

THE FIRST 100 DAYS OF TRUMP

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Breitbart Special Report

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Trump's First 100 Days: An Overview¹

By historical standards, President Donald Trump has had a remarkably active first 100 days.

His major achievements have been in foreign policy and national security, where he has restored America's military deterrent and reversed its international decline. He also appointed Justice Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court, signed over a dozen laws repealing existing federal regulations, drastically reduced illegal immigration, and renewed economic confidence.

In the face of unprecedented media opposition and Democratic "resistance," Trump has endured some setbacks, notably the failure of the American Health Care Act, which was to have replaced Obamacare. But that effort will be revisited, along with tax reform, in the coming weeks. Absent major shocks, Trump has ample room to grow.

The media disagree. CNN, among others, declaring on day 89 that Trump has a "short list of accomplishments."

Some historical context is in order.

President Barack Obama did little of consequence in his first 100 days, aside from the ill-fated \$862 billion stimulus and a failed executive order

¹ This introduction is adapted from two "Blue State Blues" columns at Breitbart News: 1. "Trump's First 100 Days in Historical Perspective," 21 Apr. 2017, URL: <http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2017/04/21/blue-state-blues-trumps-first-100-days-historical-perspective/> 2. "In His First 100 Days, Trump Has Delivered," 28 Apr. 2017, URL: <http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2017/04/28/blue-state-blues-trumps-first-100-days-are-a-record-of-delivery/>

to close the prison at Guantánamo Bay.

Yet the mainstream media were effusive in their praise at the time, with Jonathan Alter of Newsweek trumpeting the White House line: “Barack Obama has put more points on the board than any president since Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1933.” Only Lyndon Johnson did more, he claimed.

The media tend to favor Democratic presidents in this way, not only because of their general political preference for Democrats, but also because of their ideological predilection for the idea of government “doing” something -- putting “points on the board,” in Alter’s words, even if those “points” turn out to be useless or harmful.

As such, Trump will never be given the same credit for repealing regulations that Obama was given for introducing them, for example.

Until Trump, only Johnson and Ronald Reagan were considered effective in their first 100 days. As scholar William Lasser wrote in 2001, anticipating an embattled presidency for George W. Bush after the grueling Florida recount:

Few of Roosevelt’s successors have been even moderately successful during their early days in office, at least in terms of legislative accomplishments. Harry Truman, who took office after Roosevelt’s death in April 1945, spent his first four months in office presiding over the last days of World War II—hardly a time to work with Congress on new legislation. Dwight D. Eisenhower initially focused on his campaign promise to end the war in Korea, and, despite having a Republican-controlled Congress, expended little effort on legislative matters. John Kennedy likewise focused on foreign policy, and had little real success on the domestic side. Nor were Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, George [H.W.]

Bush, or Bill Clinton spectacularly successful in their first few months in office.

Inexperience and disarray have also made several past presidents susceptible to rookie mistakes during the first 100 days. Jack Kennedy authorized the disastrous Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba, for example, in April 1961. Bill Clinton's early mistakes doomed his health care plan, while Jimmy Carter's missteps greatly damaged his relationship with Congress and the federal bureaucracy.

The exceptions to the rule of ineffectiveness might be Lyndon Johnson and Ronald Reagan. Johnson capitalized on his own legislative experience and the national trauma following the assassination of Jack Kennedy to push through the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and a major antipoverty measure. Then he built on his landslide reelection victory in November 1964 to win approval of the Voting Rights Act, Medicare, and a massive increase in federal aid to education. Reagan, who took office amidst high unemployment and high inflation and after a year-long hostage crisis in Iran, likewise acted quickly in 1981 to win congressional victories on tax and spending cuts (along with increases in military expenditures).

Trump has not passed major legislation in his first 100 days -- but neither did Obama. Obamacare and Dodd-Frank would not be passed until 2010.

Arguably, the most important thing that happened in Obama's first 100 days was that the stock market hit rock bottom. Shortly after Obama's first 100 days, the Federal Reserve released optimistic results from its "stress tests" of U.S. banks, which helped the economic recovery -- though it was the slowest since WWII.

Trump's first 100 days have been far more consequential. True, his

approval ratings are low by historical standards -- thanks largely to hostile media -- and he may yet struggle to pass his legislative agenda.

Like Obama, Trump has energized his opponents. His own supporters worry he will stray from his promises. And Congress (unexpectedly) and the courts (predictably) have frustrated him.

Yet measured against his predecessors, Trump's first 100 days place him in league with Reagan and Johnson, for sheer impact.

Opinions diverge widely, and dramatically, about whether President Donald Trump's first 100 days in office have been a success or a failure. (The deciding factor seems to be the partisan loyalties of the observer, rather than the facts about what Trump has, or has not, done.)

But there is agreement -- however fragile, and grudging -- on one thing: President Trump has generally fulfilled his promises. Even those who don't like his promises seem to acknowledge that.

A poll on Trump's first 100 days by USC Dornsife/Los Angeles Times -- the only major public poll to predict, correctly, that Trump could win the 2016 election -- revealed that 53% of respondents believed Trump was keeping his promises, and 51% said "Trump has accomplished as much or more than promised."

No, he has not achieved everything he said he would. And yes, he has broken a few promises. But on most substantial issues, he is delivering what he offered.

In *The Art of the Deal* -- a book published 30 years ago, yet still relevant to business, and to understanding the 45th president -- Trump outlined several rules for successful negotiation. One of them was: "Deliver the

Goods.”

“You can’t con people, at least not for long,” Trump wrote. “You can create excitement, you can do wonderful promotion and get all kinds of press, and you can throw in a little hyperbole. But if you don’t deliver the goods, people will eventually catch on. “

By and large, Trump is delivering.

He promised he would nominate conservative judges to Supreme Court vacancies -- and with Gorsuch, he delivered. He promised he would roll back regulations -- and through his executive orders and his use of the Congressional Review Act, he delivered. He promised he would restore the place of the United States in global leadership -- and through air strikes against the Syrian regime for using chemical weapons, he delivered.

In the last few days before 100, Trump -- while dismissing the 100-day benchmark as “ridiculous” -- rolled out the biggest tax cut ever proposed.

Critics mock him for rushing towards the deadline. So what? That is what deadlines are for -- and he delivered, again.

Even when he hasn’t delivered — on health care, for example — Trump has made progress.

He dropped his demand for border wall funding in next year’s budget. Yet illegal border crossings are already down 64%, because the world knows he is serious about enforcement.

He continued to push Congress to repeal Obamacare after the American Health Care Act failed. He will continue to push in the months to come,

despite the late failure of a second effort.

He has not moved the U.S. embassy in Israel to Jerusalem yet, but he has dropped the two-state solution as an absolute demand.

Trump's most vocal critics, both right and left, are not worried that he will not fulfill his promises -- though they seize on every stumble along the way. Rather, they are more worried that he will, in fact, do what he said he would.

Amidst the shock of his executive order on January 27 suspending travel from seven terror-prone countries, it suddenly dawned on his opponents that he might mean what he says. The order was no more and no less, after all, than what he had promised voters on the trail.

Not everything may work out as hoped. The Wall Street Journal slammed Trump's retaliatory tariff on Canadian lumber, for example, saying it would raise the cost of American housing and hurt construction. That is, indeed, what Economics 101 would predict: a tariff hurts foreign producers, but it also raises prices for domestic consumers (not yet, but eventually).

Still, Trump did what he said he would do, pushing back against perceived unfair practices by our trading partners.

The mainstream media tell us Trump has eroded the credibility of the presidency through controversial statements, incorrect factual claims and errant tweets. But Trump's actions are more important than his words.

As conservative radio host Mark Levin — who opposed Trump in the GOP primary, and rejects Trump's "populist nationalist" approach — said this week: "He's done more as president than the Republicans in Congress have

done, controlling both houses of Congress. And I'm not talking about fiats — I'm talking about what a president constitutionally and legitimately can do. He's doing it!"

Cartoonist Scott Adams, of Dilbert fame, who has gained notoriety as an amateur political pundit, tweeted in February: "Watch for Trump's critics to migrate from 'Trump is Hitler' to 'Trump is incompetent' by summer. Later: 'Competent, but I don't like it.'"

That progression has happened even more quickly than Adams anticipated. Already, there is a "fourth stage" of Trump criticism: "Well, I may like it, but Trump is getting lucky."

One could argue, from a left-wing viewpoint, that Trump is a bad president. But no serious observer could claim he has been an ineffective one.

As Byron York of the Washington Examiner notes, where Trump has been able to wield executive authority, he has generally succeeded. His few failures have not been entirely his fault: Congress frequently dropped the ball on major new legislation, and the courts arguably overstepped their authority in blocking his executive orders on immigration.

With the history of past presidents in mind, we may grade Trump's first 100 days.

First, there were no disasters. That alone earns him a passing grade -- say, 60%.

Add 10% for the Gorsuch nomination -- which, perhaps, any Republican might have done. That takes him to a "gentleman's C."

But there is more: Trump earns 10% credit each for his bold foreign policy and his aggressive repeal of federal regulations.

That takes him up to 90% -- to the cusp of an A grade. Perhaps not an automatic "A," given the troubled rollout of the executive orders on immigration, and the repeated collapse of efforts to repeal and replace Obamacare. But close enough for a case to be made.

Whether you think Trump deserves that A will depend on how seriously you take some of his administration's shortcomings -- most of them, at least so far, rather inconsequential: the personnel shuffles, the gaffes, the compromises, the alleged conflicts of interest, the squabbles with the press.

Though the opposition -- the so-called "resistance" -- is desperate to inflate these to impeachable offenses, few of these distinguish him from his recent predecessors in the Oval Office.

Despite his record of delivery, Trump's supporters fret that he will move to the left, pulled by his aides and his family, and pushed by the relentless pressure of the mainstream media.

But Trump's opponents have a bigger problem, which is that he may continue to do well.

They have refused to work with him, and tried everything to destroy him. The moment his polls cross firmly into positive territory, the "resistance" will be lost.

That moment seems more likely now than it was on January 20. President Trump's first 100 days have been that strong.

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“Because today we are not merely transferring power from one Administration to another, or from one party to another – but we are transferring power from Washington, D.C. and giving it back to you, the American People.”

- President Donald J. Trump



Washington, DC – January 20, 2017: President Elect Donald Trump arrives on the West Front of the U.S. Capitol on January 20, 2017 in Washington, DC.

DAY 1

January 20: President Donald Trump was sworn in and delivered a groundbreaking [inaugural address](#) on the theme of “America First.” With a vision of populism, nationalism, and unity, Trump warned the Washington establishment, and addressed the people directly: “Because today we are not merely transferring power from one Administration to another, or from one party to another – but we are transferring power from Washington, D.C. and giving it back to you, the American People.” Violent

protests by left-wing activists obstructed entrances to the inauguration, and some protesters were arrested. After the ceremony, and in between the festivities, President Trump signed his first executive orders, including one directing federal agencies to “[ease the burden](#)” of enforcing Obamacare. After reviewing the troops, Trump attended the inaugural balls, [declaring](#): “Now the work begins ... we are not playing games.”

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DAY 2

January 21: President Trump and his extended family joined the Cabinet, Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy, and members of the public at a moving ecumenical [inaugural service](#) at the Washington National Cathedral. He also [delivered a speech](#) at the CIA, reassuring the agents of his commitment to supporting the work of the intelligence services, after a media controversy in which Obama administration intelligence chiefs gave credence to reports of “Russian hacking” to support his election. Press Secretary Sean Spicer made his first presentation to the media, accusing them of deliberately undermining the new president with a false report about the alleged removal of a bust of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. from the Oval Office, and with reports that the crowd for Trump’s inauguration was small in comparison his predecessor’s. Spicer presented data to support the argument that Trump’s inauguration drew the largest audience in history, if online viewership was included. Trump also called the media’s reports on crowd size into question during his remarks at the CIA, drawing more criticism from the media. Meanwhile, hundreds of thousands of protesters joined a women’s march in Washington, wearing pink “pussyhats” and denouncing the Trump administration, often in vulgar terms. Similar “women’s marches” were held nationwide and abroad, setting the tone for “resistance” to follow

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DAY 3

January 22: The fallout from Trump and Spicer’s pushback on crowd size continued. Trump aide Kellyanne Conway defended Spicer on

NBC's **Meet the Press**, noting that he was presenting "[alternative facts](#)," as an opposing side in a legal argument might do. However, the media and the left seized on the phrase "alternative facts" as a euphemism for lying (something like the phrase "truthiness," which comedian Stephen Colbert used to mock the George W. Bush administration). Trump, continuing to use Twitter as a medium for speaking directly to the public, [tweeted](#) his response to the women's marches: "Why didn't these people vote?" Trump also [announced](#) that he would be meeting with the leaders of Canada and Mexico in a bid to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Late in the day on Sunday, Trump and Vice President Mike Pence also held a swearing-in for senior White House staff, including Breitbart News Executive Chairman Stephen K. Bannon, as well as Trump's son-in-law, businessman Jared Kushner.



DAY 4

January 23: President Trump fulfilled a key promise by formally withdrawing the U.S. from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), a cause embraced by the left as well. He called the move "a great thing for the American worker," and met with union leaders, who praised the move, and the new president, effusively, saying they had never been treated so well. Separately, Trump also met with business leaders and pledges to lower their taxes -- but warned them against offshoring jobs. Trump also signed other executive orders, including one reinstating the "Mexico City" policy that prevents U.S. funds to overseas non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from being used to fund abortions; and an order instituting a federal hiring freeze outside the military. Spicer held his first formal press briefing and admitted that some facts he had presented Saturday were inaccurate, and pledged to tell the truth to the media and the public. Trump also met congressional leaders from both houses and both sides of the aisle, praising his relationships with them.



DAY 5

January 24: Several more bold [executive orders](#) crossed President

Trump’s desk. One advanced the long-delayed Keystone XL pipeline, which had been held up by the Barack Obama administration to appease environmental organizations and donors. Another sought to accelerate the process for environmental approval of infrastructure projects, while another called for streamlining federal regulations. The Trump administration also issued a temporary order to federal employees to avoid commenting on political subjects, worried that left-wing civil servants might use their access to media to undermine the new administration as part of a “coup” by the “deep state.” The media continued to obsess over Trump’s alleged misstatements -- including a reported statement from his meeting the day before with congressional leaders, wherein he claimed to have lost the popular vote due to voter fraud. CNN led with the story, presenting it with some degree of outrage as further evidence of the Trump White House’s disregard of the facts and the truth..

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DAY 6

January 25: President Trump signed two long-awaited executive orders on immigration. The first directed federal agencies to begin work towards the “wall,” or “barrier,” along the southern border with Mexico, and pledged to deport illegal aliens while expanding detention facilities for those apprehended in the country. The second order enhanced enforcement of federal immigration law and directed agencies to begin withholding funds from “sanctuary cities.” Trump also called for an investigation of voter fraud, triggering further media outrage -- but delighting proponents of voter identification laws.

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DAY 7

January 26: After Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto tweeted a message the night before, saying that he looked forward to visiting the White House the following week but that Mexico would not pay for the U.S. border wall, Trump tweeted in response that if that were the case, the meeting should be canceled. Peña Nieto then canceled his trip — and the Trump White House indicated that it would favor a 20% tariff on Mexican

imports. Meanwhile, Trump took his first trip on Air Force One, flying to a House Republican retreat in Philadelphia and addressing a raucous and enthusiastic caucus. At the same time, reports emerged that four of the State Department's senior managers would be leaving their posts, that Trump had fired President Obama's head of the Border Patrol, and that federal employees at agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency were arriving at work in tears, fearful of changes Trump might yet bring. In an ironic twist, Trump chided Chelsea (formerly Bradley) Manning, the soldier who had smuggled U.S. diplomatic cables to Wikileaks and to whom President Obama had given clemency before leaving office, for a UK **Guardian** column criticizing Obama for being insufficiently "progressive." Meanwhile, Trump adviser Stephen K. Bannon set off media alarm bells with an [interview](#) in the **New York Times** in which he declared: "The media should be embarrassed and humiliated and keep its mouth shut and just listen for a while."

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DAY 8

January 27: President Trump hosted his first foreign leader, British Prime Minister Theresa May, in a warm visit between two new leaders, both representing conservative parties and both leading governments elected on a platform of national sovereignty. The day before, May addressed a Republican Party gathering in Philadelphia at which she praised the renewal of U.S. sovereignty and the importance of the "special relationship," while also stressing the need to lead some global institutions, not abandon them. She sounded similar themes at their joint press conference, emphasizing a shared commitment to NATO. In addition, Vice President Mike Pence addressed the annual March for Life, a large anti-abortion protest -- the highest-ranking government official ever to do so. The media, unusually, covered the march. President Trump also issued two executive orders, one temporarily [restricting travel](#) from seven terror-prone countries and halting the Syria refugee program; and the [other](#) directing the government to prepare to expand the armed forces.

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DAY 9

January 28: In his first weekly video address, President Trump said that his administration “has hit the ground running at a record pace.” He signed several new executive orders, including a five-year lobbying ban on senior administration officials, a plan to fight the so-called Islamic State, and a reorganization of the National Security Council. President Trump appointed Bannon to a post at the National Security Council, triggering a new round of anti-Bannon (and anti-Breitbart) hysteria in the media. Meanwhile, thousands of left-wing protesters descended on the nation’s airports to demonstrate against the executive order on travel from terror-prone countries, which they called a “Muslim ban.” The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) helped file legal challenges to suspend parts of the order’s enforcement.



DAY 10

January 29: As Trump aides appeared on Sunday talk shows to defend his executive order, as well as to field other queries (such as why the administration did not specifically mention Jews in a statement about International Holocaust Remembrance Day), the protests escalated. With most of those detained by the executive order already released, protesters jammed airport traffic and demonstrated inside terminals, disrupting travel for thousands on Sunday afternoon and evening.



DAY 11

January 30: President Trump met with small business owners in the White House, and signed an extraordinary executive order that required federal government departments to eliminate two old regulations for every new regulation they promulgated. Meanwhile, the turmoil over his executive order on immigration continued. While the White House seemed to regain control of the media narrative, former President Obama emerged -- just 10 days out of the job -- to issue a statement attacking the executive order and encouraging the nationwide protests that had dented weekend air travel weekend. Meanwhile, acting Attorney General Sally Yates declared that she would refuse to defend the executive order in

court. President Trump fired her and replaced her with Dana Boente, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia.



Washington, DC – January 31, 2017: U.S. President Donald Trump nominates Judge Neil Gorsuch (R) to the Supreme Court during a ceremony in the East Room of the White House.

DAY 12

January 31: Democrats stepped up their opposition to President Trump by boycotting Senate votes on his Cabinet nominees for Treasury and Health and Human Services. Several cities also filed lawsuits against Trump’s executive orders on immigration. The big announcement of the day, however, was Trump’s choice to fill the late Antonin Scalia’s seat on the U.S. Supreme Court. In a primetime event, he announced his pick: Judge Neil Gorsuch of the Tenth Circuit. The choice was universally hailed by conservatives, and even liberal commentators seemed impressed by his resume (Ivy League, Oxford, two Supreme Court clerkships, unanimous appellate confirmation by the Senate). For many Trump voters, the Gorsuch nomination fulfilled a core campaign promise -- and was the first of many future selections.



DAY 13

February 1: Gorusch began making the rounds among Republicans on Capitol Hill, and Trump told Republican leaders to use the “nuclear option” -- i.e. ending the filibuster for Supreme Court nominees -- if necessary to ensure his Senate confirmation. Trump held more phone calls with foreign leaders, including the president of Mexico and the prime minister of Australia. Leaked reports of the conversations described Trump as being combative -- threatening to send troops to deal with “bad hombres” in Mexico, and hanging up on Australia’s Malcolm Turnbull halfway through the conversation. Later, however, Mexico denied the threat of invasion, and Turnbull was forced to confront the fact that Trump had rejected a lopsided deal, negotiated by the Obama administration, under which the U.S. would accept some of Australia’s offshore refugees in exchange for an unspecified number of Central American refugees. Press Secretary Sean Spicer surprised the White House press corps by taking two questions from distant journalists via Skype. The White House also reacted to ballistic missile tests by Iran over the weekend by putting it “on notice” that it regarded its actions as a violation of a recent UN Security Council resolution. The Senate voted to confirm former Exxon CEO Rex Tillerson as Secretary of State, while two Republican defectors from Betsy DeVos’s nomination as Secretary of Education meant that Vice President Mike Pence would likely have to cast an unusual tiebreaking vote. Trump also made an unannounced visit to the Dover Air Force base to pay respects to a Navy SEAL, Chief Petty Officer William “Ryan” Owens, who was the first American to die in combat under his administration, in a mission in Yemen.



DAY 14

February 2: President Trump tweeted a warning to the University of California, Berkeley that he would consider cutting its federal funds if it did not defend free speech, after a riot on campus the night before had prevented Breitbart News tech editor Milo Yiannopoulos from speaking on campus. UN Ambassador Nikki Haley delivered a stern rebuke to Russia, condemning its aggression in the eastern Ukraine -- and undermining

speculation Trump would not oppose Vladimir Putin. The White House issued a statement on Israeli settlements that appeared to criticize them, but also recognized the permanence of existing Israeli settlements in Judea and Samaria (the West Bank). Meanwhile, Senate Democrats refused to meet with Judge Gorsuch -- retaliating for how Republicans treated Judge Merrick Garland in 2016.

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DAY 15

February 3: The slew of executive orders -- or executive “actions” -- continued, as President Trump signed two new orders dealing with the financial services industry. One was an [executive order](#) aimed at rolling back the Dodd-Frank financial regulation law, passed in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis. It laid out a set of principles for the financial system, beginning with “empower[ing] Americans to make independent financial decisions and informed choices” and “prevent[ing] taxpayer-funded bailouts,” and directed the Secretary of the Treasury to study existing regulations to determine whether they conformed to those principles. The second was a [memorandum](#) directing the government to study the Obama administration’s “fiduciary duty” rule for financial advisers. The measure had been aimed, ostensibly, at making financial advisers more accountable. Yet in practice, critics said, it would make financial advice harder to find, since analysts would be less willing to risk the legal consequences of making a mistake. In addition, the Trump administration announced new sanctions on individuals tied to the Iranian ballistic missile program, a fulfillment of the promise earlier in the week that Iran would be placed “on notice.” Late in the day, a federal judge in a district court in Washington issued a temporary restraining order (TRO) on Trump’s “travel ban,” setting up a judicial showdown.

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“The opinion of this so-called judge, which essentially takes law-enforcement away from our

country, is ridiculous and will be overturned!”

- President Donald J. Trump

DAY 16

February 4: Trump tweeted his dissatisfaction with the federal judge’s TRO: “The opinion of this so-called judge, which essentially takes law-enforcement away from our country, is ridiculous and will be overturned!” Critics pounced, alleging him of trying to intimidate the judiciary and undermine its independence. But rather than defying the court, the administration appealed its ruling, acknowledging the separation of powers. Meanwhile, **Saturday Night Live** continued its mockery of the administration by portraying Trump (Alec Baldwin) as an oaf and Bannon as the Grim Reaper (again), and with comedian Melissa McCarthy in a new role as White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer. **The Washington Post** had reported earlier in the day that Bannon paid a personal visit to Kelly to make the executive order more severe -- and the newspaper was later forced to [admit](#), as the story fell apart, that it never asked the White House for comment.

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DAY 17

February 5: The first “slow news day” in Trump’s whirlwind presidency saw continuing debate over Trump’s executive order. CNN claimed it refused to allow Kellyanne Conway to appear -- a report she disputed later, on Twitter. In the evening, The Super Bowl proved something of a repeat of Election Night, with Trump’s favored New England Patriots falling behind 28-3 against the Atlanta Falcons by the mid-third quarter, only to mount an improbable comeback victory in overtime.

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For the first time in history, a vice president had to cast a tie-breaking vote to confirm a Cabinet appointee, as Vice President Mike Pence ensured that Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos took up her post.

DAY 18

February 6: The mainstream media stepped up their assault on the Trump administration, with **USA Today** printing a lead [editorial](#) likening Bannon to the terrorist leader of Islamic State. Trump delivered a speech to CENTCOM in Tampa, Florida, where he defended his executive order and accused the mainstream media of under-reporting terrorist attacks.



DAY 19

February 7: For the first time in history, a vice president had to cast a tie-breaking vote to confirm a Cabinet appointee, as Vice President Mike Pence ensured that Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos took up her post. Democrats, who ran an all-night debate session on the floor of the Senate to oppose DeVos, took comfort in having produced a spectacle of unified opposition. In hearings on Capitol Hill, Secretary of Homeland Security John Kelly took responsibility for the troubled rollout of President Trump's executive order on immigration -- though he vigorously [denied](#) a **Washington Post** report that claimed he had been visited personally by Bannon to dissuade him from allowing waivers for green card holders. In the evening, the administration took its case for the order to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco.



DAY 20

February 8: President Trump began his day with a speech to law enforcement officials, during which he continued his attack on the media

-- and won applause -- while expressing his irritation at the courts for blocking his executive order restricting immigration from terror-prone countries. The media seized on those remarks as a further threat to judicial independence -- forgetting its own silence when President Obama did the same (or worse) in commenting on the Obamacare cases (2012 and 2015) before the Supreme Court had ruled in either. Word leaked from private a meeting between Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) and Judge Gorsuch that Trump's Supreme Court nominee had called the president's criticism of Judge Robart "demoralizing" and "disheartening." Meanwhile, a new controversy emerged as Trump took to Twitter to criticize the Nordstrom retail chain for dropping his daughter Ivanka's fashion products, a decision he described as political. Media critics called his rebuke inappropriate, and suggested it highlighted enduring concerns about conflicts of interest in the Trump White House, which they claimed had never been fully resolved.

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Jeff Sessions was sworn in as Attorney General, marking an end to a cantankerous Senate debate that featured Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) being formally silenced by the Senate for breaking rules of decorum as she attempted to accuse Sessions of racism.

DAY 21

February 9: Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-AL) was sworn in as Attorney General, marking an end to a cantankerous Senate debate that featured Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) being formally silenced by the Senate for breaking rules of decorum as she attempted to accuse Sessions of racism. Meanwhile, Trump spokesperson Kellyanne Conway had to be "counseled" by White House ethics staff after making a flippant comment on **Fox and**

Friends suggesting that people should buy Ivanka Trump’s merchandise as a way of showing her political support. The media, having largely ignored questions of presidential ethics in the Obama White House, discovered a newfound enthusiasm for the subject, along with Democrats in Congress. Despite the controversy, stock markets hit new highs after President Trump made clear that he intended to push for tax reform. At day’s end, the Ninth Circuit ruled unanimously against the Trump administration, though the court’s legal reasoning was highly questionable. Rep. Tom Price (R-GA) was confirmed as the Secretary of Health and Human Services in a late night session, setting the stage for Obamacare’s awaited repeal to begin.

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DAY 22

February 10: The White House confirmed a Thursday evening phone call between the president and Chinese premier Xi Jinping in which China asked, and Trump agreed, for the U.S. to adhere to the “One China” policy -- something of a shift away from Taiwan, whose leader then-President-elect Trump had spoken with during the presidential transition. As the Trump administration pondered what to do next about the Ninth Circuit ruling -- to appeal it, to fight it in the lower court, to rewrite the executive order, or to ask for an **en banc** hearing of 11 Ninth Circuit judges -- left-wing protest against the administration took an ugly turn, as Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos was barred from entering a D.C.-area public school. Even the combative American Federation of Teachers president Randi Weingarten felt obliged to object to the demonstrators for their tactics against DeVos. Later in the day, President Trump held a joint press conference with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe before the two flew together to Mar-a-Lago for a golf weekend.

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DAY 23

February 11: While Trump and Abe golfed in Florida, North Korean dictator Kim Jong-Un launched a ballistic missile test. In a snap press conference Saturday evening, Abe condemned the move and Trump

declared that the U.S. stood behind Japan “100%.” Meanwhile, **Saturday Night Live** delighted the media and the left in general by continuing its comedic onslaught against the Trump administration, with partisan sketches targeting Trump and aides Conway and Spicer..

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DAY 24

February 12: Trump policy director and speechwriter Stephen Miller made the rounds of the Sunday talk shows, defending the president’s policies on immigration, including a crackdown on criminal illegal aliens. Critics seized on his reiteration of claims of voter fraud -- this time in New Hampshire, where he said that voters had been bused in from Massachusetts. National Security Adviser Mike Flynn found himself at the center of growing controversy after it emerged that he may have discussed the issue of sanctions with the Russian ambassador during the transition period -- something he had denied, and which Vice President Mike Pence had denied on his behalf. At the Grammy Awards, a hitherto-unknown singer, Joy Villa, wowed the paparazzi by throwing off a white cloak to reveal a “Make America Great Again” gown..

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President Trump placed phone calls to the leaders of South Africa and Nigeria, and welcomed Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to the White House – the third foreign leader to visit, barely three weeks into the Trump administration.

DAY 25

February 13: President Trump placed phone calls to the leaders of South Africa and Nigeria, and welcomed Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to the White House -- the third foreign leader to visit,

barely three weeks into the Trump administration. The leaders, while representing ideologically opposed viewpoints on trade and immigration, downplayed their differences in a display of unity and friendship. In a press conference, mainstream media reporters grew annoyed when the president called on the Daily Caller, a conservative website, and the reporter did not ask questions about National Security Adviser Mike Flynn. Flynn later was reported to have apologized to Vice President Pence for any misinformation he may have provided him about his phone conversation with the Russian ambassador. Meanwhile, four GOP senators said they were uncertain about supporting Trump’s nominee for Secretary of Labor, Andy Pudzer, due to past allegations of domestic violence and the alleged hiring of an illegal alien. Secretary of the Treasury Robert Mnuchin was confirmed; Flynn resigned later that evening, igniting controversy anew.



DAY 26

February 14: President Trump began his day with a meeting with Secretary of Education DeVos and advocates of school choice -- what DeVos called “traditional public schools, charter public schools, home schools, private schools — a range of choices.” But the news was dominated by the Flynn firing. Press Secretary Spicer fielded a barrage of questions at the daily briefing, reiterating that Flynn had been asked to resign because of an erosion of trust. Skeptical journalists like Eli Lake of Bloomberg News began to question the role of the “deep state” in leaking intelligence to the media. Some called the departure of Flynn a “political assassination.” Overnight, the **New York Times** ran a puzzling follow-up to the events of the day before, revealing that anonymous intelligence officials had leaked evidence that Trump campaign officials had “contact” with Trump campaign aides, though they also said there was no evidence of coordination. Trump signed his first bill into law: a repeal of dozens of regulations promulgated by the Obama administration but not [reported](#) to Congress, which left them ripe for permanent erasure under the 1996 Congressional Review Act.



The fight between President Trump and the intelligence services continued, as the president fired off a series of tweets criticizing the NSA and the FBI for leaking information to the media. In one rhetorical flourish, he said their behavior was “Just like Russia.”

DAY 27

February 15: The fight between President Trump and the intelligence services continued, as the president fired off a series of tweets criticizing the NSA and the FBI for leaking information to the media. In one rhetorical flourish, he said their behavior was “Just like Russia.” Later, President Trump hosted Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for talks at the White House; their joint press conference was a happy, warm affair that put a smile on the U.S.-Israel relationship for the first time in nearly a decade. Trump broke new ground by suggesting that he would not necessarily insist on a two-state solution to the conflict, but rather would accept whatever the parties negotiated. He also hinted at mediating a regional peace between Israel and other Arab states, the better to mount a joint opposition to Iran, rather than prioritizing the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. Late in the day, Trump’s pick for Secretary of Labor, Andrew Puzder, withdrew -- the first Cabinet nominee to do so. Late at night, the **Wall Street Journal** [reported](#) intelligence officials were withholding key information from the President Trump -- a report that was later denied strongly by the intelligence services.

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President Trump held his first solo press conference

since taking office, and it caused a sensation. It was a rambling, to-and-fro debate, beginning with a statement recounting the achievements of the new administration and slamming the media.

DAY 28

February 16: President Trump held his first solo press conference since taking office, and it caused a sensation. It was a rambling, to-and-fro debate, beginning with a statement recounting the achievements of the new administration and slamming the media. The rest was a donnybrook that the president clearly enjoyed. He fielded several questions about Russia, and seemed to exhaust his interlocutors, as the conference moved on to other subjects. The media were clearly dismayed; Democrats called Trump's performance "unhinged." But it was not too different from his performances on the campaign trail -- and his supporters loved it. Talk radio host Rush Limbaugh called it one of the best press conferences he had ever seen. As the controversy continued, Trump signed a repeal of Obama-era regulations targeting the coal industry, as coal state legislators -- including Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV) -- looked on happily and appreciatively.

★ ★ ★

DAY 29

February 17: As the controversy over Trump's press conference continued, with mainstream media journalists lamenting the supposed threat to the First Amendment posed by Trump's banter and his habit of calling on conservative journalists, the president dialed the controversy up a notch by tweeting that "fake news" outlets were the "enemy of the American people." Trump's pick to head the EPA, Scott Pruitt, sailed through a confirmation vote, despite strenuous efforts by environmentalists, and EPA employees, to oppose him -- another example of Trump moving despite media chaos. On Friday night, HBO's **Real Time**

with Bill Maher hosted Breitbart's Milo Yiannopoulos. In Germany, Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) delivered a defiant speech slamming Trump's style of politics -- an unusual breach of political protocol.

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DAY 30

February 18: President Trump, perhaps taking a page from his predecessor's playbook, took to the campaign trail at a rally in Melbourne, Florida, escaping the brickbats of Washington for the bouquets of a supportive crowd. He laced into the media again, and invited a supporter to the stage to express his thanks for everything Trump had done to keep his promises. First Lady Melania Trump made an appearance, where she led the crowd in reciting the Lord's Prayer.

★ ★ ★

DAY 31

February 19: While the president retired to Mar-a-Lago, controversy brewed -- as usual -- over a comment he made at the rally the day before, where he referenced events in Sweden. The media pounced as if Trump had been referring to a terror attack (there was none); the president later clarified that he had been referring to a [report](#) on Fox News about crime among migrants in Sweden. Meanwhile, the White House continued to screen candidates for National Security Adviser, and to float ideas for renewing the president's immigration executive order. Vice President Mike Pence, visiting Europe, met with the president of Ukraine and offered American support. Late Sunday night, a controversy erupted around Breitbart editor Milo Yiannopolous, after a year-old video interview was revealed in which he defended underage relationships.

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DAY 32

February 20: Vice President Mike Pence continued his goodwill tour, reassuring the European Union of continued support. At home, President Trump named the Army's Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster as his new National Security Adviser, winning praise from analysts. Protests continued around the country on "Not My President Day," and Milo was dropped from the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) list of speakers

due to his comments on underage sex. The stock market was closed, but the market's overall rise since Trump's election (4.02%) was the [highest since 1909](#).

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DAY 33

February 21: President Donald Trump marked Black History Month with a visit to the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture, where he toured the exhibits and delivered remarks about unity. He condemned recent bomb threats directed at Jewish community centers -- which journalists took as a cue to berate him for not doing so earlier. Meanwhile, the administration announced that it was reversing the Obama administration's policy of non-enforcement on the border, and would not only empower border agents to carry out their duties fully, but would also be hiring 10,000 more of them. Elsewhere, Yiannopolous [resigned](#) from Breitbart News to pursue an independent career.

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President Trump held his first solo press conference since taking office, and it caused a sensation. It was a rambling, to-and-fro debate, beginning with a statement recounting the achievements of the new administration and slamming the media.

DAY 34

February 22: The Trump administration rescinded federal guidelines to public schools urging them to accommodate transgender students in bathrooms, locker rooms, and the like. During the presidential campaign, Trump had argued for greater tolerance toward transgender people. However, the guidelines were already the target of lawsuits, and

imposed federal authority on states and local school districts. The reversal stated that there was no basis under existing law for allowing students to determine their own gender, and clarified that education policy, including transgender issues, remained with state and local government. Vice President Pence visited a Jewish cemetery that had been desecrated, assisting with repairs and declaring the administration's solidarity with the Jewish community, and intolerance towards hatred.



DAY 35

February 23: President Trump met with business leaders to discuss tax reforms, as conservatives gathered near the nation's capital for CPAC. In a show of unity, Bannon and Chief of Staff Reince Priebus addressed the gathering jointly. Vice President Pence also delivered a speech late in the evening. Other members of the administration were also prominent at CPAC, raising the profile of the conservative gathering to levels not seen since the heyday of the Reagan administration.



DAY 36

February 24: The president sounded campaign themes as he addressed CPAC, promising to do visit the conference in subsequent years as well. He outlined the basic philosophy of his presidency -- "I'm not representing the globe. I'm representing your country" -- and renewed his attacks on the "fake news" media. Subsequently, the White House stirred controversy when several left-leaning mainstream media outlets were allegedly excluded from a White House press gaggle (the White House denied excluding anyone). The president also notched his fifth meeting with a foreign leader, meeting at the White House with the President of Peru. And questions surrounded an alleged request by Chief of Staff Priebus that the FBI correct the public record about Trump aides' contact with Russia. The FBI refused the request -- but the White House [said](#) that the FBI had actually initiated the conversation during an unrelated meeting at the White House.



DAY 37

February 25: News broke of a leak from the National Security Council: the president's new National Security Adviser, General H.R. McMaster, had told members of that body that the phrase "radical Islamic terrorism" was unhelpful. Word of such a direct contradiction of President Donald Trump's own words -- and an apparent affirmation of his predecessor's posture on national security -- excited the administration's critics, who saw it as a sign of disarray in his foreign policy. The Democrats elected former Secretary of Labor Tom Perez to lead their party, electing controversial Rep. Keith Ellison (D-MN) -- formerly of the Nation of Islam -- as his deputy. Trump announced that he would not be attending the White House Correspondents' Dinner (the "Nerd Prom," as it is known), triggering another round of media consternation.



DAY 38

February 26: As the Sunday shows continued to ruminate about the tumultuous week that was, President Trump began preparing for his first address to a joint session of Congress on the following Tuesday, where he would lay out his governing agenda formally for the first time. Democrats plotted ways to troll the president -- such as inviting illegal aliens to the gallery, or people who had been excluded from the country under the suspended executive order. At the Oscars, host Jimmy Kimmel led celebrities in a night of jabs at the president -- only to suffer massive embarrassment as Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway announced the wrong winner (**La La Land**) for Best Picture instead of **Moonlight**, possibly the most disastrous event in the history of the ceremony, and one that provided much mirth for Trump supporters.



DAY 39

February 27: Trump teased some of his upcoming policy initiatives throughout the day. He told a delegation of state governors that he intended rolling out his major infrastructure plan soon, and that repairing the country's infrastructure was a matter of great urgency. The White House also announced that Trump would offer a new executive

order on “extreme vetting” of visitors from terror-prone countries. And President Trump [told Breitbart News](#) that repealing Obamacare and passing tax reform were high on his list of policy priorities, which he would be revealing in his joint address to Congress. As for the Oscars, Trump’s comment was that the snafu occurred because the ceremony had been too focused on politics.

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DAY 40

February 28: Farmers cheered as President Trump signed an executive order curtailing the Environmental Protection Agency’s broad interpretation of its own authority over bodies of water. Under President Obama, the so-called “Waters of the United States” (WOTUS) rule let the EPA regulate bodies water as small as puddles on private land. Meanwhile, Trump previewed his address that evening to a special joint session of Congress, meeting with mainstream media journalists at lunch and floating a trial balloon: a pitch for some kind of comprehensive immigration reform that would require Republicans to compromise. Meanwhile, Democrats prepared to protest his address silently: female legislators dressed in suffragette white, while some male Democrats declared they would not shake the president’s hand. They did that, and more -- but to limited, or even negative, effect as Trump gave the speech of his life, and arguably one of the most successful speeches ever given to Congress. He began by acknowledging Black History Month and condemning antisemitism, then outlined his agenda, giving particular attention to clear parameters for replacing Obamacare. He acknowledged several people in the gallery, none more dramatic than Carryn Owens, the widow of slain Navy SEAL Ryan Owens. Congress honored her with a standing ovation lasting more than two minutes as she cried, smiled, and gazed heavenward. Reviews of, and polls on, the speech were spectacular: a CNN poll showed that 4 out of 5 of those Americans watching the address felt it had been positive. Democrats were flummoxed, frustrated, and worried.

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DAY 41

March 1: As the White House basked in good feelings about the president' speech the night before, the Cabinet confirmations rolled slowly forward, with the Senate voting to install Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-MT) as Secretary of the Interior. Trump delayed the launch of his new executive order on immigration, hoping perhaps not to step on his own (rare) positive news cycle. By evening, however, the Trump administration faced a new crisis: a [report](#) by the **Washington Post** that as a senator, Attorney General Jeff Sessions had met twice with the Russian ambassador. He had told the Senate that he had no communications with the Russians, leading the Democrats to accuse him of perjury. However, the full context of his remarks made it clear he was responding specifically to the question of whether the Trump campaign had ongoing contact with Russia or its intermediaries, and he was answering about communications within his limited capacity as a campaign surrogate. Nevertheless, the mainstream media and Democrats went into overdrive.



DAY 42

March 2: Zinke raised eyebrows by arriving to work at the Department of the Interior for his first day on horseback. Amidst rampant speculation about Sessions's political (and, in the feverish dreams of Democrats, criminal) fate, President Trump traveled to the **U.S.S. Gerald Ford** to deliver an address before an audience of U.S. Navy sailors, calling for a 12-carrier fleet and the expansion of the military. Asked by journalists on board whether he still backed Sessions, the president said: "Totally." In an afternoon press conference, Sessions explained that he had answered the question he was asked at confirmation truthfully, in the context of his work with the campaign, and had focused on that aspect of the question that dealt with salacious accusations in a "dossier" claiming continuous contact with the Russians. Had he had time to consider the question more carefully, he said, he would have volunteered the information that he had met the Russian ambassador elsewhere in the course of his duties. He announced that he would be recusing himself from Department of Justice inquiries having to do with the Trump campaign and alleged

links to Russia. While Democrats still claimed he lied, and bayed for his resignation, the lingering mystery remained how the information about Sessions's meetings had surfaced. Radio host Mark Levin [suggested](#) a “silent coup” arranged by former Obama staffers, who had arranged for surveillance of the Trump campaign and made sure the evidence leaked to the media.

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DAY 43

March 3: Breitbart News published a [story](#) recapitulating an argument made by conservative radio host Mark Levin the night before, citing mainstream media reports and accusing the Obama administration of conducting surveillance on the Trump campaign and trying to disseminate damaging information throughout the government and to the press. The report of a “silent coup” by the “deep state” gained some attention in conservative media but was otherwise unnoticed for the time being. Meanwhile, other Democrats were found to have met with the Russian ambassador, even though many -- like Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi -- initially denied it. Authorities arrested a suspect in some of the antisemitic bomb threats against Jewish community centers, and he turned out to be a black, left-wing, Bernie Sanders-supporting former reporter. Speaker Paul Ryan signaled that Congress's coming plan to repeal and replace Obamacare would likely resemble Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price's “Empowering Patients First Act,” which he had introduced while still in Congress. Debate continued to rage around Sessions, who seemed to be safe in his job.

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President Trump sets the media spinning with a series of morning tweets accusing the outgoing Obama administration of wiretapping Trump Tower.

DAY 44

March 4: President Trump set the media spinning with a series of morning tweets accusing the outgoing Obama administration of wiretapping Trump Tower. Journalists scrambled to cover the story, and a spokesperson for former President Obama denied that he or the White House were involved. But the denial amounted to a “non-denial denial”: it did not dispute that there was surveillance, or that White House officials sought to disseminate information about Trump. Meanwhile, Trump left Washington for his vacation home at Mar-a-Lago as aides stayed behind to craft key proposals on policy. Pro-Trump demonstrations were held across the country, occasionally meeting with violence from counter-demonstrators.



DAY 45

March 5: The Sunday news shows continued to be dominated by debates over whether the outgoing Obama administration conducted surveillance on the Trump campaign and transition team. Many journalists, showing their political colors, considered the claim just the latest embarrassment for the Trump White House -- or, worse, a sign of a slide toward instability. But no one could refute the claims at the core of the story. Former Obama intelligence director James Clapper -- who once misled Congress about the National Security Agency’s spying programs -- claimed there was no FISA warrant to wiretap Trump Tower. And FBI director James Comey [reportedly](#) asked the Department of Justice to refute Trump’s claims that his phones were tapped. But it was still clear that some surveillance of Trump aides occurred, and was leaked, though uncertain who, exactly, ordered it, why they ordered it, and how it was carried out.

President Trump signed a new version of his controversial executive order, still known as a “Muslim ban” to the left. Unlike the first order, it

exempted visitors from Iraq, as well as people who had already been admitted to the country.

DAY 46

March 6: President Trump signed a new version of his controversial executive order, still known as a “Muslim ban” to the left. Unlike the first order, it exempted visitors from Iraq, as well as people who had already been admitted to the country. Protests were far more subdued than before. Meanwhile, House Republicans unveiled an early version of their proposal to replace Obamacare. It met with widespread criticism, particularly for imposing premium increases of 30% on those who did not pay for insurance the year before. But there was hope that the plan could be improved through negotiation. Throughout the day, the media continued to obsess over Trump’s tweets about Obama’s alleged surveillance. The irony: Trump’s critics were forced to disavow earlier media reports that the government had been investigating his campaign’s ties to Russia. In effect, forced to choose between protecting Obama and destroying Trump, the media chose the former. In South Korea, the U.S. deployed anti-missile batteries in response to North Korea, and China complained

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President Trump and the House Republicans unveiled the administration’s official proposal to replace Obamacare.

DAY 47

March 7: President Trump and the House Republican leaderships unveiled the administration’s official proposal to replace Obamacare, the American Health Care Act. The bill was designed to smooth the transition from the status quo to the new system, and preserved many of

Obamacare’s elements. Ostensibly, this “first phase” would be followed by the more substantive reforms to Obamacare, including allowing patients to purchase insurance across state lines. But early reviews of the policy were panned for adding additional costs to the system. Conservative critics were almost unanimous in their condemnation of the bill, [describing](#) it as “Obamacare 2.0” and pointing out that it did not actually fulfill President Trump’s promise to repeal Obamacare. The White House signaled that it was open to negotiation.

★ ★ ★

China appeared to instruct North Korea to stand down in confrontations with U.S. allies, handing a small but significant victory to the Trump administration.

DAY 48

March 8: China appeared to instruct North Korea to stand down in confrontations with U.S. allies, handing a small but significant victory to the Trump administration. (North Korea, near a full diplomatic rift with Malaysia over the assassination of Kim Jong-Un’s brother, may also have had other priorities.) Meanwhile, the domestic political fight continued over the bill to replace Obamacare. President Trump, using a carrot-and-stick approach, met with conservative legislators, while also planning a weekend rally in Louisville, Kentucky, taking the fight directly to the home state of Sen. Rand Paul, one of the bill’s chief critics. But opposition from Democrats as well as conservatives seemed to grow, threatening the bill’s passage. A jobs report from payroll processing company ADP continued to be strongly positive, while hundreds of anti-Trump activists participated in demonstrations for International Women’s Day across the country. Some women stayed home from work to protest the Trump administration, prompting criticism especially in liberal school districts that elected to

close for the day rather than discipline “striking” teachers.

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DAY 49

March 9: Opposition continued to mount to the American Health Care Act (AHCA), with more Senators declaring the House-driven bill “dead on arrival.” Meanwhile, Secretary of the Treasury Mnuchin raised eyebrows by writing a letter to Congress, urging it to raise the debt ceiling. The issue of the debt ceiling -- and possible default -- was a frequent source of clashes between the Republicans in Congress and President Obama; now it remained to be seen whether it would again spark conflict. Other presidential appointment continued to make the news: Trump’s chosen ambassador to Israel, David Friedman, appeared to clear Senate hurdles despite his controversial right-wing views; at the same time, pro-Israel advocates worried openly about the State Department’s retention of some of the officials who had guided the Obama administration’s often anti-Israel policy. Elsewhere in the Middle East, President Trump called up 1,000 reserve soldiers for the push against ISIS in its stronghold city of Raqqa in Syria. Local commanders would be given discretion about whether to use those troops or not -- a change from Obama’s micromanagement from afar in Washington. Obama’s micromanagement from Washington.

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DAY 50

March 10: The plot thickened on the Korean peninsula, as the South Korean prime minister was forced out of office due to corruption. The rising South Korean opposition was thought to be more accommodating to the North Koreans -- and yet the U.S. was still mid-standoff, with the aircraft carrier U.S.S. **Carl Vinson** in the region as a show of strength. On the domestic front, President Trump tried to twist arms in Congress to support the Republican repeal-and-replace measure for Obamacare, but conservative governors indicated their opposition, and others came out against the bill as well. Washington was shocked to learn that Mike Flynn, who had resigned over communications with the Russian ambassador, had been a paid agent of the Turkish government, with his company earning some half a million dollars to promote the Erdogan

regime in the United States. The administration hinted that Scott Gottlieb would be named to head the Food and Drug Administration; he was thought to favor more rapid drug approval. And in a move that drove the left crazy, but which repeated steps taken by President Bill Clinton decades earlier, Attorney General Sessions fired all 46 U.S. Attorneys still remaining in office. (Sessions himself had been among those once fired by Clinton.)



DAY 51

March 11: Debate continued regarding the AHCA, with some critics warning the bill could cost Republicans control of the House of Representative in 2018. Meanwhile, the White House suffered its first security scare of the Trump administration, as a man with a backpack scaled the eastern fence of the complex and was apprehended by Secret Service agents. In New York, a minor drama unfolded as Preet Bharara, U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, refused to resign and was fired instead. There was some confusion about his role, as the administration had once hinted that it would have liked him to have stayed on. The media quickly turned him into a martyr, though he was merely one among many of the remaining U.S. Attorneys affected by Sessions’s order.



DAY 52

March 12: Republican leaders, from both Congress and the Trump administration, appeared on the Sunday morning news shows and offered a confident defense of the AHCA -- as Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR), a Trump ally, warned that if Republicans pushed the bill through the House, not only would it fail in the Senate, but it could potentially cost the GOP the House majority it had won so dearly in the 2010 “Tea Party” wave, and which it had defended through subsequent elections.



The Congressional Budget Office released its analysis of the American Health Care Act – and it

sent critics into a frenzy.

DAY 53

March 13: The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released its analysis of the AHCA -- and it sent critics into a frenzy. According to the CBO, while the bill would reduce the federal deficit by \$337 billion over ten years, it would also increase the number of people without insurance by 24 million, 14 million of whom would be patients who simply avoided buying insurance because the penalty for doing so would have been dropped. The White House, together with Secretary of Health and Human Services Tom Price, vigorously disputed the calculations, but opponents of the bill, both left and right, said that the analysis doomed the legislation. Conservatives [argued](#) that as long as the Trump administration was agreeing to a replacement for Obamacare that would reduce the number of people covered, it might as well simply repeal Obamacare completely and adopt free-market reforms that would lower the cost of insurance and possibly cover more people anyway. President Trump promised to pass the bill eventually, after a “big, fat, beautiful negotiation.” Late in the day, Breitbart News [published](#) audio of Ryan’s conference call in October 2016, after the **Access Hollywood** tape of Trump’s comments about women had been released, saying that he would not defend Trump in the future. The audio fueled speculation about whether Ryan still felt that way -- though Trump and Ryan had clearly mended fences since.



DAY 54

March 14: Controversy about the Ryan audio, and the AHCA, continued, with a growing number of Republicans saying they would not support the bill. Polls suggested that support for the legislation was weak. The day ended rather uproariously, with what had been billed as a massive scoop: Trump’s tax returns, or so Rachel Maddow of MSNBC [claimed](#). In reality, she only had his 2005 return, which showed that he paid about \$38 million in federal taxes on \$150 million in income that year, after taking a loss due to an easement he granted on his golf course in New Jersey. After

teasing the story as a major revelation, then drawing out her introduction, Maddow earned [mockery](#) even from the left.

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DAY 55

March 15: President Trump hit the road, giving speeches in Ypsilanti, Michigan, where he stressed the importance of manufacturing in the U.S., and in Nashville, Tennessee, where he pitched the AHCA. He also responded to a federal judge's ruling in Hawaii, late in the day, granting a temporary restraining order against the new version of his immigration executive order. To cheers from the Nashville crowd, Trump read the relevant statute authorizing the president to make a proclamation suspending the immigration of any group of aliens. Earlier in the day in Nashville, President Trump had laid a wreath at the tomb of President Andrew Jackson, the populist outsider candidate (and once a Democratic Party hero) whom the new administration had adopted as its inspiration and political muse.

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Washington, DC – March 16, 2017: US President Donald Trump waves alongside Speaker of the House Paul Ryan (L) as Trump leaves the Friends of Ireland Luncheon for the visit of Taoiseach of Ireland Enda Kenny at the US Capitol in Washington, DC.

DAY 56

March 16: The White House released its proposed budget, cutting several areas of discretionary domestic spending to fund growth in military spending. The media and Democrats greeted the proposals with a mixture of panic and derision. Some of the key cuts included reductions at the State Department and the EPA. Mick Mulvaney, the director of the Office of Management and Budget, defended the budget in the White House press briefing. Though it did not cut federal spending in a significant way, conservatives hailed the budget as a good start. Press Secretary Spicer sparred with members of the White House Press Corps who asked whether the president would withdraw his claims of wiretapping, since the Senate Intelligence Committee had indicated that it had seen no evidence yet of surveillance at Trump Tower. Spicer countered by reading a list of mainstream media articles establishing that there had been some surveillance of the Trump campaign. He also cited a Fox News [report](#) that the Obama administration had used the British intelligence service to monitor Trump. The British called the claim “ludicrous,” and White House officials later apologized. But Spicer had made the point that the media no longer cared about the discredited Russian collusion conspiracy. In other news, Trump hosted the Irish Taoiseach (Prime Minister), Enda Kenny, for an early celebration of St. Patrick’s Day.



DAY 57

March 17: President Trump met with the conservative members of the Republican Study Committee at the White House and reiterated his support for Speaker Ryan’s AHCA. Then the president met with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, and the two leaders addressed a joint press conference. Asked by a German reporter whether the White House stood by claims that British intelligence had spied on his campaign to cover up the responsibility of the Obama administration, Trump noted that the report had come from Fox News, and joked that both he and Merkel knew what it was like to have been spied upon by the Obama administration. Meanwhile, the administration continued to talk tough about North Korea: “The

policy of strategic patience has ended. We are exploring a new range of diplomatic, security and economic measures. All options are on the table,” said Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, while visiting South Korea.



DAY 58

March 18: Vice President Mike Pence took the case for the AHCA on the road to Florida -- and suggested that the administration would entertain amendments to it, including changes to the way the legislation dealt with Medicaid. The White House, meanwhile, began preparing for a media blitz to support Supreme Court nominee Neil Gorsuch. Controversy and debate surrounded the administration’s release, the day before, of its specifications for contractual bids to build the border wall. One proposal called for a concrete wall, and the other called for one that would be see-through.



DAY 59

March 19: On a relatively slow day, ahead of a crucial week, the Sunday morning shows dwelled on the question of whether Trump’s tweets would prove his undoing, and what the fate of the AHCA would be. Speaker Ryan sounded confident that the bill would pass the House when it came up for a vote the next week, and acknowledged that it would take on several amendments to adjust costs so that the burden fell less heavily on seniors, for example. Tempers [flared](#) on **Fox News Sunday** as Democrats and Republicans attacked each other over the merits of Obamacare and its replacement.





Newport News, VA – March 20, 2017: U.S. President Donald Trump speaks to members of the U.S. Navy and shipyard workers on board the USS Gerald R. Ford CVN 78 that is being built at Newport News shipbuilding.



DAY 60

March 20: The day was dominated by two simultaneous hearings. In the Senate, the Judiciary Committee began confirmation hearings for Judge Neil Gorsuch, nominated to fill the Supreme Court seat vacated by Justice Antonin Scalia. Those were relatively uneventful. On the House side, the Intelligence Committee heard testimony from FBI Director James Comey and NSA head Admiral Mike Rogers about ongoing investigations into Russian interference in the election. The FBI confirmed that it was investigating possible Russian links to the Trump campaign, though both the FBI and NSA said they had not found evidence of collusion. And Comey said there was no evidence that President Obama had wiretapped Trump Tower, as the president had claimed on Twitter. Democrats counted that as a victory -- but the hearing also [revealed](#) something else: namely, that the only people who could have seen former General Michael Flynn's name in a transcript of a call with the Russian ambassador would have been high-ranking members of the Obama administration. That was the only known crime committed in the whole affair, and suggested there might

be grounds for prosecution. In the evening, Trump spoke at a rally in Louisville, Kentucky where he pushed the AHCA.



Washington, DC – March 21, 2017: In this handout provided by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), President Donald Trump, center, holds a NASA flight jacket presented to him by NASA Astronaut Office Chief Chris Cassidy, blue jacket left, after signing the NASA Transition Authorization Act of 2017, alongside members of the Senate, Congress, and National Aeronautics and Space Administration in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington.

DAY 61

March 21: President Trump met in the morning with House Republicans to persuade them to support the AHCA, which Speaker Ryan planned to bring to the floor for a vote the following day. Moderates, however, began to waver, in addition to the conservative Republicans who had already expressed reservations. Meanwhile, Judge Gorsich endured a second, and more intense, day of questions at the Senate Judiciary Committee. He humbled many of the Democrats who questioned him. In one memorable sequence, he debunked a claim that he had suggested law firms not hire female lawyers who planned to become pregnant. Meanwhile, Secretary of State Tillerson planned to visit Russia while

skipping a NATO meeting in Europe. President Trump, however, was to visit the meeting, along with several other heads of state.

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DAY 62

March 22: House Intelligence Committee Chair Rep. Devin Nunes (R-CA) made the stunning revelation that he had received new information indicating that members of the Trump transition team, the Trump family, and perhaps Trump himself had been under some kind of surveillance, or had been discussed by people under surveillance, and that the results had been disseminated widely throughout the government. Nunes spoke to the media, then to the White House. President Trump [declared](#) himself to be “somewhat” vindicated by the information. Democrats were furious: the committee’s ranking member, Rep. Adam Schiff (R-CA), blasted Nunes for approaching the media and the president before approaching the committee with the new information. Meanwhile, the president met with the members of the Congressional Black Caucus to discuss their differences with him over rhetoric and policy. And the negotiations and debate over the AHCA continued, with poor polling results and signs of unrest among various Republican factions nervous about the bill.

★ ★ ★

Democrats celebrated the seventh anniversary of the passage of Obamacare. House Republican leaders had scheduled a vote on the American Health Care Act but were forced to postpone it after it became clear that the bill was going to struggle – at best – to pass.

DAY 63

March 23: Democrats celebrated the seventh anniversary of the

passage of Obamacare. House Republican leaders had scheduled a vote on the AHCA, but were forced to postpone it after it became clear that the bill was going to struggle -- at best -- to pass. An estimated 30-40 House Republicans were still opposed to the bill, despite pressure from the White House. Meanwhile, Speaker of the House Paul Ryan seemed to have been sidelined in negotiations between Freedom Caucus leader Rep. Mark Meadows (R-NC) and the White House. In the Senate, Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) [pledged](#) that his party would attempt to filibuster Neil Gorsuch -- whereupon Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC), long a proponent of the filibuster, [declared](#) that he would vote to end the filibuster, via the so-called “nuclear option,” if Democrats tried that. The State Department cleared the long-delayed Keystone XL pipeline for approval, reversing a key Obama “climate change” policy. Late in the day, Fox News broke the [story](#) that there may be a “smoking gun” proving that the Obama administration spied on the Trump transition team -- with details to follow.

★ ★ ★

DAY 64

March 24: After a day of arm-twisting and debate, President Trump asked Speaker Ryan to withdraw the AHCA, lacking the necessary Republican votes to reach a majority in the House. Both put a brave face on defeat, with Trump predicting that the issue would eventually need to be revisited, given the ongoing collapse of Obamacare. He signaled a willingness to work with Democrats to produce a better bill. Both Ryan and Trump looked ahead to their next priority, tax reform, hoping that they could still craft a deal in both houses of Congress. The media were exultant, celebrating what they [called](#) a “humiliating failure” for Trump, a demonstration of his incompetence, and an erosion of his political capital. Some, however, suggested Trump had intended the bill to fail, the better to bring all parties together in the end. Regardless, there was finger-pointing all around, with many blaming Speaker Ryan for mismanaging the effort.

★ ★ ★

DAY 65

March 25: The day was largely a quiet one, as President Trump stayed in Washington and his staff worked to move beyond the health care debate. Trump tweeted that people should watch Judge Jeanine Pirro’s show on Fox News on Saturday night. When she used her monologue to call on Paul Ryan to resign as Speaker of the House, many concluded that had been Trump’s intention. Trump denied it, and Ryan said that he accepted the administration’s denials. Across the country, there were grass-roots rallies for Trump in several cities. Anti-Trump protesters initiated violence at several rallies, but the media uniformly played down their role, implying that Trump supporters might have been to blame.



DAY 66

March 26: The White House spent much of the day continuing to push back against the suggestion that its overall agenda had been imperiled by the failure of the AHCA. President Trump tweeted that the conservative Freedom Caucus had been responsible for the collapse of the measure, and suggested that he might be willing to work with Democrats on health care proposals in the future. Meanwhile, in Washington, nearly 20,000 pro-Israel advocates gathered for the annual Policy Conference of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC). Vice President Mike Pence filled in for President Trump, whose attacks on then-President Barack Obama the year before had been greeted with enthusiastic applause by the audience but had provoked an apology from an AIPAC leadership eager to appease the administration.



DAY 67

March 27: Attorney General Sessions announced that the Department of Justice would begin to deny federal grant money for law enforcement programs to those jurisdictions that practiced “sanctuary city” policies — i.e. that refused to assist federal immigration officers in enforcing the law. Democrats demanded that Rep. Nunes recuse himself from the inquiry into Russian involvement in the 2016 election, alleging that he had been receiving intelligence leaks from the White House --

based on [reports](#) that he had been at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building on the day before he announced his discovery that Trump had been under surveillance -- and that he was not “independent” enough to be trusted.

★ ★ ★



Washington, DC – March 28, 2017: US President Donald Trump, left, shakes hands with US Vice President Mike Pence, right, prior to signing an Energy Independence Executive Order at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Headquarters.

DAY 68

March 28: President Trump made good on his promise to move past the stalled health care debate and to return to his agenda, signing a new executive order that reversed many of President Obama’s regulations on climate change, and that called on federal agencies to review existing regulations with a view to removing any that imposed a “burden” on American energy development and independence. California Governor Jerry Brown reacted with horror, as did others on the left -- the Huffington Post [called](#) him the “Green Goblin” -- but the move was applauded by conservatives. The stock market also snapped a losing streak that had begun as Trump’s health care push began to falter: markets were apparently more convinced in his ability to enact tax reform once

he had returned to his checklist of policy priorities and promises. The House Intelligence Committee abandoned a planned session featuring former Acting Attorney General Sally Yates, amid partisan rancor that prevented the body from agreeing on its agenda. And the Democratic National Committee began mass firings, as new chair Tom Perez prepared to re-start the party apparatus after the disastrous 2016 election. In San Francisco, Hillary Clinton launched a blunt attack on the new administration, [urging](#) supporters to “resist.”

★ ★ ★

DAY 69

March 29: There was talk in Washington about reviving the effort to repeal and replace Obamacare, with conservatives and the White House both showing interest in new proposals, even though the president had been talking up the prospects of negotiating with Democrats. Meanwhile, after a contentious confirmation process, David Friedman was sworn in as the new U.S. ambassador to Israel. His appointment marked the rise of a triumvirate of Orthodox Jews in Trump’s Middle East policy, including son-in-law Jared Kushner, campaign policy adviser Jonathan Greenblatt, and Friedman himself. The federal district court in Hawaii upheld its injunction against Trump’s “travel ban” executive order, and Seattle filed a lawsuit challenging the Trump administration’s threat to withdraw funding from sanctuary cities as unconstitutional. Democrats continued to threaten to filibuster Judge Gorsuch’s confirmation to the Supreme Court, while Republicans -- including moderate ones -- became increasingly supportive of the so-called “nuclear option,” ending the filibuster. A new “controversy” erupted when Vice President Pence told an interviewer that he never dines alone with a woman who is not his wife. The left -- and the mainstream media -- exploded in outrage at the common, and common-sense, rule.

★ ★ ★

Trump began the day by tweeting a warning to

the Freedom Caucus that unless they began to cooperate, he would work against them, as well as Democrats, in 2018.

DAY 70

March 30: Trump began the day by tweeting a warning to the Freedom Caucus that unless they began to cooperate, he would work against them, as well as Democrats, in 2018. Meanwhile, as Democrats scrambled for votes to stage a filibuster against Judge Gorsuch, two of them -- Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota -- announced that they would support his confirmation. Sen. McCain, who had saved the filibuster once before, said he was open to talks but was skeptical. News broke that former Gen. Flynn would agree to testify before the congressional investigations into Russia in exchange for immunity from prosecution. It was not immediately clear why he would have needed it, because the FBI had already said there was no basis to charge him with any crime relating to Russia. But Flynn may have wished simply to avoid political prosecutions of the kind that targeted “Scooter” Libby in 2007.



DAY 71

March 31: President Trump signed two executive orders on trade -- one directing the Department of Commerce to study every form of non-reciprocal abuse of the rules by foreign countries, and the other dealing with anti-dumping measures. In Europe, Secretary of State Tillerson drew applause at a NATO summit by offering a strong statement of support for Ukraine against Russia. Judge Gonzalo Curiel, whom Trump attacked during the campaign, approved a \$25 million settlement in the Trump University lawsuit, in which Trump admitted no wrongdoing. A Fox News [report](#) indicated that the Obama administration had indeed conducted surveillance on the Trump transition team and “unmasked” identities in disseminated reports -- and that the source of that information was not one of the two White House officials named in a **New York Times** report

as having helped Nunes see the information. In fact, Nunes had apparently known for months. Trump celebrated a manufacturing survey showing the highest levels of confidence in 20 years -- a result reflecting similar polls of consumers, as well as the housing and construction industry, and small business owners.

★ ★ ★

DAY 72

April 1: President Trump declared April National Sexual Assault Awareness Month -- a practice continued from the previous administration -- triggering outrage and April Fools' Day jokes from the left. A [video](#) circulated of a speech made the day before by Democratic National Committee chair Tom Perez in New Jersey in which he claimed that Trump had not actually won the 2016 presidential election. The day was otherwise quiet -- one of the few such days in the presidency.

★ ★ ★

DAY 73

April 2: Pressure built towards a confrontation in the Senate over Judge Gorsuch, as a third Democrat -- Joe Donnelly of Indiana -- announced he would support Gorsuch. Missouri's Claire McCaskill warned fellow Democrats against using the filibuster against Gorsuch and risking the possibility that Republicans would destroy the filibuster for future justices. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell reaffirmed that Gorsuch would be confirmed by the end of the week, when Congress would abandon the nation's capital for the spring recess. Meanwhile, Democrats began inching away from the Russia conspiracy theory. Asked by Jake Tapper on CNN whether he had seen evidence of the Trump campaign's collusion with Russia, Rep. Schiff [backed away](#) from earlier claims he had made to have seen "more than circumstantial" evidence. And Schiff, who had seen the evidence two days before that Rep. Devin Nunes had used to arrive at his conclusion that the Trump transition team had been surveilled and "unmasked," declined to contest the claims of his House Intelligence Committee colleague, instead focusing criticism on how Nunes found the information. In foreign affairs, Trump warned that the U.S. would handle

the danger of North Korea, with or without China's help.

★ ★ ★

President Trump hosted Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi at the White House in a continuing bid to restore the relationship between the two countries, which had been sorely tested by the Obama administration's closeness to the Muslim Brotherhood.

DAY 74

April 3: President Trump hosted Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi at the White House in a continuing bid to restore the relationship between the two countries, which had been sorely tested by the Obama administration's closeness to the Muslim Brotherhood. Meanwhile, a story was broken by blogger [Mike Cernovich](#) and Bloomberg News reporter [Eli Lake](#) that Obama administration National Security Advisor Susan Rice had asked for dozens of names in intelligence reports to be "unmasked," adding fuel to the surveillance story. CNN, however, remained adamant that it was not a story at all: several hosts downplayed the story, and Don Lemon said specifically that he would refuse to report it. In addition, the House Freedom Caucus began an effort to revive legislative efforts to repeal and replace Obamacare.

★ ★ ★

DAY 75

April 4: Susan Rice appeared on MSNBC with Andrea Mitchell and admitted that she had asked for several names of Trump associates to be unmasked -- an admission that contradicted her assertion to PBS several weeks earlier that she did not know anything about it. However,

Rice [insisted](#) that the unmasking was not done “for political purposes.” Republicans called for her to testify before Congress, as Democrats and journalists continued to deny that the “unmasking” had any significance, and was merely a distraction from Trump’s supposed ties with Russia. A chemical weapons attack against civilians in Syria drew condemnation from the White House and sparked international calls for action, although Russia insisted that the attack had been a conventional one that hit a warehouse where chemical weapons had been stockpiled, ostensibly by rebel forces. In the Senate, debate began on a motion to close debate on the confirmation of Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court, with Republicans not yet at the 50 votes needed to change the rules and end the filibuster.

★ ★ ★

The White House announced a reshuffle in the National Security Council, removing Steve Bannon from his permanent seat and elevating several military and intelligence officials.

DAY 76

April 5: The White House announced a reshuffle in the National Security Council, removing Bannon from his permanent seat and elevating several military and intelligence officials. In a statement, Bannon [said](#) that his role on the NSC had been to “de-operationalize” the body from how it was run under Susan Rice, an apparent reference to its politicization. Reports continued throughout the day -- sometimes contradicting each other -- about why and how the change was made, with rumors of feuding between Bannon and Trump’s son-in-law, Jared Kushner. In the Senate, moderate Republicans began to coalesce behind the “nuclear” or “constitutional” option to confirm Gorsuch. House Republicans tried, but failed, to propose another replacement for Obamacare before the Easter

break deadline. In a joint appearance with Jordan's King Hussein at the White House, President Trump indicated that his thinking was changing on Syria, following reports of civilian deaths in a chemical weapons attack. The previous week, the White House had suggested that it saw Bashar al-Assad remaining in power in Syria. Now, Trump and UN Ambassador Nikki Haley began to hint at military action, with or without the UN Security Council -- repeating the rhetoric that the Obama administration briefly used in 2013 (which itself was a reprise of arguments President George W. Bush made in Iraq).

★ ★ ★

The U.S. Navy launched 59 Tomahawk cruise missiles against Shayrat Airfield, the Syrian air base from which the flight that dropped chemical weapons on the town of Khan Sheikhun earlier in the week was thought to have originated.

DAY 77

April 6: Senate Democrats held their filibuster against Neil Gorsuch -- and so Senate Republicans voted to change the rules of the Senate, ending the filibuster for all presidential appointments and paving the way for Gorsuch's confirmation the next day. Speaker of the House Paul Ryan announced that Rep. Devin Nunes would be stepping aside, temporarily, from the House Intelligence Committee probe into Russian interference in the election, while he defended himself against complaints filed by left-wing groups at the Office of Congressional Ethics (which Republicans had earlier proposed to eliminate as an instrument of partisan abuse). Chinese President Xi Jinping arrived at Mar-a-Lago for talks with President Trump, while he hinted at possible military action against Syria. That hint quickly became reality, as the U.S. Navy launched 59 Tomahawk cruise missiles against Shayrat Airfield, the Syrian air base from which

the flight that dropped chemical weapons on the town of Khan Sheikhun earlier in the week was thought to have originated. In a remarkable twist, the attacks on Syria reportedly had commenced while Trump and Xi were eating chocolate cake.



DAY 78

April 7: President Trump continued his meeting with the Chinese president, as reactions to the Syria attack continued to pour in from around the world, most of them positive. Russia complained at the UN Security Council, but Ambassador Haley defended the move and warned that it might not be the last. Meanwhile, Russia moved a naval warship into the Mediterranean. In the Senate, Republicans -- plus three Democrats -- voted to confirm Neil Gorsuch as the next Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, having exercised the “nuclear option” the day before. Elsewhere, the Trump administration’s regulatory rollback continued, with Ajit Pai, a Republican member of the Federal Communications Commission, signaling a speedy reversal of outgoing President Barack Obama’s so-called “net neutrality” regulations. In Stockholm, a terrorist apparently tied to the Islamic State ran a truck into a shopping mall, killing four civilians.



DAY 79

April 8: With the Syrian attack still very much in mind, the U.S. Navy announced that it would be moving an aircraft carrier strike group into the Western Pacific, towards the Korean peninsula. Trump supporters continued to debate the Syria attack, and whether it squared with his earlier pledges not to pursue foreign wars and “regime change” in the Middle East. Meanwhile, reports of infighting in the West Wing culminated in a reported intervention by President Trump, who apparently asked Bannon and Kushner -- close allies on the campaign trail -- to settle their differences immediately.



DAY 80

April 9: Secretary of State Tillerson ramped up diplomatic

pressure on Russia, alleging that the Russians either knew about, or ought to have known about, Syria's continued possession and use of chemical weapons. Russia and Iran issued a supposed joint press release suggesting that they would retaliate the next time the Assad regime was attacked. In Egypt, the Islamic State claimed credit for a deadly terror attack during a church service on Palm Sunday. As Congress headed out on Easter break, conversation turned away from Obamacare and towards the goal of tax reform, with interest groups preparing for a fight over the border adjustment tax (BAT). The Americans for Prosperity PAC prepared an ad that cast the tax as a "consumer tax." Shakeups continued within the National Security Council, with deputy National Security Advisor K.T. McFarland moved out and reportedly appointed ambassador to Singapore.



President Trump hosted a swearing-in ceremony for Justice Neil Gorsuch, who officially took his place on the Supreme Court.

DAY 81

April 10: President Trump hosted a swearing-in ceremony for Justice Neil Gorsuch, who officially took his place on the Supreme Court. In his address, Trump thanked Senate Majority Leader McConnell, whose opposition to Judge Garland in 2016, and his willingness to undo the filibuster rule, led directly to Gorsuch's successful confirmation. Meanwhile, Secretary of State Tillerson prepared for a trip to Russia, as Vladimir Putin indicated that he would not meet the American during his visit. The Trump administration continued to voice a cautious line on "regime change" in Syria, saying that Bashar al-Assad would have to leave through a negotiated transition process, without committing to the further use of arms to enforce that demand. The global effect of Trump's decision to strike Syria continued to be felt, however, as President Rodrigo Duterte

of the Philippines suddenly declared himself willing to work with the U.S. against terror.



Press Secretary Sean Spicer commits what may be the worst gaffe of his tenure thus far, as he argues that Bashar al-Assad’s use of chemical weapons was worse than Adolf Hitler’s, and is forced to apologize later.

DAY 82

April 11: Press Secretary Sean Spicer committed what may have been the worst gaffe of his tenure, as he argued that Bashar al-Assad’s use of chemical weapons was worse than Adolf Hitler’s, and is forced to apologize later. A key special election was held in Kansas to replace former Republican Rep. Mike Pompeo, the new CIA director. Democrats lost the seat to Republican state treasurer Ron Estes -- the latest in a series of special election losses where Trump was the target. The race was viewed as a preview of Democratic Party strategy in the 2018 midterms: aim at Trump, and talk left. President Trump offered NATO membership to Montenegro, a rebuke to Vladimir Putin and the Russian government.



DAY 83

April 12: Secretary of State Tillerson visited Russia. After threatening not to meet with him, Russian President Vladimir Putin did so. The Trump administration continued to reassure Americans that the president did not intend to become more involved in Syria, but Trump talked tough on North Korea, indicating that he was sending an “armada” there. He also said that he offered China more favorable trade terms if Chinese leaders would rein in the irascible Kim Jong-Un.

At home, speculation surrounded Bannon again after President Trump [told](#) the **New York Post** that Bannon, while a “good guy,” came onto his campaign rather late, and stressed that he was his own best strategist. The **Washington Post** [speculated](#) that the former Breitbart chairman’s days in the administration were numbered, but Ed Henry of Fox News reported otherwise. It also emerged that the FBI did, in fact, obtain a FISA warrant to monitor Trump aide Carter Page’s communications in 2016. Trump, meanwhile, talked down the dollar, and reaffirmed the importance of NATO.

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U.S. CENTCOM announced that the military had dropped the MOAB – the massive ordnance air blast, or “mother of all bombs,” the largest non-nuclear conventional bomb ever produced – in a mountainous region of Afghanistan.



West Palm Beach, FL – April 13, 2017: US President Donald Trump arrives on Air Force One at the Palm Beach International Airport to spend Easter weekend at Mar-a-Lago resort.

DAY 84

April 13: U.S. CENTCOM announced that the military had dropped the MOAB -- the massive ordinance air blast, or “mother of all bombs,” the largest non-nuclear conventional bomb ever produced -- on a mountainous region of Afghanistan. The target was a tunnel complex used by Islamic State fighters, and the bomb was used to destroy those by creating a large, above-ground shock wave. There was a setback in Syria, as the U.S. accidentally bombed 18 “friendly” fighters after allies provided incorrect coordinates. President Trump signed a law rescinding an Obama-era rule that prevented states from withholding federal funds to Planned Parenthood. It was the latest Obama administration regulation to be targeted by the Congressional Review Act. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt held an event at a coal mine to stress that the agency was moving “back to basics,” focusing on fixing acute environmental problems while returning power to the states.

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The government of Afghanistan revealed that the

MOAB strike killed 36 Islamic State fighters, and destroyed tunnels, arms, and ammunition – all while costing no civilian casualties.

DAY 85

April 14: The government of Afghanistan revealed that the MOAB strike killed 36 Islamic State fighters, and destroyed tunnels, arms and ammunition -- all while costing no civilian casualties. Critics pounced on an announcement that the Trump White House would reverse an Obama administration policy of releasing the White House visitor logs. It was a policy the Obama administration originally resisted in court (and, as Andrew Breitbart showed in 2011, it was largely a [sham](#), a fig leaf for the administration as it hid meetings and dealings elsewhere). EPA Administrator Pruitt indicated that the U.S. would seek to “exit” the Paris climate change treaty signed by Obama. Trump delivered a weekly address attacking antisemitism, and retired to Mar-a-Lago for the holiday weekend, without his usual coterie of advisers.



DAY 86

April 15: The Islamic State death toll in the MOAB strike was revised upwards, to 94. North Korea attempted a missile launch -- and it failed, with the missile apparently exploding shortly after it began. Consternation among Trump supporters continued, with the emergence of new stories about staff aligned with Democrats working for the Trump White House. And anti-Trump demonstrators held rallies in dozens of cities across the country, demanding he release his tax returns. A [column](#) by Peggy Noonan of the **Wall Street Journal** -- who had just won the Pulitzer Prize -- made the case for Steve Bannon in the White House: “[T]here’s something low, unseemly and ugly in the efforts to take him out so publicly and humiliatingly,” she said, noting that Bannon’s ideas on capitalism, religion, and inequality showed “an interesting mind at work,” as well as a love of ideas that seemed absent among the rest of the White

House staff.

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DAY 87

April 16: The Trump family attended Easter services, while Vice President Mike Pence greeted U.S. and South Korean troops for the holiday as part of a trip to East Asia spanning several days (and that had barely taken off when the North Korean missile strike went awry). Doubts began to emerge over an August deadline initially set by Secretary of the Treasury Steve Mnuchin for tax reform to pass Congress; the initial failure of Obamacare reform had set back that schedule.

★ ★ ★

In South Korea, Vice President Mike Pence visited the Demilitarized Zone, part of an ongoing tour to strengthen American allies in the region and indicate to North Korea and China that the Trump administration was serious about responding to further provocations.

DAY 88

April 17: President Trump presided over the traditional Easter Egg Roll at the White House, amidst pomp, ceremony, and media griping, as his approval rate recovered to 50% in the Rasmussen poll. Meanwhile, in South Korea, Vice President Mike Pence visited the Demilitarized Zone, part of an ongoing tour to strengthen American allies in the region and indicate to North Korea and China that the Trump administration was serious about responding to further provocations. A nationwide manhunt commenced for a man who had shot and killed another man on Facebook Live; the suspect would commit suicide the next day. Stocks recovered

from a recent slump -- the first after the post-election “Trump bump.”



DAY 89

April 18: President Trump signed an executive order strengthening “Buy American” and “Hire American” initiatives, ordering federal agencies to review “guest worker” visa programs. He celebrated the new order with a speech in Wisconsin. Questions of conflicts of interest arose after China approved three trademarks for Ivanka Trump’s company, just days after she dined with the president and visiting Chinese president Xi Jinping. The U.S. Air Force intercepted two Russian bombers flying near the U.S., off the coast of the Aleutian Islands in Alaska. Democrat Jon Ossoff won the primary race to replace Tom Price in a Republican district in Georgia, but failed to win an outright majority, forcing a runoff in June. Ossoff ran on an anti-Trump platform and drew millions of dollars from outside the district in a failed effort to divide-and-rule: it was discovered, late in the race, that he did not even live within the district, significantly hurting his chances against Republican Karen Handel. A man in Fresno looking to kill white people shot and killed three, while shouting “Allahu Akbar”; he had apparently complained about Steve Bannon on social media.



DAY 90

April 19: The Trump administration announced “a comprehensive review” of U.S. policy on Iran, including the Iran nuclear deal. Secretary of State Tillerson said that the Trump administration had no intention of passing the responsibility for dealing with Iran to a future administration. There was also major media news, as Fox News parted ways with Bill O’Reilly -- a friend of President Trump, and for years the most successful host in cable news -- over allegations of sexual harassment, which had resulted in several settlements. President Trump hosted the Super Bowl Champion New England Patriots at the White House, which became the subject of a “fake news” [tweet](#) by the **New York Times** that suggested lower turnout since the Patriots’ last Super Bowl, when Barack Obama was still president. Meanwhile, Cubs owner Todd Ricketts withdrew from

consideration as Deputy Secretary of Commerce -- the second major business figure to withdraw from a Trump cabinet post due to the difficulty of untangling his investments to comply with ethics rules. Russian bombers were again spotted off the coast of Alaska, though the response this time was more muted.

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DAY 91

April 20: A new draft of legislation to repeal and replace Obamacare [emerged](#), with modifications that apparently satisfied enough members of the Freedom Caucus to make passage through the House far more likely on a second attempt. Speaking at a press conference with Italian Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni, Trump predicted that a bill would pass -- if not the following week, then in the near future. At that same conference, Trump noted that China had been cooperative in dealing with North Korea, and that he had offered the Chinese president more attractive trade terms if the North Korean regime could be brought to heel. Gentiloni, for his part, said that Italy would strive to meet its defense spending commitments to NATO -- a key Trump demand of fellow NATO members. Trump also signed an executive order directing the Secretary of Commerce to examine steel imports, and said more information about the administration's plans for NAFTA would be released in the following two weeks. Sen. Charles Grassley (R-IA), chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, hinted that there might be a resignation from the Supreme Court over the summer, which would give the president the opportunity to renew the slim conservative majority -- or expand it, depending on who resigned. In Paris, a policeman was shot and killed in a terror attack, later claimed by Islamic State, that injured several others. In Venezuela, General Motors announced it was leaving after one of its plants was seized by Nicolas Maduro's regime.

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DAY 92

April 21: With a budget deadline looming on April 28, the White House asked federal agencies to make preparations for a shutdown,

pending budget negotiations in Congress. A shutdown would have been hugely embarrassing to the GOP, after blaming previous shutdowns on the intrasigence of the Obama administration. This time, there was only one main sticking point: President Trump wanted funding for the border wall included in the budget. Attorney General Jeff Sessions sent a formal warning to “sanctuary cities” that they would lose federal funding if they did not comply with federal immigration law. Sessions had been the target of liberal ire for several days after criticizing a federal judge in Hawaii for ruling against the immigration executive order, calling him “a judge sitting on an island in the Pacific.” At the White House, President Trump welcomed American aid worker Aya Hijazi, who had been detained in Egypt for three years and who was released after Trump’s personal interventions with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi. Obama had failed in the same effort. The Treasury raised eyebrows by denying Exxon a waiver from energy sanctions on Russia, boosting public confidence that the Trump administration was taking conflicts of interest seriously. And Trump announced plans for a “massive” tax cut to be introduced the following week, though he provided few details.

★ ★ ★

DAY 93

April 22: President Trump announced that he would be addressing a rally in Pennsylvania on the night of the White House Correspondents’ Dinner, creating a competing event -- and sending a signal that the real journalism would be happening far beyond the “nerd prom.” A **New York Times** [report](#) revealed that FBI Director James Comey may have revealed the existence of an ongoing investigation into Hillary Clinton’s email server in the closing weeks of the 2016 presidential campaign because he suspected then-Attorney General Loretta Lynch of trying to cover up for the Clintons -- and a document stolen by a Russian hacker, and intercepted by intelligence agencies, seemed to support that view.

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DAY 94

April 23: North Korea arrested an American professor as he

was leaving the country, re-igniting tensions with the United States. An NBC/*Wall Street Journal* poll showed disapproval of the president climbing to 54%, with approval only at 40%. But an ABC/**Washington Post** poll showed that 96% of voters who voted for Trump said they would do so again. In France, Front National leader Marine le Pen came second to En Marche leader Emmanuel Macron, in an effort to use the momentum of Brexit and Trump's victory to propel her French populist party into power. The two headed for a May 7 runoff, which Macron was widely projected to win. President Trump asked Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy to resign, pleasing Second Amendment rights activists, who had long seen Murthy as a gun control advocate. Trump also marked the Jewish observance of Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, with a speech to the World Jewish Congress promising to fight antisemitism and to stand up to Iran and its genocidal ambitions. In advance of the budget fight in the week to come, the Trump administration insisted on initial funding for the construction of the border wall.



DAY 95

April 24: President Trump revealed to his staff that his proposed tax reduction would cut the corporate tax rate from 35% to 15%, and that he believed the tax cut was more important than finding spending cuts to balance it. Former President Barack Obama gave his first public address after leaving office, and declined to mention Trump, but defended allowing illegal aliens to stay in the country, and joked that if photographs of him in high school had surfaced, he never would have been president. The White House announced that the entire Senate had been invited to a briefing on North Korea on April 26. Press Secretary Sean Spicer, following up on comments by President Trump over the weekend, justified not following through on a campaign promise to reverse President Barack Obama's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program -- the so-called "Dream Act by fiat" -- by saying it was a matter of "heart." Treasury secretary Mnuchin announced new sanctions on Syria for its use of chemical weapons, and President Trump revealed, during a meeting

with conservative journalists, that the U.S. was applying a 20% tariff to Canadian softwood lumber. The tariff was a reaction to unusual price collusion among Canadian dairy producers to undercut U.S. milk exporters.



DAY 96

April 25: President Trump delivered remarks at the U.S. Holocaust Museum to mark Yom HaShoah, the day on which Jews remember the victims of the Holocaust. He [declared](#): “We will confront anti-Semitism, we will stamp out prejudice, we will condemn hatred, we will bear witness, and we will act. As President of the United States, I will always stand with the Jewish people, and I will always stand with our great friend and partner, the State of Israel.” Nevertheless, CNN [reported](#) the story as follows: “Trump commemorates Holocaust after a series of missteps.” Speculation mounted that Trump might have been willing to compromise on his demand for \$1.5 billion in funding for the wall to avert a shutdown. A federal judge in San Francisco issued an injunction against Trump’s executive order cutting off funds to sanctuary cities, even though no city had yet been affected, and Trump was merely enforcing existing federal law.





Washington, DC – April 26, 2017: U.S. President Donald Trump holds up the signed Education Federalism Executive Order that will pull the federal government out of K-12 education, in the Roosevelt Room at the White House.

DAY 97

April 26: The Freedom Caucus announced that it would support the new version of the Health Care for America Act, as amended by Rep. Tom MacArthur (R-NJ). The new version of the bill would eliminate Obamacare’s community rating mandate, but retain its list of “essential” health benefits to be required by insurance policies. The White House also unveiled its proposals for tax reform, which included: dropping the corporate tax rate from 35% to 15%; eliminating the death tax, Obamacare-related taxes, and the Alternative Minimum Tax; and simplifying income tax brackets, from seven to three (35%, 25%, and 10%). Conservative author and commentator Ann Coulter canceled plans to speak at the University of California, Berkeley the following day after the university declined to accommodate her original speaking date, and threats of left-wing violence forced the withdrawal of the hosting organization. President Trump issued an executive order directing the Department of Education to study ways in which the federal government was impinging on the authority of local school districts. He also issued an executive order reversing the Obama administration’s use of the Antiquities Act to expand lands under federal control as “monuments,” much to the consternation

of the states where lands were sequestered. The Department of Homeland Security opened the Victims of Immigration Crime Engagement (VOICE) office to provide information, assistance and support to victims of crimes by illegal aliens. The full Senate attended a White House briefing on the administration's plans to "remove" the threat of North Korea. OMB Director Nick Mulvaney said that Trump is willing to drop a demand for funding for the border wall in order to avert a government shutdown. And the **New York Times** [reported](#) that Trump was drafting an executive order to withdraw from NAFTA. Later, Trump revealed that he had spoken with the Mexican and Canadian leaders that day, and obtained their support for renegotiating NAFTA. The White House described Trump's NAFTA tactics as part of the "art of the deal." In an [interview](#) with the **Washington Times**, Trump supported the long-simmering idea of breaking up the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, the largest and most liberal appellate court, where activists had challenged Trump's executive orders. Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai released details of his plan to roll back "Net Neutrality" regulations, which the Obama administration imposed on Internet service providers (ISPs). Bloomberg News [reported](#) that Trump was planning to visit Israel -- his first foreign trip -- in late May for the 50th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem. Overall, the day may have been the busiest and most impactful of the first 100 days of the administration.



DAY 98

April 27: Details of President Trump's visit to Israel emerged, with conflicting reports about whether he would merely recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital, or also announce the relocation of the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem. Rep. Ron DeSantis (R-FL) suggested that the timing of his visit suggested the latter was most likely. The media grappled with the scale of Trump's tax cut, with the **Wall Street Journal's** front page headline [announcing](#), "Trump Unveils Broad Tax-Cut Plan, " and the **New York Times** [announcing](#): "TAX OVERHAUL WOULD AID WEALTHIEST." On the editorial page, the **Journal** [called](#) the tax cut a "pro-growth outline

that focuses on weak capital investment,” while the **Times** [called](#) it “a laughable stunt by a gang of plutocrats looking to enrich themselves at the expense of the country’s future.” Trump announced an investigation into whether aluminum imports had threatened national security -- much to the delight of local aluminum producers. China warned that it would test new weapons in response to the U.S. installing the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) missile defense system in South Korea. Trump met with Argentinian president Mauricio Macri, and discussed trade issues. The Pentagon announced that it was opening an investigation into former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn for foreign payments he received from Russia and Turkish sources. Trump [suggested](#) that a “major, major” conflict with North Korea was possible. The day ended with a significant setback, as Speaker of the House Paul Ryan failed to whip the Republican votes necessary to pass the new version of the AHCA. This time, the Freedom Caucus supported the bill, but the moderates balked. In an [interview](#) with Reuters, reflecting on his first 100 days in office, Trump said: “This is more work than in my previous life. I thought it would be easier.”





Atlanta, GA – April 28, 2017: President Donald Trump speaks at the NRA-ILA's Leadership Forum at the 146th NRA Annual Meetings & Exhibits.

DAY 89

April 28: The Department of Commerce announced that the U.S. economy grew at a sluggish 0.7% in the first quarter of 2016, dragged down by low consumer spending -- a sharp contrast to soaring consumer confidence. It was the last quarter in which Barack Obama was president -- and the first in which Donald Trump was in office. Trump won applause from the energy industry by reversing the Obama administration's expanded ban on offshore drilling, signing an executive order to review offshore drilling locations in the Arctic, Atlantic, and Pacific. In a related development, a federal judge granted the administration's request to pause an ongoing lawsuit against the EPA's Clear Power Plan, which the Obama administration had used to target the coal industry, while the department reviewed that plan. Secretary of State addressed the UN Security Council to demand tougher international action against North Korea, stating that the U.S. goal was not regime change but ending the regime's nuclear policy. North Korea responded by testing another ballistic missile, which exploded after launch. Trump described the North Korean missile launch as an act of disrespect -- towards China. Trump addressed the National Rifle Association -- the first president to do so since Ronald Reagan in 1983 -- and recounted his administration's efforts to defend the Second

Amendment thus far. Congress passed a stopgap measure to fund the government for another week, preventing a shutdown and allowing further time for budget talks.

DAY 100



April 29: The White House Correspondents' Dinner kicked off in its usual red-carpet style -- but without President Donald Trump in attendance. Jeff Mason, president of the group, insisted that it did not represent "fake news," and added that "press access under President Trump has been very good." Still, he warned: "Nevertheless, we cannot ignore the rhetoric that has been employed by the president about who we are and what we do." Meanwhile, President Trump traveled to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, where he signed two executive orders, including one to review all existing trade agreements. He also held a rally there to mark his first 100 days in office, before a cheering crowd of supporters. While touting his administration's achievements, and renewing his campaign pledges on Obamacare and the border wall, he took several [shots](#) at the dinner he was missing: "A large group of Hollywood celebrities and Washington media are consoling each other in a hotel ballroom in our nation's capital right now ... I could not possibly be more thrilled than to be more than 100 miles away from Washington's swamp, spending my evening with all of you." CNN's David Gergen pronounced the speech "divisive" and "deeply disturbing.") Vice President Mike Pence simply told the crowd: "America is back."