

Trump gives Republican leaders rallying cry, roadmap for change

By ERICA WERNER
Associated Press



Jim Lo Scalzo/Pool Image

President Donald Trump addresses a joint session of Congress on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday. Vice President Mike Pence and House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wis. listen.

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump gave Republican congressional leaders a rallying cry and even a roadmap as they try to push through a sweeping and divisive agenda on health care, taxes and more.

In his first address to a joint session of Congress, Trump said largely what GOP leaders were hoping to hear Tuesday night, staying on-message and talking in optimistic tones, even weighing in at one point to settle a brewing dispute over how to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act.

Vice President Mike Pence said Wednesday morning that Trump showed Congress and the nation his “broad shoulders, big heart, reaching out, focusing on the future.” Pence spoke on MSNBC’s “Morning Joe.”

House Speaker Paul Ryan declared the speech a “home run,” pointing to Trump’s embrace for the first time of tax credits — a central element in the Republican plan to replace former President Barack Obama’s health care law.

Tax credits

Those tax credits have sparked a fierce conservative backlash in recent days, imperiling GOP efforts to make good on the party’s long-stated promise to get rid of “Obamacare” and put something better in its place. Ahead of the speech congressional Republicans had been unsure how far Trump would go in backing their plan, with some pleading openly with him to do so, and many were elated at what they heard.

“We should help Americans purchase their own coverage, through the use of tax credits and expanded health savings accounts — but it must be the plan they want, not the plan forced on them by the government,” Trump said, as Republicans cheered and Democrats sat silently in their seats.

It remains to be seen whether Trump’s endorsement of refundable tax credits will be enough to tame rebellious conservatives in the House and Senate who have criticized them as a costly new entitlement. The initial response from one key conservative group, the Freedom Caucus in the House, was full of praise for Trump’s speech without mentioning the divisions over tax credits.

“We were pleased the president reaffirmed his commitment to fully repeal Obamacare and replace it with patient-centered, market-driven policy. We share his vision,” the group said.

Taxes

Trump also addressed taxes, another major issue that is dividing Congress. After weeks of sending mixed signals, he provided hope to House Republican leaders pushing a tax overhaul that would tax imports but not exports. But he stopped short of explicitly endorsing the proposal.

“Currently, when we ship products out of America, many other countries make us pay very high tariffs and taxes — but when foreign companies ship their products into America, we charge them almost nothing or almost nothing,” Trump said.

Without providing specifics, Trump said he will propose to change that.

Rewriting health care and overhauling the tax code are the twin pillars of the Republican-run Congress’ legislative platform this year and GOP lawmakers have been eager for guidance from the president on both counts.

House Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady of Texas welcomed Trump’s remarks on taxes, and said “It was also great to hear the president’s strong support for our efforts to repeal Obamacare.”

House leaders hope to meet an ambitious goal of passing health legislation through the House and maybe even the Senate before mid-April. That was looking in doubt as divisions surfaced ahead of Trump’s speech, and it remains to be seen whether the deadline will be met.

‘Unreality’

Democrats, accustomed to jeering at Trump as he veers off message, advances false claims or resorts to personal insults, argued that in delivering a speech that did none of those things, Trump gave a wrong impression of how he has comported himself as president after five weeks in office. “President Trump’s speech

had an air of unreality because what he said tonight was so different than how he has governed in the first 40 days,” said Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York.

Schumer said Wednesday that despite Trump’s call for unity, the president “hasn’t reached out” to Democrats. Instead, Schumer told CNN, Trump’s actions “have favored the hard, hard right. That’s not where America is, that’s not even where the Republican Party is.”

Trump planned to continue his legislative push Wednesday, meeting with House and Senate leaders for lunch at the White House before leading a legislative affairs strategy session. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell also summoned senators to a closed-door afternoon meeting on health care to hash out divisions on the issue in that chamber.

But Republicans’ enthusiastic reception to Trump’s speech could belie tough fights ahead. Trump called on Congress to approve a \$1 trillion infrastructure bill, something likely to set up a clash with deficit hawks, and also renewed his call for money for a border wall, which could provoke a spending fight with Democrats and even the threat of a government shutdown.

AP FACT CHECK

Trump takes credit he hasn’t earned

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump boasted Tuesday night about corporate job expansion and military cost-savings that actually took root under his predecessor and gave a one-sided account of the costs and benefits to the economy from immigration — ignoring the upside.

A look at some of his claims in his prime-time speech to Congress:

TRUMP: “According to the National Academy of Sciences, our current immigration system costs America’s taxpayers many billions of dollars a year.”

THE FACTS: That’s not exactly what that report says. It says immigrants “contribute to government finances by paying taxes and add expenditures by consuming public services.”

The report found that while first-generation immigrants are more expensive to governments than their native-born counterparts, primarily at the state and local level, immigrants’ children “are among the strongest economic and fiscal contributors in the population.” This second generation contributed more in taxes on a per capita basis, for example, than did non-immigrants in the period studied, 1994-2013.

The report found that the “long-run fiscal impact” of immigrants and their children would probably be seen as more positive “if their role in sustaining labor force growth and contributing to innovation and entrepreneurial activity were taken into account.”

TRUMP: “We’ve saved taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars by bringing down the price” of the F-35 jet fighter.

THE FACTS: The cost savings he persists in bragging about were secured in full or large part before he

became president.

The head of the Air Force program announced significant price reductions in the contract for the Lockheed F-35 fighter jet Dec. 19 — after Trump had tweeted about the cost but weeks before he met the company’s CEO about it.

Pentagon managers took action even before the election to save money on the contract. Richard Aboulafia, an analyst with the aerospace consulting firm Teal Group, said there is no evidence of any additional cost savings as a result of Trump’s actions.

TRUMP: “Since my election, Ford, Fiat-Chrysler, General Motors, Sprint, Softbank, Lockheed, Intel, Walmart and many others have announced that they will invest billions of dollars in the United States and will create tens of thousands of new American jobs.”

THE FACTS: Trump is taking credit for corporate jobs decisions that largely predate his election. In the case of Intel, construction of the Chandler, Arizona, factory referred to by Trump actually began during Barack Obama’s presidency. The project was delayed by insufficient demand for Intel’s high-powered computer chips, but the company now expects to finish the factory within four years because it anticipates business growth.

Some of the job announcements have come after companies, such as the wireless carrier Sprint, reduced their numbers of workers.

More important, even as some companies create jobs, others are laying off workers.

The best measure of whether more jobs are actually being created is the monthly employment report issued by the Labor Department, which nets out those gains and losses. The department will issue its report for February, the first full month of Trump’s term, on March 10.

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Legal Notices

AB6162 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF CLATSOP

Wilmington Trust, National Association, as trustee for Newcastle Investment Trust 2014-MH1, Plaintiff, v. James L. Littlefield, Unknown Heirs Legatees and Devisees of James L. Littlefield, UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS, Defendants.

Case No.:16CV33982 SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

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DATED: February 23, 2017.

Katrina E. Foglyowski, OSB #035386, Allegiant Law Group, 22000 64th Ave W #2F, Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043 (206) 903-9966. Fax (206) 405-2701.

Published: March 1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd, 2017

Legal Notices

AB6165 Notice of Public Hearing Seaside School District 10 Public Improvement Contracting Exemption

March 21, 2017, 6:00 pm, Board Room

Seaside School District Board, acting in the capacity as the District's Local Contract Review Board, will conduct a Public Hearing on Tuesday, March 21, 2017 beginning at 6:00 pm to hear and take testimony on the adoption of an exemption from competitive bidding pursuant to ORS 279C.335(2). If approved, the exemption would allow the District to solicit and award a contract pursuant to the Construction Manager/General Contractor (CM/GC) alternative contracting method for public improvements associated with the expansion of Seaside Heights Elementary School, the construction of a new middle school/high school on adjacent property, related campus improvements, and the closure of obsolete sites located in the tsunami inundation zone. The meeting will begin at 6:00 pm in the Seaside School District Board room located at 1801 S. Franklin St, OR 97138. The draft findings are available for public review at the Seaside School District located at 1801 S. Franklin St, OR 97138. All interested parties are encouraged to attend. Published: March 1st, 2017

FAST-ACTING classified ads are the ideal way to find buyers for the baby clothing and furniture you no longer need. Try one now!

Legal Notices

AB6214 NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

On March 23, 2017, at the hour of 10:00 AM at the Clatsop County Sheriff's Office, 1190 SE 19th Street in the City of Warrenton, Oregon, the defendant's interest will be sold, subject to redemption, in the real property commonly known as: 316 Lexington Avenue, Astoria, OREGON. The court case number is 16CV16981, where NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC is plaintiff, and CAITLIN M. SARANIERO; DAVID M. SARANIERO; U.S. BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO UNITED STATES NATIONAL BANK OF OREGON; RAY KLEIN, INC. D/B/A PROFESSIONAL CREDIT SERVICE; CAPITAL ONE BANK (USA), N.A.; ASSET RECOVERY GROUP INC.; COMMERCIAL ADJUSTMENT CO.; PARTIES IN POSSESSION is defendant. The sale is a public auction to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check, in hand, made out to Clatsop County Sheriff's Office. For more information on this sale go to: http://oregonsheriffsales.org/ (OR), http://files.co.clatsop.or.us/ccso/foreclosures.pdf

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CRYPTOQUIP

3-1 CRYPTOQUIP

SXDS PZJZL NZOQT DQNDLR
RVQUS OV XUR PDSSQI,
VWZJDDJQL JIPDORI SNZ

XIWTR DWI JISSIW SXDY ZYI.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I SUFFER FROM AN INEXPLICABLE FEAR OF JACK-IN-THE-BOXES. I GUESS I'M JUST A SPRING CHICKEN.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals O

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