

## **American Security Today**

**From:** American Security Today  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 06, 2016 7:32 AM  
**To:** Werner, Sharon (OAG)  
**Subject:** 'Extremely Careless... Should Have Known... Potential Violations...' No Charges

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July 6, 2016



**'Extremely Careless... Should  
Have Known... Potential  
Violations...' No Charges**



*FBI Director James B. Comey on the  
Investigation of Secretary Hillary Clinton's  
Use of a Personal E-Mail System.*

After a tremendous amount of work over the  
last year, the FBI is... [\*\*Read More\*\*](#)

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**Fmr Nat'l Guard Accused of**





## POLITICO Huddle

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**From:** POLITICO Huddle  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 06, 2016 7:50 AM  
**To:** Werner, Sharon (OAG)  
**Subject:** POLITICO Huddle: SANDERS MEETS WITH HOUSE DEMS THIS A.M. – House path forward on gun control murky – TOOMEY'S TOUGH TAKE ON IMMIGRATION – Dems want to free C-SPAN cameras

07/06/2016 07:46 AM EDT

By Heather Caygle ([hcaygle@politico.com](mailto:hcaygle@politico.com) or [@heatherscope](https://twitter.com/heatherscope))

*With assistance from Daniel Lippman*

# Non-responsive record

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**COMEY CALLED TO TESTIFY ON CLINTON EMAILS-** Speaker Paul Ryan wants FBI Director James Comey to testify on the Hill about why the agency chose not to take action against Hillary Clinton for the "extremely careless" way she handled classified material on her private email server. Rachael with more: <http://goo.gl/9aQFUj>

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**Newman, Melanie (OPA)**

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**From:** Newman, Melanie (OPA)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 06, 2016 10:20 AM  
**To:** Pokorny, Carolyn (OAG); Cheung, Denise (OAG); Kadzik, Peter J (OLA); Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG); Franklin, Shirlethia (OAG); Bruck, Andrew J. (ODAG)  
**Subject:** comey to testify tomorrow

<http://www.politico.com/story/2016/07/house-oversight-chairman-comey-to-testify-thursday-225156>

## House Oversight chairman: Comey to testify Thursday

House Oversight Committee Chairman Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah) announced that FBI Director James Comey will testify before his panel on Thursday regarding the bureau's investigation of Hillary Clinton's email practices.

"Congress and the American people have a right to understand the depth and breadth of the FBI's investigation," Chaffetz said in a statement announcing that Comey had agreed to his request.

Comey called Clinton "extremely careless" for using her private email server to send classified material during her tenure as secretary of State, but he did not recommend that charges be filed against her.

**Authors:**

Show Comments

Melanie R. Newman  
Director, Office of Public Affairs  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Direct: 202-305-1920  
Ce (b) (6)  
@MelanieDOJ

## POLITICO

---

**From:** POLITICO  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 06, 2016 11:00 AM  
**To:** Franklin, Shirlethia (OAG)  
**Subject:** BREAKING NEWS: House Oversight chairman: Comey to testify Thursday

FBI Director James Comey will testify on Capitol Hill Thursday regarding the bureau's investigation of Hillary Clinton's email practices, part of a concerted GOP effort to keep the heat on Clinton heading into the party conventions and a long congressional recess.

Comey will appear before the Oversight Committee at 10 a.m., House Oversight Committee Chairman Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah) said on Wednesday morning. The hearing will be just two days after Comey's stunning repudiation of Clinton's "extremely careless" practice of using a private email server to send classified information during her tenure as secretary of State. Comey did not recommend charges be filed against her, stoking GOP outrage and propelling congressional leaders like Chaffetz to seek more information.

Chaffetz's Senate counterpart, Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Chairman Ron Johnson (R-Wis.), demanded a written explanation of Comey's decision-making on Wednesday. And House Judiciary Chairman Bob Goodlatte (R-Va.) said that Attorney General Loretta Lynch will testify next Tuesday before his panel about Clinton's email practices, as well as Bill Clinton's private meeting with Lynch in late June.

The flurry of action highlights the GOP's exasperation over Comey's decision not to recommend an indictment despite his harsh words for Clinton. Republicans said the decision feeds the public perception that the Clintons are not held to the same standard as other Americans, and the GOP is set to use the matter as a electoral cudgel over the next four months.

Chaffetz called it "surprising and confusing" that Comey did not recommend an indictment; the FBI chief's criticism, in Chaffetz's view, "makes clear Secretary Clinton violated the law."

"Congress and the American people have a right to understand the depth and breadth of the FBI's investigation," Chaffetz said in a statement announcing that Comey had agreed to his request.

Across the Capitol, Johnson announced in a [letter](#) to Comey that his committee is continuing to investigate Clinton's email use. Johnson asked that Comey describe the cost and scope of the investigation of Clinton and further explain his decision-making process.

"You determined that Secretary Clinton's 'handling of very sensitive, highly classified information' was 'extremely careless.' However, you found that the actions of Secretary Clinton did not lead to a recommendation to pursue criminal charges, including charges under the 'gross negligence' standard ... What is the difference, in the FBI's view, between extreme carelessness and gross negligence?" asked Johnson in the letter. "What set of facts would cause the FBI to recommend criminal charges under the gross negligence standard?"

Meanwhile, Goodlatte will focus on Lynch, who was rebuked by members of both parties for speaking at length with Bill Clinton on an airport tarmac in Arizona last week. The interaction, which Lynch later



at length with Bill Clinton on an airport tarmac in Arizona last week. The interaction, which Lynch later admitted was a mistake, handed the GOP more ammunition surrounding the Justice Department's investigation of Hillary Clinton.

"It is uniquely troubling in light of Attorney General Lynch's secret meeting with former President Bill Clinton. No one is above the law and the American people need to know that federal law enforcement is taking this misconduct seriously," Goodlatte said.

Other Republicans want to go even further, with several GOP lawmakers calling on Wednesday for a special prosecutor to investigate Hillary Clinton.

Read more: <http://www.politico.com/story/2016/07/house-oversight-chairman-comes-to-testify-thursday-225156>

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**From:** Lewis, Kevin S. (OPA)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 06, 2016 11:03 AM  
**To:** Kadzik, Peter J (OLA); Newman, Melanie (OPA)  
**Cc:** Herwig, Paige (OAG); Pokorny, Carolyn (OAG)  
**Subject:** RE: Oversight Hearing

<http://www.politico.com/story/2016/07/house-oversight-chairman-comey-to-testify-thursday-225156>

### **Comey to testify on Clinton email probe Thursday**

By [Burgess Everett](#)

FBI Director James Comey will testify on Capitol Hill Thursday regarding the bureau's investigation of Hillary Clinton's email practices, part of a concerted GOP effort to keep the heat on Clinton heading into the party conventions and a long congressional recess.

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Story Continued Below

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Clinton.

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Other Republicans want to go even further, with several GOP lawmakers calling on Wednesday for a special prosecutor to investigate Hillary Clinton.

Read more: <http://www.politico.com/story/2016/07/house-oversight-chairman-comes-to-testify-thursday-225156#ixzz4DdoP7N00>

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**From:** Kadzik, Peter J (OLA)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 06, 2016 10:52 AM  
**To:** Newman, Melanie (OPA)  
**Cc:** Herwig, Paige (OAG); Pokorny, Carolyn (OAG); Lewis, Kevin S. (OPA)  
**Subject:** Re: Oversight Hearing

(b) (5) One in 2015 and this 2016's hearing.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 6, 2016, at 10:50 AM, Newman, Melanie (OPA) <[mnewman@jmd.usdoj.gov](mailto:mnewman@jmd.usdoj.gov)> wrote:

(b) (5)

Melanie R. Newman  
Director, Office of Public Affairs  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Direct: 202-305-1920  
Cell: (b) (6)  
@MelanieDOJ

---

**From:** Herwig, Paige (OAG)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 06, 2016 10:43 AM  
**To:** Kadzik, Peter J (OLA); Newman, Melanie (OPA); Pokorny, Carolyn (OAG)  
**Cc:** Lewis, Kevin S. (OPA)  
**Subject:** RE: Oversight Hearing

(b) (5)

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**From:** Kadzik, Peter J (OLA)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 06, 2016 10:41 AM

**To:** Newman, Melanie (OPA); Pokorny, Carolyn (OAG); Herwig, Paige (OAG)  
**Cc:** Lewis, Kevin S. (OPA)  
**Subject:** RE: Oversight Hearing

**(b) (5)** Hearing was confirmed on 5/13.

Peter J. Kadzik

Assistant Attorney General  
Office of Legislative Affairs  
(202) 514-2141  
[peter.j.kadzik@usdoj.gov](mailto:peter.j.kadzik@usdoj.gov)

---

**From:** Newman, Melanie (OPA)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 06, 2016 10:37 AM  
**To:** Kadzik, Peter J (OLA); Pokorny, Carolyn (OAG); Herwig, Paige (OAG)  
**Cc:** Lewis, Kevin S. (OPA)  
**Subject:** Oversight Hearing

All –

**(b) (5)**

Melanie R. Newman  
Director, Office of Public Affairs  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Direct: 202-305-1920  
Cell: **(b) (6)**  
@MelanieDOJ



**Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG)**

---

**From:** Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 06, 2016 5:57 PM  
**To:** Newman, Melanie (OPA)  
**Cc:** Pokorny, Carolyn (OAG)  
**Subject:** Re: FINAL  
**Attachments:** Picture (Device Independent Bitmap).jpg; Picture (Device Independent Bitmap).jpg

(b) (5)

On Jul 6, 2016, at 5:54 PM, Newman, Melanie (OPA) <[mnewman@jmd.usdoj.gov](mailto:mnewman@jmd.usdoj.gov)> wrote:

(b) (5)

Melanie R. Newman  
Director, Office of Public Affairs  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Direct: 202-305-1920  
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@MelanieDOJ

---

**From:** James, Kelli D. (OPA)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 06, 2016 5:55 PM  
**To:** Newman, Melanie (OPA)  
**Subject:**

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**STATEMENT FROM ATTORNEY GENERAL LORETTA E. LYNCH REGARDING  
STATE DEPARTMENT EMAIL INVESTIGATION**

WASHINGTON – Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch released the following statement today regarding the State Department email investigation:

"Late this afternoon, I met with the FBI Director James Comey and career prosecutors and agents who conducted the investigation of Secretary Hillary Clinton's use of a personal email system during her time as Secretary of State. I received and accepted their unanimous recommendation that the thorough, year-long investigation be closed and that no charges be brought against any individuals within the scope of the investigation."

# # #

16-XXX

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**Pokorny, Carolyn (OAG)**

---

**From:** Pokorny, Carolyn (OAG)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 6, 2016 5:58 PM  
**To:** Newman, Melanie (OPA); Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG)  
**Cc:** Cheung, Denise (OAG); Kadzik, Peter J (OLA); O'Brien, Alicia C (OLA)  
**Subject:** RE: FINAL

+ Peter and Alicia

**From:** Newman, Melanie (OPA)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 06, 2016 5:57 PM  
**To:** Pokorny, Carolyn (OAG); Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG)  
**Cc:** Cheung, Denise (OAG)  
**Subject:** RE: FINAL

Thanks sending now.

Melanie R. Newman  
Director, Office of Public Affairs  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Direct: 202-305-1920  
Cel (b) (6)  
@MelanieDOJ

**From:** Pokorny, Carolyn (OAG)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 06, 2016 5:57 PM  
**To:** Newman, Melanie (OPA); Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG)  
**Cc:** Cheung, Denise (OAG)  
**Subject:** RE: FINAL

+Denise.

(b) (5)

**From:** Newman, Melanie (OPA)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 06, 2016 5:55 PM  
**To:** Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG); Pokorny, Carolyn (OAG)  
**Subject:** FINAL

(b) (5)

Melanie R. Newman

Director, Office of Public Affairs  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Direct: 202-305-1920  
Cel (b) (6)  
@MelanieDOJ

**From:** James, Kelli D. (OPA)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 06, 2016 5:55 PM  
**To:** Newman, Melanie (OPA)  
**Subject:**

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**O'Brien, Alicia C (OLA)**

---

**From:** O'Brien, Alicia C (OLA)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 6, 2016 5:59 PM  
**To:** Newman, Melanie (OPA); Kadzik, Peter J (OLA)  
**Cc:** Pokorny, Carolyn (OAG)  
**Subject:** RE: STATEMENT FROM ATTORNEY GENERAL LORETTA E. LYNCH REGARDING STATE DEPARTMENT EMAIL INVESTIGATION

Sent to the Hill.

Alicia C. O'Brien  
Office of Legislative Affairs  
(202) 305-8035  
[Alicia.C.O'Brien@usdoj.gov](mailto:Alicia.C.O'Brien@usdoj.gov)

---

**From:** Newman, Melanie (OPA)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 06, 2016 5:59 PM  
**To:** Kadzik, Peter J (OLA); O'Brien, Alicia C (OLA)  
**Cc:** Pokorny, Carolyn (OAG)  
**Subject:** FW: STATEMENT FROM ATTORNEY GENERAL LORETTA E. LYNCH REGARDING STATE DEPARTMENT EMAIL INVESTIGATION

This is out.

---

**From:** USDOJ-Office of Public Affairs (SMO)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 06, 2016 5:58 PM  
**To:** USDOJ-Office of Public Affairs (SMO)  
**Subject:** STATEMENT FROM ATTORNEY GENERAL LORETTA E. LYNCH REGARDING STATE DEPARTMENT EMAIL INVESTIGATION



## Department of Justice

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16-782

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White House Press Office

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**From:** White House Press Office  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 06, 2016 7:11 PM  
**To:** Werner, Sharon (OAG)  
**Subject:** Press Briefing by the Press Secretary Josh Earnest, 7/6/2016

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary

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For Immediate Release

July 6, 2016

PRESS BRIEFING  
BY PRESS SECRETARY JOSH EARNEST

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

1:34 P.M. EDT

MR. EARNEST: Good afternoon, everybody.

Q Quiet a day. (Laughter.)

MR. EARNEST: You know, just a day at the office.

I do not have any announcements at the top, so we can go straight to questions. I assume there are a variety of topics we'll cover today. But, Josh, I'll let you choose where we start.

Q Great. Thanks, Josh. Why don't we start with Afghanistan? I wanted to see if you could tell us how the President feels that this troop announcement reflects on his legacy. As President, he came in wanting to disentangle the U.S. in Afghanistan and Iraq, now leaving conflicts in both of those places, as well as ones in Syria and in Libya. Does the President wish that he would have been able to finish his presidency without so many Americans still overseas in Afghanistan?

MR. EARNEST: Well, Josh, it's important for people to understand the context in which this decision is taking place. First of all, it takes place in the context of a dramatic change in the nature and scale of the U.S. presence in Afghanistan. When President Obama took office, there were about 38,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan. The President spent much of his first year in office weighing how to fulfill the promise that he made in the context of the campaign, which is to ensure that our national security resources were focused on the real and



national security resources were focused on the fact and significant enduring threat that existed in the form of core al Qaeda in the Afghanistan-Pakistan region.

And in the context of making that decision, the President made the choice -- based on recommendations from the Department of Defense and other members of his national security team -- to increase our troop presence above 100,000 troops in Afghanistan. That peak was reached around 2011 and 2012. And that surge of resources, that surge of troops on the ground had a material impact on the security situation in Afghanistan such that we have succeeded in decimating core al Qaeda in the Afghanistan-Pakistan region. We have succeeded in building up the capacity of Afghan security forces to provide for the security of their own country. We have also formed a strong and enduring relationship with the Afghan central government such that the Afghan government now is an effective partner of the United States and the rest of the international community that is focused on the situation in Afghanistan.

The President's announcement today indicated that the troop level headed into next year will be 8,400. That represents a substantial commitment on the part of the United States to the future of Afghanistan. It also represents a significant reduction in the number of men and women that the United States has in harm's way in Afghanistan. And it is also a validation of the approach that is focused on training, advising, and occasionally assisting Afghan security forces so that they can fight for their country.

This doesn't just reduce the exposure of our men and women in uniform; it also enhances the longer-term outlook for the security situation in Afghanistan. We've already tried the approach -- the previous administration tried the approach where the United States would try to impose a military solution on a country like Afghanistan. That's not a long-term solution.

So the President's approach is one that ensures a positive long-term outlook for Afghanistan. But there's also no denying that the next president will also have to make some substantial weighty decisions with regard to our ongoing relationship with Afghanistan, with regard to our ongoing strategy for countering extremists that continue to try to threaten U.S. interests that are based in Afghanistan. And there will be substantial questions to be answered and decisions to be made about our ongoing relationship with the Afghan government. But there's no denying the progress that we've made and the change that -- the relationship between the United States and Afghanistan that we have seen as a result of the decisions made by President Obama over the last eight years.

Q I wanted to drill down on what administration officials told us on a call was the administration's intention to engage with Congress on finding a way to pay for these



additional troops. Can you be more specific? Are you planning to submit a supplemental budget request? Do you have any sense of what actually the cost is for these additional troops? And are you willing to ask Congress to increase military spending to pay for these troops without also increasing domestic spending, as you've called for in the past?

MR. EARNEST: Well, Josh, let me say a couple things about our expectations. The first is, given the positive reaction that we've seen from Democrats and Republicans on Capitol Hill to this announcement, I would expect that we would see constructive engagement on the part of Congress to fulfill their responsibility to pay for this policy decision. That's their responsibility. We would expect them to fulfill it -- particularly when you consider that this is a policy that they say they support.

So this shouldn't be a situation where there needs to be a lot of arm-twisting or partisan wrangling. This is the Commander-in-Chief making a national security decision that is supported by senior leaders in both parties.

So what's also true is that Republicans spent a lot of time over the last six years or so talking about how the United States of America would benefit from Republican majorities serving in the House of Representatives in the United States Senate. Those majorities come with certain responsibilities. One of those responsibilities, among the most important of those responsibilities, is making sure that our national security efforts are properly funded.

Now, what's also true, Josh, is that our Department of Defense has indicated that this strategy for Afghanistan is a priority for them. And our men and women in uniform and our commanders in Afghanistan have said that this enhanced troop presence is a genuine priority for the Department of Defense. We would expect -- well, and what is true right now, and many of your news organizations are covering this, is that Congress right now is interested in funding a variety of projects that the Department of Defense does not at all describe as priorities.

Q But we're talking about troops here, and not these other bomber projects.

MR. EARNEST: That's true. But you're raising a question, though, about how the Congress will apportion the limited resources of U.S. taxpayers to focus on our national security priorities. And there are a number of things that do have the attention of Congress right now that our military commanders say are not priorities, but they do say that our Afghanistan presence is a priority. And so we do expect that members of Congress will listen to our commanders on the ground in Afghanistan and at the Department of Defense, at the Pentagon,



about what our priorities are and fund them accordingly.

Let me say two other things. The first is that there was a budget agreement that was reached last year, and we do expect members of Congress -- Democrats and Republicans -- to keep that commitment, to keep their word. There were many people who were advocating the passage of that agreement last year, who are touting the benefits of a two-year agreement. So they kept their commitment in year one. We expect everybody to keep their commitment in year two.

But I would acknowledge the substance of your question, which is that this is a priority and it's complicated, and it requires a substantial commitment on behalf of U.S. taxpayers. So it will require the administration working with Democrats and Republicans on Capitol Hill to make sure that the needs of our men and women in uniform are properly met.

Q That budget agreement that you discussed was predicated on a previous assumption about troop levels that was different from the one that was announced today. So I guess what I'm trying to say is, when you're talking about working with Congress like that, are you going to now go back and ask for more money to fund these troops specifically?

MR. EARNEST: Well, our expectation right now is that given the strong support on Capitol Hill from Democrats and Republicans in Congress for this policy proposal, we anticipate that we should be able to all collectively, as political leaders, fulfill our responsibility to make sure that our men and women in uniform have the resources that they need to do their job and to keep us safe. And that will require Republicans doing something that they routinely find to be quite challenging, which is putting the country's priorities ahead of their own personal political considerations.

But in this case, the stakes are high enough that that's what they must do. And given their stated support for this policy, it shouldn't be that hard for them to do it.

Q And I just wanted to ask you about a report that the British did on Iraq and the lead-up to that that was pretty damning. It talked about flawed intelligence and wholly inadequate planning. This President was obviously pretty critical of how that war started as well. Do you concur with the results of that report?

MR. EARNEST: Well, Josh, my understanding is that the report numbers some 6,000 pages. So I don't know that anybody in the U.S. government has had an opportunity to evaluate the entirety of the report. The President's longstanding opposition to the invasion of Iraq is well-known and has been extensively litigated.



What is true is that President Obama has been dealing with the consequences of that fateful decision for the entirety of his presidency, and future presidents will likely have to do the same. So that certainly would -- I guess my point is, the fact that I haven't read the report does not mean that this is an inquiry that is not worthy of careful consideration. And it is important that certainly the United States -- I'll speak for our own country here -- learn the lessons of those past mistakes.

But what is also true is that the United States and the United Kingdom have a special relationship. And the ability of the leaders of our countries to work together to focus on our common interests and to pursue them jointly has made our countries more prosperous and more safe. And I would expect that that relationship will endure, regardless of who is leading the United States and the UK. Obviously, both countries are facing some leadership transitions in the months ahead. But even as both our countries go through those transitions, I would expect that that relationship will remain special and strong.

Julia, nice to see you.

Q Thanks. Yesterday, FBI Director Comey said that while the FBI was not recommending charges against Hillary Clinton, he did say that it shouldn't be ruled out; that people who repeat that behavior in the future wouldn't be subject to security sanctions or administrative sanctions. What is the White House's view -- what's the Obama administration's view on what punishment should be in store, if not for these folks -- you might not want to talk about them -- but for future people, future staff members who don't follow the rules surrounding keeping classified emails secure?

MR. EARNEST: Look, as we've discussed from here many times and across the administration, everybody who works in this administration understands how important it is to protect national security secrets and to handle sensitive information appropriately. And that is certainly a priority. And even as there are a number of agencies that have had to deal with situations like cyber intrusions, we have worked to update our technology and to ensure that our workforce understands the appropriate steps to take to protect that information. And our expectation is that's what the professionals who work at our national security agencies will continue to do.

Q What about some members of Hillary Clinton's staff who were part of these e-mails, who Director Comey said they would know they were classified? Should their security clearances be reviewed if, for example, they were about to come in and serve with the next administration?

MR. EARNEST: Listen, I'm not going to render any judgment on that, primarily because these are the findings and



recommendations of the FBI, based on their investigation that they have been conducting. The findings and recommendations of that investigation are still being considered by prosecutors at the Department of Justice, and we've gone to great lengths to prevent any undue White House influence on that situation. So it's just going to be hard for me to react to the specific findings and recommendations of the FBI at this point.

Q Okay. So, on Afghanistan, some critics have already come out since this morning's announcement of keeping 8,400 troops, saying that the White House really should be examining strategy, not troop levels, in order to achieve more success in Afghanistan. In the reviews that came before the President when he made this decision, was there any talk of changing any part of the strategy going forward? Or is he staying the course at the end of this administration just with this level of troops instead?

MR. EARNEST: Well, Julia, I think you heard the President reference in his statement to the fact that - you heard the President in his statement reference the fact that the President meets with his team on a regular basis to get an update on the situation in Afghanistan. In the context of those meetings, the President and his national security team, including commanders on the ground, review the strategy and they evaluate which aspects of that strategy are working effectively. They evaluate those aspects of the strategy that aren't working as effectively as intended, and they consider what changes need to be made.

And there's always an ongoing effort to ensure that we are moving in the right direction and that we have a policy that is oriented to supporting the efforts of those who are bravely serving this country on the ground. And that's why the President listens so carefully to the advice that he receives from our commanders in Afghanistan and from the Department of Defense. I think today's announcement, in fact, reflects the recommendation that they put forward to the Commander-in-Chief.

But I guess to answer your question as directly as possible, there's an ongoing evaluation of the strategy because the President is determined to make sure that in order to do right by those who are putting their life on the line to protect the country that the Commander-in-Chief owes it to them to make sure that we've got the right strategy in place. And if there are aspects of our strategy that aren't working as well as intended, that we need to figure out why. And if that means we need to make changes to the strategy, the President won't hesitate to do so. If that means that we need to ask for greater contributions from our partners or our allies, the President won't hesitate to do so.

But the truth is, this situation in Afghanistan has improved because of the strategy that we do have in place. We



did succeed in decimating core al Qaeda in the Afghanistan/Pakistan region. We do have a much more effective partner in the Afghan central government because of the diplomatic efforts of officials at the State Department and other agencies. There is a much more effective Afghan security force, both in terms of law enforcement and military, that are doing a better job of securing the country.

But Afghanistan remains a dangerous place and there's still significant work that needs to be done, but there's no denying the progress that Afghanistan has made, and there's no denying the degree to which the safety of the United States has been enhanced because of the strategy that has been successfully implemented by President Obama and his national security team.

Toluse.

Q Thanks, Josh. Back on the whole idea of security sanctions for Secretary Clinton. Yesterday, Paul Ryan said that he believed that Secretary Clinton should not be given classified briefings because she was extremely careless with classified information. He said that that should be the security penalty that she should receive. What's your reaction to that?

MR. EARNEST: Well, my reaction is that I was specifically asked earlier this year about the wisdom of providing national security briefings to the Republican presidential nominee for President. Many people had raised questions about whether or not that was -- whether it was appropriate for the Republican nominee to receive those briefings. What I said at the time is that those kinds of decisions should be made by intelligence professionals who have a responsibility to set aside their own political considerations and focus on the best interest of the country.

The fact is, there is a longstanding tradition of providing briefings to the major party nominees to make a smooth transition much more likely in the event that either of them is elected President of the United States. There is a long tradition of those briefings being presented without political influence. And what the Office of the Director of National Intelligence has indicated is that they expect those briefings to move forward after the party conventions, after the parties have chosen a nominee. And the expectation that the DNI has is that they'll provide the same information to both candidates.

So that is the most effective way to handle this situation. When we're talking about the safety and security of classified information, we should leave those decisions in the hands of our intelligence professionals and not risk them being sullied by the political debate.

Q -- political influence in the political debate.



\*                    previous influence in the previous cases.  
Director Comey and the Attorney General have been sort of called up to the Hill to testify about this case. Do you think that's a good idea? You mentioned that it's an ongoing case and you don't want to talk too much about it, but they've agreed to talk about this case on the Hill, publicly.

MR. EARNEST: Well, a couple things about that. The first is that the administration has, I think by any impartial measure, gone to great lengths to cooperate with even the most unfair of congressional inquiries. That is just -- that's the principle that we have lived by. What is also true is that Director Comey and Attorney General Lynch are going to make decisions based on their own expertise and their own judgment about the best way to cooperate with that Congressional oversight. They understand the importance of protecting the independence of their investigations -- Director Comey said as much yesterday in his statement.

That certainly is a consequence of the lengths that we have gone to here at the White House to prevent any undue outside influence from the White House on this ongoing matter. But as it relates to congressional influence and whether it is undue or inappropriate, I've got confidence in the ability of the Attorney General and the Director of the FBI to protect the integrity and independence of those investigations. They've been doing that for quite some time now and I'm confident that they can do so as this process continues.

Q     And just one more on the e-mail situation. One of the things that Director Comey mentioned is that there were several work-related emails that were deleted by Secretary Clinton's lawyers as personal. We know that Secretary Clinton has had all of her work-related emails, the ones that she declared so far, already released. Do you believe that those work-related emails that were deleted should be released as well to the public in the same way that the previous emails were released?

MR. EARNEST: Well, Toluse, what the information that you've provided that you're asking about is information that has come to light as the result of the ongoing FBI investigation. And because the results of that investigation and the recommendations that arise from that investigation are still being considered by prosecutors at the Department of Justice, I'm just not going to be in a position to react to those details at this point.

Q     Do you anticipate that, more broadly, when this investigation is over, you'll be able to discuss these types of questions and answer these questions sort of when the investigation is over, kind of discuss this in a more robust way than you are now?

MR. EARNEST: Well, look, whenever I walk out here, I



always endeavor to answer your questions to the best of my ability. In this case, there are going to be obvious limitations to that in part because I haven't seen any of the emails; in part because I wasn't privy to the decisions that were made about Secretary Clinton's email system; in part because what we're focused on when I'm standing behind this podium is the official work of the United States government, not the presidential campaign, and certainly many of the questions that have arisen have been the result of political charges that have been traded back and forth in the context of the campaign. I'm not saying that's inappropriate. I would expect a spirited debate on the campaign trail. But the focus of our time and attention in this room is on the official conduct of U.S. government business.

Mark.

Q Josh, if the situation in Afghanistan is as precarious as President Obama says, why make any reductions in troop levels at all? Why not leave it at 9,800?

MR. EARNEST: Well, Mark, this is actually based on the recommendation from our commanders on the ground about what resources are necessary to conduct the missions that the Commander-in-Chief has given them. Those missions are to provide training and assistance to the Afghan security forces and to maintain the kind of counterterrorism platform that's necessary to counter those extremists that may be plotting in Afghanistan against Western interests around the world.

So the President has been very clear about what that mission is. The Department of Defense came forward with a specific recommendation about the number of resources and the number of military servicemembers that would be required to carry out that mission. That number was a little over 8,400 and that's what the President has authorized.

Q May I ask about yesterday? His campaign event -- what is the policy of the White House about the use and display of the presidential seal at political events?

MR. EARNEST: At the White House, frankly, we have tried -- we have treated the presidential seal consistent with the way that previous Presidents have, which is that it is certainly used at official events and sometimes used at political events. That's been the case throughout the last seven years and, again, that is a precedent that dates back at least to President Truman.

The commitment that we've made before and that I would expect that we would continue to uphold is to not put the seal on the podium when the President is speaking at a fundraiser, when he is soliciting donations for political causes. And I think that's a line that we've kept to over the last seven



years. But that's -- it may be aggrandizing it to describe that as a policy, but that is a description of the way that we handle this matter.

Q How did you decide to use the seal yesterday? Do you know if the Clinton campaign asked for the seal so that the candidate could be seen speaking behind it?

MR. EARNEST: I'm not aware of any such requests from the Clinton campaign.

Q Does the same policy exist for the Vice President and his seal when he campaigns for the candidate Friday?

MR. EARNEST: I have not asked the Vice President's team about what policy they expect to have in place, but we can certainly check with them, or you can check with them, and get an answer, or we can just tune in on Friday. (Laughter.)

Jordan.

Q Thanks, Josh. I want to ask you about opioid legislation. Now that House and the Senate Republicans have voted down additional funding to attach to that bill, would the President veto that package if it landed on his desk?

MR. EARNEST: Well, Jordan, the thing that I find at least somewhat surprising is the way that Republicans in Congress continue to abdicate their basic responsibility to address an emergency. Democrats and Republicans all around the country have identified the opioid epidemic in the United States as an emergency. Public health professionals have identified this as an emergency. Mayors and governors all across the country, Democrats and Republicans, have identified the opioid epidemic in America as an emergency. Republican presidential candidates have campaigned in states across the country earlier this year and talked about how the opioid epidemic in America required a robust response. Somehow, that message has not gotten through to congressional Republicans.

The administration has gone to great lengths to try to do what we can, using the President executive authority, to try to enhance the fight against the opioid epidemic. Just yesterday, there was an announcement of a couple of steps that the Department of Health and Human Services was taking to give physicians the authority to offer medication-assisted treatment to more patients. There were announcements from the VA and the Department of Defense to improve prescription drug monitoring to prevent people from becoming addicted to opioids.

So many people all along the ideological spectrum in both parties are making the case about how this is an urgent priority. But it's only Republicans in Congress that are deaf to those calls. And I'm not really sure why. There are patriotic



these cases. And I am not really sure why. There are thousands of Americans in Democratic and Republican congressional districts who have lost loved ones to the opioid epidemic. There are people in America right now who know they have an addiction, who have sought treatment and are unable to get it because beds in treatment facilities are not available to them.

Everyone who has spent any time looking at this issue understands that additional resources are necessary in the form of hospital beds and public health professionals to treat this problem. Thousands of Americans are in need of assistance. And passing a bill that is doing little more than paying lip service to the problem falls woefully short of Congress's basic responsibility.

Democrats have been fighting for additional resources. You'll recall that the President of the United States put forward a comprehensive proposal to fight opioid addiction in his budget. And I don't have to remind you that that billion-dollar proposal was something that Republicans in Congress were unwilling to even discuss. They canceled a hearing that had that the past 40 Congresses had previously held to evaluate the President's budget proposal. For 40 years in a row, that meeting had been held, but Republicans wouldn't even give the President's budget director the opportunity to discuss the President's budget and to discuss his specific proposal.

So Republicans don't take this seriously, and I don't understand why. So we'll see what gets passed out of conference. But if there is a bill that reaches the President's desk that is geared toward fighting the opioid epidemic but doesn't include any funding, I certainly cannot promise that the President would sign it. So we'll see what they do, but hopefully Republicans in Congress will listen to the calls from Democrats and Republicans alike who are asking for more resources to deal with this significant emergency.

April.

Q Josh, I have two subjects I want to ask you -- two total different subjects. First, I want to go back to yesterday. How did -- give us a little color off of Air Force One. How did the conversation, or the issuing of the Comey statement come up yesterday with the President and Secretary Clinton?

MR. EARNEST: Good, this is the easiest question I'm going to get all day. It did not come up.

Q So you mean to tell me they were on the plane traveling to Charlotte, never talked about it on the plane, not even when they had broke bread and had barbeque together?

MR. EARNEST: Well, Secretary Clinton did not fly back on



Air Force One with President Obama. So presumably she got to --

Q They had barbeque at the restaurant.

MR. EARNEST: Well, they got it to go, so, presumably, she was able to enjoy it on her own plane. I know that some members of the President's staff enjoyed the barbeque on Air Force One on the flight back to Washington yesterday. It was excellent.

But, no, the President takes quite seriously the need to avoid the appearance of outside influence on an ongoing investigation. The FBI Director has indicated that they have completed the investigation, but the results of that investigation and the recommendations that spring from that recommendation are still being evaluate by prosecutors at the Department of Justice. So the President did not discuss this matter with Secretary Clinton.

Again, the President and his views on this matter are not relevant because the decision that prosecutors at the Department of Justice will make will be rooted in their own expertise, their own evaluation of the facts and the evidence. And that's how they will reach their conclusions. They will do that independent of their own political preferences, and they will certainly do that independent of any preferences that the President has.

But the President takes this quite seriously, and it was not discussed by the President and Secretary Clinton on the flight yesterday.

Q Next subject. Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Alton Sterling. The President is a huge partaker of social media. Has he seen this video that has gone viral of Alton Sterling's death at the hands of police in Baton Rouge?

MR. EARNEST: The President is aware of the situation. I do not know whether or not he has watched the video. April, as you probably know, the Department of Justice announced just this morning that they would be taking a close look at this matter. And again, for reasons that are not dissimilar from what we were discussing earlier, I'm just not going to be able to comment in a lot of detail on this situation given the fact that the Department of Justice has said that they're going to take a look at the situation.

But obviously the President is aware of this. And regardless of what this investigation finds, there is a family in Baton Rouge and there is a community that is grieving right now. And obviously our thoughts and prayers are with the family that's lost a loved one.

Q So you say the President has been made very aware of



this -- well, he's aware of this. Could you tell us how? Because he started an office, My Brother's Keeper, because of situations like this. Could you tell me how he was made aware, and what has he said? And could you talk to us about the process as it relates to a possible (inaudible) or law violation that the Justice Department is looking at?

MR. EARNEST: Well, I'll let the Department of Justice talk about the process. Again, it is a process that they're going to conduct independent of any White House judgment about the situation.

But look, the President is aware of it, but I don't have a specific reaction to the news to share with you.

Q And how was he made aware of it? Did Broderick Johnson, the head of My Brother's Keeper, tell him? Did Valerie Jarrett send him an email? I mean, how did he find out?

MR. EARNEST: No, this incident has obviously garnered significant media attention, and that's how the President is aware of it.

Mark.

Q Back to the emails and congressional hearings. Is it appropriate for Congress, members of Congress to call before hearings the lead investigator and the Attorney General? Is there a danger of them asserting political influence that you say the President is so keen to avoid?

MR. EARNEST: Well, I think you're raising a legitimate question, but it's one at this point that I'm just not going to be in a position to comment on given the fact that what the FBI Director will presumably be asked to discuss is the findings of his investigation and the recommendation that that investigation prompted to the Department of Justice. And given that those findings and that recommendation are still being evaluated by the Department of Justice, I'm reluctant to weigh in on it at this point.

Q Speaker Ryan said that he should supply a point-by-point justification for the things he said yesterday. Is that appropriate?

MR. EARNEST: Well, I think -- again, the FBI Director did speak to this investigation at some length yesterday. Many people have observed that that is not the standard practice. But there is little about this matter that is standard, you might say. So I think the FBI Director did have an opportunity to be quite transparent with the American public about the investigation that was conducted, how it was conducted, what they found, and what they recommended to the Department of Justice. But I'm just not going to be able to speak on this



...I am just not going to be able to speak on this matter given that the findings and recommendations are still under review by the professionals at the Department of Justice.

Q So what do you think of Donald Trump's assertion that letting Clinton off the hook represents bribery of the Attorney General?

MR. EARNEST: I don't have a specific reaction to Mr. Trump's comments on this matter. Thank you for giving me the opportunity, though.

Suzanne.

Q I want to follow up on April's question about Baton Rouge. Louisiana Governor Edwards said that there were a number of White House officials who reached out to him this morning. Was the President one of them? Has the President talked to the Governor? And why has the Justice Department reacted with such speed in terms of taking over the investigation?

MR. EARNEST: The President has not made any calls to the Louisiana Governor on this matter. I can tell you that the White House officials that did place calls placed those calls prior to the announcement from the Department of Justice about the ongoing investigation. Now that the investigation is underway I would not anticipate extensive conversations about this matter between the White House and any Louisiana officials, again, out of respect for the independent Department of Justice investigation.

For the decision and speed with which the decision was made by the Department of Justice to take a close look at this matter, I'd refer you to officials at the Department of Justice. They reached that decision on their own and based on their knowledge of the facts. But exactly what factored into that decision and the timing for that decision being announced, that's something that they'll have to speak to.

Q Some of those officials, including the police chief, felt like it wasn't necessary, that, according to him, that he didn't need hand-holding and that type of thing. Is there any sense that there's some pushback for the Justice Department getting involved?

MR. EARNEST: Well, again, I'll let the police chief speak to his perspective. Obviously, the Department of Justice has made a decision based on their own expertise and based on their own knowledge of the situation to conduct an investigation. But how they reached that decision, I'll leave it to them to explain.

Q So back to the President. The video of what we did see is another African American man on the ground being shot and killed by police officers. It is under investigation, which we



know, but the family held a press conference in which his 15-year-old son wailed and broke down at the loss of his father.

MR. EARNEST: It's heartbreaking.

Q Heartbreaking. Has the President seen that particular video? And just to a larger point, what does he think? What is his reaction in response to something like that happening again in our country?

MR. EARNEST: Well, listen, in response to April's question, I noted earlier the pain that is obviously being felt by this family and by this community in Baton Rouge. And we're thinking about them as they endure that grief.

But as it relates to the facts of the situation, I'm just not going to be able to get into it because the Department of Justice has taking a look at that. But this is something that the President is aware of. I don't know if he saw the news conference, but I'm certain that he's aware of the news. But we're obviously going to be deferential to the decision-making at the Department of Justice about how to pursue justice in this matter.

Megan.

Q Thank you, Josh. You're getting a lot of questions about what the President has watched in the past 24 hours. Has he watched Comey's news conference from yesterday in its entirety?

MR. EARNEST: I don't believe the President had the opportunity to watch it in its entirety in real time. There was obviously extensive news coverage of it. Those of us who did watch his news conference in real time had an opportunity to describe the news conference to him, so he certainly is aware of what transpired. But I don't believe he got to watch the entire news conference from beginning to end.

Q How did he describe it?

MR. EARNEST: Keep going, Megan.

Q I want to take another crack at the reaction to the congressional inquiry -- inquiries -- surrounding this. What about this as a use of members of Congress in terms of their time? Do you see an issue with members of Congress focusing on this particular issue?

MR. EARNEST: Well, listen, you have heard me express significant concerns about the inattention that Congress has placed on things like funding for the opioid epidemic, and to make sure that individuals who are seeking treatment can get



access to a hospital bed before they die. You have heard me discuss how important it is for Congress to act on a request that was put forward by public health professionals to fight the Zika virus. There are pregnant women and newborn babies all across the country that are at risk, and the fact is our public health professionals have not been able to do every single thing possible to protect us because they haven't gotten adequate resources and adequate funding from the United States Congress. In fact, they've gotten basically nothing from the United States Congress. I know there is essentially a talking point, though, that Congress has previously passed on Zika, but that's not going to actually get them the resources that they need to do everything possible to protect the American people.

We've certainly talked at length about how Republicans in the Senate have not done their job and given a hearing to the President's eminently qualified nominee to the Supreme Court. This individual is, based on his 19 years on the federal bench, somebody that I've described as the most experienced Supreme Court nominee in history, somebody that even Republicans have described as a consensus nominee. But yet, more than half of the Republican conference won't even meet with the man. They won't even have a conversation with him, let alone fulfill their official responsibilities to give him a hearing and give him a yes or no vote.

So there are -- again, without talking about the FBI investigation or the Director's decision to travel to Capitol Hill and talk to members of Congress about this, I'll just make the simple observation that there are significant other priorities that have languished, that Republicans have ignored, the kind of things that should be far beyond any sort of partisan wrangling. But that's, unfortunately, not how they have spent their time.

Q Are you then characterizing --

MR. EARNEST: Well, at this point, I would hesitate to characterize the interaction that Director Comey is scheduled to have with Congress later this week, simply because the investigation that he'll be discussing and the recommendations that he ostensibly will be discussing are still being considered by lawyers at the Department of Justice.

Q And I did have one question on 2016 campaigning and what's ahead for the President. Is he going to be campaigning for House and Senate candidates as well? And what's the planning there?

MR. EARNEST: Well, I don't have any additional events to announce. I can tell you the President is quite interested in making a strong case to Democrats all across the country. It was probably evident to those of you who watched the President's remarks yesterday. So I would certainly confirm your analysis



remains yesterday. So I would certainly confirm your analysis if that's what your conclusion was.

So the President is obviously quite enthusiastic about Secretary Clinton's campaign. He described that at some length yesterday. The President is also pretty enthusiastic about a number of Democratic candidates for the Senate and House, as well. And he, I'm confident, will have an opportunity to make his case on their behalf, as well. He certainly is looking forward to that opportunity.

Q And then I'd like to hear a little bit more of the description in the back and forth on Comey's announcement.

MR. EARNEST: So you yield your time to Mr. Nichols.

Q Yes.

MR. EARNEST: Hans, go ahead.

Q How do you describe it, Josh?

MR. EARNEST: Well, listen, the President had not seen it, and I certainly described what I saw, which is the FBI Director offering a detailed public description of what his investigators had done, what they had found, and what they had recommended to the Department of Justice. Again, what was quite clear from the beginning of his statement is that he was going to go into quite a lot of detail -- and he did. And it certainly was not clear, I don't think to anybody, by the Director's own admission, exactly what the recommendation was going to be until he announced what it was. And that's how I described it.

Q Can you give us any adjectives he used, other than "quite"?

MR. EARNEST: No.

Kevin.

Q Thanks. If I could follow up for just a second. It seems to me --

Q Ask about adverbs.

Q Yeah, I should -- adverbs. (Laughter.) It seemed to me that Director Comey suggested without saying -- maybe using Washington speak -- that the Secretary lied about a number of her statements previously made about her server -- about why she used it, about whether or not classified material had been sent marked classified. He cited over 100 of those. As the leader of the party, how did the President take it when he heard that about the person that he was then going to go out and tell the people of North Carolina and, ostensibly, the people of America that this is someone you should place your trust in?



MR. EARNEST: Listen, I just don't have a presidential reaction to the investigation to share. And the reason for that is the investigation is still being evaluated by Department of Justice prosecutors.

But as it relates to the President's feelings about Secretary Clinton, the President had an opportunity to speak about them at length yesterday in Charlotte. And the President made a forceful and compelling case for someone that he has gotten to see in action, up close. He made his case in support of somebody who he started out running against and now strongly supports. And that's a pretty powerful story, particularly when you consider the President's own perspective.

As the President talked about yesterday, you don't really know what it's like to be President until you've had to sit behind that desk, in the Oval Office, and make those weighty decisions. Many of those weighty decisions are not something that are discussed publicly every day but do have a significant impact on the American people.

And the President, I think, made a robust case for why he believes that Secretary Clinton is the right person to inherit that responsibility.

Q You have may have been asked this already, but just if I might: Was there any tipoff at all that this was going to go the way that it went? And the reason I ask is I'm wondering what the contingency -- what had been, say, had the outcome been different -- would the President have continued and gone on, and done the event with the Secretary as planned?

MR. EARNEST: Kevin, I did mention this yesterday. The White House did not receive any advance notice of Director Comey's remarks. There was no advance notice given to the White House about the recommendations that Director Comey was prepared to give to the Department of Justice. In fact, there was not advance notice given to the White House that Director Comey was planning to speak, let alone what he was going to say.

So that all said, no, I'm not aware of any contingency plans that were in place. There was never a discussion that I was a part of that the President's schedule would be changed in any way.

Q VA report out today by the Commission on Care. And among the many things that were written in that report -- it was pretty damning, to be blunt -- it said that there were many profound deficiencies, that it requires urgent reform, and despite the fact that billions have been sent on making improvements, in some cases things have gotten worse. What's the White House reaction to the report as it is now? And what,



if anything, can be done to improve the conditions for the VA and Care veterans?

MR. EARNEST: Well, Kevin, what I would say is that at the administration we're not going to be satisfied until every veteran across the country can get access to the benefits and health care that they deserve. And the truth is, over the last two years we've made important progress in making that a reality. The fact is that the VA has reduced the backlog of disability compensation by 90 percent over the last three years. The VA has dramatically improved the wait times for veterans who are seeking medical appointments.

There are a lot of metrics I can share, but about 97 percent of appointments are now completed within 30 days of the veteran's preferred date for that appointment to occur. Twenty-two percent of those appointments are scheduled on the same day. The average wait time for primary care is about five days. The average wait time for specialty care is about six days. That's a pretty good track record, particularly when you compare it to the private sector. And I think that would explain why nearly 90 percent of veterans, according to a recent survey, said that they are either satisfied or completely satisfied with the timeliness of their scheduled appointments.

So that, I think, is a clear indication of the critically important progress that has been made thus far. But look, there is no one in the administration who is going to be satisfied until this job is completed. So we're pleased with the progress, but there's no denying that there's a lot of important work that remains to be done.

Q And lastly, on Afghanistan. The number that you mentioned -- in 2011, more than 100,000 Americans at that point serving in Afghanistan -- has continued to dwindle down. Is there any disappointment in the fact that still, after 15 years, there are more than 8,000 Americans that will still be serving in this theater?

MR. EARNEST: Afghanistan continues to be a dangerous place. And we've made a lot of important progress in strengthening the Afghan central government, enhancing the capacity of Afghan security forces to fight for their own country, and to preserve the ability of the United States military to take action against extremists and against terrorists to protect the United States and our interests around the world.

We've been able to do that, even as we have followed through on a responsible drawdown of U.S. troops from Afghanistan. The drawdown is not all the way to zero, but we've drawn down more than 92 percent -- or about 92 percent of our previous commitment just in the last four years or so. So that's an indication that we've made a lot of important progress



that is an indication that we're making a lot of important progress in Afghanistan, both substantively in terms of the results that we'd like to see on the ground, but also in terms of following through on the President's promise to find a responsible way to bring our servicemen and women home.

Q For the record, it's Goyal's birthday. You may want to give him a shout-out.

MR. EARNEST: Oh, okay. Well, maybe we'll give him a birthday question here near the end. (Laughter.)

Byron.

Q Thanks, Josh. If the FBI determined that a current member of the President's Cabinet or another top official was extremely careless with classified information, would the President expect that official to resign, or ask him or her to resign?

MR. EARNEST: Byron, I just don't have a response to that hypothetical question.

Q Given that a number of other members of this administration have resigned for far less -- including your OPM director over a data breach, your Secret Service director over security breaches, your VA Secretary over a wait time scandal, a top Afghanistan general over comments to a magazine -- yet here you have a member of your administration being accused of carelessness, and the President has endorsed her to succeed him. How do you square that?

MR. EARNEST: Well, look, I think the President squared it yesterday in his remarks. The President made a forceful case for why he believes that she is the best person in the country to succeed him as President of the United States. And he had an opportunity to watch her up close, in action. And they started out running against each other. That relationship evolved into the two of them working together to advance our interests around the world. And now the President is pleased to offer his full-throated endorsement for her to succeed him. And the President talked about her experience and her priorities and her values that she's dedicated her career to fighting for.

So the President spoke in his own words about why exactly he believes she should be the next President of the United States. I think the President did that with obvious zeal yesterday, and I would anticipate that he'll continue to do that up and including on Election Day.

Q I got this email from someone who says he worked for a Department of Energy lab. He writes, "I would have lost my security clearance and ultimately my job if I was simply careless with classified information." I feel like that's a



common sentiment in the civil service around the government. Is the White House willing to say right now that what Secretary Clinton did was a major error in judgment? And are you willing to warn all current members of the administration not to do similar things -- run their own private email servers and conduct government business on unclassified email?

MR. EARNEST: Well, Byron, we've made clear what the policy is as it relates to the use of government email, and our expectation is that individuals who serve in the administration are using their government email for official purposes. In those rare instances in which government email is either not accessible or otherwise unavailable, use of personal email should be limited, and in each instance, that personal email should be transferred to the official government system as soon as possible so that it can be properly archived. That's been our policy for a long time and our expectation is that that's what employees will follow as they conduct the official business of the United States government. That certainly is the policy that I follow, and everyone else does, too.

But again, you're asking other questions that are related directly to the assessment that was made by the FBI Director based on their investigation and it's just not something I can react to. As long as that assessment and investigation and recommendations are being considered by prosecutors at the Department of Justice.

Q You can't warn federal employees that they shouldn't be careless with classified information?

MR. EARNEST: Well, I think I've just reiterated what our policy is and, in response to a previous question, discussed how much of a priority we have placed on the careful handling of sensitive information. But as it relates to the investigation that was completed by the FBI, we'll let that be evaluated by prosecutors at the Department of Justice and avoid any sort of outside or undue influence from the White House -- something that we've successfully done for the last year or so. And we certainly want to make sure that we do that up to the conclusion of this matter.

Jan.

Q Just to follow up on that, I mean, Secretary Clinton has said that this was absolutely permitted by the State Department. But in light of the policy that you kind of outlined, which I assume was in place or that she knew about -- I mean, did she seek legal guidance from the Counsel's Office? Or was the Counsel's Office totally caught off guard?

MR. EARNEST: Look, I have zero knowledge of the decisions that Secretary Clinton and her team made in setting up her email



system.

Q But I mean, what about the White House Counsel's Office?

MR. EARNEST: Well, again, I'm not aware of who Secretary Clinton and her team may have consulted with this matter, but you can certainly check with them on that. But the policy was in place and has been in place since the beginning.

Q So she would have been aware of that policy?

MR. EARNEST: Again, you'd have to ask her if she was aware of it, but it certainly was in place.

Q Okay, I'm just trying to -- but you have no knowledge of whether she, with this policy in place, consulted with, say, the White House Counsel's Office or any White House legal staff or team about whether or not something that may be a little different would be acceptable?

MR. EARNEST: Who Secretary Clinton may have consulted you should get from her team.

Chris.

Q Josh, neither President Obama, nor Secretary Clinton, during the campaign appearance yesterday, articulated their opposition in North Carolina's anti-LGBT House Bill 2. Meanwhile, Donald Trump said yesterday during a rally event he's a friend of the gay community, but then later told reporters he's with the state on HB-2. Did the President miss an opportunity to contrast the Democrats to Trump by not speaking out against the law?

MR. EARNEST: Chris, I think this -- again, the Department of Justice has gotten a lot of air time today. But as you know, this is a matter that is being considered by legal authorities in the administration, so that certainly contributed to the President's decision not to raise it in public yesterday.

Q But do you have any reaction to Donald Trump saying in one night he's a friend of the gay community and also with the state on House Bill 2?

MR. EARNEST: I do not have a reaction to Mr. Trump today.

Dave.

Q Thanks, Josh. I wanted to ask you about something the President said at the rally yesterday. He was talking about what a great Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was -- he said, "That was before the whole political machinery got moving. It's funny how the filter changes a bit -- same person."



moving. -- I think now she never changes a job. Same person, done the same work -- but that filter is a powerful thing." Was he referring in any way to the email investigation?

MR. EARNEST: No, Dave, I think what the President was referring to was that Secretary Clinton's approval ratings and the willingness of Republicans to work with her was evident while she was serving as Secretary of State. And her political standing was strong, her approval ratings obviously grew. Many people, including people in this room, observed that her approval rating as Secretary of State was higher than the President that she serves, and there was a willingness on the part of many Republicans to work with her effectively to advance our interests around the globe.

But obviously, that all changed once she left government service. And, again, I think that is a function of our political system right now -- that Republicans who were willing to work effectively with her while she was Secretary of State are now harshly criticizing her. I'll leave that to all of them to explain why that is the case, but that's what the President was referring to. He wasn't referring to this specific matter.

Q -- email investigation by the Department of Justice had nothing to do with her disapproval ratings going up?

MR. EARNEST: I don't think the -- I think the point that the President was making yesterday -- I'm just not going to talk about the investigation to the email system. The point that the President was making is that her service as Secretary of State is something that won her strong support all across the country because she served the country well, because she served the President well, because she succeeded in advancing our interests around the globe in a variety of settings. And the President is certainly proud of her service and that is what contributed to his decision to strongly endorse her candidacy for President.

John, I'll give you the last one.

Q Thanks, Josh. Last week, you mentioned that the President had talked to congressional leaders about a Zika package. How would you describe those conversations -- a negotiation now, or he is just continuing to push the original request?

MR. EARNEST: I would describe them as intensely frustrating because our public health professionals have been blunt about what resources they need to do everything possible to protect the American people from the Zika virus, and Republicans, for some reason, haven't gotten the message. And when I say Republicans, I'm referring to Republicans in Congress. Republican mayors and Republican governors and particularly in the South, where the mosquito population is larger have definitely gotten the message.



We've seen a bipartisan group of governors write a letter to Congress, urging them to act on the President's funding request. We have seen even some Republican members of the Senate strongly support the President's budget proposal.

Republicans ran for the job of serving the country in the United States Senate. They made what they thought was a strong case about how the country would benefit from a Republican majority in the House and the Senate. That comes with it significant responsibilities, including making sure that our country has the resources necessary to deal with an emergency. And when faced with this significant emergency, Republicans have not acted on the specific request that our public health professionals have made for funding. And the President has been quite disappointed by all that.

Q It looks like Congress will get out of town next week without passing anything. Is the administration preparing another reprogramming request?

MR. EARNEST: I'm not aware of any significant plan B here. The fact is, significant resources are required and the administration has already tried to reprogram some \$600 million from other accounts to try to bridge the gap. But there's a whole lot more that is not being done because Republicans haven't acted. And that is contrary to the best advice that we've gotten from our public health professionals. This doesn't have anything to do with politics; it doesn't have anything to do with political parties, but it should have everything to do with Republicans in Congress fulfilling their basic responsibilities to the American people. And thus far, they have dropped the ball.

I'll give the birthday boy the last one here. Happy birthday, Goyal.

Q Thank you. How about my question on this, my birthday, that I need blessings from all my colleagues at the White House, from you and the President and your White House press office. That's all my question today, the blessing.

MR. EARNEST: All right, well, we'll find a way to get those to you before the end of the day.

Have a good day, everybody.

END

2:38 P.M. EDT

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## POLITICO Huddle

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**From:** POLITICO Huddle  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 07, 2016 7:00 AM  
**To:** Werner, Sharon (OAG)  
**Subject:** POLITICO Huddle: RYAN WRITES TO CLAPPER ON CLINTON – Comey testifies this morning – TRUMP HEADS TO THE HILL – Rubio out at convention – GOP V.P. PICKS DROPPING LIKE FLIES

07/07/2016 06:57 AM EDT

By Heather Caygle ([hcaygle@politico.com](mailto:hcaygle@politico.com) or [@heatherscope](#))

*With assistance from Daniel Lippman and Burgess Everett*

**NEW THIS A.M.: RYAN WRITES TO CLAPPER ON CLINTON-** House Speaker Paul Ryan is sending a letter to James Clapper, director of National Intelligence, this morning to officially request that Hillary Clinton be denied access to classified information while running for president. The move comes just hours before FBI Director James Comey [testifies on the Hill](#) about his decision not to prosecute Clinton despite her "extremely careless" handling of classified documents on a private email server. Ryan first suggested the idea of denying Clinton classified access Tuesday and is now making his request official.

"As a former vice presidential nominee, I am keenly aware that Secretary Clinton is set to begin receiving classified intelligence briefings after the Democratic National Convention," Ryan wrote. "Given the FBI's findings, denying Secretary Clinton access to classified information certainly constitutes appropriate sanctions." Huddle readers get the letter: <http://goo.gl/nW9WY8>

**But that's not all:** Ryan is also firing off a missive to Comey this morning calling on the FBI to release all unclassified findings from the bureau's investigation into Clinton's email use. "Right now, there are simply too many unanswered questions," Ryan wrote. Read the letter: <http://goo.gl/ASTiSZ>

**What to expect from this morning's hearing:** In a Tuesday phone call, Comey told House Oversight Chairman Jason Chaffetz "that he'll have to be 'somewhat restrained' in answering questions, the Utah Republican said. The FBI director rarely takes questions on investigations in which the agency decides not to pursue charges. But Comey wanted to testify sooner rather than later and actually picked Thursday when speaking with Chaffetz, the lawmaker said." Rachael and Bres: <http://goo.gl/M4dbaE>

**We're losing count:** Already, five congressional committees plan to hold hearings or are requesting official information on the Clinton email probe, according to [a tally](#) from the Hill, as Republicans try to hammer the issue home before the long recess. House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, in an interview with USA Today, called Republicans' insistence that Comey testify a "waste of the taxpayers' dollars" and said they "can never take 'no' for an answer." <http://goo.gl/6EXvCj>

Related read: Will House Republicans overplay their hand on Clinton? From Paul Kane: <https://goo.gl/sIO8yD>

Mike Allen

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**From:** Mike Allen  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 07, 2016 7:54 AM  
**To:** Werner, Sharon (OAG)  
**Subject:** POLITICO Playbook, presented by JPMorgan Chase & Co.: TRUMP on the media and the star: 'They are racially profiling' – JOE SCARBOROUGH: 'He's got his groove back' – TRUMP beats expectations with June haul -- WASHPOST: 'fiercely competitive' fall race

07/07/2016 07:51 AM EDT

By Mike Allen (@mikeallen; [mallen@politico.com](mailto:mallen@politico.com)) and Daniel Lippman (@dlippman; [dlippman@politico.com](mailto:dlippman@politico.com))

**Good Thursday morning.** It's 11 days to Cleveland, 18 to Philly, and 124 to Election Day.

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**DRIVING THE DAY --** House GOP takes another step in Hillary email-gate: In the latest shoe to drop in the Clinton email controversy, House Speaker Paul Ryan this morning will formally ask the Director of National Intelligence James Clapper to deny Secretary Clinton access to classified information. Ryan first discussed the idea on Tuesday during an interview with Megyn Kelly, and this morning he'll make the formal request in a letter. **Letter** <http://bit.ly/29Aenge>

**Additionally, Ryan** this morning will send a letter to FBI Director James Comey requesting that he release all of the unclassified findings from the Bureau's investigation. Comey is testifying today before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. **Letter** <http://bit.ly/29m2FxA>

**BROOKLYN MINDMELD - Per a Clinton official:** "House Republicans are overreaching yet again. Just one week after their two-year, \$7.1 million investigation into the Benghazi attacks turned up nothing new, Chaffetz and House Republicans are launching another partisan sham of an investigation, this time over emails. The same Republicans who were praising FBI Director Comey just days ago are now questioning his independence because they didn't get the outcome they wanted from the FBI. With today's hearing, Republicans are playing into the very narrative of taxpayer-funded stunts that Speaker Ryan was trying to avoid last February when he stopped Chaffetz from launching any email-focused probes." <http://bit.ly/29lsyxg>

**--FLASHBACK - Feb. 4, Politico's Jake Sherman and Rachael Bade:** "Ryan, McCarthy again tell Chaffetz to stay away from Clinton" <http://politi.co/1o9XWGf>

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**O'Brien, Alicia C (OLA)**

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**From:** O'Brien, Alicia C (OLA)  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 07, 2016 1:30 PM  
**To:** Kadzik, Peter J (OLA); Herwig, Paige (OAG); Prober, Raphael (ODAG); Pokorny, Carolyn (OAG); Rodenbush, Patrick (OPA)  
**Cc:** Pings, Anne (OLA)  
**Subject:** Cornyn Letter to AG Lynch  
**Attachments:** Clinton Letter to AG Lynch-Correction.pdf

FYI; we've confirmed receipt.

Alicia C. O'Brien  
Office of Legislative Affairs  
(202) 305-8035  
[Alicia.C.O'Brien@usdoj.gov](mailto:Alicia.C.O'Brien@usdoj.gov)



**United States Senate**

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4305

July 7, 2016

The Honorable Loretta Lynch  
Attorney General  
United States Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Lynch:

On July 5, 2016, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) announced in a lengthy press conference that the FBI was officially recommending that “no charges are appropriate” in the investigation of former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton’s use of a personal email system during her time as Secretary of State. The Director made this recommendation even though the FBI found that “there is evidence of potential violations of the statutes regarding the handling of classified information,” including evidence that “Secretary Clinton or her colleagues ... were extremely careless in their handling of very sensitive, highly classified information.” In doing so, the Director specifically pointed to seven e-mail chains concerning Top Secret information, some of which apparently “bore markings indicating the presence of classified information.” These conclusions, among others, directly contradict many of the public statements that former-Secretary Clinton and her supporters have made in defense of her unprecedented conduct. Nevertheless, yesterday you accepted his recommendation and, in a terse, two-sentence statement, announced that “the thorough, year-long investigation” was now closed and that “no charges [would] be brought against any individuals within the scope of the investigation.”

The Director’s lengthy public statement was “unusual,” as he noted, but he asserted that “the American people deserve ... details in a case of intense public interest,” and that “given the importance of the matter, ... unusual transparency is in order.” His public statement, he said, was an effort to “assure the American people ... that this investigation was done competently, honestly, and independently. No outside influence of any kind was brought to bear.” In contrast, your public announcement contained no similar disclosures or otherwise provided the American people with much needed transparency and information about that investigation.

For more than a year, I also have noted that this case was incredibly important and highly unusual and that the American people deserved a fair and impartial investigation. That’s why I called for you to appoint a Special Counsel in this matter. The need for a Special Counsel, the appointment of which would give the American people greater transparency and assurance of independence, was underscored after you decided to meet privately with Secretary Clinton’s husband just days before the Director’s public announcement and the conclusion of that

investigation. I will continue to press for this appointment because I believe it is the best and most appropriate way for the American people to have faith in the administration of justice in this case.

In the meantime, and because the Director and I both agree about the importance of this matter and the need for unusual transparency, I call on the Department of Justice to immediately release the FBI's report and any transcript of the FBI's three-and-a-half hour interview of former-Secretary Clinton on July 2. As you know, such interview reports often become public when a criminal investigation results in a criminal prosecution. And the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure require the Department of Justice to provide an interview report directly to a criminal defendant. Of course, here you have declined to appoint a Special Counsel and the FBI has decided that "no reasonable prosecutor would bring such a case," so the American people will not enjoy the same transparency that they have come to expect from their own government. But as the Director said, "only facts matter," and the American people deserve the facts underlying former-Secretary Clinton's FBI interview to evaluate the Department of Justice's conclusions and the public statements that former-Secretary Clinton and her supporters have made regarding her use of a personal email system and her egregious handling of classified information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Cornyn". The signature is stylized, with a large, sweeping "J" and "C".

JOHN CORNYN  
United States Senator



## POLITICO Huddle

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**From:** POLITICO Huddle  
**Sent:** Friday, July 8, 2016 8:22 AM  
**To:** Werner, Sharon (OAG)  
**Subject:** POLITICO Huddle: CONGRESSIONAL CONDOLENCES AFTER DALLAS – Trump takes on Capitol Hill critics – CLINTON PROBE UNLEASHES NEW PAUL RYAN – GOP may be Uber free at convention – REP. BROWN IN FLORIDA COURT TODAY

07/08/2016 08:19 AM EDT

By Heather Caygle ([hcaygle@politico.com](mailto:hcaygle@politico.com) or [@heatherscope](https://twitter.com/heatherscope))

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**PAUL RYAN 2.0-** When it comes to scandal, wonky House Speaker Paul Ryan generally tries to stay about the fray. At least until this week, when the FBI announced it wouldn't pursue charges against Hillary Clinton for mishandling classified information as secretary of State. Rachael with the story: "Ryan jumped with both feet into the Clinton email controversy this week after avoiding it for well over a year. ... The speaker's office is even considering offering a House companion measure to a Senate proposal that would revoke security clearance for Clinton and her closest staffers, according to senior GOP leadership aides."

**Reality check:** "While the idea is mostly symbolic - President Barack Obama would never sign such legislation into law - Ryan's actions amount to a sea change in tone and posture for the Wisconsin Republican, who tends to favor white papers and budget charts over partisan finger-pointing and scandal-hunting." <http://goo.gl/gHQd4m>

**Related read:** House Republicans grilled FBI Director James Comey over the Clinton email decision



Thursday. There weren't any "bombshell revelations" during the five-hour hearing but some of Comey's statements could be used by Republicans in attack ads leading up to the election. Seung Min with the wrap up: <http://goo.gl/EZx22z>

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**Newman, Melanie (OPA)**

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**From:** Newman, Melanie (OPA)  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 10, 2016 10:11 AM  
**To:** Carlisle, Elizabeth Former Attorney General Lynch's Official DOJ Email Address  
**Cc:** Pokorny, Carolyn (OAG); Herwig, Paige (OAG); Cheung, Denise (OAG); Kadzik, Peter J (OLA); O'Brien, Alicia C (OLA)  
**Subject:** Fwd: WH Travel Pool 8c: Comments on Clinton emails/fuller BLM quotes

AG Lynch and team -

FYI on the below from POTUS.

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** White House Press Office <[noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov](mailto:noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov)>  
**Date:** July 10, 2016 at 10:09:13 AM EDT  
**To:** <[melanie.newman@usdoj.gov](mailto:melanie.newman@usdoj.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: WH Travel Pool 8c: Comments on Clinton emails/fuller BLM quotes  
**Reply-To:** <[noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov](mailto:noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov)>

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Memoli, Michael"  
<[michael.memoli@latimes.com](mailto:michael.memoli@latimes.com)<<mailto:michael.memoli@latimes.com>>>  
**Date:** July 10, 2016 at 3:58:36 PM GMT+2  
**To:** "Allen, Jessica L. EOP/WHO"  
<[jessica\\_l\\_allen@who.eop.gov](mailto:jessica_l_allen@who.eop.gov)<[mailto:jessica\\_l\\_allen@who.eop.gov](mailto:jessica_l_allen@who.eop.gov)>>  
**Subject:** WH Travel Pool 8c: Comments on Clinton emails/fuller BLM quotes

On the issue of Clinton emails, POTUS again declined to address it specifically.

"The FBI director took the extraordinary step of explaining in methodical fashion how they arrived at their conclusion. The attorney general accepted the recommendation of investigators. And as a consequence I think it's inappropriate for me to second guess or comment."

He then addressed again the larger issues of transmitting information in real time but ensuring it is not mishandled. "Without commenting on what Director Comey said I can say that Secretary Kerry is and has been concerned about this generally and has stood up initiatives to try to improve those information flows and that I'm concerned about this throughout the government generally. It just has a particular salience when you're talking about diplomatic cables and issues involving national security. ... I don't think we have it perfectly solved."

He noted Wikileaks was a big piece of this which exposed vulnerabilities including hacking in the White House.



Fuller BLM quotes. As always check against transcript:

Referring to the ability to speak truth to power in America: "That is sometimes messy and controversial. But because of that ability to protest and engage in free speech, America over time has gotten better. We've all benefited from that."

Alluding to past movements, including for abolition and women rights, "activists might have engaged in rhetoric that was overheated and occasionally counterproductive. But the point was to raise issues so that we as a society could grapple with them. What we're seeing now is part of that long standing tradition.

"Whenever those of us who are concerned about fairness in the criminal justice system attack police officers, you are doing a disservice to the cause. First of all, any violence directed at police officers is a reprehensible crime and needs to be prosecuted. But even rhetorically, if we paint police in broad brush without recognizing that the vast majority of police officers are doing a really good job and are trying to protect people and do so fairly and without racial balance, if the rhetoric does not recognize that, then we're going to lose allies in the reform cause. "

"In a movement like Black Lives Matter there are always going to be folks who say things that are stupid or imprudent or over generalized or harsh. And I don't think that you can hold well-meaning activists who are doing the right thing, peacefully protesting, responsible for everything that is uttered at a protest site."

"I would just say that everybody who's concerned about the issue of police shootings or racial bias in the criminal justice system, that maintaining a truthful and serious and respectful tone is going to help mobilize American society to bring about real change. And that is our ultimate objective."

POTUS said this week people felt hurt and angry. "Some of this is just venting." But what most in the BLM really want to see is a better relationship with police. And they have allies in police departments like the one in Dallas. "That's part of why it's so tragic that those officers were targeted in Dallas, a place that is because of its transparency and training and openness and engagement has drastically brought down the number of police shootings."

Lastly, POTUS said that just as he hopes those in BLM "maintain a respectful, thoughtful tone," he said he hoped "that police organizations are also respectful of the frustrations that the people in these communities feel. And not just dismiss these protests and these complaints as political correctness or as politics or attacks on police. There are legitimate issues that have been raised. And there is data and evidence to back up the concerns that are being expressed."

"If police organizations and departments acknowledge that there's a problem and that there's an issue, then that too is going to contribute to real solutions."

"It is in the interests of police officers that their communities trust them and that the kind of rancor and suspicion that exists right now is alleviated. I'd like all sides to listen to each other, and that's we'll hopefully be able to accomplish over the course of the next week and the course of the remaining months that I am president."

Mike Memoli

Los Angeles Times / Tribune Washington Bureau

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><http://lat.ms/1IzozGu><

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**Anna Palmer and Jake Sherman**

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**From:** Anna Palmer and Jake Sherman  
**Sent:** Monday, July 11, 2016 7:35 AM  
**To:** Werner, Sharon (OAG)  
**Subject:** POLITICO Playbook, presented by Quicken Loans: EXCLUSIVE: Ryan to speak at GOP convention -- Bernie rallying with Clinton Tuesday -- TRUMP expands communication team -- Krone's retirement gift for Reid -- B'DAY: Garrett Graff, Corey Boles

[View online version](#)

Today's PLAYBOOK presented by Quicken Loans

07/11/2016 07:32 AM EDT

By ANNA PALMER ([apalmer@politico.com](mailto:apalmer@politico.com), [@apalmerdc](https://twitter.com/apalmerdc)) and JAKE SHERMAN ([jsherman@politico.com](mailto:jsherman@politico.com), [@JakeSherman](https://twitter.com/JakeSherman)) with DANIEL LIPPMAN ([dlippman@politico.com](mailto:dlippman@politico.com), [@dlippman](https://twitter.com/dlippman))

Inside today's POLITICO Playbook, presented by Quicken Loans: EXCLUSIVE: Ryan to speak at GOP convention -- Bernie rallying with Clinton Tuesday -- TRUMP expands communication team - Krone's retirement gift for Reid - B'DAY: Garrett Graff, Corey Boles

#### DRIVING THE DAY

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THE PLAYBOOK INTERVIEW: SPEAKER PAUL RYAN

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# Non-Responsive Record

-- **On whether Clinton perjured herself:** "I think we need to figure it out. I don't want to get ahead of that ... [House Republicans] have to ask [FBI Director James] Comey to look at that. So I don't know the answer to that, but that's something we should look at."

# Non-Responsive Record

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RARE OP-ED by Clinton consigliere David Kendall, "Whitewater was no close call for prosecutors": "Putting aside significant ethical questions about the propriety of prosecutors casually reminiscing, decades later, about the potential guilt of subjects who were never charged, the facts speak for themselves. While independent counsel Kenneth W. Starr and his staff may have secretly hoped for and ruminated about the possibility of bringing a criminal case against Clinton, they never even presented an indictment to the many grand juries they used." <http://wapo.st/29wCrh8>

# Non-Responsive Record

# Non-Responsive Record

# Non-Responsive Record

# Non-Responsive Record



O'Brien, Alicia C (OLA)

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**From:** O'Brien, Alicia C (OLA)  
**Sent:** Monday, July 11, 2016 11:44 AM  
**To:** Kadzik, Peter J (OLA); Herwig, Paige (OAG); Rodenbush, Patrick (OPA); Prober, Raphael (ODAG); Pings, Anne (OLA)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Letter from Sen. Ron Johnson-Chairman HSGAC to Attorney General Lynch  
**Attachments:** 2016-07-11 RHJ to DOJ (FBI investigation into Clinton).pdf; ATT00001.htm

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Wittmann, Scott (HSGAC)" <(b) (6)>  
**To:** "Burton, Faith (OLA)" <[fburton@jmd.usdoj.gov](mailto:fburton@jmd.usdoj.gov)>, "O'Brien, Alicia C (OLA)" <[aobrien@jmd.usdoj.gov](mailto:aobrien@jmd.usdoj.gov)>, "DOJ Correspondence (SMO)" <[Ex\\_DOJCorrespondence@jmd.usdoj.gov](mailto:Ex_DOJCorrespondence@jmd.usdoj.gov)>  
**Cc:** "Brewer, David (HSGAC)" <(b) (6)>, "Lueptow, Michael (HSGAC)" <(b) (6)>, "Maddox, Rebecca (HSGAC)" <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** Letter from Sen. Ron Johnson-Chairman HSGAC to Attorney General Lynch

Attached please find a signed letter from Senator Ron Johnson, Chairman of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee to Attorney General Lynch. The original will be dropped in the mail today.

Please acknowledge receipt of this message and attachment. Thank you.

Scott Wittmann  
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
Senator Ron Johnson, Chairman

(b) (6)

RON JOHNSON, WISCONSIN, CHAIRMAN

JOHN MCCAIN, ARIZONA  
ROB PORTMAN, OHIO  
RAND PAUL, KENTUCKY  
JAMES LANKFORD, OKLAHOMA  
MICHAEL B. ENZI, WYOMING  
KELLY AYOTTE, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
JONI ERNST, IOWA  
BEN SASSE, NEBRASKA

THOMAS R. CARPER, DELAWARE  
CLAIRE McCASKILL, MISSOURI  
JON TESTER, MONTANA  
TAMMY BALDWIN, WISCONSIN  
HEIDI HEITKAMP, NORTH DAKOTA  
CORY A. BOOKER, NEW JERSEY  
GARY C. PETERS, MICHIGAN

KEITH B. ASHDOWN, STAFF DIRECTOR  
GABRIELLE A. BATKIN, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON  
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

July 11, 2016

The Honorable Loretta Lynch  
Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Lynch:

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs continues to examine former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's use of a private e-mail account and server during her time at the U.S. State Department. As a part of this examination, I request information about the resources that government agencies, including the Department of Justice, dedicated to cooperating with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) examination into Secretary Clinton's use of a personal e-mail system.

On July 5, 2016, FBI Director James Comey announced the findings and recommendation of the FBI's investigation into Secretary Clinton. Director Comey described the FBI's investigation, including assistance that the FBI received from other federal agencies.

Director Comey stated that FBI investigators "read all of the approximately 30,000 e-mails provided by Secretary Clinton to the State Department in December 2014."<sup>1</sup> Director Comey explained that:

Where an e-mail was assessed as possibly containing classified information, the FBI referred the e-mail to any U.S. government agency that was a likely "owner" of information in the e-mail, so that agency could make a determination as to whether the e-mail contained classified information at the time it was sent or received, or whether there was reason to classify the e-mail now, even if its content was not classified at the time it was sent . . . .<sup>2</sup>

Additionally, Director Comey stated that the FBI "discovered several thousand work-related e-mails that were not in the group of 30,000 that were returned by Secretary Clinton to State in 2014," in part by "reviewing the archived government e-mail accounts of people who had been government employees at the same time as Secretary Clinton, including high-ranking officials at other agencies, people with whom a Secretary of State might naturally correspond."<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Statement by FBI Director James B. Comey on the Investigation of Secretary Hillary Clinton's Use of a Personal E-Mail System, Washington, D.C. (July 5, 2016).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*



Finally, Director Comey stated that the FBI “interviewed many people, from those involved in setting up and maintaining the various iterations of Secretary Clinton’s personal server, to staff members with whom she corresponded on e-mail, to those involved in the e-mail production to State, and finally, Secretary Clinton herself.”<sup>4</sup>

In light of Director Comey’s statements regarding the assistance that the FBI received from other agencies, I write to better understand the resources that the Department of Justice—other than the FBI—employed to cooperate with the FBI and other federal agency investigations. Accordingly, I request that you please provide the following information and materials:

1. The total number of Department of Justice employees who performed work related to federal agency investigations of Secretary Clinton’s use of a private e-mail account and server.
2. A list of all Department of Justice components and resources that have worked or been consulted on federal agency investigations of Secretary Clinton’s use of a private e-mail account and server.
3. An estimate of the total cost associated with the Department of Justice’s cooperation with federal agency investigations of Secretary Clinton’s use of a private e-mail account and server.
4. The total number of e-mails that the FBI referred to the Department of Justice for a determination of whether the e-mail contained classified information, either at the time it was transmitted or presently.

Please provide this information as soon as possible, but no later than 5:00 p.m. on July 25, 2016. If you have any questions about this request, please ask your staff to contact Mike Lueptow or Scott Wittmann at (b) (6). Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Ron Johnson  
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Thomas R. Carper  
Ranking Member

---

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

## POLITICO Huddle

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**From:** POLITICO Huddle  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 12, 2016 7:51 AM  
**To:** Werner, Sharon (OAG)  
**Subject:** POLITICO Huddle: LYNCH TESTIFIES ON CLINTON THIS A.M. – Huelskamp wants a little establishment help – CORNYN HEADS TO DALLAS, BUT NOT ON AF1 – The Pony Express rides again

07/12/2016 07:49 AM EDT

By Heather Caygle ([hcaygle@politico.com](mailto:hcaygle@politico.com) or @heatherscope)

*With assistance from Seung Min Kim and Daniel Lippman*

# Non-responsive record

**LYNCH TESTIFIES ON CLINTON THIS A.M.-** Attorney General Loretta Lynch will testify before the House Judiciary Committee this morning on her impromptu meeting with Bill Clinton amid the then-ongoing investigation into Hillary Clinton's email use while secretary of State. Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte and Oversight Committee Chairman Jason Chaffetz asked DOJ on Monday to investigate whether Clinton perjured herself on the email controversy while testifying before the Benghazi Committee late last year. Rachael with the story: <http://politi.co/29slgvU>

# Non-responsive record



O'Brien, Alicia C (OLA)

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**From:** O'Brien, Alicia C (OLA)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 12, 2016 8:37 AM  
**To:** Herwig, Paige (OAG); Pokorny, Carolyn (OAG)  
**Subject:** FW: Daily News Clips 7-12-16 AM

FYSA

Alicia C. O'Brien  
Office of Legislative Affairs  
(202) 305-8035  
[Alicia.C.O'Brien@usdoj.gov](mailto:Alicia.C.O'Brien@usdoj.gov)

**From:** Lichtenstein, Alexandra R. (OLA)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 12, 2016 8:33 AM  
**To:** OLA (JMD)  
**Subject:** Daily News Clips 7 12 16 AM

Non-responsive record

**House Judiciary Committee**

Goodlatte & Gowdy Lead Letter Signed by 200 Members Pressing Director Comey About Clinton Investigation (Goodlatte – 7/11): <https://judiciary.house.gov/press-release/goodlatte-gowdy-lead-letter-signed-200-members-pressing-director-comey-clinton-investigation/>

Goodlatte, Chaffetz Request Perjury Investigation of Hillary Clinton (Goodlatte – 7/11): <https://judiciary.house.gov/press-release/goodlatte-chaffetz-request-perjury-investigation-hillary-clinton/>

Non-responsive record

Conyers: Let's Use Our Time with Ag Lynch to Focus on Substantive Issues That Impact Our Nation (Conyers – 7/11): <https://democrats-judiciary.house.gov/news/press-releases/conyers-let-s-use-our-time-ag-lynch-focus-substantive-issues-impact-our-nation>

Non-responsive record

Non-Responsive Record

House Oversight Committee

Cummings Issues Statement on Desperate Republican Efforts to Attack Clinton (Cummings – 7/11):  
<http://democrats.oversight.house.gov/news/press-releases/cummings-issues-statement-on-desperate-republican-efforts-to-attack-clinton>

# Non-responsive record

News

Attorney general scheduled to testify before House Judiciary Committee on Clinton email investigation (Washington Post – 7/12): [https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/attorney-general-scheduled-to-testify-before-house-judiciary-committee-on-clinton-email-investigation/2016/07/11/2dfb746c-479e-11e6-90a8-fb84201e0645\\_story.html?hpid=hp\\_hp-more-top-stories\\_attorneygeneral-720a-stream%3Ahomepage%2Fstory](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/attorney-general-scheduled-to-testify-before-house-judiciary-committee-on-clinton-email-investigation/2016/07/11/2dfb746c-479e-11e6-90a8-fb84201e0645_story.html?hpid=hp_hp-more-top-stories_attorneygeneral-720a-stream%3Ahomepage%2Fstory)

Congressmen ask U.S. Attorney's Office to investigate Clinton for perjury (Washington Post – 7/11): [https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/congressmen-ask-feds-to-investigate-clinton-for-perjury/2016/07/11/a76a230a-47af-11e6-90a8-fb84201e0645\\_story.html?hpid=hp\\_hp-top-table-main\\_clintonemail-0935pm%3Ahomepage%2Fstory](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/congressmen-ask-feds-to-investigate-clinton-for-perjury/2016/07/11/a76a230a-47af-11e6-90a8-fb84201e0645_story.html?hpid=hp_hp-top-table-main_clintonemail-0935pm%3Ahomepage%2Fstory)

House GOP raises pressure on FBI over Clinton (The Hill – 7/11): <http://thehill.com/policy/national-security/287279-house-gop-ramps-up-demands-on-fbi-chief-about-decision-in-clinton>

Non-responsive record

Clinton camp: FBI director 'said some very helpful things' in hearing (Politico – 7/12):  
<http://www.politico.com/story/2016/07/brian-fallon-fbi-james-comey-225403>



**Newman, Melanie (OPA)**

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**From:** Newman, Melanie (OPA)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 12, 2016 11:17 AM  
**To:** Pokorny, Carolyn (OAG); Herwig, Paige (OAG); Kadzik, Peter J (OLA); O'Brien, Alicia C (OLA)  
**Subject:** WaPo coverage

**Attorney general declines to provide any  
details on Clinton email investigation**

Melanie R. Newman  
Director, Office of Public Affairs  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Direct: 202-305-1920  
Cell: (b) (6)  
@MelanieDOJ

U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch is scheduled to testify before the House Judiciary Committee on Tuesday. (Jim Watson/AFP/Getty Images)

By [Matt Zapotosky](#)  
National Security  
July 12 at 7:00 AM

U.S. Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch repeatedly declined to answer any questions on Tuesday

about her department's investigation into Hillary Clinton's use of a personal email server while she was secretary of state, making for a bizarre congressional hearing in which she referred questions about the matter to a man lower than her on the organizational chart.

At the outset of her testimony before House Judiciary Committee on Tuesday, Lynch said it would be "inappropriate for me to comment further on the underlying facts of the investigation or the legal basis for the team's recommendation."

That put her in contrast with [FBI Director James Comey](#), who answered questions for nearly five hours last week about how he concluded Clinton should not face criminal charges.

#### CONTENT FROM PHILIPS

How data can inform  
value-based healthcare

Hospital systems are  
using data to inform  
decision making in the  
drive towards new value-  
based care delivery.

When Republican legislators pressed for details, Lynch directed their inquiries to Comey, who sits lower on the Department of Justice's organizational chart.

"He's chosen to provide detailed statements, and I would refer you to those statements," Lynch said. "I as Attorney General am not able to provide any further comment on the facts or the substance of the investigation."

Lynch had announced last week that she was accepting the recommendation of the FBI director



and federal prosecutors and closing the probe involving the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, but the controversy is far from resolved. The hearing Tuesday marked the first time Lynch has been questioned about the decision publicly.

Republicans have been waging an aggressive campaign to keep Clinton's email practices in the news, and the issue presents a challenge to her presidential aspirations. A [Washington Post-ABC News poll](#) new found that a majority of Americans — 56 percent — disapproved of the FBI director's recommendation not to charge Clinton, and 57 percent said the issue made them at least somewhat worried about how she might handle her responsibilities as president.

[ [56 percent of Americans disapprove of FBI decision to exonerate Hillary Clinton](#)

]

When Comey publicly defended his recommendation that Clinton not face charges for mishandling classified information, he delivered a stinging public critique of her email practices and revealed facts that call into question her explanations of the matter.

He has said classified material traversed Clinton's private server, and at least three documents bore subtle classification markings. He has conceded that there was "evidence of mishandling" classified information in Clinton's setup and that an FBI employee who did the same thing "would face consequences for this." He also has said that he believed Clinton was "extremely careless" and "negligent."

A Clinton campaign spokesman has said of Comey's testimony: "While Republicans may try to keep this issue alive, this hearing proved those efforts will only backfire."

The hearing with Lynch, which began at 10 a.m. and was ongoing at 10:50 a.m., was scheduled before Comey made his recommendation not to charge Clinton. Chairman Bob Goodlatte (R-Va.) said in a statement that other issues will be discussed, ranging from the mass shootings in Orlando and San Bernardino, Calif., to the impact of technological advancements on law enforcement.

But Goodlatte said the decision not to charge Clinton would be addressed because it raised "serious concerns," adding that it was "uniquely troubling" that Lynch met with former President Bill Clinton aboard her plane in Arizona before the decision had been made to close the case.

[  
*Attorney general meets with former president Clinton amid politically charged investigation into his wife's email*

]

"No one is above the law and the American people



no one is above the law and the American people need to know that federal law enforcement is taking this misconduct seriously," Goodlatte said.

Lynch has addressed the meeting with Bill Clinton, saying that it happened spontaneously because the two happened to be at the same airport in Phoenix at the same time. She has asserted that no cases were discussed. Lynch has acknowledged, though, that questions about the encounter are "reasonable," and given a second chance, she would not do it again.

Soon after the meeting was publicly reported, Lynch announced that she would accept the recommendation of the career prosecutors and FBI agents looking into Clinton's email use in a bid to quell concerns that politics were influencing the investigation. When Comey announced he was recommending no charges be filed, he said he was doing so without having told the attorney general beforehand.

**Read more:**

**O'Brien, Alicia C (OLA)**

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**From:** O'Brien, Alicia C (OLA)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 12, 2016 5:31 PM  
**To:** Kadzik, Peter J (OLA); Herwig, Paige (OAG); Prober, Raphael (ODAG); Rodenbush, Patrick (OPA); Newman, Melanie (OPA)  
**Subject:** FW: Letter to AG Lynch Re Clinton Special Prosecutor  
**Attachments:** Letter to AG Lynch Re Clinton Special Prosecutor.pdf

FYSA (receipt confirmed).

Alicia C. O'Brien  
Office of Legislative Affairs  
(202) 305-8035  
[Alicia.C.O'Brien@usdoj.gov](mailto:Alicia.C.O'Brien@usdoj.gov)

---

**From:** Yazdani, Ebbie [mailto:(b) (6)]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 11, 2016 5:15 PM  
**To:** DOJ Correspondence (SMO)  
**Subject:** Letter to AG Lynch Re Clinton Special Prosecutor

Hello,

I've attached a copy of a letter Rep. Salmon and 43 cosigners are sending to Attorney General Lynch calling for the appointment of a Special Prosecutor in the Clinton case. Let me know if any additional information is needed.

Best,

**Ebbie Yazdani**  
Legislative Assistant  
Office of Congressman Matt Salmon (AZ-05)  
2349 Rayburn House Office Building

(b) (6)



**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 11, 2016

Attorney General Loretta Lynch  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Lynch,

Recently, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Director James Comey issued a statement describing the results of an ongoing Justice Department investigation into the use of a private e-mail server by Hillary Clinton during her tenure as Secretary of State. According to Director Comey, of the 30,000 emails that Secretary Clinton turned over to the State Department, investigators found 110 emails in 52 email chains that contained classified information “at the time they were sent or received.” Eight of those email chains contained information classified as “top secret.”

Director Comey stated that there was evidence that Secretary Clinton and her colleagues were “extremely careless in their handling of very sensitive, highly classified information.” Further, Director Comey admitted that it is possible that “hostile actors gained access to Secretary Clinton’s personal e-mail account.”

As a result of this thorough investigation, and after outlining the numerous ways Secretary Clinton and her staff potentially violated the law, Director Comey announced that he would not recommend prosecution because the FBI could not prove that it was Secretary Clinton’s intent to violate the law. However, under federal law, 18 U.S.C. Sec. 793(f), mere “gross negligence” in the transmission of information related to the national defense is a crime subject to fine and/or imprisonment.


We share the concerns of the American people that an investigation as important as this ought not to be subject to political pressures. There is ample precedent, notably in the Valerie Plame case, of the Attorney General stepping aside and appointing a special prosecutor to a particularly high profile case, such as this one, in order to ensure the most independent investigation possible. In that case, then-acting Attorney General James Comey stepped aside and appointed a Special Prosecutor pursuant to sections 509, 510, and 515 of Title 28 of the U.S. Code to properly investigate the matter.

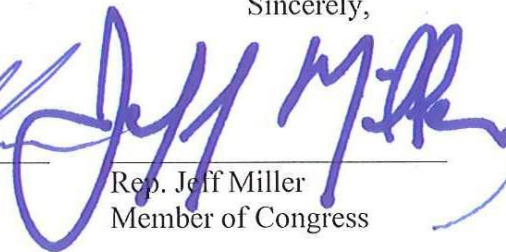
It is important to note that Director Comey, in stating that the FBI could not find facts that would support bringing criminal charges, conceded that any other person handling sensitive, classified information in similar circumstances would be subject to security or administrative sanctions, but that these steps were not being considered at the present moment. Furthermore, given that there is clear evidence of the mishandling of sensitive information, the FBI’s recommendation that no charges be filed potentially demonstrates to the American people that the political class is above prosecution. In light of the circumstances of this case, we respectfully request that you, pursuant to your authority under federal law, appoint a Special Prosecutor to formally investigate the


matter of Secretary Clinton's negligent use of a private e-mail server to transmit classified information related to United States national security. Doing so will help preserve the independence of our legal system and further promote this important principle in the American legal tradition.


Please do not hesitate to contact us to discuss this request.

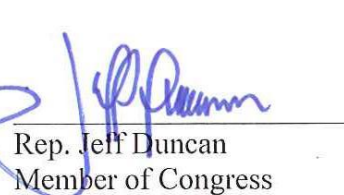
Sincerely,


  
Rep. Matt Salmon  
Member of Congress


  
Rep. Jeff Miller  
Member of Congress

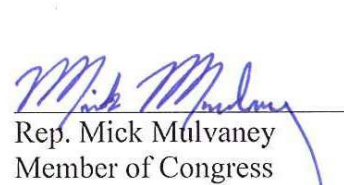
  
Rep. Michael Burgess, M.D.  
Member of Congress


  
Rep. Barry Loudermilk  
Member of Congress

  
Rep. Jeff Duncan  
Member of Congress

  
Rep. Raul Labrador  
Member of Congress

  
Rep. Steve Pearce  
Member of Congress

  
Rep. Mick Mulvaney  
Member of Congress

  
Rep. Jim Jordan  
Member of Congress

  
Rep. Gary Palmer  
Member of Congress

  
Rep. Dave Brat  
Member of Congress

  
Rep. Tim Huelskamp  
Member of Congress

  
Rep. Ted Yoho  
Member of Congress

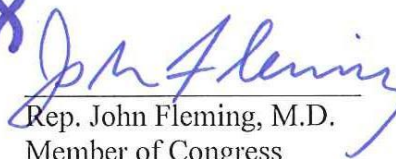
  
Rep. Steve King  
Member of Congress

  
Rep. Scott DesJarlais  
Member of Congress





Rep. Paul Gosar, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress



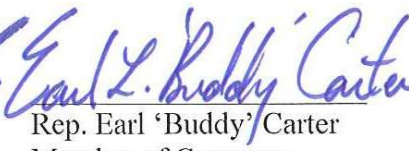
Rep. John Fleming, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Rep. Jim Bridenstine  
Member of Congress



Rep. Sean Duffy  
Member of Congress



Rep. Earl 'Buddy' Carter  
Member of Congress



Rep. Trent Franks  
Member of Congress




Rep. Mark Meadows  
Member of Congress



Rep. Scott Perry  
Member of Congress



Rep. Brian Babin  
Member of Congress



Rep. Dan Newhouse  
Member of Congress



Rep. Gregg Harper  
Member of Congress



Rep. Sam Johnson  
Member of Congress



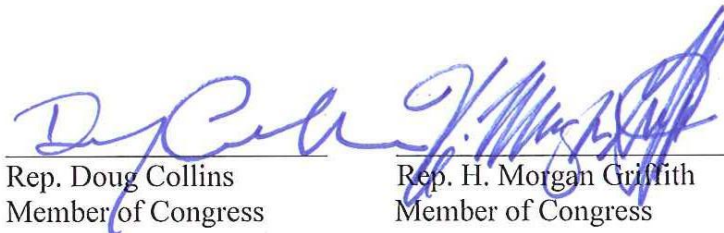
Rep. Lynn Westmoreland  
Member of Congress



Rep. Andy Harris, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Rep. Mo Brooks  
Member of Congress



Rep. Doug Collins  
Member of Congress



Rep. H. Morgan Griffith  
Member of Congress



Rep. Jody Hice  
Member of Congress



Rep. Pete Olson  
Member of Congress



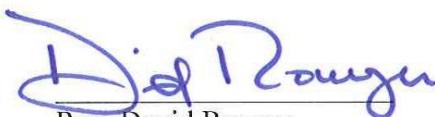
Rep. Glenn Grothman  
Member of Congress



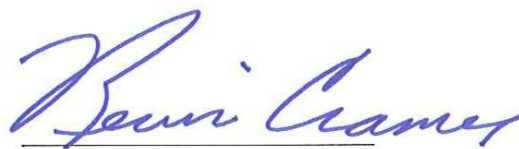
Rep. Bradley Byrne  
Member of Congress



Rep. Robert Pittenger  
Member of Congress



Rep. David Rouzer  
Member of Congress



Rep. Kevin Cramer  
Member of Congress



Rep. Austin Scott  
Member of Congress



Rep. Trent Kelly  
Member of Congress



Rep. Steven Palazzo  
Member of Congress



Rep. Garret Graves  
Member of Congress



Rep. Rick Allen  
Member of Congress



## POLITICO Huddle

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**From:** POLITICO Huddle  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 13, 2016 7:57 AM  
**To:** Werner, Sharon (OAG)  
**Subject:** POLITICO Huddle: THE ORIGINAL TRUMP HOLDS OUT VP HOPES – Clock ticks on IRS impeachment dilemma – RBG in hot water with both sides – CORNYN POLICING BILL COMING TODAY – GOP goes all in for Snapchat

07/13/2016 07:54 AM EDT

By Heather Caygle ([hcaygle@politico.com](mailto:hcaygle@politico.com) or [@heatherscope](https://twitter.com/heatherscope))

*With assistance from Rachael Bade and Daniel Lippman*

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**LYNCH STONEWALLS GOP-** Attorney General Loretta Lynch stonewalled GOP lawmakers Tuesday, refusing to answer certain questions about the investigation into Hillary Clinton's private email server, reports Josh Gerstein.



**And then this happened:** "Rep. Steve Chabot (R-Ohio) injected an unexpected and jarring topic into the hearing by raising President Bill Clinton's false testimony under oath two decades ago in the civil sexual harassment lawsuit brought by Paula Jones. Chabot appeared to be arguing that Secretary Clinton was getting away scotfree with the kind of false testimony that resulted in her husband's impeachment years ago." Josh with the story: <http://politi.co/2a8BEyU>

**And this too:** [Seung Min Kim](#) ( [@seungminkim](#)): The kicker: After Lynch's non answers in testimony, one House R says he misses Eric Holder (!)

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White House Press Office

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**From:** White House Press Office  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 13, 2016 6:47 PM  
**To:** Werner, Sharon (OAG)  
**Subject:** Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest, 7/13/2016

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

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For Immediate

Release

July 13, 2016

PRESS BRIEFING  
BY PRESS SECRETARY JOSH EARNEST

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

12:46 P.M. EDT

MR. EARNEST: Good afternoon, everybody. Happy Wednesday. I do not have any comments at the top, so we can go straight to questions.

Josh, do you want to go first?

Q Thanks, Josh. I want to start with Theresa May, who, literally, as we speak, is being confirmed as Britain's new Prime Minister. I know you said that the President feels he can work with whoever Britain selects as their new leader. But now that we're all getting to know a little more about her, I was wondering if there's anything specific where he sees an opportunity and sees eye-to-eye with her, and planning to really try and work with her.

MR. EARNEST: Well, Josh, as it relates to this question about Brexit, that obviously is in many ways the most significant domestic policy issue that the new Prime Minister will have to confront. And the President has been quite clear about what he hopes and expects that process will entail, which is an orderly process and a good-faith negotiation between the UK and the EU, which, even after that negotiation has been completed, we'll still have an important economic relationship.



There are obviously broader consequences for the global economy in terms of the way that negotiation is handled. And based on the public comments we've seen from the incoming Prime Minister, she intends to pursue a course that's consistent with the prescription that President Obama has offered.

Given the nature of her previous position as the Home Secretary, she engaged with U.S. officials on a variety of national security issues. So there are U.S. officials -- like Secretary Johnson, even Lisa Monaco here at the White House -- who have worked with her on issues that are important to the national security of both of our countries. But that's the kind of working relationship you'd expect somebody to have with the United States, given the special relationship between our two countries. But those U.S. officials that have worked with her found her to be quite effective. And basically we congratulate her on her new position and on the important responsibility that she will assume.

Q And I wanted to ask you about this firestorm that's erupted over some comments that Justice Ginsburg made to the Associated Press and to some other news organizations about the presumptive Republican presidential nominee. Does the White House have any concerns about that kind of language from a Supreme Court justice, or feel that it's appropriate for her to be making those kinds of -- opining in that way about the presidential election?

MR. EARNEST: Well, Josh, she didn't earn the nickname, "the notorious RBG" for nothing. But what I will say is that in the past I've been asked about controversial comments from other Supreme Court justices. I don't know whether it was earlier this year or at the end of last year when Justice Scalia made some comments in an open Supreme Court hearing that many found to be quite controversial, possibly even racist. At that point, I declined to wade into that criticism. And I think I'll pursue a similar approach in this instance.

Q And lastly, I wanted to ask about this meeting that the President is having today with law enforcement officials and civil rights activists and others. Given the amount of time that's left in the administration, what does the President hope or believe he may be able to achieve in terms of bridging this divide that he spoke about yesterday and that we've all been discussing before he leaves office?

MR. EARNEST: Josh, I think it's the President's desire to try to move the ball forward and make some progress in helping communities identify steps that they can take to address this problem. That will certainly be an important part of the conversation that he has later today.

We'll have more details about that meeting after it's taken



place, and you'll have an opportunity to hear from the President at the conclusion of that meeting. But this meeting will include political leaders, law enforcement officials, representatives of rank-and-file police officers, academics, civil rights activists, other thought leaders from all across the country. And every community is unique and every community needs to confront these challenges in a way that reflects the reality of the situation in their own community.

It's the President's view, though, that communities across the country can learn from the effective strategies that have been tried in other places. And that was certainly the goal of the Task Force on 21st Century Policing that was organized by the White House. This is a task force that included representatives from a similarly broad set of perspectives that canvassed the country and worked with local community leaders to surface ideas. And the goal was to put forward a set of best practices that communities all across the country could draw upon as they try to confront this challenge in their own communities.

And so there certainly will be a discussion about what steps we can take to try to encourage other communities to capitalize on these best practices. And part of this conversation, Josh, is about making sure that these issues remain a priority and that we reenergize the effort around these issues. Too often there's the sense that a tragedy happens and there's intense focus on this issue for a couple of weeks, and then it subsides. And what's unique about this situation -- what's unique about this challenge is it's not something that can be solved in a couple of weeks. It's going to require the determined and sustained effort of leaders from all sides in order to effectively implement some of these solutions.

And so the President is hopeful that this convening can be useful in focusing attention on these issues over the long term and making sure that the institutional energy and attention that must be devoted on them to succeed is something that people follow through on.

Q How do you square that strategy of saying we really want more communities to implement these recommendations that were created by this task force that you mentioned, but the fact that this latest tragedy took place in a community that the White House actually touted for having done a good job of implementing them? I mean, doesn't that suggest that they're either ineffective or insufficient to prevent these kinds of things from happening?

MR. EARNEST: Well, I guess when you say -- it depends on what you mean by "to prevent these kinds of things from happening." I don't think that, unfortunately, there's any set of best practices that will ensure that -- well, let me say it this way. Police officers have a dangerous job, and there's a



this way. Police officers have a dangerous job. And there's no single law that we can pass that will effectively protect every police officer all across the country. I think that's why the President talked at great length yesterday about how important it is for us to respect the vast majority of the men and women in uniform who do an outstanding job. Their work is worthy of our respect and not our scorn, as the President described it. So that's the first thing.

I think the second thing is the reforms that have been put in place in Dallas have made a difference. We have seen a significant reduction in complaints that have been filed against police officers in the Dallas Police Department for the use of excessive force, for example. Incidents of police shootings where police officers have to use their firearms are down significantly. Those are tragedies that are being prevented. That is a reflection of why it's important for other communities to make this issue a priority in the same way that Dallas has. It's making a difference in the lives of the people in Dallas, because it's not just those incidents of concern about police conduct that have declined; the violent crime rates declined, too.

So it's not too often these issues are viewed as, well, we have to choose between protecting civil liberties and protecting the rights of minorities and effective crime-fighting. That's not true. That's a false choice. The truth is, those communities -- like Dallas -- that are particularly effective at building trust, even in minority communities, does coincide with a reduction in crime. It does make it possible for police officers to do their job more safely and even more effectively. And that's the case that the President will certainly make in the context of today's discussion, and it certainly is the case that he's hopeful that policymakers and political leaders and law enforcement officials and activists all across the country will hear.

Ayesha.

Q Thank you. Following up on the response to the Dallas shooting and the other high-profile police shootings, yesterday the President said that he had seen how his words were inadequate to respond to all of these shootings that the country has dealt with. But at this point, is there really anything that the White House can do that -- beyond words, beyond having meetings, beyond the town hall, beyond just urging jurisdictions to take on these practices? I mean, is there anything that the White House can do that's really beyond words at this point?

MR. EARNEST: Well, first of all, as the President acknowledged in his speech yesterday -- and he said it more eloquently than I will from here -- but he talked about how powerful words can be in rejecting despair and ensuring that we, for all our differences, that we try to open our hearts to



demonstrating some empathy to people that don't look like us or may not share our perspective. That it's through that path we can find concrete solutions.

So the President did acknowledge that his words have been inadequate in completely solving this problem. But the other observation I have about yesterday's remarks -- there are some things that the President said in his speech were, admittedly, provocative. They were challenging to all of us; he included himself in that category. But the response that we have seen from his speech has been quite positive. And, again, that's based on news coverage, that's based on anecdotal responses and comments that we've seen from people across the country. And the President is pleased about that.

And that, I think, is an indication that our country is making at least some progress; that at this time where there is so much tension and anxiety and frustration and sadness and anger and tragedy, that having the President of the United States both appropriately pay his respects to the courage and patriotism and sacrifice of five police officers in Dallas, but also challenge the country and have the response be positive, is a good thing. And again, I think it says something important about the President, but also says something really important about the country.

So it was a little bit different than the question that you asked, but I felt it was important to acknowledge that, yes, the President was blunt about the inadequacy of his words. But it doesn't mean that words aren't important. And I think yesterday was a good illustration of that.

Beyond that, the question that you're asking is essentially the subject of the discussion today. That's why the President has essentially cleared his calendar for the afternoon so he can spend a lot of time with these leaders in communities across the country that represent a wide variety of perspectives to dig into this question about what else can be done. Certainly the work that was done by the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing was important. Certainly the work that the White House has done on the Police Data Initiative -- that was something that Josh referenced that Dallas has been a leading advocate of and participant in -- is something that is important and will make a difference over the long term. Greater transparency is something that can have a tangible impact on repairing and building trust between law enforcement officials and community leaders.

But there certainly is a conversation about what else can be done. In Dallas, one of the other things that people have pointed to in terms of the kind of success that they've seen in their city has been rooted in their training regimen. And this was a leading initiative of Chief Brown in terms of not just



increasing training requirements in terms of the number of hours that officer have to undergo periodically, but they also changed the training regimen to make it more realistic -- more "reality-based" I think are the words that they've used to describe it. But they have also made de-escalation a focus of their training efforts. And the fact is, that de-escalation training over time does appear to be correlated with fewer conflicts between police officers and citizens.

So I think the other thing that is true is that there certainly is a role that the federal government can play in terms of offering expertise about this training. In some cases, there's a role that the federal government can play in providing resources to the departments that are committed to this kind of training.

So I'm certainly not going to rule out that there may be an opportunity for the federal government to do more. And that will certainly be part of the conversation today. But what will also be part of the conversation today is what can local political leaders do more of, what can law enforcement officials do more, what can civil rights leaders do more, what can community leaders do more to repair this trust that in too many communities has been frayed.

Ron.

Q Just to follow up on that, you said there's a wide variety of participants. Who are some of the participants?

MR. EARNEST: So we'll get you a list later this afternoon as the meeting gets started.

Q But in terms of what kinds of backgrounds they represent, you said it was a variety. Are we talking about --

MR. EARNEST: Well, in some cases we're talking about elected officials, we're talking about law enforcement officials, police chiefs, and other -- they're also representatives of rank-and-file police officers. There are academics. There are civil rights leaders.

Q Are some of these people -- are some of these groups that the President has been at odds with, for lack of a better characterization -- are there critics who were specifically invited?

MR. EARNEST: Well, I think that there are people who are participating in this meeting who have uttered public comments that have not been 100 percent supportive of what the President has had to say.

Q What areas and what --



MR. EARNEST: Well, listen, you'll have an opportunity to evaluate once you see the list of people who are attending.

Q I'm trying to get to the substance of this meeting. So much of this discussion is about notions of best practices. Just one metric -- does advancing the 21st policing initiative -- that was the year afterwards -- I saw some that suggested that there were only a handful -- 15 departments that have signed up for this initiative. Is there some other metric that indicates how successful this initiative has been in terms of getting departments to actually engage, commit, sign on to it?

MR. EARNEST: Well, listen, we'll see if we can provide some additional data on this. But there are obviously a variety of ways that -- it certainly is possible for local law enforcement organizations and local communities to decide that they're going to start to implement some of these best practices, even if they don't sign up for the entire initiative. And that's why the goal of the task force was to actually generate something tangible, and that's what they've done. And we've talked in here on a number of occasions how the leverage that the federal government has in terms of forcing local law enforcement agencies to consider these kinds of best practices is limited. And there are a whole host of good reasons for that. But what we can do is certainly make sure that people understand this is something they should be paying attention to.

Q In terms of what the President has not been able to get departments to do that he would like to see them do, is there some -- can you break it down into some more granular form of exactly what -- training, for example, is one big area, and transparency. These are big concepts. Is there some -- are there things, for example, in this meeting that the President is going to push, to say, you should do A, B, C and D specifically, which I think at this remarks the other day, or somewhere along the line in the last few days he talked about how we need more urgency and more -- a sense of urgency about these things. What specific things is the President going to try and push? I know this is a conversation, but clearly he has very strong ideas about --

MR. EARNEST: He does.

Q -- about what he would like departments across the country to do tomorrow.

MR. EARNEST: Well, listen, I think the first thing that the President will acknowledge is that there's no cookie-cutter solution that can be applied. Every community is different, and every community has their own unique dynamics. Every community has their own traditions. Every community has their own history. So, again, that is why it is incumbent on governors and



mayors and community leaders and leaders in law enforcement to focus on these kinds of solutions. And it's going to require a collaborative effort.

And, look, if only it were as easy as saying do this one thing and all these problems would be solved. It's not that simple. And that's part -- that's what adds to the complexity. But let's talk through a couple of the things that would work. We know, for example, that enhanced training works.

Q     Enhanced training around --

MR. EARNEST:   For police officers.

Q     Around --

MR. EARNEST:   In terms of training them in de-escalation tactics. That certainly is something that -- again, that's something that worked well in Dallas and there are other communities that have seen a similar benefit. The other thing that this administration and this White House has pioneered is something called the Police Data Initiative, where we've been encouraging law enforcement agencies to release a whole lot more information about interaction between their law enforcement officers and the community. That actually serves a variety of purposes. The first is, it allows that data to be carefully analyzed and could yield helpful information that could point us in a direction of tangible solutions in a particular community.

The other thing that it does is it certainly enhances trust between the law enforcement and the community when the community can evaluate for themselves how that law enforcement agency is getting along with the community. And to be able to demonstrate, as they have in Dallas, a reduction in complaints against the excessive use of force, for example, is the kind of thing that starts to change hearts and minds in the community. That certainly is something that is important, and the White House has provided a vehicle for doing that.

And, again, this is data that can be used by analysts to offer up new ideas for solving some of these problems. But even just submitting and publicizing the data in the first place is something that will have a tangible impact on the relationship between law enforcement and the community.

Q     But in terms of the President's -- the meeting that he participated in the other day with Vice President Biden and the police officials, there was one thing that was reported about how he said that he would go over the list of military surplus equipment that he saw police departments getting. Were there any other specific things that he said that he would do, that law enforcement wants him to do to sort of compromise on policies, initiatives that he has put forth that they are not



happy with to try and bridge this gap? Is that one of the things that was specific and tangible that came out of the meeting?

MR. EARNEST: Well, Ron, I was out here talking to all of you while the President was doing that meeting in the Roosevelt Room on Monday, but police organizations certainly did raise this question about their ability to procure some equipment from the federal government that can be useful in law enforcement operations in communities across the country. And this was a subject of some controversy a couple of summers ago when there were questions raised about the way in which the Ferguson Police Department was using some of the equipment that they had obtained from the federal government. There was a concern -- I think a legitimate one -- that was raised that their use of that equipment was overly militarizing the situation.

So there has been an effort on the part of the administration to try to reform that procurement process -- not to deny police and law enforcement organizations the equipment that they need to do their jobs, but rather to govern that process a little bit more effectively and make sure, for example, that if high-powered equipment or if a high-powered weapon, for example, is being provided to a local law enforcement organization, that they also are training their officers to properly and effectively use that equipment. That seems like a common-sense thing -- to make sure that as this equipment is provided, that training is provided too.

So what the President committed to do is to go back and take a look at these reforms and make sure that our effort to reform the process and make it work more effectively wasn't preventing law enforcement officers from being able to purchase equipment that they actually need and that they are trained to use.

Q Are there any other areas, issues that you would argue that the President took a step and said, okay, I'll rethink something I've said or done -- like altering that program -- as not a concession -- that's perhaps a harsh word -- as a way of trying to work with police departments to try and deal with some of the things that they want? Are there any other specifics where you can say, here, this is what the President is doing to bridge this divide and to see things more your way?

MR. EARNEST: Well, Ron, I think it is fair for you to assume that the President is going to try to practice what he preaches. And he certainly did talk at length yesterday about trying to remain open to every point of view and to apply some intellectual honesty and some sincerity to understanding someone else's point of view.

Now, I do think that I can quite effectively document the way in which the President has both embodied and practiced



way in which the President has both symbolically and tangibly shown his strong support for our men and women in law enforcement. The President has talked in his State of the Union address, arguably the biggest platform that he has, about how law enforcement officers have a right to come home at the end of their shift, and that even people that do have some concerns with law enforcement have to respect that right. The President was unequivocal about that.

But, yes, the President is interested. The reason that the President had the meeting on Monday -- or the reason -- I guess I should say the reason that the President attended the meeting that was organized by the Vice President on Monday, to be more precise, is that he wanted to hear from leaders in law enforcement. He wanted to understand their perspective. That at a time when their officers are under so much scrutiny, he wanted to understand how they saw this situation. And I think the President found that valuable.

Q Does the President -- why did he think it was appropriate to mention the recent cases in Minnesota and the Sterling and Castile cases in that forum yesterday? They're under investigation. There is a DOJ investigation of one of them. They're unresolved. Why did he feel that, at a service focusing on the deaths of law enforcement, that he needed to bring up those cases?

MR. EARNEST: The President's decision to do that was rooted in the idea that none of these tragedies -- the shooting at Baton Rouge, the shooting in Minnesota, or obviously the hateful attack on police officers in Dallas -- took place in a vacuum. And that understanding that context is to understand the way that the country is reacting to all of this.

And the point that the President was making is that, yes, the situations in Baton Rouge and Minnesota are under investigation -- and they should be. And we're all going to have to limit our comments on them while that investigation is ongoing. But the two men who lost their lives in those two incidents are people that have loved ones. They have people who cared about them. They have people in communities that are grieving their loss. And the President felt it was important to acknowledge that, and he feels it's important for everyone to acknowledge that.

That, of course, does not -- as the President -- that doesn't condone in any way an act of violence against a police officer. It's not possible to justify an act of violence against a police officer -- even people who have deep concerns about what happened in Baton Rouge and Minnesota. But what all of us need to do is open our hearts to understanding the perspective of people who may look different than us, or who may have a different perspective -- that that will be critical to our ability to solve this problem as a country.



April.

Q Josh, on this convening -- this convening and any other convening the President may have when it comes to dealing with the conversation -- his leading the conversation on race -- he talked yesterday of the heart issue. When Bill Clinton talked about it when he was President, he said -- he had the conversation on race -- he looked at it from a legislative standpoint as well as the heart issue. And I want to focus in on the heart. What does the President expect when it comes to the heart issue of him leaving these conversations at the end of the day, at the end of his term, on January 20th, 2017 at noon? What does the heart say?

MR. EARNEST: Listen, I don't think these problems are going to be solved in January. This will be a challenge that the next President and the President after that, and then the President after that is going to have to deal with. The President made the point that the legacy of slavery and Jim Crow wasn't completely washed away just by the signing of the Civil Rights Act. So these are going to be challenges that future generations will have to confront. But previous generations can tell us in vivid terms how much progress we've made.

And the President had the opportunity to contribute to that earlier in his presidency when he traveled to Selma in the spring of 2015 to commemorate the progress that was made in that community. And the President was blunt yesterday about denying that progress is to fail to appreciate the sacrifices that were made by Americans of all races in pursuit of civil rights, in pursuit of the ideals and values of this country.

So the President is hopeful that we can make some progress. And as I noted in my answer to Ayesha, I think the response from the country to the President's speech yesterday is an indication that we are making some progress.

Q So when you look at the issue with community and police, that's one component of a larger issue. Will the President begin to break it down? Because when you look at stats, the facts from any department within your administration, there are a high number of negatives in almost every category when it comes to African Americans and our Latino brothers and sisters in this country. Will he also move into other aspects? Is this just one component of a broader focus on race? Or is this the piece that he feels that he needs to deal with right now and that's going throughout the rest of the term?

MR. EARNEST: Well, April, the President certainly did talk about a phenomenon that he's discussed in previous settings, as well, that in too many communities across the country, there are not sufficient resources dedicated to things like expanding



economic opportunity and giving kids access to a quality education, and making sure that good health care and good mental health care is available, ensuring that there are healthy foods available for purchase.

These are the kinds of things that are critical to the success of the community. And too many communities and the people who live in them are deprived of those basics. And the consequences for law enforcement are that those problems get thrust on them. And that's not fair. The jobs that are performed by our men and women in law enforcement are hard enough already. As the President described it yesterday -- to make them not just a law enforcement officer, but to make them a teacher and a parent and a drug counselor is unfair. And the President, frankly, is tired of people feigning surprise when the tensions boil over.

So that's why he's going to continue to fight for things like raising the minimum wage and increasing funding for schools, and trying to expand job training, and fighting for equal pay for equal work, continuing to encourage states to expand Medicaid. These are all things that are going to have a tangible impact on the health and wellbeing and success of communities across the country. And if effectively implemented, and if we can make some progress on those things, that won't just improve the lives of the people in those communities; that will at least a little bit lighten the significant burden that is borne by our men and women in law enforcement.

Q I want to rewind the clock a bit. Back to early in this President's presidency when his friend, Henry "Skip" Gates, had a confrontation in his home -- as he was trying to go into his home -- with Sergeant James Crowley. What did the President learn from that beer summit that he had right outside the Oval Office? And what is he going to bring from that into today's session?

MR. EARNEST: I don't know if I have a good answer to that question. Look, I think the President I think wanted to use that moment, as he described it, as a teachable moment. And he was hopeful that it would -- that that situation and the ability of those two men to come together in the Rose Garden of the White House would serve as a useful illustration, again, that our country is not quite as divided as it might seem. But that may be the kind of question -- in terms of the President's own personal lesson from that situation, that may be one you have to direct to him.

Q And lastly, since I brought up the beer summit, and that was such a pivotal movement -- that kind of led to a thread with issues of community and policing throughout this presidency, throughout his at least eight years -- I want to go back to the convening and as it relates to the beer summit. So would Skip Gates be one of those in the meeting as well as



would skip Gates be one of those in the meeting, as well as Sergeant James Crowley? And also, is Sylvia Burwell in that meeting, since she was head of President Clinton's conversation on race in America?

MR. EARNEST: We'll get you the full list later today. So I don't think any of those people are on the list.

Q Really?

MR. EARNEST: Yes.

Andrew.

Q Since about 2004, the President has espoused this idea that there is no black America, there's no white America, there's just the United States of America. Given recent racial tensions that we've seen, and given the rise of Donald Trump, is the President reassessing that measure?

MR. EARNEST: Not at all. Andrew, it would be easy to conclude, if you just looked at the tone and tenor of the political debate in Washington, D.C., that our country is quite divided. And the President does not believe that our country is nearly as divided as it might seem. And I think there are any number of examples of that. I think anybody who had the chance to attend the service yesterday observed rather vividly the diversity in the room. It wasn't just that there was a white mayor and a black police chief who were standing on the same stage, grieving the loss of five police officers. The room was filled with police officers in uniform. And it wasn't just the white officers who were grieving the loss of their colleagues. There were men and women -- black, white, brown, Asian -- all in uniform, all grieving that loss.

And they heard expressions of sympathy from the white Republican President, and they heard condolences from the current black Democratic President. Those are all -- particularly when you consider the legacy of race in Dallas, Texas, the President's expression of unity I think was on full display.

Q But you would accept the President, given who is he is, is not able to convince the people who need to be convinced in order to bring change about? I mean, there's this constituency that he's just never going to be able to reach.

MR. EARNEST: Well, listen, I don't think the President is ready to give up on anybody. And I think the President took this pretty directly, Andrew. So, again, I'm not going to be able to summon the eloquence that he demonstrated yesterday, but the President is not going to give into despair. He's not going to give up hope.



In fact, he talked movingly about what gives him so much hope. And the story that he told about the woman in Dallas who took her four sons to the protest, an African American woman who had genuine concerns about police conduct in law enforcement agencies across the country, particularly as it relates to treatment of black men -- her powerful retelling of that story of taking her sons to participate in that peaceful march only to come under gunfire, and to have her be hit, and for her to be terrified about the safety of her kids, and to put her life on the line, to lay on top of her son to shield him from the hail of bullets, only to find a police officer come and do the same thing for her, and to have white police officers come to her rescue, to protect her, and then for her to say that that is just the latest reason that her youngest son says he wants to be a cop when he grows up -- that's powerful. That's going to give you a lot of confidence and a lot of hope and a lot of optimism about the future of this country.

We've had ample reasons in the last couple of weeks, Andrew, to try to consult those examples of reassurance. But every time the President does, he's filled once again with the kind of hope and optimism that animated his campaign and that has animated his presidency.

Margaret.

Q Josh, you talked about the list of attendees coming out later, but we've heard from the President a number of times talking about the importance of getting everyone to hear and listen to each other. Can you say at a minimum if anyone from Black Lives Matter is going to be in the room to be listened to and heard?

MR. EARNEST: There will be individuals who I think would describe themselves as part of the Black Lives Matter movement who will be participating in the meeting today.

Q And can you explain why that's important? Because there are a lot of people who have a problem with the movement and --

MR. EARNEST: Well, again, I think this is the President's desire to bring people into one room that have a variety of perspectives to represent. I'm confident that there will be law enforcement officials in the room who are deeply troubled by the actions and comments of some people who associate themselves with the Black Lives Matter movement. And the President has cautioned about applying the controversial comments and actions of some -- he didn't call them controversial, he called them stupid -- actions and comments of some and applying them to an entire movement is just as unfair and just as wrong as attributing the illegal actions of a couple of law enforcement officers to every cop in the country. That's wrong, too.



That's not fair. It's not accurate. And resisting that impulse and keeping open our hearts will be necessary to making progress on this challenge.

Q Can you say whether the President has decided how he's going to continue to talk, communicate, maybe take on this issue after the end of his term? I know you said everything is not going to be fixed by January. I can imagine he wants to continue working on it.

MR. EARNEST: I would anticipate that the President will continue to work on this and talk about these issues and maybe even write about them in his post-presidency. We've talked a little bit about the President's My Brother's Keeper initiative. This is an initiative that is focused on trying to mentor young men of color. That certainly is something I would anticipate that both the President and the First Lady will devote time to once they've left the White House. Certainly the focus on mentoring young men of color has an important intersection with building trust with law enforcement. So I think that's just one example, but I'm confident in saying there will be others.

Q And an element to that when it comes to law enforcement, or not necessarily?

MR. EARNEST: Well, again, I think that in some of those conversations -- well, look, the focus of that initiative is on young men of color and making sure that they get the time and attention that they need to overcome some of the obstacles that are erected in their path. So that obviously is going to have consequences for the way they interact with law enforcement. But, look, other than describing the President and First Lady's involvement in that initiative, it's hard for me to say with a lot of specificity what else they have planned.

Q Can I ask you quickly -- I know you said you don't want to comment on whether it was appropriate for Ruth Bader Ginsburg to make the comments she did. But that aside, can you say if the President has confidence in her right now? Donald Trump has attacked her mental state and said her mind is shot. Do you have a comment on that? I mean, is there confidence that the Supreme Court justice is with her wits about her fully?

MR. EARNEST: Well, I wouldn't call -- I would not call her competence into question and I think anybody who has observed her, she's done her work. Whether you agree with her or not, and whether you agree with every ruling that she has issued, I think over the course of her career she has demonstrated a keen intellect and an understanding of the law, and a commitment to ensuring that it's applied fairly to every American citizen.

Kevin.

Q Thanks. Talk with the Federal Law Enforcement Officers



Q Thanks, Josh. The Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association announced on Friday that they may request to the White House that it be illuminated in blue in honor of the fallen officers in Dallas. Knowing that the White House has previously been illuminated, both in 2013 in pink for breast cancer awareness and again in 2015 in the wake of the same-sex marriage ruling by the Supreme Court, has there been any consideration or any thought given to lighting the White House in blue in honor of law enforcement?

MR. EARNEST: I don't have much to say about the potential consideration. I can tell you that's not something that we plan to do at this point. The President certainly has, in a variety of ways, acknowledged the tragedy and honored the life of the five Dallas police officers who were killed last week. The President, while he was overseas, ordered flags across the country lowered to half-staff as the nation mourns the loss of those police officers. And, of course, the President traveled to Dallas just yesterday to speak at the memorial service that was organized to honor their service and honor their sacrifice.

And after that service concluded, the President spent more than an hour with the families of those who were lost and spent time visiting with some of those who were injured, including police officers who were injured in that shooting. So there are a variety of ways that the President and this administration have chosen to conspicuously demonstrate our deep gratitude and our solemn condolences in the aftermath of the shooting that claimed the lives of five police officers in Dallas last week.

Q So you're not opposed to it, it's just not something that the President has made a move on yet?

MR. EARNEST: Kevin, I think it's appropriate for people to conclude that the President has chosen to acknowledge this loss and to pay tribute to these heroes in a variety of other ways, including ordering the flags lowered to half-staff, traveling to Dallas to speak at the memorial service, and spending a substantial amount of time after the service visiting with the families of those who were lost.

Q On Zika, time is running out, for lack of a better description. Apparently, the Republicans have made an offer. Is the White House in contact with Democrats to try to get something done before the seven-week break?

MR. EARNEST: I'm not aware of the Republican offer. I think it's the Democrats that have made an offer that was rejected by Republicans. And the Majority Leader's response has been to essentially take it or leave it -- and by "it" he means a politically motivated piece of legislation that seems much more focused on trying to tear down the Affordable Care Act and prevent women from being able to get access to Planned Parenthood services, and deals with confederate flags much more



than it is on trying to address a genuine public health emergency.

And I say that because the amount of funding that's included in the bill is woefully short of what our public health professionals say is needed to do everything possible to protect the American people from the Zika virus. So I think the irony is the Senate Majority Leader has observed something like the Senate is running out of time. He says that as the Senate is prepared to leave a day early for their seven-week vacation in the middle of a public health crisis. So I'm not exactly sure how he squares that, but instead of trying to confront a public health crisis, maybe we'll just tune in and listen to him speak at the Republican Convention because I guess that's where he'll be instead.

Q Speaking of the Republican Convention, Donald Trump is --

MR. EARNEST: Kevin is not one to miss a segue, guys. (Laughter.) Well done, my man.

Q Thank you. Donald Trump is going to be on Fox tonight and -- on Special Report with Bret Baier -- and knowing how much --

MR. EARNEST: That's a good plug for Mr. Baier right there. (Laughter.)

Q -- how much you love to talk about this subject, if there were one question that you might have for Donald Trump, who will be on the air tonight, six o'clock Eastern -- (laughter) --

MR. EARNEST: That's provocative right there. (Laughter.) Well, listen, your colleague Mr. Baier has an excellent reputation for asking very tough questions. The President can certainly speak firsthand about that. And I think that's one of the reasons we'll be tuning in at 6 p.m. Eastern to see how that conversation goes. (Laughter.)

Q I appreciate that. Last one -- if you'll indulge me -- South China Sea, a very interesting ruling by the international community, saying once again, listen, you've got to stop with this nonsense in the South China Sea. What's the administration's response not just to, again, the legal pushback against Beijing, but also some of the concerns that others might have that as they watch the administration's perspective and how you all react to what China is apparently trying to do there that could have implications on, say, what Russia does in the Arctic, for example, or other actors might have similar designs on the Middle East?



MR. EARNEST: You're raising an excellent point, Kevin, so let me get to that. A couple things I'll just make clear. The ruling that was issued by this tribunal was quite extensive. And I know that it was now more than 24 hours ago, but I can tell you that administration lawyers continue to review the ruling.

So I can't offer a definitive reaction to it, but there are a couple things I can say. The first is, to remind all of you, and to remind anybody who may be reading this transcript, that the United States is not a claimant to any land features in the South China Sea. And, in fact, we don't support or oppose any specific claims that any of the sides have made. Rather, the United States has strongly urged those with competing claims to resolve them peacefully and to resolve those disputes through diplomacy, including through arbitration.

Now, the Law of the Sea Convention, to which both China and the Philippines are signatories, has followed the process that's specified in the convention. They've issued this ruling, and that's why it's the United States' view that this tribunal finding is binding and final. More generally, to go to the point that you're raising that I think is a good one, in an increasingly interconnected world, respecting international laws and rules is critically important. There are norms that must be observed to ensure the success of our interconnected world if we want to be able to trade effectively, if we want to be able to travel internationally, if we want to ensure that our integrated global supply chain continues to function in a way that's as efficient as possible. We know that enhances the economic prospects for everybody. We know that our ability to travel anywhere around the world is something that we value.

So this interconnectedness is something that has to be protected. And if there's a willingness on the part of bigger countries to violate those norms and to throw their weight around, that can be disruptive. And the irony is, is that the biggest countries with the biggest economies are the ones that have the greatest incentive to protecting the stability of the world order. And that certainly is why you've seen the United States make such a strong statement about the need to resolve these disputes through diplomacy and through arbitration. We want to protect the billions of dollars of commerce that flows through the South China Sea. We want to protect the transit lanes and the shipping lanes in that region of the world. And we want to make sure that those competing claims don't devolve into some sort of military confrontation.

So that's why we've taken the position that we have. We're not claimants, but we are certainly hopeful that those with competing claims will work to resolve them peacefully.

Cheryl.



Q Thanks, Josh. Speaking of the Senate -- I'm trying to segue. (Laughter.)

Q Nice.

Q Traditionally, the Senate passes maybe a larger package of nominations before they go on longer recesses. I'm wondering if you are expecting any nominations to move through. And especially, I was just reading about Carla Hayden, who is the Librarian of Congress, who hasn't been able to move, along with a bunch of others.

MR. EARNEST: I don't know what the Republicans in the Senate plan to do before they adjourn a day early for their seven-week recess. They've got a convention to get to. One thing I do hope that they'll do, though, is they'll give the consideration to Dr. Carla Hayden's nomination that she deserves. This is somebody that the President nominated early this year to be the Librarian of Congress. She is somebody who is eminently qualified. She has served in leadership positions at library systems across the country, most recently in Baltimore. She is somebody who has got a PhD in Library Sciences from the University of Chicago and she has taught in her field both at the University of Maryland and at the University of Pittsburgh. Her academic credentials are unimpeachable.

She's also the first woman nominated for the job. And I don't know what the Republican explanation is for continuing to block her nomination, but it sure doesn't seem fair. There certainly should be no reason for controversy, except that this eminently qualified woman with unimpeachable credentials is being blocked from the job by Republicans. And I'll leave it to them to explain why that exactly is the case.

Q So no other -- Adam Szubin, Merrick Garland?

MR. EARNEST: She's got a particularly strong case, but she's not the only person with a strong case. And when I say a strong case, I mean people who are eminently qualified, who are devout public servants, who have unimpeachable credentials, who are eminently qualified for the job, but they're not being considered because Republicans in the Senate are going to leave a day early for their seven-week vacation recess and, again, I don't really know why they think that's appropriate. I don't think most Americans do. I'm not even sure most Republicans across the country would think that's appropriate, but I guess we'll have to check.

Gentleman in the back.

Q Republicans have in their political platform included the building of a wall along the U.S.-Mexican border. What kind



of signal sends something like that to the Mexican Americans who have roots in Mexico and family members when the President is calling for unity in the country?

MR. EARNEST: Well, obviously, this is a claim that has been propounded by the Republican nominee for President. I'll let him make whatever case he would like to make. The President's approach to the situation has been quite a bit different. The President has supported strong border security. That's why, under the President's leadership, there are more resources devoted to border security right now than at any time in American history. The President also supported a common-sense immigration reform package that would have made an even larger investment in border security and would have become law if it weren't blocked by Republicans in the House of Representatives.

So the President's view has been to try to use his executive authority to try to fix as much of our broken immigration system as possible. And the Supreme Court wasn't able to rule -- wasn't able to reach a final conclusion on some elements of those executive actions. But on other elements we have been successful in making sure that we're effectively using our limited law enforcement resources to implement our -- to protect our communities and to try to fix as much of our broken immigration system as possible.

All of that is a reflection of how the United States has benefitted from a strong relationship with Mexico. The United States government and the Mexican government have been able to coordinate effectively on a range of public safety issues. And we certainly have our differences, but we are able to coordinate effectively. And the President discussed this when he was in Canada and had an opportunity to meet with his Mexican counterpart a couple of weeks ago.

So it's clear that there have been different approaches, but ultimately the American people will have to decide which approach they like best.

Megan.

Q Thanks, Josh. Back to Dallas. Can you give us any additional details or color as to the President's meetings with the victims' families, with the wounded officers? Did he have any one-on-one time with the President George W. Bush?

MR. EARNEST: The President and the First Lady did have an opportunity to spend some time backstage with President Bush and Mrs. Bush. Their paths don't cross often, but the President certainly did enjoy the opportunity that he had to catch up with President Bush a little bit. Despite their well-chronicled political differences, there's a genuine affection that the two



men have for one another. I think that was apparent for those of you were reading body language onstage yesterday. I think that's been apparent in reading body language in other public settings where they've appeared, including at the dedication of President Bush's library. And when President Obama and the First Lady traveled to Selma, President and Mrs. Bush were there as well. They got to spend some time together. They marched over the bridge together.

All of that is an indication of the genuine affection and appreciation that President Obama has for President Bush. And by all accounts, that affection has been reciprocated by President Bush.

As it relates to their interaction with the families, I was not in the room while the President and the First Lady were meeting with the families of those who lost loved ones last Thursday night in Dallas. So I don't have much of their interaction to read out.

Q Can you say, from those conversations, including with the former President, were there any policy takeaways that the President is going to be bringing with him today? Any requests, any recommendations to move the ball forward?

MR. EARNEST: Not that I'm aware of. There were not any heated policy discussions backstage. I think most of it -- again, most of their discussions were personal or social in nature, and I also think it reflected the somber mood.

Q And what is the President hoping to get out of or accomplish with tomorrow night's town hall?

MR. EARNEST: Well, tomorrow, certainly on ABC, at 8:00 p.m. Eastern. (Laughter.) If Kevin is going to do it, you certainly can, too, Megan. (Laughter.) But, listen, the President is really looking forward to the event tomorrow evening, and I know that ABC is working hard to also organize a diverse audience that represents a variety of points of view. And the President is quite interested in hearing from the people who will attend and interacting with them.

I think the President is hopeful that those kinds of interactions will both illuminate a variety of perspectives for the American people to see. I also think he's hopeful that it will illustrate what can happen when people open up their hearts to a different perspective. He's certainly going to try to do that when he's talking to people in the audience, and I'm confident that people in the audience will do that as he speaks, as well. And I think that will be not just an opportunity that could be illuminating in terms of different ideals or perspectives or potential solutions, I also think it's a pretty effective way to model the kind of conversations that the President believes should be happening all across the country.



President believes should be happening all across the country.

Q And lastly, moving to Congress. Any reaction to House Republicans -- specifically the Judiciary Chairman and House Oversight Chairman -- requesting that the Justice Department now investigate Hillary Clinton for perjury to Congress?

MR. EARNEST: I don't have any comment on that. I'll let the Justice Department decide what they believe is the most effective way to respond to that.

Q What about a reaction to the way the Attorney General and the FBI Director were treated before Congress in the questioning regarding Hillary Clinton's emails?

MR. EARNEST: Well, listen, let me just say that I think those who had an opportunity to watch either of those hearings -- probably it was not a large number of people -- but those who did I think had an opportunity to see two genuine, well-qualified professionals who are committed to public service. And I'm referring to the witnesses, not to those who were asking questions.

So I'm not going to comment on -- at least for now, I'm going to withhold judgment about the way I believe that Republicans conducted themselves in those settings, and rather express to you the pride and appreciation that the White House has for those two individuals and the way they conducted themselves in public under a pretty hot spotlight.

Suzanne.

Q We saw yesterday Bernie Sanders endorsing Hillary Clinton. And I'm sure the President can appreciate that moment that he had with Hillary Clinton, as well. Did he watch? And did he have a sense of relief that this had finally happened? And did he think that Sanders perhaps squandered some of the impact that he might have had because he had waited for about a month after she had the delegates to become the nominee?

MR. EARNEST: I don't believe the President was able to watch the event. Obviously, the event was ongoing as we were traveling to Dallas. And the President, I believe, was pretty focused on his remarks. So I don't believe that he watched the event.

But you all have heard previously from the President as he discussed how important it is for the Democratic Party to come together in support of a presidential candidate that's committed to the same kinds of values that the President has been fighting for the last eight years.

The President believes that the Affordable Care Act and the potential it has to continue to hold down the growth in health



care costs while expanding quality coverage to people all across the country is something worth protecting and preserving and improving and continuing. The President believes that continuing the fight against climate change is something that the next President should do. We've made a lot of progress in digging our economy out of the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression. And the question now is really, what are we going to do to try to put even more upward pressure on wages and make sure that the next generation of Americans has the skills and training that they need to succeed in a 21st century global economy.

These are the kinds of values that President Obama has dedicated his presidency to. These are his priorities. And he's interested in seeing the party that he leads come together in support of a candidate who shares those values and shares the same kind of passionate commitment to advancing them. And that certainly would explain the political activity that the President has engaged in over the last month or so. And I think it will explain why the President expects to be so busy this fall.

Q Did he hope that Sanders would have endorsed earlier?

MR. EARNEST: Listen, the President obviously had at least one occasion to discuss that decision with Senator Sanders. At every turn, we made clear that Senator Sanders had more than earned the right to make his own decision about the end of his campaign, and when to end it and how to end it. And I'm not going to second-guess him from here.

Q And CNN had its own town hall -- I wanted to -- on my colleagues -- (laughter) -- yesterday with Speaker Ryan. And he was asked by a fellow Republican whether or not he could morally justify supporting Donald Trump because, in his words, he called him "openly racist." Ryan did not push back on that characterization, but said that he would not support in any way Hillary Clinton being President. What do you think of that response? And what do you think the President thinks of that response in light of the fact that he seems to be at a point where he's trying to establish some racial reconciliation? Does he perhaps think that maybe there needs to be some sort of coming together with members of Congress as well to talk about race relations?

MR. EARNEST: Well, listen, I think Speaker Ryan has been rightly credited and complimented for the comments that he delivered in the House of Representatives last week after the shooting of police officers in Dallas. And his commentary about the attention of the country on a range of criminal justice and law enforcement issues was well handled and I think did reflect something that the President himself has said on many occasions -- that our country is not nearly as divided as it seems. And



Speaker Ryan's comments I think were a good illustration of that.

As it relates to his decision about which candidate to vote for in the presidential election, I'll let him answer questions about that choice in the way that he believes best reflects his views. And I'll let him do his best to justify it.

Q Is there a conversation that the President feels would be useful to have regarding the election and the tones, or the overtones -- or the racial overtones -- in light of the fact that he's trying to establish a dialogue with police officers and civil rights leaders and activists? Does he think that he needs to kind of take a look at the administration itself and maybe have a similar dialogue or conversations?

MR. EARNEST: Well, I guess what I would say is that, again, words are important, and it certainly matters when we're expressing our perspective to one another that we remain open to the views of people who might see things differently or might look differently than we do. The President believes that there's real value in that.

The President also believes that when you're in a leadership position, like President of the United States, or mayor of a large city, or police chief of a large police department, that your responsibility extends beyond just talk. There's a responsibility that you have to look for concrete proposals and solutions and to try to advance them. So that will be the nature of the conversation that the President has today, and I think that will be the nature of a number of conversations that take place within the administration, too. Think about what other additional things the federal government can do to support state and local law enforcement and political leaders as they make their own decisions about confronting these challenges in their communities. And that certainly is something that's worth addressing; it's also something that's worth acting on.

JC.

Q Josh, a lot of transition going on in the world right now. You spent some time, I'm sure, with the President -- maybe some reflective time on Air Force One coming back from Spain. There's a whole new look, basically, to the world and to NATO. We have a first female prime minister in many years. Angela Merkel, the Chancellor of Germany, is a woman. The President's choice for President, Secretary of State, may ascend the Oval Office in January. And there's even a possibility of France having a leader, Marine Le Pen, at some point in the new election. Has the President given you his thoughts or his reflections on the fact that four, possibly three, for sure, and possibly four women will be part of the NATO operation? I know you don't want to step into anything here, but it's a new world



you don't want to step into anything here, but it's a new world.

MR. EARNEST: I think that's fair to say that's true when I'm answering every question.

Q I understand.

MR. EARNEST: But, listen --

Q It's a whole new dynamic.

MR. EARNEST: Yeah. Well, I think it is hard to generalize too much about this situation. Obviously, Chancellor Merkel is somebody who has led Germany for quite some time now and has done so in a way that the President has deeply appreciated. And, look, I know that she is somebody that President Bush respected deeply as well. She was able to work effectively with both leaders of our countries. I think that's a pretty good illustration of something that you've heard me say on a number of other occasions as it relates to our relationship with other countries, which is that the importance of the U.S. relationship with our allies is one that transcends the personal relationship between two leaders.

And even though, for example, the President had genuine personal regard for Prime Minister Cameron, there's no doubt that he'll be able to work effectively in the six months that he has remaining in office with incoming Prime Minister Theresa May. And I'm confident that the next President will be able to work effectively with her as well.

But at this point, I'm going to resist the temptation to generalize too much about the women that are, in some cases, poised to play a more prominent role among our NATO allies.

Lalit.

Q Thanks, Josh. First, to follow up on the South China Sea. China has indicated that it is going to establish air defense zone in the South China Sea to a certain sovereignty in that region. What do you say about that?

MR. EARNEST: Well, listen, basically the reports that I've seen -- and you may have seen something different or more recent than I have -- but I think there was a comment from a Chinese official indicating that that was something that they were considering doing. And I'd just go back to what I said earlier, which is that the United States doesn't have any particular claims here. Our view is simply that the countries should resolve the claims through diplomacy and including through an arbitration process like the one that's just concluded -- the one that this Law of the Sea Tribunal has issued a ruling that all the signatories acknowledged is final and binding. And we believe that it should be treated accordingly by all of the



parties.

We also believe that this should not be a time for provocation or inflammatory comments or actions. I think that's why you see me being careful with my word choice as well. And our hope is, is that this is not an inflection point toward a more -- to a deeper conflict, but rather is an inflection point toward the peaceful and diplomatic resolution of competing claims in the South China Sea. There certainly is the potential for that, and we are hopeful that that potential is realized because it's a potential that is clearly within the interest of the United States based on the strategic and economic significance of the shipping lanes and the transit lanes in the South China Sea.

Q And secondly, last week, a commander of a banned terrorist organization, Hizbul Mujahideen -- which I know was banned by U.S. and the European Union -- was killed by Indian security forces. And now the Pakistani leadership and Pakistani army has come out in support of this outfit and this terrorist leader. What does it reflect about Pakistan's commitment to fight against terrorism?

MR. EARNEST: Lalit, I have to admit that I'm not aware of those reports, but I'll have somebody follow up with you on them.

Lauren, I'll give you the last one.

Q There was a proposal in Congress, I think in May, to make a national standard for police so that when they're using their firearm, there's a national standard of how you use it. And there was also a proposal to make this de-escalation training nationwide, mandatory among police officers. Is that something that today will be discussed, and is that something that the President backs?

MR. EARNEST: I have not been briefed on that specific legislative proposal, but the President certainly would welcome ideas from a variety of quarters, particularly as it relates to enhanced training and increased training for police officers across the country.

That's just based on the experience that many communities have had -- that as they increased training requirements, as they improved the training curriculum, as they focused on de-escalation, there's been a material benefit that the community and the police department has enjoyed.

Q And why not make it national standard?

MR. EARNEST: Well, again, I wouldn't rule it out from here, but I think what's also true is that communities across the country are quite unique. The training requirements for big



cities I think in some cases are different than they are for small towns. The training for a highway patrol officer, for example, might be different than the training that a police officer that more frequently works in a county jail, for example, might receive.

So, again, I'm not ruling out that idea, but I think there also is a strong case to be made about the need to tailor some of these training requirements to reflect the environment in which these officers are working. But, look, there is evidence to indicate that training can make a genuine difference, and how exactly that's implemented in a variety of communities is something that I'm confident will be a subject of discussion today.

Q The President's biggest critics have said that his speech yesterday, the first 10 minutes, were one of the most eloquent that they have seen, and then said that the speech devolved when he brought up gun control and policy. Why did he decide to do that? Why, at that moment, did he decide to bring in policy at an interfaith memorial service of five slain officers?

MR. EARNEST: Well, I don't know that I'm quite willing to accept the premise that it was a policy speech. I think what I will acknowledge, I think what the President did acknowledge, is that there are at least questions about policy priorities that must be asked when we're considering the performance of police officers across the country. And when the President talked about how there are communities in this country that have inadequate economic opportunity, inadequate schools, inadequate health care, inadequate access to healthy foods, inadequate access to job training, inadequate access to mental health care, that has the effect of making the work of our police officers even more difficult.

Because even as the rest of the community, the rest of the city would rather forget about those deeply entrenched problems that are plaguing one specific community, the expectation of the city and its citizens and its leaders is that police officers are the ones that are going to go and keep things quiet and make sure that the problems that are plaguing that community don't intrude on the rest of us. And you put police officers in a position where they are the after-school counselor, and the drug counselor, and the parent. Those are tough jobs. And asking a police officer to do those in addition to being a police officer is unfair.

And the President has expressed his own -- I don't think he expressed exasperation yesterday, but I think there are plenty of us who are exasperated by the fact that when that dynamic leads to a situation where tensions blow over, that people act surprised.



So, again, I don't know if that's a policy discussion, but I guess this is the point I'm trying to make -- when the President said that, I didn't see a lot of police officers in that room shaking their head. I think I saw a lot of police officers nodding their head, if not clapping -- in part because I know that that is a point that Chief Brown made just a day earlier.

So to compliment your journalistic precision in noting that that observation was made by critics of the President, I just would observe that the police officers who were in the room, mourning the loss of their colleagues, when they heard the President say that didn't appear to be inclined to criticize him for doing so. In fact, they appeared to be inclined to agree with him.

Q I know everybody wants to go, but one last question. You put out very little information about this meeting in an hour. What you have put out does not include faith leaders. Will they be there?

MR. EARNEST: We'll get you the list as soon as we have it. Off the top of my head, I don't know. But I'm confident that people of faith will be in the room. I don't know if any of them could be described as clergy. But I guess if you dedicated your life to working on these issues, you need to appeal to a higher power for a little strength. I know the President does.

Thanks, everybody. We'll see you tomorrow.

Q And can you try to give out the list -- just to make sure who's coming, that they come --

MR. EARNEST: We will make sure we get you an accurate list, and we'll have it hopefully in the next hour or so.

Thanks, everybody.

END

2:09 P.M. EDT

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PAO (SMO)

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**From:** PAO (SMO)  
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**Subject:** DOJ DAILY NEWS WRAP

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS DAILY NEWS WRAP  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 6, 2016**

**\*\*\*FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY\*\*\***

Contact: Wyn Hornbuckle, Deputy Director, Office of Public Affairs, (202) 514-2007

**EXPECTED NEWS STORIES:**

**Statement from Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch Regarding State Department Email Investigation (Attorney General)**

Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch released the following statement today regarding the State Department email investigation:

- "Late this afternoon, I met with FBI Director James Comey and career prosecutors and agents who conducted the investigation of Secretary Hillary Clinton's use of a personal email system during her time as Secretary of State. I received and accepted their unanimous recommendation that the thorough, year-long investigation be closed and that no charges be brought against any individuals within the scope of the investigation."

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**THURSDAY'S EXPECTED NEWS/EVENTS:**

There are no scheduled public events.

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**Sent:** Monday, July 11, 2016 6:08 PM  
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**PUBLIC AFFAIRS DAILY NEWS WRAP  
MONDAY, JULY 11, 2016**

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Contact: Wyn Hornbuckle, Deputy Director, Office of Public Affairs, (202) 514-2007

**EXPECTED NEWS STORIES:**

***Washington Post* and *New York Times* stories on Congressman Chaffetz Letter to DOJ Requesting New Investigation into Hillary Clinton (OPA)**

*The Washington Post*, *New York Times*, and other media outlets, are expected to publish stories on a letter sent from Congressman Jason Chaffetz to U.S. Attorney Channing Phillips of the District of Columbia earlier today, requesting a new investigation into former Secretary Hillary Clinton's alleged perjury and false statements made while under oath during past testimony before congressional committees. The department declined to comment.

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**TUESDAY'S EXPECTED NEWS/EVENTS:**

**10:00 a.m. EDT**

Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch will testify before the House Judiciary Committee at an oversight hearing of the Department of Justice.  
Rayburn House Office Building  
Room 2237



Washington, DC 20515  
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