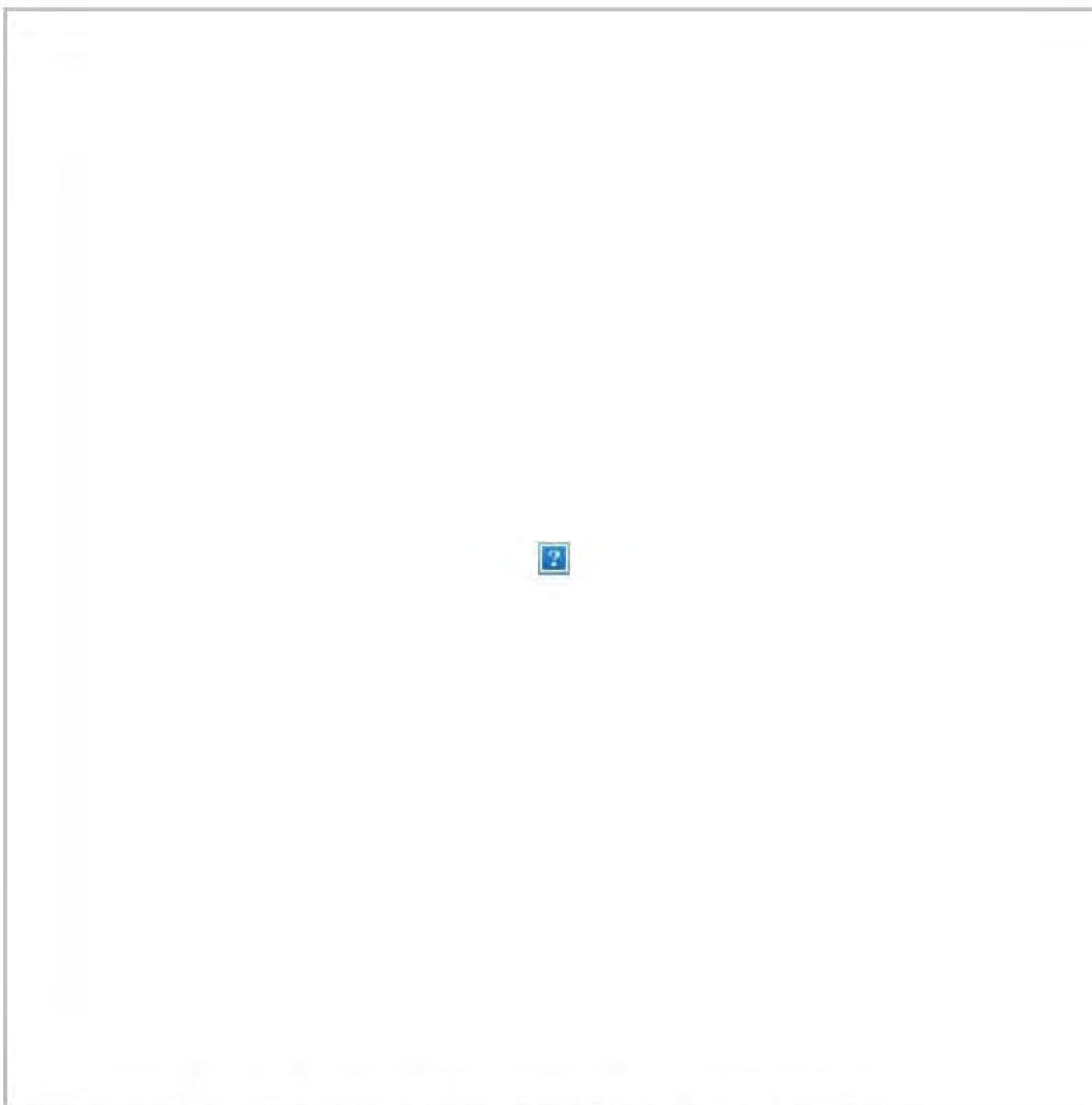
Let's step back for a second and ponder why Trump thought it was a good idea to give an audience to two leaders from an adversary of the United States, who the intelligence agencies believe meddled in last year's presidential election. The FBI continues to probe possible connections between Trump associates and the Russian government. So are multiple congressional committees. Adding insult to injury, Trump scheduled this meeting for

the morning after he axed Comey.

Not only that, Trump welcomed Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and Ambassador Sergey Kislyak — a key figure in the earlier Russia controversies – to the meeting. Trump's first national security adviser, Michael Flynn, had to resign because of fallout from his contacts with Kislyak and misleading statements about what he'd said. Attorney General Jeff Sessions had to recuse himself from matters related to the FBI's Russia investigation after it emerged he met and spoke with Kislyak, despite denying any contact with Russian officials while under oath during his confirmation hearing. **Any conventional president would avoid Kislyak like the plague. Trump welcomed him with open arms.**

Why was a photographer for a Russian state-owned news agency allowed into the Oval Office for such a sensitive meeting, a level of access that former U.S. intelligence officials say allowed for a potential security breach? No U.S. news organizations were allowed for any part of the meeting.

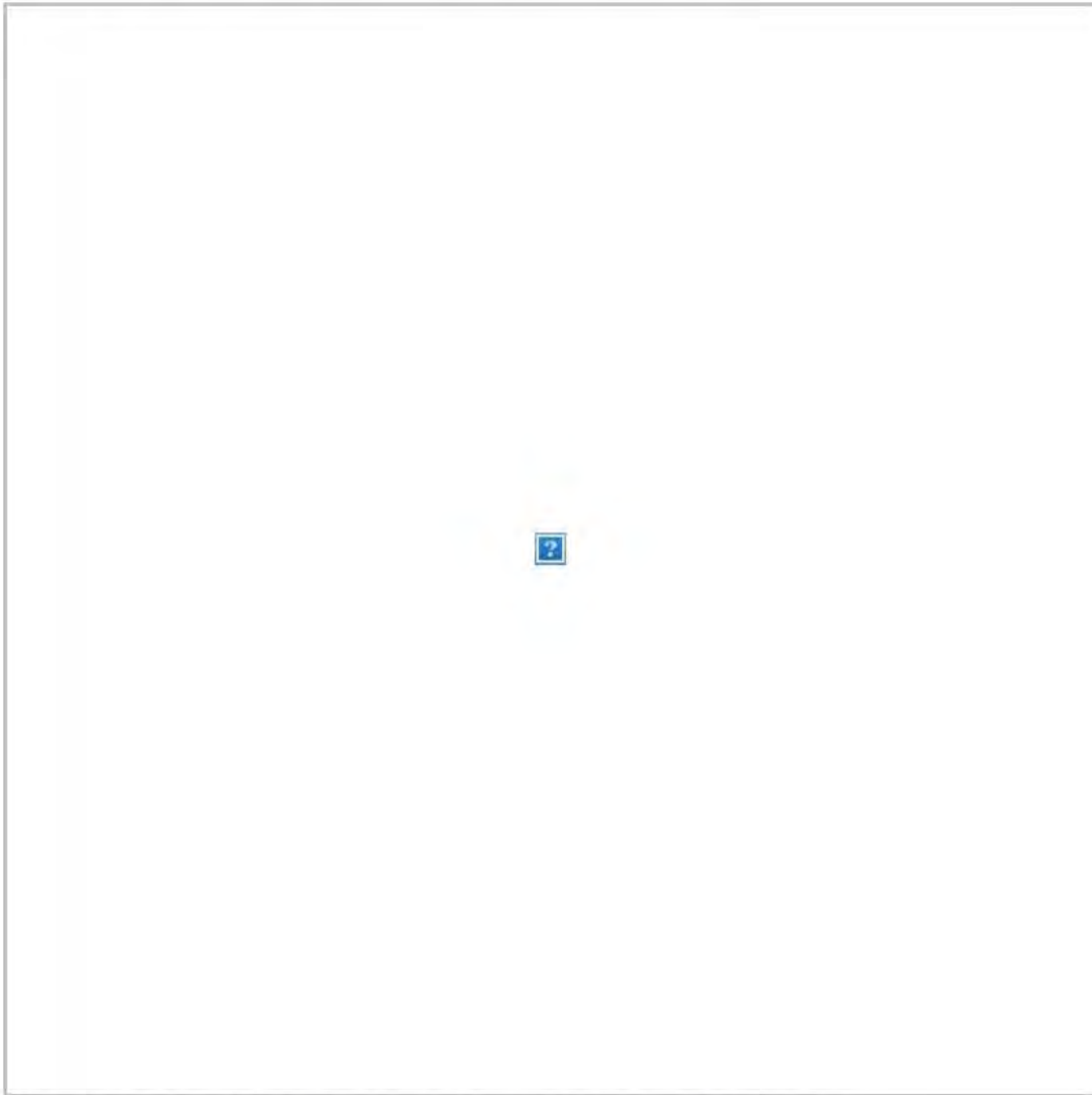
Once he welcomed the Russia delegation into his inner-sanctum, why wouldn't Trump watch his words more carefully? Russia is propping up Bashar al-Assad and meddling in Europe.



How a Trump national security meeting ended up on social media

-- The president does not have a very good record of handling sensitive information since taking office. You might recall that in February, before Flynn was fired, Trump turned the terrace at his Mar-a-Lago club into an open-air situation room. It was Saturday night, and the Palm Beach club was packed. At one table, the president sat with the leader of Japan discussing how to respond to a North Korea missile test in view of random patrons. “While waiters came and went — and while one club member snapped photos — the two leaders reviewed documents by the light of an aide’s cellphone,” [David Fahrenthold](#) and [Karen DeYoung](#) reported at the time.

Defense Secretary James Mattis's private phone number was just publicly exposed because Trump's longtime body guard didn't follow basic operational security protocols. A photograph of him walking with the president showed him holding a stack of papers. On the outside was a yellow sticky note that said "Jim, Mad Dog, Mattis" and had his cell written out underneath.



Washington reacts to Trump's disclosure of classified information

-- Some of these amateur mistakes are the result of Trump's lack of experience. He is the first president in U.S. history with no prior

political or military experience.

Another part of the problem is that he is unwilling to prepare.

From the Post's Russia scoop last night: "U.S. officials said that the National Security Council continues to prepare multi-page briefings for Trump to guide him through conversations with foreign leaders, but that he has insisted that the guidance be distilled to a single page of bullet points — and often ignores those."

But the biggest issue stems from the president's compulsive need to impress people by showing off what he knows. In his meeting with Lavrov, Trump went off script and began to boast about his inside knowledge of a looming threat. "I get great intel. I have people brief me on great intel every day," the president said, an official with knowledge of the exchange told The Post.

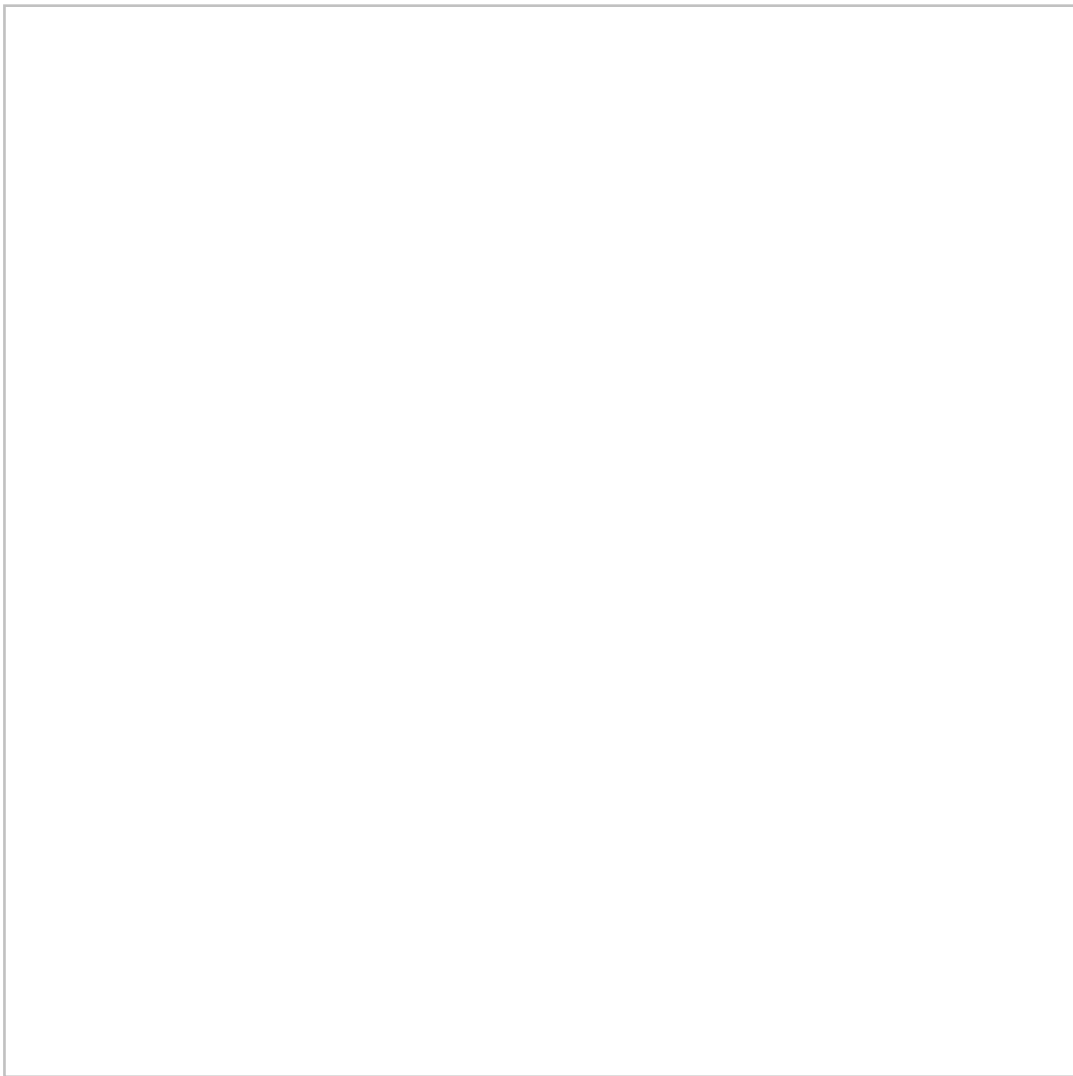
"He doesn't really know any boundaries. He doesn't think in those terms," one adviser who often speaks to the president told Politico. "He doesn't sometimes realize the implications of what he's saying. I don't think it was his intention in any way to share any classified information."

Maggie Haberman draws an interesting point of comparison:

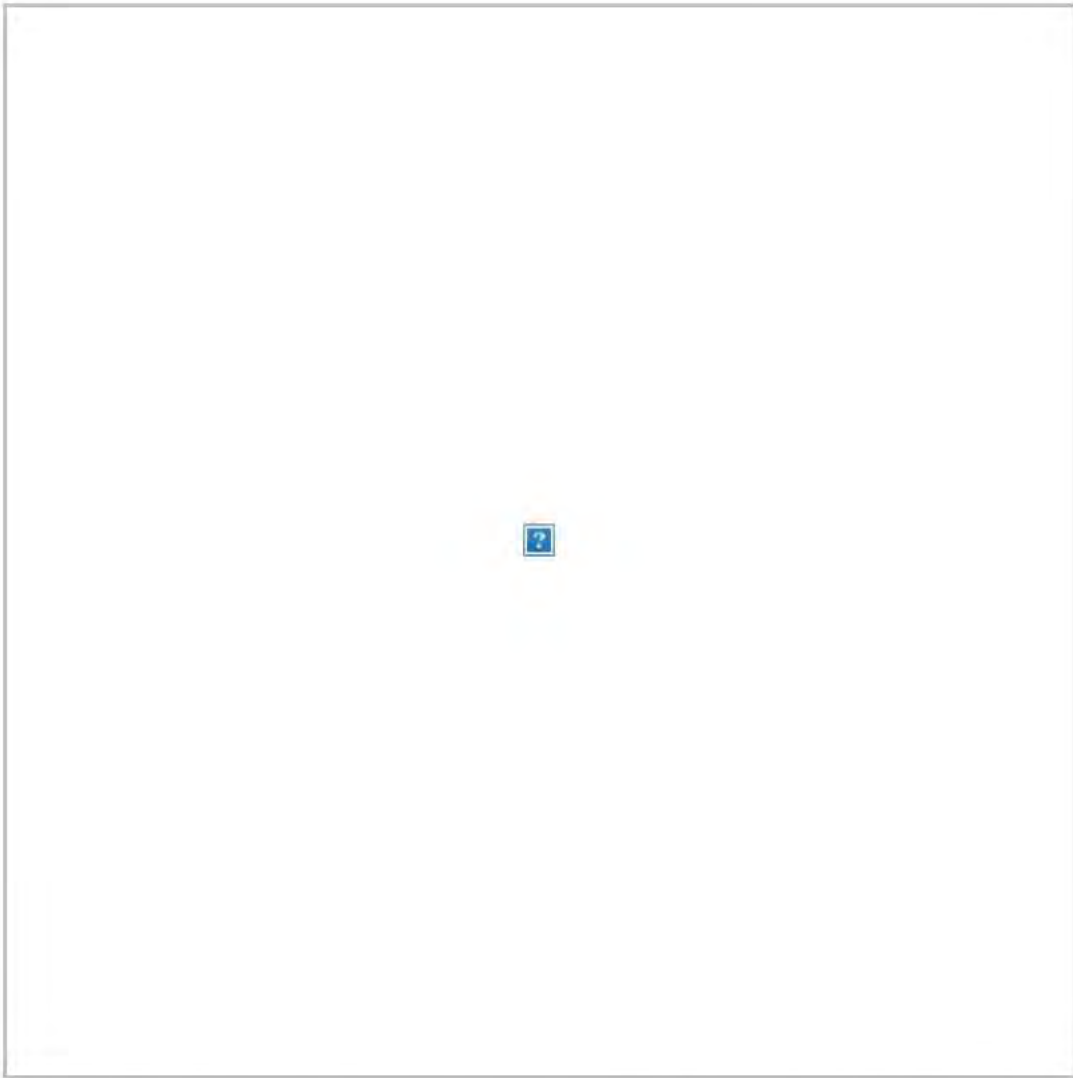
What was in Trump's head matters. [As the editors of Lawfare put it,](#) "If the President made a strategic judgment to release certain information in exchange for some anticipated gain, even if that judgment is wildly wrong, that is potentially less bad than if this is merely an example of loose lips sinking other countries' ships—and our own country's intelligence relationships. In other words, **what Trump thought he was doing might well inflect whether we should see this as an act of carelessness, an act of carelessness bordering on treachery, or an act of judgment (even if misjudgment) of the sort we elect presidents to make.**"

-- Hypocrisy watch: Trump slipping secrets to Russia is ironic because a major reason that he became president was Hillary Clinton's private email server. As a candidate, the president constantly said her mishandling of sensitive information was disqualifying. "This is really, if we bring it up, this is like Watergate, only it's worse, because here our foreign enemies were in a position to hack our most sensitive national security secrets," Trump said at a rally last September. "We can't have someone in the Oval Office who doesn't understand the meaning of the word 'confidential.'" ([Philip Bump rounds up a bunch more examples like this.](#))

The president tweeted dozens of times last year about Clinton's mishandling of classified information:



-- Trump's relationship with the intelligence community will also become even more tenuous after this incident. The top Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee called last night's news a "slap in the face to the intel community":



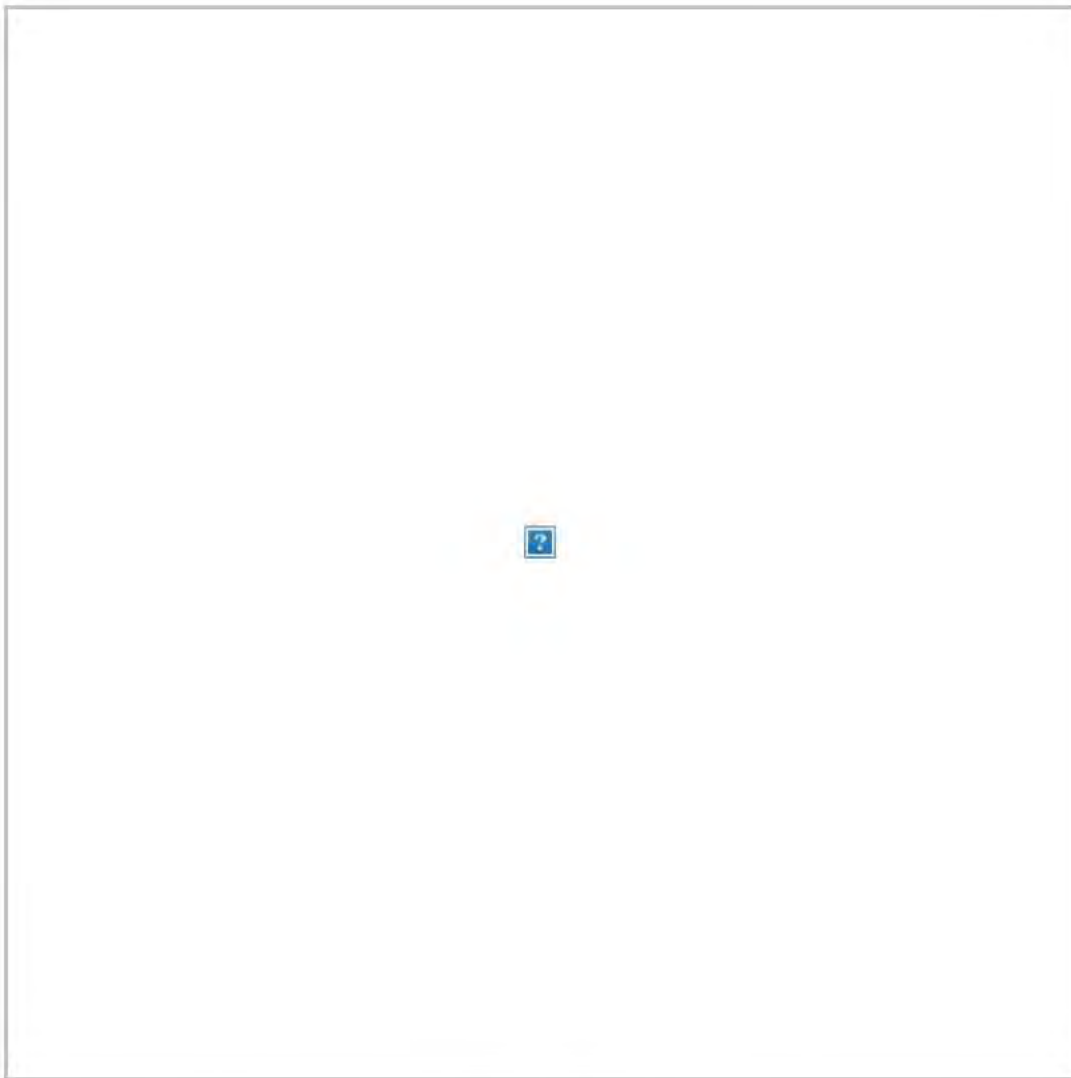
Trump has publicly questioned the quality of the intelligence the agencies produce, [compared them to Nazi Germany](#), said he's too smart for their briefings and talked about the inauguration crowd size in front of the CIA's sacred wall of honor. "Since getting elected, the president has had a track record of questioning, worrying, and even directly upsetting, the thousands of men and women who collect and analyze the nation's top secrets," [Amber Phillips notes](#).

-- Some conservative thought leaders are expressing serious concerns:

“The idea that Trump — with his irrepressible need to boast to the point of narcissistic incontinence combined with his lackadaisical approach to the nuts-and-bolts demands of the job — somehow just let something slip is utterly and completely believable,” writes [National Review’s Jonah Goldberg](#).

“The Russian leak story reveals one other thing, the dangerousness of a hollow man,” [the New York Times’ David Brooks](#) writes. “We’ve got this perverse situation in which the vast analytic powers of the entire world are being spent trying to understand a guy whose thoughts are often just six fireflies beeping randomly in a jar. ‘We badly want to understand Trump, to grasp him,’ David Roberts writes in Vox. ‘It might give us some sense of control, or at least an ability to predict what he will do next. But what if there’s nothing to understand? What if there is no *there* there?’ **And out of that void comes a carelessness that quite possibly betrayed an intelligence source, and endangered a country.**”

A former speechwriter for George W. Bush:



-- **Good morning from NEW YORK. Breanne and I accepted our Webby Award for Best Email Newsletter at a ceremony last night in Manhattan.** Thank you for being a loyal reader.

-- **Happening tomorrow: The 202 Live with Sen. Ben Sasse (R-Neb.).** I'll sit down with the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Oversight Subcommittee at The Post's headquarters at 6:15 p.m. to talk about Russia, the White House, the Senate agenda and his new book – out today – “The Vanishing American Adult.” [Click here to RSVP to join the live audience.](#)

-- We're also continuing to grow! With so much happening around energy and environmental policy under Trump, we're going to launch **THE ENERGY 202** next Tuesday. Dino Grandoni has just joined The Post to anchor this new product. [For his daily insights, sign up here.](#)



CONTENT FROM UBER

Hey Congress, Let's Get Our Cities Moving Better, Together

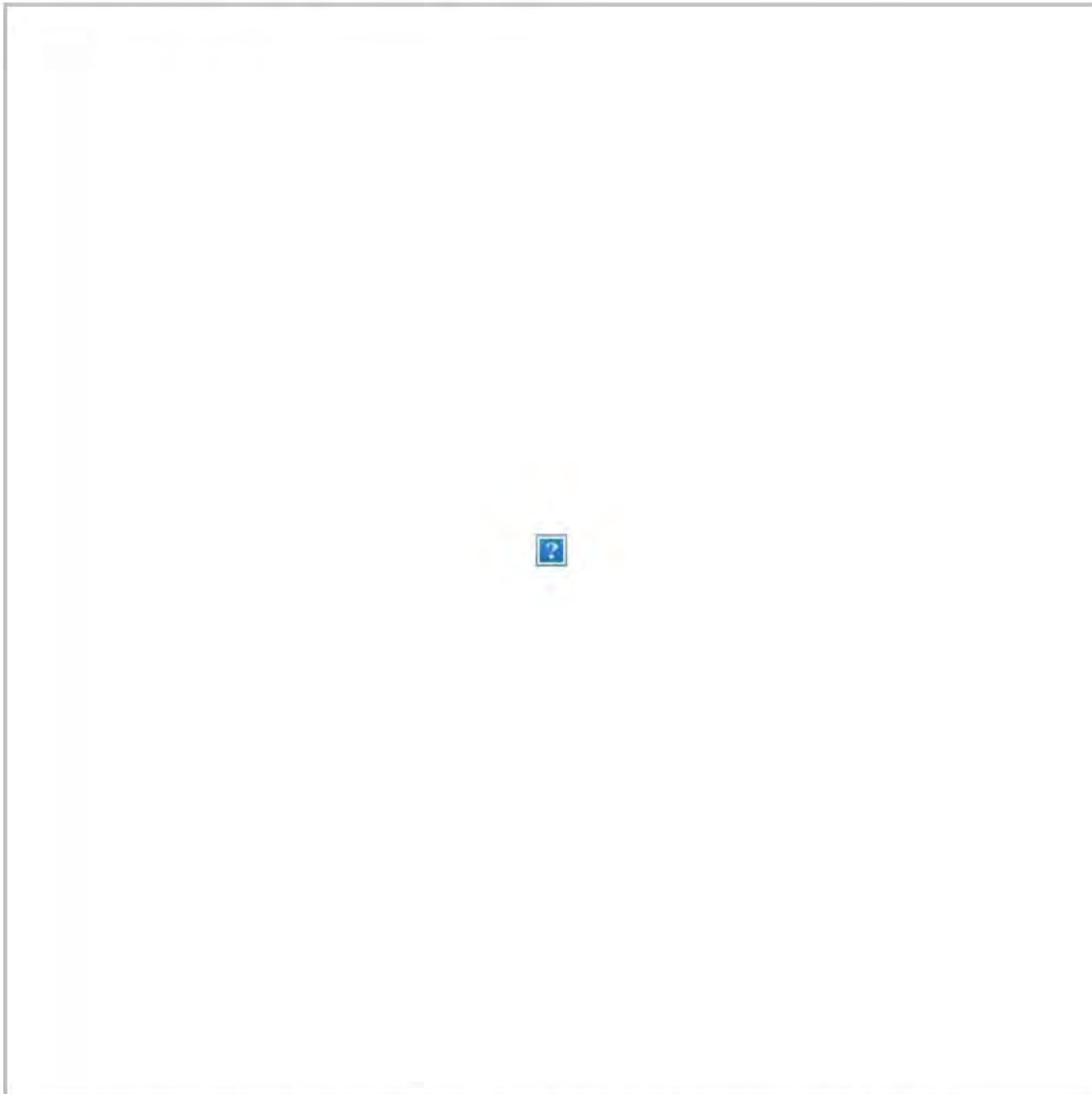
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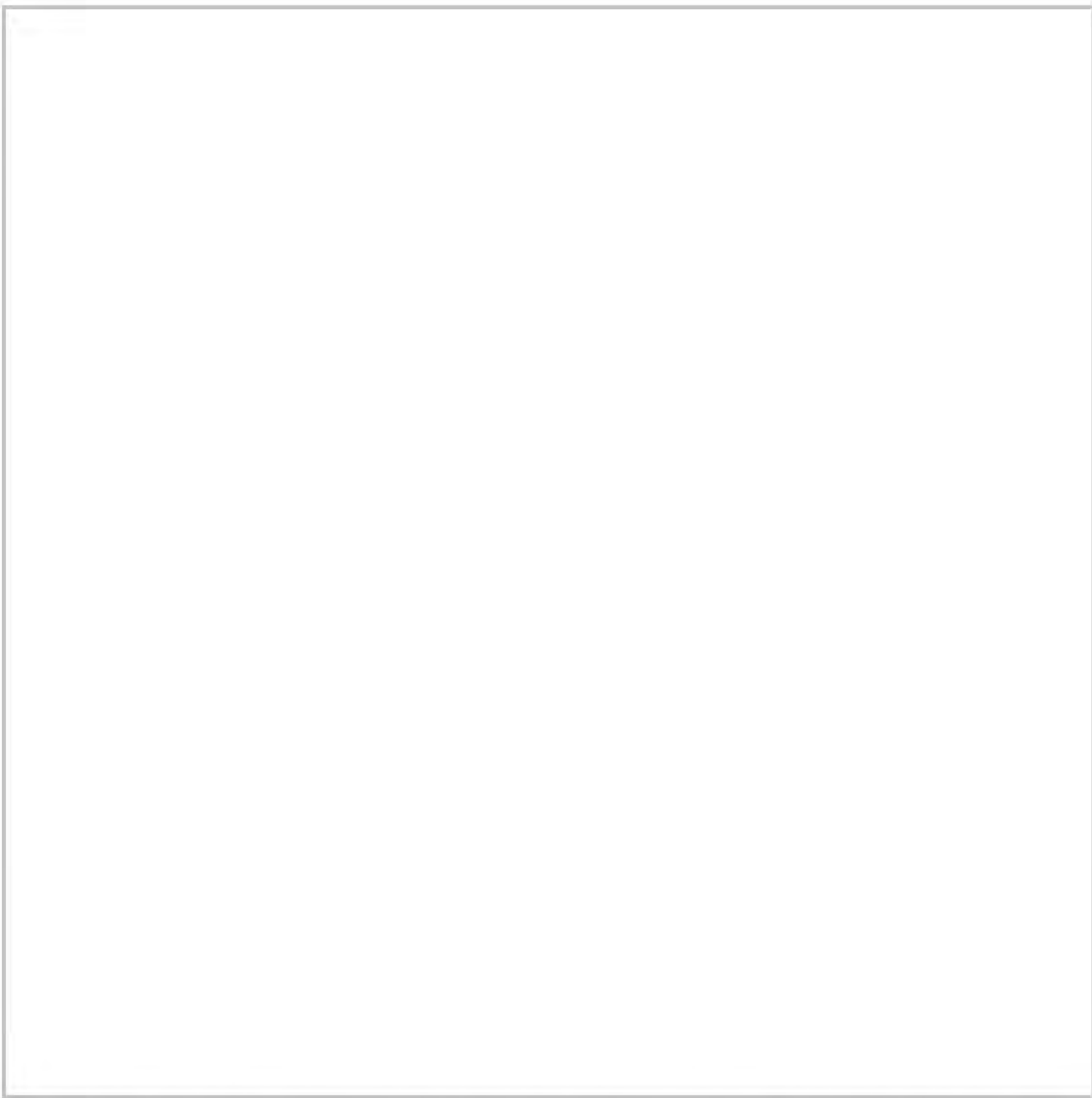
WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING:



Here's how to protect yourself against the WannaCry ransomware attack

-- Security researchers have found digital clues in the malware used in last weekend's global ransomware attack that indicate

North Korea is involved, although they caution the evidence is not conclusive. [Ellen Nakashima, Craig Timberg and Paul Schemm report](#): “An early version of the ‘WannaCry’ ransomware that affected more than 150 countries and major businesses and organizations shares a portion of its code with a tool from a hacker group known as Lazarus, which researchers think is linked to the North Korean government. ‘This implies there is a common source for that code, which could mean that North Korean actors wrote Wannacry or they both used the same third-party code,’ said John Bambenek, threat research manager at Fidelis Cybersecurity. Several security researchers studying ‘WannaCry’ on Monday found evidence of possible connections to, for instance, the crippling hack on Sony Pictures Entertainment in 2014 attributed by the U.S. government to North Korea ... [occurring weeks before] Sony released a satiric movie about a plot to kill [Kim Jong Un].”



Bradley Beal and Otto Porter Jr. react as their season ends. (Jonathan Newton/The Washington Post)

-- The Washington Wizards' season ended last night with a 115-105 loss in Game 7 to the Boston Celtics. [From Candace Buckner:](#)

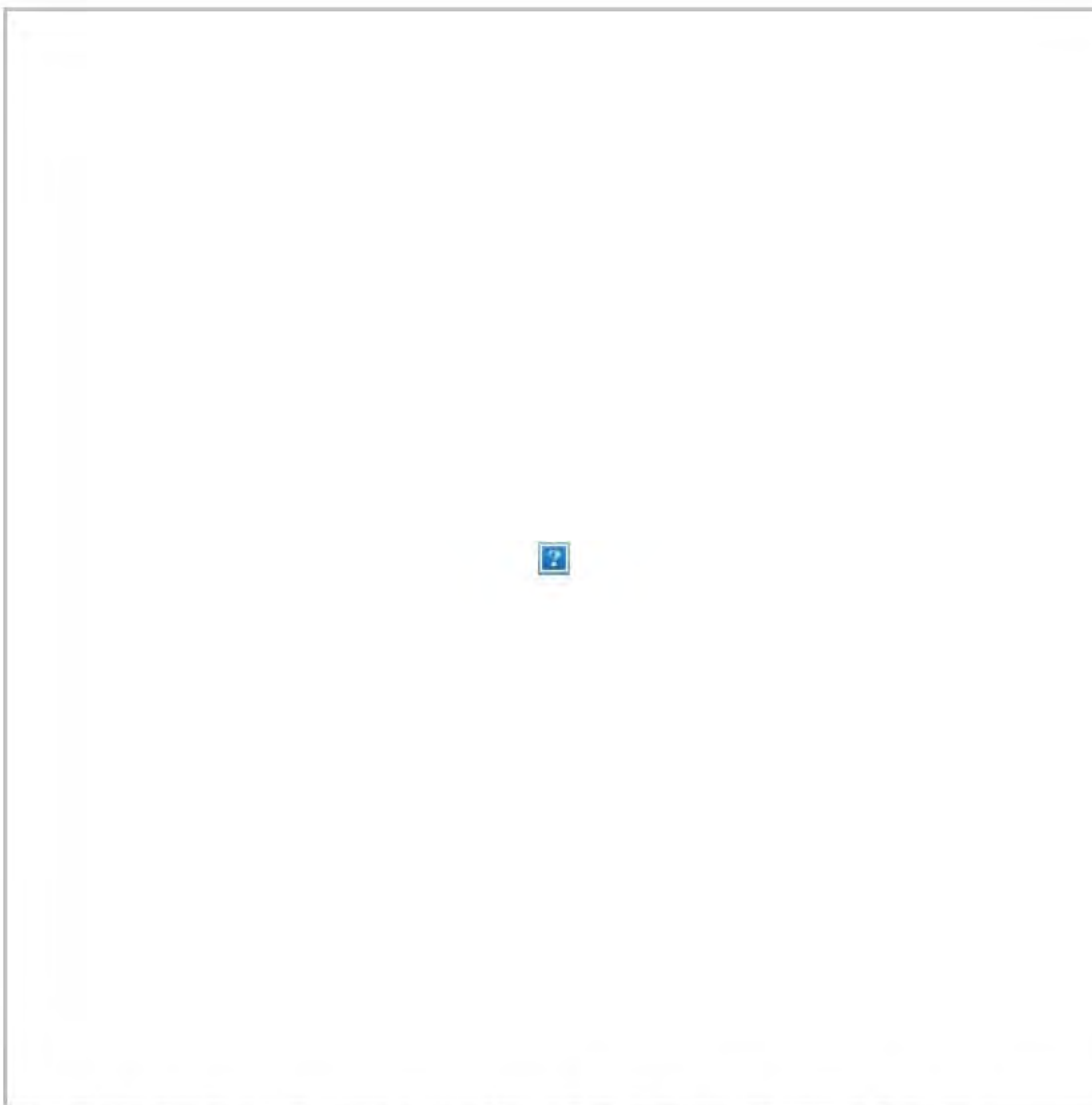
“When the 2016-17 Wizards season gets annotated in a bright red pen, the chapters on defense and team depth will receive the harshest marks. Unsurprisingly, in the team’s biggest game of the season, these flaws would reveal themselves again. In the second half, the Wizards succumbed to a rain of threes ... and gave up 62 points. ... Days after his season-saving three in Game 6, (John) Wall carried that momentum early — making 6 of 10 from the field and

scoring 13 points in the first half — but then faded to the background, making only two more shots and closing with 18 points and 11 assists.”

GET SMART FAST:

1. **Walt Disney CEO Bob Iger said hackers appear to have access to one of the company's upcoming movies and are threatening to release it early unless the studio pays a ransom.** The threat comes just weeks after a hacker released 10 episodes of the upcoming season of *Orange Is the New Black*, after Netflix refused to pay an undisclosed amount. ([The Hollywood Reporter](#))
2. **Veteran journalist Javier Valdez, who specialized in covering drug trafficking and organized crime, was slain in Sinaloa – the latest in a wave of killings that has made Mexico one of the most dangerous countries to be a journalist.** He is the fifth journalist to be murdered in Mexico in just two months. ([AP](#))
3. **The city of Philadelphia sued Wells Fargo for discriminating against minority home buyers –** saying the bank “steered” minority borrowers into more expensive, riskier mortgages than those offered to white borrowers. The complaint says during a 10-year period from 2004 to 2014, African American borrowers were twice as likely to receive high-cost loans when compared to white borrowers with similar credit backgrounds, and Latino borrowers were 1.7 times as likely to receive costly loans. ([Jonelle Marte](#))
4. **A school district employee in Tucson, Ariz., was arrested for**

- threatening to assault and murder GOP Rep. Martha McSally** – telling her in three separate voicemail messages that her “days are numbered” because of her congressional votes in support of Trump. ([Katie Mettler](#))
5. **A Memphis man died after dousing himself in kerosene on Facebook Live – then sprinting, in flames, into the bar where his ex-girlfriend was working.** Witnesses said he tried to grab her. The incident comes as Facebook’s live-streaming feature has come under increased scrutiny, with critics saying the site must do more to crack down on violent footage. ([Kristine Phillips and Peter Holley](#))
 6. **A 10-year-old girl in India who was raped repeatedly by her stepfather will probably be forced to give birth because of the country’s highly-restrictive abortion laws.** ([New York Times](#))
 7. **The words “Pay Trump Bribes Here” were projected last night directly above the door to Trump’s D.C. hotel,** along with an arrow pointing down towards the entrance. Authorities said it is unclear where the projections came from or who was responsible. ([Martin Weil and Victoria St. Martin](#))
 8. **A West Virginia police officer is suing his department after he refused to fire at an armed man who was pleading with authorities to “just shoot” him,** a decision which he claims cost him his job. ([Kristine Phillips](#))



State Department: Syria using crematorium to dispose of prisoners' bodies

CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY IN SYRIA:

-- The U.S. accused Syria of constructing a crematory at its notorious Sednaya military prison to clandestinely dispose of thousands of bodies of people believed to have been executed at the complex. [Karen DeYoung reports](#): “What we’re assessing is that if you have that level of production of mass murder, then using the crematorium would ... allow the regime to manage that number of corpses ... without evidence,” acting assistant secretary of state Stuart Jones told reporters. The State Department distributed

satellite photographs it said documented the gradual construction of the facility outside the main prison complex. ... Jones said that ‘newly declassified’ information on this and other atrocities by the [Assad regime] came from ‘intelligence community assessments,’ as well as from nongovernmental organizations such as Amnesty International and the media.” **Jones cited “multiple sources” in saying that “the regime is responsible for killing as many as 50 detainees per day at Sednaya,”** where he said up to 70 people were packed in cells designed for five. Former prisoners have described mass hangings.

-- The Post’s **Syria reporter, Louisa Loveluck**, has spoken with dozens of former prisoners and guards from the Sednaya complex – famously described as a “human slaughterhouse.” In a piece that posted this morning, she shares some of their stories:

- **Mazen Hamada, an oil engineer who was arrested in Damascus after attempting to smuggle baby formula to a rebel-held neighborhood:** “I was still holding out when they hung me from the ceiling by my wrists for an hour, feeling like my body weight was going to break my wrists. When they brought me down, they pulled out a chair and asked me to sit. That was when they pulled down my trousers and held up a sharpened metal pole ... When they started to turn the screw, I confessed everything they asked.”
- **Mohamed Abdullah, who served in the Syrian army until he was arrested on charges of “planning” to defect:** “As Syrians, you grow up hearing a lot about torture. You hear things you cannot imagine even a psychopath doing. **They did all those things to us and more ... It was sadism.** Our cell was

meant for seven men but it held almost 60. They made us beat people, too ... By the end, I didn't even question it. We'd get beaten for not attacking the inmates hard enough. I saw one man kicked to death because our guards didn't think he had done a good job."

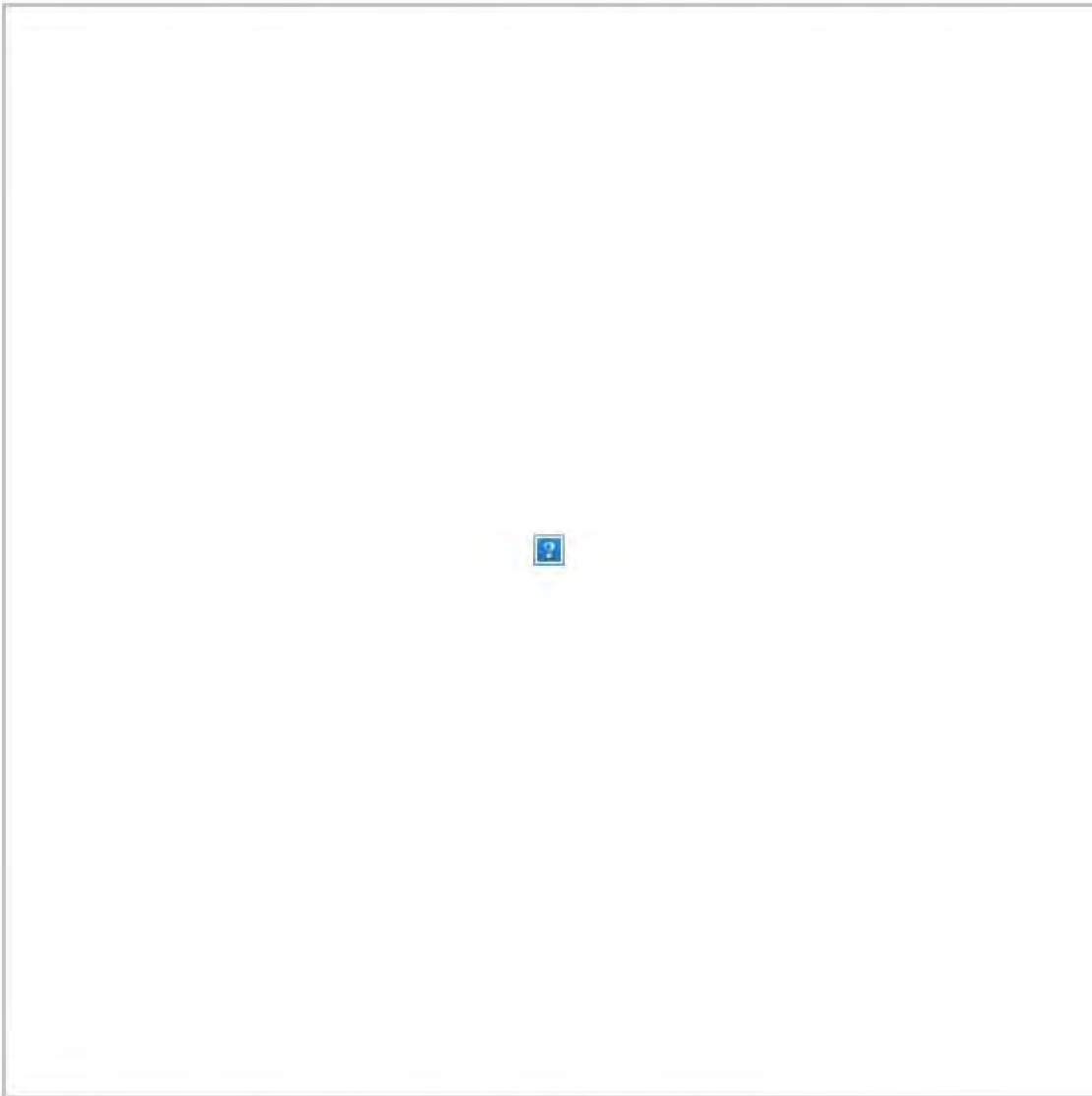
-- Some opposition supporters questioned the timing of the release – asking why, if the U.S. had satellite pictures suggesting the existence of the crematory, they were being publicized only now. The [New York Times](#) reports: "At least a half-dozen Syrians have told [the Times] over the past four years that they either witnessed the burning of bodies or smelled odors that made them wonder if bodies were being burned. Several mentioned an unpleasant smell like burning hair near prison or military facilities, or in areas recently taken by pro-government forces. Several former detainees on the Mezze air base, a government facility on the edge of Damascus, said they had seen bodies being burned. People living nearby said they had smelled something like burning hair but were unsure whether it was from animals, like chicken feathers or sheep's wool."

COMEY FALLOUT:

-- Deputy Attorney General Rod J. Rosenstein will brief senators Thursday afternoon. [Sean Sullivan reports](#): "The briefing, which will be open to all senators, will take place at 2:30 p.m. Thursday. Senate aides said last week that it is expected to be a wide-ranging discussion in which lawmakers will have the chance to ask questions. Plans for the briefing come as Democrats and some Republicans have been raising questions and concerns about President Trump's decision to fire Comey. Trump and his aides have provided shifting explanations for Comey's dismissal. [Chuck Schumer] said he hoped senators in both parties would "use this opportunity to seek the full truth" about Comey's firing and to press for a special prosecutor to probe potential ties between Trump associates and Russia and any meddling in the election."

-- Rosenstein told a Baltimore business group yesterday that his top concern in D.C. is "defending the Constitution." [The Baltimore Sun's Yvonne Wenger reports](#): "Rosenstein — who stepped down from his longtime job as U.S. attorney for Maryland after he was tapped by [Trump] for his new job — said some have urged him to take steps to protect his reputation, but that's not what concerns him. 'Many people have offered me unsolicited advice over the past few days about what I should do to promote my personal reputation,' Rosenstein [said]. 'I took an oath to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States. **There is nothing in that oath about my reputation.** If you ask me, one of the main problems in Washington, D.C., is everybody is so busy running around trying to

protect their reputation instead of protecting the republic, which is what they're supposed to be doing.' After his speech, Rosenstein said he had no comment on reports published late Monday that Trump revealed classified intelligence to the Russian foreign minister and ambassador during a meeting last week in the White House.”



Senate Majority Whip John Cornyn of Texas. (AP/Jacquelyn Martin)

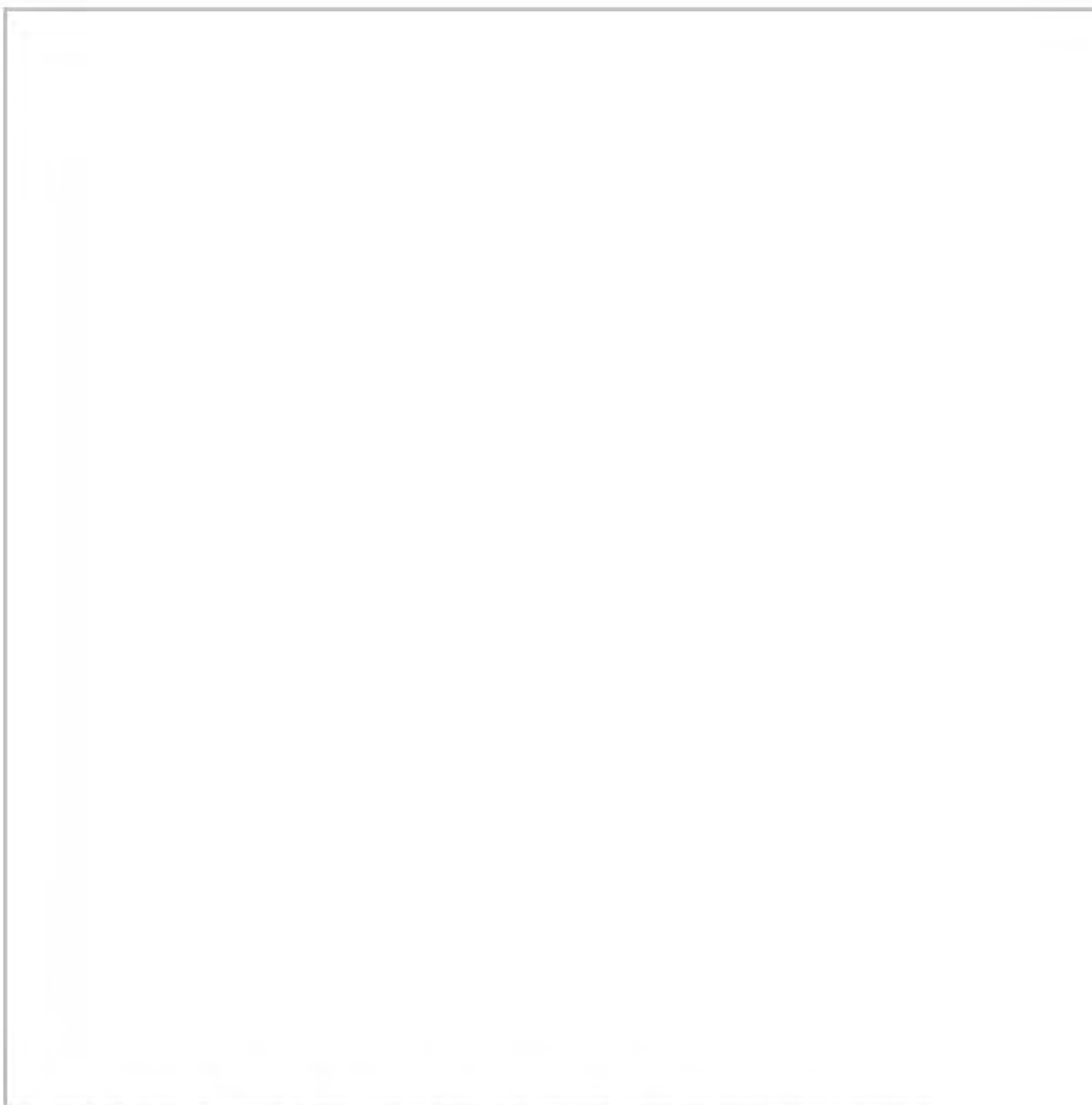
-- As Trump moves to quickly appoint the next head of the FBI, contender John Cornyn is facing significant opposition – from his own Republican colleagues. [Karoun Demirjian](#), [Sean Sullivan](#) and [Ed O'Keefe](#) report: “Led by Mitch McConnell ... a chorus of GOP

senators has signaled that they would prefer [Trump] to nominate somebody other than the second-ranking Republican senator, despite his status as a well-liked and influential figure on Capitol Hill. Their message: It's nothing personal. But if Trump were to nominate Cornyn, who has shown interest in the job, it would trigger a raft of consequences that could be detrimental to McConnell and the broader GOP agenda." **Their concerns echo those of Rep. Trey Gowdy, another floated contender who removed himself from the running.** "Our country and the women and men of the FBI deserve a Director with not only impeccable credentials but also one who can unite the country as we strive for justice and truth," he said in a statement. "Among other concerns, some fear that nominating a top political leader would roil a confirmation process in which Democrats are already emboldened to cry foul over former director [Comey's] abrupt firing," our colleagues write. "Since Trump's inauguration, Cornyn has been a loyal defender of the president — including on the Senate Judiciary and Intelligence committees, which have been looking at the Trump campaign's ties to Russia."

- **"I told him I thought he'd be a good FBI director under normal circumstances,"** Sen. Lindsey Graham said. "But I think the politics of this is just — he gets it. He'd be an outstanding FBI director. But I just, quite frankly, think that last week made it tough."
- **Sen. Tim Scott said there is a need now for "someone who can lead us in the direction we need to go,** and that doesn't eliminate partisan folks, but there's no question that the country seems to ... find more confidence and credibility in someone who's probably not involved in partisan politics."

- **Cornyn himself offered no clues about the process.** “I’m not really talking about that today,” he said when asked whether he wanted the job. He wouldn’t opine on his chance of getting it, either.

“For McConnell, there are several reasons losing his top deputy would be a blow. The biggest is the messy political firestorm that would likely ensue over his nomination. But McConnell would also have to worry about keeping Cornyn’s seat in Republican hands in a special election. While Texas is solidly Republican, Trump’s unpopularity could be a drag there, potentially forcing Republicans to spend millions playing defense. ... Texas political observers said that Cornyn’s departure would create a wide-open contest, likely featuring many Republicans and a handful of Democrats.”



Judge in travel ban hearing asks about Trump's campaign statements

TRUMP AGENDA:

-- The 9th Circuit heard oral arguments about Trump's revised travel ban, with judges lobbing skeptical inquiries at lawyers on both sides of the issue as they attempted to ascertain to what extent they should hold Trump's inflammatory rhetoric against him – including his campaign-trail promises for a “total and complete shutdown” on Muslims entering the U.S. [Matt Zapotosky reports](#): “The hearing was important in its own right to the future of the travel ban but was made even more interesting because Trump has

repeatedly criticized the 9th Circuit for ruling against him. Judge Michael Daly Hawkins asked a Justice Department lawyer whether Trump had 'ever disavowed his campaign statements,' and Judge Ronald M. Gould inquired about how the court should determine if the executive order was 'a Muslim ban in the guise of a national security justification.' Judge Richard A. Paez noted that many of Trump's statements on the matter were made 'in the midst of a highly contentious campaign' ... [though] he did, however, deem the campaign trail comments 'profound.'"

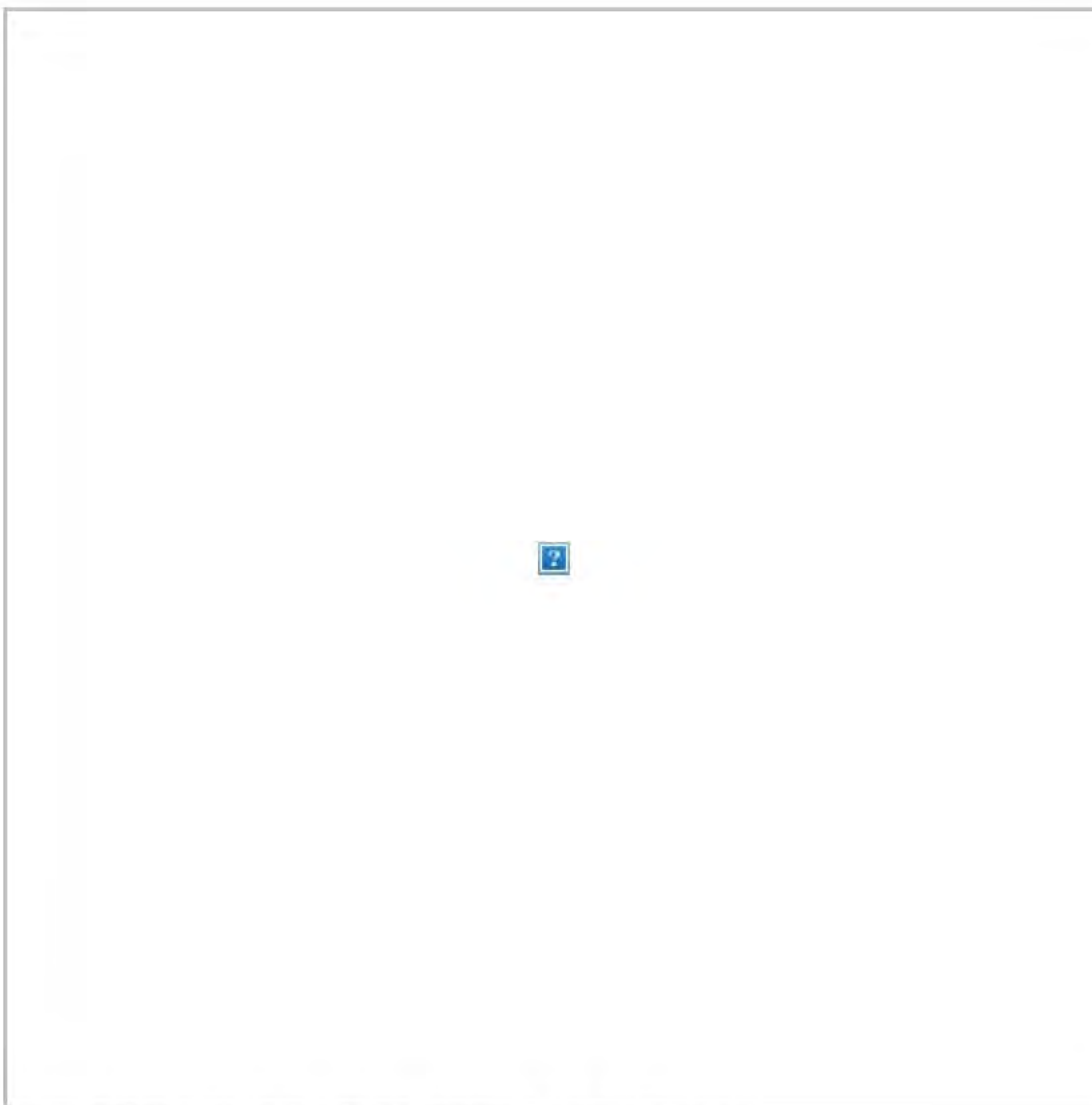
-- Trump's expansion of an abortion "gag rule," which blocks U.S. aid to foreign groups that counsel or provide abortion referrals, took effect on Monday – and will restrict some \$9 million in foreign health assistance. [Ariana Eunjung Cha and Carol Morello report](#): "The rule, which has reproductive-rights advocates reeling, is significantly broader than similar bans in place intermittently since 1984. Senior administration officials confirmed Monday that Trump's version will impact \$8.8 billion for programs, including those related to AIDS, malaria and child health. About \$6 billion of that supports programs for HIV/AIDS services, primarily in Africa, as part of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief established in 2003. Another program that could be hit hard is the President's Malaria Initiative, started under George W. Bush and expanded under [Obama]. Defense Department grants related to global health security will also be impacted. Women's rights and family planning groups that oppose the ban have said the result could be catastrophic, resulting in the closure of critical health-care centers around the world."

-- The Trump administration announced it will dismantle part of the Affordable Care Act that created online insurance marketplaces for small businesses in an attempt to foster greater choice of health plans for their workers. Amy Goldstein reports:

“Moving to end the ACA’s small-business enrollment system by 2018 represents the first public step by the Health and Human Services Department to implement an executive order [Trump] signed his first night in office, directing agencies to ease regulatory burdens of the health-care law. In starting with the Small Business Health Options Program, or SHOP, the administration is targeting an aspect of the ACA that has been troubled from the outset and never lived up to its proponents’ expectations. As of early this year, federal figures show, nearly 230,000 people were covered through SHOP health plans — a fraction of the 4 million that congressional budget analysts had predicted as the small-business marketplaces began in 2014. Although that means relatively few Americans will be directly affected by the decision, its symbolic impact is large.”

-- Trump is planning to submit a personal financial disclosure covering the 2016 calendar year "in a short period of time," a White House official said, taking an action followed by previous presidents, including Barack Obama and George W. Bush.

Matea Gold reports: “Trump's last financial disclosure -- which was filed in May 2016 and covered the previous 10 1/2 months -- showed that his company's revenues boomed as he launched his presidential bid. At the time, he touted the size of the report, saying that the 104-page disclosure was 'the largest' in history.”



Trump: Many politicians afraid to support law enforcement

-- Trump accused fellow politicians of “failing to support police” and declared that officers are subject to “unfair defamation and vilification” that has made their jobs more dangerous. [David Nakamura reports](#): “Trump said in a speech at an annual memorial service for officers slain in the line of duty that his administration would make it a priority to provide more federal resources for local law enforcement departments. “You are the thin blue line between civilization and chaos,” Trump said. ‘We must end the reckless words of incitement that give rise to danger and violence, and take the time to work with cops, not against them, not obstruct them — which is

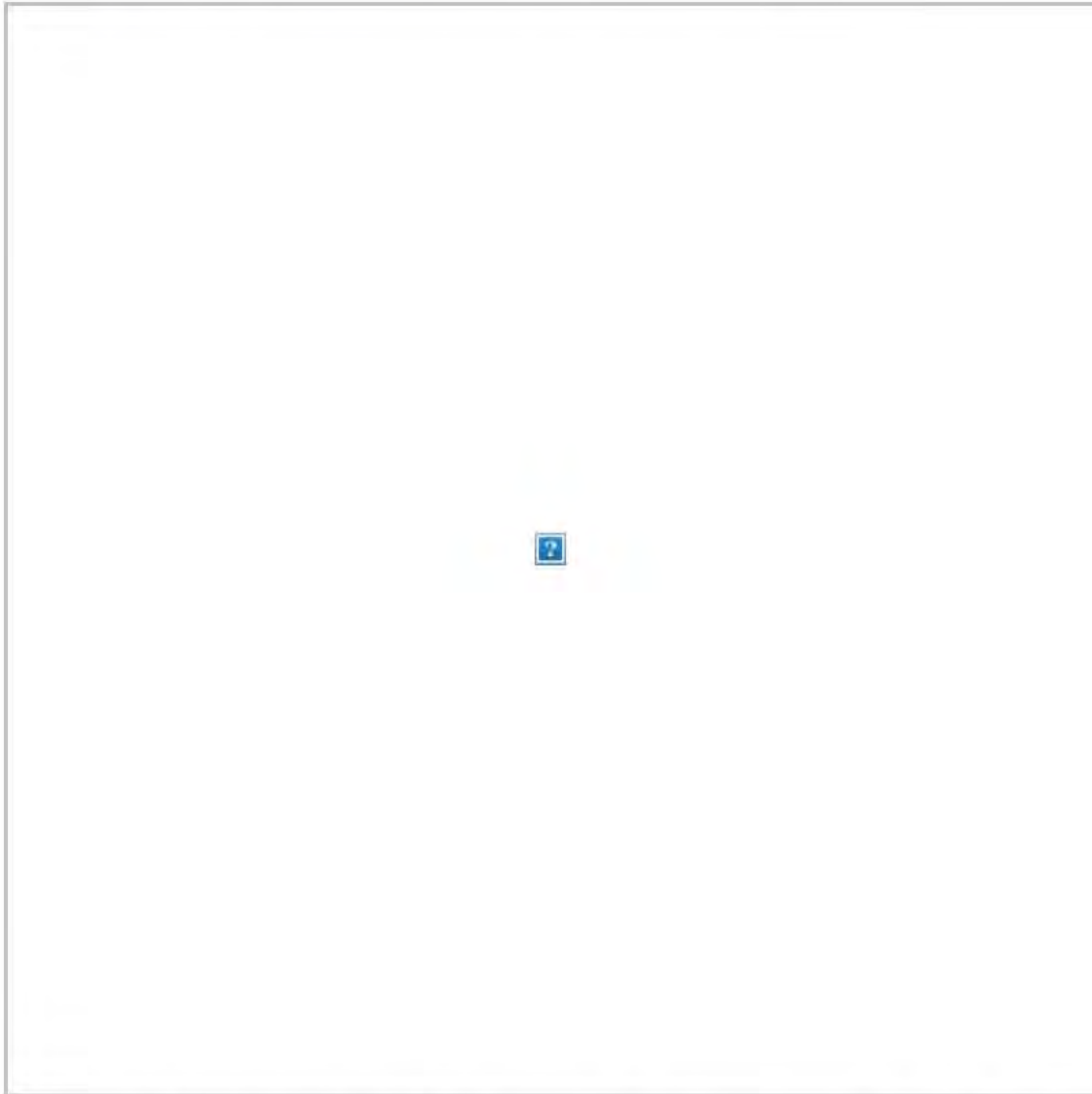
what we're doing,' Trump said. Though he did not mention it by name, Trump's remarks appeared to allude to Black Lives Matter and other civil rights movements that arose out of high-profile shootings by police of African American men in cities across the country in recent years."

-- Trump is slated to offer his “vision” for a new infrastructure package in the “next several weeks,” Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao said, detailing plans for a package that relies heavily on state, local and private money to make good on a promised \$1 trillion in new investments over the coming decade. [John Wagner reports](#): “A key feature of the infrastructure plan will be unleashing the billions of dollars in private capital available for investment in infrastructure,” Chao said ... Chao said the administration would also identify and fund directly 'a few special projects' that are not likely to draw private investment. “Candidates for the special category may include projects that have the potential to significantly increase GDP growth *or to lift the American spirit*,” Chao said.”

-- AP, “[Chinese spent \\$24B on US, other ‘golden visas,’](#)” by **Nomaan Merchant:**

“When the sister of ... Jared Kushner promoted investment in her family's new skyscraper from a Beijing hotel ballroom stage earlier this month, she was pitching a controversial American visa program that's proven irresistible to tens of thousands of Chinese. More than 100,000 Chinese have poured at least \$24 billion in the last decade into ‘golden visa’ programs across the world that offer residence in exchange for investment, [and] nowhere is Chinese demand greater than in the U.S., which has taken in at least \$7.7 billion and issued more than 40,000 visas to Chinese investors

and their families in the past decade ... But the industry is murky, loosely regulated and sometimes fraud-ridden — in the U.S., federal regulators have linked the EB-5 visa program to fraud cases involving more than \$1 billion in investment in the last four years.”



Trump greets Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, crown prince of Abu Dhabi, on Monday. (Aaron P. Bernstein/Bloomberg)

THE FIRST FOREIGN TRIP:

-- “In the days leading up to Trump’s high-risk debut on the world stage — a nine-day, five-stop, four-nation tour — the Oval Office has morphed into a graduate seminar room, with a

rotating roster of policy experts briefing the president,” [Philip Rucker and Ashley Parker report](#). “In recent days, Trump has received a series of briefers who present information as he likes to consume it — in free-flowing conversations, in video presentations and in photographs, maps and charts, as opposed to voluminous reading materials. Trump is soliciting counsel from some outsiders such as [Henry] Kissinger but has largely kept his circle confined to real-world practitioners and administration insiders — a reflection of the White House’s view that input from academic experts, authors and other thought leaders is less valuable because they have not achieved practical success.

“On foreign soil, Trump will have to navigate diplomatic land mines — from negotiating peace between the Israelis and Palestinians to reassuring jittery European allies to following protocol in greeting Pope Francis. **Anything could mar the trip, however, whether a verbal gaffe, breach of protocol or even wayward body language.** Extensive preparation, said foreign policy experts, may be especially valuable for a leader such as Trump, whose temperament favors the cocoon of familiarity. He also can be visibly uncomfortable when ceding the spotlight to others, or when sitting through lengthy meetings in which other speakers have the floor — hallmarks of foreign summits. ‘This might be the first foreign trip where the president will tweet from abroad,’ said [former Mitt Romney adviser] Lanhee Chen ... ‘How do we deal with that? There are certain conventions and precedents we adhere to when on foreign soil. Is this a dictum the president will maintain?’”

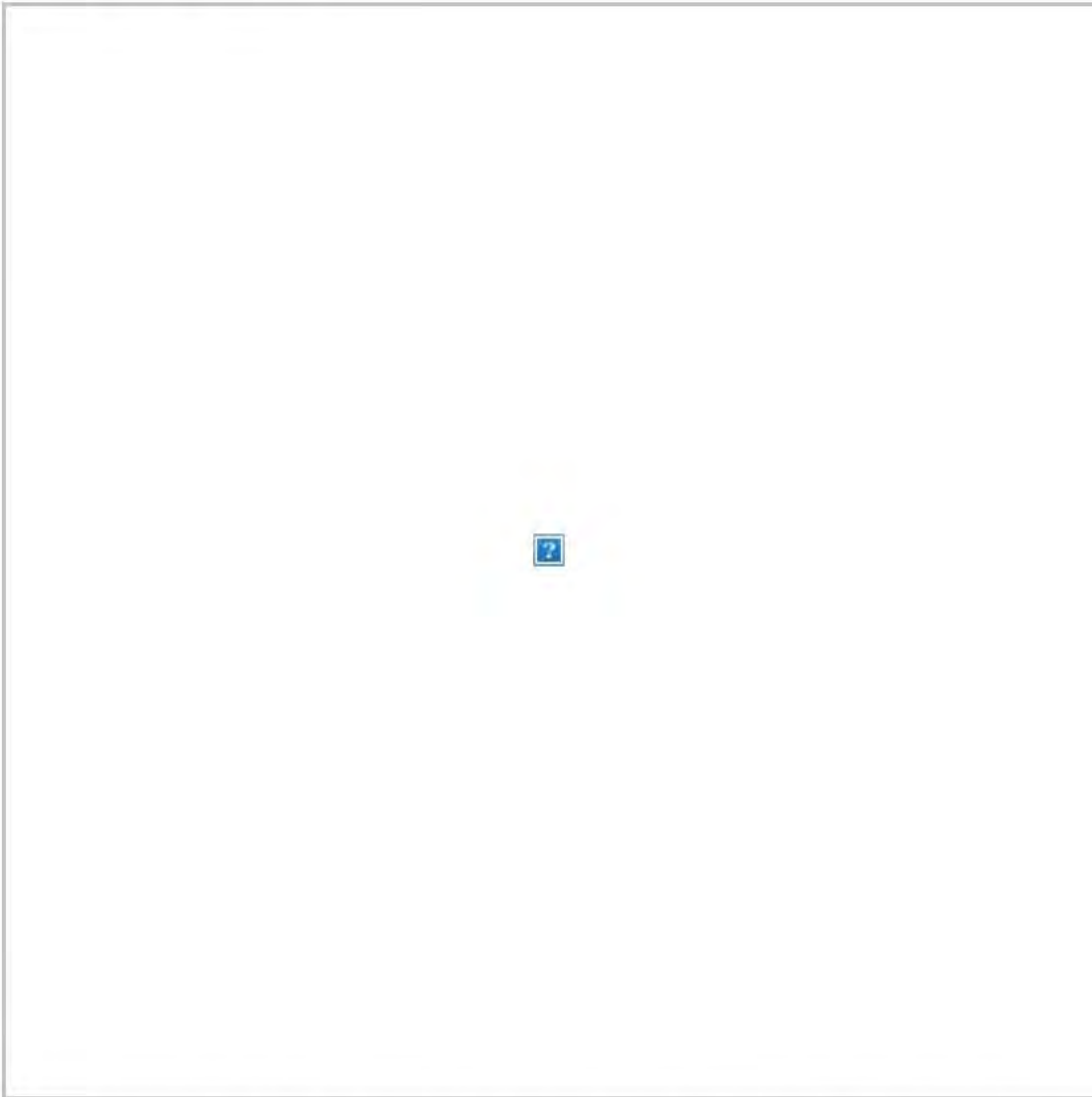
“Advisers said Trump intends to draw a deliberate contrast with

[Obama], whose speeches overseas championing human rights and democracy sometimes rankled his hosts. Senior officials said the president did not plan to 'lecture' or 'chastise.' [But] one challenge for Trump will be to adapt the language he uses domestically — epitomized by the “America First” theme of his inaugural address — into more inviting and inclusive rhetoric for U.S. allies and potential allies.”

-- Foreign Policy, **“NATO Frantically Tries to Trump-Proof President's First Visit,”** by **Robbie Gramer**: “NATO is scrambling to tailor its upcoming meeting to avoid taxing [Trump's] notoriously short attention span. **The alliance is telling heads of state to limit talks to 2 to 4 minutes at a time during the discussion,** [per] several sources ... And the alliance scrapped plans to publish the traditional full post-meeting statement meant to crystallize NATO's latest strategic stance. ‘It's kind of ridiculous how they are preparing to deal with Trump,’ said one source briefed extensively ... ‘It's like they're preparing to deal with a child — someone with a short attention span and mood who has no knowledge of NATO, no interest in in-depth policy issues, nothing ... ‘They're freaking out.’”

-- **Arab Gulf states have offered to take “concrete steps” to establish better relations with Israel, if Prime Minister Netanyahu agrees to make a significant overture in effort to restart the Middle East peace process.** The [Wall Street Journal's Jay Solomon, Gordon Lubold, and Rory Jones](#) report: “The offer to the U.S. and Israel comes ahead of [Trump's] trip to the Middle East. The potential steps include establishing direct telecommunications links with Israel, allowing overflight rights to Israeli aircraft, and lifting restrictions on

some trade, said these people. The Gulf countries, in turn, would require Mr. Netanyahu to make what they would consider to be a peace overture to the Palestinians. Such steps could include stopping construction of settlements in certain areas of the West Bank and allowing freer trade into the Gaza Strip ... The Arab states' position, outlined in an unreleased discussion paper shared among several Gulf countries, is aimed in part at aligning them with Mr. Trump, who has stressed his desire to work with the Arab states to forge a Middle East peace agreement.”



Hillary Clinton arrives for Trump's inauguration. (Win McNamee/Getty Images)

DEMOCRATS IN THE WILDERNESS:

-- Hillary Clinton launched a new political organization designed to push back against Trump. [The AP's Steve Peoples reports](#): The group, she announced in a tweet, will be called "Onward Together" – a play on her 2016 campaign motto – and will "encourage people to get involved, organize, and even run for office." "This year hasn't been what I envisioned, but I know what I'm still fighting for: a kinder, big-hearted, inclusive America. Onward!" Clinton said.

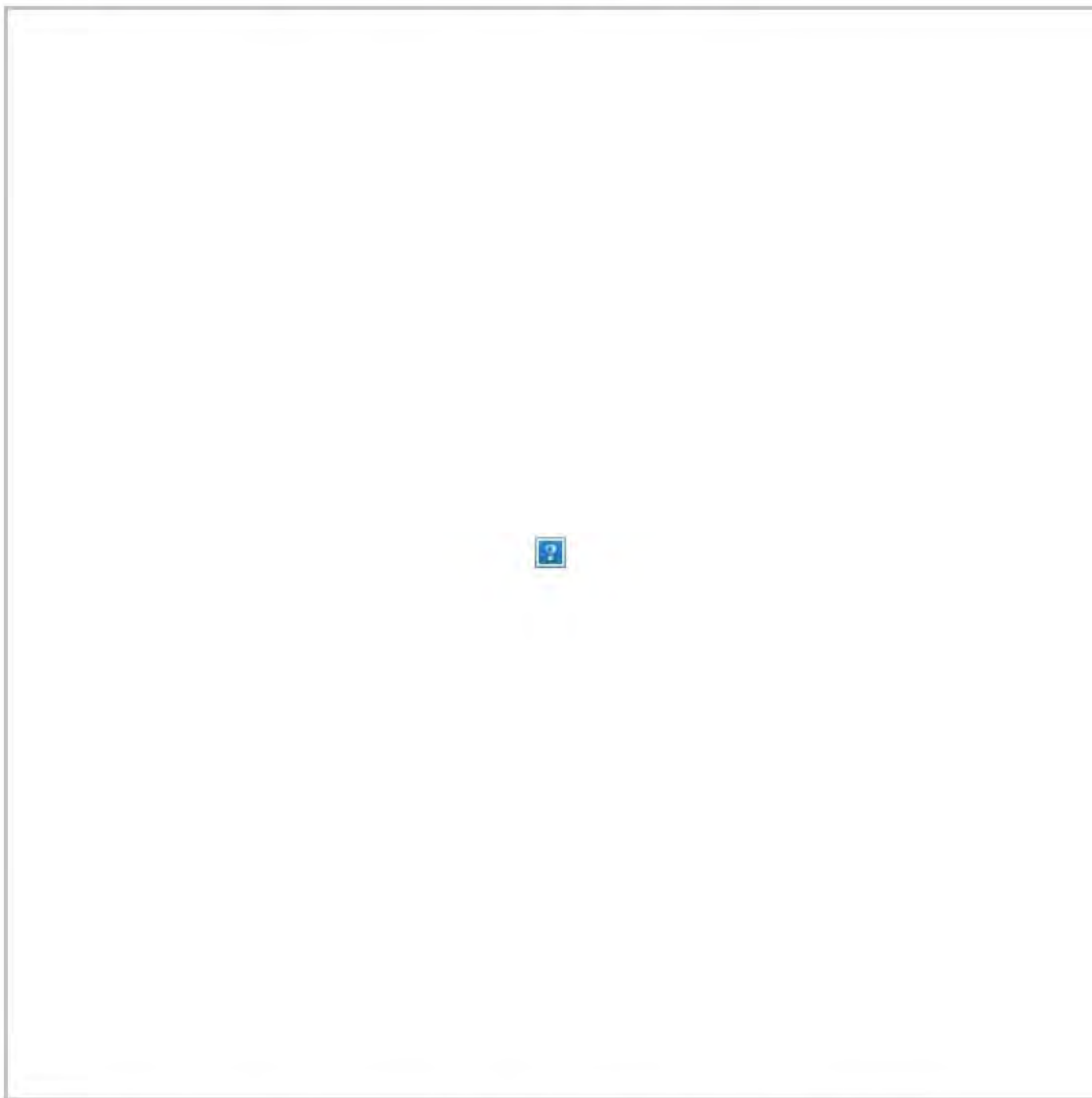
-- Many top Democrats are furious that Bernie Sanders appears to be running for president again – or least dragging out his decision long enough to freeze the field. [Politico's Edward-Isaac Dove and Gabriel DeBenedetti report](#): "He's frustrating alumni of his 2016 campaign, some of whom would like him to run again, by showing no interest in raising early money or locking down lower level staff — moves they say would indicate he recognizes the need for a different kind of campaign operation in 2020. Sanders hasn't made any decision, and he tends to dismiss the discussion about 2020 as dumb. He hasn't even fully committed to running for re-election to the Senate next year. But the senator, who'll be 79 the next time the New Hampshire primary rolls around, is continuing to put himself at the center of the conversation." "He's a constant reminder. He allows the healing that needs to take place to not take place," said one longtime senior party official.

-- Possible 2020 hopefuls are gathering this week for a progressive "ideas" conference. [David Weigel reports](#): "Don't call it a 'cattle call.' Don't call it the 'CPAC of the left.' On Tuesday morning, the Center for American Progress will host a daylong 'Ideas

Conference' — its third, as CAP President Neera Tanden points out. It's just different from the last two in that at least 140 reporters have signed up to cover it, and they're not shy about calling it a 2020 scouting session. ... For much of its existence, CAP was designed to feed a future Hillary Clinton administration with staffers and ideas. But Clinton is not on this year's agenda. Neither is [Bernie Sanders or Joe Biden]. 'We were trying to emphasize a new generation,' Tanden said. The conference, which as in the past will take over the St. Regis hotel, will kick off with a speech from Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and end with a speech from Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.), both in their 40s and elected to their high-profile jobs in 2013." About half of the rest of Tuesday's speakers are considered potential 2020 presidential candidates: Sen. Elizabeth Warren, Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, Sen. Amy Klobuchar, Sen. Kamala Harris, and Gov. Terry MacAuliffe.

-- **"As Democrats grow more bullish on winning coming special elections and midterms, a number of scrappy organizations are trying to encourage and crowdfund primary challenges to move the party to the left,"** [Weigel reports](#): "The launch of Justice Democrats and We Will Replace you, which got copious attention at the start of the year, have finally led to some actual campaigns, with cues from the [Sanders' 2016 bid]. **'One of the problems in 2016 was the sense that a small group of insiders were trying to influence who could run,'** said **[Rep. Ro Khanna D-Calif.]** ... 'I ran against an incumbent in my own party, and I said if I ever got to Congress, I can't be hypocritical. I can't say, if someone ever runs against me, I'll close the door on them.' On the surface, the progressive primary-challenge groups resemble the tea party organizations that mobilized in 2009 and 2010 to push Republicans to

the right. Like the tea party, Justice Democrats et al. argue that the party doesn't just have policy reasons to abandon the 'center' — they argue that the means-testing politics of 'neoliberalism' has been a disaster, alienating the party from voters who were so desperate for help in 2016 that they took a chance on [Trump]."



Alice Weidel arrives for a meeting in Berlin. (Reuters/Hannibal Hanschke)

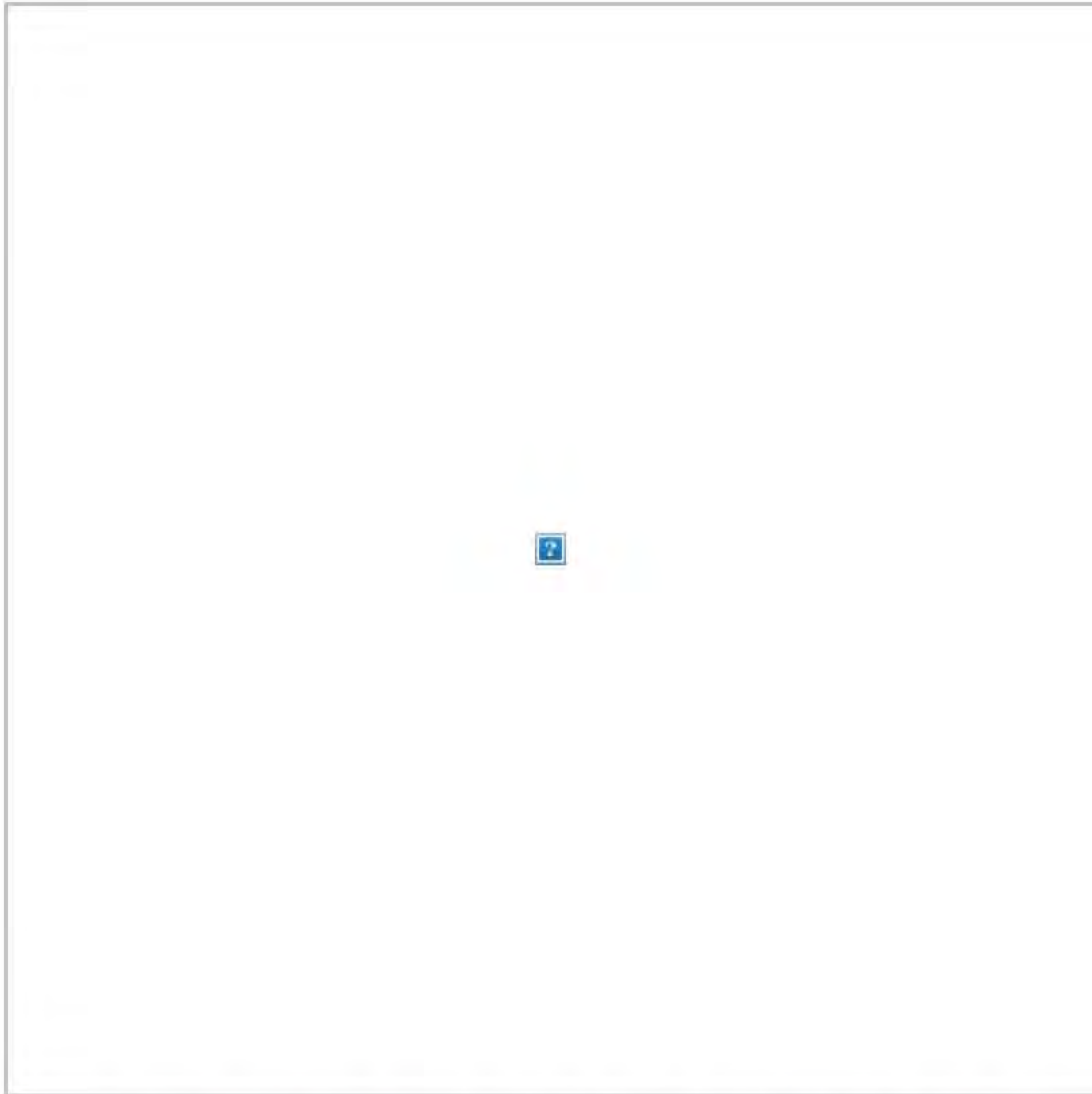
WAPO HIGHLIGHTS:

-- **“Germany’s far right preaches traditional values. Can a lesbian mother be its new voice?”** by Anthony Faiola: “The far right’s

drubbing in the French election exposed the biggest challenge for European nationalists: convincing voters that they are no longer a bunch of intolerant haters. To argue that point, welcome to the political stage Alice Weidel, the improbable new voice of Germany's far right. In person, the cardigan-wearing former investment banker eschews fiery rhetoric in favor of almost academic answers. But there's something else that distinguishes her from the populist pack. After days spent campaigning for the anti-immigrant Alternative for Germany party, the 38-year-old lesbian goes home to her partner and two sons. **Weidel's rise is the latest expression of a growing, if seemingly ironic, trend.** In their policies, nationalist movements in the West often oppose full gay rights, including same-sex marriage. But many such parties are increasingly trying to portray themselves as more tolerant than their images suggest, in part by making space for gay men and lesbians. This, observers say, amounts to an attempt to broaden their appeal — not only to gays but also to voters who view such movements as overtly bigoted and exclusionary.”

-- **“For vulnerable high school girls in Japan, a culture of ‘dates’ with older men,” by Anna Fifield:** “High school dating? No big deal in many parts of the world — but in Japan, it means something quite different. Here, ‘high school dating’ matches girls in uniforms with men in their 40s and 50s and beyond. And it means money changing hands. Sometimes this involves a walk around the block or a drink in a bar. More often, it involves sex — child prostitution by another name. ‘It’s easy to talk to these girls,’ said one man in his 30s who was sitting at a wooden school desk ... [as a 17-year-old brought over beers for the man and his colleague]. ‘We actually find regular bars uninteresting these days,’ he said. ‘I got tired of regular bars with old

women.’ They admitted that the uniforms are a big part of the attraction. ‘They look so cute,’ said his friend, in his 40s. ‘The uniforms make them look one and a half times cuter than they actually are.’”



Melissa McCarthy performs as Sean Spicer on SNL. (Kylie Billings/NBC via AP)

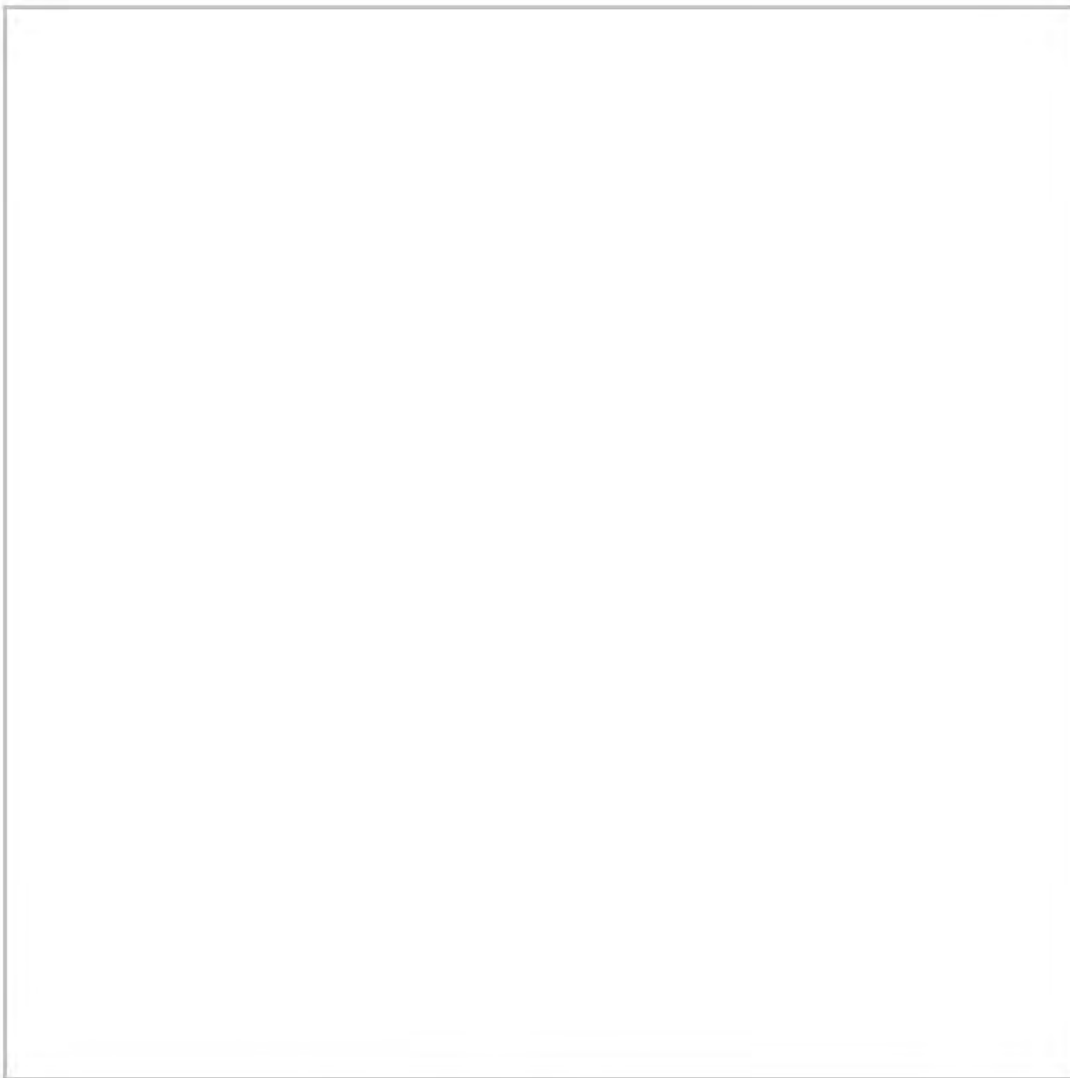
-- **“How Melissa McCarthy came to play Sean Spicer on SNL,”** by **Elahe Izadi**: “By the time Melissa McCarthy hosted this weekend’s [‘SNL,’] she had already become a highly anticipated presence on the show for one reason: ‘Spicey.’ Her take on White House press secretary Sean Spicer, which debuted in February, has become a

standout moment for this season of the NBC show, helping to draw record viewers and even reportedly unsettling the president himself so much that Spicer's longevity in the job became questioned.

Considerable buzz built ahead of this week's episode when cellphone videos and photos emerged Friday of McCarthy in character as Spicer traveling along busy Manhattan street on a portable podium. So how did this year's big political comedy moment come to be? It all started with an airplane pitch about a monologue to Kristen Stewart, McCarthy explained."

SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:

The main topic of discussion online was The Post's Russia story:



GOOD READS FROM ELSEWHERE:

-- WNYC, "[Frelinghuysen Targets Activist in Letter to Her Employer](#)," by Nancy Solomon: "The most powerful congressman in New Jersey, Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen, wrote a fundraising letter in March to a board member of a local bank, warning him that a member of an activist group opposing the Republican worked at his bank. The employee was questioned and criticized for her involvement in NJ 11th for Change, a group that formed after the election of [Trump] and has been pressuring Frelinghuysen to meet with constituents in his district and oppose the Trump agenda ... The

form letter, ... asks Frelinghuysen's supporters to donate two years ahead of his next election because he is under attack. "But let's be clear that there are organized forces — both national and local — who are already hard at work to put a stop to an agenda ..." the letter says. Above the word local, there's a hand-written asterisk in the same blue ink as Frelinghuysen's signature. At the bottom of the letter, scrawled with a pen, is the corresponding footnote: 'P.S. One of the ringleaders works in your bank!'"

HOT ON THE LEFT:

"A congressman said making a man get maternity insurance was 'crazy.' A woman's reply went viral," from Avi

Selk: "Between rounds of jeering that interrupted his every sentence, Rep. Rod Blum (R-Iowa) took a little more than two minutes to explain what else he'd like to change about the Obama-era health-care law ... 'Get rid of some of these crazy regulations that Obamacare puts in,' Blum suggested at an Iowa town hall meeting Monday, 'such as a 62-year-old male having to have pregnancy insurance.' The crowd yelled all the louder. Barbara Rank, a retired

HOT ON THE RIGHT:

"Feminist Icon Gloria Steinem: More Abortions Would Stop Global Warming," from The

Federalist: "In a recent interview with Refinery 29, Gloria Steinem said climate change could have been prevented if more women had aborted their children. She explained 'climate deprivation' is caused by population and that more abortions would've prevented the earth's temperature from ticking upwards. 'If we had not been systematically forcing women to have children they don't want or can't care for over the 500 years of patriarchy, we wouldn't have the climate problems that we have,'

special education teacher, did not get up from her seat like many of her neighbors did. 'I did not have a question to ask,' [she said] ... But the next day, on her morning walk past a boulevard of government-maintained flowers, Rank realized she had a response to Blum. She wrote it down in 96 words and sent it to her local newspaper — and since then, more than 100,000 people have offered a fair critique.”

[she said]. In other words, if we just killed more babies then there wouldn't be as many humans alive on earth contributing to climate change. She also added that masculinity is problematic for men. When asked how one can raise a little boy to be a better feminist, she said: 'Tell them the masculine realm is killing them. It's [in their] self-interest. Men would live quite a few years longer without the masculine realm.'”

DAYBOOK:

At the White House: Trump will speak to King Abdullah II of Jordan by telephone before welcoming Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan to the White House. The two will meet for a working luncheon and give joint statements afterwards. Then Trump will meet with Tom Price and Mick Mulvaney. Pence will participate in the lunch with Erdogan. Later, he will host an Indiana Fraternal Order of Police Reception in his Ceremonial Office.

The Senate and the House are both in today.

QUOTE OF THE DAY:

Mika Brzezinski said that Kellyanne Conway, counselor to the president, complained privately last fall about having to defend Trump when she was his campaign manager. “This is a woman, by the way, who came on our show during the campaign and would shill for Trump in extensive fashion, and then she would get off the air, the camera would be turned off, the microphone would be taken off, and she would say, ‘Blech. I need to take a shower,’” Brzezinski said on MSNBC’s “Morning Joe.” “Because she disliked her candidate so much.” (Callum Borchers)

NEWS YOU CAN USE IF YOU LIVE IN D.C.:

-- The [Capital Weather Gang](#) gives today an official “Nice Day” rating – so go out and enjoy it! Today’s forecast: “Perfecto! Sunny skies dominate and temperatures move toward the 80-degree mark this afternoon. Very light breezes should be mostly from the southwest by afternoon. Humidity is low today, which we should appreciate in contrast to the days ahead.”

-- A new [Washington Post-Schar School](#) poll finds that Republican Ed Gillespie has a commanding lead ahead of Virginia’s gubernatorial primary next month, with support for the former RNC chairman more than doubling that of either of his rivals. Overall, 38 percent of likely Republican voters said they favor Gillespie, compared to just 18 percent for Prince William County supervisor Corey Stewart and 15 percent for state Sen. Frank Wagner. One-quarter of respondents have not yet formed an opinion.

- **Six in 10 likely voters see Gillespie as the “most electable”**

in November's general election.

- **He also is considered the “best Trump supporter” by 37 percent**, while Wagner and Stewart – who served last year as the Trump campaign's Virginia chairman – are locked in a tie with 12 percent each.
- **Meanwhile, registered voters who “strongly approve” of Trump's performance** pick Gillespie over Stewart by a wide 20-point margin (35 to 15 percent).

-- Sean Spicer is being promoted as the main draw at a Republican Party fundraiser on Thursday, slated to be held at Trump National Golf Club in Sterling, Va. [John Wagner reports](#): Tickets for the event begin at \$125 per person and range to \$6,000 for six tickets to both the general reception and a separate VIP reception. Former Obama White House ethics lawyer Norman Eisen said he found the event “unsavory,” particularly given that it is being held on a Trump property. “I never would have allowed this constellation of events,” Eisen said. “It sends a message of special influence and access in exchange for cash.”

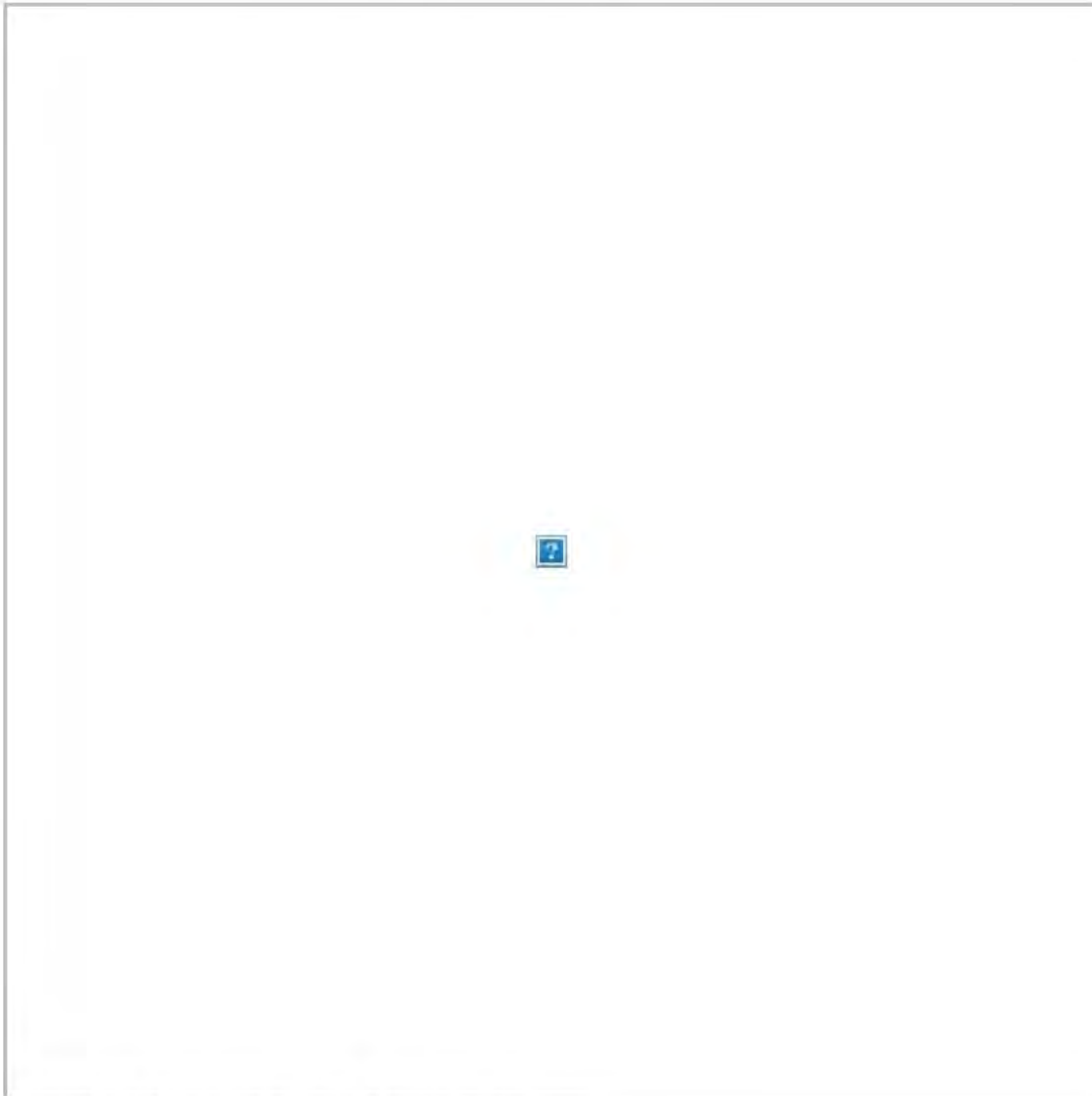
-- Former Georgetown dentist Bilah Ahmed pleaded guilty Monday to sexually assaulting five male patients at his practice while they were under anesthesia. He also pleaded guilty to sexually assaulting two former employees. Officials say the 44-year-old, slated to be sentenced in August, faces “decades” in prison for his crimes. ([Keith L. Alexander](#))

-- The security assistant at a Montgomery County middle school was arrested for reportedly having inappropriate sexual contact with a 14-year-old girl – marking the latest in a series of school-

related sex allegations in the Maryland school system. ([Donna St. George and Dan Morse](#))

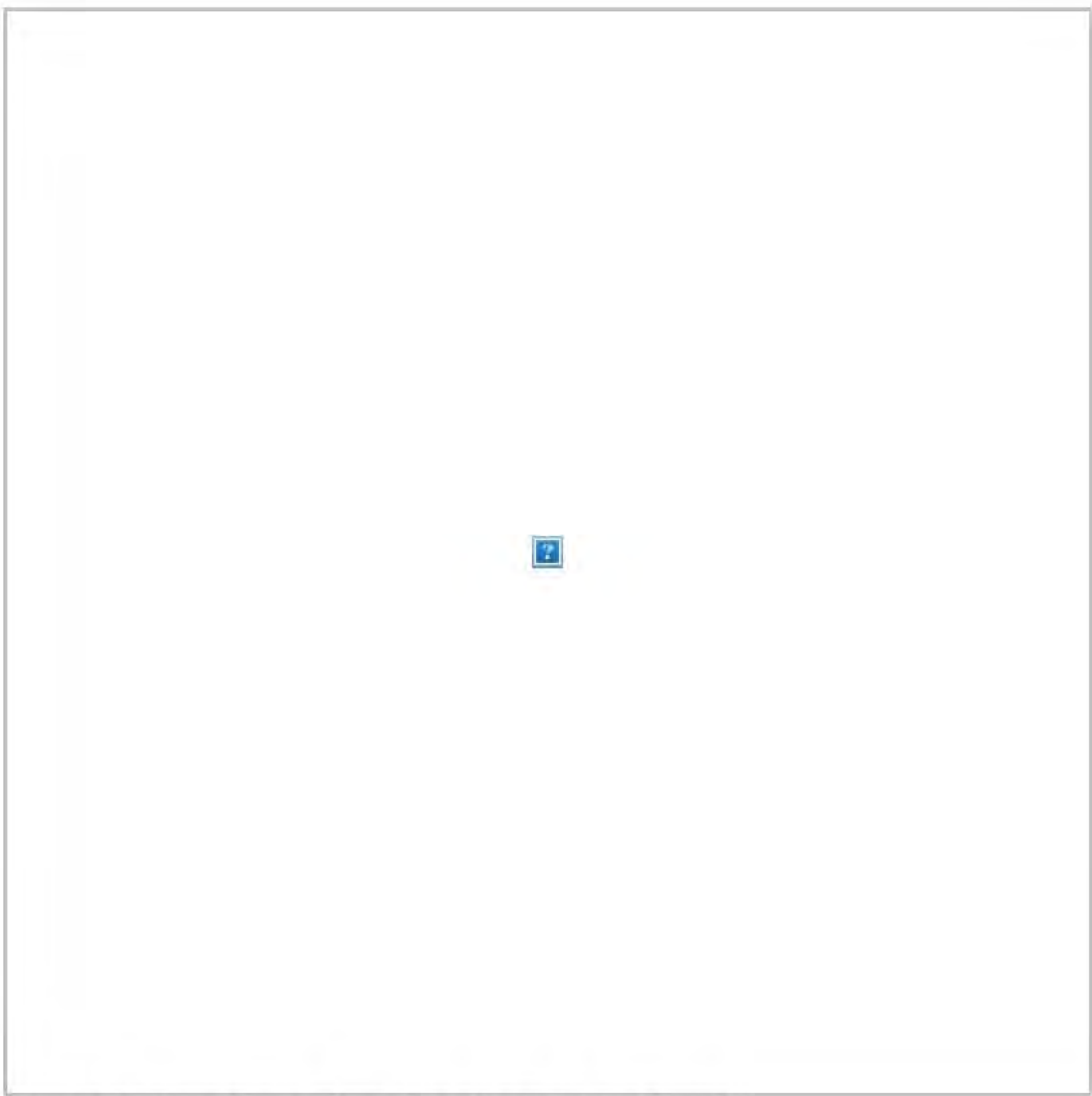
VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

Stephen Colbert says Trump found the leaker:



Stephen's Monologue Gets Declassified

The Daily Show on the Russia news:



Stephen's Plea: 'Please Don't Take Sean Spicer From Us'

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To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED]'s inexperience contributed to Comey interactions that now cloud his presidency
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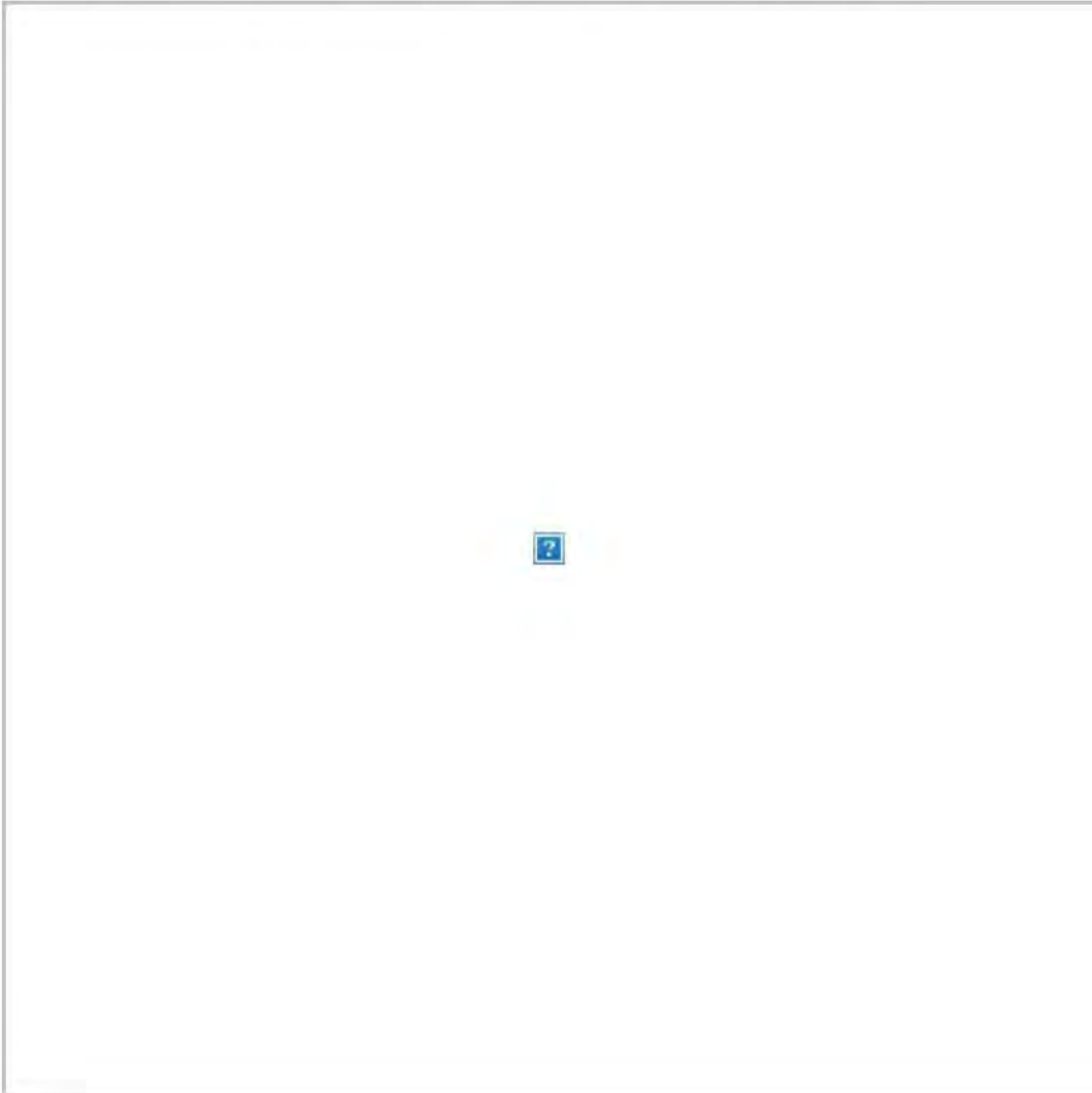
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Trump's inexperience contributed to Comey

interactions that now cloud his presidency



James Comey is sworn in prior to testifying before the Senate Judiciary Committee on May 3. (Jim Watson/AFP/Getty Images)



BY JAMES HOHMANN
with Breanne Deppisch

THE BIG IDEA: Who knew firing an FBI director could be so hard?

Indisputably now, Donald Trump had no idea what he was

getting himself into when he took office four months ago. The same president who allegedly asked James Comey to drop the FBI's probe into Michael Flynn – potentially imperiling his grip on power – has also said “[nobody knew](#) health care could be so complicated,” volunteered that he only learned containing North Korea is “not so easy” when the Chinese president [tutored him on the region's history](#) and [expressed surprise](#) that government cannot be run like a business.

Exactly one week, to the hour, after Comey found out via cable television that Trump had fired him, [the New York Times](#) published a bombshell story: The president asked the then-director to stay in the Oval Office at the end of a February meeting on counter-terrorism. Once Attorney General Jeff Sessions and Vice President Pence left the room, Trump urged Comey to drop the investigation in the wake of the national security adviser's resignation. This comes from a detailed, two-page memo that the director wrote up immediately after their conversation.

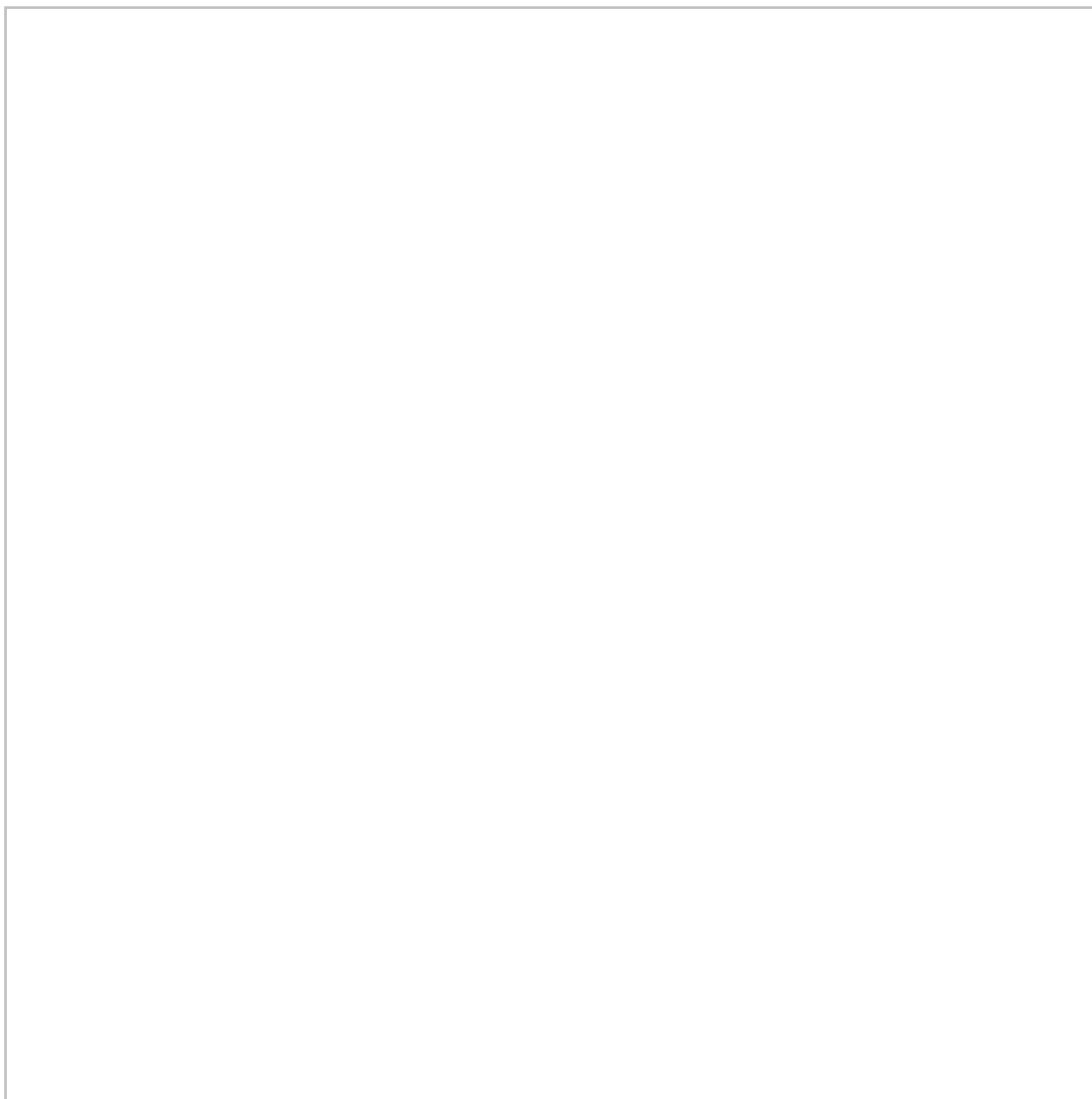
“I hope you can let this go,” Trump said, according to Comey's account.

Several media outlets, including [The Post](#), quickly confirmed the existence of these notes. [From Devlin Barrett, Ellen Nakashima and Matt Zapotosky:](#) “Comey's account of the February talk made it clear that his understanding of the conversation was that **the president was seeking to impede the investigation ... Comey's notes also made it clear he felt that the conversation with the president was improper and decided to withhold details of it from the case agents working on the Russia probe. According to the director's notes,**

Comey did not respond directly to the president's entreaties, only agreeing with Trump's assertion that Flynn 'is a good guy.'"

"An F.B.I. agent's contemporaneous notes are widely held up in court as credible evidence of conversations," [Michael Schmidt notes on the front page of the Times](#). "Alone in the Oval Office, Mr. Trump began the discussion by condemning leaks to the news media, saying that Mr. Comey should consider putting reporters in prison for publishing classified information ... Mr. Trump then turned the discussion to Mr. Flynn."

Comey apparently prepared memos after "every phone call and meeting he had with the president." "He wrote down every word Trump said to him as soon as he could," one of his friends told [Politico](#).



Comey notes say Trump pressured him to drop Flynn probe

-- Only an amateur would be surprised that Comey took notes after a meeting like this and that they would emerge if he got fired while the investigation in question was still ongoing. How the last several days have played out was entirely foreseeable for anyone who has even a basic grip of how Washington works and how Comey operates.

What did Trump think Comey was going to do? We know he underestimated Democratic attacks because he believed they were mad at Comey for hurting Hillary Clinton. But Comey is obsessed with

his personal integrity. Did the president really think he was going to take all of this lying down?

Why did Trump want to protect Flynn? What might he know that the president doesn't want to get out? [Many unanswered questions remain about why it took 18 DAYS for Flynn to resign](#) after the acting attorney general warned the White House counsel that he had been compromised and was susceptible to blackmail by the Russians. Could Trump have secretly authorized Flynn's contacts with Sergey Kislyak during the transition?

Why did the president ask Pence and Sessions to leave the room when he talked to Comey? "This is the kind of conversation that rational, experienced presidents know not to have," [Ruth Marcus writes](#). "It is the kind of conversation that a White House counsel should make sparklingly, crystal clear to a president that he is not to engage in, not even close. It is the kind of conversation that seems completely in character for Trump, who, over the course of the campaign and now in office, has betrayed no — zero — understanding of the necessary separation of the president and his Justice Department when it comes to making independent judgments about political matters and political opponents."

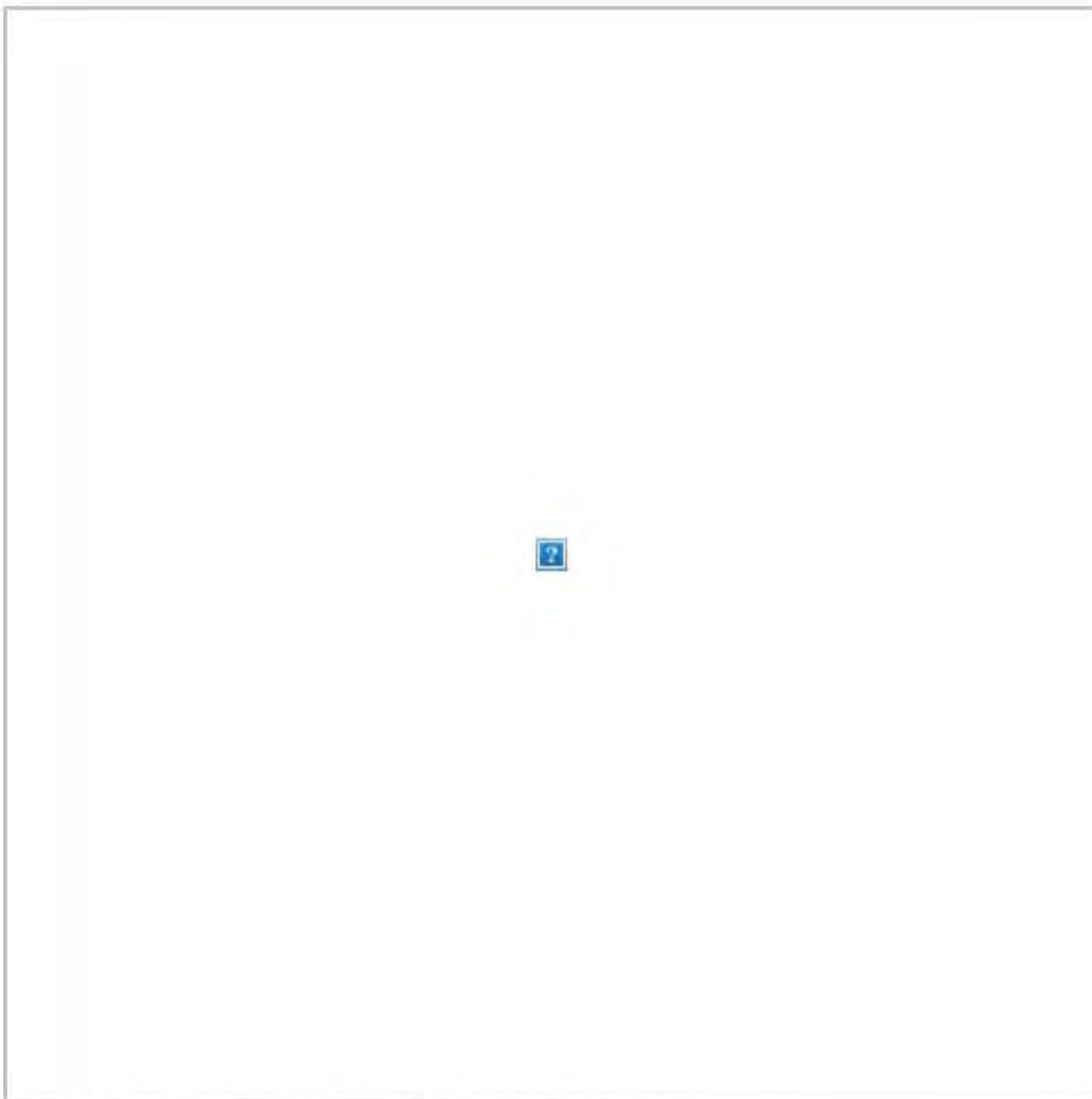
Did White House counsel Don McGahn know that his boss had talked with Comey one-on-one about the Flynn probe as Trump prepared to terminate him? Executive privilege means we'll never know for sure what these deliberations were like, but there is good reason to believe he was out of the loop. Sally Yates [told the New Yorker](#) in an interview published yesterday, for example, that he did not even know FBI agents had interviewed Flynn until she told him.

Every lawyer worth his or her salt creates a copious paper trail for C.Y.A. purposes, but Comey especially is legendary within elite Washington legal circles for doing so. McGahn, 48, was a partner at Jones Day and before that an FEC commissioner. Jeff Sessions and Rod Rosenstein, the Justice Department officials who hastily created the documents used to justify Comey's ouster, have also been around long enough that they should have known.

-- Perhaps more importantly, did anyone warn Trump about what role Comey had played in George W. Bush's U.S. attorney scandal? This week marks the 10th anniversary of his gripping testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee. In case you don't remember, here is the lead of [The Washington Post's story from that day](#) by Dan Eggen and Paul Kane: "On the night of March 10, 2004, as Attorney General John D. Ashcroft lay ill in an intensive-care unit, his deputy, James Comey, received an urgent call. White House Counsel Alberto R. Gonzales and President Bush's chief of staff, Andrew H. Card Jr., were on their way to the hospital to persuade Ashcroft to reauthorize Bush's domestic surveillance program, which the Justice Department had just determined was illegal. **In vivid testimony ... Comey said he alerted FBI Director Robert S. Mueller III and raced, sirens blaring, to join Ashcroft in his hospital room,** arriving minutes before Gonzales and Card. Ashcroft, summoning the strength to lift his head and speak, refused to sign the papers they had brought. **Gonzales and Card, who had never acknowledged Comey's presence in the room, turned and left.** The sickbed visit was the start of a dramatic showdown between the White House and the Justice Department in early 2004 that,

according to Comey, was resolved only when Bush overruled Gonzales and Card. But that was not before **Ashcroft, Comey, Mueller and their aides prepared a mass resignation**, Comey said.”

Watch a clip of Comey answering Chuck Schumer’s questions in 2007:



James Comey testifies before Senate Judiciary

-- Legal experts say Comey’s allegation provides the strongest support yet for a criminal obstruction-of-justice case against

Trump, though more evidence would probably be required to warrant action. From [Matt Zapotosky](#): “The laws governing obstruction require prosecutors to show a person ‘corruptly’ tried to influence a probe — meaning investigators have to find some evidence of what a person was thinking when taking a particular action. In this case, analysts said, that would mean analyzing the specific details of Trump and Comey’s conversation, assessing what else was happening at the time and possibly talking to Trump associates who had talked with the president about what he wanted to do.”

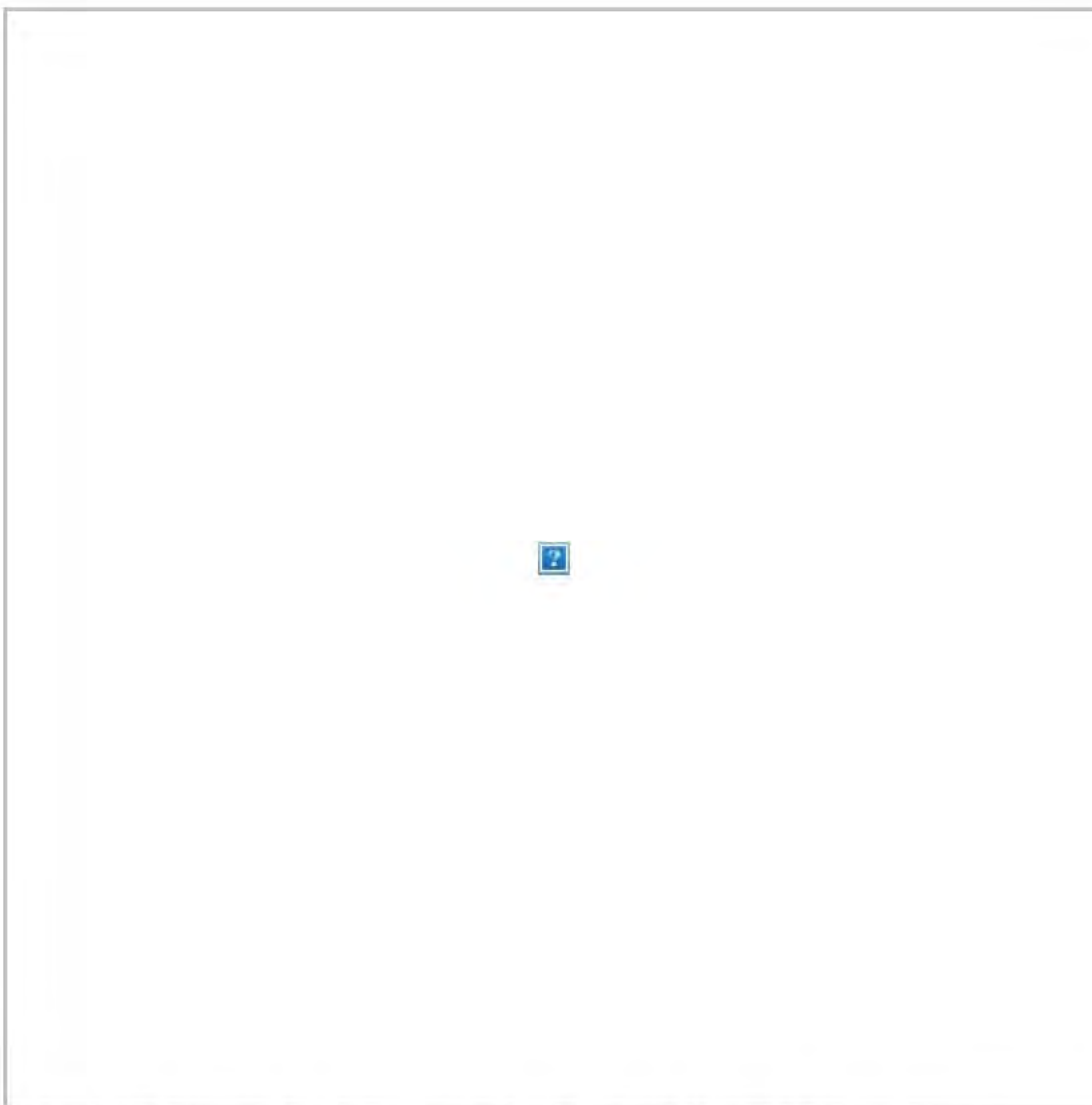
“There’s definitely a case to be made for obstruction,” said Barak Cohen, a former federal prosecutor who now does white-collar defense work at the Perkins Coie law firm. “But on the other hand you have to realize that — as with any other sort of criminal law — intent is key, and intent here can be difficult to prove.” **Cohen said that while it was “highly improper” for Trump to insert himself in an investigation in any way, charging him would be difficult.** With a lower-profile target, he said, “maybe prosecutors might be aggressive enough to bring a case,” but “it also arguably undermines democracy for prosecutors to go after a sitting president with only circumstantial evidence.”

-- This is where the president’s credibility gap is creating a crisis for the White House. Predictably, the White House denied Comey’s account. But of course the administration would deny it, just as officials have denied other stories that Trump himself later acknowledged to be at least partially correct. Notably, no one put their name on the statement sent out by the White House. It was emailed

to reporters “on background.” Perhaps no one in the press office wanted to take responsibility for another denial that may soon be proven false? “It seems as though the flood of information over the past 10 days has been pushing us to a point that we haven’t yet reached, forcing an explicit choice between the word of the White House and the word of an outside party,” [Philip Bump notes](#).

-- The latest disclosure ratchets up the pressure on Trump to put up or shut up when it comes to the tapes. He has hinted very strongly that he has a recording of his one-on-one dinner with Comey on Jan. 27 (in which he allegedly asked for a pledge of loyalty) and, possibly, their other meetings. The president has a long history of surreptitiously taping conversations. At this point, if Trump has any tapes that might clear him of wrongdoing, why wouldn’t he release them? If the tapes contradict his story, which seems more plausible, they may never see the light of day – unless congressional Republicans agree to subpoena them. If after refusing to answer questions about the tapes for the past five days, the White House suddenly declares there are no tapes after all, many serious people will be suspicious and assume that Trump destroyed possible evidence that could have been used against him.

-- As Omar Little told Wee-Bey on “[The Wire](#)” after a failed assassination attempt, “[You come at the king, you best not miss.](#)” If you come at Comey, you best not miss.



Republicans flounder to explain Trump's sharing of classified information

-- Here is the bottom line: Comey is going to testify, and Congress is going to get his full memo. It's not a question of if – but when.

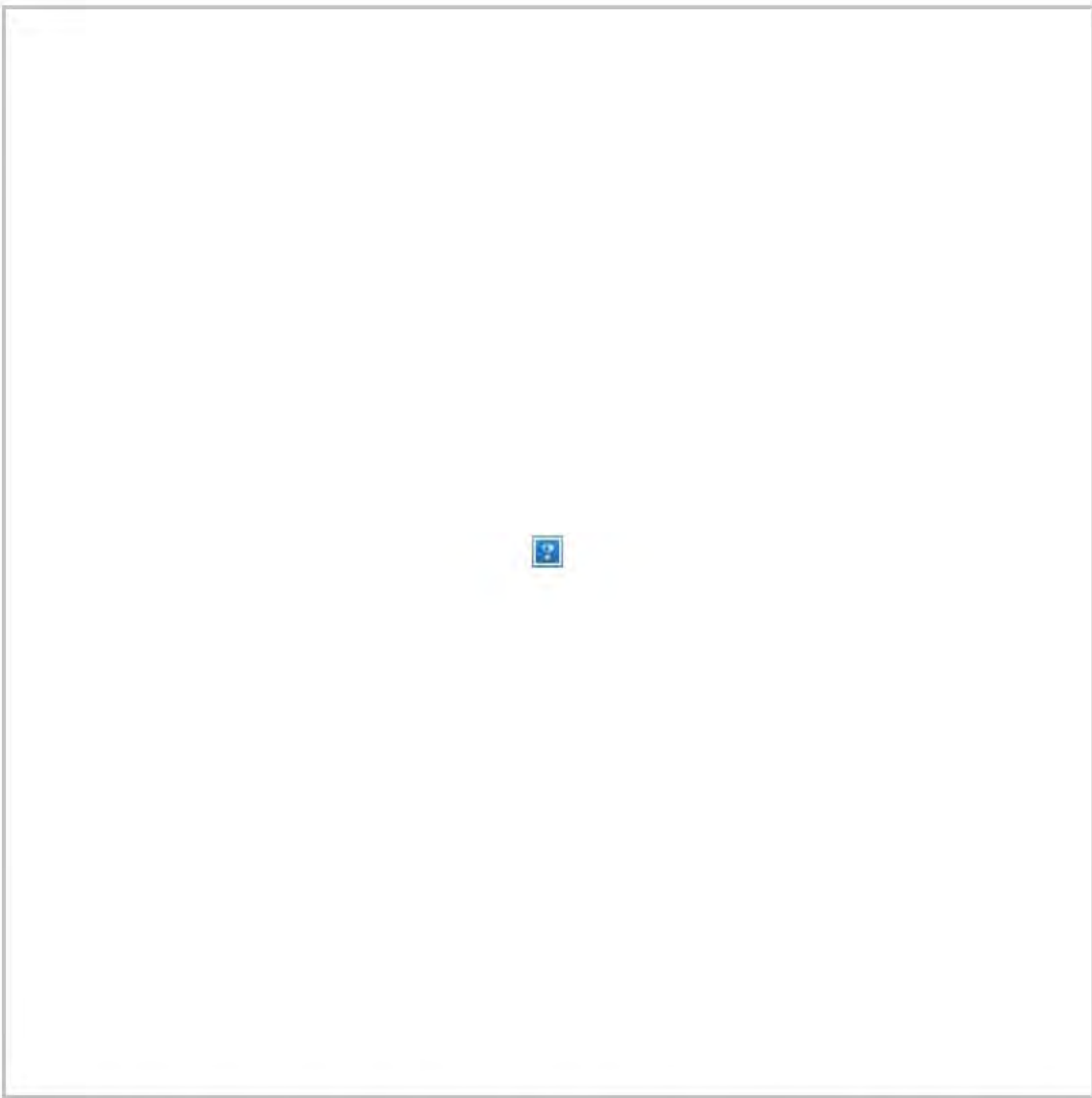
Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah), chairman of the House Oversight Committee, said last night he is prepared to use a subpoena if necessary to get a copy of the Comey memo. “I need to see it sooner rather than later. I have my subpoena pen ready,” he tweeted. Chaffetz told our Carol Leonnig last night that he wants to get to the truth: “Let's see how real these memos are.... And see where they

take us. ... We will let the evidence take us where it does.” [In a letter to the acting FBI director](#), Chaffetz has set a deadline of May 24 for the internal documents to be handed over to his committee.

Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) said this morning that “it is important that Congress call ... Comey before the Judiciary Committee to obtain a full understanding of what President Trump may or may not have done regarding the Russian investigation, including ... Flynn.” From his statement: “I’m hopeful we can reach agreement in a bipartisan fashion on how to move forward in a professional manner. The country deserves answers to the questions raised and former Director Comey deserves an opportunity to be heard and, if appropriate, challenged. The sooner Mr. Comey testifies publicly before the Judiciary Committee, the better for our nation. **For all practical purposes the political process will be ground to a halt by these allegations.**”

Sen. Ben Sasse (R-Neb.), another Judiciary subcommittee chairman, said he will remain skeptical until Congress obtains Comey's memos, but "there's a lot here that's really scary." "It's obviously inappropriate for any president to be trying to interfere with an investigation," [Sasse said on Hugh Hewitt's radio show this morning](#), adding that he wants all the Comey memos as soon as possible.

-- Tonight at 6:15 p.m., I will interview Sasse at The Post's headquarters for the latest installment of “The 202 Live.” We'll talk about this, as well as his new book “The Vanishing American Adult.” [RSVP to attend or watch the live stream here.](#)



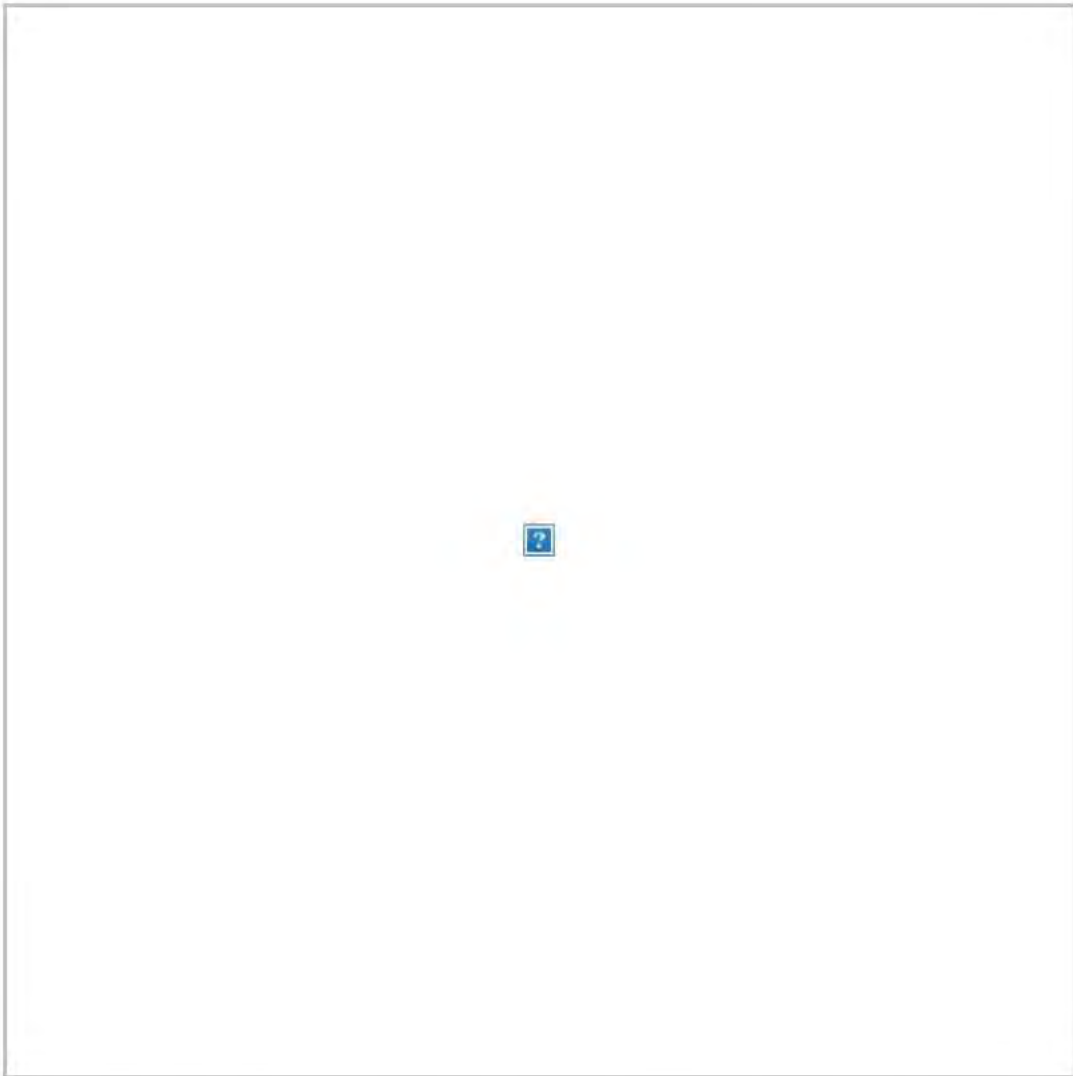
-- John McCain said last night that Trump's scandals have now reached a "Watergate size and scale." [The Daily Beast's Tim Mak attended](#) a dinner where the Arizona senator was receiving the International Republican Institute's Freedom Award. "I think we've seen this movie before," McCain told the crowd. "I think it appears at a point where it's of Watergate size and scale. ... The shoes continue to drop, and every couple days there's a new aspect." McCain told retired CBS anchor Bob Schieffer, who was interviewing him on stage, that the advice he would give to Trump is "the same thing that you advised Richard Nixon, which he didn't do: Get it all out! It's not

going to be over until every aspect of it is thoroughly examined and the American people make a judgment. And the longer you delay, the longer it's going to last.”

Déjà vu? McCain holds the seat previously occupied by Barry Goldwater, who was the GOP's nominee for president 44 years before him. Goldwater played a key leadership role in getting Nixon to step down.

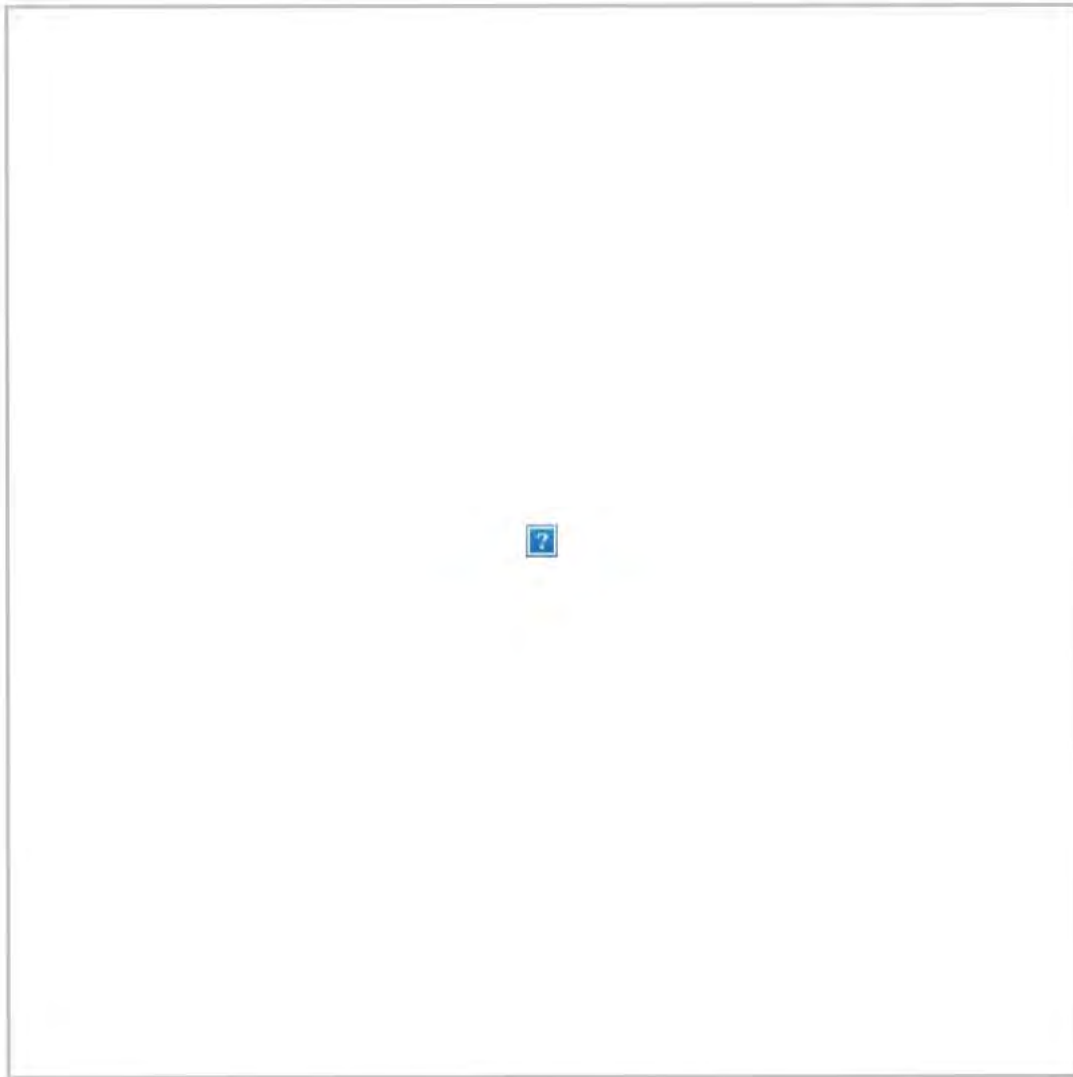
-- **While most Republicans are still standing squarely behind the president**, we're seeing other cracks emerge: **California Rep. Steve Knight**, already facing a tough 2018 reelection fight, just became the latest Republican to call for a special prosecutor. ([Read his statement](#). Here's [our running whip list of GOP lawmakers who have supported this approach](#).)

A GOP rep from Illinois:



-- Frustration has been a theme in some private conversations among Republican lawmakers, but publicly many of these same people have tried to pretend the problem isn't there. [Elise Viebeck, Sean Sullivan and Mike DeBonis](#) explore the dynamic: "Both lawmakers and aides within the GOP described feeling a sense of weariness as they stare down the latest Trump-related controversy. 'It's just a very surreal environment where you have a president who is self-destructing,' said one Senate Republican aide. ... Another GOP staffer described the situation as 'constant chaos.'"

-- Many Hill Republicans are trying to make themselves scarce:



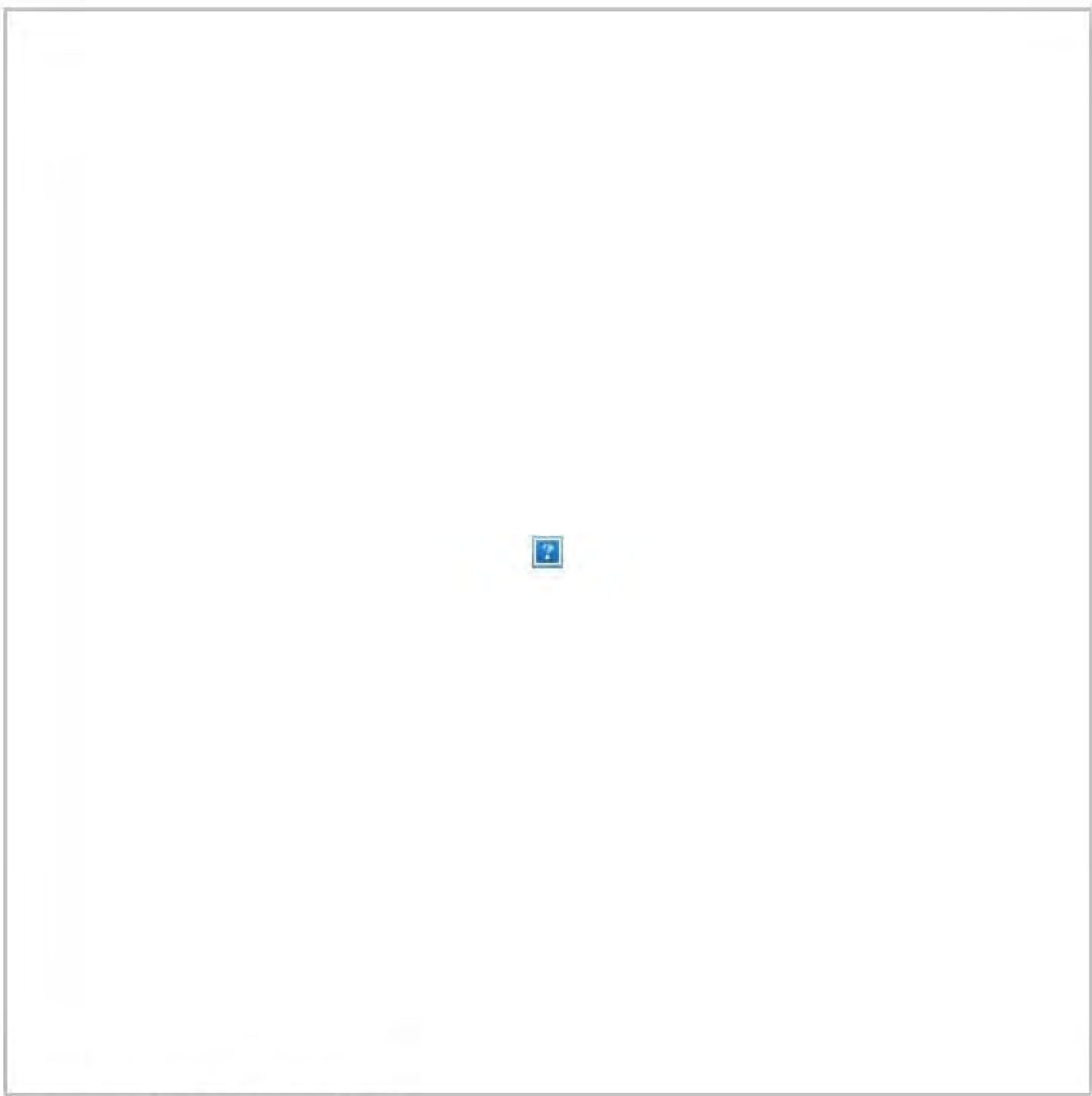
-- Congressional leaders are facing increasing pressure:

“As Trump has lurched from one crisis to another, Republicans have chosen a strategy of compartmentalization over confrontation, preferring to look away in hopes that the storm would pass. Now ... that approach may have run aground,” **writes Dan Balz, The Post’s chief correspondent.** “For the GOP, this has become a moment of reckoning. ... Increasingly, it will be difficult for Republicans to avoid recognizing the responsibility that comes with being the majority party in separate branch of government, rather than seeing events primarily through the prism of

a political alliance, no matter how awkward at times, between members of Congress and a president who won the November election as their nominee.”

Speaker Paul Ryan struck a careful tone during a press conference this morning, saying congressional committees would continue to gather facts and conduct oversight

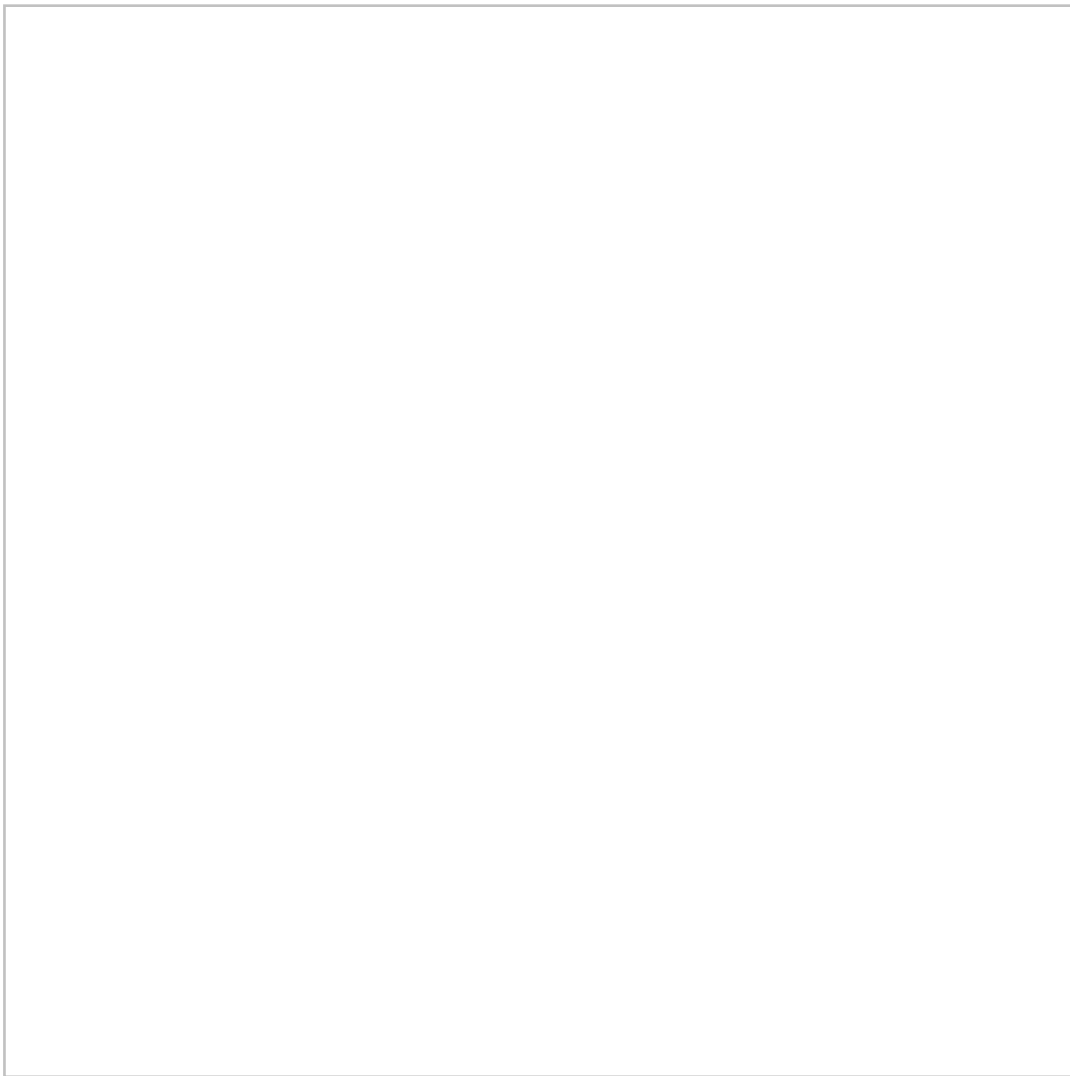
"regardless of what party is in the White House." But Ryan did hit a couple of skeptical notes in his brief remarks, suggesting that any allegations made by Comey should not be taken at face value, Mike DeBonis reports. “If this happened as he described, why didn't he take action at the time?” Ryan asked, echoing a question other skeptical Republicans have asked. Later, he noted that the FBI investigation into the Trump campaign and administration's ties to Russia would continue, conducted by career professionals. And he noted that the bureau's deputy director, Andrew McCabe, who is serving as interim director, "said just the other day that no one has tried to impede that investigation" -- a reference to a congressional hearing that, some Trump defenders have argued, would undercut Comey's claims of presidential interference.



Schumer: 'History is watching'

SOME PEOPLE ARE EVEN STARTING TO USE THE “I” WORD:

Republican Rep. Justin Amash (Mich.) went there this morning:



-- Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-Md.), the top Democrat on the House Oversight Committee, said he has “no doubt” that Republicans would have already voted to impeach Hillary Clinton if she had done what Trump did. "For one millionth of what has happened with Trump, they would have impeached her," Cummings said in a radio interview [picked up by CNN](#). "I'm just telling you. They would have been going crazy. That's what makes this so egregious."

-- Impeachment remains much less likely than many Democrats want to think: They would need to persuade 25 House Republicans and 14 Senate Republicans to cross over – without any defections.

History is not on their side, [Peter Stevenson notes](#).

-- **New York Times conservative columnist Ross Douthat floats another idea for removing Trump:** “Ultimately I do not believe that our president sufficiently understands the nature of the office that he holds, the nature of the legal constraints that are supposed to bind him, perhaps even the nature of normal human interactions, to be guilty of obstruction of justice in the Nixonian or even Clintonian sense of the phrase. I do not believe he is really capable of the behind-the-scenes conspiring that the darker Russia theories envision. And it is hard to betray an oath of office whose obligations you evince no sign of really understanding or respecting. Which is not an argument for allowing him to occupy that office. **It is an argument, instead, for using a constitutional mechanism more appropriate to this strange situation than impeachment: the 25th Amendment to the Constitution** ... The Trump situation is not exactly the sort that the amendment’s Cold War-era designers were envisioning. But **his incapacity to really govern, to truly execute the serious duties that fall to him to carry out, is nevertheless testified to daily** — not by his enemies or external critics, but by precisely the men and women whom the Constitution asks to stand in judgment on him, the men and women who serve around him in the White House and the cabinet.”

CONTENT FROM UBER

Hey Congress, Let's Get Our Cities Moving Better, Together

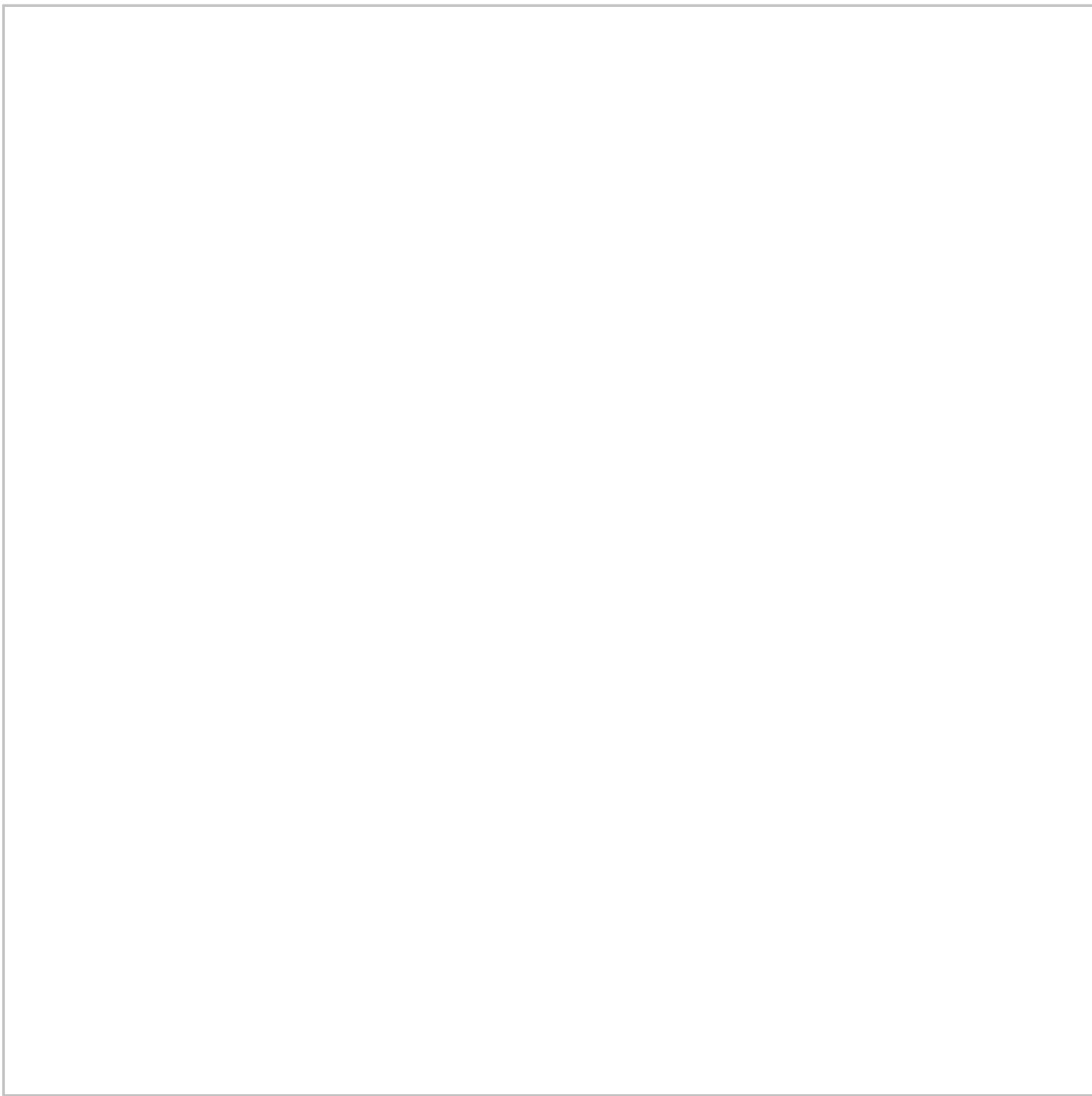
At Uber, we believe the brightest future for mobility will be achieved when public and private stakeholders work together to create a more efficient transportation ecosystem.

By Uber



Welcome to the Daily 202, **PowerPost's** morning newsletter.
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WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING:



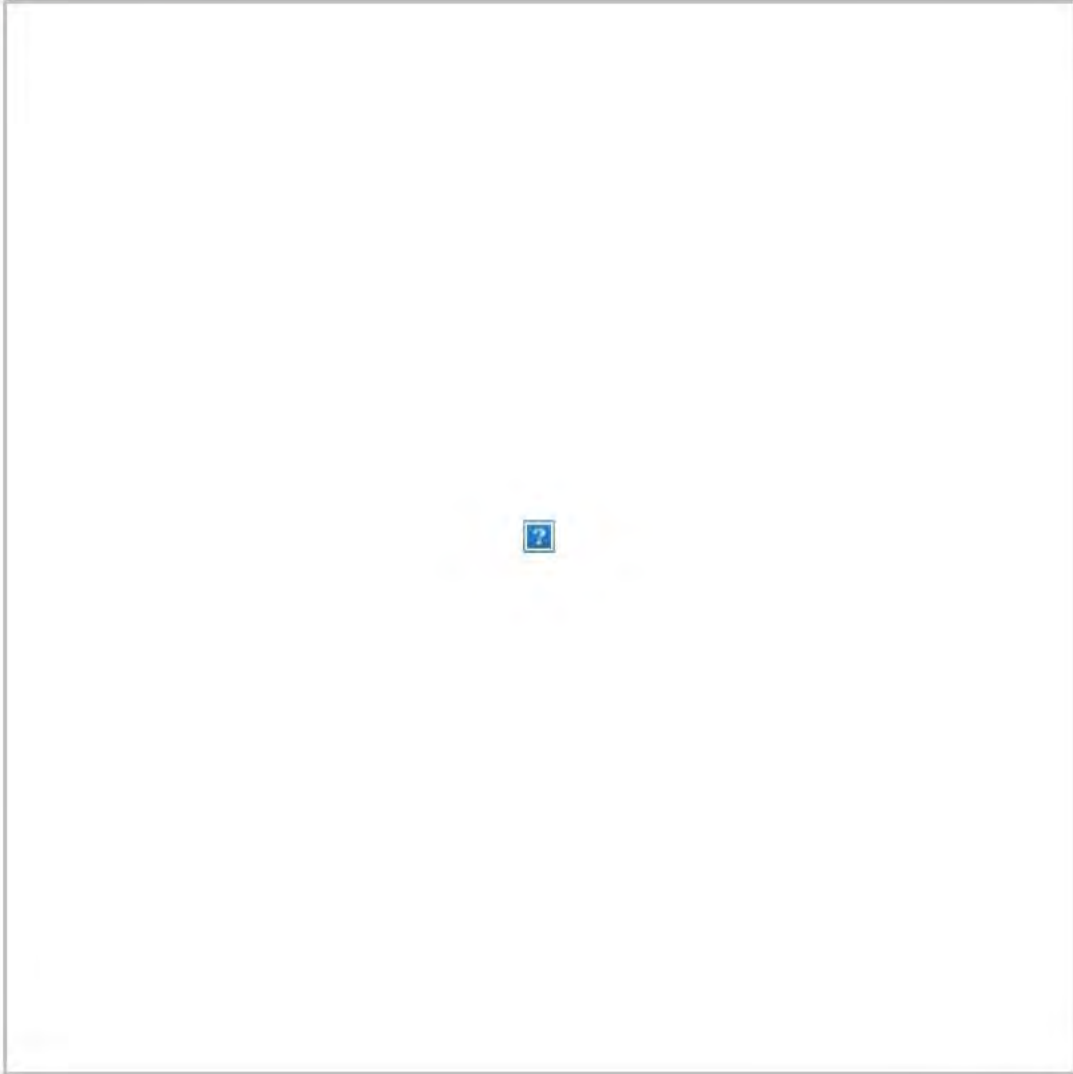
Vladimir Putin speaks during a press conference with Italian Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni in Sochi, Russia, today. (Yuri Kadobnov/Reuters)

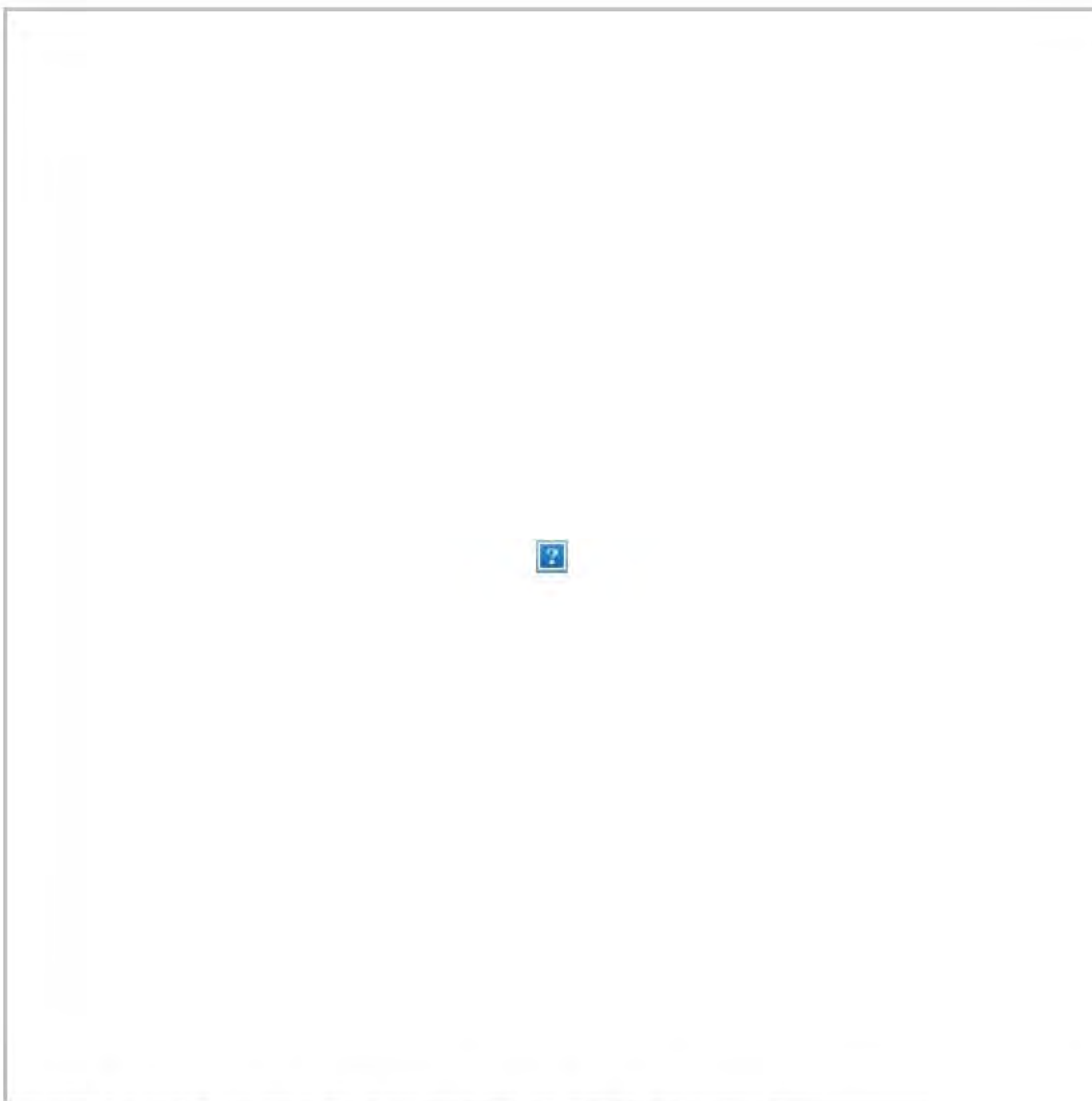
-- Vladimir Putin said this morning that he would be willing to provide the U.S. Congress with a record of Trump's meeting with the top Russian envoys, possibly offering new details on the disclosures of reportedly highly classified intelligence information. [Andrew Roth reports](#) from Moscow: "The remarkable offer for the Kremlin to share evidence with U.S. oversight committees came with the caveat that the request for the transcript would have to come from the Trump administration. The Kremlin has denied reports that Trump shared classified secrets last week with Russian Foreign

Minister Sergey Lavrov and Russia's ambassador to the United States during an Oval Office meeting. But the full extent of Trump's comments to the Russian envoys has not been made public ... **On Wednesday, Putin denied that Lavrov had shared any intelligence with him or with Russia's secret service, instead declaring that a 'political schizophrenia' had gripped the United States and that it was 'eliciting concern' in Russia.**"

-- **VEB, a Russian state-run bank under scrutiny by U.S. investigators, financed a deal involving Donald Trump's onetime partner in a Toronto hotel tower at a key moment for the project, the Wall Street Journal reported this morning:** "Alexander Shnaider, a Russian-Canadian developer who built the 65-story Trump International Hotel and Tower, put money into the project after receiving hundreds of millions of dollars from a separate asset sale that involved the Russian bank, whose full name is Vnesheconombank. Mr. Shnaider sold his company's share in a Ukrainian steelmaker for about \$850 million in 2010, according to S&P Global Market Intelligence. According to two people with knowledge of the deal, the buyer, which hasn't been identified publicly, was an entity acting for the Russian government. VEB initiated the purchase and provided the money, these people say. U.S. investigators are looking into any ties between Russian financial institutions, Mr. Trump and anyone in his orbit, according to a person familiar with the probe. As part of the investigation, they're examining interactions between Mr. Trump, his associates and VEB, which is now subject to U.S. sanctions, said another person familiar with the matter. The Toronto deal adds a new element to the list of known connections between Mr. Trump's associates and Russia."

-- Thom Tillis says he is “doing well” after collapsing this morning during a three-mile road race in Southeast Washington. The AP reported that the North Carolina lawmaker was “unconscious” and was airlifted by a U.S. Park Police helicopter to a hospital. (Justin Wm. Moyer)





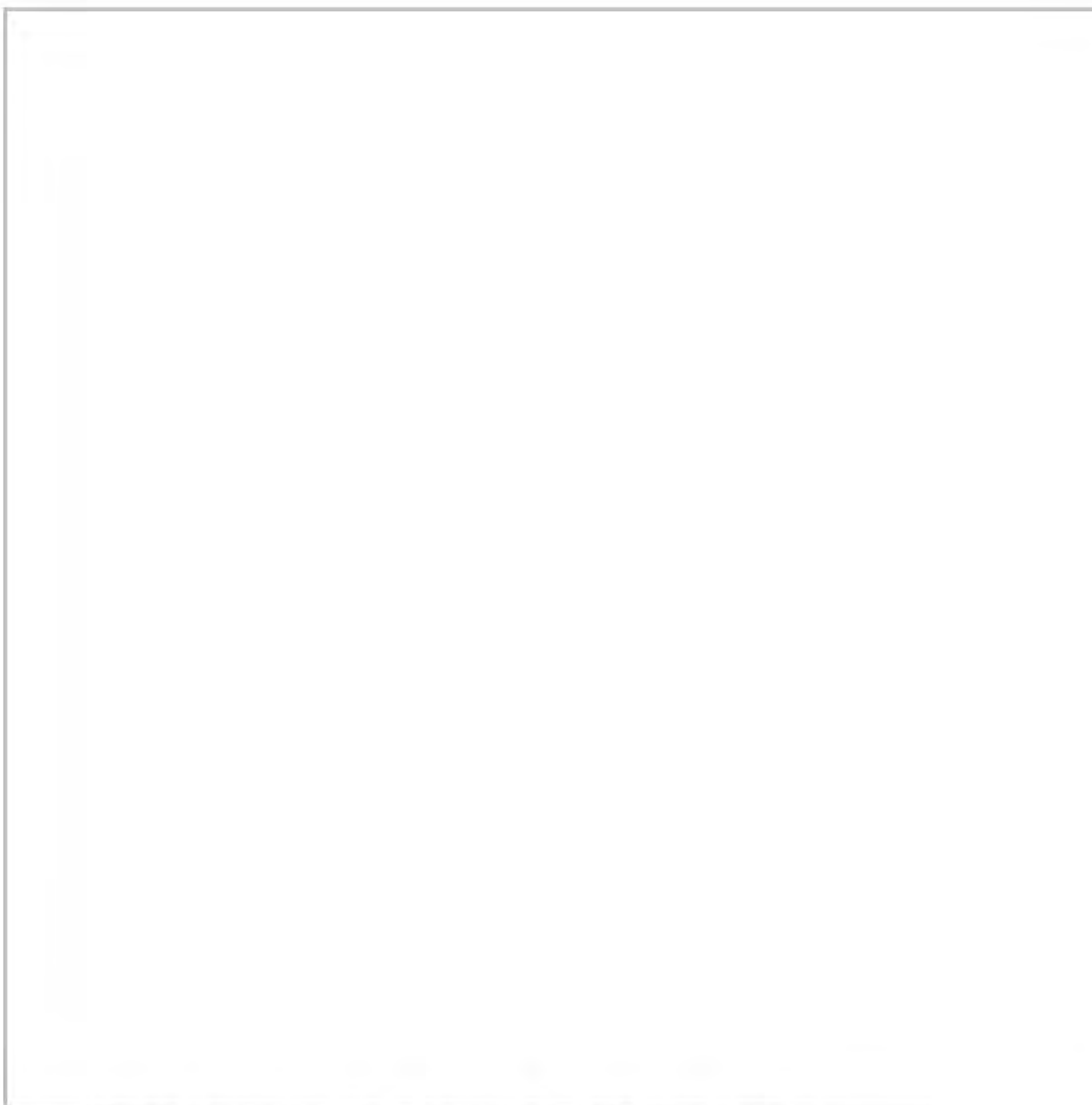
Several people injured after protest outside Turkish Embassy

-- Nine people were injured during a protest outside of the Turkish ambassador's residence in D.C. CNN's Zach Cohen reports: "About two dozen demonstrators showed up outside of the embassy just hours after [Recep Erdogan met with Trump] ... 'We are protesting (Erdogan's) policies in Turkey, in Syria and in Iraq,' said [protester] Flint Arthur of Baltimore, Maryland. Arthur accused Erdogan supporters of breaching police lines and attacking protesters on at least three separate occasions. A Facebook video captured at the scene shows several protesters covered in blood. 'They think they can engage in the same sort of suppression of protest and free

speech that they engage in in Turkey,' Arthur said. 'They stopped us for a few minutes ... but we still stayed and continued to protest Erdogan's tyrannical regime.' The victims were transported to George Washington University Hospital."

"Indications were that the scuffling may have stemmed from political conflict within Turkey, whose president is on a visit to Washington, Victoria St. Martin and Martin Weil report. "Several members of the first group wore dark suits and ties, and a couple of them waved small Turkish flags. In one of the skirmishes, a man in a dark suit, who is carrying a furled flag ... appears to be kicking at a demonstrator who is on the Sheridan Circle sidewalk, holding his hands protectively to his head. A bullhorn lies beside him."

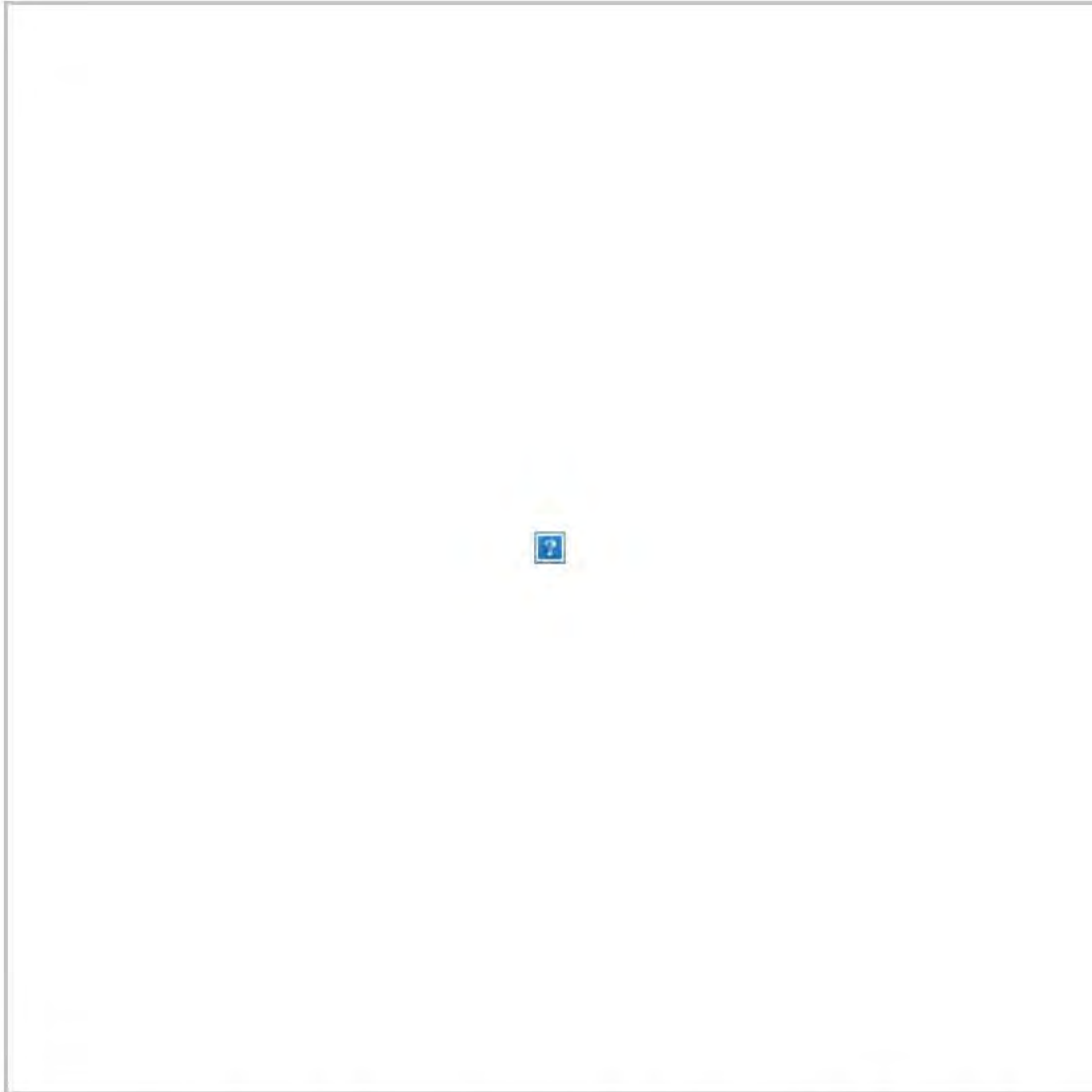
The brutal scene outside of the Turkish ambassador's residence in D.C.:



Trump's news conference with Erdogan, in less than 3 minutes

-- Trump spent the afternoon warmly greeting the Turkish president, praising the importance of their alliance despite mounting tensions over Washington's support for Kurdish rebels in Syria and Erdogan's drift away from democracy. [Missy Ryan reports](#): "Speaking alongside Erdogan at the White House, Trump said Turkey and the U.S. would act together against extremist groups including the Islamic State. 'Again, we seek to face this threat together,' he told reporters. While Erdogan's government had long warned U.S. officials against expanding support for the People's Protection Units (YPG), empowering a group Turkey sees as an

existential threat, the warm public remarks from both leaders reflect the NATO allies' need to hold together a key partnership at a time of intense strain."



Chelsea Manning poses for a photo wearing a wig and lipstick (U.S. Army via AP, File)

GET SMART FAST:

- 1. Chelsea Manning, the transgender Army private whose lengthy prison sentence for leaking classified government information was commuted 28 years early by Obama, was**

- freed from prison today.** Few details were disclosed, but an online fundraising campaign has raised more than \$135,000 for housing and other essentials to assist with her reentry into society. ([Sandhya Somashekhar](#))
2. **Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii) is undergoing treatment for kidney cancer.** She will undergo outpatient surgery at Georgetown University Hospital and is expected to make a full recovery.
 3. **A high-school student in South Carolina collapsed and died after drinking caffeine too quickly.** Doctors said the 16-year-old student – otherwise healthy and active – had consumed a latte, a Mountain Dew and an energy drink in the hours preceding his death, ultimately causing what officials say was a “caffeine-induced cardiac event.” ([Cleve R. Wootson Jr.](#))
 4. **Scientists said they have found “devastating” amounts of coral bleaching and death at reefs in the Indian Ocean** – with mortality in some areas reaching 90 percent. Officials believe the staggering levels of coral “bleaching” were brought on by unusually warm conditions -- likely influenced by climate change – as well as an unusually severe El Niño effect in 2015. ([Chelsea Harvey](#))
 5. **The Missouri Supreme Court struck down portions of a law intended to protect minorities from biased policing and revenue collection,** breaking with policy urged by the Justice Department after the police shooting of Michael Brown in 2014. The DOJ report, which examined data from 2012 to 2014, found that black citizens were subject to 85 percent of traffic stops, and 93 percent of all arrests during that time. ([NBC News](#))
 6. **Officials at Union Station said they are investigating a**

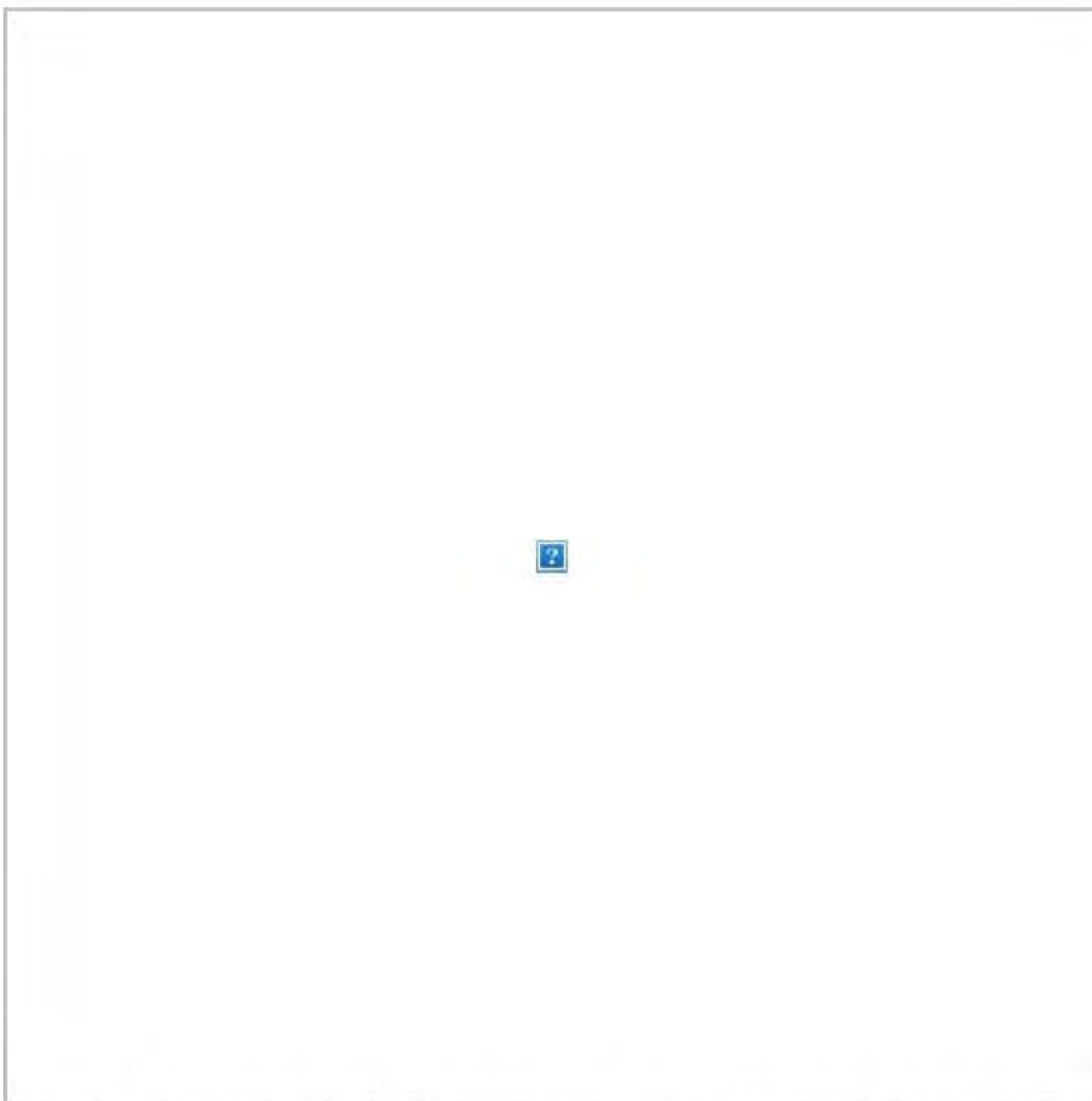
possible hack after a giant digital screen in the train station's main hall screeched to a stop Monday evening -- and started playing illicit adult video footage outside a Chipotle restaurant instead. ([Martine Powers](#))

7. **Wal-Mart is suing the nation's three largest tuna brands for price fixing**, accusing the companies – which together control 80 percent of the market – of overcharging them for five years. ([Peter Whoriskey](#))

TWO GOOD WAPO STORIES WORTH READING:

-- **“NSA officials worried about the day its potent hacking tool would get loose. Then it did,”** by [Ellen Nakashima and Craig Timberg](#): “When the NSA began using a new hacking tool called EternalBlue, those entrusted with deploying it marveled at both its uncommon power and the widespread havoc it could wreak if it ever got loose. Some officials even discussed whether the flaw was so dangerous they should reveal it to Microsoft, the company whose software the government was exploiting ... But for more than five years, the NSA kept using it — through a time period that has seen several serious security breaches — and now the officials’ worst fears have been realized. The malicious code at the heart of the WannaCry virus that hit computer systems globally late last week was apparently stolen from the NSA ... [and] now ranks as among the most disruptive in history. **The failure to keep EternalBlue out of the hands of criminals and other adversaries casts the NSA’s decisions in a harsh new light, prompting critics to question anew whether the agency can be trusted to develop and protect such potent hacking tools.**”

-- **“Trump’s ‘huuuuge’ Caribbean estate is on the market for \$28 million, prompting questions,”** by **Matea Gold**: “The opulent beachfront estate that recently went on the market on the Caribbean island of St. Martin has a number of appealing factors, including two elaborately adorned villas and an expansive pool overlooking the crystalline waters of Plum Bay. And there’s another unique aspect that nearby properties can’t claim: It is owned by the president of the United States. Le Chateau des Palmiers, which [Trump] described as ‘one of the greatest mansions in the world’ when he bought it in 2013, was quietly listed for sale last month ... It’s unclear why the property is for sale. It earned Trump between \$200,000 and \$2 million in rental fees between 2014 and mid-2016, according to financial disclosures. The effort to sell the high-priced estate in the midst of Trump’s tenure could present a similar ethical problem to the one his lawyer cited in defending his decision not to sell off his company after the election: that a buyer could overpay as a way to gain currency with the president. **[And] if the estate is sold, the public probably would learn little, if anything, about who has purchased it.** Public records in the French territory do not always show details of private property transactions. Trump would eventually have to disclose the sales price on his financial disclosure form — a report detailing 2017 transactions must be filed in the spring of 2018 — but he would not be required to reveal the identity of the buyer.”



Here's what happened after the Post revealed Trump's disclosure to the Russians

RUSSIA FALLOUT:

-- The meeting between Trump and Sergei Lavrov -- which produced one of the biggest crises yet for a White House already well accustomed to tumult -- began as a favor from one president to another. [Philip Rucker and Karen DeYoung report on the backstory](#): "On May 2, eight days before Lavrov showed up at the White House, [Vladimir Putin] was on the phone with Trump and made a request. Putin had 'new ideas' about stopping the civil war carnage in Syria ... and noted that his top diplomat, Lavrov, would

soon be visiting the U.S. for a previously scheduled meeting with [Rex Tillerson]. 'Will you see him?' Putin asked Trump ... 'Yes,' Trump replied. Lavrov's itinerary had him going nowhere near Washington — 4,100 miles away in Fairbanks, Alaska, where he and Tillerson would be attending a meeting of the Arctic Council [but] Putin glossed over that detail with Trump ... and once he agreed to a face-to-face meeting with Lavrov, the Russian minister changed his plans to jet first to Washington.

"For the Kremlin, a private audience with the president was a major opportunity to show the world that U.S.-Russia relations were normalizing. Since the crisis in Ukraine, the U.S. has sought to show it is not conducting 'business as usual' with Moscow, said Russia specialist Andrew Weiss. But Putin and his deputies have sought whenever they could to "lessen that international isolation and demonstrate, 'See, we're back in the family of nations,' and on that point, Weiss said, the meeting with Lavrov 'throws out the very limited leverage we have with the Russians, and makes it look like we're softies. ... It sends a signal, unfortunately, that Trump doesn't care about that. The photos of people yukking it up in the Oval Office gave a sense that there's nothing wrong with U.S.-Russia relations, we're all pals.'"

"In advance of the meeting, Trump was given briefing materials along with a cover memorandum highlighting the points his national security staff wanted him to raise with Lavrov. Normally, H.R. McMaster briefs Trump immediately before a foreign leader meeting, but the senior administration official did not know if he did so the morning of Lavrov's visit. 'In the Obama era, there would be a pre-

brief and we would walk through all the talking points,' said McFaul. 'That would have been the moment to brief the president about what is sensitive information and what is not.'"

-- **The [Wall Street Journal](#) and the [New York Times](#) both reported that the top-secret information Trump slipped to the Russians last week had been gathered by Israeli intelligence – a disclosure that could have far-reaching consequences for U.S. national security and that comes just days before Trump makes his first overseas trip to visit the country.** Shane Harris and Carol E. Lee write in the Journal: "The intelligence—concerning terrorist threats against airliner -- was meant for U.S. eyes only and was provided as part of a longstanding sharing agreement that is predicated on mutual assurances of secrecy. The Israeli source was considered so sensitive that the U.S. hadn't shared it with its closest allies in the so-called Five Eyes group, which includes the U.K. and Canada." **(Israel's biggest enemy is Iran, which is one of Russia's close allies, so it seems very plausible that what Trump said could wind up in the hands of Jerusalem's enemies in Tehran.)**

-- **[ABC News](#) says Trump's disclosure has endangered the life of a spy placed inside ISIS by Israel.** From [Brian Ross](#), [James Gordon Meek](#) and [Randy Kreider](#): "The spy provided intelligence involving an active ISIS plot to bring down a passenger jet en route to the United States, with a bomb hidden in a laptop that U.S. officials believe can get through airport screening machines undetected. The information was reliable enough that the U.S. is considering a ban on laptops on all flights from Europe to the United States. 'The real risk is not just this source,' said Matt Olsen, the former director of the National

Counterterrorism Center ... 'but future sources of information about plots against us' ... 'Russia is not part of the ISIS coalition,' Olsen said. 'They are not our partner.' Dan Shapiro, the former U.S. ambassador to Israel, agreed -- saying in an interview that Trump and his team were 'careless,' and that the disclosures demonstrate a "poor understanding of how to guard sensitive information."

-- **"Trump Called Netanyahu, but White House and Israel Kept Mum,"** from **Haaretz's Barak Ravid**: "[Trump] called Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu Tuesday and discussed his upcoming visit to Israel, senior officials told Haaretz on Wednesday morning ... The call took place at around 5 P.M. Israel time, as Netanyahu was about to enter an event with his finance minister. The call lasted for about twenty minutes. The senior official noted that the call did not touch on reports according to which Trump leaked intelligence information to his meeting with the Russian foreign minister last week."

-- **The intelligence behind the U.S. ban on laptops and other electronics was considered so highly classified that CNN, at the request of Trump administration officials, withheld key details from a March 31 story on the travel restrictions, Evan Perez reports.** "The concern, US officials told CNN in late March, was that publishing certain information, including a city where some of the intelligence was collected, could tip off adversaries about the sources and methods used to gather the intelligence. Over several days, US intelligence officials spent hours on conference calls making specific requests to CNN to withhold certain details of the intelligence information. Those details included information that Trump reportedly shared in his Oval Office meeting with [the Russian diplomats] ... The

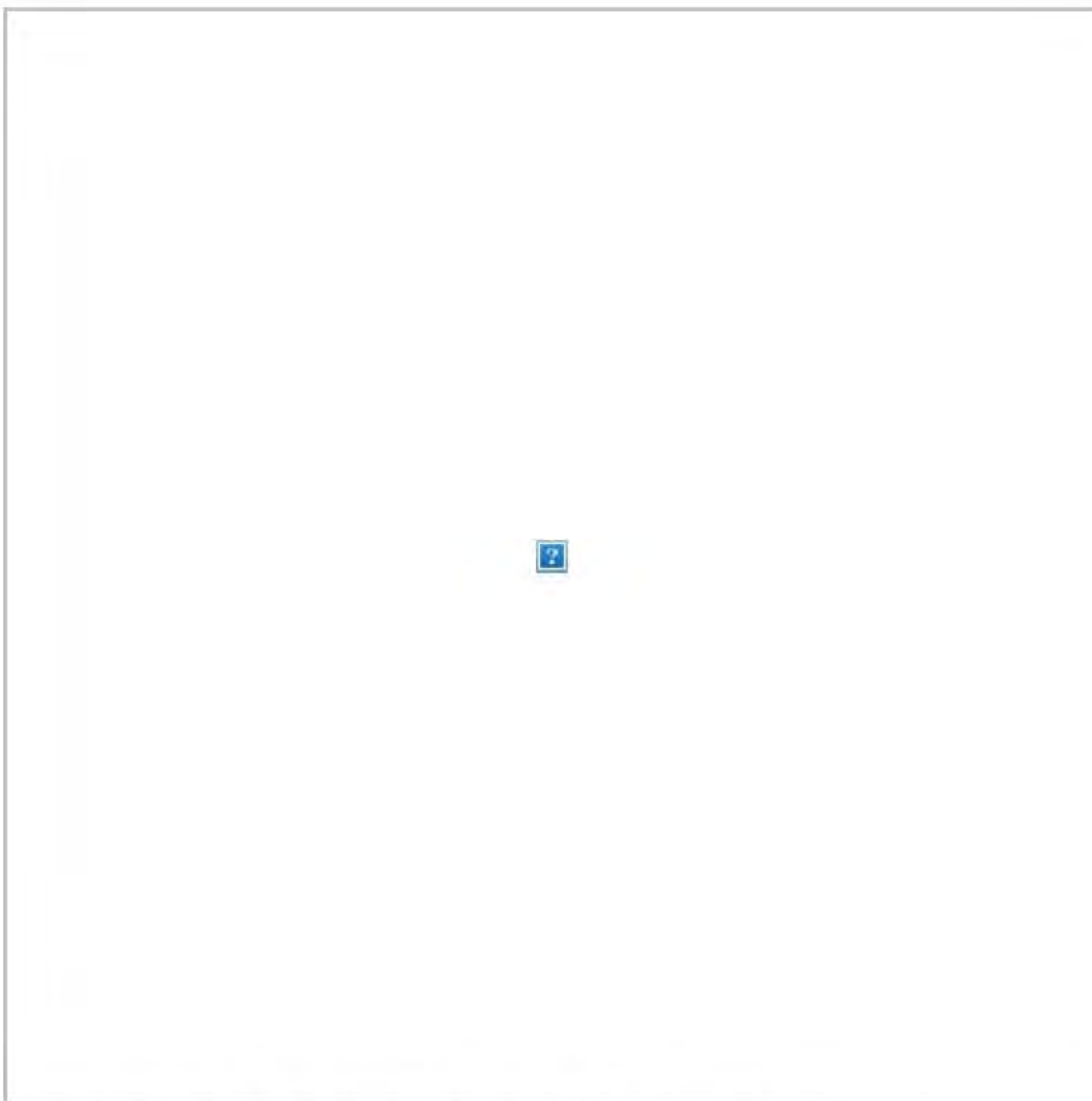
White House hasn't denied that the President appears to have let the Russian government in on information so highly sensitive that the US government had previously told CNN that publishing it would endanger lives and destroy intelligence-gathering methods used to keep an eye on terrorist groups. Sharing this information with Russia would be a major concern because it could help the Russians figure out how the US obtained the information. The sensitivity is heightened because the Russians share information closely with the Syrian regime."

-- The White House offered scattered explanations for Trump's disclosure of highly-classified information to Russia last week -- which began with an early-morning tweet from Trump, who claimed he had the "absolute right" to share "facts." [Greg Miller and Ashley Parker report](#): "Administration officials went from denouncing the Washington Post article as 'false' to either confirming or declining to challenge nearly every key aspect of the account ... 'As President I wanted to share with Russia ... which I have the absolute right to do, facts pertaining to terrorism and airline safety,' Trump said [on Twitter] ... He then shifted the focus from his conduct to prod the FBI 'to find the LEAKERS in the intelligence community.'"

He also enlisted the help of national security adviser H.R. McMaster, who refused to say whether Trump had shared classified information with the representatives from Moscow.

"What the president discussed with the foreign minister was wholly appropriate to that conversation and is consistent with the routine sharing of information between the president and any leaders with whom he's engaged," McMaster said.

-- **“For McMaster, who has kept a relatively low public profile since taking the job, the moment marked a critical test,”** [Greg Jaffe](#) writes. “Trump chose McMaster to lead the National Security Council ... in part because of McMaster’s reputation for candor over a 33-year career. In [his book], ‘Dereliction of Duty’ ... he was harshly critical of top Vietnam-era generals for not speaking frankly to the president and in public when they thought the war was going badly. [And] as an Army colonel in northern Iraq ... McMaster was known for his independent streak and willingness to buck a strategy that did not seem to be working. **Privately, senior White House officials said that McMaster has been respectful of Trump, a relative foreign-policy newcomer ... [and] often steers Trump away from counterproductive or impractical ideas by gently suggesting that the National Security Council study them and get back to the president in a few days or weeks.** Publicly, however, McMaster often faces a tougher challenge in a new role that he probably still is learning to manage, said some of the general’s former colleagues and friends. When controversy erupts, the national security adviser is expected to shield the president. The last week has forced McMaster to play both of those roles -- somewhat uncomfortably.”



Trump comments on meeting with Russian foreign minister

MORE WEST WING INTRIGUE:

-- **“The president’s appetite for chaos, coupled with his disregard for the self-protective conventions of the presidency, has left his staff confused and squabbling,”** [Glenn Thrush and Maggie Haberman report in today’s New York Times](#). “And his own mood, according to two advisers who spoke on the condition of anonymity, has become sour and dark, and he has turned against most of his aides — even his son-in-law, Jared Kushner — describing them in a fury as ‘incompetent,’ according to one of those advisers.”

Reports swirled inside the White House that the president was about to embark on a major shake-up, probably starting with the dismissal or reassignment of Sean Spicer: “By the end of the day Tuesday, it seemed that Mr. Spicer had, for the moment, survived. People close to the president said Mr. Trump was considering the firing of several lower-level staff members, including several hired by Priebus, while weighing a plan to hand most day-to-day briefing responsibilities to (Sarah Huckabee) Sanders. Even as Mr. Trump reassured advisers like Mr. Spicer that their jobs were safe on Monday, he told other advisers that he knew he needed to make big changes but did not know which direction to go, or whom to select.”

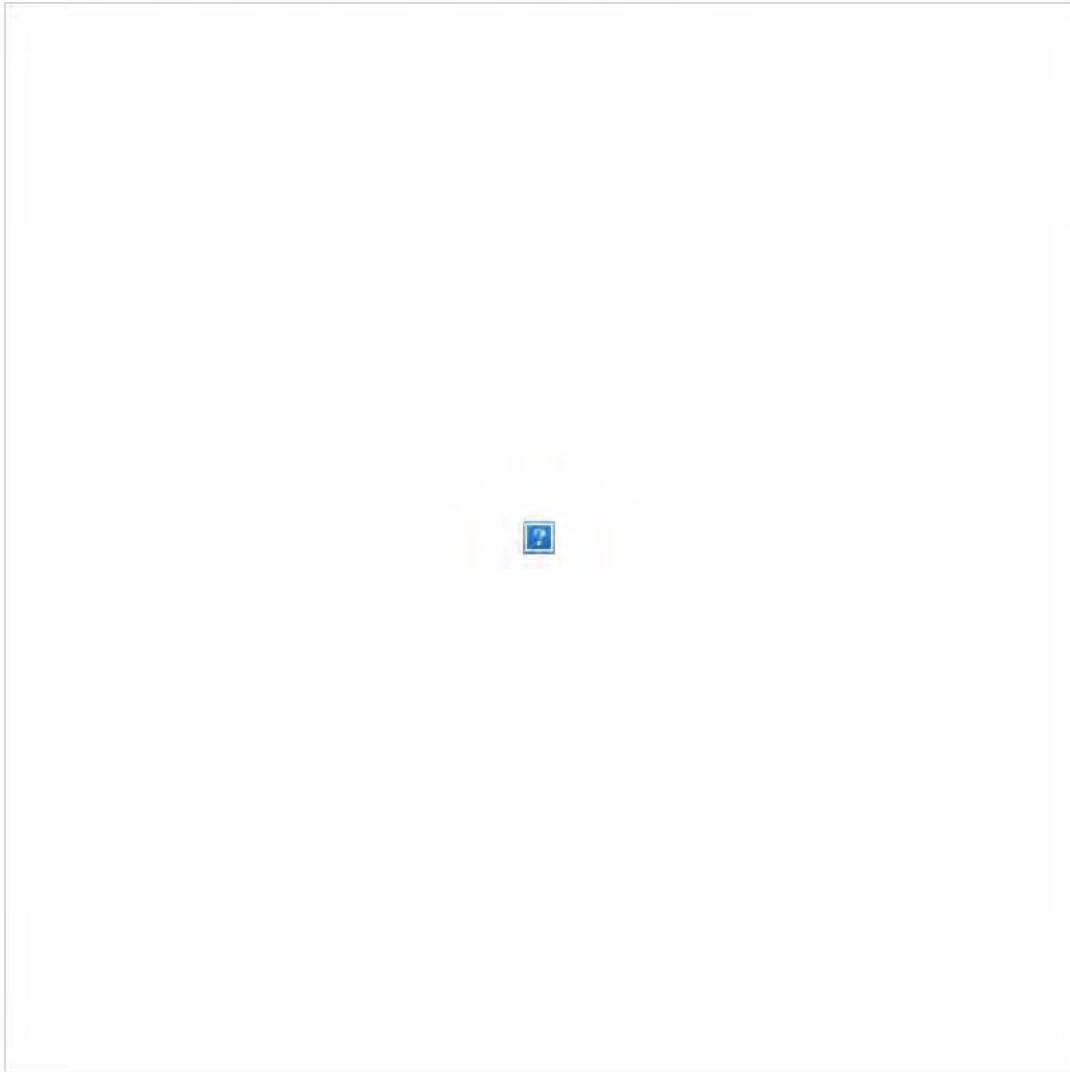
Some of Trump’s senior advisers fear leaving him alone in meetings with foreign leaders out of concern he might speak out of turn: “(H.R.) McMaster, in particular, has tried to insert caveats or gentle corrections into conversations when he believes the president is straying off topic or onto boggy diplomatic ground. This has, at times, chafed the president, according to two officials with knowledge of the situation. **Mr. Trump, who still openly laments having to dismiss Mr. Flynn, has complained that General McMaster talks too much in meetings, and the president has referred to him as ‘a pain,’** according to one of the officials.”

-- Trump administration officials described the current state of affairs in the West Wing as expectedly chaotic and anxious—but having an almost “numbing effect,” as one described it to [The Daily Beast](#). The story attributes these two quotes to unnamed “senior Trump administration officials”:

“I feel like running down the hallway with a fire extinguisher.”

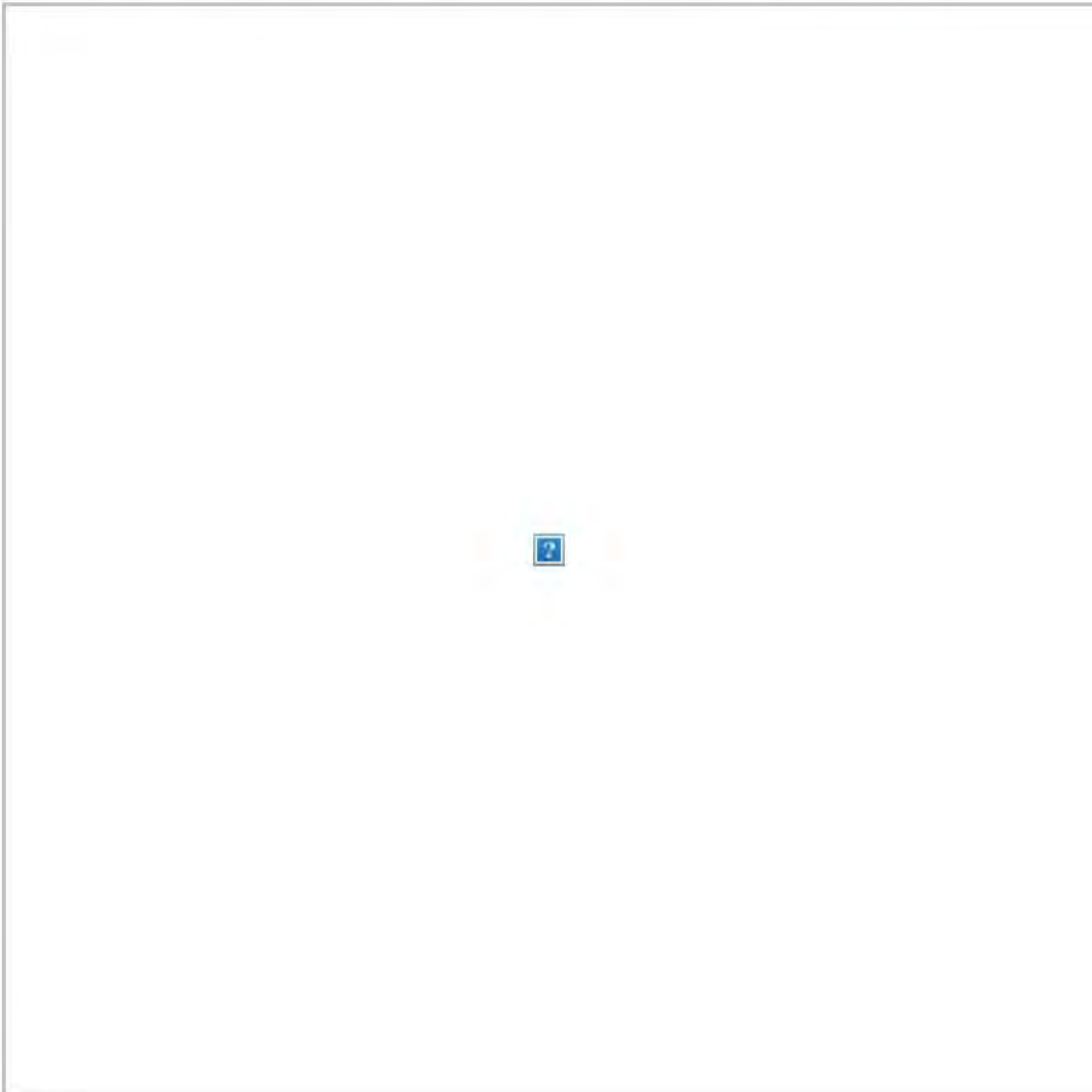
- “I don’t see how Trump isn’t completely [screwed].”

-- A Politico reporter added this last night:



FLASHBACK:

-- Trump once demanded Edward Snowden's execution for giving "serious information" to Russia. [Kristine Phillips remembers](#): "In tweets in the summer of 2013, Trump repeatedly called Snowden a 'traitor' who gave 'serious information to China and Russia' and who 'should be executed.'" In 2013, he backed up off these claims only slightly: "ObamaCare is a disaster and Snowden is a spy who should be executed-but if it and he could reveal Obama's records, I might become a major fan," Trump [said in a tweet](#).



Trump gives joint remarks with the Turkish president on Tuesday. (Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post)

GOOD ANALYSIS:

-- **“Every president encounters damaging leaks and other intelligence issues,” Post foreign affairs columnist David Ignatius writes.** “During the Carter administration, The Post revealed that Jordan’s King Hussein was on the CIA payroll. The station chief in Amman can’t have enjoyed that revelation, but the relationship continued. The [Bush] administration suffered catastrophic intelligence failures in the 9/11 attacks and in assessing Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, yet its intelligence relationships abroad were, if anything, deepened. ... **The difference in Trump’s case is that he doesn’t seem sure whether the intelligence community is his friend or enemy. He attacks the CIA and FBI directors when he thinks they’re challenging his legitimacy. Then he boasts to Lavrov and Kislyak about what great intelligence he gets.** This presidential love-hate relationship with intelligence needs to change. It demeans the government and, just as important, it’s self-destructive. Intelligence relationships are built on trust. So are successful presidencies. The bull needs to get out of the china shop.”

-- **In a Post op-ed, former CIA director Michael V. Hayden says Trump’s strange affection for Russia can best be characterized by the Soviet-era term “polezni durak – or “useful fool.”** Hayden first coined the term to describe their odd relationship before the presidential election – and six months later, he writes, it “still seems a pretty apt description.”

-- **Increasingly we face a foundational national security crisis that**

is of our own making: the breakdown of trust between the president and our critical national security agencies, writes former National Counterterrorism Center director Michael Leiter.

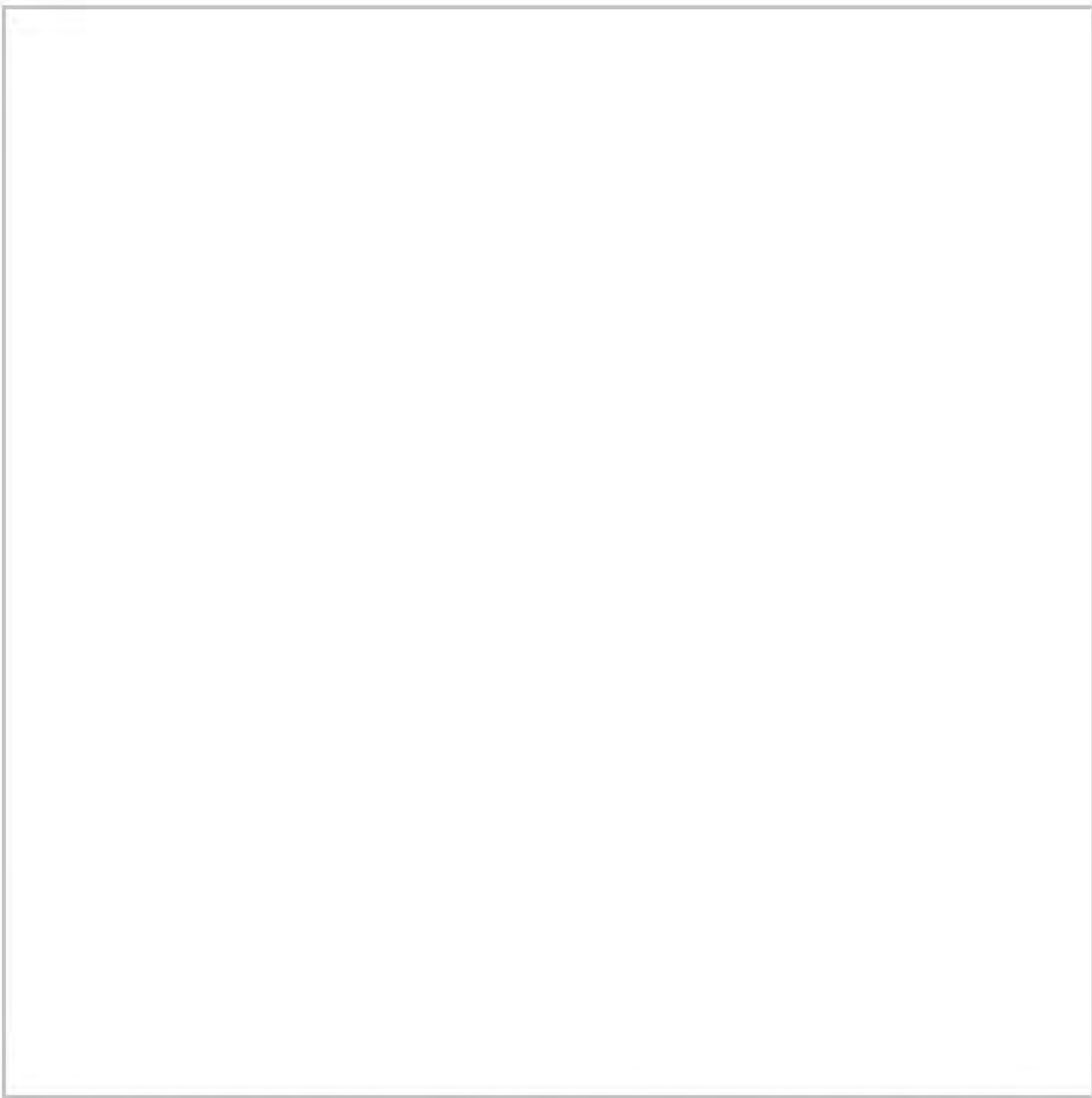
“This is not a partisan imperative; it is an American one. Attacks on the members of the intelligence community — and on objective factual analysis more broadly — contribute to demoralization, intensify aversion to risk and challenge our ability to find sources who will risk their lives for the United States. [And] the current environment virtually guarantees that leaks of classified information and sensitive policy discussions will continue to grow ... Leaks are indefensible, but the reality is that thinly veiled presidential threats directed at national security agencies and their leaders will fuel distrust and, ultimately, more leaking.”

-- Trump’s blunder can be explained largely by the fact that he views Russia as a potential partner rather than a dangerous adversary, foreign policy expert Max Boot writes for USA Today:

“He is willing to share more intelligence with the Kremlin than we share with South Korea, France, or Germany. But then, he has had more critical comments about those countries than he has ever had about Russia. What accounts for Trump's Russophilia? That is, to paraphrase [Churchill], a riddle, wrapped in a mystery, inside an enigma. Could it be that Trump simply likes strongmen like Putin? Is he financially dependent on Russian oligarchs? Is he grateful that Russia helped to elect him? Those are the questions the FBI is probing, and Trump fired [James Comey] to, by his own admission, try to bring that investigation to a close. Perhaps Trump’s relationship with Russia is entirely innocent ... **However, for purposes of explaining the disclosure, we don’t have to posit that Trump is a**

Russian agent. More likely, if hardly reassuring, is that he is simply an ignorant braggart who is unprepared for the presidency.”

-- Trump’s acknowledgment that he shared intelligence on terrorism with Russia was something of a coup for Putin, whose anti-terrorism campaign is often met with skepticism in the West, the [New York Times’ Neil MacFarquhar](#) writes. "His anti-terrorism campaign is central to his grand overall strategy of restoring Russia to the superpower status it enjoyed in Soviet times. [Still] ... the unexpected manner in which the information was shared makes it difficult to assess whether it reflects a permanent shift in course. ‘It is not something that Russia can rely on, because Trump changes like the weather,’ [said Russian political analyst Maxim Trudolyubov]. ‘It’s the kind of victory that you do not really want if you want orderly policy cooperation.’"



Sen. John Cornyn talks with reporters on Capitol Hill. (AP/Jacquelyn Martin, File)

THE SEARCH FOR A NEW FBI DIRECTOR:

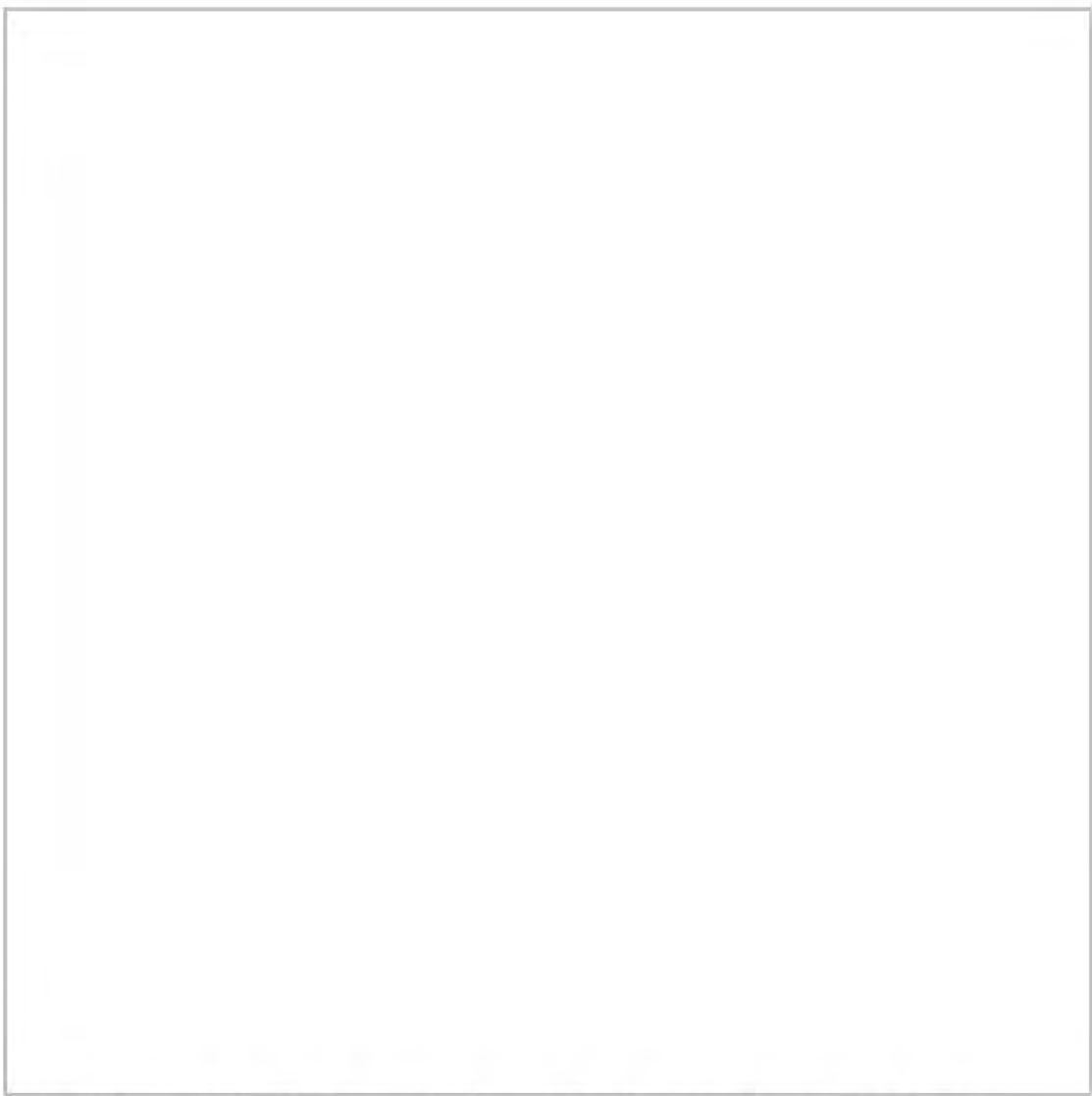
-- John Cornyn removed himself from consideration, following days of resistance from his Republican colleagues. [Sean Sullivan and Robert Barnes report](#): “Cornyn’s announcement came a day after Rep. Trey Gowdy took himself out of the running. The Texas senator also released the statement not long after reports that Judge **Merrick Garland, who some Republicans had touted for the job, is not interested. 'Now more than ever the country needs a well-credentialed, independent FBI Director,' Cornyn said in a statement.**

... Cornyn met with top Justice Department officials about possibly filling the job over the weekend. ... While Cornyn is well-liked on Capitol Hill, he is seen as a partisan whose confirmation hearing would have been expected to be highly contentious. One Republican familiar with Cornyn's thinking ... said he felt obligated to consider the job because [former Senate colleague Jeff Sessions] asked him to."

-- The single best way to maintain the essential credibility of federal law enforcement would be for President Trump to name a Democrat to run the FBI," [Walter Dellinger, a former acting Solicitor General, writes in a Post op-ed.](#) "Of course, there are many nominees from both parties who could inspire confidence ... But if there was ever a time it would be useful to continue the tradition of naming an FBI director from outside the president's party, it is now. A president who has admitted demanding to know from the FBI director whether he was under investigation has created an urgent need for someone to assure the country that he or she could not be a partisan for the president ... It's true that everything we know about Trump suggests that he is unlikely to appoint someone who doesn't show loyalty to him. But if Americans don't believe Trump can be trusted to make major decisions about an FBI director or other matters in a thoughtful and disinterested way, we're lucky to live in a nation of checks and balances."

-- "Under intense pressure from the White House, the Justice Department is prepared to aggressively prosecute government officials who leak classified information," [The Daily Beast's Betsy Woodruff reports:](#) "Justice officials [said] that targeting leakers will be a priority during Jeff Sessions' time as attorney general—a posture

that will hearten national security hawks, while concerning advocates of whistleblower protections. And the department's new leadership could be uniquely up to the task: [Deputy attorney general] Rod Rosenstein ... is no stranger to leak prosecutions; one of the most high-profile cases he worked on as the Maryland U.S. Attorney was the prosecution of James Cartwright, the former Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, on charges related to leaking. Obama pardoned him a few days before Trump's inauguration, and before his sentencing. **Rosenstein, meanwhile, was unequivocal about his view that Cartwright deserved to do prison time.** 'People who gain access to classified information after promising not to disclose it must be held accountable when they willfully violate that promise,' he said when the plea deal was announced."



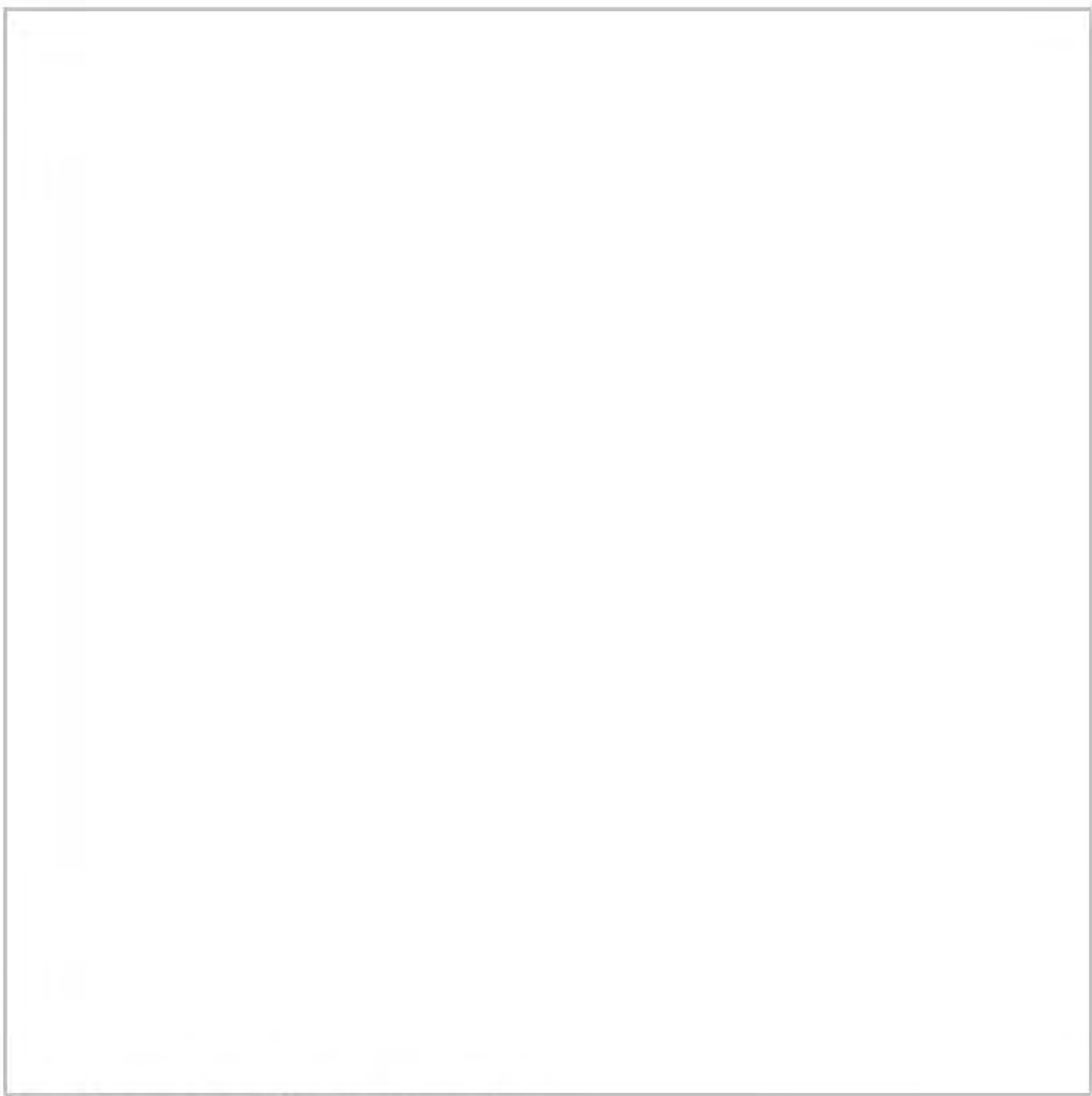
Sen. Gillibrand: No vote on new FBI Director until special prosecutor named

DEMOCRATS IN THE WILDERNESS:

-- **“The Democratic Party’s brightest stars spent Tuesday at a bustling ‘ideas conference,’ sponsored by the Center for American Progress to brainstorm an agenda for the Trump era,”** [David Weigel and Ed O’Keefe report](#): “Done right, it could break through what CAP President Neera Tanden called the ‘twenty-four-second news cycle’ and remind swing voters what the party stands for. Easier said than done. As Democrats took the stage of the Four Seasons’s basement ballroom in Washington, phones [began

buzzing] with updates. ... 'I was prepared to lay out a case today for how [Trump] is routinely betraying the working-class voters he pledged to fight for, from his budget to his tax plan to his health-care plan and more,' said Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, an oft-mentioned potential presidential candidate in 2020. 'But last night's reporting has taken us to a whole new level of abnormal. This is not business as usual.'

“As the White House tumbles from scandal to scandal, and as the president’s approval rating has sunk below 40 percent, Democrats have been handed a paradox. Trump’s actions halt the GOP’s political momentum and divide Republicans who are otherwise united on a conservative policy agenda. But in the aftermath of [Clinton’s] defeat, Democrats remember umpteen moments when it seemed that Trump would collapse — and they remember voters who thought Clinton focused on her opponent’s miscues at the expense of a message to nonvoters and the white working class.”



What's known about Seth Rich's murder

HOW THE DNC “MURDER MYSTERY” FELL APART:

-- The family of slain DNC staffer Seth Rich rejected Fox News reports that he had leaked work emails to WikiLeaks before he was fatally shot last year near his home in D.C.’s Bloomingdale neighborhood. [Peter Hermann reports](#): “The reports, which gained traction on social media, said that an FBI forensics examination showed that Rich transferred 44,053 DNC emails and 17,761 attachments to a now-deceased WikiLeaks director. Rich’s parents, Joel and Mary Ann Rich, said Tuesday through a spokesman that

they do not think their son gave any information to WikiLeaks.” Law enforcement officials have said Rich’s computer and email activity have been examined and suggest nothing that would connect him to the trove of DNC emails released 12 days after his death. The allegations were reported by Fox News, including its D.C. affiliate WTTG. The reports cited a private investigator, Rod Wheeler, whom Fox said was hired by the Rich family and had previously worked for D.C. police.”

-- For months, right-wing media outlets have floated the unproven conspiracy theories. This week, those stories dominated conservative media once again. [CNNMoney’s Oliver Darcy has more](#): “It took only hours for one of the biggest stories in conservative media this week, which some outlets had chosen to focus on over news that [Trump] disclosed classified information to senior Russian officials, to fall apart. Breitbart, Drudge and Fox all gave the story play. But Tuesday afternoon, Wheeler told CNN he had no evidence to suggest Rich had contacted Wikileaks before his death. Wheeler instead said he only learned about the possible existence of such evidence through the reporter he spoke to for the FoxNews.com story. He explained that the comments he made to WTTG-TV were intended to simply *preview* Fox News’ Tuesday story.” “I only got that [information] from the reporter at Fox News,” Wheeler told CNN.

THE AGENDA:

-- Some graduating seniors at the University of Notre Dame say they plan to protest the presence of Vice President Pence at their commencement by standing up and quietly walking out of the

ceremony. School officials say they won't try to stop them. From [Valerie Strauss](#): “Pence will give the commencement address at the nation’s most prominent Catholic university on Sunday. In the past, the university invited newly inaugurated presidents to give the address in their first year of office — and the six presidents previous to Donald Trump accepted — but this year was different. Thousands of students and faculty members signed a petition asking Notre Dame’s president not to invite him, saying that they did not think Trump’s actions and behavior were in line with the school’s values. While there were Trump supporters who wanted him to speak, the school decided to instead invite Pence. A coalition of student activist groups at Notre Dame called We StaND For is planning the walkout to protest policies Pence pursued as governor that they say targeted the most vulnerable.”

-- In April, the EPA issued a call for comments about what federal regulations are in need of repeal, replacement or modification – an effort stemming from an executive order issued by Trump earlier this year. [Brady Dennis reports](#): “More than 55,100 responses rolled in by the time the comment period closed on Monday — but they were full of Americans sharing their experiences of growing up with dirty air and water, and with pleas for the agency not to undo safeguards that could return the country to more a more polluted era. ‘Environmental regulations came about for a reason. It is not a conspiracy to harm corporations. ‘Know your history or you’ll be doomed to repeat it,’ one commenter wrote. Others resorted to all caps: Regulations are PROTECTIONS. Please enforce all existing clean air and water protections and consider creating more,” said one responder. So here are my thoughts on doing away with existing EPA

regulations, or doing away with the EPA itself: ARE YOU BLOODY CRAZY?????” replied another. The thousands of comments echoed those at a three-hour ‘virtual listening session’ that the EPA held earlier this month, in which a litany of callers ... urged the agency not to jettison protections for clean water and clean air in the name of reducing burdens on corporations.”

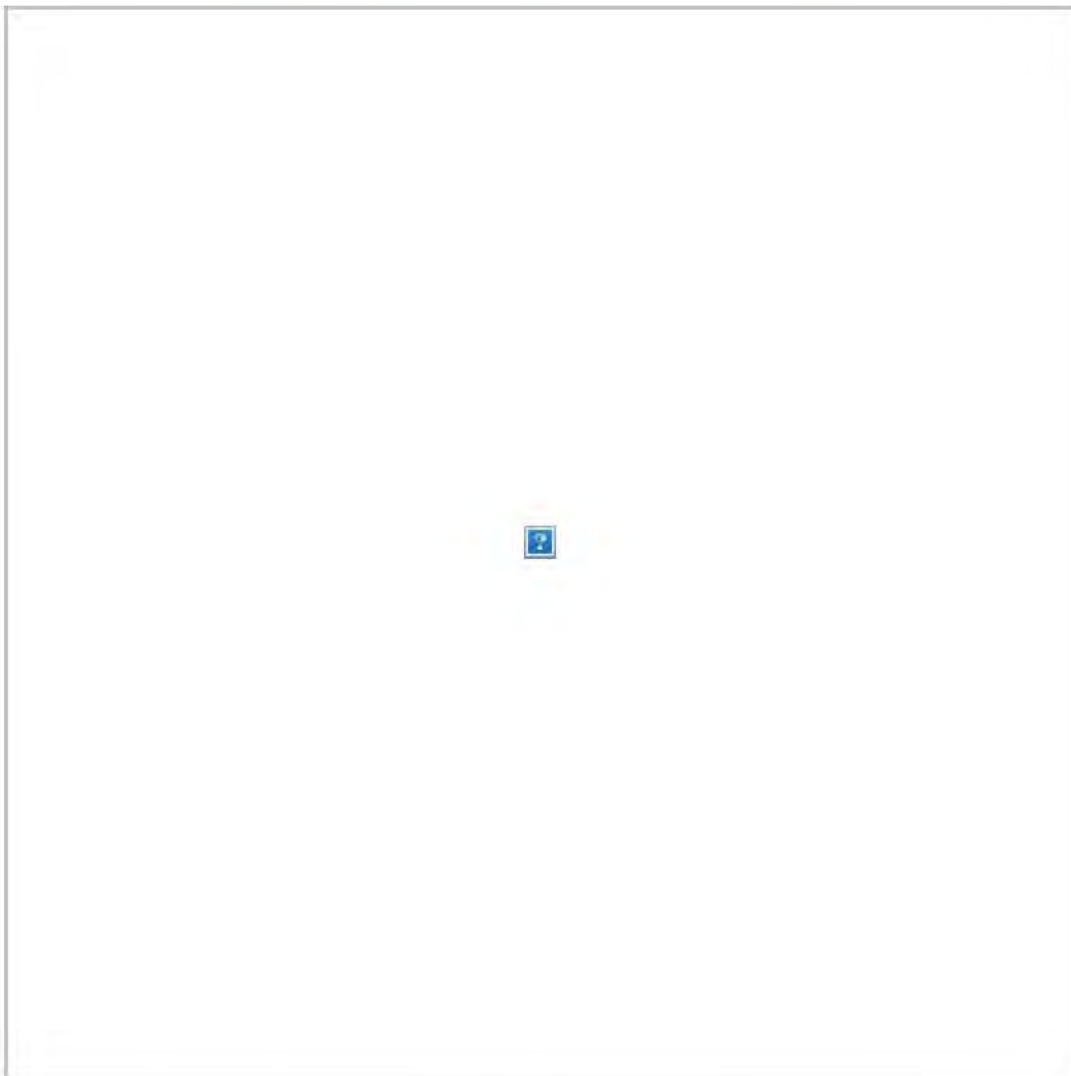
-- With so much happening around energy and environmental policy under Trump, we’re going to launch THE ENERGY 202 next Tuesday. Dino Grandoni has joined The Post to anchor this new product. [For his daily insights, sign up here.](#)

-- Federal investigators subpoenaed records related to a \$3.5 million “mystery mortgage” that Paul Manafort took out on his Hamptons home just after leaving Trump’s presidential campaign. From NBC News’ [Tom Winter and Kenzi Abou-Sabe](#): “The mortgage document that explains how Manafort would pay back the loan was never filed with Suffolk County, New York — and Manafort’s company never paid up to \$36,000 in taxes that would be due on the loan ... On August 19, 2016, Manafort left the Trump campaign amid media reports about his previous work for a pro-Russian political party in Ukraine, including allegations he received millions of dollars in payments. That same day, Manafort created a holding company called Summerbreeze LLC. Several weeks later, a document called a UCC filed with the state of New York shows that Summerbreeze took out a \$3.5 million loan on Manafort’s home in the tony beach enclave of Bridgehampton. A review [of state records] shows the loan was made by S C 3, a subsidiary of Spruce Capital, which was co-founded by Joshua Crane, who has partnered with [Trump] on real estate

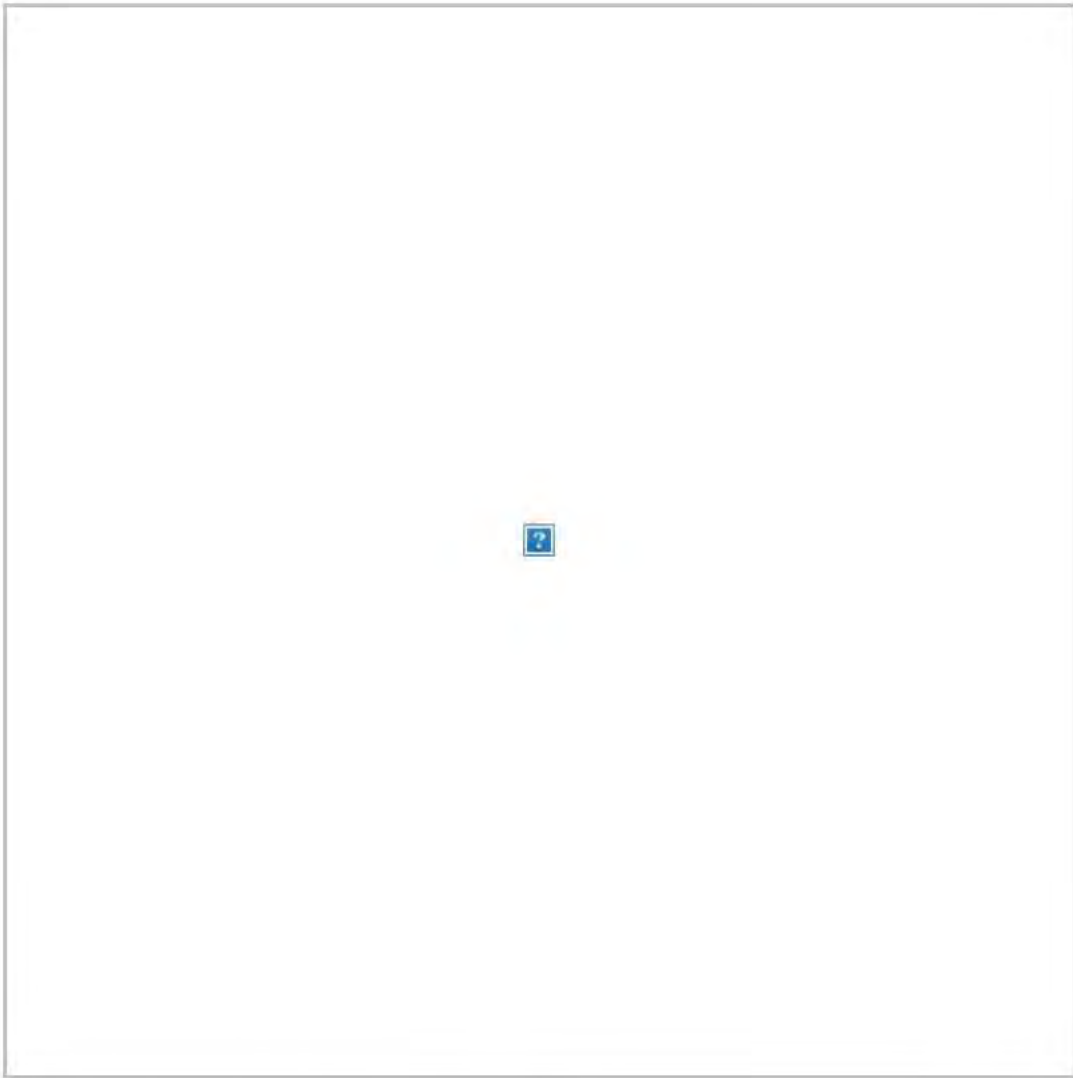
deals. Spruce is also partially funded by Ukrainian-American real-estate magnate Alexander Rovt, who tried to donate \$10,000 to Trump's presidential campaign on Election Day."

SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:

The Republican Party and Trump's reelection committee are [fundraising off Trump's very challenging news cycle](#):



Tempers are [running very raw](#) on Capitol Hill right now:



GOOD READS FROM ELSEWHERE:

-- Politico, **[“The Kennedy Democrats don’t want,”](#)** by **Natasha Korecki**: “For years, Democrats have tried to cajole Chris Kennedy into running statewide in Illinois, hoping that the wealthy son of the late Robert F. Kennedy could parlay his exalted family name into high office. So when Kennedy finally announced a bid for governor in February, comparisons to Camelot abounded. He took the early lead in polling and drew an almost immediate endorsement from a coalition of county chairmen in Southern Illinois. Now, three months later, Kennedy has fallen out of favor with key labor groups and powerful

forces within the Democratic establishment. **And he's facing a roadblock that's unfamiliar to his family: pressure to drop out of the race.** There's mounting evidence that powerful Democratic players in the state ... are steering unions, interest groups or politicians to throw their support behind billionaire J.B. Pritzker, the brother of former U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker. The subject isn't discussed in public, [and] Kennedy's campaign says he hasn't explicitly been asked to get out ... But there's no mistaking the political calculus at work."

-- Bloomberg, "**How Trump's Rust Belt Voters Have Changed Since the Election,**" by Esmé E. Deprez , Jeff Green , Mark Niquette and Elise Young: "In the aftermath of November's election, there was the sense in many East Coast circles that it wouldn't take long for the voters of Middle America to regret their decision to put Donald Trump in the White House. Seven months later, we've found few signs of such remorse. We've been tracking a group of Trump supporters from the four key Heartland states that helped swing the election: Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Michigan. True, there has been slippage in support for him in some cases, but what comes through clearly is that the emotional bond between the firebrand politician and his base remains very strong ..."

-- The Atlantic, "**My Family's Slave,**" by Alex Tizon: "She lived with us for 56 years. She raised me and my siblings without pay. I was 11, a typical American kid, before I realized who she was."

DAYBOOK:

At the White House: Trump will depart for Groton, Connecticut and

deliver remarks at the United States Coast Guard Academy Commencement Ceremony. Pence will deliver remarks at an Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month reception.

HOT ON THE LEFT:

“Fox News Contributor Apologizes for Comments About Boy With Autism,” from Variety: “Fox News contributor Tammy Bruce apologized on air for calling a 10-year-old autistic boy a ‘snowflake’ — a derogatory term used by certain conservatives to describe liberals. Her initial comment was in response to a video that went viral of [Mike Pence] accidentally smacking the boy in the face last week ... Pence was gesturing while addressing the crowd when he bumped the boy, Michael Herrera-Yee, on the nose. Herrera-Yee politely but adamantly requested an apology from Pence, to which Pence eventually obliged. The incident sparked discussion on ‘Tucker Carlson Tonight,’ when Bruce said, **‘I guess we’re giving birth to**

HOT ON THE RIGHT:

“Yale dean once championed cultural sensitivity. Then she called people ‘white trash’ on Yelp,” from Samantha Schmidt: “As the dean of Yale University’s Pierson College, June Chu [has a PhD in social psychology] and is responsible for advising about 500 students and fostering ‘a familiar, comfortable living environment’ ... But the administrator’s seemingly supportive and culturally sensitive persona has been marred since Yale students came across her Yelp account. The posts ... referred to customers as ‘white trash’ and ‘low class folks’ ... ‘If you are white trash, this is the perfect night out for you!’ Chu wrote in a review about a Japanese restaurant, which she said lacked authenticity but was perfect for ‘those low class

snowflakes now, because that kid needed a safe space in that room.””

folks who believe this is a real night out.’ In a 2015 review, she called a movie cinema’s employees ‘barely educated morons trying to manage snack orders for the obese and also try to add \$7 plus \$7.””

QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“I think we’ve seen this movie before,” said John McCain. “I think it appears at a point where it’s of Watergate size and scale. ... The shoes continue to drop, and every couple days there’s a new aspect.”

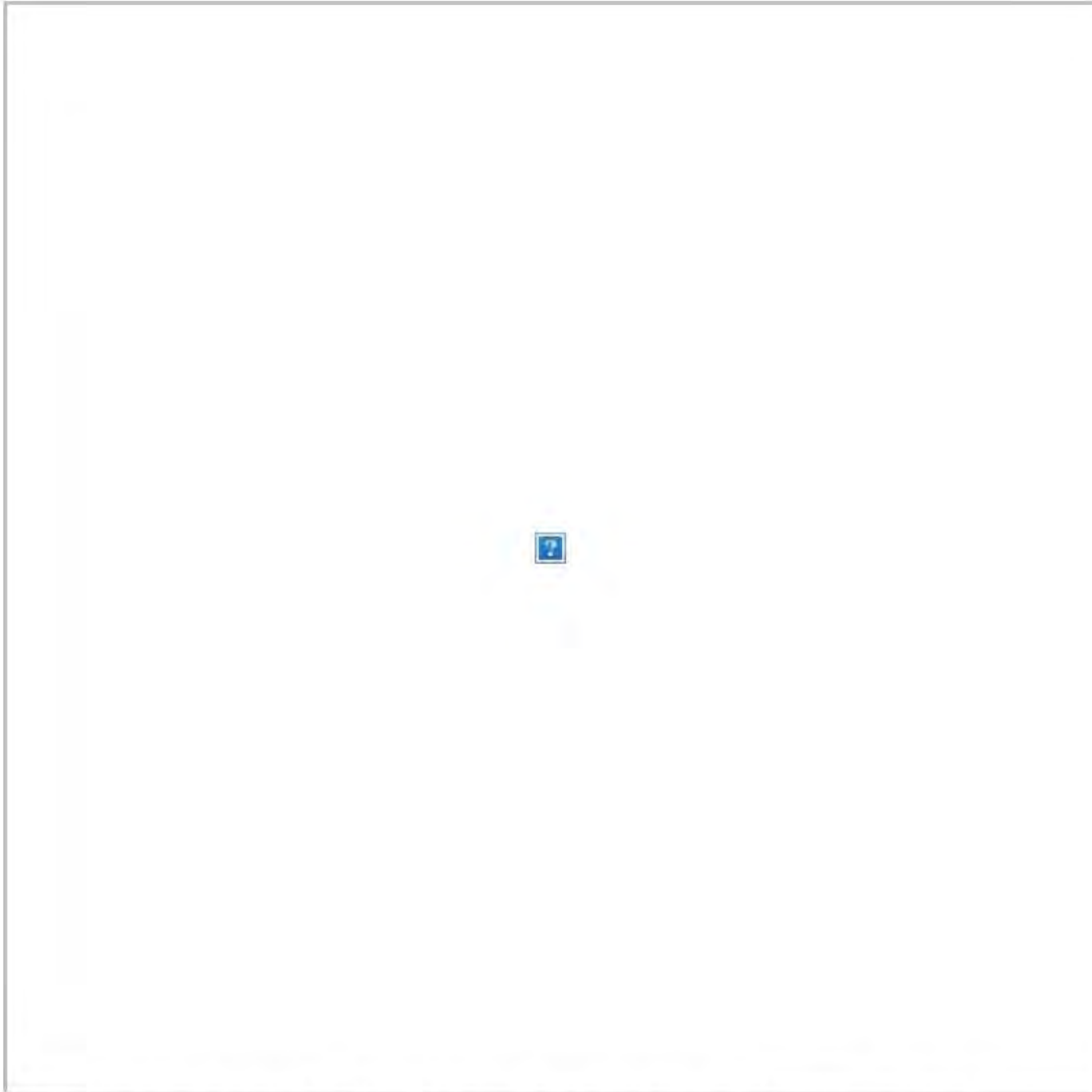
NEWS YOU CAN USE IF YOU LIVE IN D.C.:

-- **Back to the heat! And a LOT of it.** The [Capital Weather Gang](#) forecasts: “It actually feels pretty good early on today. Temperatures are refreshing and it’s not all that humid — yet. But as the morning wears on and especially into the afternoon, the sun beats down and it becomes hot and muggy. Highs are around 90 — and Washington’s record high for the date of 92 degrees from 1974 may be in play.”

-- **The Nationals [beat the Pirates 8-4.](#)**

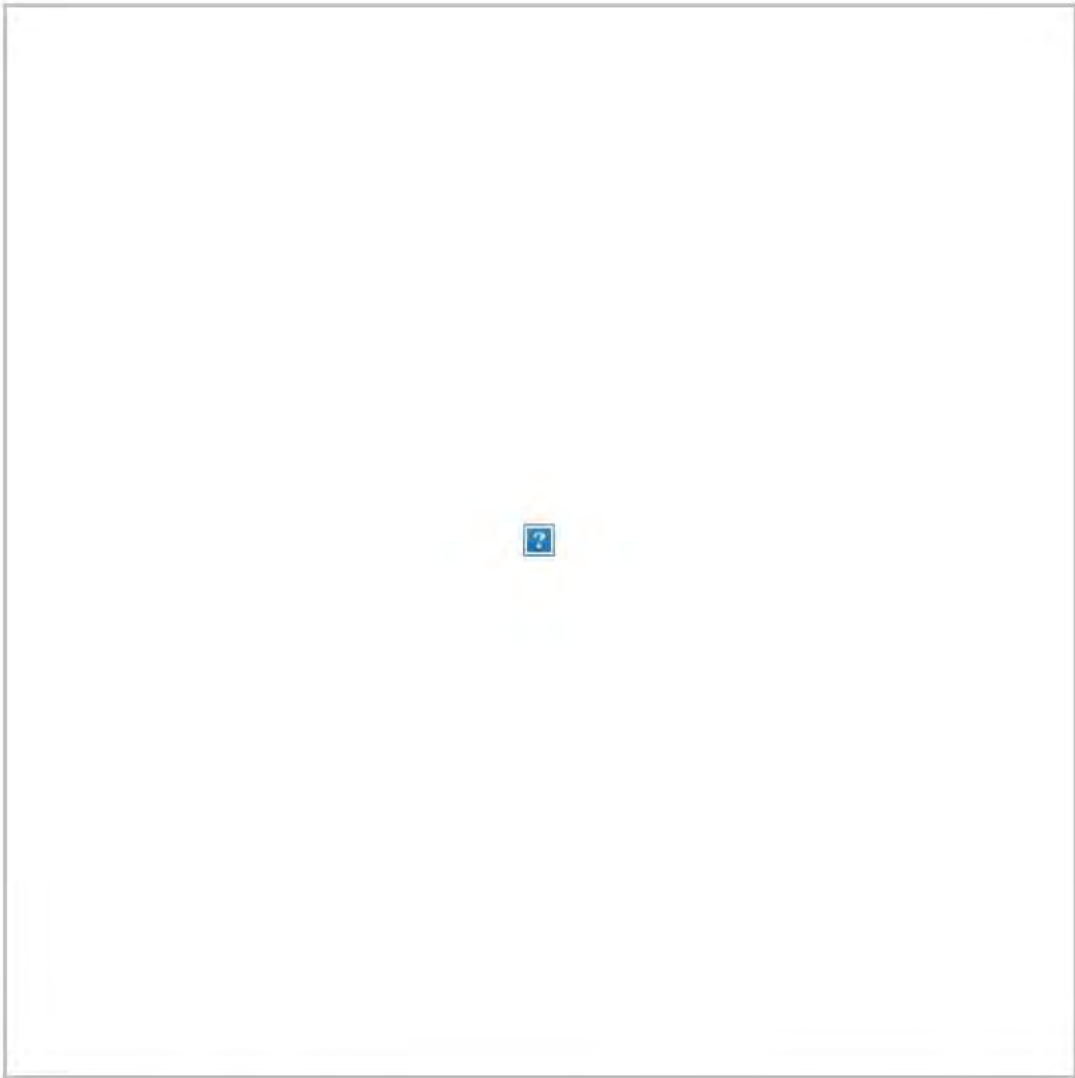
VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

Here is our five-word acceptance speech from Monday night's Webby Awards in New York:



The Washington Post's 5-Word Speech at the 21st Annual Webby Awards

Warren ripped into Trump during her speech at the CAP conference:



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From: Spaulding, Suzanne
To: [NPPD Front Office](#)
Subject: Fw: The Homeland Security News Briefing for Tuesday, January 10, 2017
Date: Tuesday, January 10, 2017 7:26:14 AM

Pls print

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2017 05:55 AM
To: Spaulding, Suzanne; Manfra, Jeanette; (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6)
Subject: Re: The Homeland Security News Briefing for Tuesday, January 10, 2017

<http://www.politico.com/story/2017/01/state-electoral-system-hacking-homeland-security-233349>

<http://www.nass.org/news-releases-and-statements/release-nass-statement-critical-infrastructure-designation-010917/>

http://www.nass.org/component/docman/?task=doc_download&gid=1868&Itemid=829

The first link is likely duplicative. The NASS statement is the second one. And the third one is from the EAC commissioner we've had the least interaction with.

V/R,
Neil

From: Spaulding, Suzanne
Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2017 05:10 AM
To: Manfra, Jeanette; (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6)
Subject: Fw: The Homeland Security News Briefing for Tuesday, January 10, 2017

Do we have the NASS statement?

From: Bulletin Intelligence [mailto:DHS@BulletinIntelligence.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2017 05:01 AM
To: DHS@BulletinIntelligence.com <DHS@BulletinIntelligence.com>
Subject: The Homeland Security News Briefing for Tuesday, January 10, 2017

The Homeland Security News Briefing

TO: THE SECRETARY AND SENIOR STAFF

DATE: TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2017 5:00 AM EST

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- + Texas CBP Horse Patrol Units To Attend Trump Inauguration.
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- + [Chinese State Media Cautions Trump Against Terminating One-China Principle.](#)

Leading DHS News:

STATE ELECTION OFFICIALS DENOUNCE DHS DECISION TO CLASSIFY ELECTORAL SYSTEM AS "CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE."

[Politico](#) (1/9, Geller, 2.46M) reports, "State election officials on Monday denounced the Department of Homeland Security's decision to label the country's electoral system as 'critical infrastructure.'" The National Association of Secretaries of State "lashed out at the decision" on Monday, saying it "is legally and historically unprecedented, raising many questions and concerns for states and localities with authority over the administration of our voting process." State officials "have expressed concerns that the 'critical infrastructure' tag could presage a federal takeover of local elections." DHS "has countered that the label does not create new regulations for states – it simply makes the cybersecurity of polling places, election machines, voter databases and other election technology a formal priority for the agency."

The [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (1/9, Torres, 1.41M) reports Georgia Secretary of State Brian Kemp "took to his Facebook page after the announcement and slammed the whole idea," saying, "This

provocative but predictable decision moves the federal government one step closer to controlling the elections process. I am completely opposed to this blatant overreach and will continue to fight to keep election systems under the control of state government where it belongs.”

The [AP](#) (1/9, Abdollah) reports that in announcing the move, Secretary Johnson “gave only short notice to the National Association of Secretaries of State and U.S. Election Assistance Commission.” The AP says, “Officials at both agencies are criticizing the department, saying it failed to fully answer their questions about the step.”

[Federal Computer Week](#) (1/9, Rockwell, 263K) reports, “Former U.S. CERT director Ann Barron-DiCamillo told FCW in a Jan. 9 email that the designation clears away a practical obstacle for states and local governments to ask for assistance from DHS.” George Washington University Center for Cyber and Homeland Security director Frank Cilluffo “said the designation was ‘more of a bureaucratic enabler’ that gives states voluntary access to faster help from DHS, not a power grab by the federal government to get control of the electoral process.”

LEETARU: MORE EXAMINATION NEEDED OF VULNERABILITIES THAT ENABLED ALLEGED RUSSIAN INTERFERENCE IN ELECTION. Kalev Leetaru writes in [Forbes](#) (1/9, Leetaru, 15.17M) that “missing from” the “breathless headlines” over Russian hackers targeting the US in the midst of the election “is the far more important story of just how the Russians could have managed to do all of this against the very nation that brought the modern Internet to life.” Leetaru says “it is fascinating that there [has] not [been] more discussion placing that hacking in the context of other major cyber intrusions, such as the US Office of Personnel Management breach.” Leetaru says the US’s “improvements to its cyber posture” have not been as “sweeping” as the changes Estonia implemented after 2007, when it “became the first nation to weather a national cyberattack.” Leetaru recommends that investigations not be focused strictly on the election itself, “but rather on understanding the vulnerabilities that made that influence possible, from underdefended presidential campaigns to journalistic and academic norms on the use of stolen data.”

SENATE STAFFER: MCCAIN’S ESTABLISHMENT OF CYBER SUBCOMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS “CONGRESSIONAL TURF WAR.” [Bloomberg BNA](#) (1/9, Stoller, 7K) reports, “Sen. John McCain’s (R-Ariz.) establishment of a Senate Armed Forces cybersecurity subcommittee Jan. 4 likely highlights a congressional turf war over U.S. cybersecurity oversight, a Senate staffer told Bloomberg BNA.” Bloomberg adds, “The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Chairman Richard Burr (R-NC) and McCain have sparred in the past over leadership of cybersecurity issues, the staffer said.”

SCHUMER CALLS FOR THOROUGH VETTING FOR TRUMP CABINET PICKS. [Reuters](#) (1/9, Holland) reports Senator Chuck Schumer on Monday “decried what he called undue haste to confirm President-elect Donald Trump’s nominations for various top posts,” calling for “a thorough and thoughtful vetting process.” Schumer “said Trump’s nominees, many of whom have extensive business backgrounds at companies such as Exxon Mobil Corp and Goldman Sachs, should be carefully scrutinized to be sure they avoid conflicts of interest.” The hearings, which are slated to begin Tuesday, will start with Senator Jeff Sessions, Trump’s pick for Attorney General, and retired General John Kelly, Trump’s nominee for Secretary of Homeland Security.

According to [Fox News](#) (1/9, 11.07M), Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ) announced Monday that he intends to testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee in opposition to Sessions’ nomination, as will Rep. John Lewis (D-GA) and Rep. Cedric Richmond (D-LA), as part of what Fox News calls “an effort by Democrats to portray Sessions as out of the mainstream on civil rights legislation.” The article notes that Kelly, who is reportedly “expected to be easily confirmed by the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee and the full Senate, would be the first non-civilian to head DHS since the department was created in 2002.”

NYTIMES ANALYSIS: KELLY’S GREATEST CHALLENGES AT DHS COULD COME FROM INSIDE TRUMP TEAM. The [New York Times](#) (1/9, Nixon, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that Homeland Security Secretary-designate Gen. John Kelly warned Congress two years ago that the nation “was not focusing on the security threat presented by the financial and operational relationship between terrorist

networks and drug smuggling organizations.” Now, “his view of the threat to the southern border is likely to be the subject of questioning during his confirmation hearing on Tuesday.” While Kelly “is expected to be easily confirmed by the Senate Homeland Security Committee, and then by the full Senate,” his “biggest challenges might come from within the new Trump administration, particularly over the threat posed by Russia and over Mr. Trump’s plan to build a border wall and to increase the number of border agents.” Kelly has called Russia “a threat to United States leadership in the Western Hemisphere,” and he has “called for a more balanced approach to protecting the borders.”

INSERRA: DHS HAMPERED BY EXCESSIVE OVERSIGHT DEMANDS. In an analysis for the [Washington Times](#) (1/9, Inserra, 272K), David Inserra of the Heritage Foundation’s Allison Center for Foreign and National Security Policy argues that “streamlining congressional oversight is a good idea,” but lawmakers should focus on the Department of Homeland Security instead of the independent Office of Congressional Ethics. According to Inserra, DHS has “a far smaller budget” than the Department of Defense but “reports to over 100 committees,” compared with “only’ 36 committees and subcommittees” to which the DOD testifies, because “DHS was created by cobbling together pieces of 22 existing agencies, and the committees that had jurisdiction over those 22 pieces didn’t want to give up any of their turf.” Inserra concludes that “Trump ran a campaign that promised to drain the swamp,” and “the morass that is congressional oversight of DHS desperately needs draining.”

Immigration and Customs Enforcement:

BOWSER SAYS DC “DOUBLING DOWN” AS SANCTUARY CITY. The [Washington Post](#) (1/9, Davis, 11.43M) reports DC Mayor Muriel Bowser announced Monday new “plans to award grants to defense attorneys and nonprofits to represent any of the District’s estimated 25,000 illegal immigrants who are faced with deportation.” The Post says the “fund will also help illegal immigrants in D.C. to apply for asylum, and will provide representation for those residing in the city legally on green cards to stay permanently, by obtaining US citizenship.” The article says that Bowser, in a statement, indicated “the District is ‘doubling down’ on its status as a sanctuary city.”

BOULDER ADOPTED SANCTUARY POLICIES LONG BEFORE THE “SANCTUARY CITY” LABEL. The [Huffington Post](#) (1/9, Planas, 237K) reports that last week’s vote by Boulder, Colorado’s city council to make Boulder a “sanctuary city” was not a policy change, but that the formal designation was council’s way of “making a point to President-elect Donald Trump.” The Post says city leaders “shrugged off Trump’s threats to withhold federal funds from cities that fail to cooperate with his proposed immigration crackdown.” The Post says the city gets \$8 million in federal funds annually, which amounts to only 2 percent of its budget. The piece notes that Boulder adopted sanctuary policies as early as 2014, when a federal court ruled that ICE requests to local police to hold immigrants “weren’t mandatory.”

UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANT IN PENNSYLVANIA MAY STILL FACE DEPORTATION. [WPXI-TV](#) Pittsburgh (1/9, 226K) reports Martin Esquivel-Hernandez, an undocumented immigrant from Mexico who settled in Pennsylvania and became an activist in the Latino community, “may be deported after spending eight months in an immigration prison.” The piece reports he “pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor crossing the border charge two weeks ago, meaning he’s not a priority for deportation under federal guidelines,” but also says “the chance of him staying, though, could be fading.” In a statement, ICE said that based on two prior misdemeanor convictions, “US Immigration and Customs Enforcement has designated Mr. Esquivel-Hernandez’s case as a priority for immigration enforcement.”

The [Harrisburg \(PA\) Patriot-News](#) (1/9, 523K) also reports that ICE has confirmed that despite the plea deal Esquivel-Hernandez struck with prosecutors, he “remains a priority for deportation based on his ‘two misdemeanor convictions, one from 2012 and one from 2017.’” ICE officials have noted their efforts to have him deported continue, with supporters saying that deportation could happen as early as Tuesday.

Esquivel-Hernandez’s attorney Jennifer Williams, however, “submitted a written motion today with ICE to stop the deportation,” the [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#) (1/9, Smith, 493K) adds, while the [Pittsburgh City Paper](#) (1/9, Deto, 193K) similarly says the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement “filed a stay on behalf of Esquivel-Hernandez on Jan. 9, in hopes that ICE officers have more time to review his case

before deporting him.”

TEXAS GOV. ABBOTT PLEDGES TO SIGN ANTI-SANCTUARY BILL. [Fox News](#) (1/9, Ward, 11.07M) reports that Texas Gov. Greg Abbott said that an anti- sanctuary bill is expected to pass the Legislature sometime this year. The article notes Abbott has “pledged to sign Senate Bill 4, which would require municipalities to enforce migrant detainers at local jails and withhold state grants if they don’t comply.” It also notes Abbott has clashed with “newly elected Travis County Sheriff Sally Hernandez, who vowed to remove Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents from the Austin jail.”

HOUSE REPUBLICANS INTRODUCE THREE BILLS TO BLOCK FUNDING TO SANCTUARY CITIES. The [Huffington Post](#) (1/9, Papenfuss, 237K) reports House Republicans have introduced three measures seeking to withhold federal funds to so-called “sanctuary cities.” One bill, the Mobilizing Against Sanctuary Cities Act (HR 83), introduced by Rep. Lou Barletta, would “strip federal funding from such jurisdictions,” while another bill introduced by Rep. Andy Harris would similarly deny federal funds to any entity refusing to comply with ICE. The third bill would block Title IV funds specifically to sanctuary campuses.

JUDGE ALLOWS STEINLE FAMILY TO PURSUE SUIT AGAINST GOVERNMENT. The [San Jose \(CA\) Mercury News](#) (1/9, Peele, 654K) reports US District Court Judge Joseph Spero, in a 49-page ruling, has refused to throw out a lawsuit by the family of Kate Steinle, a woman who was killed by a Mexican man who stole a gun from the seat of an unattended Bureau of Land Management vehicle. The suit alleges negligence on the part of the government, as well as that of the city of San Francisco and ICE, which they say “contributed to the killing because they failed to detain Lopez Sanchez.”

The [AP](#) (1/9) reports Spero dismissed the claims against San Francisco, allowing only the claims against the government to move forward. According to the AP, “Spero said in his ruling on Friday that the sheriff did not violate state or federal law by prohibiting his deputies from telling immigration officials when an inmate is released.”

IOWA LAWMAKER LIKELY TO INTRODUCE ANTI-SANCTUARY CITY LEGISLATION. The [AP](#) (1/9) reports state Rep. Steven Holt has said he will “likely re-introduce legislation requiring state and local governments to cooperate with federal immigration officials if Iowa City opts not to enforce immigration laws.” According to the AP, Holt has indicated that he will “feel compelled” to do this if Iowa City approves a “sanctuary city” resolution, preventing it from “spending funds on enforcing immigration laws.” The city, however, has said it won’t formally adopt the sanctuary label.

BOSTON COPS INCREASINGLY DENYING ICE DETAINER REQUESTS. The [Boston Herald](#) (1/10, Encarnacao, 509K) reports Boston-area authorities are increasingly blowing off federal immigration officials’ requests to detain “illegals in police custody...for possible deportations, according to new” data obtained from ICE. According to the Herald, the Boston’s “pushback...bucks a national trend that has seen a sharp drop in the number of” ICE detainer requests “that have been denied by local law enforcement.” Center for Immigration Studies director of policy studies Jessica Vaughan “said Boston’s detainer denial rate is particularly disturbing after ICE decided to expressly focus on immigrants with criminal records,” arguing that “they’re really boiling it down to worst of the worst...and if they’re rejecting even those detainers, you have to ask yourself what public safety risk they are creating.”

Customs and Border Protection:

CBP OFFICER STOPPED RUNAWAY TRAIN AT ARIZONA BORDER CROSSING. The [AP](#) (1/9) reports a “slow-moving runaway” Union Pacific Railroad train struck “a border fence in Arizona after leaving Mexico unmanned on Monday morning.” Though it’s “unclear how or why the train took off without a conductor,” the AP says “U.S. Customs and Border Protection says an officer stopped the train by jumping in and pulling the visible emergency break.” The train was returned to Mexico by Monday afternoon.

According to the [Arizona Daily Star](#) (1/9, 270K), the train hit “the rail gate at the Port of Nogales’

DeConcini crossing,” resulting in “minor damage to the metal plates and chain link fence that make up the gate.”

Nogales Port Of Entry Resumes Normal Operations. [Tucson News Now \(AZ\)](#) (1/9, Carrillo, 32K) reports the Dennis DeConcini Port of Entry in Nogales resumed its normal operations Monday morning, after being “forced to shut down over the weekend after disruptions from people protesting rising gas prices in Nogales.” Travelers in and out of the US were diverted to the Mariposa Crossing before the DeConcini Port was reopened.

TEXAS CBP HORSE PATROL UNITS TO ATTEND TRUMP INAUGURATION. The [San Antonio Express-News](#) (1/9, Bradshaw, 844K) reports “eight Texas-based horse patrol units” will attend President-elect Trump’s inauguration in Washington, DC next week, according to a US Customs and Border Protection news release. The Express-News says the event will be the first time the Rio Grande Valley Sector Horse Patrol has attended a presidential inauguration – the release says “the U.S. Border Patrol has participated in inauguration ceremonies before, but never the horse patrol.”

According to the [Brownsville \(TX\) Herald](#) (1/9, 40K), RGV Sector Chief Patrol Agent Manuel Padilla said in the release, “The inauguration in Washington, D.C. is a hallmark event and we are proud to represent the US Border Patrol in this fashion with distinguished agents whose presence will surely enhance the festivities.”

LATIMES: CBP HAS IMPROVED ACCOUNTABILITY AND USE-OF-FORCE, BUT WILL PROGRESS CONTINUE UNDER TRUMP? The [Los Angeles Times](#) (1/9, Board, 4.52M) Editorial Board says the “Obama administration has struggled to change a culture of violence and impunity within the U.S. Border Patrol” that “tolerated excessive force against suspected border crossers,” but the Administration has succeeded in forcing “some improvements in both transparency and accountability, as well as reductions in the use of force, under Customs and Border Protection Commissioner R. Gil Kerlikowske.” The Times says CBP “continues to face dogged problems with bribery and other underhanded actions by some of the agents,” and it remains to be seen “whether the Border Patrol will continue to improve under the Trump administration.” The Times concludes that the incoming administration faces the challenge of “securing borders and enforcing immigration and customs laws without adopting a militarized outlook or violating basic civil rights and civil liberties.”

Transportation Security Administration:

CHICAGO O’HARE AIRPORT SECURITY BREACHED. David Kerley of [ABC World News Tonight](#) (1/9, story 10, 1:10, Muir, 14.63M) reported 21-year-old Malik Neal allegedly burst through a Chicago O’Hare airport TSA checkpoint but no TSA agents pursued him. Neal is accused of accosting two TSA officers and two Chicago police officers in the gate area prior to his arrest. Kerley noted TSA officers and airport security do not have arrest authority. Former TSA official John Halinski said the incident exposes a vulnerability in airport security measures.

TSA LAYS OUT FIREARM REGULATIONS AT CHARLESTON AIRPORT. Part of the Transportation Security Administration’s response to a deadly shooting Friday at the Ft. Lauderdale airport, [WCBD-TV](#) Charleston, SC (1/9, Holland, 33K) reports on its website, included outlining firearm regulations at Charleston International Airport. TSA says guns and ammunition must be “unloaded and locked in hard case,” and travelers must declare the items during the check-in process.

TSA’S SEARCH FOR CT SCANNERS MEANS BIG BUSINESS FOR MASSACHUSETTS. The [Boston Business Journal](#) (1/9, O’Brien, Subscription Publication, 90K) reports in subscriber-only content that “CT scanners promise to shorten airport security lines and better protect passengers,” and the Transportation Security Administration’s search is bringing “big business” to Massachusetts.

LAX’S ANTI-TERRORISM INTELLIGENCE UNIT PROFILED. In a nearly 5,800-word article, [The Atlantic](#) (1/9, Manaugh, 5.35M) profiles Anthony McGinty and Michelle Sosa, who “were hired by Los Angeles World Airports to lead a unique, new classified intelligence unit on the West Coast” after a suicide

bombing in 2014 showed security holes at Los Angeles International Airport. The article includes “scenarios...not examples of actual events that have taken place, or of real threats that have been averted, but [that] are instead meant as provocative fictions,” similar to the annual Aviation Security Contingency Plan Exercise, or AVSEC. The Atlantic mentions that an “unemployed anti-government conspiracy theorist...drove to LAX in November 2013 for no other reason than to shoot and kill a Transportation Security Administration (TSA) agent.”

Federal Emergency Management Agency:

RAIN TRIGGERS FLOODING IN CALIFORNIA, PROMPTS NEVADA GOVERNOR TO DECLARE STATE OF EMERGENCY. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (1/9, story 2, 2:25, Muir, 14.63M) reported that heavy rains triggered mudslides in California on Monday. The rainfall came from a storm that also prompted the governor of Nevada to declare a flood state of emergency. The deaths of at least eight people, including four in the West, are being blamed on recent severe US weather. The [CBS Evening News](#) (1/9, story 9, 1:40, Pelley, 11.17M) reported, “A week of heavy snow and rain in northern California and Nevada has led to the worst flooding in a decade” in that part of the country. [NBC Nightly News](#) (1/9, story 6, 2:00, Holt, 16.61M) reported that at least 40 rivers were “surging above flood stage” in California on Monday. Near Reno, Nevada, meanwhile, a disaster was declared and flood-related evacuations were ordered.

FEMA Activates Response Coordination Center To Help With California Flooding. [KNTV-TV](#) San Jose, CA (1/9, Hernandez, 130K) reports on its website that FEMA “activated its regional Response Coordination Center in downtown Oakland on Monday to prepare for a possible federal response” to flood-related problems in California. Quoted in the story is FEMA’s Ahsha Tribble, who said, “We’re looking ahead, looking at the next storm and posturing ourselves here with federal resources in the event the state calls us for assistance.”

US Citizenship and Immigration Services:

USCIS NOT PARTICIPATING IN GSA’S IDENTITY MANAGEMENT PILOT TEST. [Federal News Radio \(DC\)](#) (1/9, Miller, 16K) reports that USCIS has decided not to participate in the pilot test of the Login.gov platform in 2017, which the article says is putting the “customer-friendly, usable identity management approach” on the “edge of viability.” Accordingly, USCIS’ decision “comes around the same time as the General Services Administration’s 18F organization started to get some momentum behind the program.” The piece also notes that it is seen as a “blow to a concept that has struggled over the last 15 years.”

PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE-REVIEW: TRUMP MUST REFORM EB-5. The [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#) (1/9, 350K) argues in an editorial President-elect Trump must “address fraud and abuse in America’s EB-5 visa program, which provides a citizenship path for foreigners who invest at least \$500,000 to \$1 million in job-creating projects,” and which the editors claim “critics say...allows wealthy foreign investors to buy admission to the U.S.” According to the Tribune-Review, a former US Citizenship and Immigration Services head “was blasted by an inspector general for ‘unprecedented’ intervention that secured ‘EB-5 approvals in cases involving politically connected Democrats,’ including former Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid.” While Trump has not yet commented on the issue, the Tribune-Review says “fellow Republican and former New York Gov. George Pataki expects he’ll keep EB-5” because the incoming President “understands the need for capital, the need for investment.”

Immigration:

WPOST: IMMIGRATION COURTS NEED MORE JUDGES. The [Washington Post](#) (1/9, 11.43M) editorializes that US immigration courts “are a diorama of dysfunction, staggering under a crushing caseload,” which “has doubled in the past six years” and “now exceeds half a million cases; thousands more are added each month.” Immigration judges, “who number just 300, schedule hearings two or three years in the future, or even more in some venues,” and their workloads, “on average more than 700 cases annually, are twice what federal district court judges face.” The Post adds that “under those

circumstances, due process” is “a fading ideal.” The Post notes that the Obama Administration “has hired new judges, a painstakingly slow process,” and points out that President-elect Trump “says he’ll freeze federal hiring,” but argues that “doing so would also impede his own plans to accelerate deportations, many of which must be ordered by a deportation judge.”

ANTI-IMMIGRATION GROUPS HOPE TIES TO SESSIONS WILL TURN POLICY THEIR WAY. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (1/9, Tanfani, 4.52M) reports that Attorney General-designate Jeff Sessions is “the Senate’s fiercest opponent of immigration” and his views were “shaped in part as he forged close ties over several decades to the Center for Immigration Studies and two other groups with similar agendas, NumbersUSA and the Federation for American Immigration Reform,” which favor “strict curbs on immigration.” Now, as Sessions is set “to be an influential voice on immigration policy in the Trump administration, these formerly fringe groups have their best chance yet to see Washington policy turn decisively in their direction.”

CONGRESSMAN SEEKING PATHWAY TO CITIZENSHIP FOR IMMIGRANTS THROUGH MILITARY SERVICE. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (1/9, Wire, 4.52M) reports Rep. Jeff Denham is seeking to persuade Congress to allow young, undocumented immigrants to “become citizens through military service.” The Times says that he’s been at odds with other Republicans but is hoping that “a single comment from the president-elect is a sign his idea might have a chance.” The comment, the Times notes, is one President-elect Trump made while speaking at NBC’s “Commander in Chief Forum,” in which he said “that immigrants who serve in the US military could possibly be allowed to become legal residents.”

IMF DIRECTOR SAYS IMMIGRATION DOES NOT INCREASE INEQUALITY. [Reuters](#) (1/9, Strupczewski) reports on comments made by International Monetary Fund’s First Deputy Managing Director David Lipton, who spoke at a seminar in Brussels on Monday. According to Reuters, Lipton noted that while immigration can have a positive impact on the receiving country, this depends on how well integrated the immigrants are. He said, “We have found that immigration has significantly increased GDP per capita in advanced economies,” and that “inequality does not increase as a result of the entry of migrants into the workforce.”

ARCHBISHOP: DEPORTING IMMIGRANTS WILL MAKE AMERICA WEAKER. Cardinal Blase J. Cupich, archbishop of Chicago, writes in the [Chicago Tribune](#) (1/9, Cupich, 2.54M) that President-elect Trump’s recent comments on protecting young, undocumented immigrants in the country “could signal a way forward, especially if they represent an appreciation of what is at stake if the US government breaks the promise it made to the roughly 750,000 DACA enrollees who want nothing more than to offer their gifts to the only country they call home.” Cupich says that many of these young immigrants were brought into the US while they were children so they “didn’t break the law of their own volition” and that many are seeking ways to “contribute to our society.” He notes removing the DACA program means we will “deport their potential to make our nation stronger.”

US Coast Guard:

US, CUBA SIGN DEAL TO COOPERATE ON OIL-SPILL PREVENTION, CLEAN-UP. The [AP](#) (1/9, Press) reports the US and Cuba on Monday “signed an accord on preventing and cleaning up oil spills in the Gulf of Mexico and the Florida Straits,” marking “another step in the Obama Administration’s efforts to solidify its legacy of normalization with Cuba before a Republican administration takes over.” The agreement stipulates that both countries must “establish a bilateral operations plan in the event of a spill or other pollution in waters they share,” and the AP notes that “the Cuban and the U.S. Coast Guard already cooperate over migration and drug enforcement in the Caribbean.”

CUBAN, IRAQI ARRESTED ATTEMPTING TO LAND ILLEGALLY ON PUERTO RICO. Drawing from coverage provided by the Associate Press, [Fox News](#) (1/9, 11.07M) reports two unidentified men, “one Cuban and one Iraqi, were arrested Monday” while “attempting to land illegally on the northwest coast of Puerto Rico” and turned over to the US Border Patrol. The Coast Guard said fears that the US federal “wet foot, dry foot policy,” which allows Cubans who reach US soil to stay, will end have “have caused a surge in the numbers of Cuban migrants,” adding that “1,178 Cubans have been intercepted at sea since

Oct. 1.”

CUBAN “LIGHTHOUSE RAFTERS” REMAIN IN LEGAL LIMBO AT GITMO. The [Miami Herald](#) (1/9, Pentón, 856K) reports some of the Cuban rafters who “sought refuge on the American Shoal Lighthouse off the Florida Keys to avoid being repatriated to Cuba” about six months ago remain at the US Navy base at Guantánamo Bay. According to the Herald, the remaining 17 “lighthouse rafters’...say they feel pressured by authorities to return to their homeland and are overwhelmed by the lack of work available to them.” One of the rafters said on condition of anonymity, “We can call our family once a week, but nobody tells us how much longer we have to be here. ... Some of us work in manual jobs and get paid \$4.97 an hour.”

EASTERN SHIPBUILDING HIRES FORMER US COAST GUARD COMMANDANT. [Maritime Executive](#) (1/9, 21) reports Eastern Shipbuilding Group announced Monday it has appointed former US Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Robert J. Papp, Jr. as president of its Washington operations, a role in which “he will serve as Eastern’s representative in the nation’s capital and will lead engagement in intergovernmental and industry operations.”

Secret Service:

ID SNAFU DELAYED SEINFELD’S ENTRY TO WHITE HOUSE. [Page Six](#) (1/9, Greer, 635K) reports, “Jerry Seinfeld’s birth name delayed him from getting into the White House for President Obama’s final soiree Friday night. ‘He was on the list under Jerry, but his ID has Jerome [his real first name]. They let his wife Jessica in, but he had to wait for Secret Service clearance. He found the whole thing funny and made light of the situation, laughing and telling jokes to guests as they passed through,’ a spy said. We’re told Seinfeld was forced to wait for about 30 minutes before being allowed inside.”

FORMER SECRET SERVICE OFFICER TO PLEAD GUILTY IN SEXTING CASE. The [AP](#) (1/9, Chase) reports former Secret Service officer Lee Robert Moore “has agreed to plead guilty to trying to solicit sex from a Delaware undercover agent he thought was a 14-year-old girl.” The case in Delaware “was put on hold after Moore was indicted in Florida on more serious charges,” including “producing child pornography, attempted receipt of child pornography and attempted enticement of a minor.”

ALABAMA MAN CHARGED WITH CREATING COUNTERFEIT \$100 BILLS. The [AP](#) (1/9) reports Hollis Nikia Bullard of Alabama has been charged with manufacturing counterfeit \$100 bills. The AP says an unidentified US “Secret Service special agent says a tip led them to search Hollis Nikia Bullard’s apartment in Birmingham, where thousands of dollars in fake money was found last week.” In the complaint, prosecutors said Bullard admitted to making the fake bills, and said he distributed about \$10,000 in recent weeks.

National Protection and Programs:

BANGOR DAILY NEWS: MAINE SHOULD ADOPT REAL ID, EVEN IF PROGRAM IS FLAWED. The [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (1/9, Board, 165K) editorializes that “no one knows” whether DHS’s threats to stop accepting “Maine driver’s licenses as acceptable identification to board commercial airplanes beginning next year” will be enforced, but “if Maine does not move toward compliant licenses.” The paper says DHS could begin barring residents “next month from military bases, including their health clinics,” which “is not a risk lawmakers should want to face.” However, even if the state created “a new licensing system that meets the requirements of the Real ID act, it would take years to issue new documents to all of the state’s license holders” – highlighting “the need for a federal fix to the Real ID act, rather than piecemeal state action that may, or may not, satisfy federal officials.”

Science and Technology Directorate:

DHS S&T TO HOLD FACEBOOK TOWN HALL ON APPLYING FOR BASIC AND APPLIED RESEARCH FUNDING. [Homeland Security Today](#) (1/9) reports the Department of Homeland Security’s

Science & Technology Directorate announced it is “calling all researchers, innovators, non-traditional partners and anyone with ‘the next big idea’” to attend an upcoming Facebook Town Hall meeting with its Long Range Broad Agency Announcement Coordinator on January 26. Participants will discuss the “program processes and requirements” and “S&T program managers will be available to answer questions on a range of research topics contained in the LRBA solicitation.”

Terrorism Investigations:

FIFTEEN JEWISH CENTERS ACROSS US REPORT BOMB THREATS. [Reuters](#) (1/9, Ingram) reports 15 Jewish community centers across the US received bomb threats and were subsequently evacuated on Monday. All 15 centers reopened after police swept checked the various buildings and deemed the threats not credible. Spokeswoman Amanda Hills of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives said her agency was prepared to assist local authorities upon request.

The [Washington Post](#) (1/9, Selk, 11.43M) adds that during the FBI’s ongoing investigation, new bomb threats in both the US and Britain continued to emerge. Elise Jarvis of the Anti-Defamation League’s security programs revealed that the phone calls appeared to originate from the same phone number and followed a set of bomb threats made against a few Jewish organizations last week. Jarvis said the Homeland Security Department was in contact with her organization on the issue.

Jewish Federations of North America president and chief executive Jerry Silverman told the [New York Times](#) (1/9, Smith, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) that Monday’s threats appear connected to a broader “coordinated effort” aimed at intimidating the Jewish community and a reflection of the growing normalization of hate speech. Silverman said a number of similar threats were waged against Jewish day schools, synagogues, and community centers last year, prompting Jewish organizations to adopt training and preparedness measures. The Times notes some participants in the alt-right and far-right fringe movements that embrace anti-Semitic, anti-immigrant, and racist positions have become increasingly visible since President-elect Trump’s election victory, even though Trump’s Jewish daughter and son-in-law have disavowed such positions.

The [Miami Herald](#) (1/9, Beach, 856K) reports threats began last week against at least eight Jewish centers, including one Holocaust museum, in Florida. Florida’s regional director of the Ant-Defamation League, Hava Holzhauer, said the organization is attempting to find a balance between reacting to threats and maintaining security without scaring the community.

ACCUSED FORT LAUDERDALE AIRPORT GUNMAN APPEARS IN COURT. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (1/9, story 4, 2:30, Muir, 14.63M) correspondent Brian Ross reported Esteban Santiago, accused of shooting and killing five people and wounding six more in a Fort Lauderdale airport on Friday, made his first court appearance on Monday. Authorities told ABC News that Santiago allegedly intended to conduct the attack in New York City on New Year’s Eve but for reasons unknown, canceled that ticket and booked a one-way flight to Fort Lauderdale instead. Meanwhile, authorities in Alaska recovered Santiago’s computer from a pawn shop and will determine whether it includes information supporting Santiago’s claim that he was in touch with ISIL. Santiago’s former girlfriend, Michelle Quinones, also claimed Santiago became unhinged upon his return from serving in Iraq with the National Guard in 2010. Quinones said two of Santiago’s friends were killed in Iraq, but a Puerto Rican veteran’s hospital failed to treat him for mental issues related to his service.

Santiago’s brother also told [NBC Nightly News](#) (1/9, story 2, 2:25, Holt, 16.61M) that after his return from Iraq, he was “still a nice guy but sometimes more furious.” Santiago will return to court next week for a detention hearing and, later this month, will be formally arraigned on charges that could carry the death penalty.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (1/9, story 7, 2:25, Pelley, 11.17M) broadcast video footage in which Karen Loeffler, the US Attorney for the District of Alaska, commented on the issue of whether Alaskan authorities incorrectly returned Santiago’s gun after his mental evaluation. She asserted, “There is a federal law with regard to having a gun by somebody who is mentally ill, but the law requires that the

person be ‘adjudicated mentally ill.’” Loeffler added that Santiago was “not somebody that would have been prohibited based on the information they had.” Former federal prosecutor David Weinstein told correspondent David Begnaud that he believes Anchorage authorities “didn’t do quite enough” and “should have dug a little bit deeper to find out exactly what was going on inside his head when he gave them the gun and then when he asked for it back.”

WPost: Santiago’s Past Reinforces Need For Tighter Gun Restrictions. The [Washington Post](#) (1/9, 11.43M) editorializes that before Santiago conducted his “rampage,” he engaged violent and “erratic behavior” and “made disturbing remarks” to Anchorage FBI agents; however, the weapon Santiago used in Florida was the same one authorities took for “safekeeping” and then returned because they could not legally withhold it. The Post suggests if authorities can legally prevent those deemed high-risk from accessing guns, situations like the one in Florida could potentially be avoided. Lawmakers have advocated for loosened gun controls, the Post writes, but Santiago’s attack “once again” shows that “the all-too-easy availability of firearms allowed a gun to get into the hands of the wrong person.”

OFFICIALS CRITICIZE DHS OVER LATE DESIGNATION OF ELECTION SYSTEMS AS CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE. The [AP](#) (1/9, Abdollah) reports that the “last-minute decision” by DHS to designate election systems “as critical infrastructure drew intense criticism from state and federal elections organizations on Monday.” DHS Secretary Johnson “announced the move Friday with 30 minutes’ notice” to the US Election Assistance Commission and the National Association of Secretaries of State. Connecticut Secretary of State Denise Merrill, who heads the latter group, said, “We’re having trouble understanding exactly what they’re going to do, that we’re not already doing. States were already doing much of this [security work] themselves using very different products.”

EXPERTS ANALYZE UNVERIFIED CLAIM OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR ISRAELI TRUCK ATTACK. [Reuters](#) (1/9, Baker) reports an obscure Palestinian group claimed responsibility for the truck attack that killed four Israeli soldiers in Jerusalem on Monday. The group did not offer details on the attack but said it was politically motivated and not connected to any outside organizations. The claim could not be verified, however, and multiple experts had mixed opinions as to whether the similarities between Monday’s attack and ISIL-inspired attacks in Germany and France indicated a connection. One analyst said ISIL lacks a presence in the West Bank, and figures from the Israeli security establishment revealed declining Palestinian support for ISIL.

Azaria’s Conviction Disavowed, Blamed For Truck Attack Fatalities. The [New York Times](#) (1/9, Kershner, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports on the so-called “Azaria effect,” or Israeli Jews’ instinct to protect Israeli soldiers and treat them as “everybody’s children.” The sentiment gave rise to calls for the pardoning of Sgt. Elor Azaria, who was convicted last week of shooting and killing an incapacitated Palestinian. Some Israeli Jews also accused the military of inadvertently failing to protect the four cadets killed in the Monday truck attack; they alleged the treatment of Azaria resulted in service members’ hesitancy to act against the assailant for fear of legal ramifications. The Times says the Azaria effect is “unfolding in full volume on Israeli news sites, social media and broadcast channels” and an indication of the far-reaching “disruptive influence” Azaria’s conviction has had on both the military and society.

AT LEAST NINE DEAD IN SINAI PENINSULA CHECKPOINT ATTACK. The [New York Times](#) (1/9, Youssef, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports about 20 masked militants, some armed with rocket-propelled grenades and some in military fatigues, attacked a checkpoint in the northern Sinai Peninsula town of El Arish on Monday. Egyptian police spokesman Tarek Attiya said the assailants also attempted to ram a truck bomb into the checkpoint as well. At least nine people were killed and another 12 were wounded in the attack. Police killed five of the assailants and are conducting a search for the remaining militants, along with militants who killed a police officer in another El Arish checkpoint attack later that day. No group claimed responsibility for the attack, but ISIL has carried out similar attacks against security forces in Sinai within the last few months.

JUDGE REFUSES ANONYMOUS JURY REQUEST IN ISIS TRIAL. The [New York Post](#) (1/9, Whitehouse, 3.82M) reports that “the first ISIS case to be tried in Manhattan federal court kicked off Monday with a judge ruling against prosecutors’ request to keep the jury anonymous for fear of retribution.” The Post explains that “prosecutors for Manhattan US Attorney Preet Bharara asked to keep

the names of the jury secret, arguing that ISIS is 'an extremely violent terrorist organization that has publicly published 'kill lists' of United States citizens, including New York residents.'" However, "Judge Edgardo Ramos denied the request, ruling that the empanelling of an anonymous jury 'is a drastic measure' that raises the possibility 'of unfair prejudice to the defendant.'"

Cyber News:

ABBOTT LABORATORIES RELEASES CYBERSECURITY UPDATES FOR ST. JUDE HEART DEVICES AS FDA CONFIRMS VULNERABILITIES. [Reuters](#) (1/9, Finkle) reports that Abbott Laboratories announced that it has started "releasing cyber security updates for its St. Jude heart devices some five months after the U.S. government launched a probe into claims they were vulnerable to potentially life-threatening hacks." The Food and Drug Administration also "issued a Safety Communication advising patients and physicians to keep using the company's implanted cardiac devices following the updates."

The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (1/9, Carlson, 1.27M) reports that the patch "will be automatically downloaded by St. Jude devices over the next several months, assuming that patients keep their at-home monitoring machines plugged in."

[MD Magazine](#) (1/9, Scott) reports that in the advisory, the Food and Drug Administration said it had confirmed that the device's vulnerabilities, "if exploited, could allow an unauthorized user, i.e., someone other than the patient's physician to remotely access a patient's RF-enabled implanted cardiac device."

Additional coverage is provided by [CNN Money](#) (1/9, Larson, 3.59M), the [New York Post](#) (1/9, English, 3.82M), and [Medscape](#) (1/9, Wendling, 339K).

UK GOVERNMENT TO ASSESS COUNTRY'S VULNERABILITY TO CYBERATTACK. [Reuters](#) (1/9, Carvalho) reports, "The British government said on Monday it is launching a national inquiry into cyber security to assess the extent to which the UK is protected from an ever-increasing tide of attacks worldwide." The inquiry "comes only two days after" US intelligence agencies stated Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered interference in the US election in order to help President-elect Trump's electoral chances.

[CNET News](#) (1/9, Ng, 762K) quotes Britain's Joint Committee on National Security Strategy Chair Margaret Beckett: "The national security implications of the leap to cyber are a matter of increasing concern. ... Attention has recently focused on the potential exploitation of the cyber domain by other states and associated actors for political purposes."

UK Prime Minister "Urged To Take Stronger Action" Against Hacking Threat. [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (1/9, Mason, 4.07M) reports UK Prime Minister Theresa May "has been urged to take stronger action against the threat of foreign powers influencing UK elections through hacking, following accusations of Russian interference in the US presidential contest." May "has said that it was a matter for individual political parties to protect themselves against cyber-attacks." The Guardian says, "It is understood that the major parties have their own safeguards in place, but government agencies have not approached them with offers of extra help in light of the US hacking scandal." The Guardian adds, "One senior Whitehall source with knowledge of the issue said there was a need for the security services to do more to help protect UK political parties from attack by foreign governments."

NORTH CAROLINA MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ILLEGALLY ACCESSING SENIOR OFFICIALS' E-MAIL, SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS. [Ars Technica](#) (1/9, Goodin, 1.61M) reports Justin Gray Liverman of Morehead City, North Carolina "has pleaded guilty to a conspiracy that illegally accessed the e-mail and social media accounts of Central Intelligence Director John Brennan and other senior government officials and then used that access to leak sensitive information and make personal threats." Ars Technica details how Liverman and a co-conspirator targeted the officials. Ars Technica says, "The perpetrators often succeed not through any technical skill but rather by making fraudulent phone calls that carefully exploit weakness in various companies' customer support services. It's not the first time social engineering has

exacted such a high price, and sadly, it likely won't be the last."

LOWRY: GOVERNMENT, PRIVATE SECTOR OFFICIALS MUST BE "PROACTIVE" IN PROTECTING DATA. Former US official and Nuix USG Senior Vice President Keith Lowry writes in [Federal Times](#) (1/9, Lowry, 117K) that he considers the report from the President's Commission on Enhancing National Cybersecurity "well researched, presenting the problems it identified and solutions to those problems clearly," and adding that it resembles a "cybersecurity wish list" for President-elect Trump that he and a colleague published on November 9, 2016. Lowry says the Commission report set out 100-day, two-year, and five-year timetables for various action items, but adds, "Two to five years is a very long time, especially in technology. Incorporating and finalizing the action items marked as high or medium priority over this span of time leaves the solutions at risk of being obsolete before they ever go into effect." Lowry advises government and private sector leaders to "not wait for the incoming administration to lay out its plans" but to "be proactive" in protecting their data.

LITHUANIA BARRED CONSTRUCTION OF DATA CENTER OUT OF CONCERNS FOR RUSSIAN INFILTRATION. [Reuters](#) (1/9, Sytas) reports that Lithuania "barred construction of a data center last year over concerns it could be infiltrated by Russian intelligence, a Lithuanian security official said on Monday." A spokesman for Lithuanian counter-intelligence chief Darius Jauniskis is quoted saying, "We warned the government that, once the data center is connected by fiber-optic cable to Russia, it could be linked by the (Russian) Federal Security Service to its radio electronic reconnaissance network. ... The government acted on that information." Arcus Novus, a Lithuanian-registered construction firm that planned to develop the data center, "is now suing the government in an effort to overturn the decision, according to Vidmantas Tomkus, the company's CEO and a minority shareholder." Tomkus is quoted saying, "It's a bit laughable to claim that a 'hostile' data center would be connected to Russian security services, as Lithuania is already connected to Russia through fiber-optic cables, as is the rest of the world."

SENATOR EXPRESSES CONCERN FOR WASHINGTON METRO'S VULNERABILITY TO CYBERATTACK. The [Washington Post](#) (1/9, Siddiqui, 11.43M) reports US Sen. Mark Warner inquired about the Washington Metro's susceptibility to cyberattack, "following a 'ransomware' hack that took down computers for San Francisco's light-rail system late last year." In a letter to Metro General Manager Paul J. Wiedefeld, Warner "writes that he worries Metro could fall victim to a similar attack, inconveniencing hundreds of thousands of subway riders and further imperiling the finances of the agency, which is already facing a \$290 million budget shortfall." Warner is quoted writing, "I am concerned that WMATA may represent a particularly enticing target for more advanced threats, given its importance to the region and the number of federal agencies that rely on the system to transport their workforces each day."

"WIFI JAMMERS" SEEN AS RUNNING INTO LEGAL, TECHNICAL HURDLES. [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (1/9, Osborne, 4.07M) reports that Police Superintendents' Association of England and Wales President Gavin Thomas "suggested in an interview that wifi jammers – devices worn on the ankle or wrist to block the internet – could serve as a smarter punishment for cybercrimes than prison." The Guardian says, "There are some issues with jammers. First, they are illegal under the Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006, so we'd need to work on that. Second, they wouldn't work." Security consultant and former hacker Carl Leeming is quoted saying, "Even if you did manage to implement it without breaking nearby connectivity, which in itself would be very difficult because of how radio works, it could be easily circumvented by using a cable." University professor Mary Aiken is quoted saying, "It is going to be very difficult if not impossible to prosecute our way out of problems such as youth hacking. ... What is required is a fundamental re-evaluation of the impact of technology on developing youth."

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR: US, RUSSIA MAY BE ABLE TO NEGOTIATE A "CYBER DÉTENTE." The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (1/9, Board, 387K) editorializes about US security agencies' "unanimous conclusion" that Russia "almost certainly hacked into and stole information from the Democratic National Committee, as well as emails from the account of John Podesta." Their report "was right to not attempt to assess the level of influence the Russian hacking may have had on the US presidential election," but "that doesn't make the Russian attempt any less disturbing," and "concerns now are growing that elections later this year in France and Germany may come under similar attacks." In response, President-elect Trump "might be able to employ his reputed dealmaking skills," and "rather than escalate the use of digital dirty tricks against each other, Russia and the US could look to conclude a

'cyber détente' and broker a quiet end to tit-for-tat retaliations." The Monitor concludes, "Now may be the time for quiet negotiation rather than noisy posturing."

CASE EXAMINES ROLE OF BEST BUY TECHNICIANS AS PAID FBI INFORMANTS. The [Washington Post](#) (1/9, Jackman, 11.43M) reports that "at a giant Best Buy repair shop in Brooks, Ky., Geek Squad technicians...have notified the FBI when they see signs of child pornography, earning payments from the agency." The Post says "the existence of the small cadre of informants within one of the country's most popular computer repair services was revealed in the case of a California doctor who is facing federal charges after his hard drive was flagged by a technician." The Post explains that the judge in the case will allow the defendant's "lawyer to question not only the Best Buy technicians and FBI agents involved in the case, but also the federal prosecutor who authorized the searches at the upcoming hearing." The report says "the case raises issues about privacy and the government use of informants."

FBI HELPS OREGON BUSINESSES AVOID CYBER THREATS. [KOBI-TV](#) Medford, OR (1/9) reports that the FBI "and the Southern Oregon High Tech Crimes Task Force are teaming up to teach local businesses about cyber-threats." FBI special agent Miles Wiltrout said, "The bad guy will encrypt that database, preventing the business from having access to it. ... Then they'll ask for a ransom to decrypt it for that business." KOBI says "the two organizations are holding a free seminar Thursday, Jan. 12 from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Medford Police Department headquarters."

FBI RELEASES ANOTHER 300 CLINTON EMAIL INVESTIGATION DOCUMENTS. [Fox News Insider](#) (1/9, 3K) reports that the FBI has "quietly released another several hundred pages of documents related to its investigation of Hillary Clinton." The report says "this is the fifth release of Clinton investigation documents on the FBI Vault website, although the bureau has not made an official announcement as of Monday morning." Meanwhile, "the documents apparently are related to the handling of computer hardware collected from Clinton's lawyers for the investigation."

[Politico](#) (1/9, Gerstein, 2.46M) also reports that "newly-released records about the Hillary Clinton email investigation shed new light on an early dispute between the FBI and the State Department over the classification of an email discussing the aftermath of the 2012 Benghazi attacks." Politico says the messages show "Deputy Secretary of State for Management Patrick Kennedy intervened with the FBI to dispute the classification at least three times: in a May 14, 2015, call to International Operations Division chief Brian McCauley, at an in-person meeting at the State Department five days later and in a phone conversation with the head of FBI's Counterterrorism Division, Michael Steinbach."

LAWMAKERS REINTRODUCE EMAIL PRIVACY ACT. [FedScoop](#) (1/9, O'Neill) reports that "the Email Privacy Act, which would require law enforcement get a warrant before searching emails and online communications older than 180 days, was reintroduced Monday by a bipartisan group of House lawmakers." FedScoop says "the bill, which was introduced by Reps. Kevin Yoder, R-Kansas, and Jared Polis, D-Colo. on Monday, was passed 419-0 in the House last year before stalling in the Senate." Meanwhile, "the previous version bill stalled when Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, along with support from law enforcement and the White House, proposed an amendment giving the FBI director the ability to force a provider to hand over data without a warrant."

VIRGINIA MAN SENTENCED FOR HELPING KENTUCKY MAN COMPROMISE WEBSITE. The [Lexington \(KY\) Herald-Leader](#) (1/9, Kocher, 306K) reports Noah McHugh of Alexandria, Virginia "was sentenced Monday to eight months in prison for his role in helping a Winchester resident known online as 'KYAnonymous' compromise a website and get involved in a controversy surrounding a rape case in Steubenville, Ohio." Assistant US Attorney Neeraj Gupta "wrote in a sentencing memorandum that McHugh's crime victimized a website owner by 'groundlessly defaming him on his own website as a child pornographer and the director of a "rape crew,"' by posting his private emails for public view, and by locking him out of his own website so that he could not undo the hack."

CHINESE CITIZENS CHARGED FOR ATTEMPTING TO HACK LAW FIRMS. [JD Supra](#) (1/9, Freedman, 2K) reports US Attorney for the Southern District of New York Preet Bharara "announced that three Chinese citizens have been charged for attempting to hack into seven law firms that were involved in mergers and acquisitions, in order to pilfer information to use for insider trading." The suspects "were

successful in hacking into the information systems of two unidentified New York law firms, steal information related to M&A deals, and make \$4 million.” Bharara is quoted saying in a statement, “This case of cyber meets securities fraud should serve as a wake-up call for law firms around the world: You are and will be targets of cyber hacking, because you have information valuable to would-be criminals.”

National Security News:

PAKISTAN TEST-FIRES MISSILE FROM NUCLEAR-CAPABLE SUBMARINE. [AFP](#) (1/9) reports Pakistan test-fired its first missile from an underwater mobile platform on Monday. The military claimed the missile hit the target with precise accuracy. In a statement, Pakistan’s military said the submarine is capable of carrying a nuclear warhead and that Monday’s test-fire grants Pakistan a credible second strike capability. AFP notes Pakistan and India have routinely tested missiles since 1998, and tensions between the two nations have escalated since an Indian army base located in the disputed Kashmir region was attacked in September.

KERRY DEFENDS US DECISIONS ON SYRIA. Asked in an interview with Wolf Blitzer on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (1/9, 554K) if the inability to stop “the bloodbath in Syria” was his “biggest failure,” Secretary of State Kerry rejected that assessment, but said he does “look on it as a failure of the international community and of other countries to see reasonable ways in which this war could have been stopped.” Blitzer said the US “could have done more,” adding that Russian President Vladimir Putin is “working with [Syrian President Bashar al] Assad right now to slaughter a lot of...people.” Kerry acknowledged that the war has been “deeply frustrating,” but said that if the US responded militarily, it “could make the war bigger.” Kerry added, “But I do think that we did what was appropriate, which is try in every way possible, with whatever leverage was available to us, to be able to try to end the war. And I’m proud of what we did in that regard.”

PENTAGON: US-LED OPERATION AGAINST ISIL LEADERS “SUCCESSFUL.” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (1/9, Hennigan, Bulos, 4.52M) reports Pentagon spokesman Jeff Davis told reporters on Monday that Army Delta Force commandos conducted a “routine” and “successful” raid against ISIL leaders in eastern Syrian territories controlled by the extremist group. At least two militants were killed in the operation, according to US officials. Activist and monitoring groups provided mixed accounts of the operation.

[AFP](#) (1/9) reports the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights claimed that 25 jihadists died in the operation, but Navy Captain Jeff Davis said that number was “grossly exaggerated.” Davis also rejected a Syrian Democratic Forces commander’s claim that prisoners were taken in the operation.

The [Washington Post](#) (1/9, Sly, Ryan, 11.43M) reports another US official claimed American troops intercepted a vehicle believed to be carrying senior ISIL members but did not provide details on whether the militants were captured or killed. Witnesses quoted by the Deir al-Zour 24 website claimed the troops landed on helicopters and then left about 90 minutes later with both ISIL captives and bodies.

US INCREASES AERIAL SUPPORT FOR TURKISH OPERATIONS IN SYRIA. The [Washington Post](#) (1/9, DeYoung, Ryan, 11.43M) reports that US aircraft have begun “regular aerial intelligence surveillance in support of Turkey’s offensive” against ISIL in northwestern Syria, “in anticipation of increased US support for the flailing Turkish military operation around the town of al-Bab.” The Post says the “increased support comes after weeks of US military and diplomatic talks with Turkish counterparts, and Russian airstrikes backing the Turkish offensive.” According to Administration officials, US support, “including airstrikes and equipment in addition to surveillance, would be similar to what the United States now provides to Syrian groups” battling ISIL, “potentially including assistance from Special Operations advisers whose participation in the offensive has thus far been limited to an area inside the Syrian border about 10 miles north of al-Bab.”

ASSAD READY “TO NEGOTIATE EVERYTHING” WITH SYRIAN REBELS. The [AP](#) (1/9, Issa) reports that in remarks published on Monday, Syrian President Bashar Assad announced he was prepared “to negotiate everything” with opposition groups at discussions scheduled in Kazakhstan later this month,

although he conceded “who is going to be there from the other side, we don’t know yet.” He added, “The viability of the conference depends on that.” On the issue of his continued rule, Assad said only a constitutional referendum could resolve the matter and that such a referendum “could be discussed in the meeting.” Meanwhile, Russian officials suggested that the US, which was not invited to the Kazakhstan talks, could be invited to discussions at a later date.

IRAQI, US-LED COALITION TROOPS ADVANCE FURTHER INTO EASTERN MOSUL. [Reuters](#) (1/9, Kalin, Coles) reports Iraq’s counterterrorism service, or CTS, and the allied US-led coalition launched air strikes and rockets against ISIL in eastern Mosul. The troops advanced closer to army units and a strategic central district university used by ISIL to create biological weapons and store chemicals. The advancement also enabled Iraq’s military to consolidate its forces and take control of several districts near the ancient Assyrian city of Nineveh.

US DESTROYER FIRED WARNING SHOTS AT IRANIAN VESSELS. [Reuters](#) (1/9, Ali) reports that a US Navy destroyer on Sunday fired three warning shots at four Iranian fast-attack vessels near the Strait of Hormuz “after they closed in at high speed and disregarded repeated requests to slow down, US officials said” Monday. Pentagon spokesman Cpt. Jeff Davis told reporters, “This was an unsafe and unprofessional interaction, and that is due to the fact that they were approaching at a high level of speed with weapons manned and disregarding repeated warnings.” Davis said warning shots were fired at the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps boats by the USS Mahan “after it established radio contact but failed to get them to slow down.” [AFP](#) (1/9) reports the shots fired by the USS Mahan “put an end to the incident.” According to the [New York Times](#) (1/9, Gordon, Subscription Publication, 13.9M), it marked the “first time the Navy had fired warning shots at an Iranian boat since Aug. 24.” There was no immediate comment by Iran on the incident.

Appearing on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (1/9, 554K), Senate Foreign Relations Committee member Cory Gardner said the provocation “shouldn’t surprise anyone,” because Iran has been “emboldened” by the Obama Administration. Gardner also said he hopes President-elect Trump tears up the nuclear deal. When asked how far he would go to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon, Gardner replied, “I don’t think you take anything off of the table.”

Diplomats: Iran To Receive Shipment Of Natural Uranium. According to an exclusive report by the [AP](#) (1/9), Iran is set to receive “a huge shipment of natural uranium from Russia to compensate it for exporting tons of reactor coolant, diplomats say, in a move approved” by the Obama Administration and “other governments seeking to keep Tehran committed” to a landmark nuclear pact. Two “senior diplomats” said UN Security Council approval is needed for the delivery of “nearly 130 tons of natural uranium,” but is considered “a formality.” State Department spokesman John Kirby told reporters there was no prohibition on such imports by Iran under the deal and noted natural uranium “cannot be used...for a weapon” in its original form, but [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (1/9, 1.53M) reported “some experts” say Iran could hold onto the uranium until the restrictions from the nuclear deal begin to expire, and could then enrich it for use in nuclear bombs.

NYTimes: Hunger Strikes Forcing Iran To Reconsider Jail Conditions. The [New York Times](#) (1/9, Erdbrink, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports the use of hunger strikes is “forcing Iran’s powerful judiciary to reconsider the conditions of at least one of its inmates after several started fasts that are leading to widespread support on social media.” While the “exact number of hunger strikers in Iranian prisons is unclear,” human rights organizations and reports in local media outlets indicate that “seven inmates, sentenced for crimes against the state, have refused to eat for intervals ranging from several weeks to more than two months.”

SUSPECT IN SHOOTING OF AMERICAN DIPLOMAT EXTRADITED FROM MEXICO. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (1/9, story 12, 0:15, Muir, 14.63M) reported briefly that the suspect in the shooting of American diplomat Christopher Ashcroft in Mexico last week is an “American med student” who has now been returned to the US to face federal charges. The [AP](#) (1/9, Sherman, Balsamo) reports that “an official with the federal Attorney General’s Office” identified the suspect as Zia Zafar, a US citizen. Ashcraft, meanwhile, remains in “stable condition” at a Mexican hospital.

Mexican FM Warns Of A “New Era In Relations” With US Under Trump. The [Washington Post](#) (1/9, Partlow, 11.43M) reports Mexico’s new foreign minister, Luis Videgaray, “rallied his diplomatic troops on Monday, promising to pursue dialogue with Donald Trump’s administration but warning that the Republican’s policies could affect the ‘destiny of future generations’ of Mexicans.” Using what the Post calls “some of the most dramatic language in years by a senior official about an incoming US president,” Videgaray said Mexico was “entering a new era in relations with the United States,” in which Trump represented many “unknowns.”

Gas Price Protests Continue. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (1/9, Linthicum, 4.52M) reports that “massive demonstrations” in Tijuana and Nogales over rising gasoline prices have “forced authorities to temporarily close crossing stations on the US-Mexico border, while in Rosarito protesters cheered as a man intentionally drove his pickup into a group of federal police officers.” More than a week after President Enrique Peña Nieto deregulated gasoline prices, “four people have been killed and more than 1,500 arrested while looting, staging road blockades and marching in protests such as the weekend demonstrations in Rosarito and along the border.”

NORTH KOREA ASSERTS READINESS FOR ICBM LAUNCH. [Reuters](#) (1/9) reports an unnamed spokesman for North Korea’s Foreign Ministry announced on Sunday that it is prepared to test-launch its intercontinental ballistic missile “anytime and anywhere determined by” leader Kim Jong Un. The spokesman accused the US of pushing North Korea to develop the ICBM and of “desperately” resorting “to anachronistic policy hostile” to Pyongyang. When asked on Monday to comment on the issue, the White House pointed to Press Secretary Josh Earnest’s comments made on Jan. 3, in which Earnest reiterated the US’ preparedness to protect against a North Korean threat. On Monday, South Korea’s Defense Ministry spokesman, Moon Sang-gyun, called the announcement “provocative” and warned that North Korea would face stronger sanctions if it followed through with an ICBM launch.

PALESTINIAN LEADER URGES TRUMP NOT TO RELOCATE US EMBASSY IN ISRAEL. The [AP](#) (1/9) reports Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas urged President-elect Trump in a letter not to follow through with his proposed relocation of the US Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem. Abbas said the move would be “devastating” for the US’ efforts to establish a two-state solution through negotiations. Abbas also called on other world leaders and international organizations to “make every possible effort” to prevent the proposed move.

CHINESE STATE MEDIA CAUTIONS TRUMP AGAINST TERMINATING ONE-CHINA PRINCIPLE. [Reuters](#) (1/8, Goh) reports the Global times, a Chinese state-run tabloid, published a Sunday editorial in which it warned President-elect Trump that it would “take revenge” if he “reneges on the one-China policy after taking office.” The tabloid said the US was obligated to maintain the principle and reiterated its importance for maintaining regional order and US-China relations. The Global Times also cautioned Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen that she “needs to face the consequences for every provocative step she takes” and warned that Beijing will likely “impose military pressure on Taiwan and push it to the edge of being reunified by force.”

White House Says Cruz-Tsai Meeting “Doesn’t Have Any Bearing” On US Policy. [Reuters](#) (1/9, Rascoe, Zargham) reports that on Monday, White House spokesman Josh Earnest said the meeting between Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen and US Sen. Ted Cruz in Houston “doesn’t have any bearing whatsoever on our continued pursuit of a one-China policy that benefits the United States and Taiwan.” Earnest added that Cruz initiated the meeting and the Administration did not encourage it.

The [New York Times](#) (1/9, Horton, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) says the meeting indicates Tsai is seeking closer relations with the Republican Party as it prepares to maintain control of Congress and take control of the White House. Cruz said his discussions with Tsai addressed “our mutual opportunity to upgrade the stature of our bilateral relations in a wide-ranging discussion that addressed arms sales, diplomatic exchanges and economic relations.” Tsai also met with Texas Gov. Greg Abbott for discussions on energy, commerce, and trade. The Times notes Tsai has increasingly focused on ways to reduce Taiwan’s economic dependence on China.

Taiwan Protects Hong Kong Lawmakers From Pro-Beijing Protesters. Taiwan granted one young

pro-democracy activist and three legislators from Hong Kong police protection from hundreds of pro-Beijing protesters demonstrating against their visit, [Los Angeles Times](#) (1/9, Jennings, 4.52M) reports. The three Hong Kong lawmakers were in Taiwan for the weekend for discussions on advancing democracy. Local media outlets suggested a mafia-style gang connected to mainland China organized the protests, but others suggested disgruntled Chinese Communist officials were responsible.

To keep the email to a manageable size, the national news summary is available on the [website](#).

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From: (b) (6)
To: [Harris, Steven](#)
Subject: FW: The Homeland Security News Briefing for Tuesday, January 10, 2017
Date: Tuesday, January 10, 2017 7:51:19 AM

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2017 7:50 AM
To: Spaulding, Suzanne (b) (6) <(b) (6)@hq.dhs.gov>; Manfra, Jeanette (b) (6) <(b) (6)@hq.dhs.gov>; (b) (6) <(b) (6)@HQ.DHS.GOV>
Cc: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@hq.dhs.gov>
Subject: RE: The Homeland Security News Briefing for Tuesday, January 10, 2017

Here's the full NASS statement:

[NASS Statement on Critical Infrastructure Designation for Elections](#)

[Print](#)

For Immediate Release
January 9, 2017

WASHINGTON, DC - The [National Association of Secretaries of State](#) (NASS), which represents the nation's chief state election officials, today released the following statement regarding the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's critical infrastructure classification for elections announced on Friday, January 6, 2017:

"U.S. Homeland Secretary Jeh Johnson's announcement of a critical infrastructure classification for election systems is legally and historically unprecedented, raising many questions and concerns for states and localities with authority over the administration of our voting process.

Americans need to know that the November 2016 election - the voting process itself - was not hacked or subject to manipulation in any way. No credible evidence of hacking, including attempted hacking of voting machines or vote counting, was ever presented or discovered in any state. State and local autonomy over elections is our greatest asset against malicious cyberattacks and manipulation. Our decentralized, low-connectivity electoral process is inherently designed to withstand such threats.

While we recognize the need to share information on threats and risk mitigation in our elections at all levels of government, as we did throughout the 2016 cycle, it is unclear why a critical infrastructure classification is now necessary for this purpose.

As we seek to learn more about the Department of Homeland Security's decision, it must be said that no facet of government relies more on public trust and confidence than the American electoral process. We will work to uphold these principles before all else, along with the checks and balances that have served our democracy well for more than 200 years."

For more, visit the [NASS Cybersecurity and Elections](#) web page.

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2017 7:05 AM
To: Spaulding, Suzanne (b) (6) @hq.dhs.gov>; Manfra, Jeanette (b) (6) q.dhs.gov>; (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) @hq.dhs.gov>
Subject: RE: The Homeland Security News Briefing for Tuesday, January 10, 2017

Ma'am - the statement is on the "News Releases" section of NASS website. Making my way to NAC. Will send full statement when I get there.

From: Spaulding, Suzanne
Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2017 5:10:33 AM
To: Manfra, Jeanette; (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6)
Subject: Fw: The Homeland Security News Briefing for Tuesday, January 10, 2017

Do we have the NASS statement?

From: Bulletin Intelligence [mailto:DHS@BulletinIntelligence.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2017 05:01 AM
To: DHS@BulletinIntelligence.com <DHS@BulletinIntelligence.com>
Subject: The Homeland Security News Briefing for Tuesday, January 10, 2017

The Homeland Security News Briefing

TO: THE SECRETARY AND SENIOR STAFF

DATE: TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2017 5:00 AM EST

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Leading DHS News:

STATE ELECTION OFFICIALS DENOUNCE DHS DECISION TO CLASSIFY ELECTORAL SYSTEM AS "CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE."

[Politico](#) (1/9, Geller, 2.46M) reports, "State election officials on Monday denounced the Department of Homeland Security's decision to label the country's electoral system as 'critical infrastructure.'" The National Association of Secretaries of State "lashed out at the decision" on Monday, saying it "is legally and historically unprecedented, raising many questions and concerns for states and localities with authority over the administration of our voting process." State officials "have expressed concerns that the 'critical infrastructure' tag could presage a federal takeover of local elections." DHS "has countered that the label does not create new regulations for states – it simply makes the cybersecurity of polling places, election machines, voter databases and other election technology a formal priority for the agency."

The [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (1/9, Torres, 1.41M) reports Georgia Secretary of State Brian Kemp "took to his Facebook page after the announcement and slammed the whole idea," saying, "This provocative but predictable decision moves the federal government one step closer to controlling the elections process. I am completely opposed to this blatant overreach and will continue to fight to keep election systems under the control of state government where it belongs."

The [AP](#) (1/9, Abdollah) reports that in announcing the move, Secretary Johnson "gave only short notice to the National Association of Secretaries of State and U.S. Election Assistance Commission." The AP says, "Officials at both agencies are criticizing the department, saying it failed to fully answer their questions about the step."

[Federal Computer Week](#) (1/9, Rockwell, 263K) reports, "Former U.S. CERT director Ann Barron-DiCamillo told FCW in a Jan. 9 email that the designation clears away a practical obstacle for states and

local governments to ask for assistance from DHS.” George Washington University Center for Cyber and Homeland Security director Frank Cilluffo “said the designation was ‘more of a bureaucratic enabler’ that gives states voluntary access to faster help from DHS, not a power grab by the federal government to get control of the electoral process.”

LEETARU: MORE EXAMINATION NEEDED OF VULNERABILITIES THAT ENABLED ALLEGED RUSSIAN INTERFERENCE IN ELECTION. Kalev Leetaru writes in [Forbes](#) (1/9, Leetaru, 15.17M) that “missing from” the “breathless headlines” over Russian hackers targeting the US in the midst of the election “is the far more important story of just how the Russians could have managed to do all of this against the very nation that brought the modern Internet to life.” Leetaru says “it is fascinating that there [has] not [been] more discussion placing that hacking in the context of other major cyber intrusions, such as the US Office of Personnel Management breach.” Leetaru says the US’s “improvements to its cyber posture” have not been as “sweeping” as the changes Estonia implemented after 2007, when it “became the first nation to weather a national cyberattack.” Leetaru recommends that investigations not be focused strictly on the election itself, “but rather on understanding the vulnerabilities that made that influence possible, from underdefended presidential campaigns to journalistic and academic norms on the use of stolen data.”

SENATE STAFFER: MCCAIN’S ESTABLISHMENT OF CYBER SUBCOMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS “CONGRESSIONAL TURF WAR.” [Bloomberg BNA](#) (1/9, Stoller, 7K) reports, “Sen. John McCain’s (R-Ariz.) establishment of a Senate Armed Forces cybersecurity subcommittee Jan. 4 likely highlights a congressional turf war over U.S. cybersecurity oversight, a Senate staffer told Bloomberg BNA.” Bloomberg adds, “The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Chairman Richard Burr (R-NC) and McCain have sparred in the past over leadership of cybersecurity issues, the staffer said.”

SCHUMER CALLS FOR THOROUGH VETTING FOR TRUMP CABINET PICKS. [Reuters](#) (1/9, Holland) reports Senator Chuck Schumer on Monday “decried what he called undue haste to confirm President-elect Donald Trump’s nominations for various top posts,” calling for “a thorough and thoughtful vetting process.” Schumer “said Trump’s nominees, many of whom have extensive business backgrounds at companies such as Exxon Mobil Corp and Goldman Sachs, should be carefully scrutinized to be sure they avoid conflicts of interest.” The hearings, which are slated to begin Tuesday, will start with Senator Jeff Sessions, Trump’s pick for Attorney General, and retired General John Kelly, Trump’s nominee for Secretary of Homeland Security.

According to [Fox News](#) (1/9, 11.07M), Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ) announced Monday that he intends to testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee in opposition to Sessions’ nomination, as will Rep. John Lewis (D-GA) and Rep. Cedric Richmond (D-LA), as part of what Fox News calls “an effort by Democrats to portray Sessions as out of the mainstream on civil rights legislation.” The article notes that Kelly, who is reportedly “expected to be easily confirmed by the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee and the full Senate, would be the first non-civilian to head DHS since the department was created in 2002.”

NYTIMES ANALYSIS: KELLY’S GREATEST CHALLENGES AT DHS COULD COME FROM INSIDE TRUMP TEAM. The [New York Times](#) (1/9, Nixon, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that Homeland Security Secretary-designate Gen. John Kelly warned Congress two years ago that the nation “was not focusing on the security threat presented by the financial and operational relationship between terrorist networks and drug smuggling organizations.” Now, “his view of the threat to the southern border is likely to be the subject of questioning during his confirmation hearing on Tuesday.” While Kelly “is expected to be easily confirmed by the Senate Homeland Security Committee, and then by the full Senate,” his “biggest challenges might come from within the new Trump administration, particularly over the threat posed by Russia and over Mr. Trump’s plan to build a border wall and to increase the number of border agents.” Kelly has called Russia “a threat to United States leadership in the Western Hemisphere,” and he has “called for a more balanced approach to protecting the borders.”

INSERRA: DHS HAMPERED BY EXCESSIVE OVERSIGHT DEMANDS. In an analysis for the [Washington Times](#) (1/9, Inserra, 272K), David Inserra of the Heritage Foundation’s Allison Center for Foreign and National Security Policy argues that “streamlining congressional oversight is a good idea,”

but lawmakers should focus on the Department of Homeland Security instead of the independent Office of Congressional Ethics. According to Inserra, DHS has “a far smaller budget” than the Department of Defense but “reports to over 100 committees,” compared with “only’ 36 committees and subcommittees” to which the DOD testifies, because “DHS was created by cobbling together pieces of 22 existing agencies, and the committees that had jurisdiction over those 22 pieces didn’t want to give up any of their turf.” Inserra concludes that “Trump ran a campaign that promised to drain the swamp,” and “the morass that is congressional oversight of DHS desperately needs draining.”

Immigration and Customs Enforcement:

BOWSER SAYS DC “DOUBLING DOWN” AS SANCTUARY CITY. The [Washington Post](#) (1/9, Davis, 11.43M) reports DC Mayor Muriel Bowser announced Monday new “plans to award grants to defense attorneys and nonprofits to represent any of the District’s estimated 25,000 illegal immigrants who are faced with deportation.” The Post says the “fund will also help illegal immigrants in D.C. to apply for asylum, and will provide representation for those residing in the city legally on green cards to stay permanently, by obtaining US citizenship.” The article says that Bowser, in a statement, indicated “the District is ‘doubling down’ on its status as a sanctuary city.”

BOULDER ADOPTED SANCTUARY POLICIES LONG BEFORE THE “SANCTUARY CITY” LABEL. The [Huffington Post](#) (1/9, Planas, 237K) reports that last week’s vote by Boulder, Colorado’s city council to make Boulder a “sanctuary city” was not a policy change, but that the formal designation was council’s way of “making a point to President-elect Donald Trump.” The Post says city leaders “shrugged off Trump’s threats to withhold federal funds from cities that fail to cooperate with his proposed immigration crackdown.” The Post says the city gets \$8 million in federal funds annually, which amounts to only 2 percent of its budget. The piece notes that Boulder adopted sanctuary policies as early as 2014, when a federal court ruled that ICE requests to local police to hold immigrants “weren’t mandatory.”

UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANT IN PENNSYLVANIA MAY STILL FACE DEPORTATION. [WPXI-TV](#) Pittsburgh (1/9, 226K) reports Martin Esquivel-Hernandez, an undocumented immigrant from Mexico who settled in Pennsylvania and became an activist in the Latino community, “may be deported after spending eight months in an immigration prison.” The piece reports he “pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor crossing the border charge two weeks ago, meaning he’s not a priority for deportation under federal guidelines,” but also says “the chance of him staying, though, could be fading.” In a statement, ICE said that based on two prior misdemeanor convictions, “US Immigration and Customs Enforcement has designated Mr. Esquivel-Hernandez’s case as a priority for immigration enforcement.”

The [Harrisburg \(PA\) Patriot-News](#) (1/9, 523K) also reports that ICE has confirmed that despite the plea deal Esquivel-Hernandez struck with prosecutors, he “remains a priority for deportation based on his ‘two misdemeanor convictions, one from 2012 and one from 2017.’” ICE officials have noted their efforts to have him deported continue, with supporters saying that deportation could happen as early as Tuesday.

Esquivel-Hernandez’s attorney Jennifer Williams, however, “submitted a written motion today with ICE to stop the deportation,” the [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#) (1/9, Smith, 493K) adds, while the [Pittsburgh City Paper](#) (1/9, Deto, 193K) similarly says the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement “filed a stay on behalf of Esquivel-Hernandez on Jan. 9, in hopes that ICE officers have more time to review his case before deporting him.”

TEXAS GOV. ABBOTT PLEDGES TO SIGN ANTI-SANCTUARY BILL. [Fox News](#) (1/9, Ward, 11.07M) reports that Texas Gov. Greg Abbott said that an anti- sanctuary bill is expected to pass the Legislature sometime this year. The article notes Abbott has “pledged to sign Senate Bill 4, which would require municipalities to enforce migrant detainers at local jails and withhold state grants if they don’t comply.” It also notes Abbott has clashed with “newly elected Travis County Sheriff Sally Hernandez, who vowed to remove Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents from the Austin jail.”

HOUSE REPUBLICANS INTRODUCE THREE BILLS TO BLOCK FUNDING TO SANCTUARY CITIES. The [Huffington Post](#) (1/9, Papenfuss, 237K) reports House Republicans have introduced three measures

seeking to withhold federal funds to so-called “sanctuary cities.” One bill, the Mobilizing Against Sanctuary Cities Act (HR 83), introduced by Rep. Lou Barletta, would “strip federal funding from such jurisdictions,” while another bill introduced by Rep. Andy Harris would similarly deny federal funds to any entity refusing to comply with ICE. The third bill would block Title IV funds specifically to sanctuary campuses.

JUDGE ALLOWS STEINLE FAMILY TO PURSUE SUIT AGAINST GOVERNMENT. The [San Jose \(CA\) Mercury News](#) (1/9, Peele, 654K) reports US District Court Judge Joseph Spero, in a 49-page ruling, has refused to throw out a lawsuit by the family of Kate Steinle, a woman who was killed by a Mexican man who stole a gun from the seat of an unattended Bureau of Land Management vehicle. The suit alleges negligence on the part of the government, as well as that of the city of San Francisco and ICE, which they say “contributed to the killing because they failed to detain Lopez Sanchez.”

The [AP](#) (1/9) reports Spero dismissed the claims against San Francisco, allowing only the claims against the government to move forward. According to the AP, “Spero said in his ruling on Friday that the sheriff did not violate state or federal law by prohibiting his deputies from telling immigration officials when an inmate is released.”

IOWA LAWMAKER LIKELY TO INTRODUCE ANTI-SANCTUARY CITY LEGISLATION. The [AP](#) (1/9) reports state Rep. Steven Holt has said he will “likely re-introduce legislation requiring state and local governments to cooperate with federal immigration officials if Iowa City opts not to enforce immigration laws.” According to the AP, Holt has indicated that he will “feel compelled” to do this if Iowa City approves a “sanctuary city” resolution, preventing it from “spending funds on enforcing immigration laws.” The city, however, has said it won’t formally adopt the sanctuary label.

BOSTON COPS INCREASINGLY DENYING ICE DETAINER REQUESTS. The [Boston Herald](#) (1/10, Encarnacao, 509K) reports Boston-area authorities are increasingly blowing off federal immigration officials’ requests to detain “illegals in police custody...for possible deportations, according to new” data obtained from ICE. According to the Herald, the Boston’s “pushback...bucks a national trend that has seen a sharp drop in the number of” ICE detainer requests “that have been denied by local law enforcement.” Center for Immigration Studies director of policy studies Jessica Vaughan “said Boston’s detainer denial rate is particularly disturbing after ICE decided to expressly focus on immigrants with criminal records,” arguing that “they’re really boiling it down to worst of the worst...and if they’re rejecting even those detainers, you have to ask yourself what public safety risk they are creating.”

Customs and Border Protection:

CBP OFFICER STOPPED RUNAWAY TRAIN AT ARIZONA BORDER CROSSING. The [AP](#) (1/9) reports a “slow-moving runaway” Union Pacific Railroad train struck “a border fence in Arizona after leaving Mexico unmanned on Monday morning.” Though it’s “unclear how or why the train took off without a conductor,” the AP says “U.S. Customs and Border Protection says an officer stopped the train by jumping in and pulling the visible emergency break.” The train was returned to Mexico by Monday afternoon.

According to the [Arizona Daily Star](#) (1/9, 270K), the train hit “the rail gate at the Port of Nogales’ DeConcini crossing,” resulting in “minor damage to the metal plates and chain link fence that make up the gate.”

Nogales Port Of Entry Resumes Normal Operations. [Tucson News Now \(AZ\)](#) (1/9, Carrillo, 32K) reports the Dennis DeConcini Port of Entry in Nogales resumed its normal operations Monday morning, after being “forced to shut down over the weekend after disruptions from people protesting rising gas prices in Nogales.” Travelers in and out of the US were diverted to the Mariposa Crossing before the DeConcini Port was reopened.

TEXAS CBP HORSE PATROL UNITS TO ATTEND TRUMP INAUGURATION. The [San Antonio Express-News](#) (1/9, Bradshaw, 844K) reports “eight Texas-based horse patrol units” will attend President-

elect Trump's inauguration in Washington, DC next week, according to a US Customs and Border Protection news release. The Express-News says the event will be the first time the Rio Grande Valley Sector Horse Patrol has attended a presidential inauguration – the release says “the U.S. Border Patrol has participated in inauguration ceremonies before, but never the horse patrol.”

According to the [Brownsville \(TX\) Herald](#) (1/9, 40K), RGV Sector Chief Patrol Agent Manuel Padilla said in the release, “The inauguration in Washington, D.C. is a hallmark event and we are proud to represent the US Border Patrol in this fashion with distinguished agents whose presence will surely enhance the festivities.”

LATIMES: CBP HAS IMPROVED ACCOUNTABILITY AND USE-OF-FORCE, BUT WILL PROGRESS CONTINUE UNDER TRUMP? The [Los Angeles Times](#) (1/9, Board, 4.52M) Editorial Board says the “Obama administration has struggled to change a culture of violence and impunity within the U.S. Border Patrol” that “tolerated excessive force against suspected border crossers,” but the Administration has succeeded in forcing “some improvements in both transparency and accountability, as well as reductions in the use of force, under Customs and Border Protection Commissioner R. Gil Kerlikowske.” The Times says CBP “continues to face dogged problems with bribery and other underhanded actions by some of the agents,” and it remains to be seen “whether the Border Patrol will continue to improve under the Trump administration.” The Times concludes that the incoming administration faces the challenge of “securing borders and enforcing immigration and customs laws without adopting a militarized outlook or violating basic civil rights and civil liberties.”

Transportation Security Administration:

CHICAGO O'HARE AIRPORT SECURITY BREACHED. David Kerley of [ABC World News Tonight](#) (1/9, story 10, 1:10, Muir, 14.63M) reported 21-year-old Malik Neal allegedly burst through a Chicago O'Hare airport TSA checkpoint but no TSA agents pursued him. Neal is accused of accosting two TSA officers and two Chicago police officers in the gate area prior to his arrest. Kerley noted TSA officers and airport security do not have arrest authority. Former TSA official John Halinski said the incident exposes a vulnerability in airport security measures.

TSA LAYS OUT FIREARM REGULATIONS AT CHARLESTON AIRPORT. Part of the Transportation Security Administration's response to a deadly shooting Friday at the Ft. Lauderdale airport, [WCBD-TV](#) Charleston, SC (1/9, Holland, 33K) reports on its website, included outlining firearm regulations at Charleston International Airport. TSA says guns and ammunition must be “unloaded and locked in hard case,” and travelers must declare the items during the check-in process.

TSA'S SEARCH FOR CT SCANNERS MEANS BIG BUSINESS FOR MASSACHUSETTS. The [Boston Business Journal](#) (1/9, O'Brien, Subscription Publication, 90K) reports in subscriber-only content that “CT scanners promise to shorten airport security lines and better protect passengers,” and the Transportation Security Administration's search is bringing “big business” to Massachusetts.

LAX'S ANTI-TERRORISM INTELLIGENCE UNIT PROFILED. In a nearly 5,800-word article, [The Atlantic](#) (1/9, Managh, 5.35M) profiles Anthony McGinty and Michelle Sosa, who “were hired by Los Angeles World Airports to lead a unique, new classified intelligence unit on the West Coast” after a suicide bombing in 2014 showed security holes at Los Angeles International Airport. The article includes “scenarios...not examples of actual events that have taken place, or of real threats that have been averted, but [that] are instead meant as provocative fictions,” similar to the annual Aviation Security Contingency Plan Exercise, or AVSEC. The Atlantic mentions that an “unemployed anti-government conspiracy theorist...drove to LAX in November 2013 for no other reason than to shoot and kill a Transportation Security Administration (TSA) agent.”

Federal Emergency Management Agency:

RAIN TRIGGERS FLOODING IN CALIFORNIA, PROMPTS NEVADA GOVERNOR TO DECLARE STATE OF EMERGENCY. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (1/9, story 2, 2:25, Muir, 14.63M) reported that

heavy rains triggered mudslides in California on Monday. The rainfall came from a storm that also prompted the governor of Nevada to declare a flood state of emergency. The deaths of at least eight people, including four in the West, are being blamed on recent severe US weather. The [CBS Evening News](#) (1/9, story 9, 1:40, Pelley, 11.17M) reported, "A week of heavy snow and rain in northern California and Nevada has led to the worst flooding in a decade" in that part of the country. [NBC Nightly News](#) (1/9, story 6, 2:00, Holt, 16.61M) reported that at least 40 rivers were "surging above flood stage" in California on Monday. Near Reno, Nevada, meanwhile, a disaster was declared and flood-related evacuations were ordered.

FEMA Activates Response Coordination Center To Help With California Flooding. [KNTV-TV](#) San Jose, CA (1/9, Hernandez, 130K) reports on its website that FEMA "activated its regional Response Coordination Center in downtown Oakland on Monday to prepare for a possible federal response" to flood-related problems in California. Quoted in the story is FEMA's Ahsha Tribble, who said, "We're looking ahead, looking at the next storm and posturing ourselves here with federal resources in the event the state calls us for assistance."

US Citizenship and Immigration Services:

USCIS NOT PARTICIPATING IN GSA'S IDENTITY MANAGEMENT PILOT TEST. [Federal News Radio \(DC\)](#) (1/9, Miller, 16K) reports that USCIS has decided not to participate in the pilot test of the Login.gov platform in 2017, which the article says is putting the "customer-friendly, usable identity management approach" on the "edge of viability." Accordingly, USCIS' decision "comes around the same time as the General Services Administration's 18F organization started to get some momentum behind the program." The piece also notes that it is seen as a "blow to a concept that has struggled over the last 15 years."

PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE-REVIEW: TRUMP MUST REFORM EB-5. The [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#) (1/9, 350K) argues in an editorial President-elect Trump must "address fraud and abuse in America's EB-5 visa program, which provides a citizenship path for foreigners who invest at least \$500,000 to \$1 million in job-creating projects," and which the editors claim "critics say...allows wealthy foreign investors to buy admission to the U.S." According to the Tribune-Review, a former US Citizenship and Immigration Services head "was blasted by an inspector general for 'unprecedented' intervention that secured 'EB-5 approvals in cases involving politically connected Democrats,' including former Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid." While Trump has not yet commented on the issue, the Tribune-Review says "fellow Republican and former New York Gov. George Pataki expects he'll keep EB-5" because the incoming President "understands the need for capital, the need for investment."

Immigration:

WPOST: IMMIGRATION COURTS NEED MORE JUDGES. The [Washington Post](#) (1/9, 11.43M) editorializes that US immigration courts "are a diorama of dysfunction, staggering under a crushing caseload," which "has doubled in the past six years" and "now exceeds half a million cases; thousands more are added each month." Immigration judges, "who number just 300, schedule hearings two or three years in the future, or even more in some venues," and their workloads, "on average more than 700 cases annually, are twice what federal district court judges face." The Post adds that "under those circumstances, due process" is "a fading ideal." The Post notes that the Obama Administration "has hired new judges, a painstakingly slow process," and points out that President-elect Trump "says he'll freeze federal hiring," but argues that "doing so would also impede his own plans to accelerate deportations, many of which must be ordered by a deportation judge."

ANTI-IMMIGRATION GROUPS HOPE TIES TO SESSIONS WILL TURN POLICY THEIR WAY. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (1/9, Tanfani, 4.52M) reports that Attorney General-designate Jeff Sessions is "the Senate's fiercest opponent of immigration" and his views were "shaped in part as he forged close ties over several decades to the Center for Immigration Studies and two other groups with similar agendas, NumbersUSA and the Federation for American Immigration Reform," which favor "strict curbs on immigration." Now, as Sessions is set "to be an influential voice on immigration policy in the Trump administration, these formerly fringe groups have their best chance yet to see Washington policy turn

decisively in their direction.”

CONGRESSMAN SEEKING PATHWAY TO CITIZENSHIP FOR IMMIGRANTS THROUGH MILITARY SERVICE. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (1/9, Wire, 4.52M) reports Rep. Jeff Denham is seeking to persuade Congress to allow young, undocumented immigrants to “become citizens through military service.” The Times says that he’s been at odds with other Republicans but is hoping that “a single comment from the president-elect is a sign his idea might have a chance.” The comment, the Times notes, is one President-elect Trump made while speaking at NBC’s “Commander in Chief Forum,” in which he said “that immigrants who serve in the US military could possibly be allowed to become legal residents.”

IMF DIRECTOR SAYS IMMIGRATION DOES NOT INCREASE INEQUALITY. [Reuters](#) (1/9, Strupczewski) reports on comments made by International Monetary Fund’s First Deputy Managing Director David Lipton, who spoke at a seminar in Brussels on Monday. According to Reuters, Lipton noted that while immigration can have a positive impact on the receiving country, this depends on how well integrated the immigrants are. He said, “We have found that immigration has significantly increased GDP per capita in advanced economies,” and that “inequality does not increase as a result of the entry of migrants into the workforce.”

ARCHBISHOP: DEPORTING IMMIGRANTS WILL MAKE AMERICA WEAKER. Cardinal Blase J. Cupich, archbishop of Chicago, writes in the [Chicago Tribune](#) (1/9, Cupich, 2.54M) that President-elect Trump’s recent comments on protecting young, undocumented immigrants in the country “could signal a way forward, especially if they represent an appreciation of what is at stake if the US government breaks the promise it made to the roughly 750,000 DACA enrollees who want nothing more than to offer their gifts to the only country they call home.” Cupich says that many of these young immigrants were brought into the US while they were children so they “didn’t break the law of their own volition” and that many are seeking ways to “contribute to our society.” He notes removing the DACA program means we will “deport their potential to make our nation stronger.”

US Coast Guard:

US, CUBA SIGN DEAL TO COOPERATE ON OIL-SPILL PREVENTION, CLEAN-UP. The [AP](#) (1/9, Press) reports the US and Cuba on Monday “signed an accord on preventing and cleaning up oil spills in the Gulf of Mexico and the Florida Straits,” marking “another step in the Obama Administration’s efforts to solidify its legacy of normalization with Cuba before a Republican administration takes over.” The agreement stipulates that both countries must “establish a bilateral operations plan in the event of a spill or other pollution in waters they share,” and the AP notes that “the Cuban and the U.S. Coast Guard already cooperate over migration and drug enforcement in the Caribbean.”

CUBAN, IRAQI ARRESTED ATTEMPTING TO LAND ILLEGALLY ON PUERTO RICO. Drawing from coverage provided by the Associate Press, [Fox News](#) (1/9, 11.07M) reports two unidentified men, “one Cuban and one Iraqi, were arrested Monday” while “attempting to land illegally on the northwest coast of Puerto Rico” and turned over to the US Border Patrol. The Coast Guard said fears that the US federal “wet foot, dry foot policy,” which allows Cubans who reach US soil to stay, will end have “have caused a surge in the numbers of Cuban migrants,” adding that “1,178 Cubans have been intercepted at sea since Oct. 1.”

CUBAN “LIGHTHOUSE RAFTERS” REMAIN IN LEGAL LIMBO AT GITMO. The [Miami Herald](#) (1/9, Pentón, 856K) reports some of the Cuban rafters who “sought refuge on the American Shoal Lighthouse off the Florida Keys to avoid being repatriated to Cuba” about six months ago remain at the US Navy base at Guantánamo Bay. According to the Herald, the remaining 17 “lighthouse rafters’...say they feel pressured by authorities to return to their homeland and are overwhelmed by the lack of work available to them.” One of the rafters said on condition of anonymity, “We can call our family once a week, but nobody tells us how much longer we have to be here. ... Some of us work in manual jobs and get paid \$4.97 an hour.”

EASTERN SHIPBUILDING HIRES FORMER US COAST GUARD COMMANDANT. [Maritime Executive](#)

(1/9, 21) reports Eastern Shipbuilding Group announced Monday it has appointed former US Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Robert J. Papp, Jr. as president of its Washington operations, a role in which “he will serve as Eastern’s representative in the nation’s capital and will lead engagement in intergovernmental and industry operations.”

Secret Service:

ID SNAFU DELAYED SEINFELD’S ENTRY TO WHITE HOUSE. [Page Six](#) (1/9, Greer, 635K) reports, “Jerry Seinfeld’s birth name delayed him from getting into the White House for President Obama’s final soiree Friday night. ‘He was on the list under Jerry, but his ID has Jerome [his real first name]. They let his wife Jessica in, but he had to wait for Secret Service clearance. He found the whole thing funny and made light of the situation, laughing and telling jokes to guests as they passed through,’ a spy said. We’re told Seinfeld was forced to wait for about 30 minutes before being allowed inside.”

FORMER SECRET SERVICE OFFICER TO PLEAD GUILTY IN SEXTING CASE. The [AP](#) (1/9, Chase) reports former Secret Service officer Lee Robert Moore “has agreed to plead guilty to trying to solicit sex from a Delaware undercover agent he thought was a 14-year-old girl.” The case in Delaware “was put on hold after Moore was indicted in Florida on more serious charges,” including “producing child pornography, attempted receipt of child pornography and attempted enticement of a minor.”

ALABAMA MAN CHARGED WITH CREATING COUNTERFEIT \$100 BILLS. The [AP](#) (1/9) reports Hollis Nikia Bullard of Alabama has been charged with manufacturing counterfeit \$100 bills. The AP says an unidentified US “Secret Service special agent says a tip led them to search Hollis Nikia Bullard’s apartment in Birmingham, where thousands of dollars in fake money was found last week.” In the complaint, prosecutors said Bullard admitted to making the fake bills, and said he distributed about \$10,000 in recent weeks.

National Protection and Programs:

BANGOR DAILY NEWS: MAINE SHOULD ADOPT REAL ID, EVEN IF PROGRAM IS FLAWED. The [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (1/9, Board, 165K) editorializes that “no one knows” whether DHS’s threats to stop accepting “Maine driver’s licenses as acceptable identification to board commercial airplanes beginning next year” will be enforced, but “if Maine does not move toward compliant licenses.” The paper says DHS could begin barring residents “next month from military bases, including their health clinics,” which “is not a risk lawmakers should want to face.” However, even if the state created “a new licensing system that meets the requirements of the Real ID act, it would take years to issue new documents to all of the state’s license holders” – highlighting “the need for a federal fix to the Real ID act, rather than piecemeal state action that may, or may not, satisfy federal officials.”

Science and Technology Directorate:

DHS S&T TO HOLD FACEBOOK TOWN HALL ON APPLYING FOR BASIC AND APPLIED RESEARCH FUNDING. [Homeland Security Today](#) (1/9) reports the Department of Homeland Security’s Science & Technology Directorate announced it is “calling all researchers, innovators, non-traditional partners and anyone with ‘the next big idea’” to attend an upcoming Facebook Town Hall meeting with its Long Range Broad Agency Announcement Coordinator on January 26. Participants will discuss the “program processes and requirements” and “S&T program managers will be available to answer questions on a range of research topics contained in the LRBA solicitation.”

Terrorism Investigations:

FIFTEEN JEWISH CENTERS ACROSS US REPORT BOMB THREATS. [Reuters](#) (1/9, Ingram) reports 15 Jewish community centers across the US received bomb threats and were subsequently evacuated on Monday. All 15 centers reopened after police swept checked the various buildings and deemed the threats not credible. Spokeswoman Amanda Hils of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and

Explosives said her agency was prepared to assist local authorities upon request.

The [Washington Post](#) (1/9, Selk, 11.43M) adds that during the FBI's ongoing investigation, new bomb threats in both the US and Britain continued to emerge. Elise Jarvis of the Anti-Defamation League's security programs revealed that the phone calls appeared to originate from the same phone number and followed a set of bomb threats made against a few Jewish organizations last week. Jarvis said the Homeland Security Department was in contact with her organization on the issue.

Jewish Federations of North America president and chief executive Jerry Silverman told the [New York Times](#) (1/9, Smith, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) that Monday's threats appear connected to a broader "coordinated effort" aimed at intimidating the Jewish community and a reflection of the growing normalization of hate speech. Silverman said a number of similar threats were waged against Jewish day schools, synagogues, and community centers last year, prompting Jewish organizations to adopt training and preparedness measures. The Times notes some participants in the alt-right and far-right fringe movements that embrace anti-Semitic, anti-immigrant, and racist positions have become increasingly visible since President-elect Trump's election victory, even though Trump's Jewish daughter and son-in-law have disavowed such positions.

The [Miami Herald](#) (1/9, Beach, 856K) reports threats began last week against at least eight Jewish centers, including one Holocaust museum, in Florida. Florida's regional director of the Ant-Defamation League, Hava Holzhauer, said the organization is attempting to find a balance between reacting to threats and maintaining security without scaring the community.

ACCUSED FORT LAUDERDALE AIRPORT GUNMAN APPEARS IN COURT. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (1/9, story 4, 2:30, Muir, 14.63M) correspondent Brian Ross reported Esteban Santiago, accused of shooting and killing five people and wounding six more in a Fort Lauderdale airport on Friday, made his first court appearance on Monday. Authorities told ABC News that Santiago allegedly intended to conduct the attack in New York City on New Year's Eve but for reasons unknown, canceled that ticket and booked a one-way flight to Fort Lauderdale instead. Meanwhile, authorities in Alaska recovered Santiago's computer from a pawn shop and will determine whether it includes information supporting Santiago's claim that he was in touch with ISIL. Santiago's former girlfriend, Michelle Quinones, also claimed Santiago became unhinged upon his return from serving in Iraq with the National Guard in 2010. Quinones said two of Santiago's friends were killed in Iraq, but a Puerto Rican veteran's hospital failed to treat him for mental issues related to his service.

Santiago's brother also told [NBC Nightly News](#) (1/9, story 2, 2:25, Holt, 16.61M) that after his return from Iraq, he was "still a nice guy but sometimes more furious." Santiago will return to court next week for a detention hearing and, later this month, will be formally arraigned on charges that could carry the death penalty.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (1/9, story 7, 2:25, Pelley, 11.17M) broadcast video footage in which Karen Loeffler, the US Attorney for the District of Alaska, commented on the issue of whether Alaskan authorities incorrectly returned Santiago's gun after his mental evaluation. She asserted, "There is a federal law with regard to having a gun by somebody who is mentally ill, but the law requires that the person be 'adjudicated mentally ill.'" Loeffler added that Santiago was "not somebody that would have been prohibited based on the information they had." Former federal prosecutor David Weinstein told correspondent David Begnaud that he believes Anchorage authorities "didn't do quite enough" and "should have dug a little bit deeper to find out exactly what was going on inside his head when he gave them the gun and then when he asked for it back."

WPost: Santiago's Past Reinforces Need For Tighter Gun Restrictions. The [Washington Post](#) (1/9, 11.43M) editorializes that before Santiago conducted his "rampage," he engaged violent and "erratic behavior" and "made disturbing remarks" to Anchorage FBI agents; however, the weapon Santiago used in Florida was the same one authorities took for "safekeeping" and then returned because they could not legally withhold it. The Post suggests if authorities can legally prevent those deemed high-risk from accessing guns, situations like the one in Florida could potentially be avoided. Lawmakers have advocated for loosened gun controls, the Post writes, but Santiago's attack "once again" shows that "the

all-too-easy availability of firearms allowed a gun to get into the hands of the wrong person.”

OFFICIALS CRITICIZE DHS OVER LATE DESIGNATION OF ELECTION SYSTEMS AS CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE. The [AP](#) (1/9, Abdollah) reports that the “last-minute decision” by DHS to designate election systems “as critical infrastructure drew intense criticism from state and federal elections organizations on Monday.” DHS Secretary Johnson “announced the move Friday with 30 minutes’ notice” to the US Election Assistance Commission and the National Association of Secretaries of State. Connecticut Secretary of State Denise Merrill, who heads the latter group, said, “We’re having trouble understanding exactly what they’re going to do, that we’re not already doing. States were already doing much of this [security work] themselves using very different products.”

EXPERTS ANALYZE UNVERIFIED CLAIM OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR ISRAELI TRUCK ATTACK. [Reuters](#) (1/9, Baker) reports an obscure Palestinian group claimed responsibility for the truck attack that killed four Israeli soldiers in Jerusalem on Monday. The group did not offer details on the attack but said it was politically motivated and not connected to any outside organizations. The claim could not be verified, however, and multiple experts had mixed opinions as to whether the similarities between Monday’s attack and ISIL-inspired attacks in Germany and France indicated a connection. One analyst said ISIL lacks a presence in the West Bank, and figures from the Israeli security establishment revealed declining Palestinian support for ISIL.

Azaria’s Conviction Disavowed, Blamed For Truck Attack Fatalities. The [New York Times](#) (1/9, Kershner, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports on the so-called “Azaria effect,” or Israeli Jews’ instinct to protect Israeli soldiers and treat them as “everybody’s children.” The sentiment gave rise to calls for the pardoning of Sgt. Elor Azaria, who was convicted last week of shooting and killing an incapacitated Palestinian. Some Israeli Jews also accused the military of inadvertently failing to protect the four cadets killed in the Monday truck attack; they alleged the treatment of Azaria resulted in service members’ hesitancy to act against the assailant for fear of legal ramifications. The Times says the Azaria effect is “unfolding in full volume on Israeli news sites, social media and broadcast channels” and an indication of the far-reaching “disruptive influence” Azaria’s conviction has had on both the military and society.

AT LEAST NINE DEAD IN SINAI PENINSULA CHECKPOINT ATTACK. The [New York Times](#) (1/9, Youssef, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports about 20 masked militants, some armed with rocket-propelled grenades and some in military fatigues, attacked a checkpoint in the northern Sinai Peninsula town of El Arish on Monday. Egyptian police spokesman Tarek Attiya said the assailants also attempted to ram a truck bomb into the checkpoint as well. At least nine people were killed and another 12 were wounded in the attack. Police killed five of the assailants and are conducting a search for the remaining militants, along with militants who killed a police officer in another El Arish checkpoint attack later that day. No group claimed responsibility for the attack, but ISIL has carried out similar attacks against security forces in Sinai within the last few months.

JUDGE REFUSES ANONYMOUS JURY REQUEST IN ISIS TRIAL. The [New York Post](#) (1/9, Whitehouse, 3.82M) reports that “the first ISIS case to be tried in Manhattan federal court kicked off Monday with a judge ruling against prosecutors’ request to keep the jury anonymous for fear of retribution.” The Post explains that “prosecutors for Manhattan US Attorney Preet Bharara asked to keep the names of the jury secret, arguing that ISIS is ‘an extremely violent terrorist organization that has publicly published ‘kill lists’ of United States citizens, including New York residents.’” However, “Judge Edgardo Ramos denied the request, ruling that the empanelling of an anonymous jury ‘is a drastic measure’ that raises the possibility ‘of unfair prejudice to the defendant.’”

Cyber News:

ABBOTT LABORATORIES RELEASES CYBERSECURITY UPDATES FOR ST. JUDE HEART DEVICES AS FDA CONFIRMS VULNERABILITIES. [Reuters](#) (1/9, Finkle) reports that Abbott Laboratories announced that it has started “releasing cyber security updates for its St. Jude heart devices some five months after the U.S. government launched a probe into claims they were vulnerable to potentially life-threatening hacks.” The Food and Drug Administration also “issued a Safety

Communication advising patients and physicians to keep using the company's implanted cardiac devices following the updates."

The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (1/9, Carlson, 1.27M) reports that the patch "will be automatically downloaded by St. Jude devices over the next several months, assuming that patients keep their at-home monitoring machines plugged in."

[MD Magazine](#) (1/9, Scott) reports that in the advisory, the Food and Drug Administration said it had confirmed that the device's vulnerabilities, "if exploited, could allow an unauthorized user, i.e., someone other than the patient's physician to remotely access a patient's RF-enabled implanted cardiac device."

Additional coverage is provided by [CNN Money](#) (1/9, Larson, 3.59M), the [New York Post](#) (1/9, English, 3.82M), and [Medscape](#) (1/9, Wendling, 339K).

UK GOVERNMENT TO ASSESS COUNTRY'S VULNERABILITY TO CYBERATTACK. [Reuters](#) (1/9, Carvalho) reports, "The British government said on Monday it is launching a national inquiry into cyber security to assess the extent to which the UK is protected from an ever-increasing tide of attacks worldwide." The inquiry "comes only two days after" US intelligence agencies stated Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered interference in the US election in order to help President-elect Trump's electoral chances.

[CNET News](#) (1/9, Ng, 762K) quotes Britain's Joint Committee on National Security Strategy Chair Margaret Beckett: "The national security implications of the leap to cyber are a matter of increasing concern. ... Attention has recently focused on the potential exploitation of the cyber domain by other states and associated actors for political purposes."

UK Prime Minister "Urged To Take Stronger Action" Against Hacking Threat. [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (1/9, Mason, 4.07M) reports UK Prime Minister Theresa May "has been urged to take stronger action against the threat of foreign powers influencing UK elections through hacking, following accusations of Russian interference in the US presidential contest." May "has said that it was a matter for individual political parties to protect themselves against cyber-attacks." The Guardian says, "It is understood that the major parties have their own safeguards in place, but government agencies have not approached them with offers of extra help in light of the US hacking scandal." The Guardian adds, "One senior Whitehall source with knowledge of the issue said there was a need for the security services to do more to help protect UK political parties from attack by foreign governments."

NORTH CAROLINA MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ILLEGALLY ACCESSING SENIOR OFFICIALS' E-MAIL, SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS. [Ars Technica](#) (1/9, Goodin, 1.61M) reports Justin Gray Liverman of Morehead City, North Carolina "has pleaded guilty to a conspiracy that illegally accessed the e-mail and social media accounts of Central Intelligence Director John Brennan and other senior government officials and then used that access to leak sensitive information and make personal threats." Ars Technica details how Liverman and a co-conspirator targeted the officials. Ars Technica says, "The perpetrators often succeed not through any technical skill but rather by making fraudulent phone calls that carefully exploit weakness in various companies' customer support services. It's not the first time social engineering has exacted such a high price, and sadly, it likely won't be the last."

LOWRY: GOVERNMENT, PRIVATE SECTOR OFFICIALS MUST BE "PROACTIVE" IN PROTECTING DATA. Former US official and Nuix USG Senior Vice President Keith Lowry writes in [Federal Times](#) (1/9, Lowry, 117K) that he considers the report from the President's Commission on Enhancing National Cybersecurity "well researched, presenting the problems it identified and solutions to those problems clearly," and adding that it resembles a "cybersecurity wish list" for President-elect Trump that he and a colleague published on November 9, 2016. Lowry says the Commission report set out 100-day, two-year, and five-year timetables for various action items, but adds, "Two to five years is a very long time, especially in technology. Incorporating and finalizing the action items marked as high or medium priority over this span of time leaves the solutions at risk of being obsolete before they ever go into effect." Lowry advises government and private sector leaders to "not wait for the incoming administration to lay out its plans" but to "be proactive" in protecting their data.

LITHUANIA BARRED CONSTRUCTION OF DATA CENTER OUT OF CONCERNS FOR RUSSIAN INFILTRATION. [Reuters](#) (1/9, Sytas) reports that Lithuania “barred construction of a data center last year over concerns it could be infiltrated by Russian intelligence, a Lithuanian security official said on Monday.” A spokesman for Lithuanian counter-intelligence chief Darius Jauniskis is quoted saying, “We warned the government that, once the data center is connected by fiber-optic cable to Russia, it could be linked by the (Russian) Federal Security Service to its radio electronic reconnaissance network. ... The government acted on that information.” Arcus Novus, a Lithuanian-registered construction firm that planned to develop the data center, “is now suing the government in an effort to overturn the decision, according to Vidmantas Tomkus, the company’s CEO and a minority shareholder.” Tomkus is quoted saying, “It’s a bit laughable to claim that a ‘hostile’ data center would be connected to Russian security services, as Lithuania is already connected to Russia through fiber-optic cables, as is the rest of the world.”

SENATOR EXPRESSES CONCERN FOR WASHINGTON METRO’S VULNERABILITY TO CYBERATTACK. The [Washington Post](#) (1/9, Siddiqui, 11.43M) reports US Sen. Mark Warner inquired about the Washington Metro’s susceptibility to cyberattack, “following a ‘ransomware’ hack that took down computers for San Francisco’s light-rail system late last year.” In a letter to Metro General Manager Paul J. Wiedefeld, Warner “writes that he worries Metro could fall victim to a similar attack, inconveniencing hundreds of thousands of subway riders and further imperiling the finances of the agency, which is already facing a \$290 million budget shortfall.” Warner is quoted writing, “I am concerned that WMATA may represent a particularly enticing target for more advanced threats, given its importance to the region and the number of federal agencies that rely on the system to transport their workforces each day.”

“WIFI JAMMERS” SEEN AS RUNNING INTO LEGAL, TECHNICAL HURDLES. [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (1/9, Osborne, 4.07M) reports that Police Superintendents’ Association of England and Wales President Gavin Thomas “suggested in an interview that wifi jammers – devices worn on the ankle or wrist to block the internet – could serve as a smarter punishment for cybercrimes than prison.” The Guardian says, “There are some issues with jammers. First, they are illegal under the Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006, so we’d need to work on that. Second, they wouldn’t work.” Security consultant and former hacker Carl Leeming is quoted saying, “Even if you did manage to implement it without breaking nearby connectivity, which in itself would be very difficult because of how radio works, it could be easily circumvented by using a cable.” University professor Mary Aiken is quoted saying, “It is going to be very difficult if not impossible to prosecute our way out of problems such as youth hacking. ... What is required is a fundamental re-evaluation of the impact of technology on developing youth.”

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR: US, RUSSIA MAY BE ABLE TO NEGOTIATE A “CYBER DÉTENTE.” The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (1/9, Board, 387K) editorializes about US security agencies’ “unanimous conclusion” that Russia “almost certainly hacked into and stole information from the Democratic National Committee, as well as emails from the account of John Podesta.” Their report “was right to not attempt to assess the level of influence the Russian hacking may have had on the US presidential election,” but “that doesn’t make the Russian attempt any less disturbing,” and “concerns now are growing that elections later this year in France and Germany may come under similar attacks.” In response, President-elect Trump “might be able to employ his reputed dealmaking skills,” and “rather than escalate the use of digital dirty tricks against each other, Russia and the US could look to conclude a ‘cyber détente’ and broker a quiet end to tit-for-tat retaliations.” The Monitor concludes, “Now may be the time for quiet negotiation rather than noisy posturing.”

CASE EXAMINES ROLE OF BEST BUY TECHNICIANS AS PAID FBI INFORMANTS. The [Washington Post](#) (1/9, Jackman, 11.43M) reports that “at a giant Best Buy repair shop in Brooks, Ky., Geek Squad technicians...have notified the FBI when they see signs of child pornography, earning payments from the agency.” The Post says “the existence of the small cadre of informants within one of the country’s most popular computer repair services was revealed in the case of a California doctor who is facing federal charges after his hard drive was flagged by a technician.” The Post explains that the judge in the case will allow the defendant’s “lawyer to question not only the Best Buy technicians and FBI agents involved in the case, but also the federal prosecutor who authorized the searches at the upcoming hearing.” The report says “the case raises issues about privacy and the government use of informants.”

FBI HELPS OREGON BUSINESSES AVOID CYBER THREATS. [KOB-TV](#) Medford, OR (1/9) reports that the FBI “and the Southern Oregon High Tech Crimes Task Force are teaming up to teach local businesses about cyber-threats.” FBI special agent Miles Wiltrout said, “The bad guy will encrypt that database, preventing the business from having access to it. ... Then they’ll ask for a ransom to decrypt it for that business.” KOB-TV says “the two organizations are holding a free seminar Thursday, Jan. 12 from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Medford Police Department headquarters.”

FBI RELEASES ANOTHER 300 CLINTON EMAIL INVESTIGATION DOCUMENTS. [Fox News Insider](#) (1/9, 3K) reports that the FBI has “quietly released another several hundred pages of documents related to its investigation of Hillary Clinton.” The report says “this is the fifth release of Clinton investigation documents on the FBI Vault website, although the bureau has not made an official announcement as of Monday morning.” Meanwhile, “the documents apparently are related to the handling of computer hardware collected from Clinton’s lawyers for the investigation.”

[Politico](#) (1/9, Gerstein, 2.46M) also reports that “newly-released records about the Hillary Clinton email investigation shed new light on an early dispute between the FBI and the State Department over the classification of an email discussing the aftermath of the 2012 Benghazi attacks.” Politico says the messages show “Deputy Secretary of State for Management Patrick Kennedy intervened with the FBI to dispute the classification at least three times: in a May 14, 2015, call to International Operations Division chief Brian McCauley, at an in-person meeting at the State Department five days later and in a phone conversation with the head of FBI’s Counterterrorism Division, Michael Steinbach.”

LAWMAKERS REINTRODUCE EMAIL PRIVACY ACT. [FedScoop](#) (1/9, O’Neill) reports that “the Email Privacy Act, which would require law enforcement get a warrant before searching emails and online communications older than 180 days, was reintroduced Monday by a bipartisan group of House lawmakers.” FedScoop says “the bill, which was introduced by Reps. Kevin Yoder, R-Kansas, and Jared Polis, D-Colo. on Monday, was passed 419-0 in the House last year before stalling in the Senate.” Meanwhile, “the previous version bill stalled when Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, along with support from law enforcement and the White House, proposed an amendment giving the FBI director the ability to force a provider to hand over data without a warrant.”

VIRGINIA MAN SENTENCED FOR HELPING KENTUCKY MAN COMPROMISE WEBSITE. The [Lexington \(KY\) Herald-Leader](#) (1/9, Kocher, 306K) reports Noah McHugh of Alexandria, Virginia “was sentenced Monday to eight months in prison for his role in helping a Winchester resident known online as ‘KYAnonymous’ compromise a website and get involved in a controversy surrounding a rape case in Steubenville, Ohio.” Assistant US Attorney Neeraj Gupta “wrote in a sentencing memorandum that McHugh’s crime victimized a website owner by ‘groundlessly defaming him on his own website as a child pornographer and the director of a ‘rape crew,’” by posting his private emails for public view, and by locking him out of his own website so that he could not undo the hack.”

CHINESE CITIZENS CHARGED FOR ATTEMPTING TO HACK LAW FIRMS. [JD Supra](#) (1/9, Freedman, 2K) reports US Attorney for the Southern District of New York Preet Bharara “announced that three Chinese citizens have been charged for attempting to hack into seven law firms that were involved in mergers and acquisitions, in order to pilfer information to use for insider trading.” The suspects “were successful in hacking into the information systems of two unidentified New York law firms, steal information related to M&A deals, and make \$4 million.” Bharara is quoted saying in a statement, “This case of cyber meets securities fraud should serve as a wake-up call for law firms around the world: You are and will be targets of cyber hacking, because you have information valuable to would-be criminals.”

National Security News:

PAKISTAN TEST-FIRES MISSILE FROM NUCLEAR-CAPABLE SUBMARINE. [AFP](#) (1/9) reports Pakistan test-fired its first missile from an underwater mobile platform on Monday. The military claimed the missile hit the target with precise accuracy. In a statement, Pakistan’s military said the submarine is capable of carrying a nuclear warhead and that Monday’s test-fire grants Pakistan a credible second strike capability. AFP notes Pakistan and India have routinely tested missiles since 1998, and tensions

between the two nations have escalated since an Indian army base located in the disputed Kashmir region was attacked in September.

KERRY DEFENDS US DECISIONS ON SYRIA. Asked in an interview with Wolf Blitzer on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (1/9, 554K) if the inability to stop "the bloodbath in Syria" was his "biggest failure," Secretary of State Kerry rejected that assessment, but said he does "look on it as a failure of the international community and of other countries to see reasonable ways in which this war could have been stopped." Blitzer said the US "could have done more," adding that Russian President Vladimir Putin is "working with [Syrian President Bashar al] Assad right now to slaughter a lot of...people." Kerry acknowledged that the war has been "deeply frustrating," but said that if the US responded militarily, it "could make the war bigger." Kerry added, "But I do think that we did what was appropriate, which is try in every way possible, with whatever leverage was available to us, to be able to try to end the war. And I'm proud of what we did in that regard."

PENTAGON: US-LED OPERATION AGAINST ISIL LEADERS "SUCCESSFUL." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (1/9, Hennigan, Bulos, 4.52M) reports Pentagon spokesman Jeff Davis told reporters on Monday that Army Delta Force commandos conducted a "routine" and "successful" raid against ISIL leaders in eastern Syrian territories controlled by the extremist group. At least two militants were killed in the operation, according to US officials. Activist and monitoring groups provided mixed accounts of the operation.

[AFP](#) (1/9) reports the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights claimed that 25 jihadists died in the operation, but Navy Captain Jeff Davis said that number was "grossly exaggerated." Davis also rejected a Syrian Democratic Forces commander's claim that prisoners were taken in the operation.

The [Washington Post](#) (1/9, Sly, Ryan, 11.43M) reports another US official claimed American troops intercepted a vehicle believed to be carrying senior ISIL members but did not provide details on whether the militants were captured or killed. Witnesses quoted by the Deir al-Zour 24 website claimed the troops landed on helicopters and then left about 90 minutes later with both ISIL captives and bodies.

US INCREASES AERIAL SUPPORT FOR TURKISH OPERATIONS IN SYRIA. The [Washington Post](#) (1/9, DeYoung, Ryan, 11.43M) reports that US aircraft have begun "regular aerial intelligence surveillance in support of Turkey's offensive" against ISIL in northwestern Syria, "in anticipation of increased US support for the flailing Turkish military operation around the town of al-Bab." The Post says the "increased support comes after weeks of US military and diplomatic talks with Turkish counterparts, and Russian airstrikes backing the Turkish offensive." According to Administration officials, US support, "including airstrikes and equipment in addition to surveillance, would be similar to what the United States now provides to Syrian groups" battling ISIL, "potentially including assistance from Special Operations advisers whose participation in the offensive has thus far been limited to an area inside the Syrian border about 10 miles north of al-Bab."

ASSAD READY "TO NEGOTIATE EVERYTHING" WITH SYRIAN REBELS. The [AP](#) (1/9, Issa) reports that in remarks published on Monday, Syrian President Bashar Assad announced he was prepared "to negotiate everything" with opposition groups at discussions scheduled in Kazakhstan later this month, although he conceded "who is going to be there from the other side, we don't know yet." He added, "The viability of the conference depends on that." On the issue of his continued rule, Assad said only a constitutional referendum could resolve the matter and that such a referendum "could be discussed in the meeting." Meanwhile, Russian officials suggested that the US, which was not invited to the Kazakhstan talks, could be invited to discussions at a later date.

IRAQI, US-LED COALITION TROOPS ADVANCE FURTHER INTO EASTERN MOSUL. [Reuters](#) (1/9, Kalin, Coles) reports Iraq's counterterrorism service, or CTS, and the allied US-led coalition launched air strikes and rockets against ISIL in eastern Mosul. The troops advanced closer to army units and a strategic central district university used by ISIL to create biological weapons and store chemicals. The advancement also enabled Iraq's military to consolidate its forces and take control of several districts near the ancient Assyrian city of Nineveh.

US DESTROYER FIRED WARNING SHOTS AT IRANIAN VESSELS. [Reuters](#) (1/9, Ali) reports that a US Navy destroyer on Sunday fired three warning shots at four Iranian fast-attack vessels near the Strait of Hormuz “after they closed in at high speed and disregarded repeated requests to slow down, US officials said” Monday. Pentagon spokesman Cpt. Jeff Davis told reporters, “This was an unsafe and unprofessional interaction, and that is due to the fact that they were approaching at a high level of speed with weapons manned and disregarding repeated warnings.” Davis said warning shots were fired at the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps boats by the USS Mahan “after it established radio contact but failed to get them to slow down.” [AFP](#) (1/9) reports the shots fired by the USS Mahan “put an end to the incident.” According to the [New York Times](#) (1/9, Gordon, Subscription Publication, 13.9M), it marked the “first time the Navy had fired warning shots at an Iranian boat since Aug. 24.” There was no immediate comment by Iran on the incident.

Appearing on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (1/9, 554K), Senate Foreign Relations Committee member Cory Gardner said the provocation “shouldn’t surprise anyone,” because Iran has been “emboldened” by the Obama Administration. Gardner also said he hopes President-elect Trump tears up the nuclear deal. When asked how far he would go to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon, Gardner replied, “I don’t think you take anything off of the table.”

Diplomats: Iran To Receive Shipment Of Natural Uranium. According to an exclusive report by the [AP](#) (1/9), Iran is set to receive “a huge shipment of natural uranium from Russia to compensate it for exporting tons of reactor coolant, diplomats say, in a move approved” by the Obama Administration and “other governments seeking to keep Tehran committed” to a landmark nuclear pact. Two “senior diplomats” said UN Security Council approval is needed for the delivery of “nearly 130 tons of natural uranium,” but is considered “a formality.” State Department spokesman John Kirby told reporters there was no prohibition on such imports by Iran under the deal and noted natural uranium “cannot be used...for a weapon” in its original form, but [Fox News' Special Report](#) (1/9, 1.53M) reported “some experts” say Iran could hold onto the uranium until the restrictions from the nuclear deal begin to expire, and could then enrich it for use in nuclear bombs.

NYTimes: Hunger Strikes Forcing Iran To Reconsider Jail Conditions. The [New York Times](#) (1/9, Erdbrink, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports the use of hunger strikes is “forcing Iran’s powerful judiciary to reconsider the conditions of at least one of its inmates after several started fasts that are leading to widespread support on social media.” While the “exact number of hunger strikers in Iranian prisons is unclear,” human rights organizations and reports in local media outlets indicate that “seven inmates, sentenced for crimes against the state, have refused to eat for intervals ranging from several weeks to more than two months.”

SUSPECT IN SHOOTING OF AMERICAN DIPLOMAT EXTRADITED FROM MEXICO. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (1/9, story 12, 0:15, Muir, 14.63M) reported briefly that the suspect in the shooting of American diplomat Christopher Ashcroft in Mexico last week is an “American med student” who has now been returned to the US to face federal charges. The [AP](#) (1/9, Sherman, Balsamo) reports that “an official with the federal Attorney General’s Office” identified the suspect as Zia Zafar, a US citizen. Ashcraft, meanwhile, remains in “stable condition” at a Mexican hospital.

Mexican FM Warns Of A “New Era In Relations” With US Under Trump. The [Washington Post](#) (1/9, Partlow, 11.43M) reports Mexico’s new foreign minister, Luis Videgaray, “rallied his diplomatic troops on Monday, promising to pursue dialogue with Donald Trump’s administration but warning that the Republican’s policies could affect the ‘destiny of future generations’ of Mexicans.” Using what the Post calls “some of the most dramatic language in years by a senior official about an incoming US president,” Videgaray said Mexico was “entering a new era in relations with the United States,” in which Trump represented many “unknowns.”

Gas Price Protests Continue. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (1/9, Linthicum, 4.52M) reports that “massive demonstrations” in Tijuana and Nogales over rising gasoline prices have “forced authorities to temporarily close crossing stations on the US-Mexico border, while in Rosarito protesters cheered as a man intentionally drove his pickup into a group of federal police officers.” More than a week after President Enrique Peña Nieto deregulated gasoline prices, “four people have been killed and more than 1,500

arrested while looting, staging road blockades and marching in protests such as the weekend demonstrations in Rosarito and along the border.”

NORTH KOREA ASSERTS READINESS FOR ICBM LAUNCH. [Reuters](#) (1/9) reports an unnamed spokesman for North Korea’s Foreign Ministry announced on Sunday that it is prepared to test-launch its intercontinental ballistic missile “anytime and anywhere determined by” leader Kim Jong Un. The spokesman accused the US of pushing North Korea to develop the ICBM and of “desperately” resorting “to anachronistic policy hostile” to Pyongyang. When asked on Monday to comment on the issue, the White House pointed to Press Secretary Josh Earnest’s comments made on Jan. 3, in which Earnest reiterated the US’ preparedness to protect against a North Korean threat. On Monday, South Korea’s Defense Ministry spokesman, Moon Sang-gyun, called the announcement “provocative” and warned that North Korea would face stronger sanctions if it followed through with an ICBM launch.

PALESTINIAN LEADER URGES TRUMP NOT TO RELOCATE US EMBASSY IN ISRAEL. The [AP](#) (1/9) reports Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas urged President-elect Trump in a letter not to follow through with his proposed relocation of the US Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem. Abbas said the move would be “devastating” for the US’ efforts to establish a two-state solution through negotiations. Abbas also called on other world leaders and international organizations to “make every possible effort” to prevent the proposed move.

CHINESE STATE MEDIA CAUTIONS TRUMP AGAINST TERMINATING ONE-CHINA PRINCIPLE. [Reuters](#) (1/8, Goh) reports the Global times, a Chinese state-run tabloid, published a Sunday editorial in which it warned President-elect Trump that it would “take revenge” if he “reneges on the one-China policy after taking office.” The tabloid said the US was obligated to maintain the principle and reiterated its importance for maintaining regional order and US-China relations. The Global Times also cautioned Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen that she “needs to face the consequences for every provocative step she takes” and warned that Beijing will likely “impose military pressure on Taiwan and push it to the edge of being reunified by force.”

White House Says Cruz-Tsai Meeting “Doesn’t Have Any Bearing” On US Policy. [Reuters](#) (1/9, Rascoe, Zargham) reports that on Monday, White House spokesman Josh Earnest said the meeting between Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen and US Sen. Ted Cruz in Houston “doesn’t have any bearing whatsoever on our continued pursuit of a one-China policy that benefits the United States and Taiwan.” Earnest added that Cruz initiated the meeting and the Administration did not encourage it.

The [New York Times](#) (1/9, Horton, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) says the meeting indicates Tsai is seeking closer relations with the Republican Party as it prepares to maintain control of Congress and take control of the White House. Cruz said his discussions with Tsai addressed “our mutual opportunity to upgrade the stature of our bilateral relations in a wide-ranging discussion that addressed arms sales, diplomatic exchanges and economic relations.” Tsai also met with Texas Gov. Greg Abbott for discussions on energy, commerce, and trade. The Times notes Tsai has increasingly focused on ways to reduce Taiwan’s economic dependence on China.

Taiwan Protects Hong Kong Lawmakers From Pro-Beijing Protesters. Taiwan granted one young pro-democracy activist and three legislators from Hong Kong police protection from hundreds of pro-Beijing protesters demonstrating against their visit, [Los Angeles Times](#) (1/9, Jennings, 4.52M) reports. The three Hong Kong lawmakers were in Taiwan for the weekend for discussions on advancing democracy. Local media outlets suggested a mafia-style gang connected to mainland China organized the protests, but others suggested disgruntled Chinese Communist officials were responsible.

To keep the email to a manageable size, the national news summary is available on the [website](#).

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The subsequent 121 pages, (NPPD 001668 through NPPD 001788) are being withheld in their entirety pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(5), (b)(6), (b)(7)(A) and (b)(7)(E).

NPPD 001668 – NPPD 001788