

Chuck Ross

From: Chuck Ross
Sent: Sunday, January 20, 2019 11:51 AM
To: Kupec, Kerri (OPA)
Subject: Hoping to discuss BuzzFeed/Cohen/Trump

Ms. Kupec,

How are you? I'm sorry to bother you on a Sunday. In the event you happen to be working today, I wondered if you would be able to discuss anything related to this BuzzFeed report about Michael Cohen and POTUS. I'd like to find out anything I can about what is true or false in there, and what DOJ thinks about it.

I know it's a big request, but I appreciate any consideration.

Regards,

Chuck Ross

The Daily Caller

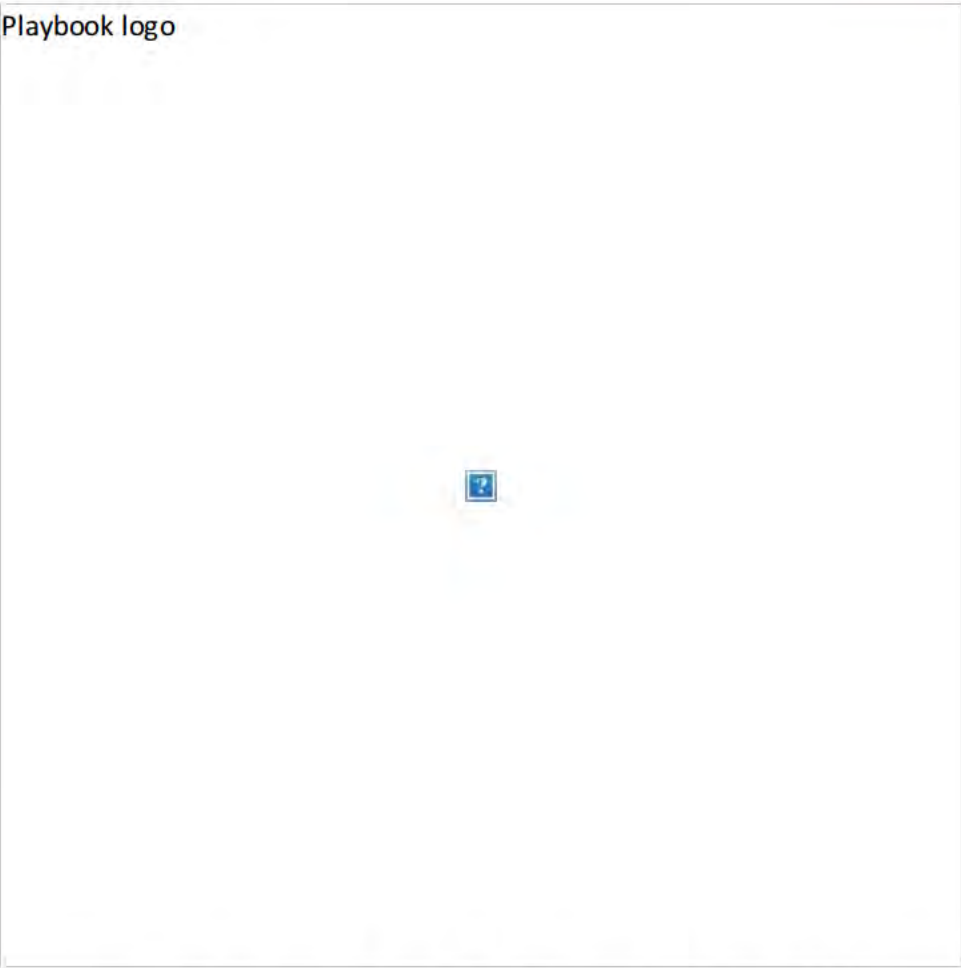
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Anna Palmer Jake Sherman Daniel Lippman

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Sent: Sunday, January 20, 2019 11:33 AM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (ODAG)
Subject: POLITICO Playbook: Trump says he’s willing to give ‘amnesty’ in ‘much bigger deal’

Jan 20, 2019

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BY JAKE SHERMAN ANNA PALMER AND DANIEL LIPPMAN

Presented by



□ DRIVING THE DAY

TODAY is the second-year anniversary of the Trump presidency.

SHUTDOWN ... DAY 30 ... WHAT PRESIDENT TRUMP offered yesterday cannot be rationally viewed as ***the way*** to end this standoff. We can't imagine anyone in the White House actually believed temporary immigration protections for a \$5.7-billion wall would cut it with Democrats. **BUT** ... the president has now publicly put immigration policy changes in the mix.

CHRIS WALLACE had **VP MIKE PENCE** on **"FOX NEWS SUNDAY": WALLACE:** "Wait, if I may, sir, when you say work together, does that mean that you are willing to negotiate from what the president said, or is that the final offer?"

PENCE: "Well, of course. The legislative process is a negotiation and up to this point, literally for the last month while the president and I have stayed here in Washington and been engaging continuously with Democrat leadership, and with rank-and-file members in the House and Senate, what we heard again and again is we will not negotiate until the president reopens the government."

JUST THIS MORNING, TRUMP said he would approve an amnesty deal!

-- **@realDonaldTrump** at 8:23 a.m.: "No, Amnesty is not a part of my offer. It is a 3 year extension of DACA. Amnesty will be used only on a much bigger deal, whether on immigration or something else. Likewise there will be no big push to remove the 11,000,000 plus people who are here illegally-but be careful Nancy!"

DEMOCRATS have been telling us that they are looking at polling that indicates they are hardly getting any blame for the shutdown. That could change soon if it looks like Republicans are making offers and Democrats are sitting pat.

FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH ... IF THE PRESIDENT had traded permanent policy on DACA for \$5.7 billion, we'd be having a different conversation today.

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"In recent days, as White House officials had been working out the details of the compromise, Mr. Miller intervened to narrow the universe of immigrants who would receive protection, according to people familiar with the internal discussions who described them on the condition of anonymity. While the original idea had been to include protections for as many as 1.8 million undocumented immigrants eligible for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, the Obama-era program known as DACA that protected those illegally brought to the United States as children, Mr. Trump ultimately proposed shielding only the 700,000 who are enrolled." [NYT ... Video of Trump's remarks](#)

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"The president wanted the Senate minority leader to visit the White House to discuss his demands for the border wall, which would need Democratic votes to pass the GOP-controlled Senate. Previously, Schumer had held one-on-one negotiations with Trump. But this time, the New York Democrat had a new condition: 'Only with Nancy.'

"'We do it all together, that's an agreement we had from the get-go,' Schumer said of his stance with Speaker Nancy Pelosi on not giving Trump an inch on the wall. 'We realize we're a team,' Schumer added

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[POLITICO](#)

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FIRST PERSON ... FUN STORY - WAPO'S DAN BALZ in Paris,
"**Would you like to speak to the president?**": "That was about the last question I expected from a stranger on a Friday night in Paris. I was at a brasserie in the Latin Quarter, enjoying dinner with James McAuley, The Washington Post's Paris correspondent. We had finished our meals and were continuing our conversation as we waited for the check to arrive.

"A man at an adjacent table, whose back was to us, turned around, cellphone in hand, and asked me, 'Would you like to speak to the president?' ... Though my confusion was understandable, I instantly recognized him when he told me his name and was embarrassed that I hadn't picked up on it earlier. ...

"I'm Joe Kernen of CNBC," he said. ... He was on his way to Davos, Switzerland, for next week's World Economic Summit. He was supposed to have had an interview with the president there, but Trump had canceled his Davos trip because of the shutdown. Trump was calling Kernen to express his regrets that the interview had been scrubbed." [WaPo](#)

INSIDE MUELLER WORLD ... WAPO'S MATT ZAPOTOSKY and DEVLIN BARRETT: "Inside the Mueller team's decision to dispute BuzzFeed's explosive story on Trump and Cohen": "When a BuzzFeed reporter first sought comment on the news outlet's explosive report that President Trump had directed his lawyer to lie to Congress, the spokesman for special counsel Robert S. Mueller III treated the request as he would almost any other story. The reporter informed Mueller's spokesman, Peter Carr, that he and a colleague had 'a story coming stating that Michael Cohen was directed by President Trump himself to lie to Congress about his negotiations related to the Trump Moscow project,' according to copies of their emails provided by a BuzzFeed spokesman.

"Importantly, the reporter made no reference to the special counsel's office specifically or evidence that Mueller's investigators had uncovered. 'We'll decline to comment,' Carr responded, a familiar refrain for those in the media who cover Mueller's work. The innocuous exchange belied the chaos it would produce. When

BuzzFeed published the story hours later, it far exceeded Carr's initial impression, people familiar with the matter said." [WaPo](#)

SUNDAY BEST ...

-- **CHUCK TODD** spoke to **RUDY GIULIANI** on **NBC'S "MEET THE PRESS"**: **TODD**: "[Y]ou said the president is not sure when talks [on the Trump Tower Moscow] ended. ... I'm guessing you had to answer this question in written form by Mr. Mueller. So right, it's your understanding it ended when? In January, as Michael Cohen incorrectly testified to?"

GIULIANI: "No. It's our understanding that it, that they went on throughout 2016, not a lot of them, but there were conversations, can't be sure of the exact date, but the president can remember having conversations with him about it. The president also remembers ..."

TODD: "Throughout 2016?" **GIULIANI**: "Yeah. Probably up to, could be up to as far as October, November. Our answers cover until the election."

-- **TODD** also asked **GIULIANI**: "Are you 100 percent confident that the president never once asked Michael Cohen to do anything but tell the truth to Congress?"

GIULIANI: "100 percent certain of that. And also I should add the BuzzFeed story was a story that the president had counseled him or told him to lie and that there were tapes and texts and federal law enforcement sources, two of them, were cited for it. And I spent a great deal of the day on Saturday with that because I knew from the very beginning it wasn't true. But I mean to their credit, the Justice Department and the Special Counsel's Office said that the story was inaccurate.

"And the inaccuracy is that there's no evidence that the president told him to lie. And then to answer your question, categorically, I can tell you his counsel to Michael Cohen throughout that entire period was, 'Tell the truth.' We thought he was telling the truth. I still believe he may have been telling the truth when he testified before Congress. But in any event, his lawyers thought that, our lawyers thought that

and the president thought that at the time."

-- **JAKE TAPPER** spoke to **GIULIANI** on **CNN'S "STATE OF THE UNION": TAPPER:** "Are you saying it's not possible for the president to have obstructed justice, that that's an impossibility?" **GIULIANI:** "No, of course not. The president can obstruct justice. He can't obstruct exercising his powers under Article II of the Constitution, if that's what he is doing. And that's what he did."

-- **MARTHA RADDATZ** spoke to **SEN. KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND (D-N.Y.)** on **ABC'S "THIS WEEK"** on the BuzzFeed story: **GILLIBRAND:** "The report is highly concerning, Martha. It just shows more evidence that perhaps this president did obstruct justice. It shows that ..."

RADDATZ: "Even though the special counsel disputes it?"

GILLIBRAND: "... This needs to be fully investigated. Martha, it raises a question in my mind that is very serious. And so what we need is Mueller to be able to finish his investigation.

"And one of the things that I'm most concerned about is that Senator McConnell will not let a bipartisan bill come to the Senate floor to allow us to protect that investigation, to make sure he cannot be fired prematurely and -- and -- and the law says he can only be fired for -- for a cause."

-- **MARGARET BRENNAN** also spoke to **GILLIBRAND** on **CBS' "FACE THE NATION":** "You have said that you are a, 'no' on the president's proposal here to end the shutdown. Why isn't the offer of three years of protection for DACA and TPS recipients enough of a start for you?"

GILLIBRAND: "Well, he's the one who got rid of DACA protection in the first place, and to offer a temporary respite, it doesn't -- if you talk to any DACA recipient in America today, they're - they're anxious. They're worried. ... Their lives are being upended and this president has no compassion. So I don't think you should even consider this because it's three years, it's just DACA. ... And I think it's a nonstarter."

A message from the National Retail Federation:

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2020 WATCH – ELENA SCHNEIDER in Boone, Iowa: **"Gillibrand touts rural origin story in Iowa debut":** "Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) starts her presidential run largely unknown in Iowa 'where's this gal from?' one voter quizzed reporters at a campaign stop. And she is leaning on her experience building a come-from-behind campaign out of nothing in upstate New York a dozen years ago to

make an impression in the first caucus state.

"The New York senator drew parallels between Iowa and her home congressional district, where she upset a Republican incumbent in 2006 to launch her political career, throughout the debut events of her 2020 campaign. Gillibrand introduced herself two-dozen people at a deli by saying, 'I grew up in a rural place, and I represented a rural place.'" [POLITICO](#)

-- NYT'S MATT FLEGENHEIMER and ALEX BURNS: ["As Beto O'Rourke Weighs 2020 Run, Democrats Chafe at His Go-It-Alone Style"](#)

☐ PLAYBOOK READS

President Donald Trump salutes.



PHOTO DU JOUR: President Donald Trump salutes as a U.S. Navy carry team moves a transfer case containing the remains of Scott A. Wirtz on Saturday at Dover Air Force Base. | Andrew Harnik/AP Photo

GABBY ORR, "Mark Meadows, Trump whisperer": "Four sources with knowledge of their relationship said Trump talks to Meadows more than he does with many of his senior aides. They sometimes spend an hour-plus on the phone together or speak more than once per day." [POLITICO](#)

FOR YOUR RADAR -- "'It was getting ugly': Native American drummer speaks on the MAGA-hat-wearing teens who surrounded him," by WaPo's Antonio Olivo, Cleve R. Wootson Jr. and Joe Heim: "The images in videos that went viral on social media Saturday showed a tense scene near the Lincoln Memorial. In them, a Native American man steadily beats his drum at the tail end of Friday's Indigenous Peoples March while singing a song of unity urging them to 'be strong' in the face of the ravages of colonialism that now include police brutality, poor access to health care and the ill effects of climate change on reservations.

"Surrounding him are a throng of young, mostly white teenage boys, several wearing 'Make America Great Again' caps, with one who stood about a foot from the drummer's face also wearing a relentless smirk. ... Covington Catholic High School ... officials and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Covington released a joint statement Saturday. 'We condemn the actions of the Covington Catholic High School students towards Nathan Phillips specifically, and Native Americans in general,' the statement said. 'The matter is being investigated and we will take appropriate action, up to and including expulsion.'" [WaPo](#)

A message from the National Retail Federation:

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BONUS GREAT HOLIDAY WEEKEND READS, curated by Daniel Lippman, filing from Aspen, Colorado:

-- **"Paramount Was Hollywood's 'Mountain.' Now It's a Molehill,"** by Amy Chozick and Brooks Barnes on the cover of NYT's Sunday Business section: "After decades of nearly slapstick mismanagement spinning off TV and missing the internet the studio behind 'The Godfather' is fighting for its life." [NYT](#)

-- **"Palm Beach used to be a nice town for billionaires. Then Trump came along,"** by WaPo's Roxanne Roberts: "[F]rom the beginning, Trump rubbed Palm Beach wrong. He was arrogant and pushy, and he didn't care that locals thought he was loud and vulgar. He bought a gaudy oceanfront estate in 2004 for \$41 million, then flipped it to a Russian billionaire for \$95 million (who tore it down and sparked rumors of money laundering.)" [WaPo](#)

-- **"Thieves of Experience: How Google and Facebook Corrupted Capitalism,"** by Nicholas Carr in the LA Review of Books, reviewing "The Age of Surveillance Capitalism," by Shoshana Zuboff: "By reengineering the economy and society to their own benefit, Google and Facebook are perverting capitalism in a way that undermines personal freedom and corrodes democracy." [LA Review of Books ... \\$25.83 on Amazon](#) (h/t Longform.org)

-- **"Impeach Donald Trump,"** by Yoni Appelbaum on the cover of March's Atlantic: "Starting the process will rein in a president who is undermining American ideals and bring the debate about his fitness for office into Congress, where it belongs." [The Atlantic](#)

-- **"What People Actually Say Before They Die,"** by Michael Erard in The Atlantic - per TheBrowser.com's description: "Deathbed aphorisms and declarations of love for one's country are exceptions or inventions. According to one doctor, the last words of the dying are often strings of curses; a hospice nurse says that most dying men call for 'Mommy' or 'Mama', if they can call at all." [The Atlantic](#)

-- **"Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez Is the Darling of the Left, Nightmare of the Right,"** by Peter Coy and Katia Dmitrieva on the cover of Bloomberg Businessweek: "New taxes. Medicare and free tuition for all. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez is just getting started." [Bloomberg](#)

-- **"How a Career Criminal Broke the Convict Code and Saved Himself,"** by Alan Prendergast in Westword - per Longreads.com's description: "In USP Florence, the most violent prison in the U.S. federal prison system, rats don't live long and they don't die peacefully. But Wayne Byerly talked, and lived and found redemption." [Westword](#)

-- **"Could Pete Buttigieg Become the First Millennial President?"** by Bob Moser in WaPo Magazine: "Meet the mayor of South Bend, Ind., who wants to be the first member of his generation to run the country." [WaPo](#)

-- **"Millennials: A Lost Generation Without the Booze and Jazz,"** by Charles McElwee in The American Conservative: "Millennials are

voyagers in an economy whose future is unknown. Financial stability is their elusive goal, authenticity their wistful desire, fulfillment their constant endeavor. Insurmountable debt, a digital existence, and a disruptive labor market obstruct their idealistic path." [The American Conservative](#)

-- **"Redefining Representation: The Women of the 116th Congress"** photographs by Elizabeth D. Herman and Celeste Sloman: "Just over a century ago, Jeannette Rankin of Montana won a seat in the House of Representatives, becoming the first woman ever elected to federal office. In 1917, 128 years after the first United States Congress convened, she was sworn into its 65th session. One hundred and two years later, one has become 131 the number of women serving in both chambers of the 116th Congress as of this month." [NYT](#)

-- **"The most powerful person in Silicon Valley,"** by Katrina Brooker in Fast Company: "Billionaire Masayoshi Son-not Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos, or Mark Zuckerberg-has the most audacious vision for an AI-powered utopia where machines control how we live. And he's spending hundreds of billions of dollars to realize it. Are you ready to live in Masa World?" [Fast Company](#)

☐ PLAYBOOKERS

SPOTTED: Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) last night at Trattoria Alberto - [pic](#) ... Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine) on a Saturday afternoon American flight to Tampa from DCA.

BIRTHDAYS: Kellyanne Conway is 52 ... Nikki Haley is 47 ... Chip Englander ... Paola Ramos ... Paul Mandelson, special assistant to the assistant secretary of defense for legislative affairs ... Jessica Katz ... Robin Roberts of National Media ... Eric Simmons is 46 ... Bill Maher is 63 ... Kirsten White ... Elena Hernandez ... Dan Schneider, associate director for comms at the WH Council on Environmental Quality ... West Honeycutt is 29 ... Ian Sams (hat tip: Rob Flaherty) ... Anna Stoltzka ... POLITICO's Brianna Gurciullo and Megan Erickson ... Bob Michaels ... Richard Kirsch ... Al Kamen (h/ts Jon Haber) ... Zac

Goldsmith is 44 ... former Rep. Bill Owens (D-N.Y.) is 7-0 ... Soroush Shehabi (h/t Kevin Chaffee) ... Adam Radman, director of advocacy at Americans for Tax Reform ... WTOP's Mike McMearty ... former Rep. Shelley Berkley (D-Nev.) is 68 ... Georgina Bloomberg is 36 ... Diane Ruggiero, CNN supervising producer (h/t Kevin Bohn) ...

... **WSJ senior writer James V. Grimaldi** ... Natan Sharansky is 71 ... CBS' Maria Gavrilovic ... Adrien Borisavljevic ... Morton Abramowitz is 86 ... Susan Finkelstein ... Jeb Golinkin is 31 ... Sam Dealey, managing principal at Monument Communications (h/t Blain Rethmeier) ... Matthew Sanderson ... Arica VanBoxtel ... Stacie Rumenap ... Chris Schmitter ... Jessica Hanna ... Alec Jacobs of Purple Strategies ... Michelle Rodriguez ... Joan Tilouine ... Ben Edwards ... Tracy Russo ... Merrill Hartson is 76 ... Elena Robertson ... Brent Desiderio is 49 ... Andy Taylor ... James Ryan ... Nicole DeSibour Rodgers ... Michelle Runk ... GE's Alan Gilbert ... Sophie Trainor ... Nick Sedgley ... Jed Webb ... Zack Walz ... Chuck Gray ... Pat Souders ... Lane Kasselmann (h/t Teresa Vilmain)

A message from the National Retail Federation:

Tariffs are B-A-D economics. They don't work. Tariffs aren't paid by foreign countries. They're paid by American businesses and consumers. Washington needs a lesson from Ferris Bueller: Tariffs are B-A-D economics. Watch the video to learn more at www.tariffsarebad.com.

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Jake Sherman [@JakeSherman](#)
Daniel Lippman [@dlippman](#)

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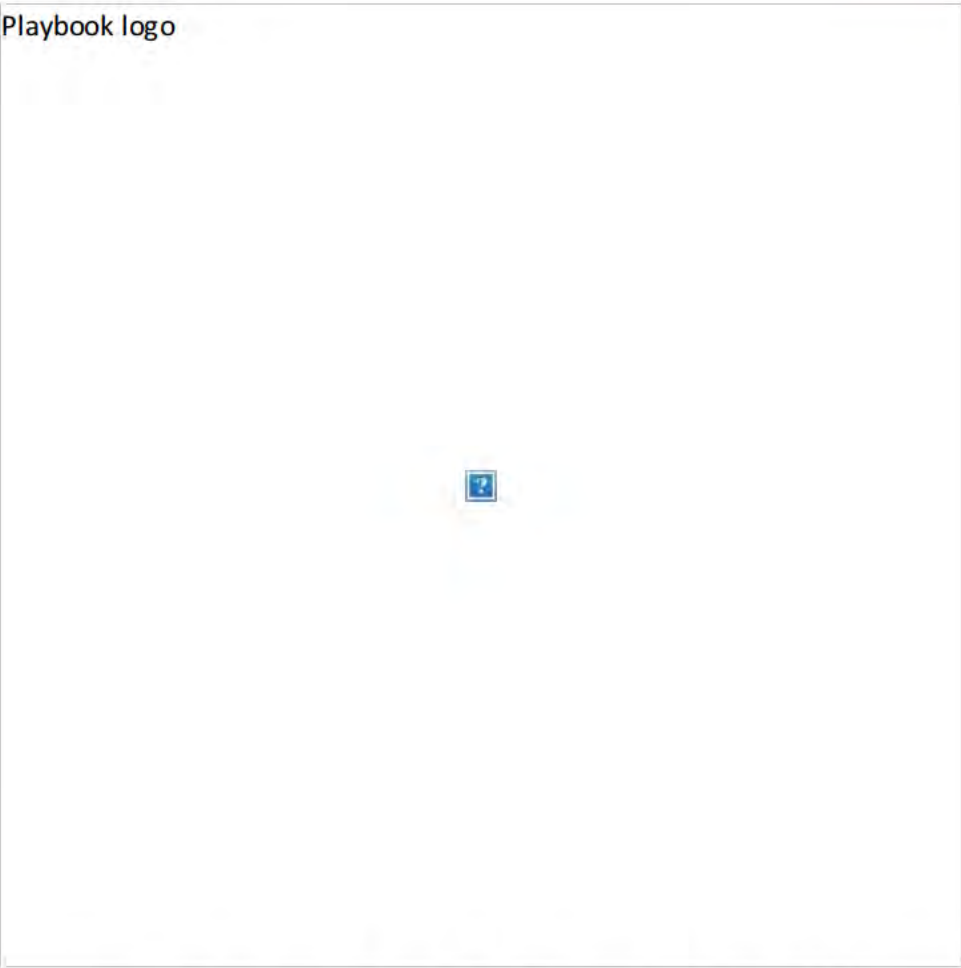
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-- **CHUCK TODD** spoke to **RUDY GIULIANI** on **NBC'S "MEET THE PRESS"**: **TODD**: "[Y]ou said the president is not sure when talks [on the Trump Tower Moscow] ended. ... I'm guessing you had to answer this question in written form by Mr. Mueller. So right, it's your understanding it ended when? In January, as Michael Cohen incorrectly testified to?"

GIULIANI: "No. It's our understanding that it, that they went on throughout 2016, not a lot of them, but there were conversations, can't be sure of the exact date, but the president can remember having conversations with him about it. The president also remembers ..."

TODD: "Throughout 2016?" **GIULIANI**: "Yeah. Probably up to, could be up to as far as October, November. Our answers cover until the election."

-- **TODD** also asked **GIULIANI**: "Are you 100 percent confident that the president never once asked Michael Cohen to do anything but tell the truth to Congress?"

GIULIANI: "100 percent certain of that. And also I should add the BuzzFeed story was a story that the president had counseled him or told him to lie and that there were tapes and texts and federal law enforcement sources, two of them, were cited for it. And I spent a great deal of the day on Saturday with that because I knew from the very beginning it wasn't true. But I mean to their credit, the Justice Department and the Special Counsel's Office said that the story was inaccurate.

"And the inaccuracy is that there's no evidence that the president told him to lie. And then to answer your question, categorically, I can tell you his counsel to Michael Cohen throughout that entire period was, 'Tell the truth.' We thought he was telling the truth. I still believe he may have been telling the truth when he testified before Congress. But in any event, his lawyers thought that, our lawyers thought that

and the president thought that at the time."

-- **JAKE TAPPER** spoke to **GIULIANI** on **CNN'S "STATE OF THE UNION": TAPPER:** "Are you saying it's not possible for the president to have obstructed justice, that that's an impossibility?" **GIULIANI:** "No, of course not. The president can obstruct justice. He can't obstruct exercising his powers under Article II of the Constitution, if that's what he is doing. And that's what he did."

-- **MARTHA RADDATZ** spoke to **SEN. KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND (D-N.Y.)** on **ABC'S "THIS WEEK"** on the BuzzFeed story: **GILLIBRAND:** "The report is highly concerning, Martha. It just shows more evidence that perhaps this president did obstruct justice. It shows that ..."

RADDATZ: "Even though the special counsel disputes it?"

GILLIBRAND: "... This needs to be fully investigated. Martha, it raises a question in my mind that is very serious. And so what we need is Mueller to be able to finish his investigation.

"And one of the things that I'm most concerned about is that Senator McConnell will not let a bipartisan bill come to the Senate floor to allow us to protect that investigation, to make sure he cannot be fired prematurely and -- and -- and the law says he can only be fired for -- for a cause."

-- **MARGARET BRENNAN** also spoke to **GILLIBRAND** on **CBS' "FACE THE NATION":** "You have said that you are a, 'no' on the president's proposal here to end the shutdown. Why isn't the offer of three years of protection for DACA and TPS recipients enough of a start for you?"

GILLIBRAND: "Well, he's the one who got rid of DACA protection in the first place, and to offer a temporary respite, it doesn't -- if you talk to any DACA recipient in America today, they're - they're anxious. They're worried. ... Their lives are being upended and this president has no compassion. So I don't think you should even consider this because it's three years, it's just DACA. ... And I think it's a nonstarter."

A message from the National Retail Federation:

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2020 WATCH – ELENA SCHNEIDER in Boone, Iowa: **"Gillibrand touts rural origin story in Iowa debut":** "Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) starts her presidential run largely unknown in Iowa 'where's this gal from?' one voter quizzed reporters at a campaign stop. And she is leaning on her experience building a come-from-behind campaign out of nothing in upstate New York a dozen years ago to

make an impression in the first caucus state.

"The New York senator drew parallels between Iowa and her home congressional district, where she upset a Republican incumbent in 2006 to launch her political career, throughout the debut events of her 2020 campaign. Gillibrand introduced herself two-dozen people at a deli by saying, 'I grew up in a rural place, and I represented a rural place.'" [POLITICO](#)

-- NYT'S MATT FLEGENHEIMER and ALEX BURNS: ["As Beto O'Rourke Weighs 2020 Run, Democrats Chafe at His Go-It-Alone Style"](#)

☐ PLAYBOOK READS

President Donald Trump salutes.



PHOTO DU JOUR: President Donald Trump salutes as a U.S. Navy carry team moves a transfer case containing the remains of Scott A. Wirtz on Saturday at Dover Air Force Base. | Andrew Harnik/AP Photo

GABBY ORR, "Mark Meadows, Trump whisperer": "Four sources with knowledge of their relationship said Trump talks to Meadows more than he does with many of his senior aides. They sometimes spend an hour-plus on the phone together or speak more than once per day." [POLITICO](#)

FOR YOUR RADAR -- "'It was getting ugly': Native American drummer speaks on the MAGA-hat-wearing teens who surrounded him," by WaPo's Antonio Olivo, Cleve R. Wootson Jr. and Joe Heim: "The images in videos that went viral on social media Saturday showed a tense scene near the Lincoln Memorial. In them, a Native American man steadily beats his drum at the tail end of Friday's Indigenous Peoples March while singing a song of unity urging them to 'be strong' in the face of the ravages of colonialism that now include police brutality, poor access to health care and the ill effects of climate change on reservations.

"Surrounding him are a throng of young, mostly white teenage boys, several wearing 'Make America Great Again' caps, with one who stood about a foot from the drummer's face also wearing a relentless smirk. ... Covington Catholic High School ... officials and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Covington released a joint statement Saturday. 'We condemn the actions of the Covington Catholic High School students towards Nathan Phillips specifically, and Native Americans in general,' the statement said. 'The matter is being investigated and we will take appropriate action, up to and including expulsion.'" [WaPo](#)

A message from the National Retail Federation:

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BONUS GREAT HOLIDAY WEEKEND READS, curated by Daniel Lippman, filing from Aspen, Colorado:

-- **"Paramount Was Hollywood's 'Mountain.' Now It's a Molehill,"** by Amy Chozick and Brooks Barnes on the cover of NYT's Sunday Business section: "After decades of nearly slapstick mismanagement spinning off TV and missing the internet the studio behind 'The Godfather' is fighting for its life." [NYT](#)

-- **"Palm Beach used to be a nice town for billionaires. Then Trump came along,"** by WaPo's Roxanne Roberts: "[F]rom the beginning, Trump rubbed Palm Beach wrong. He was arrogant and pushy, and he didn't care that locals thought he was loud and vulgar. He bought a gaudy oceanfront estate in 2004 for \$41 million, then flipped it to a Russian billionaire for \$95 million (who tore it down and sparked rumors of money laundering.)" [WaPo](#)

-- **"Thieves of Experience: How Google and Facebook Corrupted Capitalism,"** by Nicholas Carr in the LA Review of Books, reviewing "The Age of Surveillance Capitalism," by Shoshana Zuboff: "By reengineering the economy and society to their own benefit, Google and Facebook are perverting capitalism in a way that undermines personal freedom and corrodes democracy." [LA Review of Books ... \\$25.83 on Amazon](#) (h/t Longform.org)

-- **"Impeach Donald Trump,"** by Yoni Appelbaum on the cover of March's Atlantic: "Starting the process will rein in a president who is undermining American ideals and bring the debate about his fitness for office into Congress, where it belongs." [The Atlantic](#)

-- **"What People Actually Say Before They Die,"** by Michael Erard in The Atlantic - per TheBrowser.com's description: "Deathbed aphorisms and declarations of love for one's country are exceptions or inventions. According to one doctor, the last words of the dying are often strings of curses; a hospice nurse says that most dying men call for 'Mommy' or 'Mama', if they can call at all." [The Atlantic](#)

-- **"Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez Is the Darling of the Left, Nightmare of the Right,"** by Peter Coy and Katia Dmitrieva on the cover of Bloomberg Businessweek: "New taxes. Medicare and free tuition for all. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez is just getting started." [Bloomberg](#)

-- **"How a Career Criminal Broke the Convict Code and Saved Himself,"** by Alan Prendergast in Westword - per Longreads.com's description: "In USP Florence, the most violent prison in the U.S. federal prison system, rats don't live long and they don't die peacefully. But Wayne Byerly talked, and lived and found redemption." [Westword](#)

-- **"Could Pete Buttigieg Become the First Millennial President?"** by Bob Moser in WaPo Magazine: "Meet the mayor of South Bend, Ind., who wants to be the first member of his generation to run the country." [WaPo](#)

-- **"Millennials: A Lost Generation Without the Booze and Jazz,"** by Charles McElwee in The American Conservative: "Millennials are

voyagers in an economy whose future is unknown. Financial stability is their elusive goal, authenticity their wistful desire, fulfillment their constant endeavor. Insurmountable debt, a digital existence, and a disruptive labor market obstruct their idealistic path." [The American Conservative](#)

-- **"Redefining Representation: The Women of the 116th Congress"** photographs by Elizabeth D. Herman and Celeste Sloman: "Just over a century ago, Jeannette Rankin of Montana won a seat in the House of Representatives, becoming the first woman ever elected to federal office. In 1917, 128 years after the first United States Congress convened, she was sworn into its 65th session. One hundred and two years later, one has become 131 the number of women serving in both chambers of the 116th Congress as of this month." [NYT](#)

-- **"The most powerful person in Silicon Valley,"** by Katrina Brooker in Fast Company: "Billionaire Masayoshi Son-not Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos, or Mark Zuckerberg-has the most audacious vision for an AI-powered utopia where machines control how we live. And he's spending hundreds of billions of dollars to realize it. Are you ready to live in Masa World?" [Fast Company](#)

☐ PLAYBOOKERS

SPOTTED: Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) last night at Trattoria Alberto - [pic](#) ... Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine) on a Saturday afternoon American flight to Tampa from DCA.

BIRTHDAYS: Kellyanne Conway is 52 ... Nikki Haley is 47 ... Chip Englander ... Paola Ramos ... Paul Mandelson, special assistant to the assistant secretary of defense for legislative affairs ... Jessica Katz ... Robin Roberts of National Media ... Eric Simmons is 46 ... Bill Maher is 63 ... Kirsten White ... Elena Hernandez ... Dan Schneider, associate director for comms at the WH Council on Environmental Quality ... West Honeycutt is 29 ... Ian Sams (hat tip: Rob Flaherty) ... Anna Stoltzka ... POLITICO's Brianna Gurciullo and Megan Erickson ... Bob Michaels ... Richard Kirsch ... Al Kamen (h/ts Jon Haber) ... Zac

Goldsmith is 44 ... former Rep. Bill Owens (D-N.Y.) is 7-0 ... Soroush Shehabi (h/t Kevin Chaffee) ... Adam Radman, director of advocacy at Americans for Tax Reform ... WTOP's Mike McMearty ... former Rep. Shelley Berkley (D-Nev.) is 68 ... Georgina Bloomberg is 36 ... Diane Ruggiero, CNN supervising producer (h/t Kevin Bohn) ...

... **WSJ senior writer James V. Grimaldi** ... Natan Sharansky is 71 ... CBS' Maria Gavrilovic ... Adrien Borisavljevic ... Morton Abramowitz is 86 ... Susan Finkelstein ... Jeb Golinkin is 31 ... Sam Dealey, managing principal at Monument Communications (h/t Blain Rethmeier) ... Matthew Sanderson ... Arica VanBoxtel ... Stacie Rumenap ... Chris Schmitter ... Jessica Hanna ... Alec Jacobs of Purple Strategies ... Michelle Rodriguez ... Joan Tilouine ... Ben Edwards ... Tracy Russo ... Merrill Hartson is 76 ... Elena Robertson ... Brent Desiderio is 49 ... Andy Taylor ... James Ryan ... Nicole DeSibour Rodgers ... Michelle Runk ... GE's Alan Gilbert ... Sophie Trainor ... Nick Sedgley ... Jed Webb ... Zack Walz ... Chuck Gray ... Pat Souders ... Lane Kasselmann (h/t Teresa Vilmain)

A message from the National Retail Federation:

Tariffs are B-A-D economics. They don't work. Tariffs aren't paid by foreign countries. They're paid by American businesses and consumers. Washington needs a lesson from Ferris Bueller: Tariffs are B-A-D economics. Watch the video to learn more at www.tariffsarebad.com.

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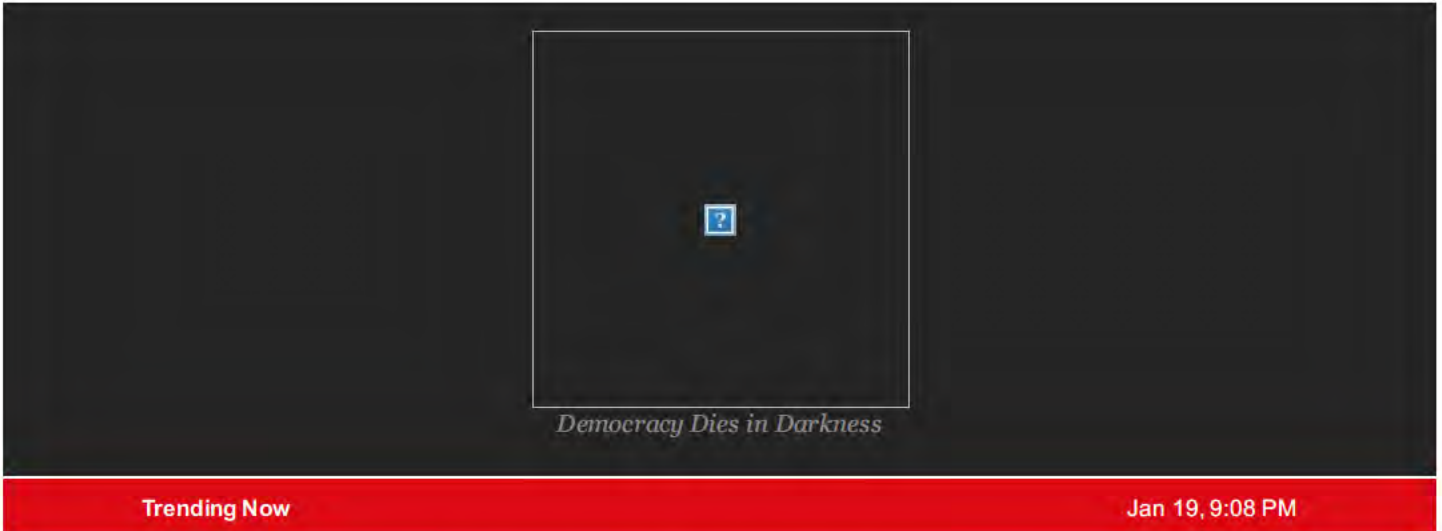
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From: The Washington Post
Sent: Saturday, January 19, 2019 9:11 PM
To: Laco, Kelly (OPA)
Subject: Trending Now: Inside the Mueller team's decision to issue a rare statement disputing an explosive news story on Trump and Cohen



Inside the Mueller team's decision to issue a rare statement disputing an explosive news story on Trump and Cohen

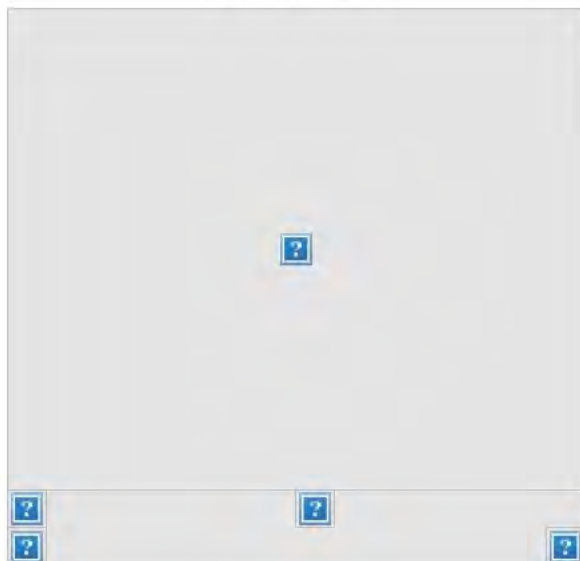
When a BuzzFeed reporter sought comment on the outlet's report that President Trump had directed his lawyer to lie to Congress, the spokesman for special counsel Robert S. Mueller III declined to comment.

But people familiar with the matter said spokesman Peter Carr told others in the government that he would have more vigorously discouraged the reporters from proceeding with the story had he known it would allege Michael Cohen had told the special counsel Trump directed him to lie — or that the special counsel was said to have learned this through interviews with Trump Organization witnesses, as well as internal company emails and text messages.

BuzzFeed has stood by its reporting.

Read more »

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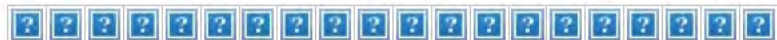


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Carr, Peter (OPA)

From: Carr, Peter (OPA)
Sent: Saturday, January 19, 2019 2:33 PM
To: PAC
Subject: Screenshot 2019-01-19 at 2.32.50 PM
Attachments: Image-1.jpg; ATT00001.txt



Michael M. Grynbaum

@grynbaum

Updated statement from

[@BuzzFeedNews](#):

"As we've re-confirmed our reporting, we've seen no indication that any specific aspect of our story is inaccurate. We remain confident in what we've reported, and will share more as we are able." --Matt Mittenenthal, spokesperson.

2:22 PM · 1/19/19 · [TweetDeck](#)

94 Retweets 154 Likes



Derek Anderson @AltruisticMystic · 7m

Replying to [@grynbaum](#) [@natemcdermott](#) and [@BuzzFeedNews](#)

Dems now being forced to chose between [@BuzzFeed](#) and Special Counsel. Tough

Tweet your reply



Carr, Peter (OPA)

From: Carr, Peter (OPA)
Sent: Saturday, January 19, 2019 12:45 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress
Subject: BuzzFeed

Now the two sources have told BuzzFeed News that Cohen also told the special counsel that after the election, the president personally instructed him to lie — by claiming that negotiations ended months earlier than they actually did — in order to obscure Trump's involvement.

The special counsel's office learned about Trump's directive for Cohen to lie to Congress through interviews with multiple witnesses from the Trump Organization and internal company emails, text messages, and a cache of other documents. Cohen then acknowledged those instructions during his interviews with that office.

Carr, Peter (OPA)

From: Carr, Peter (OPA)
Sent: Saturday, January 19, 2019 12:41 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress
Subject: Fwd: Question about BF

Begin forwarded message:

From: Betsy Woodru (b) (6)
Date: January 19, 2019 at 12:38:11 PM EST
T (b)(6): Peter Carr email
Subject: Question about BF

Hi Peter,

We reviewed the emails you exchanged with BuzzFeed about their story and are writing about how the situation played out. I wanted to bounce a few things off you. First, is Devlin right to assess that your statement yesterday was a repudiation of the entire story? And in your emails with BuzzFeed, were you trying to steer them away from the story? Also, did the story seem like an ambush? Thanks.

Betsy

Sent from my iPhone

Carr, Peter (OPA)

From: Carr, Peter (OPA)
Sent: Saturday, January 19, 2019 12:35 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress
Subject: Fwd: Regarding Buzzfeed

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Sommerfeldt, Chris" (b) (6)
Date: January 19, 2019 at 12:23:21 PM EST
T (b)(6): Peter Carr email
Subject: Regarding Buzzfeed

Hi again Peter,

Chris Sommerfeldt here with New York Daily News. What in particular about the BuzzFeed article is "not accurate?" Hoping to get any clarity on what specifically the statement from last night is pushing back against.

I'm on my cell a (b) (6) if you have time for a call. Have a good weekend!

All best,

Chris Sommerfeldt
Politics reporter
NYDailyNews.com
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
@C_Sommerfeldt

Carr, Peter (OPA)

From: Carr, Peter (OPA)
Sent: Saturday, January 19, 2019 12:35 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress
Subject: Fwd: Your statement on a BuzzFeed story?

Begin forwarded message:

From: Takaaki Abe (b) (6)
Date: January 19, 2019 at 12:17:00 PM EST
T (b)(6): Peter Carr email >
Subject: Your statement on a BuzzFeed story?

Dear Mr. Carr,

Good afternoon,

This is Taka Abe with Nippon Television, a Japanese broadcaster, Washington, D.C. News Bureau.

According to some media reports, you released a statement with regarding a BuzzFeed story.

Can you please send me the statement so that we can broadcast a news story with an exact quote?

As always, thank you so much for your help, and I am looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Best regards,

Taka Abe

Takaaki Abe
Deputy Bureau Chief
Nippon Television Network
Washington DC News Bureau
529 14th St. NW #1036
Washington DC 20045

(b) (6) (Office)

+1-202-638-0308 (Fax)

(b) (6) (Cell)

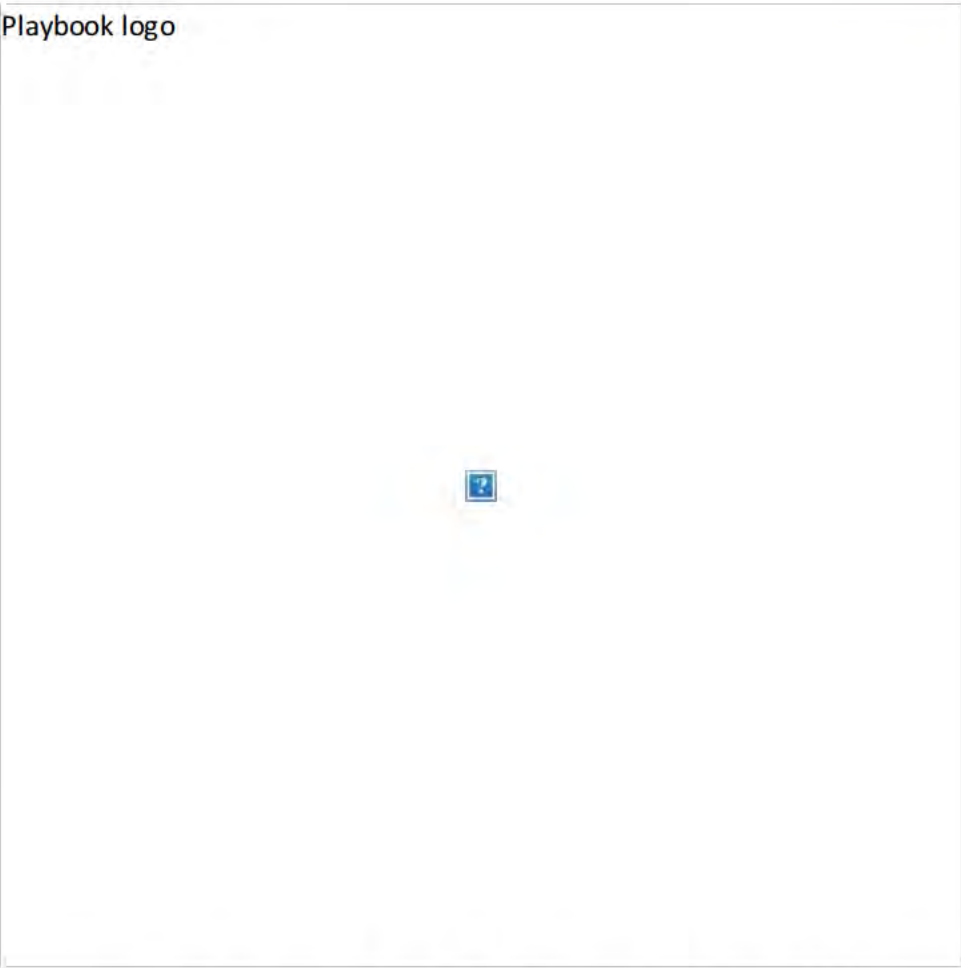
(b) (6) (E-mail)

Anna Palmer Jake Sherman Daniel Lippman

From: Anna Palmer Jake Sherman Daniel Lippman
Sent: Saturday, January 19, 2019 10:59 AM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (ODAG)
Subject: POLITICO Playbook: Inside Trump’s immigration play

Jan 19, 2019

[View in browser](#)



BY JAKE SHERMAN ANNA PALMER AND DANIEL LIPPMAN

Presented by



DRIVING THE DAY

THE PRESIDENT will make a "major announcement," in his words, at 3 p.m. today from the Diplomatic Reception Room. The speech is being closely held at the White House. But here are some broad strokes we've picked up on in our conversations with the administration and on Capitol Hill:

-- THE NITTY GRITTY: Things are always changing at the White House. But Hill sources and people close to the president expect and, frankly, hope the president will announce he is trading immigration policies Democrats and some Republicans have longed for think DACA, temporary protective status for refugees for a border security package. The White House has said publicly for a while that it wants to find a way to restart negotiations with Democrats.

-- IF THE PRESIDENT ACTUALLY goes this route and, again, many Dems and Republicans truly hope he does it could be a big move, and may go some distance to breaking the nearly month long gridlock of this shutdown. We saw **VP MIKE PENCE** and senior White House aide Jared Kushner in the Capitol this week, huddling with **SENATE MAJORITY LEADER MITCH MCCONNELL**. Pence and Kushner have been captaining this play. But Republicans want Trump to lead publicly here.

-- THE UNDER-THE-DOME POLITICS: To the extent there are any good moves on **DAY 29** of a shutdown, this would be it. This could put pressure on Democrats to come to the table and talk. Fixing issues like DACA and TPS are big time policy wins for Democrats and many Republicans. The question we have is what could they offer Republicans on a border security package?

--- HILL INSIDERS TELL US that the two sides are not talking about a stopgap bill to open government up during these negotiations. That could be a hurdle for Democrats, who have refused to talk while government is closed. Democrats have also said they're open to broader border security improvements, but not a wall.

-- BUT ... Even Democrats privately say that if the White House actually moves on policy it could put pressure on them to do something.

DETAILS MATTER on immigration. If the president went this route, will he propose permanent policy, or temporary policy? How much money does he want? Is he going to move on the border security package? Will this be a wall, or something more palatable for Democrats?

COMBINE IT WITH THIS ... JULIE HIRSCHFELD DAVIS points out in the NYT today, Democrats have added \$1 billion for border security into a spending bill they plan to pass next week. [NYT story](#)

HEADS UP ... HOUSE GOP LEADERSHIP is holding a 2:30 p.m. call with their members to preview the president's 3 p.m. remarks.

Good Saturday morning. THE PRESIDENT is also hosting a naturalization ceremony at 1 p.m. in the Oval Office. He went to Dover Air Force Base this morning to greet the remains of four Americans killed in Syria.

LUCKY US ... DAVID ROGERS: "When Congress debated border security without having a total meltdown": "Yes, it seems a distant memory amid all the heated rhetoric over the government shutdown. But it wasn't so long ago that Democrats and Republicans could have a reasoned debate over funding border security.

"Indeed, to go back now and track the history of appropriations bills sheds new light on a battle that today seems divorced from reality and lacking proportion.

"President Donald Trump bashes Democrats daily for obstructing his border wall. But the record shows that he received much of his request in 2018 and had already won bipartisan Senate support for \$1.6 billion in 2019 when he effectively blew up the process by greatly escalating his demands going into the fall midterm elections.

"At the same time, Democrats appear so repelled by the harsh symbolism of Trump's wall that they find it hard to talk about their record of helping another Republican president — George W. Bush — build many of the barriers that already exist along the border."

[POLITICO](#)

POLITICO TICK TOCK ... ANDREW RESTUCCIA and NANCY COOK: "'Theater of the absurd': How the shutdown's bleakest week unfolded for Trump": "President Donald Trump met with a group of House lawmakers on Wednesday to talk about ending the month long government shutdown. But he was more focused on the two people who weren't in the room: Nancy Pelosi and Chuck Schumer.

"'I don't see how we're going to come to a deal' without them, Trump told the mostly junior lawmakers gathered in the White House Situation Room. By then it had already been more than a week since the president had spoken with Pelosi, the House speaker, and

Schumer, the Senate Democratic leader. But Trump said he wasn't in a hurry. 'I'll wait them out,' he confided, according to a person present for the remarks. ...

"The White House argued it canceled the trip to ensure that Pelosi and other top Democrats remained in Washington to negotiate a deal to end the shutdown. But the move doesn't appear to have kept Pelosi in town. She was spotted boarding a plane to San Francisco on Friday afternoon, according to a person who saw her." [POLITICO](#)

THE IMPACT - "Federal Employees Turn to Pawnshops Amid Shutdown's Financial Pinch," by NYT's Mihir Zaveri: "Televisions. Jewelry. Tools. At Blaine Fortner's pawnshop in Billings, Mont., there has been a slow but steady increase in one segment of his clientele pawning these and other items in exchange for cash: employees of the federal government.

"As the longest government shutdown in American history continues , federal workers who are not getting paid are increasingly turning to pawnbrokers for short term loans. The turnout is small — a few people per day — pawnbrokers said, with similar stories emerging from places like Capitol Heights, Md.; Alexandria, Va.; Las Vegas; and Anchorage, Alaska. But many said they expected the numbers to increase amid the stalemate." [NYT](#)

-- ["I see people panicking': In a Coast Guard town, hardship and resolve amid the shutdown,"](#) by WaPo's Dan Lamote at Coast Guard Training Center Cape May, N.J.

A message from the National Retail Federation:

Who pays for tariffs? Anyone? Anyone? Tariffs are taxes paid by U.S. businesses and consumers — not foreign countries. Scroll down to find out more. www.tariffsbarebad.com

THINGS THAT MAKE YOU GO HMM ...

-- WSJ'S BYRON TAU in D.C. and **ALEXANDRA BERZON** in Los

Angeles: **"Justice Department's Reversal on Online Gambling Tracked Memo From Adelson Lobbyists"**: "The legal reasoning behind the Justice Department's unusual reversal this week of an opinion that paved the way for online gambling hewed closely to arguments made by lobbyists for casino magnate and top Republican donor Sheldon Adelson. In April 2017, one of the lobbyists sent a memo to top officials in the Justice Department, arguing that a 2011 opinion that benefited online gambling was wrong.

"Officials in the department's Criminal Division, in turn, forwarded it to the Office of Legal Counsel, which had issued the opinion, and asked attorneys there to re examine their stance that a law on the books for decades didn't prohibit online gambling, according to documents and interviews with people familiar with the matter. ... The department's new position was a victory for Mr. Adelson, who has poured millions into a multiyear lobbying campaign on the matter." [WSJ](#)

-- WAPO'S ROBERT O'HARROW JR.: "A \$450 dinner, \$45 whiskey: Two financial regulators ring up the expenses": "They are federal financial regulators who filed for expenses like corporate CEOs, seeking reimbursement for limos, deluxe air travel and meals in posh restaurants.

"There was an UberBlack ride from the District to neighboring Alexandria, Va., for \$250, according to internal records obtained by The Washington Post. Two airline tickets to a meeting in Vienna came in at more than \$11,000 each, even as a staffer found a way to the same event for a fraction of the price. A meal for three at Joe's Seafood near the White House cost \$450 — including \$45 for a dish of Dover sole and \$43 for halibut, according to receipts for the meal.

"J. Mark McWatters, head of the National Credit Union Administration , and his chief of staff, Sarah Vega, and their guests also showed a fondness for wine and top shelf liquor, including, in one instance, a \$45 glass of 18 year old single malt whiskey, records show. In 2016 and 2017, they expensed more than \$2,500 worth of alcoholic beverages — most of it under Vega's account — despite a written policy prohibiting reimbursement for the purchase of alcohol.

'They have expensive taste,' John Kutchey, deputy executive director of the NCUA, explained to agency investigators who asked about the spending last year." [WaPo](#)

A message from the National Retail Federation:

[Advertisement Image](#)



2020 WATCH ... WAPO'S MICHAEL SCHERER -- "Advisers to former Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz are looking at him running as an independent for president in 2020": "Advisers to former Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz have been exploring the possibility of launching an independent bid for the White House in 2020, according to two people who have been informed of the discussions. ...

"Trump's opponents, including many Democratic strategists, have expressed concerns that a serious three way race in November would divide the Democratic vote in a way that helps Trump win reelection, either directly by denying Democrats states they would otherwise have won or by shifting the ultimate decision to the U.S. House."

[WaPo](#)

SMART STORY ... CHRIS CADELAGO: "The 'I'm sorry' 2020

Democratic primary": "Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand regrets that, as a conservative upstate congresswoman, she backed gun rights and held 'callous' views on immigration. Hawaii Rep. Tulsi Gabbard is sorry for past 'offensive and hurtful statements' about the LGBTQ community.

"Bernie Sanders is sorry, too — he's repeatedly apologized the women who were revealed to be sexually mistreated while working on his last campaign for president, before the #MeToo movement.

"Even before the 2020 Democratic presidential primary kicks into gear — and ahead of Sanders' own decision about whether he'll run again — the contours of the race are being shaped by an apology tour of sorts." [POLITICO](#)

☐ PLAYBOOK READS

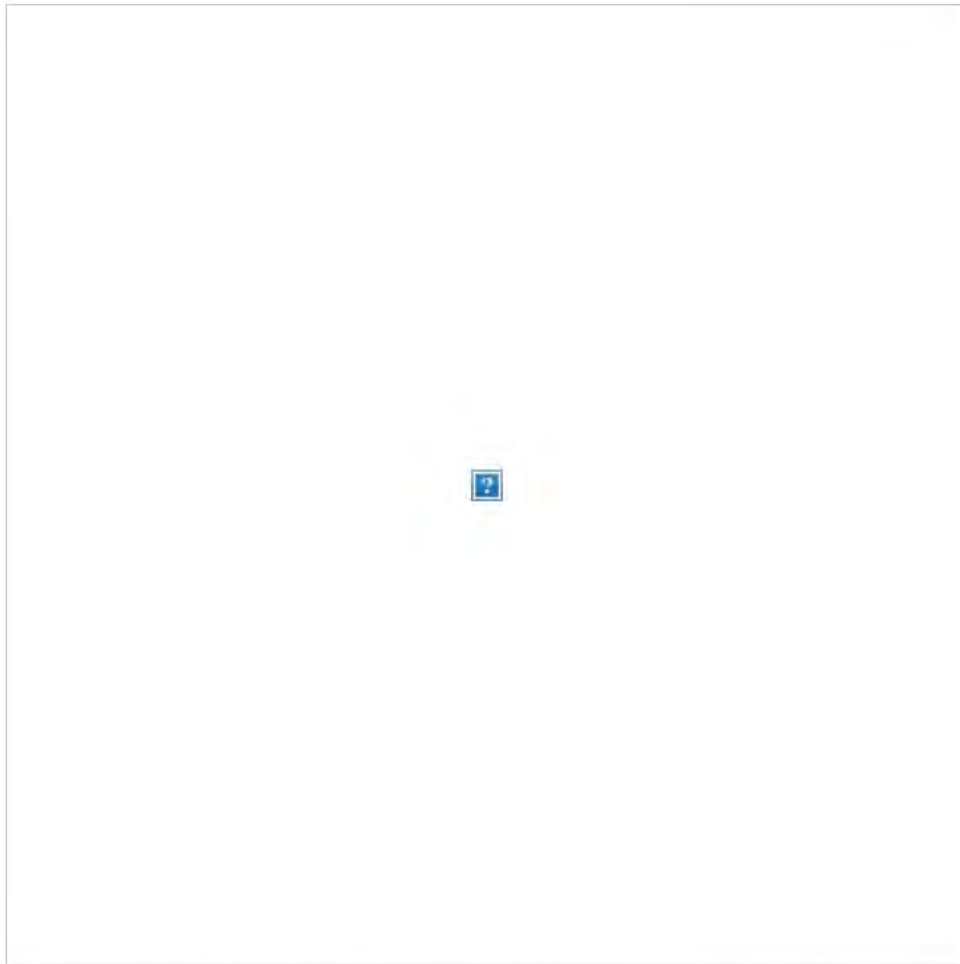


PHOTO DU JOUR: Twyla Mezan, the owner of the McDonald's in the food court at Pittsburgh International Airport, in Imperial, Pa., packs boxes of meals for TSA workers that work at the airport on Friday. | Keith Srakocic/AP Photo

ON THE BUZZFEED STORY ... JOSH GERSTEIN and DARREN SAMUELSON: "Mueller team disputes aspects of BuzzFeed report on Trump, Cohen": "Mueller's normally tight lipped operation issued a statement Friday night indicating that the BuzzFeed report contained inaccuracies, at least with respect to its statements about the information gathered by the special counsel's team.

"'BuzzFeed's description of specific statements to the Special Counsel's Office, and characterization of documents and testimony obtained by this office, regarding Michael Cohen's Congressional testimony are not accurate,' Mueller spokesman Peter Carr said in a statement. He did not elaborate. Trump quickly took to Twitter to react to the news, retweeting messages from supporters who'd expressed suspicion about the report." [POLITICO](#)

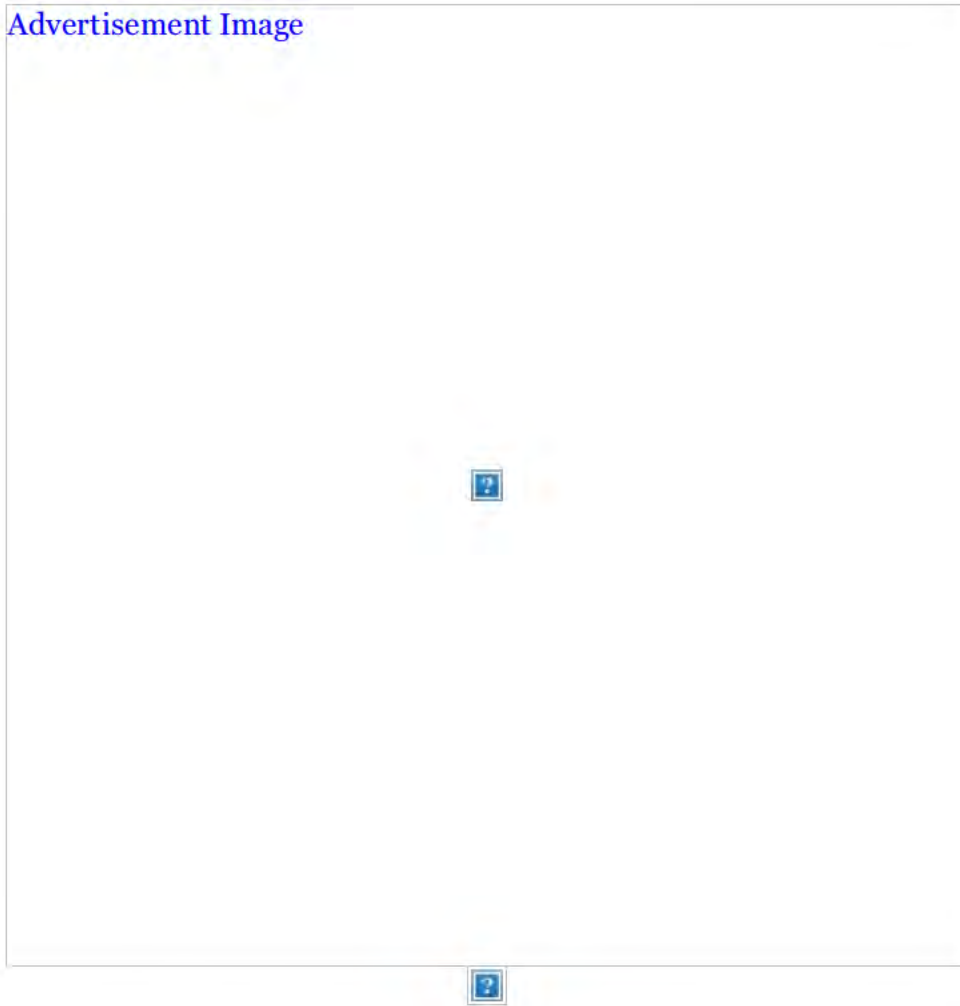
-- **BEN SMITH SPEAKS (@BuzzFeedBen)**: "In response to the statement [Friday night] from the Special Counsel's spokesman: We stand by our reporting and the sources who informed it, and we urge the Special Counsel to make clear what he's disputing."

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With a pic and a video. [The Guardian](#)

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Fox	"Fox News Sunday": House Majority Whip Jim Clyburn (D S.C.). Panel: Newt Gingrich, Donna Edwards, Guy Benson and Charles Lane
ABC	"This Week": Guests to be announced
CNN	"Inside Politics": Panel: Eliana Johnson, Karoun Demirjian, Seung Min Kim and Michael Shear
CNN	"Reliable Sources": Carl Bernstein and Tony Schwartz ... Jeff Goldberg ... Olivia Nuzzi and David Zurawik ... Charles Sennott and Steve Waldman ... Ben Smith and Anthony Cormier.
Fox News	"Sunday Morning Futures": Rep. John Ratcliffe (R Texas.) ... Rep. Debbie Dingell (D Mich.) ... Rep. Jeff Van Drew (D N.J.). Panel: Byron York and James Freeman
Fox News	"MediaBuzz": Mollie Hemingway ... Sara Fischer ... Juan Williams ... Emily Jashinsky ... Philippe Reines ... Susan Ferrechio ... Francesca Chambers
CNN	"Fareed Zakaria GPS": Tony Blair ... Aaron Sorkin
Univision	"Al Punto": Vicente Fox ... Rep. Adriano Espaillat (D N.Y.) ... Rep. Steve King (R Iowa) (re air of 2013 interview) ... Venezuelan opposition leader and National Assembly president Juan Guaidó ... Yezid Baquero ...

Rafael Solis ... Pablo Alborán

C-SPAN

"The Communicators": Walt Mossberg ...
"Newsmakers": Tim Chapman, questioned by Scott Wong and Al Weaver ... **"Q&A"**: author and journalist Patricia Miller ("Bringing Down the Colonel")

MSNBC

"Kasie DC": House Majority Whip Jim Clyburn (D S.C.) ... Heidi Heitkamp ... David McIntosh ... Michael Steele ... Marc Morial ... Phil Rucker ... Sam Stein ... Carol Leonnig ... Karine Jean Pierre ... Natasha Bertrand ... Eugene Scott ... Kayla Tausche

Washington Times

"Mack on Politics" weekly politics podcast with Matt Mackowiak (download on iTunes, Google Play, or Stitcher or listen at MackOnPolitics.com): Texas Alliance of Energy Producers president John Tintera.

A message from the National Retail Federation:

Tariffs will lead to... what? Anyone? Anyone? Higher prices on everyday goods for American consumers. Will trade wars help U.S. businesses? Anyone? No, they will not. Tariffs kill American jobs and hurt businesses large and small. It s not complicated. Trade wars don t work. Trade works. Watch why tariffs are B A D economics at www.tariffsbarebad.com.

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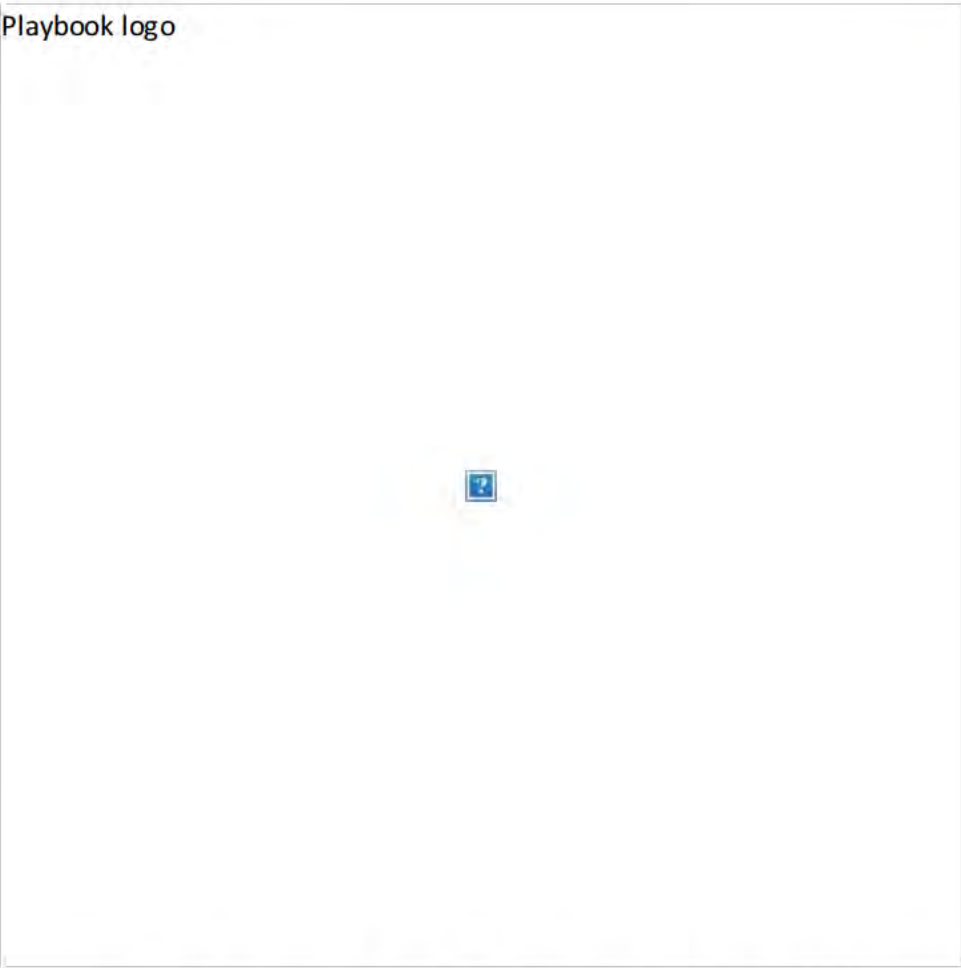
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Anna Palmer Jake Sherman Daniel Lippman

From: Anna Palmer Jake Sherman Daniel Lippman
Sent: Saturday, January 19, 2019 10:58 AM
To: Weinsheimer, Bradley (ODAG)
Subject: POLITICO Playbook: Inside Trump’s immigration play

Jan 19, 2019

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BY JAKE SHERMAN ANNA PALMER AND DANIEL LIPPMAN

Presented by



DRIVING THE DAY

THE PRESIDENT will make a "major announcement," in his words, at 3 p.m. today from the Diplomatic Reception Room. The speech is being closely held at the White House. But here are some broad strokes we've picked up on in our conversations with the administration and on Capitol Hill:

-- **THE NITTY GRITTY:** Things are always changing at the White House. But Hill sources and people close to the president expect and, frankly, hope the president will announce he is trading immigration policies Democrats and some Republicans have longed for think DACA, temporary protective status for refugees for a border security package. The White House has said publicly for a while that it wants to find a way to restart negotiations with Democrats.

-- IF THE PRESIDENT ACTUALLY goes this route and, again, many Dems and Republicans truly hope he does it could be a big move, and may go some distance to breaking the nearly month long gridlock of this shutdown. We saw **VP MIKE PENCE** and senior White House aide Jared Kushner in the Capitol this week, huddling with **SENATE MAJORITY LEADER MITCH MCCONNELL**. Pence and Kushner have been captaining this play. But Republicans want Trump to lead publicly here.

-- THE UNDER-THE-DOME POLITICS: To the extent there are any good moves on **DAY 29** of a shutdown, this would be it. This could put pressure on Democrats to come to the table and talk. Fixing issues like DACA and TPS are big time policy wins for Democrats and many Republicans. The question we have is what could they offer Republicans on a border security package?

--- HILL INSIDERS TELL US that the two sides are not talking about a stopgap bill to open government up during these negotiations. That could be a hurdle for Democrats, who have refused to talk while government is closed. Democrats have also said they're open to broader border security improvements, but not a wall.

-- BUT ... Even Democrats privately say that if the White House actually moves on policy it could put pressure on them to do something.

DETAILS MATTER on immigration. If the president went this route, will he propose permanent policy, or temporary policy? How much money does he want? Is he going to move on the border security package? Will this be a wall, or something more palatable for Democrats?

COMBINE IT WITH THIS ... JULIE HIRSCHFELD DAVIS points out in the NYT today, Democrats have added \$1 billion for border security into a spending bill they plan to pass next week. [NYT story](#)

HEADS UP ... HOUSE GOP LEADERSHIP is holding a 2:30 p.m. call with their members to preview the president's 3 p.m. remarks.

Good Saturday morning. THE PRESIDENT is also hosting a naturalization ceremony at 1 p.m. in the Oval Office. He went to Dover Air Force Base this morning to greet the remains of four Americans killed in Syria.

LUCKY US ... DAVID ROGERS: "When Congress debated border security without having a total meltdown": "Yes, it seems a distant memory amid all the heated rhetoric over the government shutdown. But it wasn't so long ago that Democrats and Republicans could have a reasoned debate over funding border security.

"Indeed, to go back now and track the history of appropriations bills sheds new light on a battle that today seems divorced from reality and lacking proportion.

"President Donald Trump bashes Democrats daily for obstructing his border wall. But the record shows that he received much of his request in 2018 and had already won bipartisan Senate support for \$1.6 billion in 2019 when he effectively blew up the process by greatly escalating his demands going into the fall midterm elections.

"At the same time, Democrats appear so repelled by the harsh symbolism of Trump's wall that they find it hard to talk about their record of helping another Republican president — George W. Bush — build many of the barriers that already exist along the border."

[POLITICO](#)

POLITICO TICK TOCK ... ANDREW RESTUCCIA and NANCY COOK: "'Theater of the absurd': How the shutdown's bleakest week unfolded for Trump": "President Donald Trump met with a group of House lawmakers on Wednesday to talk about ending the month long government shutdown. But he was more focused on the two people who weren't in the room: Nancy Pelosi and Chuck Schumer.

"'I don't see how we're going to come to a deal' without them, Trump told the mostly junior lawmakers gathered in the White House Situation Room. By then it had already been more than a week since the president had spoken with Pelosi, the House speaker, and

Schumer, the Senate Democratic leader. But Trump said he wasn't in a hurry. 'I'll wait them out,' he confided, according to a person present for the remarks. ...

"The White House argued it canceled the trip to ensure that Pelosi and other top Democrats remained in Washington to negotiate a deal to end the shutdown. But the move doesn't appear to have kept Pelosi in town. She was spotted boarding a plane to San Francisco on Friday afternoon, according to a person who saw her." [POLITICO](#)

THE IMPACT - "Federal Employees Turn to Pawnshops Amid Shutdown's Financial Pinch," by NYT's Mihir Zaveri: "Televisions. Jewelry. Tools. At Blaine Fortner's pawnshop in Billings, Mont., there has been a slow but steady increase in one segment of his clientele pawning these and other items in exchange for cash: employees of the federal government.

"As the longest government shutdown in American history continues , federal workers who are not getting paid are increasingly turning to pawnbrokers for short term loans. The turnout is small — a few people per day — pawnbrokers said, with similar stories emerging from places like Capitol Heights, Md.; Alexandria, Va.; Las Vegas; and Anchorage, Alaska. But many said they expected the numbers to increase amid the stalemate." [NYT](#)

-- "I see people panicking': In a Coast Guard town, hardship and resolve amid the shutdown," by WaPo's Dan Lamote at Coast Guard Training Center Cape May, N.J.

A message from the National Retail Federation:

Who pays for tariffs? Anyone? Anyone? Tariffs are taxes paid by U.S. businesses and consumers — not foreign countries. Scroll down to find out more. www.tariffsbarebad.com

THINGS THAT MAKE YOU GO HMM ...

-- WSJ'S BYRON TAU in D.C. and **ALEXANDRA BERZON** in Los

Angeles: **"Justice Department's Reversal on Online Gambling Tracked Memo From Adelson Lobbyists"**: "The legal reasoning behind the Justice Department's unusual reversal this week of an opinion that paved the way for online gambling hewed closely to arguments made by lobbyists for casino magnate and top Republican donor Sheldon Adelson. In April 2017, one of the lobbyists sent a memo to top officials in the Justice Department, arguing that a 2011 opinion that benefited online gambling was wrong.

"Officials in the department's Criminal Division, in turn, forwarded it to the Office of Legal Counsel, which had issued the opinion, and asked attorneys there to re examine their stance that a law on the books for decades didn't prohibit online gambling, according to documents and interviews with people familiar with the matter. ... The department's new position was a victory for Mr. Adelson, who has poured millions into a multiyear lobbying campaign on the matter." [WSJ](#)

-- WAPO'S ROBERT O'HARROW JR.: "A \$450 dinner, \$45 whiskey: Two financial regulators ring up the expenses": "They are federal financial regulators who filed for expenses like corporate CEOs, seeking reimbursement for limos, deluxe air travel and meals in posh restaurants.

"There was an UberBlack ride from the District to neighboring Alexandria, Va., for \$250, according to internal records obtained by The Washington Post. Two airline tickets to a meeting in Vienna came in at more than \$11,000 each, even as a staffer found a way to the same event for a fraction of the price. A meal for three at Joe's Seafood near the White House cost \$450 — including \$45 for a dish of Dover sole and \$43 for halibut, according to receipts for the meal.

"J. Mark McWatters, head of the National Credit Union Administration , and his chief of staff, Sarah Vega, and their guests also showed a fondness for wine and top shelf liquor, including, in one instance, a \$45 glass of 18 year old single malt whiskey, records show. In 2016 and 2017, they expensed more than \$2,500 worth of alcoholic beverages — most of it under Vega's account — despite a written policy prohibiting reimbursement for the purchase of alcohol.

'They have expensive taste,' John Kutchey, deputy executive director of the NCUA, explained to agency investigators who asked about the spending last year." [WaPo](#)

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[Advertisement Image](#)



2020 WATCH ... WAPO'S MICHAEL SCHERER -- "Advisers to former Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz are looking at him running as an independent for president in 2020": "Advisers to former Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz have been exploring the possibility of launching an independent bid for the White House in 2020, according to two people who have been informed of the discussions. ...

"Trump's opponents, including many Democratic strategists, have expressed concerns that a serious three way race in November would divide the Democratic vote in a way that helps Trump win reelection, either directly by denying Democrats states they would otherwise have won or by shifting the ultimate decision to the U.S. House."

[WaPo](#)

SMART STORY ... CHRIS CADELAGO: "The 'I'm sorry' 2020

Democratic primary": "Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand regrets that, as a conservative upstate congresswoman, she backed gun rights and held 'callous' views on immigration. Hawaii Rep. Tulsi Gabbard is sorry for past 'offensive and hurtful statements' about the LGBTQ community.

"Bernie Sanders is sorry, too — he's repeatedly apologized the women who were revealed to be sexually mistreated while working on his last campaign for president, before the #MeToo movement.

"Even before the 2020 Democratic presidential primary kicks into gear — and ahead of Sanders' own decision about whether he'll run again — the contours of the race are being shaped by an apology tour of sorts." [POLITICO](#)

☐ PLAYBOOK READS

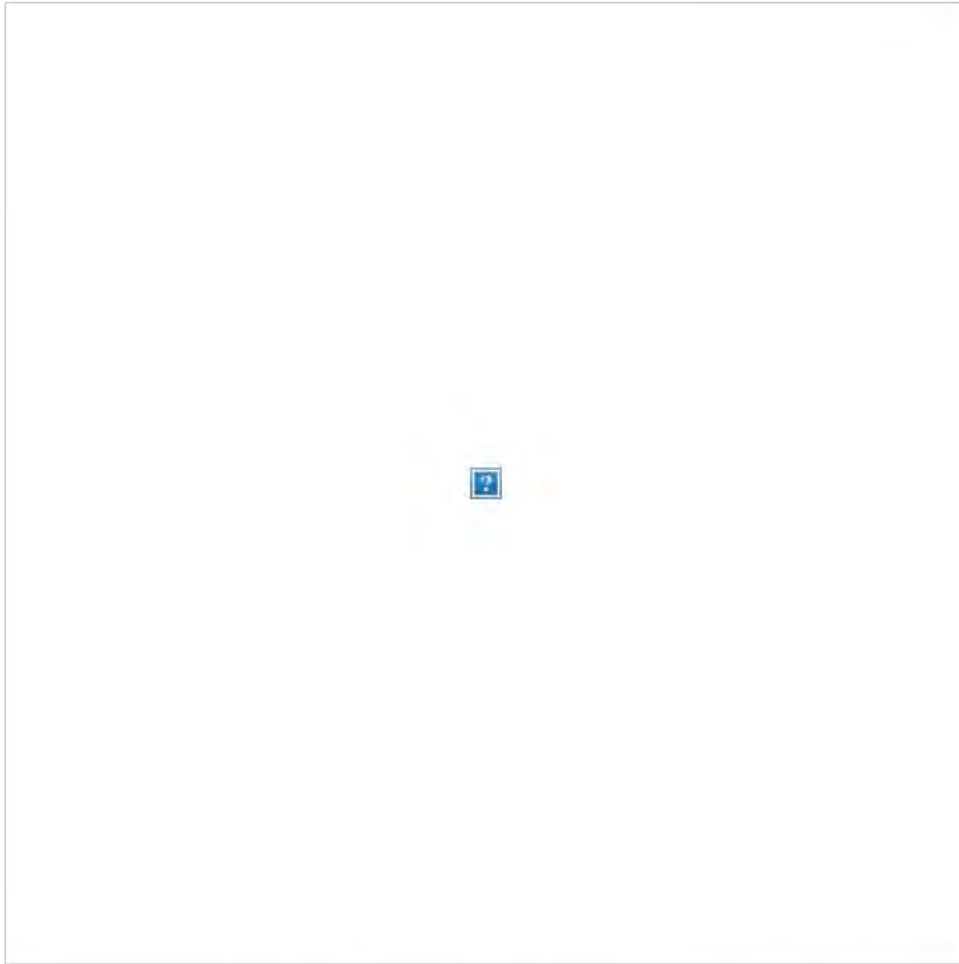


PHOTO DU JOUR: Twyla Mezan, the owner of the McDonald's in the food court at Pittsburgh International Airport, in Imperial, Pa., packs boxes of meals for TSA workers that work at the airport on Friday. | Keith Srakocic/AP Photo

ON THE BUZZFEED STORY ... JOSH GERSTEIN and DARREN SAMUELSON: "Mueller team disputes aspects of BuzzFeed

report on Trump, Cohen": "Mueller's normally tight lipped operation issued a statement Friday night indicating that the BuzzFeed report contained inaccuracies, at least with respect to its statements about the information gathered by the special counsel's team.

"'BuzzFeed's description of specific statements to the Special Counsel's Office, and characterization of documents and testimony obtained by this office, regarding Michael Cohen's Congressional testimony are not accurate,' Mueller spokesman Peter Carr said in a statement. He did not elaborate. Trump quickly took to Twitter to react to the news, retweeting messages from supporters who'd expressed suspicion about the report." [POLITICO](#)

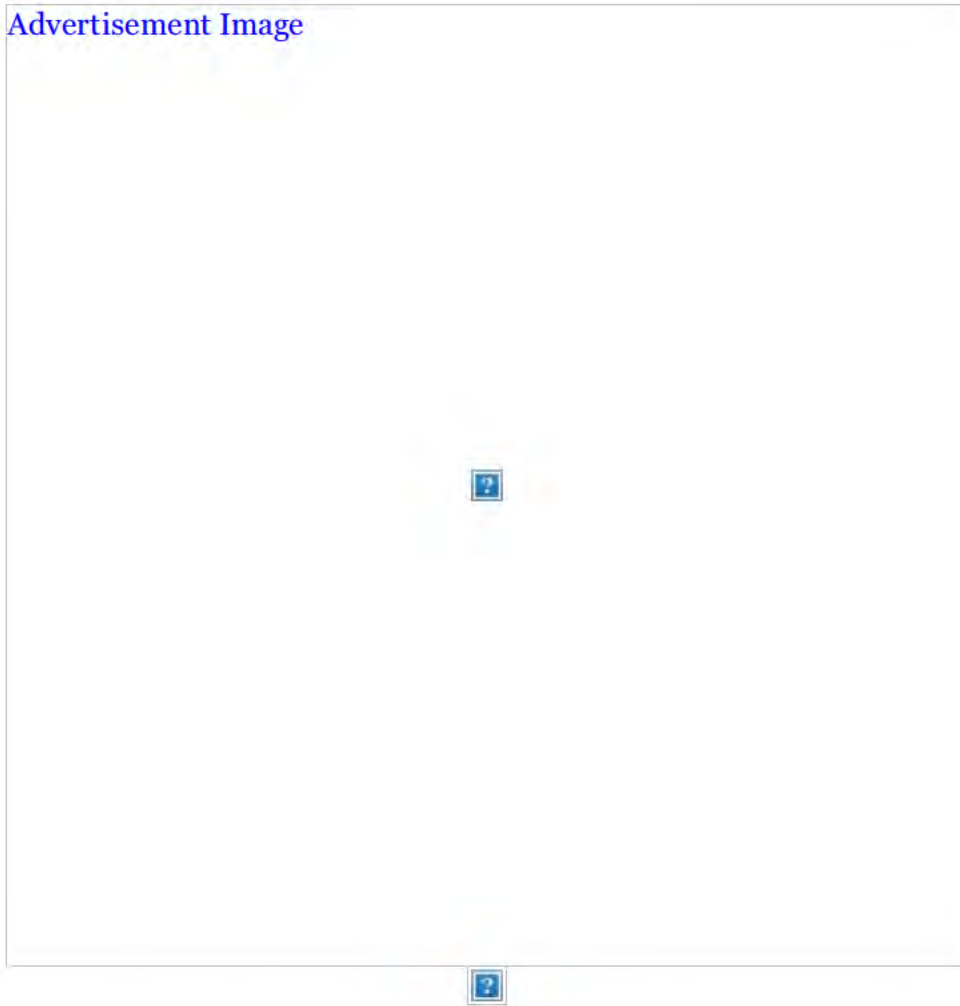
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CNN	"Inside Politics": Panel: Eliana Johnson, Karoun Demirjian, Seung Min Kim and Michael Shear
CNN	"Reliable Sources": Carl Bernstein and Tony Schwartz ... Jeff Goldberg ... Olivia Nuzzi and David Zurawik ... Charles Sennott and Steve Waldman ... Ben Smith and Anthony Cormier.
Fox News	"Sunday Morning Futures": Rep. John Ratcliffe (R Texas.) ... Rep. Debbie Dingell (D Mich.) ... Rep. Jeff Van Drew (D N.J.). Panel: Byron York and James Freeman
Fox News	"MediaBuzz": Mollie Hemingway ... Sara Fischer ... Juan Williams ... Emily Jashinsky ... Philippe Reines ... Susan Ferrechio ... Francesca Chambers
CNN	"Fareed Zakaria GPS": Tony Blair ... Aaron Sorkin
Univision	"Al Punto": Vicente Fox ... Rep. Adriano Espaillat (D N.Y.) ... Rep. Steve King (R Iowa) (re air of 2013 interview) ... Venezuelan opposition leader and National Assembly president Juan Guaidó ... Yezid Baquero ...

Rafael Solis ... Pablo Alborán

C-SPAN

"The Communicators": Walt Mossberg ...

"Newsmakers": Tim Chapman, questioned by Scott Wong and Al Weaver ... **"Q&A"**: author and journalist Patricia Miller ("Bringing Down the Colonel")

MSNBC

"Kasie DC": House Majority Whip Jim Clyburn (D S.C.) ... Heidi Heitkamp ... David McIntosh ... Michael Steele ... Marc Morial ... Phil Rucker ... Sam Stein ... Carol Leonnig ... Karine Jean Pierre ... Natasha Bertrand ... Eugene Scott ... Kayla Tausche

Washington Times

"Mack on Politics" weekly politics podcast with Matt Mackowiak (download on iTunes, Google Play, or Stitcher or listen at MackOnPolitics.com): Texas Alliance of Energy Producers president John Tintera.

A message from the National Retail Federation:

Tariffs will lead to... what? Anyone? Anyone? Higher prices on everyday goods for American consumers. Will trade wars help U.S. businesses? Anyone? No, they will not. Tariffs kill American jobs and hurt businesses large and small. It s not complicated. Trade wars don t work. Trade works. Watch why tariffs are B A D economics at www.tariffsbarebad.com.

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Mike Allen

From: Mike Allen
Sent: Saturday, January 19, 2019 10:08 AM
To: Raman, Sujit (ODAG)
Subject: Axios AM: Mike's Big 6 — The reckoning — "Super blood wolf moon" — 1 life lesson

Axios



 **Happy Saturday!**

Situational awareness ... Trump [tweets](#): "Will be leaving for Dover [Air Force Base] to be with the families of 4 very special people who lost their lives [in Syria this week] in service to our Country!"



Last night's rare on-the-record statement from the Mueller team is a reckoning that journalism had coming: Amid some of the most impressive reporting of our lifetimes, there's plenty of questionable coverage in this shock-a-minute era.

Jonathan Swan points out that BuzzFeed's [report](#) that President Trump directed Michael Cohen to lie to Congress, if true, would put this presidency at existential risk.

- **The [story](#)** was as clean as it gets: Trump directed Cohen to lie about the Trump Tower in Moscow project, and there's tons of evidence to support that.

- **Very rarely** has a story been so unequivocal — usually there are more hedges and acknowledgments of what isn't known.
- **And unlike** most other reportage in this saga, this accused the president of a felony — a very different bar.

Democrats read the story and began immediately dreaming up articles of impeachment.

- **Even some conservatives** joined the "If true" chorus. Erick Erickson covered his bases: "If this is true, President Trump has committed an impeachable offense. ... [B]ut I would tread cautiously."
- **The two BuzzFeed reporters** — Jason Leopold and Anthony Cormier — have broken important news previously on the Russia beat, which is why major outlets took this report seriously.

BuzzFeed asserted that the accusation was supported by copious documentary evidence that would've cleanly fit attorney general nominee Bill Barr's on-the-record definition of obstruction: internal Trump Organization "emails, text messages, and a cache of other documents."

- **The WashPost reports:** "Mueller's denial, according to people familiar with the matter, aims to make clear that none of those statements in the story are accurate."
- **The N.Y. Times** got similar guidance: "One person familiar with Mr. Cohen's testimony to the special counsel's prosecutors said that Mr. Cohen did not state that the president had pressured him to lie to Congress."

Garrett M. Graff of WIRED, in an email to Axios, pointed out the new political context for journalistic bombshells:

- **"You have to think** that the special counsel's office is thinking through how to respond to press reports in the era of a Democratic

House — they need to now set reasonable (and timely) expectations in order to ensure that Congress doesn't [go] off the rails."

- **Graff told me** the statement appears to be very careful, disputing specific — although unspecified — allegations.

Some of the coverage suggested end times for Trump:

- **But now** the "fake news" accusers are dunking on the press. Sean Hannity used a red "BuzzFeed Busted" graphic at the top of his Fox News show.
- **Trump tweeted** last night: "A very sad day for journalism, but a great day for our Country!"
- **And this morning**: "Many people are saying that the Mainstream Media will have a very hard time restoring credibility because of the way they have treated me over the past 3 years (including the election lead-up)"
- **Ultimately**, Buzzfeed is reporting, based on two anonymous sources, that the president committed a felony. That's an enormous claim to hang on two anonymous sources.

Be cautious: This story is moving so fast.

- **In the next 24 hours**, BuzzFeed's sources could retract their claims or corroborate them.
- **Relevant emails** could become public, other outlets could find more on this — who knows.
- **Some pundits** and lawmakers rushed to call this story the death knell of Trump's presidency. Don't make the same mistake about BuzzFeed — or journalism.

P.S. My email exchange with BuzzFeed Editor-in-Chief Ben Smith:

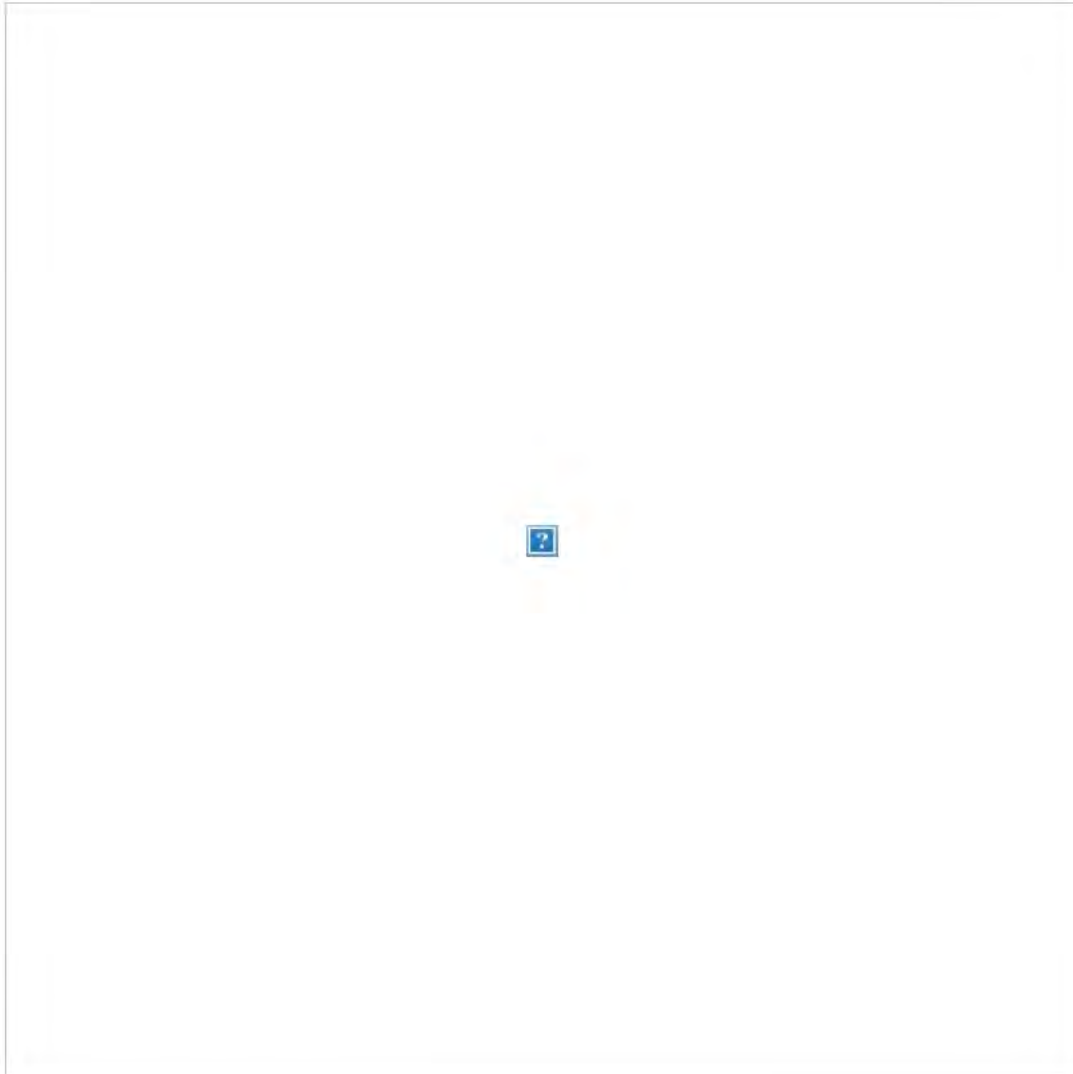
- **How can you stand** fully behind your reporting when Mueller

says it's at least partly wrong?

- *We literally don't know what the special counsel is referring to.*
- **Should someone** lose their job if you or the reporters were wrong in accusing the president of a felony?
 - *And I'm not going to speculate.*

Smith said in a phoner with MSNBC's Rachel Maddow: "This is a line of reporting that has been repeatedly vindicated."





We expect, based on Jonathan Swan's conversations with sources familiar with the speech, that President Trump will use 3 p.m. ET remarks from the Diplomatic Reception Room to propose some form of broad immigration compromise.

- **The offer** is expected to include Trump's \$5.7 billion demand for

wall money in exchange for the BRIDGE Act — which would extend protections for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) — and also legislation to extend the legal status of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders, according to a source with direct knowledge.

- **Jared Kushner** and Mike Pence have led the crafting of this deal and the negotiations with members, according to White House officials.

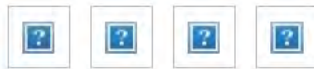
P.S. "House Democrats have added more than \$1 billion in border-related spending to a package of funding bills that would reopen most of the government." (*N.Y. Times*)



"Former President George W. Bush treated his Secret Service detail

to pizza to show his appreciation for their service without paychecks during the partial government shutdown," [per AP](#).

- **"Bush spokesman Freddy Ford** says the photo was taken [yesterday] in Florida."





"In August, Pope Francis declared the death penalty morally unacceptable in all circumstances and committed the church to its global abolition," Aliza Plener Cover of the University of Idaho College of Law writes in a piece in tomorrow's WashPost Outlook, adapted from the Yale Law Journal Forum:

- **"But because** of the anomalous way we select juries in capital cases, greater opposition to the death penalty among Catholics could, counterintuitively, increase the number of death sentences imposed in this country. "
- **"This paradox** is possible because of a process called 'death

qualification,' in which a judge can disqualify certain prospective jurors who are opposed to executions."



Kevin Jefferson went from part-time bartender to full-time IT specialist. Grow with Google helps millions of Americans learn the skills they need to launch their careers. [Learn more at g.co/grow.](https://g.co/grow)



Students and activists thronged the Mall yesterday during the annual March for Life.

- **The Heritage Foundation's** [Daily Signal](#): "Rep. Katrina Jackson, a Democrat state lawmaker from Louisiana, addressed the bipartisan efforts of pro-life legislation and said Louisiana was the top pro-life state in the country."



"Advisers to former Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz have been exploring the possibility of launching an independent bid for the White House in 2020," the WashPost's Michael Scherer [reports](#).

- **Why it matters:** "Trump's opponents, including many Democratic strategists, have expressed concerns that a serious three-way race in November would divide the Democratic vote in a way that helps Trump win reelection."





Starting tomorrow night, North and South America will see a total lunar eclipse and supermoon wrapped into one, AP's Marcia Dunn [writes](#):

- **"The moon**, Earth and sun will line up ... for the only total lunar eclipse this year and next. At the same time, the moon will be ever so closer to Earth and appear slightly bigger and brighter than usual — a supermoon."

The eclipse starts Sunday night or early Monday, depending on where you are, and will last about three hours.

- **"It begins** with the partial phase around 10:34 p.m. EST Sunday."

- **"Totality** — when Earth's shadow completely blankets the moon — will last 62 minutes, beginning at 11:41 p.m. EST Sunday."
- **"If the skies are clear**, the entire eclipse will be visible in North and South America, as well as Greenland, Iceland, Ireland, Great Britain, Norway, Sweden, Portugal and the French and Spanish coasts.

"During totality, the moon will **look red** because of sunlight scattering off Earth's atmosphere."

- **"That's why** an eclipsed moon is sometimes known as a blood moon. In January, the full moon is also sometimes known as the wolf moon or great spirit moon."
- **"So informally speaking**, the upcoming lunar eclipse will be a super blood wolf — or great spirit — moon."

Watch a livestream from the Griffith Observatory in L.A., beginning just after 10:30 p.m. ET.





At the Australian Open in Melbourne today, preeminent champion Serena Williams, 37, consoled Dayana Yastremska, an 18-year-old from Ukraine, after defeating her 6-2, 6-1, AP's Howard Fendrich reports.

- **Williams put** her right hand on Yastremska's shoulder and said: "You're so young. You did amazing. Don't cry."

Then they embraced, and Williams patted Yastremska on the back.

- **Williams later said:** "I could tell she was quite upset. I kind of liked that. It shows she wasn't just there to play a good match — she was there to win."
- **"That really** broke my heart ... I think she's a good talent. It's good

to see that attitude."





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Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA)

From: Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA)
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 10:02 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress
Subject: Re: Statement on BuzzFeed article

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 18, 2019, at 7:38 PM, SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@jmd.usdoj.gov> wrote:

Duplicative Material (Document ID: 0.7.23908.5140)



Carr, Peter (OPA)

From: Carr, Peter (OPA)
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 9:37 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress
Subject: Fwd: Statement on BuzzFeed Report

Begin forwarded message:

From: Scott Stewart (b) (6)
Date: January 18, 2019 at 8:29:05 PM EST
To: (b)(6): Peter Carr email >
Subject: Statement on BuzzFeed Report

Dear Mr. Carr:

I would very much appreciate it if you would send me your statement on the BuzzFeed report.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Scott Stewart
Washington Bureau
The Sankei Shimbun newspaper (Japan)
(b) (6)

Carr, Peter (OPA)

From: Carr, Peter (OPA)
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 9:37 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress
Subject: Fwd: Statement on BuzzFeed report?

Begin forwarded message:

From: Ed Beeso (b) (6) >
Date: January 18, 2019 at 8:25:12 PM EST
To: (b)(6): Peter Carr email
Subject: Statement on BuzzFeed report?

Hi Peter,

Hope all is well. Can you provide me the statement on the BuzzFeed report? Will the Special Counsel provide any further background on what is inaccurate in the report?

Thank you,

Ed

Sent from my iPhone

AMZ

From: AMZ
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 8:31 PM
To: O'Callaghan, Edward C. (ODAG)

Buzzfeed statement: We are continuing to report and determine what the special counsel is disputing. We remain confident in the accuracy of our report.

Sent from my iPhone

From: The Washington Post
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 8:05 PM
To: Laco, Kelly (OPA)
Subject: News Alert: In an unprecedented move, special counsel's office disputes a news report claiming Trump directed Cohen to lie



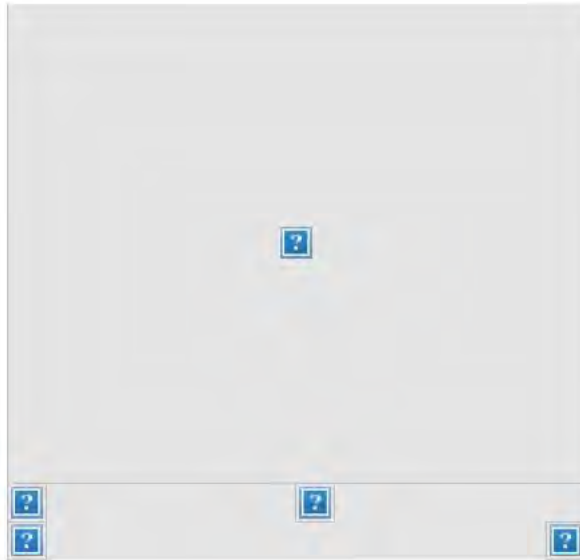
In an unprecedented move, special counsel's office disputes a news report claiming Trump directed Cohen to lie

Less than 24 hours after the news site BuzzFeed reported that the president instructed his personal attorney to lie to Congress about his push for a Moscow real estate project, special counsel Robert S. Mueller III's office put out a statement firmly disputing the reporting.

"BuzzFeed's description of specific statements to the Special Counsel's Office, and characterization of documents and testimony obtained by this office, regarding Michael Cohen's Congressional testimony are not accurate," the special counsel's office said.

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Carr, Peter (OPA)

From: Carr, Peter (OPA)
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:59 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress
Subject: Fwd: Request for comment/statement

Begin forwarded message:

From: Chris Mills Rodrig (b) (6)
Date: January 18, 2019 at 7:40:21 PM EST
T (b)(6): Peter Carr email
Subject: Request for comment/statement

Hi,

I'm reaching out from The Hill to get comment on the special counsel's response to BuzzFeed's report that President Trump instructed Michael Cohen to lie to Congress. Would also appreciate a copy of the statement that you gave to BuzzFeed. Thank you in advance!

Best,
Chris Mills Rodrigo

--

Chris Mills Rodrigo
Breaking News Reporter
The Hill
(b) (6)

AMZ

From: AMZ
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:55 PM
To: O'Callaghan, Edward C. (ODAG)
Subject: Fwd: Statement on BuzzFeed article

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Date: January 18, 2019 at 7:35:37 PM EST
To: SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Statement on BuzzFeed article

You may attribute the following to me:

“BuzzFeed’s description of specific statements to the Special Counsel’s Office, and characterization of documents and testimony obtained by this office, regarding Michael Cohen’s Congressional testimony are not accurate.”

Best,
Peter Carr
Spokesman
Special Counsel’s Office

AMZ

From: AMZ
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:55 PM
To: O'Callaghan, Edward C. (ODAG)
Subject: Fwd:

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Begin forwarded message:

From: AMZ (b)(6), (b)(7)(C): Aaron Zebley email >
Date: January 18, 2019 at 6:07:47 PM EST
To: PA (b)(6), (b)(7)(C): Peter Carr email
Cc: AM (b)(6), (b)(7)(C): Aaron Zebley email

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Buzzfeed's description of specific statements to the Special Counsel's Office, and characterization of documents and testimony obtained by this office, regarding Michael Cohen's Congressional testimony are not accurate.

Aaron Zebley
Special Counsel's Office
202.514.0512

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Christopher Sheridan

From: Christopher Sheridan
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:46 PM
To: Carr, Peter (OPA)
Cc: SpecialCounselPress
Subject: BuzzFeed statement

Hi Peter...wondering if I can get the statement on the BuzzFeed article. Thanks,

Chris Sheridan
Senior White House Producer
Al Jazeera English
Mobil (b) (6)
Wor (b) (6)
@ChrisSheridan34

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Gibson, Jake

From: Gibson, Jake
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:39 PM
To: Kupec, Kerri (OPA)
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Statement on BuzzFeed article

Jake Gibson
Department of Justice Producer
Fox News Washington
(b) (6)

Begin forwarded message:

From: SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@usdoj.gov>
Date: January 18, 2019 at 7:36:27 PM EST
To: FOX - Gibso (b) (6)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Statement on BuzzFeed article

You may attribute the following to me:

"BuzzFeed's description of specific statements to the Special Counsel's Office, and characterization of documents and testimony obtained by this office, regarding Michael Cohen's Congressional testimony are not accurate."

Best,
Peter Carr
Spokesman
Special Counsel's Office

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Sommerfeldt, Chris

From: Sommerfeldt, Chris
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:38 PM
To: Carr, Peter (OPA); SpecialCounselPress
Subject: Regarding Michael Cohen

Good evening Peter and SCO press team,

Chris Sommerfeldt here with the New York Daily News.

I'm seeing a statement out from you regarding the BuzzFeed report. Can you send that statement so I have it first hand? Can you comment on what parts in particular of the BuzzFeed report are inaccurate?

I'm (b) (6) if you have time for a phone call.

All best,
Chris

Kupec, Kerri (OPA)

From: Kupec, Kerri (OPA)
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:37 PM
To: Carr, Peter (OPA)
Cc: O'Callaghan, Edward C. (ODAG)
Subject: Can you please send me Buzzfeed statement? I'm seeing it reported

Sent from my iPhone

Beech, Eric B. (Reuters)

From: Beech, Eric B. (Reuters)
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:35 PM
To: Carr, Peter (OPA); SpecialCounselPress
Subject: can you forward to me your statement on Buzzfeed story

thanks

Eric Beech
Correspondent

Thomson Reuters
Washington Bureau

Offic (b) (6)
Mobil (b) (6)
(b) (6)

The Washington Post

From: The Washington Post
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 11:42 AM
To: Raimondi, Marc (OPA)
Subject: The Post Most: BuzzFeed's Michael Cohen story, if true, looks to be the most damning to date for Trump



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BuzzFeed's Michael Cohen story, if true, looks to be the most damning to date for Trump

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Morning Mix

Democrats demand investigation after report that Trump ordered Michael Cohen to lie to Congress

Democratic leaders reacted with fury to a report from BuzzFeed News that President Trump directed Michael Cohen to lie under oath about his business interests in Russia during the campaign.

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The Plum Line • Opinion

Five big takeaways from the stunning report that Trump told Cohen to lie

If Trump told Michael Cohen to commit perjury, this could break the dam.

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Opinion

Pelosi snatches away the football, and Trump falls flat again

The president has no idea how to respond to an equal.

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Security concerns created by Trump's disclosure will delay Afghanistan trip, Pelosi

says

The president 'announcing this sensitive travel had significantly increased the danger to the delegation and to the troops, security, and other officials supporting the trip,' a spokesman said Friday.

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Power Up: Cohen bombshell could significantly change Mueller debate

And the rise of the Twitterati

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Morning Mix

A diver's extremely close visit with a giant great white shark went viral. Marine biologists

say don't copy her.

"I can't believe that 'please don't grab the 18 foot long wild predator' is something that needs to be explicitly said out loud, but here we are," one marine biologist said.

By Allyson Chiu • [Read more »](#)



Morning Mix

Trump reportedly told Michael Cohen to lie. His own attorney general pick testified that's a crime.

Ironically, the memo that Democrats seized on to paint William P. Barr is too closely aligned with the White House could end up creating distance between him and Trump, following explosive BuzzFeed's revelations about the president's possible encouragement of perjury.

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State Dept. employees ordered back to work as Trump nixes Pelosi trip and Davos delegation, citing shutdown

The White House and congressional Democrats halted even the pretense of negotiations as the political acrimony between President Trump and Democratic leaders reached new levels.

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Analysis

Trump's letter to Pelosi accomplished its main goal: Owing the libs

His strategy from the outset has been as simple as Thursday's letter would suggest.

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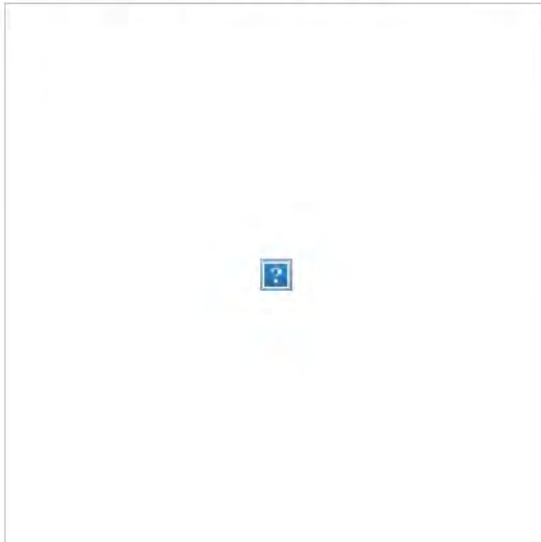
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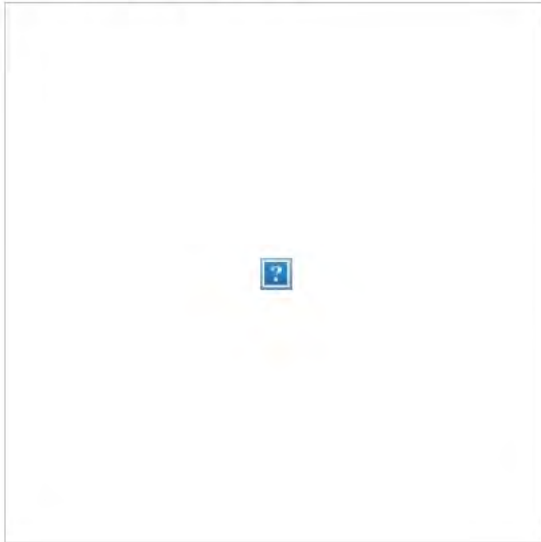
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For all of their greatness, the Patriots haven't won a road playoff game since 2007

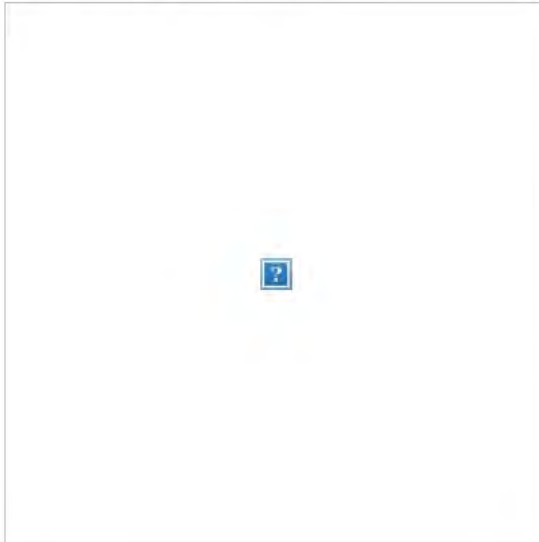
The Patriots' glaring vulnerability during the dominant run of Coach Bill Belichick and quarterback Tom Brady is their 3-4 record in road postseason games entering Sunday's AFC title game at Kansas City.

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The March for Life says it's 'pro-science,' despite medical consensus favoring abortion access

At the annual anti-abortion event, held today on the Mall, debates about whether science can answer questions about when life begins.

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
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- Review | Yes, it takes two Fyre Festival documentaries to fully convey how easily we're all scammed
- Review | Is there such a thing as too much self-care? One woman found out.
- A CNN analyst called out a Fox News contributor for his 'white privilege.' He's black.
- Review | This dark, stunning 'Cinderella' has chain-smoking stepsisters and an AWOL fairy godmother

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Morgan, David G. (Reuters)

From: Morgan, David G. (Reuters)
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 10:16 AM
To: Kupec, Kerri (OPA)
Subject: RE: Question about BuzzFeed article

OK. Have a nice weekend.

-----Original Message-----

From: Kupec, Kerri (OPA (b) (6))
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 10:12 AM
To: Morgan, David G. (Reuter (b) (6))
Subject: RE: Question about BuzzFeed article

I don't - thanks.

-----Original Message-----

From: Morgan, David G. (Reuter (b) (6))
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 10:07 AM
To: Kupec, Kerri (OP (b) (6))
Subject: Question about BuzzFeed article

Hi, Kerri.

I'm reaching out in case you have any background or off-the-record guidance on today's BuzzFeed article.

Please let me know soonest if you do.

Allbest,

David Morgan
Correspondent
Thomson Reuters
Phon (b) (6)
Mobil (b) (6)
(b) (6)
thomsonreuters.com

www.twitter.com/dmorganreuters

-----Original Message-----

From: Kupec, Kerri (OPA (b) (6))
Sent: Tuesday, January 15, 2019 4:32 PM
To: Morgan, David G. (Reuter (b) (6)) >

Subject: Re: Whitaker on the Hill

Hi David - yes, confirmed for Feb 8. We don't have a statement.

Sent from my iPhone

Kupec, Kerri (OPA)

From: Kupec, Kerri (OPA)
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 10:12 AM
To: Sullivan, Andy R. (Reuters)
Subject: RE: reaction to BuzzFeed story?

[We decline to comment. Thanks.](#)

From: Sullivan, Andy R. (Reuter (b) (6)) >
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 10:04 AM
To: Kupec, Kerri (OP (b) (6))
Subject: reaction to BuzzFeed story?

Hi Kerri,

William Barr said during Tuesday's confirmation hearings that a president would be committing obstruction of justice if he coached somebody to testify falsely in an investigation.

That's relevant in light of the BuzzFeed story which says President Trump directed Michael Cohen to lie to Congress about his efforts to build a Trump Tower in Moscow.

I'm going to include a line in our story today would Mr. Barr care to comment about the BuzzFeed story? Would Acting Attorney General Whitaker care to comment?

I'm reachable (b) (6) .

Thanks,

.....
Andy Sullivan

Correspondent, Reuters News

Phone (b) (6)
Mobile/Signal/iMessage (b) (6)
@andysullivan



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The Washington Post

From: The Washington Post
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 6:37 AM
To: (b)(6): Mark Masling (ODAG) email
Subject: Power Up: Cohen bombshell could significantly change Mueller debate

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Power Up



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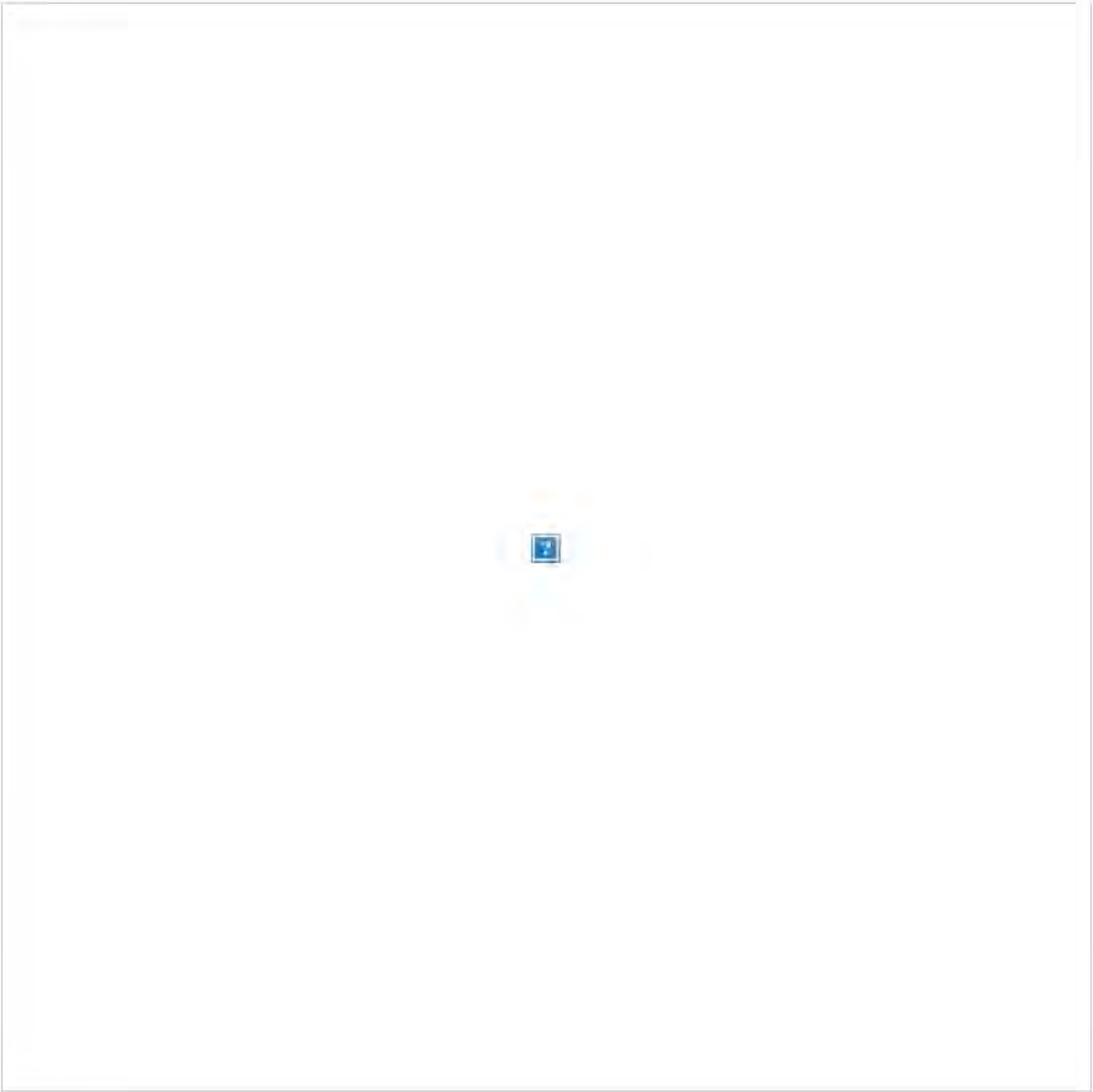
Feedback



JACQUELINE ALEMANY

with Reis Thebault

Welcome to the 28th day of the government shutdown. It's Friday and Monday is a holiday, so it looks like we're inevitably headed to 32 days of shutdown madness. We're off for Martin Luther King Jr. Day so we'll see you on Tuesday. Keep writing with your shutdown tips and stories. Thanks, Power people.



Michael Cohen, an attorney for President-elect Donald Trump, arrives at Trump Tower in January 2017. (Photo by Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post)

The Investigations

BREAKING LATE LAST NIGHT: BuzzFeed's Jason Leopold and Anthony Cormier **dropped** a blockbuster story reporting that President Trump directed longtime attorney Michael Cohen “to lie to Congress about negotiations to build a Trump Tower in Moscow, according to two federal law enforcement officials involved in an investigation of the matter.” They also report that Trump supported a plan devised by Cohen to meet Russian President Vladimir Putin during the 2016 campaign to discuss a potential Trump Tower in Moscow.

Key nugget: BuzzFeed reports that special counsel Robert Mueller's s office learned of Trump's directive through “internal company emails, text messages, and a cache of other documents” and interviews with multiple witnesses. “Cohen then acknowledged those instructions during his interviews with that office.”

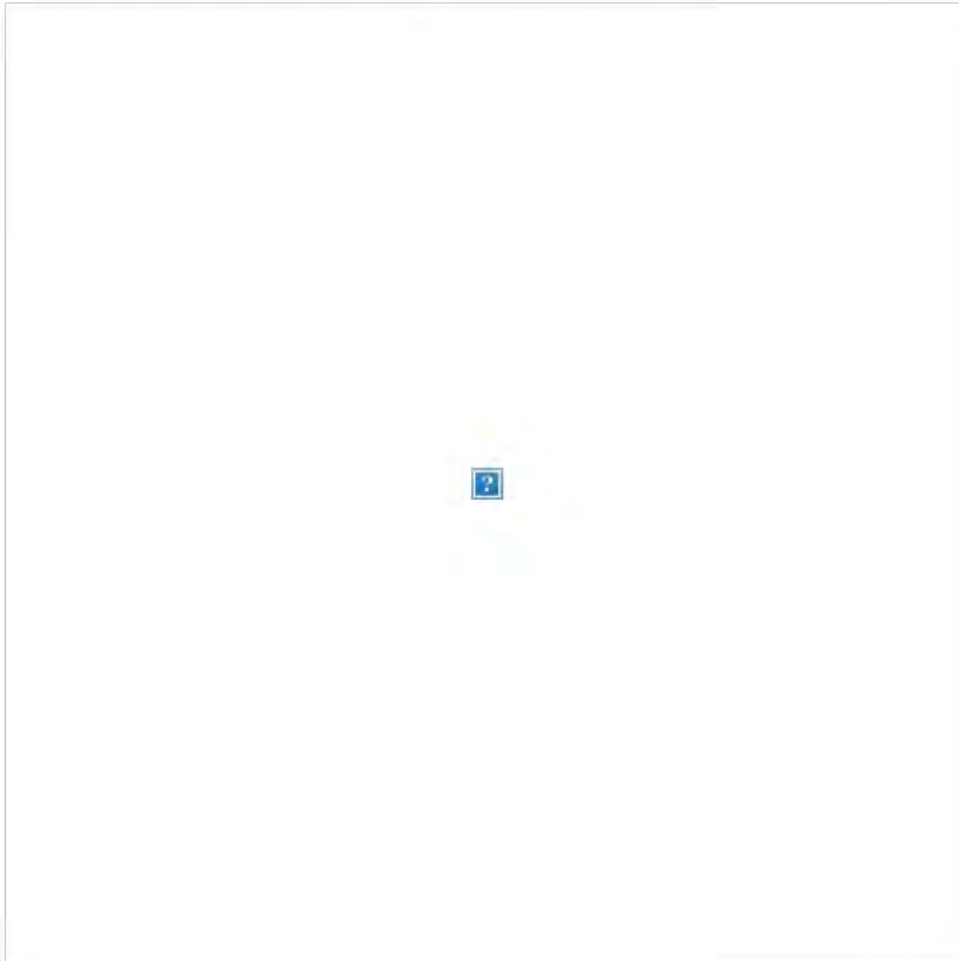
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- **Klobuchar:** “You also said that a president or any person convincing a witness to change testimony would be obstruction, is that right? **Barr:** Yes.”

The “I” word: Democratic lawmakers **responded** immediately, with some calling for Trump's impeachment if the story is true. Richard Nixon and Bill Clinton both faced articles of impeachment over obstruction of justice. Key Republicans were silent, at least for now.

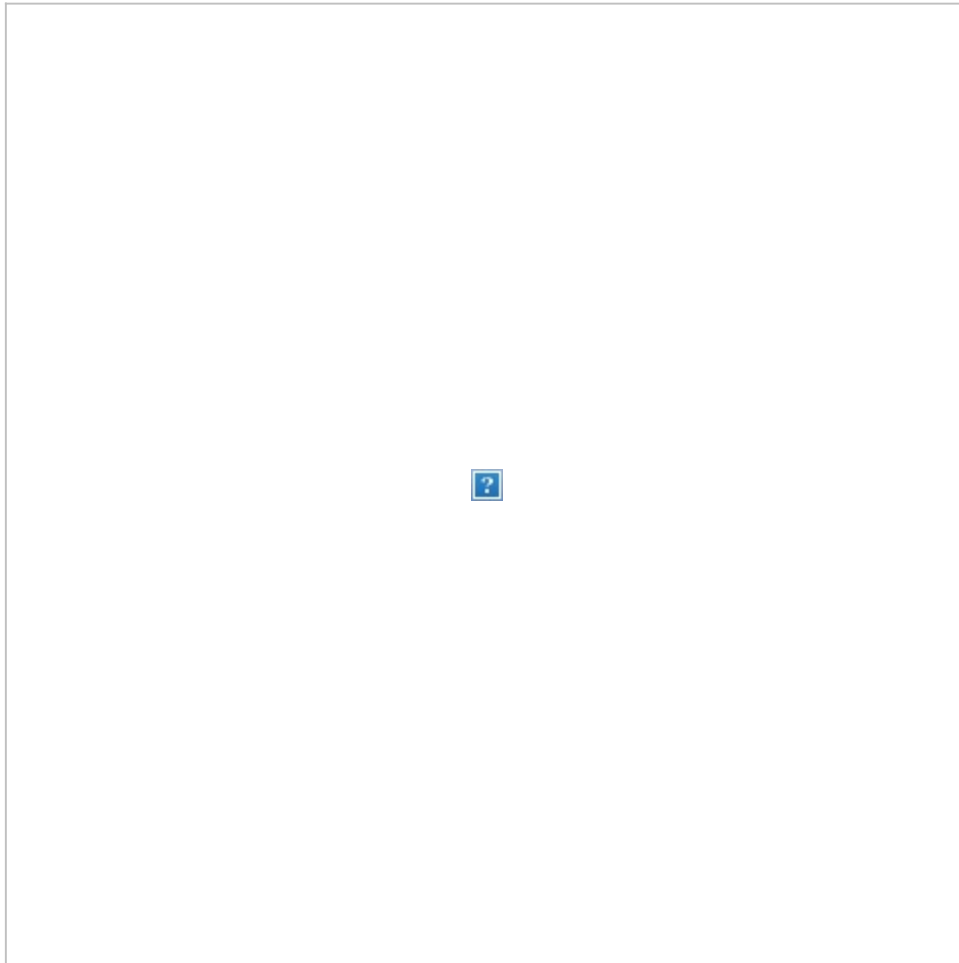
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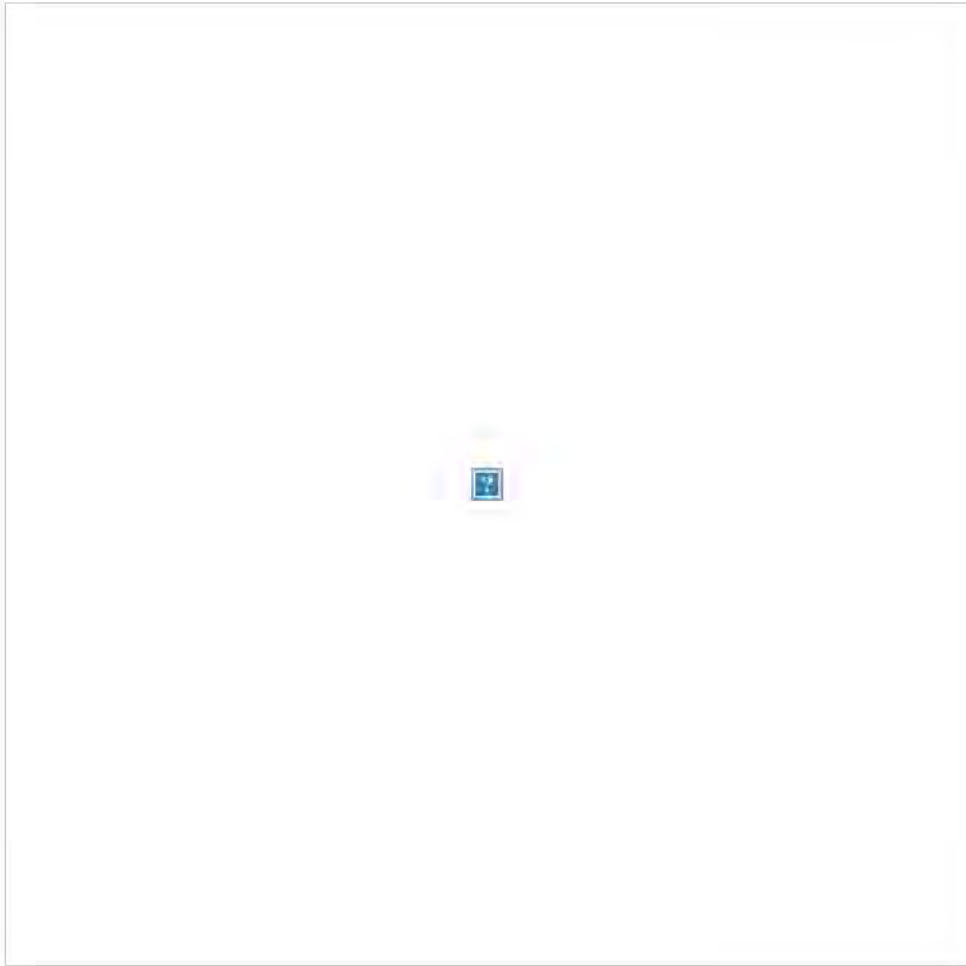


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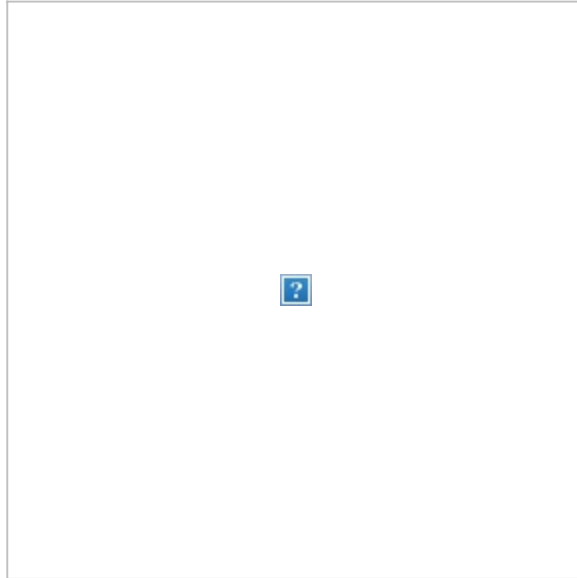


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If the young, progressive lawmaker has anything in common with President Trump, it’s that their fans perceive them as authentic mainly because of their social media savvy — a fact that has also made them the envy of their colleagues. But after an [embarrassing article](#) by Politico’s

Rachael Bade and Heather Caygle painting AOC's colleagues as threatened by her star power, ambition and disregard for the Hill's "wait your turn" mentality, Democratic lawmakers decided to take a page from @AOC themselves.

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For Trump, it’s the idea that he’s a straight-talker. During the 2016 campaign, a [New York Times/CBS poll](#) found that 76 percent of GOP voters thought Trump “says what he believes” rather than “what people want to hear.” **That’s the sort of credibility that congressional Democrats are after.**

Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-Mich), who also helped organize the Twitter tutorial, told Power Up that lawmakers are **finally** realizing social media can be one of their most effective tools for communicating with the public. And Dingell should know as well as anyone — she’s married to a pretty prolific tweeter, former [Rep. John Dingell](#) (D-Mich.), whose account got a special shout-out from AOC.

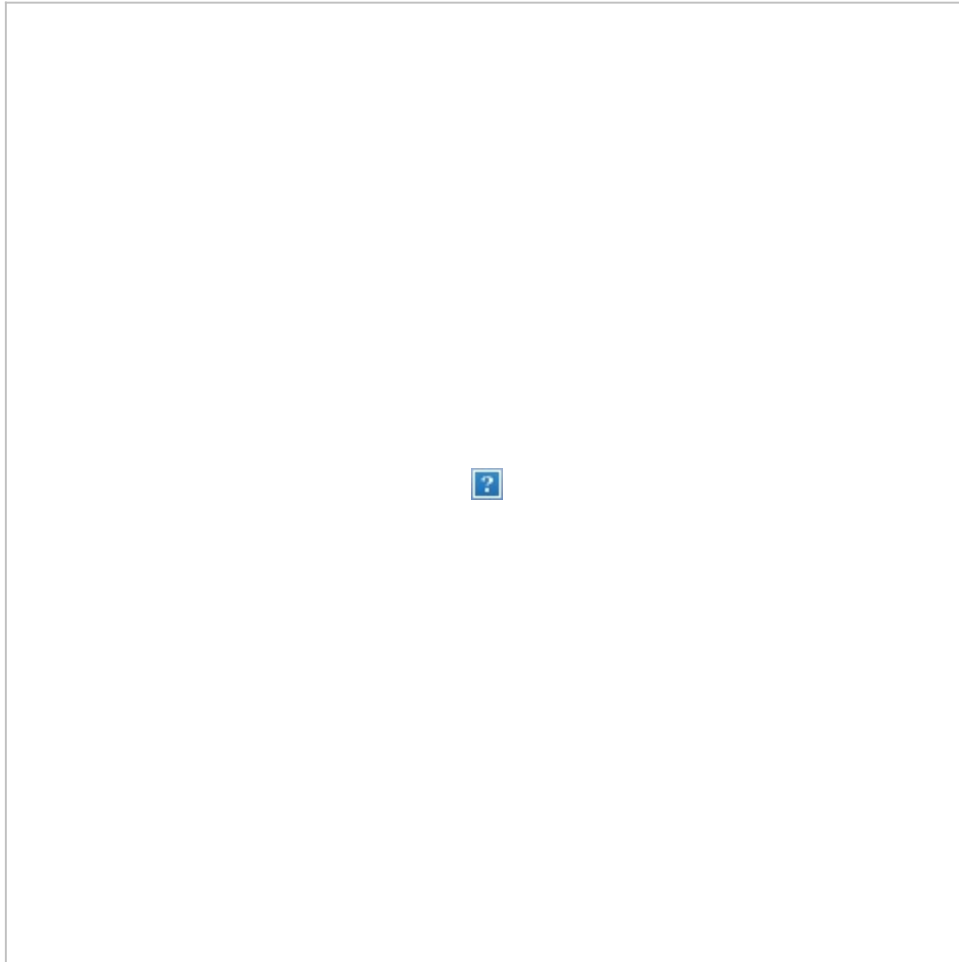
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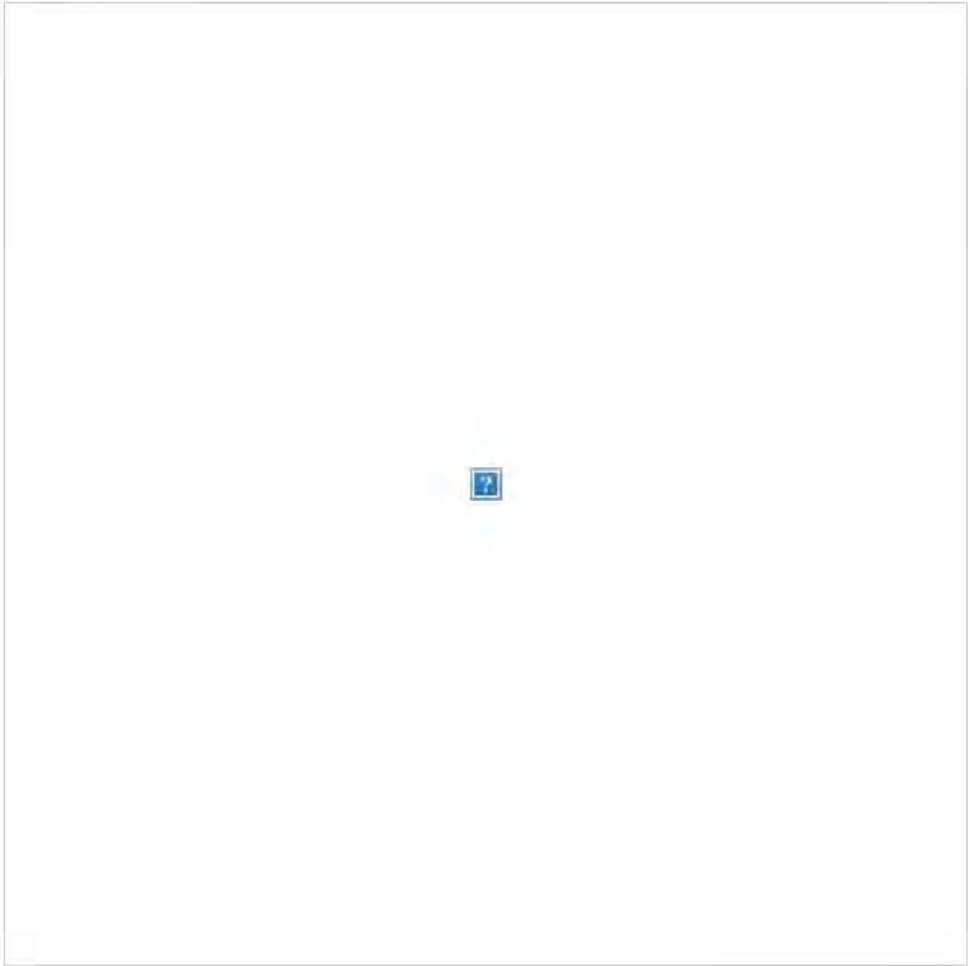
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- Gorman's referring to O'Rourke's "[Medium](#)" post where, reflecting on his current unemployment status, he blogged from the road that he's "been stuck lately. In and out of a funk." CNN's Nia Malika Henderson [responded](#) that Beto's white male privilege is showing and Stacey Abrams could never get away with his "TMI'ing" and "what I want to do with my life aimlessness."
- **See below for a more successful case study using social media well.**

SHOT:



CHASER:



At the White House

THE SHUTDOWN SHOW continued with another stunt as President Trump grounded House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) after the Democrat suggested the president postpone the “State of the Union” address, The Post’s Erica Werner and John Wagner [report](#).

- “Hours before Pelosi and top Democrats were set to depart for a visit to military leaders in Brussels and to troops in Afghanistan, Trump released a letter canceling what he termed a ‘public relations event.’
- “I also feel that, during this period, it would be better if you were in Washington negotiating with me and joining the Strong Border Security movement to end the Shutdown,” Trump wrote in the letter. “We will reschedule this seven-day excursion when the Shutdown is over.”
- The stunt sparked an bigger argument about the use of military aircraft, especially as Trump’s authority to cancel Pelosi’s trip was questionable and went unexplained, resulting in the president canceling the U.S. delegation’s visit to the economic conference in Davos shortly thereafter.
- **Bottom line:** Everyone continues to argue while no progress was made on reopening the government.

Backpay: Amid the squabbling, [Sen. Angus King \(I-Maine\)](#) introduced a [bill](#) with Sen. Tina Smith (D-Minn.) and Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) guaranteeing back pay for federal contractors, a concern for many Power Up readers who have written us. If these contractors don’t get paid, “the

government has in effect made a profit on the shutdown,” King argues, “since this would have been money that would have been paid.” King also discussed the frustrating nature of the historic impasse with Power Up. **The way he sees things:**

- **No way out:** There is no way out of the shutdown until “the president engages seriously.” Any work Congress does in the meantime is simply “academic,” King told us last night. “We don’t have any control over this process.”
- **What even does Trump mean by the wall?** “I don’t know where it is, I don’t know how much it’s going to cost. I don’t know how he’s going to get the land. In other words, there is no plan,” King lamented. “If someone came to Trump and said, ‘I want to build an apartment building,’ the first question he’d have is where is it going to be and how many apartments will it have... he would never invest in a project of this level” with so few details.
- **'Disturbing':** King thinks Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) is playing with fire by refusing to bring up bills to reopen the government. “If the party won’t even bring something up for a vote, that’s an expansion of presidential power that is disturbing to me and if the president is successful, it will become a regular tactic on a all future issues.”

Related: With lawmakers discussing possible border funds in exchange for a deal to protect young undocumented immigrants, the Koch's LIBRE Initiative is releasing a letter today urging Congress and the White House not to entertain a short-term “dreamer” fix but rather **permanent legal status for them**. See [here](#) for the full letter.



Akemi Vargas, 8, cries as she talks about being separated from her father during an immigration family separation protest in Phoenix.(AP Photo/Ross D. Franklin, File)

In the Agencies

EVEN MORE SEPARATED CHILDREN: Thousands more migrant children were separated from their parents at the U.S. border by the Trump administration than previously acknowledged, according to a report issued by the inspector general for the Department of Health and Human Services, The Post's Amy Goldstein [reports](#).

- **Per Politico's Dan Diamond:** “More children over a longer period of time” were separated at the border than commonly known . . . How many more children were separated is unknown, by us and HHS” because of failures

to track families as they were being separated[.]”

- **The key quote:** “The inspector general report said some family separations continued, even after [Trump] in June 2018 ended the policy amid uproar and a federal court ordered his administration to reunify the families n . . . HHS received at least 118 separated children between July and early November, according to the report. Federal investigators said they had no details about how many of the ‘thousands of separated children’ who entered the care of HHS before the June 2018 court order had been reunited,” Diamond reports.
- “First DHS said I made up family separation, that sources were lying to me and giving fake documents. Then they said it lasted only 45 days under ‘zero tolerance.’ Today, HHS confirmed publicly what our reporting has always shown: None of that pushback was true,” Caitlin Dickerson, The New York Times’s immigration reporter, [tweeted](#).

Sen. Dick Durbin (D-III.) called on Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen to “accept and responsibility” and “resign,” [tweeting](#) it was “inconceivable that our government chose to secretly separate thousands of children from their parents, was unable or unwilling to reunite these families for months due to incompetent leadership and poor planning, and still doesn’t know how many children were separated.”

Remember this?

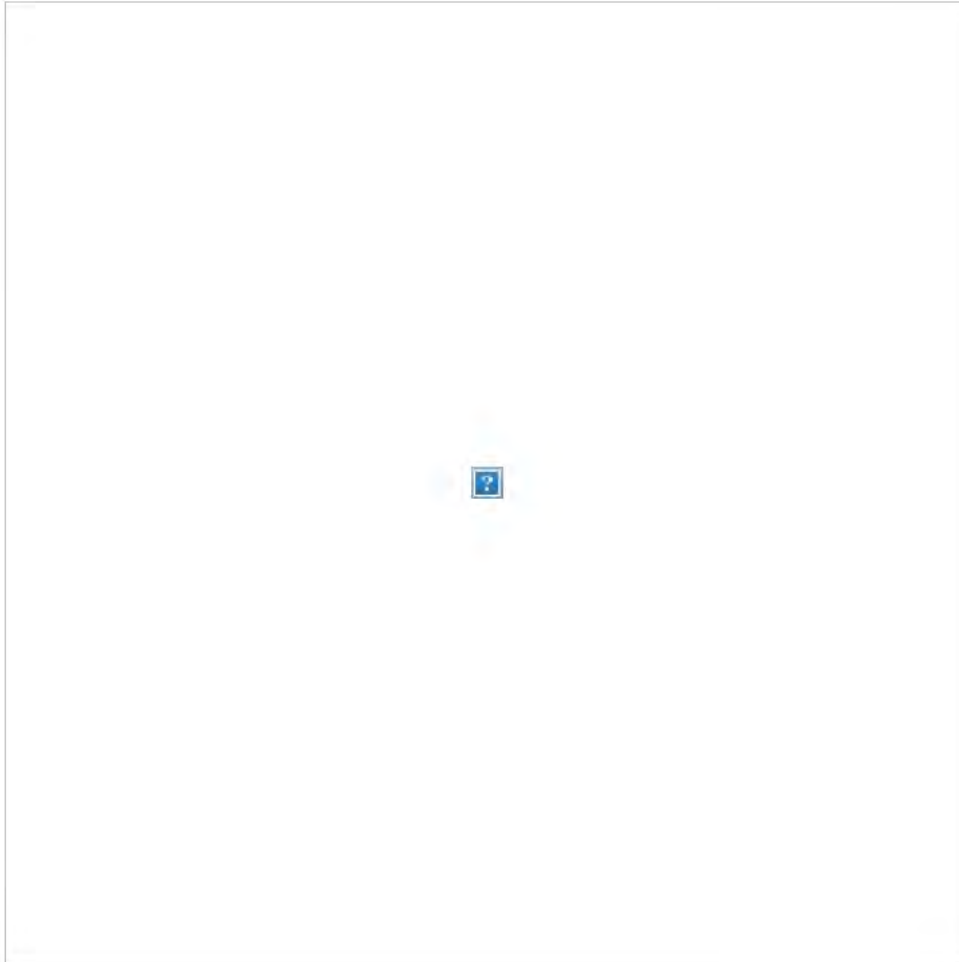


Global Power

THE SENATE STRIKES BACK: Remember the New York Times [report](#) from a few days ago detailing that Trump repeatedly suggested his desire to withdraw from NATO? Well, eight senators introduced a bipartisan bill yesterday to prevent any presidents from doing so without the "advice and consent" of the Senate. See [here](#) for the bill and [read](#) Foreign Policy's Robbie Gramer on the current lack of guardrails to prevent Trump from unilaterally acting to withdraw from the Western alliance.

Also lost in yesterday's news: "When the Somali extremist group al-Shabab claimed responsibility for this week's 19-hour siege of a Nairobi

complex that left at least 21 dead, it said the attack was 'a response to the witless remarks of U.S. president, Donald Trump, and his declaration of al-Quds [Jerusalem] as the capital of Israel,'" The Post's [Max Bearak reports](#).



Outside the Beltway

THE GREAT DEBATE: Yes, this is a newsletter primarily focused on Washington. But it's the weekend and D.C. pizza options are limited, to put it diplomatically. [This New York Times feature on the slice joint](#) has come to our rescue. "There is no culinary experience that New Yorkers share more widely and more unanimously than the slice joint. Like catching a sunset over the skyline or stepping in an icy curbside puddle, the slice joint has, since its beginnings more than 50 years ago, become common currency," wrote Korsha Wilson. More from the story — but don't read on an empty

stomach.

- **"The origin story of New York pizza** starts with large waves of Italian immigrants settling in the city in the late 19th and early 20th centuries," Wilson wrote. "By 1920, roughly a quarter of the 1.6 million Italian immigrants in the United States were living in New York, establishing enclaves in Manhattan, Brooklyn and the Bronx."
- "Hot, filling and eaten with the hands, **pizza elicited breathless coverage from The Times fairly early on,**" Wilson noted. Take, for example, this 1947 review from then-food editor Jane Nickerson: "The pizza could be as popular a snack as the hamburger if Americans only knew more about it."
- "It's in hundreds of shops like his around the city, many no bigger than subway cars, where you'll find New Yorkers shoulder to shoulder, eating slices in near silence," Wilson wrote. One of her sources summed it up nicely: **"Inside a pizzeria that dream of diverse New York City is a reality. I think that's such a beautiful thing."**

Viral

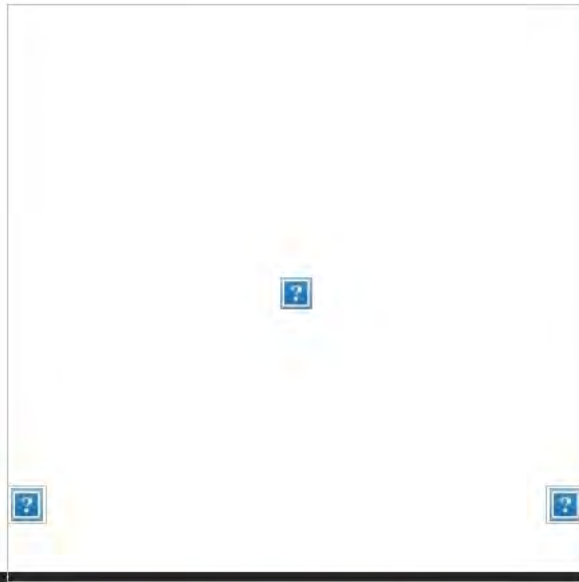


P.S. WE'RE DOING A NEW THING: We are stoked to announced Power Up Live! a new event series featuring Washington's newsmakers. Join us on Jan. 30 for out first event with Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (D-N.Y.) where we'll sit down to discuss the impact of the government shutdown and his legislative priorities. Jeffries, the recently elected House Democratic Caucus chair, will also preview the 2020 presidential election. **Join us at 9:00am at The Post's Live Center at 1301 K Street, N.W.**

And on Jan. 31, former New Jersey governor Chris Christie will talk one-on-one with my colleague Robert Costa about his juicy new book "Let Me Finish: Trump, the Kushners, Bannon, New Jersey, and the Power of In-Your-Face Politics." Christie will share insights about his time as a Trump confidante and adviser and give his take on today's GOP. Copies of "Let Me Finish" will be available for purchase, and Christie will be available for a book signing post-interview. **Be there at 5:45pm.**



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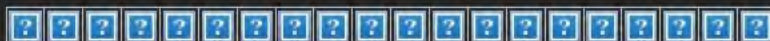
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The Washington Post

From: The Washington Post
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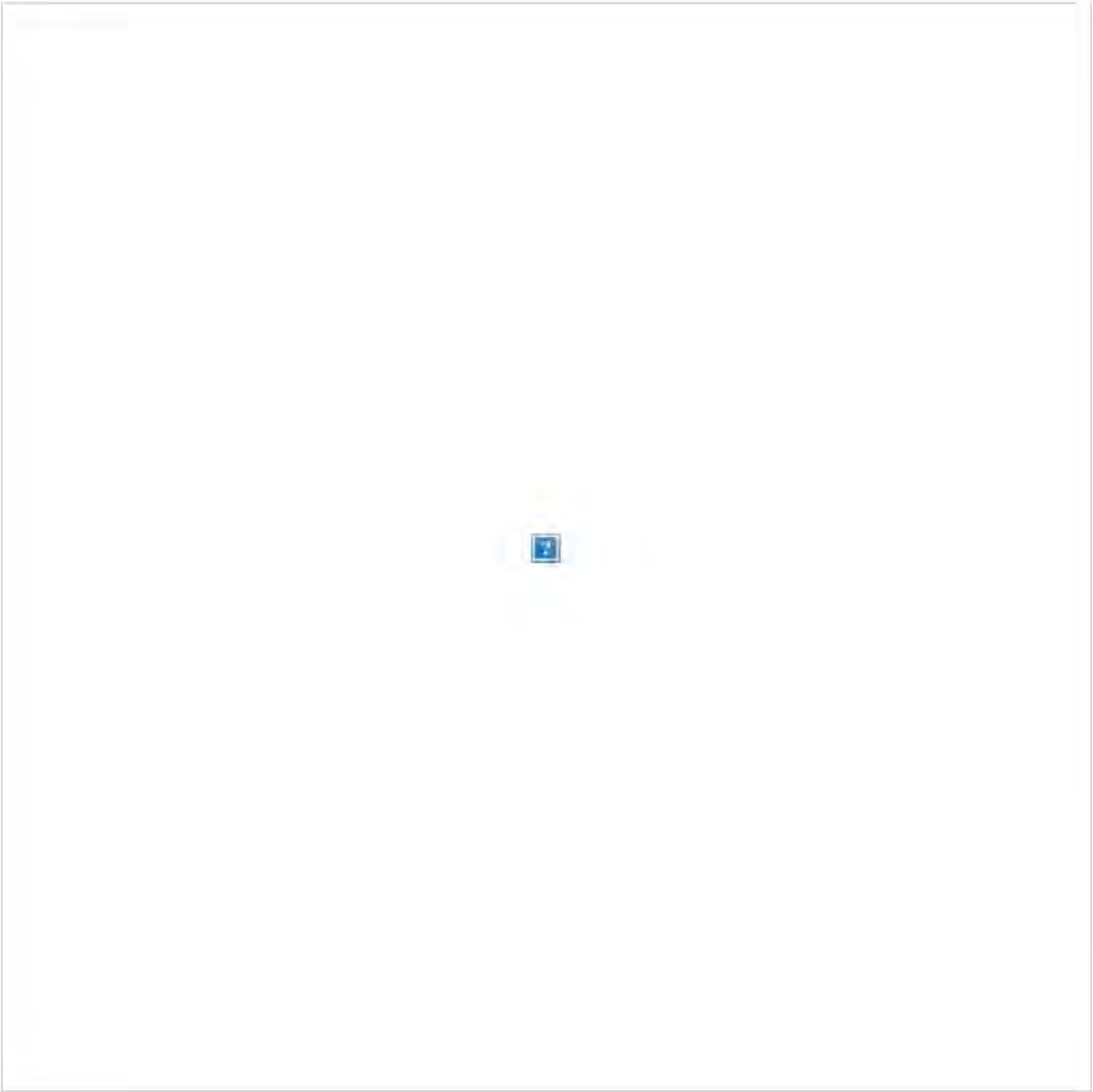
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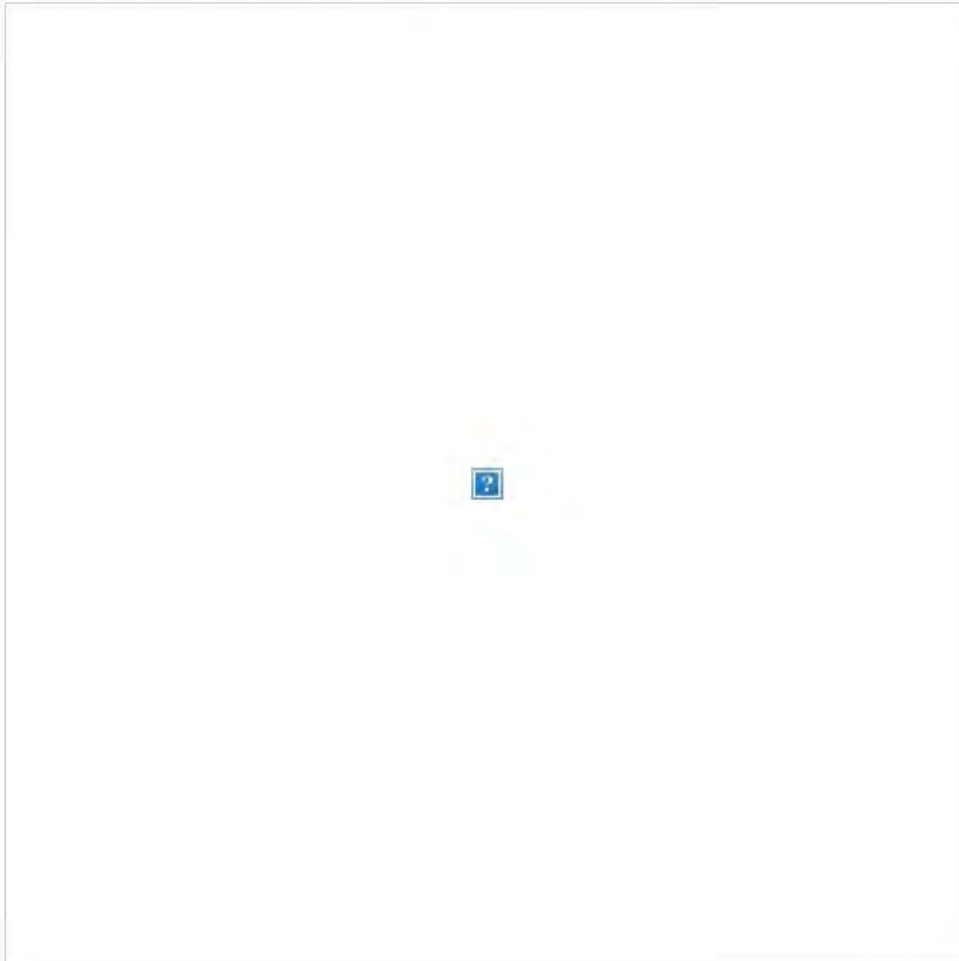
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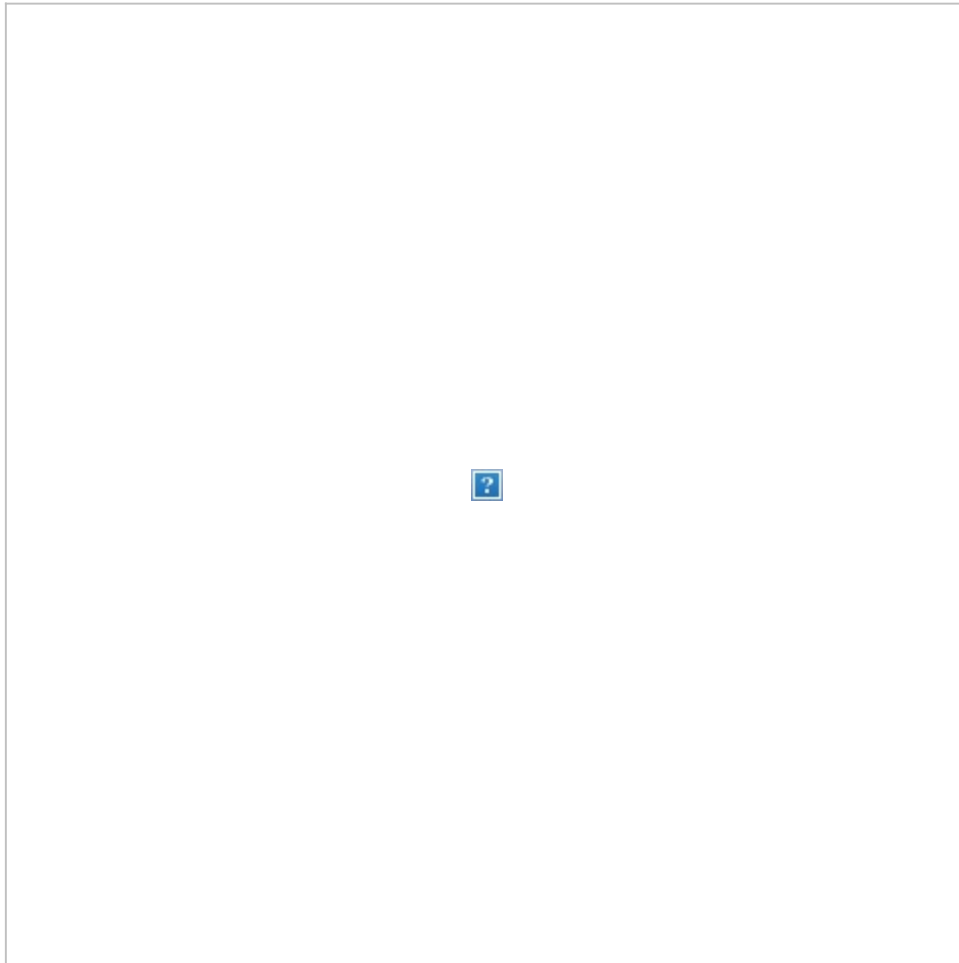
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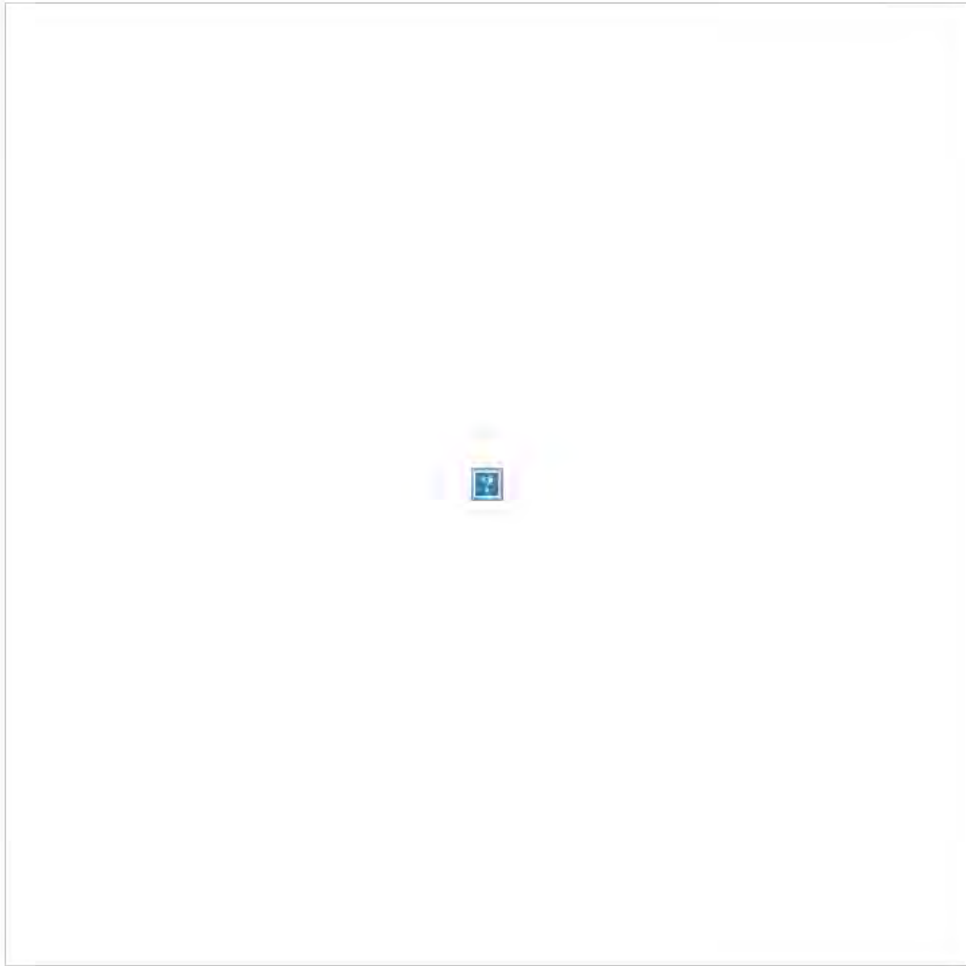


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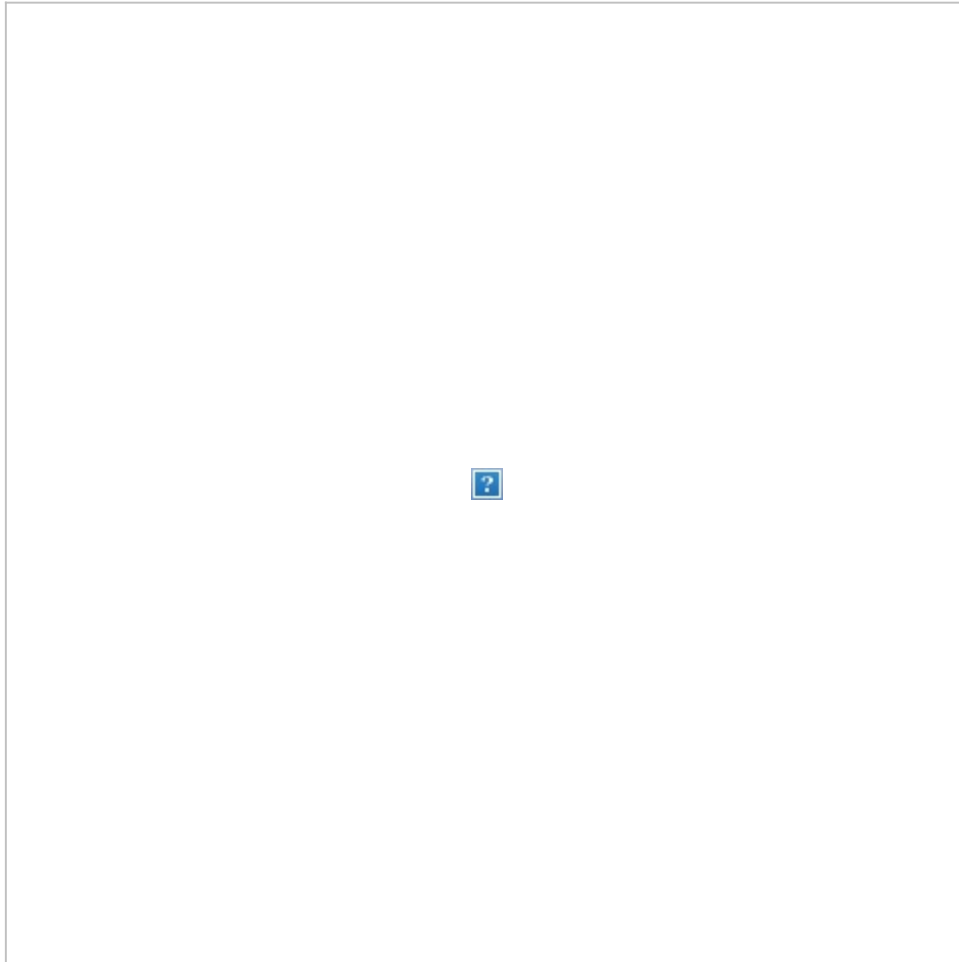
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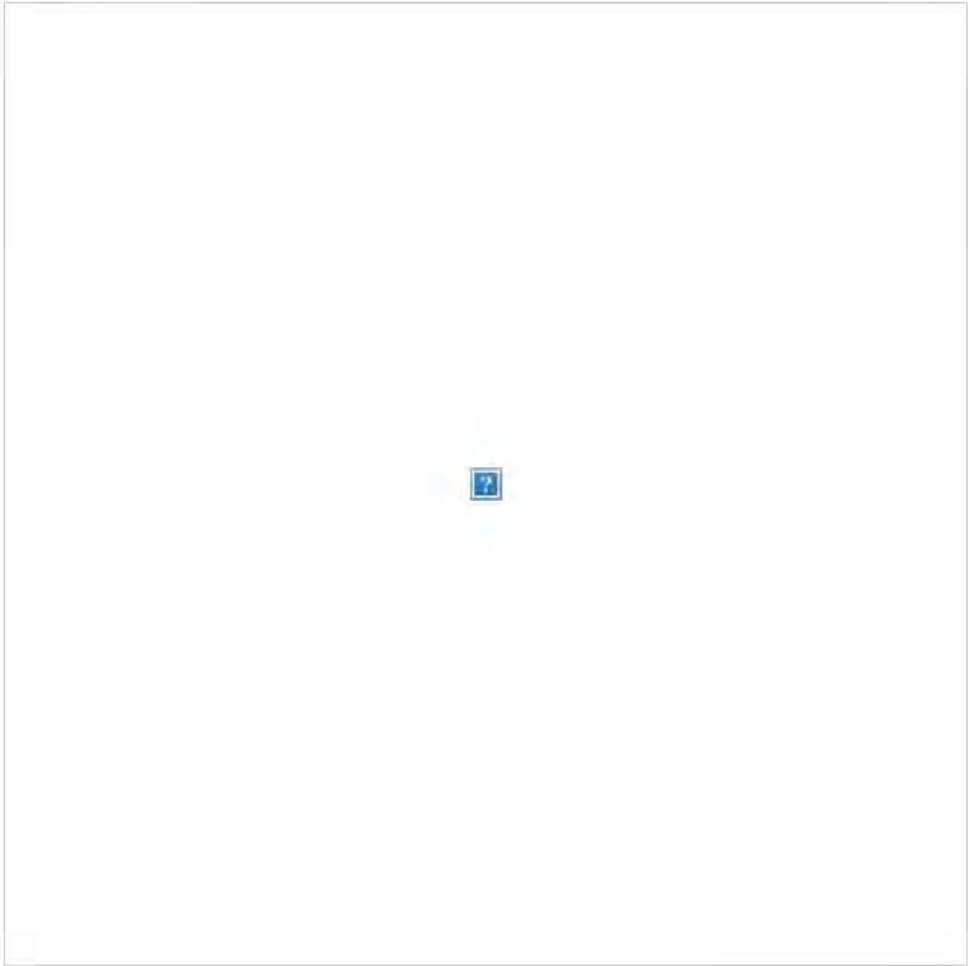
- “Think about how many times you’ve deleted an Instagram story or a tweet and no one cares,” Matt Gorman, the former communications director at the National Republican Congressional Committee told us. “Now imagine you have tens of thousands (if not more) following you and ready to screenshot. You’re constantly walking that line between authenticity and recklessness. Look at how [ex-Rep. Beto O’Rourke] has gone from hip Gen-Xer into a poor man’s Jack Kerouac. Take that new Twitter account that’s making an absolute mockery of his latest Medium post. (@BetosBlog) All because he believed he could do no wrong on social media.”

- Gorman's referring to O'Rourke's "[Medium](#)" post where, reflecting on his current unemployment status, he blogged from the road that he's "been stuck lately. In and out of a funk." CNN's Nia Malika Henderson [responded](#) that Beto's white male privilege is showing and Stacey Abrams could never get away with his "TMI'ing" and "what I want to do with my life aimlessness."
- **See below for a more successful case study using social media well.**

SHOT:



CHASER:



At the White House

THE SHUTDOWN SHOW continued with another stunt as President Trump grounded House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) after the Democrat suggested the president postpone the “State of the Union” address, The Post’s Erica Werner and John Wagner [report](#).

- “Hours before Pelosi and top Democrats were set to depart for a visit to military leaders in Brussels and to troops in Afghanistan, Trump released a letter canceling what he termed a ‘public relations event.’
- “I also feel that, during this period, it would be better if you were in Washington negotiating with me and joining the Strong Border Security movement to end the Shutdown,” Trump wrote in the letter. “We will reschedule this seven-day excursion when the Shutdown is over.”
- The stunt sparked an bigger argument about the use of military aircraft, especially as Trump’s authority to cancel Pelosi’s trip was questionable and went unexplained, resulting in the president canceling the U.S. delegation’s visit to the economic conference in Davos shortly thereafter.
- **Bottom line:** Everyone continues to argue while no progress was made on reopening the government.

Backpay: Amid the squabbling, [Sen. Angus King \(I-Maine\)](#) introduced a [bill](#) with Sen. Tina Smith (D-Minn.) and Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) guaranteeing back pay for federal contractors, a concern for many Power Up readers who have written us. If these contractors don’t get paid, “the

government has in effect made a profit on the shutdown,” King argues, “since this would have been money that would have been paid.” King also discussed the frustrating nature of the historic impasse with Power Up. **The way he sees things:**

- **No way out:** There is no way out of the shutdown until “the president engages seriously.” Any work Congress does in the meantime is simply “academic,” King told us last night. “We don’t have any control over this process.”
- **What even does Trump mean by the wall?** “I don’t know where it is, I don’t know how much it’s going to cost. I don’t know how he’s going to get the land. In other words, there is no plan,” King lamented. “If someone came to Trump and said, ‘I want to build an apartment building,’ the first question he’d have is where is it going to be and how many apartments will it have... he would never invest in a project of this level” with so few details.
- **'Disturbing':** King thinks Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) is playing with fire by refusing to bring up bills to reopen the government. “If the party won’t even bring something up for a vote, that’s an expansion of presidential power that is disturbing to me and if the president is successful, it will become a regular tactic on a all future issues.”

Related: With lawmakers discussing possible border funds in exchange for a deal to protect young undocumented immigrants, the Koch's LIBRE Initiative is releasing a letter today urging Congress and the White House not to entertain a short-term “dreamer” fix but rather **permanent legal status for them**. See [here](#) for the full letter.



Akemi Vargas, 8, cries as she talks about being separated from her father during an immigration family separation protest in Phoenix.(AP Photo/Ross D. Franklin, File)

In the Agencies

EVEN MORE SEPARATED CHILDREN: Thousands more migrant children were separated from their parents at the U.S. border by the Trump administration than previously acknowledged, according to a report issued by the inspector general for the Department of Health and Human Services, The Post's Amy Goldstein [reports](#).

- **Per Politico's Dan Diamond:** “More children over a longer period of time” were separated at the border than commonly known . . . How many more children were separated is unknown, by us and HHS” because of failures

to track families as they were being separated[.]”

- **The key quote:** “The inspector general report said some family separations continued, even after [Trump] in June 2018 ended the policy amid uproar and a federal court ordered his administration to reunify the families n . . . HHS received at least 118 separated children between July and early November, according to the report. Federal investigators said they had no details about how many of the ‘thousands of separated children’ who entered the care of HHS before the June 2018 court order had been reunited,” Diamond reports.
- “First DHS said I made up family separation, that sources were lying to me and giving fake documents. Then they said it lasted only 45 days under ‘zero tolerance.’ Today, HHS confirmed publicly what our reporting has always shown: None of that pushback was true,” Caitlin Dickerson, The New York Times’s immigration reporter, [tweeted](#).

Sen. Dick Durbin (D-III.) called on Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen to “accept and responsibility” and “resign,” [tweeting](#) it was “inconceivable that our government chose to secretly separate thousands of children from their parents, was unable or unwilling to reunite these families for months due to incompetent leadership and poor planning, and still doesn’t know how many children were separated.”

Remember this?

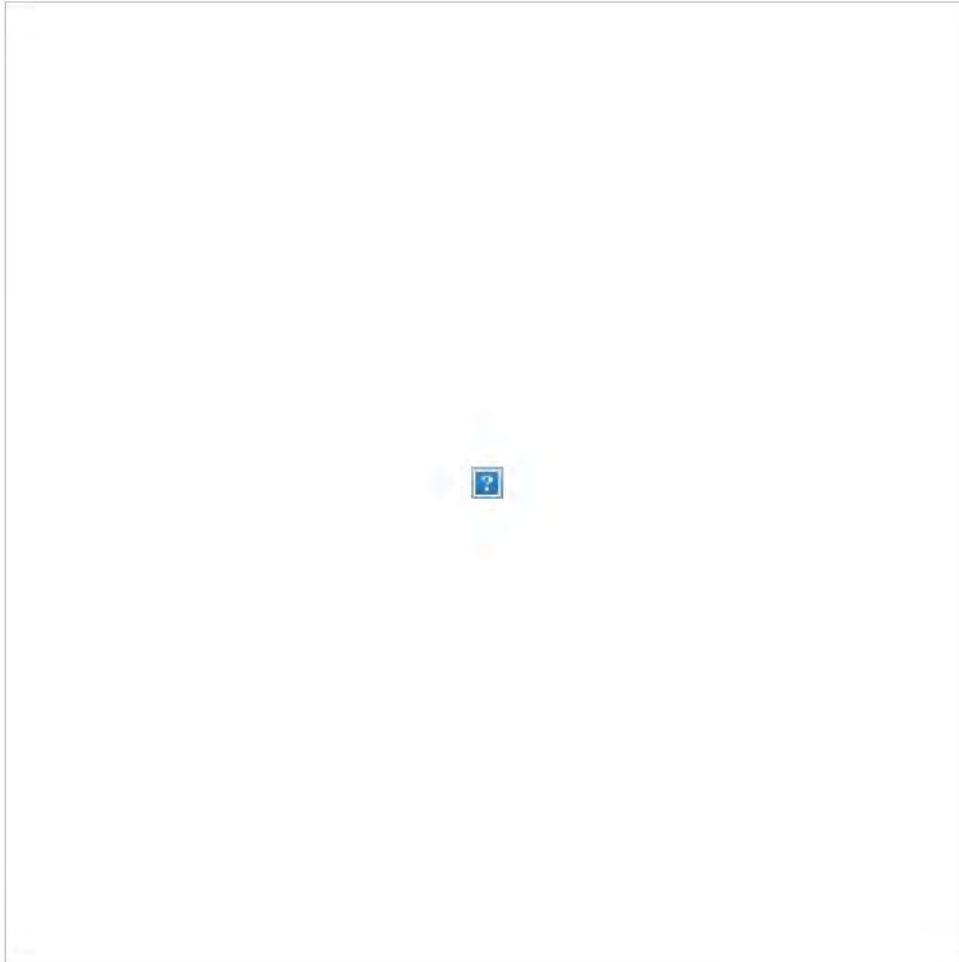


Global Power

THE SENATE STRIKES BACK: Remember the New York Times [report](#) from a few days ago detailing that Trump repeatedly suggested his desire to withdraw from NATO? Well, eight senators introduced a bipartisan bill yesterday to prevent any presidents from doing so without the "advice and consent" of the Senate. See [here](#) for the bill and [read](#) Foreign Policy's Robbie Gramer on the current lack of guardrails to prevent Trump from unilaterally acting to withdraw from the Western alliance.

Also lost in yesterday's news: "When the Somali extremist group al-Shabab claimed responsibility for this week's 19-hour siege of a Nairobi

complex that left at least 21 dead, it said the attack was 'a response to the witless remarks of U.S. president, Donald Trump, and his declaration of al-Quds [Jerusalem] as the capital of Israel,'" The Post's [Max Bearak reports](#).



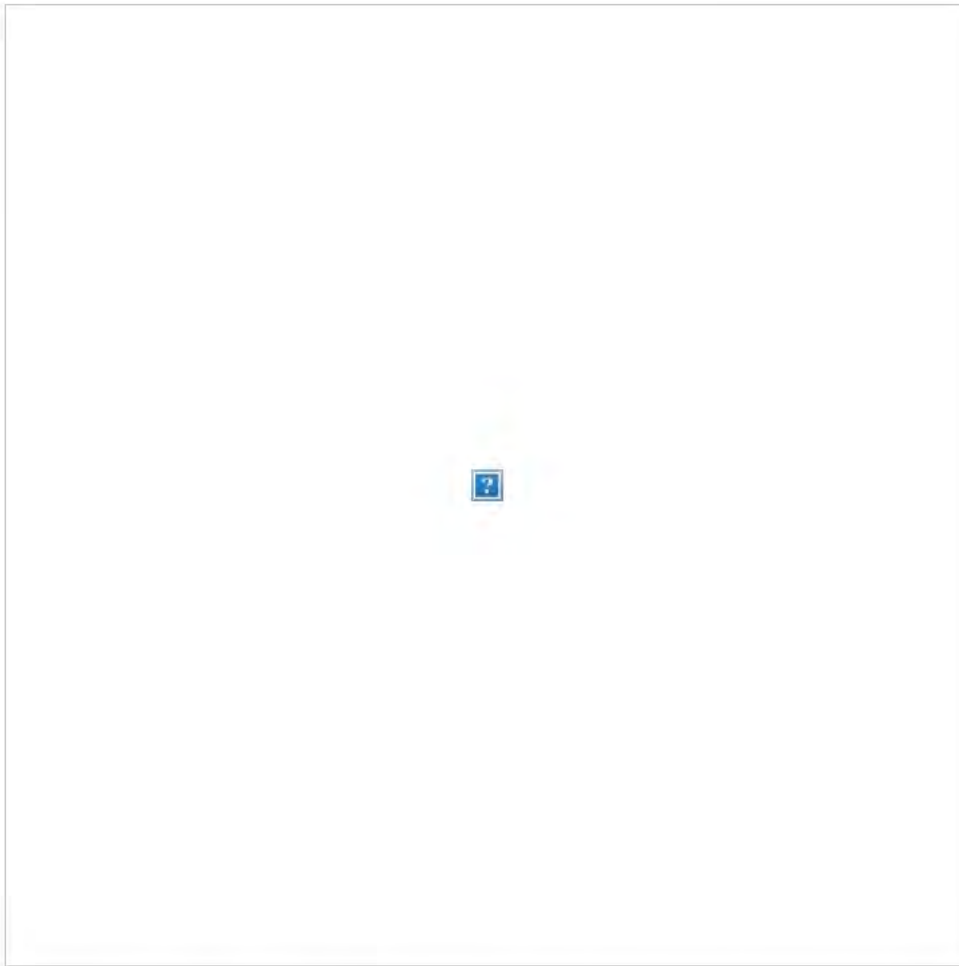
Outside the Beltway

THE GREAT DEBATE: Yes, this is a newsletter primarily focused on Washington. But it's the weekend and D.C. pizza options are limited, to put it diplomatically. [This New York Times feature on the slice joint](#) has come to our rescue. "There is no culinary experience that New Yorkers share more widely and more unanimously than the slice joint. Like catching a sunset over the skyline or stepping in an icy curbside puddle, the slice joint has, since its beginnings more than 50 years ago, become common currency," wrote Korsha Wilson. More from the story — but don't read on an empty

stomach.

- **"The origin story of New York pizza** starts with large waves of Italian immigrants settling in the city in the late 19th and early 20th centuries," Wilson wrote. "By 1920, roughly a quarter of the 1.6 million Italian immigrants in the United States were living in New York, establishing enclaves in Manhattan, Brooklyn and the Bronx."
- "Hot, filling and eaten with the hands, **pizza elicited breathless coverage from The Times fairly early on,**" Wilson noted. Take, for example, this 1947 review from then-food editor Jane Nickerson: "The pizza could be as popular a snack as the hamburger if Americans only knew more about it."
- "It's in hundreds of shops like his around the city, many no bigger than subway cars, where you'll find New Yorkers shoulder to shoulder, eating slices in near silence," Wilson wrote. One of her sources summed it up nicely: **"Inside a pizzeria that dream of diverse New York City is a reality. I think that's such a beautiful thing."**

Viral

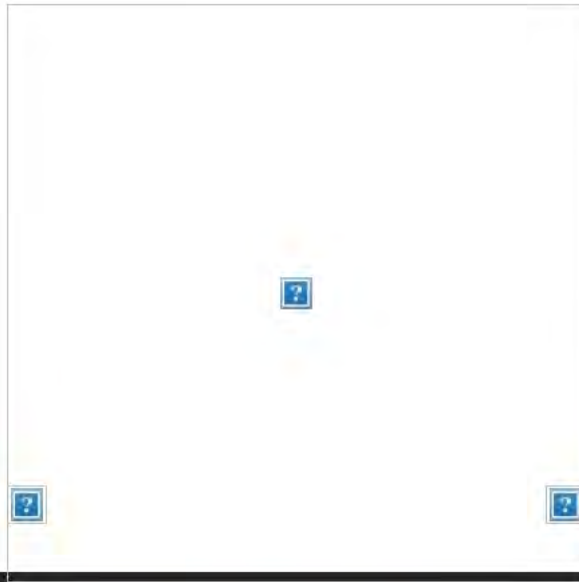


P.S. WE'RE DOING A NEW THING: We are stoked to announced Power Up Live! a new event series featuring Washington's newsmakers. Join us on Jan. 30 for out first event with Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (D-N.Y.) where we'll sit down to discuss the impact of the government shutdown and his legislative priorities. Jeffries, the recently elected House Democratic Caucus chair, will also preview the 2020 presidential election. **Join us at 9:00am at The Post's Live Center at 1301 K Street, N.W.**

And on Jan. 31, former New Jersey governor Chris Christie will talk one-on-one with my colleague Robert Costa about his juicy new book "Let Me Finish: Trump, the Kushners, Bannon, New Jersey, and the Power of In-Your-Face Politics." Christie will share insights about his time as a Trump confidante and adviser and give his take on today's GOP. Copies of "Let Me Finish" will be available for purchase, and Christie will be available for a book signing post-interview. **Be there at 5:45pm.**



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Democracy Dies in Darkness

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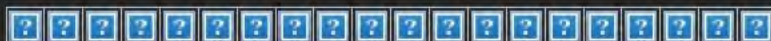
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Mike Allen

From: Mike Allen
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 6:03 AM
To: Raman, Sujit (ODAG)
Subject: Axios AM: Mike's Top 10 — Exclusive: The making of Trump's Enemies List — Women's March unravels — Stunning valedictorian stat

Axios



 **Happy Friday!**

?? Axios is 2 years old today. Thank you for your interest and encouragement as we build America's next great company. I'm grateful to my talented Axios colleagues, who have made this a fun adventure as we change the world through Smart Brevity.

- ***Was this email forwarded to you? [Sign up here.](#)***

Illustration of President Trump looking through a torn piece of paper.



President Trump was frustrated about leaks — specifically leaks attributed to "White House officials" — that were critical of him.

- **Cliff Sims**, a young White House communications aide who had bonded with Trump during the campaign, slipped through the private dining room and was ushered into the private study, just off the Oval Office.

As recounted in Sims' memoir — "[Team of Vipers: My 500 Extraordinary Days in the Trump White House](#)," out Jan. 29 from Thomas Dunne Books — the minister's son from Alabama was soon sitting face to

face with the man he still referred to as "DJT," in leftover campaign lingo.

- **This was in 2017**, when West Wing chaos was a constant storyline in the media.
- **Trump and Sims**, then 33, had talked on the phone the night before.
- **Trump wanted to know** who Sims thought was leaking, and said to come see him — but to come through the back, so the senior staff wouldn't know.

As recounted in a passage from "[Team of Vipers](#)" you're seeing first on Axios:

"Give me their names," he said, his eyes narrowing. "I want these people out of here. I'm going to take care of this. We're going to get rid of all the snakes, even the bottom feeders."

Only in retrospect did I see how remarkable this was. I was sitting there with the President of the United States basically compiling an enemies list but these enemies were within his own administration. If it had been a horror movie, this would have been the moment when everyone suddenly realizes the call is coming from inside the house.

The President proceeded to name White House staffer after White House staffer. Almost no one was deemed beyond reproach not his chief of staff, not senior aides, almost no one other than those with whom he shared a last name. He wanted me to help him judge their loyalty. How, I wondered, had it come to this?

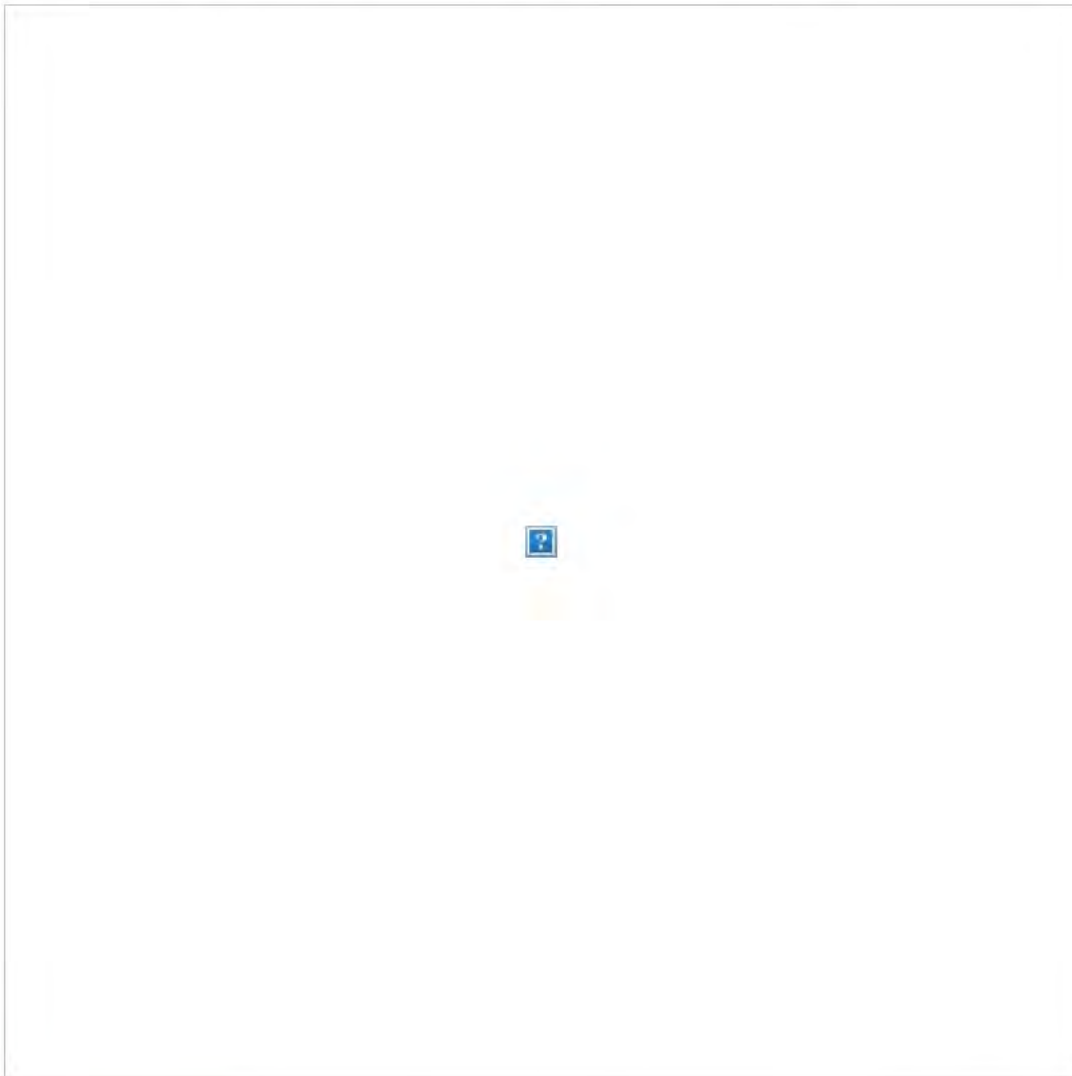
Trump took out one of the black Sharpies that he usually carries in his coat pocket.

- **As Sims tattled**, Trump scrawled two lists on a stiff card with the White House seal at the top.

- **One list** was people he could trust. The other was people he couldn't, and wanted to let go.
- **The combined lists** included about 15 people — 10 of them naughty, and five of them (all campaign alumni) nice.

The leakers formed Trump's unofficial Enemies List — all on his own staff. Most of the targets survived, at least for a while. But Trump seemed to revel in his new inside knowledge:

- **The card** was later spotted in the president's breast pocket — a reminder of what he perceived as the enemies within.



Sims portrays what he describes in his author's note as "the unvarnished

Donald Trump, a man whose gifts and flaws are both larger than life, written by someone with an appreciation of both."

- **"Lincoln famously** had his Team of Rivals. Trump had his Team of Vipers."
- **"We served.** We fought. We brought our egos. We brought our personal agendas and vendettas. We were ruthless. And some of us, I assume, were good people."
- **"This is what I saw.** And, unlike the many leakers in the White House, I have put my name on it."

Share this story.





Two years ago, the Women's March sparked a movement that propelled a record number of women into politics. Ahead of tomorrow's march in D.C. and 280 other places around the country, it is fractured and so controversial that prominent Democratic women are steering clear, Axios' Caitlin Owens and Stef Kight [report](#).

- **Why it matters:** Despite its early momentum, the march has become at best an afterthought and at worst politically toxic for elected officials and political organizations that once supported it.

The big picture: Democrats still see women as key to their chances of claiming the White House in 2020. They largely credit the 2017 Women's March — which drew between [3.3 and 5.2 million people](#) — as the spark

that ignited the left's political backlash against President Trump and helped elect a record number of women to Congress in November.

- **This year's march** is the second planned by the Women's March organization. Last January's march was organized by local D.C. groups.

What's new: Divisions in the Women's March leadership, including accusations of anti-Semitism and exclusion of the LGBTQ community, has shrunk support.

- **The DNC**, whose chair Tom Perez spoke at the first march, is not involved this year.
- **EMILY's List**, which helps get women elected to public office, is also not directly supporting this year's march, but is holding a training day after.

Rachel Carmona, COO of the Women's March, told Axios:

- **"We are organizing** under a big tent, and that big tent is always going to be a little messy inside because we've got a lot of people with a lot of history, a lot of priorities, a lot of trauma who are coming together in ways that have not been done before."

It's a Catch-22 for Democratic candidates: Women voters are crucial for their 2020 prospects, and that the Women's March was a significant force in driving them to the polls. But the group's chaos and factions have made candidates reluctant to align themselves with this year's events.

- **In 2017, Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand and Kamala Harris** spoke at the D.C. march, and Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Sen. Amy Klobuchar attended. Sen. Elizabeth Warren spoke at the Boston march.
- **This year**, Harris, Warren, Klobuchar (who said she'll be at a funeral), and Pelosi aren't attending. Gillibrand is speaking at the

Iowa Women's March.

- **Although** she isn't attending, Harris told Axios: "I think that the Women's March is an important place and a gathering and harnessing of energy that is about women empowerment."

The bottom line: "Big social movements are always complicated and messy," Cecile Richards, former president of Planned Parenthood, who spoke at the 2017 march, told Axios. "That's the history of social movements. I think what's really important is that the takeaway from all this is that women aren't going back."

- *Axios managing editor Kim Hart and reporters Alexi McCammond and Alayna Treene contributed to this report.*





"Democratic leaders reacted with fury and demanded an investigation [late last night] following a new report that President Trump personally directed his former attorney, Michael Cohen, to lie to Congress about the president's push for a lucrative condo project in Moscow in the lead-up to the 2016 election," per the [WashPost](#):

- **The report** by BuzzFeed News' Jason Leopold and Anthony Cormier "cites two unnamed federal law enforcement officials who say Cohen acknowledged in interviews with [Mueller's office] that the president directed him to deceive Congress about key facts linking Trump to the proposed deal in Russia."
- **"Democrats said** that if the report is accurate, Trump must

quickly be held to account for his role in the perjury, with some raising the specter of impeachment."

From BuzzFeed: "Trump vehemently denied having any business interests in Russia. But behind the scenes, he was pushing the Moscow project, which he hoped could bring his company profits in excess of \$300 million."

- "[T]wo law enforcement sources said he had at least **10 face-to-face meetings** with Cohen about the deal during the campaign.
- "**Trump** ... supported a plan ... by Cohen ... to visit Russia during the presidential campaign, in order to personally meet ... Putin and jump-start the tower negotiations."

"Make it happen," the sources said Trump told Cohen.

- ***Read the BuzzFeed report.***





Kevin Jefferson went from part-time bartender to full-time IT specialist. Grow with Google helps millions of Americans learn the skills they need to launch their careers. [Learn more at g.co/grow.](https://g.co/grow)



Over the past year, The Boston Globe tracked down 93 of the 113 valedictorians who appeared in the paper's "Faces of Excellence" features from 2005 to 2007.

The findings were sad and scary:

- **"1 in 4** failed to get a bachelor's degree within six years."
- **"40% make** less than \$50,000."
- **"Nearly a quarter** aspired to be doctors ... but none has earned a medical degree."

Four have been homeless: "[T]he Globe interviewed four who

experienced homelessness after high school."

- **"One**, Madelyn Disla, became homeless not long after she graduated from Dartmouth College, done in by a combination of a new baby, lack of a job, and an extended family unable to provide a temporary bed."

Why it matters: This represents a stunning "epidemic of untapped potential."

- **"[M]any saw** their opportunities begin to diminish soon after high school, perpetuating an epidemic of thwarted potential among young Bostonians."

This is amazing: "Despite the many obstacles to success they encountered, Boston valedictorians themselves generally did not complain about their disadvantages."

- **"The overwhelming majority** said they were better off than their parents and nearly 9 out of 10 felt they had a 'fair shot.'"

Read the first part. ... *Fast read: 8 takeaways.*





"Thousands of federal employees and their families are applying for unemployment and food stamps to get by as the longest government shutdown in U.S. history drags on with no end in sight," AP's Michelle Smith reports:

- **"Others ... are hesitant** to apply, knowing they will have to pay back the unemployment benefits when they finally return to work.
- **The Labor Department** said yesterday "that the number of furloughed federal employees seeking unemployment benefits has jumped, from fewer than a thousand per week before the shutdown

to more than 10,000 during the week that ended Jan. 5."

N.Y. Times Quote of the Day ... Kirk Skinner, acting federal security director at Tampa International Airport, on public sympathy for TSA officers, who are working without pay:

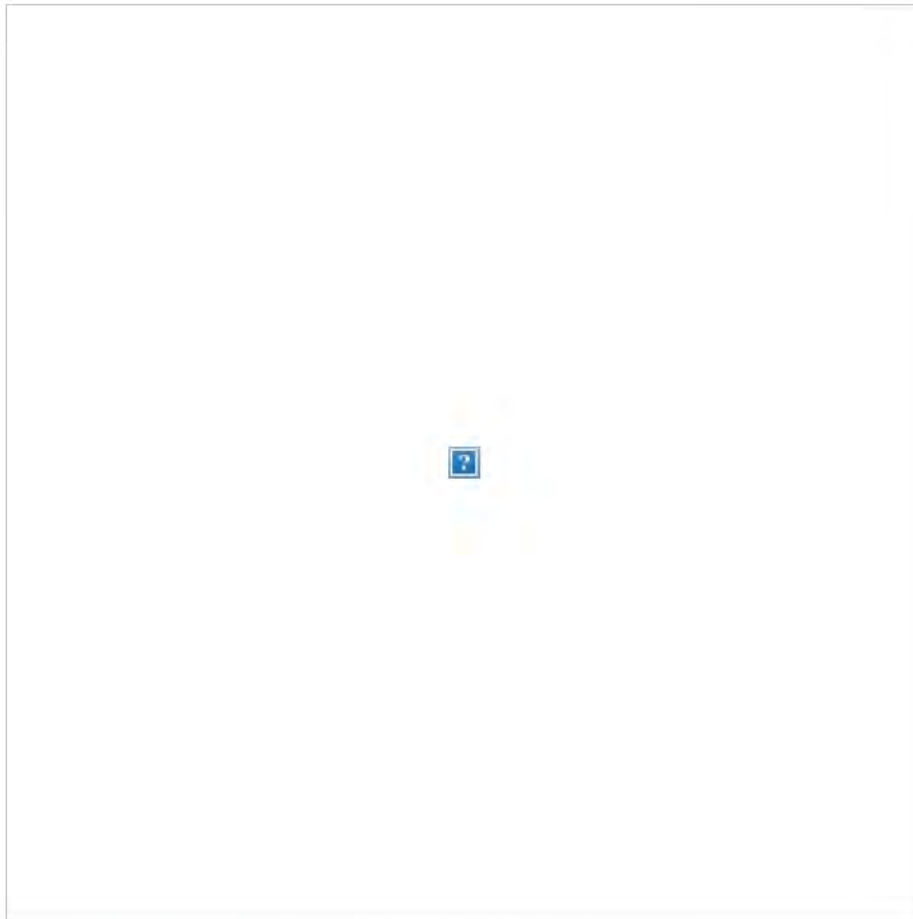
- **"We had one lady** offer an agent money. The agent said no, so she just dropped a \$5 bill on the ground."
- **The money was deposited** in the lost-and-found bin.



P.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell op-ed in today's

Washington Post, "H.R. 1 is really the Democrat Politician Protection Act."





The cover of *The New Yorker* next week is "[Walled In](#)," by John Cuneo.

- **Cuneo's image** nods to a magazine cover from another era — a drawing about the Berlin Wall ("[Wall of Shame](#)," below) by Boris Artzybasheff for TIME of [Aug. 31, 1962](#).

The New Yorker's "Cover Story" notes that Cuneo last year depicted the President enjoying [a day of golfing in the swamp](#).

- **"When it comes** to drawing Trump, I've kind of hit the wall myself," Cuneo said. "Half of a face is more than enough."

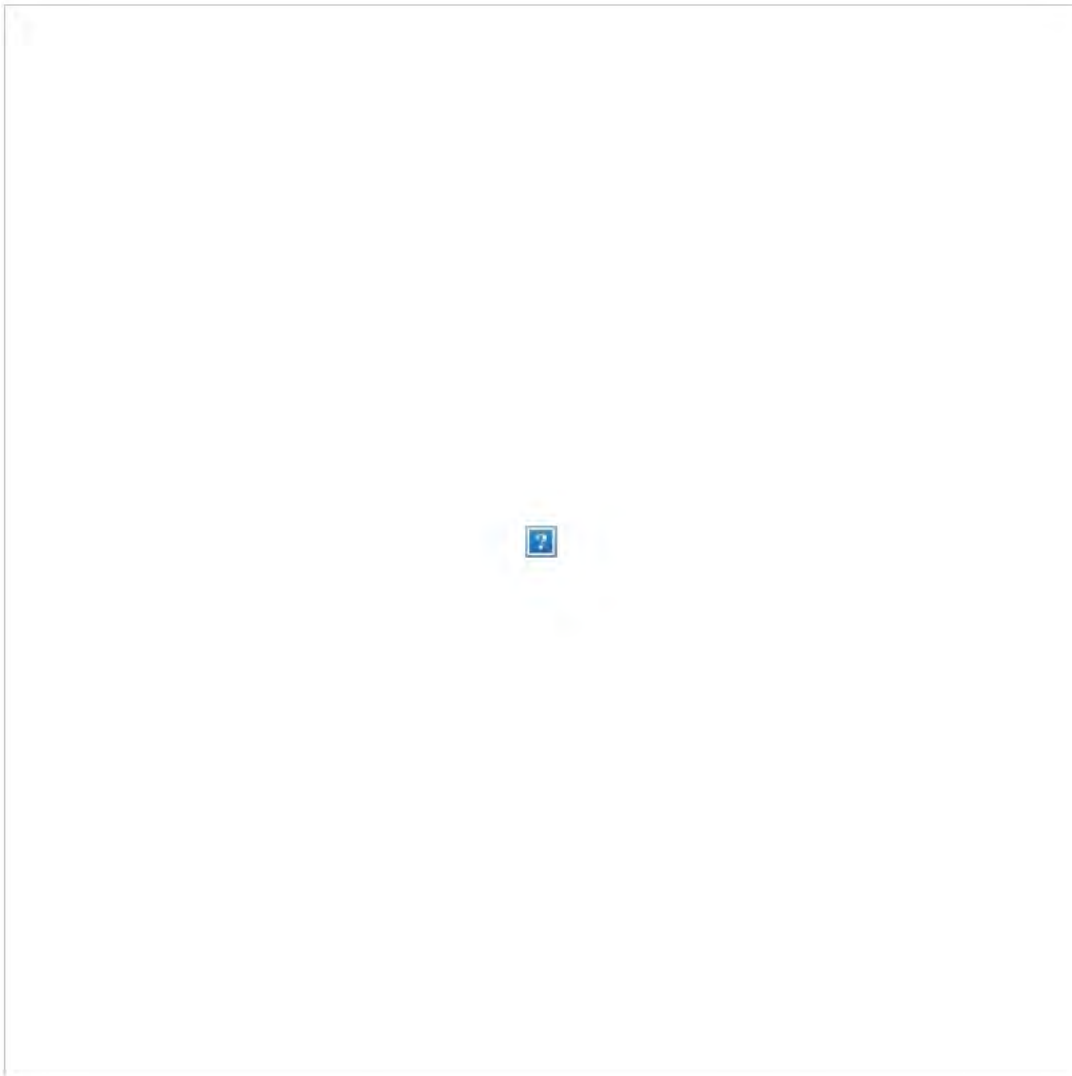




The HHS inspector general said yesterday that "more migrant children may have been split from their families than the Trump administration previously reported," AP's Colleen Long and Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar [report](#):

- **HHS**, "the agency tasked with caring for migrant children, did not adequately track them until after a judge ruled [June 26] that children must be reunited with their families," the government watchdog said.

- **The "number** of children removed from their parents was certainly larger than the 2,737 listed by the government in court documents."



Facebook investor Roger McNamee uses a new book, "[Zucked](#)," out Feb. 5, to escalate his claims that the social network is bad for society, Axios' David McCabe writes.

- **McNamee's status** as a one-time adviser to Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg has made him one of the company's most prominent critics.
- **McNamee**, now trying to bring regulatory attention to the company, writes: "The time has come to accept that in its current mode of operation, Facebook's flaws outweigh its considerable benefits."

Facebook is pushing back: "The reality is Roger McNamee hasn't been involved with Facebook for a decade," said a spokesperson.

- **Facebook's Jonny Thaw** said: "We take criticism seriously. Over the past two years, we've fundamentally changed how we operate to better protect the safety and security of people using Facebook."

McNamee is a longtime investor who founded his last firm, Elevation, with Bono as a partner; he says he still holds shares of Facebook.

- **The book** is excerpted as part of a cover package in the new TIME.
- **Former Facebook board member** and Washington Post publisher Donald Graham criticized McNamee in another TIME piece for not being critical of Facebook when things were good.

The book's seven pages of acknowledgments namecheck 15 Senate staffers and eight from the House, as well as a large swath of the media — from the makeup team at MSNBC to some of the outlets that broke the Cambridge Analytica story.

- **McNamee will have** a TV and national radio blitz in early February.



"Monday's observance of what would have been Martin Luther King Jr.'s 90th birthday is emerging as an important moment for Democrats eyeing the White House to talk about one of the most divisive issues in American politics: race," AP's Errin Haines Whack writes:

- **"At least a half dozen** declared or potential presidential candidates will attend events and talk about what King's legacy means to Americans in 2019."
- **"Among them** is former Vice President Joe Biden, who ... will make his first public appearance of the year at the National Action Network's annual King breakfast in Washington with its founder, the Rev. Al Sharpton, and Martin Luther King III."

"The King holiday marks the first time in the early days of the Democratic primary that so many White House hopefuls are holding

public events on the same day."



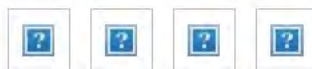
Raising a glass to Axios' second anniversary ... A hot trend in restaurants: Smart Brevity for wine lists.

- **"Last year**, for the first time, the annual *World of Fine Wine* restaurant wine list awards included a category of 'micro' lists," Bloomberg's Elin McCoy writes.
- **"They're a** worldwide phenomenon," says super-sommelier Rajat Parr, who recently designed a 75-item wine list for San Francisco's just-opened Trailblazer Tavern, a Hawaiian comfort food haven.

"Micro lists are less intimidating and easier to navigate."

- **Master sommelier** Matt Stamp of Napa's Compline has a rule of thumb for what constitutes a "micro list": "It's a list on one page, with type in a font I can read!"

And all the people said: Amen!





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Jason Leopold

From: Jason Leopold
Sent: Thursday, January 17, 2019 2:10 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress
Subject: Re: Hi Peter

I have that. Thank you, Peter.

On Thu, Jan 17, 2019 at 11:06 AM SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@usdoj.gov> wrote:

I'm sure you have this, but here is what Cohen told the court at his plea hearing:

Prior to the 2016 presidential election, I had been the executive vice president and special counsel to Donald J. Trump at the Trump Organization, a Manhattan-based real estate business.

By 2017 I was no longer employed in this capacity, but continued to serve on several matters as an attorney to the former CEO of the Trump Organization and now President of the United States, who is referred to as Individual 1 in the information. As I had in the years before the election, I continued in 2017 to follow the day-to-day political messaging that both Individual 1 and his staff and advisers repeatedly broadcast, and I stayed in close contact with these advisers to Individual 1. As such, I was aware of Individual 1's repeated disavowals of commercial and political ties between himself and Russia, his repeated statements that investigations of such ties were politically motivated and without evidence, and that any contact with Russian nationals by Individual 1's campaign or the Trump Organization had all terminated before the Iowa

Caucus, which was on February 1 of 2016.

In 2017, I was scheduled to appear before the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence as well as the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence concerning matters under their investigation, including principally whether Russia was involved in or interfered in the 2016 campaign and election.

In connection with my appearances, I submitted a written statement to Congress, including, amongst other things, a description of a proposed real estate project in Moscow that I had worked on while I was employed by the Trump Organization. That description was false -- I knew at the time -- in that I had asserted that all efforts concerning the project had ceased in January of 2016 when, in fact, they had continued through June of 2016; That I had very limited discussions with Individual 1

and others in the company concerning the project, when in fact I had more extensive communications; and,

Lastly, that I had never agreed to travel to Russia in connection with the project and had never asked Individual 1 to travel, when in fact I took steps to and had discussions with Individual 1 about travel to Russia.

And I would like to note that I did not in fact travel there, nor have I ever been to Russia.

I made these misstatements to be consistent with Individual 1's political messaging and out of loyalty to Individual 1.

From: Jason Leopold (b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, January 17, 2019 1:55 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Re: Hi Peter

Got it. Thank you, Peter.

On Thu, Jan 17, 2019 at 10:52 AM SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@usdoj.gov> wrote:

Thanks, Jason. We'll decline to comment.

Best,

Peter Carr

From: Jason Leopold (b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, January 17, 2019 1:50 PM
To: Carr, Peter (OPA) (b) (6) >; SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@jmd.usdoj.gov>;
Special Counsel <specialcounsel@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Hi Peter

Peter,

Hope all is well. Anthony and I have a story coming stating that Michael Cohen was directed by President Trump himself to lie to Congress about his negotiations related to the Trump Moscow project. Assume no comment from you but just wanted to check.

Best,

Jason

Jason Leopold
BuzzFeed News
Senior Investigative Reporter
(b) (6) (Signal)
@jasonleopold
6824 Lexington Avenue

Los Angeles, CA 90038

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<https://www.buzzfeednews.com/author/jasonleopold>

--



Jason Leopold | BuzzFeed News | [Senior Investigative Reporter](#) (b) (6) @jasonleopold

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Signa (b) (6)

My PGP fingerprint: 46DB 0712 284B 8C6E 40FF 7A1B D3CD 5720 694B 16F0

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Jason Leopold | BuzzFeed News | [Senior Investigative Reporter](#) (b) (6) | @jasonleopold

6824 Lexington Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90038

Send me documents and tips, securely and anonymously: tips.buzzfeed.com

Signa (b) (6)

My PGP fingerprint: 46DB 0712 284B 8C6E 40FF 7A1B D3CD 5720 694B 16F0

Jason Leopold

From: Jason Leopold
Sent: Thursday, January 17, 2019 2:29 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress
Subject: Re: Hi Peter

Many thanks, Peter.

On Thu, Jan 17, 2019 at 11:28 AM SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@usdoj.gov> wrote:

Correct, just an FYI.

From: Jason Leopold (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, January 17, 2019 2:26 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Re: Hi Peter

I am not reading into what you sent and have interpreted it as an FYI

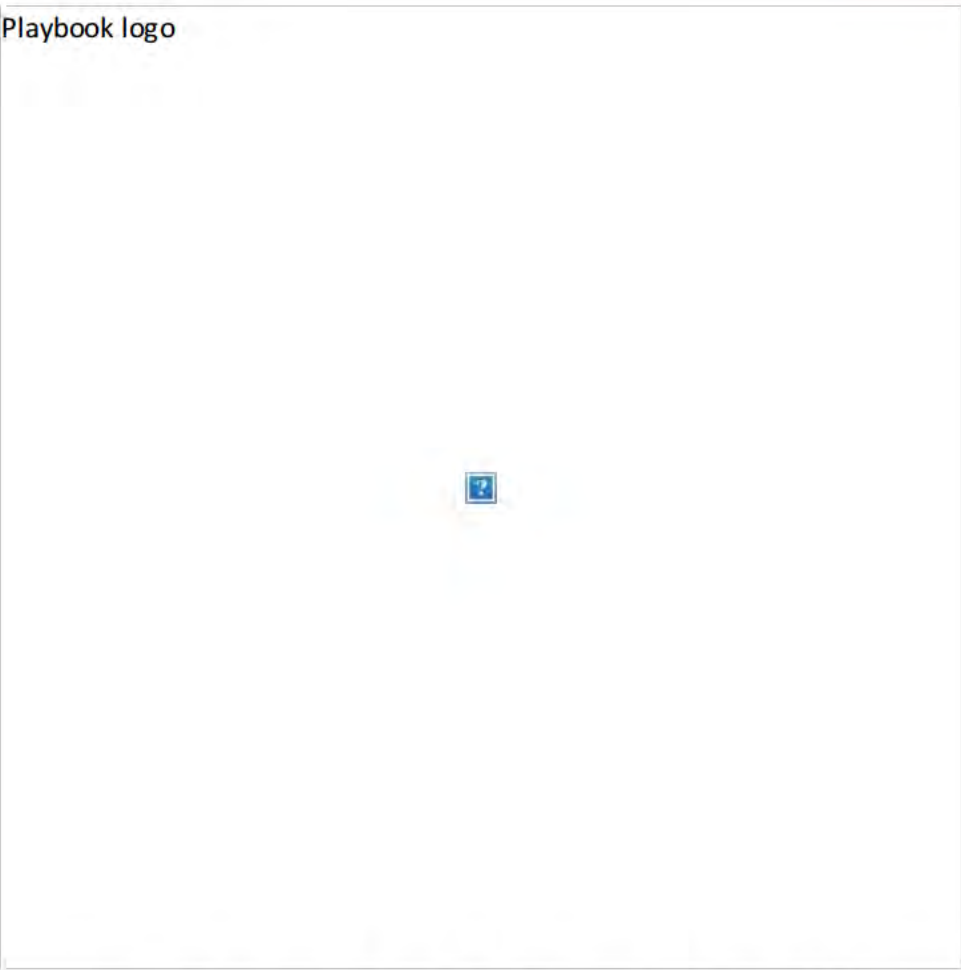
On Thu, Jan 17, 2019 at 11:06 AM SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@usdoj.gov> wrote:

Duplicative Material (Document ID: 0.7.24607.5009)

From: Anna Palmer Jake Sherman Daniel Lippman
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 6:25 AM
To: SpecialCounselPress
Subject: POLITICO Playbook: Christie on Kushner, and how Pelosi can torture Trump

Jan 18, 2019

[View in browser](#)



BY JAKE SHERMAN ANNA PALMER AND DANIEL LIPPMAN

Presented by

WHAT EVERYONE WILL BE TALKING ABOUT TODAY ...
BUZZFEED'S JASON LEOPOLD and ANTHONY CORMIER:
"President Trump Directed His Attorney To Lie To Congress
About The Moscow Tower Project": "President Donald Trump
directed his longtime attorney Michael Cohen to lie to Congress
about negotiations to build a Trump Tower in Moscow, according to
two federal law enforcement officials involved in an investigation of
the matter. Trump also supported a plan, set up by Cohen, to visit

BREAKING ... TESLA is cutting its full time workforce by 7
PERCENT. [The company announcement](#)

☐ DRIVING THE DAY

Listen to today's Audio Briefing



Russia during the presidential campaign, in order to personally meet President Vladimir Putin and jump start the tower negotiations. 'Make it happen,' the sources said Trump told Cohen.

"And even as Trump told the public he had no business deals with Russia, the sources said Trump and his children, Ivanka and Donald Trump Jr., received regular, detailed updates about the real estate development from Cohen, whom they put in charge of the project. Cohen pleaded guilty in November to lying about the deal in testimony and in a two page statement to the Senate and House intelligence committees. ...

"[T]wo sources have told BuzzFeed News that Cohen also told the special counsel that after the election, the president personally instructed him to lie by claiming that negotiations ended months earlier than they actually did in order to obscure Trump's involvement. The special counsel's office learned about Trump's directive for Cohen to lie to Congress through interviews with multiple witnesses from the Trump Organization and internal company emails, text messages, and a cache of other documents.

"Cohen then acknowledged those instructions during his interviews with that office. ... The White House did not return detailed messages seeking comment, nor did an attorney for Donald Trump Jr. or the Trump Organization." [BuzzFeed](#)

-- BY THE WAY ... Since the president canceled the Democratic trip to Afghanistan, all top key Democrats people like **CALIFORNIA REP. ADAM SCHIFF** and **SPEAKER NANCY PELOSI** are probably around to comment about this story.

POLITICO MAGAZINE: CHRIS CHRISTIE BOOK EXCERPT: "How Jared Kushner Tried to Stop Me From Running the Trump Transition": "I'd been around politics long enough to grasp what was happening. Jared was trying and not so subtly to derail my appointment as transition chairman. ...

"'Jared,' [Trump] said, 'why would we have to wait on this? It's going to be a great announcement for him and a great announcement

for us.' Jared let a beat pass before he spoke up. But when he started talking, he sounded like a person who'd been holding poison inside himself for a very long time. 'You really want to know why?' Jared asked. 'Yeah,' Trump said. 'Because I don't trust him to have this, and you know why I don't trust him to have it.'" ...

"Jared began to detail his ancient grievances against me. 'He tried to destroy my father,' Jared said. ... As Jared spoke, he never raised his voice. But some strong emotions are not dependent on volume. Jared delivered his in a soft quiver. As he continued, his voice began to crack.

"'It wasn't fair,' he said. ... 'This was a family matter,' Jared said, 'a matter to be handled by the family or by the rabbis' not by a hard charging federal prosecutor. Jared glanced at me, then fixed his gaze on his father in law, Donald. 'How can he be trusted to handle the transition?'" [POLITICO Magazine](#) ... [\\$18.30 on Amazon](#)

SHUTDOWN ... DAY 28 ...

THE FOLLOWING THINGS ARE TRUE:

-- **PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP** has every right to direct the military not to fly **PELOSI** and her congressional delegation to Brussels and Afghanistan. He's the commander in chief. But disclosing a speaker's travel to a war zone is unprecedented, and many believe it to be petty. So ...

-- ... **PELOSI** also has every right to decide, using whatever metric she'd like, to use her perch as speaker to strip money from any and all of the president's priorities. Every spending bill has to go through her House, and as an appropriator, Pelosi is very familiar with the budget and how to exact pain through the appropriations process.

-- **PELOSI** also is overseeing the oversight of **TRUMP'S** administration. She's been somewhat benevolent to the president, saying impeachment would have to be bipartisan, and the oversight of the administration has to be organized and not scattershot. But she can make life exceedingly painful for Trump.

-- **TRUMP'S DECISION** to ground Pelosi's flight will not necessarily mean there will be a breakthrough in ending the shutdown. The two sides are dug in, and that has nothing to do with her trip to visit the troops. There are also lawmakers scattered across the globe at the moment.

-- **NYT'S JULIE HIRSCHFELD DAVIS, ANNIE KARNI and NICK FANDOS:** "White House officials including Mick Mulvaney, the acting chief of staff had been irked by Ms. Pelosi's invocation of security concerns as her premise for urging Mr. Trump to move his speech, and sought to put her in her place after she had emphasized that she represented a coequal branch in governing, according to aides who spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe internal discussions." [NYT](#)

Good Friday morning. FIRST LADY MELANIA TRUMP is in Florida for the weekend. She flew a government plane from Andrews to Palm Beach. Jake was listening to air traffic control after the very helpful @CivMilAir Twitter feed noted that EXEC1F the first lady's call sign had taken off.

-- [**"Trump Pulls U.S. Delegation Out of Davos Forum, Citing Shutdown,"**](#) by Bloomberg's Justin Sink and Saleha Mohsin

A message from the National Retail Federation:

Do tariffs help American businesses and consumers? Anyone? Anyone? No, they don't. They almost certainly make things worse. Scroll down to learn more. www.tariff sarebad.com

THE SCENE -- "Chasing Nancy Pelosi's bus to nowhere," by Andrew Desiderio: "Pelosi's office learned from reporters about the president's letter to her. At the time, the delegation's mode of transportation to Joint Base Andrews the Air Force bus was parked outside the Rayburn building on the south side of Capitol. It eventually made its way to the east front of the Capitol building, where reporters chased after it and, after it parked, tried to identify the lawmakers on board through the tinted windows.

"At least three dozen journalists were accompanying the bus as it made its journey around the Capitol complex, while Capitol Police officers kept them at bay and instructed anxious gawkers to stay behind the group of reporters. Wide eyed tourists were taking photos of the bus on their smartphones, suspecting someone important was on board. One reporter grabbed a shared electric scooter and rode toward the bus, leaving everyone else in the dust." [POLITICO](#)

THE MOOD -- "Feel like I'm going to strangle you': Shutdown breaks Congress' spirit," by Burgess Everett and Heather Caygle: "A dismal mood has descended on Capitol Hill ... The House speaker and the president are at war. A bipartisan Senate push to reopen the government failed for a second consecutive week. And no shutdown talks are even planned between party leaders. 'I feel like I'm going to strangle you,' quipped one senator who's tried in vain to find a breakthrough when a reporter asked about their state of mind.

"That lawmaker was joking, probably, but the vibes in the Capitol are funereal at best. And with most members headed home for a long weekend, the partial shutdown is essentially guaranteed to enter into its second month. It's an unheard of impasse even in a capital that's seen debt crises, blunt budget cuts and scores of unprecedented political conflicts over the past decade." [POLITICO](#)

THE IMPACT -- "As Shutdown Drags On, Some Step Up to Help Unpaid Federal Workers," by NYT's Glenn Thrush, Julie Bosman and Kirk Johnson: "The efforts range from the grass roots to the institutional. Banks and credit unions have suspended late payment fees on credit cards, and some are offering low or no interest bridge loans. Utilities and cellphone companies have also offered to help in varying degrees, and mass transit systems in Florida and other states are providing free or reduced price rides for those who are furloughed or working unpaid." [NYT](#)

-- WAPO'S FAIZ SIDDIQUI: ["Metro is losing \\$400,000 a day during shutdown, agency says"](#)

-- NAHAL TOOSI: "State Department calling employees back to work during the shutdown": "The Trump administration on

Thursday called all U.S. diplomats and other State Department employees back to work despite the ongoing government shutdown, telling them they will get salary for at least one pay period. The decision to fully restaff U.S. embassies worldwide as well as State's headquarters in Washington comes as thousands of other government employees are being brought back to work, but in many cases without pay." [POLITICO](#)

-- JENNIFER SCHOLTES: "The longest government shutdown in U.S. history will scar the federal bureaucracy and U.S. economy long after the doors are unlocked and workers return. The feds will struggle to dig out of a backlog of hiring and training that's essential to pushing out tax refunds, protecting U.S. borders and guiding air traffic. Government contractors are expected to jack up prices on everything from helicopters to IT support, growing wise to an administration that doesn't pay its bills for weeks on end." [POLITICO](#)

JUMPING THE GUN? ... TED HESSON: "DOJ hiring attorneys to handle property seizures for border wall": "The Justice Department placed an online job posting for a pair of attorneys to tackle border wall litigation in South Texas — a sign of coming property seizures and other legal controversies that President Donald Trump anticipates if he plows ahead with his signature project. ... The two advertised jobs, based in McAllen and Brownsville, will pay between \$53,062 and \$138,790, according to a posting to a federal jobs website." [POLITICO](#)

AXIOS' JONATHAN SWAN (@jonathanvswan): "Per two sources with direct knowledge: Tony Blair met with Jared Kushner at the White House earlier this week to discuss Middle East policy. Blair worked on the unsuccessful Quartet. Kushner prepping to release admin's plan, after months of effectively no contact w Palestinians."

ALEX ISENSTADT: "Popular GOP governor Hogan flirts with primary challenge vs. Trump": "Republican Gov. Larry Hogan is acting a lot like a guy who wants to run against Donald Trump in 2020 — and the president's reelection team is taking notice.

"The second-term Maryland governor has been implicitly going

after Trump in speeches, meeting with Never Trump Republicans, and planning a March trip to Iowa as vice chair of the National Governors Association.

"It's all fueling speculation that Hogan, a 62-year-old cancer survivor who coasted to reelection in liberal Maryland and remains one of the most popular governors in the country, is open to the prospect of a long shot primary challenge to the incumbent president. His flirtation comes at a time when Trump is facing increasing blowback over his handling of the protracted government shutdown and bracing for a potentially devastating report by special counsel Robert Mueller. ...

"The White House is paying close attention. The president's political aides have been monitoring the Maryland governor for months, and several said they regarded the inauguration speech as an unmistakable act of aggression. They noted that Trump 2016 primary rival, Jeb Bush, was a featured speaker at the ceremony, and that Mark Salter, a longtime Republican speechwriter and a fierce Trump critic, helped craft Hogan's address.

"Any potential challenger should understand that the Trump campaign is better organized than any campaign in history, especially with the support of the Republican Party, which is firmly behind the president,' said Chris Carr, the Trump 2020 political director."

[POLITICO](#)

KEVIN MCCARTHY AT THE WHEEL ... WAPO'S BOB COSTA and MIKE DEBONIS: "McCarthy's challenge to Steve King after years of GOP inaction stands as first test for minority leader": "For McCarthy, 53, the hour long confrontation with King was a critical moment early in his tenure as the new leader of Republicans in the House, testing whether the easygoing Californian was willing to take on a popular conservative and assert himself in the wake of sweeping GOP defeats in the 2018 elections and the high profile speakership of Rep. Paul D. Ryan (R Wis.).

"It was also a reminder of how Republican leaders have done little to police their ranks on the charged issue of race in recent years, from

their embrace of Trump despite him casting doubt on President Barack Obama's U.S. citizenship to their support of the divisive King making his punishment an outlier rather than the standard. ... McCarthy referenced that history in an interview with a local radio station this week. 'Past leaders did not act,' he said. 'I just felt, I don't care if it hurts me or not I've got to just do the right thing.'" [WaPo](#)

-- "[Rep. Steve King raising money off controversy from white nationalism, supremacy comments.](#)" by The Des Moines Register's Robin Opsahl

GABBY ORR: "[When are we going to start up again?' Conservatives want Trump to act on judicial nominees"](#)

DEPT. OF WOONG ... WAPO'S SEAN SULLIVAN and JOSH DAWSEY: "McConnell courting Pompeo to run for an open Senate seat in Kansas": "Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R Ky.) has personally courted Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to consider running for an open Senate seat in Kansas, according to people familiar with the effort, a move that could anger President Trump and further roil his tumultuous Cabinet. Senate GOP leaders have been so dedicated to recruiting Pompeo that McConnell directly urged him to consider it in a recent telephone call, according to two people familiar with the conversation, which has not been previously reported." [WaPo](#)

TRUMP'S FRIDAY -- THE PRESIDENT will meet with Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin at 12:45 this afternoon.

TV TONIGHT ... BOB COSTA sits down with Jake, NYT's Mike Schmidt, CNN's Laura Jarrett and NBC's Kelly O'Donnell on PBS' "Washington Week" at 8 p.m.

A message from the National Retail Federation:

Advertisement Image



SUNDAY SO FAR ...

CBS **"Face the Nation":** Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D N.Y.) ... Sen. John Kennedy (R La.) ... Jason Rezaian. Panel: Molly Ball, Ramesh Ponnuru, Jamelle Bouie and David Sanger

NBC "Meet the Press": Sen. Mark Warner (D Va.) ... Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D Minn.) ... Rep. Liz Cheney (R Wyo.). Panel: Peter Baker, Joshua Johnson, Danielle Pletka and Heidi Przybyla

FOX "FOX News Sunday": House Majority Whip Jim Clyburn (D S.C.). Panel: Newt Gingrich, Donna Edwards, Guy Benson and Charles Lane

CNN "State of the Union": Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D N.Y.) ... Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (D Hawaii). Panel: Rep. Nanette Diaz Barragán (D Calif.), Mia Love, Rick Santorum and Jennifer Granholm

CNN "Inside Politics": Eliana Johnson, Kaitlan Collins, Seung Min Kim and Michael Shear

☐ PLAYBOOK READS

Central American migrants are pictured. | AP Photo



PHOTO DU JOUR: Central American migrants cross the Suchiate river by raft and bridge at the Mexico-Guatemala border on Thursday, part of a new caravan trying to reach the U.S. | Marco Ugarte/AP Photo

CLICKER -- The New Yorker's new cover "Walled In" by John Cuneo shows Trump building a wall around himself on the Resolute Desk in the Oval Office. [The cover](#)

SCOOP -- "Trump admin weighed targeting migrant families, speeding up deportation of children," by NBC's Julia Ainsley: "The draft ... shows officials wanted to specifically target parents in migrant families for increased prosecutions, contradicting the administration's previous statements. In June, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen said the administration did 'not have a policy of separating families at the border' but was simply enforcing existing law." [NBC](#)

A message from the National Retail Federation:

Advertisement Image



2020 WATCH ... K-FILE -- "How Kirsten Gillibrand went from pushing for more deportations to wanting to abolish ICE," by CNN's Andrew Kaczynski: "A review by CNN's KFile of Gillibrand's old campaign websites and materials, speeches, interviews and legislative history show how central Gillibrand's conservative positions on immigration were to her message during her brief career as a member of the House." [CNN](#)

MEDIAWATCH -- "Jesse Angelo Is Out as Publisher of The New York Post," by NYT's Jaclyn Peiser: "Taking his place is Sean Giancola, The Post's chief revenue officer. Mr. Angelo, 45, started out as a stringer for Page Six, the paper's saucy, celebrity skewering gossip column. ... Mr. Angelo has known Rupert Murdoch's younger son, James R. Murdoch, since kindergarten. The two attended Harvard together, and Mr. Angelo was the best man in the younger Mr. Murdoch's wedding. They are still close." [NYT](#)

AU SINE INSTITUTE OF POLICY AND POLITICS' INAUGURAL

CLASS OF FELLOWS: Abdul El Sayed (former director of Detroit Health Department and candidate for governor of Michigan) ... Former Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam ... Bill Kristol ... Ruth Marcus ... Karen Zacarias (playwright)

TRANSITION -- Jason Bresler, the outgoing political director for the DCCC, will join the Strategy Group as a partner.

BIRTHWEEK (was Monday): Dan Scavino ... Amanda Callanan, director of communications for the Claremont Institute (hubby tip: Brian)

BIRTHDAY OF THE DAY: Yudhijit Bhattacharjee, contributing writer at National Geographic, contributor to The New Yorker and the NYT Magazine, and author of "The Spy Who Couldn't Spell," is 46. **How he got his start in journalism:** "After studying chemical engineering in college, I realized I wasn't an engineer at heart. I tried my hand at poetry, which was impossible to make a living in. Then I got a job covering crime, courts and politics for an English daily in Kolkata. I found journalism to be a happy middle between engineering and poetry." [Playbook Plus Q&A](#)

BIRTHDAYS: Rep. Elijah Cummings (D Md.) is 68 ... Brett Horton, COS to House Minority Whip Steve Scalise (R La.) ... Martin O'Malley is 56 (hat tip: Lis Smith) ... Brian Callanan, deputy general counsel at Treasury, who with wife Amanda recently welcomed baby Charlie [pic](#) ... Ellen Eckert ... Ben Adams is 38 ... Brandye Hendrickson, acting administrator of the Federal Highway Administration ... Kirk Bell ... Kara McKee, a Trump WH DPC alum ... EPA's Kelly Kundinger, a Trump WH alum (h/t boyfriend Nathaniel Kase) ... JoAnne Wasserman ... Ben Jealous, a partner at Kapor Capital, is 46 ... former Sen. Paul Kirk (D Mass.) is 81 ... Sandy Cannold, EP for CNBC's "Power Lunch" (h/t Brian Steel) ... Anna Morris of Treasury ... Rep. Kay Granger (R Texas) is 76 ... Rep. Debbie Mucarsel Powell (D Fla.) is 48 ... POLITICO's Evan Gaskin ... Phil Chambers (h/t Stephen

Groves) ... Yagmur Cosar, VP/director for public affairs at BCW (h/t Shaila Manyam) ... FT editor Lionel Barber is 64 ...

... **Beth DeFalco**, who recently started as managing director at Mercury ... Paul Equale ... Allie Wright ... Austrian President Alexander Van der Bellen is 75 ... Ireland's Taoiseach Leo Varadkar is 40 ... John Hume is 82 ... Ryan Taylor, VP at Forbes Tate Partners (h/t Matthew Felling) ... GMMB's Samara Yudof ... Caroline Ross ... APCO's Gadi Dechter ... former Rep. Mike Michaud (D Maine) is 64 ... Alex Korey ... Jonathan Hayes ... NBC News' Jane Timm ... Lindsay Monaghan ... Laura Maloney, press secretary for Sen. Chris Murphy (D Conn.) (h/t Chris Harris) ... David Jacobs ... Matthew Kemeny ... NewsChannel 8 anchor Dave Lucas ... Sarah Muntzing ... Josh Orton ... Abdul Wahid Sanjar ... Bryce Cullinane is 33 ... Craig Shaffer ... George Nassar ... Nan Powers Varoga ... Andrew Sullivan, partner at Hudson Pacific consulting firm (h/ts Teresa Vilmain)

A message from the National Retail Federation:

Hardworking American families and small business owners should not have to be forced to pay the price for other countries' unfair trade practices. These trade abuses must be stopped, but tariffs are not the answer. It's time to negotiate a deal and put an end to the trade war. Learn more at www.tariffsbarebad.com.

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Ballhaus, Rebecca

From: Ballhaus, Rebecca
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 8:26 AM
To: SpecialCounselPress
Subject: Re: Any comment on BuzzFeed story?

thanks Peter

On Fri, Jan 18, 2019 at 8:25 AM SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@usdoj.gov> wrote:

Hi Rebecca,

We'll decline to comment.

Best,

Peter

From: Ballhaus, Rebecca (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 8:00 AM
To: SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Any comment on BuzzFeed story?

Thanks,

Rebecca

--

Rebecca Ballhaus
WHITE HOUSE REPORTER

[Redacted]

M (b) (6) (b) (6)

E (b) (6)
@rebeccaballhaus

--
Rebecca Ballhaus
WHITE HOUSE REPORTER



M (b) (6) O (b) (6)
E (b) (6)
@rebeccaballhaus

From: Heavey, Susan (Reuters (b) (6))
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 8:59 AM
To: SpecialCounselPress
Subject: RE: Reuters query -->FW: President Trump Directed His Attorney To Lie To Congress About The Moscow Tower Project -Buzzfeed

Thank you.

From: SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@usdoj.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 8:25 AM
To: Heavey, Susan (Reuters (b) (6))
Subject: RE: Reuters query -->FW: President Trump Directed His Attorney To Lie To Congress About The Moscow Tower Project -Buzzfeed

Hi Susan,

We'll decline to comment.

Best,
Peter

From: Heavey, Susan (Reuters (b) (6))
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:50 AM
To: SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: FW: Reuters query -->FW: President Trump Directed His Attorney To Lie To Congress About The Moscow Tower Project -Buzzfeed
Importance: High

Dear Peter, et al:

Does the Special Counsel's office have any comment or reaction to the BuzzFeed report on Thursday night (below)?

Many thanks in advance,
Susan Heavey
Reporter, Reuters News
Washington
(b) (6)

*President Trump Directed His Attorney To Lie To Congress About
The Moscow Tower Project*

https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/jasonleopold/trump-russia-cohen-moscow-tower-mueller-investigation?bftwnnews&utm_term=4ldqpgc#4ldqpgc

President Donald Trump directed his longtime attorney Michael Cohen to lie to Congress about negotiations to build a Trump Tower in Moscow, according to two federal law enforcement officials involved in an investigation of the matter.

Trump also supported a plan, set up by Cohen, to visit Russia during the presidential campaign, in order to personally meet President Vladimir Putin and jump-start the tower negotiations. “Make it happen,” the sources said Trump told Cohen.

And even as Trump told the public he had no business deals with Russia, the sources said Trump and his children, Ivanka and Donald Trump Jr., received regular, detailed updates about the real estate development from Cohen, whom they put in charge of the project. Cohen pleaded guilty in November to lying about the deal in testimony and in a two-page statement to the Senate and House intelligence committees. Special counsel Robert Mueller noted that Cohen’s false claim that the project ended in January 2016 was an attempt to “minimize links between the Moscow Project and Individual 1” — widely understood to be Trump — “in hopes of limiting the ongoing Russia investigations.”

Now the two sources have told BuzzFeed News that Cohen also told the special counsel that after the election, the president personally instructed him to lie — by claiming that negotiations ended months earlier than they actually did — in order to obscure Trump’s involvement.

The special counsel’s office learned about Trump’s directive for Cohen to lie to Congress through interviews with multiple witnesses from the Trump Organization and internal company emails, text messages, and a cache of other documents. Cohen then acknowledged those instructions during his interviews with that office.

This revelation is not the first evidence to suggest the president may have attempted to obstruct the FBI and special counsel investigations into Russia’s interference in the 2016 election.

But Cohen's testimony marks a significant new frontier: It is the first known example of Trump explicitly telling a subordinate to lie directly about his own dealings with Russia.

On the campaign trail, Trump vehemently denied having any business interests in Russia. But behind the scenes, he was pushing the Moscow project, which he hoped could bring his company profits in excess of \$300 million. The two law enforcement sources said he had at least 10 face-to-face meetings with Cohen about the deal during the campaign. BuzzFeed News first reported last year that Cohen and an associate, Felix Sater, had continued working on Trump Tower Moscow through June 2016. Sater communicated with Russian bankers, developers, and officials connected to the Kremlin. That revelation was confirmed in Mueller's filings against Cohen in court last November.

Attorneys close to the administration helped Cohen prepare his testimony and draft his statement to the Senate panel, the sources said. The sources did not say who the attorneys were or whether they were part of the White House counsel's staff, and did not present evidence that the lawyers knew the statements would be false.

An attorney for Donald F. McGahn II, the former White House counsel who reportedly gave about 30 hours of testimony to the special counsel, told BuzzFeed News: "Don McGahn had no involvement with or knowledge of Michael Cohen's testimony. Nor was he aware of anyone in the White House Counsel's Office who did."

After Cohen pleaded guilty to lying to Congress about the matter, Mueller's team filed a memo in court saying he had offered them "credible" and "useful" information over the course of seven interviews. The special counsel wrote that Cohen had provided details about his contacts with "persons connected to the White House" in 2017 and 2018 and about how he had prepared his statements to Congress.

The White House did not return detailed messages seeking comment, nor did an attorney for Donald Trump Jr. or the Trump Organization.

A spokesperson for the Office of Special Counsel declined to comment. Cohen also declined comment — but the law enforcement sources familiar with his testimony to the special counsel

said he had confirmed that Trump directed him to lie to Congress, and also that he had provided details of his conversations about the project with the president and Ivanka and Donald Jr.

Those three members of the Trump family have distanced themselves from the Moscow project, saying that they had little knowledge of the negotiations. But a picture of their deep involvement is now emerging, as FBI agents and prosecutors pore over witness interviews and internal documents from Cohen and other Trump Organization officials and executives.

Trump was even made aware that Cohen was speaking to Russian government officials about the deal. The lawyer at one point spoke to a Kremlin aide as he sought support for the tower.

Trump also encouraged Cohen to plan a trip to Russia during the campaign, where the candidate could meet face-to-face with Putin. BuzzFeed News has previously reported that text messages and emails show Sater — a real estate developer, convicted stock swindler, and longtime asset for US government intelligence agencies — worked furiously to arrange a trip for Cohen to the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum, where he was supposed to meet with top Russian bankers and government officials. Cohen told Sater that to advance the deal, Trump himself would also go to Russia, after the Republican National Convention in July 2016.

The trip to St. Petersburg never took place and the plans to build Trump Tower Moscow never came to fruition. But the negotiations occupy an important place in Mueller's investigation, as agents try to learn whether it is connected to the Kremlin's interference campaign and whom Trump associates were in contact with to close the deal. After Cohen pleaded guilty last November, Trump defended his continued involvement in the Moscow project during the election, telling reporters: "There was a good chance that I wouldn't have won, in which case I would have gotten back into the business, and why should I lose lots of opportunities?"

Federal agents looking into whether the Trump campaign conspired with Russia to interfere in the 2016 election also tried to clarify the roles that Ivanka and Donald Trump Jr. played in the Moscow tower negotiations, the sources said.

In his plea deal with Mueller’s team, Cohen acknowledged that the conversations he had about the project with Trump exceeded the three short briefings he testified that he gave the president and that he also held more extensive discussions about it with other members of the Trump family. The sources said Cohen gave Trump’s children “very detailed updates.”

Ivanka Trump was slated to manage a spa at the tower and personally recommended an architect. She also instructed Cohen to speak with a Russian athlete who offered “synergy on a government level” to get the Moscow project off the ground, in another aspect of the deal first revealed by BuzzFeed News that later was affirmed by the special counsel’s sentencing memo. Cohen rebuffed the athlete’s proposal, which angered Ivanka Trump, according to emails reviewed by BuzzFeed News.

A spokesperson for Ivanka Trump's attorney wrote that she was only "minimally involved" in the project. "Ms. Trump did not know about this proposal until after a non-binding letter of intent had been signed, never talked to anyone outside the Organization about the proposal, never visited the prospective project site and, even internally, was only minimally involved," wrote Peter Mirijanian.

Donald Trump Jr., meanwhile, testified to the Senate Judiciary Committee on Sept. 7, 2017, that he was only “peripherally aware” of the plan to build a tower in Moscow. “Most of my knowledge has been gained since as it relates to hearing about it over the last few weeks.” The two law enforcement sources disputed this characterization and said that he and Cohen had multiple, detailed conversations on this subject during the campaign.

Cohen will testify publicly before the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on Feb. 7. ●

.....

Kadhim Shubber

From: Kadhim Shubber
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 10:23 AM
To: SpecialCounselPress
Subject: Re: Query re: Cohen

Thanks

On Fri, 18 Jan 2019 at 14:26, SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@usdoj.gov> wrote:
Thanks, Kadhim. We'll decline to comment.

Best,
Peter

-----Original Message-----

From: Kadhim Shubbe (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 8:59 AM
To: SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Query re: Cohen

Hi Peter,

Hope all's well in spite of the shutdown. I'm on London time at the moment so catching up on last night's BuzzFeed story.

In the unlikely event that you do, I wanted to ask if you had any comment.

Thanks for your help

Kadhim

--

Kadhim Shubber
US Legal and Enforcement correspondent
Financial Times

Cel (b) (6)
Offic (b) (6)
PGP: 1322 9FF2 4B86 59D8 107F A789 B7C0 EC10 B36E 29E8

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Kadhim Shubber
US Legal and Enforcement correspondent
Financial Times

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Offic (b) (6)
PGP: 1322 9FF2 4B86 59D8 107F A789 B7C0 EC10 B36E 29E8

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SpecialCounselPress

From: SpecialCounselPress
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 10:54 AM
To: Lilli Petersen
Subject: RE: Media Inquiry: Michael Cohen & Trump Tower Moscow

Hi Lilli,

We'll decline to comment at this time.

Best,
Peter Carr
Spokesman
Special Counsel's Office

From: Lilli Peterse (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 10:51 AM
To: SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Cc: C stewa (b) (6)
Subject: Media Inquiry: Michael Cohen & Trump Tower Moscow

Hello,

I'm reaching out from Elite Daily about BuzzFeed News' [report](#) regarding Michael Cohen's testimony to Congress and the reports that Mr Cohen lied to Congress regarding the Trump Tower Moscow deal at the instruction of Donald Trump, and that the president attempted to meet with Vladimir Putin in person. Does the special counsel's office have any comment or statement to share, including any confirmation or the report or further detail?

Best,
Lilli

--

Lilli Petersen
News Editor

(b) (6)

315 Park Ave South, 11th Floor
New York, NY 10010

Triay, Andres

From: Triay, Andres
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 11:06 AM
To: SpecialCounselPress
Subject: RE: Buzzfeed story

Thanks.

From: SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@usdoj.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 11:05 AM
To: Triay, Andre (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Buzzfeed story

We're declining to comment at this time.

Best,
Peter

From: Triay, Andre (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 11:04 AM
To: SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Buzzfeed story

Good morning,
Any statement or guidance concerning this morning's story that the Special Counsel has evidence of Donald Trump directing Michael Cohen to mislead (lie to) Congress.

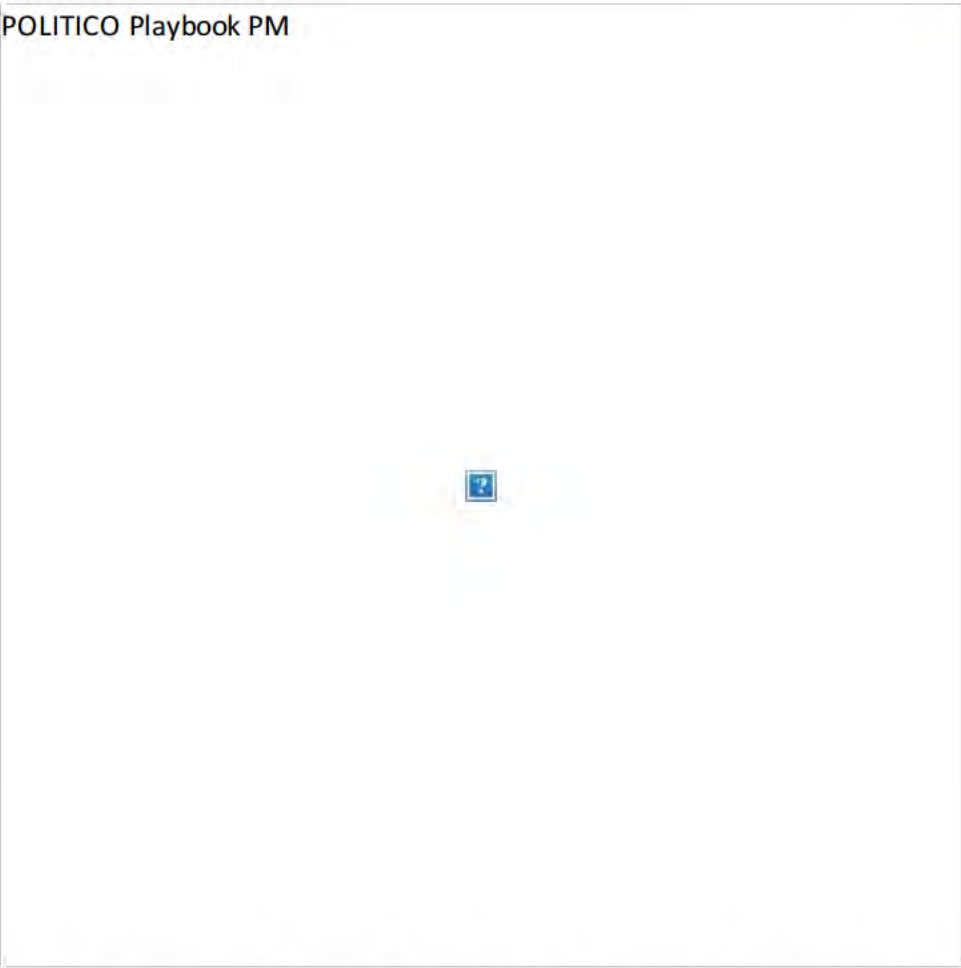
Thanks,
Andy

Andres (Andy) Triay
Coordinating Producer, CBS News
Newsroo (b) (6)
Mobil (b) (6)
(b) (6)
@AndyTriay

From: Anna Palmer Jake Sherman Daniel Lippman
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 1:09 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress
Subject: Playbook PM: What the shutdown tea leaves tell us

Jan 18, 2019

[View in browser](#)



BY JAKE SHERMAN ANNA PALMER DANIEL LIPPMAN GARRETT ROSS
AND ELI OKUN
Presented by

NEW ... ACTING OMB DIRECTOR RUSS VOUGHT has issued official guidance about congressional travel during the shutdown. *The guidance*

READING THE SHUTDOWN TEA LEAVES ... VP MIKE PENCE and White House aide **JARED KUSHNER** met with **SENATE MAJORITY LEADER MITCH MCCONNELL** in the Capitol yesterday, the first such meeting in a few days. So it's clear some new effort is afoot to break the gridlock of what's now approaching a monthlong shutdown.

-- WHAT CAN IT BE? ... We keep hearing that the administration is willing to throw some immigration concessions in the mix to get government open. What will they be? Who knows. **PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP** is notoriously finicky when it comes to immigration reform he has said, at times, that he is in favor of a bipartisan immigration reform process, but quickly retreats from that



position. He's also embraced hard line immigration policies that make his words seem meaningless.

-- **THE HANG-UPS:** Democrats will need the government open to negotiate. Republicans don't want government open to negotiate.

-- **ONE THING WE HAVE NOT SEEN:** What happens if Republicans start some process to open the government in the Senate? Will there be pressure for Democrats to go along? Democratic sources tell us no.

-- **MCCONNELL** to **BURGESS EVERETT** last night: Burgess asked if there was any progress. "We're still obviously discussing the situation and if I have any news to make I'll let you know."

THANKS, MITCH! Good Friday afternoon. PROGRAMMING NOTE -
- Playbook PM will be dark on Monday in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. We'll be back in your inboxes Tuesday afternoon. The AM edition will still publish Monday morning. [Sign up here](#)

CLICKER -- RUAIRÍ ARRIETA-KENNA and JASON GROW in POLITICO Magazine: ["We Call Ourselves the Badasses': Meet the New Women of Congress"](#)

HEATHER CAYGLE: "Pelosi aide accuses Trump team of security threat by leaking new Afghanistan plans": "In light of the grave threats caused by the President's action, the delegation has decided to postpone the trip so as not to further endanger our troops and security personnel, or the other travelers on the flights,' [Pelosi's deputy chief of staff Drew] Hammill, said in a statement Friday morning.

"It would have been extraordinarily rare for the speaker who is second in line to the presidency to fly commercial overseas on an official congressional trip, particularly to a war zone. But Hammill said she and other senior lawmakers in the delegation were initially going to move forward with the trip until details of their revised plans were also made public." [POLITICO](#)

-- **PELOSI**, speaking to reporters today: "It was kind of a funny letter

saying seven days, going to Egypt somebody didn't tell him it was a quick weekend trip, but nonetheless, that served his purpose. ... The fact that they would leak that we were flying commercial is a danger not only to us but to other people flying commercially. It's very irresponsible on the part of the president."

THE PRESIDENT'S LATEST SHUTDOWN TWEETS --

@realDonaldTrump at 9 a.m.: "Why would Nancy Pelosi leave the Country with other Democrats on a seven day excursion when 800,000 great people are not getting paid. Also, could somebody please explain to Nancy & her 'big donors' in wine country that people working on farms (grapes) will have easy access in!"

... at 10:58 a.m.: "Never seen the Republican Party so unified. No 'Cave' on the issue of Border and National Security. A beautiful thing to see, especially when you hear the new rhetoric spewing from the mouths of the Democrats who talk Open Border, High Taxes and Crime. Stop Criminals & Drugs now!"

A message from the National Retail Federation:

Do tariffs help American businesses and consumers? Anyone? Anyone? No, they don't. They almost certainly make things worse. Scroll down to learn more. www.tariffsarebad.com

THE IMPACT -- NYT'S TOM KAPLAN: "Federal Courts, Running Out of Money, Brace for Shutdown's Pain":

"Already, courts have been cutting down on expenses like travel and new hiring. Court appointed private lawyers who represent indigent defendants have been working without pay since late December, according to the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, which provides support for the court system.

"There have been other disruptions. The Justice Department is among the executive branch agencies whose funding has lapsed, and at the department's request, some federal courts have issued orders postponing civil cases in which the Justice Department is a party while the shutdown continues, according to the administrative office."

[NYT](#)

-- **BLOOMBERG'S MIKE DORNING (@MikeDorning):** "BREAKING: New York Federal Reserve President John Williams says shutdown could cut U.S. economic growth by 1 percentage point".

-- **["Democratic governors seek unemployment benefits for shutdown workers,"](#)** by Rebecca Rainey

-- **JOSH GERSTEIN:** **["Shutdown slows court-ordered inquiry into Clinton email setup"](#)**

THE INVESTIGATIONS ... QUINT FORGEY and REBECCA MORIN: "Democrats vow to investigate whether Trump told Cohen to lie before Congress": "Leading Democrats on Friday vowed to investigate whether President Donald Trump instructed Michael Cohen to lie before Congress about negotiations for a Trump Tower in Moscow, after a bombshell report alleged that special counsel Robert Mueller has hard evidence to back up that claim. ...

"The explosive claim further raises the stakes of Mueller's investigation, which is reportedly nearing its conclusion and has resulted in guilty pleas for multiple Trump associates. It also comes as Cohen prepares to testify publicly to the House Oversight Committee on Feb. 7, and as Democrats are flexing their new oversight powers after taking control of the House earlier this month." [POLITICO](#)

-- **REBECCA MORIN:** **["Trump dismisses BuzzFeed report, accuses Cohen of trying to reduce sentence"](#)**

-- **"Supreme Court to discuss Mueller-related mystery case behind closed doors Friday,"** by CNN's Ariane de Vogue: "The discussion is slated to occur during the justices' regularly scheduled conference where the justices will also consider pending petitions on blockbuster issues such as DACA, the ban on transgender people in the military, abortion and the Second Amendment.

"The case concerns an unnamed foreign government-owned corporation that is fighting a subpoena request from a DC based grand jury. Lower courts have ruled that the company must turn over

the information and imposed fines for every day it failed to do so."

[CNN](#)

TRADE WARS -- "China Offers Path to Eliminate U.S. Trade

Imbalance, Sources Say" Bloomberg: "China has offered to go on a six year buying spree to ramp up imports from the U.S., in a move that would reconfigure the relationship between the world's two largest economies, according to officials familiar with the negotiations, Bloomberg News reports.

"By increasing annual goods imports from the U.S. by a combined value of more than \$1 trillion, China would seek to reduce its trade surplus which last year stood at \$323 billion to zero by 2024, one of the people said. ... The offer, made during talks in Beijing earlier this month, was met with skepticism by U.S. negotiators who nonetheless asked the Chinese to do even better, demanding that the imbalance be cleared in the next two years, the people said."

[Bloomberg](#)

-- WSJ'S EMRE PEKER in Brussels: "EU's Narrow Focus for U.S.

Trade Talks Risks Trans-Atlantic Clash": "The European Union made its opening bid in trade talks with the U.S., outlining a narrow goal of slashing tariffs on industrial goods, including motor vehicles, that sets the bloc on a collision course with Washington's broader agenda.

"The EU's negotiating mandate comes amid criticism from some U.S. officials that Brussels is dragging its feet on trade talks in the hope of waiting out the Trump administration. ... Aside from cars, the EU is proposing a limited pact. As part of a push to remove regulatory hurdles, the bloc also included another proposal on conformity assessments that would help trans Atlantic exporters cut costs and red tape on areas including testing, inspection and certification." [WSJ](#)

ON THE WORLD STAGE -- "U.S., North Korea start talks aimed at 2nd Trump-Kim summit," by AP's Matt Lee and Deb Riechmann:

"The U.S. and North Korea began highly anticipated talks Friday aimed at resuming stalled efforts to end the North's nuclear weapons program by arranging a second summit between President Donald

Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

"Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and North Korea's former spy chief, Kim Yong Chol, did not respond to reporters' questions before their meeting at a Washington hotel. Pompeo, Kim and Steve Biegun, the special U.S. envoy for North Korea negotiations, stood silently as photographers took photos. Pompeo and Kim had plans to go to the White House later for a possible meeting with Trump." [AP](#)

-- NAHAL TOOSI: "White House says Trump is meeting with North Korean official": "That the official, Kim Yong chol, was in Washington at all was itself noteworthy. North Korean diplomats in the U.S. are generally barred from traveling much beyond New York City, where they have an office at the United Nations. ...

"Kim's arrival in Washington he landed late Thursday indicated that the Trump administration is eager to jump start stalled nuclear negotiations with Pyongyang." [POLITICO](#)

2020 WATCH -- NYT'S LISA LERER in Huntsville, Ala.: **"Doug Jones Risks His Alabama Senate Seat Over the Shutdown and the Wall":** "Mr. Jones is the only red state Senate Democrat up for re election in 2020. By taking on President Trump and the border wall, which are both popular in Alabama, and refusing to give ground on the shutdown, the senator may be the last "Doug Jones Democrat" to win here anytime soon.

"Alabama has one of the largest groups of federal workers in the country, and the economic pain of those who are out of work because of the shutdown is rippling through local businesses across the state." [NYT](#)

-- HOLLY OTTERBEIN: "Embattled GOP chief in Pennsylvania presents plan to save Trump in 2020": "Val DiGiorgio, chairman of Pennsylvania's GOP, said his 2020 strategy includes 'bringing Trump volunteers who were active in 2016 into the party proper,' using text messaging to recruit party activists, and identifying issues that motivate the state's swing voters. ...

"Trump's reelection team expects to huddle with other state party chairs in the weeks ahead to sketch out their 2020 plans. Thursday's summit with the Pennsylvania GOP was the first such meeting this year, underscoring the importance of the state to Trump's reelection efforts." [POLITICO](#)

-- ALEX ISENSTADT: "New Trump campaign hires to focus on convention delegates, party organization": "The new hires will help run the campaign's delegate and party organization arm, which is waging an elaborate nationwide campaign to ensure the delegates selected to attend the nominating convention are staunch White House allies not Never Trump Republicans.

"The group will be focused on delving into the granular state by state battles that will ensue in the coming months and which will determine the composition of the convention delegation. ... Joining the campaign will be former White House official Nick Trainer and David Huguene, who most recently worked at the Republican consulting firm Jamestown Associates. Former RNC officials Josh Findlay and Ashley Walukevich will also be coming aboard." [POLITICO](#)

OH! ... ["Bob Casey passes on 2020 presidential bid,"](#) by Caitlin Oprysko

REBECCA MORIN: ["DNC: Target of Russia cyberattack after 2018 midterms"](#)

CLIMATE WATCH -- "Pentagon Warns of Dire Risk to Bases, Troops From Climate Change," by Bloomberg's Anthony Capaccio, Jennifer Dlouhy and Ari Natter: "The 22 page assessment delivered to Congress on Thursday says about two thirds of 79 mission essential military installations in the U.S. that were reviewed are vulnerable to current or future flooding, with more than half vulnerable to current or future drought. About half also are at risk from wildfires, including the threat of mudslides and erosion from rains following the blazes." [Bloomberg](#)

COMING ATTRACTIONS -- Davos Playbook will be at the World

Economic Forum Annual Summit in Switzerland, providing insight into one of the most exclusive global forums kicking off tomorrow.

[Sign up](#)

MEDIAWATCH -- Naftali Bendavid is joining WaPo as deputy campaign editor on Jan. 28. He previously was an editor in the Wall Street Journal's Washington bureau.

SPOTTED: Sen. Ben Sasse (R Neb.), speaking on a cellphone without a coat, outside the south gate of Nationals Park on Thursday around noon. The Senate GOP had its retreat there yesterday.

TRANSITIONS -- BUSH ALUMNI: Don Evans will be chairman of the Permian Strategic Partnership. He was Commerce secretary under President George W. Bush. ... **Alisha Morris** will be VP of operations at BlueLabs. She spent nearly ten years at LEVICK.

A message from the National Retail Federation:

[Advertisement Image](#)





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SpecialCounselPress

From: SpecialCounselPress
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 6:57 PM
To: Jason Leopold
Subject: Statement

Here is our statement, which can be attributed to me:

BuzzFeed's description of specific statements to the Special Counsel's Office, and characterization of documents and testimony obtained by this office, regarding Michael Cohen's Congressional testimony are not accurate.

Best,
Peter Carr

Beech, Eric B. (Reuters)

From: Beech, Eric B. (Reuters)
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:35 PM
To: Carr, Peter (OPA); SpecialCounselPress
Subject: can you forward to me your statement on Buzzfeed story

thanks

Eric Beech
Correspondent

Thomson Reuters
Washington Bureau

Offic (b) (6)

Mobil (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Morrow, Adrian

From: Morrow, Adrian
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:36 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress
Subject: Buzzfeed story

Hi,

I'm a reporter in the DC bureau of The Globe and Mail, a Canadian daily newspaper. I understand you have a statement out on Buzzfeed's story alleging Trump told Cohen to lie to Congress. Can you flip it to me?

Cheers,

Adrian

Sent from my iPhone

SpecialCounselPress

From: SpecialCounselPress
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:36 PM
To: FOX - Gibson
Subject: Statement on BuzzFeed article

You may attribute the following to me:

“BuzzFeed’s description of specific statements to the Special Counsel’s Office, and characterization of documents and testimony obtained by this office, regarding Michael Cohen’s Congressional testimony are not accurate.”

Best,
Peter Carr
Spokesman
Special Counsel’s Office

Polantz, Katelyn

From: Polantz, Katelyn
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:36 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress
Subject: RE: Statement on BuzzFeed article

Thank you very much.

From: SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@usdoj.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:36 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Statement on BuzzFeed article

You may attribute the following to me:

“BuzzFeed’s description of specific statements to the Special Counsel’s Office, and characterization of documents and testimony obtained by this office, regarding Michael Cohen’s Congressional testimony are not accurate.”

Best,
Peter Carr
Spokesman
Special Counsel’s Office

Toobin, Jeffery

From: Toobin, Jeffery
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:39 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress
Subject: Fwd: #Urgent: Special Counsel spokesperson says BuzzFeed descriptions in the story are "not accurate"

A rare on the record comment! Fascinating!

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Levine, Adam S (CNN DC Bureau) (b) (6)
Date: Fri, Jan 18, 2019 at 7:37 PM
Subject: #Urgent: Special Counsel spokesperson says BuzzFeed descriptions in the story are "not accurate"
To: *CNNNationalUrgentAlert <CNNNationalUrgentAlert@turner.com>

CNN has been given the statement from Peter Carr. (no need to attribute to BuzzFeed)

Peter Carr (spokesman, Special Counsel)

"BuzzFeed's description of specific statements to the Special Counsel's Office, and characterization of documents and testimony obtained by this office, regarding Michael Cohen's Congressional testimony are not accurate."

From: "Levine, Adam S (CNN DC Bureau) (b) (6)"
Date: Friday, January 18, 2019 at 7:36 PM
To: Alert Urgent <CNNNationalUrgentAlert@turner.com>
Subject: #Urgent: Special Counsel spokesperson tells BuzzFeed descriptions in the story are "not accurate"

#Urgent: Special Counsel spokesperson tells BuzzFeed descriptions in the story are "not accurate"

A spokesperson for special counsel Robert Mueller's office, Peter Carr, disputed BuzzFeed News' report.

"BuzzFeed's description of specific statements to the Special Counsel's Office, and characterization of documents and testimony obtained by this office, regarding Michael

Cohen's Congressional testimony are not accurate," Carr said.

(b) (6) (cell)

(b) (6) (office)

@cnnadam

Hosenball, Mark J. (Reuters)

From: Hosenball, Mark J. (Reuters)
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:42 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress
Subject: Re: Statement on BuzzFeed article

Big tks mh

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@usdoj.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:35:37 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress
Subject: Statement on BuzzFeed article

You may attribute the following to me:

“BuzzFeed’s description of specific statements to the Special Counsel’s Office, and characterization of documents and testimony obtained by this office, regarding Michael Cohen’s Congressional testimony are not accurate.”

Best,
Peter Carr
Spokesman
Special Counsel’s Office

From: SpecialCounselPress
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:43 PM
To: Santucci, John T.
Subject: RE: Peter - can you send me the buzzfeed statement ?

You may attribute the following to me:

“BuzzFeed’s description of specific statements to the Special Counsel’s Office, and characterization of documents and testimony obtained by this office, regarding Michael Cohen’s Congressional testimony are not accurate.”

Best,
Peter Carr
Spokesman
Special Counsel’s Office

From: Santucci, John T. (b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:39 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Peter - can you send me the buzzfeed statement ?

Thanks

John T. Santucci - ABC News

C (b) (6) - @Santucci

SpecialCounselPress

From: SpecialCounselPress
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:44 PM
To: Kopack, Steven (NBCUniversal)
Subject: RE: Statement on BuzzFeed story?

You may attribute the following to me:

“BuzzFeed's description of specific statements to the Special Counsel's Office, and characterization of documents and testimony obtained by this office, regarding Michael Cohen's Congressional testimony are not accurate.”

Best,
Peter Carr
Spokesman
Special Counsel's Office

-----Original Message-----

From: Kopack, Steven (NBCUniversal) (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:41 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Statement on BuzzFeed story?

Good evening,

Does the special counsel have a statement on the BuzzFeed news story from Thursday?

Thanks in advance.

--
Steven Kopack
CNBC Business News

From: SpecialCounselPress
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:44 PM
To: Reid, Paula
Subject: RE: Can I get statement on Buzzfeed?

You may attribute the following to me:

“BuzzFeed’s description of specific statements to the Special Counsel’s Office, and characterization of documents and testimony obtained by this office, regarding Michael Cohen’s Congressional testimony are not accurate.”

Best,
Peter Carr
Spokesman
Special Counsel’s Office

From: Reid, Paul (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:43 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Can I get statement on Buzzfeed?

Paula Reid
Correspondent
CBS News Washington Bureau
(b) (6) (cell)
@PaulaReidCBS

Hayes, Christal

From: Hayes, Christal
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:45 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress
Subject: RE: Statement on BuzzFeed story

Thanks so much

Christal Hayes
Reporter



(b) (6)

((b) (6)

(c (b) (6)

Follow me on Twitter: [Journo Christal](#)

From: SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@usdoj.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:44 PM
To: Hayes, Christ (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Statement on BuzzFeed story

You may attribute the following to me:

“BuzzFeed’s description of specific statements to the Special Counsel’s Office, and characterization of documents and testimony obtained by this office, regarding Michael Cohen’s Congressional testimony are not accurate.”

Best,
Peter Carr
Spokesman
Special Counsel’s Office

From: Hayes, Christ (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:42 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Statement on BuzzFeed story
Importance: High

Good evening,

I was hoping to see if you could pass along that statement on BuzzFeed’s story about Michael Cohen’s testimony before Congress.

Thanks a ton,

Christal Hayes
Reporter



(b) (6)

(c) (b) (6)

Follow me on Twitter: [Journo_Christal](#)

Sarah Gray

From: Sarah Gray
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:45 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress
Subject: Re: Press Inquiry - BuzzFeed Report

Thank you so much, Peter!

On Fri, Jan 18, 2019 at 4:44 PM SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@usdoj.gov> wrote:

>
> You may attribute the following to me:
>
> "BuzzFeed's description of specific statements to the Special Counsel's Office, and characterization of documents and testimony obtained by this office, regarding Michael Cohen's Congressional testimony are not accurate."
>
> Best,
> Peter Carr
> Spokesman
> Special Counsel's Office
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Sarah Gray (b) (6)
> Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:43 PM
> To: SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@jmd.usdoj.gov>
> Subject: Press Inquiry - BuzzFeed Report
>
> Hello Peter,
>
> I'm seeing a statement saying that BuzzFeed's characterizations of Michael Cohen's testimony are not accurate.
>
> I'm curious if there's any additional information you can give. I can be reached at this email address or by phone at (b) (6). Thank you so much.
>
> --
> Sarah Gray
>
> Associate Editor, Global News
>
>
> Business Insider - INSIDER - Markets Insider
>
>
> W (b) (6) / C (b) (6)
>

> 555 W 5th St, Los Angeles, CA 90013

--

Sarah Gray

Associate Editor, Global News

Business Insider - INSIDER - Markets Insider

W (b) (6) / (b) (6)

555 W 5th St, Los Angeles, CA 90013

SpecialCounselPress

From: SpecialCounselPress
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:45 PM
To: Gomez, Fin
Subject: RE: Hi Pete- May we match this?

You may attribute the following to me:

“BuzzFeed’s description of specific statements to the Special Counsel’s Office, and characterization of documents and testimony obtained by this office, regarding Michael Cohen’s Congressional testimony are not accurate.”

Best,
Peter Carr
Spokesman
Special Counsel’s Office

From: Gomez, Fi (b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:44 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Hi Pete- May we match this?

Special Counsel spokesman: “BuzzFeed’s description of specific statements to the Special Counsel’s Office, and characterization of documents and testimony obtained by this office, regarding Michael Cohen’s Congressional testimony are not accurate.”

Fin Gomez

White House Producer

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

@FinnyGo

From: SpecialCounselPress
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:45 PM
To: Hunter Walker
Subject: RE: Buzzfeed Story

You may attribute the following to me:

“BuzzFeed’s description of specific statements to the Special Counsel’s Office, and characterization of documents and testimony obtained by this office, regarding Michael Cohen’s Congressional testimony are not accurate.”

Best,
Peter Carr
Spokesman
Special Counsel’s Office

From: Hunter Walke (b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:43 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Buzzfeed Story

Hi,

Can you send us your statement on the Buzzfeed story? It is of great interest to me as you might imagine.

Thanks,
Hunter

--

Hunter Walker
White House Correspondent
Yahoo News
Twitter: [@hunterw](https://twitter.com/hunterw)

SpecialCounselPress

From: SpecialCounselPress
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:45 PM
To: Jon Swaine
Subject: RE: Statement on BuzzFeed story

You may attribute the following to me:

“BuzzFeed’s description of specific statements to the Special Counsel’s Office, and characterization of documents and testimony obtained by this office, regarding Michael Cohen’s Congressional testimony are not accurate.”

Best,
Peter Carr
Spokesman
Special Counsel’s Office

From: Jon Swain (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:44 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Statement on BuzzFeed story

Good evening

Please could you send me your statement on the BuzzFeed story regarding Michael Cohen?

Thanks and best

Jon @ The Guardian

--

(b) (6)

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From: Sommerfeldt, Chri (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:47 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress
Subject: Re: Statement on BuzzFeed article

Thank you. And just to clarify: this is the report as a whole that you're disputing or any individual parts in particular?

From: SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@usdoj.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:41:01 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress
Subject: Statement on BuzzFeed article

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside our organization.
Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.
You may attribute the following to me:

"BuzzFeed's description of specific statements to the Special Counsel's Office, and characterization of documents and testimony obtained by this office, regarding Michael Cohen's Congressional testimony are not accurate."

Best,
Peter Carr
Spokesman
Special Counsel's Office

SpecialCounselPress

From: SpecialCounselPress
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:48 PM
To: Christopher Sheridan
Subject: RE: BuzzFeed statement

You may attribute the following to me:

“BuzzFeed’s description of specific statements to the Special Counsel’s Office, and characterization of documents and testimony obtained by this office, regarding Michael Cohen’s Congressional testimony are not accurate.”

Best,
Peter Carr
Spokesman
Special Counsel’s Office

From: Christopher Sherida (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:46 PM
To: Carr, Peter (OPA (b) (6))
Cc: SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: BuzzFeed statement

Hi Peter...wondering if I can get the statement on the BuzzFeed article. Thanks,

Chris Sheridan
Senior White House Producer
Al Jazeera English
Mobil (b) (6)
Wor (b) (6)
@ChrisSheridan34

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SpecialCounselPress

From: SpecialCounselPress
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:48 PM
To: (b)(6): Josh Gerstein email
Subject: RE: Stmt re BuzzFeed story

You may attribute the following to me:

“BuzzFeed’s description of specific statements to the Special Counsel’s Office, and characterization of documents and testimony obtained by this office, regarding Michael Cohen’s Congressional testimony are not accurate.”

Best,
Peter Carr
Spokesman
Special Counsel’s Office

From: josh@joshgerstein.co (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:47 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Stmt re BuzzFeed story

Hi Peter

Could you share what you have?
Tks

--Josh

Josh Gerstein
Senior Legal Affairs Contributor
POLITICO

(b) (6) (←please note new email)

(b) (6)

Lucía Leal

From: Lucía Leal
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:49 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress
Subject: Re: Press request on the BuzzFeed report

Thanks so much.

Best,

--

Lucía Leal
White House Correspondent

Efe News

Washington, DC

Offic (b) (6)

Cel (b) (6)

Twitter: @lucialealb

Efe is the fourth largest newswire in the world. As the main international news agency in Spanish, it has a strong presence in Spain, Latin America and the Hispanic Media in the US.<<http://www.efe.com/>>

On Fri, Jan 18, 2019 at 7:44 PM SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@usdoj.gov> wrote:

You may attribute the following to me:

"BuzzFeed's description of specific statements to the Special Counsel's Office, and characterization of documents and testimony obtained by this office, regarding Michael Cohen's Congressional testimony are not accurate."

Best,

Peter Carr

Spokesman

Special Counsel's Office

From: Lucía Le (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:43 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Press request on the BuzzFeed report

Hi,

I'm a reporter with the Spanish newswire Efe News. I'm seeing reports that there's a statement by Peter Carr on the BuzzFeed report. Could you please provide that?

Thanks,

--

Lucía Leal

White House Correspondent

Efe News

Washington, DC

Offic (b) (6)

Cel (b) (6)

Twitter: @lucialealb

Efe is the fourth largest newswire in the world. As the main international news agency in Spanish, it has a strong presence in Spain, Latin America and the Hispanic Media in the US.<<http://www.efe.com/>>

From: SpecialCounselPress
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:52 PM
To: Niels Lesniewski
Subject: RE: I understand you may have a statement

You may attribute the following to me:

“BuzzFeed’s description of specific statements to the Special Counsel’s Office, and characterization of documents and testimony obtained by this office, regarding Michael Cohen’s Congressional testimony are not accurate.”

Best,
Peter Carr
Spokesman
Special Counsel’s Office

From: Niels Lesniewski (b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:37 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: I understand you may have a statement

Greetings Peter --

Want to make sure we get the statement included in our stories on the Buzzfeed reporting, and I am not certain I'm currently on your list.

Thanks

--
Niels Lesniewski
Senior writer, Roll Call
CQ Roll Call

(b) (6)
[REDACTED]

SpecialCounselPress

From: SpecialCounselPress
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:54 PM
To: Darren Samuelsohn
Subject: RE: Statement please on buzzfeed?

You may attribute the following to me:

“BuzzFeed's description of specific statements to the Special Counsel's Office, and characterization of documents and testimony obtained by this office, regarding Michael Cohen's Congressional testimony are not accurate.”

Best,
Peter Carr
Spokesman
Special Counsel's Office

-----Original Message-----

From: Darren Samuelsohn (b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:52 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Statement please on buzzfeed?

Thank you,
Darren Samuelsohn
Senior reporter, POLITICO
Des (b) (6)
Cel (b) (6)
(b) (6)
@dsamuelsohn

SpecialCounselPress

From: SpecialCounselPress
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:54 PM
To: Megerian, Christopher
Subject: RE: Buzzfeed statement

You may attribute the following to me:

“BuzzFeed's description of specific statements to the Special Counsel's Office, and characterization of documents and testimony obtained by this office, regarding Michael Cohen's Congressional testimony are not accurate.”

Best,
Peter Carr
Spokesman
Special Counsel's Office

-----Original Message-----

From: Megerian, Christopher (b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:52 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Buzzfeed statement

Can you send me your statement please?

Chris Megerian
Los Angeles Times
(b) (6)

SpecialCounselPress

From: SpecialCounselPress
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:57 PM
To: (b)(6): Pierre Thomas (ABC News) email
Subject: Statement

You may attribute the following to me:

“BuzzFeed’s description of specific statements to the Special Counsel’s Office, and characterization of documents and testimony obtained by this office, regarding Michael Cohen’s Congressional testimony are not accurate.”

Best,
Peter Carr
Spokesman
Special Counsel’s Office

From: Brajesh Upadhya (b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:58 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress
Subject: RE: BBC Request--Cohen/Buzzfeed

Thank you so much!
Regards
Brajesh

From: SpecialCounselPress [mailto:SpecialCounselPress@usdoj.gov]
Sent: 18 January 2019 19:52
To: Brajesh Upadhya
Subject: RE: BBC Request Cohen/Buzzfeed

You may attribute the following to me:

“BuzzFeed’s description of specific statements to the Special Counsel’s Office, and characterization of documents and testimony obtained by this office, regarding Michael Cohen’s Congressional testimony are not accurate.”

Best,
Peter Carr
Spokesman
Special Counsel’s Office

From: Brajesh Upadhya (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:49 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: BBC Request--Cohen/Buzzfeed

Dear Mr Carr

This is a request from BBC News.

I just saw a statement attributed to you regarding the Buzzfeed story on Cohen. Could you kindly share that with us too?

Warm Regards
Brajesh

Brajesh Upadhya
BBC News, 2000 M Street NW,
Suite 800, Washington DC-20036
Cell (b) (6)
Twitter: @brajup

<http://www.bbc.co.uk>

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Please note that the BBC monitors e-mails sent or received.

Further communication will signify your consent to this.

Andrew Buncombe

From: Andrew Buncombe
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:58 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress
Subject: RE: Inquiry from The Independent re report Cohen claimed Trump told him to lie to congress

Thanks sir

From: SpecialCounselPress [SpecialCounselPress@usdoj.gov]
Sent: 19 January 2019 00:52
To: Andrew Buncombe
Subject: RE: Inquiry from The Independent re report Cohen claimed Trump told him to lie to congress

You may attribute the following to me:

“BuzzFeed’s description of specific statements to the Special Counsel’s Office, and characterization of documents and testimony obtained by this office, regarding Michael Cohen’s Congressional testimony are not accurate.”

Best,
Peter Carr
Spokesman
Special Counsel’s Office

From: Andrew Buncomb (b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:49 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Inquiry from The Independent re report Cohen claimed Trump told him to lie to congress

Hi Sir, Seattle based journalist with The Independent, requesting you pls forward me the statement about the BuzzFeed story.
Thanks,
Andrew Buncombe

From: SpecialCounselPress [SpecialCounselPress@usdoj.gov]
Sent: 30 October 2018 19:52
To: Andrew Buncombe
Subject: RE: Inquiry from The Independent re report Mr Mueller has asked FBI to investigate if someone was paid to make false allegations

You can attribute this to me:

“When we learned last week of allegations that women were offered money to make false claims about the Special Counsel, we immediately referred the matter to the FBI for investigation.”

Thx,

Peter Carr

From: Andrew Buncomb (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, October 30, 2018 3:47 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Inquiry from The Independent re report Mr Mueller has asked FBI to investigate if someone was paid to make false allegations

Hi Sir. Hope you are well.
I am DC based reporter with The Independent.
I am chasing up this story. Is there a statement please.
https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2018/10/special_counsel_refers_scheme_targeting_mueller_to_fbi/574411/
Thanks,
Andrew Buncombe

From: SpecialCounselPress [SpecialCounselPress@usdoj.gov]
Sent: 05 July 2018 14:37
To: Andrew Buncombe
Subject: RE: Inquiry from The Independent re report Mr Mueller is tapping more prosecutors

External Sender

Thanks, Andrew. We'll decline to comment.

Best,
Peter Carr
Spokesman
Special Counsel's Office

From: Andrew Buncomb (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, July 5, 2018 9:19 AM
To: SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Inquiry from The Independent re report Mr Mueller is tapping more prosecutors

Hello, I am an NYC based reporter with The Independent. I am chasing up a report by Bloomberg News that Mr Mueller is tapping extra resources because the probe is expanding.
<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-07-05/mueller-said-to-tap-more-career-prosecutors-as-trump-probe-grows>
Is there someone I cd speak to about this or get a comment please.
Thanks,
Andrew Buncombe

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SpecialCounselPress

From: SpecialCounselPress
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:58 PM
To: Jana Katsuyama
Subject: RE: Statement on BUZZFEED report?

You may attribute the following to me:

“BuzzFeed’s description of specific statements to the Special Counsel’s Office, and characterization of documents and testimony obtained by this office, regarding Michael Cohen’s Congressional testimony are not accurate.”

Best,
Peter Carr
Spokesman
Special Counsel’s Office

From: Jana Katsuyam (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:55 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Cc: Jana Katsuyam (b) (6)
Subject: Statement on BUZZFEED report?

Hello media team,
Do you have a statement about the Buzzfeed piece on President Trump telling Michael Cohen to lie to Congress?
I am seeing reports now that you are commenting, but I don’t see a statement on your website.
Could you please confirm?

1. The Buzzfeed report says Cohen alleges President Trump told him to lie about the timing of his Moscow project. Is this accurate?
2. The report also says Cohen’s allegation is corroborated by emails, text messages and other evidence. Is this true?

If you have a statement or a post on your webpage, please send it to me at this email address or feel free to call me on my mobile number below.

Thanks very much,
Jana

Jana Katsuyama
KTVU Fox 2 News Reporter
SanFrancisco/Oakland/SanJose
(b) (6) mobile
(b) (6)
@JanaKTVU

Zoe Tillman

From: Zoe Tillman
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:58 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress
Subject: Re: BuzzFeed statement

Roger that, thanks

On Fri, Jan 18, 2019, 7:53 PM SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@usdoj.gov> wrote:

Yes, you are but I only sent this to those who inquired about the story today.

From: Zoe Tillman (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:49 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: BuzzFeed statement

Hey, am I still on your email list? I didn't get the latest statement. Realize you may be in touch with other reporters from BF on this, but want to make sure I'm also still on there.

Thanks,

Zoe

Carr, Peter (OPA)

From: Carr, Peter (OPA)
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:59 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress
Subject: Fwd: Request for comment/statement

Begin forwarded message:

From: Chris Mills Rodrig (b) (6) >
Date: January 18, 2019 at 7:40:21 PM EST
T (b)(6): Peter Carr email >
Subject: Request for comment/statement

Hi,

I'm reaching out from The Hill to get comment on the special counsel's response to BuzzFeed's report that President Trump instructed Michael Cohen to lie to Congress. Would also appreciate a copy of the statement that you gave to BuzzFeed. Thank you in advance!

Best,
Chris Mills Rodrigo

--

Chris Mills Rodrigo
Breaking News Reporter
The Hill
(b) (6)

Megerian, Christopher

From: Megerian, Christopher
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 8:00 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress
Subject: Re: Buzzfeed statement

Got it

Chris Megerian
Los Angeles Times

(b) (6)

> On Jan 18, 2019, at 7:54 PM, SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@usdoj.gov> wrote:
>

> "BuzzFeed's description of specific statements to the Special Counsel's Office, and characterization of documents and testimony obtained by this office, regarding Michael Cohen's Congressional testimony are not accurate."

SpecialCounselPress

From: SpecialCounselPress
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 8:00 PM
To: (b)(6): Chris Mills Rodrigo email
Subject: RE: Request for comment/statement

You may attribute the following to me:

“BuzzFeed’s description of specific statements to the Special Counsel’s Office, and characterization of documents and testimony obtained by this office, regarding Michael Cohen’s Congressional testimony are not accurate.”

Best,
Peter Carr
Spokesman
Special Counsel’s Office

Begin forwarded message:

From: Chris Mills Rodrigo (b) (6) >
Date: January 18, 2019 at 7:40:21 PM EST
To: (b)(6): Peter Carr email >
Subject: Request for comment/statement

Hi,

I'm reaching out from The Hill to get comment on the special counsel's response to BuzzFeed's report that President Trump instructed Michael Cohen to lie to Congress. Would also appreciate a copy of the statement that you gave to BuzzFeed. Thank you in advance!

Best,
Chris Mills Rodrigo

--

Chris Mills Rodrigo
Breaking News Reporter
The Hill
(b) (6)

Levine, Mike

From: Levine, Mike
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 8:00 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress
Subject: Re: Just checking

Thank you. Have a good weekend

> On Jan 18, 2019, at 7:57 PM, SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@usdoj.gov> wrote:

>

> Yes, sent to Jack (who called me earlier) and Pierre, who just called. Here you go:

>

> "BuzzFeed's description of specific statements to the Special Counsel's Office, and characterization of documents and testimony obtained by this office, regarding Michael Cohen's Congressional testimony are not accurate."

>

> Best,

> Peter Carr

> Spokesman

> Special Counsel's Office

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Levine, Mik (b) (6) >

> Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:55 PM

> To: SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@jmd.usdoj.gov>

> Subject: Just checking

>

> Hi Peter, I'm sure you've had quite a day. Sorry to bug. Just making sure someone from ABC has reached out and gotten the new statement you put out about the Buzzfeed story?

>

> Thanks,

> Mike

>

From: Parker Walto (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 8:08 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress
Subject: Re: Media inquiry - statement on BuzzFeed story

Thank you for your prompt reply.

Have a good evening,

Parker Walton
White House Staff Reporter
The Asahi Shimbun (Washington, DC)
Office (b) (6)
Cell (b) (6)
(b) (6)

On Fri, Jan 18, 2019 at 8:07 PM SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@usdoj.gov> wrote:

You may attribute the following to me:

“BuzzFeed’s description of specific statements to the Special Counsel’s Office, and characterization of documents and testimony obtained by this office, regarding Michael Cohen’s Congressional testimony are not accurate.”

Best,

Peter Carr

Spokesman

Special Counsel’s Office

From: Parker Walton (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 8:06 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Media inquiry - statement on BuzzFeed story

Good evening,

This is Parker Walton with The Asahi Shimbun, a major Japanese daily newspaper.

I am looking to obtain the statement from spokesman Peter Carr that he provided to CNN:

"BuzzFeed's description of specific statements to the Special Counsel's Office, and characterization of documents and testimony obtained by this office, regarding Michael Cohen's Congressional testimony are not accurate"

If you could please confirm the above statement it would be much appreciated.

Best,

Parker Walton

White House Staff Reporter

The Asahi Shimbun (Washington, DC)

Office (b) (6)

Cell (b) (6)

(b) (6)

From: Milton, Pa (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 8:11 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress
Subject: Thank you Peter. Re: Statement

Pat Milton
Senior Producer, Investigative Unit
CBS News
C (b) (6)

On Jan 18, 2019, at 7:44 PM, SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@usdoj.gov> wrote:

You may attribute the following to me:

“BuzzFeed’s description of specific statements to the Special Counsel’s Office, and characterization of documents and testimony obtained by this office, regarding Michael Cohen’s Congressional testimony are not accurate.”

Best,
Peter Carr
Spokesman
Special Counsel’s Office

SpecialCounselPress

From: SpecialCounselPress
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 8:14 PM
To: Ryan Lucas
Subject: RE: Buzzfeed

Good, thx.

From: Ryan Luca (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 8:13 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Re: Buzzfeed

Thank you! Wanted to get your statement into All Things Considered at the top of the hour, and did.

From: SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@usdoj.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:44:01 PM
To: Ryan Lucas
Subject: RE: Buzzfeed

You may attribute the following to me:

"BuzzFeed's description of specific statements to the Special Counsel's Office, and characterization of documents and testimony obtained by this office, regarding Michael Cohen's Congressional testimony are not accurate."

Best,
Peter Carr
Spokesman
Special Counsel's Office

Original Message

From: Ryan Luca (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:42 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Buzzfeed

Hi Peter,
I see you now have a statement out in the Buzzfeed report about Cohen reportedly saying Trump instructed him to lie to Congress about the Trump Tower project.
Can you share your statement?
Thanks,
Ryan

Sent from my iPhone

SpecialCounselPress

From: SpecialCounselPress
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 8:15 PM
To: Tom Fitzgerald
Subject: RE: Special Counsel's Office Statement of Expenditures: April 1, 2018 through September 30, 2018

You may attribute the following to me:

“BuzzFeed’s description of specific statements to the Special Counsel’s Office, and characterization of documents and testimony obtained by this office, regarding Michael Cohen’s Congressional testimony are not accurate.”

Best,
Peter Carr
Spokesman
Special Counsel’s Office

From: Tom Fitzgerald (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 8:14 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Re: Special Counsel's Office Statement of Expenditures: April 1, 2018 through September 30, 2018

Could I get a copy of the SCO statement in BuzzFeed? Thanks, Tom

Tom Fitzgerald
Reporter, Host & Anchor
Fox Television WTTG

(b) (6)
@FitzFox5DC

(b) (6)

From: SpecialCounselPress <specialcounselpress@usdoj.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 14, 2018 3:03 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress
Subject: Special Counsel's Office Statement of Expenditures: April 1, 2018 through September 30, 2018

Please find the link to the Special Counsel’s Office Statement of Expenditures, April 1, 2018 through September 30, 2018: <https://www.justice.gov/sco/page/file/1120106/download>.

Best,
Peter Carr
Spokesman
Special Counsel’s Office

Jackson, David M

From: Jackson, David M
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 8:15 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress
Subject: Re: Comment

Thanks!

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 18, 2019, at 8:07 PM, SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@usdoj.gov> wrote:

You may attribute the following to me:

“BuzzFeed’s description of specific statements to the Special Counsel’s Office, and characterization of documents and testimony obtained by this office, regarding Michael Cohen’s Congressional testimony are not accurate.”

Best,
Peter Carr
Spokesman
Special Counsel’s Office

From: Jackson, David (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:53 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comment

Can I have this comment from your office re the Buzzfeed thing?? Thanks

<https://twitter.com/buzzfeednews/status/1086419880025284608?s=21>

Sent from my iPhone

Wilk, Wendy

From: Wilk, Wendy
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 8:16 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress
Subject: Re: Buzzfeed report

Thank you.

> On Jan 18, 2019, at 8:11 PM, SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@usdoj.gov> wrote:
>
> You may attribute the following to me:
>
> "BuzzFeed's description of specific statements to the Special Counsel's Office, and characterization of documents and testimony obtained by this office, regarding Michael Cohen's Congressional testimony are not accurate."
>
> Best,
> Peter Carr
> Spokesman
> Special Counsel's Office
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Wilk, Wendy (b) (6)
> Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 8:10 PM
> To: SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@jmd.usdoj.gov>
> Cc: dcbureau (b) (6)
> Subject: Buzzfeed report
>
> Good evening. Can you please share the Special Counsel statement regarding the Buzzfeed report
>
> Thank you.
> Wendy Wilk

David Kurtz

From: David Kurtz
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 8:17 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress
Subject: Re: statement on Buzzfeed report

thx Peter

On Fri, Jan 18, 2019 at 8:11 PM SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@usdoj.gov> wrote:

You may attribute the following to me:

“BuzzFeed’s description of specific statements to the Special Counsel’s Office, and characterization of documents and testimony obtained by this office, regarding Michael Cohen’s Congressional testimony are not accurate.”

Best,

Peter Carr

Spokesman

Special Counsel’s Office

From: David Kurt [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 8:10 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: statement on Buzzfeed report

Peter,

Can you send me the statement, please.

Thx

DK

From: Layne, Nathan (Reuters (b) (6))
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 8:21 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress
Subject: RE: buzz feed report

Thank you, Peter,

Are you able to confirm if this is the first time the SC office has commented about a media report about the Russia investigation.

I believe that it is. I know that you commented on the sexual assault allegations against Mueller, but can't remember any time you've commented on a news article about the core probe.

From: SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@usdoj.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:43 PM
To: Layne, Nathan (Reuters (b) (6))
Subject: RE: buzz feed report

You may attribute the following to me:

"BuzzFeed's description of specific statements to the Special Counsel's Office, and characterization of documents and testimony obtained by this office, regarding Michael Cohen's Congressional testimony are not accurate."

Best,
Peter Carr
Spokesman
Special Counsel's Office

From: Layne, Nathan (Reuters (b) (6)) >
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:41 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: buzz feed report

Peter,

You may have already heard from someone from Reuters, but just in case wanted to ping you and see if we could get your statement about the Buzzfeed report? I see that you are disputing it?

Thank you
Nathan

Nathan Layne
White Collar Crime Reporter

Thomson Reuters

Phone (b) (6)
Mobile (b) (6)

(b) (6)

www.reuters.com

SpecialCounselPress

From: SpecialCounselPress
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 8:27 PM
To: Elodie MAZEIN
Subject: RE: Media request - statement about Buzzfeed

Yes, though initially I only provided this statement to those who had inquired about the BuzzFeed story, not an overall list.

From: Elodie MAZEI (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 8:24 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: RE: Media request - statement about Buzzfeed

Me again...

Would you mind addin (b) (6) to your list when you send a statement?

Many thanks

Elodie

De : SpecialCounselPress [<mailto:SpecialCounselPress@usdoj.gov>]
Envoyé : Friday, January 18, 2019 7:56 PM
À : Elodie MAZEI (b) (6)
Objet : RE: Media request - statement about Buzzfeed

You may attribute the following to me:

"BuzzFeed's description of specific statements to the Special Counsel's Office, and characterization of documents and testimony obtained by this office, regarding Michael Cohen's Congressional testimony are not accurate."

Best,
Peter Carr
Spokesman
Special Counsel's Office

From: Elodie MAZEI (b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:54 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Special Counsel <specialcounsel@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Media request - statement about Buzzfeed

Hello,

I see on Twitter that the Special counsel has released a statement about the Buzzfeed publication.

I'd be grateful if you could send it to us (quick).

Many thanks

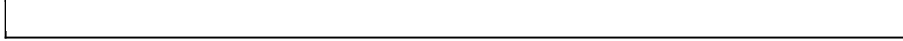
Elodie

Elodie MAZEIN

Journaliste - desk francophone

1500 K Street NW - Suite 600 - 20005 Washington DC

Tél. (b) (6)



Rejoignez-nous sur :



SpecialCounselPress

From: SpecialCounselPress
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 8:27 PM
To: (b)(6): Can Merey email
Subject: RE: Report in Buzzfeed

You may attribute the following to me:

“BuzzFeed’s description of specific statements to the Special Counsel’s Office, and characterization of documents and testimony obtained by this office, regarding Michael Cohen’s Congressional testimony are not accurate.”

Best,
Peter Carr
Spokesman
Special Counsel’s Office

From (b)(6): Can Merey email
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 8:24 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Report in Buzzfeed

Hi Peter,

This is Can from the German news agency dpa. There seems to be a statement from you regarding the Buzzfeed report on Cohen. Could you kindly send that to me?

Thanks and best regards

Can



Can Merey
Bureau Chief North America

German Press Agency dpa

1112 National Press Building
Washington, DC 20045
Phone (b) (6)
Fax: +1 202 662 1270
Mobile (b) (6)
Twitter: CanMerey
E-Mail (b) (6)
Web: www.dpa.de
Client portal: www.dpa-news.de

Executive Board: Peter Kropsch (CEO) • Matthias Mahn • Andreas Schmidt

Editor-in-Chief: Sven Gösmann

Chairman of the Supervisory Board: David Brandstätter • Würzburg

Head office: Hamburg HRB 68431 • USt.-Ident.-Nr. DE 118543436

SpecialCounselPress

From: SpecialCounselPress
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 8:34 PM
To: Day, Chad
Subject: RE: Statement on BuzzFeed article

No response.

From: Day, C a (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 8:31 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: RE: Statement on BuzzFeed article

Peter,

I'm sure you're dealing with Buzzfeed and million others, but just wanted to flag this from their editor in chief.

"We stand by the reporting and the sources who informed it, and we urge the Special Counsel to make clear what he's disputing."

Do you have a response or is the previous statement where you're going to leave it?

Chad

From: SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@usdoj.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 7:36 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Statement on BuzzFeed article

You may attribute the following to me:

"BuzzFeed's description of specific statements to the Special Counsel's Office, and characterization of documents and testimony obtained by this office, regarding Michael Cohen's Congressional testimony are not accurate."

Best,
Peter Carr
Spokesman
Special Counsel's Office

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SpecialCounselPress

From: SpecialCounselPress
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 8:39 PM
To: Sara Bailey
Subject: RE: Activity in Case 1:17-cr-00232-EGS USA v. FLYNN Response to document

no

From: Sara Baile (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 8:37 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Re: Activity in Case 1:17-cr-00232-EGS USA v. FLYNN Response to document

In response to the statement tonight from the Special Counsel's spokesman: We stand by our reporting and the sources who informed it, and we urge the Special Counsel to make clear what he's disputing- Ben Smith Tweet

Hey Peter,

Is there any response to BF standing by the story?

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 18, 2019, at 8:09 PM, SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@usdoj.gov> wrote:

You may attribute the following to me:

“BuzzFeed’s description of specific statements to the Special Counsel’s Office, and characterization of documents and testimony obtained by this office, regarding Michael Cohen’s Congressional testimony are not accurate.”

Best,
Peter Carr
Spokesman
Special Counsel’s Office

From: Sara Baile (b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 8:08 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Re: Activity in Case 1:17-cr-00232-EGS USA v. FLYNN Response to document

Hi Peter

Can you send me the statement on BF

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 17, 2018, at 10:27 PM, SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@usdoj.gov> wrote:

I just saw your message. Attached are the documents.

Be sure to read the cover letter, as it explains the other filing.

Begin forwarded message:

<2018.12.17 Letter to Court.pdf>

<Attachment 1 -- New Proposed Redactions Redacted.pdf>

Mike LaSusa

From: Mike LaSusa
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 8:42 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress
Subject: RE: Inquiry re: BuzzFeed story

Thank you.

--

Mike LaSusa
Reporter



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Legal News & Data
811 W. 7th Street, 12th Floor
Los Angeles, California 90017

(b) (6)

From: [SpecialCounselPress](#)
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 5:39 PM
To: [Mike LaSusa](#)
Subject: RE: Inquiry re: BuzzFeed story

You may attribute the following to me:

“BuzzFeed’s description of specific statements to the Special Counsel’s Office, and characterization of documents and testimony obtained by this office, regarding Michael Cohen’s Congressional testimony are not accurate.”

Best,
Peter Carr
Spokesman
Special Counsel’s Office

From: Mike LaSusa (b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 8:37 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress <SpecialCounselPress@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Inquiry re: BuzzFeed story

Hello,

My name is Mike LaSusa. I’m a reporter with Law360.

I would like to know if I can get a confirmation of the statement disputing the story BuzzFeed published yesterday? I see numerous other media outlets referencing it, but would appreciate an original copy.

Additionally, if you have any other comments you wish to provide, I would be happy to hear them.

My deadline is 7:30 pm PT (10:30 pm ET). I can be reached at this email or on my cell phon (b) (6)

Thanks so much.

--

Mike LaSusa
Reporter



Legal News & Data
811 W. 7th Street, 12th Floor
Los Angeles, California 90017
(b) (6)

j adams

From: j adams
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 8:53 PM
To: SpecialCounselPress
Subject: Statements and press releases during shutdown?

I have learned that the SCO has issued a statement challenging the accuracy of the BuzzFeed article. Is there an authoritative source where one can obtain these statements? Your website is not being updated due to the shutdown. Which statements, specifically, in the article are inaccurate? Here is the article for your reference:

<https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/jasonleopold/trump-russia-cohen-moscow-tower-mueller-investigation>

Engel, Steven A. (OLC)

From: Engel, Steven A. (OLC)
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 9:48 AM
To: Rabbitt, Brian (OAG); Boyd, Stephen E. (OLA); Lasseter, David F. (OLA); O'Callaghan, Edward C. (ODAG); Kupec, Kerri (OPA)
Cc: Gannon, Curtis E. (OLC)
Subject: RE: Letter to President
Attachments: 5-8-19 OLA to Nadler Notifying of Protective Assertion of EP 920 bcr + sae + olc.docx

Slight tweaks to eliminate some redundancy.

From: Rabbitt, Brian (OAG) (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 9:36 AM
To: Boyd, Stephen E. (OLA) (b) (6); Engel, Steven A. (OLC) (b)(6) per OLC
Lasseter, David F. (OLA) (b) (6); O'Callaghan, Edward C. (ODAG) (b) (6); Kupec, Kerri (OPA) (b) (6) >
Cc: Gannon, Curtis E. (OLC) <(b)(6) per OLC>
Subject: RE: Letter to President

Suggestions in attached. If OLA doesn't like them they can be omitted. Defer to you.

From: Boyd, Stephen E. (OLA) (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 9:33 AM
To: Engel, Steven A. (OLC) (b)(6) per OLC; Rabbitt, Brian (OAG) (b) (6); Lasseter, David F. (OLA) (b) (6); O'Callaghan, Edward C. (ODAG) (b) (6); Kupec, Kerri (OPA) (b) (6) >
Cc: Gannon, Curtis E. (OLC) <(b)(6) per OLC>
Subject: RE: Letter to President

We'll stand by. (b) (5) . SB

From: Engel, Steven A. (OLC) (b)(6) per OLC
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 9:30 AM
To: Rabbitt, Brian (OAG) <(b) (6)>; Lasseter, David F. (OLA) (b) (6); Boyd, Stephen E. (OLA) (b) (6); O'Callaghan, Edward C. (ODAG) (b) (6); Kupec, Kerri (OPA) <(b) (6)>
Cc: Gannon, Curtis E. (OLC) <(b)(6) per OLC>
Subject: RE: Letter to President

These edits are not to the earlier version. Do you want to review the current version and incorporate as relevant?

From: Rabbitt, Brian (OAG) (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 9:28 AM
To: Engel, Steven A. (OLC) <(b)(6) per OLC>; Lasseter, David F. (OLA) (b) (6); Boyd, Stephen E. (OLA) (b) (6); O'Callaghan, Edward C. (ODAG)

(b) (6); Kupec, Kerri (OPA) (b) (6)

Cc: Gannon, Curtis E. (OLC) (b)(6) per OLC

Subject: RE: Letter to President

A few additions to make clear (b) (5)

From: Engel, Steven A. (OLC) (b)(6) per OLC

Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 9:22 AM

To: Lasseter, David F. (OLA) (b) (6); Boyd, Stephen E. (OLA) (b) (6)

O'Callaghan, Edward C. (ODAG) (b) (6); Kupec, Kerri (OPA)

(b) (6) >

Cc: Rabbitt, Brian (OAG) (b) (6); Gannon, Curtis E. (OLC) (b)(6) per OLC

Subject: RE: Letter to President

How about this?

The Boyd letter should also include the AG's letter to the President. The final version is attached.

From: Lasseter, David F. (OLA) (b) (6)

Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 9:16 AM

To: Boyd, Stephen E. (OLA) (b) (6); Engel, Steven A. (OLC) (b)(6) per OLC

O'Callaghan, Edward C. (ODAG) (b) (6); Kupec, Kerri (OPA)

(b) (6) >

Cc: Rabbitt, Brian (OAG) (b) (6); Gannon, Curtis E. (OLC) (b)(6) per OLC

Subject: RE: Letter to President

I agree with SB's points. Are folks good with these edits or some variation of them? I would like to get this prepped for signature.

From: Boyd, Stephen E. (OLA) (b) (6)

Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 9:07 AM

To: Engel, Steven A. (OLC) (b)(6) per OLC; O'Callaghan, Edward C. (ODAG)

(b) (6); Kupec, Kerri (OPA) (b) (6); Lasseter, David F. (OLA)

(b) (6)

Cc: Rabbitt, Brian (OAG) (b) (6); Gannon, Curtis E. (OLC) (b)(6) per OLC

Subject: RE: Letter to President

From a public standpoint, this process is confusing. Can we add (b) (5)

Also I prefer (b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

From: Engel, Steven A. (OLC) <(b)(6) per OLC>
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 9:01 AM
To: O'Callaghan, Edward C. (ODAG) (b) (6); Boyd, Stephen E. (OLA) (b) (6); Kupec, Kerri (OPA) <(b) (6)>; Lasseeter, David F. (OLA) (b) (6)
Cc: Rabbitt, Brian (OAG) <(b) (6)>; Gannon, Curtis E. (OLC) (b)(6) per OLC
Subject: RE: Letter to President

Ok w me

From: O'Callaghan, Edward C. (ODAG) (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 8:54 AM
To: Engel, Steven A. (OLC) <(b)(6) per OLC>; Boyd, Stephen E. (OLA) (b) (6); Kupec, Kerri (OPA) (b) (6); Lasseeter, David F. (OLA) (b) (6)
Cc: Rabbitt, Brian (OAG) (b) (6); Gannon, Curtis E. (OLC) <(b)(6) per OLC>
Subject: RE: Letter to President

Suggestions to (b) (5).

Edward C. O'Callaghan
(b) (6)

From: Engel, Steven A. (OLC) (b)(6) per OLC
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 8:37 AM
To: Boyd, Stephen E. (OLA) (b) (6); Kupec, Kerri (OPA) (b) (6); Lasseeter, David F. (OLA) (b) (6)
Cc: Rabbitt, Brian (OAG) (b) (6); O'Callaghan, Edward C. (ODAG) (b) (6); Gannon, Curtis E. (OLC) (b)(6) per OLC
Subject: RE: Letter to President

Attached is the draft OLA letter, which we would send over to the Committee in advance of the vote.

From: Boyd, Stephen E. (OLA) (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 8:29 AM
To: Engel, Steven A. (OLC) (b)(6) per OLC
Cc: Rabbitt, Brian (OAG) (b) (6); O'Callaghan, Edward C. (ODAG) (b) (6); Gannon, Curtis E. (OLC) (b)(6) per OLC
Subject: Re: Letter to President

Roger.

On May 8, 2019, at 8:25 AM, Engel, Steven A. (OLC) <(b)(6) per OLC> wrote:

Yes. AG signs on or before 9 am. Then the President signs his assertion. Then you send

over another letter to the Committee before 10 am.

From: Boyd, Stephen E. (OLA) (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 8:23 AM
To: Engel, Steven A. (OLC) <(b)(6) per OLC>
Cc: Rabbitt, Brian (OAG) (b) (6); O'Callaghan, Edward C. (ODAG) (b) (6); Gannon, Curtis E. (OLC) (b)(6) per OLC
Subject: Re: Letter to President

Is the plan to have all of this done and processed before the vote?

Sent from my iPhone

On May 8, 2019, at 8:21 AM, Engel, Steven A. (OLC) (b)(6) per OLC > wrote:

Duplicative Material (Document ID: 0.7.23922.66027)





U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

May 8, 2019

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Nadler:

We are disappointed that you have rejected the Department of Justice's request to delay the vote of the Committee on the Judiciary on a contempt finding against the Attorney General this morning. By doing so, you have terminated our ongoing negotiations and abandoned the accommodation process with respect to your April 18, 2019, subpoena of confidential Department of Justice materials related to the investigation conducted by Special Counsel Robert S. Mueller, III. As we have repeatedly explained, the Attorney General could not comply with your subpoena in its current form without violating the law, court rules, and court orders, and without threatening the independence of the Department of Justice's prosecutorial functions. Despite this, we have attempted to engage with the Committee in good faith in an effort to accommodate your stated interest in these materials. Unfortunately, rather than allowing negotiations to continue, you scheduled an entirely unnecessary contempt vote, which you refused to postpone to allow additional time for compromise.

Accordingly, this is to advise you that the President has asserted executive privilege over the entirety of the subpoenaed materials. As I indicated in my letter to you last night, this protective assertion of executive privilege ensures the President's ability to make a final decision whether to assert privilege following a full review of these materials. *See Protective Assertion of Executive Privilege Regarding White House Counsel's Office Documents*, 20 Op. O.L.C. 1 (1996) (opinion of Attorney General Janet Reno). Regrettably, you have made this assertion necessary by your insistence upon scheduling a premature contempt vote.

Sincerely,

Stephen E. Boyd
Assistant Attorney General

cc: The Honorable Doug Collins
Ranking Member

Committee on Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515