

RNC War Room

From: RNC War Room
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 4:16 PM
Subject: USA Today: George Soros-aligned group weighs funding anti-Trump activists

George Soros-aligned group weighs funding anti-Trump activists

USA Today

Fredreka Schouten

March 20, 2017 – 3:33 PM

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2017/03/20/george-soros-democracy-alliance-anti-trump-activists-meeting/99417808/>

WASHINGTON — A network of some of the nation's wealthiest Democratic donors is weighing providing money and support to several of the new activist groups that have cropped up since Election Day to challenge President Trump and his agenda.

Organizers of January's Women's March on Washington and leaders of Indivisible will make presentations later this week to the Democracy Alliance when the influential donor coalition holds its private spring meeting in Washington, the group's president Gara LaMarche said.

LaMarche said he already has sought to connect alliance contributors to Indivisible, one of the groups at the forefront of anti-Trump efforts. Its organizers, led by former Democratic congressional aides, have created a how-to manual "for resisting the Trump agenda" that is modeled on conservative Tea Party tactics and has encouraged shows of opposition at congressional town hall meetings.

More than 5,500 local groups are using the guide to fight administration policies, organizers say.

"Everybody is impressed by what's come up in a grassroots sense and doing what we can to support that and connect that up to a larger infrastructure," LaMarche told USA TODAY.

The alliance, aligned with billionaire financier George Soros, also is weighing building a pool of money that can be deployed for "rapid response" work by other liberal groups on an array of issues, such as challenging the Trump administration on the deportation of undocumented immigrants.

Any decision by the alliance to back financially anti-Trump groups likely will spark conservative outcry.

In a recent Fox News interview, for instance, White House spokesman Sean Spicer said called the liberal activism at sometimes rowdy congressional town halls a "very paid, Astroturf-type movement." Trump himself tweeted that many of the "so-called angry crowds" confronting Republicans were "planned out by liberal activists."

Ezra Levin, a former congressional aide who helped start Indivisible with his wife, Leah Greenberg, and other ex-Capitol Hill staffers, said the group is "is very much led on the ground" by activists who are determined to take action against Trump and is not under the sway of any one donor or group.

Levin said the group has received more than 10,000 donations totaling more than \$500,000 since last January.

Levin said the group has received more than 10,000 donations totaling more than \$500,000 since last January through ActBlue, a fundraising engine for liberal candidates and causes. Levin said the group wants to continue to have a broad fundraising base, even as it looks to groups such as the Democracy Alliance for additional help.

"We're certainly not looking for anybody to own it by providing like some kind of enormous amount," he said. "That's not our model."

"If the Democracy Alliance and other folks in this space ... are interested in supporting a broad movement that is fundamentally led at the group level," he added, "we think the movement needs their support."

Levin and Greenberg, both of whom worked on Capitol Hill during the rise of the Tea Party, and a couple dozen volunteers helped draft their 23-page anti-Trump guide, which was posted as a Google document two weeks before Christmas.

It quickly went viral and has become a manual on how to pressure lawmakers that Levin said is now used by groups registered in every congressional district. That growth, he said, "mostly speaks to the level of energy out there and the sheer scale of the opposition to this president's agenda."

It's not unusual for established political organization to align with activists. Conservative groups — such as FreedomWorks and Americans for Prosperity, founded by billionaires Charles and David Koch Koch — worked with Tea Party-fueled activists to aggressively oppose former President Barack Obama's agenda, helping fuel a Republican takeover of the U.S. House of Representatives in 2010.

Time for liberal donors to 'do more'

In recent years, the Democracy Alliance has focused on supporting a network of liberal groups working on long-term issues, such as boosting voting rights and increasing the minimum wage. It also has made a big investment in building liberal power in the states ahead of the 2020 Census, which will shape the next round of legislative redistricting. The GOP redistricting successes after the last Census in 2010 helped cement Republican power in Congress and the states.

Although next week's "Resist and Rebuild" conference will include discussion of the new groups mobilizing to oppose Trump, LaMarche said the goal is not to divert money away from the alliance's core focus. Instead, donors may be asked to give additional sums to help back the new anti-Trump work and the expanded operations at the state level.

"In a time like this, people have to step up and do more, particularly since some of the traditional sources of support for progressive causes like labor have their own challenges," he said.

The alliance, formed in 2005, has close ties to some of the biggest names in liberal politics. Soros helped found the group along with Taco Bell heir Rob McKay and other wealthy Democrats. The network does not release the names of its donors, but other contributors identified with the group have included Tom Steyer, a billionaire environmentalist from California who contributed more than \$90 million to political active super PACs in the 2016 election cycle.

The alliance does not donate directly to groups. Instead, its 120 or so donors — officially termed "partners" — pay annual dues to the alliance. They also are required to contribute at least \$200,000 a year to organizations the alliance recommends.

Those groups currently include the Obama-aligned Organizing for Action, the liberal Center for American Progress think tank and Color of Change, whose political action arm last year successfully pressured several big corporations to boycott the Republican National Convention over Trump's rhetoric about women, Muslims and Latinos.

The Democracy Alliance's spring gathering will be preceded by a two-day, invitation-only summit. The summit, which opens Wednesday, will focus exclusively on liberal efforts to win back political power in the states, where Republicans currently control 33 governors' mansions

About 420 people are expected to attend the summit, dubbed "A Time for Action," marking the largest gathering in the alliance's 12-year-history.

LaMarche said about 200 alliance "partners" and others will attend the main conference, following the summit. Topics will include strategies for regaining ground with the working-class voters who backed Trump.

Both events are closed to the public.

Disclaimer: The Republican National Committee provided the above article as a service to its employees and other selected individuals. Any opinions expressed therein are those of the article's author and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the RNC.

RNC War Room

From: RNC War Room
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 7:23 AM
Subject: Politico Playbook 5/10/17

COMEY is OUT -- BACK-STORY from DAWSEY on why an 'ENRAGED' Trump fired Comey -- What Trump needs to do next -- POTUS' only agenda item today: meeting with Russian foreign minister -- RUSSIA investigations plod along

Politico Playbook

Anna Palmer, Jake Sherman and Daniel Lippman

May 10, 2017

<http://www.politico.com/tipsheets/playbook/2017/05/comey-is-out-back-story-from-dawsey-on-why-an-enraged-trump-fired-comey-what-trump-needs-to-do-next-potus-only-agenda-item-today-meeting-with-russian-foreign-minister-russia-investigations-plod-along-220222>

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GOOD (VERY EARLY) MORNING FROM SAN FRANCISCO. If you're a betting man or woman, and you're looking for action in Washington this spring, summer or fall, short the legislative system. If President Donald Trump was looking to foster a spirit of bipartisanship, firing FBI Director James Comey like this was not a step toward kumbaya. Democrats and many Republicans are furious at Trump for firing the FBI director. Leave aside any lingering concerns with Jim Comey's performance. The optics of firing Comey the way Trump did is almost too reckless to believe, according to the insiders we've spoken to. One senior Republican aide put it this way: It's almost as if Trump was courting controversy with both parties by handling the situation the way he did.

SURE, Democrats aren't wild about the guy. But if Trump really thought that would insulate him from backlash, boy, he was wrong.

SENATE INTELLIGENCE CHAIRMAN Richard Burr (R-N.C.), who is leading the Senate's Russia probe, said he was "troubled by the timing and reasoning of Director Comey's termination." Burr added in a tweet that "Dir. Comey has been more forthcoming w/ information than any FBI Director I can recall in my tenure on the congressional intel committees."

SEN. JOHN MCCAIN (R-Ariz.) said he was "disappointed" by Trump's action and renewed his call for a special congressional committee to investigate Russia's attempts to influence the American political system. Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Bob Corker (R-Tenn.), a Trump ally, said Comey's "removal at this particular time will raise questions." Sen. Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.), up for reelection next year, said on Twitter that "I've spent the last several hours trying to find an acceptable rationale for the timing of Comey's firing. I just can't do it." Imagine the fallout if Trump did this when the House was in session.

SENATE DEMOCRATS – who raised Nixon, Watergate and the infamous "Saturday Night Massacre" all Tuesday night – will hold a special caucus meeting on Wednesday morning to discuss the situation. This is a juicy detail from Austin Wright and Seung Min Kim: "Schumer has also asked Democrats to sit at their desks inside the chamber when the Senate convenes Wednesday morning as McConnell delivers the opening remarks 'to hear what, if anything, McConnell has to say about Comey's firing,' according to one senior Senate Democratic

what, if anything, McConnell has to say about Comey's firing, according to one senior Senate Democratic aide." **Full story** <http://politi.co/2pyPi5b>

TRUMP SPEAKS -- @realDonaldTrump at 10:42 p.m.: "Cryin' Chuck Schumer stated recently, 'I do not have confidence in him (James Comey) any longer.' Then acts so indignant. #draintheswamp"

IN THE SHORT TERM, the questions are as follows: 1) Why was Comey fired? 2) What does it mean for the FBI's Russia probe? 3) Who will replace Comey at the FBI and when? Andrew McCabe, the acting director, is already the subject of an FBI IG investigation, after Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe helped his wife raise \$500,000 for public office.

MAYBE Trump never forgave Comey for initially clearing Clinton of criminal charges last July. Comey did say last week that he had no regrets about his handling of the Clinton probe. Maybe Trump wasn't happy that Comey and the FBI weren't doing more to uncover who leaked information about the Trump campaign's ties to Russian officials. Maybe Trump just got sick of Russia, Russia, Russia on TV all the time.

-- **WHAT TRUMP NEEDS**: It's pretty simple. Trump needs a Neil Gorsuch-like figure at the FBI. That's not easy. The Supreme Court justice was Trump's biggest political win as president. Republicans won't rubber stamp just anyone at the FBI. Trump needs to find a figure that lawmakers can rally around.

-- **JUST SAYING...**: Trump has now fired Preet Bharara, Sally Yates and James Comey. What do all three have in common? They were investigating Trump.

-- **TO HIS CREDIT**: Trump did call Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) and Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), ranking member on Judiciary, before the firing was announced. (Thanks to Bres for the help/gut check.)

-- **HOT DOCS**: Letter from Trump to Comey firing him, Sessions' letter to Trump, memo to Sessions from deputy attorney general Rod Rosenstein with the title "Restoring Public Confidence in the FBI" <http://bit.ly/2r136q7>

FOR THE HISTORY BOOKS -- NYT A1, including an image of the letter Trump sent to Comey firing him. <http://nyti.ms/2q2BdAa> ... WaPo gives it the full banner treatment: "Trump fires FBI director" <http://bit.ly/2pvF8kP>

TRUMP'S ONLY SCHEDULE ITEM TODAY: A meeting with Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergey Lavrov in the Oval at 10:30 a.m.

MUST-READ JOSH DAWSEY -- "Behind Comey's firing: An enraged Trump, fuming about Russia": "President Donald Trump weighed firing his FBI director for more than a week. When he finally pulled the trigger Tuesday afternoon, he didn't call James Comey. He sent his longtime private security guard [Keith Schiller] to deliver the termination letter in a manila folder to FBI headquarters. He had grown enraged by the Russia investigation, two advisers said, frustrated by his inability to control the mushrooming narrative around Russia. He repeatedly asked aides why the Russia investigation wouldn't disappear and demanded they speak out for him. He would sometimes scream at television clips about the probe, one adviser said.

"**Trump's firing of the high-profile FBI director** on the 110th day since taking office marked another sudden turn for an administration that has fired its acting attorney general, national security adviser and now its FBI director, who Trump had praised until recent weeks and even blew a kiss to during a January appearance." <http://politi.co/2pv47Ec>

appearance: <http://politico.com>

-- **WaPo's DEVLIN BARRETT, ADAM ENTOUS and PHIL RUCKER:** "Several current and former officials said the relationship between the White House and the FBI had been strained for months, in part because administration officials were pressuring Comey to more aggressively pursue leak investigations over disclosures that embarrassed the White House and raised questions about ties with Russia. That pressure was described as conversational challenges to FBI leadership to pursue the source of leaks seen as damaging to the administration ... Although the FBI is investigating disclosures of classified information, the bureau has resisted calls to prioritize leak investigations over the Russia matter, or probe matters that did not involve leaks of classified or otherwise sensitive information ... A current official said administration figures have been 'very aggressive' in pressuring the FBI." <http://wapo.st/2r0risZ>

***** **A message from PhRMA: Patients share the costs of medicines. They should share the savings.** Robust negotiations between biopharmaceutical companies and insurers often result in significant rebates and discounts. Insurers should share more of these rebates with patients. Providing access to discounted prices at the point of sale could dramatically lower patients' out-of-pocket costs. Learn more at <http://onphr.ma/2pdaE7m>. *****

BEING THERE -- "After Trump fired Comey, his staff scrambled to explain why," by WaPo's Jenna Johnson with Bob Costa: Sean "Spicer had wanted to drop the bombshell news in an emailed statement but it was not transmitting quickly enough, so he ended up standing in the doorway of the press office around 5:40 p.m. and shouting a statement to reporters who happened to be gathered in the briefing room. He then vanished, with his staff locking the door leading to his office. The press staff said that Spicer might do a briefing, then announced that he definitely wouldn't say anything more that night. But as Democrats and Republicans began to criticize and question the firing with increasing levels of alarm, Spicer and two prominent spokeswomen were suddenly speed-walking up the White House drive to defend the president on CNN, Fox News and Fox Business ...

"After Spicer spent several minutes hidden in the bushes behind these sets, Janet Montesi, an executive assistant in the press office, emerged and told reporters that Spicer would answer some questions, as long as he was not filmed doing so. Spicer then emerged. 'Just turn the lights off. Turn the lights off,' he ordered. 'We'll take care of this... Can you just turn that light off?' Spicer got his wish and was soon standing in near darkness between two tall [shrubs], with more than a dozen reporters closely gathered around him. For 10 minutes, he responded to a flurry of questions, vacillating between light-hearted asides and clear frustration with getting the same questions over and over again." <http://wapo.st/2q29fV1>

BACK STORY -- NYT's Mike Shear and Matt Apuzzo: "Mr. Comey learned from news reports that he had been fired while addressing bureau employees in Los Angeles. While Mr. Comey spoke, television screens in the background began flashing the news. In response to the reports, Mr. Comey laughed, saying that he thought it was a fairly funny prank." <http://nyti.ms/2pvlVQt>

-- **BEFORE HIS FIRING, COMEY** was supposed to speak last night in Hollywood at a recruiting event for FBI special agents where one could "receive personal career counseling from FBI Special Agents, and interact with representatives from FBI Los Angeles speciality programs, including: CSI(Evidence Response Team), Behavioral Profilers, SWAT, Bomb Technicians, Crisis Negotiators, and more**." The event page also noted: "**Due to often unforeseen operational demands, some program representatives may be unavailable for some or all portions of the event." <http://bit.ly/2piHtoj>

--**HIS LAST GOVERNMENT FLIGHT? -- COMEY** flew in a Gulfstream G5 last night from LAX and landed at DCA at 1:24 a.m. this morning. <http://bit.ly/2q2wM8a> (h/t Yashar Ali @Yashar)

THE AFTERMATH -- “FBI agents in tears as news of Comey’s firing spread,” by Josh Meyer and Darren Samuelsohn: “The news of FBI director James Comey’s firing struck like a thunderclap at field offices around the country, where agents heard first from TV or the internet that their boss had been dismissed by President Donald J. Trump. ‘I’m literally in tears right now. That’s all I have to say,’ said a longtime special agent who’s known and worked with Comey for years, who first heard the news on the car radio. ... By Tuesday evening, the shock that initially spread throughout the ranks of current and former FBI officials was mixed with a growing sense of anger among the many Comey loyalists in the bureau, and demands for answers as to why the director had been fired – and why now.” <http://politi.co/2py4IXI>

THE INVESTIGATIONS CONTINUE -- “Grand jury subpoenas issued in FBI’s Russia investigation,” by CNN’s Evan Perez, Shimon Prokupez and Pamela Brown: “Federal prosecutors have issued grand jury subpoenas to associates of former National Security Advisor Michael Flynn seeking business records, as part of the ongoing probe of Russian meddling in last year’s election, according to people familiar with the matter. CNN learned of the subpoenas hours before President Donald Trump fired FBI director James Comey. The subpoenas represent the first sign of a significant escalation of activity in the FBI’s broader investigation begun last July into possible ties between Trump campaign associates and Russia.” <http://cnn.it/2q1MUqf>

-- **“Senate Russia investigators ask Treasury for Trump team financial information,”** by CNN’s Tom LoBianco: “Senate Russia investigators have sent a request to the Treasury Department’s criminal investigation division for any information related to President Donald Trump, his top officials and his campaign aides, the top Democrat on the Senate intelligence committee told CNN Tuesday.” <http://cnn.it/2pybT1F>

TOP TWEETS -- @EricHolder: “To the career men and women at DOJ/FBI: you know what the job entails and how to do it. Be strong and unafraid. Duty. Honor. Country.” ... **@PreetBharara:** “EVERYONE who cares about independence & rule of law in America should be ‘troubled by the timing and reasoning’ of Comey firing. Period.” ... **@BillKristol:** “One can be at once a critic of Comey and alarmed by what Trump has done and how he has done it.” ... **@thomaswright08:** “On Fox, Sarah Huckabee Sanders, deputy WH press secretary says time to let Russia investigation go.” ... **@sahilkapur:** “This @andersoncooper eyeroll when Conway, asked about Comey’s firing, changes the topic to winning Michigan.” <http://bit.ly/2qpXvwO> ...

... **@RobbyMook:** “Twilight zone. I was as disappointed and frustrated as anyone at how the email investigation was handled. But this terrifies me.” ... **GOP Rep. Justin Amash (Mich.) (@justinamash):** “My staff and I are reviewing legislation to establish an independent commission on Russia. The second paragraph of this letter is bizarre.” ... **GOP Rep. Carlos Curbelo (Fla.) (@carloscurbelo):** “No one should find out via the television that they’ve been fired. If true, that’s poor form and plain unprofessional. #Comey”

PLAYBOOK INTERVIEW -- We are in San Francisco for a conversation this evening with House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, California Attorney General Xavier Becerra and Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-Calif.). Thank you to everyone who has RSVP’ed – it will be a packed house. We expect they’ll make news. **Livestream at 5 p.m. Pacific** <http://politi.co/2qqbW3O>

-- **D.C. EXPATS** – and some who still are among us – gathered at the Rosewood Sand Hill last night. **SPOTTED:** Ted Ulyot, Chelsea Maughan, Kip Wainscott and Amy Dudley, Bert Kaufman, Amanda Renteria, Ben Clark, Lisa Barclay, Molly Levinson and Anne O’Leary.

BATTLE FOR CONTROL OF CONGRESS -- “California takes center stage in battle for House majority,” by Alex Isenstadt and Gabe Debenedetti: “California has emerged as the epicenter of the already intense battle for

from Ronald and Gabe Bohannon. California has emerged as the epicenter of the already intense battle for the House in 2018, as both parties rush resources and manpower to a state that could determine the chamber's balance of power. With 18 months still to go until the election, Democrats and Republicans are mapping out TV advertising plans across the state, setting up headquarters, digging into polling, and hiring operatives. The showdown has swiftly drawn in Hollywood players, major donors and grass-roots activists. California is home to seven vulnerable Republican incumbents in districts where Hillary Clinton beat Donald Trump — more than a quarter of the seats Democrats need to flip." <http://politi.co/2q20B92>

WHERE HEALTH CARE STANDS -- NEW POLITICO/MORNING CONSULT POLL -- "Poll: Support for GOP health bill declines," by Steven Shepard: "The popularity of the Republican health care bill declined over the past week even as its chances of becoming law improved after its passage by the House, underscoring the political peril President Donald Trump and the GOP face in their efforts to repeal and replace Obamacare. Voters have low expectations — few believe the bill, if enacted, will make the U.S. health care system better, increase the number of Americans with health coverage, improve the quality of their own care or decrease the costs for them and their family.

"And as the Senate prepares to take up the legislation, the POLITICO/Morning Consult also shows declines in voters' views of Trump's job performance and his party's standing in next year's congressional elections. Only 38 percent of voters approve of the GOP-drafted health care bill, the new poll shows — down from 42 percent last week, prior to the House's party-line vote to advance the measure. Forty-four percent of voters disapprove of the bill, up significantly from 37 percent last month. Eighteen percent of voters say they don't know or have no opinion of the bill." <http://politi.co/2qqq50R>

-- READING THE TEA LEAVES: We've spent a lot of time since the House passed their health care bill talking about the Senate's process. It could be a months long slog. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell took to the mics Tuesday afternoon to clarify how his conference will address the issue. McConnell said that GOP lawmakers' weekly meetings "Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, for the foreseeable future are going to be devoted almost entirely to the health care issue and everybody's a part of the discussion." Further, the Kentucky Republican pushed back on the narrative that the working group is all-men. "Well, the working group that counts, is all 52 of us, and we're having extensive meetings, as I said a few minutes ago, every day. Nobody's being excluded based upon gender," he said.

THE JUICE...

-- JENNA SAKWA, a longtime CBS News hand, is heading to Speaker Paul Ryan's office as the head of media affairs. From the speaker's suite: "She succeeds Sarah Swinehart, who departed recently for a position with Edelman. Sakwa joins the speaker's office after nearly seven years with CBS News where she was most recently an editorial producer for CBS This Morning. Sakwa will lead the speaker's broadcast media efforts, including TV and radio booking, as well as manage his media-related events."

-- RET. LT. GEN. JAMES CLAPPER, former Director of National Intelligence, has joined the Center for a New American Security as the distinguished senior fellow for intelligence and national security. <http://bit.ly/2q2tkKN>
IF YOU READ ONE THING -- GARRETT GRAFF, author of the book "The Threat Matrix: The FBI at War in the Age of Global Terror," in Politico Magazine, "The Political Isolation of Jim Comey": "Jim Comey learned Tuesday afternoon the difference between being independent and being out on a limb. After years of charting his own course in a city that prides itself on loyalty, after marching to the beat of his own drum in a political culture that's increasingly divided into teams, after making up the rules as he went along in a Justice Department that prides itself on precedent and tradition, the FBI director found this week that he had run out of time and run out of friends. [I]t will be years before [the FBI's] public reputation recovers from the intense political firestorm

out of trouble. ... [i]t will be years before [the FBI's] public reputation recovers from the intense political mudslinging that Comey plunged it into last summer with a fateful news conference. ... In the end, perhaps that will be remembered as Comey's greatest sin. He forgot the most important lesson of his post: In Washington, FBI directors should be like children—seen but not heard.” <http://politi.co/2pymIRq>

-- **TODD S. PURDUM, “Trump pulls from Nixon’s playbook”:** “[N]ot since that ‘Saturday Night Massacre’ more than 40 years ago has a sitting president dared to fire an official in the middle of investigating potential misconduct by his own campaign. The risks of doing so are enormous. ‘If President Trump thought the Russian hacking investigation would just go away, his decision today has insured that it won’t,’ said presidential historian Timothy Naftali. ‘It’s going to make getting rid of those allegations so much harder. There’s now a cloud of doubt.” <http://politi.co/2qq30vj>

--**“Is This a Constitutional Crisis? Legal experts size up the Comey firing”** – Politico Magazine: <http://politi.co/2q2n0mO>

FOR YOUR RADAR -- “U.S. Census director resigns amid turmoil over funding of 2020 count,” by WaPo’s Tara Bahrapour: “The director of the U.S. Census Bureau is resigning, leaving the agency leaderless at a time when it faces a crisis over funding for the 2020 decennial count of the U.S. population and beyond. John H. Thompson, who has served as director since 2013 and worked for the bureau for 27 years before that, will leave June 30, the Commerce Department announced Tuesday. The news, which surprised census experts, follows an April congressional budget allocation for the census that critics say is woefully inadequate.” <http://wapo.st/2r0N7bT>

AMERICA’S SUBURBS ARE KILLING US: As the car became essential to American life, our sedentary lifestyles started making obesity and other diseases far worse. Can we reverse-engineer our own towns to fix the problem? The latest issue of **Agenda 2020**, POLITICO’s running project on America’s long-term policy future looks at new ideas for redesigning how we live. <http://politi.co/2qYHV7B>

BUSINESS BURST -- JPMorgan Chase is announcing Wednesday that its investment in Detroit’s economic rebirth will reach \$150 million by 2019. Its focus is building sustainable neighborhoods, making sure Detroit residents have proper job skills and giving small businesses capital. <http://bit.ly/2r0rCaR> ... **Detroit Free Press story** <http://on.freep.com/2q2v8U8>

***** **A message from PhRMA: You don’t always pay full price for doctor or hospital visits. So why is a visit to the pharmacy different?** Robust negotiations between biopharmaceutical companies and insurers often result in significant rebates and discounts. In fact, more than a third of the list price for brand medicines is rebated back to payers and the supply chain. Yet, unlike care received at an in-network hospital or physician’s office, patients with high deductibles or coinsurance pay cost sharing based on the list price of a medicine, even if their insurer receives a steep discount. Insurers should share more of the rebates they receive with patients. Learn more at <http://onphr.ma/2pdaE7m>. *****

MEDIAWATCH – MICHAEL WOLFF in The Hollywood Reporter, “Fox News Now Faces Sinclair and (Gasp!) Real Competition”: “Trump friend and Newsmax CEO Chris Ruddy, long looking for a way to expand his conservative magazine-digital-television play, has been urged, reportedly from inside the White House, to try to finance a deal that would bring O’Reilly to Newsmax. The Mercers, father Bob and daughter Rebekah, leading financial supporters of Trump, Breitbart News and Steve Bannon, the Trump alt-right-leaning strategist, are among the potential willing funders of a major new right-wing media platform.” <http://bit.ly/2q1uFS1>

--**“Wall Street Journal adds 300,000 subscribers in last year”** by CNN’s Dylan Rivers: In “presentations to staff

Virginia. He and his wedding name has omitted, according to the <http://bit.ly/2r0qUue> ... **about the wedding:** <http://bit.ly/2r0qUue>

BIRTHDAY OF THE DAY: pollster **Stan Greenberg**, CEO of Greenberg Quinlan Rosner and the pride of New Haven, is 72 – **how he's celebrating:** "Celebrating with nearly all generations of the family in Washington on the weekend since Rosa [DeLauro, his wife] is home in the district on recess, because my grandson Teo's birthday is May 11th and because of Mother's Day. Our twins, Anna and Kathryn, settled in DC, and so Sunday will be big." Read his Playbook Plus Q&A: <http://politi.co/2r0TJa9>

BIRTHDAYS: Bono is 57 ... Rick Santorum is 59 ... Craig Gordon, managing editor at Bloomberg News in Washington ... Mel Sembler, former RNC finance chairman and U.S. Ambassador to Italy under Bush 43 (hat tip: Scott Kamins) ... Politico's Gabe Debenedetti ... Andrew Card, president of Franklin Pierce University, is 7-0 ... Douglas Farrar, senior manager for comms. and public affairs at the Aspen Institute, is 34 ... CNN national security reporter Jeremy Herb ... Chris Tuttle ... Sen. Dean Heller (R-Nev.) is 57 ... Rep. Mike Kelly (R-Penn.) ... Elise Italiano ... Chris Berman is 62 ... former Rep. Steve Gunderson (R-Wisc.) is 66 (h/t Gary Achterberg) ... Hannah Mooney, senior manager for public affairs at PhRMA ... Jim Powderly ... Ilona Viczian ... Brad Bannon ... Michael Turk ... Christine McDonough ... Clarence Tong ...

... **Veronique de Rugy**, senior research fellow at the Mercatus Center ... writer John Meroney ... Maggie Thomas, associate at Wiley Rein ... Pew's Rachel Weisel ... Lucy Jackson, special assistant at Treasury and a Goldman Sachs alum, is 27 ... Abbey Brandon ... writer Adam Janofsky ... Carter Foxgrover ... Mark Keam ... Terry Holt ... small-business crusader Tom Sullivan ... Dave Kluesner ... NY1's Grace Rauh ... Emily Dillard ... Corbin Casteel ... Andrew Binns ... Bryant Avondoglio ... Jocelyn Austin ... Chris Policano ... David Bethel is 7-0 ... Hernan Rozemberg ... Erik Curren ... Sara Parker ... Gannet Tseggai ... Jonny Powell ... Christopher Berg ... James L. "Jim" Hooley ... Fernanda Montano Klatzkin ... Amy Simon ... Lisa Boyce ... Julia Dunbar ... Howie Choder ... Jackson Salovaara, celebrating by spending his day saving the environment (h/ts Teresa Vilmain) ... Olympic gold medal swimmer Missy Franklin is 22 (h/t AP)

***** **A message from PhRMA: Insurers should share more of the rebates they receive with patients.** More than a third of the list price for brand medicines is rebated back to payers and the supply chain. Yet, unlike care received at an in-network hospital or physician's office, patients with high deductibles or coinsurance pay cost sharing based on the list price of a medicine, even if their insurer receives a steep discount. Patients share the costs of medicines, so they should share the savings. Learn more about where the discounts are going at <http://onphr.ma/2pdaE7m>. *****

Disclaimer: The Republican National Committee provided the above article as a service to its employees and other selected individuals. Any opinions expressed therein are those of the article's author and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the RNC.

RNC War Room

From: RNC War Room
Sent: Sunday, May 21, 2017 8:56 AM
Subject: Inside Politics (CNN) – Karen Tumulty, Nia-Malika Henderson, Manu Raju, Carl Hulse (Closing Segment)

Inside Politics (CNN) – Karen Tumulty, Nia-Malika Henderson, Manu Raju, Carl Hulse (Closing Segment)

<http://mms.tveyes.com/transcript.asp?PlayClip=FALSE&DTSearch=TRUE&DateTime=05%2F21%2F2017+08%3A51%3A48&market=m1&StationID=100>

JOHN KING: welcome back. let's close as we always do, head around the table and reporters share something from their notebooks. nia-malika henderson?

NIA-MALIKA HENDERSON: john thompson announced he'll step down at the end of june. he doesn't have a deputy nor anyone to report to at the census. these vacancies come as the census prepares for a big census in 2020 and the prep work to do that really extends the project around the country. why is the census important? it's connected to federal funding. it represents. one of the things to look for, who gets this slot and what the budgeting is for the census going to work. it is important historically important to ramp up the spending in this census in advance of the 2020 and those decade census counts.

KING: yet another help wanted vacancy sign in the trump administration. carl?

CARL HULSE: i'm doing a piece on republicans in the senate to watch on the russia investigation. the intel committee a group of four republican senators who have really shown determination, they want to see this through. roy blunt is one of them, susan collins. roy blunt says, you know, we want to be able to show people that we talked to everyone that we should have talked to and we've seen every document we should have seen, so how these republicans are going to be working in this new environment.

KING: keep an eye on that. manu?

MANU RAJU: friday the senate intelligence committee said they'd hear from james comey in open session members were angry, chuck grassley, dianne feinstein, ranking democrats, this is part of an increasingly tense turf war between the intelligence committee and judiciary committee getting access to information and documents, the judiciary committee has oversight over the fbi and some of the members are not happy they have not gotten some information. one of the chairman of the subcommittee on the judiciary committee lindsey graham started to assert himself on the russia probe, heard from sally yates in a hearing that actually undercut the house intelligence committee's effort to hear from sally yates. this is not just egos and personality. it has impact. the key committees are the ones who write the reports and tell the american people exactly what happened.

KING: there's a lot of ego and personalities there. karen?

KAREN TUMULTY: one of the questions that was raised with the appointment of the special counsel is what that would do to all of these investigations on capitol hill. it was interesting on friday general rod rosentyn was up there. he was pressed on this issue. what's interesting he encouraged them to go full speed ahead. he said as

there, he was pressed on the issue. what's interesting is encouraging them to get far speed ahead. he said as long as you've got a point of contact in the justice department, go for it. that i think is important to endangered republicans. they feel they cannot be seen as putting the brakes on this.

KING: we'll see if it continues. words out of the loop returned to our political conversation this past weekend. it stirred a little sense of deja vu. the phrase found people close to mike pence saying the vice president feels more frustrated with all this controversy swirling around the trump white house and his role in selling it, selling the explanations. history tells us this subplot is worth watching. big investigations have a way of straining the relationship between the president and his number two. it happened in the iran-contra iran-contra investigation, george h.w. bush famously claimed to be out of the loop. special counsel investigation that led to charges against scooter libby caused major tensions between george w. bush and vice president dick cheney. it's one of the many interesting subplots to keep an eye on. thanks for sharing your sunday. hope to see you at noon weekdays. next, live coverage of the president's speech to the big islamic summit in saudi arabia. enjoy your sunday.

Disclaimer: The Republican National Committee provided the above article as a service to its employees and other selected individuals. Any opinions expressed therein are those of the article's author and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the RNC.

RNC War Room

From: RNC War Room
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 6:54 AM
Subject: Politico Playbook 5/23/17

22 DEAD in Manchester horror -- TRUMP: terrorists are 'evil losers in life' -- Eliana and Dawsey SCOOP: LEWANDOWSKI, BOSSIE back in the mix -- GARCETTI talks 2020

Politico Playbook

Anna Palmer, Jake Sherman and Daniel Lippman

May 23, 2017

<http://www.politico.com/tipsheets/playbook/2017/05/23/22-dead-in-manchester-horror-trump-terrorists-are-evil-losers-in-life-eliana-and-dawsey-scoop-lewandowski-bossie-back-in-the-mix-garcetti-talks-2020-220449>

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Good Tuesday morning. PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP in BETHLEHEM offered his “deepest condolences to those so terribly injured in this terrorist attack” in Manchester, United Kingdom.

NEW LINE ALERT -- “LOSERS” -- TRUMP in the West Bank: Terrorists are “**EVIL LOSERS IN LIFE.**” **TRUMP’S EXPLANATION**, via pooler Mike Memoli: “So many young, beautiful innocent people living and enjoying their lives murdered by evil losers in life. I won’t call them monsters because they would like that term. They would think that’s a great name. I will call them from now on losers, because that’s what they are. They’re losers. And we’ll have more of them. But they’re losers. Just remember that.”

MANCHESTER EVENING NEWS FRONT PAGE -- “MASSACRE: 22 CHILDREN AND ADULTS ARE MURDERED BY SUICIDE BOMBER AT ARENA POP CONCERT” <http://bit.ly/2q6NAwi>

AP at 6:05 a.m.: “LONDON (AP) - British prime minister says terrorist attack among the worst Britain has experienced.”

-- **THE LATEST: AP** at 5:17 a.m., by Jill Lawless in Manchester and Gregory Katz in London, with Leanne Italie in New York, Mesfin Fekadu in Jersey City and Lori Hinnant and John Leicester in Paris: “An apparent suicide bomber attacked an Ariana Grande concert as it ended Monday night, killing 22 people among a panicked crowd of young concertgoers, some still wearing the star’s trademark kitten ears and holding pink balloons as they fled.

“**Teenage screams filled the arena** just after the explosion, which also killed the attacker and injured dozens. The attack sparked a nightlong search for loved ones — parents for the children they had accompanied or agreed to pick up, and friends for each other after groups were scattered by the blast. Twitter and Facebook were filled with appeals for the missing. ... There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but Chief Constable Ian Hopkins said police are treating the blast as an act of terrorism ‘until we know otherwise.’ ...

“**Forensic investigations are trying to determine** if the attacker had accomplices, Hopkins said. He provided no information about the person who set off the bomb.... There was no immediate claim of responsibility. Supporters of the extremist Islamic State group, which holds territory in Iraq’s Mosul and around its de facto

supporters of the extremist Islamic State group, which holds territory in Iraq & Mosul and around its de facto capital in the Syrian city of Raqqa, celebrated the blast online. ... If the explosion is confirmed as a terrorist attack it would be the deadliest in Britain since four suicide bombers killed 52 London commuters on three subway trains and a bus in July 2005." <http://apne.ws/2rOiVA5>

AP BULLETIN at 4:42 a.m. – "SEOUL, South Korea (AP) - South Korean military says it fired warning shot after unidentified object flew south from North Korea."

ON THE WORLD STAGE -- "Turkey tests Trump's patience after protesters roughed up," by Nahal Toosi: "Turkish officials, under pressure to prove loyalty to their autocratic president, are casting fresh blame on the United States following a violent clash last week between Turkish security guards and protesters in Washington. And there's not a whole lot the Trump administration can do about it.

"Turkey's Foreign Ministry on Monday summoned the U.S. ambassador in Ankara to lodge a formal protest days after Washington police intervened to stop Turkish security officials from beating up protesters. The violence near the Turkish embassy came soon after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan met with President Donald Trump at the White House, and video caught Erdogan watching some of the skirmish.

"The May 16 melee and subsequent diplomatic kerfuffle have offered an astonishing glimpse into the growing hostility between America and Turkey, two NATO allies at odds over how best to fight Islamic State terrorists, among other disputes." <http://politi.co/2rvlcnu>

TOP MIDDLE-EAST TWEETS -- Bill Booth (@BoothWilliam), Jerusalem bureau chief for the Washington Post: "Between the lines: Trump tells Abbas to curb incitement, condemn attacks against Israeli civilians & stop payments to prisoners and martyrs" ... **@Yair_Rosenberg**: "Oh man, watch Israeli ambassador Ron Derner (on right couch) react when Trump says—in Israel—"We just got back from the Middle East." <http://bit.ly/2rNfw4w> ... **@aarondmiller2**: "In knowing [and] working with Netanyahu for decades, never – and I mean never – have I seen him so relaxed in presence of a US president." ... **@robertdanin**: "Commentators on @Channel2News repeatedly referring to Ivanka Trump by her Hebrew name 'Yael'. Israelis seem to see her as family."

– After departing Bethlehem, **DONALD TRUMP** went back to the hotel, and then to Yad V'Shem, Israel's Holocaust museum. He is going to give a speech at the Israel Museum in the 7 a.m. hour on the East coast. He is then scheduled to depart for Rome.

THE PRIZE FIGHT CONTINUES: NYT and WAPO's LATEST SCOOPS ...

-- **"Trump asked intelligence chiefs to push back against FBI collusion probe after Comey revealed its existence,"** by WaPo's Adam Entous and Ellen Nakashima: "President Trump asked two of the nation's top intelligence officials in March to help him push back against an FBI investigation into possible coordination between his campaign and the Russian government, according to current and former officials. Trump made separate appeals to the director of national intelligence, Daniel Coats, and to Adm. Michael S. Rogers, the director of the [NSA], urging them to publicly deny the existence of any evidence of collusion during the 2016 election. Coats and Rogers refused to comply with the requests, which they both deemed to be inappropriate ...

"The White House does not confirm or deny unsubstantiated claims based on illegal leaks from anonymous individuals,' [an unnamed] White House spokesman said. 'The president will continue to focus on his agenda that he was elected to pursue by the American people.' In addition to the requests to Coats and Rogers, senior White House officials sounded out top intelligence officials about the possibility of intervening directly with Comey to encourage the FBI to drop its probe of Michael Flynn. The officials said the White House appeared

... to encourage the FBI to drop its probe of Michael Flynn, ... The officials said the White House appeared uncertain about its power to influence the FBI. 'Can we ask him to shut down the investigation? Are you able to assist in this matter?' one official said of the line of questioning from the White House." <http://wapo.st/2qe2nR2>

-- **NYT A1, "Michael Flynn Misled Pentagon About His Russia Ties, Letter Says,"** by Mark Mazzetti and Matt Rosenberg: "Mr. Flynn ... told investigators in February 2016 that he had received no income from foreign companies and had only 'insubstantial contact' with foreign nationals ... In fact, Mr. Flynn had sat two months earlier beside President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia at a Moscow gala for RT, the Kremlin-financed television network, which paid Mr. Flynn more than \$45,000 to attend the event and give a separate speech. His failure to make those disclosures and his apparent attempt to mislead the Pentagon could put Mr. Flynn in further legal jeopardy. Intentionally lying to federal investigators is a felony punishable by up to five years in prison." <http://nyti.ms/2qQybx3> ... **The letter** <http://bit.ly/2q6oVrq>

***** **A message from the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD)** One in two Americans rely on their employers for health care benefits including affordable access to prescription drugs. That's why employers are partnering with PBMs to provide access to effective medications at the most affordable price and improve health outcomes. Learn more at www.affordableprescriptiondrugs.org. *****

TRUMP'S BUDGET OUT TODAY -- "Trump's budget hits his own voters hardest: The president's proposal for next year's federal spending calls for more than \$1 trillion in cuts to social programs, including farm aid," by Andrew Restuccia, Matt Nussbaum and Sarah Ferris: "Rather than breaking with Washington precedent, Trump's spending blueprint follows established conservative orthodoxy, cutting taxes on the wealthy, boosting defense spending and taking a hatchet to programs for the poor and disabled – potentially hurting many of the rural and low-income Americans that voted him into office. ...

"The president's budget plan calls for more than \$1 trillion in cuts to a wide range of social programs with millions of beneficiaries, from farm subsidies to federal student aid. That includes a \$600 billion cut to Medicaid over 10 years, despite Trump's repeated promises on the campaign trail not to cut the program. The budget also takes an ax to the federal food stamp program and Social Security Disability Insurance.

"Trump also proposes some of the deepest cuts to agriculture subsidies since Ronald Reagan, squeezing out nearly \$50 billion over 10 years. Trump's budget would drastically cut domestic programs controlled by Congress, slashing \$1.7 trillion over 10 years. At the end of the decade, the U.S. would spend nearly twice as much on defense as on other domestic programs. Domestic discretionary spending would be capped at \$429 billion per year, below 2004 levels, while military spending soars to \$722 billion." <http://politi.co/2qRmx1F>

-- **THE REALITY ABOUT BUDGETS...** -- This budget – like President Barack Obama's budget before it – is dead on arrival on Capitol Hill. But it does represent a negotiating point for the administration as they pursue other budgeting priorities. That being said, we believe it's going to be difficult for the House and Senate to pass a budget this year, which could stall – or stop – tax reform.

FLYNN WATCH -- "Burr: Flynn could be held in contempt," by Austin Wright and Burgess Everett: "Senate Intelligence Chairman Richard Burr is not ruling out holding Michael Flynn in contempt of Congress as President Donald Trump's former national security adviser continues to stonewall Congress. Flynn's lawyer informed the Intelligence panel Monday that Flynn would not honor a subpoena for a list of his interactions with Russian officials in the run-up to last year's presidential election.

"And the North Carolina Republican said his committee has 'plenty' of options to respond. 'You'll just have to wait and watch. [Contempt is] certainly one of the avenues that we could pursue.' Burr told three reporters on

wait and watch. [conveniently] certainly one of the avenues that we could pursue, but told three reporters on Monday evening. 'It does us no good to have people insist on pleading the Fifth if you're out trying to get information. The only thing I can tell you is immunity is off the table.'" <http://politi.co/2rOcxZz>

INSIDE THE WHITE HOUSE -- "Trump close to choosing outside counsel for Russia investigation," by WaPo's Bob Costa and Ashley Parker: "The attorneys who have spoken to the White House and who are seen as the finalists are Marc E. Kasowitz; Robert J. Giuffra Jr.; Reid H. Weingarten; and Theodore B. Olson ... Two other attorneys who were originally viewed as contenders but have since drifted away from the mix, at least momentarily, because of legal or professional obstacles are Brendan V. Sullivan Jr. of Williams & Connolly and A.B. Culvahouse Jr. ... Kasowitz, who has known Trump for decades, is expected to take a leading role. A partner at Kasowitz, Benson, Torres & Friedman in New York, Kasowitz has represented Trump in numerous cases, including on his divorce records, real estate transactions and allegations of fraud at Trump University." <http://wapo.st/2rJFlxW>

THE INVESTIGATION -- "Mueller briefed on secret Comey memos, source says," by CNN's Pamela Brown and Shimon Prokupez: "Additionally, he has already visited FBI headquarters, where he met with the counterintelligence agents who have been working on the case since last July, according to two people familiar with the matter." <http://cnn.it/2qb2BJj>

-- @NBCNews: "JUST IN: Former Trump associates Paul Manafort and Roger Stone have turned over documents to Senate Intel Committee, source tells NBC News"

NEW SHERIFFS AT 1600? "Trump eyeing Lewandowski, Bossie as crisis managers," by Eliana Johnson and Josh Dawsey: "The White House is looking to wall off the scandals threatening to overtake the president's agenda by building a separate crisis management operation. President Donald Trump personally reached out to two of his former campaign aides – his first campaign manager, Corey Lewandowski, and his deputy campaign manager, David Bossie – to sound them out about working with the administration as crisis managers, according to two people familiar with the situation. ... The scope and complexity of independent investigations has typically proved a challenge for regular White House staffers, who have struggled to juggle them with their day-to-day duties, and veterans of previous administrations say creating an independent operation can relieve some of the pressure on the press office." <http://politi.co/2q4DT1v>

COMING ATTRACTIONS -- "Ryan bucks White House, setting up clash on taxes," by Rachael Bade: "Paul Ryan and the White House are barreling toward a tax reform show-down – a faceoff that's becoming all but inevitable as the speaker continues selling a tax plan rejected by Trump officials. At issue is a controversial pillar of the House GOP tax plan that effectively hikes taxes on imports.

"**Top administration officials** from Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin to chief economic adviser Gary Cohn have warned the speaker that they're not exactly fans of the so-called border adjustment tax – hoping Ryan would take a hint and change direction. But the Wisconsin Republican is refusing to back off, arguing in recent days that it's 'the smart way to go.' And over the weekend, his key ally on the matter, Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady (R-Texas), began circulating talking points encouraging panel members to sell the scheme." <http://politi.co/2rcprEx> ... **The talking points** <http://politi.co/2qQhvaZ>

-- **THIS IS EXACTLY THE TYPE OF INTERNAL DIVISION** Mnuchin and other top White House officials have been trying to avoid. Mnuchin has spent weeks meeting with Republicans and even some Democrats on Capitol Hill and on K Street as he's tried to build consensus and good will for a major tax reform bill. With the border adjustment tax all but dead in the Senate, it's unclear what Ryan's endgame strategy is as he continues to push the measure that is also fairly unpopular within his own ranks.

the measure that is also fairly unpopular among the firm's ranks.

SNEAK PEEK -- PROPUBLICA'S ALEC MACGILLIS in **NYT MAGAZINE**: "**Jared Kushner's Other Real Estate Empire**: Baltimore-area renters complain about a property owner who they say neglects their homes and often sues when they leave. Few of them know the landlord is the president's son-in-law": "[A]mid the high-profile Manhattan and Brooklyn purchases, in 2011, Kushner Companies, with Jared now more firmly in command, pulled together a deal that looked much more like something from the firm's humble past than from its high-rolling present. That June, the company and its equity partners bought 4,681 units of what are known in real estate jargon as 'distress-ridden, Class B' apartment complexes: units whose prices fell somewhere in the middle of the market, typically of a certain age and wear, whose owners were in financial difficulty. The properties were spread across 12 sites in Toledo, Ohio; Pittsburgh; and other Rust Belt cities still reeling from the Great Recession." <http://nyti.ms/2rvUVVO>

THE JUICE ...

-- **BRODERICK JOHNSON** and **ROBERT DOAR** are joining the Path Forward Coalition, a joint project focused on the positive aspects of service industry jobs of the National Restaurant Association and the National Retail Federation, as senior advisers. Potomac West Group runs the coalition's day-to-day operations. Look for Capitol Hill events in mid-June and mid-July.

-- **JESSICA SMITH** started on Monday as chief operating officer at J Street. She previously was managing director within the public affairs and crisis practice at Burson-Marsteller.

LATE-NIGHT BEST -- RACHEL MADDOW on **STEPHEN COLBERT** <http://bit.ly/2qQ6x5t> ... <http://bit.ly/2qKbaO6> ... **BEN PLATT!** on Colbert. <http://bit.ly/2qQiQyw> ... <http://bit.ly/2qQbE5H>

OFF MESSAGE PODCAST: Will Eric Garcetti throw his hat into the ring for 2020? In the latest episode of Off Message, Isaac Doveve sits down with the mayor of Los Angeles, a city, as Garcetti points out, with four million residents. California is the sixth-largest economy in the world and L.A. has the seventeenth-largest population globally, if it was an independent country. With Garcetti's keynote at the California state Democratic convention next month, many party leaders across the country believe he could be a real contender. **Listen and subscribe** <http://apple.co/2nEa7y0>

-- "**Eric Garcetti isn't running for president (wink, wink)**," by Isaac Doveve: <http://politi.co/2qK3NWK>

DRAIN THE SWAMP! -- NYT A1, "White House Moves to Block Ethics Inquiry Into Ex-Lobbyists on Payroll," by Eric Lipton: "The Trump administration, in a significant escalation of its clash with the government's top ethics watchdog, has moved to block an effort to disclose the names of former lobbyists who have been granted waivers to work in the White House or federal agencies. ... Mr. Shaub returned a scalding, 10-page response to the White House late Monday, unlike just about any correspondence in the history of the office, created after the Nixon Watergate scandal. ... Dozens of former lobbyists and industry lawyers are working in the Trump administration, which has hired them at a much higher rate than the previous administration. Keeping the waivers confidential would make it impossible to know whether any such officials are violating federal ethics rules or have been given a pass to ignore them." <http://nyti.ms/2q56eEU> ... **Shaub's letter** <http://bit.ly/2rLHfnc>

--"**Amid complicated relations with U.S., Turkey hires longtime Trump lobbyist Brian Ballard,**" by Florida Playbooker Marc Caputo: "President Donald Trump's longtime Florida lobbyist, Brian Ballard, has expanded his practice globally and just signed a \$1.5 million contract with the government of Turkey, which will be represented

practice globally and just signed a \$1.5 million contract with the government of Turkey, which will be represented by the firm's new big hire, former Florida Congressman Robert Wexler. ... Wexler is new to lobbying and joined Ballard Partners in March. He's still serving as president of the S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace, a Washington-based think tank devoted to Israeli-Palestinian relations." <http://politi.co/2qJpJS9> ... **Subscribe to Florida Playbook** <http://politi.co/1OypFe9>

TOP-ED – MONICA LEWINSKY in the NYT, “Roger Ailes’s Dream Was My Nightmare”: “Mr. Ailes, a former Republican political operative, took the story of the affair and the trial that followed and made certain his anchors hammered it ceaselessly, 24 hours a day. ... John Moody, a Fox executive editor, reflected on that period [...] ... ‘Monica was a news channel’s dream come true.’ Their dream was my nightmare. My character, my looks and my life were picked apart mercilessly. ... My family and I huddled at home, worried about my going to jail — I was the original target of Kenneth Starr’s investigation, threatened with 27 years for having been accused of signing a false affidavit and other alleged crimes — or worse, me taking my own life.” <http://nyti.ms/2rNf5am>

MICHAEL WOLFF in The Hollywood Reporter, “at Roger Ailes’ Funeral: Loyalists Celebrate in an ‘Act of Defiance’”: “If the liberal media saw Ailes as a disgraced and broken man ... his funeral was meant to be an act of defiance. Without apology, it was a celebration of husband, father, friend, employer, political figure, media titan, TV impresario and, hardly least of all, man of many provocations. ... Most of all the villains were the Murdochs: Rupert Murdoch, who had hired Ailes in 1996, and his sons, James and Lachlan, who had assumed executive authority two years ago. Ailes had given the Murdoch family 20 years and built them a \$30 billion company, and, in the opinion of family, friends and his confidants at Fox, had been sacrificed by them when it suited their purposes. On the day Ailes died, Rupert Murdoch had been advised that a condolence call to Ailes’ wife would not be well received. ...

“The funeral two days later was held at Saint Edwards Roman Catholic Church in Palm Beach — the church where Rose Kennedy attended mass every morning when she was at her winter home. Ethel Kennedy, the wife of Robert F. Kennedy, attended the Ailes’ service with her son Douglas Kennedy, a long-time Fox News reporter. Along with Limbaugh and Kennedy were Sean Hannity, Laura Ingraham, Bill Hemmer, Kimberly Guilfoyle and Liz Trotta. There was, too, Dennis Kucinich, the wild card Democratic presidential candidate whom Ailes had befriended, and Pat Caddell, the rogue Democratic political operative who had long bonded with Ailes as rogue Republican operative.” <http://bit.ly/2qP1kuE>

******* A message from the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD)** As list prices for brand drugs continue to rise, employers are partnering with PBMs to keep drug costs under control. In fact, every dollar an employer invests in a PBM service returns six dollars in savings. Learn more at www.affordableprescriptiondrugs.org. *****

DEMOCRATIC UNITY? -- “Bernie backers rage over Calif. Democratic Party chair race,” by California Playbooker Carla Marinucci in San Francisco: “Supporters of the losing candidate in a bitterly disputed election to serve as chair of the California Democratic Party say they’ll begin a detailed audit of the votes on Monday. The move comes after protests, allegations of ballot stuffing and bitter disputes after votes at a weekend party convention. Longtime party operative Eric Bauman won the chairmanship of the California Democratic Party over the weekend — but his victory was marred by complaints of ballot-stuffing and floor protests. Backers of the Kimberly Ellis, a favorite of the ‘Berniecrat,’ activist wing of the party — say efforts to scrutinize the votes will begin immediately.” <http://politi.co/2qRdotk> ... **Subscribe to California Playbook** <http://politi.co/2bLvcPI>

AT THE DEPT. OF EDUCATION -- “DeVos says Washington will not mandate ‘school choice’,” by Caitlin Emma: “Education Secretary Betsy DeVos promised Monday night that the Trump administration would propose ‘the most ambitious expansion of education choice in our nation’s history’ but said that states, rather

propose the most ambitious expansion of education choice in our nation's history, but said that states, rather than Washington, D.C., would make the decisions. "When it comes to education, no solution, not even ones we like, should be dictated or run from Washington, D.C.," she said. DeVos, though, offered scant details about the Trump administration's vision for school choice." <http://politi.co/2rNTuP2>

DATA DU JOUR -- The Harvard Graduating Class of 2017 by the numbers," by Harvard Crimson's Mariel A. Klein: "A fifth of surveyed seniors reported that the 2016 election results changed their postgraduate career plans in some way. Of those who said the election results changed their plans, 12 percent said they took a job in the public sector instead of the private sector. Another 10 percent reported that they now hope to run for public office. ... Among those who said the election changed their plans, 37 percent said they had been considering jobs in the federal government but decided against pursuing one." <http://bit.ly/2q5a4xD>

HISTORY LESSON -- "That Time the Soviets Bugged Congress, and Other Spy Tales: Allowing a photographer from the Russian state media into the Oval Office was an act of breathtaking recklessness," by Calder Walton in POLITICO Magazine: "During a private meeting [with the Russians] in the Oval Office earlier this month, President Donald Trump ... [barred] U.S. reporters and photographers ... but bizarrely, a photographer from the Russian state-run media agency, TASS, was admitted. ... [T]hough it may seem like a storyline from The Americans, fears that the TASS photographer may have planted an electronic monitoring device in the Oval Office are not as far-fetched as they first seem. In fact, the Kremlin is a past master of planting hidden listening devices in America's most sensitive government buildings. During the Cold War, Soviet intelligence used TASS as cover for espionage, and in one operation, used it to plant a bug at the center of Capitol Hill." <http://politi.co/2qOURQn>

MEDIWATCH -- "Judge won't move libel suit against BuzzFeed over Trump dossier," by Josh Gerstein: "A federal judge has turned down BuzzFeed's request to move a libel suit over its publication of a dossier contained unverified allegations against President Donald Trump. BuzzFeed and its editor-in-chief Ben Smith asked that the case be relocated to New York City, but Miami-based U.S. District Court Judge Ursula Ungaro issued a ruling Monday refusing to give up the case filed by Russian tech executive and entrepreneur Aleksey Gubarev." <http://politi.co/2qbYY5V>

-- **After JAMES SUROWIECKI** left The New Yorker in March, **ADAM DAVIDSON** and **SHEELAH KOLHATKAR** are now writing The Financial Page column in his place, on a rotating basis. Davidson is a staff writer for the magazine and previously was the "On Money" columnist and a contributing writer for the N.Y. Times Magazine and co-founded and co-hosted NPR's "Planet Money." Kolhatkar, author of "Black Edge: Inside Information, Dirty Money and the Quest to Bring Down the Most Wanted Man on Wall Street," is also a staff writer at the magazine and previously was features editor and national correspondent for Bloomberg Businessweek.

-- **Washington Examiner** is launching "Trump's America," a four-year long reporting project that will cover the Trump presidency with long-form reporting in nine counties that helped deliver the election to Trump. Daniel Allott, deputy commentary editor for the Examiner, and his twin brother, documentary filmmaker Jordan Allott, will report from these counties regularly during the Trump presidency. <http://bit.ly/2qbkszK>

SPOTTED: John Kerry shopping yesterday at Hartford's Bradley Airport gift shop looking at a Hartford Whalers cap after receiving his honorary degree at Yale earlier in the day ... Tamron Hall, April Ryan and Suzanne Malveaux last night leaving a private dining room at Centrolina.

OUT AND ABOUT -- KALORAMA CONVERSATION -- POOL REPORT from a dinner party last night: "[T]he rise of populism in the US and Europe was the converging hook for a diverse group of D.C. glitterati at the home of

of populism in the US and Europe was the convening hook for a diverse group of D.C. general at the home of French Ambassador to the U.S. Gerard Araud and organized by The Atlantic. President George W. Bush once said that his second choice home in D.C. behind the White House was the French Ambassador's residence. The opening provocateur was 'Axis of Evil' wordsmith and Atlantic Senior Editor David Frum on his views on the rise of autocracy and populism in America and abroad."

SPOTTED: Paul Wolfowitz, Rep. Charlie Dent (R-Pa.), Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.), Steve Clemons, Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-Mich.) Susan Glasser, Margaret Carlson, Jeff Carneal, Steve Wozencraft, Alex Wagner (formerly of the Pentagon), Trevor Thrall, Vann Newkirk, Martin Indyk and Gahl Burt, Jennifer Rubin, Carroll Doherty, Bruce Stokes, Michael Abramowitz, Julianne Smith, John Bellinger, Michael Kofman, Jonathan Capehart, Patrick and Emmanuelle Lachaussee, Ruth Marcus, Maureen White, A.B. Stoddard, Ron Christie, Leo Casey, Maya Rockeymoore, Kristen Soltis Anderson, Yael Luttwak, Susannah Wellford, Eleanor Clift, Uri Friedman and McKay Coppins.

ENGAGED -- Sari Bourne, a pharmaceutical and biotechnology senior associate at Hogan Lovells, got engaged to **Matt Kaplan**, an Obama and Clinton campaign alum and veteran of the Senate and House. Kaplan, a California native and Oberlin alum, proposed during a weekend stay at the Inn at Little Washington in Washington, Virginia. Bourne, a San Francisco native and Stanford/Emory Law graduate, said yes. Their first date took place at Sonoma Restaurant and Wine Bar on Capitol Hill in 2015 and the wedding will be in the Bay Area in 2018. **Pic** <http://bit.ly/2qQq03N>

-- **James Hewitt**, senior director at strategic comms firm Dezenhall Resources and an RNC alum, got engaged to **Cara Read** of Bloomberg Government. He popped the question over champagne and Cabernet Sauvignon in Prague. **Pic** <http://politi.co/2qPcWOu>

WELCOME TO THE WORLD – AARON BLAKE, senior political reporter for The Fix at WaPo and **DANIELLE BLAKE**, associate VP for public affairs at AdvaMed, email friends and family: "Wanted to let you know that Aria Marie Blake arrived [Monday] morning at 4:41 a.m., 7 hours before her scheduled c-section (apparently already making her own decisions). She weighed in at 7 lbs and 2 oz, 20.5 inches long. We are totally smitten, as is big brother Grayson." **Pics** <http://politi.co/2q59lqN> ... <http://politi.co/2qbtVqI>

BIRTHWEEK (was yesterday): Kerry Rom, director of media affairs at the NRCC and a Jeb and Chamber of Commerce alum (hat tip: Emily Benavides)

BIRTHDAY OF THE DAY: WaPo's **Dana Priest**, Pulitzer Prize winner and the pride of Canoga Park, Calif. How she's celebrating: "In the morning, I'll celebrate my birthday by trying to convince a group of students to get involved in helping journalists imprisoned overseas, my newish passion. Then I'll take a horseback riding lesson as a gift to myself. I'll have dinner in our backyard garden with friends and family." Read her Playbook Plus Q&A: <http://politi.co/2qfi1HX>

BIRTHDAYS: Melanie Fonder Kaye (hat tip: Kelley McCormick) ... William Minor, partner at DLA Piper, is 5-0 (h/t wife Christine Enemark) ... Ilyas Kirmani, senior producer at NBC Nightly News ... ABC News' Mary Bruce (h/t Rachel Adler) ... NBC's Danielle Dellorto, a CNN alum ... Politico's Matt Nussbaum ... Tom Heinemann, VP of federal gov't affairs at the Manufactured Housing Institute, and bro-in-law of Carrie Budoff Brown ... Redeemer Arlington ... Blake Rollins ... Shekar Narasimhan ... CNN's Nate McDermott (h/t K File crew) ... Adam Levy, senior producer at CNN ... Poynter alum Mallery Tenore Tarpley ... devoted Playbooker Megan McKinley, of Sen. Rubio's office, is 23 (h/t Libby Callaway) ... Jacob Gladysz, a CSIS alum and recent graduate of Georgetown University, is 22 (h/t Bill Schuette) ...

... **Anna Gohmann** of Comcast/NBC Universal ... Jerry H. Goldfeder of Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP ... Helen Smith (h/t Megan Apper) ... Rep. Dina Titus (D-Nev.) is 67 ... Adrienne Cisneros-Selekman ... Rachel MacKnight ... Jorge Martinez ... Casey Greenfield ... Entergy's Nick Culp ... Adrienne Cisneros-Selekman ... Rob Keast ... USA Today's Cameron Smith ... Brian Bakst of Minnesota Public Radio News and an AP alum ... Alan Auglis ... John Gonzalez ... Lucy Cook ... Mark Sullivan ... Vivian Graubard ... Georgiana Bloom ... Reuters' Katherina Lemus ... Connie Sammarco ... chess grandmaster Anatoly Karpov is 66 ... Drew Carey is 59 ... "Jeopardy!" champ Ken Jennings is 43 (h/ts AP)

***** **A message from the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD)** One in two Americans rely on their employers to provide health care benefits. So, employers partner with PBMs to provide access to effective medications at the most affordable price. PBMs drive savings in part by using clinical expertise to identify generic alternatives that achieve the same health outcomes for a lower price. With generics accounting for [89 percent of prescriptions](#) filled in 2015, but only 27 percent of drug costs, that represents a savings of \$227 billion across the U.S. health care system in just one year. Learn more at www.affordableprescriptiondrugs.org. *****

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RNC War Room

From: RNC War Room
Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2017 7:03 AM
Subject: Politico Playbook 7/26/17

HOW THE GOP brought back Obamacare repeal 'from the dead' -- MCCAIN's maverick moment -- SENATE GOP to TRUMP: confirming another AG is too hard -- JEFF FLAKE's secret new book -- RICK PERRY duped - WHO TOOK NYT buyouts

Politico Playbook

Jake Sherman, Anna Palmer & Daniel Lippman

July 26, 2017 – 6:40 AM

<http://www.politico.com/tipsheets/playbook/2017/07/26/how-the-gop-brought-back-obamacare-repeal-from-the-dead-mccains-maverick-moment-senate-gop-to-trump-confirming-another-ag-is-too-hard-jeff-flakes-secret-new-book-rick-perry-duped-who-took-nyt-buyouts-221522>

Good Wednesday morning. WARNING FROM SENATE REPUBLICANS TO PRESIDENT TRUMP: It will be tough, if not impossible, to confirm another attorney general if you fire Jeff Sessions. Six GOP senators have already taken Sessions' side. Trump has neither the time nor political capital to oust Sessions and pick someone else.

FOR YOUR SITUATIONAL AWARENESS: The House approved a sanctions bill 419-3 yesterday afternoon that would, among other things, limit Trump's ability to roll back penalties against Russia, Iran and North Korea. The Senate is expected to quickly pass the bill. The White House has sent mixed signals about whether Trump will sign this bill. If he doesn't, Congress would be able to override his veto.

-- **FT:** "The new sanctions have become the subject of intense scrutiny both in Washington and overseas, where European allies have raised the threat of retaliation because the measures could effect a pipeline project to transport Russian gas into Germany. ...

"**Brussels has stepped up its diplomatic offensive** against the sanctions, warning several oil and gas projects involving Shell, Eni and BP are at risk. On Tuesday, officials said the EU was 'activating all diplomatic channels' in an effort to persuade US lawmakers to dilute the bill's impact on European companies and the continent's energy security. EU officials are concerned the sanctions could damage multibillion-euro pipeline and infrastructure projects straddling Russian territory and beyond in areas between the Baltic and Black seas." <http://on.ft.com/2uYk798>

OVERNIGHT -- NYT: TOM KAPLAN and ROBERT PEAR: "Senate Votes Down Broad Obamacare Repeal": "[R]epublican leaders suffered a setback when their most comprehensive plan to replace President Barack Obama's health law fell far short of the votes it needed.

"**The Tuesday night tally needed to reach 60 votes** to overcome a parliamentary objection. Instead, it fell 43-57. The fact that the comprehensive replacement plan came up well short of even 50 votes was an ominous sign for Republican leaders still seeking a formula to pass final health care legislation this week. ...

"**The Senate is now moving ahead with debate** amendments and ultimately a final vote in the coming days on

The Senate is now meeting amidst final votes, amendments and ultimately a final vote in the coming days on legislation that would have a profound effect on the American health care system — roughly one-sixth of the United States' economy. But it is entirely possible that by week's end, the senators will have passed nothing." <http://nyti.ms/2uwBzRk>

-- **THE BET**, although far from certain, is that Senate Republicans will pass a so-called "skinny repeal" bill — legislation that would end the employer and individual mandate, and medical-device tax. This would be a vehicle to allow the House and Senate to negotiate on a final repeal and replace bill. The "skinny repeal," though, is not a comprehensive plan and includes no replacement, so it's a tough vote. **AND ANOTHER QUESTION** a lot of people are asking: what can get through the very divided — and increasingly conservative — House Republican Conference? This is not a gang known to favor incrementalism — and that's what would emerge from a negotiation with the Senate. **Paul Demko on what's next in the health care debate** <http://politi.co/2uXmyIV>

THE POLITICO TICK TOCK -- BURGESS EVERETT, SEUNG MIN KIM and JEN HABERKORN: "How the GOP brought Obamacare repeal back from the dead": "As Mitch McConnell strode to the Senate floor on Tuesday, with no votes to spare to keep the GOP's Obamacare repeal campaign alive, he knew where everyone in his conference stood. Everyone, that is, except for Ron Johnson....

"When he finally emerged, Johnson headed to McConnell's desk on the Senate floor. The two engaged in a tense, 10-minute face-to-face talk. McConnell's face turned increasingly red, and the GOP leader threw up his hands multiple times. ... Ten minutes after McConnell and Johnson began chatting, McCain entered the chamber and provided the 49th vote. Only Johnson remained. Left with the option of being the Republican who killed Obamacare repeal or the one who saved it, the Wisconsin senator quickly flipped a thumbs-up into the air to vote yes....

"On a Delta flight from Salt Lake City to Washington on Monday afternoon, Lee sat in the middle seat, furiously texting about his latest thinking in the health care debate, according to an eyewitness who sat next to Lee and described the messages to POLITICO.

"In one text, Lee told a recipient that he might still vote to proceed to the repeal debate, but that it was 'still too early to do so in good conscience because we're not being told anything.' 'This leadership line of pass something, anything, is dangerous and potent,' Lee typed out in another message, written in a large enough font that fellow passengers could easily read his words, according to the eyewitness. In another text, Lee wrote: 'This bill is nothing more than bailing out insurance companies with a few minor reforms thrown in for good measure.'" <http://politi.co/2tJ5il8>

MCCONNELL'S REDEMPTION via JOHN BRESNAHAN: **"McConnell gets a win in Obamacare repeal opening round":** <http://politi.co/2uXedVA>

MCCAIN'S MAVERICK MOMENT -- WAPO's PAUL KANE: "We're getting nothing done': McCain, in emotional return, laments what the Senate has become": "Sen. John McCain was greeted by applause from both sides of the aisle Tuesday as he walked onto the Senate floor, delivering Republicans a crucial vote to begin debate on an unknown plan to overhaul the health-care industry. Then the Arizona Republican, done with the niceties, delivered a 15-minute excoriation of the modern Senate. A Senate riven by partisan infighting and almost no effort to work across the aisle. A Senate that has abandoned the principle that legislative committees had ownership of the process. ...

"All we've managed to do is make more popular a policy that wasn't very popular when we started trying to

... we've managed to do to make more popular a policy that wasn't very popular when we started trying to get rid of it,' McCain said, noting rising support for the 2010 Affordable Care Act. 'I voted for the motion to proceed to allow debate to continue and amendments to be offered. I will not vote for this bill as it is today. It's a shell of a bill right now.' ...

“We’re not getting much done apart,’ McCain told his colleagues. ‘I don’t think any of us feels very proud of our incapacity. Merely preventing your political opponents from doing what they want isn’t the most inspiring work. There’s greater satisfaction in respecting our differences but not letting them prevent agreements.” <http://wapo.st/2uYa3wP>

-- **DANA BASH: “Reporter’s Notebook: Inside the Senate chamber - an hour-long emotional swirl”** <http://cnn.it/2h1L32>

-- **BOSTON GLOBE: “While the Senate debates health care, Mitt Romney is . . . waterskiing?”** <http://bit.ly/2tzBi9>

MEANWHILE ... BACK ON THE TRAIL -- “At Ohio rally, Trump keeps making campaign promises,” by Annie Karni in Youngstown, Ohio: “President Donald Trump returned to this longtime Democratic stronghold on Tuesday night, sounding almost unchanged from the candidate who campaigned here last year, as he confidently doubled down on promises he has yet to keep.

“In the Covelli Centre arena filled with still-believing fans, Trump promised a trillion dollar infrastructure bill, which so far is stalled in a long pipeline of legislation that must come before it. He vowed he was still going to build that wall, which currently has no source of funding. He said manufacturing jobs would come roaring back to Mahoning County, advising the Ohio crowd, ‘don’t sell your house. We’re going to get those values up.’ Ohio’s unemployment rate increased to 5 percent in June, from 4.9 percent the previous month. And even as he is actively splitting his own party and his own movement by publicly denigrating his Attorney General, Jeff Sessions, Trump made a rousing call that ‘America must be united.’

“But what was ostensibly the biggest good news of Trump’s day – the Senate vote to move ahead on repealing Obamacare – appeared in his speech only as an afterthought. It didn’t get more than a passing mention until the very end of Trump’s hour-long laundry list of a speech, during which he appeared more animated when he spoke about cracking down on undocumented immigration, sanctuary cities, and ‘radical Islamic terrorism’ than when he touched on the legislative victory that puts him one step closer to fulfilling a campaign promise.” <http://politi.co/2uVQXrB>

-- **WHAT TRUMP SAYS –** Per Annie Karni: “With the exception of the late, great Abraham Lincoln, I can be more presidential than any president that’s ever held this office,” he said. “It’s much easier, by the way, to act presidential than what we’re doing here tonight, believe me.”

POOL REPORT DU JOUR, per yesterday’s pooler David Jackson: “Spotted disembarking from Air Force One: Corey Lewandowski and David Bossie. Asked what he was doing on the trip, Bossie said: ‘I heard there was a rally here.’”

-- **“Trump Says Apple CEO Has Promised to Build Three Manufacturing Plants in U.S.,”** by WSJ’s Tripp Mickle and Peter Nicholas: “Mr. Trump, in a 45-minute interview with The Wall Street Journal, said [Tim] Cook promised him Apple would build ‘three big plants, beautiful plants.’ Mr. Trump didn’t elaborate on where those plants would be located or when they would be built. ‘I spoke to [Mr. Cook], he’s promised me three big plants – big, big, big.’ Mr. Trump said as part of a discussion about business-tax reform and business investment. ‘I said

Fig, Fig, Fig. Mr. Trump said as part of a discussion about business tax reform and business investment. I said you know, Tim, unless you start building your plants in this country, I won't consider my administration an economic success. He called me, and he said they are going forward." <http://on.wsj.com/2tJ7U8C>

-- **OTHER HIGHLIGHTS FROM TRUMP'S WSJ INTERVIEW:** "The truth is the people I care most about are the middle-income people in this country who have gotten screwed. And if there's upward revision it's going to be on high-income people. You know, I was with Bob Kraft the other night. He came to have dinner with me. He's a friend of mine. And as he left, he said, Donald, don't worry about the rich people. Tax the rich people. You got to take care of the people in the country. It was a very interesting statement. I feel the same way."

-- **WHAT JON ALLEN AND AMIE PARNES ARE READING:** TRUMP: "Well, I didn't – I wouldn't have wanted to. But I see the way they go after us on a witch hunt, you know? The Russian – the Russian story's all an excuse for the Democrats losing. In fact, if you read the book, 'Shattered,' they have a whole chapter where they sat the day after the election and they said: Yeah, Russia. It was Russia. And, you know, Trump was involved. OK, the one thing interesting, you never heard me even associated with anybody. But, no, that's a total witch hunt, the whole Russia story. It's a hoax. It's a hoax. We had no collusion with Russia. We never dealt with Russia." *Edited transcript* <http://on.wsj.com/2v7bGcg>

SCARAMUCCI TALKS SHOP -- Anthony Scaramucci told reporters late Tuesday night that he is trying to fight White House leaks and that "they don't care about [the] Washington establishment and as New Yorkers they are going to do things their own way," according to pooler David Jackson of USA Today. "There are rumors that I'm firing more people,' but 'I'm not firing any more people' at least for now." Scaramucci said, according to the pool. "If the leaks continue then I've got to let everybody go." He also said that he will likely restructure the communications department. "Asked if he really thought leaks were from the [communications] office he said 'some of them are', but they are the people he can deal with. Said he can't get into the problem of other leakers yet."

BATTLE ROYALE -- "Trump and Sessions locked in silent battle," by Josh Dawsey: "Donald Trump is playing an elaborate game of chicken with Jeff Sessions. And they are not on speaking terms. Sessions has sent to word to the White House that he has no plans to resign and wants to stay as attorney general even amid daily humiliation from the boss, according to two people familiar with his thinking. But he hasn't told Trump that himself. Trump, meanwhile, has complained to anyone who will listen about Sessions recusing himself from the Russia and has weighed firing him. And he has told his advisers he has no desire to speak to Sessions, an early campaign supporter.

"'I'm very disappointed in Jeff Sessions,' Trump said in the Rose Garden Tuesday, sending a message to his top law enforcement official from a public microphone. Trump's public criticisms of his attorney general have led to an unusual spectacle where the two men aren't talking — but sending messages through their aides and waiting for a resolution to the fate of the country's top law enforcement official, according to interviews with six White House aides and advisers, as well as Sessions allies. The zone of confusion has led to conservatives, liberals, West Wing aides and others wishing for a resolution and end of a tired storyline without having any idea when that resolution will come." <http://politi.co/2uY0cqB>

-- **SESSIONS TAKES A STAND:** "The standoff between Trump and Sessions escalates," by WaPo's Devlin Barrett, Philip Rucker and Sari Horwitz: "In a recent conversation, Sessions's chief of staff, Jody Hunt, told White House Chief of Staff Reince Priebus that the attorney general had no intention of stepping down. Hunt, according to people familiar with the conversation, made it clear to Priebus that Sessions 'plans to move forward with his agenda in the department and he has no plans for resigning,' according to one person familiar with the exchange. Priebus, for his part, did not say Trump planned to fire Sessions if he did not leave. Trump's

exchange. ... news, for his part, did not say Trump planned to fire Sessions if he did not leave ... Trump's reluctance to act on his anger and fire Sessions may be based in part on the lack of an immediate plan for a successor at the Justice Department. While Trump has discussed potential candidates to replace Sessions, senior White House officials have not settled on anyone, and may not anytime soon." <http://wapo.st/2vZCBDA>

NYT'S ALEX BURNS in PHOENIX -- "Senator Jeff Flake, Facing Twin Threats, Is Said to Take On G.O.P. Rift in New Book": "Senator Jeff Flake, Republican of Arizona, faces political challenges from both sides in seeking re-election next year ... Yet Mr. Flake, seemingly undaunted, has secretly planned an unconventional campaign kickoff that risks intensifying both threats: Working privately, and largely without the knowledge of political advisers, he has written a book that amounts to an ideological manifesto for his own version of conservatism, according to three people briefed on the manuscript who discussed it on the condition of anonymity. ... In his writing, Mr. Flake draws a bright-line distinction between his outlook on government and a competing vision, associated with Mr. Trump, that Mr. Flake describes as nationalist and populist in nature, the people said. Mr. Flake links himself closely with Barry Goldwater." <http://nyti.ms/2uWEWIE>

WHAT TRUMP IS READING -- "Poll: Half of Trump voters say Trump won popular vote," by Steve Shepard: "Roughly half of voters who said they voted for Donald Trump last November, 49 percent, believe Trump won the popular vote, according to a new POLITICO/Morning Consult poll. That's compared to 40 percent who say Democrat Hillary Clinton won. Overall, a majority of voters, 59 percent, believe Clinton won more votes than Trump, but 28 percent believe Trump won more votes." <http://politi.co/2h2oLqJ>

-- **"Poll: Voters say Mueller ouster would be inappropriate,"** by Steve Shepard: "By a more than two-to-one margin, voters say it would be inappropriate for President Donald Trump to fire special counsel Robert Mueller over his probe into Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election, according to a new POLITICO/Morning Consult poll. Nearly half of voters, 48 percent, say it would be wrong to remove Mueller, compared to only 22 percent who say it would be appropriate for the Trump administration to dismiss Mueller. There is a huge gap in partisan perceptions: Democrats say overwhelmingly that firing Mueller would be inappropriate, 67 percent to 11 percent. Independents also tilt heavily against firing Mueller, 47 percent to 19 percent. But Republicans say, 37 percent to 29 percent, that it would be appropriate." <http://politi.co/2h2lQh>

THE JUICE ...

-- **FIRST IN PLAYBOOK:** GOP political consultant and strategist **JEFF LARSON** is joining America Rising Corporation as its new chairman. Larson was a senior adviser to the 2017 Presidential Inaugural Committee and CEO of the 2016 Republican National Convention. Larson will focus on business development and the marketing of the organization's platforms and products. Byron Koay, the president of America Rising Corporation, and CEO Joe Pounder will still oversee day-to-day operations. Matt Rhoades, the former chairman of AR, has been named to AR's board of directors.

-- **WHAT THE WHITE HOUSE WANTS YOU TO READ:** Tuesday was local media day at the White House. Local TV stations and the Salem Radio Network broadcast from the North Lawn of the White House. Reince Priebus, Mick Mulvaney, Tom Price, Linda McMahon, Ben Carson, Elaine Chao, Sarah Huckabee Sanders and Kellyanne Conway all participated.

TRUMP'S WEDNESDAY -- He's speaking to the American Legion Boys Nation and the American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation at 3 p.m., and has a "jobs announcement" at 5 p.m. His schedule is completely empty between 10:30 a.m. and 3 p.m.

SIREN -- **"Woman pleads guilty in scheme to pay off Brady challenger"** by Josh Gerstein: "A Pennsylvania

SMILE -- **Woman pleads guilty in scheme to pay off Brady challenger,** by Scott Corbett: "A Pennsylvania pastor pleaded guilty to a federal felony Tuesday for participating in a scheme that led a challenger to Rep. Robert Brady (D-Pa.) to bow out of a 2012 primary contest. Appearing in U.S. District Court in Philadelphia, Rev. Carolyn Cavaness pleaded guilty to a single charge of making a false statement in a federal proceeding, court records show. Cavaness was a campaign staffer for Jimmie Moore, a Philadelphia judge who entered the Democratic primary against Brady. Moore dropped out in February 2012, according to press accounts. No charges have been announced against Moore or Brady. However, one court filing made public Tuesday indicates prosecutors believe Brady attempted to influence the testimony of at least one witness in the investigation." <http://politi.co/2tBZxYh>

THE WAR -- "Trump Finds Reason for the U.S. to Remain in Afghanistan: Minerals," by NYT's Mark Landler and James Risen: "President Trump, searching for a reason to keep the United States in Afghanistan after 16 years of war, has latched on to a prospect that tantalized previous administrations: Afghanistan's vast mineral wealth, which his advisers and Afghan officials have told him could be profitably extracted by Western companies. Mr. Trump has discussed the country's mineral deposits with President Ashraf Ghani, who promoted mining as an economic opportunity in one of their first conversations. Mr. Trump, who is deeply skeptical about sending more American troops to Afghanistan, has suggested that this could be one justification for the United States to stay engaged in the country. To explore the possibilities, the White House is considering sending an envoy to Afghanistan to meet with mining officials." <http://nyti.ms/2tYdBe8>

BIG NEWS -- "Wasserman Schultz aide arrested trying to leave the country," by Heather Caygle and John Bresnahan: "Imran Awan, a House staffer at the center of a criminal investigation potentially impacting dozens of Democratic lawmakers, has been arrested on bank fraud and is prevented from leaving the country while the charges are pending.

"A senior House Democratic aide confirmed Awan was still employed by Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-Fla.) as of Tuesday morning. But David Damron, a spokesman for Wasserman Schultz, later said that Awan was fired on Tuesday. Awan pleaded not guilty on Tuesday to one count of bank fraud during his arraignment in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. Awan is accused of attempting to defraud the Congressional Federal Credit Union by obtaining a \$165,000 home equity loan for a rental property, which is against the credit union's policies since it is not the owner's primary residence." <http://politi.co/2uwiXB7>

TRUMP'S CABINET -- "State Department says Secretary Tillerson is 'taking a little time off' amid tensions in the White House," by Business Insider's Alex Lockie: "When asked about the discrepancies between Tillerson's public schedule and his reported movements, and why the department hadn't updated the press on his whereabouts, [Heather] Nauert said Tillerson 'does have the ability to go away for a few days on his own.' 'Just taking a little time off,' Nauert said of Tillerson's unannounced absence. 'He's got a lot of work. He just came back from that mega-trip overseas, as you all well know — many of you were over there with the G-20.' Asked why she didn't just say Tillerson was on vacation, Nauert said she didn't know the standard protocol for listing private days. ... Nahal Toosi, a foreign-affairs correspondent at Politico, later tweeted that Tillerson had 'GTT – Gone to Texas,' adding that he was 'fine and he's working 20 hour days, but just not in DC.'" <http://read.bi/2uAmuwo>

OOPS! -- "U.S. energy secretary duped into fake interview with Russian comedians," by Reuters' Timothy Gardner: "U.S. Energy Secretary Rick Perry optimistically discussed expanding American coal exports to Ukraine and other energy matters during a lengthy phone call this month with a Russian prankster who Perry thought was Ukraine's prime minister. Perry actually was talking with comedians known in Russia for targeting celebrities and politicians with audacious stunts, Energy Department spokeswoman Shaylyn Hynes said in a written statement. Pranksters Vladimir Krasnov and Alexei Stolvarov are sometimes called the 'Jerkv Boys of

which statement. Tankers Vladimir Kozlov and Nikolai Goryainov are sometimes called the 'Cory Boys of Russia,' after an American duo who put out recordings of their prank phone calls in the 1990s. ... During the 22-minute call on July 19, Perry, whose department oversees the U.S. nuclear weapons program, discussed a range of topics in a business-like tone, including sanctions against Russia and helping Ukraine develop oil and gas." <http://reut.rs/2tBLjXp>

THE RESISTANCE -- "McAuliffe, Pelosi weekend travel project promotes governor races as 'future of the party'," by USA Today's Heidi Przybyla: "Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe and Rep. Nancy Pelosi have been quietly courting major party donors during a series of weekend trips that illustrate how the Democratic Party's road to rebuilding begins with changing the habits of labor unions and traditional donors. The duo has traveled to San Francisco, Los Angeles, Boston and New York to try to convince traditional donor groups and grassroots organizations to channel more funding to local and state elections — with a particular focus on the next generation of governors who will oversee redistricting around the 2020 Census — as well as legal battles and ballot initiatives to challenge gerrymandered congressional districts.

"It's the start of a routine they plan to keep in the lead up to the 2018 election. 'I don't care who the president of the United States is, it doesn't matter in the sense that, if we don't have governors to stop these horrible maps, they're going to pass a lot of this stuff at the state level,' said McAuliffe, a Democrat who finishes his term in January. 'Politically, this is what I'm going to do. I'm obsessed,' McAuliffe said during an interview with USA TODAY at a Washington hotel." <https://usat.ly/2h2iyI7>

POLITICO MAGAZINE -- "Trump the Disloyalist: Why is anyone surprised by the president's treatment of Jeff Sessions?" by John J. Pitney Jr.: "Trump's life has been a long trail of betrayals. His mentor was attorney Roy Cohn, who had been Senator Joseph McCarthy's right-hand man. ... Trump benefited greatly from the relationship, but when Cohn contracted AIDS in the 1980s, Trump turned his back on him, transferring his business to other attorneys. When the funeral came, Trump didn't speak. 'Donald pisses ice water,' Cohn reportedly said before his death. Trump's ex-wives would probably say the same thing if they were not bound by non-disclosure agreements. He was especially disloyal to his first wife, Ivana, the mother of Donald, Jr., Ivanka and Eric. During their breakup, he told a writer for Vanity Fair: 'When a man leaves a woman, especially when it was perceived that he has left for a piece of ass — a good one! — there are 50 percent of the population who will love the woman who was left.'" <http://politi.co/2h2pPRE>

DEEP DIVE -- MICHAEL LEWIS in September's Vanity Fair, "Why the Scariest Nuclear Threat May Be Coming From Inside the White House": "On the morning after the election, November 9, 2016, the people who ran the U.S. Department of Energy turned up in their offices and waited. They had cleared 30 desks and freed up 30 parking spaces. They didn't know exactly how many people they'd host that day, but whoever won the election would surely be sending a small army into the Department of Energy, and every other federal agency. ... By afternoon the silence was deafening. 'Day 1, we're ready to go,' says a former senior White House official. 'Day 2 it was "Maybe they'll call us?" ... On his visits to the White House soon after the election, Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, expressed surprise that so much of its staff seemed to be leaving. 'It was like he thought it was a corporate acquisition or something,' says an Obama White House staffer. 'He thought everyone just stayed.' ...

"Meanwhile, inside the D.O.E. building, people ... from the Trump administration appear willy-nilly, unannounced, and unannounced to the career people. ... 'Yes, you can notice the difference,' says one young career civil servant, in response to the obvious question. 'There's a lack of professionalism. They're not very polite. Maybe they've never worked in an office or government setting. It's not hostility so much as a real sense of concern with sharing information with career employees. Because of that lack of communication, nothing is being done. All policy questions remain unanswered.'" <http://bit.ly/2v7FFvm>

being done. All policy questions remain unanswered. <http://bit.ly/2v7Z6w>

MEDIAWATCH -- “Fox News host ‘targeted’ in ambush at Brooklyn bar,” by N.Y. Post’s Lia Eustachewich and Daniel Prendergast: “A Fox News host was ambushed while attending her pal’s campaign event in Brooklyn Monday night — doused head to toe with a bottle of water. The assault against Kat Timpf, a libertarian co-host on ‘Fox News Specialists,’ occurred at Union Pool in Williamsburg, where her friend and Brooklyn Borough president hopeful Ben Kissel was hosting the event, which coincided with his birthday. A still shaken Timpf told The Post Tuesday that she was definitely targeted for the attack.” <http://nyp.st/2v7Z6w>

--N.Y. TIMES DEPARTURE LOUNGE -- per Hadas Gold’s Morning Media: “A slew of Times stalwarts have taken buyouts. Among them: Bruce Headlam, an editor in the opinion section (Headlam was also featured in the documentary film ‘Page One’ when he was media editor), Charles Duhigg, who’s been in charge of live events, former Jerusalem bureau chief Ian Fisher and defense reporter Chris Drew. – Headlam told me after he leaves he’ll be working on a new project with Malcolm Gladwell, a company that will be ‘doing digital journalism in a lot of different forms,’ ‘an empty vessel for interesting things’ including some writing, visual and audio journalism. There’s no name just yet.”

-- LUIZA SAVAGE promoted at Politico – Carrie Budoff Brown emails the staff: “We’re thrilled to announce a new expanded role for Luiza Savage, who will become the Editorial Director of Cross-Platform Content, working across the newsroom and with our business partners to drive and develop written, video and live-event projects that are high impact and newsworthy. Luiza is an ideas machine, and she’s already played a unique role in conceptualizing projects that produce strong journalism while generating significant revenue.”

PLAYBOOKERS

SPOTTED: Sen. Roy Blunt (R-Mo.) at the Kastles last night at GW.

OUT AND ABOUT -- SPOTTED last night at a Newseum screening of Fox Searchlight’s documentary “STEP” last night: Sens. Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.), Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-Md.), Amanda Lipitz, Chip Smith and Mauren Umeh. **Trailer** <http://bit.ly/2uYfoEn>

TRANSITIONS -- Bradley Hayes has joined the U.S. Customs & Border Protection Office of Trade Relations as executive director. ... **Matt Dickerson** has been named as policy director at the Republican Study Committee. He previously worked on the staff of the late Rep. Bill Young. ... **Alexei Woltornist** has joined the RSC as communications director. He previously was comms director for Rep. Warren Davidson (R-Ohio). ... **Noelani Bonifacio** has been promoted to professional policy staffer at the RSC.

-- OBAMA ALUMNI: Hannah Hankins has been named VP at Civic Advisors, a social impact firm founded by Obama-Biden alumni. She previously spent more than five years in the Obama White House communications department, most recently as comms director and senior policy advisor for the Domestic Policy Council.

BIRTHWEEK (was yesterday): Mark McLaughlin, the research director at Senate Leadership Fund who was research director at the NRSC for the ‘14 and ‘16 cycles, turned 31 (hat tip: fiancée Natalie Gillam, who met him at the NRSC) ... Kelly Laco, one of the press assistants at DOJ public affairs, who celebrated with a Nats game last night (h/t Devin O’Malley) ... Christian Hulen, a Jeb Bush alum now VP of public affairs at FP1 Strategies (h/t Zach Cikanek)

BIRTHDAY OF THE DAY: Amb. Patrick Gaspard, VP of the Open Society Foundations. How he’s celebrating: “My birthday always begins with a blast of Mick Jagger, who is my bday soulmate. Jumping Jack

celebrating. My birthday always begins with a blast of iron sagger, who is my body double. Dumping back Flash. I'm celebrating in Washington with family, but planning blowout birthday weekend in New York, which will include some theatre." Read his Playbook Plus Q&A: <http://politi.co/2v11CUf>

BIRTHDAYS: Molly Conway, Department of Labor deputy chief of staff (h/t Jillian Rogers) ... Scott Sforza, senior counselor at the Harbour Group ... Margaret Tutwiler ... The Daily Beast's Erin Gloria Ryan ... ABC News' Dan Harris is 46 ... Bill Raines ... Sarah Portlock Fellman, day editor at WSJ ... Nick Muzin, senior adviser and deputy COS for Sen. Ted Cruz ... Obama alum Namrata Kolachalam ... Linda Feldmann, Washington bureau chief of Christian Science Monitor ... former NSA director Mike McConnell is 74 ... Elsa Hoffacker ... Sonny Bunch, Free Beacon executive editor ... Tomeika Bowden, chief comms officer at the D.C. Public Charter School Board (h/t Jon Haber) ... Olivia Baackes ... Catharine Ryun ... Kerri Briggs ...

... **Kara Bloomgarden-Smoke**, media reporter at WWD ... Sam Schabacker ... Chad Jones, executive director of the National Electrical Contractors Association of Western Pennsylvania, is 37 (h/t Kara Hauck) ... Rep. Markwayne Mullin (R-Ok.) is 4-0 ... Rep. Martha Roby (R-Ark.) is 41 ... Elettra Wiedemann, LSE grad and Brooklyn resident, on the road in support of her new book "Impatient Foodie" (<http://bit.ly/2tJf251>) (h/t Ben Chang) ... Politico's Benjamin Hong ... Michael Zachariades ... Hadley Holmes, JD candidate at Boston College law school ... Stacey Silva ... Ami Susan Edds Petrucelli ... Shakila Khalje ... Sheka Tarawalie ... Elettra Wiedemann ... Don Neal ... Libby Burmaster ... Connie Terry ... Karen Besserman ... PJ McCann ... Michael Leffel (h/ts Teresa Vilmain)

Disclaimer: The Republican National Committee provided the above article as a service to its employees and other selected individuals. Any opinions expressed therein are those of the article's author and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the RNC.

Zadrozny, John A. EOP/WHO

From: Zadrozny, John A. EOP/WHO
Sent: Saturday, August 26, 2017 2:09 PM
To: Murray, Michael (ODAG); Kourtides, Christine A. EOP/ONDCP
Cc: Baum, Richard J. EOP/ONDCP; Cutrona, Danielle (OAG)
Subject: FW: BGOV Alert: Lawmakers Offer DACA, Marijuana Amendments to Spending Package

FYI.

John A. Zadrozny
Justice and Homeland Security
Domestic Policy Council
Executive Office of the President
w: (202) 456-4677
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Sent: Friday, August 25, 2017 3:27 PM
Subject: BGOV Alert: Lawmakers Offer DACA, Marijuana Amendments to Spending Package

 Bloomberg Government

Lawmakers Offer DACA, Marijuana Amendments to Spending Package

By Jack Fitzpatrick | August 25, 2017 01:38PM ET | Bloomberg Government

Proposals on sanctuary cities, [medical marijuana laws](#), and the Obama administration's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals immigration policy are among the 407 amendments being offered to the House's eight-bill fiscal 2018 spending package.

The [House Rules Committee](#) hasn't said when it will meet to vet the proposals and determine which ones will get floor votes when the chamber debates an eight-bill appropriations measure that will be considered as an expanded version of [H.R. 3354](#).

When the four-bill "minibus" ([H.R. 3219](#)) was considered in July, leaders [blocked many of the most divisive amendments](#), including Democratic proposals to block funding for portions of a border wall.

While work proceeds on the omnibus, appropriators also are drafting a temporary spending measure, or continuing resolution, to avoid a government shutdown when the new fiscal year begins Oct. 1. Leaders will have to decide how many weeks such a stopgap should last; the Office of Management and Budget has prepared as though temporary spending will extend [into December](#).

Some amendments to watch on the omnibus:

Homeland Security

DEPORTATION: Rep. [Carlos Curbelo](#) (R-Fla.) offered two amendments backing the Obama administration's DACA program, which offers deferred action on deportation for some undocumented immigrants who came to the U.S. as minors. One amendment, co-sponsored by Rep. [Pete Aguilar](#) (D-Calif.), would bar the use of federal funds to change a 2012 Homeland Security [memorandum](#) that created the DACA program. Another amendment, co-sponsored by Aguilar and Rep. [David Valadao](#) (R-Calif.), would allow participants in the DACA program to be eligible to work for the federal government.

Aguilar originally offered the latter amendment to the Financial Services appropriations bill. The [House Appropriations Committee](#) adopted it and later it was removed by the Rules Committee.

Reps. [Steve King](#) (R-Iowa) and [Andy Biggs](#) (R-Ariz.) offered amendments that would defund the DACA program.

REFUGEES: Rep. [Brian Babin](#) (R-Texas) offered an amendment that would bar the U.S. from admitting refugees from Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Syria, or Yemen.

Commerce-Justice-Science

SANCTUARY CITIES: King and Rep. [Paul Gosar](#) (R-Ariz.) submitted amendments that would block federal funds from going to so-called "sanctuary cities" that don't help the federal government enforce immigration laws.

MARIJUANA: Rep. [Dana Rohrabacher](#) (R-Calif.), along with six other Republicans and five Democrats, offered an amendment that would block the Justice Department from prosecuting the use of medical marijuana in the jurisdictions where it is legal, including 29 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, and Puerto Rico.

Del. [Eleanor Holmes Norton](#) (D-D.C.) offered an amendment, along with Rohrabacher and two others, that would allow the District of Columbia to use local funds to regulate and tax recreational marijuana.

CENSUS: Rep. [Clay Higgins](#) (R-La.) offered an amendment that would block all fiscal 2018 funding for the 2020 decennial census unless the survey includes questions about residents' citizenship and immigration status. The amendment comes amid concerns that the 2020 census is already [in danger of being underfunded](#).

State and Foreign Ops

DIPLOMACY: Rep. [Dave Trott](#) (R-Mich.) offered three amendments that would block the State Department from closing or consolidating several offices within the State Department. They include the Office of International Religious Freedom, the Commission on International Religious Freedom, and the Office of the Special Envoy to Promote Religious Freedom in the Near East and South Central Asia.

Trott spokeswoman Katie Vincentz said in an email the amendments weren't spurred by any specific comments from the Trump administration about the offices, but that the administration has shown a "general interest in reforming the State Department." She noted that Trott "represents a vast number of religious minorities."

Interior-EPA

MONUMENTS: Rep. [Dina Titus](#) (D-Nev.) submitted an amendment that would block the federal government from altering the boundaries of national monuments. Interior Secretary [Ryan Zinke](#) recommended changing the boundaries of at least three monuments in Utah and Oregon, the Washington Post [reported](#) Thursday.

HORSES: Titus also offered an amendment that would prohibit the slaughter of "healthy, unadopted" wild horses and burros under the care of the Bureau of Land Management. The topic has become contentious in western states as overpopulation has led to starving horses on federal lands.

Agriculture-FDA

TOBACCO: An amendment offered by Rep. [James Comer](#) (R-Ky.) would block a Food and Drug Administration rule, proposed in January by the Obama administration, limiting the amount of a carcinogen that can be in smokeless tobacco products. The rule limited the acceptable amount of N-nitrosornicotine to 1 microgram per gram of tobacco. Comer sent a [letter](#) to the Trump administration in January saying the standard is "technically unachievable" and that tobacco farmers in the area would struggle under the rule. Farmers in Comer's district grow "almost all of the dark tobacco in the U.S.," Comer's letter said.

Labor-HHS

INJURIES: An amendment by Rep. [Bob Gibbs](#) (R-Ohio) would bar the use of federal funds to implement an Obama administration regulation aimed at improving the tracking of workplace injuries and illnesses.

Biggs offered an amendment that would bar funds enforcing an Obama administration regulation limiting the amount of crystalline silica, a carcinogen, that workers can be exposed to.

Repeat Amendments

Rep. [Steve Cohen](#) (D-Tenn.) submitted 16 amendments aimed at blocking federal funds from going to businesses tied to President [Donald Trump](#), including Trump Hotels. Democrats submitted 13 similar amendments to the four-bill "minibus" passed in July, but none were considered in order.

And Higgins offered an amendment to each section of the spending package that would bar appropriations for any programs that have not been authorized for fiscal 2018. A [Congressional Budget Office report](#) in January listed hundreds of programs with expired authorizations that may have receive appropriations.

Higgins's amendments reflect a concern that lawmakers are cutting corners, spokesman Andrew David said.

"His mindset is that this a do-job amendment," David said. "Congress needs to do its job."

See also:

- [BGOV Congressional Glossary: Anomalies](#)
- [BGOV Cheat Sheets: Budget and Appropriations Essentials](#)

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From: RNC Research
Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2017 1:00 PM
To: (b)(6) Sarah Isgur Flores personal email
Subject: You Get A Tax! You Get A Tax! And You Get A Tax!

As Democrats rally around Senator Bernie Sanders, a closer look at his policy proposals reveals he wants to raise taxes...on everyone
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Research

You Get A Tax! You Get A Tax! And You Get A Tax!

As Democrats Rally Around Senator Bernie Sanders, A Closer Look At His Policy Proposals Reveals He Wants To Raise Taxes...On Everyone

TOP TAKEAWAYS

- Senator Bernie Sanders' (I-VT) tax plan would raise income taxes to as high as 52 percent of an individual's income.
- Senator Sanders' massive tax increases would increase the tax burden on middle-income families by more than 10 percent.
- Senator Sanders wants to increase the death tax to as much as 55 percent, and lower the exemption threshold by almost \$2 million, hurting farmers.
- Senator Sanders wants to tax stock trades, which could make it more expensive for middle-class families to invest.
- To pay for his complete government takeover of health care, Senator Sanders has proposed a 4 percent tax on household income, and a 7.5 percent income-based premium on employers, including small businesses-taxes that could cost the average household \$844.

SENATOR SANDERS HAS PROPOSED DRAMATIC INCREASES TO THE INCOME TAX

Senator Sanders Believes The Federal Government Needs To Raise More Revenue

In His Tax Outline, Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) States, "Our Tax Code Fails In Its Basic Task Of Raising Enough Revenue To Finance Adequate Public Investments ." "Despite its complexity, our tax code fails in its basic task of raising enough revenue to finance adequate public investments." "Making

code fails in its basic task of raising enough revenue to finance adequate public investments. ("Making The Wealthy, Wall Street, And Large Corporations Pay Their Fair Share," [BernieSanders.Com](#), Accessed 9/24/17)

Senator Sanders Has Said "It Is Clear That We Must Raise Significant New Revenue." "As Congress debates deficit reduction, it is clear that we must raise significant new revenue. At 15.8 percent of GDP, federal revenue is at almost the lowest point in 60 years." (Op-Ed, Sen. Bernie Sanders, "A Choice For Corporate America: Are You With America Or The Cayman Islands?," [The Huffington Post](#), 2/9/13)

Senator Sanders Has Proposed A Dramatic Increase In Taxes On Personal Income

The Tax Policy Center Concluded That Senator Sanders' Proposal Would Raise Taxes On Everyone. "The proposal would raise taxes at every income level." (Frank Sammartino, Len Burman, Joseph Rosenberg, and Jeff Rohaly, "An Analysis Of Senator Bernie Sanders's Tax Proposals," [Tax Policy Center](#), 3/4/16)

If Senator Sanders' Proposal Passed "Middle-Income Households Would See Their Taxes Rise By About \$4,700, Equal To About 10 Percent Of After-Tax Income." "Middle-income households would see their taxes rise by about \$4,700, equal to about 10 percent of after-tax income. Those in the lowest-income bracket would pay an additional \$165, or 1.3 percent." (Linda Qiu, "PolitiFact's Guide To The 2016 Presidential Candidate Tax Plans," [Politifact](#), 4/7/16)

Senator Sanders Has Proposed Raising Personal Income Tax Rates To As High As 52 Percent. "This plan would replace the top three income tax rates (33%, 35%, and 39.6%) with more progressive rates: 37% on income between \$250,000 and \$500,000, 43% on income between \$500,000 and \$2 million, 48% on income between \$2 million and \$10 million. (In 2013, only 113,000 households, just 0.08 percent of all taxpayers, had income between \$2 million and \$10 million.) 52% on income of \$10 million and above. (In 2013, only 13,000 households, just 0.01 percent of taxpayers, had income exceeding \$10 million.)" ("Making The Wealthy, Wall Street, And Large Corporations Pay Their Fair Share," [BernieSanders.Com](#), Accessed 9/24/17)

SENATOR SANDERS PROPOSAL WOULD IMPOSE NEW PAYROLL TAXES ON EMPLOYERS AND WAGE EARNERS

Senator Sanders Would Create New Payroll Taxes

To Fund A Government Takeover Of Healthcare Sanders Will Impose A 7.5 Percent Payroll Tax "Under this option, employers would pay a 7.5 percent payroll tax to help finance Medicare for All - just \$3,750." ("Options To Finance Medicare For All," [Sen. Bernie Sanders](#), Accessed 9/20/17)

Senator Sanders Would Expand The Social Security Payroll Tax To Income Above \$250,000. "Sen. Sanders will fight to apply the Social Security payroll tax on all income above \$250,000 to expand Social Security benefits and to ensure that Social Security remains solvent for the next 58 years."

SENATOR SANDERS HAS PROPOSED A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE AND EXPANSION OF THE SO-CALLED DEATH TAX

Senator Sanders' Plan Would Increase The Death Tax Rate, And Lower The Threshold At Which One Must Pay The Tax

Senator Sanders Would Raise The Death Tax Rate To As Much As 55 Percent. "Establish a new progressive estate tax rate structure as follows: 45 percent on the value of an estate between \$3.5 million and \$10 million, 50 percent for the value of an estate between \$10 million and \$50 million, 55 percent for the value of an estate in excess of \$50 million." ("Making The Wealthy, Wall Street, And Large Corporations Pay Their Fair Share," [BernieSanders.Com](#), Accessed 9/24/17)

- **The Federal Estate Tax Rate Was 40 Percent In 2017.** "The estate tax changes matter to wealthy folks who try to whittle down their estates to keep below the threshold and avoid the 40% federal estate tax." (Ashlea Ebeling, "IRS Announces 2017 Estate And Gift Tax Limits: The \$11 Million Tax Break," [Forbes](#), 10/25/16)
- **In 2017, Estates Valued Below \$5.49 Million And \$11 Million Were Exempt From The Tax.** "For 2017, the estate and gift tax exemption is \$5.49 million per individual, up from \$5.45 million in 2016. That means an individual can leave \$5.49 million to heirs and pay no federal estate or gift tax. A married couple will be able to shield just shy of \$11 million (\$10.98 million) from federal estate and gift taxes. The annual gift exclusion remains at \$14,000 for 2017." (Ashlea Ebeling, "IRS

Even Democrats Agree: The Death Tax As It Stands Now Disproportionately Hurts Farmers

Brandon Whitt, A Seventh Generation Farmer, Said Urbanization Has Caused Property Value To Skyrocket So That While He May Not Make Much Money, The Estate Value Would Be Very High And His Family Would Have To Sell Off "A Big Part Of The Business" To Pay The Tax. "He said land in his area is going for \$25,000 to \$40,000 an acre because land value have soared (from \$3,000 to \$4,000 an acre in the mid-1990s) ever since a Nissan plant was built nearby, though he has not had an appraisal done of his property. 'Unfortunately we don't make a lot of money in this business,' Whitt said. 'We would have to sell off a big part of the business to pay the taxes.' He said he would like to maintain the farm as an example of modern agriculture within an urbanized area." (Glen Kessler, "Is The Estate Tax Killing Small Farms And Businesses?," [The Washington Post](#), 4/14/15)

In South Dakota, Land Values Have Increased Seven-Fold Since 2000, Much Faster Than The Death Tax Exemptions, Which Are Indexed To Inflation, "Moreover, they said land prices have soared in South Dakota much faster than the estate-tax exemption, which is indexed for inflation. From 2013 to 2014, farm acreage in South Dakota increased in value by 22.5 percent, to \$2,070 an acre, more than any other state, according to USDA. Cropland has increased in value by 20.8 percent, to \$3,430 per acre. Overall, land values in South Dakota have increased seven-fold since 2000." (Glen Kessler, "Is The Estate Tax Killing Small Farms And Businesses?," [The Washington Post](#), 4/14/15)

In Order To Avoid These Costly Tax Burdens, Senator Sanders Would Allow Farmers To Devalue Their Farmland . "Senator Sanders' plan would protect family farmers by allowing them to lower the value of their farmland by up to \$3 million for estate tax purposes." ("Making The Wealthy, Wall Street, And Large Corporations Pay Their Fair Share," [BernieSanders.Com](#), Accessed 9/24/17)

In 2012, Senator Claire McCaskill (D-MO) Introduced A Bill To Prevent A Scheduled Estate Tax Increase. "Citing the need for certainty for Missouri's farmers and ranchers, U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill today introduced legislation to prevent a scheduled increase in the federal estate tax by extending current estate tax levels through 2013." ("McCaskill Introduces Bill Preventing Estate Tax Hike For Missouri Families," [Sen. Claire Mccaskill](#), Accessed 8/16/17)

- **Senator McCaskill Cited Certainty For Farmers And Ranchers As The Reason She Would Fight To Lock In The Federal Estate Tax To Its Current Levels.** "Our farmers and ranchers need more certainty right now, not less, which is why I'm leading this effort to prevent a hike in the estate tax and instead, lock in current levels," McCaskill said. "As Missouri contends with the worst drought in a half-century, and the House of Representatives sits on its hands refusing to pass the Farm Bill, I'm going to keep fighting in every way I know how to provide certainty to our farm and ranch families so they can plan for the future." ("McCaskill Introduces Bill Preventing Estate Tax Hike For Missouri Families," [Sen. Claire Mccaskill](#), Accessed 8/16/17)
- **Senator McCaskill's Bill Was Also Supported By Senator Jon Tester (D-MT).** "McCaskill's bill--backed by Senators Jon Tester of Montana and Mark Pryor of Arkansas--would lock in the current low rate of 35 percent on the transfer of properties worth more than \$5 million for at least one more year, through 2013, to provide certainty for Missouri's farm and ranch families. The legislation's language mirrors a provision in the Republican-backed tax cut proposal." ("McCaskill Introduces Bill Preventing Estate Tax Hike For Missouri Families," [Sen. Claire Mccaskill](#), Accessed 8/16/17)
- **Voicing Support For The Bill Tester Said, " Congress Needs To Protect Montana's Family Farmers And Ranchers From The Estate Tax."** "Congress needs to protect Montana's family farmers and ranchers from the estate tax and provide predictability and certainty," said Tester, a dry-land farmer from Big Sandy. "This bill is an important step in providing that certainty. Congress needs to pass this bill, because the last thing Montana farmers and ranchers need is another avoidable hurdle to jump over as we deal with record drought." ("Tester Protects Montana Farmers And Ranchers From Estate Tax," [United States Senator Jon Tester](#), Accessed 8/17/17)

In 2000, Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL) Called For An "Outright Repeal" Of The Estate Tax. "And in what seemed like a shift from his previous stand, Nelson called for outright repeal of the estate tax. In a May speech, Nelson said he favored a targeted tax cut, including a cut in the estate tax for such things as the family farm." (Steve Bousquet, "GOP Portrays Senate Candidate As Clinton Clone," [The Miami Herald](#), 8/13/00)

In 2006, Senator Nelson Said "I Believe That A Family With A Small Family Business Ought To Be Able To Pass That On For The Next Generation." "I believe that a family with a small family business ought to be able to pass that on for the next generation." (Mark K. Matthews, "Nelson's Votes: He Crosses Party Lines, Rarely Takes Lead," *Orlando Sentinel*, 10/2/06)

In 2006, Senator Joe Donnelly (D-IN) Supported A Bill That Would Raise The Applicability Limit For The Estate Tax To \$5 Million For An Individual, And \$10 Million For Couples. " Donnelly said he supports a House-passed bill that would raise the applicability limits for the estate tax to \$5 million for an individual and \$10 million for a couple." (James Wensits, "Donnelly-Choccola Slugfest Continues; Estate Tax Ad Touches Nerve," *South Bend Tribune*, 6/4/2006)

SENATOR SANDERS' TAX ON INVESTMENTS COULD MAKE IT HARDER FOR MIDDLE-CLASS AMERICANS TO INVEST

Senator Sanders Would Tax Investments, Bonds And Derivatives

Senator Sanders' Has Proposed A Tax On Trades "At A Rate Of 0.5 Percent For Stocks, 0.1 Percent For Bonds, And 0.005 Percent For Derivatives." "Under this proposal, trades would be taxed at a rate of 0.5 percent for stocks, 0.1 percent for bonds, and 0.005 percent for derivatives. This means, for example, that a trade of \$1,000 in stocks would be subject to a tax of \$5. A trade of \$1,000 in swaps or other derivatives would be subject to a tax of five cents." ("Making The Wealthy, Wall Street, And Large Corporations Pay Their Fair Share," BernieSanders.Com, Accessed 9/24/17)

This Tax Would Be Imposed On All Wall Street Investment Houses, Who Could Then Pass The Taxes Along To Investors. "It would impose a tax on Wall Street investment houses, hedge funds, and other speculators. If those Wall Street investment houses chose to pass the tax along to investors, this plan would provide a tax credit to individuals making under \$50,000 and couples making under \$75,000 to ensure that they would not be impacted." ("Making The Wealthy, Wall Street, And Large Corporations Pay Their Fair Share," BernieSanders.Com, Accessed 9/24/17)

Senator Sanders' Tax On Investments Could Make Investments More Expensive For Middle Class Americans

Senator Sanders' Plan Would Repeal The Low Tax Rate For Investment Income. "This plan would repeal the special, low income tax rates on capital gains and stock dividends for married couples with incomes greater than \$250,000. Capital gains and corporate stock dividends are taxed at lower rates than the wages and salaries most of us live on." ("Making The Wealthy, Wall Street, And Large Corporations Pay Their Fair Share," BernieSanders.Com, Accessed 9/24/17)

- **Senator Sanders Would Tax Capital Gains At The Same Rate As Ordinary Income.** "Taxing capital gains and dividends the same as income from work." ("Options To Finance Medicare For All," [Sen. Bernie Sanders](http://Sen.Bernie.Sanders), Accessed 9/20/17)

Companies Could Pass This Tax Hike On To Consumers, And To Offset This, Senator Sanders Would Provide A Tax Credit To Individuals Making Under \$50,000 And Couples Making Under \$75,000. "This proposal would not tax investors, retirees, or parents saving to send their kids to college. Instead, it would impose a tax on Wall Street investment houses, hedge funds, and other speculators. If those Wall Street investment houses chose to pass the tax along to investors, this plan would provide a tax credit to individuals making under \$50,000 and couples making under \$75,000 to ensure that they would not be impacted." ("Making The Wealthy, Wall Street, And Large Corporations Pay Their Fair Share," BernieSanders.Com, Accessed 9/24/17)

- **The Median Household Income In America Is \$55,775, Which May Mean That Many American Households Would Not Be Eligible For This Exemption.** "According to the Census ACS survey, the median household income for the United States was \$55,775 in 2015, the latest data available." ("U.S. Household Income," [Pew Research Center](http://PewResearchCenter), Accessed 9/25/17)

IN ADDITION TO A PLETHORA OF TAX INCREASES, SENATOR SANDERS HAS OFFERED A MENU OF TAX HIKES TO FUND HIS GOVERNMENT TAKEOVER OF HEALTH CARE

Senator Sanders Has Proposed A Variety Of Tax Increases To Pay For His Single-Payer Healthcare Proposal

In An Accompanying White Paper Released With His Single-Payer Legislation, Senator Sanders Has Proposed \$16.19 Trillion In Tax Increases. "7.5 percent income-based premium paid by employers Revenue raised: \$3.9 trillion over ten years. 4 percent income-based premium paid by households Revenue raised: \$3.5 trillion over ten years. Savings from Health Tax Expenditures Revenue raised: \$4.2 trillion over ten years. Make the Personal Income Tax More Progressive Revenue raised: \$1.8 trillion over ten years. Make the Estate Tax More Progressive Revenue raised: \$249 billion over ten years. Establish a Wealth Tax on the Top 0.1 percent Revenue raised: \$1.3 trillion over ten years. Close the Gingrich-Edwards Loophole and Create Parity for Wealthy Business Owners Revenue raised: \$247 billion over ten years. Impose a one-time tax on currently held offshore profits Revenue raised: \$767 billion over ten years. Impose a Fee on Large Financial Institutions Revenue raised: \$117 billion over ten years. Repeal Corporate Accounting Gimmicks Revenue raised: \$112 billion ten years." ("Options To Finance Medicare For All," [Sen. Bernie Sanders](#), Accessed 9/20/17)

One Suggestion Contained In The White Paper Is A "7.5 Percent Income-Based Premium Paid By Employers" That Would Raise \$3.9 Trillion Over A Decade. "7.5 percent income-based premium paid by employers. Revenue raised: \$3.9 trillion over ten years." ("Options To Finance Medicare For All," [Sen. Bernie Sanders](#), Accessed 9/20/17)

Another Suggestion In The White Paper Is A 4 Percent Tax Increase On Household Income That Would Raise \$3.5 Trillion Over A Decade. "4 percent income-based premium paid by households. Revenue raised: \$3.5 trillion over ten years." ("Options To Finance Medicare For All," [Sen. Bernie Sanders](#), Accessed 9/20/17)

- **A Family Making \$50,000 A Year Would Pay An Additional \$844 Due To This Tax.** "Under this option, a typical family of four earning \$50,000, after taking the standard deduction, would pay a 4 percent income-based premium to fund Medicare for All - just \$844 a year." ("Options To Finance Medicare For All," [Sen. Bernie Sanders](#), Accessed 9/20/17)

In Addition To Raising Income Taxes, Senator Sanders Also Seeks To Impose A "Wealth Tax." "This option would establish an annual 1 percent federal wealth tax on the net worth of the wealthiest 0.1 percent of U.S. households. The tax would apply to net worth exceeding \$21 million for a household. That means a household with \$21.5 million would pay 1 percent of \$500,000, or \$5,000." ("Options To Finance Medicare For All," [Sen. Bernie Sanders](#), Accessed 9/20/17)

- **Some Have Argued That This Tax Would Be "Potentially Unconstitutional."** "Others have argued that any wealth tax would be dauntingly complicated, and potentially unconstitutional. Sanders has described it as one way to spread the concentration of wealth." (Ruby Cramer, "With Popular Single-Payer Plan, Bernie Sanders Enters New Territory: A Wealth Tax," [Buzzfeed](#), 9/20/17)

Senator Sanders Would Force Owners Of S-Corporations To Pay Themselves A Salary Separate From Their Business Profits So That It Could Be Subjected To Payroll Taxes. "Close the Gingrich-Edwards Loophole and Create Parity for Wealthy Business Owners. Revenue raised: \$247 billion over ten years. This option closes the Gingrich-Edwards loophole which allows individuals who own and run an S-Corporation to game the system and avoid paying payroll taxes by claiming some income as business profits." ("Options To Finance Medicare For All," [Sen. Bernie Sanders](#), Accessed 9/20/17)

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RNC War Room

From: RNC War Room
Sent: Friday, September 29, 2017 5:27 PM
Subject: Richmond Times-Dispatch: Worried the Dems are ignoring rural Virginia, local party chairman briefly resigns in protest

Worried the Dems are ignoring rural Virginia, local party chairman briefly resigns in protest

Richmond Times-Dispatch

Patrick Wilson

September 29, 2017

http://www.richmond.com/news/virginia/government-politics/worried-the-dems-are-ignoring-rural-virginia-local-party-chairman/article_29569b50-2686-5ed7-a0f9-acf939902014.html

A county Democratic chairman resigned in protest Thursday afternoon over what he described as misinformation, lack of communication and shabby treatment of rural voters from the Democratic Party of Virginia.

By Friday, the Democratic Party of Virginia had agreed to do better and he agreed to remain as chairman.

Inaction by the party in rural Virginia is hurting Democratic candidates in this year's election, said Jay Clarke, the chairman of the Rockbridge County Democratic Committee.

"Somebody needed to throw a firecracker into their campfire of contentment," he said Thursday of the party brass in Richmond. After talking to party officials, he said Friday that he would stay on as chair and "I am sure that things are going to work out well."

It all began Thursday afternoon when an exasperated Clarke emailed his resignation to Susan Swecker, the state party chairwoman, and other Democratic committee chairs.

"As far as I know, no door-to-door canvassing has yet taken place in either Rockbridge, Lexington, or Buena Vista," Clarke wrote in the email. "The DPVA stands condemned for leaving the energy, talent, and public-spiritedness of our Democrats on the table, unconsumed." He lives in Lexington and has been the local party chair for 18 months.

His email continued: "The DPVA through its malevolent neglect is chasing away the voters of western Virginia and threatening Democratic success in future elections. Electing Democrats is essential to Virginia's future. I have no tools left in my bag except the faint hope that my resignation might stir the DPVA to change its behavior."

Clarke said in his email that his requests for help and guidance for how to mobilize in this year's campaign have mostly been ignored by the party.

On Nov. 7, Virginians will vote for governor, attorney general, lieutenant governor and all 100 seats in the House of Delegates. The race for governor between Democrat Ralph Northam and Republican Ed Gillespie is considered close, with not just the executive mansion but also the power to control legislative district lines at stake in the redistricting that will follow the 2020 census.

Clarke in his resignation that will remain the 2019 caucus.

In a telephone interview Thursday, Clarke said his frustration over the party's neglect of western Virginia has been building since May.

"This is in no way meant to criticize our three candidates," he said, referring to Northam, Attorney General Mark R. Herring, and Justin Fairfax, the nominee for lieutenant governor. "This is solely directed at the party organization."

He said he has Democratic volunteers eager to knock on doors, make phone calls or do whatever they can to help the statewide ticket. But he said he can't get any help or guidance from the party, and emails have gone unanswered. A field director who works for what the Democrats call the statewide "coordinated campaign" comes by the office once a week but is unable to help because he doesn't have information, Clarke said.

"Use the talent, the experience, the hard work of my people," he said. "Don't let them just lie there doing nothing. And that's what happened."

Party voter lists sent to Rockbridge County - which were supposed to be for Democrats - were inaccurate and instead led volunteers to Republican doors, he said.

Clarke said he thinks the Democrats are making a mistake by ignoring western Virginia. Specifically, he said, the decision by the three statewide candidates not to march in this year's Buena Vista Labor Day parade has "become a weapon in Republican hands." Northam, Herring and Fairfax attended a breakfast in Buena Vista before the parade but then left in helicopters, the Roanoke Times reported. That afternoon the Democratic candidates attended the annual Labor Day picnic in Newport News hosted by Rep. Robert C. "Bobby" Scott, D-3rd.

"Frankly, the Democratic Party lost votes that day," Clarke said. "It's going to be a close election. We've got the votes out here. Why are we being ignored?"

Northam, a native of the Eastern Shore with a rural upbringing, represented the countryside as a state senator and did well in Republican areas of the Shore and Mathews County.

He has focused his campaign for governor on Virginia's urban crescent - the populated and more Democratic areas from Northern Virginia to Hampton Roads.

Gillespie touted himself as a statewide candidate Wednesday during a speech in Richmond to ChamberRVA. He predicted victory.

"I will be a governor for all Virginians. I take my campaign to every corner of the commonwealth and to every voter in Virginia. There is nowhere in the commonwealth I will not go, because there is no one in the commonwealth I will not serve," Gillespie said. "I go places not just a lot of Republicans don't go. I go places a lot of Democrats don't go. I'll go anywhere. I'll serve anyone."

In response to Clarke's resignation, DPVA spokesman Kevin Donohoe arranged interviews for the Richmond Times-Dispatch with three people: Newport News Democratic chairman Gene Magruder, the chair of the Virginia Association of Democratic Chairs; Toni Radler, chair of the Hanover Democratic Committee north of Richmond; and Vee Frye, chair of the state party's rural caucus.

Magruder said Clarke "has a few valid points" but said all campaigns have communication problems that need to be resolved.

"It's not a perfect science. Nobody runs a perfect campaign for either side," he said.

Radler said she found Clarke's resignation email confusing and said Hanover County Democrats have only had positive experiences with the party leadership.

"I don't really know what's happening to that particular person and that particular area," she said. "I think it's getting late in the campaign. People may be getting tired."

Frye said Northam helped create the rural caucus and said she was surprised by Clarke's resignation email.

"I have not seen the lack of support so that is a bit of a surprise to me," she said.

She lives in Bristol but travels for campaign work and said she's on the phone daily with Northam's political director. "We are one of the few states that has a rural caucus and there has been a really big push."

After those interviews, the DPVA's Donohoe said he thought Clarke wanted to talk to The Times-Dispatch again.

"The Rockbridge County Democratic Committee executive committee is starting a process by which they will formally reject my letter of resignation," Clarke said during a follow-up interview.

He said he's confident things will improve. And he planned to send an email to all the party chairs Friday updating them and suggesting that rural chairs should be aware that the party heads in Richmond have promised better coordination.

Taikein M. Cooper, chairman of the Prince Edward Democratic Committee, backed up Clarke in a phone interview Friday. He said he's had his own issues with unresponsiveness from the party in Richmond, and also is concerned about the lack of attention to rural voters.

He said he brought up concerns Sept. 23 in Fredericksburg at a meeting of party chairs.

"It seems like DPVA has an unwillingness to try to be competitive in rural Virginia," Cooper said.

Both Cooper and Clarke said the Clinton-Kaine presidential ticket's focus on urban areas nationally should serve as a warning to the party.

"They kind of abandoned rural America and it came back and hurt us," Cooper said.

Cooper said he joined the advisory board of a new outlet called Democratic Promise, which he thinks can help overcome party shortcomings in rural Virginia.

State Del. Sam Rasoul, D-Roanoke, helped launch the program earlier this month as way to link rural voters who need help to government services. The goal is to rebuild the Democratic Party's brand in rural Virginia.

Disclaimer: The Republican National Committee provided the above article as a service to its employees and other selected individuals. Any opinions expressed therein are those of the article's author and do not

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RNC War Room

From: RNC War Room
Sent: Thursday, October 5, 2017 3:58 PM
Subject: Daily Beast: Democrats Grow Panicked That They Could Blow The Year's Biggest Race

Democrats Grow Panicked That They Could Blow The Year's Biggest Race

Daily Beast

Sam Stein

October 5, 2017 – 1:52 PM

<https://www.thedailybeast.com/democrats-grow-panicked-that-they-could-blow-the-years-biggest-race>

The Virginia gubernatorial election is the most consequential of the year. And it will be close. So why aren't national Democrats more jazzed about their candidate?

Earlier this year, a young former Democratic Hill aide galvanized his party with his run for the House of Representatives. Jon Ossoff would lose his race to fill Rep. Tom Price's vacated seat in Georgia but not before raising millions of dollars from donors across the country and becoming the belle of the ball for many progressive organizations.

Months later, the biggest electoral contest of the calendar year is fast approaching as Virginia's Lt. Governor Ralph Northam squares off against former RNC Chair Ed Gillespie to take over the governor's mansion in the commonwealth. And far more is at stake than a singular congressional seat—from the future of Medicaid expansion in the state to abortion rights and the ability to shape the redrawing of congressional districts after the 2020 Census.

But none of the enthusiasm that bubbled around Ossoff's long-shot bid is apparent around Northam. With just a month to go before the vote, Democratic operatives working on the race and those closely following it are more openly panicked that complacency has set in.

"The thing that's insane to me is there are more congressional seats [at play] in the Virginia governor's race than there are in Georgia and the same is true in 2018 for Ohio, Pennsylvania and Florida and Michigan too," said Jared Leopold, Communications Director for the Democratic Governor's Association. "In order to win back Congress for a decade to come you will need to win governors' races."

It is a truism of the Democratic Party that their voters and donors find far more interest in federal elections than state and local ones. But in the aftermath of the 2016 bloodbath, when the party was finally forced to reckon with the losses it had endured during the Barack Obama era, a concerted effort was made to rebuild from the ground up. Resources were devoted towards statehouse contests. Groups were launched to fight gerrymandering efforts and recruit local candidates, and pledges were made to prioritize gubernatorial contests as much as congressional ones.

In 2017, there are two such elections: the governors' races in New Jersey and Virginia. While the former appears to be a drama-free cakewalk for Democrats, the latter is—perhaps unexpectedly—quite close. A Washington Post poll released on Thursday had Northam up by 13 points over Gillespie. But three Democratic

Washington Post poll released on Thursday had Northam up by 10 points over Ossoff. But three Democratic sources have told The Daily Beast that Northam's internal campaign polling has the race within the margin of error, and not at the outer edges of that range.

Despite that, little attention has been paid to Northam by Democrats beyond Virginia. Just eight percent of donations to his campaign have originated from outside of the state or nearby Washington D.C., according to data from the Virginia Public Access Project. In 2013, that number was 35 percent for current Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe who, admittedly, had a larger fundraising network from his years as a party operative. For Ossoff, it was almost entirely the inverse: just 14 percent of his donors were from within his home state

Northam has had little grassroots enthusiasm too. Of the \$12.6 million he had raised through the end of August, a mere \$478,000 had come from people giving \$100 or less. Part of that is owed to Virginia's wild-west campaign finance system, where donors can write checks for unlimited amounts. But some of it, operatives fear, reflects a lack of interest and enthusiasm among the very activist community that pledged not to ignore state races anymore.

"We have had this conversation forever," said Colm O'Comartun, the DGA's former executive director. "People do not understand the role governors play in national politics. We have seen at the DGA for years people spend amazing amounts of money on congressional and senate races even though it won't make as much difference to their stated goals... and yet they will still slavishly give to DCCC and DSCC. I'm not criticizing DCCC and DSCC. It's just the reality."

Privately, Democratic operatives in and around the state say Northam isn't blameless for the lack of enthusiasm. The Lt. Governor has a folksy, small-town doctor approach to campaigning that has worked well for other Democrats who run statewide in the past but seems out of place for the age of Donald Trump and doesn't exactly elicit passionate devotion.

Northam has stuck to the progressive platform that he outlined during the primary—a \$15-an-hour minimum wage, criminal justice reform, and debt free college—and he's taken stances that count as political brave in the commonwealth, such as calling for the relocation of Confederate statues. But he also has tried to sand down the dramatic edges, including running an ad in which he said he'd opportunistically work with Trump, a man he previously called a "narcissistic maniac."

Northam also hasn't engaged the online progressive community as much as some Virginia Democrats had hoped, having chosen to forgo speaking (even by telecast) to the Netroots Nation audience this year. But in fairness to Northam, numerous Virginia Democrats noted, not everyone has engaged him back.

While groups like League of Conservation Voters, Everytown for Gun Safety, NextGen America, DailyKos, and Planned Parenthood are all pouring money into the race or fundraising on Northam's behalf, Our Revolution, the progressive political action organization birthed from Senator Bernie Sanders' presidential campaign, has stayed notable silent. The organization endorsed Northam's opponent, former Rep. Tom Perriello, during their primary. And then, as one operative put it, they "went completely dark."

Numerous requests for comment to Our Revolution were not returned. Perriello, who has been barnstorming the state on behalf of state house candidates running down ticket, noted that there has been "unprecedented support from pop-up groups and the Democratic National Committee in taking these races seriously." But, he acknowledged, "there is still progress that needs to be made to connect and acknowledge the importance of state and local races with the actual resources going to state and local races."

Northam remains well positioned to win. He enjoys a surprising cash-on-hand advantage. Democrats proved, during the primaries, that they were more eager to vote than Republicans. And Gillespie's recent ad—which accuses Northam of allowing MS-13 gangs to roam through the state because he supports sanctuary cities—has the faint stench of desperation (which isn't to say it won't work).

"We feel good about the state of the race and where we stand," said Northam's spokesman, David Turner. "We are taking nothing for granted and campaigning like we are 10 points down and will continue to bolster our GOTV operation and make it clear to voters the distinct choice they have in this election."

The party has also made concrete investments in the race, with the DNC sending \$1.5 million to the Democratic Party of Virginia to hire an additional 40 field organizations. And the expectation is that national enthusiasm will rise as the election nears. Former President Barack Obama is slated to hit the trail for Northam, and Former Vice President Joe Biden is likely to as well, a source said.

But veterans of Virginia elections past are nervous that the party is too confident that things will simply fall into place. In 2014, Sen. Mark Warner (D-Va.) appeared to be cruising to a re-election in the weeks leading up to the vote, only to have to endure a nail-biter. Warner won that race by less than 20,000 votes. His opponent was Gillespie.

"If Democrats don't go all in on this race, they may regret it on the morning after when we wake up to Trump's self-congratulatory tweets about his big victory," said Jesse Ferguson, a Democratic operative who has worked extensively in Virginia. "Winning Congress in 2018 starts with winning Virginia in 2017."

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Michael Ahrens - Communications/Research

From: Michael Ahrens - Communications/Research
Sent: Thursday, October 5, 2017 10:00 PM
To: Michael Ahrens - Communications/Research
Subject: Ralph North-who??

He should be an even bigger deal for "The Resistance" than Jon Ossoff, but national Democrats and progressive groups couldn't be less enthusiastic about Democrat Ralph Northam.

We're one month out from the gubernatorial race in Virginia – a state Hillary Clinton won by more than 5 points – and...

- Dems are openly panicking that "complacency has set in"
- Northam has no grassroots enthusiasm: Of \$12.6M raised, only \$478K has come from people giving \$100 or less
- Internal Dem polling has the race well within the margin of error
- Progressive groups like Bernie's Our Revolution "went completely dark," possibly in protest to Northam's [stance on pipeline construction](#)

Democrats Grow Panicked That They Could Blow The Year's Biggest Race

Daily Beast

Sam Stein

October 5, 2017

<https://www.thedailybeast.com/democrats-grow-panicked-that-they-could-blow-the-years-biggest-race>

The Virginia gubernatorial election is the most consequential of the year. And it will be close. So why aren't national Democrats more jazzed about their candidate?

Earlier this year, a young former Democratic Hill aide galvanized his party with his run for the House of Representatives. Jon Ossoff would lose his race to fill Rep. Tom Price's vacated seat in Georgia but not before raising millions of dollars from donors across the country and becoming the belle of the ball for many progressive organizations.

Months later, the biggest electoral contest of the calendar year is fast approaching as Virginia's Lt. Governor Ralph Northam squares off against former RNC Chair Ed Gillespie to take over the governor's mansion in the commonwealth. And far more is at stake than a singular congressional seat—from the future of Medicaid expansion in the state to abortion rights and the ability to shape the redrawing of congressional districts after the 2020 Census.

But none of the enthusiasm that bubbled around Ossoff's long-shot bid is apparent around Northam. **With just a month to go before the vote, Democratic operatives working on the race and those closely following it are more openly panicked that complacency has set in.**

"The thing that's insane to me is there are more congressional seats [at play] in the Virginia governor's race than there are in Georgia and the same is true in 2018 for Ohio, Pennsylvania and Florida and Michigan too," said Jared Leopold, Communications Director for the Democratic Governor's Association. "In order to win back Congress for a decade to come you will need to win governors' races."

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Democratic sources have told The Daily Beast that Northam's internal campaign polling has the race within the margin of error, and not at the outer edges of that range.

Despite that, little attention has been paid to Northam by Democrats beyond Virginia. Just eight percent of donations to his campaign have originated from outside of the state or nearby Washington D.C., according to data from the Virginia Public Access Project. In 2013, that number was 35 percent for current Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe who, admittedly, had a larger fundraising network from his years as a party operative. For Ossoff, it was almost entirely the inverse: just 14 percent of his donors were from within his home state

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To read more, click [here](#).

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RNC War Room

From: RNC War Room
Sent: Saturday, October 7, 2017 9:07 AM
Subject: WaPo: Dear Democrats: It's time to stop dwelling on the popular vote

Dear Democrats: It's time to stop dwelling on the popular vote

Washington Post

Aaron Blake

October 7, 2017 – 7:30 AM

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2017/10/07/dear-democrats-its-time-to-stop-dwelling-on-the-popular-vote/?utm_term=.ea8ce818aff

[VIDEO EMBEDDED]

Jimmy Fallon's late-night show this week featured a sketch more cathartic than funny. In it, his female writers penned heartfelt thank-you notes to Hillary Clinton. The result harks back to Kate McKinnon-as-Clinton singing Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah" after Clinton lost the election. It was a little . . . weird.

But even when the thank-you notes went for humor, it was kind of predictable. The one "joke" that stuck with me involved a writer who lauded Clinton for taking bold stances: "You showed girls everywhere that politics isn't a popularity contest, because if it were, you would have won by about 3 million votes."

Rimshot.

Apparently the popular vote will never stop being Democrats' 2016 comfort blanket. And it's completely understandable that they'd cling to it for years and years, just like they did when Al Gore won it but lost the presidency in 2000.

But it's time to stop.

First off, while Clinton won the popular vote, it's impossible to say whether she would have won a popular-vote election. And secondly, this idea that Clinton actually won even as she lost risks totally obscuring the disastrous position her party is in right now — and may continue to be if they don't get hold of reality.

As I've written before, it's totally unknowable whether Clinton actually would have won if our system went by the popular vote. That's because the campaigns were run according to the system we have — the electoral college — and were focused heavily on the handful of states where those votes were actually at-stake. If we had the popular vote, both sides would have campaigned in and tailored their messages to the three-fourths of the country that they barely acknowledged:

An electoral-college election involves making explicit appeals to and advertising in around 10 or 12 out of the 50 states. It means Trump didn't campaign or advertise in California or Massachusetts or Washington state and that Clinton didn't campaign in Oklahoma or even Texas (despite polling within single digits there). They knew it would be wasted effort to try to turn a 30-point loss in those states into a 22-point loss, or a 14-point loss into an eight-point loss.

loss into an eight-point loss.

For example, if Trump shaved 10 points off his 30-point loss in California, turned his 22-point loss in New York into a 15-point loss, and added just six points to his nine-point win in Texas, he'd have won the popular vote. And that's just three really populous states out of the many in which neither side really tried.

Does it seem unlikely Trump would have won a popular-vote race? Perhaps. But it's impossible to know, because the campaign would have been run completely differently. We simply don't even know that Clinton would have won if our system was the popular vote, because it's a massive hypothetical.

The most important thing for Democrats, though, is not to believe that all is well and that they were simply robbed by a bad system or a fluke. That's because they are currently in their worst position since the Great Depression in state legislatures and governor's seats. There are more than twice as many Republican governors as Democratic ones, and there are more than four times as many states with total GOP control (26) as total Democratic control (6).

A Red America

● 26 states with a Republican governor and Republican state legislature



*Nebraska's sole legislative chamber is technically nonpartisan but Republican in practice.

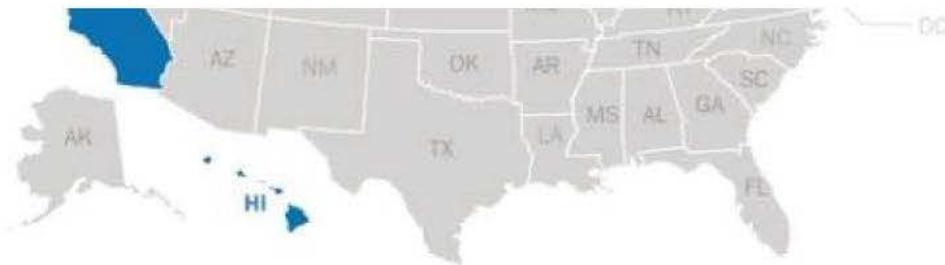
Source: Americans for Tax Reform; 2016 election results

THE WASHINGTON POST

Blue America

● 6 states have a Democratic governor and Democratic state legislature





*Connecticut's state Senate is technically a tie, but a tiebreaker goes to Democrats

Source: Americans for Tax Reform; 2016 election results

THE WASHINGTON POST

The maps for regaining House and Senate majorities are also both pretty daunting — in the Senate because 30 out of 50 states are red, and in the House because of natural sorting and GOP-controlled gerrymandering. All the GOP has to do in each chamber is hold states and districts that clearly favor them.

If Democrats don't win back state legislatures or some key governor's mansions in 2018, they'll again be shut out of the redistricting process after the 2020 election, and they'll face another decade of really tough state legislative and congressional maps. And even if they do get a seat at the table, the country has sorted itself in a way that's more conducive to Republican control.

Democrats are two election cycles away from another potential post-census disaster, but the popular vote is telling them that they really, actually won in 2016 — that they're really, actually the majority party in the United States. That's highly deceptive at best, and dangerously comforting at worst.

But hey, at least it's an easy punchline.

Disclaimer: The Republican National Committee provided the above article as a service to its employees and other selected individuals. Any opinions expressed therein are those of the article's author and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the RNC.

RNC War Room

From: RNC War Room
Sent: Tuesday, October 10, 2017 4:07 PM
Subject: CNN: The Democratic Party has an age problem

The Democratic Party has an age problem

CNN

Ryan Struyk

October 10, 2017 – 3:54 PM

<http://www.cnn.com/2017/10/10/politics/democrats-age-problem/index.html>

The young blood in the Democratic Party is (still) waiting for its moment.

Democratic leaders across both the legislative and executive branches are generally older than leadership on the other side of the aisle, leading to some restlessness among the lower ranks who have been patiently awaiting their turn at the top.

The most recent blow to those hoping to climb the ranks? Dianne Feinstein, 84, the oldest senator currently serving in the chamber, just announced a bid for re-election to the seat she's held for two and a half decades.

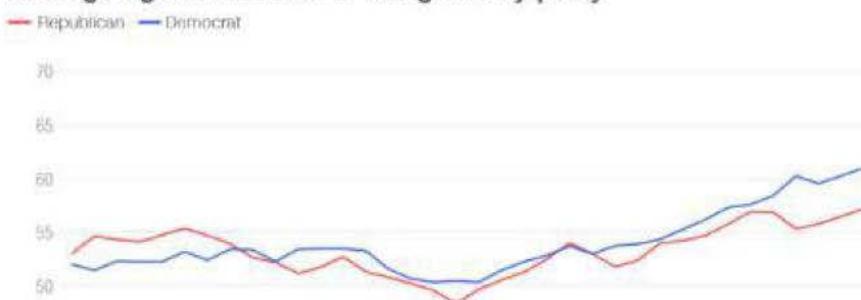
The presidential field also looks like an uphill climb for young Democrats: apart from a couple of standout young senators, names like Bernie Sanders and Joe Biden still loom large among the potential hopefuls.

Part of the problem for Democrats is one of recruiting. Historic losses over the last decade in statehouses across the country have not helped create a bench of energized new lawmakers. Further Democrats have had difficulty winning new seats in the House since the tea party wave of 2010 and redistricting in the wake of that year's census.

Having a generally older slate of leaders could separate Democrats from one of their core constituencies. Younger voters, however, tend to lean more Democratic than older voters. Hillary Clinton won voters under 30 years old by nearly 20 percentage points, while Donald Trump won voters over 65 years old by 7 points, according to exit polls.

Democrats (and Republicans) in Congress are getting older

Average age of member of Congress by party



1947 1957 1967 1977 1987 1997 2007 2017

Source: CNN poll feedback, The New York Times, Sunlight Foundation, Congress.gov, @unitedstates, CNN Politics.

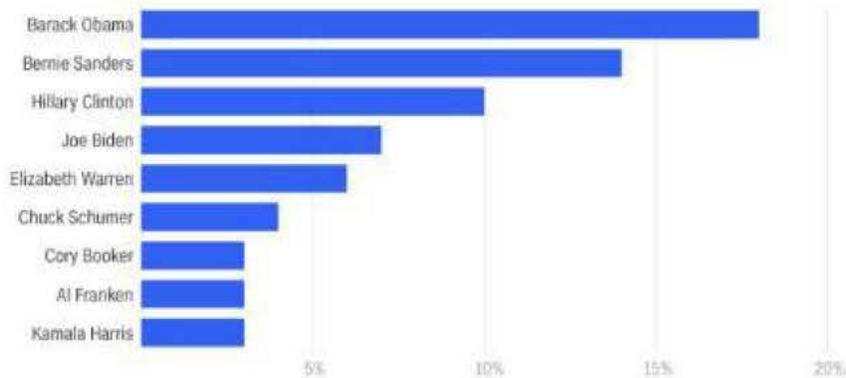
Members of both parties in Congress are at their oldest average age in decades, but the average Democrat has about four years on the average Republican on Capitol Hill.

The average Democrat was 61.0 years old at the start of this term, the highest average age for Democrats on the Hill in available data stretching back to 1947, compiled thanks to [a great piece by 538](#), plus recent numbers from the [@unitedstates project](#), an Internet-driven repository featuring data from the Sunlight Foundation, GovTrack.us and the New York Times.

The average Republican was 57.2 years old. The gap between the two parties has been roughly four years since the 2010 tea party wave. For two decades before that, Democrats tended to be about one year older than Republicans, on average.

The 2020 bench

Which one person best reflects core values of Democratic Party?



Source: CNN poll feedback for 538, Sept. 17-20. Among all Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents, sampling error of ±3.4% pts.

CNN asked Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents last month which person they think best reflects the core values of the Democratic Party. The results?

Top of the list is former President Barack Obama, who can't run for the White House again because of term limits. The average for the next five people — including Joe Biden, Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren — is 71 years old.

It's important to note that the question was not specifically about presidential politics or who should run in 2020. But it does give a picture of who voters see (and don't see) as the figureheads of the Democratic Party.

Of course, President Donald Trump will be 73 years old on Inauguration Day 2020 and he was the oldest first-term President ever to assume office, when he took the oath in 2017. But the average age of the candidates who ran for the Republican primary field in 2016 is just 60 years old, thanks to fresh faces like Marco Rubio and Scott Walker.

The two young names on the list of people who Democrats say share their values are Sens. Cory Booker and Kamala Harris, who each got a nod from 3% of Democrats. Booker is 48; Harris is 52. Then, for good measure, the list rounds out with 77-year-old Nancy Pelosi and 71-year-old Bill Clinton.

This [CNN poll conducted by SSRS](#) was conducted from Sept. 17-20 among 493 Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents. The margin of sampling error is ± 5.4 percentage points.

Leadership and the old guard

The top three Democratic leaders in the House are in their late 70s. Minority leader Nancy Pelosi is 77 years old, Democratic whip Steny Hoyer is 78 and assistant minority leader Jim Clyburn is 77 years old. Pelosi has held the top spot among House Democrats since 2003.

The aging among Democratic leaders led to a stunning rebuke from the fifth-highest ranking Democrat in the House, essentially calling on her party's top brass in the chamber to step aside.

"I do think we have this real breadth and depth of talent within our caucus, and I do think it's time to pass a torch to a new generation of leaders," said Linda Sanchez, the vice chair of the House Democratic caucus. "I think we have too many great members here that don't always get the opportunities they should. I would like to see that change."

"There comes a time when you need to pass that torch," she said. "I think it's time."

House Speaker Paul Ryan is only 47 years old and Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy is 52. On the Senate side, Democrat Chuck Schumer is 66 and Republican Mitch McConnell is 75.

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RNC War Room

From: RNC War Room
Sent: Friday, October 13, 2017 6:42 AM
Subject: Politico Playbook 10/13/17

NATS SEASON ENDS in disappointment -- TRUMP scraps OBAMACARE PAYMENTS and will criticize IRAN DEAL -- Concern over THAD COCHRAN'S health -- SPOTTED at the Nationals game -- IRS suspending contract with EQUIFAX

Politico Playbook

Anna Palmer, Jake Sherman & Daniel Lippman

October 13, 2017 – 6:20 AM

<http://www.politico.com/tipsheets/playbook/2017/10/13/nats-season-ends-in-disappointment-trump-scrap-obamacare-payments-and-will-criticize-iran-deal-concern-over-thad-cochrans-health-spotted-at-the-nationals-game-irs-suspending-contract-with-equifax-222778>

Good Friday morning. THE NATIONALS' season is over. D.C.'s inability to win is wrenching. What will make the sting of this loss go away? Time, maybe. Hey, Chicago had to wait a century to win a World Series.

-- **WAPO'S PAUL KANE (@pkcapitol):** "Already seeing Nats-fan BS about 'great season'. No, you can't do that – can't accept that. You have to be tougher, harder on your teams." **CORRECT:** This was a disappointing season.

BY THE WAY -- This looks like the Cubs plane, flying from Dulles to Los Angeles. Cubs play the Dodgers beginning Saturday. **The plane**<http://bit.ly/2xEtBIS>

-- **WAPO's BARRY SVRLUGA'S A1 STORY:** "This Thursday evening started in the mist and ended in a mess, and the educated Washington fan could have told you that when he or she woke up. The Washington Nationals played a game to extend their season. They lost that game. Their season is over. Those with strong stomachs, read further. The rest: See you in spring ...

"On this night, everything we have learned about Washington sports over the past generation was reinforced, with arguments about whether the anguish caused by the Nationals now outdoes that caused by football's Redskins, basketball's Wizards or hockey's Capitals. Discuss among yourselves. We've got all winter." <http://wapo.st/2xCF9Yc>

NEWS -- "Concerns mount over Thad Cochran's health," by Anna and Burgess Everett: "Republicans are worried about Thad Cochran. The Mississippi senator has been recovering the past several weeks from a urological procedure. And concern is growing on and off Capitol Hill over whether the 79-year-old lawmaker will return to work on Monday when the Senate comes back from recess — not to mention how long he'll be able to continue leading a high-profile committee or even remain in the Senate. Multiple sources close to the senator said his staff and allies have received limited information from his family about his health status, further fueling questions about his future.

"Cochran's office maintains that the Mississippi Republican will return next week as planned, and Senate Republican aides said they expect him back as well. But several K Street sources and Cochran allies said

Republican aides said they expect him back as well. But several GOP staff sources and Cochran aides said he's unlikely to be back next week. Multiple sources said there's increasing worry his absence could stretch through the end of the year. Cochran is slated to oversee an Appropriations Committee markup on Thursday. Cochran missed the last two weeks that the Senate was in session. Any further absence would cause major problems for Senate Republicans." <http://politi.co/2ykwhux>

IMPORTANT CONTEXT -- "As chair of the appropriations panel, Cochran plays a critical role in government funding, particularly as Congress closes in on a mid-December deadline to keep federal agencies open. Cochran remaining out of work would also cause headaches for Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) as he looks to pass budget and tax reform legislation, since it takes only three senators who are absent or opposed to legislation to sink a given measure.

"Plus, Cochran's seat is viewed as particularly important, given that the establishment went all out to help him beat former state Sen. Chris McDaniel in the 2014 GOP primary. He is next up for reelection in 2020, and Republicans are desperate for him to stay in office and avoid a special election. McDaniel is already planning a campaign against incumbent Sen. Roger Wicker (R-Miss.) in 2018."

BIG STORY -- "Trump will scrap critical Obamacare subsidy," by Josh Dawsey and Paul Demko: "President Donald Trump plans to cut subsidy payments to insurers in his most aggressive move yet to undermine Obamacare after months of unsuccessful repeal efforts on Capitol Hill, according to two sources. The subsidies, which are worth an estimated \$7 billion this year and are paid out in monthly installments, may stop almost immediately since Congress hasn't appropriated funding for the program.

"Scrapping the funding is likely to provide another jolt to the already fragile Obamacare markets. The impact may be cushioned by the fact that many insurers had priced next year's plans higher than they otherwise would have, fearing this decision. Others have already fled the Obamacare markets, which are set to begin open enrollment in Nov. 1 for the 2018 plan year. Insurers rely on the subsidies to reduce out-of-pocket costs for low-income Obamacare customers. They're still on the hook to provide the discounted rates to their members under the law, despite no longer receiving the federal funding.

"Trump has threatened for months to cut off the payments, deriding them as a 'bailout' for insurers. While Republican lawmakers complained the subsidies were never properly appropriated by Congress, many were wary of ending them suddenly." <http://politi.co/2wRx2HO>

-- **REALITY: TRUMP** is now putting yet another item on Congress's lap. This is certain to push Republicans to act on Capitol Hill. Why? Because, as the New York Times writes: "insurance markets could quickly unravel." And Republicans control both chambers of Congress and the presidency. The president doesn't think Republicans will own the political issue of health care. His party's lawmakers -- many of whom are up for reelection in 13 months -- disagree.

THE PRESIDENT at 5:36 a.m.: "The Democrats ObamaCare is imploding. Massive subsidy payments to their pet insurance companies has stopped. Dems should call me to fix!"

-- **THE BIG QUESTION:** Will this force Democrats to the negotiating table? Senate Democrats have said Trump has to stop sabotaging Obamacare before they consider talks.

NEXT UP -- "Trump speech to vilify Iran over nuke deal, non-nuke issues," by AP's Matt Lee: "President Donald Trump plans to deliver a broad and harsh critique of Iran in a speech Friday declaring that the landmark Iran nuclear deal is not in America's national security interests, according to U.S. officials and

landmark Iran nuclear deal is not in America's national security interests, according to U.S. officials and outside advisers to the administration. Trump's speech from the White House will outline specific faults he finds in the 2015 accord but will also focus on an array of Iran's troubling non-nuclear activities, four officials and advisers said. Those include Tehran's ballistic missile program, support for Syrian President Bashar Assad, Lebanon's Hezbollah movement and other groups that destabilize the region.

"Under U.S. law, Trump faces a Sunday deadline to notify Congress whether Iran is complying with the accord that was painstakingly negotiated over 18 months by the Obama administration and determine if it remains a national security priority. Although Trump intends to say Iran is living up to the letter of the agreement, he will make the case that the deal is fatally flawed and that its non-nuclear behavior violates the spirit of the regional stability it was intended to encourage, the officials and advisers said.

"The officials and advisers, who insisted on anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly preview the speech, said Trump will not call for a re-imposition of nuclear sanctions on Tehran. He will urge lawmakers to codify tough new requirements for Tehran to continue to benefit from the sanctions relief that it won in exchange for curbing its atomic program. And he'll announce his long-anticipated intent to impose sanctions on Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps by designating it a terrorist organization under an existing executive order, according to the officials and advisers." <http://bit.ly/2xD3s8x>

THE LATEST IN CALIFORNIA -- "Death toll from Northern California fires jumps to 31; names of 10 victims released," by L.A. Times' Sonali Kohli, Louis Sahagun, Paige St. John, Nina Agrawal, Chris Megerian and Alene Tchekmedyian: "Fire crews began to make slow progress against wildfires that have killed at least 31 people in Northern California's wine country as officials continued the grim search for more bodies amid the ashes.

"In Santa Rosa, the hardest hit by the fires, officials said they were stunned by the scale of the destruction. An estimated 2,834 homes were destroyed in the city of Santa Rosa alone, along with about 400,000 square feet of commercial space, Santa Rosa Mayor Chris Coursey said in a news conference Thursday afternoon.

"Flames left entire neighborhoods and commercial districts in ruins and even destroyed the city's newest fire station, on Fountaingrove Parkway. Sonoma County Sheriff Robert Giordano told reporters that another person was found dead in his county as search crews and cadaver dogs began sifting through debris for the first time Thursday." <http://politi.co/2z4LxbY>

ON PUERTO RICO -- NYT'S PETER BAKER and CAITLIN DICKERSON: "The message was as stark as it was startling. Three weeks after a killer hurricane ravaged Puerto Rico, President Trump indicated on Thursday that he was losing patience. ... Caught off guard, his advisers scrambled to reassure Puerto Rico that Washington was not abandoning it. The president's warning came on the same day the House approved \$36.5 billion in aid for natural disasters, including in Puerto Rico, with the tab rising weekly. Federal agencies expect to spend years helping the island rebuild." <http://nyti.ms/2ykWxo9>

-- Eileen Lainez (@FEMAAspx): ["@FEMA will be w/Puerto Rico, USVI, every state, territory impacted by a disaster every day, supporting throughout their response & recovery"](https://twitter.com/FEMAAspx/status/777777777777777777).

POLITICO GETS RESULTS -- "IRS temporarily suspends contract with Equifax," by Steven Overly: "The IRS has temporarily suspended the \$7.2 million, no-bid contract it awarded to Equifax to verify the identities of taxpayers when they create accounts on its website, the agency said today. The short-term suspension means that taxpayers will not be able to establish new accounts through a program called Secure Access, which grants them access to online records and transcripts. Those taxpayers who already have accounts will

which grants them access to crime records and transcripts. Those taxpayers who already have accounts will not be affected, the agency said.

“The decision comes after media reports earlier today that the Equifax website may have been compromised a second time. The embattled credit-reporting company disclosed in September that it had been hacked earlier this year and the data of as many as 145.5 million Americans had been breached. ... Lawmakers heavily criticized the agency's decision to award the \$7.2 million contract to Equifax — which POLITICO first reported — after the data breach. In letters to IRS Commissioner John Koskinen, some members of Congress questioned whether Equifax could be trusted to handle taxpayer data and suggested the contract should be revoked.” <http://politi.co/2wRYky0>

RUSSIA WATCH -- “Twitter deleted data potentially crucial to Russia probes,” by Josh Meyer: “Twitter has deleted tweets and other user data of potentially irreplaceable value to investigators probing Russia's suspected manipulation of the social media platform during the 2016 election, according to current and former government cybersecurity officials. Federal investigators now believe Twitter was one of Russia's most potent weapons in its efforts to promote Donald Trump over Hillary Clinton, the officials say, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

“By creating and deploying armies of automated bots, fake users, catchy hashtags and bogus ad campaigns, unidentified operatives launched recurring waves of pro-Trump and anti-Clinton story lines via Twitter that were either false or greatly exaggerated, the officials said. Many U.S. investigators believe that their best hope for identifying who was behind these operations, how they collaborated with each other and their suspected links to the Kremlin lies buried within the mountains of data accumulated in recent years by Twitter.” <http://politi.co/2g5S9j1>

-- **“Even Pokémon Go used by extensive Russian-linked meddling effort,”** by CNN's Donie O'Sullivan and Dylan Byers: “One Russian-linked campaign posing as part of the Black Lives Matter movement used Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, Tumblr and Pokémon Go and even contacted some reporters in an effort to exploit racial tensions and sow discord among Americans, CNN has learned. The campaign, titled ‘Don't Shoot Us,’ offers new insights into how Russian agents created a broad online ecosystem where divisive political messages were reinforced across multiple platforms, amplifying a campaign that appears to have been run from one source – the shadowy, Kremlin-linked troll farm known as the Internet Research Agency.” <http://cnnmon.ie/2g8csfs>

TRUMP'S CABINET -- “Where's Zinke? The interior secretary's special flag offers clues,” by WaPo's Lisa Rein: “At the Interior Department's headquarters in downtown Washington, Secretary Ryan Zinke has revived an arcane military ritual that no one can remember ever happening in the federal government. A security staffer takes the elevator to the seventh floor, climbs the stairs to the roof and hoists a special secretarial flag whenever Zinke enters the building.

“When the secretary goes home for the day or travels, the flag – a blue banner emblazoned with the agency's bison seal flanked by seven white stars representing the Interior bureaus – comes down. In Zinke's absence, the ritual is repeated to raise an equally obscure flag for Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt. Responding this week to questions from The Washington Post, a spokeswoman for Zinke, a former Navy SEAL commander, defended the Navy flag-flying tradition as ‘a major sign of transparency.’” <http://wapo.st/2xCCwWx>

COMMERCE SECRETARY WILBUR ROSS ON GETTING TAX REFORM PASSED -- “It's the Congress. That's where the flaw comes.” Ross told economist and moderator Larry Kudlow in an exclusive interview on

that's more the main concern, Ross told economist and moderator Larry Hallow in an exclusive interview on the 'Newsmax in the Nation's Capital' special sponsored by Newsmax and Google. 'You can do whatever you want in the administration. 'Congress is much more about process than about results,' Ross added. 'That will be tragic for the American economy.'" <http://nws.mx/2xCFJW9>

BUT, BUT, BUT -- "GOP lawmakers may be close to compromise on state, local tax deduction," by Aaron Lorenzo: "House Republicans are moving closer to keeping some form of the state and local tax deduction, and President Donald Trump isn't standing in the way, signaling a possible breakthrough in an early spat over tax reform. Several lawmakers who huddled with GOP leaders Thursday indicated that the talks were going well. 'They're trending towards a solution,' said Rep. Tom Reed (R-N.Y.), a member of the tax-writing Ways and Means Committee. 'I think there's a good-faith position by all the members involved to try to come up with something that works for everybody.'" <http://politi.co/2z4LxbY>

-- **WSJ'S RICH RUBIN** and **SIOBHAN HUGHES**: "The aim, lawmakers say, is to keep the break for middle-income households while repealing it for higher-income households. One idea is to cut off the deduction for households whose incomes exceed a certain level. The challenge will be finding agreement on where that dividing line should be." <http://on.wsj.com/2z5z9Zw>

ABOUT THAT MARCH DEADLINE ... "Trump to extend March 5 deadline to end DACA protections if Congress doesn't act, GOP senator says," by WaPo's Elise Viebeck: "Sen. James Lankford (R-Okla.) said Trump told him he was willing to "give it some more time" to allow lawmakers to find a solution for 'dreamers,' unauthorized immigrants brought to this country as children, if Congress does not pass legislation extending protections before time is up. 'The president's comment to me was that, 'We put a six-month deadline out there. Let's work it out. If we can't get it worked out in six months, we'll give it some more time, but we've got to get this worked out legislatively,' Lankford said outside a town hall here Thursday night. Trump did not specify how long an extension might last, Lankford said. 'He wants a legislative solution,' the senator said. 'His focus was, 'We've got to get a legislative solution.'" <http://wapo.st/2zknGWK>

JARED WATCH -- "Background check chief has 'never seen' mistakes and omissions at level of Jared Kushner forms," by CNN's Kara Scannell: "The head of a government bureau responsible for clearing background checks told lawmakers Wednesday he has 'never seen that level of mistakes' when asked about numerous omissions in Jared Kushner's security clearance application. Charles Phalen, the director of the National Background Investigations Bureau, a newly created division within the Office of Personnel Management, made the comment in response to a question during a House subcommittee oversight hearing. Democrats have called on the White House to revoke security clearances granted to Kushner, President Donald Trump's son-in-law and senior adviser, and Ivanka Trump over reports of their use of personal email accounts and Kushner's multiple updates to his security clearance questionnaire, known as SF-86, for failing initially to include meeting with foreign officials." <http://cnn.it/2yj3fJO>

TRUMP'S FRIDAY -- Trump will attend the 2017 Values Voter Summit at the Omni Shoreham Hotel. He will deliver remarks on his Iran strategy in the afternoon. He and the first lady will also visit the Secret Service's James J. Rowley training facility.

-- **PENCE** is going to New York for The Seminar Network's Policy and Political Strategy Planning Retreat.

PLAYBOOK READS

TRUMP'S WASHINGTON -- "Trump's pick for NOAA chief causes a storm," by Andrew Restuccia: "As a top executive at AccuWeather, Barry Myers has pushed for limits on the kinds of products that the National

top executive at AccuWeather, Gary Myers has pushed for limits on the kinds of products that the National Weather Service offers to the public, saying they offered unfair competition to his industry. Now, President Donald Trump's nomination of Myers to lead the weather service's parent agency could allow him to make those kinds of restrictions mandatory — to the benefit of his family-run forecasting company.

“The AccuWeather CEO's nomination to head [NOAA] is stirring criticism from people who worry he would hobble the weather service, which provoked an industry backlash more than a decade ago by making hour-by-hour forecasts, cellphone alerts and other consumer-friendly data widely available online. A bill that Myers supported 12 years ago, sponsored by then-Sen. Rick Santorum, would have prohibited the agency from competing with private providers in most circumstances.” <http://politi.co/2yhwQ6p>

MORE MOORE PILE-ON -- “Charity once led by Roy Moore has listed its headquarters for sale, a move that could bring him \$540,000 windfall,” by WaPo's Robert O'Harrow Jr. and Shawn Boburg: “A charity once led by U.S. Senate candidate Roy Moore has put its historic building in Montgomery, Ala., up for sale, a transaction that could bring Moore \$540,000 because of an unusual compensation arrangement he made while serving as the nonprofit group's president. The 1850s-era building was put on the market in April for nearly \$1.9 million by Moore's wife, Kayla, now president of the charity, said Ed Fleming, the listing agent for the property.

“Fleming said Kayla Moore and her husband were ‘thinking of moving and retiring’ at the time. ... The circumstances of the listing add to questions swirling around the charity and more than \$1 million in compensation for Roy Moore while he was working part time from 2007 to 2012. Kayla Moore took over as president in 2013, earning \$65,000 a year.” <http://wapo.st/2ylnf0c>

HOLLYWOODLAND -- “Amazon Suspends Entertainment Chief Roy Price,” by Variety's Daniel Holloway: “The Amazon Studios president's departure on an unpaid leave comes amid renewed sexual harassment allegations and multiple signs that Amazon and others in the industry had withdrawn their support from the embattled executive. Insiders have speculated for months about Price's possible departure from his role as head of Amazon's original-video arm.” <http://bit.ly/2zkrmrm> ... **Hollywood Reporter on the allegations against Roy Price**<http://bit.ly/2z56J1H>

-- **“Harvey Weinstein Scandal Spurs Lawmakers To Go After Non-Disclosure Agreements,”** by BuzzFeed's Claudia Koerner: “A pair of New York lawmakers are aiming to end the sort of confidentiality agreements that shield workplace sexual harassment and that have been cited in the ongoing Harvey Weinstein scandal. The new language to an existing bill, to be introduced on Friday, would void any contract provision where an employer can force an employee to keep quiet about sexual harassment and discrimination claims. It would include claims that are settled in arbitration, where non-disclosure agreements routinely keep the details of allegations secret.” <http://bzfd.it/2y1lUX0>

PLAYBOOKERS

SPOTTED at the Nationals game last night: Speaker Paul Ryan, behind home plate, Rep. Dave Brat (R-Va.) on the suite level, Ben Bernanke, Al Hunt, George Will, Jonathan Karl, House Majority Whip Steve Scalise (R-La.), Alex and Caitlin Conant, Matt Terrill, Will May, Tom and Todd Ricketts, Reps. Mike Gallagher (R-Wis.), Fred Upton (R-Mich.), and Rodney Davis (R-Ill.), Bob Costa, David Drucker, Corry Bliss, Kellyanne Conway, Jahan Wilcox, Joe Pounder, Emma Nelson, Matt Gorman, Garrett Haake, Courtney Johnson.

-- **SPOTTED:** Sen. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.) in the San Francisco airport last night. Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) on a delayed flight from San Francisco to Dulles.

a delayed night from San Francisco to Dallas.

OUT AND ABOUT IN L.A. -- MICHAEL KIVES, Darnell Strom and Jordan Brown hosted a fundraiser for the Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee at Kives' house in LA Thursday night. Speakers included DLCC Executive Director Jessica Post, Oregon House Speaker and DLCC Chair Tina Kotek, Washington State Senate Democratic Leader Sharon Nelson and California State Rep. Laura Friedman. **SPOTTED:** Alice Eve, Disney's Tendo Nagenda, MasterClass's Matthew Rutler and screenwriter Liz Hannah.

TRANSITIONS -- JENNIFER SENIOR will leave her job as book critic at the New York Times in December. She's going to go back to long-form journalism at the NYT. <http://bit.ly/2yeg0kz>

SUNDAY SO FAR -- "Fox News Sunday," guest-hosted by James Rosen: Sen. Chris Murphy (D-Conn.). Panel: Karl Rove, Marie Harf, Mike Needham, Gerald Seib.

--**ABC's "This Week":** Panel: Mary Bruce, Katrina vanden Heuvel, Van Jones, Matt Schlapp, and Charlie Sykes.

--**CBS' "Face the Nation":** latest CBS News Nation Tracker Poll with CBS News elections and surveys director Anthony Salvanto ... retired U.S. Navy captain Scott Kelly. Political panel: Molly Ball, Jonah Goldberg, and David Ignatius.

--**CNN's "State of the Union":** Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine). Panel: David Urban, Neera Tanden, Carlos Gutierrez, Rep. Robin Kelly (D-Ill.)

--**CNN's "Inside Politics,"** hosted by John King: Michael Bender, Abby Phillip, Eliana Johnson, Manu Raju

BIRTHDAY OF THE DAY: Mike Barnicle, senior contributor on MSNBC's "Morning Joe." How he got his start in journalism: "My first 'job' in the now distant newspaper business was gathering quotes at Fitchburg, Mass. city council meetings for the North Worcester County bureau chief of the Worcester Telegram, the late Dave Gilmartin. I was 16 years old and could not believe people got paid to watch and listen to other people and perhaps even cover sports, ballgames and the like." **Read his Playbook Plus Q&A:** <http://politi.co/2ylrSqS>

BIRTHDAYS: Ari Fleischer is 57 ... Billy Bush is 45 ... Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.) is 59 ... GPG's Nedra Pickler ... Michael Tomasky is 57 ... Gerrit Lansing, senior partner at IMGE and co-founder of Revv (hat tip: Blake Waggoner) ... Bill Schuette, Michigan's Attorney General who's now running for governor, celebrating by dedicating a STEM elementary school in his hometown of Midland, Mich. (h/t son Bill) ... Cathy Rubin ... Josh Etter is 36 ... WashPost research editor Alice Crites ... Christopher Colford ... Emily Cadei, correspondent for the SacBee in McClatchy's DC bureau (h/t Kristin Roberts) ... The Breeding Twins: Nic (Burson-Marsteller) and Nate (Secretary DeVos), both Bush 43 alums, celebrating with friends at the Brig ... David Willkie, Lugar alum, and favorite son of Indiana (h/ts Erica Soares) ... Nate Brand, new comms director for Todd Rokita's campaign (h/t Ada) ... Shawn Yancy, Fox 5 DC news anchor (h/t Niall Stanage) ... Jerry Parshall, a manager of state and local government affairs at CAP, who celebrated last night by catching his Foo Fighters play the Anthem's very first show (h/t Morgan Finkelstein) ... Clarence Wardell ... Dawn Le ... Corinne Falotico ... Regina Hing ... WSJ's Yigu Lin ... Rep. Vicky Hartzler (R-Mo.) is 57 ...

... **Rick Davis**, CNN EVP of standards and practices, former EP of "Crossfire" and former VP of Washington programming, is 65 -- "Yes, he has been at CNN for 37 years. One of the first employees at CNN" (h/t Sam Feist) ... Gregg Rothschild is 52 ... Jack Krumholtz ... Bev Lindsey (h/ts Jon Haber) ... Judy Pino ... Politico's Lily Muntzing and Candice Norwood ... Carrie Adams ... AP alum Steven Gutkin is 53 ... Lily

... Franco's ... Ely ... and
Schuurman ... Ashley Prime Gula ... Paul Williams ... Jeffrey Kimbell ... Lucy Weber ... Chris Jankowski ...
Fran Person is 35 ... Kris Anderson ... Christen Linke Young ... Josh Friedmann ... Daryl Muller ... NYT's
Craig Smith ... Andrew Hosea ... Joanna Burgos ... Michael Lemonick ... Azam Baig ... Sarah Stevens ...
Matt Walsh is 53 (h/t Tammy Haddad) ... Carl Wiederaenders ... Erin O'Neill (h/ts Teresa Vilmain)

Disclaimer: The Republican National Committee provided the above article as a service to its employees and other selected individuals. Any opinions expressed therein are those of the article's author and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the RNC.

RNC War Room

From: RNC War Room
Sent: Tuesday, November 21, 2017 6:33 AM
Subject: Politico Playbook 11/21/17

CONYERS, Dean of the House, accused of sexual harassment -- CHARLIE ROSE suspended -- PUTIN/ASSAD huddle in Russia -- PENCE doles out political contributions -- MERKEL wants new election

Politico Playbook

Jake Sherman, Anna Palmer & Daniel Lippman

November 21, 2017 – 6:18 AM

<https://www.politico.com/newsletters/playbook/2017/11/21/conyers-dean-of-the-house-accused-of-sexual-harassment-charlie-rose-suspended-putin-assad-huddle-in-russia-pence-doles-out-political-contributions-merkel-wants-new-election-225063>

DRIVING THE DAY

Good Tuesday morning. BIG LATE-BREAKING SCOOP: BUZZFEED NEWS: “She Said That A Powerful Congressman Harassed Her. Here’s Why You Didn’t Hear Her Story: ‘When you make private settlements, it doesn’t warn the next woman or the next person going into that situation,’” by Paul McLeod and Lissandra Villa: **“Michigan Rep. John Conyers**, a Democrat and the longest-serving member of the House of Representatives, settled a wrongful dismissal complaint in 2015 with a former employee who alleged she was fired because she would not ‘succumb to [his] sexual advances.’

“Documents from the complaint obtained by BuzzFeed News include four signed affidavits, three of which are notarized, from former staff members who allege that Conyers, the ranking Democrat on the powerful House Judiciary Committee, repeatedly made sexual advances to female staff that included requests for sexual favors, contacting and transporting other women with whom they believed Conyers was having affairs, caressing their hands sexually, and rubbing their legs and backs in public. Four people involved with the case verified the documents are authentic. ...

“Two staffers alleged in their signed affidavits that Conyers used congressional resources to fly in women they believed he was having affairs with. Another said she was tasked with driving women to and from Conyers’ apartment and hotel rooms. ...

“The documents were first provided to BuzzFeed News by Mike Cernovich, the men’s rights figure turned pro-Trump media activist who propagated a number of false conspiracy theories including the ‘Pizzagate’ conspiracy. Cernovich said he gave the documents to BuzzFeed News for vetting and further reporting, and because he said if he published them himself, Democrats and congressional leaders would ‘try to discredit the story by attacking the messenger.’ <http://bzfd.it/2znPCNa>

-- **TRUTH BOMB:** Many outlets town are working on stories about sexual harassment by members of Congress on the Hill.

CHARLIE ROSE -- “Eight women say Charlie Rose sexually harassed them — with nudity, groping and lewd calls” by Iria Carmon and Amy Brittain in WaPo: “Eight women have told The Washington Post that longtime

... by Jim Carlton and Amy Brundin in USA Today. Eight women have told the Washington Post that longtime television host Charlie Rose made unwanted sexual advances toward them, including lewd phone calls, walking around naked in their presence, or groping their breasts, buttocks or genital areas. The women were employees or aspired to work for Rose at the 'Charlie Rose' show from the late 1990s to as recently as 2011. They ranged in age from 21 to 37 at the time of the alleged encounters." <http://wapo.st/2hPSFpY>

-- **PBS** and **BLOOMBERG** have suspended Rose's show, and **CBS** has suspended Rose.

-- **"Don't believe Roy Moore's accusers? Then listen to Moore,"** by Kyle Whitmire in AL.com: "First, read his book. In it, Moore describes how he met his wife at a Christmas party hosted by friends. He would have been 37. She was 23. 'Many years before, I had attended a dance recital at Gadsden State Junior College,' Moore wrote. 'I remembered one of the special dances performed by a young woman whose first and last names began with the letter 'K.' It was something I had never forgotten. Could that young woman have been Kayla Kisor?' Moore later determined that it was. ... When Roy Moore first took notice of Kayla she would have been as young as 15." <http://bit.ly/2hPThM0>

-- **"Liberals turn on Franken,"** by Elana Schor and Seung Min Kim: "We believe Lindsay Menz. We believe Leeann Tweeden," tweeted Indivisible, the progressive advocacy group that's gained prominence challenging President Donald Trump this year. 'Senator @alfranken should be held accountable and he should resign.' Democratic senators, who quickly coalesced around calls for an ethics probe, stayed mostly silent on Monday. Aides to numerous Senate Democrats in leadership, as well as female Democratic senators, did not respond to requests for comment on CNN's story about Franken's latest accuser." <http://politi.co/2AiX1xd>

-- **@MeetThePress:** " @RepDianaDeGette tells @KatyTurNBC she was harassed in an elevator by former Rep. Bob Filner #mtpdaily". **1-min. video**<http://bit.ly/2z7qMwQ>

-- **"As sexual harassment in politics investigations widen, California Assemblyman accused by six new women,"** by LATimes' Melanie Mason and Dakota Smith: "Late one August night in 2010 at a bar, Sylvia Castillo slid into a booth next to Raul Bocanegra, who was then the chief of staff to California Assemblyman Felipe Fuentes. Bocanegra was a familiar face to Castillo, who worked as a coordinator for a student mentorship program in Sacramento. She asked if he had seen a friend she was looking for and made small talk. Suddenly, 'he pounced,' she said. 'He grabbed me with one hand, grabbed my head and shoved his tongue into my mouth,' Castillo said in an interview this month. 'With his other hand, he put it up my dress. I put my hand down to stop him from trying to grab at my crotch.'

"Just one year earlier, Bocanegra had been disciplined by the Legislature following allegations that he groped a fellow legislative staffer, Elise Flynn Gyore, at the same bar, Mix. ... Castillo is one of six women who told The Times they also faced unwanted sexual advances or unwelcome communication from Bocanegra, 46, now a Democratic assemblyman representing the northeast San Fernando Valley." <http://lat.ms/2jb183r>

-- **PBS: "Poll: A third of women say they've been sexually harassed or abused at work"** <http://to.pbs.org/2hFOkBP>

CANCEL YOUR DECEMBER VACATIONS ... -- RACHAEL BADE and HEATHER CAYGLE: "Concern is growing in both parties that a clash over the fate of Dreamers will trigger a government shutdown this December. House conservatives have warned Speaker Paul Ryan against lumping a fix for undocumented immigrants who came to the country as minors into a year-end spending deal. They want him to keep the two issues separate and delay immigration negotiations into 2018 to increase their leverage — which both Ryan and the White House consider reasonable

reasonable.

“But many liberal Democrats have already vowed to withhold votes from the spending bill should it not address Dreamers, putting Democratic leaders Nancy Pelosi and Chuck Schumer in an awkward spot if they don’t go along.” <http://politi.co/2jaZtLf>

SCOOP -- “Harvard Faces DOJ Probe Over Affirmative-Action Policies,” by WSJ’s Melissa Korn and Nicole Hong: “The Justice Department is investigating complaints that formed the basis of a federal civil lawsuit filed in 2014 in Boston ... That suit alleges Harvard intentionally discriminates against Asian-Americans by limiting the number of Asian students who are admitted. ... The letter also said the school had failed to comply with a Nov. 2 deadline to provide documents related to the university’s admissions policies and practices. [DOJ] told Harvard it ‘may file a lawsuit’ to enforce compliance if Harvard doesn’t hand over the documents by a new deadline of Dec. 1.” <http://on.wsj.com/2AhaSEc> ... **The DOJ letter** <http://politi.co/2B90pYG>

BULLETINS -- at 1:13 a.m.: “MOSCOW (AP) - Russian State TV: Vladimir Putin met Syrian President Bashar Assad in Sochi on Monday.” ... **at 4:39 a.m.:** “MOSCOW (AP) - Kremlin says Assad’s visit to ensure he agrees to peace initiatives reached between Russia, Iran and Turkey.”

HEADLINE OF THE DAY -- NYT: “A Road Meant to Ease Traffic Will Be Named After Christie” (print headline: “Christie Breaks Ground on a New Road and Reflects on Ones Already Taken”). <http://nyti.ms/2z6qxID>

USA TODAY -- “Trump administration to send Haiti earthquake victims home in 2019,” by Amer Madhani: “The Trump administration announced Monday it will end immigration protections for about 59,000 Haitians living in the United States in May 2019, concluding that conditions on the ground in the poverty-stricken Caribbean country have improved enough since a massive earthquake in 2010 for residents to return.

“The Obama administration first granted ‘temporary protected status’ to Haitians after the nation was ravaged by a magnitude-7.0 earthquake in 2010 that killed more than 200,000 people and displaced hundreds of thousands. The protections have allowed Haitians to legally remain in the U.S. and have been extended each year as Haiti struggles to recover.” <https://usat.ly/2iHt4zT>

TRUMP FOUNDATION NEWS -- KEN VOGEL: “The Donald J. Trump Foundation raised \$2.9 million in 2016 – almost as much as it had raised in the preceding four years combined – according to its annual tax filing for 2016. It also showed that the foundation donated \$3 million last year, more than it had given in the previous three years combined.

“Most of the money came from a pair of \$1 million donations from leading supporters of his presidential campaign – the Las Vegas gambling investor Phil Ruffin and Laura Perlmutter of Lake Worth, Fla., whose husband, Isaac Perlmutter, is the chairman of Marvel Entertainment. They donated in connection with an event that Mr. Trump staged to benefit military veterans, which set off scrutiny of his foundation for giving away only a fraction of the money it raised to charities, and for making payments in a manner that appeared to benefit Mr. Trump.” <http://nyti.ms/2z6Ydj8>

ALEX ISENSTADT SCOOP -- “Vice President Mike Pence is putting his imprint on the 2018 midterm elections, doling out contributions to three dozen Republican candidates — many of whom have been steadfast allies of the White House.

“Pence is cutting his first batch of checks through his newly-formed political action committee, Great America Committee. The vice president is giving financial support to a slate of high-profile candidates that

America Committee. The vice president is giving financial support to a slate of high-profile candidates that includes Missouri Senate hopeful Josh Hawley, Nevada gubernatorial contender Adam Laxalt, and Florida Gov. Rick Scott, who is eyeing a potential Senate bid. ...

“Looking to reward those who have been loyal to the administration, Pence is wading into several prospective primaries. Among those getting checks is Tennessee Rep. Marsha Blackburn, a Senate hopeful who is facing a fight for the Republican nomination, and Wyoming Sen. John Barrasso. Several potential Barrasso primary opponents have emerged, including investor Foster Friess and Blackwater founder Erik Prince. ... Pence is also filling the coffers of a half-dozen members of the House Freedom Caucus, including the group’s chairman, North Carolina Rep. Mark Meadows.” <http://politi.co/2z71grv>

POLITICO EU’S JANOSCH DELCKER in BERLIN: “Germany moves closer to snap election: Merkel says she favors new poll over minority government after running out of coalition options”: “Europe’s biggest economy and pre-eminent political power was plunged into deep political uncertainty late Sunday night after the collapse of exploratory talks involving Merkel’s Christian Democrats and their Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union, plus the liberal Free Democrats and the Greens.

“That left the Social Democrats (SPD) as the only viable junior partners who could give Merkel a parliamentary majority. But SPD leaders voted unanimously Monday not to reprise the ‘grand coalition’ of the last four years with Merkel’s conservatives, having recorded the worst result in their history in September’s general election.” <http://politi.co/2hl5pek>

TRUMP’S TUESDAY -- At 1 p.m., the **PRESIDENT** will pardon turkeys at the White House. At 3 p.m., the president and first lady depart for Andrews Air Force Base en route to Florida for Thanksgiving.

THE FIRST SON -- “Taller than mom! Barron Trump towers over Melania - aged just ELEVEN - as the pair greet the official White House Christmas tree” – The Daily Mail – **14 pix on one page** <http://dailym.ai/2AZExOr>

MEDIAWATCH -- “Trump administration sues to block AT&T-Time Warner merger,” by Steven Overly and Josh Gerstein: “The Justice Department filed a lawsuit Monday to block the AT&T-Time Warner merger, amid a growing political storm over whether the administration has tried to use its review of the \$85 billion deal to force the sale of CNN, a frequent target of President Donald Trump’s media criticism. A DOJ official told reporters Monday that the agency is concerned the combined company will charge competitors hefty fees to distribute Time Warner content, providing an unfair advantage to AT&T-owned DirecTV. Such an arrangement would have a negative impact on American TV viewers ... ‘We believe, and our investigation has found, the merger would harm competition, resulting in higher bills and less innovation for millions of American consumers,’ the official said, adding that the agency made a ‘good faith effort’ to resolve the conflict through negotiations.

“The official denied that ownership of CNN was a factor in the DOJ’s thinking and said the Trump White House had no influence over the decision to challenge the merger in court. No state attorneys general have signed onto the DOJ legal complaint, though the department remains ‘hopeful’ that will change, the official said.” <http://politi.co/2zTCkr4>

--“FCC plans total repeal of net neutrality rules,” by Margaret Harding McGill: “[FCC] Chairman Ajit Pai will reveal plans to his fellow commissioners on Tuesday to fully dismantle the agency’s Obama-era net neutrality regulations, people familiar with the plans said, in a major victory for the telecom industry in the long-running policy debate. The commission will vote on the proposal in December, some seven months after it laid the groundwork for scuttling the rules that require internet service providers like Comcast or AT&T to treat web traffic equally. President Donald Trump-appointed Pai’s plan would jettison rules that prohibit internet service providers

equally. President Donald Trump appointed a task force plan would impose rules that prohibit internet service providers from blocking or slowing web traffic or creating so-called paid internet fast lanes." <http://politi.co/2jI9mnN>

CABINET TRAVEL WATCH -- “UGH!': Zinke's wife's travel caused headaches for Interior staff,” by Ben Lefebvre: “Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's wife has frustrated department staffers by saddling them with extra work when she traveled with her husband on official business, according to new records that a liberal watchdog group says uncover the potential misuse of government resources. The records document Lola Zinke's last-minute requests to join high-level dinners and additions to the guest list for a conservative group's event near the couple's home in Southern California earlier this year.

“**The Western Values Project** filed a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit last month to force Interior to release more than 100 pages of documents related to Lola Zinke's trips with her husband and interactions with Interior staff. Shared first with POLITICO, the documents shed new light on the outsize profile Lola Zinke has established compared with the typical Cabinet secretary's spouse, including her dictating which people to invite to a town hall hosted by the conservative Young America's Foundation for her husband.” <http://politi.co/2B8CF70>

HAPPENING TONIGHT -- Dead and Company at the Capitol One Center.

LATE-NIGHT BEST -- SEN. ELIZABETH WARREN (D-Mass.) on Colbert – *Trump's tax plan -- 10-min. video* <http://bit.ly/2AYcRcS> ... *Sexual harassment on the Hill -- 3-min. video* <http://bit.ly/2hJWJC6>

PLAYBOOK READS

THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION -- “Leading Trump Census pick causes alarm,” by Danny Vinik and Andrew Restuccia: “The Trump administration is leaning toward naming Thomas Brunell, a Texas professor with no government experience, to the top operational job at the U.S. Census Bureau, according to two people who have been briefed on the Bureau's plans. Brunell, a political science professor, has testified more than half a dozen times on behalf of Republican efforts to redraw congressional districts, and is the author of a 2008 book titled ‘Redistricting and Representation: Why Competitive Elections Are Bad for America.’ The choice would mark the administration's first major effort to shape the 2020 Census, the nationwide count that determines which states lose and gain electoral votes and seats in the House of Representatives.” <http://politi.co/2jMnrRb>

THE MOOCH! -- “Here's the early proposal for Anthony Scaramucci's book, which is now dead in the water,” by Business Insider's Maxwell Tani: “In the months after getting ousted from the White House, Scaramucci sought a publisher to put out a book, which at one point was titled ‘I Did It My Way,’ about his 10 days as Trump's communications director. A proposal for the book that was circulated to several major publishers earlier this summer and shared with Business Insider promised a ‘tell-all’ to dish on his bizarre ouster from the White House as well as his ‘countless other interactions involving Sean Spicer, General McMaster, Sarah Huckabee and even the Vice President.’ ... But in a text message to Business Insider on Monday, Scaramucci ... said he was no longer interested in publishing a book, saying he was not willing to write the kind of tell-all that would create buzz but damage his standing with the president and the White House.” <http://read.bi/2hGPw7Z>

CONFUSION -- “Watchdog says Homeland Security bottling up travel ban report,” by Josh Gerstein, Ted Hesson and Seung Min Kim: “The Department of Homeland Security's official watchdog is accusing his own agency of slow-walking the public release of a report about confusion that ensued earlier this year after President Donald Trump issued his first travel ban executive order. The still-unreleased inspector general report found that senior managers at Customs and Border Protection were ‘caught by surprise’ by Trump's order and that agency officials ‘violated two court orders’ limiting implementation of Trump's directive to suspend travel to

that agency officials violated the court orders limiting implementation of Trump's directive to suspend travel to the U.S. by citizens of seven majority-Muslim countries ... The report's conclusions appear to be sharply in tension with the picture the White House tried to paint of the execution of Trump's Jan. 27 order, which led to confusion throughout the air travel system, protests at airports and delays at ports of entry to the U.S." <http://politi.co/2hQdq4T>

FOX NEWS HOST WATCH -- "Neil Cavuto Shreds Trump: 'You're The President... Why Don't You Act Like It?'" by HuffPost's Ed Mazza: "The Fox News host says Trump's Twitter attacks are like 'using a bazooka to respond to a pea shooter.'" <http://bit.ly/2hH8rj5>

--**"Fox News host Jeanine Pirro hit with speeding charges after cops clock her driving 119 mph upstate"** -- N.Y. Daily News: <http://nydn.us/2jJuAkU>

PLAYBOOKERS

SPOTTED at a Clinton 25th election anniversary after-party at Kaki Hockersmith's home in Little Rock this weekend: Donna and Mack McLarty, Nelson Cunningham, Harry Thomasson, Don and Nancy Baer, Elizabeth Bagley, Kris Balderston, Bob Barnett, Paul Begala, Jim and Janet Blanchard, Susan Brophy, Andrew and Kelly Friendly, Maria Echaveste, Tamera Luzzatto and David Leiter, Skip Rutherford, Craig Smith, James Lee Witt.

--**SPOTTED** at the Clinton Foundation VIP reception at the historic Choctaw building next to the library: Prince Turki al-Faisal, Chris Jennings, Mack and Donna McLarty, Bob Nash and Janis Kearney, Rodney Slater, Blanche Lincoln, Gen. Wesley Clark, Ami Desai, James Carville, Bruce Lindsey, Tina Flournoy, Stephanie Street, Mary Street and Clyde Tuggle, Donna Shalala.

WEEKEND WEDDINGS – OBAMA ALUMNI: REID CHERLIN, the supervising writer at "Vice News Tonight on HBO," and an Obama WH alum, on Sunday married **Annie Schachar**, associate director and senior attorney adviser at Treatment Court Programs and a native of Toronto. Pool report: "They got married at The Basilica, a super cool repurposed old factory (they made railroad car wheels there) in Hudson, NY. The groom came off [the injured list] (injured his arm in a bike accident a few days prior), and he rallied strongly for an epic hora. Great dance floor showing by Annie's U Toronto Dance Teammates." **Pics** <http://bit.ly/2z8vFFM> ... <http://bit.ly/2hS3zv3> ... <http://bit.ly/2zZorW0>

SPOTTED: Emily Loeb and Sarah Feldman, Katie Johnson and Nate Rawlings, Matt Bennett, Adam Frankel and Stephanie Psaki, Michael O'Neil and Stephanie Sutton, Katherine Lyons and David Hahn.

WELCOME TO THE WORLD -- Ed Meagher, weekend programming manager at CNN, and **Mara Meagher** welcomed James Vincent Meagher. "His mother Mara is doing great and his brothers seem ok with sharing their room with the new guy down the road." **Pics** <http://politi.co/2h17qYa> ... <http://politi.co/2hQ0njC>

--**Ryan Taylor**, communications director for Sen. Roger Wicker (R-Miss.) and **Bevin Taylor**, Washington representative for the Tennessee Valley Authority, email friends and family: "Bevin and I are happy to announce the birth of our son, James Richard Taylor. At 21.5 inches and 8lbs, he is sure to make an excellent first baseman someday."

BIRTHDAYS OF THE DAY: James Braid, deputy chief of staff for Rep. Ted Budd (R-N.C.); Braid recently made the law and policy section of the Forbes "30 Under 30" list. **A trend he thinks deserve more attention:** "The fundamentally broken process and misaligned incentives of the U.S. defense acquisition system. From the Littoral Combat Ship to the Army combat data system, our country is spending far too much money on weapons

... Major combat ship to the Army combat data system, our country is spending far too much money on weapons systems that are unlikely to provide value for money. It will be our servicemen and women who bear the brunt of the failures of Congress and at the Pentagon if our country does find itself in a war where our enemies have a more symmetrical military capability to our own." **Read his Playbook Plus Q&A:** <http://politi.co/2B9BsFV>

--**Capri Cafaro**, former Ohio Senate Democratic leader and executive in residence at AU's School of Public Affairs. **How she's celebrating:** "In London with family and friends. My sister organized a dinner at The Roof Gardens, one of Richard Branson's properties." **Q&A:** <http://politi.co/2AZG47v>

BIRTHDAYS: Bloomberg's Max Abelson is 33 ... Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) is 73 ... Tina Brown ... Christopher "Gindy" Gindlesperger, VP of public affairs and comms at the National Confectioners Association ... The Hill's Mallory Shelbourne ... Politico Europe's Kalina Oroschakoff ... Matt Kehres of the National Wildlife Federation ... RGA's John Burke, a Rubio alum (hat tip: Olivia Perez-Cubas) ... DNC's Colby Moore is 25 ... ABC News' political director Rick Klein (h/ts Jonathan Karl and Devin Dwyer) ... Anthony Randazzo, director of economic research at Reason Foundation ... Joanna Liberman Turner ... NYU's Mitchell Moss (h/t Tammy Haddad) ... Sen. John Kennedy (R-La.) is 66 ... Rep. Anthony Brown (D-Md.) is 56 ... Rep. Yvette Clarke (D-N.Y.) is 53 ... Rep. Tom Rooney (R-Fla.) is 47 ... former Rep. Chaka Fattah (D-Pa.), now in prison, is 61 ... Gurwin Singh Ahuja, co-founder and executive director of National Sikh Campaign and We Are Sikhs (h/t Ryan Williams) ... Patrice Franko, director of the Goldfarb Center for Public Affairs at Colby College (h/t Sandy Maisel) ...

... **T.J. Tatum**, senior associate at Finsbury and a Scalise alum ... Valerie Berlin of BerlinRosen ... Gabriel Panek ... Chelsea Hawker ... Jasmine Mora ... Lauren Cowin, former Fox News booking producer ... Lloyd Miller ... Dave Boomer is 61 ... Jonathan Greenblatt, CEO and national director of the Anti-Defamation League, is 46 ... George Zimmer ... Nathan Isbell is 55 ... Carl S. Ey is 51 ... Jack Vaughn ... Michael Donohue ... Sarah Courtney of the League of Women Voters ... Shawna Shepherd ... Matt Martinelli, managing editor of Boston publication The Improper, is 35 ... Michael Lipson ... David Culver ... Evan Allen, analyst at Potomac River Partners ... Kyle Nevins ... Betsy Dudley ... John Stocks, executive director of the NEA and the pride of New Orleans ... Susan Wicks ... Brian Spahn ... Diane Liepa (h/ts Teresa Vilmain)

Disclaimer: The Republican National Committee provided the above article as a service to its employees and other selected individuals. Any opinions expressed therein are those of the article's author and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the RNC.

Mike Reed - Communications/Research

From: Mike Reed - Communications/Research
Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2017 7:49 PM
To: Mike Reed - Communications/Research
Subject: We Look Forward To Bernie Unveiling The Dems Tax Reform Plan On CNN Tonight

We've heard a lot from Democrats over the last few weeks on their opposition to GOP efforts to cut taxes.

What we haven't heard or seen from Democrats is a plan of their own for how they would fix the broken tax code.

But fear not, tonight on CNN in primetime, Sen. Bernie Sanders will be offering that vision on behalf of Democrats. A preview of his plan to hike taxes on everyone and everything is below.

Let's hope tonight's CNN debate goes better for Sen. Sanders and the Democrats than last time when he couldn't explain the difference between socialists and Democrats on tax policy:



[Bernie Sanders Admits He Doesn't Know The Difference Between Democrats And Socialists On Tax Policy](#)

See below for more from RNC Research:

<https://gop.com/tonight-bernie-sanders-will-present-the-lefts-vision-for-tax-reform-rsr/>

Tonight, Bernie Sanders Will Present The Left's Vision For Tax Reform

SENATOR SANDERS, WHO CAN'T EXPLAIN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A SOCIALIST AND A DEMOCRAT ON TAX POLICY, WILL DEFEND THE LEFT'S VISION ON TAX REFORM

At Tonight's CNN Town Hall, Senator Sanders Will Present The Left's Vision For Tax Reform

...

Tonight, Senator Bernie Sanders (I-Vt) will present the Left's vision for tax reform at a CNN Town Hall. "CNN host Jake Tapper and chief political correspondent Dana Bash will moderate a town hall debate on tax reform featuring Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) and Sen. Tim Scott (R-S.C.) against Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.) on Tuesday, the network announced." (Joe Concha, "CNN To Host Tax-Reform Debate Between Pitting Cruz, Scott Against Sanders, Cantwell," [The Hill](#), 11/27/17)

At A Previous CNN Town Hall, Senator Sanders Said He Does Not Know The Difference Between A Socialist And A Democrat On Tax Policy. SENATOR TED CRUZ (R-TX): "What is the difference between a socialist and a Democrat on taxes?" SENATOR SANDERS (I-VT): "Well, I don't know the answer to that." ("Debate Night: The GOP Tax Plan," [CNN](#), 10/19/17)

SENATOR SANDERS' IDEA FOR TAX REFORM IS SIMPLE: TAX HIKES ON EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING

Senator Sanders Has Proposed Raising Income Tax Rates—Increases Which Would Hit Middle And Low-Income Americans

Senator Sanders Has Said "It Is Clear That We Must Raise Significant New Revenue." "As Congress debates deficit reduction, it is clear that we must raise significant new revenue." (Op-Ed, Sen. Bernie Sanders, "A Choice For Corporate America: Are You With America Or The Cayman Islands?," [The Huffington Post](#), 2/9/13)

Senator Sanders Has Proposed Raising Personal Income Tax Rates To As High As 52 Percent. "This plan would replace the top three income tax rates (33%, 35%, and 39.6%) with more progressive rates: 37% on income between \$250,000 and \$500,000. 43% on income between \$500,000 and \$2 million. 48% on income between \$2 million and \$10 million. (In 2013, only 113,000 households, just 0.08 percent of all taxpayers, had income between \$2 million and \$10 million.) 52% on income of \$10 million and above. (In 2013, only 13,000 households, just 0.01 percent of taxpayers, had income exceeding \$10 million.)" ("Making The Wealthy, Wall Street, And Large Corporations Pay Their Fair Share," [BernieSanders.Com](#), Accessed 9/24/17)

An Analysis By The Tax Foundation Concluded That Senator Sanders' Proposal Would Lead To Lower After-Tax Incomes For All Taxpayers. "In an analysis released today, the Tax Foundation, an independent tax policy research organization, found that Sanders' plan would lead to 10.56% lower after-tax income for all taxpayers, and a 17.91% lower after-tax income for the wealthiest Americans." (Frank Sammartino, Len Burman, Joseph Rosenberg, and Jeff Rohaly, "An Analysis Of Senator Bernie Sanders's Tax Proposals," [Tax Policy Center](#), 3/4/16)

If Senator Sanders' Tax Proposal Passed, "Middle-Income Households Would See Their Taxes Rise By About \$4,700, An Amount Equal To About 10 Percent Of After-Tax Income" And Those In The Lowest Income Tax Bracket Would See A 1.3 Percent Increase. "Middle-income households would see their taxes rise by about \$4,700, equal to about 10 percent of after-tax income. Those in the lowest-income bracket would pay an additional \$165, or 1.3 percent." (Linda Qiu, "PolitiFact's Guide To The 2016 Presidential Candidate Tax Plans," [Politifact](#), 4/7/16)

Senator Sanders' Tax Reform Proposal Would Raise And Create New Payroll Taxes

To Fund A Government Takeover Of Healthcare, Senator Sanders Has Proposed Raising The Payroll Tax By 7.5 Percent. "Under this option, employers would pay a 7.5 percent payroll tax to help finance Medicare for All – just \$3,750." ("Options To Finance Medicare For All," [Sen. Bernie Sanders](#), Accessed 9/20/17)

Senator Sanders Would Expand The Social Security Payroll Tax To Income Above \$250,000. "Sen. Sanders will fight to apply the Social Security payroll tax on all income above \$250,000 to expand Social Security benefits and to ensure that Social Security remains

solvent for the next 58 years." ("Making The Wealthy, Wall Street, And Large Corporations Pay Their Fair Share," [BernieSanders.Com](#), Accessed 11/27/17)

Senator Sanders Has Proposed Taxing Investments, Bonds, And Derivatives, Taxes Which Could Make Investing More Expensive For The Middle Class

Senator Sanders Has Proposed A Tax On Trades "At A Rate Of 0.5 Percent For Stocks, 0.1 Percent For Bonds, And 0.005 Percent For Derivatives." "Under this proposal, trades would be taxed at a rate of 0.5 percent for stocks, 0.1 percent for bonds, and 0.005 percent for derivatives. This means, for example, that a trade of \$1,000 in stocks would be subject to a tax of \$5. A trade of \$1,000 in swaps or other derivatives would be subject to a tax of five cents." ("Making The Wealthy, Wall Street, And Large Corporations Pay Their Fair Share," [BernieSanders.Com](#), Accessed 9/24/17)

Senator Sanders' Tax Plan Would Repeal The Low Tax Rate For Investment Income. "This plan would repeal the special, low income tax rates on capital gains and stock dividends for married couples with incomes greater than \$250,000. Capital gains and corporate stock dividends are taxed at lower rates than the wages and salaries most of us live on." ("Making The Wealthy, Wall Street, And Large Corporations Pay Their Fair Share," [BernieSanders.Com](#), Accessed 9/24/17)

- **Senator Sanders Would Tax Capital Gains At The Same Rate As Ordinary Income.** "Taxing capital gains and dividends the same as income from work." ("Options To Finance Medicare For All," [Sen. Bernie Sanders](#), Accessed 9/20/17)

Companies Could Pass This Tax Hike To Consumers, And, To Offset This, Senator Sanders Would Provide A Tax Credit To Individuals Making Under \$50,000 And Couples Making Under \$75,000. "This proposal would not tax investors, retirees, or parents saving to send their kids to college. Instead, it would impose a tax on Wall Street investment houses, hedge funds, and other speculators. If those Wall Street investment houses chose to pass the tax along to investors, this plan would provide a tax credit to individuals making under \$50,000 and couples making under \$75,000 to ensure that they would not be impacted." ("Making The Wealthy, Wall Street, And Large Corporations Pay Their Fair Share," [BernieSanders.Com](#), Accessed 9/24/17)

- **But The Median Household Income In America Is \$55,775, Which May Mean The Average American Household Would Not Be Eligible For This Exemption.** "According to the Census ACS survey, the median household income for the United States was \$55,775 in 2015, the latest data available." ("U.S. Household Income," [Pew Research Center](#), Accessed 9/25/17)

Senator Sanders Has Proposed A Variety Of Tax Increases To Pay For His Single-Payer Healthcare Proposal

In An Accompanying White Paper Released With His Single-Payer Legislation, Senator Sanders Has Proposed \$16.19 Trillion In Tax Increases. "7.5 percent income-based premium paid by employers Revenue raised: \$3.9 trillion over ten years. 4 percent income-based premium paid by households Revenue raised: \$3.5 trillion over ten years. Savings from Health Tax Expenditures Revenue raised: \$4.2 trillion over ten years. Make the Personal Income Tax More Progressive Revenue raised: \$1.8 trillion over ten years. Make the Estate Tax More Progressive Revenue raised: \$249 billion over ten years. Establish a Wealth Tax on the Top 0.1 percent Revenue raised: \$1.3 trillion over ten years. Close the Gingrich-Edwards Loophole and Create Parity for Wealthy Business Owners Revenue raised: \$247 billion over ten years. Impose a one-time tax on currently held offshore profits Revenue raised: \$767 billion over ten years. Impose a Fee on Large Financial Institutions Revenue raised: \$117 billion over ten years. Repeal Corporate Accounting Gimmicks Revenue raised: \$112 billion

ten years.” (“Options To Finance Medicare For All,” [Sen. Bernie Sanders](#), Accessed 9/20/17)

One Suggestion Contained In The White Paper Is A “7.5 Percent Income-Based Premium Paid By Employers” That Would Raise \$3.9 Trillion Over A Decade. “7.5 percent income-based premium paid by employers. Revenue raised: \$3.9 trillion over ten years.” (“Options To Finance Medicare For All,” [Sen. Bernie Sanders](#), Accessed 9/20/17)

Another Suggestion In The White Paper Is A 4 Percent Tax Increase On Household Income That Would Raise \$3.5 Trillion Over A Decade. “4 percent income-based premium paid by households. Revenue raised: \$3.5 trillion over ten years.” (“Options To Finance Medicare For All,” [Sen. Bernie Sanders](#), Accessed 9/20/17)

- **A Family Making \$50,000 A Year Would Pay An Additional \$844 Should This Tax Become Law.** “Under this option, a typical family of four earning \$50,000, after taking the standard deduction, would pay a 4 percent income-based premium to fund Medicare for All – just \$844 a year.” (“Options To Finance Medicare For All,” [Sen. Bernie Sanders](#), Accessed 9/20/17)

In Addition To Raising Income Taxes, Senator Sanders Also Seeks To Impose A “Wealth Tax.” “This option would establish an annual 1 percent federal wealth tax on the net worth of the wealthiest 0.1 percent of U.S. households. The tax would apply to net worth exceeding \$21 million for a household. That means a household with \$21.5 million would pay 1 percent of \$500,000, or \$5,000.” (“Options To Finance Medicare For All,” [Sen. Bernie Sanders](#), Accessed 9/20/17)

- **Some Have Argued That This Tax Would Be “Potentially Unconstitutional.”** “Others Have Argued That Any Wealth Tax Would Be Dauntingly Complicated, And Potentially Unconstitutional. Sanders Has Described It As One Way To Spread The Concentration Of Wealth.” (Ruby Cramer, “With Popular Single-Payer Plan, Bernie Sanders Enters New Territory: A Wealth Tax,” [Buzzfeed](#), 9/20/17)

Michael Reed

Research Director & Deputy Communications Director

Republican National Committee

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RNC War Room

From: RNC War Room
Sent: Thursday, December 7, 2017 6:39 AM
Subject: Politico Playbook 12/07/17

STATE DEPT issues 'worldwide caution,' as HAMAS calls for UPRISING IN ISRAEL after Trump announcement -- FIRST IN PLAYBOOK: Tax air wars in NY -- TOM LOBIANCO writing Pence book -- THE WING holds D.C. welcome dinner

Politico Playbook

Jake Sherman, Anna Palmer & Daniel Lippman

December 7, 2017 – 6:23 AM

<https://www.politico.com/newsletters/playbook/2017/12/07/state-dept-issues-worldwide-caution-as-hamas-calls-for-uprising-in-israel-after-trump-announcement-first-in-playbook-tax-air-wars-in-ny-tom-lobianco-writing-pence-book-the-wing-holds-dc-welcome-dinner-229154>

DRIVING THE DAY

THE STATE DEPARTMENT has issued a "worldwide caution" for U.S. citizens traveling the world. **MATT LEE**, the AP's longtime diplomatic correspondent ([@APDiploWriter](#)), says: "The last time the @StateDept issued a 'Worldwide Caution' because of a US policy decision was March 2003 at the start of the Iraq war." *The State Department memo* <http://bit.ly/2B0IFkY>

AP/GAZA CITY, at 4:18 a.m.: "GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) - Hamas leader calls for new uprising against Israel in wake of US decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital."

-- **ADELSON'S PAPER -- ISRAEL HAYOM FRONT PAGE**: In English: "Thank you, Mr. President! Jerusalem" (the "usa" in Jerusalem is colored with the American flag). In Hebrew: "The capital of Israel" <http://bit.ly/2jYPwAZ>

WSJ EDITORIAL -- "The Reality of Jerusalem": "Arab leaders denounced the Embassy move, but we wonder how long the fury will last. The Sunni Arabs also confront the threats of Islamic terrorism and Iranian imperialism, and the Palestinians are a third order concern. If the movement of an American Embassy that was signaled more than 20 years ago is enough to scuttle peace talks, then maybe the basis for peace doesn't yet exist." <http://on.wsj.com/2AZOrU3>

Good Thursday morning. EXPECTED TODAY: House Republican leaders tell us they feel confident they will pass a bill to fund government for two weeks. Sen. Al Franken (D-Minn.) is widely expected to resign. And Congressional leaders head to the White House for fiscal talks.

TRUTH BOMB: THE NEXT MONTH IS GOING TO BE A MESS -- It looks like Congress is going to avoid a government shutdown this week. But this is only the beginning of a very, very messy month for Republican leaders. Top GOP lawmakers, at the moment, are not completely certain how they'll fund the government when funding expires on Dec. 22. One idea bouncing around is for the House to send the Senate a bill it won't even be able to take up -- a yearlong bill that increases military spending but doesn't bump domestic spending. Conservatives are itching for House Republican leaders to stand firm when the Senate rejects its opening funding salvo later this month

ending care later this month.

-- **ALSO TOUGH:** Republicans and Democrats are almost certain to cut a deal to boost spending, renew CHIP – the massive children’s health program and bolster Obamacare. Some of that could come at the end of the month, or next month, on the back of an omnibus spending package, which will lump together 12 spending bills. The mood isn’t good at the moment, and it only seems to be getting worse. Optimists hope tax reform makes all Republicans happy. Color us a tad skeptical.

AROUND THE TAX REFORM HORN ...

-- **HOUSE/SENATE DIFFERENCES: “Tax Bill Is Likely to Undo Health Insurance Mandate, Republicans Say,”** by NYT’s Robert Pear and Tom Kaplan: “House and Senate negotiators thrashing out differences over a major tax bill are likely to eliminate the insurance coverage mandate at the heart of the Affordable Care Act, lawmakers say.

“**But a deal struck by Senate Republican leaders** and Senator Susan Collins of Maine to mitigate the effect of the repeal has been all but rejected by House Republicans, potentially jeopardizing Ms. Collins’s final yes vote. ‘I don’t think the American people voted for bailing out big insurance,’ said Representative Dave Brat, Republican of Virginia, who opposes a separate measure to lower insurance premiums that Ms. Collins thought she had secured.” <http://nyti.ms/2AZlhU0>

-- **THE FIGHT OVER 20 PERCENT: “Corporate rate cut in tax bill could change as GOP hunts for votes,”** by Seung Min Kim, Nancy Cook and Bernie Becker: “In a closed-door meeting Wednesday with CEOs from the Business Roundtable, Republican Sen. Pat Toomey and White House economic adviser Gary Cohn in separate sessions told the crowd their strong preference was to keep the corporate rate at 20 percent, where it is now in the legislation, even as lawmakers were under intense pressure to find new revenue, according to three people familiar with the meeting.

“**Both men left the crowd with the impression that the corporate rate** was a target in the hunt for that revenue and could rise as a result. ... Each percentage point the corporate rate increases is worth about \$100 billion over a decade. The top corporate rate is now 35 percent. ...

“**Boosting the corporate tax rate could open a floodgate of other demands** from lawmakers seeking to get provisions in the tax bill. Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), for instance, told POLITICO on Wednesday that if the rate goes up to 22 percent ‘and they don’t use some portion of it to help’ boost the child tax credit, ‘I’m going to have a big problem.’” <http://politi.co/2nARlnh>

-- **K STREET INC.: “Lawmakers face pressure to save deductions for mortgage interest and state and local taxes,”** by Theo Meyer, Aaron Lorenzo and Colin Wilhelm: “Lobbyists have launched an all-out effort to save tax breaks and protect powerful industries as the Republicans’ tax overhaul lurches toward President Donald Trump’s desk. Builders and real estate interests are pushing to save the mortgage interest deduction. Businesses are fighting to strip out a last-minute provision inserted into the Senate bill that would preserve the corporate alternative minimum tax. And a coalition of trade groups and local government leaders is urging Republicans not to cut the state and local tax deduction.

“**With Trump pressing Congress to send him a bill before Christmas,** lobbyists must decide where they want to focus their efforts over the next week. Some are working the senators and representatives who will make up the conference committee charged with ironing out the differences between the House and Senate bill. Others are working to persuade Republican leaders or leaning on the members of Congress whose constituents may

are working to persuade Republican leaders of reining in the members of Congress whose constituents may see their taxes go up if changes aren't made to the bill." <http://politi.co/2nCatqu>

FIRST IN PLAYBOOK -- TAX AIR WARS IN NEW YORK - 45Committee, a group backed by the Adelson and Ricketts families, is launching ads against House GOP members who opposed both the tax bill and Obamacare repeal. The first ad – on which the group says it's spending six figures – criticizes Rep. Dan Donovan (R-N.Y.) for saying he is opposed to Obamacare and supports a tax overhaul, but voting against them. It's part of 45Committee's \$10 million effort on tax reform, a representative of the group said. The ad's narrator ends the spot by saying "If he won't keep his word and support tax reform, how can we ever trust him again?" **The ad** <http://bit.ly/2Ah695L>

-- **SCOOP: AMERICAN ACTION NETWORK** is putting \$2 million on TV, explaining what they believe the tax bill would do for 24 districts across the country. **The ad** <http://bit.ly/2joVCeo>

WSJ'S KRISTINA PETERSON and KATE DAVIDSON: "House Republicans Weigh Linking Debt Ceiling Increase to Spending Bill": "Rep. Doug Collins of Georgia, a member of House GOP leadership and the head of a working group of House Republicans on the debt limit, said lawmakers were considering increasing the debt ceiling as part of the bill funding the government for the rest of the fiscal year, known as an omnibus."

"GOP leaders are likely to seek to raise the debt limit enough to last at least through next November's midterm elections, lawmakers and aides said. They will have to act, likely by March, to avoid a default.

"There's just going to be an omnibus at some point, probably after the first of the year,' Mr. Collins said in an interview this week. 'Probably there'll be some debt ceiling discussions with the White House [going] into that bigger omnibus bill,' he said, but noted that the group of 23 House Republicans hadn't reached a final decision." <http://on.wsj.com/2nBwOoh>

IF YOU READ ONE THING – POLITICO MAGAZINE INVESTIGATION: "The Environmental Scandal in Scott Pruitt's Backyard: It's one of the dirtiest places in America. Former residents of Tar Creek, Oklahoma, want to know why Trump's EPA chief didn't prosecute allegations of wrongdoing during a federal buyout program," by Malcolm Burnley in Picher, Oklahoma: "Tar Creek, Oklahoma, is breathtaking in a terrible way: At one time the world's deepest source of lead and zinc, the three-town region is now a cratered landscape so poisonous that no one, aside from 10 holdouts, can live there. Mountains of ashlike 'chat,' a toxic residue from lead-zinc milling, rise majestically among the remains of homes torn from their foundations. Abandoned pets forage around the ruins. A child's teddy bear lies sprawled in a ghostly living room. A gorilla statue fronts an empty high school, atop a sign proclaiming '1A Football State Champs, 1984.'

"Tar Creek is also part of the environmental legacy of one of the state's—and nation's—leading politicians, Senator Jim Inhofe, and his longtime ally, Scott Pruitt, the former Oklahoma attorney general who is now head of President Donald Trump's [EPA]. After the EPA struggled to clean up the area, in 2006, Inhofe endorsed a plan in which a trust overseen by local citizens would use federal dollars to purchase homes and businesses in the toxic region so residents could move elsewhere. Then, when the plan proved so problematic that it spawned more than a half-dozen civil lawsuits and an audit into possible criminal wrongdoing, Pruitt, as the state's attorney general, invoked an exception to state freedom-of-information laws to keep the audit from being an open public record.

"Now, that decision is coming into new light as many Oklahomans clamor for the audit to be released, suggesting that its revelations will prove embarrassing to Inhofe, who played a key role in designing the buyout plan, and cast doubt on Pruitt's decision not to move forward with charges." <http://politi.co/2kuwKEw>

plan, and cast doubt on Trump's decision not to move forward with charges. <http://politi.co/2zUliWp>

ATTN. DETROIT -- "John Conyers III was arrested for domestic abuse but not prosecuted," by NBC News' Andrew Blankstein in LA: "John Conyers III, a Detroit hedge fund manager named as a possible successor to his scandal-rocked father, Rep. John Conyers, was arrested in Los Angeles this year on suspicion of domestic violence, but prosecutors declined to charge him, according to documents obtained by NBC News. ... Conyers III, 27, was arrested on Feb. 15 at a Los Angeles residence on suspicion of violence against his girlfriend after the alleged victim called police. ... The girlfriend said that Conyers III suspected her of cheating after he went through her computer. She told police that he 'body slammed her on the bed and then on the floor where he pinned her down and spit on her,' the report says." <http://nbcnews.to/2zUliWp>

FOR YOUR RADAR -- "N. Korea says war is inevitable as allies continue war games," by AP's Kim Tong-Hyung in Seoul, South Korea: "North Korea says a nuclear war on the Korean Peninsula has become a matter of when, not if, as it continued to lash out at a massive joint military exercise between the United States and South Korea involving hundreds of advanced warplanes. In comments attributed to an unnamed Foreign Ministry spokesman, North Korea also claimed high-ranked U.S. officials, including CIA Director Mike Pompeo, have further confirmed American intent for war with a series of 'bellicose remarks.'" <http://bit.ly/2iznFXy>

JARED WATCH -- "Kushner bets he can have it both ways on Jerusalem move," by Annie Karni: "Jared Kushner is betting the house on a risky strategy that Middle East experts worry will derail any future Israeli-Palestinian peace deal — as well as what remains of the powerful son-in-law's shrinking West Wing portfolio. He privately encouraged President Donald Trump's announcement Wednesday that 'Jerusalem is Israel's capital,' which was seen by some experts in the region as a setback for peace efforts led by Kushner and his small team.

"The group has made dozens of trips to the region and spent hours on listening tours, working to gain the trust of the Palestinians and the broader Arab world. 'It is very, very hard to imagine how that peace effort can be continued,' said Ghaith al-Omari, who served as an adviser to the Palestinian Authority's negotiating team from 1999 to 2002. 'All the Arab leaders who have been cultivating relations with the new administration will be forced to come out very strongly against this.' But a person close to Kushner said he was forceful in his backing of the move. 'Encouraging would be an understatement,' the person said. 'It was him.'" <http://politi.co/2k3bEdr>

THE BACK STORY -- "Inside the demise of Al Franken," by Elana Schor and Seung Min Kim: "Al Franken weathered six women's sexual misconduct allegations without hearing a single resignation call from his fellow Democratic senators. No. 7 broke the dam. The Democratic women of the Senate had been talking among themselves about the Franken allegations for weeks, one Democratic aide said. None, however, went further than to call for a Senate Ethics Committee probe of the Minnesota senator, who many of them had considered a close friend.

"That stance became increasingly untenable as the accusations against Franken piled up. In calls and texts, the female senators eventually came to an unstated agreement, according to another aide familiar with their discussions: The next credible story of misconduct in a credible news outlet would prompt them to call for Franken's resignation. When POLITICO reported Wednesday that a former Democratic congressional aide said Franken tried to forcibly kiss her in 2006, the aide said, it 'was the tipping point.'

"The first public resignation nudge came from Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.), a champion for reform of Capitol Hill's sexual harassment policy who one day earlier publicly declined to push Franken. Six more Senate Democratic women followed, with head-snapping speed. 'I think many people have been talking about this for some time. And we all responded with what we had been feeling today.' Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.) said after

some time. And we all responded that what we had been feeling today, Sen. Kelly Murray (D-Vt.) said after she said Franken should step aside. 'It wasn't coordinated, it just happened.'" <http://politi.co/2iXZ2bb>

THE REPLACEMENT -- "Female lieutenant governor expected to replace Franken if he resigns," by Maggie Sevens: "Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton is expected to appoint his lieutenant governor and close ally, Tina Smith, to Al Franken's seat if the Democratic senator resigns on Thursday, three people familiar with the Democratic governor's thinking said. But that appointment would be just the start of a huge upheaval in Minnesota.

"Part of the reason Smith could be heading to the Senate, the sources said, is because she has indicated no interest in running for Congress in the past and would not run for the remainder of Franken's term, which expires in 2020, in a 2018 special election. That would clear the way for a wide-open Democratic primary next year if Franken steps down." <http://politi.co/2BQf7UM>

FIRST PERSON -- TINA DUPUY in The Atlantic, "I Believe Franken's Accusers Because He Groped Me, Too: The Democratic Party needs to stand with women who have been harassed—and not defend the politicians who abused them." <http://theatlantic.com/2iZhZu9>

RUSSIA WATCH -- "Trump Jr. cites attorney-client privilege in not answering panel's questions about discussions with his father," by Kyle Cheney: "Donald Trump Jr. on Wednesday cited attorney-client privilege to avoid telling lawmakers about a conversation he had with his father, President Donald Trump, after news broke this summer that the younger Trump — and top campaign brass — had met with Russia-connected individuals in Trump Tower during the 2016 campaign.

"Though neither Trump Jr. nor the president is an attorney, Trump Jr. told the House Intelligence Committee that there was a lawyer in the room during the discussion, according to the committee's top Democrat, Rep. Adam Schiff of California. Schiff said he didn't think it was a legitimate invocation of attorney-client privilege. 'I don't believe you can shield communications between individuals merely by having an attorney present,' he said, after the committee's lengthy interview with Trump Jr. 'That's not the purpose of attorney-client privilege.'" <http://politi.co/2kusF43>

TRUMP'S THURSDAY -- The president is meeting with Republican senators and RNC Chair Ronna Romney McDaniel. He is also signing a proclamation for National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. In the afternoon he will meet with congressional leaders and former Ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton. He and the First Lady will also host a Hanukkah reception.

THE JUICE...

-- **FIRST IN PLAYBOOK -- TOM LOBIANCO,** an AP White House reporter, has signed a deal to write a book on Vice President Mike Pence. LoBianco has covered the former governor of Indiana for multiple news organizations, including the AP and the Indianapolis Star, since 2011. The book was sold by Bridget Matzie of Aevitas Creative Management to Julia Cheiffetz of Dey Street Books, an imprint of HarperCollins.

-- **JUSTIN MYERS** has been hired as the CEO of For Our Future and For Our Future Action Fund. For Our Future was founded in 2016, when it ran a \$60 million ground operation to help progressive candidates. He most recently has been SVP at the Pivot Group and is an alum of DCCC, Kay Hagan and the New Jersey Democratic State Committee, where he was ED.

-- **THE WING** a New York-based women's co-working and social club, held a "welcome" dinner at 1789 last

— **THE HIVE**, a new DC-based women's co-working and social club, held a welcome dinner at 1100 last night. It is opening its D.C. outpost in Georgetown early next year. **SPOTTED:** Sens. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.), Heidi Heitkamp (D-N.D.) and Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.), Audrey Gelman, Giovanna Lockhart, Dayna Grayson, Alyssa Mastromonaco, Edith Gregson, Juleanna Glover, Kasie Hunt, Kristen Welker, Annie Karni, Pia Carusone, Susan Tynan, Tammy Haddad and Katie Glueck.

FUN VIDEO -- @TheDailyShow: "Trump's Best Words of 2017" – **1-min. video**<http://bit.ly/2kvGTSS> (h/t Matt Negrin)

HAPPENING TONIGHT -- Our first live podcast taping is **TONIGHT** at 7 p.m. at Sixth and I. Our inaugural guests: **MICHAEL BARBARO**, host of the New York Times' hit podcast "The Daily," **DCCC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DAN SENA** and **NRCC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JOHN ROGERS**. And a panel of **POLITICO**stars: **RACHAEL BADE**, **SEUNG MIN KIM** and **ANNIE KARNI**. Get your tickets now! <http://bit.ly/2hWK7tF>

PLAYBOOK READS

THE LATEST ON THE BAN -- "Appeals court considers legality of latest Trump travel ban," by Josh Gerstein: "A federal appeals court gave a somewhat friendlier reception Wednesday to President Donald Trump's latest travel ban order, just two days after the Supreme Court allowed the policy to be implemented in full for the first time. A three-judge panel of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals met in Seattle to hear arguments over an injunction against varied travel restrictions Trump issued in September on citizens of six majority Muslim countries, as well as North Korea and Venezuela." <http://politi.co/2jm0bWL>

JUST POSTED -- "The surgeon general and his brother: A family's painful reckoning with addiction," by Andrew Joseph in STAT News: <http://bit.ly/2j0ZYvw>

HMM -- "VA cuts program for homeless vets after touting Trump's commitment," by Arthur Allen and Lorraine Woellert: "Four days after Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin held a big Washington event to tout the Trump administration's promise to house all homeless vets, the agency did an about-face, telling advocates it was pulling resources from a major housing program. The VA said it was essentially ending a special \$460 million program that has dramatically reduced homelessness among chronically sick and vulnerable veterans.

"**Instead, the money would go to local VA hospitals** that can use it as they like, as long as they show evidence of dealing with homelessness. Anger exploded on a Dec. 1 call that was arranged by Shulkin's Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans to explain the move. Advocates for veterans, state officials and even officials from HUD, which co-sponsors the program, attacked the decision, according to five people who were on the call." <http://politi.co/2nCuQ6L>

VALLEY TALK -- "Silicon Valley Investor Shervin Pishevar Accused Of Spreading False Information To Cover Up Alleged Sexual Misconduct," by BuzzFeed's Ryan Mac: "Venture capitalist Shervin Pishevar, who has been accused by multiple unnamed women of sexual misconduct in a recent news report, is now being accused by a Republican-affiliated opposition research firm of spreading false information about it in an attempt to cover up his alleged wrongdoings. In a bizarre twist on Wednesday, Definers Public Affairs — which Pishevar is suing for allegedly helping to spread a false police report that accuses him of rape — filed a motion to dismiss the investor's suit in full.

"**That motion, made in San Francisco Superior Court, argues** that Pishevar's lawsuit should be thrown out under California's anti-Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation (anti-SLAPP) law, which was designed to

under California's anti-strategic lawsuit against public participation (anti-SLAPP) law, which was designed to prevent litigation that is simply meant to silence or intimidate critics by burying them under legal costs." <http://bzfd.it/2BH5RI2>

ZACK STANTON in POLITICO Magazine: "**John Conyers Was An Icon. Then He Lost His Way:** It's time to reckon with the legacy of a man who saw so much and stayed too long": <http://politi.co/2B8OgX3>

DESSERT -- "A history of the final dying days of the power suit," by WaPo's Robin Givhan: "Douglas Heye wears suits. Like a lot of men, he gives a fair amount of consideration to the way those suits are styled. Unlike a lot of men, he is willing and able to break down those considerations into specifics. 'I like a pocket square, but I generally don't wear one with a tie,' says Heye, a former Republican strategist, now a CNN contributor. 'If I'm wearing a tie, three out of four times it's blue. I like blue and I've been told it works for me. ... If I'm wearing a jacket and no tie, I always like a pocket square. I think it's a little bit more dressy. It shows a little bit of effort.'

"**Effort is important. The whole reason for wearing the suit,** he says, is to set a tone. He recently attended a meeting where he knew everyone else would be casual. But he couldn't bring himself to show up in khakis and a golf shirt. A suit, he reasoned, signaled a certain seriousness. 'But I don't know,' he says. 'Maybe it means something to me and not the viewer.'" <http://wapo.st/2Akck9h>

MEDIAWATCH -- "ABC reprimands producer for giving data to Trump campaign," by Michael Calderone: "In their new book 'Let Trump Be Trump,' campaign insiders Corey Lewandowski and David Bossie wrote that Chris Vlasto -- then-executive producer of 'Good Morning America' and now senior executive producer for investigative reporting -- called Bossie, Trump's deputy campaign manager, at 5:01 p.m. on election night with information being shared within a consortium of the Associated Press and the major TV networks. ...

"**Bossie had known Vlasto for decades,** going back to when Bossie was a Republican House investigator in the 1990s and Vlasto was covering the Clinton Whitewater investigations, according to the book. Vlasto was considered for a senior communications position in the Trump White House in the weeks after the election before pulling himself out of consideration." <http://politi.co/2BayJWQ>

--PER MICHAEL CALDERONE IN MORNING MEDIA: "Doyle McManus is taking a buyout from the Los Angeles Times after 39 years with the paper. He said in a note to friends that he'll write occasional op-ed columns for the paper as a contributing writer, and that he plans to do more long-form pieces -- and possibly a book."

PLAYBOOKERS

SPOTTED: Donald Rumsfeld in Farragut Square yesterday after getting a haircut

SPOTTED at the annual American Defense International holiday party at the Hotel George hosted by defense lobbyists Van Hipp and Michael Herson: Rick Harrison, star of History Channel's "Pawn Stars," Ed Nixon, brother of former President Richard Nixon, former Virginia Governor, RNC Chair and presidential candidate Jim Gilmore, Reps. Debbie Wasserman-Schultz (D-Fla.), Adam Schiff (D-Calif.), Adam Smith (D-Wash.), Joe Wilson (R-S.C.), Jim Banks (R-Ind.), Scott Taylor (R-Va.), Bill Shuster (R-Pa.), Pete Visclosky (D-Ind.), Bradley Byrne (R-Ala.), Martha McSally (R-Ariz.), Charlie Crist (D-Fla.), Mario Diaz-Balart (R-Fla.), and Mike Turner (R-Ohio).

TRANSITIONS -- "Cruz chief of staff leaves Capitol Hill," by Seung Min Kim: "Sen. Ted Cruz's chief of staff is leaving Capitol Hill after more than a year leading the Texas Republican's congressional operation in Washington and in his home state. David Polyansky, 46, came on board as Cruz's chief of staff following the Republican National Convention in 2016 at a time when the senator re-focused his energies on Texas following

Republican National Convention in 2016 at a time when the senator re-focused his energies on Texas following his unsuccessful presidential campaign.

“Now, Polyansky is returning to Houston, where his family resides, and staying on as a senior adviser for Cruz’s re-election campaign in 2018. ... Pre Shah, currently Cruz’s chief counsel, will take over for Polyansky as the senator’s chief of staff. Cruz’s legislative director, Steve Chartan, will become deputy chief of staff while keeping his legislative duties.” <http://politi.co/2AyC0Ou>

-- **SPOTTED:** Cruz, Polyansky and Scott Reed in a booth at Capital Grille last night – also seen there: Rep. Jeff Duncan (R-S.C.) chatting with Arkansas Lt. Gov. Tim Griffin. Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-Calif.) and Rep. Roger Williams (R-Texas) were also at the restaurant.

BIRTHDAY OF THE DAY: Suhail Khan, Microsoft director of external affairs. **A fun fact about Suhail:** “I was a nanny in college, have ridden a ‘61 Harley Davidson since high school and am currently restoring a ‘67 Shelby Mustang GT500. I was also front row for Metallica three times this summer.” **Read his Playbook Plus Q&A:** <http://politi.co/2AzrXss>

BIRTHDAYS: Carole Simpson is 76 ... Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine) is 65 ... Sen. Thad Cochran (R-Miss.) is 8-0 ... CNN’s Ashley Killough (hat tip: Kevin Cirilli) ... Emily Hamilton, director at Hamilton Place Strategies ... Kate Tummarello, policy analyst at Electronic Frontier Foundation ... Allie Grasgreen Ciaramella, comms manager at the National College Access Network ... Nicolás Luis Rosero ... Larisa Alexandrovna Horton ... Oath’s Sarindee Wickramasuriya ... former Amb. Michael Punke, VP of global public policy for Amazon Web Services and author of “The Revenant” ... Scott Greene ... Kenny Fried ... Patrick Lee Plaisance is 54 ... Molly Block, newly-hired press secretary at EPA ... Ben Fallon ... Maria Fuentes ... Jeannie Lough ... Doug Henwood ... Dafna Tapiero ... Adam Culbertson ... Michael Steinhardt is 77 ... Jonathan Tisch is 64 ... Edelman’s Erika Reyes ... NYT’s Dean Chang ...

... **Priya Dayananda** of KPMG ... Anne MacMillan of Invariant ... Sam Runyon, deputy press secretary for Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.), celebrating over three days (h/t Jonathan Kott) ... Christina Freundlich ... Olivia Wenk (h/t Dad, Christopher) ... Tyler Prell ... Robert Cresanti, pres. and CEO of Int’l Franchise Association ... Mary Heitman, EVP at IFA ... Illinois State Sen. Dan McConchie ... Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-Calif.) is 41 (h/t Robb Watters) ... Tom Frieden ... Mike Klein ... Deloitte’s Sam Schofield, a State alum (h/t Nihal Krishan, “his fellow Fessenden Fiefdom housemate”) ... Jenny Kordick ... Amanda Faulkner, public policy and government relations at Google (h/t Ben Khouri) ... Lisa Sun ... Raj Peter Bhakta ... Tim Andrews ... Kim Bradford ... Peter Truell is 62 ... Brian Mosteller ... Mike Meece ... Cristina Beato ... Noam Chomsky is 89 ... Alice Parker ... Ruthanne Buck ... Sachin Chheda ... Antha Williams ... Jeff Blum (h/ts Teresa Vilmain)

Disclaimer: The Republican National Committee provided the above article as a service to its employees and other selected individuals. Any opinions expressed therein are those of the article’s author and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the RNC.

Doherty, Brian

From: Doherty, Brian
Sent: Thursday, January 18, 2018 6:14 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Subject: RE: WAPO says Trump's claim that immigrants bring 'tremendous crime' is still wrong, 4 Pinocchios, but is their methodology flawed? John Lott says yes

copy

Brian Doherty

Coordinating Producer, *News @ Night w/ Shannon Bream*

Wk. 202-824-6440

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AMERICA has chosen....

FOX NEWS is # 1 in ratings, # 1 with viewers.

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) [<mailto:Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov>]
Sent: Thursday, January 18, 2018 5:46 PM
To: Doherty, Brian <Brian.Doherty@FOXNEWS.COM>
Subject: RE: WAPO says Trump's claim that immigrants bring 'tremendous crime' is still wrong, 4 Pinocchios, but is their methodology flawed? John Lott says yes

We'll leave here at 7—so around 715

xxxx

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs
202.305.5808

From: Doherty, Brian [<mailto:Brian.Doherty@FOXNEWS.COM>]
Sent: Thursday, January 18, 2018 5:45 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: RE: WAPO says Trump's claim that immigrants bring 'tremendous crime' is still wrong, 4 Pinocchios, but is their methodology flawed? John Lott says yes

What time should we expect the AG to arrive?

Brian Doherty

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=====

AMERICA has chosen....

FOX NEWS is # 1 in ratings, # 1 with viewers.

From: Doherty, Brian

Sent: Thursday, January 18, 2018 5:07 PM

To: 'Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)' <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov>

Subject: WAPO says Trump's claim that immigrants bring 'tremendous crime' is still wrong, 4 Pinocchios, but is their methodology flawed? John Lott says yes

Here is a copy of the research.

https://ssrn.com/abstract_id=3099992

And here is the Fact Check today in the Washington Post

<https://washingtonpost.com/news/fact-checker/wp/2018/01/18/trumps-claim-that-immigrants-bring-tremendous-crime-is-still-wrong/>

By the way, since the Washington Post piece notes regarding my study that "prisoner statistics in a state [Arizona] with a history of making headlines for its tough immigration enforcement policies," I should mention that my research directly addresses this as a possible explanation for my results (bottom of page 10 and top of page 11) and finds that it can't explain the results.

John R. Lott, Jr., Ph.D.

President

Crime Prevention Research Center

<http://crimeresearch.org>

johnrlott@crimeresearch.org

Undocumented Immigrants, U.S. Citizens, and Convicted Criminals in Arizona

40 Pages Posted:

[John R. Lott](#)

Crime Prevention Research Center

Date Written: January 11, 2018

Abstract

Using newly released detailed data on all prisoners who entered the Arizona state prison from January 1985 through June 2017, we are able to separate non-U.S. citizens by whether they are illegal or legal residents. These data do not rely on self-reporting by criminals. Undocumented immigrants are at least 142% more likely to be convicted of a crime than other Arizonans. They also tend to commit more serious crimes and serve 10.5% longer sentences, more likely to be classified as dangerous, and 45% more likely to be gang members than U.S. citizens. Yet, there are several reasons that these numbers are likely to underestimate the share of crime committed by undocumented immigrants. There are dramatic differences between in the criminal histories of convicted who are U.S. citizens and undocumented immigrants.

criminal histories of convicts who are U.S. citizens and undocumented immigrants.

Young convicts are especially likely to be undocumented immigrants. While undocumented immigrants from 15 to 35 years of age make up slightly over two percent of the Arizona population, they make up about eight percent of the prison population. Even after adjusting for the fact that young people commit crime at higher rates, young undocumented immigrants commit crime at twice the rate of young U.S. citizens. These undocumented immigrants also tend to commit more serious crimes.

If undocumented immigrants committed crime nationally as they do in Arizona, in 2016 they would have been responsible for over 1,000 more murders, 5,200 rapes, 8,900 robberies, 25,300 aggravated assaults, and 26,900 burglaries.

Fact Checker
Analysis

Trump's claim that immigrants bring 'tremendous crime' is still wrong

By Salvador Rizzo January 18 at 3:00 AM

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/fact-checker/wp/2018/01/18/trumps-claim-that-immigrants-bring-tremendous-crime-is-still-wrong/?utm_term=.bb52c2f43115

"The Democrats are really looking at something that is very dangerous for our country. They are looking at shutting down. They want to have illegal immigrants; in many cases, people that we don't want in our country. They want to have illegal immigrants pouring into our country, bringing with them crime, tremendous amounts of crime."

— **President Trump, in remarks at the White House, Dec. 6**

Trump earned Four Pinocchios [the last time we looked into his claim](#) that immigrants cause crime rates to rise in the United States. Fresh data and several new studies have been released since that fact-check in 2015, and we took another look at the body of knowledge to see how the president's view holds up. When we fact-checked him as a candidate in 2015, Trump spoke of immigrants

when we fact-checked him as a candidate in 2015, Trump spoke of immigrants generally and without distinguishing between legal and unauthorized residents. But in his most recent statements on Dec. 6, the president narrowed it down to “illegal immigrants ... bringing with them crime, tremendous amounts of crime.” (We’re not evaluating Trump’s claim that Democrats “want to have illegal immigrants.”)

Is Trump on solid ground now when he says unauthorized immigrants make the country less safe?

The Facts

As we found in 2015, it’s all but impossible to determine whether Trump’s statement is accurate concerning either legal or undocumented immigrants.

The Department of Justice says [90 percent of prisoners are housed at the state or local levels](#). That’s because almost all crimes are prosecuted by state and local law enforcement agencies, not the federal government.

States generally do not track how many of their prisoners are undocumented immigrants. But most states do report their total number of noncitizen prisoners every year to the Justice Department, without breaking down their legal status.

Noncitizens accounted for 4 percent of the total prison population in the states, according to reports from the Bureau of Justice Statistics from 2013 to 2016, the most recent year for which data are available. (This figure excludes California and a handful of other states that did not provide data on noncitizen prisoners to the Justice Department.)

At the federal level, noncitizens made up 11 percent to 12 percent of the total prison population from 2013 to 2015, the reports show. The Bureau of Justice Statistics changed its methodology in 2018 at the request of the Justice Department, said Elizabeth Ann Carson, the bureau’s statistician. So [in the 2016 report](#), the number of noncitizen federal prisoners jumped from 21,479 to 39,956, or from 11 percent of the federal prison population to 21 percent, because of this methodology change, she said.

The difference is that the Bureau of Justice Statistics previously reported the

number of noncitizens housed in federal prisons, but now it adds those in privately run or community correctional facilities. The BJS data do not factor in persons detained by the Department of Homeland Security, which enforces immigration laws.

The 21 percent rate now appears to track with separate data from the [U.S. Sentencing Commission](#), which found that noncitizens accounted for 20 percent of total federal prison sentences in fiscal year 2016, excluding immigration offenses.

Trump's campaign pointed to Sentencing Commission data to support its claims in 2015. The White House did not respond to a request for comment.

Some experts say the BJS data are unreliable because, among other reasons, state officials ask prisoners to self-report whether they are legal or undocumented residents. As we noted, a handful of states do not report their number of noncitizen prisoners to the Justice Department, which means the BJS data undercount the total.

But since it's the closest thing to a yardstick provided by the federal government, it's worth analyzing the data. (Incidentally, the Homeland Security and Justice departments "are working to develop a reliable methodology for estimating the status of state and local incarcerated populations in future reports," according to a [December report](#) they released.)

Excluding five states that did not provide data, state and federal correctional facilities in 2016 housed 1.3 million prisoners, of which 83,556, or 6 percent, were noncitizens, according to the latest BJS report. The total immigrant population stood at [43.7 million in 2016](#), or 13.5 percent, according to Census data.

A comparison of these figures shows that noncitizens are far underrepresented in the prison population at the state level (4 percent), overrepresented at the federal level after excluding immigration offenses (21 percent), and far below their share of the population when combining both state and federal prisons (6 percent).

Let's move on to the new research studies released since our fact-check from 2015.

The majority of the research available on this question continues to show that immigrants are less likely to commit crimes than the native-born and that overall crime rates decline in areas where immigrants settle. However, many of these studies use statistical modeling in the absence of reliable and standardized state-level data about immigrant prisoners or convicts.

A March 2017 study by the pro-immigration Cato Institute found that “all immigrants are less likely to be incarcerated than natives relative to their shares of the population” and that “even illegal immigrants are less likely to be incarcerated than native-born Americans.”

Analyzing Census data from the 2014 American Community Survey, authors Michelangelo Landgrave and Alex Nowrasteh found that 2,194,435 individuals were incarcerated in 2014. The imprisonment rate for unauthorized immigrants was 0.85 percent, and 0.47 percent for legal immigrants, they found. Subtracting immigration-related offenses, the rate was lower for unauthorized immigrants: 0.5 percent.

The American Immigration Council, another pro-immigration group, estimated that there were 11.2 million undocumented immigrants in 2013. The total population that year was 316.2 million, according to the Census, which means illegal immigrants made up 3.5 percent of the total population when using the council’s estimate.

Cato’s study suggests that unauthorized immigrants are dramatically underrepresented in the U.S. prison population, including or excluding immigration offenses. Meanwhile, 45 percent of Americans say immigrants make the crime situation worse, 9 percent say they make the crime situation better, and 43 percent say there is not much effect, according to a Gallup survey from 2017. “We’re running against the popular current,” Nowrasteh said. “We’re not running against the weight of empirical evidence on this claim. Our findings are actually pretty consistent with those in peer-reviewed journals as well as other scholarly publications.”

According to “The Integration of Immigrants into American Society,” a 2015 peer-

reviewed study of years of academic research, the perception that immigrants bring crime to the United States has been popular for nearly a century and “is perpetuated by ‘issue entrepreneurs’ who promote the immigrant-crime connection in order to drive restrictionist immigration policy.”

“Far from immigration increasing crime rates, studies demonstrate that immigrants and immigration are associated inversely with crime,” the study, published by the National Academy of Sciences, concludes. “Immigrants are less likely than the native-born to commit crimes, and neighborhoods with greater concentrations of immigrants have much lower rates of crime and violence than comparable nonimmigrant neighborhoods. However, crime rates rise among the second and later generations, perhaps a negative consequence of adaptation to American society.”

But, once again pointing to the dearth of good data, the authors added: “While the research is conclusive on the statistical relation between immigration and crime, there is still a lot to be learned because of limitations in the available data. The extent to which this relationship is truly generalizable or robust for all immigrant groups needs further study.”

As the Fact Checker reported in 2015, one study showed that between 1990 and 2013, “the foreign-born share of the U.S. population grew from 7.9 percent to 13.1 percent and the number of unauthorized immigrants more than tripled from 3.5 million to 11.2 million.

“During the same period, FBI data indicate that the violent crime rate declined 48 percent — which included falling rates of aggravated assault, robbery, rape, and murder. Likewise, the property crime rate fell 41 percent, including declining rates of motor vehicle theft, larceny/robbery, and burglary,” according to the American Immigration Council.

In short, the violent crime rate was cut nearly by half during a period in which unauthorized immigrants tripled, according to the council.

Some experts caution that this study and Cato’s — which are based on Census data — and the Bureau of Justice Statistics figures should all be taken with a heavy dose of salt. State authorities and census workers are relying on offenders to self-report whether they are legal residents or undocumented, which is not an

to even report whether they are legal residents or undocumented, which is not an easy proposition for those facing possible deportation.

“Is the ACS doing a good job of capturing the foreign-born? It didn’t in the past,” said Steven A. Camarota, the research director at the Center for Immigration Studies, which has documented several issues with the quality of Census data on immigrant prisoners. “The question is, How good is it now? ... What I can say is that the incarceration data in the ACS looks more consistent over time, but that sometimes means it could be consistently undercounting.”

Across the spectrum, experts agree that Trump’s claims are nearly impossible to verify without reliable and standardized data on state-level offenders who are undocumented immigrants.

Camarota’s group opposes sanctuary city policies and advocates for less legal immigration. He added that without solid data from the states, it’s not possible to reach sound conclusions on immigrant crime rates. “It is not our contention that the data is clear that immigrants commit a disproportionate share of crime,” Camarota said.

John R. Lott of the Crime Prevention Research Center in December released a study of prisoner data from the Arizona Department of Corrections. “The murder and manslaughter rate for illegal immigrants is 2.7 times higher than the average for U.S. citizens,” Lott said of the study, which maps 32 1/2 years of prisoner statistics in a state with a history of making headlines for its tough immigration enforcement policies.

“While undocumented immigrants from 15 to 35 years of age make up a little over 2 percent of the Arizona population, they make up almost 8 percent of the prison population,” Lott found. “These immigrants also tend to commit more serious crimes.”

He added that undocumented immigrants in the Arizona data, which cover 1985 to 2017, had the highest incarceration rate compared with legal immigrants and U.S. citizens. Legal immigrants had a lower rate than U.S. citizens, he said.

“What we’re finding is that people who are legal immigrants tend to be extremely law-abiding,” Lott said. “But illegal immigrants commit crimes at extremely high

... bringing, not that it brings higher crime rates. And when you lump them together you get something in the middle.”

The Arizona figures are “great data in the sense that it doesn’t lump the two together” and because they do not rely on offenders self-reporting their immigration status, Lott said.

Lott’s review appears to be unique — no other comparable research on state correctional data has been conducted — and an outlier, since the majority of other studies have come to diametrically opposite conclusions, including those in peer-reviewed publications.

The Pinocchio Test

Trump for years has argued that immigrants pose a threat to public safety, bringing higher crime to the communities where they settle. When we last fact-checked his statements in 2015, Trump was speaking about immigrants generally and without separating legal residents from unauthorized ones. Most recently, on Dec. 6, the president said “illegal immigrants” were “bringing with them crime, tremendous amounts of crime.”

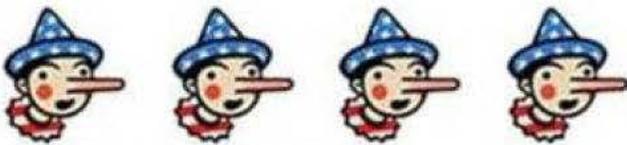
The Justice Department reports that 90 percent of U.S. prisoners are housed in state or local institutions, and because states generally do not report data breaking down how many of their prisoners are undocumented immigrants, experts on several sides of the immigration debate say it is not possible to verify Trump’s claim. The admittedly incomplete data that the Justice Department does publish on noncitizen prisoners does not support Trump’s claims.

Almost all the independent research on this question — do immigrants bring more crime? — contradicted Trump in 2015 and continues to do so today as we look at newer studies. One report based on Arizona reaches a different conclusion: that undocumented immigrants do commit crimes at higher rates than U.S. citizens or legal immigrants. But it’s not scientific to extrapolate Arizona’s figures to form nationwide conclusions.

The bottom line is that a great majority of research on this question contradicts

Trump's claim, even in its narrower form focused only on "illegal immigrants." There is a possibility that Census data on which many of these studies are based could be giving an inaccurate count of who is and is not undocumented. But there is no way to prove it because of the lack of reliable, standardized data from the states, where 90 percent of prisoners are housed. As always, the burden of proof rests with the speaker, so the president once again earns Four Pinocchios.

Four Pinocchios



(About our rating scale)

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RNC War Room

From: RNC War Room
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2018 6:44 AM
Subject: Washington Times: Sepp: Lasting and transformative tax relief

Lasting and transformative tax relief

Washington Times

Op-Ed

Pete Sepp

January 21, 2018

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2018/jan/21/why-tax-reform-is-a-victory-for-taxpayers-and-the-/>

A staggering 13 billion dollars. More than the value of the entire "Star Wars" franchise. That's the minimum amount taxpayers will save under the recently-passed Tax Cuts and Jobs Act now that lawmakers have made compliance with the U.S. tax code less of a chore. Taxpayers will now also save an estimated 210 million hours of time they used to squander on the clumsy 1040 "long form." Lighter paperwork burdens like these will begin showing up in other portions of the tax code for businesses and individuals as the new law is implemented.

For these reasons, and many more, President Trump and Congress should be applauded for delivering on their promise to bring long-awaited tax relief to Americans. That relief will manifest itself in many ways. For example, tax changes for individuals mean that the typical family of four earning the median income of \$73,000 would put an additional \$2,000 in its pocket. The new tax code achieves this not only through lowering rates but also by significantly increasing the standard deduction and expanding the child tax credit.

And despite all the teeth-gnashing from the mainstream media about the loss of deductions, important write-offs such as state and local taxes, mortgage interest, and charitable giving were not repealed. Two outrageously complex levies — the death tax and the personal alternative minimum tax — will hit fewer family-owned businesses and millions fewer households thanks to the new law.

For businesses, tax reform means that 2018 will be the year that the tax system begins working to create opportunities to help everyone prosper, rather than destroy them. Lowering the corporate tax rate to 21 percent from 35 percent — the largest reduction in the U.S. corporate tax rate in our nation's history — will boost economic growth and shore up America's competitiveness with foreign businesses. The U.S. will no longer levy the highest corporate tax rate in the industrialized world.

Combined with provisions such as 100 percent expensing of capital investments, this long-overdue tax reduction will make for a more business-friendly environment to grow jobs and take the risks that come with entrepreneurship.

Those small businesses organized as S corporations, partnerships or LLCs will benefit from a new tax deduction of 20 percent (generally with no clawbacks on the first \$315,000 of qualifying joint income earned). Lawmakers are to be commended for their commitment to ensuring that small businesses, the engine of the American economy, will get tangible savings they can invest in their futures.

Businesses also benefit by the elimination of the notoriously cumbersome Corporate Alternative Minimum Tax

Businesses also benefit by the elimination of the notoriously cumbersome corporate alternative minimum tax and by a transition away from the "worldwide" tax system that double taxes American firms. Moving forward, U.S.-based businesses that earn revenue abroad will only pay taxes where goods and services are sold, helping to bring home more dollars from abroad and reduce the incentive to ship American jobs overseas.

Throughout the arduous debate over tax reform, National Taxpayers Union (NTU) was proud to have a major role on the front lines in promoting the case for tax reform. To give just a few examples, in late December NTU led a coalition statement supporting the bill's passage that was signed by 34 free market, limited government, and pro-taxpayer organizations. To drive momentum, NTU hosted an event with Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, White House Counselor Kellyanne Conway, and 13 U.S. senators to highlight the importance of tax reform for growing the economy.

I traveled across the country to appear with key leaders such as Arizona Sen. Jeff Flake and make the case for why tax reform will improve the economic climate in places like Arizona. NTU sponsored television and radio ads as well as social media alerts across critical states urging lawmakers to support tax reform. We are grateful to the citizens across the country and our elected officials who listened to our message and took action.

Yes, more can be done to provide simplicity, relief, and protection for taxpayers in federal laws. The National Taxpayers Union is already planning new efforts to do so. But because of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, in the days ahead middle-income taxpayers will keep more of their own earnings under tax code that offers less complex filing alternatives. Small business owners will have more financial opportunities, while larger U.S.-based firms can look to their nation as a more friendly place to create jobs.

All of this will be possible because a devoted group of our nation's leaders did not waver in their mission to bring real, lasting, and transformative tax relief to the American people. They believed, as we do, that the passage of comprehensive tax reform would be far more than a political win, but a victory for the future of the American economy and for the working men and women who drive it.

Pete Sepp is president of the National Taxpayers Union.

Disclaimer: The Republican National Committee provided the above article as a service to its employees and other selected individuals. Any opinions expressed therein are those of the article's author and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the RNC.

RNC War Room

From: RNC War Room
Sent: Friday, February 23, 2018 6:35 AM
Subject: Politico Playbook 2/23/18

From FANTASY to DECISION TIME for White House on guns

Politico Playbook

Anna Palmer, Jake Sherman & Daniel Lippman

February 23, 2018 – 6:25 AM

<https://www.politico.com/newsletters/playbook/2018/02/23/from-fantasy-to-decision-time-for-white-house-on-guns-251177>

DRIVING THE DAY

AP: SHELDON ADELSON is offering to foot the bill for the new embassy in Jerusalem, and the Trump administration is considering the offer. **JOSH LEDERMAN:** "Lawyers at the State Department are looking into the legality of accepting private donations to cover some or all of the embassy costs, the administration officials said.

"**The discussions are occurring as the new embassy clears** its final bureaucratic hurdles. On Thursday, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson ended weeks of delay by signing off on a security plan for moving the embassy from Tel Aviv to the holy city, according to the officials, who weren't authorized to discuss the issue publicly and demanded anonymity.

"**In one possible scenario**, the administration would solicit contributions not only from Adelson but potentially from other donors in the evangelical and American Jewish communities, too. One official said Adelson ... had offered to pay the difference between the total cost — expected to run into the hundreds of millions of dollars — and what the administration is able to raise.

"**The State Department said it had 'nothing to announce'** about the Jerusalem embassy move and would not 'get ahead of any decisions by the secretary.' 'We have no confirmation or details about this hypothetical proposal,' the State Department said." <http://bit.ly/2or4vWt>

Happy Friday. THE NRA'S TOUGH SPOT ... After the Newtown massacre, **THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION** privately said the school shooting was an isolated incident. Gun lobby insiders say they effectively mitigated any gun control legislation because they were able to push that it was an anomaly to allies on the Hill. With 18 mass shootings this year alone that argument will no longer be effective.

THE GUN LOBBY is in a tricky place. They believe the CNN town hall has provided a visual that the masses in this country want changes to the gun laws of this country. They believe this is false, despite polling that shows a movement in this direction. Seeing Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), a long-time ally, change his position under public pressure has many nervous that he is just the first Republican willing to make concessions on the issue.

WHAT TO WATCH -- Look for them to support, or at least not try to stop, legislation to ban bump stocks and close mental health loopholes. Raising the age limit for purchasing the AR-15 would be a lot tougher for them to

cross mental health receptors. Raising the age limit for purchasing the AR-15 would be a lot tougher for them to swallow. Still, they realize that their biggest advantage has been winning elections. The stakes have never been higher for the NRA than in the 2018 midterm elections. And the president of the United States has publicly said the NRA wants to cut some sort of gun-control deal, so they'll need to find some safe ground.

... **THE WHITE HOUSE HAS A CHALLENGE TOO.** They need to come to some sort of conclusion about what they want to do, what they will support and what can become law. Since the shooting in Florida, **PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP** has floated everything from changing the age for purchasing some weapons to finding military veterans – some of whom have won sharpshooting contests – and arming them in the classroom.

... **THEY'RE IN THE FANTASY PHASE AT THE MOMENT** because arming teachers is extraordinarily unlikely to happen. Giving teachers the mandate to carry guns in the classroom would bring up a whole host of questions that seem incredibly difficult to answer. First of all, the president says the teachers he'd seek to arm are 20-year military veterans who are comfortable handling weapons. We have to imagine, among the 3.2 million public school teachers, relatively few of them are military veterans who are proficient with guns, and eager to carry them in the classroom. Plus, who pays for the weapons, regulates the program, etc. etc.

PLUS, show us a pathway to get to 218 votes in the House, and 60 votes in the Senate. Spoiler alert: it doesn't exist.

JOSH HOLMES, a former chief of staff to Mitch McConnell, advocated on Twitter yesterday for securing schools: **@holmesjosh**: "Serious question: if you can provide secure access at every government building across the country, why can't we do it at public schools?" Something like this would be massively expensive, but expect this idea to pick up steam.

NOTE: THE HOUSE has canceled Wednesday and Thursday votes due to plans to have Billy Graham lie in honor in the Capitol. The chamber will be in session Monday night and Tuesday. The Senate hasn't changed its plans.

INSIDE THE WHITE HOUSE -- "We're going to take action": Inside Trump's shifting stance on gun rights, by WaPo's Ashley Parker and Phil Rucker. <http://wapo.st/2CEBFXR>

DEMOCRATIC POLLSTER AND STRATEGIST DOUG SOSNIK speaks to **CHARLIE MAHTESIAN, JOHN HARRIS** and **NANCY COOK**: Intro from Harris: "In his latest analysis – which coincides with the National Governors Association's arrival Friday for its annual Washington meeting – Sosnik argues that the long-term future of American politics hinges on a roster of gubernatorial and legislative races in key states.

"A combination of Donald Trump's unpopularity and significant demographic shifts in once-solid Republican suburbs has given Democrats an opportunity—more perishable than many observers realize—to reverse a 'lost decade' after their disastrous performance in 2010 elections. Republicans currently control both the governor's mansion and state legislature in 26 states, while Democrats do the same in only 8 states. The GOP used that power to draw congressional districts to its advantage after the 2010 census, and Democrats should have an overwhelming focus on reversing this dynamic after the 2020 census.

"Doug Sosnik: [In] the last three midterm elections, there was a repudiation of how the public had voted in the previous presidential elections. And the question is, is it going to be a good year for Democrats, is it going to be a great year for Democrats, or can this be another tsunami kind of election? And I think the signals right now are mixed." **The conversation and Sosnik's famous slides** <http://politi.co/2CDNWfi>

SIREN -- GABE DEBENEDETTI on FORMER HOUSE BUDGET CHAIRMAN JOHN KASICH -- “Kasich’s team gears up for possible 2020 bid”: “John Kasich’s inner circle is gearing up for a possible presidential run in 2020 — actively weighing the prospect of a Republican primary challenge to President Donald Trump against the feasibility of a long-shot general election campaign as an independent.

“And there’s one consideration driving their thinking perhaps more than any other: what some of his advisers consider the very real, maybe even likely, possibility that Trump doesn’t run again — by choice or not — or that the president becomes so politically hobbled by late next year that the political landscape fundamentally shifts in Kasich’s favor. That’s one reason Kasich has yet to decide whether to pursue an independent bid or a primary challenge. ...

“None of this is to say Kasich is a go for 2020. But his activity has undergone a marked shift from just a few months ago, when Kasich and his allies repeatedly denied any interest whatsoever in the White House, even as he embarked on a book tour.” <http://politi.co/2HEGDrl>

HAPPENING TODAY -- NEW SANCTIONS ... “Trump administration to target North Korea with new sanctions on Friday,” by Reuters’ Steve Holland: “The Trump administration plans to announce on Friday what is being billed as the largest package of sanctions yet against North Korea to increase pressure on Pyongyang for its nuclear and ballistic missile tests, a senior administration official said. President Donald Trump is expected to talk about the new sanctions during a mid-morning speech to the Conservative Political Action Conference, and the Treasury Department will get into the details later in the day.” <http://reut.rs/2CginfV>

SCOOP -- “Mattis expected to back allowing transgender troops to stay in the military,” by WaPo’s Dan Lamothe, Anne Gearan and Josh Dawsey: “Defense Secretary Jim Mattis is expected to propose to President Trump that transgender members of the U.S. military be allowed to continue serving despite the president’s call last summer for a ban on all transgender service members, according to two U.S. officials with knowledge of the issue. The defense secretary was scheduled to brief the president Wednesday, but the meeting was postponed and will occur soon, officials said.” <http://wapo.st/2HEdTz7>

ELANA SCHOR: “Gillibrand urges Senate to take up harassment policy overhaul”: “Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand is urging her chamber’s leaders to follow the House in taking up a bipartisan overhaul of its rules for policing workplace misconduct. The New York Democrat made a simple push on Friday, asking that her Capitol Hill harassment reform proposal get a stand-alone vote or be included in next month’s must-pass government spending bill.

““Something must be done. The House has acted, now it is time for the Senate to do its part,” Gillibrand wrote to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) and Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) in a letter obtained by POLITICO.” <http://politi.co/2sLiyvD>

THE MUELLER REPORT ...

-- **“Sources: Mueller probe stymies Kushner security clearance,”** by CNN’s Shimon Prokupecz, Jeremy Diamond and Dana Bash: “Jared Kushner has been unable to obtain a full security clearance in part because of special counsel Robert Mueller’s investigation, according to two sources familiar with the matter. Kushner, President Donald Trump’s son-in-law and senior adviser, is unlikely to obtain the full clearance as long as the special counsel’s probe is ongoing, one of the sources said. Kushner’s application for a top-level security clearance has been held up for over a year in part because it cannot be completed while the special counsel’s team continues to probe Kushner’s contacts with Russians and his financial dealings with

team continues to probe Kushner's contacts with Russians and the financial dealings with foreigners." <http://cnn.it/2HGMGvY>

-- "**Gates formally retains veteran DC lawyer,**" by ABC News' Matthew Mosk and John Santucci: "Former Trump campaign aide Richard Gates has formally brought veteran Washington attorney Thomas Green into his case, according to an order of appearance filed late Thursday, a signal of potential movement in the special counsel case against him. Special Counsel Robert Mueller filed a raft of new charges against Gates and his longtime partner, Paul Manafort, just hours earlier. A former D.C. federal prosecutor himself, Green has represented a long succession of high profile political clients in well-known political scandals, such as Iran Contra and the Keating Five." <http://abcn.ws/2HEG8gZ>

-- "**Mueller adds new tax, bank fraud charges against Manafort, Gates,**" by Josh Gerstein: "Special counsel Robert Mueller turned up the pressure on former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort and aide Rick Gates, as a federal grand jury returned a new indictment Thursday charging the two men with tax and bank fraud. The new 32-count indictment returned by a grand jury in Alexandria, Virginia comes after Mueller separately charged the pair in Washington last year with money laundering and failing to register as foreign agents for their work related to Ukraine.

"The new indictment accuses Manafort and Gates of dramatically understating their income on federal tax returns filed from 2010 through 2014. The pair is also accused of bank fraud totaling more than \$20 million tied to three loans Manafort applied for in connection with various homes he owns. In all, Manafort and Gates laundered more than \$30 million in income, chiefly from their Ukraine work, the new indictment alleges. ... Some of the alleged bank fraud appears to have overlapped in time with the Trump campaign. ... Green has a reputation for negotiating plea deals in high-profile cases, but [former federal prosecutor Patrick] Cotter said he believes that if a plea deal with Gates was imminent, prosecutors would not have pulled the trigger on the new indictment." <http://politi.co/2EJWYNH>

INTERESTING DATA POINT ... "Over 30 Percent Of Applicants Want To Go To Law School Because Of Trump," by Above the Law's Kathryn Rubino: "Kaplan Test Prep conducted a survey of over 500 pre-law students and the results confirm the suspicions of many in the industry: the Trump Bump is real. Thirty-two percent of respondents said politics were a motivating factor in deciding to apply. The comments offered show that changes in policy by the Trump administration have prompted some to consider a career in the law." <http://bit.ly/2CFqzL>

GOP RISING STAR GREITENS' FALL, CONT. -- STL POST DISPATCH: "Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens indicted for felony invasion of privacy," by Kevin McDermott and Robert Patrick: "Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens, who was swept into office in 2016 with a vow to clean up a corrupt state government, was indicted and booked Thursday on a felony invasion of privacy charge for allegedly taking and transmitting a non-consensual photo of his partly-nude lover shortly before that campaign started. ...

"About 3:45 p.m., on the first floor of the Carnahan Courthouse in downtown St. Louis, a Post-Dispatch reporter saw Greitens being led down a hallway by several St. Louis city deputies. Officials later confirmed Greitens had been taken into custody and then booked at the St. Louis Justice Center. ...

"Greitens, a Republican, declared his innocence in a written statement, and alleged the indictment is a 'misguided political decision' by a 'reckless liberal prosecutor.'" <http://bit.ly/2ELC3ty>

TRUMP'S FRIDAY -- The president is heading to CPAC this morning and will deliver a speech at the conservative conference. In the afternoon, he and the First Lady will greet Australian Prime Minister Malcolm

conservative conference. In the afternoon, he and the first lady will greet Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and his wife. Trump will meet and have a working lunch with Turnbull before holding a joint press conference. Trump will also meet with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson.

SUNDAY SO FAR – CBS’ “Face the Nation”: Connecticut Gov. Dannel Malloy. Political panel: Rachael Bade, David Nakamura, Reihan Salam and Shawna Thomas

-- **NBC’s “Meet the Press”:** Sen. Pat Toomey (R-Pa.). Panel: David Brody, Helene Cooper, Josh Earnest, and Danielle Pletka

-- **“Fox News Sunday”:** Florida Gov. Rick Scott ... Andrew Pollack, father of school shooting victim Meadow Pollack and Delaney Tarr, Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School senior ... Panel: Karl Rove, Jonathan Swan, Kim Strassel, Donna Edwards. Power Player: Ray Stanford, Dinosaur Hunter

-- **ABC’s “This Week”:** Dana Loesch ... Ohio Gov. John Kasich ... Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper. Panel: Jonathan Karl, Cokie Roberts, Lanhee Chen, Julie Pace, Jorge Ramos

--**CNN’s “State of the Union”:** Sen. Chris Murphy (D-Conn.)

-- **CNN’s “Inside Politics,”** hosted by John King: Margaret Talev, John McCormack, Julie Hirschfeld Davis, Sahil Kapur

PLAYBOOK READS

TEXAS TRIBUNE’S ABBY LIVINGSTON: “In rare move, national Democrats come out against primary candidate Laura Moser in bid for Culberson’s seat”: “The [DCCC] posted negative research on Moser, a Houston journalist vying among six other Democrats in the March 6 primary to unseat Republican U.S. Rep. John Culberson.

“**Democrats locally and nationally have worried that Moser is too liberal** to carry a race that has emerged in recent months as one of the most competitive races in the country. The DCCC posting, which features the kind of research that is often reserved for Republicans, notes that Moser only recently moved back to her hometown of Houston and that much of her campaign fundraising money has gone to her husband’s political consulting firm. It also calls her a ‘Washington insider.’

“**‘Voters in Houston have organized for over a year to hold Rep. Culberson** accountable and win this Clinton district,’ [DCCC’s Meredith] Kelly said. Then, referring to a 2014 Washingtonian magazine piece in which Moser wrote that she would rather have a tooth pulled without anesthesia than move to Paris, Texas, Kelly added: ‘Unfortunately, Laura Moser’s outright disgust for life in Texas disqualifies her as a general election candidate, and would rob voters of their opportunity to flip Texas’ 7th in November.’” <http://bit.ly/2oo5OGs>

FROM THE WHITE HOUSE TO WALL STREET -- “Dina Powell, Former Trump Adviser, Weighs Return to Goldman Sachs,” by WSJ’s Liz Hoffman: “Dina Powell, who until recently served as a top national-security adviser in the White House, is talking to Goldman Sachs about returning to the firm, according to people familiar with the matter.

“**Ms. Powell spent a decade at Goldman before joining** the Trump administration last year, and in recent weeks has discussed coming back ... Ms. Powell is discussing a position that would apply her foreign-policy experience to Goldman’s operations and global client relationships, including sovereign-wealth funds and

experience to Columbia's operations and global client relationships, including covering health funds and multinational companies, the people said. Executives have discussed giving Ms. Powell a seat on its powerful management committee, a collection of about 30 executives from different parts of the firm." <http://on.wsj.com/2opX0iw>

HMM -- "Scott Walker wants to save Obamacare in Wisconsin," by Rachana Pradhan: "Wisconsin's Scott Walker, one of the nation's most militantly anti-Obamacare governors, is making strengthening the health care law a key plank of his reelection platform as Republicans fret over potential losses in November. Walker wants to prop up his Obamacare market with a \$200 million program that would compensate health insurers for high-cost patients so they don't hike premiums for everyone. He also would enshrine Obamacare protections for people with pre-existing conditions.

"It's a startling turnabout for a chief executive who has repeatedly called for repealing and replacing the health law. But it could prove smart politics in a swing state where a Democrat recently flipped a seat in a state Senate district that Donald Trump carried by 17 points — a result Walker called a 'wake-up call' for state Republicans.

"Walker sought to get out in front of a potential issue by blaming Washington — and, of course, Obamacare — for individual coverage premiums that rose an average of 36 percent this year." <http://politi.co/2sUSbDJ>

THE ADMINISTRATION ... "U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Will Remove 'Nation of Immigrants' From Mission Statement," by the Intercept's Ryan Devereaux: "The lead U.S. agency tasked with granting citizenship to would-be Americans is making a major change to its mission statement, removing a passage that describes the United States as a nation of immigrants. In an email sent to staff members Thursday and shared with The Intercept, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Director L. Francis Cissna announced the agency's new mission statement." <http://bit.ly/2EO93NH>

-- **"Ryan move to replace election agency leader stirs outcry,"** by Eric Geller: "House Speaker Paul Ryan faced Democratic criticism Thursday after choosing not to renew the term of a federal agency head who has helped lead the charge on securing elections from hackers.

"Matthew Masterson, chairman of the Election Assistance Commission, will depart once the Senate confirms a successor, three people familiar with the situation told POLITICO. His four-year term as a commissioner expired in December, but he has stayed while Ryan contemplated whom to recommend to President Donald Trump as a nominee for the seat. Ryan has decided that Masterson won't be on the list. Another commissioner was already scheduled to take the chairman's slot on Saturday, but Masterson could have remained as a commissioner if he were renominated." <http://politi.co/2CqjADZ>

BERNIE 2.0? -- "Bernie Sanders' Son Wants to Run for Congress. Not Everyone is on Board," by Vice's Alex Thompson: "Levi Sanders, Sen. Bernie Sanders only biological child, told VICE News that he is actively considering running for Congress in New Hampshire's 1st District, an open seat expected to be one of the most contested in the country in 2018.... 'The basic difference is that I'm a vegetarian and he's not,' Levi said of his father, adding that despite their policy similarities he would run his own campaign. Levi said he has talked to his dad about the race but declined to elaborate." <http://bit.ly/2EM4zHu>

PLAYBOOKERS

SPOTTED: former VP Joe Biden and Dr. Jill Biden walking into Masseria last night to join other Biden Cancer

STYLING: former VP Bob Eichen and Dr. Jill Eichen walking into Madison last night to join Carol Eichen Carter Initiative board members for dinner ... former Treasury Secretary Jack Lew and Steve Clemons at the Fairmont Hotel's Juniper restaurant.

OUT AND ABOUT -- Former Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe and former First Lady Dorothy McAuliffe hosted a reception last night for supporters of the Democratic Governors Association at their home in McLean. **SPOTTED** (along with a number of governors): Joyce Aboussie, Don and Olwen Pongrace, Al Dwoskin, Glen Fukushima, Elizabeth Bagley, David Frederick and Sophie Lynn, Richard Sullivan, Josh Wachs, Mack McLarty and Peter O'Keefe.

OBAMA ALUMNI -- @brhodes: "Some news: I have a book coming out on June 12th: 'The World As It Is: A Memoir of the Obama White House' - my story of going to work for Barack Obama's campaign at 29 and walking out the door of the White House on the last day." <http://bit.ly/2BN9nxN>

WEDDING -- Jordan Karem, special assistant to President Donald Trump and trip director, married **Bianca Ktenas**, a press assistant at the Department of Energy. Pool report: "They married at Waimanalo Beach in Oahu, Hawaii at a ceremony attended by family and friends. Karem previously served as press wrangler for Vice President Mike Pence during the 2016 campaign. They met in Washington, D.C. through Jordan's cousin." **Pic** <http://bit.ly/2GCx7Ue>

ENGAGED -- Amanda Faulkner, a senior public policy analyst at Google DC, on Monday got engaged to **Ben Khouri**, press secretary for Sen. Richard Burr (R-N.C.). Pool report: "Ben proposed in front of the Dupont Circle apartment where Amanda was living when they started dating. The couple then took both sets of parents to dinner at Rose's Luxury, and met up with friends later that night at Rebellion. Ben and Amanda first met on July 4th, 2014, at a party hosted by mutual Kentucky friends." **Pics** <http://bit.ly/2Fof4Sm> ... <http://bit.ly/2GFPZSt> (Photo credit: Hunter Hawkins)

BIRTHDAY OF THE DAY: S.E. Cupp, host of HLN's "SE Cupp Unfiltered". **How she got her start in the media:** "I was snapped for a feature in the Lawrence Eagle-Tribune at 7 years old and the seed was planted. I had won a local gymnastics competition. And that's not the truth. I've been a writer for as long as I remember. Writers gotta write. I'm lucky to call it my career." **Read her Playbook Plus Q&A:** <http://politi.co/2ENpRsm>

BIRTHDAYS: Frank Luntz is 56 ... Jim Manley ... Michael Dell is 53 ... Lois Romano, "celebrating with fam at Le Dip" (hat tips: Jeff Solnet and Kristen Holmes) ... Jennifer Epstein, White House reporter for Bloomberg News ... Marissa Mitrovich ... Texas Tribune reporter Patrick Svitek is 26 ... Courtney Matson, principal at BroadBranch Advisors ... Rebecca Chalif, head of comms at the Lean In Foundation (h/t Lily Adams) ... Ellie Cohen (h/ts Carla Frank and Anna Epstein) ... Neil Levesque, executive director of the New Hampshire Institute of Politics at Saint Anselm College (h/t Jeff Grappone) ... Tommy Mattocks ... former de Blasio COS and DNC COO Amanda Howe ... Daniel Goetzel is 31 ... Gidon Feen ... BBC's Martine Croxall ... Joe Berkofsky, CEO at NYC-based Puder PR ... Rep. Kenny Marchant (R-Texas) is 67 ... Nicole Sexton, president and CEO of the Entertainment Industry Foundation (h/t birthday boy Arjun Mody) ... NRF's Ana Serafin Smith ... Flynn Chapman, project consultant at APCO Worldwide (h/t Jerri Ann Henry) ... Chris Martin, who handles Northeast regional press for the NRCC, is 28 (h/t girlfriend Jennifer Krantz) ... Leah Clapman, PBS NewsHour's managing editor for education (h/t Nick Massella) ...

... **Erenia Michell** of Fox News ... Tom Pino, senior media buyer at GMMB, "hits his Larry Bird year" (h/t MacKenzie Miller) ... Gayle Smith, president and CEO of the ONE Campaign and former USAID administrator ... Benjamin Sternfield Baum, director of admissions at St. John's College in Annapolis ... Gary Karr, group director at WeissComm Group ... The Hill's Molly Hooper ... Dan Blair ... Derek Khanna of Boston Consulting Group

at Woodcock Group ... The Hill's Molly Hooper ... Dan Blair ... Derek Manning of Boston Consulting Group ... Mike Nixon ... Marie McGrory ... Nikki McArthur, associate at Jones Day ... AT Johnston ... Business Insider's Reuben Ingber is 3-0 ... Jill Hudson ... Anna Chapman ... Lorin Meeks-Harris ... Bernie Robinson, partner at the Livingston Group ... Arjun Mody, principal at S-3 Group ... Dana Bohan, director at FTI Consulting ... Bernard Craighead ... Dwayne Marshall ... Natalia Arno ... Jake Decker ... Patrick Velliky, director of congressional affairs at Anthem ... Nate Goddard ... Zaina Shaath ... Charles Sweeney ... Colleen Loritz (h/ts Teresa Vilmain)

Disclaimer: The Republican National Committee provided the above article as a service to its employees and other selected individuals. Any opinions expressed therein are those of the article's author and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the RNC.

Mizelle, Chad R. EOP/WHO

From: Mizelle, Chad R. EOP/WHO
Sent: Saturday, March 17, 2018 2:45 PM
To: O'Malley, Devin (OPA)
Subject: Re: WHCO Clips 3/17

Nothing right now. We haven't been involved in this issue, so just looking for a POC in case anything comes up.

Have a good weekend.

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 17, 2018, at 2:08 PM, O'Malley, Devin (OPA) <Devin.O'Malley@usdoj.gov> wrote:

Yes what's up?

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 17, 2018, at 1:30 PM, Mizelle, Chad R. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)> wrote:

Devin,

(b) (6) Quick Q: Have you been involved in the census question issue?

Best,
Chad

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

- **Dems push DOJ for answers on Census citizenship question request.** Democrats on the Senate Judiciary Committee are demanding answers from the Department of Justice (DOJ) on why it asked for a question about citizenship to be added to the 2020 Census. (The Hill, Dems push DOJ for answers on Census citizenship question request, ><http://thehill.com/regulation/letters-comments/378853-dems-push-doj-for-answers-on-request-for-census-citizenship><, 3/16/2018).

RNC War Room

From: RNC War Room
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2018 10:03 PM
Subject: The Hill: 2020 census to include citizenship question

2020 census to include citizenship question

The Hill

Avery Anapol

March 26, 2018 – 9:56 PM

<http://thehill.com/homenews/administration/380387-2020-census-to-include-citizenship-question>

President Trump 's commerce secretary announced that the 2020 census will include a question on citizenship.

Wilbur Ross announced Monday night his decision to reinstate the citizenship question, which has not appeared on the census since 1950.

"For the approximately 90 percent of the population who are citizens, this question is no additional imposition," Ross wrote in his decision. "And for the approximately 70 percent of non-citizens who already answer this question accurately on the ACS, the question is no additional imposition."

Democrats have raised concerns that adding the question would result in an inaccurate population count because it would discourage immigrants from filling out the questionnaire.

Ross responded to such concerns in his decision.

"I find that the need for accurate citizenship data and the limited burden that the reinstatement of the citizenship question would impose outweigh fears about a potentially lower response rate," he wrote.

The Justice Department pushed for inclusion of the question, arguing that it would allow the department to better enforce the Voting Rights Act.

DEVELOPING

Disclaimer: The Republican National Committee provided the above article as a service to its employees and other selected individuals. Any opinions expressed therein are those of the article's author and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the RNC.

From: RNC War Room
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2018 6:06 AM
Subject: Axios AM 3/27/18

 Axios

[View in browser](#)



PRESENTED BY BANK OF AMERICA

Axios AM

By Mike Allen · Mar 27, 2018

Good Tuesday morning!

Situational awareness: "The U.S. Commerce Department announced ... that it will restore a question about citizenship to the 2020 census questionnaire. ... The last time a question about citizenship was included in the census questionnaire was **1950.**" ([NPR](#))

1 big thing: D.C. escalates demands on Big Tech

Washington is amping up its demands on Big Tech, with Senate Intelligence Committee Vice Chairman Mark Warner saying last night that CEOs specifically must be held accountable.

Warner, who is helping lead the committee's probe of Russia's role in the 2016 election, also said that Capitol Hill's interest in Facebook and other tech platforms **extends beyond political advertising**, which had been lawmakers' initial focus.

- **"I am ... flabbergasted** that the CEOs of these companies seem to be happy to answer questions from their shareholders. but not

from the lawmakers who represent all Americans," Warner said at the awards dinner for the Robin Toner Prize for political reporting, to an audience of elite journalists.

- **"Companies like Facebook** and Twitter and Google are American icons," Warner added. "I don't have any interest in regulating them into oblivion. But as they've grown from dorm-room startups into media behemoths ... they haven't acknowledged that that kind of power comes with responsibility."

Warner's comments came on the same day that Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) officially invited — by name — Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg, Google CEO Sundar Pichai and Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey to an April 10 hearing on "the future of data privacy in the social media industry and how to develop 'rules of the road.'"

- **Also yesterday**, the Federal Trade Commission confirmed an investigation into "the privacy practices of Facebook."
- **And the states** are getting involved: A bipartisan coalition of 37 state attorneys general yesterday sent a letter demanding answers from Zuckerberg about Facebook's "business practices and privacy protections."

The bottom line, from Axios' Sara Fischer: The biggest threat of any real penalties will likely come from the FTC, which is responsible for the enforcement of privacy standards, mostly through big fines.

- **While analysts** don't think the body will fine Facebook out of business, it does put pressure on Facebook and its competitors to be transparent about any past data privacy abuses and to comply with Europe's sweeping privacy regulations that take effect in May.

A House Republican leadership aide told me that this is now being treated as a **consumer issue**, in addition to the earlier **national security** concerns:

- **"Facebook should expect** the same scrutiny [as] **any other major company that has deceived its customers** has faced from Congress."
- **"We are probably** a ways away from any type of action that gets 60 [votes in the Senate] or 218" in the House.
- **"[B]ut a bad testimony** or two would only turn the heat up hotter."

The good news for Facebook, per The Wall Street Journal (subscription):

- **"Facebook's shares** edged up 0.4% on Monday amid a broader market rally, stabilizing after a rout of the company's stock that began a week earlier and had knocked nearly \$75 billion off its market value through Friday."

Be smart: Meaningful action before the November midterm elections is unlikely. This will require due process — hearings, etc. But the past 10 days have brought a massive increase in Washington's appetite for confrontation with Silicon Valley.



2. Amid all this ...

"CNN Poll: 42% approve of Trump, highest in 11 months ... highest level since the 100-day mark."

- **Yes, but: "Trump's approval rating** remains below that of all of his modern-era predecessors at this stage in their first term."

"Wall Street's three major indexes jumped to their **greatest one-day gain in two-and-a-half years**, ... led by the tech sector, as trade war fears eased on reports that the United States and China were willing to renegotiate tariffs and trade imbalances." (*Reuters*)



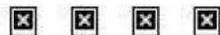
3. Trump expulsions leave Moscow stunned



Courtesy N.Y. Post

Synchronized expulsions ... "Trump ... expelled 60 Russian diplomats considered spies from the U.S., the most since 1986, demonstrating united resolve with Europe after the U.K. blamed Vladimir Putin's government for a March 4 nerve-agent attack on a former Russian spy living in England," Bloomberg reports:

- **"All told,** more than 100 Russian envoys will be sent home from capitals across Europe and North America."
- **Why it matters:** "The attack on the former spy ... and his daughter was so brazen that Trump probably had little choice but to agree to retaliation."



A MESSAGE FROM BANK OF AMERICA

3 tips for military spouses



Erica Tyree has successfully built a career at Bank of America while also raising two children with her Navy husband. [Read her advice](#) for balancing work and family.

4. Tweet du jour



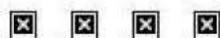
[@anton](#)



5. Happening today: lower-priced iPad?

Apple plans to announce a renewed emphasis on education at 11 a.m. ET today at a Chicago high school, likely with a lower-priced iPad and services tailored for students ranging from kindergarten through high school, [AP reports](#):

- **Why it matters:** Apple is trying to regain classroom ground lost to rivals Google and Microsoft during the past few years.
- **"Google has emerged** as the education leader in the U.S. market, thanks largely to laptop computers running on its Chrome software."
- **"Some ... Chromebooks** sell for \$200 to \$250 while the cheapest iPad currently costs \$329."



6. "He's more than a secretary of defense"



Courtesy The New York Times

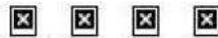
Cover story in next weekend's N.Y. Times Magazine ... "Can Jim Mattis Hold the Line in Trump's 'War Cabinet'? Dismissed as a warmonger during the Obama presidency, the defense secretary may be the only reliable voice of caution left in an administration inching closer to the brink," by Robert F. Worth:

- **Why he matters:** "A year into Trump's tenure, Mattis has become a quietly central figure in an administration of near-constant purges. He may be the lone cabinet member to have survived with his status and dignity intact, and in the process his

Pentagon — perhaps the one national institution that is still fully functional — has inherited an unusually powerful role in the shaping of American foreign policy."

- **"The removal** of Tillerson and the national security adviser, Gen. H.R. McMaster, has further reduced the core of the group once known as the 'committee to save America.'"

- ***Worthy of your time.***



7. New tech for human drivers

Self-driving cars get the headlines. But car and tech companies are rolling out new safety features for human drivers, including cameras that can read speed limit signs, and systems that slow cars ahead of curves and construction zones, AP's Tom Krisher [reports from Detroit](#):

- **"When a driver activates** a turn signal, an 8-inch screen behind the steering wheel on Hyundai's new Nexo hydrogen fuel cell vehicle shows everything on that side of the car."
- **"Mercedes' new S-Class cars** have advanced navigation and global mapping, and cameras that read speed limit signs. ... The system also recognizes upcoming construction zones, curves or roundabouts, and can slow the car ahead of when a driver would."
 - **"Volvo** has a similar system."
- **"Audi plans** to introduce a front-facing laser in the grille of the A8 sedan this fall as part of a limited self-driving system that takes control of the vehicle in freeway traffic jams below 37 miles per hour."
- **"[S]ome Audi A4** cars and Q7 SUVs in Las Vegas have been linked to traffic light computers. They get a dashboard countdown telling them when lights will change. This can prevent drivers from running lights."



8. Guns, Stormy bring new angst to GOP in suburbs

Lots of anger toward Trump in areas around Democratic cities, per WashPost:

- **"If Republicans want** to hold onto the House, they will have to compete in communities that had little to do with the working-class regions that sent Trump to the White House in 2016: affluent, white-collar suburbs of Democratic cities."
- **"Many of the most** competitive House seats this year are in the tony bedroom communities of Los Angeles, Chicago, Denver, Houston, Philadelphia, New York and Washington."

The Catch-22 for Republican candidates, per N.Y. Times' Jonathan Martin and Alex Burns:

- "If they stay faithful to Mr. Trump they risk incurring the wrath of many in the political center during the general election, likely dooming their campaigns. But if they disavow the president, they risk depressing turnout from their core Republican voters and watching their pool of volunteers evaporate overnight."



9. A worthy life



Linda Brown, 9, outside Sumner Elementary School in Topeka, Kan., in 1953 (Carl Iwasaki / LIFE Images Collection / Getty Images)

"Linda Brown, whose father objected when she was not allowed to attend an all-white school in her neighborhood and who thus came to symbolize one of the most transformative court proceedings in American history, the school desegregation case *Brown v. Board of Education*, died on Sunday in Topeka, Kan.," at 75, per N.Y. Times' Neil Genzlinger:

- **"It is Ms. Brown's father**, Oliver, whose name is attached to the famous case, although the suit that ended up in the United States Supreme Court actually represented a number of families in several states."
- **Why she matters:** "In 1954, in a unanimous decision, the court ruled that segregated schools were inherently unequal. The decision upended decades' worth of educational practice, in the South and elsewhere, and its ramifications are still being felt."



10. 1 sports thing



Courtesy Variety

Transforming ESPN from linear-TV kingpin to a direct-to-consumer digital outlet ... "Can a New President and Streaming Service Help ESPN Win Again?" [Variety cover story](#) by Brian Steinberg:

- "[T]he perfect storm brewing in Bristol these days is bigger than any that Disney's most valuable asset has ever faced. The network's newly installed president, Jimmy Pitaro, will be put to the test immediately in April with the launch of an app, ESPN+, that will charge fans a monthly fee for even more events coverage."
- "The app is a gambit aimed at securing the future for ESPN at a time when its present couldn't seem more precarious. Its core business — its cable networks — is expected to shed **14 million subscribers** between 2010 and the end of 2018."
- "With the four major pro sports leagues all featuring dedicated channels that provide a flood of content, it has turned its attention to luring aficionados of niche sports."

• *Tune in.*



Thanks for reading. See you all day in the [AXIOS stream](#) ...

RNC War Room

From: RNC War Room
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2018 6:38 AM
Subject: Politico Playbook 3/27/18

Note: “The [RNC], meanwhile, is spending around \$280,000 on a field operation to bolster Lesko. She’s running to replace former GOP Rep. Trent Franks, an eight-term congressman who resigned from his seat last year after reports that he pressed female aides to serve as a surrogate mother. Trump’s political team is also considering a range of options for getting involved in the race.” <https://politi.co/2uvtwD>

Playbook: Potential Shulkin replacements could face bruising battle

Politico Playbook

Jake Sherman, Anna Palmer & Daniel Lippman

March 27, 2018 – 6:27 AM

<https://www.politico.com/newsletters/playbook/2018/03/27/david-shulkin-va-replacements-259474>

DRIVING THE DAY

FIRST IN PLAYBOOK -- JAY SOLOMON, the former chief foreign correspondent for the Wall Street Journal who was fired last year for what the paper considered an unethical relationship with a source, is now a senior director in APCO Worldwide’s global solutions practice. He remains a visiting fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. **For more on the incident, here is an AP story** <http://bit.ly/2IXiDAo> ... **And here is an essay by Jay giving his version of the events** <http://bit.ly/2FSwUNv>

WHAT THE SENATE IS BUZZING ABOUT ... In the last few days, people close to **PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP** have signaled that **VA SECRETARY DAVID SHULKIN** might be on his way out. There are several names bouncing around – but Senate insiders are predicting a bruising confirmation battle for many of them. For example, Fox News personality Pete Hegseth would likely be a tough squeeze in the middle of an election year. And former Rep. Jeff Miller (R-Fla.) – the chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee before he retired – has lobbied the administration on behalf of the Qatari government, the Viettel Group – Vietnam’s major mobile company – and a host of veterans-related concerns.

... **SPEAKING OF CONFIRMATIONS**, Elana Schor and Burgess Everett: “The CIA is starting to share a bit of the covert past of Gina Haspel. But a lot more transparency may be required if the agency veteran is to become its next director.

“**Senators who hold the keys to her confirmation are asking the CIA** to provide more details on Haspel’s role in using brutal interrogation tactics against detainees during the George W. Bush administration. Those requests, made by Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) and three Democrats on the intelligence committee, have so far been met with silence by the nation’s spymasters.

“**And in a chamber divided 51-49, with Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.)** already opposed to Haspel, the degree that the agency tries to tackle McCain’s concerns could prove make-or-break for the nominee.” <https://politi.co/2Gadh1e>

politico: <https://politi.co/2Gz9xvo>

BIG NEWS ... BRENT GRIFFITHS and ANDREW RESTUCCIA: “Census to add controversial question on citizenship status”: “The 2020 U.S. Census will include a controversial question about citizenship status, the Commerce Department announced Monday night, a move that sparked outrage from Congressional Democrats, civil rights groups and liberal state attorneys general.

“A spokeswoman for California Attorney General Xavier Becerra said the state will be suing the administration immediately. Before the announcement, Becerra and California Secretary of State Alex Padilla wrote in an op-ed that including a citizenship question would be ‘illegal.’ ‘The Trump administration is threatening to derail the integrity of the census by seeking to add a question relating to citizenship to the 2020 census questionnaire,’ the pair wrote in an op-ed in the San Francisco Chronicle.

“‘Innocuous at first blush, its effect would be truly insidious. It would discourage noncitizens and their citizen family members from responding to the census, resulting in a less accurate population count.’ Eric Holder, who served as attorney general under President Barack Obama, also threatened to sue.” <https://politi.co/2Gu0Geu>

CNN: “Mark Zuckerberg won’t appear before UK lawmakers”: “Facebook said in a letter to lawmakers dated Monday that it would make two senior executives – but not Zuckerberg – available to testify in the UK after Easter.” <https://cnnmon.ie/2Gz9xvo>

-- **HEADS UP:** Zuck, this probably won't work in Washington. You'll probably need to come to at least one House and one Senate hearing.

A QUICK SMILE ... GEORGE W. BUSH dancing at his nephew Pierce Bush’s wedding <https://dailym.ai/2l9hV1x>

Good Tuesday morning. EDITOR’S NOTE FROM CARRIE BUDOFF BROWN on the new POLITICO homepage: “[W]e’re thrilled to unveil a new home page that is lighter, cleaner and better for showcasing the rich array of journalism we now produce. It reflects the more rounded news organization we are today: Scoops and fast-twitch reporting remain core to our DNA, but we know our readers also value high-impact investigations, must-read briefings, visual stories and infographics, video news packages and explainers, audio interviews and podcasts....”

“This latest refresh is an effort to better serve our core audience of die-hards. Among the ways the new POLITICO home page will do that: — Better mobile experience ... More flexible layout for desktop ... Quick Pops: Readers will discover that the latest developments and the buzziest items are easier to find. ... POLITICO Magazine: We’ll bring some of our best journalism to the top of your page and also provide a carousel of Magazine stories every day. — Highlighting more of our best stuff: ... There’s always more: You’ll always find the rest of the top headlines in The Feed. ... Better ad experience.” **Carrie’s full editor’s note**<https://politi.co/2lVqjtF> ... **Check out the new site** <https://politi.co/2Ge86yX>

THANKS BUT NO THANKS -- “2 more attorneys turn down Trump,” by Darren Samuelsohn: “A pair of veteran white collar lawyers have turned down President Donald Trump’s offer to help lead his defense in the Russia probe, marking another setback for a legal team that’s seen its numbers dwindle over the last week while it prepares for a potentially critical interview between the president and special counsel Robert Mueller.

“The law firm Winston & Strawn said Monday night that two of its partners — former federal prosecutors Tom Buchanan and Dan Webb — were approached by Trump but declined the job ‘due to business conflicts.’

“However they consider the opportunity to represent the president to be the highest honor and they sincerely regret that they cannot do so,” the law firm said. “They wish the president the best and believe he has excellent representation in Ty Cobb and Jay Sekulow.” <https://politi.co/2DX6kjX>

WAPO’S BOB COSTA: “Larry Kudlow asks Gary Cohn’s National Economic Council staff to stay on”: “It’s a terrific staff and I’ve asked everyone to stay on,” Kudlow said Monday in an interview with The Washington Post. “I’ve met with all of them and they’re great.” Kudlow praised Shahira Knight, the NEC’s deputy director for domestic policy, and Everett Eissenstat, who works on international issues, among others, as ‘truly talented.’ Additional hires are possible, Kudlow added, but he does not foresee major staff changes.” <https://wapo.st/2DXIAxf>

SCOOP – WHITE HOUSE DEPARTURE LOUNGE -- “Shulkin critic leaves White House to return to VA,” by Lorraine Woellert: “Darin Selnick, a White House adviser and a top critic of Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin, has left the Domestic Policy Council and will return to a post at the VA. Selnick announced the news on Friday in an email obtained by POLITICO. He will be replaced by Drew Trojanowski, a legislative aide to Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.). ...

“Selnick was pushed out of the agency last year after butting heads with Shulkin over privatization of veterans health services. At the White House, he began holding policy meetings without informing the VA secretary. Shulkin later told a confidant that moving Selnick out of the VA was his ‘biggest mistake’ because he did even more damage from the White House. <https://politi.co/2usMX2l>

MAGGIE HABERMAN SCOOP -- “Trump Talks of Bringing Back Rob Porter, Aide Accused of Spousal Abuse”: “President Trump has stayed in touch with Rob Porter, the former White House staff secretary who stepped down after allegations that he had abused his two former wives came to light, according to three people familiar with the conversations, and has told some advisers he hopes Mr. Porter returns to work in the West Wing.

“The president’s calls with Mr. Porter have increased in the last few weeks, as the number of people he is close to in the White House has dwindled because of the large number of staff departures, the people familiar with the calls said. In Mr. Trump’s orbit, few people are ever permanently exiled.

“He often sees aides who are subject to public criticism as extensions of himself, coming under fire because critics want to attack him, and he has described the Porter situation in those terms to some people, those briefed on the discussions said. The president has told the advisers he has talked with that he knows he probably cannot bring Mr. Porter back. But he has made clear that he misses the staff structure that Mr. Porter had helped build and implement ... Mr. Porter also served as a de facto deputy chief of staff for policy, playing a key role on issues like tariffs, and Mr. Trump spent as much as two hours a day with him.” <https://nyti.ms/2pJwORg>

ON STORMY ...

-- “‘Not in a punch-back mode’: Why Trump has been largely silent on Stormy Daniels,” by WaPo’s Ashley Parker, Phil Rucker and Josh Dawsey: “[P]rivately, the president has lobbed sharp attacks at Daniels and her media tour, calling her allegations a ‘hoax’ and asking confidants if the episode is hurting his poll numbers. The president even has griped to several people that Daniels is not the type of woman he finds attractive. Trump – who was among the estimated 22 million Americans who watched the Daniels interview that aired Sunday night – asked staff in the White House if they, too, had watched and wondered what they thought of it. The president

...dared claim in the White House that they, too, had watched and wondered what they brought on. The president said that he personally did not think Daniels appeared credible." <https://wapo.st/2lV2Xxx>

-- **"Trump Can't Stop Tweeting, but Goes Silent on Stormy Daniels,"** by NYT's Mike Shear and Maggie Haberman: "After 61 weeks in the White House, President Trump has found two people he won't attack on Twitter: Stormy Daniels and Karen McDougal. The verbose commander in chief has posted more than 2,900 times on Twitter since taking office ... But he has been uncharacteristically silent in recent days -- to the relief of his advisers -- as a pornographic film star and a Playboy model described intimate details of sexual encounters with Mr. Trump. ... Inside the White House, Mr. Trump is eager to defend himself against allegations that he insists are false, those close to him say. And he is growing increasingly frustrated with breathless, wall-to-wall news media coverage of the salacious details from the two women." <https://nyti.ms/2G9l2u9>

-- **"Stormy Daniels sues Trump lawyer, says he defamed her, broke campaign finance law,"** by NBC News' Sarah Fitzpatrick and Tracy Connor: "The amended complaint alleges that Trump and Cohen 'aggressively sought to silence Ms. Clifford as part of an effort to avoid her telling the truth, thus helping to ensure he won the Presidential Election.' It goes on to say, 'the Hush Agreement was entered with the illegal aim, design, and purpose of circumventing federal campaign finance law.'

"In essence, the suit argues that the agreement was meant to keep a lid on information that could damage Trump at the polls and thus functioned as an unreported in-kind campaign contribution way beyond the limit for individual donors. 'Defendants plainly intended to prevent American voters from hearing Plaintiff [Clifford] speak about Mr. Trump,' the suit says." <https://nbcnews.to/2uJLFT>

WALL STREET JOURNAL EDITORIAL -- "The Tale of Stormy Donald: His willful self-indulgence catches up to President Trump": "Every sentient voter in 2016 understood that Donald Trump had a bad history with women. He survived politically because his opponent had spent 20 years denying or apologizing for even worse behavior by her husband. But mistakes of character tend to catch up with everyone, and that's what is now happening with President Trump and his many women. ...

"It's impossible to predict how all of this will play out politically. Many Trump partisans will refuse to believe it or claim it's irrelevant. But our guess is that at the margin this contributes to a growing public belief that Mr. Trump's personal flaws are undermining his chances for a successful Presidency." <https://on.wsj.com/2GbOoUr>

THE BIG-PICTURE POLITICAL IMPACT ...

-- **NYT's ALEX BURNS and JONATHAN MARTIN:** "While Republicans have been bracing for months for a punishing election in November, they are increasingly alarmed that their losses may be even worse than feared because the midterm campaign appears destined to turn more on the behavior of the man in the White House than any other in decades.

"As much as gun control, immigration, the sweeping tax overhaul and other issues are mobilizing voters on the left and the right, the seamy sex allegations and Mr. Trump's erratic style could end up alienating crucial blocs of suburban voters and politically moderate women who might be drawn to some Republican policies but find the president's purported sex antics to be reprehensible." <https://nyti.ms/2GtdSQz>

-- **KARI LYDERSEN and MICHAEL SCHERER in WAPO:** "Control of the U.S. House will be decided in America's next political battleground of aboveground pools, bike trails, and oversized Tudor and Victorian houses full of working professionals like Karrie Sullivan, a Republican voter who cast her primary ballot last week for a Democrat

"In a suburb outside of Chicago, Sullivan is determined to replace her congressman, six-term Rep. Peter J. Roskam (R), whom she has supported in the past. His sin, she said, was his affiliation with President Trump. 'Just the lack of respect for women, the authoritarianism, it's too much,' said Sullivan, 47, a digital consultant. 'As a professional woman, it's very difficult for me to reconcile.' ... In Illinois' 6th Congressional District, 62,990 people voted Democratic last week for seven candidates, up from just 8,615 in the 2014 primary." <https://wapo.st/2pKwTUY>

THE INVESTIGATIONS ...

-- **"White House Probes Loans to Kushner's Business,"** by WSJ's Byron Tau and Erica Orden: "White House attorneys are examining whether two loans totaling more than \$500 million to Jared Kushner's family business may have violated any criminal laws or federal ethics regulations, according to a letter from a federal ethics agency made public Monday. The Office of Government Ethics told a Democratic lawmaker in the letter that the White House is probing whether a \$184 million loan from the real-estate arm of Apollo Global Management LLC and a \$325 million loan from Citigroup Inc. may have run afoul of the rules and laws governing the conduct of federal employees." <https://on.wsj.com/2G8d18t>

"GOP Fundraiser Sues Qatar Over Stolen Emails," by WSJ's Aruna Viswanatha and Rebecca Ballhaus: "Republican fundraiser Elliott Broidy sued Qatar on Monday, accusing the Middle East emirate of trying to discredit him by stealing and leaking emails that detailed his contacts with the Trump administration and Persian Gulf rival, the United Arab Emirates. ... According to Mr. Broidy's lawsuit, Qatar's representatives identified him as an impediment to their plan to improve the country's standing in Washington, and developed an effort to discredit him. The lawsuit is filed against the state of Qatar and one of the country's Washington-based lobbyists, Nick Muzin, of Stonington Strategies." <https://on.wsj.com/2DY0kY5>

-- **QATAR'S RESPONSE** – from Jassim Al-Thani, media attaché for the State of Qatar in Washington, D.C.: "Mr. Broidy's lawsuit is a transparent attempt to divert attention from U.S. media reports about his activities. His lawsuit is without merit or fact. It is Mr. Broidy, not Qatar, who orchestrated nefarious activities designed to influence Congress and American foreign policy. It does not matter how many venues Mr. Broidy publishes his false accusations in, they will not become truth."

DEPT. OF PUSHING BACK AGAINST THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION ...

-- **GINA McCARTHY and JANET McCABE** in the NYT, **"Scott Pruitt's Attack on Science Would Paralyze the E.P.A.":** "Scott Pruitt ... said in an interview published in The Daily Caller last week that he would no longer allow the agency to use studies that include nonpublic scientific data to develop rules to safeguard public health and prevent pollution. Opponents of the agency and of mainstream climate science call these studies 'secret science.' But that's simply not true. Peer review ensures that the analytic methodologies underlying studies funded by the agency are sound. Some of those studies, particularly those that determine the effects of exposure to chemicals and pollution on health, rely on medical records that by law are confidential because of patient privacy policies." <https://nyti.ms/2pHZPgX>

-- **"U.S. Experts Say Why Trump Should Support Iran Deal,"** by NYT's Rick Gladstone: "The Iran nuclear accord, assailed by President Trump and his revamped retinue of advisers, received a strong endorsement Monday from a bipartisan group of more than 100 national security veterans, who said the United States gains nothing by scrapping it. The group [includes] 50 retired military officers and at least four former American ambassadors to Israel. They included the determination by United Nations inspectors that the accord is

ambassadors to resign... They included the determination by United Nations inspectors that the accord is working; the importance of preserving close relations with major European allies, which all support the accord; and the possibility of reaching a nuclear agreement with North Korea, which might not negotiate if it believes that the United States abrogates international pledges." <https://nyti.ms/2pGUC8u>

NOW HIRING! -- WASHINGTON, INC.: "Facebook in Hiring Spree for Washington Lobbyists Amid Scandal," by Bloomberg's Naomi Nix, Billy House and Bill Allison: "As a chorus of calls mounts for answers about its data practices, Facebook is looking to hire at least 11 people for policy-related positions in Washington, according to its website. The company started hiring new lobbyists last fall after revelations Russians exploited its platform to help elect President Donald Trump.... Among the hires Facebook is seeking to make are privacy and public policy managers, a government outreach manager, associate general counsel positions, and a couple of policy managers to help draft positions on tech and video policy issues." <https://bloom.bg/2Gwxa7z>

BIZARRE STORY DU JOUR -- "The speaker is not resigning: Ryan's office dismisses GOP lawmaker's rumor," by WaPo's Paul Kane: "A backbench Republican sparked the latest round of speculation Monday about Speaker Paul D. Ryan's future by suggesting other GOP lawmakers were bracing for the Wisconsin Republican to resign from office this spring. The suggestion, offered as 'rumor mill' by Rep. Mark Amodei (R-Nev.), drew an immediate dismissal from Ryan's office.

"The speaker is not resigning,' AshLee Strong, Ryan's spokeswoman, said in a statement. Amodei is not particularly close to the speaker, who has a small inner circle of advisers and who makes decisions about his political future with an even smaller round of confidants and family. ...

"The rumor mill is that Paul Ryan is getting ready to resign in the next 30 to 60 days and that Steve Scalise will be the new Speaker,' Amodei said Monday on 'Nevada Newsmakers,' a weekly news show. Scalise, who was seriously injured when he was shot at a congressional baseball practice last June, currently serves as majority whip, the No. 3 post in leadership. House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) is Ryan's top deputy." <https://wapo.st/2pJIMLq>

-- **THERE ARE MANY REASONS** this riff from Amodei was a bit ridiculous, not least because it was predicated on the idea that Scalise would waltz into the speakership with Kevin McCarthy's OK.

2020 WATCH -- ISAAC DOVERE interviews **PETE BUTTIGIEG** in Topeka, Kansas in the latest "Off Message" podcast: "Pete Buttigieg's PAC is investing money here -- but also in Georgia, Arizona, Michigan and Colorado. And Iowa, per an announcement coming Tuesday. Next month, he'll campaign in Ohio.

"It's not happenstance. Nor is keeping on Lis Smith, the hard-charging political operative who makes sure he's constantly in the news. Or keeping up with Obama strategist David Axelrod, who recommended he hire Smith in the first place for the Democratic National Committee chair race that put him on Democrats' radar last year. Or quietly building relationships over dinners and drinks with big-name Democrats, or courting national reporters, or wooing donors for his PAC, or digging in on political advertising research.

"Buttigieg is getting closer to a presidential race. And serious people are telling the South Bend, Indiana mayor, who'd be the first major presidential candidate who's either openly gay or an Afghanistan veteran or a millennial, to take it seriously." <https://politi.co/2DXTNnf>

TRUMP'S TUESDAY -- The president will sign a proclamation for "Education and Sharing Day" this afternoon. He will then meet with Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin. In the evening, Trump will have dinner with supporters at

will then meet with Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin. In the evening, Trump will have dinner with supporters at a private residence in D.C.

PLAYBOOK POOL UPDATE -- DOWN TO FOUR: THE FINAL FOUR begins Friday in San Antonio, with matchups between Loyola-Chicago and Michigan, and Villanova and Kansas. Taras Stratelak of Rimforest, California, has a four-point lead over Chris Linsmayer of Denver. Rich Levesque, of Trenton, New Jersey, and Chad Kreikemeier of D.C. are in the hunt.

-- **ON OUR VIP BOARD:** Seema Mehta, political reporter for the Los Angeles Times leads the way, and Rachel Adler, a talent agent from CAA, and lobbyist Brian Ballard of Florida are close behind. Rep. Bill Pascrell (D-N.J.), Illinois Comptroller Susana Mendoza, and Republican attorney Charlie Spies are also near the top of the board— but Adler and Pascrell are among the many to have picked Virginia to win the championship, all but eliminating their chances of winning.

YOU'RE INVITED ... Join us for our first Playbook University in North Carolina with **GOV. ROY COOPER** on **THURSDAY** at Penn Pavilion at Duke University. Doors open at 11:45 a.m. **RSVP** <http://bit.ly/2lqsO09>

PLAYBOOK READS

ANOTHER SPECIAL ELECTION DISASTER FOR THE GOP? ... ELENA SCHNEIDER and ALEX ISENSTADT: “**GOP scrambles to avert another election dumpster fire**”: “Two weeks after the party’s stunning defeat in a conservative district in southwestern Pennsylvania, Republicans are funneling hundreds of thousands of dollars into Arizona’s 8th district, which President Donald Trump won by over 20 percentage points in 2016.

“**The [NRCC] on Monday launched a coordinated, \$170,000 TV buy** with the campaign of candidate Debbie Lesko, according to a source familiar with the purchase. The Congressional Leadership Fund, a deep-pocketed GOP super PAC, is planning to spend around \$100,000 on a phone and digital effort aimed at turning out conservative voters. Early voting starts on Wednesday.

“**The [RNC], meanwhile, is spending around \$280,000 on a field operation to bolster Lesko. She’s running to replace former GOP Rep. Trent Franks, an eight-term congressman who resigned from his seat last year after reports that he pressed female aides to serve as a surrogate mother. Trump’s political team is also considering a range of options for getting involved in the race.**” <https://politi.co/2uvetwD>

PLAYBOOK METRO SECTION -- “Suspicious Packages Found at Several Military Installations in D.C. Area” – NBC Washington: “The FBI is investigating suspicious packages with apparent explosive components at several U.S. military installations and intelligence facilities in the Washington, D.C., area Monday, a law enforcement official said. The National Defense University at Fort McNair in D.C. received a suspicious package about 8:30 a.m., and the building was evacuated.

“**The package tested positive for black powder, which can be used to make explosives ... An X-ray showed what appeared to be GPS and a fuse. ... Suspicious packages were sent to two sites at Fort Belvoir in Virginia Monday afternoon: The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency and another defense university. One contained liquid in a vial and a circuit board.**” <https://bit.ly/2pLAnFU>

MEDIAWATCH -- “Trump’s Publisher Pal Puts Saudi Propaganda Magazine in U.S. Supermarkets,” by the Daily Beast’s Spencer Ackerman: “A nearly 100-page magazine published by Donald Trump’s allies at American Media Inc. is providing a different kind of celebrity gossip than the American supermarket shopper is used to

media inc. is providing a different kind of celebrity gossip than the American supermarket shopper is used to seeing. It's selling America on a fellow Trump ally, Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. ...

“Greeting MBS on newsstands is a high-quality glossy advertisement for MBS, The New Kingdom. It retails for \$13.99, has no ads and its 200,000 copies can be found in venues ranging from U.S. airports to WalMart, Safeway and Kroger’s — raising questions about the magazine’s financing and its origins.” <https://thebea.st/2Gdb2A4>

JESSICA YELLIN, formerly of CNN, is publishing her first novel, per Page Six: “When asked if anyone at CNN or other networks had inspired Natalie Savage or her other characters, Yellin coyly explained, ‘I’ll just say this is a work of fiction.’ The book – which gives insight into how news networks operate and what life is like for a female reporter – is due for release next year. But given that it touches on many themes relevant to today, we only hope the publishers will decide to release it sooner.” <https://page.sx/2plnX1J>

REMEMBERING LINDA BROWN -- Topeka Capital-Journal’s Tim Hrenchir: “Linda Brown, who as a little girl in Topeka was at the center of the 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* Supreme Court decision that ended school segregation in the United States, has died at age 76. ... Linda Brown’s father, Oliver Brown, became the lead plaintiff in the *Brown v. Board* case after attempting to enroll her in 1951 in the all-white Sumner Elementary School near the family’s home in Topeka. He was rebuffed and told his daughter had to attend the all-black Monroe School, about two miles from their home. The Topeka school district maintained 18 elementary schools for white children and four for black children.” <https://bit.ly/2pFzCzk>

PLAYBOOKERS

BIRTHDAY OF THE DAY: MSNBC correspondent **Jacob Soboroff** is 35. **How he got his start in TV:** “I was an advance guy for Mayor Bloomberg when in college at NYU. That job gave me the tools to do what I do today: listen to people and soak up every last piece of information possible and, then, turn around and share it with the ‘boss.’ Then, the ‘boss’ was Mike Bloomberg. Today, it’s our viewers. That was my start. My first real job in television was at AMC right around the time that ‘Mad Men’ started, and I was doing red carpet interviews at movie premieres. It turns out that trying to wrangle super famous people – who don’t want to talk with you – was the best training I could have ever gotten for chasing down politicians on the floor of the 2016 conventions.” **Read his Playbook Plus Q&A:** <https://politi.co/2GaonsJ>

BIRTHDAYS: Brad Rateike, director of cabinet comms at the White House (hat tips: Lindsay Walters and Judd Deere) ... Joel Johnson, a managing director at Glover Park Group ... Natalie Buchanan, member services and coalition director for House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) ... Sally Kohn, author of “The Opposite of Hate: A Field Guide to Repairing Our Humanity” ... Peter Wallace, senior managing director at Blackstone, is 43 ... Steve Atkiss, Bush 43 CBP chief of staff and deputy director of White House advance (h/t Ed Cash) ... Meredith Artley, editor in chief and SVP of CNN Digital worldwide ... Rachel Semmel, director of media relations at District Media Group ... Frank Sadler ... Liz Johnson, assistant director of public affairs at ICE (h/ts Brianna Puccini and Jeff Grappone) ... former Rep. Susan Molinari (R-N.Y.), who is now at Google (h/t Mistique Cano) ... Alberto Martinez, EVP for public affairs of Targeted Victory and former COS for Sen. Rubio (h/t Zac Moffatt) ... Politico’s Stephanie Beasley and Alexandra Glorioso ... Rep. Tom Garrett (R-Va.) is 46 ... Jonathan Beam is 32 ... Billy Moore, partner at Vianovo ... Ilya Aspis ... Caren Street ... David Mitrani ... William Fine ...

... **Niki Christoff**, SVP for strategy and gov’t relations at Salesforce, celebrating in Paris (h/t Tammy Haddad) ... Mark Bergman is 36 ... Lauren Dikis, Cory Booker’s finance director ... Politico alum Elizabeth Kaplan ... Morgan Manousos, journalist at “Inside Edition” ...Edelman’s Erin Schuille ... Katie Johnson, former OMB lawyer and personal secretary for President Obama ... Laura Driscoll of Sen. Gillibrand’s office (h/ts David Molina and

personal secretary for President Obama ... Laura Brogan of Sen. Camarillo's office (wife David Howell and Mallory Howe) ... Quentin Aries ... J.B. Jennings, minority leader of the Maryland State Senate ... Vlad Gutman ... Mac Schneider ... Alex Aragon ... Anne Marie Gunther ... Allison Bumgardner ... Bush alum Betsy Martin ... John Pomfret is 59 ... Wilma Vilmain ... Liz Martinez Baldick ... Scott Giles ... Sean Kelly ... Rachel Shapiro, state/local media manager for the Manhattan Institute ... Julie Hendricks-Atkins ... Sarah Fenn ... Butch Ekstrom ... Tam Jetter Sonnen ... Gina McClemon Twining ... Lane Bailey, CEO at Advocom Group.

Disclaimer: The Republican National Committee provided the above article as a service to its employees and other selected individuals. Any opinions expressed therein are those of the article's author and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the RNC.

RNC War Room

From: RNC War Room
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2018 8:49 AM
Subject: Mornings With Maria Bartiromo (FBN) – Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross Interview

Mornings With Maria Bartiromo (FBN) – Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross Interview

<http://mms.tveyes.com/transcript.asp?StationID=2025&DateTime=3/27/2018%208:34:47%20AM&playclip=true>

MARIA BARTIROMO: joining me now, commerce secretary wilbur ross. thank you for joining us.

COMMERCE SECRETARY WILBUR ROSS: good to be here, maria.

BARTIROMO: the south korea deal, why was this important?

SECRETARY ROSS: i think it is important for several reasons are the agricultural community has concerns that we might disrupt their relationships with south korea. other parts of the community have other worries and some people thought it meant that we might be for sticking them in a time of war. none of that is true. the real key is it is a peaceful deal, negotiated deal that works through both sides, that accomplishes our purpose about reducing the steel and aluminum exports to us. 30% is a big reduction and it's about what we would have accomplished with the terex had the tariffs instead gone on.

BARTIROMO: is that the templates for what we should expect in terms of having this quota backend?

SECRETARY ROSS: each is in a different situation. we are ending up with reasonable negotiated deals, not warfare. we are prepared to go into as extreme in action as is needed. hopefully people will be illogical and negotiated deal.

BARTIROMO: most people understood what you were doing with china because china stealing their intellectual property and they are transferring technology from america to china. very difficult to really gain a true foothold in china. how long has the u.s. and china been negotiating getting better deals together?

SECRETARY ROSS: you could say forever. the important is things like steel, aluminum and autos, that is today. intellectual property rights, that's her future. we need to deal with those. we need to protect today's businesses and we need to deal with the future.

BARTIROMO: evatt chartier from the american institute, which shows what china is trying to do in looking at growing its market share, surpassing the united states to renovation. here's the chart whether it be new energy vehicles for high-tech ship components. industrial robots, high-performance medical devices. these are all the industries that tomorrow in china's transferring technology to try to beat that.

SECRETARY ROSS: that is absolutely the case. if they do it fair and square, that's a reasonable thing. our objection is to illegitimate, inappropriate processes.

BARTIROMO: let me ask you about the difference between what the president talked about slapping tariffs on

BARTIROMO: let me ask you about the difference between what the president talked about clapping hands on \$60 billion in imports versus what china said and they are going to do tariffs on \$3 billion in products.

SECRETARY ROSS: well, i think china knows they don't want to have a trade war with us. so i think it is a very moderated response, probably an appropriate response from their point of view. what they've done with the 3 billion is targeted politically sensitive targets.

BARTIROMO: you know, it is not just the economic part of it, but also the national security part of it. another think china is doing is buying infrastructure in countries all over the world to get a foothold that their sea level and setting military bases there. is that right?

SECRETARY ROSS: that is right. that is going on in many countries all around the world. that is not a problem we are dealing with with the intellectual property rights. it is very focused on force technology transfers, force partnerships, cybersecurity, that kind of activity that impinges on our intellectual property.

BARTIROMO: 10 industries that are deemed off-limits to foreigners like defense, financial services, and that you can own more than 49% of the joint venture. as joint venture. is that what you'd like to see in the u.s.? will you put it off limits?

SECRETARY ROSS: you will see when they announce it's not my practice to get ahead of the president and what he announces. as you know, in defeat, the entity that regulates foreign investment has new legislation pending, both in the house and in the senate geared so that will be part of it and then some other action by the president will be the other part of it.

BARTIROMO: what you mean action by the president?

SECRETARY ROSS: he's going to be making some announcements.

BARTIROMO: and most people hear about the situation they hear the china part of it and they have implemented for a long time with regard to closing of the economy, but they are questioning your moves on aluminum is deal. i know you have incredible experience in this industry having been a steel executive yourself for many years. but wilbur, did you make a mistake by coming out with the aluminum and steel trade tariffs first before the china action?

SECRETARY ROSS: i don't think so because they cover different things. as i said, the chinese intellectual property rights activity is designed to protect the future. deal, aluminum, autos are designed to protect the president. look at the korea deal. i think in general the way people should judge this president is by what he achieves, not by what they fear he might not be able to do. that is a very, very hard thing because the economy couldn't grow more than 1.5% or 2%. while it is. they said they'd never get a big tax bill through. well, he did. he said we would blow up the world if we put tariffs on korea. well, guess what, we made a deal with korea. people have to judge by results, not fantasies.

BARTIROMO: but are you expecting, for example, 25% tears coming out of the european union?

SECRETARY ROSS: well, we are in discussions with the european union. i think you know i announced last week to joint communiques, one with the german trade minister, one subsequently with ms. noll stram, the ec trade commissioner. we are making some progress. we don't have a deal yet. we have a long ways to go. but it is much more constructive dialogue than we've ever had before.

BARTIROMO: i guess you would imagine some of these countries will be hard to give up a \$70 billion trade surplus with the u.s. which is what jermaine has right now?

SECRETARY ROSS: germany is a major beneficiary of the trade situation

BARTIROMO: is that sort of dent in the water until after the mexican election, secretary?

SECRETARY ROSS: now, i think ambassador lighthizer has done that could be put together. the political calendar is very tricky they are because they have their presidential election beginning of july. canada in june. our trade promotion authority in the u.s. runs out in july. and then of course we have the midterm elections here in november. they are very far into this year. the political calendar makes it very hard for some and as big and as complex as nafta to get done.

BARTIROMO: so it liked the lefty went in mexico. what happens then? you have a plan b?

SECRETARY ROSS: you do have this matter to deal with between the two countries. they do have the other matter to deal with. they have a huge trade surplus with us. since nafta was enacted, cumulative trade deficit with mexico is \$1 trillion with a tee. that is a big number.

BARTIROMO: it sure is. which is that the finance minister of saudi arabia in the studio. obviously, what can you tell us about potential for growing economic ties between the u.s. and saudi?

SECRETARY ROSS: 40% of dollars of saudi is around 11 and dependent on us for their import and they are depending about 11% on us for export. it's a very important relationship to say nothing of the geo-relationship with this between saudi and u.s.

BARTIROMO: it certainly seems that the relationship is strengthening for the commerce department you are going to be bringing back the citizenship questions for the 2020 census. you're going to scare people away, basically having people scare to participate. they will impede the accurate count. california's attorney general is planning to sue the united states government over the move. what you say? why is this important?

SECRETARY ROSS: the request was made by the department of justice quite a few months ago and since then we have been studying the problematic, economic and all the other factors related to the question. justice department feels they need it so that they can enforce section two of the voting rights act, which protects minority voters. that is the genesis of the request for adding this question back in.

BARTIROMO: do you think you learn anything more or do people get afraid and not even participate?

SECRETARY ROSS: there were people who are afraid and don't participate right now. the question is whether that will change and if so, to what degree it will change. we have heard from people on all sides of the equation. we've done elaborate analyses within the census department and we've concluded that the benefits to the voting rights act enforcement of asking the question outweighs these other issues.

BARTIROMO: all right, we will leave it there. always great to see you.

SECRETARY ROSS: thank you.

Disclaimer: The Republican National Committee provided the above article as a service to its employees and

Disclaimer: The Republican National Committee provided the above article as a service to its employees and other selected individuals. Any opinions expressed therein are those of the article's author and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the RNC.

Hulse, Elliott Y. EOP/WHO

From: Hulse, Elliott Y. EOP/WHO
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2018 8:50 AM
To: Hulse, Elliott Y. EOP/WHO
Subject: Press/Communications Morning Briefing

Press/Communications Morning Briefing

Top News Stories Of The Day

Top Political News

The Washington Post: [Trump administration expels 60 Russian officers, shuts Seattle consulate in response to attack on former spy in Britain](#)

The Washington Times: [Trump on pace for record low number of refugees](#)

The Wall Street Journal: [Global Stocks Climb as Trade Fears Ease](#)

Reuters: [U.S. to add citizenship question in 2020 Census: Commerce Dept](#)

Washington Examiner: [FCC wants Chinese tech out of US phones, routers](#)

[@realDonaldTrump tweets as of 8:30AM](#)

N/A

Events On The Lookout

POTUS

9:00AM In-Town Travel Pool Call Time

11:00AM THE PRESIDENT receives his intelligence briefing *Oval Office Closed Press*

1:45PM THE PRESIDENT signs a proclamation for Education and Sharing Day, U.S.A. *Oval Office Closed Press*

2:15PM THE PRESIDENT meets with the Secretary of the Treasury *Oval Office Closed Press*

7:05PM THE PRESIDENT departs the White House en route to a private residence *South Portico In-Town Travel Pool*

7:25PM THE PRESIDENT arrives at a private residence for dinner with supporters *Private Residence In-Town Travel Pool*

7:30PM THE PRESIDENT has dinner with supporters *Private Residence In-Town Travel Pool*

8:35PM THE PRESIDENT departs the private residence en route to the White House *Private Residence In-Town Travel Pool*

8:55PM THE PRESIDENT arrives at the White House *South Portico In-Town Travel Pool*

VPOTUS

EDT

9:30AM THE VICE PRESIDENT departs Washington, DC on Air Force Two en route to Fargo, North Dakota *Joint Base Andrews Closed Press*

CDT

11:20AM THE VICE PRESIDENT arrives in Fargo, North Dakota on Air Force Two *Hector International Airport Pre-Credentialed Press*

1:05PM THE VICE PRESIDENT participates in a political reception for Representative Kevin Cramer (R-ND) *Radisson Hotel Fargo Closed Press*

2:35PM THE VICE PRESIDENT delivers keynote remarks at an America First Policies "Tax Cuts to Put America First" event *Delta Hotels by Marriott Fargo Pre-Credentialed Press*

4:15PM THE VICE PRESIDENT departs Fargo, ND on Air Force Two en route to Minneapolis, MN *Hector International Airport Closed Press*

5:15PM THE VICE PRESIDENT arrives in Minneapolis, MN on Air Force Two *Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Airport Pre-Credentialed Press*

7:00PM THE VICE PRESIDENT participates in a Great America Committee, Protect the House event *Metropolitan Ballroom Closed Press*

White House

2:00PM Press Briefing with Press Secretary Sarah Sanders *White House Briefing Room On Camera*

Cabinet

VA Sec. Shulkin speaks at the Delaware Veterans' Summit, open press.

DOE Sec. Perry tours DOE's Sandia National Laboratory and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in California.

DOEd Sec. DeVos attends reception at Smithsonian Air & Space Museum.

DOL Sec. Acosta travels to Montreal, Canada to attend the G-7 Ministerial.

DOT Sec. Chao participates at the US-China Education Trust 20th Anniversary. Sec. Chao participates in fireside chat with Wilson Center's Presidentially-Appointed Board and Global Advisory Council. Sec. Chao participates in tour of Verizon Innovation and Technology Policy Center and roundtable discussion.

DHS Sec. Nielsen travels to Mexico for meeting with her counterparts.

EPA Ad. Pruitt tours Blue Diamond almond plant in Modesto, CA.

HUD Sec. Carson tours a TBD drug recovery center near Minneapolis, MD (may be moved to the Mar. 28).

HHS Sec. Azar visits Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

SBA Ad. McMahon attends Kansas Ignite Small Business Tour, Open Press.

USUN Amb. Haley attends UN Security Council briefings on humanitarian situation in Syria and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Morning News Update

Morning Cable Summary

CNN

Show opens with reporting on Russian diplomats being expelled, representing "13% of Russia's diplomats in the US." Cuomo notes that this is an unusually strong step, with Sanger stating that "it is difficult to make the argument that Trump has not gotten tough on Putin." Sanger continues: "this is a tougher move than Obama took when he expelled the diplomats after the election issues." Avlon believes that "the Trump team deserves credit for this," deeming it a "tough action." Cuomo notes POTUS' approval is now at 42%, "mainly because of the economy," to which Avlon remarks: "you do have to give him credit though, that is a decisive uptick in the past month." Pivot to reporting on Stormy Daniels, panel discusses 60 Minutes coverage and ratings. Camerota notes Avenatti is suing Cohen for defamation. Cuomo believes this lawsuit is "helping the President," and that "he is coming off as a hype man" that "is promising things that he doesn't deliver."

MSNBC

Show opens with discussion of Stormy Daniels and POTUS' legal team shakeups. Joe reports that DiGenova was not hired due to "personal differences." Panel discusses the difficulty of representing POTUS, as a lawyer or as a staffer. Panel wonders if and when POTUS will attack Stormy Daniels. Pivot to Congress, panel discusses Costello not running for re-election, and the prospects of Speaker Ryan resigning. Joe pleads for Corker and Flake to "step up and protect the Republic," bemoaning Republicans lack of "courage."

CONFIRMED BOOKINGS AS OF 7:00AM

TV:

6:15AM FNC Fox and Friends: Michael Anton

8:30AM FBN Mornings with Maria: Secretary Ross

11:00AM CNN At This Hour: Michael Anton

Radio:

7:05AM NPR's Morning Edition: Michael Anton

8:05AM Morning Briefing w/Tim Farley: Secretary Perdue

12:35PM Todd Starnes Show: Hogan Gidley

1:30PM WTOP DC (JJ Green) TAPED: Michael Anton

2:00PM Selena Zito (SiriusXM POTUS) TAPED: Kellyanne Conway

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2018 11:29 AM
To: Wood, Jacob A. EOP/OMB
Cc: Shah, Raj S. EOP/WHO; O'Malley, Devin (OPA)
Subject: Re: census

Good here

On Mar 27, 2018, at 11:26 AM, Wood, Jacob A. EOP/OMB <(b) (6)> wrote:

Looks good here.

From: Shah, Raj S. EOP/WHO
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2018 11:25 AM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov>
Cc: O'Malley, Devin (OPA) <Devin.O'Malley@usdoj.gov>; Wood, Jacob A. EOP/OMB <(b) (6)>
Subject: RE: census

How's the below? +Jacob Wood at OMB



From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) [<mailto:Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2018 11:21 AM
To: Shah, Raj S. EOP/WHO <Raj.S.Shah@who.eop.gov>
Cc: O'Malley, Devin (OPA) <Devin.O'Malley@usdoj.gov>
Subject: census

Letter that explains VRA interest from DOJ:
><https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/4340651-Text-of-Dec-2017-DOJ-letter-to-Census.html>

[Census.numm](#)

Our TP: (b) (5)

(b) (5)

+Devin in case he has other good talking points for you on this

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs
202.305.5808

O'Malley, Devin (OPA)

From: O'Malley, Devin (OPA)
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2018 11:41 AM
To: Shah, Raj S. EOP/WHO; Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Cc: Wood, Jacob A. EOP/OMB
Subject: RE: census

We may be tweaking our statement, which would affect your TPs. I'll send some edits back ASAP.

Devin M. O'Malley
Department of Justice
Office of Public Affairs
Office: (202) 353-8763
Cell: (b) (6)

From: Shah, Raj S. EOP/WHO <Raj.S.Shah@who.eop.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2018 11:25 AM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Cc: O'Malley, Devin (OPA) <domalley@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Wood, Jacob A. EOP/OMB
<(b) (6)>
Subject: RE: census

Duplicative

O'Malley, Devin (OPA)

From: O'Malley, Devin (OPA)
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2018 12:32 PM
To: Shah, Raj S. EOP/WHO; Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Cc: Wood, Jacob A. EOP/OMB
Subject: RE: census

Here is our slightly modified statement, which further clarifies the historical context of this request:

“Since 1965, every Census, with the exception of the one administered in 2010, has contained a citizenship question used by the Department of Justice to protect voters against racial discrimination. The Census Bureau continues to ask a citizenship question, but in recent years has moved that question to the American Community Survey, which—as the Census Bureau itself has recognized—is not the most appropriate data to use as a basis for redistricting. The Justice Department looks forward to defending the reinstatement of the citizenship question, which will allow the Department to protect the right to vote and ensure free and fair elections for all Americans.”

Devin M. O'Malley
Department of Justice
Office of Public Affairs
Office: (202) 353-8763
Cell: (b) (6)

Duplicative

RNC War Room

From: RNC War Room
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2018 1:28 PM
Subject: NTK Network: FLASHBACK: Bill Clinton's Census Asked About Citizenship

FLASHBACK: Bill Clinton's Census Asked About Citizenship

NTK Network

March 27, 2018 – 1:11 PM

<https://ntknetwork.com/flashback-bill-clintons-census-asked-about-citizenship/>

The long form Census questionnaire included questions about citizenship.

The Department of Commerce announced that it would include a question about citizenship status on the 2020 U.S. Census, which sparked outrage among Democrats on Tuesday.

However, Former President Bill Clinton's Department of Commerce asked about citizenship in their 2000 census.

Democratic National Committee (DNC) Chair Tom Perez said that asking a citizenship question on the census was "a craven attack on our democracy and a transparent attempt to intimidate immigrant communities." House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) said the decision violated the Constitution.

However, the [2000 U.S. Census](#) long-form questionnaire, which went out to an ["average of one in six households,"](#) included questions about citizenship.

13 Is this person a CITIZEN of the United States?

- Yes, born in the United States → *Skip to 15a*
- Yes, born in Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, or Northern Marianas
- Yes, born abroad of American parent or parents
- Yes, a U.S. citizen by naturalization
- No, not a citizen of the United States

14 When did this person come to live in the United States? Print numbers in boxes.

Year

15 a. Did this person live in this house or apartment 5 years ago (on April 1, 1995)?

- Person is under 5 years old → *Skip to 33*
- Yes, this house → *Skip to 16*
- No, outside the United States — *Print name of foreign country, or Puerto Rico, Guam, etc., below; then skip to 16.*

- No, different house in the United States

Where was the Democrats' outrage in 2000 over questions about citizenship?

Disclaimer: The Republican National Committee provided the above article as a service to its employees and other selected individuals. Any opinions expressed therein are those of the article's author and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the RNC.

13 Is this person a **CITIZEN** of the United States?

- Yes, born in the United States → *Skip to 15a*
- Yes, born in Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, or Northern Marianas
- Yes, born abroad of American parent or parents
- Yes, a U.S. citizen by naturalization
- No, not a citizen of the United States

14 When did this person come to live in the United States? *Print numbers in boxes.*

Year

--	--	--	--

15 a. Did this person live in this house or apartment 5 years ago (on April 1, 1995)?

- Person is under 5 years old → *Skip to 33*
- Yes, this house → *Skip to 16*
- No, outside the United States — *Print name of foreign country, or Puerto Rico, Guam, etc., below; then skip to 16.*

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

- No, different house in the United States

Kupec, Kerri (JMD)

From: Kupec, Kerri (JMD)
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2018 2:04 PM
To: Gibson, Jake
Subject: Since FOX is covering the census/citizenship latest - do you have our quote?

“Since 1965, every Census, with the exception of the one administered in 2010, has contained a citizenship question used by the Department of Justice to protect voters against racial discrimination. The Census Bureau continues to ask a citizenship question, but in recent years has moved that question to the American Community Survey, which—as the Census Bureau itself has recognized—is not the most appropriate data to use as a basis for redistricting. The Justice Department looks forward to defending the reinstatement of the citizenship question, which will allow the Department to protect the right to vote and ensure free and fair elections for all Americans.”

Attributable to me – thanks!

Kerri Kupec
U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Public Affairs
kerri.kupec@usdoj.gov
202.353.6836 (office)
(b) (6) (cell)

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2018 4:01 PM
To: Gidley, Hogan H. EOP/WHO
Cc: Miller, Stephen EOP/WHO
Subject: RE: Census question, Wilbur Ross

(b) (5)

xxx

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs
202.305.5808

From: Gidley, Hogan H. EOP/WHO <Hogan.Gidley@who.eop.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2018 3:45 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Cc: Miller, Stephen EOP/WHO <Stephen.Miller@who.eop.gov>
Subject: RE: Census question, Wilbur Ross

(b) (5)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) [<mailto:Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2018 3:42 PM
To: Gidley, Hogan H. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)>
Cc: Miller, Stephen EOP/WHO <(b) (6)>
Subject: Re: Census question, Wilbur Ross

(b) (5)

On Mar 27, 2018, at 3:40 PM, Gidley, Hogan H. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)> wrote:

Any guidance here?

From: Rucker, Philip [<mailto:Philip.Rucker@washpost.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2018 3:34 PM
To: Gidley, Hogan H. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)>; Shah, Raj S. EOP/WHO <Raj.S.Shah@who.eop.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Census question, Wilbur Ross

Hey there,

We're hearing that Secretary Wilbur Ross was not enthusiastic about adding the citizenship question to the 2020 Census but that he caved under pressure from Attorney General Sessions and President Trump. Is that true? Do you have any other guidance on this?

Thanks,
Phil

Philip Rucker
The Washington Post
White House Bureau Chief
202-334-5916 (work)
(b) (6) cell
philip.rucker@washpost.com
Twitter @PhilipRucker

RNC War Room

From: RNC War Room
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2018 6:18 AM
Subject: Axios AM 3/28/18

 Axios

[View in browser](#)



PRESENTED BY BANK OF AMERICA

Axios AM

By Mike Allen · Mar 28, 2018

? **Good Wednesday morning! *Situational awareness:*** President Trump scores a win with first revamp of a U.S. trade deal, reaching an agreement with South Korea that would allow American automakers greater access to that country's markets. (*Bloomberg*)

1 big thing ... Inside the room: Trump hates Amazon, not Facebook



Marine One approaches the White House carrying President Trump on Sunday, after a weekend in Florida. (Zach Gibson / Getty Images)

Capitol Hill wants Facebook's blood. But President Trump isn't interested.

- **Instead**, Axios' Jonathan Swan reports, the tech behemoth Trump wants to go after is **Amazon**, according to five sources who've discussed it with him.

- **"He's obsessed with Amazon,"** a source said. "Obsessed."

What we're hearing: Trump has talked about changing Amazon's tax treatment because he's worried about mom-and-pop retailers being put out of business.

- **A source** who's spoken to POTUS: "He's wondered aloud if there may be any way to go after Amazon with antitrust or competition law."
- **Trump's deep-seated** antipathy toward Amazon surfaces when discussing tax policy and antitrust cases. The president would love to clip CEO Jeff Bezos' wings. But he doesn't have a plan to make that happen.

Behind the president's thinking: Trump's wealthy friends tell him Amazon is destroying their businesses. His real estate buddies tell him — and he agrees — that Amazon is killing shopping malls and brick-and-mortar retailers.

- **Trump tells people** Amazon has gotten a free ride from taxpayers and cushy treatment from the U.S. Postal Service.

- **“The whole post office thing**, that’s very much a perception he has,” another source said. “It’s been explained to him in multiple meetings that his perception is inaccurate and that the post office actually makes a ton of money from Amazon.”
- **Axios’ Ina Fried notes:** The post office actually added delivery on Sunday in some cities because Amazon made it worthwhile.
 - **Trump also pays** close attention to the Amazon founder’s ownership of The Washington Post, which the president views as Bezos’ political weapon.

Trump never talks about Mark Zuckerberg or Facebook: He isn’t tuned in to the debate over how they handle people’s data, and thinks the Russia story is a hoax, sources say.

- **Axios’ Kim Hart** points out: Trump has said he doesn’t mind Facebook because it helps him reach his audience. He’s an old-school businessman who sees the world in terms of tangible assets: real estate, physical mail delivery, Main Street, grocery stores. It reminds me of the story Jim wrote about Trump’s fixation with 1950s life. Amazon takes direct aim at some of the core components of mid-century business.

One warning sign for Facebook: Vice President Mike Pence is concerned about Facebook and Google, according to a source with direct knowledge.

- **Though Pence** isn’t yet pushing internally for any specific regulations, he argues these companies are dangerously powerful.
- **The source said** the V.P. worries about their influence on media coverage, as well as their control of the advertising industry and users’ personal info.
- **When private discussions** have turned to the idea of busting Facebook and Google, Pence has listened with keen interest and is **open to the suggestion that these two companies need shaking up.**



2. Trump’s land of make-believe

President Trump often gets agitated — and stirred to action — by random things he hears on TV or from shoot-the-bull conversations with

friends.

It drives staff nuts because they are responding to things that are either inaccurate, highly distorted or flat-out don't exist.

- **Exhibit 1:** The post office example from item above
- **Exhibit 2:** "Per two senior administration officials, Trump continued to rail privately about the omnibus bill, and has become convinced of things that aren't true about it," the N.Y. Times' Maggie Haberman tweeted yesterday.
- **Exhibit 3:** Trump officials like Gary Cohn who favor free trade have felt like "Groundhog Day" trying to explain trade deficits to him.
- **Exhibit 4:** Trump's conviction that the Paris climate deal is "killing" the U.S., when in reality it's a voluntary and pretty toothless agreement.



3. Who's gonna pay for the wall? Surprise!

In a meeting last Wednesday in the White House residence, President Trump told Speaker Ryan that the U.S. military should pay for his border wall, the WashPost's Josh Dawsey and Mike DeBonis report:

- **"Ryan offered** little reaction to the idea ... [S]enior Capitol Hill officials later said it was an unlikely prospect."
- **"Trump has told advisers** that he was spurned in a large spending bill last week when lawmakers appropriated only \$1.6 billion for the border wall."
- **"He has suggested** to Defense Secretary Jim Mattis ... that the Pentagon could fund the sprawling project, citing a 'national security' risk."

Be smart: Trump has to think of *something*. Some top alumni of his campaign think that the wall was such a centerpiece promise, it's the one issue the base might desert over. So Trump has to come up with some plausible "wall" by 2020.



A MESSAGE FROM BANK OF AMERICA

For military families, relocating is a challenge



Every few years they may need to say goodbye to friends, classmates and colleagues—sometimes on very short notice. Learn how Bank of America supports military families during these transitions.

4. Stunning pic



Ammar Al Bushy / Anadolu Agency / Getty Images

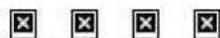
Drone footage from Syria shows the wreckage of the town of Arbin, which has been under siege by the Assad regime, just half an hour outside the capital of Damascus, which is believed to be the world's oldest continuously inhabited city.



5. Dems fear immigrants will skip 2020 census

"**At least 12 states signaled** ... that they would sue to block the Trump administration from adding a question about citizenship to the 2020 census, arguing that the change would cause fewer Americans to be counted and violate the Constitution," the N.Y. Times reports:

- **Why it matters:** The question could discourage immigrant participation.
- **"The Constitution requires** that every resident of the United States be counted in a decennial census, whether or not they are citizens."
- **"The results** are used not just to redraw political boundaries from school boards to House seats, but to allocate hundreds of billions of dollars in federal grants and subsidies."
- **The 12 states:** "The New York State attorney general, Eric T. Schneiderman, said he was leading a multistate lawsuit to stop the move, and officials in Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Washington said they would join the effort. The State of California filed a separate lawsuit."



6. Exodus of U.S. tech workers to Canada



Illustration: Rebecca Zisser / Axios

Tech companies in and around Toronto have seen a surge in international job applications over the last year, by far mostly from the U.S., according to a survey by the tech hub MaRS, Axios future editor Steve LeVine writes:

- **The number doubled** and tripled in some of the companies, the result of a deliberate Canadian campaign to attract tech workers from the U.S. and around the world.
- **Why it matters:** The spike in applications and hiring adds to the evidence suggesting that Trump's immigration crackdown is resulting in a loss of tech workers to Canada.



7. A stealthy visit

—



North Korean leader Kim Jong-un (left) and Chinese President Xi Jinping, in Beijing (Ju Peng / Xinhua via AP)

After days of speculation, North Korea's leader Kim Jong-un paid a visit to Beijing, arriving by train, both governments confirm. [BBC](#):

- **The visit** was Kim's first known foreign trip since taking office in 2011.
- **Kim is due** to meet South Korean President Moon Jae-in in April and Trump in May.
- **Why it matters:** "The Beijing visit is considered a significant step in North Korea's preparation for the proposed talks."
- **"During the visit**, Mr. Kim assured his Chinese counterpart he was committed to giving up his nuclear weapons ... but with conditions."

P.S. "North Korea Is Firing Up a Reactor. Why That Could Upset

Trump's Talks With Kim," per N.Y. Times:

- **A satellite image** "shows a new North Korean reactor that appears to be coming online now, after years of construction."
- **Why it matters:** "North Korea insists the reactor is intended to produce electricity for civilian use. But the new reactor can also make plutonium, one of the main fuels used in nuclear arms."
- **"It sits** in the Yongbyon nuclear complex [with] **hundreds of buildings.**"



Kim Jong-un and his wife Ri Sol-ju (left pair) pose at the Great Hall of the People, in Beijing, with Xi Jinping and his wife, Peng Liyuan (right pair) (Ju Peng / Xinhua via AP)



8. Tim Cook takes road show to Chicago school



The audience records the "reveal" of the new iPad during an Apple event in Chicago. (AP's Charles Rex Arbogast)

"Chicago public schools are on spring break this week, but one company has the power to draw some students back to the classroom," per the Chicago Tribune:

- **"Apple held a product launch ...** at Lane Tech High School, ... announcing a new iPad with a slew of software and features that cater to students."
- **Challenging Google's** hold on the classroom, Apple "announced tools for teachers to better manage their assignments ... and a new curriculum to integrate skills like music, photography and drawing into lesson plans."
- **The entry-level**, 9.7-inch iPad will sell for \$329 to consumers and for \$299 to schools.



9. Sign of the times: Show about a podcast



Courtesy ABC

"Alex, Inc.," debuts 8:30 tonight on ABC:

- **"Based on** Alex Blumberg's successful podcast 'StartUp,' [the] comedy series ... is all about the things that happen ... when a journalist and family man quits his job to start his own company" (Gimlet Media, in real life).
- **The show's gist:** "With the help of wife Rooni [played Tiya Sircar] and their children, Alex Schuman [played by Zach Braff] quits his prominent job to start his own podcast company telling real stories that matter."
- **Why it matters,** per the WashPost review: It's "a TV series about a podcast about the company producing that very podcast."



10. 1 weed thing



via AP

"Craigslist for cannabis ... Online ads from unlicensed pot shops roil California market," AP's Michael Blood reports from L.A.:

- **"Weedmaps** is a go-to website for people looking to find a marijuana shop."
- **"[L]egal and illegal** operators advertise next to each other, and licensed operators in California say that's put them at a disadvantage in a cutthroat marketplace."
 - **"Weedmaps operates** in over two dozen states."
 - **Why it matters:** "The dispute over the online ads goes to basic economics for an emerging market sprung from what was mostly an illegal one: Lawful operators will struggle if they're competing with a robust black market that can undersell them."
 - **Duh:** "Weedmaps says its experience dropping unlicensed businesses from its listings in Washington, Oregon, Nevada and Massachusetts had no impact on the size of those unlicensed markets."



?? **Thanks for reading!** See you all day in the Axios stream ...

RNC War Room

From: RNC War Room
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2018 6:33 AM
Subject: Politico Playbook 3/28/18

Playbook scoop: Republicans to push balanced-budget amendment

Politico Playbook

Jake Sherman, Anna Palmer & Daniel Lippman

March 28, 2018 – 6:24 AM

<https://www.politico.com/newsletters/playbook/2018/03/28/house-republicans-balanced-budget-amendment-260173>

DRIVING THE DAY

BRING 'EM TO THE BALLOT BOX! -- THE PRESIDENT at 5:52 a.m.: "THE SECOND AMENDMENT WILL NEVER BE REPEALED! As much as Democrats would like to see this happen, and despite the words yesterday of former Supreme Court Justice Stevens, NO WAY. We need more Republicans in 2018 and must ALWAYS hold the Supreme Court!"

-- **HE'S RIGHT.** There is basically no chance Congress is going to repeal the Second Amendment. It's a fantasy.

Welcome to baseball season. **BAD NEWS FOR CRAFT BEERS LOVERS** like **PLAYBOOK NATIONALS** **CORRESPONDENT LUKE RUSSERT** ... Beer is \$15 and \$16 at Nats Park. *Pic from last night's exhibition game against the Minnesota Twins, which the Nats lost 3-1* <http://bit.ly/2E1sfpY>

POST "60 MINUTES" POLL --TRUMP will like this one, via Steven Shepard: "**Teflon Don? Poll finds Trump weathering Stormy just fine**": "Voters believe adult-film actress Stormy Daniels. They believe her claim that she and Donald Trump had sex before he ran for president, and that Trump has been unfaithful to his wife. Only a third think the president is honest. More than half think he has low morals."

"**But a new POLITICO/Morning Consult poll, conducted after Daniels'** appearance on '60 Minutes' this weekend, suggests that despite that litany of sins, the Daniels revelations are unlikely to significantly alter Trump's political standing."

"**The president's approval rating -- 42 percent in this week's poll** -- remains largely unchanged from 44 percent last week. Fewer voters support beginning impeachment proceedings against Trump than last year. And voters are split on whether Trump should even answer Daniels' assertions at all. Taken together, the data suggest Trump's past behavior with women is already known among voters — and many are willing to overlook it." <https://politi.co/2GcZSel>

SCOOP -- HOUSE REPUBLICANS will take up a balanced-budget amendment when they return from recess, several sources tell us. This follows on the heels of their \$1.3-trillion budget bill and their massive tax bill. **WHY DO THIS NOW?** Here's what we think: It's almost election season, and it would be helpful if GOP lawmakers could go home and be able to say they voted to support balancing the federal budget, even though they voted boosted discretionary spending by a ton, and have not touched entitlement spending, which they have said for

covered discretionary spending by a ton, and have not touched entitlement spending, which, they have said for years, is the driver of U.S. budget deficits.

ALL THE PRESIDENT'S ADVISERS -- "Mattis predicts partnership with Bolton despite differences," by AP's Robert Burns: "I look forward to working with him — no reservations, no concerns at all," Mattis told reporters at an impromptu news conference. 'Last time I checked he's an American. I'm not in the least bit concerned.'

"Mattis said he has never met Bolton, a former ambassador to the United Nations and conservative firebrand. He said he expects Bolton to pay a visit to the Pentagon soon, perhaps this week, to begin developing a relationship. ... When a reporter mentioned that people see his world view as significantly different than that of Bolton, Mattis replied, 'That's the normal thing you want, unless you want group-think.'" <http://bit.ly/2pIYMwO>

-- **"Wilbur Ross Overruled Career Officials at Census Bureau to Add Citizenship Question,"** by ProPublica's Justin Elliott: "Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross' decision Monday to add a controversial question on citizenship to the 2020 census came in the face of opposition from career officials at the Census Bureau who fear it will depress response rates, especially from immigrants. Two people with knowledge of the deliberations said career leaders in the Census Bureau, which is part of the Commerce Department, had scrambled to come up with alternatives to adding the question. Those efforts were unsuccessful." <http://bit.ly/2I9KVq3>

-- **WAPO'S** Lisa Rein, Josh Dawsey and Emily Wax-Thibodeaux: **"He knows he is done': Veterans Affairs chief lies low amid rumors he'll be ousted":** "The president has told a number of advisers that he wants to oust Shulkin, once a favorite in his Cabinet. But the White House has sent mixed messages publicly, and it remains unclear to what extent the secretary still has President Trump's full trust." <https://wapo.st/2GjhaTh>

WSJ: "Sheldon Adelson Facilitated EPA Connection for Israeli Firm: Agency to test water-purification system after casino magnate urged chief Scott Pruitt to meet with Water-Gen executives," by Timothy Puko: "The EPA agreed to test a water-purification system developed by Water-Gen Ltd., an Israeli technology company whose board includes Harvard legal scholar and television pundit Alan Dershowitz. ...

"The deal comes after the company's executive chairman, Maxim Pasik, met with Mr. Pruitt at the EPA's headquarters at least twice in the spring of 2017, according to the administrator's calendar released by the agency's Freedom of Information Act office. 'This came as a request of Sheldon Adelson,' reads a note on the entry for their first meeting March 29, 2017." <https://on.wsj.com/2E0sphD>

BIG, BUT UNDER-THE-RADAR, NEWS -- "Mulvaney nears victory in struggle with Mnuchin on tax rules," by Nancy Cook and Aaron Lorenzo: "The White House is poised to give its budget office greater control over some of the Treasury Department's regulations, handing budget director Mick Mulvaney a victory in a months-long power struggle with Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, according to three sources familiar with the discussions. The move, which could come in the next few weeks, would end the autonomy the Treasury Department has enjoyed since the 1980s when it comes to issuing tax rules, while giving greater power to one of Trump's favorite Cabinet members at the expense of another. The highly sensitive debate has consumed the attention of top officials at both agencies." <https://politi.co/2DZqQ3p>

-- **THIS IS ALSO A WIN FOR CAPITOL HILL,** which fretted about Treasury's autonomy in implementing the tax bill.

THE FIRST TRADE DEAL -- "Trump gets South Korean concessions in first trade deal," by Doug Palmer: "President Donald Trump has reached the first trade deal of his administration, getting South Korea to make a few changes to a six-year-old pact he said was a horrible deal

make a few changes to a six-year-old pact no one had a better deal.

“Trump had largely criticized the previous agreement largely because of the U.S.’s auto trade deficit with South Korea, which has grown significantly since the deal went into force in 2012. At his insistence, the two countries launched talks last year to renegotiate the pact. Senior administration officials Tuesday night outlined the details of the revised U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement, known as KORUS, most of which were announced over the weekend by the South Korean government.” <https://politi.co/2GBVIBN>

THE CONFIRMATION BATTLE ON THE HORIZON ... “How Gina Haspel is trying to overcome her past to become the next CIA director,” by CNN’s Manu Raju, Jeremy Herb and Jenna McLaughlin: “Haspel, who is under scrutiny because of her past oversight of a CIA ‘black site’ in Thailand, has told senators over the past two weeks that she understands waterboarding is illegal and that she would follow the law if confirmed, according to two sources with knowledge of the conversations. She has also distanced herself from the destruction of CIA tapings of harsh interrogations, saying she didn’t order the tapes to be destroyed, the sources said. And she has argued that the post 9/11 mindset in the CIA and federal laws over interrogation tactics are far different today.” <https://cnn.it/2pOkb6X>

AMAZING, via Matt Dixon in Tallahassee: **“Rubio: ‘I don’t campaign against Bill Nelson’”**: “As Florida’s Republican establishment prepares to rally around Gov. Rick Scott in his forthcoming bid to knock of Democratic incumbent Sen. Bill Nelson, one of the state’s most well-known Republicans does not seem poised to help lead the charge: Sen. Marco Rubio.

‘I don’t campaign against Bill Nelson,’ Rubio said Tuesday during a sit-down with reporters in his Tallahassee office. ‘Bill Nelson and I have a very good working relationship.’ ...

“Rubio did say, ‘I’ll support the Republican nominee,’ the sort of answer that almost nearly mirrors his tepid public support in 2016 of then-GOP presidential nominee Donald Trump. He called his relationship with Scott ‘positive,’ and said that he thought he would have a good relationship with Scott if the two were in Washington together in the Senate. But he noted that with Nelson he could not ‘have a better partner.’ ‘I don’t work as close with him [Scott] because he’s a state official, and I’m a federal official,’ Rubio said.” <https://politi.co/2GdPzXz>

DAVID SIDERS in LOS ANGELES: “Obama will appear at McCaskill fundraiser in Beverly Hills”: “Obama is listed as a special guest at the May 6 fundraiser hosted by the actress Katie McGrath, film studio executive Jeffrey Katzenberg, filmmaker Steven Spielberg and others Los Angeles-area heavyweights. This is his first post-presidential fundraising event for an individual candidate – and it goes to the female senator who very notably backed him early over Hillary Clinton in 2008.” <https://politi.co/2urU3UT>

ALERT -- TO ZUCKERBERG, from Nancy Scola and Steven Overly: **“Watch out, Zuckerberg — Congress is a trap”** <https://politi.co/2Gz1QFA> ... **He is expected at House E&C on April 12** <https://politi.co/2lbV7OH>

BY THE WAY ... HERE are all the D.C. firms that **FACEBOOK** employed for lobbying last quarter: Ogilvy, Peck Madigan Jones, Signal, Subject Matter, Stewart Strategies and Solutions, Baker and Hostetter, Blue Mountain Strategies, Harbinger, Dave Wade/GreenLight Strategies, theGROUP DC, and Steptoe & Johnson. This might not include comms firms, and Facebook also has its own in-house lobbyists.

BLOOMBERG’S PULITZER WINNER ZACH MIDER: “Robert Mercer is the Richest Gun in the West: The Enigmatic Investor Was Secretly Volunteering as a Cop in a Tiny Desert Town. Why? To Obtain an Item That’s Impossible to Buy” (online headline: **“Robert Mercer’s Secret Adventure as a New Mexico Cop”**): “For most of

impossible to buy (online headline: **Robert Mercer's Secret Adventure as a Non-Member Cop**). For most of the past six years, as Mercer became one of the country's political kingmakers, he was also periodically policing Lake Arthur, according to the department. If he followed Norwood's protocols – and Norwood insists no volunteers get special treatment – he would've patrolled at least six days a year. He would've paid for travel and room and board, and supplied his own body armor and weapon ...

"During the two and a half years I've covered Mercer, I've come to think of him as a hard-right version of that guy in the beer commercials, the Most Interesting Man in the World. There seems to be an inexhaustible supply of incredible-but-true Mercer stories, including his pioneering research that begat Google Translate, his funding of a stockpile of human urine in the Oregon mountains, his million-dollar model train set, and his habit of whistling constantly, even during work meetings.

"[I]n 2004, Congress passed the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act, declaring that police officers can carry concealed guns in any state with no need of a local license. The law applies to officers who are off-duty and out of their jurisdiction—and includes volunteer reservists. The law made a police badge an immeasurably valuable item in places such as Suffolk County, N.Y., where Mercer lives, and where concealed-carry permits are granted only rarely." <https://bloom.bg/2pJDb7u>

NEWS -- NORTH DAKOTA DEMOCRATIC SEN. HEIDI HEITKAMP DOUBLES DOWN ON GUNS POSITION -- HEITKAMP talked with ANNA earlier this week at a live **WOMEN RULE** podcast taping in Los Angeles. **ON GUN RIGHTS:** "I think sometimes people have a diminished sense of the Second Amendment," Heitkamp said. Further, she said that she has "a real kind of visceral reaction to the lack of appreciation – or understanding – about how people feel about the Second Amendment, and how people feel about restrictions on the Second Amendment."

-- **MORE:** Heitkamp compared her feelings to those of abortion-rights supporters: "Restrictions on your reproductive rights – think about how strongly you feel about evaluating those restrictions. That's how strongly people in North Dakota and Indiana and other places feel about restricting their Second Amendment." **Listen to the full podcast on how Heitkamp has disagreed with fellow Democrats like Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), her relationship with Trump and much more** <https://politi.co/2GjcWek>

-- **NBC'S JON ALLEN: PENCE** whacks Heidi Heitkamp in North Dakota. <https://nbcnews.to/2GeN2s3>

THE SUMMIT -- "Kim Jong-un Met With Xi Jinping in Secret Beijing Visit," by NYT's Steven Lee Myers and Jane Perlez in Beijing: "North Korea's enigmatic young leader, Kim Jong-un, made an unannounced visit to Beijing, meeting with President Xi Jinping weeks before planned summit meetings with American and South Korean leaders, Chinese and North Korean state news media reported on Wednesday. The visit amounted to Mr. Kim's international debut: It was the 34-year-old leader's first trip outside North Korea since he took power in 2011, and his first meeting with another head of state.

"Mr. Kim's trip unfolded in extraordinary secrecy and security; it was confirmed only after he left Beijing on the same armored train that stirred speculation when it arrived mysteriously in the Chinese capital on Monday. ... Mr. Kim told the Chinese leader that he was open to dialogue with the United States, including a potential summit meeting with President Trump, and was committed to the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, according to an account published by China's news agency Xinhua." <https://nyti.ms/2l8qny7>

-- **GOOD CATCH BY THE FT:** "However, [Kim Jong-Un's] comments contained caveats. For North Korea, phrases such as 'simultaneous steps for peace' are likely to mean the removal of U.S. forces from South Korea - a scenario that is highly unlikely." <https://on.ft.com/2nNiFin>

-- a scenario that is highly unlikely. <https://bit.ly/2G9RaxB>

-- **THE PRESIDENT at 6:05 a.m.:** "For years and through many administrations, everyone said that peace and the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula was not even a small possibility. Now there is a good chance that Kim Jong Un will do what is right for his people and for humanity. Look forward to our meeting!" ... **at 6:16 a.m.:** "Received message last night from XI JINPING of China that his meeting with KIM JONG UN went very well and that KIM looks forward to his meeting with me. In the meantime, and unfortunately, maximum sanctions and pressure must be maintained at all cost!"

YOU'RE INVITED ... Join us **TOMORROW** for our first Playbook University in North Carolina with **GOV. ROY COOPER** at Penn Pavilion at Duke University. Doors open at 11:45 a.m. **RSVP** <http://bit.ly/2lqsO09> ... **BOOKMARK THE LIVE STREAM** <https://politi.co/2G9RaxB>

WHAT RACHAEL BADE and JOHN BRESNAHAN ARE READING -- "**Map locates 301 bar, restaurant and cigar lounge visits by Rep. Duncan Hunter,**" by San Diego Union-Tribune's Morgan Cook, Joshua Stewart and Lauryn Schroeder: "A recent report in Politico delved into the drinking habits of Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Alpine, who is under federal criminal investigation for alleged personal use of campaign contributions. ...

"**U-T Watchdog decided to review reported campaign spending** with an eye toward visits to bars and restaurants that market their bar prominently. A review of records that Hunter's campaign filed with the Federal Election Commission between March 2008 and November 2017 shows at least 301 transactions totaling \$138,666 at bars, cigar lounges, liquor stores, bar-dominant restaurants and similar businesses. ...

"**Of the 72 charges below \$100 at Washington, D.C. bars,** almost half were at Bullfeathers, which has a reputation as a popular hang-out for lobbyists, next to House office buildings. ... FEC records show that between March 12, 2008 and Oct. 18, 2017, Hunter's campaign reported making 126 payments totaling \$105,352 to the Capitol Hill Club." <http://bit.ly/2E1jcW2> ... **Read Rachael and Bres' original story** <http://politi.co/2EPnp1e>

TRUMP'S WEDNESDAY -- He is hosting a credentialing ceremony for new ambassadors at 11:30 a.m., then having lunch with Defense Secretary Jim Mattis at 12:15.

THE JUICE ...

-- **THE CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP FUND** is opening five new field offices around the country. The Republicans that will benefit are Rep. Bruce Poliquin (R-Maine), Rep. Ted Budd (R-N.C.) and Rep. Steve Chabot (R-Ohio). CLF is opening one in the open eighth district of Washington, and to try to knock off Rep. Matt Cartwright (D-Pa.). The group says it's contacted 8 million voters. They have 31 offices. **List of offices** <http://bit.ly/2pMNWoS>

PLAYBOOK READS

YIKES – NYT's ALAN BLINDER in ATLANTA and NICOLE PERLROTH in BOULDER, COLORADO: "A Cyberattack Hobbles Atlanta, and Security Experts Shudder": "The City of Atlanta's 8,000 employees got the word on Tuesday that they had been waiting for. It was O.K. to turn their computers on.

"**But as the city government's desktops,** hard drives and printers flickered back to life for the first time in five days, residents still could not pay their traffic tickets or water bills online, or report potholes or graffiti on a city website. Travelers at the world's busiest airport still could not use the free Wi-Fi. Atlanta's municipal government has been brought to its knees since Thursday morning by a ransomware attack — one of the most sustained

has been brought to its knees since Thursday morning by a ransomware attack — one of the most sustained and consequential cyberattacks ever mounted against a major American city.” <https://nyti.ms/2pMKPNL>

WHITE HOUSE ARRIVAL LOUNGE – “Former Disney star joins White House press team,” by CNN’s Betsy Klein: “The White House press office is getting a bit more Sunshine these days – former Disney Channel star Caroline Sunshine, that is. She’s joining the team as a press assistant. Sunshine, 22, is known for her role alongside Zendaya as Tinka Hessenheffer in ‘Shake It Up,’ a Disney Channel show about teen dancers that ran from 2010 to 2013. ... The California native has established her career apart from the entertainment industry; she was most recently a White House intern.” <https://cnn.it/2l8JGrg>

MEDIAWATCH – Per Michael Calderone’s Morning Media: “NBC News and MSNBC will host a White House Correspondents’ Dinner after party again this year. The network’s plans hadn’t been clear as some outlets that have held WHCD-related events in the past, like The New Yorker and Vanity Fair, said they wouldn’t be doing so for next month’s dinner. NBC and MSNBC will also make a donation again to the National Press Club’s Diversity Scholarship.”

PLAYBOOKERS

SPOTTED: Mike Pompeo on Tuesday in the C Street lobby of the State Department. He was there for meetings with staff to prepare for his confirmation hearings. ... Valerie Jarrett at Bombay Club dining with Lyft co-founder John Zimmer and Lyft general counsel Kristin Sverchek and others. Zimmer, Anita Dunn and Jarrett – a board member of Lyft – hosted a lunch with reporters on Tuesday at Lincoln restaurant. ... Don Jr. at the Trump Hotel last night.

BIRTHWEEK (was yesterday): Stefanie Berger Lechter (hat tip: Irene, who was on time)

BIRTHDAY OF THE DAY: Tevi Troy, presidential historian and former Bush WH aide, VP of public policy at JUUL Labs and author of “Shall We Wake the President? Two Centuries of Disaster Management from the Oval Office,” is 51. **Afun fact about Tevi:** “I’ve played tennis on the White House court, the U.S. Senate court, and the Federal Reserve’s court — yes, they have one.” **Read his Playbook Plus Q&A:** <https://politi.co/2Gh3yYD>

BIRTHDAYS: WaPo alum Ed O’Keefe, who is soon joining CBS News as a political correspondent, is 35 ... Rob Nabors ... Ben Porritt, partner at Outside Eyes (h/ts Kevin Madden and Blain Rethmeier) ... Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte is 73 ... Aaron Davis, national political director at J Street and an Obama FEMA alum ... former Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson, now a senior fellow at the Harris School of Public Policy Studies and chairman of the Paulson Institute at U Chicago, is 72 ... Peter Ambler, co-founder and executive director of Giffords ... Hadassah Lieberman, wife of former Sen. Joe Lieberman, is 7-0 ... Rep. David McKinley (R-W.Va) is 71 ... Rep. Nydia Velazquez (D-N.Y.) is 65 ... Ian Blue, member relations director at Wine Institute ... Cheryl Oldham of the U.S. Chamber ... Pat Ryan, who’s running for Congress in New York’s 19th District, is 36 (h/t Hanna Trudo) ...

... **Jackie Hassell**, Team Romney alum now SVP for partnerships at Tribeca Enterprises ... Alexander Grieve ... former Sen. Frank Murkowski (R-Alaska) is 85 ... McCain alum Keith Nahigian, president and founder of Nahigian Strategies, is 5-0 (h/t Cassie Williams) ... Ricky Moxley of Rep. Ted Budd’s office (h/t Todd Poole) ... Josh Cook, SVP at Berlin Rosen ... Rob Garza (h/t Ben Chang) ... Dennis Sills ... James Singer, deputy research director at the DGA (h/t Rob Flaherty) ... Janine Benner ... Todd Piro ... Allegra Hewell Wilson ... John Geis, director for South Asia and Oceania at the office of the Secretary of Defense ... Jennifer Cook of UPS ... Anne Marie Malecha ... Hailey Lann ... Karin Socci ... Kevin Sessums is 62 ... Katherine Berland ... Scott Becher ... Cathleen Duff/Laiba ... Brianna Alcorn (hubby tip: Josh) ... Roger Simon ... Josie Gilbert ... Molly Scherman

Carroll, Dan ... Obama ... (b) (5) - DPP ... Roger Simon ... Carol Simon ... Mary Brennan.

Disclaimer: The Republican National Committee provided the above article as a service to its employees and other selected individuals. Any opinions expressed therein are those of the article's author and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the RNC.

RNC War Room

From: RNC War Room
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2018 9:43 AM
Subject: Free Beacon: Blumenthal Struggles to Defend Opposition to Citizenship Question on Census

Blumenthal Struggles to Defend Opposition to Citizenship Question on Census

Washington Free Beacon

David Rutz

March 28, 2018 – 9:26 AM

<http://freebeacon.com/issues/blumenthal-struggles-to-defend-opposition-to-citizenship-question-on-census-in-cnn-interview/>

[VIDEO EMBEDDED]

CNN host Alisyn Camerota pressed Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D., Conn.) over his opposition to a question about U.S. citizenship in the upcoming decennial Census, wondering why it wouldn't hurt to know an accurate number of illegal immigrants living in the U.S.

The Commerce Department announced Monday the question would again be part of the Census in 2020, drawing outrage from the left over its concerns that illegal immigrants would not complete the questionnaire. Democratic National Committee chairman Tom Perez called it a form of "voter suppression."

"What's wrong with that question?" Camerota asked.

"First, it violates the Constitution, which—" Blumenthal started.

"Why?" Camerota asked.

"—requires Census tabulation to be done on every person, everyone who lives in the United States, not necessarily just on citizens. Second as a practical matter, it undercounts people who live in states or in areas that may need federal funding, so it short-changes—" Blumenthal said.

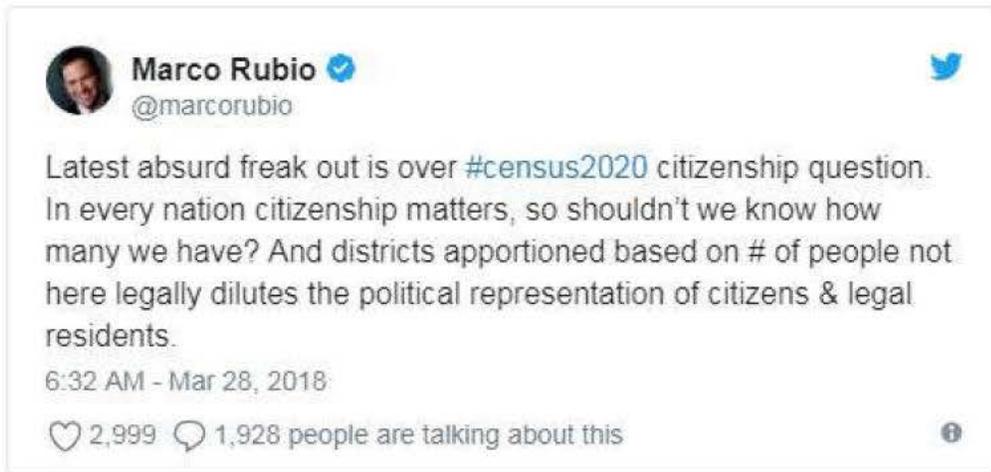
"But hold on," Camerota said. "You're saying it undercounts them because they won't reveal it. They will hide, you're saying, whether or not they're a citizen, because on the face of it, it looks like it's looking for transparency. It looks as if you'll be able to get an accurate count of how many undocumented immigrants are here versus citizens."

Blumenthal said that was "spin" by the Trump administration.

"The practical effect will be to shortchange areas of the country where there are a large number of undocumented people," he said.

Camerota didn't let up, quoting the Commerce Department as wanting accurate numbers as to how many people truly live in the U.S. and how many of them are illegal immigrants. She also quoted a tweet from Sen.

people they live in the U.S. and how many of them are illegal immigrants. She also quoted a tweet from Sen. Marco Rubio (R., Fla.) blasting the "absurd freak out" over the citizenship question.



"We should know, but not through the Census," Blumenthal said, saying the law was to count every person, not simply every citizen. "We want to know what the characteristics are of our total population, not just of citizens. You're right. Citizens should be counted. There are other ways to do it."

Camerota noted no one can truly say the number of illegal immigrants living in the U.S.

"Would it help to know?" Camerota asked.

"It would help to have comprehensive immigration reform," Blumenthal said.

Disclaimer: The Republican National Committee provided the above article as a service to its employees and other selected individuals. Any opinions expressed therein are those of the article's author and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the RNC.

O'Malley, Devin (OPA)

From: O'Malley, Devin (OPA)
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2018 11:30 AM
To: Shah, Raj S. EOP/WHO; Schlapp, Mercedes V. EOP/WHO;
(b)(6) Jessica Ditto White House Email
Cc: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Subject: Additional Justice Department TPs on Census

Hey Raj, Mercy, and Jessica-

I understand that Commerce sent around their TPs on the Census citizenship question. I did want to provide some additional points (b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

As always, please let me know if you have any questions.

Devin

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

Devin M. O'Malley
Department of Justice
Office of Public Affairs
Office: (202) 353-8763
Cell: (b) (6)

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2018 11:38 AM
To: O'Malley, Devin (OPA)
Subject: FW: Census
Attachments: 2018-03-26 (2).pdf
Importance: High

xxxx

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs
202.305.5808

From: Shah, Raj S. EOP/WHO <Raj.S.Shah@who.eop.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2018 11:33 AM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: FW: Census
Importance: High

From: Zadrozny, John A. EOP/WHO
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2018 10:22 AM
To: Salvi, Mary E. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)>; Shah, Raj S. EOP/WHO <Raj.S.Shah@who.eop.gov>
Cc: Leggitt, Lance B. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)>
Subject: RE: Census
Importance: High

Raj:

Please see the attached memorandum from Secretary Ross, dated Monday, March 26, about the census question decision. (b) (5)
(b) (5) can make quick talking points from this ASAP for a 10:45/11:00 a.m. conversation and come over and discuss this.

Theoretically, they are also getting us a Q&A, but I don't have those yet either. Will circle back with Commerce.

JZ
w: (202) 456-4677
c: (b) (6)

From: Salvi, Mary E. EOP/WHO
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2018 10:12 AM

Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2018 10:12 AM
To: Shah, Raj S. EOP/WHO <Raj.S.Shah@who.eop.gov>
Cc: Leggitt, Lance B. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)>; Zadrozny, John A. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)>
Subject: RE: Census

+ John who has TPs from commerce.

Mary Salvi
White House | Domestic Policy Council
(b) (6) (c) | 202-456-3251 (o)

From: Salvi, Mary E. EOP/WHO
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2018 9:37 AM
To: Shah, Raj S. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)>
Cc: Leggitt, Lance B. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)>
Subject: RE: Census

great

Mary Salvi
White House | Domestic Policy Council
(b) (6) (c) | 202-456-3251 (o)

From: Shah, Raj S. EOP/WHO
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2018 9:17 AM
To: Salvi, Mary E. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)>
Cc: Leggitt, Lance B. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)>
Subject: Re: Census

Let's try then

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 28, 2018, at 9:09 AM, Salvi, Mary E. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)> wrote:

Lance is available at 10:05 for 5 minutes!

Mary Salvi
White House | Domestic Policy Council
(b) (6) (c) | 202-456-3251 (o)

From: Shah, Raj S. EOP/WHO
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2018 8:25 AM
To: Leggitt, Lance B. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)>; Salvi, Mary E. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)>
Subject: Census

Can we discuss when you have a moment Lance?

Raj Shah

Deputy Assistant to the President

Principal Deputy Press Secretary

The White House

Desk: (202) 456-3292

Cell: (b) (6)

@RajShah45



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
The Secretary of Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20230

To: Karen Dunn Kelley, Under Secretary for Economic Affairs

From: Secretary Wilbur Ross 

Date: March 26, 2018

Re: Reinstatement of a Citizenship Question on the 2020 Decennial Census Questionnaire

Dear Under Secretary Kelley:

As you know, on December 12, 2017, the Department of Justice (“DOJ”) requested that the Census Bureau reinstate a citizenship question on the decennial census to provide census block level citizenship voting age population (“CVAP”) data that are not currently available from government survey data (“DOJ request”). DOJ and the courts use CVAP data for determining violations of Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act (“VRA”), and having these data at the census block level will permit more effective enforcement of the Act. Section 2 protects minority population voting rights.

Following receipt of the DOJ request, I set out to take a hard look at the request and ensure that I considered all facts and data relevant to the question so that I could make an informed decision on how to respond. To that end, the Department of Commerce (“Department”) immediately initiated a comprehensive review process led by the Census Bureau.

The Department and Census Bureau’s review of the DOJ request – as with all significant Census assessments – prioritized the goal of obtaining *complete and accurate data*. The decennial census is mandated in the Constitution and its data are relied on for a myriad of important government decisions, including apportionment of Congressional seats among states, enforcement of voting rights laws, and allocation of federal funds. These are foundational elements of our democracy, and it is therefore incumbent upon the Department and the Census Bureau to make every effort to provide a complete and accurate decennial census.

At my direction, the Census Bureau and the Department’s Office of the Secretary began a thorough assessment that included legal, program, and policy considerations. As part of the process, I also met with Census Bureau leadership on multiple occasions to discuss their process for reviewing the DOJ request, their data analysis, my questions about accuracy and response rates, and their recommendations. At present, the Census Bureau leadership are all career civil servants. In addition, my staff and I reviewed over 50 incoming letters from stakeholders, interest groups, Members of Congress, and state and local officials regarding reinstatement of a citizenship question on the 2020 decennial census, and I personally had specific conversations on

the citizenship question with over 24 diverse, well informed and interested parties representing a broad range of views. My staff and I have also monitored press coverage of this issue.

Congress has delegated to me the authority to determine which questions should be asked on the decennial census, and I may exercise my discretion to reinstate the citizenship question on the 2020 decennial census, especially based on DOJ's request for improved CVAP data to enforce the VRA. By law, the list of decennial census questions is to be submitted two years prior to the decennial census – in this case, no later than March 31, 2018.

The Department's review demonstrated that collection of citizenship data by the Census has been a long-standing historical practice. Prior decennial census surveys of the entire United States population consistently asked citizenship questions up until 1950, and Census Bureau surveys of sample populations continue to ask citizenship questions to this day. In 2000, the decennial census "long form" survey, which was distributed to one in six people in the U.S., included a question on citizenship. Following the 2000 decennial census, the "long form" sample was replaced by the American Community Survey ("ACS"), which has included a citizenship question since 2005. Therefore, the citizenship question has been well tested.

DOJ seeks to obtain CVAP data for census blocks, block groups, counties, towns, and other locations where potential Section 2 violations are alleged or suspected, and DOJ states that the current data collected under the ACS are insufficient in scope, detail, and certainty to meet its purpose under the VRA. The Census Bureau has advised me that the census-block-level citizenship data requested by DOJ are not available using the annual ACS, which as noted earlier does ask a citizenship question and is the present method used to provide DOJ and the courts with data used to enforce Section 2 of the VRA. The ACS is sent on an annual basis to a sample of approximately 2.6 percent of the population.

To provide the data requested by DOJ, the Census Bureau initially analyzed three alternatives: Option A was to continue the status quo and use ACS responses; Option B was placing the ACS citizenship question on the decennial census, which goes to every American household; and Option C was not placing a question on the decennial census and instead providing DOJ with a citizenship analysis for the entire population using federal administrative record data that Census has agreements with other agencies to access for statistical purposes.

Option A contemplates rejection of the DOJ request and represents the status quo baseline. Under Option A, the 2020 decennial census would not include the question on citizenship that DOJ requested and therefore would not provide DOJ with improved CVAP data. Additionally, the block-group level CVAP data currently obtained through the ACS has associated margins of error because the ACS is extrapolated based on sample surveys of the population. Providing more precise block-level data would require sophisticated statistical modeling, and if Option A is selected, the Census Bureau advised that it would need to deploy a team of experts to develop model-based methods that attempt to better facilitate DOJ's request for more specific data. But the Census Bureau did not assert and could not confirm that such data modeling is possible for census-block-level data with a sufficient degree of accuracy. Regardless, DOJ's request is based at least in part on the fact that existing ACS citizenship data-sets lack specificity and

completeness. Any future modeling from these incomplete data would only compound that problem.

Option A would provide no improved citizenship count, as the existing ACS sampling would still fail to obtain *actual*, complete number counts, especially for certain lower population areas or voting districts, and there is no guarantee that data could be improved using small-area modeling methods. Therefore, I have concluded that Option A is not a suitable option.

The Census Bureau and many stakeholders expressed concern that **Option B**, which would add a citizenship question to the decennial census, would negatively impact the response rate for non-citizens. A significantly lower response rate by non-citizens could reduce the accuracy of the decennial census and increase costs for non-response follow up (“NRFU”) operations. However, neither the Census Bureau nor the concerned stakeholders could document that the response rate would in fact decline materially. In discussing the question with the national survey agency Nielsen, it stated that it had added questions from the ACS on sensitive topics such as place of birth and immigration status to certain short survey forms without any appreciable decrease in response rates. Further, the former director of the Census Bureau during the last decennial census told me that, while he wished there were data to answer the question, none existed to his knowledge. Nielsen’s Senior Vice President for Data Science and the former Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer of the Census Bureau under President George W. Bush also confirmed that, to the best of their knowledge, no empirical data existed on the impact of a citizenship question on responses.

When analyzing Option B, the Census Bureau attempted to assess the impact that reinstatement of a citizenship question on the decennial census would have on response rates by drawing comparisons to ACS responses. However, such comparative analysis was challenging, as response rates generally vary between decennial censuses and other census sample surveys. For example, ACS self-response rates were 3.1 percentage points less than self-response rates for the 2010 decennial census. The Bureau attributed this difference to the greater outreach and follow-up associated with the Constitutionally-mandated decennial census. Further, the decennial census has differed significantly in nature from the sample surveys. For example, the 2000 decennial census survey contained only eight questions. Conversely, the 2000 “long form” sample survey contained over 50 questions, and the Census Bureau estimated it took an average of over 30 minutes to complete. ACS surveys include over 45 questions on numerous topics, including the number of hours worked, income information, and housing characteristics.

The Census Bureau determined that, for 2013-2016 ACS surveys, nonresponses to the citizenship question for non-Hispanic whites ranged from 6.0 to 6.3 percent, for non-Hispanic blacks ranged from 12.0 to 12.6 percent, and for Hispanics ranged from 11.6 to 12.3 percent. However, these rates were comparable to nonresponse rates for other questions on the 2013 and 2016 ACS. Census Bureau estimates showed similar nonresponse rate ranges occurred for questions on the ACS asking the number times the respondent was married, 4.7 to 6.9 percent; educational attainment, 5.6 to 8.5 percent; monthly gas costs, 9.6 to 9.9 percent; weeks worked in the past 12 months, 6.9 to 10.6 percent; wages/salary income, 8.1 to 13.4 percent; and yearly property insurance, 23.9 to 25.6 percent.

The Census Bureau also compared the self-response rate differences between citizen and non-citizen households' response rates for the 2000 decennial census short form (which did not include a citizenship question) and the 2000 decennial census long form survey (the long form survey, distributed to only one in six households, included a citizenship question in 2000). Census found the decline in self-response rates for non-citizens to be 3.3 percent greater than for citizen households. However, Census was not able to isolate what percentage of decline was caused by the inclusion of a citizenship question rather than some other aspect of the long form survey (it contained over six times as many questions covering a range of topics). Indeed, the Census Bureau analysis showed that for the 2000 decennial census there was a significant drop in self response rates overall between the short and long form; the mail response rate was 66.4 percent for the short form and only 53.9 percent for the long form survey. So while there is widespread belief among many parties that adding a citizenship question could reduce response rates, the Census Bureau's analysis did not provide definitive, empirical support for that belief.

Option C, the use of administrative records rather than placing a citizenship question on the decennial census, was a potentially appealing solution to the DOJ request. The use of administrative records is increasingly part of the fabric and design of modern censuses, and the Census Bureau has been using administrative record data to improve the accuracy and reduce the cost of censuses since the early 20th century. A Census Bureau analysis matching administrative records with the 2010 decennial census and ACS responses over several more recent years showed that using administrative records could be more accurate than self-responses in the case of non-citizens. That Census Bureau analysis showed that between 28 and 34 percent of the citizenship self-responses for persons that administrative records show are non-citizens were inaccurate. In other words, when non-citizens respond to long form or ACS questions on citizenship, they inaccurately mark "citizen" about 30 percent of the time. However, the Census Bureau is still evolving its use of administrative records, and the Bureau does not yet have a complete administrative records data set for the entire population. Thus, using administrative records alone to provide DOJ with CVAP data would provide an incomplete picture. In the 2010 decennial census, the Census Bureau was able to match 88.6 percent of the population with what the Bureau considers credible administrative record data. While impressive, this means that more than 10 percent of the American population – some 25 million voting age people – would need to have their citizenship imputed by the Census Bureau. Given the scale of this number, it was imperative that another option be developed to provide a greater level of accuracy than either self-response alone or use of administrative records alone would presently provide.

I therefore asked the Census Bureau to develop a fourth alternative, **Option D**, which would combine Options B and C. Under Option D, the ACS citizenship question would be asked on the decennial census, and the Census Bureau would use the two years remaining until the 2020 decennial census to further enhance its administrative record data sets, protocols, and statistical models to provide more complete and accurate data. This approach would maximize the Census Bureau's ability to match the decennial census responses with administrative records. Accordingly, at my direction the Census Bureau is working to obtain as many additional Federal and state administrative records as possible to provide more comprehensive information for the population.

It is my judgment that Option D will provide DOJ with the most complete and accurate CVAP data in response to its request. Asking the citizenship question of 100 percent of the population gives each respondent the opportunity to provide an answer. This may eliminate the need for the Census Bureau to have to impute an answer for millions of people. For the approximately 90 percent of the population who are citizens, this question is no additional imposition. And for the approximately 70 percent of non-citizens who already answer this question accurately on the ACS, the question is no additional imposition since census responses by law may only be used anonymously and for statistical purposes. Finally, placing the question on the decennial census and directing the Census Bureau to determine the best means to compare the decennial census responses with administrative records will permit the Census Bureau to determine the inaccurate response rate for citizens and non-citizens alike using the entire population. This will enable the Census Bureau to establish, to the best of its ability, the accurate ratio of citizen to non-citizen responses to impute for that small percentage of cases where it is necessary to do so.

Consideration of Impacts I have carefully considered the argument that the reinstatement of the citizenship question on the decennial census would depress response rate. Because a lower response rate would lead to increased non-response follow-up costs and less accurate responses, this factor was an important consideration in the decision-making process. I find that the need for accurate citizenship data and the limited burden that the reinstatement of the citizenship question would impose outweigh fears about a potentially lower response rate.

Importantly, the Department's review found that limited empirical evidence exists about whether adding a citizenship question would decrease response rates materially. Concerns about decreased response rates generally fell into the following two categories – distrust of government and increased burden. First, stakeholders, particularly those who represented immigrant constituencies, noted that members of their respective communities generally distrusted the government and especially distrusted efforts by government agencies to obtain information about them. Stakeholders from California referenced the difficulty that government agencies faced obtaining any information from immigrants as part of the relief efforts after the California wildfires. These government agencies were not seeking to ascertain the citizenship status of these wildfire victims. Other stakeholders referenced the political climate generally and fears that Census responses could be used for law enforcement purposes. But no one provided evidence that reinstating a citizenship question on the decennial census would materially decrease response rates among those who generally distrusted government and government information collection efforts, disliked the current administration, or feared law enforcement. Rather, stakeholders merely identified residents who made the decision not to participate regardless of whether the Census includes a citizenship question. The reinstatement of a citizenship question will not decrease the response rate of residents who already decided not to respond. And no one provided evidence that there are residents who would respond accurately to a decennial census that did not contain a citizenship question but would not respond if it did (although many believed that such residents had to exist). While it is possible this belief is true, there is no information available to determine the number of people who would in fact not respond due to a citizenship question being added, and no one has identified any mechanism for making such a determination.

A second concern that stakeholders advanced is that recipients are generally less likely to respond to a survey that contained more questions than one that contained fewer. The former Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer of the Census Bureau during the George W. Bush administration described the decennial census as particularly fragile and stated that any effort to add questions risked lowering the response rate, especially a question about citizenship in the current political environment. However, there is limited empirical evidence to support this view. A former Census Bureau Director during the Obama Administration who oversaw the last decennial census noted as much. He stated that, even though he believed that the reinstatement of a citizenship question would decrease response rate, there is limited evidence to support this conclusion. This same former director noted that, in the years preceding the decennial census, certain interest groups consistently attack the census and discourage participation. While the reinstatement of a citizenship question may be a data point on which these interest groups seize in 2019, past experience demonstrates that it is likely efforts to undermine the decennial census will occur again regardless of whether the decennial census includes a citizenship question. There is no evidence that residents who are persuaded by these disruptive efforts are more or less likely to make their respective decisions about participation based specifically on the reinstatement of a citizenship question. And there are actions that the Census Bureau and stakeholder groups are taking to mitigate the impact of these attacks on the decennial census.

Additional empirical evidence about the impact of sensitive questions on survey response rates came from the SVP of Data Science at Nielsen. When Nielsen added questions on place of birth and time of arrival in the United States (both of which were taken from the ACS) to a short survey, the response rate was not materially different than it had been before these two questions were added. Similarly, the former Deputy Director and COO of the Census during the George W. Bush Administration shared an example of a citizenship-like question that he believed would negatively impact response rates but did not. He cited to the Department of Homeland Security's 2004 request to the Census Bureau to provide aggregate data on the number of Arab Americans by zip code in certain areas of the country. The Census Bureau complied, and Census employees, including the then-Deputy Director, believed that the resulting political firestorm would depress response rates for further Census Bureau surveys in the impacted communities. But the response rate did not change materially.

Two other themes emerged from stakeholder calls that merit discussion. First, several stakeholders who opposed reinstatement of the citizenship question did not appreciate that the question had been asked in some form or another for nearly 200 years. Second, other stakeholders who opposed reinstatement did so based on the assumption that the data on citizenship that the Census Bureau collects through the ACS are accurate, thereby obviating the need to ask the question on the decennial census. But as discussed above, the Census Bureau estimates that between 28 and 34 percent of citizenship self-responses on the ACS for persons that administrative records show are non-citizens were inaccurate. Because these stakeholder concerns were based on incorrect premises, they are not sufficient to change my decision.

Finally, I have considered whether reinstating the citizenship question on the 2020 Census will lead to any significant monetary costs, programmatic or otherwise. The Census Bureau staff have advised that the costs of preparing and adding the question would be minimal due in large part to the fact that the citizenship question is already included on the ACS, and thus the citizenship question has already undergone the cognitive research and questionnaire testing required for new questions. Additionally, changes to the Internet Self-Response instrument, revising the Census Questionnaire Assistance, and redesigning of the printed questionnaire can be easily implemented for questions that are finalized prior to the submission of the list of questions to Congress.

The Census Bureau also considered whether non-response follow-up increases resulting from inclusion of the citizenship question would lead to increased costs. As noted above, this estimate was difficult to assess given the Census Bureau and Department's inability to determine what impact there will be on decennial census survey responses. The Bureau provided a rough estimate that postulated that up to 630,000 additional households may require NRFU operations if a citizenship question is added to the 2020 decennial census. However, even assuming that estimate is correct, this additional ½ percent increase in NRFU operations falls well within the margin of error that the Department, with the support of the Census Bureau, provided to Congress in the revised Lifecycle Cost Estimate ("LCE") this past fall. That LCE assumed that NRFU operations might increase by 3 percent due to numerous factors, including a greater increase in citizen mistrust of government, difficulties in accessing the Internet to respond, and other factors.

Inclusion of a citizenship question on this country's decennial census is not new – the decision to collect citizenship information from Americans through the decennial census was first made centuries ago. The decision to include a citizenship question on a national census is also not uncommon. The United Nations recommends that its member countries ask census questions identifying both an individual's country of birth and the country of citizenship. *Principals and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses (Revision 3)*, UNITED NATIONS 121 (2017). Additionally, for countries in which the population may include a large portion of naturalized citizens, the United Nations notes that, "it may be important to collect information on the method of acquisition of citizenship." *Id.* at 123. And it is important to note that other major democracies inquire about citizenship on their census, including Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Indonesia, Ireland, Mexico, Spain, and the United Kingdom, to name a few.

The Department of Commerce is not able to determine definitively how inclusion of a citizenship question on the decennial census will impact responsiveness. However, even if there is some impact on responses, the value of more complete and accurate data derived from surveying the entire population outweighs such concerns. Completing and returning decennial census questionnaires is required by Federal law, those responses are protected by law, and inclusion of a citizenship question on the 2020 decennial census will provide more complete information for those who respond. The citizenship data provided to DOJ will be more accurate with the question than without it, which is of greater importance than any adverse effect that may result from people violating their legal duty to respond.

To conclude, after a thorough review of the legal, program, and policy considerations, as well as numerous discussions with the Census Bureau leadership and interested stakeholders, I have determined that reinstatement of a citizenship question on the 2020 decennial census is necessary to provide complete and accurate data in response to the DOJ request. To minimize any impact on decennial census response rates, I am directing the Census Bureau to place the citizenship question last on the decennial census form.

Please make my decision known to Census Bureau personnel and Members of Congress prior to March 31, 2018. I look forward to continuing to work with the Census Bureau as we strive for a complete and accurate 2020 decennial census.

CC: Ron Jarmin, performing the nonexclusive functions and duties of the Director of the Census Bureau

Enrique Lamas, performing the nonexclusive functions and duties of the Deputy Director of the Census Bureau

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Subject: INVITE: OTR CENSUS QUESTION CALL 3:00 PM ET

Good afternoon! Please join us **TODAY at 3:00 pm ET** for an off-the-record call on the citizenship question that was added to the Census this week to give you the opportunity to ask questions on the issue and hear talking points. Call in info will be sent when you RSVP.

Thank you!
Lauren

Lauren Ehrsam
Spokeswoman and Media Affairs Specialist
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For information on office hours, access to media events, and standard ground rules for interviews, please [click here](#).

Comms Alert

From: Comms Alert
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2018 6:09 AM
Subject: Editorial Roundup 3/29/18

New York Times

New York Times – Editorial: [Trump's Heartless Transgender Military Ban Gets a Second Shot](#)
New York Times – Thomas L. Friedman: [How Mark Zuckerberg Can Save Facebook — and Us](#)
New York Times – Ross Douthat: [Marco Rubio Must Be Destroyed](#)
New York Times – Gail Collins: [Trump's Visitor From Outer Space](#)
New York Times – Michael Nelson: [How Vietnam Broke the Democratic Party](#)
New York Times – Kirsten Han: [What Trump Is Learning From Singapore — and Vice Versa](#)
New York Times – ['Only the Extremists Want to Ban All Guns'](#)
New York Times – Donald J. Boudreaux: [Trade Is Not a Job Killer](#)

Washington Post

Washington Post – Editorial: [A lawyer in China fought for the vulnerable. Was he killed for it?](#)
Washington Post – Editorial: [Trump's transgender troop ban is as insidious as ever](#)
Washington Post – Editorial: [Trump's empty trade victory](#)
Washington Post – James Kirchick: [The 'collusion' narrative is doing the Russians' dirty work for them](#)
Washington Post – Daniel W. Drezner: [A good man is hard to find in the Trump White House](#)
Washington Post – Josh Rogin: [For John Bolton, Russia is part of a new 'axis of evil'](#)
Washington Post – Christian Caryl: [Yes, Russia's out to get us. But don't forget the Chinese.](#)
Washington Post – Marc A. Thiessen: [It's not the job of Cabinet officials to be a 'check' on the president](#)
Washington Post – Catherine Rampell: [Yet another clown wants to go to Congress](#)
Washington Post – John Podesta: [Enough is enough. Scott Pruitt needs to go.](#)
Washington Post – Randall D. Eliason: [Trump may be in the greatest legal jeopardy of his presidency](#)
Washington Post – Molly Roberts: [At Walmart, a conservative group commandeers the #MeToo movement](#)
Washington Post – Megan McArdle: [Repealing the Second Amendment would be incredibly difficult](#)
Washington Post – Philip Allen Lacovara: [Even Trump deserves a good lawyer](#)
Washington Post – Laurence H. Tribe: [Repealing the Second Amendment is a dangerous idea](#)
Washington Post – E. J. Dionne Jr.: [Two big cheating scandals plague our politics](#)
Washington Post – Harry Litman: [We may know why Paul Manafort has kept quiet. But his bet is still risky.](#)

Wall Street Journal

Wall Street Journal – Editorial: [The Political Judges of Gerrymanders](#)
Wall Street Journal – Editorial: [G-Men Under Subpoena](#)
Wall Street Journal – Editorial: [Mr. Lighthizer's Managed Trade](#)
Wall Street Journal – Sean Rushton: [Monetary Reform Would Rebalance Trade](#)
Wall Street Journal – Elizabeth Warren: [Republicans Remain Silent as Mulvaney's CFPB Ducks Oversight](#)
Wall Street Journal – Karl Rove: [The Illuminati Embrace Protectionism](#)
Wall Street Journal – Peter Funt: [This Warning May Cause Severe Anxiety](#)

Wall Street Journal – Editorial: [The training may cause severe anxiety](#)

Wall Street Journal – Daniel Henninger: [Is Facebook a Frankenstein?](#)

New York Post

New York Post – Editorial: [Pushing Cuomo left – at the taxpayers' expense](#)

New York Post – Editorial: [De Blasio's obscene, illegal gift to the bus-drivers' union](#)

New York Post – Editorial: [A pack of hypocrites on calling out corruption](#)

New York Post – Editorial: [Why Stormy and Trump are accomplices and other comments](#)

New York Post – John Podhoretz: [Roseanne revival is a wake-up call for Hollywood](#)

New York Post – Josh Rogin: [Trump is right: We have to counter China's economic warfare](#)

New York Post – Seth Lipsky: [The ridiculous snit over a Census citizenship question](#)

Washington Times

Washington Times – Editorial: [Taking politics out of politics](#)

Washington Times – Scott Lingamfelter: [A fulcrum shift in foreign policy](#)

Washington Times – Victor Davis Hanson: [The distortions of unelected officials](#)

Washington Times – Peter Morici: [Guns and the left's war on freedom](#)

Washington Times – Andrew P. Napolitano: [Hope for the dead](#)

Washington Times – Lamont Colucci: [How North Korea flouts international sanctions](#)

Washington Times – Cal Thomas: [John Bolton's enemies](#)

Washington Times – Suzanne Fields: [Trying the Golden Rule in Washington](#)

Washington Times – Matt Mackowiak: [Left's derangement raises the stakes for midterm fight](#)

RNC War Room

From: RNC War Room
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2018 7:11 AM
Subject: Washington Examiner: Editorial: A frivolous lawsuit against Trump's census question

A frivolous lawsuit against Trump's census question

Washington Examiner

Editorial Board

March 29, 2018 – 12:00 AM

<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/editorials/a-frivolous-lawsuit-against-trumps-census-question>

A new lawsuit by liberal state attorneys general is trying to stop the Trump administration asking people whether they are citizens on the 2020 census.

This was as inevitable as night following day. But can this case be taken seriously, and should it be?

It may be that the citizenship question simply encourages people to lie. But it cannot be reasonably claimed to violate anyone's constitutional powers or rights. If you don't like it, pass a law. If you can't pass a law, too bad.

There is much fretting on the Left that the resurrected question might affect congressional representation, but this is an absurd notion and would never hold up in any court. The Constitution makes it clear that the decennial census must count everyone. A good textualist judge would tell you that we know this because that's how it's always been understood. At the time of the founding, the census counted many classes of people who couldn't vote, such as children, women, and slaves. The Three-Fifths Compromise was created specifically to prevent slave states from taking even greater advantage of slavery to enhance their numbers in the House of Representatives.

So the precedent is solidly established that House seats have to be apportioned based on total population, not voter-eligible population. No one can reasonably read the Constitution and conclude otherwise.

But that doesn't mean the census can't ask other questions, too. The citizenship question was asked by the census before 1960, so what is the basis today for a court to rule that it violates the Actual Enumeration Clause, as California Attorney General Xavier Becerra is arguing?

The census asks all kinds of other questions (about race, for example) that have nothing to do with enumeration of the population. The long form of the census asks even more intrusive questions. This has been accepted practice since the nation's founding. So as long as an "actual enumeration" is also taken and used to apportion House seats, the citizenship question doesn't appear to pose any constitutional problems.

Unfortunately, we seem to be facing the same problem as when President Trump imposed travel restrictions from certain countries rife with terrorists. Certain judges took the opportunity to block the measure, apparently because it originated with Trump, whose public comments on immigration were deemed to diminish the authority of his office.

The Supreme Court has temporarily set aside these rulings for a simple reason the president has plenary authority to exclude foreigners. Any judge who says otherwise is making up the law as he goes.

Trump came to power talking tough about enhancing his own power and weakening others' constitutional protections. So it makes sense to be vigilant and hold him to the law. But a certain strain of liberal jurist seems willing to destroy the law itself in order to limit Trump's powers more than other presidents', just because he's Trump.

For example, a judge refused to let former President Barack Obama's DACA directive expire on schedule. Not only was DACA temporary, created by Obama with an expiration date, but it is a mere executive action and not even a law. All merits of the policy aside, any action like DACA can, in theory, be abolished at any time by a stroke of any sitting president's pen. Otherwise, America is a monarchy more absolute than most of the ancient regimes. Just imagine: A president's word becomes irrevocable law, even after his reign? Any judge who accepts that poses a much greater threat to the rule of law than Trump ever could.

If courts decide matters such as immigration policy and census questions based on the biased idea that some presidents are more equal than others, they will be abandoning the rule of law and creating their own constitutional crisis.

It is to be hoped that the Supreme Court will put an end to this brand of jurisprudence when it takes up the travel ban case. Checks and balances are no good unless they occur within the clear framework of the law. Rules have to be the same for everyone. They don't depend on who is president and whether a particular judge likes him.

Disclaimer: The Republican National Committee provided the above article as a service to its employees and other selected individuals. Any opinions expressed therein are those of the article's author and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the RNC.

RNC War Room

From: RNC War Room
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2018 11:16 AM
Subject: Washington Examiner: Census pushback: 6 national population surveys, three agencies, asked about citizenship

Census pushback: 6 national population surveys, three agencies, asked about citizenship

Washington Examiner

Paul Bedard

March 29, 2018 – 10:47 AM

<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/washington-secrets/census-pushback-6-national-population-surveys-three-agencies-asked-about-citizenship>

At least six regularly conducted population surveys, including one done jointly by New York and the U.S. Census Bureau, have asked immigration and citizenship questions, according to a "guide" that throws cold water on complaints about it being asked on the upcoming 2020 Census.

What's more, three federal agencies, the Census, Customs and Immigration Services and the State Department produce immigration and citizenship data.

The internal "Guide to International Migration Statistics: The Sources, Collection, and Processing of Foreign-born Population Data and the U.S. Census Bureau," detailed how each different survey in recent years addressed immigration, including the questions that were asked.

The guide was drawn up in 2002 "to inform interested parties of on-going research and to encourage discussion." It was provided to Secrets.

It directly challenges charges from liberal lawmakers that the Trump administration is making a major change to the upcoming Census by adding a citizenship question. Some news stories have wrongly said that the question hasn't been part of the Census since 1950.

"It's absolutely not new and 100 percent Constitutional as well," said an administration official, noting that a citizenship question was included on the 2002 Census. The Census is conducted every 10 years to aid in the redrawing of congressional districts and distribution of federal dollars and programs.

Critics have charged that the administration's push to slow illegal immigration prompted the citizenship question and that it is trying to find illegals to deport. Several states, including two that host sanctuary cities – New York and California – have sued to stop the Census Bureau from asking about citizenship.

Administration officials have described the addition as one sought by the Commerce and Justice Departments to make the Census more accurate and legal. What's more, facing questions that immigrants – legal and illegal – will hide from the Census, other reports have shown that a tiny percentage actually refuses to answer Census questionnaires.

The surveys that have include immigration questions are:

The surveys that have included immigration questions are:

- American Community Survey.
- Current Population Survey.
- Survey of Income and Program Participation.
- National Health Interview Survey.
- American Housing Survey.
- New York City Housing Vacancy Survey.

At least three of those surveys still ask citizenship questions, according to a new report from the Center for Immigration Studies. They are the American Community Survey, the Current Population Survey, and the Survey of Income and Program Participation.

The 2002 guide included examples of the questions in each of the surveys.

- The American Community Survey: *"Is this person a CITIZEN of the United States?"*
- The Current Population Survey: *"(Are/Is) (name/you) a CITIZEN of the United States?"*
- The Survey of Income and Program Participation: *"Are you a U.S. citizen?"*
- The National Health Interview Survey: *"ARE/IS] a CITIZEN of the United States?"* and, *"In what year did [fill NAME] come to the United States to stay?"*
- The American Housing Survey: *"(Are/Is) (name/you) a CITIZEN of the United States?"*
- The New York City Housing Vacancy Survey: Under "Immigrant Status," interviewers asked, *"Did... (reference person) move to the United States as an immigrant?"* and *"In what year did...(reference person) move to the United States?"*

Disclaimer: The Republican National Committee provided the above article as a service to its employees and other selected individuals. Any opinions expressed therein are those of the article's author and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the RNC.

Comms Alert

From: Comms Alert
Sent: Friday, March 30, 2018 6:06 AM
Subject: Editorial Roundup 3/30/18

New York Times

New York Times – Editorial: [A Coup at Veterans Affairs](#)
New York Times – Editorial: [Congress Considers Going Easy on Predatory Lenders](#)
New York Times – Charles M. Blow: [Character Should Still Matter](#)
New York Times – Bret Stephens: [Jeremy Corbyn, Accidental Anti-Semite](#)
New York Times – David Leonhardt & Ian Prasad Philbrick: [A Quick Story About Baseball](#)
New York Times – Paul Krugman: [Is It Policy, or Just Reality TV?](#)
New York Times – David J. Shulkin: [David J. Shulkin: Privatizing the V.A. Will Hurt Veterans](#)
New York Times – Noam Cohen: [Facebook Isn't Just Violating Our Privacy](#)
New York Times – Norman L. Eisen & Bandy X. Lee: [Ronny Jackson's Disturbing Lack of Independence](#)

Washington Post

Washington Post – Editorial: [Malaysia's ploy to punish 'fake news' is really just censorship](#)
Washington Post – Editorial: [The political favor Ryan Zinke offered to Florida's governor — and no one else](#)
Washington Post – Editorial: [Can Ronny Jackson really run the VA?](#)
Washington Post – Anders Aslund: [It's time to go after Vladimir Putin's money in the West](#)
Washington Post – Patrick Gathara: [Kenya may have its own Donald Trump to deal with](#)
Washington Post – Amol Mehra: [My law degree wasn't meant for money laundering. But boy, it would make it easy.](#)
Washington Post – Elizabeth Bruenig: [The United States could have Nordic-style welfare programs, too](#)
Washington Post – Fareed Zakaria: [Trump is abusing America's foreign policy power](#)
Washington Post – Randall D. Eliason: [Why Robert Mueller could be considering bribery charges](#)
Washington Post – Eugene Robinson: [Surprise: Trump's newest Cabinet nominee has no relevant experience](#)
Washington Post – Michael Gerson: [This madness will pass. Conservatives can't give up.](#)
Washington Post – David Ignatius: [Trump and Kim Jong Un have a lot in common. Is that a good thing?](#)
Washington Post – Jack Markell: [Do we really want 16 million children without parents?](#)
Washington Post – Vanita Gupta: [The bitter lie behind the census's citizenship question](#)
Washington Post – Max Boot: [The United States is preparing for the wrong war](#)
Washington Post – Marc A. Thiessen: [There's nothing wrong with a census question about citizenship](#)

Wall Street Journal

Wall Street Journal – Editorial: [Trump Targets Amazon](#)
Wall Street Journal – Editorial: [Barclays Foils Bank Heist](#)
Wall Street Journal – Editorial: [A Republican Pulse in Connecticut](#)
Wall Street Journal – Editorial: [Trump's Managed Trade](#)

Wall Street Journal – Editorial: [Trump's managed trade](#)

Wall Street Journal – Lenore Skenazy: [Parents, You Can Stop Helicoptering](#)

Wall Street Journal – Ruth R. Wisse: [To Appreciate Freedom, Remember Slavery](#)

Wall Street Journal – Steven Sexton: [The U.S. Olympic Monopoly Needs Accountability](#)

Wall Street Journal – Max Raskin: [What the Fed Could Learn From Bitcoin](#)

Wall Street Journal – James Freeman: [Trump, Bezos and the Amazon Subsidy](#)

Wall Street Journal – Kimberley A. Strassel: [In for a Penny, in for Impound](#)

Wall Street Journal – Joseph C. Stemberg: [Britain's Monetary 'Stimulus' Has Fed the Pension Crisis](#)

New York Post

New York Post – Editorial: [Why can't Cuomo get over his bizarre highway-sign obsession](#)

New York Post – Editorial: [New York has a moral duty to play fair with yellow cabs](#)

New York Post – Editorial: [Trump is winning on Iran, how to defund Planned Parenthood, and other comments](#)

New York Post – Rich Lowry: [What Never Trumpers still refuse to see](#)

New York Post – Seth Mandel: [Team Obama's smear machine-in-exile mobilizes to destroy Iran-deal critics](#)

New York Post – Jacob Sullum: [Who gets to decide whether it's medicine or drug abuse?](#)

New York Post – Jamie Kirchick: [Dems' Trump-Russia hysteria is giant gift to Putin](#)

New York Post – Steve Cuozzo: ['Benito Cuomo' hasn't earned Penn Station power play](#)

New York Post – Maureen Callahan: [These horror stories show much more work is needed before VA can tout 'progress'](#)

Washington Times

Washington Times – Wesley Pruden: [Hollywood gets a few lessons in story-telling](#)

Washington Times – Robert Charles: [The significance of faith](#)

Washington Times – Tim Phillips: [The tax cut's pay raise](#)

Washington Times – Gene Kopelson: [The pivotal 1968 Republican Primary](#)

Washington Times – Donald Lambro: [Reducing the debt when economic indicators are in flux](#)

Washington Times – Cheryl K. Chumley: [#ProLifeWalkout a tit for tat to the left](#)

RNC War Room

From: RNC War Room
Sent: Saturday, March 31, 2018 10:09 AM
Subject: Politico Playbook 3/31/18

What is going on with EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt?

Politico Playbook

Jake Sherman, Anna Palmer, and Daniel Lippman

March 31, 2018 – 9:55 AM

<https://www.politico.com/newsletters/playbook/2018/03/31/what-is-going-on-with-epa-administrator-scott-pruitt-261378>

DRIVING THE DAY

HEADLINE in the **PALM BEACH POST**: “**Trump in Palm Beach: Will president golf today amid Syrian crisis?**” <https://pbpo.st/2E8RSp8>**Answer:** We don't know what he's doing, but per pooler Ledge King of USA Today: “President's motorcade turned in to Trump International Golf Club at 8:57 a.m.”

WHAT'S ON PRESIDENT TRUMP'S MIND THIS MORNING -- @realDonaldTrump at 8:45 a.m.: “While we are on the subject, it is reported that the U.S. Post Office will lose \$1.50 on average for each package it delivers for Amazon. That amounts to Billions of Dollars. The Failing N.Y. Times reports that ‘the size of the company's lobbying staff has ballooned,’ and that...” ... **at 8:52 a.m.:** “...does not include the Fake Washington Post, which is used as a ‘lobbyist’ and should so REGISTER. If the P.O. ‘increased its parcel rates, Amazon's shipping costs would rise by \$2.6 Billion.’ This Post Office scam must stop. Amazon must pay real costs (and taxes) now!”

... **at 8:53 a.m.:** “Governor Jerry ‘Moonbeam’ Brown pardoned 5 criminal illegal aliens whose crimes include (1) Kidnapping and Robbery (2) Badly beating wife and threatening a crime with intent to terrorize (3) Dealing drugs. Is this really what the great people of California want? @FoxNews”.

-- **BY THE WAY:** Jeff Bezos owns the Washington Post personally. Amazon does not own the Post, nor does the Post have an editorial agenda. The register-as-a-lobbyist thing is ridiculously silly.

Good Saturday morning. WHAT IS GOING ON with EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt?!? His travel is under scrutiny. He lived with a lobbyist – as did his daughter. And his security detail had to break down a door to the condo because they thought he was unresponsive. Despite all the negative headlines, he's kept his job and hasn't faced public ire from President Donald Trump.

-- **BIZARRE: “Pruitt's EPA security broke down door to lobbyist condo,”** by ABC News' Matthew Mosk, John Santucci and Stephanie Ebbs: EPA “Administrator Scott Pruitt's protective detail broke down the door at the Capitol Hill condo where he was living, believing he was unconscious and unresponsive and needed rescue, in a bizarre incident last year that the EPA has for months refused to discuss, according to sources and police radio traffic obtained by ABC News. The incident occurred in the late afternoon on March 29, 2017 at the Capitol Hill address Pruitt was renting, which was co-owned by the wife of a top energy lobbyist.

“**A Capitol Police officer called 911 at the behest of Pruitt's security detail** which had tried unsuccessfully to

A Capitol Hill staffer called 911 at the address of Pruitt's security detail, which had tried unsuccessfully to reach him by phone, and by banging on the building's front door, according to police recordings obtained by ABC News.

"They say he's unconscious at this time," the 911 operator is told, according to the recordings. 'I don't know about the breathing portion.' Responding fire units from a Capitol Hill station house mobilized. 'Engine three, Medic two respond to unconscious person,' the radio transmission said. The protective detail then broke down the building's glass-paneled front door and ascended two flights to Pruitt's \$50-a-night bedroom, where two sources tell ABC News he was found groggy, rising from a nap.

"It is unclear what led to the panic that caused the response. Pruitt declined medical attention, and a police report was never filed. The EPA eventually agreed to reimburse the condo owner for the damage to the door, a source familiar with the arrangement told ABC News. EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox did not respond to requests for information on the incident or the reimbursement payments. The previously unreported incident occurred while Pruitt was living at Capitol Hill condo co-owned by the wife of a top energy lobbyist." <https://abcn.ws/2GmEVK3>

-- **ALEX GUILLEN: "Pruitt holding on, so far":** "Pruitt has also been one of the most effective members of President Donald Trump's administration – moving to reverse a huge swath of Obama-era regulations, persuading the president to exit the Paris climate deal and promoting Trump's efforts to produce more coal, oil and natural gas.

"And unlike other Cabinet members who have gotten the ax from Trump, such as ousted Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin and former Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, Pruitt has not obstructed the president's conservative agenda or actively criticized his leadership. Instead, he praises Trump on Fox News and elsewhere every chance he gets." <https://politi.co/2Eco8l0>

SPOTTED: Paul Manafort having lunch at Charlie Palmer on Friday ... former Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz on a late-evening Good Friday American Airlines DCA-BOS flight – **pic** <http://bit.ly/2GIWWfy>

THE FINAL FOUR begins tonight. Loyola of Chicago vs. Michigan at 6:09 p.m. (Michigan is a 5.5-point favorite), and Kansas vs. Villanova at 8:49 p.m. (Villanova is a five-point favorite).

TO MOSCOW WITH SCORN ... "Trump Advisers Urge Tougher Russia Policy After Expulsions," by NYT's Peter Baker, Andrew Higgins and Steven Erlanger: "Some senior Trump administration officials are pressing for more aggressive action toward Russia, hoping to persuade a reluctant President Trump to change his approach after a week of mass diplomatic expulsions that have driven the relationship with Moscow to its lowest point in decades.

"With hundreds of diplomats in Washington, Moscow and European capitals packing their bags as the tensions stemming from the poisoning of a former Russian spy living in Britain have worsened, the Trump team is eyeing additional sanctions and other measures against Russia.

"But while aides say the president has become increasingly convinced that Russia is dangerous, he has still refused to embrace a tougher public posture himself and remains uncertain how far to authorize his administration to go. Mr. Trump has emphasized the importance of dialogue with Russia and its president, Vladimir V. Putin, yet the departure of so many diplomats expelled from both Russia and the United States will make it that much harder to maintain a semblance of normal relations between the two countries. Cooperation in areas as varied as agriculture, counterterrorism, military affairs and space exploration could diminish, as could

areas as varied as agriculture, counterterrorism, military affairs and space exploration could diminish, as could private travel and business dealings.” <https://nyti.ms/2f2K7h>

TRUMP INC. -- “From Mueller to Stormy to ‘emoluments,’ Trump’s business is under siege,” by WaPo’s Jonathan O’Connell and David Fahrenthold: “The carefully maintained secrecy around President Trump’s finances is under unprecedented assault a year into his presidency, with three different legal teams with different agendas trying to pry open the Trump Organization’s books ...

“The inquiries are exposing the risks Trump took on when he made the decision to maintain ownership of the company that bears his name while serving in the White House — a departure from 40 years of presidential tradition and the advice of ethics officials. Previous presidents have chosen to fully divest their assets. When Trump took office, he instead put his stake in his company into a trust managed by his sons, accessible to him at any time.

“Now, what initially seemed like a plum arrangement for Trump — enjoying the fruits of his business while running the country — may come back to harm the Trump Organization if it is forced to reveal the kind of financial information and private correspondence that real estate firms closely guard.” <https://wapo.st/2GFM0sG>

ON THE WORLD STAGE -- “In private, Trump has mused about Syria pullout for weeks,” by AP’s Matt Lee and Josh Lederman: “President Donald Trump’s unscripted remark this week about pulling out of Syria ‘very soon,’ while at odds with his own policy, was not a one-off. For weeks, top advisers have been fretting about an overly hasty withdrawal as the president has increasingly told them privately he wants out, U.S. officials said.

“Only two months ago, Trump’s aides thought they’d persuaded him that the U.S. needed to keep its presence in Syria open-ended — not only because the Islamic State group has yet to be entirely defeated, but also because the resulting power vacuum could be filled by other extremist groups or by Iran.

“Trump signed off on [a] major speech in January in which Secretary of State Rex Tillerson laid out the new strategy and declared ‘it is vital for the United States to remain engaged in Syria.’ But by mid-February, Trump was telling his top aides in meetings that as soon as victory can be declared against IS, he wanted American troops out of Syria, said the officials. Alarm bells went off at the State Department and the Pentagon, where officials have been planning for a gradual, methodical shift from a military-led operation to a diplomatic mission to start rebuilding basic infrastructure like roads and sewers in the war-racked country.” <http://bit.ly/2pV3GGm>

-- “Trump Freezes Funds for Syrian Recovery, Signaling Pullback,” by WSJ’s Felicia Schwartz: “President Donald Trump froze more than \$200 million in funds for recovery efforts in Syria as his administration reassesses Washington’s broader role in the protracted conflict there. The White House ordered the State Department to put the spending on hold, U.S. officials said, a decision in line with Mr. Trump’s declaration on Thursday that America would exit Syria and ‘let the other people take care of it now.’

“Mr. Trump called for the freeze after reading a news report noting that the U.S. had recently committed an additional \$200 million to support early recovery efforts in Syria, said the officials. Departing Secretary of State Rex Tillerson pledged the money in February in Kuwait at a meeting of the coalition to defeat Islamic State.” <https://on.wsj.com/2GMNdhI>

OUT OF THE LOOP -- “Joint chiefs not briefed before Trump went public with trans military ban,” by Washington Blade’s Chris Johnson: “The joint military service chiefs were not briefed on the recommendations by Defense Secretary James Mattis against the transgender military ban or the Trump memo seeking to implement them before the White House went public with them last Friday, according to two sources familiar with

implement them before the White House went public with them last Friday, according to the source familiar with the process.

“One source said the top uniformed officials at the Pentagon had to download the documents online just like the rest of the public late on March 23 to obtain them for the first time. Maj. Carla Gleason, a Pentagon spokesperson, wouldn't deny the joint chiefs weren't briefed on the recommendation before it went public, but said their representatives were on the panel of experts that advised Mattis on transgender service before he made his recommendation.” <http://bit.ly/2GI2PTK>

BAD NEWS FOR REP. ELIZABETH ESTY ... The Hartford Courant – the state's largest paper – called on the Connecticut Democrat to resign after a Washington Post report detailing how she did not act when she found out her chief of staff threatened to murder a woman who worked in the office. She also wrote the man a letter of recommendation. <https://cour.at/2pTUgLn> Now, a Democratic state representative says she's gotta go. Esty has said she won't resign.

-- **NEIL VIGDOR:** “The congresswoman failed her staff on every level when she decided to protect an alleged abuser instead of them,” [Democratic state Sen. Mae] Flexer said. “It's completely unacceptable. Her failure to do the right thing here hurt us all, especially as more and more women are courageously coming forward. It's time for Rep. Esty to step aside.” <https://cour.at/2pSGp8l>

IT WILL BE INTERESTING to see how House Democrats handle this incident.

Also: Esty's seat is hardly a cakewalk for Democrats. It's a D+2. Clinton only won the district by 4 in 2016. Esty has cruised in the past.

TRUMP'S SATURDAY -- The president has no public events scheduled. But it's 72 degrees in Palm Beach.

PLAYBOOK READS

TRUMP'S CABINET -- **“Trump cabinet official buys \$3.2 million home in Great Barrington,”** by the Berkshire Edge's Terry Cowgill: “On March 12, a pair of properties on either side of Seekonk Cross Road in Great Barrington [in western Massachusetts] was sold for \$3.2 million, according to records in the Register of Deeds. The buyer, W.L. Ross Family, is a limited liability company that had only been formed a few days earlier. According to the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, the manager and signatory of the LLC is none other than Wilbur L. Ross ...

“The seller is Robert M. Beusman, better known in the area as Bobby Houston [who is] an Academy Award-winning film director ... Built in 1780, the two-story single-family home, which sits on about 7.5 acres and has 4,665 square feet of floor space, has 10 rooms total, including five bedrooms, a greenhouse, a garden, a patio and a pool. ... Ross owns several properties, including two in Palm Beach, Florida. One of the Palm Beach holdings is a 16,247-square-foot mansion at 328 El Vedado Road on a full acre along the Intracoastal Waterway.” **With two pics** <http://bit.ly/2GHrwQh>

HMM -- **“Census Bureau's Own Expert Panel Rebukes Decision to Add Citizenship Question,”** by NYT's Michael Wines: “The Trump administration's decision to add a question on citizenship to the 2020 census, already the target of lawsuits and broad criticism by statistics authorities, drew a new opponent on Friday: the experts who advise the Census Bureau itself. Those experts — prominent demographers, economists, engineers and others who make up the Census Scientific Advisory Committee — said in a statement that the decision was based on ‘flawed logic’ could threaten the accuracy and confidentiality of the head count and

decision was based on narrow logic, could threaten the accuracy and confidentiality of the record book and likely would make it more expensive to conduct." <https://nyti.ms/2E9jLNy>

CLICKER – “The nation’s cartoonists on the week in politics,” edited by Matt Wuerker – 15 keepers <https://politi.co/2GWUdq0>

GREAT WEEKEND READS, curated by Daniel Lippman, filing from Boston:

-- “**The Last Conversation You’ll Ever Need to Have About Eating Right**,” by Mark Bittman and Dr. David L. Katz in Grub Street: “Our ancestors consumed a wide variety of plant foods that gave them up to 100 grams of fiber daily; we, on the other hand, eat an average of 15 grams. They ate lots of insects. And, of course, they ate the meat of only wild animals, since there were no domesticated animals in the Stone Age, with the possible exception of the wolf-to-dog transition.” <https://grb.st/2J6q15S>

-- “**My 72-Hour Safari in Clinton Country**,” by Adam Wren in Politico Magazine’s Friday cover: “More than a year into Trump’s presidency, the bubble has closed back over the Acela Corridor, where voters say they do not regret not voting for Trump.” <https://politi.co/2GoKv2E>

-- “**Traffic**,” by Jeanne Marie Laskas in GQ in March 2009: “At any given moment, on any given morning, there are roughly 6,000 planes on their way to somewhere, from somewhere, over American airspace. Getting them safely down to the ground will depend upon the efforts of a small group of controllers who, nearly without fail, get the job done despite long hours, grim working conditions, and ancient technology. Jeanne Marie Laskas journeys to the tower at LaGuardia Airport in New York City to find out how it all happens.” <http://bit.ly/2GBs7mF> (h/t Longform.org)

-- “**The Roaming Empire**,” by Jonathan Beckman in 1843 Magazine: “As buying a house becomes harder and remote working simpler, should we remain wedded to the idea of settling down? Jonathan Beckman meets the people who hope to find a home wherever they wander.” <http://bit.ly/2pRly4T>

-- “**My Brother, The White Nationalist**,” by Gabriel Thompson in Pacific Standard Magazine: “When Josh Damigo finds out his brother is the new face of the white nationalist movement, finding the roots of radicalization becomes personal.” <http://bit.ly/2pPYEe6>

-- “**They Could Have Made a Different Decision**”: Inside the Strange Odyssey of Hedge-Fund King Eddie Lampert,” by William Cohan in April’s Vanity Fair: “In 2003, many were skeptical when Lampert married Sears to Kmart. Now, with hundreds of stores closed and thousands thrown out of work, Lampert defends his strategies in his first in-depth interview in 15 years. The author also tracks down the man who kidnapped Lampert before the Kmart deal went through.” <http://bit.ly/2pR6wfm>

-- “**Presidents and Mass Shootings**,” by Tevi Troy in National Affairs: “Mass shootings reflect some of the deepest challenges confronting our post-modern society: family breakdown, alienation, and the loss of community. Presidents thrust into responding to these situations face problems that cannot be solved by the federal policy levers at their disposal. For all their power and influence, the president’s most effective role in the wake of mass shootings is to leave politics aside and act as comforter in chief, speaking for a heartbroken nation.” <http://bit.ly/2GFJi6s>

-- “**When ‘Free Speech’ Is a Marketing Ploy**,” by Osita Nwanevu in Slate – per ALDaily.com’s description: “When did the sum total of a college’s intellectual value become reducible to its willingness to host controversial speakers?” <https://slate.me/2GDlvOh>

Contributor speakers: <https://state.mn.gov/2017/08/>

-- **“Why Do We Think Serial Killers All Wear the Same Glasses?”** by Tori Telfer in Racked: “A brief history of the cat-eye glasses, horn-rimmed spectacles, and clear aviators of serial murderers.” <http://bit.ly/2GlyTJG> (h/t Longreads.com)

-- **“Pmarca Guide to Personal Productivity,”** by Marc Andreessen: “If you pull it off — and in many structured jobs, you simply can’t — this simple tip alone can make a huge difference in productivity. When someone emails to say, ‘Let’s meet on Tuesday at 3 p.m.’, the appropriate response is: ‘I’m not keeping a schedule, but give me a call on Tuesday at 2.45 and if I’m available, I’ll meet with you’. Or, if it’s important, say, ‘You know what, let’s meet right now.’” <http://bit.ly/2J5XELZ>

-- **“Does Having a Day Job Mean Making Better Art?”** by Katy Waldman in T Magazine: <https://nyti.ms/2pOG5HU>

-- **“The problem of hyper-liberalism,”** by John Gray in the Times Literary Supplement – per TheBrowser.com’s description: “Should liberalism tolerate illiberalism? It may be a long-standing contradiction in theory, but in practice it is being resolved in favour of illiberalism — with a twist. Western liberals are silencing views that they consider illiberal, thus becoming illiberals themselves.” <http://bit.ly/2pOfvPw>

-- **“How a Young Woman Lost Her Identity,”** by Rachel Aviv in the New Yorker: “Hannah Upp disappears for weeks at a time, forgetting her sense of self. Can she still be found?” <http://bit.ly/2E5UI3v>

PLAYBOOKERS

BIRTHDAYS OF THE DAY: Howard Gordon, executive producer of Showtime’s “Homeland” and former EP of FOX’s “24”. **How he got his start in the entertainment business:** “After graduating from college, I started an SAT preparation business with Alex Gansa. Among my first students was the daughter of a producer, John Wilder, who had just adapted ‘Spenser: For Hire’ for ABC. He read Alex and my ‘St. Elsewhere’ spec script and invited us to pitch stories to him – and he bought one!” **Read his Playbook Plus Q&A:** <https://politi.co/2pYu1Er>

-- **Monica Dixon**, SVP and COS at Monumental Sports and former deputy COS for VP Al Gore and a Daschle alum. **A trend she thinks deserves more attention:** “When I started working at the DCCC in 1992, I was the only woman sitting at the table in the conference room. Today, there are more women than men in leadership positions in the Democratic Party. And, the odds are exceptionally high that there will be more women in Congress than ever come next year. The year I came to Washington, there were two women in the Senate; next year, there may be 25.” **Q&A:** <https://politi.co/2lf20yX>

BIRTHWEEK (was Sunday): Tracy Palandjian, co-founder and CEO of the nonprofit Social Finance

BIRTHDAYS: Politico’s Ben “Morning Money” White ... Al Gore is 7-0 ... Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) is 78 ... former Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.) is 78 ... Kara Alaimo, a professor at Hofstra and a Treasury alum ... CNN’s Sara Murray ... Michael McAdams, president of the Advanced Biofuels Association ... Sen. Angus King (I-Maine) is 74 ... Rep. Tony Cardenas (D-Calif.) is 55 ... lawyer and writer Ari Melber, host of MSNBC’s “The Beat” ... Rep. Mark DeSaulnier (D-Calif.) is 66 ... Mozilla is 20 – **read their original manifesto** <https://mzl.la/2GoNTq8> ... Rep. Stephen F. Lynch (D-Mass.) is 63 ... Marina Lopes, WashPost Brazil correspondent ... Jennifer Molina, spokesperson for California Attorney General Xavier Becerra ... Poy Winichakul ... Lauren Hutchinson, VP at The Tarrance Group ... Rusty Bermel of Pivotal Ventures - the executive office of Melinda Gates ... Jacklyn Norris Madden (hubby tip: Kevin) ... former Rep. Jim Marshall (D-Ga.) ... Eric

-- **Univision's "Al Punto"**: Deported U.S. Army veteran Miguel Pérez and his mother Esperanza Pérez ... René Delgado ... Colombian presidential candidate Germán Vargas Lleras ... panel: Rosario Marin and Alfonso Aguilar ... Jesús "Chuy" Garcia

-- **C-SPAN: "The Communicators"**: Michael Powell, questioned by Politico's Kyle Daly
... **"Newsmakers"**: American Legion National Commander Denise Rohan, questioned by Nikki Wentling and Donovan Slack ... **"Q&A"**: Discussion with high school students attending the U.S. Senate Youth Program

-- **MSNBC's "Kasie DC"**: Rep. Keith Ellison (D-Minn.) ... Rep. Tom Cole (R-Okla.) ... Julia Ioffe ... PBS' Yamiche Alcindor ... Betsy Woodruff ... Philip Bump ... Matt Welch ... Jeff Mason ... Clint Watts ... Shelby Holliday ... Alexi McCammond ... Danny Cevallos

-- **PBS' "To the Contrary"**: Panel: Ann Stone, Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.), Anushay Hossain and strategist Rina Shah

-- **Washington Times' "Mack on Politics"** weekly politics podcast with Matt Mackowiak (download on iTunes, Google Play, or Stitcher or listen at MackOnPolitics.com): Author Peter Schweizer ("Secret Empires").

Disclaimer: The Republican National Committee provided the above article as a service to its employees and other selected individuals. Any opinions expressed therein are those of the article's author and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the RNC.

RNC War Room

From: RNC War Room
Sent: Sunday, April 1, 2018 8:57 AM
Subject: Inside Politics (CNN) – Michael Shear, Jackie Kucinich, Karoun Demirjian and Margaret Talev (Approval Rating, Census)

Inside Politics (CNN) – Michael Shear, Jackie Kucinich, Karoun Demirjian and Margaret Talev (Approval Rating, Census)

<http://mms.tveyes.com/transcript.asp?StationID=100&DateTime=4/1/2018%208:42:02%20AM&playclip=true>

NIA-MALIKA HENDERSON: president trump has stayed silent on the affair allegations that have been swirling around him. there's the former playboy model and the adult film actress. last week daniels attorney tried and failed to have a judge order trump and his lawyer, michael cohen be questioned under oath and still trump hasn't spoken out or even tweeted about any of it and that might actually be working for him. a core part of trump's base white conservative christians have said they don't care about the accusations even if they're true.

DR. LYNETTE BRYANT (CLIP): i know that when i voted for him, i wasn't voting for a choir boy. you can throw all that stuff up in our faces many times as you that we will work harder for trump. is that not so, ladies in.

LINDA CHURCHWELL (CLIP): that's correct. worse case scenario if he slept with her, whatever, i believe he didn't because he says he didn't. but that's between him, the lord and his family. that is not about the job he's doing in running our country.

HENDERSON: a black conservative christians, the agreeing there often with white conservatives christians in terms of trump. while trump's base is sticking with him the president is also seen an up tick in his overall approval rating among all voters. he now has a 42% approval rating. his highest in 11 months. that's up 7 points from february. so where is this boost coming from? trump is gaining among republicans, up six since february and notably his approval is also up with independence now at about 41%. jackie, why this boost in his approval ratings? he's had something of a chaotic time over these last many eekz but his approval ratings are up?

JACKIE KUCINICH: he has everything to do with the economy. the people are – these tax cuts. while they're not being sold to republicans liking at this point it is making an impact in helping the president and in terms of what you heard there from some of those women, a lot of this was baked in when they voted for him to begin with. as long as he's getting the agenda done they didn't care about his personal – he bragged about sexual assault essentially on tape, so if that's not going to change your vote, what's happening now with some of these other women coming forward isn't going to change your vote.

MICHAEL SHEAR: can i add really quickly, it's a reminder to all of us that a lot of the chaos and process stories that we write up just don't penetrate in real america.

HENDERSON: particularly these core trump supporters who are with him no matter what.

SHEAR: absolutely.

HENDERSON: car ren one of the things you see in polls is the tightening of the generic ballot. who voters want

HENDERSON: can you one of the things you see in polls is the ignoring of the general election. how many democrats or republicans? i think it's down to six or eight right now depending on the poll you watch. it had been in double digits. what does trouble's approval rating mean?

KAROUN DEMIRJIAN: it makes it trickier. they still have a lot of seats they have to flip if they'll take the majority of the house back. if you have the trump bump or trump drain mitigated, then it makes it harder to go after people in these seats that are republican plus double digits and you need some of those seats if you'll be able to have that much of a win that puts nancy pelosi back in the speaker's gavel or whoever they choose to appoint. that's another discussion entirely. it depends – they'll have to just do really smart work district by district in where they choose to carry out these fights and have to focus a lot on selectively tying the campaigns to issues of trumps that don't play well in those areas. you'll basically have a little bit more win at the republicans backs and that makes it more complicated.

HENDERSON: we'll see where the rest of the year goes, where his approval ratings go. one of the issues that has come up, margaret, is the census and this idea that the commerce department is now going to add a citizenship question to the census and you've seen both sides try to fund raise off of it. trump as well as democrats trying to make an issue of it. where do you think this goes? does it become a campaign issue?

MARGARET TALEV: i think it's as a campaign issue. the president has felt before that sometimes having these devicive issues helps him because it makes him remember how much they like him and motivates them to turn out. the place where it all puts pressure all these issues from the tax cut, legislation to the census debate is how it effects republicans in purple states or swing states in swing districts, right? whether it's new jersey or what have you, that's where the rubber is going to meet the road. the president's gamble for him is it's a win either way. if he can dehinnish the representation in states like california, that helps him. but if it does depress turnout or circumstances for enough of those republicans in the philly suburbs and new jersey, in some parts of california where this house sort of path lies, then that's the gamble and we won't know until november.

DEMIRJIAN: it also effects the maps going forward. when the state legislators redraw –

TALEV: that's my point. if he's successful and it goes forward –

HENDERSON: that could mean something in terms of a congressional districts, certainly in terms of federal funding as well. we'll see where this goes.

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RNC War Room

From: RNC War Room
Sent: Sunday, April 1, 2018 9:35 AM
Subject: Fox News Sunday – Jason Chaffetz, Marie Harf, Catherine Lucey, Gillian Turner (Russia, Syria, North Korea)

Fox News Sunday – Jason Chaffetz, Marie Harf, Catherine Lucey, Gillian Turner (Russia, Syria, North Korea)
<http://mms.tveyes.com/transcript.asp?PlayClip=FALSE&DTSearch=TRUE&DateTime=04%2F01%2F2018+09%3A15%3A58&market=m101&StationID=300>

ANATOLY ANTONOV (CLIP): if anybody slapped her face, what will be your reaction from her side? we will retaliate. it goes without saying.

HEATHER NAUERT (CLIP): russia should not be acting like a victim. the only victims in the situation are the two victims in a hospital in the u.k. right now.

CHRIS WALLACE: russian ambassador and state department spokeswoman continuing the two countries war of words this week. it's time now for our sunday group. former republican congressman jason chaffetz. fox news analyst marie harf. catherine lucey, who covers the white house for the associated press and fox news correspondent gillian turner. jillian, let me start with you. where are we headed in relations with the kremlin after this week and you heard from senator graham, what should president trump do next?

GILLIAN TURNER: to lay it out right now, this investigation pays into the nerve agent attack is in full swing. reporting this week is that the united states is sort of hand in glove with the brits on this investigation every step of the way in some horrifying developments coming out of that. just in the last 24 hours the brits confirmed that they believe president putin at some point directly authorized this attack himself. they believe it's not a stand-alone event and as part of a broader plan of a large-scale assassination plan for russian defectors around the world. they've gone so far as to warn partner nations to amp up security for russian defectors living inside their borders. it's a horrifying of circumstances.

WALLACE: why would they do that? i understand you don't like these people, but why is killing the person who is living as a private citizen in salisbury england worth the blowback you get internationally?

TURNER: i think because according to the putin and the kgb playbook these are some of the worst people on earth, people who defected from the former soviet union, now from russia are people that don't really deserve to live. if they are enemies of the state in the truest form. not to play pop psychology, but i think that's what motivates this.

WALLACE: we ask you for questions for the panel and on this issue of relations with russia and the mass expulsion of diplomats, lambert bowman tweeted this. "the only question, does this not put to bed any and all allegations of true collusion? they put him in office to expel people"? catherine, how do you answer lambert and the argument that the trump administration is taking action, the shows he's not playing ball with putin.

CATHERINE LUCEY: the actions this week the administration took a strong stance. very aggressive actions. but there is a disconnect a little bit between the administration's actions in the present public rhetoric. we haven't

there is a disconnect a mile or between the administration's actions in the present public relations. he hasn't heard him directly challenging putin so critics are still pointing to that as a cause for concern. but in terms of collusion specifically, that's just not going to be put to rest until this investigation concludes. we still don't know where that's going and the people are still waiting to see what mueller finds.

WALLACE: i want to turn to a different subject. mr. trump surprise announcement this week that he is eager to pull all use u.s. troops, backing up syrian rebels, wants to pull them out of syria and also that he has decided to freeze \$200 million in u.s. recovery aid for people in the country. here was mr. trump this week.

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP (CLIP): we are going to be coming out of there real soon. we will belong where we want to be.

WALLACE: i want to pick up on what senator graham said. he said that the president if he follows through on this is making the exact same mistake that barack obama made in iraq which is to pull u.s. forces out before the battle is won. is he right?

JASON CHAFFETZ: senator graham is right. why do you telegraph in advance what you are going to do to your enemies? the local people that you're working and engaging with. it's a signal to them that a couple weeks from now we may not be here. that's not a good message. i do think it's right to look at the aid portion of this and how are you going to distribute that, but i also don't think we're that close, inches away from getting rid of the caliphate and reclaiming all of the land. i just don't see that.

WALLACE: 's there didn't seem be any pressure. there was no huge call to pull u.s. troops out. how do you explain the president suddenly announcing this? he was in ohio for an infrastructure speech.

CHAFFETZ: there's no way that i'm going to be able to answer that in totality. i think his heart is in the right place. i do believe you want to get in, get your job done and get our troops home and i think that's a good message to their military. go in with overwhelming force, do what you need to do and come back home. but i don't think you telegraph that in advance. the timeline is iffy but i think senator graham is right in this case.

WALLACE: that was one of the major points that president trump made during the campaign.

CHAFFETZ: i think i said that every week, i was critical of the president saying president obama, don't do it like this.

WALLACE: so is president trump. don't be unpredictable. don't tell people in advance what's going to happen. marie, your thought about the president's apparent eagerness to get out of syria?

MARIE HARF: i think it was a huge mistake. not just the telegraphing issue, although i do agree with congressman, who will fill that void if the united states is not there? russia and iran. we've already seen russia and iran both move in increasingly into syria. they have airbases, they have troops there, both of them do. if the united states – we are handing that country over to the two countries we don't want to have more power in the middle east. we are hearing from commanders on the ground, we are hearing from diplomats that president trump needs to take a step back and stay in this for the long haul, whatever that means whether it's months or years. this would be a mistake and i think republicans like senator senator graham will keep standing up.

WALLACE: did you feel the same way about barack obama when he pulled our troops out of iraq in 2012?

HARF: i think it's a completely different strategic situation at the time. quite frankly they were different on the

... it's a completely different strategic situation at the time. quite frankly they were different on the ground. a timeline set by the bush of administration.

WALLACE: that's not quite true.

HARF: they negotiated the forces agreement and on the timeline.

WALLACE: you want to take this one on or shall i?

HARF: congressman brought it up. if there's a tension between going to the american people and saying our men and women are not going to fight indefinitely overseas, policing other countries. there is tension between that and advocating american leadership. balance is not always an easy one to find. going to the infrastructure in ohio and saying we are going to get out of syria since about signal to the commanders.

WALLACE: i'm going to make an audible here. we could relitigate that in the fact is that although there was a status – there's always the presumption that u.s. and iraq were going to negotiate for troops to stay and that president obama didn't push very hard. i want to ven to north korea because there was an interesting interesting - - catherine, after kim surprised us with the chinese, the chinese said that kim is now saying – we are talking a quick dismantlement to get rid of all of our nukes. we want phase, synchronized talks, concessions by both sides, longer negotiations. what's the reaction in the white house to that?

LUCEY: they are still waiting to hear how the president processes this. he said earlier this week that he was still looking forward to talks. he made references to ohio. some of this i think is some public posturing going on up until this meeting potentially happens.

WALLACE: does that concern you when you hear him talk? it sounds a bit like what the north koreans have done in the past. we will give you this, you give us that, we will play along for a while and then we will go back on our word.

CHAFFETZ: this is all moving in the right direction. i think this is one of the strongest points for president trump and what he's done. he's put the pressure on both economically and militarily. it's pushing in the right direction. you see that china is obviously going to play a key role in what happens there and us with the japanese and the south koreans have got to hold the line. i do think it's important that the president meets with the leader of north korea. i think that will be productive. i don't think you should let off the gas at all. certainly the appointment of john bolton is not going to send any signals that we will be softer.

WALLACE: quick final thought?

TURNER: i think the president changed tax this week. he shifted to what i would call a maximum pressure campaign against south korea, which is really interesting. threatening to tie a bilateral trade deal with them to the denuclearization issue. he now thinks south korea are demanding – before he sits on the table. this negotiation with kim jong un. if that was remarkable because i think it shows how little leverage we actually have against this crazy despotic rogue regime, north korea. the president is sort of triangulating, as much as i hate that word, saying i'm not really going to get what i want from us so i might as well push this lever and see what i can extract from south korea.

WALLACE: the south koreans and north koreans at the end of this month, he saying let's see how much you push the north koreans and we certainly don't want you breaking away from us.

TURNER: you said it better than i did did.

WALLACE: all right. thank you, panel. you will get more time in the next panel. to butter me up. when we come back, the decision to put a question about citizenship on the 2020 census raises an opera. we will talk with two politicians about that and it's escalating status about being a sanctuary state.

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RNC War Room

From: RNC War Room
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Fox News Sunday – Rep. Brad Sherman, Shawn Nelson (2020 Census, Immigration)

<http://mms.tveyes.com/transcript.asp?PlayClip=FALSE&DTSearch=TRUE&DateTime=04%2F01%2F2018+09%3A30%3A05&market=m101&StationID=300>

CHRIS WALLACE: and looked around the world as christians celebrate easter. the trump administration announced this week the 2020 census will ask respondents whether they are u.s. citizens for the first time in 70 years, and that has started a fierce debate in california, which voted to become a sanctuary state. joining me now from california, democratic congressman brad sherman and the vice chair of the orange county board of supervisors, shawn nelson. california's attorney general announced this week that he is suing the federal government for deciding to add that question to the senses. here was his reasoning.

CA AG XAVIER BECERRA (CLIP): it would jeopardize vital services for all californians. it would also jeopardize how representation in government.

WALLACE: mr. nelson, is congressman wrong or in fact would you like to see california lose some seats in congress and some federal money that is based on the large number of people in your state illegally?

SHAWN NELSON: attorney general becerra i just think is incorrect because the federal government has a right to conduct the census and is nothing that says they can't ask any particular question. i don't want california to miss out on anything, but i think that hysteria than answering questions is somehow going to force people away from a senses, i just don't buy it. the government is precluded from sharing th information for 72 years after a person answers the senses and i guess time ought to be spent allaying the fears of people he things are going to be freaked out by having to answer questions.

WALLACE: let me ask you about the practical effect of it because it's kind of an open question as we look into it. even the supreme court has not definitively ruled. do you think that people who are in this country illegally should be counted when it's decided how you're going to apportion congressional seats and how you were going to divvy up federal money?

NELSON: that's a great question. if in the end we essentially import a few citizens of other countries to game the system to get extra congressional seats i suppose that presents a big problem for power in washington, d.c. we always just assumed the counters for citizens of a country but california, where i flipped my whole life, obviously has a little different issue and that poses a big problem.

WALLACE: congressman sherman, let me ask you the same question. why should california, or any state with a sizable number of illegal immigrants in its population benefit from that to get more federal money or to get more seats in congress?

RFP BRAD SHERMAN: we are often shortchanged when it comes to federal money and congress can allocate

REP. SHERMAN: we are often challenged when it comes to federal money and congress can allocate the federal money however it chooses. the enumeration for the census is the allocation of house seats and seats in the electoral college, and the constitution is clear, you count all persons except indians are untaxed. those are the rules of the constitution. if people want the constitution, there's a process for doing that. but instead they seem to want to thwart the constitution to achieve their results without an amendment by deliberately undercounting all immigrants, legal and illegal. they've got a three step program for doing that. create massive fear, starting by calling immigrants rapists and murderers. deportations. the fear in latino and asian communities is palpable. then you add this question, the census itself under the administration it says will lead to an undercount. then you add insult to injury by saying that the reason you are doing it is to enforce the voting rights act, that it's part of the trump program for latino empowerment. that's absolutely absurd.

WALLACE: let me bring mr. nelson and if i can, because we do have limited amount of time. this will be the first time that this question has been asked as a general question. it's been asked to a small group of people, but as a general question in the senses since 1950. what about the argument that this is an effort by the trump administration to depress the count by frightening illegal immigrants?

NELSON: i think that any questionnaire has the potential to be avoided. the point is to reach out to communities and encourage them to participate. there's no repercussions, this information cannot be shared and there's no reason people shouldn't participate, and less folks go out and scare them and i would say that what's happening on this very show the congressman sherman might have more to do with scaring them than anything that i'm seeing from my end of the spectrum. tell people they are protected and encourage them to participate. my county has more poor people than most counties have people. many of them are immigrants. we need federal money.

WALLACE: i just want to ask you, congressman sherman, mr. nelson is exactly right that the law expressly prohibits using, sharing, any information from the senses with any government with any court, so why should anybody be afraid and perhaps aren't you, by talking as you are, aren't you creating that fear?

REP. SHERMAN: i'm certainly trying not to create any fear, but the fact is immigrants come from countries with oppressive governments in many cases and to convince them that a man who stands there and says these are rapists and murderers and must be pushed out of our country should get information about who was in your family and what their immigration status is and that a congress that includes people that say they are rapists and murderers isn't going to change the statute and use that as a deportation list to convince someone who has lived through the terrible situations in guatemala and honduras that they should go ahead and answer the senses is going to be difficult and to say that you are doing it to enforce the voting rights act is absolutely absurd.

WALLACE: i want to switch to the other side of this because while california is suing the federal government about including this question on the senses, the federal government is suing california about its decision to enact laws that in effect make it a sanctuary state and in fact the orange county supervisors voted this week to join the federal lawsuit against their own state of california. it was president trump this week.

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP (CLIP): sanctuary cities, where they protect criminals. they protect murder wrists, they protect people that you don't want on the streets. other places in california said we don't want that. first time they are speaking up.

WALLACE: mr. nelson, you are one of the orange county board of supervisors members who voted to join a federal lawsuit against her own state. why?

NELSON: it was my idea because we are putting an untenable position where our sheriff's deputies are

NELSON: it has my face, because he is putting an identifiable person more or less in a dispute and precluded from talking to federal authorities if they know the authorities want to pick someone up because the person is here illegally, is charged with a crime, and our people can't even talk to the federal government and less there are some exceptions that are met like they are a prior convicted felon. we have people getting out every day that we don't want released without the federal government at least having an opportunity to put hands on and make their own decision whether these people ought to be released into the streets. if we for 244 people as of last week released that we could not stop and our people could not tell ice officials that we believe ice would have wanted to speak with and like we wanted to do something about.

WALLACE: congressman sherman, you have said that washington is violating the constitution by putting the citizenship question in, but isn't california violating the constitution by interfering with the federal government, which has supremacy when it comes to matters of immigration?

REP. SHERMAN: chris, we need comprehensive immigration reform. until we get it, we will be pulling society apart.

WALLACE: you are not answering the question.

REP. SHERMAN: california is absolutely within its rights. in california has sued the trump administration 29 times and we haven't lost once.

WALLACE: you're not answering my question.

REP. SHERMAN: i will.

WALLACE: we are almost done sir.

REP. SHERMAN: the states and the federal government share sovereignty in our federal system. that's why obamacare couldn't force the states to expand medicaid.

WALLACE: in arizona, went further than president obama did. the supreme court said that they had overstepped their bounds under the supremacy clause that federal government, what they say on immigration goes, and aren't you violating that?

REP. SHERMAN: federal government establishes immigration policy, but whether california employees are going to spend california money and resources to help enforce that policy is a california decision. we will win that in court and if the federal government can't compel states to participate in medicaid, it compel states to become law enforcement authorities on immigration.

WALLACE: the constitution didn't say anything about medicaid, which didn't happen until the 1960s. it says something very specifically about immigration. mr. nelson i will give you 30 seconds for final thoughts.

NELSON: chris, unfortunately that's completely misleading. we don't want our people doing the federal government's job, nor do they have the time to do it.

<http://mms.tveyes.com/transcript.asp?PlayClip=FALSE&DTSearch=TRUE&DateTime=04%2F01%2F2018+09%3A40%3A05&market=m101&StationID=300>

what california's law is requiring is our sheriff is not even cooperate which is resulting in people committing

that someone's law is requiring to our sheriff is not even cooperate, which is resulting in people committing crimes, ending up on the streets of every county, but certainly orange county. we got involved because we don't think that's right. we are tired of the state trying to use these arguments to prevent us from keeping the citizens safe.

WALLACE: we are going to have to leave it there. didn't think we were going to settle this, and we didn't. congressman sherman, mr. nelson, thank you both. thank you for joining us to discuss the continuing debate over immigration.

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RNC War Room

From: RNC War Room
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Subject: Meet the Press (NBC) – Chuck Todd (2020 Census, Immigration)

Meet the Press (NBC) – Chuck Todd (2020 Census, Immigration)

<http://mms.tveyes.com/transcript.asp?StationID=2950&DateTime=4/1/2018%208:46:45%20AM&playclip=true>

CHUCK TODD: welcome back. data download time. the census was in the news this week, not just for data it releases. the trump administration proposed adding a question on citizenship to the questionnaire that is taken every ten years. democrats are up in arms worried the question will depress response rates to the census itself, particularly among non-citizens as well as hispanics who tend to vote democratic. the fact is, we already have this data. the government asked this question. the census bureau asks it every here is what we know. there are 22.5 million non-citizens in the united states. they are concentrated in a few areas. more than half of them, 12 california, texas, new york and million, live in four states, florida. more than 1.7 million live in just onecounty, los angeles. followed by houston, miami, chicago and queens, new york. the trump administration says adding the question will help better protect americans under the voting rights act. democrats make the argument that if fewer people response, the next congressional reapportionment won't be non-citizens tend to live in accurate. mocratic leaning areas. if fewer of them respond to the census census, congressional lines could be redrawn to democrats. there are 107 congressional the population are not u.s. citizens. 21 are held by republicans. all of those democratic districts are considered safe by the cook political report. if non-citizens aren't counted, there could be fewer of the safe democratic districts. 13 of the 21 held by republicans are rated as battleground. if you don't count non-citizens, the lines could get redrawn to include more reliable republican voters. it's unclear how big of an actual political impact this could have or if president trump is interested in simply a rhetorical debate over a policy debate. changes may not have a huge impact on the actual partisan makeup of congress. here is where it may change the ethnic makeup of congress. if who gets a chance to serve. when we come back, what did roseanne teach hollywood to most people

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RNC War Room

From: RNC War Room
Sent: Sunday, April 1, 2018 10:05 AM
Subject: Fox News Sunday – Jason Chaffetz, Marie Harf, Catherine Lucey, Gillian Turner (2020 Census, Immigration, Amazon)

Fox News Sunday – Jason Chaffetz, Marie Harf, Catherine Lucey, Gillian Turner (2020 Census, Immigration, Amazon)

<http://mms.tveyes.com/transcript.asp?PlayClip=FALSE&DTSearch=TRUE&DateTime=04%2F01%2F2018+09%3A43%3A57&market=m101&StationID=300>

CA AG XAVIER BECERRA (CLIP): every person who uses our highways or our mass transit system counts. everyone who relies on our government, whether state or local, deserves to be there when disaster strikes.

SHAWN NELSON (CLIP): certain government carve outs and benefits and of course, noncitizens are entitled to a lot of benefits.

CHRIS WALLACE: california's attorney general and orange county supervisor shawn nelson with sharply different views on whether the 2020 senses should ask people if they are u.s. citizens and we are back now with the panel. marie, let me start with you. why do you think the trump administration has decided to ask this as a general question on the senses for the first time since 1950?

MARIE HARF: it's hard to know the motivation. i know what they said. many americans, including myself, i see this decision in the context of the divisive rhetoric about immigration, in the context of more hard-line policies on deportation, and that's how most importantly americans living in the country see it. the point of the census is to take account of everyone in the country, not just citizens and there are many people on both sides of the aisle who firmly believe that this question will depress turnout and that we will not get an accurate count because people are scared about what the trump administration might do with that information.

WALLACE: gillian, do you think that's true, that this is a conscious effort to depress response by people to the senses with the expressed effort of trying to lower the amount of money to spend on federal benefits, a portion of congressional seats, particularly to areas with large number of illegal immigrants, which tend to be democratic?

GILLIAN TURNER: that is certainly the political argument to be made about this issue. but there is, in fact, in addition to this, a much larger context that gets a little bit more to the fundamentals of american democracy and how our representatives in congress and elsewhere represent us, meaning the question – this is something the supreme court as recently as 2016, should congressional representative to represent equal numbers of voters in districts or should they represent equal number of people? the case was called – in that instance they decided that folks who are not citizens have as much equity and should have as much say in these policy decisions as people who are american citizens.

WALLACE: that, apparently, and i'm just learning about that this morning. apparently that was a decision that was more to the states and local localities than it was to congress. the question as to whether congressional seats should be apportioned according to people or citizens. i have to say, i was shocked to learn that it might be

should be appointed according to people or citizens. I have to say, I was excited to learn that it might be people and not citizens.

TURNER: considering that american members of congress are supposed to represent the american electorate, not just – it seems that there's a fair argument to be made for they should also be representing the interests of noncitizens. that's a bigger question.

WALLACE: one member of congress sitting at this table.

JASON CHAFFETZ: that's ridiculous to think that we will have people who aren't americans, that they will influence the vote so that california gets more?

WALLACE: you are aware that's how it's worked up until now?

CHAFFETZ: i'm saying is a fundamental principle i think that's wrong. the senses is going to count everybody. we are having our national debate about daca, immigration reform, shouldn't we know how many people here illegally? of course we will count everybody, but we ought to know. it will be on there, there's no way for the democrats to get off. the biggest problem with the senses is that they are going to try to do this over the internet and through electronic machines. what could possibly go wrong?

WALLACE: catherine, the debate inside the right white house with this? have there been a lot of discussion about adding this question?

CATHERINE LUCEY: i know that secretary ross pointed to concerns about appropriately dealing with the voting rights act. that the argument they made as to why this is important. we know that all these legal challenges already happening, it's not clear how quickly this will be resolved. some people are saying that it's possible that this question may not end up on the senses if it gets tied up for so long in the courts. we will have to see how it plays out.

WALLACE: meanwhile, president trump has been on a tear this week about amazon and here is one of his tweets, to give you a sense of what he's been talking about. they, amazon, pay little or no taxes to state and local governments, use our postal system as their delivery boy, causing tremendous loss to the u.s., and are putting many thousands of retailers out of business. congressman, as the former chair of the house oversight committee, you've dealt with some of these issues. it is president trump right or wrong?

CHAFFETZ: i've been fond of the president and his policies, but he is fundamentally wrong on this issue and i actually think he knows he's wrong on this issue. the problems at the post office are rooted in the decline of first-class mail, their pension issues and how they account for the medical costs. the fact that they have more customers than amazon is a blessing and it's a good thing for the postal service. if you look at ups, fedex, amazon, they all use the postal service and you need them to actually boost up the numbers that are coming in to the post office. it is a good thing. i know that there is a personal conflict between the president and mr. bezos, but that's rooted in his acquisition of "the washington post." you need more customers, not less.

WALLACE: it was true in the past that a lot of the big box retailers were upset that sales over the internet, they didn't collect sales tax, but in fact amazon, i think is collecting sales tax in 45 states.

CHAFFETZ: it's all rooted in do you or do you not have physical presence in the states. quite contrary to what the president has said, amazon has been helping to lead the charge because it's in their best economic future to have sales tax collected in the states. the remote transaction parity act which i helped sponsor has broad

to have sales tax collected in the states. the remote taxation party act, which i helped sponsor, has broad bipartisan support in both bodies, the house and the senate, and that says that the states would get to make the determination. amazon is paying quite a bit of taxes, more than they've paid before, and they want each of the states to be able to make these types of decisions. a very conservative viewpoint.

WALLACE: why is the president so focused on amazon right now, and is it just tweets, or is there talk at the white house of really taking action to move against amazon?

LUCEY: the white house said this week there were no specific policies on the table at this time. with the obvious caveats that the president sometimes makes policy without telling anyone, as of right now they don't appear to be signaling anything. he does, as the congressman said, this is something that is rooted both for him i think in policy and politics, but also personal and he does find the fact that amazon's founder owns the post deeply frustrating. the president does seem to lash out particularly if he is frustrated by news coverage.

WALLACE: marie, let me ask you, because this is part of a bigger story, which is that there is a backlash against big tech. we see a particularly with facebook and the role that they played with the russian ads, the role that they played with cambridge analytic and turning over information. what are your thoughts about why the president is targeting not tack as an industry, but targeting amazon and specifically talking about jeff using "the washington post" to lobby for his interests here in d.c.?

HARF: catherine is right, this is personal for the president and we see him use his twitter feed to sort of hash out personal issues that he has, whether it's with "the washington post," sort of his inner monologue being made public. but i think that he hasn't -- his administration hasn't really looked at these bigger issues of tech. there actually could be some good work if they stepped back from the personal and said should we, and how should we regulate facebook, twitter, amazon, google. all of these different platforms, there's a huge conversation we're having in our country about tech right now and the president is playing out some personal game on twitter which is frustrating to a lot of people. he

WALLACE: less than a minute left, gillian. while there certainly seems to be some in between president trump and jeff pazo's, the success of these internet companies does hurt the big box retailers in the street.

TURNER: yes. i think to the president this is about the u.s. government, the postal service versus amazon and he's weighing in and putting his finger on the scale in favor of the postal service. but to the tech sector into the rest of america, this is about the future of brick-and-mortar and retail and what happens if a player like amazon is forced to bear out some of the consequences that the president would like to see happen? you can't put the cat back in the box and you can't move america away from the future of online retail.

WALLACE: we will discuss more of this, i'm sure. see you next sunday.

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RNC War Room

From: RNC War Room
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 8:33 AM
Subject: PolitiFact: RNC Chair Ronna McDaniel says U.S. Census Bureau has asked citizenship questions for decades

Note:



The census "for years and years and years, decades, has asked, 'Are you a citizen of the United States of America?'"

— Ronna McDaniel on Wednesday, March 28th, 2018 in a radio interview



RNC Chair Ronna McDaniel says U.S. Census Bureau has asked citizenship questions for decades

PolitiFact

D.L. David

April 3, 2018 – 5:00 AM

http://www.politifact.com/wisconsin/statements/2018/apr/03/ronna-mcdaniel/mc-chair-ronna-mcdaniel-says-us-census-bureau-ask/?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter

The debate over including a citizenship question on the 2020 census has been heating up since the March 26, 2018, [U.S. Commerce Department](#) announcement of its census plans.

Officials said the question – which asks respondents whether they are citizens – will be included for all respondents at the request of the Justice Department.

The department said the purpose of the question is to better enforce the Voting Rights Act.

Meanwhile, immigrant-rights advocates and Democrats argue that the question instills fear in immigrant communities and will lead to an undercount of the population.

The population count, taken every 10 years, is required by the U.S. Constitution and used to determine the number of seats each state has in the House as well as how federal money is distributed to local communities.

Since undocumented immigrants are more heavily concentrated in some states and areas, an undercount would mean less money and could change how legislative districts are drawn.

California, which has a large immigrant population, has [filed a lawsuit](#) in federal court against the Commerce Department and census bureau seeking to block the question.

During a March 28, 2018, interview with host John Muir on the "[Restoring Reason](#)" program on Green Bay's

WTAQ radio, Republican National Committee Chair Ronna McDaniel slammed the opposition to the census question.

"When you talk about the Democrats, too, look at what they are fighting for. They are now mad that our census, which for years and years and years, decades, has asked, 'Are you a citizen of the United States of America?' – they are mad that the census asks that simple question."

Is McDaniel correct?

Has the citizenship question that is now at the center of a debate already been asked for "years and years and years"?

The evidence

The history section of the U.S. Census Bureau's web page notes that the first U.S. census was taken in [1790](#). At that time the questions asked for the name of the head of the family and the number of persons in each household, including slaves.

As part of its announcement, the Commerce Department said that citizenship questions have been included on prior censuses:

Between [1820 and 1950](#), almost every decennial census asked a question on citizenship in some form. Today, surveys of sample populations, such as the Current Population Survey and the ACS (American Community Survey), continue to ask a question on citizenship.

According to our colleagues at [PolitiFact National](#), the last time all households were asked about U.S. citizenship was in the [1950 Census](#). That census questioned where individuals were born, and "if foreign-born — is he naturalized?"

In 1960, the [census](#) only asked about place of birth.

From 1970 to 2000, the Census Bureau used [two questionnaires](#): a long-form and short-form.

Most households received the short-form questionnaire, which covered basic questions, while about 1 in 6 households received a long-form questionnaire that included a question on citizenship. The 2010 Census, the most recent one, [only used a short-form questionnaire](#) with 10 questions. None of those related to citizenship.

However, in the mid-2000s the Census Bureau began gathering demographic and socioeconomic information through the American Community Survey, or ACS. The survey collects information from about 3.5 million households a year and asks about citizenship status.

The ACS asks such questions as "In what U.S. state, territory, commonwealth or foreign country was this person born?" Another question is "Is this person a CITIZEN of the United States?"

The idea with both the now-defunct long-form and the ongoing ACS survey is to use a large sample of responses to draw conclusions about the population as whole, much as a poll does not need to contact every voter to be considered valid.

Our rating

McDaniel said the census "for years and years and years, decades, has asked, 'Are you a citizen of the United States of America?'"

The last time all households were asked about U.S. citizenship was in the 1950 census. But in the decades since, some version of the question has been asked in nearly every census – either through the [now-defunct "long form"](#) or the ongoing annual surveys.

The 2020 census calls for [asking all households](#) the citizenship question.

For a statement that is accurate but needs clarification or additional information, we rate McDaniel's claim **Mostly True**.

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The census "for years and years and years, decades, has asked, 'Are you a citizen of the United States of America?'"

— *Ronna McDaniel on Wednesday, March 28th, 2018 in a radio interview*



Comms Alert

From: Comms Alert
Sent: Wednesday, April 4, 2018 6:08 AM
Subject: Editorial Roundup 4/4/18

New York Times

New York Times – Bill Saporito: [Tesla's Manufacturing 'Hell' Won't Slow Down Electric Cars](#)
New York Times – David Brooks: [Vladimir Putin, the Most Influential Man in the World](#)
New York Times – David Leonhardt: [Mark Zuckerberg, Enlightened Despot](#)
New York Times – Thomas L. Friedman: [Is Putin a C.I.A. Agent?](#)
New York Times – Frank Bruni: [President Trump's Perversion of Leadership](#)
New York Times – Nicholas Kristof: [How to Win an Argument About Guns](#)
New York Times – Rawan Yaghi: [Gaza Screams for Life](#)
New York Times – Tina Rosenberg: [Taking Aim at Gun Violence, With Personal Deterrence](#)
New York Times – Clint Watts: [For Russia, Trump Was a Vehicle, Not a Target](#)
New York Times – Justin Levitt: [How Trump's Citizenship Question May Hurt the G.O.P.](#)
New York Times – Cliff Schechter: [With Sinclair, We Have Trump TV. America Doesn't Need More.](#)
New York Times – Tim Wu: [Don't Fix Facebook. Replace It.](#)

Washington Post

Washington Post – Editorial: [Trump's immigration tweetstorm is a lesson in fact-free fearmongering](#)
Washington Post – Editorial: [The EPA's swamp monster gets even more toxic](#)
Washington Post – Editorial: [Costa Rica shows an admirable resistance to demagoguery](#)
Washington Post – Daniel W. Drezner: [President Trump is acting unhinged because that's all he can do](#)
Washington Post – C. Nicole Mason: ['Roseanne' was about a white family, but it was for all working people. Not anymore.](#)
Washington Post – Reuel Gerech & Ray Takeyh: [Why Iran won't rush to a bomb if Trump pulls out of the nuclear deal](#)
Washington Post – Barkha Dutt: [Like the Trump administration, Modi's government has a fake news problem](#)
Washington Post – Harry Litman: [Trump's lawyer is in legal peril](#)
Washington Post – Karen Tumulty: [A White House spouse who can't be forced to shut up](#)
Washington Post – Hugh Hewitt: [The country needs Gina Haspel in the CIA's top post. Don't delay her vote.](#)
Washington Post – Molly Roberts: [Ethan Couch is a very convenient target](#)
Washington Post – Kathleen Parker: [The real and disheartening danger of the Sinclair story](#)
Washington Post – David Von Drehle: [Goodbye art of the deal. Hello art of the demagogue.](#)
Washington Post – Gary Abernathy: [I don't care if 'Roseanne' is pro-Trump. I just hope it's pro-civility.](#)
Washington Post – Dana Milbank: [It's Mueller time, and the lying Dutchman is the first to fall](#)
Washington Post – David Ignatius: [How the courts — not Congress — could protect Mueller's investigation](#)

Wall Street Journal

Wall Street Journal – Editorial: [The Fuel Economy Fraud](#)
Wall Street Journal – Editorial: [The Spotify Launch](#)

Wall Street Journal – Editorial: [The Openly Leaning](#)

Wall Street Journal – Editorial: [A Model for Licensing Reform](#)

Wall Street Journal – Editorial: [Hungary and the Strongman](#)

Wall Street Journal – Bobby Jindal: [Trump Keeps His Predecessors' Promises](#)

Wall Street Journal – Tod Lindberg: [A U.S. Battlefield Victory Against Russia's 'Little Green Men'](#)

Wall Street Journal – Michelle Park Steel: [California: A 'Sanctuary' for Criminals](#)

Wall Street Journal – James Freeman: [Start Worrying about Facebook](#)

Wall Street Journal – Mick Mulvaney: [Mick Mulvaney Replies to Elizabeth Warren](#)

Wall Street Journal – William A. Galston: [The Perpetual Battle for Freedom](#)

Wall Street Journal – Holman W. Jenkins Jr.: [The Fuel-Economy Reality Show](#)

Wall Street Journal – Jason L. Riley: [Martin Luther King: 'We Can't Keep On Blaming the White Man'](#)

New York Post

New York Post – Editorial: [Cross your fingers: The NYCHA monitor looks like a win for tenants](#)

New York Post – Editorial: [Who'll stop the push to leave Jewish kids in ignorance?](#)

New York Post – Editorial: [The birds and the bees are bucking NYC's deer-control program](#)

New York Post – Editorial: [How dominant Villanova won surprise title, Blas got 'Cuomo-splained' and other comments](#)

New York Post – Jacob Sullum: [The Supreme Court just gave cops a license to shoot, then think](#)

New York Post – Betsy McCaughey: [How the new VA chief can avoid Shulkin's failures](#)

New York Post – Michael Goodwin: [Cuomo's NYCHA moves reek of pure politics](#)

New York Post – Benny Avni: [Why the new Saudi ruler should go to Jerusalem](#)

New York Post – Leonid Bershidsky: [Why Microsoft and Apple don't need to sell your data](#)

Washington Times

Washington Times – Jed Babbin: [An agenda for John Bolton](#)

Washington Times – Peter Morici: [Regulation could kill Facebook and Twitter](#)

Washington Times – Paul Davis: ['From Russia with love'](#)

Washington Times – J.T. Young: [The costly tapestry of a travesty](#)

Washington Times – David Keene: [A hotbed of tranquility](#)

Washington Times – R. Emmett Tyrrell Jr.: [Picasso was a Neanderthal. Wasn't he?](#)

Washington Times – Clifford D. May: [Give anti-globalism a chance](#)

Washington Times – Cheryl K. Chumley: [Left will have to soften or self-destruct](#)

RNC War Room

From: RNC War Room
Sent: Wednesday, April 4, 2018 12:28 PM
Subject: The Hill: Donovan: Frenzy over well-reasoned citizenship question in census completely unjustified

Frenzy over well-reasoned citizenship question in census completely unjustified

The Hill

Op-Ed

Dan Donovan

April 4, 2018 – 12:15 PM

<http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/homeland-security/381606-frenzy-over-well-reasoned-citizenship-question-in>

The extreme, over-the-top hysteria in reaction to a question about citizenship on the 2020 U.S. census has sent the idea of reasoned discourse careening over a cliff.

Reviewing a sample of the outrage, one will find references to fear, intimidation, wild distortions in the census count, and billions of dollars in federal grants at risk. Urban areas will see congressional seats vanish and their populations decrease by millions. It's yet another raid on immigrant communities! It's a missile aimed straight at society's heart!

It's a giant echo chamber that pays no heed to actual policy considerations, such as the fact that the federal government has an obligation to know how many citizens and how many non-citizens live in the United States.

The American Community Survey (ACS), a smaller version of the census that tracks demographics every year, already has a question about citizenship. The U.S. Department of Commerce's well-reasoned rationale references the ACS question and even provides data on non-response rates. Yes, that's right: there is already public data on response rates to citizenship questions in census-sponsored surveys, but you probably didn't read about it in any of the news stories or any of the press releases because it's not in line with the doomsday narrative.

From 2013 to 2016, about the same number of Hispanics (12.3 percent) didn't respond to an ACS question on citizenship as didn't respond to a question on income (13.4 percent).

According to the crazy logic of the doomsdayers, then, the 2020 U.S. census should not ask Hispanics about their income, and to do so would be a colossal war on cities and immigrants.

Just as tellingly, not a single reaction that I've seen – in press releases, Facebook comments, or news coverage – addresses the fact that a 2014 academic analysis already studied this question and reached a fairly definitive conclusion: "the introduction of legal status questions does not appear to have an appreciable 'chilling effect' on the subsequent survey participation of unauthorized immigrant respondents." In other words, questions about citizenship don't impact survey results – a conclusion in line with the Department of Commerce numbers.

The researchers go even further, recommending that "future data collection efforts should include questions

the researchers go even further, recommending that future data collection efforts should include questions about legal status in order to (a) improve models of immigrant incorporation and (b) better position assimilation research to inform policy discussions.”

No, the authors of the study weren't created in a petri dish at a Koch Brothers factory. One researcher is listed on the "authors and staff" page of the Urban Institute, a left-leaning think tank. All three are professors at reputable universities.

This really gets to the heart of the matter: in today's public discourse, facts and context take a back-seat to supercharged political rhetoric. The activists and politicians ignore the truth and instead inflame divisions for their own political ends. Ironically, the same groups that constantly attack Republicans for ignoring facts are now themselves burying their heads in the sand about the data on citizenship questions.

President Trump won the election, in part, because people were sick of the constant pandering to identity politics and knew he would not succumb to the Pavlovian-like outrage activated anytime a politician dared propose common-sense solutions to our nation's failed immigration policies.

If the whole point of a federal census is to gain important information to help inform policy decisions, then knowing how many citizens and non-citizens live in the United States is not only common-sense, it's good policy.

While the president's detractors may scream loudly with the microphone of the mainstream media, there are millions of us – myself included – who think this is a no-brainer and welcome the president's refreshing willingness to break some eggs in order to make an omelet.

Donovan represents New York's 11th District and is a member of the Homeland Security Committee.

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RNC War Room

From: RNC War Room
Sent: Thursday, April 5, 2018 11:00 AM
Subject: The Hill: Rep. Barletta: A common sense approach to the census citizenship question

A common sense approach to the census citizenship question

The Hill

Op-Ed

Rep. Lou Barletta

April 5, 2018 – 10:45 AM

<http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/homeland-security/381777-a-common-sense-approach-to-the-census-citizenship>

Pennsylvanians sent me to Washington to fix the problems facing our communities. One problem I have firsthand experience with is illegal immigration.

While mayor of Hazleton, I saw the devastating impact illegal immigration had on families as they tried to achieve the American dream. The city's population grew by 50 percent, yet our tax revenue remained the same, stretching everything from school budgets to the police force and social services. Crime, gangs and drugs poured into our community and drained much needed resources from Americans and legal immigrants.

That's why I have continuously worked to fix this country's broken immigration system. We are a compassionate nation, one which has always offered a place for people seeking better lives. However, we are also a nation of laws, and we can neither enforce them nor overcome the challenges posed by illegal immigration if we don't have an understanding of the size and scope of the problem.

In March, the Department of Commerce announced it would be reinstating a question on citizenship status in the 2020 short-form census questionnaire. Within moments of this announcement, critics were quick to bash the decision, citing concerns over its constitutionality and its effect on immigrant communities.

To me, this outrage only shows how hypocritical the left's immigration agenda is, because how can you advocate for illegal immigrants if you aren't willing to understand the very problem you are trying to solve?

The Department of Homeland Security last made an official estimate of the number of illegal immigrants in the country back in 2012, putting the figure at 11.4 million. Today, it is believed there are anywhere between 15 and 20 million illegal immigrants in the United States.

Without accurate information, Congress cannot make informed policy decisions in the best interest of our constituents and the country. For example, in 1986, the American people were told there were 1.5 million illegal immigrants in the country, however, amnesty was granted to more than 3 million.

Asking a question about citizenship on the census provides legislators with information needed to come up with real solutions to address the flow of illegal immigration that appeal to both sides of the aisle. Instead, some of my colleagues advocating on behalf of those who would benefit from solving this problem such as recipients of

my colleagues advocating on behalf of those who would benefit from solving this problem, such as recipients of DACA, refuse to support avenues that would allow those solutions to become a reality.

A citizenship question on the census is nothing new. It was regularly asked in every census until 1950. After that, it was asked once every decade between 1970 and 2000 on the Census Bureau's long-form survey which was sent to one in every six households. Since 2005, the question has been included in the American Community Survey. I think it is safe to say that if the constitutionality of a citizenship question were a concern, it would not have been used by multiple administrations, Republican and Democrat alike.

The 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution states, "Representatives shall be apportioned among the several States according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each State, excluding Indians not taxed." There is nothing in our Constitution that prohibits the determination of how many of those residents are citizens.

It is common sense to me that in a representative democracy, we should know who the people are that sent us to Washington. Why choose ignorance rather than understand who the citizens of this country are, as well as legal residents and green card holders, especially since this data determines seats in Congress, and the allocation of billions of dollars in federal aid?

It can't be because of privacy concerns, because there are strict laws prohibiting the release of personally identifiable information obtained by the census. Any disclosures of this information to federal agencies, such as Immigrations and Customs Enforcement, are illegal. Further, only the individual named on a census questionnaire and their legal heir can access the information for 72 years after its collection.

These privacy safeguards have helped the census accurately collect information about the demographics of our nation for years, and will continue to ensure the confidentiality of participant information regardless of whether or not a question about citizenship is included.

While we should have compassion for everyone, including those who came here by no fault of their own, we must first and foremost take into account the American worker and taxpayer. I am proud to stand with those hard-working individuals and will continue working to fix our broken immigration system.

Knowing how many people are in our country illegally allows lawmakers to produce workable solutions to illegal immigration and gives the American people the opportunity to judge for themselves the cost and benefits of those solutions.

I urge my colleagues to join me in trying to find ways to overcome the challenges posed by illegal immigration, and not just make claims about wanting to. The American people deserve more than false promises. They deserve a nation that puts them first.

Barletta represents Pennsylvania's 11th District and is a member of the Homeland Security Committee.

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RNC War Room

From: RNC War Room
Sent: Thursday, April 5, 2018 7:11 PM
Subject: The Hill: Rep. Rokita: Trump continues to put Americans first by adding citizenship question to census

Trump continues to put Americans first by adding citizenship question to census

The Hill

Op-Ed

Rep. Todd Rokita

April 5, 2018 – 4:10 PM

<http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/homeland-security/381849-trump-continues-to-put-americans-first-by-adding>

Since the arrival of the Trump administration to the White House, the left have been relentless in their pursuit to discredit the president, the Republican Party, and hard working Americans across our country. The liberal elites in Washington, led by House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.), continue to unjustly ridicule President Trump and flaunt political agendas that put Americans second.

Today, we find ourselves in another senseless, political slugfest led by the left. The Democratic Party has decided to politicize the 2020 census by combating the administration's reinstatement of the citizenship question.

The notion that the citizenship question is a new concept developed to advance the Trump-agenda in a hostile political climate is simply untrue. The U.S. government inquired about individual's citizenship status for 130 years—the first being in the year 1820—during the lifetime of many of our founding fathers.

The concept is not a recent development, nor is it a derivative of American politics. Many other U.S. allies also inquire about citizenship status on their census. Two of the allies include Canada and Australia—Canada being the most interesting of the two. Canada is consistently praised by liberal leaders and the left-winged narrative for their inclusive culture and forward-thinking policy, yet, have implemented the same Trump-proposed census practices in their 2016 census which has been widely praised as the most successful in their nation's history. The citizenship question is quite similar to asking of a person's race, gender, age and homeowner status, all of which is included in the upcoming census and has never been an issue before.

In order to organize political structures and proportionately distribute our federal resources, our founding fathers required that a census take place every ten years. This practice is set up to protect the American people so they are not inaccurately represented or inadequately funded by our federal government. It is the duty of government leaders to protect Americans by challenging election formats so they do not dilute the votes of legal citizens. In order to support this, it is imperative to know who resides in this land and their status of citizenship.

The liberal elites, who continue to preach "no illegal alien left behind", have turned this simple, lawful re-addition to the 2020 census into a debacle of injustice. The only injustice occurring is the misrepresentation of the American people sought by the left. The left continue to set the precedent that legal, lawful American citizens

American people sought by the left. The left continues to set the precedent that legal, lawful, American citizens are second-class. If we ignore the distinction between legal citizens and illegal aliens, we strip the American people of their voting power and undermine the sovereignty of our Republic.

The California attorney general, Xavier Becerra, who has shown nothing but resistance to the Trump administration, says the added citizen question to the census is "not just a bad idea - it is illegal." As a congressman and Indiana's former attorney general who was successful in fighting voter fraud in Indiana and has sworn an oath to uphold and abide by our Constitution, I am left baffled by Becerra's statement. It never has been, nor ever will be, a violation of our laws to inquire whether or not someone is a citizen of this great country. The reaction from liberals on the coasts, like Becerra and company, is typical of a resist and obstruct movement looking for any opportunity to show their opposition to President Trump.

I fear these reactions to our president from liberals only goes to show their allegiance does not reside with Americans and keeping our nation safe, but instead with a hope of giving amnesty to illegal immigrants. Today's modern Democratic Party is more motivated by a desire to gain power and control, instead of putting Americans first. The Democrats want to stay in control, and the only way they accomplish this is by granting amnesty to illegals immigrants to mask the failures of their political agenda. Failed and dangerous policies like amnesty illegal immigrants and sanctuary city ordinances and laws are the foundation of a liberal ideal that puts the interest of non-citizens ahead of the citizens that elected these politicians.

The truth is, those who oppose this common sense change to the census, do so because they are scared. Locations where illegal immigration is dense, play a large role in electing officials—specifically those among the left—and allocating funds. Sadly, many on the left rather relish in the advancement of their own political agendas than put Americans first. Our census should bring about clarity and set a trajectory to better represent the American people. I commend President Trump for continuing to implement common sense policies that puts Americans first and with the revised census, we will continue to do just that.

Rokita represents Indiana's 4th District.

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RNC War Room

From: RNC War Room
Sent: Friday, April 6, 2018 7:18 AM
Subject: Investor's Business Daily: Editorial: Census Citizenship Question: 5 Arguments Against It — And Why They're All Bogus

Census Citizenship Question: 5 Arguments Against It — And Why They're All Bogus

Investor's Business Daily

Editorial Board

April 5, 2018 – 6:17 PM

<https://www.investors.com/politics/editorials/census-citizenship-question-arguments-accuracy/>

Enumeration: As soon as Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross announced that the 2020 Census would include a citizenship question, a flurry of protests erupted. But a closer look at the arguments against adding this question shows that none hold water. So what explains the fierce opposition?

You'd think that adding a question about the citizenship of people living in the United States every 10 years would not be a source of controversy. But the attack has been brutal. Former Attorney General Eric Holder called it "a direct attack on our representative democracy." And that was one of the more polite responses.

Now 17 states and seven cities, as well as the U.S. Conference of Mayors, have joined a lawsuit to stop Census from adding the question. California filed a separate suit.

All these critics must have a strong case, right? Not exactly.

Let's take the main arguments one at a time.

1. It has no place in the Census.

Critics say that the constitutionally mandated decadal Census isn't about determining citizenship levels. It's simply about counting the total population to determine congressional representation. And that's true.

However, the Census has always asked a multitude of questions beyond simply how many people live at a particular address. The 2010 Census asked about age, race, Hispanic origin. In the past, the Census form asked about occupation, education, even indoor plumbing.

What's more, the citizenship question was part of the Census form all the way through 1950. It dropped the question in 1960, most likely because immigration rates had been so low for decades that the foreign-born population had shrunk to just 5.4%, from 14.7% in 1910, making the information less important.

Since 1960, however, immigration rates have skyrocketed — the country has admitted an average of more than 1 million immigrants a year (legally) since 2000. As a result, the foreign-born share of the population is now above 13%, making it perfectly reasonable to add the question back.

In any case, Census continued asking about citizenship on its "long form" which went to a subset of the

In any case, Census continued asking about citizenship on its long form, which went to a subset of the population up through the 2000 Census. And it still asks about citizenship in its American Community Survey, which started up in 2005 and goes out to 3.5 million people each year.

2. It will result in an undercount.

Everyone attacking this question has made this argument — that asking about citizenship will deter many from filling out the form. But there's absolutely no evidence to back this assertion up. As Ross notes in a detailed memo explaining his decision, "neither the Census Bureau nor the concerned stakeholders could document that the response rate would in fact decline materially" by adding the citizenship question.

Critics also ignore the fact that undercounts are always a problem, which is why Census sends out an army of census takers to knock on doors of households that didn't return their forms. In 2010, Census figured that overall it ended up over-counting the population by about 30,000.

What's more, from 1970 to 2000 the Census sent out the "long form" to one out of every six households even though it knew response rates were far lower than for the short form. In 2000, 66% mailed back the short form, but only 54% returned the long form. So, clearly, undercounts are not anything like an insurmountable problem.

3. It will hurt businesses.

Critics say that an inaccurate census will hurt businesses because "without accurate data, these businesses cannot make sound and reliable decisions about hiring, marketing and locations." That's how former Commerce secretaries Carlos Gutierrez and Penny Pritzker put it in a Bloomberg op-ed.

With all due respect to these former cabinet officials, this is not true. Why would businesses rely on the official Census data, which is only updated once every 10 years? In fact, Census started up the annual ACS precisely because businesses wanted more up-to-date information. And since the ACS asks households far more demographic and income questions and goes out to 3.5 million people, it has an extremely high degree of statistical accuracy.

4. It will hurt communities.

Critics also say the citizenship question, to the extent that it results in an undercount, will have a huge impact on the distribution of \$675 billion in federal funds.

Again, this isn't true. The Census Bureau itself says that the ACS data are better suited to determine the distribution of infrastructure and services.

"Through the ACS," it says on its website, "we know more about jobs and occupations, educational attainment, veterans, whether people own or rent their home, and many other topics. Public officials, planners, and entrepreneurs use this information to assess the past and plan the future."

5. There's no legitimate reason to ask about citizenship.

Actually, there is. The Justice Department says the data will be useful in determining violations of the Voting Rights Act, which is why it wants the question added back. That's seems like a pretty good reason to us.

So, this leaves us wondering: If the stated arguments are all so flimsy, then what is the real reason critics —

...and leaves us wondering: if the stated arguments are all so timely, then what is the real reason critics mainly Democrats — so adamantly oppose the citizenship question?

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RNC War Room

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JAKE TAPPER: stand by because right now i want to bring in the house speaker paul ryan. thanks for joining us. it is a big day for you and i do want to talk about your retirement – retirement but "the new york times" is saying they were looking for information about the "access hollywood" tape and possibly attempted by cohen to suppress damaging information about there trump. after the "access hollywood" tape came out in 2016, mr. trump was asked not to appear at an event for you and now it is back in the news in a major way. this must bother you, "access hollywood," stormy daniels and karen mcdougal, at a certain point it must be embarrassing.

SPEAKER PAUL RYAN: i didn't read the article. i'm familiar with what you are talking about. so we're pretty focused on getting our work done here. and so this is something that i'll let you guys speculate about. right now i'm busy trying to get things done in congress. we have a big agenda and that is where my focus is and i don't have much punditry to offer you on this. and look, i just think the president ought to handle it is compartmentalize it and focus on doing your job. we have issues with syria and a budget to pass this week and we have a lot to do and that is what i'm focused on.

TAPPER: let's talk about your retirement. a big announcement. you said you want to spend more time with wife and kids and very understandable and you've said things to me like that privately but i do want to get your reaction to other speculation. listen to the former republican governor of new jersey talking today about your decision. he said, quote, it is a big indicator that the speaker doesn't think he would be speaker any more, if you are a betting person you're betting on the democrats for the house in the fall, unquote. again, i know family played a huge part in the decision, but isn't governor correct that the odds are you wouldn't be speaker any more come january.

SPEAKER RYAN: actually, i don't believe that. that's not true. because we have an excellent track record to run on. look at the economy and wages and bonuses and tax reform and regulatory relief. we just rebuilt the military. that is taking place. and we've actually passed an agenda into law, we are – one of the crazy people that said what we would do after the campaign and we're doing it and it is making a positive difference in people's lives so i think we'll have a good story to tell so i'm confident we could keep the majority and one of the reasons why i was comfortable making this decision, jake. in a funny way, i decided to do this, number one, my kids are now teenagers, they've only known me as a weekend dad because they were born after i was elected to congress. so that's a personal decision but i was able to make the decision because i feel like we have put our majority in a good place because we have gotten a lot done. it is making a big difference in peep's lives so i'm confident i will handle this over to another republican speaker and because of the list of accomplishments i feel content and confident and therefore i feel like i could do what i've always wanted to do which is to be a full time dad with my wife for at least part of my children's upbringing because if i do another term, that is really all they will ever know me at home, is a weekend dad. and that is just something i just can't live with.

TAPPER: there are also a lot of republicans on capitol hill speculating that president trump hasn't exactly made your life as speaker any easier even though he obviously signs your bills as a republican president would. i do know you've had concerns about the way the president has conducted himself. take a listen to john thune discussing your relationship with president trump.

SEN. JOHN THUNE (CLIP): that is a little bit of a difficult marriage from the beginning. they are very different in terms of temperament and character.

TAPPER: very different in terms of temperament and character and you are talking about your kids today. what do you tell your children when they ask you about the president's temperament and character?

SPEAKER RYAN: they don't ask me about the president's character. we try not to talk about these things. i try to spend my time talking about what is doing on in their lives. but to get to the point you're asking, we're very different people. i'm from the upper midwest. i'm not from new york, we're from a different generation. so we have different styles. but what we learned after we got to know each other because we didn't know each other at all in the campaign and yeah, we had a lot of friction in our relationship. but we learned is we have a common agenda to agree on and we want to get it done and it will make a difference in people's lives and that is what we were elected to do. he got elected president, i got elected speaker and i think it is our job on behalf of the people we represent and the people of this nation to focus on their problems, get things done and make a big difference and that is what we're doing and that is what i'm proud about.

TAPPER: so i understand what you are saying, but obviously it is more than stylistic. it has to do – you both have different visions of the republican party. you could come together on issues like repealing and replacing obamacare or tax cuts but in terms of the message of the republican party, you disagree and that has – the deal you've made to try to get these things done for the american people has subjected you to criticism, ron brownstein wrote today, quote, paul ryan chose to tolerate both trump's personal excess and his racially polarizing words and deeds as the advance for his own priorities and cutting spending and regulations and above all taxes and he personified the devils bargon, the gop has signed with trump. hear criticism –

SPEAKER RYAN: i've known ron for 25 years. i don't see getting things done for the country keeping your promises and making a difference a devil's bargain. look, we have a divided – we have separation of powers. we have three separate co-equal branches of government and many republicans an the secret to success from what i see is getting the different kind of republicans to form a coalition government that could actually deliver. that is what we have right now. i'm grateful for the president to win the election, to give us this chance and opportunity to make a big difference in people's lives. so i'm really proud of the accomplishment here. and so i don't see it as a bargain or whatever you call it, but the country said go fix these problems, you get the majority in the house and the senate, here is the presidency, now go do something with it. that is what we're doing. that is not devil's bargain. that is actually doing what the people in this country asked us to do and keeping our word, and i'm very proud of that fact.

TAPPER: so if a year ago or two years ago somebody asks me what were the two most important things to paul ryan i would say tax cuts –

SPEAKER RYAN: tax reform.

TAPPER: tax cuts or tax reform – okay. and entitlement reform or changing the way the social safety net programs and social security and medicare and medicaid exist so they will exist in future generations. one of them you've done and the other you have not. the congressional budget office as you know this week came out

from you've done and the other you have not. the congressional budget office as you know the week came out with a report projecting trillion dollar deficits will start in 2020 if nothing is done and by 2028 they expect the deficit to top \$1.5 trillion. now the cbo said this is largely – not entirely but largely because of the tax cuts, take a listen to republican senator bob corker. he said, quote, this congress and this administration likely will go down as one of the most fiscally irresponsible administrations in that we've had. do you disagree.

SPEAKER RYAN: i do disagree. if you look at the projections and i've seen them from cbo, i was a budget chair and we knew we would have pressure on deficit hitting because of the baby boomers and entitlement which is two-thirds of the budget. if you look at the forecast, discretionary spending rises about \$300 billion. tax revenue still increase, entitlement spending increases \$2 trillion over the next ten years. so this is the issue. that is always been the issue when it comes to debt and deficit in the future. and that is one of the things i've talked about forever. and jake, i have to tell you, i'm particularly proud of the fact that the house, ever since i was budget chairman to this term of congress, has passed budgets that not only balance the budget but pay off the debt, last year we passed out of the house – now it didn't go to law and that is one of my regrets but out of the house we passed the single biggest entitlement reform bill congress ever considered and lowered health care premiums and shaved trillion dollars off our long-term debt and unfortunately that bill did not pass the senate. but it did pass the house and i'm proud of that fact. so yeah, we got a lot of work to do, but i do really feel that i've helped contribute to advancing the cause of dealing with entitlement and i think we could make it better. i think the entitlement, medicare and medicaid and social security, they could work better and get the debt under control but we have to reform the programs. we've not had bipartisan consensus to do that and we were able to get a bill this year and i wished we could have passed that into law because i think it would make a great difference but we've advanced the issues. these issues aren't going away and i think we're closer a couple of years ago when we started talking about this issues.

TAPPER: i have two more questions and then i know you have to go. maybe it is early for you to be retrospective and look back at your career in congress and can you think of what your best moment in congress was and worst moment.

SPEAKER RYAN: losing the majority in '06 was an ugly time when we lost the major. losing in 2012 election was a pretty tough moment for me. i was on the ticket with mitt. those are tough moments.

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SPEAKER RYAN: i think getting tax reform done was one of the best moments, something i've been working on for over 20 years, since i've worked for jack kemp i worked on tax reform and i think it is critical for economic growth. i think there are a lot of things in the tax bill that help advance our poverty, like enterprise zones, social impactt bonds and things that americans don't know about yet that i'm proud about it and i'm excited about advancing issues i care about that and that is what i'm most proud about.

TAPPER: and lastly, i find it hard to believe that january will be the last time you're on the political scene. i find it hard to believe that you won't run for senate or governor or president some day. you're shaking your head. you don't think – there is no chance you'll reenter politics.

SPEAKER RYAN: not while my kids are growing up. and not in – i don't see that. i really thought when i took this job, jake, this is the probably last elected office i would have. i'm not going to run for president. that is not my plan. i will not do that. i want to spend time doing the things that i've just discussed doing. i'm always going to advocate for the causes that i have but right now the last thing i'm thinking about is running for something.

TAPPER: i believe that. but we'll see. i'm going to believe that we'll see. because your kids are teenagers, they'll be out of the house soon enough and that is why you're going home.

SPEAKER RYAN: i really don't think i'll change my mind, but thanks, jake, appreciate it.

TAPPER: house speaker paul ryan thank you so much for your time and to your family.

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