

WORLD IN BRIEF

Associated Press

Judge jails ex-Trump campaign chair Manafort ahead of trial

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's former campaign chairman Paul Manafort is going to jail.

Manafort was ordered into custody today after a federal judge revoked his house arrest, citing newly filed obstruction of justice charges. The move by U.S. District Judge Amy Berman Jackson made Manafort the first Trump campaign official to be jailed as part of special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation.

Already under intense pressure to cooperate with prosecutors in hopes of securing leniency, Manafort now loses the relative freedom he enjoyed while he prepared for two criminal trials in which he faces the possibility of spending the rest of his life in prison.

A federal grand jury indicted Manafort and a longtime associate, Konstantin Kilimnik, last week on charges of obstruction of justice and conspiracy to obstruct justice, adding to the charges he already faced. The charges do not relate to his work on the Trump campaign or involve allegations of Russian election interference.

Manafort, 69, and Kilimnik are accused of attempting to tamper with witnesses in the case by trying to get them to lie about the nature of their Ukrainian political work. Prosecutors say Manafort and Kilimnik tried to get the two witnesses to say that lobbying work carried out by clandestinely paid former politicians only occurred in Europe and not the U.S., a contention the two witnesses said they knew to be false.

Manafort will remain in jail while he awaits trial in both Washington and Virginia over the next few months. He faces several felony charges — including tax evasion, bank fraud, money-laundering conspiracy and acting as an unregistered foreign agent — related to his Ukrainian political work, money he funneled through offshore accounts and loans he took out on property in the U.S.

Trump announces US tariffs on \$50 billion in Chinese imports

WASHINGTON — Vowing to cut U.S. trade deficits and protect the nation's high-tech "crown jewels," President Donald Trump said today he's levying a 25 percent tariff on up to \$50 billion worth of Chinese imports, instantly escalating a trade dispute between the world's two largest economies.



AP Photo/Cliff Owen

Then-FBI Director James Comey testifies in January 2017.

Watchdog: Comey 'insubordinate,' not biased in Clinton probe

WASHINGTON — In a stinging rebuke, the Justice Department watchdog declared Thursday that former FBI Director James Comey was "insubordinate" in his handling of the Hillary Clinton email investigation in the explosive final months of the 2016 presidential campaign. But it also found there was no evidence that Comey's or the department's final conclusions were motivated by political bias toward either candidate.

President Donald Trump had looked to the much-anticipated report to provide a fresh line of attack against Comey and the FBI as Trump claims that a politically tainted bureau tried to undermine his campaign and, through the later Russia investigation, his presidency. He is likely to use the harsh assessment of Comey as validation for his decision to fire him, an act now central to special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into whether the president sought to obstruct justice.

Clinton and her supporters, on the other hand, have long complained that she was the one whose election chances were torpedoed by Comey's investigation announcements about her email practices, in the summer and then shortly before the election.

Yet the report's nuanced findings — that the FBI repeatedly erred, though not for politically improper reasons — complicated efforts by Republicans and Democrats alike to claim total vindication.

The report also notes that Comey, despite chiding Clinton for mishandling government business, occasionally used personal email himself to discuss FBI matters.

"But my emails," she said, reacting in a three-word tweet.

China's government quickly responded that it would "fight back strongly" with penalties of the same scale on American goods.

Trump said he was fulfilling a campaign pledge to crack down on what he contends are China's unfair trade practices and efforts to undermine U.S. technology and intellectual property. During an impromptu appearance on the White House North Lawn, the president hailed his "very big tariffs" on China.

The U.S. tariffs will cover 1,102 Chinese product lines worth about \$50 billion a year.

Those include 818 products, worth \$34 billion a year, remaining from a list of 1,333 the administration released in April. After receiving public comment, the U.S. removed from the list hundreds of products, including televisions and some pharmaceuticals, according to a senior administration official who briefed reporters on condition of anonymity.

The government will start to collect the tariffs July 6.

The administration also is targeting an additional 284 Chinese products, which it says ben-

efit from China's aggressive industrial policies, worth \$16 billion a year, but won't impose those tariffs until it collects public comment. U.S. companies that rely on the targeted imports — and can't find substitutes — can apply for exemptions from the tariffs.

Trump has already put tariffs on steel and aluminum imports from Canada, Mexico and European allies, and his proposed tariffs against China risk a major trade war involving the world's two biggest economies.

Trump: Won't sign 'moderate' immigration bill in GOP setback

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump ignited eleventh-hour confusion today over Republican efforts to push immigration through the House next week, saying he won't sign a "moderate" package. A top House Republican said the chamber would not tackle the issue without Trump's backing.

The tumult erupted days before GOP leaders planned campaign-season votes on a pair of Republican bills: a hard-right proposal and a middle-ground plan negotiated by the party's conservative and moderate wings. Despite their policy clashes, both factions have been eager for the votes to be held as a way to show voters where they stand approaching an election in which GOP House control is at stake.

"I'm looking at both of them," Trump told reporters at the White House. "I certainly wouldn't sign the more moderate one."

The compromise bill includes provisions easing the high-profile problem of children being separated from parents when the families are caught trying to enter the U.S. illegally. It would mandate that families be kept together for as long as they are in the custody of the Homeland Security Department, whose agencies staff border facilities and enforce immigration laws.

Spotlighting the political sensitivity of the issue, congressional Republicans have distanced themselves from the Trump administration's policy of separating children from their parents at the southern border. The White House has cited the Bible in defending its "zero tolerance" approach to illegal border crossings.

House Speaker Paul Ryan has said that Trump backs the compromise plan. GOP aides said Trump's remark caught party leaders off-guard, and White House officials did not immediately respond to requests to clarify the president's comment.

Both the conservative and compromise GOP bills contain stringent security provisions and money to build Trump's proposed wall with Mexico. But only the compromise measure gives young immigrants who arrived in the U.S. illegally as children a chance to ultimately become citizens.

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