

From: Anna Palmer Jake Sherman Daniel Lippman
Sent: Wednesday, June 6, 2018 1:13 PM
To: (b) (6): Sarah Flores personal email
Subject: Playbook Power Briefing, presented by PhRMA: Ryan tilts away from Trump

[View online version](#) | Add politicoplaybook@politico.com to your address book.

PlaybookPowerBriefBannersmall.jpg



Today's Playbook Power Briefing presented by PhRMA

By JAKE SHERMAN (sherman@politico.com; [@JakeSherman](#)), ANNA PALMER (anna@politico.com; [@apalmerdc](#)), DANIEL LIPPMAN (daniel@politico.com; [@dlippman](#)) and ZACH MONTELLARO (zmontellaro@politico.com; [@ZachMontellaro](#))

SPEAKER PAUL RYAN on whether the president has the power to pardon himself: "I don't know the technical answer to that question but I think obviously the answer is, he shouldn't because no one is above the law."

-- KYLE CHENEY: "Speaker Paul Ryan dealt another blow to President Donald Trump's 'Spygate' theory Wednesday, saying he's seen 'no evidence' to support claims that the FBI spied on Trump's 2016 campaign for political purposes.

"Ryan, speaking to reporters at the Capitol, endorsed what he called an 'initial assessment' by Rep. Trey Gowdy (R S.C.), who said last week that the FBI acted appropriately when it

deployed an informant to make contact with Trump campaign associates. Ryan was one of four Republicans, including Gowdy, briefed last month by the Justice Department on the informant.

"I think Chairman Gowdy's initial assessment is accurate," said Ryan, who was one of a handful of lawmakers, including Gowdy, briefed by the Justice Department on the FBI's use of an informant. 'I have seen no evidence to the contrary of the initial assessment Chairman Gowdy has made.'" <https://politi.co/2JB Ugvr>

-- CNN's Jeremy Herb (@jeremyherb): "Intel Chair Richard Burr also sides with Gowdy over Trump's 'spygate' claims. 'I think that Trey Gowdy's description of the process was correct,' Burr said"

ELANA SCHOR and BURGESS EVERETT: "Schumer: Democrats could take Senate majority": "In an interview with POLITICO on Tuesday, the New York Democrat said he sees an upside for his vulnerable incumbents in campaigning as a check against the president. ... [F]ive months before the election, Schumer insisted he's optimistic, touting internal Democratic polls that show even Trump backers in six deep red states prefer a Democrat who can counter the president.

"As Trump's going up, our senators are going up in the polling,' Schumer said, crediting a crop of Democratic incumbents 'who are identified with their own states, as opposed to identified with Washington and the national party.'

"Thought Democrats have a much better chance to win the House than the Senate, Schumer didn't rule out a Democratic takeover of his chamber. On top of the strong position of many of his incumbents, he pointed to potential pickups in a handful of states.

"When you look race by race, we have a very good chance,' Schumer said. 'We are much, much closer than people would ever think.'" <https://politi.co/2xRhOrq>

AXIOS' JONATHAN SWAN: "Trump has commuted Alice Johnson's life sentence": "Johnson's cause was championed last week at the White House by Kim Kardashian West. ... This is part of a broader effort led by Jared Kushner to highlight the issue of prison reform particularly focused on nonviolent offenders." <https://bit.ly/2LtWBWl>

-- CNN'S KAITLIN COLLINS: "CNN Exclusive: Trump considers dozens of new pardons": "The White House has assembled the paperwork to pardon dozens of people, two sources with knowledge of the developments tell CNN, signaling that President Donald Trump is poised to exert his constitutional power and intervene, in some instances, where he believes the Justice Department has overstepped." <https://cnn.it/2sKqw4N>

Good Wednesday afternoon. A HEADLINE THE PRESIDENT WILL LIKE -- "DOJ watchdog

finds James Comey defied authority as FBI director, sources say," by ABC News' Mike Levine: "One source told ABC News that the draft report explicitly used the word 'insubordinate' to describe Comey's behavior. Another source agreed with that characterization but could not confirm the use of the term.

"In the draft report, Inspector General Michael Horowitz also rebuked former Attorney General Loretta Lynch for her handling of the federal investigation into Hillary Clinton's personal email server, the sources said." <https://abcn.ws/2Hp6u5o>

A HEADLINE THE PRESIDENT WON'T LIKE -- "Ivanka Trump Was In Contact With A Russian Who Offered A Trump-Putin Meeting," by BuzzFeed's Anthony Cormier, Jason Leopold and Emma Loop: "[D]uring the campaign, she connected her father's personal lawyer with a Russian athlete who offered to introduce Donald Trump to Putin to facilitate a 100 story Trump tower in Moscow, according to emails reviewed by BuzzFeed News and four sources with knowledge of the matter.

"There is no evidence that Ivanka Trump's contact with the athlete the former Olympic weightlifter Dmitry Klokov was illegal or that it had anything to do with the election. Nor is it clear that Klokov could even have introduced Trump to the Russian president. But congressional investigators have reviewed emails and questioned witnesses about the interaction, according to two of the sources, and so has special counsel Robert Mueller's team, according to the other two." <https://bzfd.it/2JvHBKI>

PIC DU JOUR -- @JeffFlake: ".@SteveScalise back on the field this morning. This does my heart good." <http://bit.ly/2xOgsxB>

ON THE PRESIDENT'S MIND -- @realDonaldTrump at 9:16 a.m.: "Great night for Republicans! Congratulations to John Cox on a really big number in California. He can win. Even Fake News CNN said the Trump impact was really big, much bigger than they ever thought possible. So much for the big Blue Wave, it may be a big Red Wave. Working hard!" ***He also sent out a tweet saying "many more Republican voters" showed up than predicted and congratulated California GOP Rep. Dana Rohrabacher.***

-- REALITY CHECK from The Sacramento Bee's Alexei Koseff: Cox "will face an uphill battle in the coming months against [Democratic Lt. Gov. Gavin] Newsom, who has vastly outraised Cox in liberal California." <https://bit.ly/2MorBhE>

... at 9:48 a.m.: "The Fake News Media has been so unfair, and vicious, to my wife and our great First Lady, Melania. During her recovery from surgery they reported everything from near death, to facelift, to left the W.H. (and me) for N.Y. or Virginia, to abuse. All Fake, she is doing really well!" **... at 9:54 a.m.:** "...Four reporters spotted Melania in the White House last week

walking merrily along to a meeting. They never reported the sighting because it would hurt the sick narrative that she was living in a different part of the world, was really ill, or whatever. Fake News is really bad!"

G7 LOOKAHEAD -- "Trump plans confrontational approach with world leaders at economic summit," by WaPo's Damian Paletta and Anne Gearan: "President Trump plans to confront other world leaders at a summit in Quebec on Friday over what he believes is a global economic system tilted against the United States, several people briefed on the plan said, escalating tensions with U.S. allies who have expressed outrage at his pivot toward protectionism. ...

"In a sign Trump is looking to stoke divisions, White House officials are discussing ways to impose additional economic penalties against Canada — the host nation for the summit — in retaliation for Ottawa's threat to levy tariffs next month on roughly \$13 billion in U.S. made products. ...

"White House officials are also considering whether to have Trump refuse to sign onto a customary joint agreement at the end of the G 7 summit, one senior administration official said, as a signal that the old ways of doing business are over." <https://wapo.st/2JgveCm>

**** A message from PhRMA: New analysis from IHS Markit shows providing access to discounted medicine prices at the pharmacy could save seniors with diabetes more than \$350 annually.** Sharing negotiated rebates could also save Medicare nearly \$1,000 annually for every senior taking diabetes medication, reducing total health care spending by approximately \$20B over the next 10 years. <https://letstalkaboutmedicare.org/> **

CUE THE INVESTIGATIONS ... "Obama-era license aimed to let Iran convert money in dollars," by the AP's Josh Lederman and Matthew Lee: "The Obama administration secretly sought to give Iran access albeit briefly to the U.S. financial system by sidestepping sanctions kept in place after the 2015 nuclear deal, despite repeatedly telling Congress and the public it had no plans to do so. ...

"[A] report by the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations revealed that under President Barack Obama, the Treasury Department issued a license in February 2016, never previously disclosed, that would have allowed Iran to convert \$5.7 billion it held at a bank in Oman from Omani rials into euros by exchanging them first into U.S. dollars. If the Omani bank had allowed the exchange without such a license, it would have violated sanctions that bar Iran from transactions that touch the U.S. financial system.

"The effort was unsuccessful because American banks themselves afraid of running afoul of U.S. sanctions declined to participate." <https://bit.ly/2sKsNgB>

HENSARLING SPEAKS OUT ON TRADE -- "I'm just dumbfounded when I pick up my newspaper to read that the administration is trying to negotiate higher wages for Mexican auto workers so that U.S. consumers have to pay more for cars! I mean, it's just surreal to me," the House Financial Services Committee Chairman Jeb Hensarling told Bloomberg TV's Kevin Cirilli. "... He's going to wipe out economic growth." **Full video** <https://bloom.bg/2HowHkB>

PYONGYANG UPDATE -- "Trump's North Korea diplomacy crashed by friends and foes alike," by Nahal Toosi: "As Trump prepares to meet with Kim Jong Un on June 12, a growing list of foreign leaders is trying to influence the results. ...

"The global jockeying may greatly complicate Trump's plans for dealing with Kim, analysts warned. Some nations will want to shape any nuclear agreement, while others could seek to undermine a resulting deal." <https://politi.co/2Jjj4EJ>

-- JASON SCHWARTZ: "Will Trump stand up for free press in Singapore?": "With only a week to go, the White House has yet to nail down what sort of access American reporters will receive, and whether Trump or, more tantalizingly, Kim, will take questions from the media. ...

"Under normal conditions, these types of arrangements are made weeks and months in advance, with meticulous planning. But nothing about the North Korea summit has gone according to any normal plan. Complicating matters is the host country, which is one of the least hospitable to the media." <https://politi.co/2JmW4F5>

-- 38 NORTH'S JOSEPH S. BERMUDEZ JR.: "North Korea Razing Key Missile Test Stand" <https://bit.ly/2JzW4oC> *"38 North" is a North Korea analysis site that uses satellite imagery.*

HMM... -- "Trump to sign veterans health bill as White House works against plan to fund it," by WaPo's Erica Werner and Lisa Rein: "The VA Mission Act authorizes new health care programs for veterans, but the bill does not reserve federal money to pay for those programs. A group of powerful Senate committee chairmen aims to remedy that by amending a separate measure to pay for the new \$50 billion law, saying that adding the funds is the best way to ensure the new programs give veterans access to medical care.

"But the White House has engaged in a quiet effort to thwart the senators' plan, encouraging lawmakers to vote it down and instead asking Congress to pay for the veterans programs by cutting spending elsewhere." <https://wapo.st/2Hpq8Oo>

WITH FRIENDS LIKE THESE -- "U.S. pushes NATO to ready more forces to deter Russian threat," by Reuters' Robin Emmott and Idrees Ali: "U.S. Secretary of Defence Jim Mattis will seek broad agreement for the plan in Brussels on Thursday when alliance defence ministers meet, laying the ground for endorsement by NATO leaders at a summit in July, four U.S. and

NATO officials and diplomats told Reuters.

"Known as 30-30-30-30, the plan would require NATO to have 30 land battalions, 30 air fighter squadrons and 30 ships ready to deploy within 30 days of being put on alert. ...

"That lays down a challenge for European governments, pilloried by U.S. President Donald Trump for slashing military spending after the Cold War, to remedy long running problems with helicopters and jets that are grounded for lack of parts." <https://reut.rs/2LsvyL4>

FOGGY BOTTOM UPDATE -- "A Growing List of U.S. Diplomats Acting Undiplomatically," by NYT's Gardiner Harris: "There is nothing new about ambassadors making unfortunate remarks. But the growing list of top envoys who have provoked controversy even in posts of close allies, where diplomatic duties largely include party giving and anodyne cheerleading, has been unusual — and, for the Trump administration, potentially perilous." <https://nyti.ms/2sLU8ia>

STAT DU JOUR -- "[A]lmost 20 percent of Americans would deny Muslims who are American citizens the right to vote," from the Democracy Fund Voter Study Group survey on public perceptions of Muslims in the U.S. **Full results** <https://bit.ly/2sBdIyI>

AFTERNOON READ -- "Murder with impunity: Where killings go unsolved," by WaPo's Wesley Lowery, Kimbriell Kelly, Ted Mellnik and Steven Rich: "The Post has mapped more than 52,000 homicides in major American cities over the past decade and found that across the country, there are areas where murder is common but arrests are rare. ...

"The overall homicide arrest rate in the 50 cities is 49 percent, but in these areas of impunity, police make arrests less than 33 percent of the time. Despite a nationwide drop in violence to historic lows, 34 of the 50 cities have a lower homicide arrest rate now than a decade ago.

"Some cities, such as Baltimore and Chicago, solve so few homicides that vast areas stretching for miles experience hundreds of homicides with virtually no arrests. In other places, such as Atlanta, police manage to make arrests in a majority of homicides — even those that occur in the city's most violent areas." <https://wapo.st/2Molry5>

MEDIAWATCH -- @newyorkerunion: "We're proud to announce that the editorial staff of @NewYorker has formed a union with @nyguild." **The details from New York magazine** <https://nym.ag/2HoidBf>

-- Facebook announced its inaugural lineup of funded news shows within Facebook Watch. The Facebook exclusive shows will come from ABC News, Univision, CNN, Fox News and more. **Full announcement** <https://bit.ly/2xLx34U>

-- **Four new contributors** are joining CNN as legal analysts: **Renato Mariotti** in Chicago, **Jennifer Rodgers** in New York and **Ross Garber** and **Jack Quinn** in D.C.

TRANSITIONS -- Coleman Lamb is now a senior communications adviser for his brother Rep. Conor Lamb's (D Pa.) campaign in the new 17th district of Pennsylvania. He previously was communications director for Rep. Kathleen Rice (D N.Y.). ... **Lynn Good** has been elected chairman of the board of the Edison Electric Institute. She is chairman, president and CEO of Duke Energy. **Christopher Crane** and **Ben Fowke** were elected vice chairmen.

-- **OBAMA ALUMNI: Sarah Horowitz** is now account director in the D.C. office of the global communications firm LEWIS. She was previously at RH Strategic and is an Obama Commerce alum.

OUT AND ABOUT -- SPOTTED at a bipartisan homeland security reception at the Capital Yacht Club at the Wharf hosted by Ed Cash: DHS Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen who spoke to attendees (*pics* <http://bit.ly/2kS3bKY> ... <https://politi.co/2LtQDVF>), Michael Jackson, Chris Krebs, Dan Kaniewski, Francis Cissna, Chad Wolf, Zach Fuentes, Brendan Shields, Eric Heighberger, Tim Manning, Jonathan and Anne Marie Hoffman, and Chad Sweet.

-- **SPOTTED** at a book party last night at the home of John Jameson for Mike Lux's "How to Democrat in the Age of Trump," published by Strong Arm Press, founded by Ryan Grim, Jess McIntosh and Alex Lawson (**\$13.49 on Amazon** <https://amzn.to/2sL1ClO>): Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D Mass.), Reps. Keith Ellison (D Minn.) and Mark Pocan (D Wis.), Heather Booth, Chuy Garcia, Joel Silberman, Nihal Krishan, Avi Zenilman, Greg Sargent, Chris Harris, Nancy Altman, Laura Bernstein, Lauren Windsor, Anna Lefer Kuhn, David Hogg, Dave Freeman, Aida Chavez, David Halperin, and Soumya Gowda.

WELCOME TO THE WORLD - Matthew Walther, national correspondent for The Week, and **Lydia Sherwood**, recently welcomed John Henry Newman Walther, joining two big sisters, Thisbe, and Violet. *Pic* <http://bit.ly/2JlZKaf>

BONUS BIRTHDAY OF THE DAY: Dr. Matt Heinz, a Democratic candidate for Arizona's 2nd congressional district and an Obama alum. **A trend he thinks deserves more attention:** "American citizens are treated much differently depending on where they live. The federal response to the 2017 hurricane season is the most recent and dramatic example of this trend. In Houston, authorities have declared the area fully recovered while Puerto Rican residents still face shortages in power and clean water. Most disturbing of all is that the official death toll for Puerto Rico was revised upward from several dozen to several thousand people just a few days ago." **Q&A:** <https://politi.co/2Lr49Jm>

**** A message from PhRMA:** For more than 10 years, Medicare has provided prescription drug

coverage for seniors. Competition continues to keep premiums low, but seniors are facing higher out of pocket spending. Insurers negotiate significant discounts for medicines in Part D. Giving seniors 80% of those discounts at the pharmacy counter could save a senior with diabetes more than \$350 per year on their health care costs. The change could also save Medicare nearly \$1,000 per year for every senior taking diabetes medication. How? By helping patients afford the drugs they need to stay healthy and stay out of the hospital. **Seniors share the cost. They should share the savings.** <https://letstalkaboutmedicare.org/> **

SUBSCRIBE to the Playbook family: **POLITICO Playbook** <http://politi.co/2lQswbh> ... **Playbook Power Briefing** <http://politi.co/2xuOiqh> ... **New York Playbook** <http://politi.co/1ON8bqW> ... **Florida Playbook** <http://politi.co/1OypFe9> ... **New Jersey Playbook** <http://politi.co/1HLKltF> ... **Massachusetts Playbook** <http://politi.co/1Nhtq5v> ... **Illinois Playbook** <http://politi.co/1N7u5sb> ... **California Playbook** <http://politi.co/2bLvcPl> ... **London Playbook** <http://politi.co/2xfDPuK> ... **Brussels Playbook** <http://politi.co/1FZeLcw> ... **All our political and policy tipsheets** <http://politi.co/1M75UbX>

[View online](#)

To change your alert settings, please go to <https://secure.politico.com/settings>



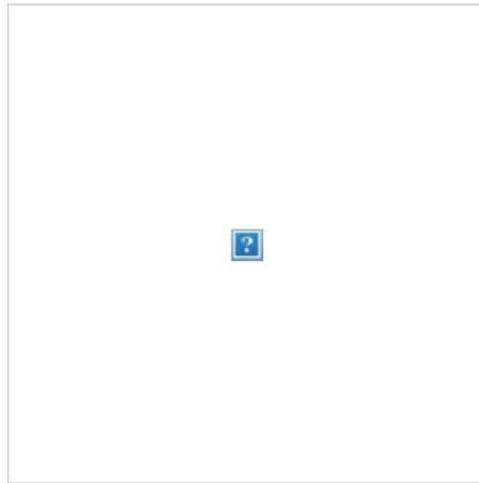
This email was sent to (b) (6): Sarah Flores personal email by: POLITICO, LLC 1000 Wilson Blvd. Arlington, VA, 22209, USA

Please click [here](#) and follow the steps to unsubscribe.

Chris Cillizza

From: Chris Cillizza
Sent: Wednesday, June 6, 2018 7:34 PM
To: Boyd, Stephen E. (OLA)
Subject: The Point: CounterPoint: The California primary edition

[View this email in your browser](#)



June 6, 2018 | by Chris Cillizza and Saba Hamedy

Point/CounterPoint: The California primary edition



The most consequential day of primaries in 2018 so far is behind us! But before it gets too far in the rearview mirror, we need to spend some time unpacking what June 5, 2018, taught us about November 6, 2018.

Because this ain't easy, I'm bringing in some help. Below, I gave you my Point – and CNN resident election big brain [Harry Enten](#) offered a CounterPoint. Get it? Got it? Good.



Chris Cillizza: Going into Tuesday's vote, there were major concerns among Democratic strategists that California's odd "jungle primary" system could spell doom for their side. Under the system, which was approved by voters in a ballot initiative in 2010, all candidates run on the same ballot. The top two vote-getters, regardless of their party affiliations, advance to the November election.

That nightmare **didn't come to pass** on Tuesday. In all seven – yes, seven(!) – Republican-held California House seats that Hillary Clinton won in the the 2016 election, Democrats will have a candidate.

That's a very big deal – particularly when you consider that if Democrats can win five or six of these seats that amounts to one-quarter (or close) of the total of 23 seats they need to net to win back the House majority in November.

Harry Enten: While I certainly agree it wasn't a *bad* night for Democrats given that they weren't locked out in any of the races in California, I'm not sure I can go so far as to call it good. Why?

Take a look at the cumulative vote percentages the Democrats got versus the Republicans in the seven California districts that have a Republican representative and voted for Clinton in 2016. In the 10th, 21st, 25th, 39th, 45th and 48th, the Republican candidates (as of Wednesday) got **more votes than the Democratic candidates did**. In the 21st, it wasn't even close, with Rep. David Valadao scoring well over 60% of the vote, despite Clinton carrying the district by over 15 points. Only in the 49th District did the Democrats get a larger share of the vote than the Republicans.

Now, you might say that this isn't the general election. Yes, that's true, though the top-two primary has traditionally been **decently predictive of the fall results**. Based upon history, we should expect Democrats to gain a little ground in the general based off the primary. That ground gained, though, has not historically been so great as to make us believe that they are favorites in really any of these seats outside the 49th. Most of these races are either tossups or even lean Republican.

Not exactly great news for a party that needs a net gain of 23 seats and thinks California is a place where they can pick up a good share of that 23.

Chris: Good observation. Much like your views on **Carvel ice cream**. Can't wait 'til next Tuesday – more primaries!

The Point: Opinions vary! But what's clear is Tuesday night wasn't the disaster it *could* have been for Democrats. Whether November in California will be a letdown or a leg up for Democrats' hopes of the House majority remains to be seen.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Didn't you guys burn down the White House?"

*-President Donald Trump invoking the War of 1812 in a testy phone call with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in May (**according to CNN's exclusive report**)*

MORE PRESIDENTIAL PARDONS ON THE WAY?



It appears Kim Kardashian West's efforts to persuade the President to pardon Alice Johnson worked. Kardashian West met with Trump and his son-in-law, Jared Kushner, in the Oval Office last week on Johnson's behalf. On Wednesday, President Donald Trump formally commuted Johnson's sentence. The 63-year-old Tennessee woman was sentenced to life in prison in 1996 on charges related to cocaine possession and money laundering. Read more about Johnson's pardon [here](#).

Per [CNN's Kaitlan Collins](#), Trump may be preparing to pardon more people soon. From her story: "The White House has assembled the paperwork to pardon dozens of people, two sources with knowledge of the developments tell CNN, signaling that (Trump) is poised to exert his constitutional power and intervene, in some instances, where he believes the Justice Department has overstepped. The administration has prepared the pardoning paperwork for at least 30 people, the sources tell CNN." Read more [here](#).

In case you forgot, here's who Trump has pardoned already: [Joe Arpaio](#), [Kristian Saucier](#), [Scooter Libby](#), [Jack Johnson](#) and [Dinesh D'Souza](#).

CHRIS' GOOD READS

[Ivanka Trump, facilitator](#), by BuzzFeed's [Anthony Cormier](#), [Jason Leopold](#) and [Emma Loop](#)

[Scott Pruitt, survivor](#), by Politico's [Jack Shafer](#)

[Quin Hillyer](#) on the [low-key wild](#) Alabama gubernatorial primary

An amazing piece by WaPo on [where murders go unsolved](#)

[This made me laugh out loud](#)

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

[This cover](#) of Leonard Cohen's "Memories," which features vocals from Matt Berninger and Sufjan Stevens. The song is among those available on a [new digital platform, created by "the PEOPLE,"](#) an artist-led collective co-founded by Bon Iver's Justin Vernon and the National's Aaron and Bryce Dessner.

INSTA POINT



Today's topic: *Trump's "great night" for the GOP in CA wasn't so great.*

#2020 WATCH

From CNN's *Caroline Kenny*: Former Vice President **Joe Biden** will give the keynote address at a Maryland Democratic Party fundraising event later this month. On June 30, Biden will take the stage at a mega-fundraiser at Camden Yards in Baltimore for a #BlueWave Unity Celebration, according to the invitation. The event will also feature the Democratic nominee for governor -- which won't be known until the Maryland primary just a few days prior to the event on June 26.

This isn't the first time Biden, as a former vice president and prospective 2020 presidential candidate, has addressed a state party and helped it raise money. Back in September 2017, Biden traveled down to early primary state South

Carolina to raise money for the state party and also endorsed James Smith for governor in the state's primary, which will take place June 12. In addition, Biden traveled to Montana earlier this year to speak at a party fundraiser in a Trump-voting state where Democratic Sen. Jon Tester is set to face a tough re-election campaign this year.

ICYMI: LAST NIGHT'S PRIMARY RESULTS



Didn't stay up to get the primary election results? CNN's got you covered.

CNN's [Eric Bradner](#) and [Dan Merica](#) report:

- Sen. Dianne Feinstein sailed through her primary and will face Senate Majority Leader Kevin de León in the general election.
- Former San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom advanced to the general election in the governor's race and will face Republican John Cox, who has the backing of President Donald Trump.

- Tuesday was another big night for female candidates. In Iowa, Democrats Cindy Axne and Abby Finkenauer could become the state's first female House members. In South Dakota, Republican Rep. Kristi Noem won the primary and is now likely to become the state's first female governor. And in New Mexico, Democrat Deb Haaland's win puts her on track to become the nation's first Native American congresswoman.

Read more of CNN's takeaways [here](#).

IFTAR AT THE WHITE HOUSE

For Muslims, tonight is iftar, the sundown meal that breaks fasts during the holy month of Ramadan. President Donald Trump's White House will host its first iftar, which White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said "30 to 40" people had been invited to. Though the Trump administration officials haven't yet released a guest list or divulged many details about the event.

[CNN's Religion Editor Daniel Burke](#) spoke to many Muslim Americans about this, and the general consensus has been: Thanks, but no thanks. From [his story](#):

"In years past, White House iftars have invited not only diplomats but also dozens of American Muslims from civil society, including corporate executives, scholars, activists and athletes. But many American Muslims say they are reluctant to break bread with Trump, citing the President's rhetoric and actions toward Muslims and other religious and racial minorities.

"We do not need an iftar dinner," said Imam Yahya Hendi, the Muslim chaplain at Georgetown University. "Rather, we need to get the respect we highly deserve. Do not feed us and stab us."

SOME TIMELY MERCH



Photo courtesy: [Cynthia Nixon / Screengrab / Twitter](#)

It's the [20th anniversary of "Sex and the City"](#) -- and New York gubernatorial candidate Cynthia Nixon is capitalizing on the show's fan base. The former "Sex and the City" actress and activist, who is running against Gov. Andrew Cuomo in the state's primary, on Wednesday launched new merch containing slogans related to her character on the show, Miranda, such as: "I'm a Miranda and I'm voting for Cynthia." The Cut wrote more about it [here](#), and read more of CNN's recent coverage of the New York race [here](#).

YOUR DAILY GIF



H/T [Brenna](#)

From Brenna: "I live for a random celebrity cameo on Capitol Hill. Today, actress Alyssa Milano joined lawmakers in making a new push for the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. You, too, can start a new push by telling everyone you know to [sign up for The Point](#)."



We'd love to share our other newsletters with you. [Follow this link for daily coverage](#) of the world's top stories, savvy market insights, an insider's look into the media, and more. Our authors for The Point are **Chris Cillizza** and **Saba Hamedy**. Send your tips and thoughts via email to [Chris](#) or [Saba](#). Follow on Twitter: [Chris](#) and [Saba](#).



Share



Tweet



Forward

Subscribe to The Point

Copyright © 2018 Cable News Network, LP, LLLP. A Time Warner Company. All Rights Reserved. All rights reserved.
You are receiving this message because you subscribed to CNN's The Point with Chris Cillizza newsletter.

Our mailing address is:
Cable News Network, LP, LLLP. A Time Warner Company. All Rights Reserved.
One CNN Center
Atlanta, GA 30303

[Add us to your address book](#)

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)



Escalona, Prim (OLP)

From: Escalona, Prim (OLP)
Sent: Thursday, June 7, 2018 8:31 AM
To: Escalona, Prim F. (OLA)
Subject: FW: Morning Consult Washington: House Expected to Vote Today on \$15 Billion Spending Cut Package

From: Morning Consult
Sent: Thursday, June 7, 2018 12:29:18 PM (UTC+00:00) Monrovia, Reykjavik
To: Escalona, Prim (OLP)
Subject: Morning Consult Washington: House Expected to Vote Today on \$15 Billion Spending Cut Package



By [Eli Yokley](#)

Top Stories

- The House today is set to vote on a measure that would cut almost \$15 billion in leftover spending, according to Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy's

office. The rescissions package - requested by the Trump administration - faces long odds in the Senate, despite being immune to a Democratic filibuster. ([The Associated Press](#))

- The House passed the Water Resources Development Act by a 408-2 vote. The biennial measure would provide the Army Corps of Engineers with the authorization to maintain the nation's water infrastructure, and the Senate is expected to take up its own version of the legislation this summer. ([The Hill](#))
- French President Emmanuel Macron has signaled that progress must be made with President Donald Trump on tariffs, the Iran nuclear agreement and the Paris climate accord before he will be willing to sign a joint statement of the Group of 7 at this week's summit in Quebec, according to a French official. Macron's stance echoes that of German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who has vowed to challenge Trump on trade and climate change at the June 8-9 summit. ([Bloomberg](#))
- Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Bob Corker (R-Tenn.) filed legislation that would increase congressional oversight of tariffs being applied in the context of national security. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) said he did not anticipate bringing up legislation like Corker's as a standalone measure, but said it was possible that a senator might try to attach it to another measure, such as the fiscal 2019 defense authorization bill. ([Roll Call](#))

Chart Review

[Donald Trump hopes to save America's failing coal-fired power plants](#)

The Economist



Events Calendar (All Times Local)

THURSDAY

DOT's Chao, Sens. Blunt and Cantwell speak at Washington Post event	8:30 a.m.
---	-----------

Arizona governor participates in AEI event on the opioid crisis and foster care families	8:55 a.m.
--	-----------

FRIDAY

Heritage Foundation event on U.S.-Indonesia relations	10 a.m.
---	---------



Introducing: The Midterm Wave Watcher

A new interactive feature showcasing a range of survey research insights related to to the 2018 midterm elections.

General

France Warns Trump It Won't Sign a G-7 Statement

Helene Fouquet, Bloomberg

France has joined Germany in warning President Donald Trump that it won't sign a joint statement of the Group of 7 at the summit in Quebec this week without major concessions from the U.S., a French official in the president's office said. President Emmanuel Macron has signaled that progress on tariffs, Iran nuclear agreement and Paris climate accord must be made before he'll be willing to sign a joint statement, the official told reporters Wednesday in Ottawa.

FBI to share new details of Trump campaign informant with Congress

Kyle Cheney and Rachael Bade, Politico

The Justice Department intends to offer an additional briefing to a select group of senior lawmakers who have pressed for details about the FBI's use of an informant to make contact with associates of President Donald Trump's 2016 campaign. A senior Justice Department official said lawmakers in the so-called Gang of Eight - a group that includes Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wis.), Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) - will have an opportunity to review documents that they didn't review during a high-level classified briefing last month.

Stormy Daniels suit: My old lawyer was a 'puppet' for Trump, Cohen

Sarah Fitzpatrick and Tracy Connor, NBC News

Stormy Daniels says in a new lawsuit that her former attorney betrayed her and became a "puppet" for President Donald Trump and his personal lawyer while still representing her. The filing Wednesday alleges that Trump attorney Michael Cohen "hatched a plan" and "colluded" with the adult film actress' lawyer, Keith Davidson, to get her to go on Fox News in January and falsely deny she had an affair with Trump more than a decade ago.

A Medical Mystery Grows as U.S. Consulate Workers in China Fall Ill

Steven Lee Myers and Jane Perlez, The New York Times

A crisis over a mysterious ailment sickening American diplomats and their families - which began in Cuba and recently appeared in China - has widened as the State Department evacuated at least two more Americans from China

on Wednesday. The Americans who were evacuated worked at the American Consulate in the southern city of Guangzhou, and their colleagues and family members are being tested by a State Department medical team, officials said.

Presidential

[Joseph Hagin, point person on Korea summit, plans to leave White House soon](#)

Carol D. Leonnig et al., The Washington Post

White House deputy chief of staff Joseph Hagin, President Trump's point person arranging the North Korean nuclear summit, is preparing to leave his West Wing post soon, according to four people familiar with White House planning. Hagin, who was in Singapore recently and has been negotiating logistics for the on-again, off-again meeting between Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, may leave his job overseeing White House operations shortly after returning from the historic visit, two of the people said.

[Trump seeks to reorganize the federal government](#)

Helena Bottemiller Evich and Andrew Restuccia, Politico

The Trump administration is preparing to release a sweeping plan for reorganizing the federal government that includes a major consolidation of welfare programs - and a renaming of the Health and Human Services Department. The report, set to be released in the coming weeks by the White House OMB, seeks to move safety-net programs, including food stamps, into HHS, two sources with knowledge of the plan told POLITICO.

[In private FEMA remarks, Trump's focus strays from hurricanes](#)

Josh Dawsey, The Washington Post

The meeting was supposed to be about hurricane preparedness, as disaster officials gathered at Federal Emergency Management Agency headquarters days after the start of the 2018 season. But President Trump had a lot else on his mind, turning the closed-door discussion into soliloquies on his prowess in negotiating airplane deals, his popularity, the effectiveness of his political endorsements, the Republican Party's fortunes, the vagaries of Defense Department purchasing guidelines, his dislike of magnetized launch equipment on aircraft carriers, his unending love of coal and his breezy optimism about his planned Singapore summit with North Korean leader Kim

Jong Un.

Exclusive: Trump invokes War of 1812 in testy call with Trudeau over tariffs

Jim Acosta and Paula Newton, CNN

President Donald Trump and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau had a testy phone call on May 25 over new tariffs imposed by the Trump administration targeting steel and aluminum imports coming from Canada, including one moment during the conversation in which Trump made an erroneous historical reference, sources familiar with the discussion told CNN. According to the sources, Trudeau pressed Trump on how he could justify the tariffs as a "national security" issue.

Appeals Court Weighs Trump Campaign Rally Lawsuit

Brent Kendall, The Wall Street Journal

A federal appeals court on Wednesday questioned whether President Donald Trump can be sued by protesters who say they were attacked at a Trump campaign rally in 2016. A three-judge panel on the Sixth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati heard arguments in an appeal by Mr. Trump, who is challenging a trial judge's ruling last year that allowed the civil lawsuit to go forward.

Ivanka Trump Was In Contact With A Russian Who Offered A Trump-Putin Meeting

Anthony Cormier et al., BuzzFeed News

Amid intense scrutiny of contacts between Donald Trump's inner circle and representatives of Vladimir Putin, Ivanka Trump's name has barely come up. But during the campaign, she connected her father's personal lawyer with a Russian athlete who offered to introduce Donald Trump to Putin to facilitate a 100-story Trump tower in Moscow, according to emails reviewed by BuzzFeed News and four sources with knowledge of the matter.

Senate

Corker Unveils Plan to Give Congress Power to Stop Trump Trade Actions

Niels Lesniewski, Roll Call

Sen. Bob Corker followed through Wednesday on unveiling legislation to increase congressional oversight of tariffs applied in the context of national security. Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 grants the executive branch authority to impose tariffs to protect vital interests, but Corker and others argue that President Donald Trump is misapplying the law - using it against allies instead of adversaries.

[McConnell will ask Cornyn to stay on GOP leadership team](#)

Alexander Bolton, The Hill

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) will ask John Cornyn (Texas), the current Senate GOP whip, to stay on his leadership team next year. Cornyn, 66, is scheduled to step down from his post as the No. 2 Senate Republican leader at the end of 2018 because of term limits.

[Schumer seeks Obama's help for Senate Democrats in midterm elections](#)

Seung Min Kim and Sean Sullivan, The Washington Post

Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer proclaimed confidence Wednesday in Democrats' prospects in the midterm elections, while disclosing he had reached out to a major party draw for help - former president Barack Obama. In an interview with The Washington Post, Schumer (D-N.Y.) asserted that the number of states in which Democrats are playing defense has narrowed, though he declined to identify them.

House

[House GOP slates vote on \\$15B Trump spending cut package](#)

Andrew Taylor, The Associated Press

The GOP-controlled House is moving ahead on a White House plan to cut almost \$15 billion in leftover spending, scheduling a vote after President Donald Trump took to Twitter to sell the idea. A spokesman for House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy said Wednesday that the House will vote Thursday night on the measure, which had appeared to languish after Trump submitted it last month.

[House passes bipartisan water infrastructure bill](#)

Mallory Shelbourne, The Hill

The House on Wednesday passed its biennial water resources legislation, providing the Army Corps of Engineers with the authorization to maintain the nation's water infrastructure. The bipartisan bill, titled the Water Resources Development Act of 2018, passed the lower chamber on a 408-2 vote.

Republicans Look Ready To Force A Vote On Democrats' DACA Proposal

Matt Fuller, HuffPost

Unable to reach consensus on a GOP-only bill, Republican immigration proponents in the U.S. House of Representatives are getting close to forcing votes on legislation to protect immigrants brought to the United States when they were children. GOP leaders continue to express optimism that they can come up with a bill addressing President Donald Trump's four pillars on immigration: border security, renewing the Deferred Action on Childhood Arrivals (DACA) immigration program, eliminating the diversity visa lottery program, and curbing family-based immigration.

GOP congressman blasts Trump's spy conspiracy

Kyle Cheney and Rachael Bade, Politico

Rep. Tom Rooney, a top Republican lawmaker on the House Intelligence Committee, is ripping President Donald Trump's unsupported claim that the FBI inserted a spy inside his campaign. "What is the point of saying that there was a spy in the campaign when there was none?" Rooney said in an interview on Wednesday.

Democrats Strengthen House Takeover Prospects in Primary Voting **Carl Hulse and Jonathan Martin, The New York Times**

Democrats enhanced their prospects for winning control of the House with Tuesday's coast-to-coast primary results, skirting potential calamity in California and lining up likely gains in New Jersey and possible victories in Iowa and New Mexico. The Democratic Party had feared disaster in California, where a quirky "jungle primary" gives the November ballot to the top two finishers, regardless of party.

House Dems seethe over superdelegates plan

John Bresnahan and Heather Caygle, Politico

The controversial issue of "superdelegates" and their future in the Democratic Party led to an angry confrontation on Tuesday night between Democratic

National Committee Chairman Tom Perez and House Democrats, according to several lawmakers. But the members' angst may not help them since it appears that the DNC is ready to rein in the status of superdelegates, also known as "unpledged" delegates, no matter what lawmakers say or do.

[Georgia Congressman berated for tweeting D-Day photo with Nazi soldiers](#)

Tamar Hallerman, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Georgia Congressman Drew Ferguson was lambasted on social media Wednesday after his campaign tweeted a D-Day photo that depicted Nazi soldiers rather than American troops. The West Point Republican's campaign tweeted the black-and-white picture shortly before 7 a.m., which included the soldiers in front of a tank that featured the Iron Cross, a German military symbol.

States

[Ryan Smith elected Ohio House speaker after hours of voting](#)

Jeremy Pelzer, Cleveland.com

Dragging out a weeks-long deadlock to the bitter end, the Ohio House elected Rep. Ryan Smith as interim speaker on Wednesday after more than two hours and 11 rounds of voting. In an unprecedented series of votes, the House elected Smith, a Gallia County Republican who chairs the powerful House Finance Committee, to serve as speaker for the rest of the year.

[Tim Pawlenty's Minnesota Comeback Hits A Snag](#)

Henry J. Gomez, BuzzFeed News

When Tim Pawlenty agreed to run for his old job, many Republicans greeted him as a savior. The former two-term governor of Minnesota who had run for president and cultivated a national donor base was seen as the ideal standard-bearer for a party that has Democrats on the ropes in a traditionally blue state that's emerged as a battleground in this year's midterms.

Advocacy

[Curtailed Recess Puts Summer Fundraising, Lobbying in Flux](#)

Kate Ackley, Roll Call

The official Senate calendar isn't the only agenda in flux after Majority Leader Mitch McConnell announced he would cancel much of the chamber's cherished summer recess. The change may also disrupt plans for fundraising events outside Washington - as well as the dockets of lobbyists, who typically take their annual respite along with the congressional recess.

Volkswagen Reinstates Lobbyist After Monkey Test Investigation **Oliver Sachgau, Bloomberg**

Volkswagen AG's top lobbyist is back at his post after an internal audit found he didn't break any laws or company rules in the run-up to controversial diesel-fume tests on animals. Thomas Steg, the head of government relations who stepped down temporarily following public outcry over the tests, will be reinstated with immediate effect, the company said in a statement Wednesday.

Opinions, Editorials and Perspectives

Eliminate Schedule B to Protect Public Debate **Brian Garst, Morning Consult**

A healthy democracy needs its citizens capable and willing to express their political preferences even, or especially, when they conflict with the views of those in power. Tellingly, robust protections for speech were listed first among the Bill of Rights and have long been a cornerstone of our republic.

Despite Trump, the West Must Stay United **Donald Tusk, The New York Times**

This week leaders from the G7 countries will meet in Canada to discuss some of the key problems facing the world today. The agenda of the conference is guided by themes like gender equality, preparing for jobs of the future and foreign threats to our democracies.

Some Brighter Primary Colors **The Editorial Board, The Wall Street Journal**

Tuesday's primaries mostly played to type, setting up a November showdown that gives Democrats an excellent chance to retake the House. But a couple of races were notable for signaling that voters still care about taxes and (maybe) corruption.

Reclaiming Global Leadership

John Kasich, Foreign Affairs

The international system that the United States and its allies created after World War II has benefited the entire world, but global political and economic engagement have left too many Americans behind. Over the last 70 years, free-market democracies have come to dominate the global economy, U.S.-led efforts have dramatically reduced poverty and disease, and the world has been spared great-power conflict.

Research Reports and Polling

Poll: Economic satisfaction under Trump isn't helping his party's 2018 chances

Mark Murray, NBC News

By a whopping 25-point margin, voters say they're more likely to back a congressional candidate who promises to serve as a check on President Donald Trump, according to a new national poll from NBC News and the Wall Street Journal. And by a similar margin, they say they're less likely to vote for someone who has supported the president on most issues.

U.S. Voters Have Trump's Back As He Faces Kim Jong-Un, Quinnipiac University National Poll Finds; Except For First Lady, Trump Team Gets Low Grades

Quinnipiac University

American voters approve 72 - 21 percent of President Donald Trump's planned meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un next week and approve 52 - 35 percent of the way the president is handling the nation's policy toward North Korea, according to a Quinnipiac University National Poll released today. President Trump is not prepared for negotiations with Kim Jong-un, 48 percent of voters say, while 46 percent say he is prepared.



This email was sent by: Moming Consult
PO Box 27068 Washington, DC, 20038, US

[Manage your email preferences](#)

SUBSCRIBE

The Washington Post

From: The Washington Post
Sent: Thursday, June 7, 2018 8:59 AM
To: Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA)
Subject: The Daily 202: Why Bernie Sanders won't join the Democratic Party

If you're having trouble reading this, [click here](#).

The Daily 202



Share:  

 Listen to The Big Idea



Why Bernie Sanders won't join the Democratic Party



Sen. Bernie Sanders criticizes DNC Chair Tom Perez for New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo endorsement



BY JAMES HOHMANN

with Breanne Deppisch and Joanie Greve

THE BIG IDEA: Bernie Sanders was the runner-up for the

Democratic nomination to be president in 2016, and he's considering another try in 2020, but the Vermont senator remains adamant that he will not become a member of the party.

Sanders criticized Democratic National Committee Chairman Tom Perez on Wednesday for endorsing New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo over primary challenger Cynthia Nixon. He said this sort of interference by party bosses makes it harder to trust that progressives will get a fair shake in 2020.

That was [the biggest news](#) from Bernie's Daily 202 Live interview, but he uncorked a more systemic critique of the Democratic Party during our hourlong conversation that underscored the festering tensions between many grass-roots activists and the establishment. In a word, it kept coming back to money.

For example, Sanders cited the fact that 17 Senate Democrats recently voted to roll back Dodd-Frank – the law passed after the Great Recession to prevent another financial crisis – as evidence of the sway special interests hold over the party. “At the end of the day, it's not complicated,” he said. “Folks say, ‘Well, you know, I need that vote from you. You want campaign contributions? You want help for your Super PAC? I will expect you to vote to deregulate Wall Street.’ People will do that unfortunately.”

While Sanders caucuses with Senate Democrats, he insisted that he remains proudly and fiercely independent. He said he made a commitment to voters when he first ran for office in the 1980s to stay that way, but his refusal to technically join the party even as he works to remake it in his image irks many former supporters of Hillary Clinton.

“According to polling that I have seen, there are more people who now consider themselves independents than who are Democrats or Republicans,” replied Sanders. “There is not a lot of love, frankly, for either the Democratic or Republican Party and many people are discouraged with both. They’re turning away from both. So I think it is not a bad idea to have somebody who says, ‘I understand that. I am an independent. ... I have had to run against Democrats. But I want you, as independents, to come into the Democratic primaries and transform the Democratic Party.’”



Sen. Bernie Sanders weighs in on his potential 2020 presidential plans

-- Sanders has become much more polished since he launched his presidential campaign three years ago. His answers are crisper and punchier. He's developed more message discipline. He's savvier about using his platform to advance his priorities than he gets credit for from most D.C. elites and the mainstream media.

Asked when he'll decide whether to run again in 2020, he answers: "At the appropriate time."

When the crowd laughed, he quipped: "How's that for a good political answer? Is that good?"

"Believe me, there will be more than enough candidates, I'm quite confident, running for president," he added, "and at the appropriate time, I will make that decision as to whether I do it or not."

In 2018, the 76-year-old says he is focused on coasting to a third term as Vermont's junior senator. His name will appear on the Democratic primary ballot in the state's August primary. But when he wins, he will formally decline the nomination and run as an independent in the general election. Doing it this way ensures he will have no Democratic challenger.

-- The senator said he's not just leery of billionaires like industrialist Charles Koch and casino magnate Sheldon Adelson prodding Republicans to embrace their agenda. He is also nervous about the growing number of Democratic billionaires who are wading into politics and pushing the party toward more plutocratic policies. He fears this will entrench what he sees as an oligarchy that already controls the country.

"I see many of my colleagues, good people, spending half ... of their lives not dealing with their constituents, not studying up on the issues. They're on the damn phone, and they hate it. But that's the system that we are in right now. They'd be the first to admit it to you," he said. "We are moving toward a system where, especially if you are in a large state, you're going to have to be either dependent upon

billionaire contributors or be a billionaire yourself. Does anybody really think this is what American democracy is supposed to be about?”

Several mega-rich people have been floated – sometimes by themselves or the political retainers they’ve put on their payrolls – as potential 2020 presidential candidates, from Howard Schultz to Mike Bloomberg, Mark Cuban, Tom Steyer, Bob Iger, Mark Zuckerberg and Oprah Winfrey.

“Look, there are billionaires out there who are very decent people, who are smart people, who are well-intentioned people,” said Sanders. “But they shouldn’t have the right to run for office any more than a working stiff, who is also decent and bright, but can’t afford to raise the millions of dollars that are needed for a campaign. So, yeah, I do have real concerns about that.”

-- Sanders emphasized that big issues like health care and education can never be properly addressed until there is campaign finance reform, “because so long as you continue to have a handful of billionaires ... who can dump huge amounts of money into a Senate race, a congressional race or a governor’s race, we’re not going to have the kind of democracy that this country deserves.”

“If you look at what goes on in the Senate ... or in the House, what you find is that virtually every major piece of legislation that comes to the floor is paid for by wealthy and powerful special interests,” he said.



Sen. Bernie Sanders on Mueller investigation: Obstruction of justice 'is an impeachable offense'

-- The senator believes many politicians in both parties don't criticize Israel's treatment of Palestinians because they're afraid of missing out on campaign cash from deep-pocketed donors. He suggested that was at play when more Democratic lawmakers did not join him in speaking against the treatment of demonstrators in Gaza on the day the U.S. embassy moved to Jerusalem.

“That was, I think, money in politics,” he said. “Look, here is the reality: I am Jewish. I lived in Israel when I was a young man for a while. I think I have a cousin who is living in Israel. I absolutely believe in the need for Israel to be independent, to be free, to be secure from terrorist attacks. ... But I also believe that when you have almost two million people living in Gaza, where the water is filthy, where youth unemployment is at 60 percent, where people can't even leave the area, that that is unacceptable.”

-- He said the two major parties are jointly responsible for trade deals that he thinks hurt workers. “The reality is that, for many decades, Republicans *and* Democrats allowed this country into trade agreements which benefited corporate America, the pharmaceutical industry and Wall Street but were disastrous for working people,” said Sanders. “I believe in trade; trade’s a good thing. But I do not believe in unfettered free trade.”

-- Sanders also warned about the lobbying prowess of defense contractors and their influence over foreign policy. “We've got the military-industrial complex with huge power,” he said. “The Congress, against my vote, just increased military spending by \$165 billion. They're talking now about tactical nuclear weapons on submarines! So I think we have a lot to be concerned about.”



Sen. Bernie Sanders urges midterm election candidates to 'have the courage to take on the oligarchy'

-- For Democrats to be united in 2020, Sanders said it is imperative the party reduce the number of superdelegates who will be able to choose the nominee. “There is agreement among Tom Perez and a lot of the Clinton people, as well as our people,” he said. “Clinton and I formed what we called a Democratic Unity Reform Committee to say that we should substantially reduce the number of superdelegates, actually, by about 70 percent. Some

people think we should eliminate them all, and I could certainly support that. Will that happen? We will see. Pay attention to that.”

He also wants to open more primaries so that people who aren’t registered as members of the party can still participate. He argues that closed primaries in states like New York disenfranchise millions of people and benefit establishment candidates.

-- Sanders has had mixed success this year as he’s traveled the country endorsing candidates in Democratic primaries. Pete d’Alessandro, who helped organize Bernie’s near upset of Clinton in the Iowa caucuses, finished third on Tuesday in a Democratic primary to take on GOP Rep. David Young. The senator traveled to the state to stump with him and helped raise money for him. But there have been victories: John Fetterman, a Sanders supporter in Pennsylvania, defeated the sitting lieutenant governor in a primary last month, for example.

Sanders said that even candidates who he’s not endorsing or that don’t align with him are embracing the ideas he ran on, which he sees as a positive development. “You win some and you lose some,” he said. “The most important thing, and what we try very hard to do, is bring millions of more people ... into the political process.”

By his count, he’s visited about 30 states since President Trump got elected and most were carried by the president. “Because I think it’s important to talk to Trump supporters and to say to them, ‘Look, we understand,’” he said. “No question about it, some Trump supporters are racist, are sexist, are homophobes. ... I don’t think the majority of them are. I think these are people in many cases who feel

the establishment has ignored them. And you know what? The establishment has ignored them! Both political parties have ignored them!"

[Listen to James's quick summary](#) of today's Big Idea and the headlines you need to know to start your day:



Subscribe to **The Daily 202's Big Idea** on
[Amazon Echo](#), [Google Home](#), [Apple Podcasts](#) and other podcast players.

Welcome to the Daily 202, **PowerPost's** morning briefing for decision-makers.

[Sign up to receive the newsletter.](#)



Security workers guard the construction site of the U.S. Consulate in Guangzhou, in southern China's Guangdong province. (Chinatopix/AP)

GET SMART FAST:

1. **Several Americans are being evacuated from China after they heard unusual noises in the U.S. Consulate in Guangzhou and later developed unexplained ailments.** The State Department would not clarify the number of people being evacuated but said that they would return to the United States for further evaluation of their symptoms. ([Carol Morello and Paul Sonne](#))
2. **The National Security Council contractor arrested this week was wanted on attempted murder charges in connection with a shooting involving his ex-girlfriend's new boyfriend.** Martese Edwards, 29, has been wanted on a warrant since May 17, but the Secret Service said it just learned of it on June 4. [The Daily Beast reports](#) Edwards received a security clearance despite a previous assault charge and allegations of domestic violence. ([Lynh Bui and Peter Hermann](#))
3. **Melania Trump appeared alongside her husband during an event at FEMA headquarters, marking her first public appearance in nearly a month since she was hospitalized for what was described as a benign kidney condition.** “She went through a little rough patch, but she’s doing great,” Trump said of his wife, adding: “She’s done a fantastic job as first lady — the people of our country love you.” ([Emily Heil](#))
4. **The Supreme Court will review a petition today from a Washington state florist who refused to provide her services to a gay couple.** If the justices accept the case, it could give them an opportunity to issue a much broader ruling than they did in the *Masterpiece Cakeshop* decision. ([Robert Barnes](#))

5. **U.S. officials plan to release an American citizen accused of supporting ISIS back into Syria against his will.** The ACLU is attempting to block the man's release, calling it a de facto "death warrant." ([Spencer S. Hsu](#))
6. **At least 192 people remain missing in Guatemala following Sunday's volcanic eruption.** The disaster killed at least 75 people and forced thousands to flee their homes. The government estimates that some 1.7 million people have been affected by the explosion. ([BBC](#))
7. **Argentina's national soccer team canceled its highly anticipated match against Israel due to political pressure and death threats toward players,** which the Argentine foreign minister described as "worse than ISIS." The cancellation drew outrage from Israeli officials, who accused Argentina of bowing to pressure from Palestinian protesters. ([Ruth Eglash](#))
8. **The speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives ousted his longtime chief of staff after a House staff member accused him of sexual harassment.** Tim Mapes's departure marks the fourth time in recent months that Speaker Michael Madigan has had to distance himself from an associate over misconduct allegations. ([Chicago Tribune](#))
9. **Kate Spade's husband revealed she "suffered from depression and anxiety for many years."** But Andy Spade said his wife's suicide still came as a "complete shock." ([Eli Rosenberg](#))



President Trump meets with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in the Oval Office last year.
(Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post)

AMERICA ALONE:

-- Trump had a tense phone call late last month with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau about the steel and aluminum tariffs, during which the president erroneously blamed Canada for the War of 1812. [CNN's Jim Acosta and Paula Newton report:](#)

“Trudeau pressed Trump on how he could justify the tariffs as a ‘national security’ issue. In response, Trump quipped to Trudeau, ‘Didn't you guys burn down the White House?’ referring to the War of 1812. The problem with Trump's comments to Trudeau is that British troops burned down the White House during the War of 1812. Historians note the British attack on Washington was in retaliation for the American attack on York, Ontario, in territory that eventually became Canada, which was then a British colony.” (I've previously written about how Trump's [lack of historical knowledge complicates his diplomatic outreach](#).)

-- Trump is planning to adopt a confrontational stance during Friday's G-7 meeting in Quebec, which will put him face-to-face with leaders he has antagonized with a set of increasingly protectionist policies. [Damian Paletta and Anne Gearan report](#): “[The two-day meeting] has crystallized into a showdown over trade after Trump’s recent insistence on new barriers that the other nations see as petty and insulting. Most of the other countries represented have a trade beef with Trump that is unlikely to be resolved at the summit — and for each the standoff is one more sign that the United States is pulling back from traditional global leadership roles. **In a sign that Trump is looking to stoke divisions, White House officials are discussing ways to impose additional economic penalties against Canada — the host nation for the summit — in retaliation for Ottawa’s threat to levy tariffs next month on roughly \$13 billion in U.S.-made products.** White House officials are also considering whether to have Trump refuse to sign onto a customary joint agreement at the end of the G-7 summit, one senior administration official said, as a signal that the old ways of doing business are over.”

White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow said Trump is [“untroubled” by all the blowback](#), adding that the president will meet with Trudeau and French President Emmanuel Macron on the sidelines of the meeting. Notably, the White House has not announced any individual meetings between Trump and British Prime Minister Theresa May or German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

-- The president has been complaining to aides about having to attend the G-7 summit at all, describing it as a distraction from his planned sit-down with Kim Jong Un. [From Josh Dawsey, Philip Rucker and Ashley Parker](#): “In particular, the president said Tuesday to several advisers that he fears attending the [G-7 summit] may not be a good use of his time because he is diametrically opposed on many key issues with his counterparts — and **(he) does not want to be lectured by them**. Additionally, Trump has griped periodically both about [Merkel] — largely because they disagree on many issues and have had an uneasy rapport — as well as [May], whom he sees as too politically correct, advisers say. **Behind the scenes at the White House, there have been staff-level discussions for several days about whether Trump may pull the plug on the trip and send Vice President Pence in his stead**, as he did for an April summit of Latin American leaders in Peru. ... Furthermore, **he prefers visiting places where he is feted — such as on his trips last year to Beijing, Paris and the Saudi capital — over attending summits where the attending leaders are treated as equals.**”

-- Sen. Bob Corker (R-Tenn.) released his bill that would subject tariffs to congressional approval, despite a personal appeal from Trump to quash it. [Erica Werner reports](#): “The legislation, which Corker released with a total of nine Democratic and Republican co-

sponsors, is the most forceful congressional response to date to Trump's protectionist trade agenda. For the first time, at least some Republicans are uniting behind a concrete plan to force the president to change course on trade, after months of pleas and appeals achieved little. ... Trump attempted Wednesday to stave off the legislation. Corker, the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, who is not seeking reelection, said the president called him Wednesday morning and asked him not to file the bill. But Corker rebuffed Trump's request."

-- **"This Ohio factory thought it could bring U.S. jobs back from China. Then Trump got involved,"** [by David J. Lynch](#): "Bill Adler was invited last year to bid on a contract to make commercial sausage stuffers for a company that wanted to replace its Chinese supplier. The customer had just one nonnegotiable demand: Match China's price. Adler, owner of metal-parts maker Stripmatic Products, thought he could. But even as he readied his proposal, talk of President Trump's steel tariffs sent the price of Stripmatic's main raw material soaring. In April, with prices up nearly 50 percent from October and the first wave of tariffs in place, Adler's bid failed. His costs were too high. Today, instead of taking business from China, Adler worries about hanging onto the work he has."



Central American immigrants, part of an immigrant “caravan,” sing the Honduran national anthem during a protest march against President Trump in Hermosillo, Mexico. (John Moore/Getty Images)

IMMIGRATION WARS:

-- House Republicans failed to craft a compromise immigration bill that would satisfy both conservatives and moderates, whose discharge petition could soon force a vote on legislation. [Mike DeBonis reports](#): “Leaders huddled with about a dozen moderate and

conservative lawmakers for two hours and emerged without a clear resolution on the divisive issue, a day before all Republican lawmakers are set to meet behind closed doors in hopes of ending the standoff. ... One idea that Republicans are exploring is providing a route to citizenship for the young immigrants in exchange for cuts to existing legal immigration programs. That is meant to address conservative objections to the demand from the moderates — offering a path to permanent legal residency, and eventually citizenship, for those known as ‘dreamers.’”

-- U.S. border agents made more than 50,000 arrests in May for the third month in a row, according to a new DHS report. The figures represent a blow to Trump’s “zero tolerance” crackdown on illegal immigration, which has not yet proved itself as a successful deterrent. The number of arrests last month is also triple that of May 2017, when immigration rates plunged in the aftermath of Trump’s inauguration. ([Nick Miroff](#))

-- ICE officials arrested 114 employees at an Ohio garden and landscaping company, in one of the largest workplace immigration raids since Trump took office. According to local reports, an estimated 200 federal officials blitzed the company’s locations, loading suspected undocumented immigrants onto buses, and leaving dozens of children stranded at day-care facilities and with babysitters. ([Samantha Schmidt](#))

-- The ACLU’s lawsuit against the Trump administration over its policy of separating migrant families was allowed to proceed. [From Bloomberg News's Erik Larson](#): “U.S. District Judge Dana Sabraw in San Diego on Wednesday denied a motion to dismiss the

suit, in which the American Civil Liberties Union argues that splitting up families at the border violates their due process rights. ... **'These allegations sufficiently describe government conduct that arbitrarily tears at the sacred bond between parent and child,' the judge wrote. The conduct, if true, 'is brutal, offensive, and fails to comport with traditional notions of fair play and decency.'** ... The judge rejected the ACLU's argument that the separation practice violates the Asylum Act and the Administrative Procedure Act, but gave the rights group permission to amend its complaint to address deficiencies in those claims."



Ryan: 'No evidence' FBI spied on Trump campaign

DEBUNKING TRUMP'S CLAIMS:

-- Speaker of the House Paul Ryan said he has seen “no evidence” to support the president's assertion that the FBI planted a spy inside his 2016 campaign, agreeing with the assessment of Trey Gowdy, the chairman of the Oversight Committee. Both have received top secret briefings on the

matter. [Karoun Demirjian and Mike DeBonis report](#): The Wisconsin Republican “was referring to last week, when Gowdy (R-S.C.), [said] on Fox News that ‘the FBI did exactly what my fellow citizens would want them to do’ in investigating information alleging certain Trump campaign advisers had suspicious ties to Russia, ‘and that it has nothing to do with [Trump].’ Trump’s assertions [began] last month, after [Rep. Devin Nunes] (R-Calif.) demanded [an FBI briefing on the confidential source]. In delivering his rebuke ... Ryan was careful not to disparage all of Nunes’s complaints with the Justice Department. Those include several unfulfilled demands for documents unrelated to the spying accusations — but which Democrats still feel are intended to undermine the federal law enforcement agencies and, by extension, the foundations of [Robert Mueller’s investigation].” “Let me say it this way: I think Chairman Gowdy’s initial assessment is accurate,” Ryan said.

-- Rep. Tom Rooney (R-Fla.), a member of the House Intelligence Committee who is retiring from Congress, chastised Trump for pushing false conspiracy theories about the FBI with no evidence: “What is the point of saying that there was a spy in the campaign when there was none?” Rooney told [Politico’s Kyle Cheney and Rachel Bade](#). “You know what I’m saying? It’s like, ‘Let’s create this thing to tweet about knowing that it’s not true.’ ... Maybe it’s just to create more chaos but it doesn’t really help the case.”

-- DOJ officials plan to brief lawmakers again next week on the early days of the FBI’s investigation into possible ties between Russia and the Trump campaign. [Devlin Barrett reports](#): “In late May, [Rosenstein] briefed senior members of both parties about how the FBI pursued the case. The Justice Department will give those

lawmakers a follow-up briefing next week, partly to answer questions raised by [Paul Ryan]. A senior Justice Department official said the briefing will allow lawmakers 'to review certain supporting documents that were made available during the prior briefing.'"

-- Muddying the waters: Rudy Giuliani, the president's lawyer, claimed that Robert Mueller's team is trying "very, very hard to frame" Trump — the latest salvo in the White House's ongoing effort to discredit the Russia investigation. [John Wagner reports](#): "Speaking at an investment conference in Tel Aviv ... Giuliani echoed Trump's claim that Mueller's team is dominated by Democrats who are out to get him. And then Giuliani, a former federal prosecutor, suggested the team is going to extraordinary lengths to do so. 'They are a group of 13 highly partisan Democrats that make up the Mueller team — excluding him — [who] are trying very, very hard to frame him, to get him in trouble when he hasn't done anything wrong,' Giuliani said. (Four members of Mueller's team are either politically unaffiliated or their affiliation is unknown, and both Mueller and Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein are registered Republicans.)"

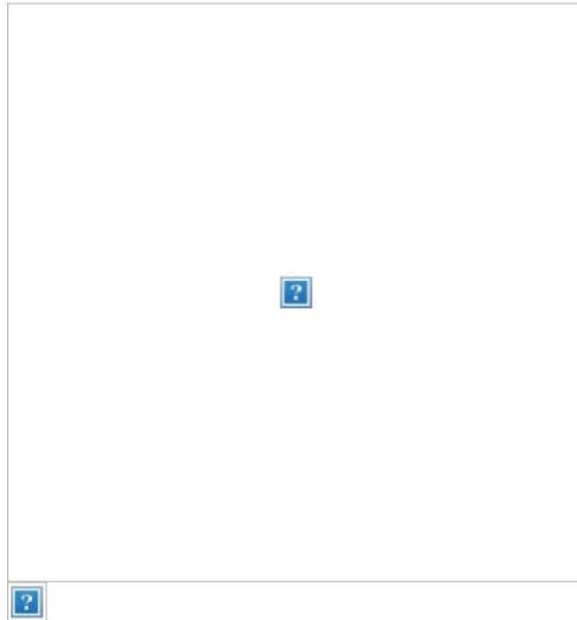
Giuliani also doubled down on his assertion that Trump could pardon himself of any federal crimes: "Does he have the power to do it? Yes," Giuliani said. "Is he going to do it? No. He's not going to do it. ... He's innocent. He hasn't done anything wrong."

-- But, but, but: Both Ryan and Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) have now disputed Trump's ability to self-pardon. "Obviously, the answer is he shouldn't and no one is above the law," Ryan said. McConnell struck a more subtle note, but his message was clear: "I

don't think the president needs any advice on pardoning himself," he said. "He obviously knows that would not be something that he would or should do." ([Amber Phillips](#))



Paul Manafort departs from U.S. District Court in Washington. (Yuri Gripas/Reuters)



THERE'S A BEAR IN THE WOODS:

-- Mueller's investigators have requested that witnesses in their investigation turn in their personal cellphones to inspect any encrypted messaging programs and potentially view conversations tied to Trump. [CNBC's Brian Schwartz reports](#):

"Since as early as April, Mueller's team has been asking witnesses in the Russia probe to turn over phones for agents to examine private conversations ... Fearing a subpoena, the witnesses have complied with the request and have given over their phones, the sources said. While it's unclear what Mueller has discovered, if anything, through this new request, investigators seem to be convinced that the apps could be a key to exposing conversations that weren't previously disclosed to them." **The revelation comes just days after prosecutors accused Paul Manafort of attempted witness tampering through the same types of encrypted programs.**

-- [The Atlantic's Franklin Foer has a great read on Konstantin](#)

[Kilimnik](#), a former Manafort associate identified by Mueller's team only as **"Person A"**: "For a decade, Kilimnik was a fixture in Manafort's meetings with the region's leading politicians and oligarchs, [and] would come to earn the title 'Manafort's Manafort' ... During that entire period, he has been dogged by suspicions. **There were always hints that he might be serving another master, providing a set of surveilling eyes for Russian intelligence. ... It was easy enough to dismiss those old hunches as conspiracy theories.** The immediate post-Soviet period was a time rife with unfounded accusations. But [Mueller] has begun to state them as fact. In a brief Mueller submitted to a U.S. District Court, [he] went one step further, [describing] Person A's ties to Russian intelligence as 'active' through the 2016 presidential election. **Or to put it even more bluntly than Mueller: Donald Trump's campaign chairman had a pawn of Russian intelligence as his indispensable alter ego."**

-- Stormy Daniels filed a lawsuit against her former attorney Keith Davidson, accusing him of being a "puppet" for Trump and releasing text messages that she says show "collusion" between Davidson and longtime Trump fixer Michael Cohen. [Beth Reinhard reports](#): "In the final days of the 2016 election, Davidson and [Cohen] negotiated a deal in which Daniels was paid \$130,000 [to stay silent about an alleged affair with Trump]. The text messages — beginning in January, after the non-disclosure agreement was publicly revealed — show Cohen at one point pressing for Daniels to appear on Sean Hannity's show on Fox News. 'This is no good,' Cohen writes, after Davidson says she won't be available until the following day. 'We need her as by doing tomorrow you just create another news cycle instead of putting an end to this one.' In a

statement ... Davidson said he views the lawsuit as a waiver by Daniels of attorney-client privilege, an interpretation that suggests he is now free to discuss the case with federal prosecutors scrutinizing the payments as part of an investigation of Cohen for potential bank and wire fraud.”



Ivanka Trump, White House senior adviser, in the Rose Garden. (Saul Loeb/AFP/Getty)

-- **Ivanka Trump was in contact with a Russian who offered to facilitate a meeting between her father and Vladimir Putin to help expedite a possible Trump Tower in Moscow.** [BuzzFeed News's Anthony Cormier, Jason Leopold and Emma Loop report](#): “[During the 2016 campaign, Ivanka Trump] connected her father's personal lawyer with a Russian athlete who offered to introduce Donald Trump to Putin to facilitate a 100-story Trump tower in Moscow, according to emails reviewed by BuzzFeed News ... There is no evidence that Ivanka Trump's contact with the athlete — the former Olympic weightlifter Dmitry Klokov — was illegal or that it had anything to do with the election. Nor is it clear that Klokov could even have introduced Trump to the Russian president. But congressional investigators have reviewed emails and questioned witnesses about the interaction, according to two of the sources, and so has [Mueller's team] ...”

-- **[“Meet the New York architect who was a key figure in Donald Trump's deals and connections in Eastern Europe,”](#)** by **CNBC's Christina Wilkie**: “Architect John Fotiadis designed some of Trump's most ambitious luxury developments there. A master of glass-encased towers and monumental entrances — hallmarks of Trump's properties — the New York architect supplied vision and technical expertise that complemented Trump's salesmanship and attorney-fixer Michael Cohen's brass-tacks negotiating. Fotiadis' work offers a window into Trump's dealings in the complex, opaque world of Eurasian real estate.”



EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt testifies before a Senate Appropriations subcommittee on Capitol Hill.
(Andrew Harnik/AP)

DRIP, DRIP, DRIP:

-- Two of Scott Pruitt's top aides announced they are leaving the EPA, amid growing scrutiny of the administrator's spending and management decisions at the agency. [Brady Dennis, Josh Dawsey and Juliet Eilperin report](#): "The departures of Sarah Greenwalt,

Pruitt's senior counsel, and Millan Hupp, his director for scheduling and advance — both of whom had worked with Pruitt since his days as Oklahoma attorney general — leave the EPA chief increasingly isolated as he faces a dozen federal spending and ethics probes. The departures are the latest and possibly most significant in a growing list of political appointees who have left the agency. Trump praised Pruitt at [the FEMA event] and said the EPA is 'doing very, very well.'"

-- Congressional Republicans are now *publicly* questioning Pruitt's job security. [From Politico's Anthony Adragna and Emily Holden](#): "While acknowledging that [Trump] would ultimately make any decision about Pruitt's job, several Republicans indicated Pruitt's support was waning in their conference. 'I'm not going to come down here, just because he happens to be a nominee of a president I support or a nominee from my party, and try to defend the indefensible,' Sen. John Kennedy (R-La.) said. 'I thought that Mr. Pruitt would have learned his lesson.' ... **[E]ven staunch Pruitt allies like Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) said the mounting scandals had them rethinking their support. 'Some are true, some are not true. Whether he can weather the storm, I'm not sure,' Inhofe said. 'The accusations are all troubling. They are.'** ... [Rep. John Shimkus (R-Ill.)] raised a possible reason why Republicans weren't abandoning Pruitt: getting a replacement confirmed by the Senate would be nearly impossible."

-- Pruitt rankled White House officials by eating too often at the White House mess, [according to Politico's Holden, Andrew Restuccia and Adragna](#). "In response to Pruitt's recurring use of the restaurant next to the Situation Room in the basement of the West Wing, a member of the White House's Cabinet affairs team told

agency chiefs of staff in a meeting last year that Cabinet members shouldn't treat the mess as their personal dining hall, according to three people with knowledge of the issue. The message was clear, according to one person close to Pruitt: 'We love having Mr. Pruitt, but it's not meant for everyday use.'"



President Trump speaks during a dinner with governors to discuss border security and safe communities in the Blue Room. (Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post)

THE PRESIDENT'S PRIORITIES:

-- Trump commuted the sentence of Alice Marie Johnson, a 63-year-old woman serving a life term for a nonviolent crime, after meeting with Kim Kardashian West last week to discuss the case. [John Wagner and Sari Horwitz report](#): "The action was the latest in a recent string of pardons and other acts of clemency from Trump, and aides have suggested that more could soon be on the way. Johnson, 63, was convicted in Tennessee in 1996 and sentenced to life in prison on federal drug possession and money laundering charges. She was denied clemency by the Obama administration in January 2017 in one of the administration's last batches of clemency denials. Others in the West Wing, including White House counsel Donald McGahn, had cautioned against the action. ... Trump's acts of clemency have been scattershot, driven by television segments, celebrities, friends and White House advisers[.] ... Last fall, Johnson was interviewed on Skype from prison ... In October, Kardashian West just happened to spot the interview on Twitter, according to [a member of Johnson's legal team]." Kardashian West welcomed Trump's action on Twitter, writing: "BEST NEWS EVER!!!!"

-- Mick Mulvaney fired all 25 members of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's advisory board. [Renae Merle reports](#): "The CFPB said it will revamp the Consumer Advisory Board, known as the CAB, in the fall with all new members. The panel has traditionally played an influential role in advising the CFPB's leadership on new regulations and policies. But some members, who include prominent consumer advocates, academics and industry executives, began to complain that Mulvaney was ignoring them and making unwise

decisions about the agency's future. ... On Wednesday, group members were notified that they were being replaced — and that they could not reapply for spots on the new board.”

-- A forthcoming report from the Trump administration will propose consolidating safety-net programs and renaming the Department of Health and Human Services. [Politico's Helena Bottemiller Evich and Andrew Restuccia report](#): “The report, set to be released in the coming weeks by the White House Office of Management and Budget, seeks to move safety-net programs, including food stamps, into HHS ... The plan would also propose changing the name of the sprawling department, while separately seeking cuts at the U.S. Agency for International Development and the State Department. ... The report, which is expected to recommend big changes at many federal agencies, is almost complete and is expected to be introduced this month ... The biggest changes outlined by the White House are unlikely to be implemented because moving multibillion-dollar programs and renaming federal departments generally requires congressional action.”

-- Trying to have it both ways: Trump is fighting a bipartisan plan to fund the much touted expansion of veterans' health care he signed into law on Wednesday, as the White House argues against a boost in federal spending to fund the new initiative. [Erica Werner and Lisa Rein report](#): “The VA Mission Act authorizes and expansion of veterans' access to private health care, but the bill does not reserve federal money to pay for it. A group of powerful Senate committee chairmen from both parties aims to remedy that by advancing a separate measure for the new \$50 billion law, saying this is the best way to ensure the new programs give

veterans access to medical care. But the White House has been lobbying Republicans to vote the plan down, instead asking Congress to pay for veterans programs by cutting spending elsewhere.

“The opposition to the funding plan is the latest demonstration of Trump’s variable approach to the longtime stated Republican goal of fiscal discipline. On some issues, most prominently last year’s \$1.5 trillion tax bill or immigration measures such as the border wall, Trump has signed off on legislation projected to massively increase the federal deficit. On others, such as the veterans bill and emergency legislation to support communities impacted by last year’s devastating hurricanes and the California wildfires, he has demanded offsetting spending cuts. Without passage of the veterans funding bill soon, **lawmakers and veterans groups warn that Veterans Affairs will be forced to make difficult trade-offs** about which veterans programs should be funded.”

-- What else is on Trump's mind: The president turned a closed-door discussion on hurricane preparedness at FEMA headquarters yesterday into “soliloquies on his prowess in negotiating airplane deals, his popularity, the effectiveness of his political endorsements, the Republican Party’s fortunes, the vagaries of Defense Department purchasing guidelines, his dislike of magnetized launch equipment on aircraft carriers, his unending love of coal and his breezy optimism about his planned Singapore summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un,” [Josh Dawsey reports](#). “The president’s 40-minute briefing session behind closed-doors came after he spoke to cameras for about 15 minutes. He briefly referred to Puerto Rico — where authorities now say thousands died as a result of last year’s

hurricane. ... Trump did not mention Puerto Rico's victims but thanked Florida Gov. Rick Scott (R) for helping and noted that the power company was 'in bankruptcy prior to the hurricane.'"



President Trump listens as Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe speaks during their meeting at Mar-a-Lago in April. (Pablo Martinez Monsivais/AP)

THE NORTH KOREA SUMMIT:

-- Rival world powers are scrambling for influence as Trump prepares to meet with Kim. [David Nakamura reports](#): “The leaders of China, South Korea, Japan and Russia are determined to make their presence felt at the Singapore summit Tuesday, lining up their own meetings with Trump and Kim and pushing agendas that are, in many cases, at odds with one another. ... The flurry of diplomacy has raised hopes that the major powers can navigate a treacherous set of technical, political and emotional issues and ease tensions on the Korean Peninsula, after rising fears last year that the North’s rapid nuclear advancements would lead to a military confrontation with the United States. But amid deep uncertainties — including doubts about Kim’s intentions and Trump’s preparedness — **analysts have warned that the process could lead to a fundamental reordering of security alliances in one of the world’s most populous and economically proficient regions.**”

-- Trump is open to expanding the summit with Kim into a second day if it goes well, [according to CNN’s Jeremy Diamond and James Griffiths](#). “Trump and Kim are due to meet on June 12 for the first time and the US leader is due to return home the next day, but US officials in Singapore have established a contingency plan for a second day of discussions. ... It’s not clear if Trump is eager for a two-day summit with Kim, but he has expressed a desire for flexibility in the negotiations and has stressed to aides and US allies that he plans to follow his gut as he negotiates with the North Korean leader.”

-- Giuliani told attendees at the investment conference in Israel that Kim got “on his hands and knees and begged” to reschedule the summit after Trump abruptly canceled it last month. [The Wall Street Journal’s Felicia Schwartz reports](#): “They

also said they were going to go to nuclear war with us, they were going to defeat us in a nuclear war,' Mr. Giuliani said. 'We said we're not going to have a summit under those circumstances.' After Mr. Trump canceled the meeting, Mr. Giuliani said: 'Well, Kim Jong Un got back on his hands and knees and begged for it, which is exactly the position you want to put him in.' With the summit plans back in place the U.S. has the upper hand, Mr. Giuliani said. Mr. Giuliani told the Israeli audience that a similar approach should be taken with the Palestinians in the decades-old conflict with Israel. 'That's what needs to happen with the Palestinian Authority. They have to be seeking peace. You've got to change the dynamic and put the pressure on them,' he said."

-- Trump's deputy chief of staff Joe Hagin, who has been negotiating the logistics of the summit, will soon leave the White House. [Carol D. Leonnig, Ashley Parker, Philip Rucker and Josh Dawsey report](#): "One close Trump adviser said Hagin is eyeing the job of deputy director of the CIA and plans to leave his White House post almost immediately after returning from the Singapore summit. One close associate also said Hagin is seriously eyeing the now-vacant CIA leadership position, adding that Hagin has not decided on a date to depart but does plan to leave the White House. 'Joe is ready to go,' said this confidant ... 'This could be his crowning achievement, this summit. It's time. Joe Hagin has served his time.'"

-- National security adviser John Bolton has not yet called a Cabinet-level NSC meeting to discuss the summit. [Politico's Eliana Johnson reports](#): "For decades, top presidential advisers have used a methodical process to hash out national security issues before offering the president a menu of options for key decisions. On

an issue like North Korea, that would mean White House Situation Room gatherings of the secretaries of state and defense along with top intelligence officials, the United Nations ambassador, and even the treasury secretary, who oversees economic sanctions. But since Trump agreed on a whim to meet with [Kim] on March 8, the White House's summit planning has been unstructured, according to a half-dozen administration officials. Trump himself has driven the preparation almost exclusively on his own ... ”



THE MIDTERMS:

-- Democrats' chances of retaking the House are improving, even as the odds of a "blue wave" diminish, [Michael Scherer writes](#).

"After votes in 21 states, including California and seven others that held primaries Tuesday, Democrats have avoided potential pitfalls and secured general-election candidates in many Republican-held districts who have compelling biographical stories and political profiles that party leaders hope will have broad appeal in a nation that tends to vote for change in off-year contests. Many of the Democratic nominees are younger, more diverse and less tied to Washington than their GOP rivals. ... Republicans are counting on an improving economy and the local roots of their incumbents, buttressed by a financial advantage among outside fundraising groups. Their fears of an electoral catastrophe in November have been eased by declining concern among voters about the direction of the country and rising approval ratings for [Trump] ... "

-- "[T]he degree to which Trump remains the organizing figure around which the election will be fought and the power of women in this election cycle are not in question. Nothing that happened Tuesday suggests otherwise," [Dan Balz writes](#). "In election after election, whether primary contests or special elections, women have provided energy at the ballot box and, increasingly, the leadership as candidates for the Democrats. That was in evidence again Tuesday, another day of validation that the dynamics of American politics have shifted under this president. If Democrats are to win the House in November, they must hope that is maintained through Election Day, although there have been no signs that this

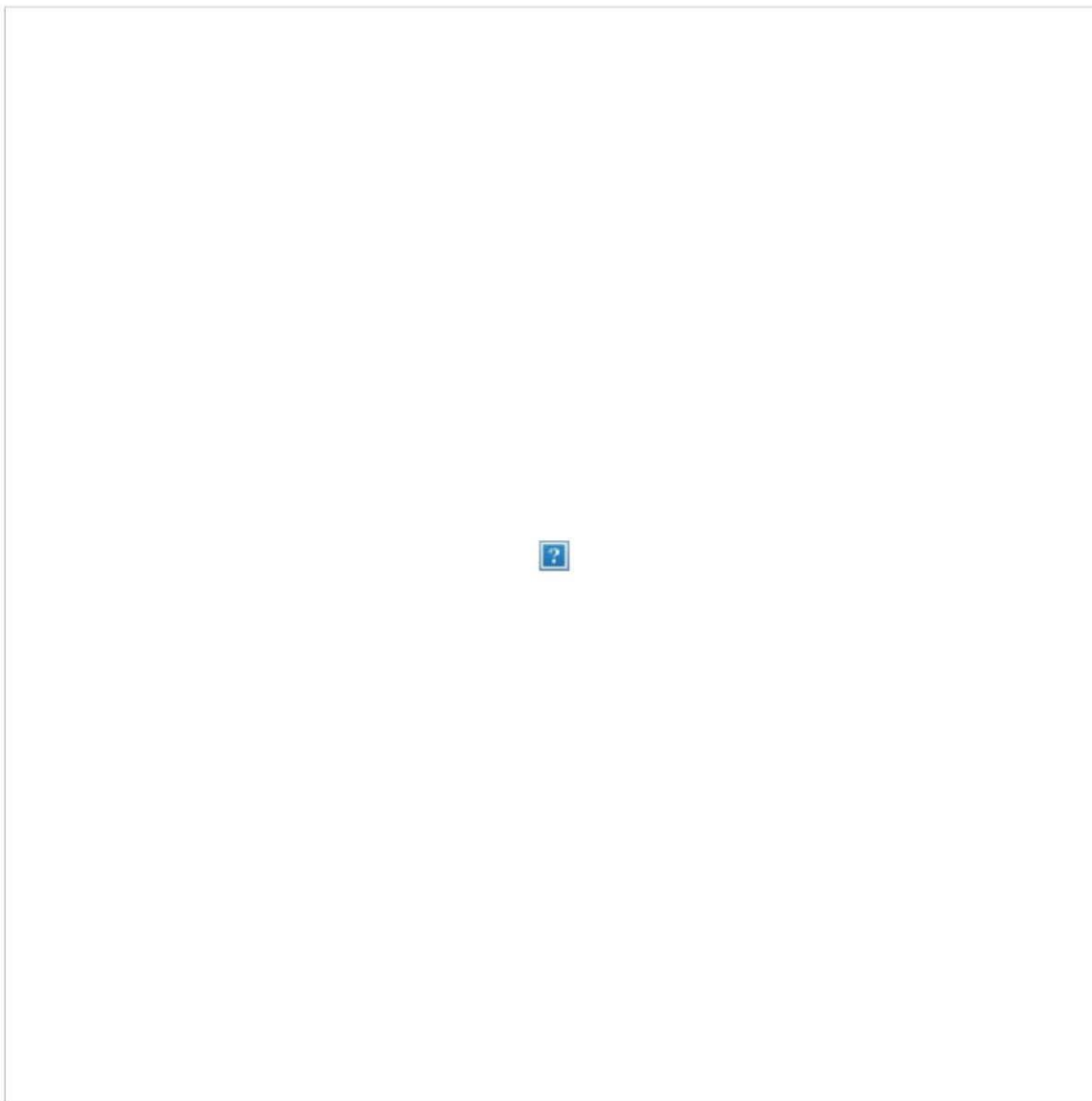
energy is abating.”

-- Latino voters in California turned out to vote at higher-than-usual rates, but that did not translate to success for Latino candidates. [Scott Wilson reports](#): “The state’s most accomplished Latino politician, Antonio Villaraigosa (D), lost the second-place spot on the gubernatorial ballot to John Cox, a little-known Republican business executive. The former mayor of Los Angeles won one county after an expensive campaign, finishing well behind the winning Democrat, Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom. State Sen. Kevin de León (D) fared little better in his race for the U.S. Senate. He secured the second slot on the November ballot, but by Wednesday clung to 11 percent of the vote, to incumbent Democrat Dianne Feinstein’s 44 percent. ... **The results suggest that, in a state where the Latino electorate is large and varied, political allegiance to ethnicity was far less important than the quality of the candidates in each race.**”

-- Trump is looming large over local races previously walled off from Washington, [writes the Boston Globe’s Matt Stout](#). “In the race for governor, Trump is wielded as a political cudgel. For secretary of state, he’s a call to action. In the attorney general’s race, he’s both. If all politics was local in the era of Tip O’Neill, the reverse may be true under Trump. ‘It’s Trump 24/7, and it’s very hard for the Democrats to get through the wall of noise,’ said Phil Johnston, a former chair of the state Democratic Party. ... [Massachusetts] Secretary of State William F. Galvin, facing his most serious primary fight in two decades in office, hung his pitch at the party’s convention, in part, on telling Democratic activists that he’s the best defense against any Russian or Trump election meddling in 2020.”

SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:

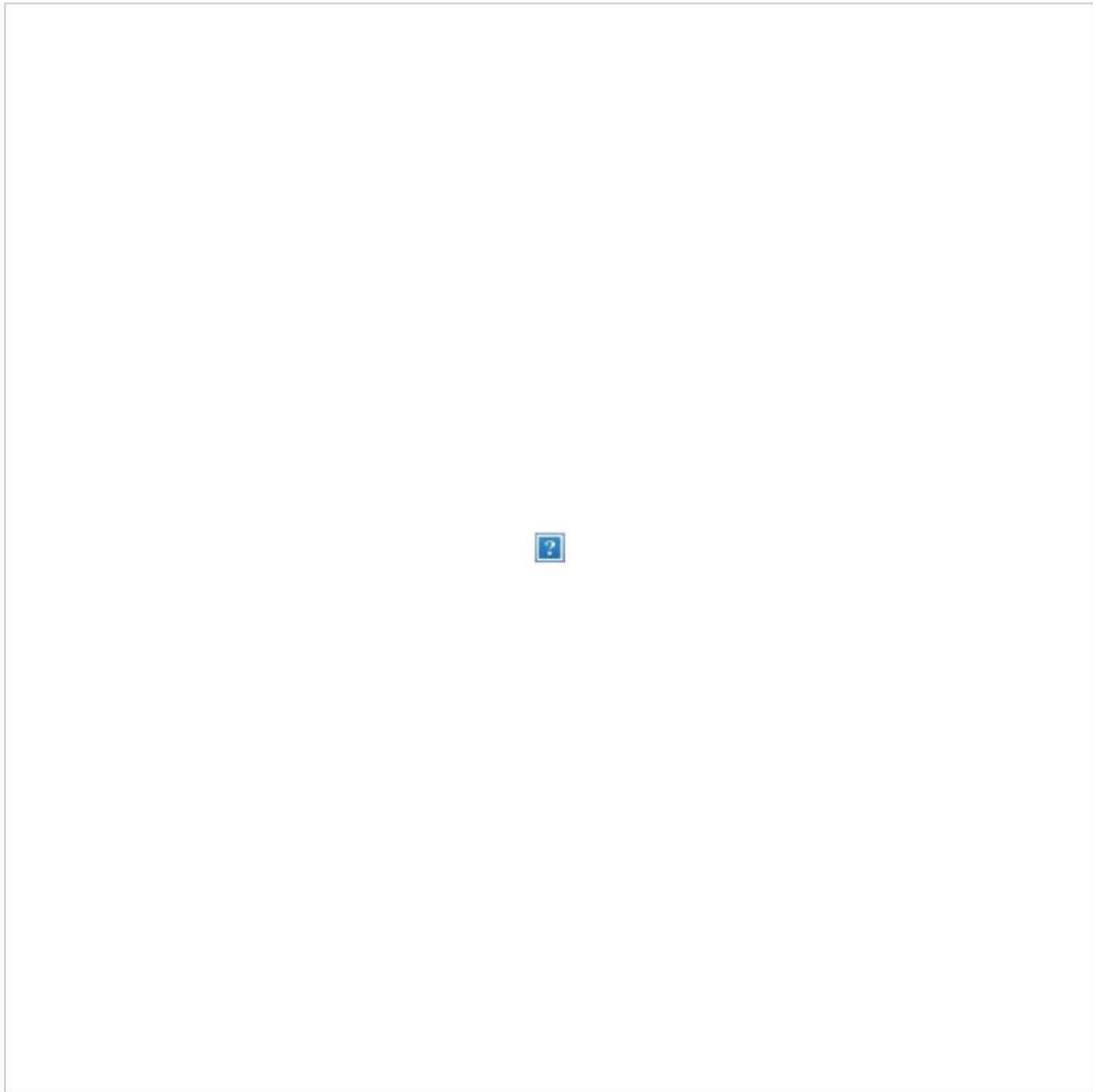
Trump once again railed against the Russia probe:



After Trump [congratulated](#) Republican John Cox on making the runoff in California's gubernatorial race, Cox's opponent, Democrat Gavin Newsom, offered a suggestion:



Former independent presidential candidate and CIA officer Evan McMullin blasted Trump's pardons:



From a CNN reporter:



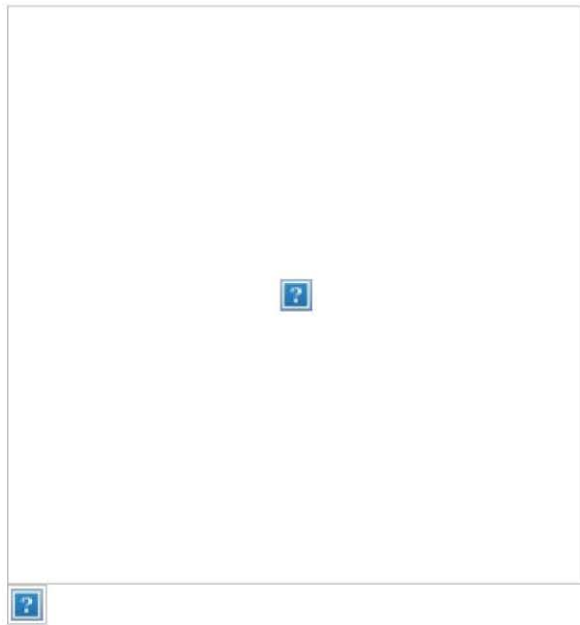
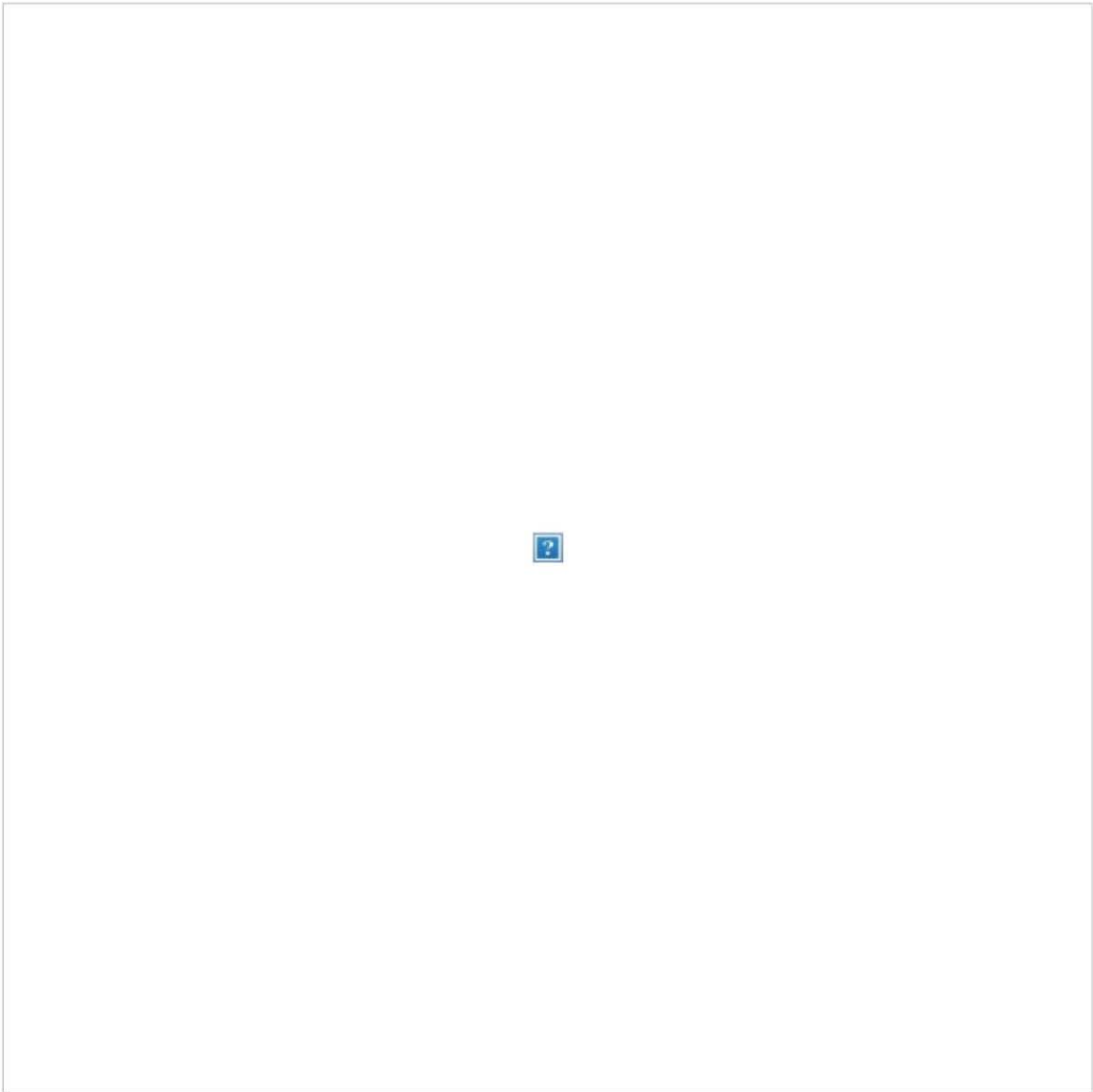
Nancy Pelosi highlighted a Republican senator's statements about Scott Pruitt:



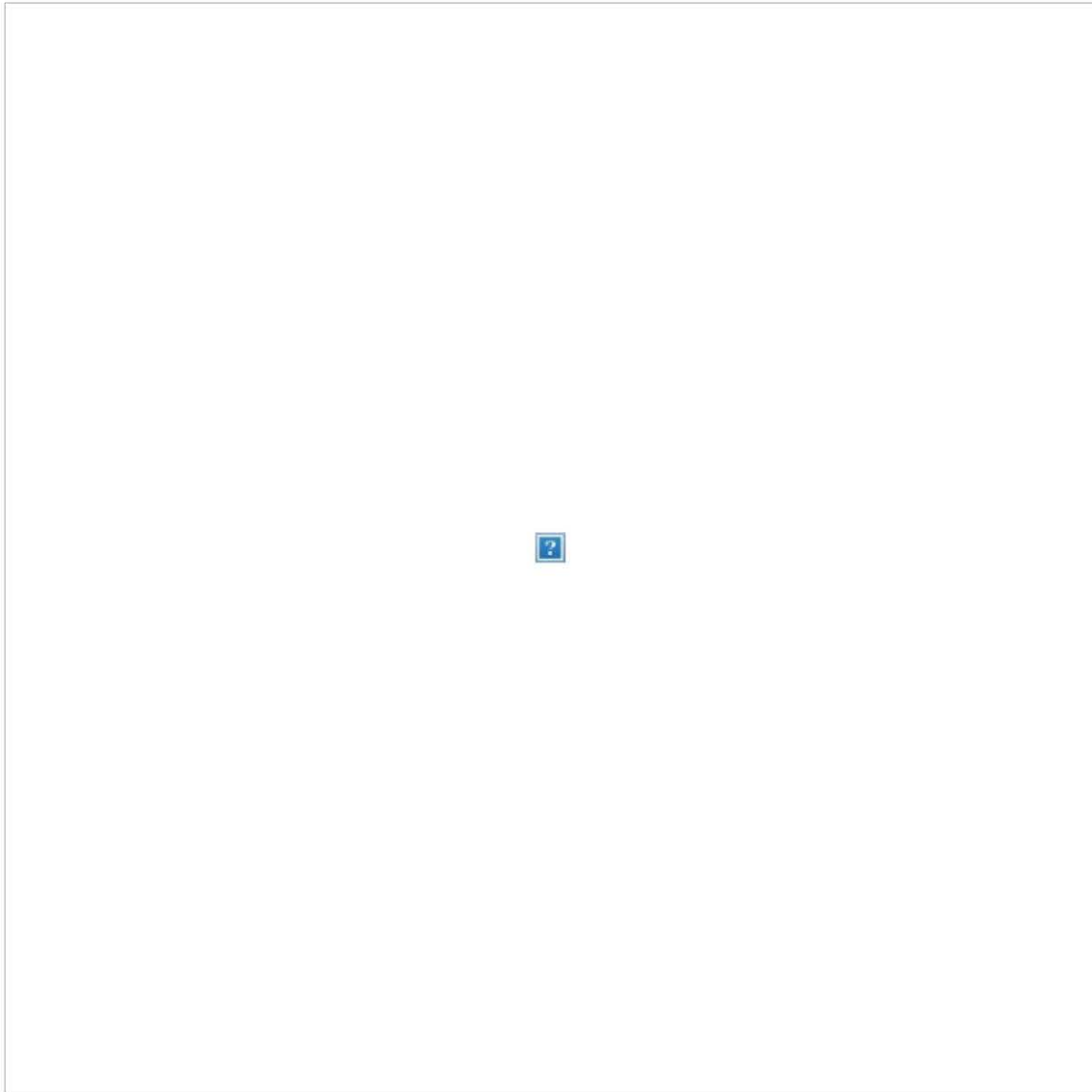
From the House Democrat representing Flint, Mich.:



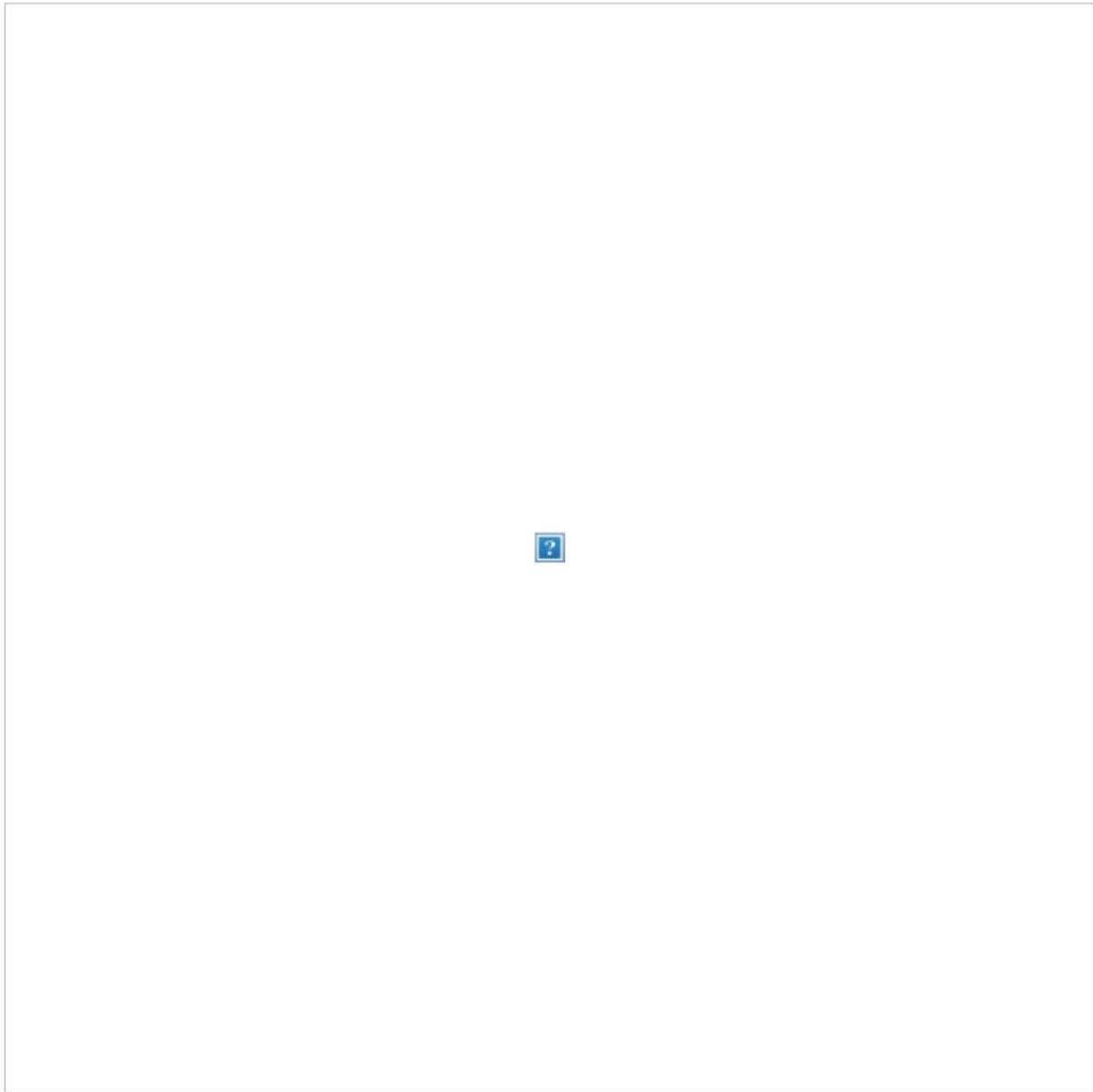
Joe Scarborough responded to [Trump's complaints](#) that the media had been “unfair” and “vicious” to the first lady:



Mika Brzezinski who was the target of Trump's previous attacks on her appearance, replied:



This Trump tweet turned two years old:



From a CNN host: