

WORLD IN BRIEF

Associated Press

**GOP suspends Senate rule, muscles Trump picks through panel**

WASHINGTON — In the latest intensification of partisan hostilities, Republicans rammed President Donald Trump's picks to be Treasury and health secretaries through a Senate committee today with no Democrats present after unilaterally suspending panel rules that would have otherwise prevented the vote.

By a pair of 14-0 roll calls, the Senate Finance Committee approved Rep. Tom Price, R-Ga., to be Health and Human Services secretary and banker Steve Mnuchin to be Treasury secretary. Both nominations must be confirmed by the full Senate.

The GOP's show of brute political muscle came shortly before a testy session of the Senate Judiciary Committee at which lawmakers approved Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., to be attorney general. Later today, the full Senate planned to vote on confirming Rex Tillerson, the former Exxon Mobil CEO, as secretary of state.

Republicans and Democrats have battled virtually nonstop since Trump entered the White House 12 days ago over his refugee ban, his firing of the acting attorney general and GOP plans to erase former President Barack Obama's health care law.

With Republicans controlling both the White House and Congress for the first time in a decade, the GOP display of strength seemed to signal that the party will do all it can to block Democratic attempts to frustrate them.

Democrats had boycotted today's abruptly called Finance Committee meeting, as they'd done for a session a day earlier, demanding more time to question the two men about their past financial practices.

Before approving the two nominees, the committee's Republicans voted 14-0 to temporarily suspend a rule requiring at least one Democrat to be present for any votes. Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, said the Senate parliamentarian had approved the extraordinary tactic and blamed it on Democrats, saying their boycott was "one of the most pathetic things I've ever seen" and "a nefarious breach of protocol."

In a written statement, top Finance panel Democrat Ron Wyden of Oregon said, "It's deeply troubling to me that Republicans on the Finance Committee chose to break the rules in the face of strong evidence of two nominees' serious ethical problems



AP Photo/David Goldman

**Grandma Redfeather of the Sioux Native American tribe walks in the snow to get water at the Oceti Sakowin camp where people have gathered to protest the Dakota Access oil pipeline in Cannon Ball, N.D., in November.**



Tom Stromme/The Bismarck Tribune

**Law enforcement officers, left, drag a person from a protest against the Dakota Access Pipeline, near the town of St. Anthony in rural Morton County, N.D., in October. North Dakota Sen. John Hoeven said Tuesday that the Acting Secretary of the Army has directed the Army Corps of Engineers to proceed with an easement necessary to complete the Dakota Access pipeline.**

Today, the Fed will likely end its latest policy meeting with an announcement that it's keeping its benchmark rate unchanged at a time of steady economic gains but also heightened uncertainty surrounding the new Trump administration.

In its statement, the Fed will likely acknowledge that the economy has continued to move toward the central bank's dual goals of full employment and annual inflation of roughly a moderate 2 percent.

But the Fed is nevertheless expected to signal that it wants more time to monitor the economy's performance and that it still expects those rate increases to occur gradually.

"We are moving in the direction of more rate hikes this year, but the January meeting is not where that will start," said David Jones, chief economist at DMJ Advisors.

Israeli forces begin evacuation of West Bank outpost

AMONA, West Bank — Israeli forces began an operation to evacuate settlers from a West Bank outpost today whose slated destruction could rupture Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's narrow coalition, dominated by ultranationalists who support settlements.

Unarmed police in blue sweatshirts and black baseball caps made their way up the hill around midday today. On the hilltop, youngsters erected makeshift barricades from smashed tiles, rusty metal bars and large rocks to slow their advance. Some protesters threw rocks at security forces, while others set fire to tires and trash piles.

Activists gathered in homes, praying, singing religious songs and dancing. Residents have said they plan to resist their evacu-

ation peacefully. Some chained themselves to heavy objects and locked their doors.

A few residents left their homes with young children in the arms.

Bilha Schwartz, 24, came along with her husband and nine-month-old daughter to support the residents. "If they want it they can take it, we will not fight. We will leave but we will come back," she told The Associated Press.

**Trump policy dims hope for refugees in Indonesian limbo**

PUNCAK, Indonesia — After getting death threats from Al-Shabab militants, Mohamed Dahir Saeed and his wife fled their native Somalia with plans to seek safety in Australia. They arrived in nearby Indonesia, only to be told "the sea is closed" for anyone attempting to make the perilous boat journey south.

That was two years ago. Now another chance may be disappearing for Saeed and thousands of other asylum seekers who have made it to this Southeast Asian country with dreams of finding better lives elsewhere.

"The majority of people here, the U.S. takes them," Saeed said. "Now the U.S. they say no Somalian, no Iraq, no Syrian, no Iran, no Sudan. ... So maybe we will go to another place. I hope," he said, seated outside his tiny house perched above the Ciliwung River.

For thousands of asylum seekers and refugees from Iraq, Somalia and other conflict-scarred countries, Indonesia is an often years-long hiatus as they wait for the U.S. or another country to accept them. President Donald Trump's travel ban on citizens of seven Muslim countries and suspension of the U.S. refugee program has now made their tenuous situation even more uncertain.

Indonesia is home to nearly 14,000 men, women and children seeking resettlement in other countries, according to UNHCR, the U.N. refugee agency. About 7,500 have been recognized as refugees, giving them the prized U.N. card that inches them closer to realizing their dreams of a better life. But last year just 610 were resettled in other countries such as the U.S., Canada, Germany and New Zealand.

**New Pentagon chief seeks to reassure nervous Asian allies**

WASHINGTON — By visiting Japan and South Korea on his first official overseas trip, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis is seeking to reinforce key alliances after President Donald Trump's campaign-trail complaints that defense treaties disadvantaged the United States.

The visits also reflect the urgency of concerns on both sides of the Pacific about North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile programs. Mattis, a retired four-star Marine general, inherited a North Korea problem that has grown more worrisome as the communist nation's leader, Kim Jong Un, claims progress toward fielding a ballistic missile capable of delivering a nuclear warhead to the United States. Former Secretary of State John Kerry said in early January the U.S. may need "more forceful ways" of dealing with North Korea if it develops a ballistic missile of intercontinental range.

Mattis, who entered office hours after Trump on Jan. 20, is due to arrive Thursday in Seoul, where he will meet with his counterpart, Defense Minister Han Min Koo, amid a swirl of political turmoil. President Park Geun-hye was impeached in December and the constitutional court is reviewing whether to formally end her rule. Later in the week, Mattis is to hold talks in Tokyo with Defense Minister Tomomi Inada and other senior Japanese government officials.

North Korea is expected to be at or near the top of Mattis' agenda. Beyond its long-range missile aspirations, the North already has missiles capable of hitting South Korea as well as U.S. bases in Japan.

Trump said during the campaign that while he supports the alliances with Japan and South Korea, he would not rule out abandoning them if they refuse to pay more for their own defense. "It could be that Japan will have to defend itself against North Korea," he told a campaign rally in August. The first foreign leader he met as president-elect was Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe; they'll meet again in Washington on Feb. 10.

**Senator: Army Corps told to approve Dakota pipeline easement**

BISMARCK, N.D. — The Army Corps of Engineers was ordered to allow construction of the Dakota Access pipeline to proceed under a disputed Missouri River crossing, North Dakota Sen. John Hoeven said. It's the latest twist in a months-long legal battle over the \$3.8 billion project.

The Standing Rock Sioux, whose opposition to the project attracted thousands of supporters from around the country to North Dakota, immediately vowed to again go to court to stop it.

Hoeven announced late Tuesday that the acting Secretary of the Army, Robert Speer, had directed the Army Corps of Engineers to "proceed" with an easement necessary to complete the pipeline. Hoeven said he also spoke with Vice President Mike Pence, just a week after President Donald Trump signed an executive order signaling his support for the project.

A spokesman for the U.S. Army did not immediately respond to requests for comment Tuesday night. Hoeven spokesman Don Canton said that Speer's move means the easement "isn't quite issued yet, but they plan to approve it" within days.

The crossing under Lake Oahe, a wide section of the Missouri River in southern North Dakota, is the final big chunk of work on the four-state, \$3.8 billion pipeline to carry North Dakota oil through South Dakota and Iowa to Illinois.

**Fed is likely to leave rates alone at a time of uncertainty**

WASHINGTON — At some point in the coming months, the Federal Reserve is widely expected to resume raising interest rates. Just not quite yet.

**TV LISTINGS**

THE DAILY ASTORIAN

Evening listings WEDNESDAY

WEDNESDAY EVENING												FEBRUARY 1	
A	L	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
2	KATU	(2) KATU News at 6		Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	The Goldbergs	Speechless	Modern Family	Black-ish	Match Game		KATU News at 11	(35) Jimmy Kimmel
3	KOMO	(4) KOMO 4 News		Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy!	The Goldbergs	Speechless	Modern Family	Black-ish	Match Game		KOMO 4 News	(35) Jimmy Kimmel
5	KING	(5) NBC Nightly News	KING 5 News	KING 5 News	Evening	Law & Order: S.V.U.	"Broken Rhymes"	Law & Order: S.V.U.	"Terrorized"	Chicago P.D.		KING 5 News	(35) Tonight Show
6	KOIN	(6) KOIN Local 6 at 6	CBS Evening News	Extra	Ent. Tonight	Hunted "Operation Cupid's Revenge" (N)	Criminal Minds "Surface Tension" (N)	Code Black "The Devil's Workshop" (N)	Code Black "The Devil's Workshop" (N)	KOIN 6 News @ 11		KOIN 6 News @ 11	(35) S. Colbert
7	KIRO	(7) KIRO 7 News	CBS Evening News	The Insider	Ent. Tonight	Hunted "Operation Cupid's Revenge" (N)	Criminal Minds "Surface Tension" (N)	Code Black "The Devil's Workshop" (N)	Code Black "The Devil's Workshop" (N)	KIRO News		KIRO News	(35) S. Colbert
8	KGW	(8) KGW News at 6:00 p.m.		Live at Seven	Inside Edition	Law & Order: S.V.U.	"Broken Rhymes"	Law & Order: S.V.U.	"Terrorized"	Chicago P.D.		KGW News at 11	(35) Tonight Show
9	KRCW	(9) Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Modern Family	Modern Family	Arrow "Second Chances" (N)	The 100 "Echoes" (SP) (N)	KGW News at 10	Two and a Half 1/2	Two and a Half 2/2		Met Your Mother	
10	KOPB	(10) Journeys in Japan	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour		Nature "Spy in the Wild: Love" (N)	Nova "Search for the Super Battery" (N)	Secrets of Dead "The Alcatraz Escape"		Aurora: Fire in the Sky (N)			
12	KPTV	(12) 6 O'Clock News		Family Feud	Family Feud	Showtime at the Apollo (N)	Star "Infamous" (N)	10 O'Clock News		11 O'Clock News		2 Broke Girls	
13	KPDx	(13) Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	FOX 12's 8 O'Clock News on PDX-TV	FOX 12's 9 O'Clock News on PDX-TV	Family Guy	Family Guy	American Dad		Cleveland Show	
14	KCPQ	(14) Modern Family	Modern Family	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Showtime at the Apollo (N)	Star "Infamous" (N)	Q13 News at 10		Q13 News		The Simpsons	
20	TBS	(20) Seinfeld Pt. 1 of 2	Seinfeld Pt. 2 of 2	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Full Frontal (N)	Conan (N)			
22	KZJN	(22) Two and a Half 1/2	Two and a Half 2/2	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Modern Family	Modern Family	Q13 News at 9		Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Friends	Friends
29	ESPN	(29) (4:00) NBA Basketball	NBA Basketball	Chicago Bulls at Oklahoma City Thunder Site: Chesapeake Energy Arena (L)		SportsCenter	NFL Live	E:60 Profile "The Brothers Bennett"		NBA Basketball Minnesota vs Cleveland			
31	NICK	(31) Henry Danger	Henry Danger	The Thundermans	The Thundermans	Ride (N)	Game Shakers	Full House	Full House	Full House		Friends	Friends
32	DISN	(32) Girl Meets World	Bizaardvark	K.C. Undercover	Good Luck Charlie	Stuck in Middle	Good Luck Charlie	Liv and Maddie	Liv and Maddie	Bunk'd		Jessie	Jessie
34	FAM	(34) (5:30) ★★ The Notebook (2004, Romance)	Rachel McAdams, Gena Rowlands, Ryan Gosling.	★★ Days of Thunder (1990, Sport)	Nicole Kidman, Robert Duvall, Tom Cruise.					The 700 Club			
35	FMC	(35) (5:00) ★★ Star Trek: Into Darkness (2013, Sci-Fi)	Zachary Quinto, Zoe Saldana, Chris Pine.	(40) ★★ Star Trek: Into Darkness (2013, Sci-Fi)	Zachary Quinto, Zoe Saldana, Chris Pine.			(20) FXM Presents	★★★ Evil Dead (2013, Thriller)	Shiloh Fernandez, Jane Levy.			
36	LIFE	(36) Little Women Atlanta "The Truth Hurts"	LW Atlanta "Masquerade Ballers"	Little Women: Atlanta "Just a Friend"	LW Atlanta "Mama Drama" (N)			Black Magic "Ready for Vegas?" (N)		Vivica "Everyone's Replaceable" (N)			
38	ROOT	(38) Mark Few	In Depth (N)	NCAA Basketball Air Force vs. Fresno State (L)				In the Spotlight	The Game 365	NCAA Basketball Marquette vs. St. John's			
39	F51	(39) NCAA Basketball Seton Hall at Xavier (L)		FOX College Hoops	NFL Films Special			TMZ Sports		Skip and Shannon: Undisputed			
43	SPIKE	(43) (4:30) The Goonies '85, Adv) Sean Astin.	★★★ Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters (13) Alexandra Daddario, Brandon T. Jackson, Logan Lerman.	★★ The Waterboy (1998, Comedy)	Kathy Bates, Henry Winkler, Adam Sandler.			Workaholics (N)	Jeff & Aliens (N)	The Daily Show (N) @midnight (N)			
44	COM	(44) (5:55) South Park	(55) South Park	Gnomes" (25) South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	Six "Tour of Duty" (N)	Six "Tour of Duty" (N)	Six "Tour of Duty" (N)			
45	HIST	(45) Pickers "Who's the Rarest of Them All?"	American Pickers "Divide and Conquer"	Vikings "On the Eve"	Vikings "The Reckoning" (N)			Duck Dynasty "Duck Dynasty" (N)	Duck Dynasty "Duck Dynasty" (N)	Duck Dynasty "RV There Yet?" (05) Duck Dynasty "RV There Yet?"			
46	A&E	(46) First 48 "House of Pain/Into the Night"	Duck Dynasty	Duck Dynasty	My 600-lb Life "Doug's Story" (N)			Too Close Home "A Surprising Visit" (N)	My 600-lb Life "Doug's Story"				
47	TLC	(47) My 600-lb Life: Extended "Kristen's Story" (N)		Alaskan Bush People "Bear With Us"	Bush People "Browntown Boom"	Alaskan Bush "Dead in the Water"	Alaskan Bush People (N)	Sea Gold "Uncharted Waters" (SP) (N)	Alaskan Bush People				
48	DISC	(48) Border Wars "Weed Warehouse"	Alaska Troopers "Midnight Poachers"	★★ Limitless (2011, Mystery)	Anna Friel, Bradley Cooper.			Trooper "Blacked Out and Belligerent"	Alaska State Troopers "Smell of Death"				
49	NGEO	(49) Bones "The Jewel in the Crown"	Bones	★★ Pearl Harbor (2001, War)	Kate Beckinsale, Josh Hartnett, Ben Affleck.			(15) ★★ Draft Day (2014, Sport)	Jennifer Garner, Tom Welling, Kevin Costner.				
50	TNT	(50) (5:00) ★★ Forrest Gump (94, Comedy/Drama)	Sally Field, Gary Sinise, Tom Hanks.	NCIS "Day in Court"	NCIS "Sister City" Pt. 1 of 2			Suits "The Painting" (N)	Modern Family	Modern Family			
51	USA	(51) (5:00) ★★ NCIS "16 Years"	NCIS "Saviors"	Cuthroat "Fry-Day Night Bites" (N)	Cook vs. Con "Tailgate Takedown" (N)			Bakers vs. Fakers "Browny Points" (N)	Cooks vs. Cons				
52	FOOD	(52) Chopped	Chopped	Property Brothers	Property Brothers (N)			House Hunters	House Hunters	Property Brothers			
54	HGTV	(54) Buying and Selling "Lesson in Location"	Buying & Selling "Suburban to Urban"	Penguins of Madagascar (*14) Voices of	Chris Miller, Tom McGrath.			Penguins of Madagascar (*14) Voices of	Chris Miller, Tom McGrath.				
55	FX	(55) The Croods (2013, Animated)	Emma Stone, Ryan Reynolds, Nicolas Cage.	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon			Anderson Cooper 360	Anderson Cooper 360				
57	CNN	(57) Tucker Carlson Tonight	Hannity	The O'Reilly Factor	Shark Tank			Tucker Carlson Tonight	Hannity				
58	FNC	(58) Shark Tank	Blue Collar (N)	Blue Collar				Blue Collar	Blue Collar				
61	CNBC	(61) Housewives Atlanta "Into the Woods"	Beverly Hills "It's Expensive to Be Me"	Beverly "Boys, Blades, and Bag of Pills"	The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills			Girlfriends' Guide to Divorce (N)	WatchWhat (N)	Beverly Hills			
63	TRAV	(63) (5:00) ★★ All About Eve (50) Anne Baxter, Bette Davis.	★★★ An American in Paris (51, Mus)	Leslie Caron, Oscar Levant, Gene Kelly.	★★★ Annie Hall (77, Comedy)	Diane Keaton, Woody Allen.		(15) Around the World in 80 Days					
64	CYM	(64) (5:00) ★★ The Legend of Hercules	(55) ★★ Captain America: The First Avenger (11) Chris Evans.	The Magicians "Hotel Spa Potions" (N)	The Expanse "Safe/ Doors & Corners" (SP) (N)			Cowboy TV	Noble Outfitters	Product Showcase			
65	SYFY	(65) (5:00) The Legend of Hercules	(55) ★★ Captain America: The First Avenger (11) Chris Evans.										
69	RFD	(69) Cowboy TV (N)	Noble Outfitters	W. Rodeo (N)	Equestrian Nation	Total Team Roping	Rural Eve. News	The Final Spin	Road/American				

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