

Trump feels shutdown pressure from economists, Pelosi

By CATHERINE LUCEY, JILL COLVIN and LISA MASCARO
Associated Press



AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin

President Donald Trump speaks at the American Farm Bureau Federation's annual convention in New Orleans.

WASHINGTON — Shutdown pressure on President Donald Trump mounted today as House Speaker Nancy Pelosi called on him to delay his State of the Union address and his own economists acknowledged the prolonged stand-off is having a greater economic drag than previously thought.

In a letter to Trump, Pelosi cited security concerns, noting that both the Secret Service and the Homeland Security Department are affected by the partial government shutdown, now in its fourth week. She added that unless the government reopens this week, they should find another date — it's now Jan. 29 — or Trump should deliver the address in writing.

The White House did not immediately respond to the high-stakes move on the 26th day of the shutdown, as Trump and Democrats are at an impasse over Trump's demands for \$5.7 billion to build a wall along the Mexican border.

Pelosi is refusing money for the wall she views as ineffective and immoral;

Democrats say they will discuss border security once the government has reopened.

The White House planned more meetings with rank-and-file lawmakers today, though few saw those sessions as likely to budge either side.

Kevin Hassett, chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, said Tuesday the shutdown is slowing growth more than predicted.

An economic shift could

rattle Trump, who has tied his political fortunes to the stock market and repeatedly stressed economic gains as evidence that his tax-cut package and deregulation efforts are succeeding. Economic optimism had already cooled somewhat as Trump's trade fight with China shook the markets.

Hassett told reporters the White House is doubling its estimate of the strain on the economy of the shutdown, and now calculates that it is

slowing growth by about 0.1 percentage points a week.

With the shutdown in its fourth week, that suggests the economy has lost nearly a half-percentage point of growth so far, though some of that occurred at the end of last year and some in the first quarter of this year. Hassett said the economy should get a boost when the government re-opens.

Previous White House estimates of the impact did not fully take into account

the effect on people who work for private companies that contract with the government to provide services, Hassett said.

While the hit to the overall economy so far remains slight, economists foresee real damage if the shutdown drags into February or beyond.

Roughly 1 million government employees and contractors aren't being paid. Travel plans are compromised by shuttered federal parks and airport delays. Some Americans trying to start small businesses face delays in obtaining the required tax identification number from the IRS.

White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders told reporters that the economy remained strong.

"I know there has been some impact, but at the same time we're focused on the long term economic principles the president has laid out," she said.

The House and Senate said they will cancel a recess later this week if the shutdown continues, which seems likely.

The president, on a conference call with supporters Tuesday, showed no signs of backing down.

"We're going to stay out

for a long time, if we have to," Trump said. He also suggested the partial shutdown, which has clogged airport security lines and shuttered federal agencies, was going smoothly.

Behind the scenes, though, the administration and its allies on Capitol Hill are warily eyeing the next payday. They hope to reach a resolution before a Tuesday deadline, when they'll need to prepare the next round of paychecks for workers who have been seeing zeros on their pay slips.

Some in the Senate are pushing to support a short-term bill that would re-open the government for three weeks to allow time for negotiations on border security.

While Trump rejected the idea earlier this week, Sens. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina and Chris Coons of Delaware are organizing a bipartisan letter asking him to reconsider.

The letter, a copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press, states that the senators will make their best efforts to have "Congress develop and vote on a bipartisan agreement that addresses your request" for border money if he agrees to support legislation reopening the government for those three weeks.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Associated Press

US military says service members killed in Syria explosion

BEIRUT — A number of U.S. service members were killed in an explosion while conducting a routine patrol in Syria today, the U.S. military said, an attack that came less than a month after President Donald Trump announced his intention to withdraw troops from the war-torn country.

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the rare morning attack, which local groups said killed 16 people in the U.S.-patrolled town of Manbij.

The claim, which could not be independently confirmed, calls into question Trump's claim that IS has been defeated in Syria — his stated reason for pulling 2,000 American troops out of the country.

"We have defeated ISIS in Syria, my only reason for being there during the Trump Presidency," Trump tweeted in December in announcing his intention to bring back U.S. troops "NOW."

Trump has been clear about his desire to pull out of Syria, a country he described as "sand and death." But critics have said a pullout was premature, that IS was still not defeated and a pullout could lead to a power vacuum that would fuel even more violence.

Sears staves off liquidation, stores to remain open

NEW YORK — Sears will live on, at least for now. The company's chairman and largest shareholder, Eddie Lampert, won a bankruptcy auction for Sears, averting liquidation of the iconic chain.

Lampert is the only one to put out a bid for the whole company. The 56-year-old billionaire had sweetened his bid to more than \$5 billion over the last few days through an affiliate of his hedge fund ESL. Details of the final terms couldn't be learned.

The plan still must be approved by the bankruptcy judge in White Plains, New York, who is presiding over the court case.

Lampert, who steered the company into bankruptcy protection, may be able to keep the roughly 400 remaining Sears stores open, meaning tens of thousands of jobs have been saved, at least for now.

Senators consider former lobbyist as EPA's permanent chief

WASHINGTON — Acting Environmental Protection Agency chief Andrew Wheeler's past lobbying work for coal companies and other industries regulated by the agency is expected to draw scrutiny today when a Senate committee

considers his nomination to the position.

Wheeler's roughly six-month tenure as the agency's acting administrator has been far more low-key than that of the man he replaced, Scott Pruitt. Pruitt's fondness for the perks of power and for alleged favors — from round-the-clock bodyguards to lavish travel to special deals on mattresses from the Trump International Hotel — generated constant headlines and helped lead to Pruitt's resignation as the agency's administrator in July.

In line with Trump's regulation-cutting ethos, the agency under Wheeler has moved forward on major rollbacks and pending rollbacks of Obama-era environmental measures: easing the mileage standards that cars and trucks will have to meet, relaxing measures on climate-changing carbon emissions from coal-fired power plants and removing millions of miles of wetlands and waterways from federal protections, among other changes.

Environmental groups say his lobbying work for industries regulated by the EPA should disqualify him outright.

"A coal lobbyist is unfit to run the EPA, period," said Matt Gravatt, associate legislative director at the Sierra Club.

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TV SCHEDULE

Evening listings

WEDNESDAY

WEDNESDAY EVENING												JANUARY 16	
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	KATU News at 6 (N)		Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel Fortune (N)	The Goldbergs (N)	Schooled (N)	Modern Family (N)	Single Parents (N)	Match Game (N)		News (N)	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel
3	KOMO	KOMO 4 News (N)		Wheel Fortune (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	The Goldbergs (N)	Schooled (N)	Modern Family (N)	Single Parents (N)	Match Game (N)		KOMO 4 News (N)	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel
4	KING	NBC News (N)	KING 5 News (N)	KING 5 News (N)	Evening News (N)	Chicago Med "Who Can You Trust" (N)	Chicago Fire "You Choose" (N)	Chicago P.D. "Trust" (N)		Chicago P.D. "Trust" (N)		KING 5 News (N)	(:35) Tonight Show
5	KOIN	KOIN Local 6 (N)	Evening News (N)	Extra	Ent. Tonight	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	NCIS "Fragments"		FBI "This Land Is Your Land"		News (N)	(:35) Colbert
6	KIRO	KIRO 7 News (N)	Evening News (N)	KIRO 7 News (N)	Ent. Tonight	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	NCIS "Fragments"		FBI "This Land Is Your Land"		KIRO News (N)	(:35) Colbert
7	KGW	KGW News at 6:00 p.m. (N)		Tonight Cassidy	Inside Edition	Chicago Med "Who Can You Trust" (N)	Chicago Fire "You Choose" (N)	Chicago P.D. "Trust" (N)		News (N)		News (N)	(:35) Tonight Show
8	KRCW	Modern Family	Modern Family	The Goldbergs	The Goldbergs	River "Chapter Forty-Four: No Exit" (N)	All American "Keep Ya Head Up" (N)			Friends		Two and a Half	Two and a Half
9	KOPB	Journeys in Japan	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour (N)		Nature "Equus: Story of the Horse" (N)	Nova "Day the Dinosaurs Died"			Dictator's Playb "Saddam Hussein" (N)		Coexist	
10	KPTV	6 O'Clock News (N)		Family Feud	Family Feud	Hell "Vasi's Restaurant and Bar" (N)	Masked Sing "Five Masks No More" (N)			10 O'Clock News (N)		News (N)	Page Six TV
11	KPDx	Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	8pm Prime News (N)	9pm Prime News (N)			Big Bang Theory	Family Guy	American Dad!	The Game
12	KCPQ	Modern Family	Modern Family	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Hell "Vasi's Restaurant and Bar" (N)	Masked Sing "Five Masks No More" (N)			Q13 NEWS AT 10 (N)		News (N)	The Simpsons
13	TBS	FamilyGuy 2/3	FamilyGuy 3/3	Bob's Burgers	Bob's Burgers	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Full Frontal	Conan	
14	KZJO	Black-ish	Black-ish	Mom	Modern Family	Mom	Modern Family	Q13 News at 9 (N)		Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Two and a Half	Two and a Half
15	ESPN	NBA Basketball Toronto Raptors at Boston Celtics (L)	NBA Basketball New Orleans Pelicans at Golden State Warriors Site: Oracle Arena -- Oakland, Calif. (L)							(:10) SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter (N)	
16	ESPN2	ITF Tennis Australian Open Men's and Women's Second Round Site: Melbourne Park -- Melbourne, Australia (L)											
17	NICK	The Loud House	The Loud House	Henry Danger	Henry Danger	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	The Office	The Office	Friends	Friends
18	DISN	Jessie	Jessie	Bunk'd	Coop & Cami	Raven's Home	Raven's Home	Bunk'd	Bizaardvark	Bunk'd	Raven's Home 3/3	Raven's Home	
19	FAM	*** The Lion King '94	Voices of Matthew Broderick, Jonathon Taylor Thomas.	Grown-ish (N)	*** Just Go With It (2011, Comedy) Jennifer Aniston, Brooklyn Decker, Adam Sandler.							The 700 Club	
20	FMC	(4:45) The Heat ('13) Sandra Bullock.	(:05) *** The Heat (2013, Comedy) Melissa McCarthy, Michael McDonald, Sandra Bullock.	Project Runway "Top of the Class" (N)	Project Runway "Buckle Up!" (N)					(:05) American "Blasts from the Past" (N)	(:05) Project Runway: All Stars		
21	LIFE	Grey's A. "Owner of a Lonely Heart"	Grey's Anatomy	Hot Rod	Chronicle the life of the great Rod Hundley.					Motocross X-Fighters		Crashed Ice	
22	ROOT	NCAA Basketball Georgia Tech at Clemson (L)								PBC "Keith Thurman vs. Joseito Lopez"		NCAA Basketball	Creighton at St. John's
23	FS1	(5:30) NCAA Basketball Butler at DePaul (L)		Fox College Hoops		NFL Turning Point "Post-season" (N)	TMZ Sports (N)	PBC Face to Face					Movie
24	SPIKE	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	*** I, Robot (2004, Sci-Fi) Bridget Moynahan, Alan Tudyk, Will Smith.					
25	COM	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	The Daily Show (N)	Corporate
26	HIST	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Vikings "The Most Terrible Thing"	Vikings "Baldur" (N)			Blue Book "The Flatwoods Monster"		Forged in Fire "The Horseman's Axe"	
27	A&E	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars (N)	Storage Wars (N)	Storage Wars (N)	Storage Wars (N)	Storage Wars	(:35) Storage Wars
28	TLC	My 600-lb Life "Brienne's Story"		My 600-lb Life "Robin's Story"	Robin and Chris are ready to lose the weight. (N)					Family "The Kings: Parent Trapped" (N)		My 600-lb Life "Milla's Story"	
29	DISC	Moonshiners "Legacy on the Line"		Moonshiners: Outlaw Cuts (N)		Moonshiners "Engineering" (N)	Moonshiners (N)			Homestead "Shock and Awe" (N)		Homestead "When Cows Attack"	
30	NGEO	Southern Justice "Blue Ridge Bandit"		Locked Up Abroad "Bangkok"		Locked Up "Dominican Drug Bust" (N)	Locked up "Peruvian Parent Trap" (N)			Locked up "Teen Traffickers" (N)		Locked up "Peruvian Parent Trap"	
31	TNT	Hercules (2014, Adventure) John Hurt, Irina Shayk, Dwayne Johnson.		The Legend of Tarzan (2016, Action) Margot Robbie, Samuel L. Jackson, Alexander Skarsgard.						Hercules (2014, Adventure) John Hurt, Dwayne Johnson.			
32	AMC	(5:30) *** My Cousin Vinny '92	Comedy) Marisa Tomei, Ralph Macchio, Joe Pesci.	*** Cast Away (2000, Drama) Helen Hunt, Nick Searcy, Tom Hanks.								(:05) Angels and Demons	Tom Hanks.
33	USA	Law&Order: SVU "Decaying Morality"	Law&Order: SVU "Intimidation Game"	Law&Order: SVU "December Solstice"	Law & Order: S.V.U. "Parole Violations"					Law&Order: SVU "Granting Immunity"		Modern Family	Modern Family
34	FOOD	Guy's Grocery Games "Blogger Battle"	Guy's Game "Family Style: Food Feud"	Game "DDD Family Tournament Part 2"	Guy's Grocery Games (N)					Guy's Grocery Games "Culinary Idols"		Guy's Game "Five-Star Showdown"	
35	HGTV	Property Brothers "Modern Must-Have"	Property Brothers "Family Fun House"	Property Brothers "Miles Apart"	Property Brothers (N)					House Hunters (N) House Hunters (N)		Property Brothers "Changing Direction"	
36	FX	(5:00) *** X-Men: Apocalypse '16	Michael Fassbender, Jennifer Lawrence.	*** The Equalizer (2014, Action) Chloë Grace Moretz, Marton Csokas, Denzel Washington.								Taken 2 (2012, Action) Liam Neeson.	
37	CNN	Cuomo Prime Time		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon	Anderson Cooper 360			Cuomo Prime Time		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon	
38	FNC	Hannity		The Ingraham Angle		Fox News @ Night	Tucker Carlson Tonight			Hannity		The Ingraham Angle	
39	CNBC	No Deal "Small Town, Big Dreams" (N)		Deal or No Deal "Family Values"		Deal or No Deal "S\$ Redemption"	Deal No Deal "Small Town, Big Dreams"			Deal or No Deal "It Takes Two"		Paid Program	Paid Program
40	BRV	Housewives NJ "Reunion Part Three"		Wives NJ "Communion and Confession"		Wives NJ "From Turkey With Love"	Housewives NJ "Whine Country"			Sweet Home "Pumps It Up!"		Watch What (N)	Housewives NJ
41	TCM	(5:00) East of Eden ('55) James Dean.	(:15) *** Splendor in the Grass (1961, Drama) Warren Beatty, Pat Hingle, Natalie Wood.							*** Baby Doll (1956, Drama) Carroll Baker, Eli Wallach, Karl Malden.			The Arrangement
42	SYFY	(4:15) *** Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1	*** Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2 (11) Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.							Deadly Class "Pilot" (P) (N)		Harry Potter & the Deathly Hallows: ...	
43	RFD	Dude Ranch	Cowboy Moments	Women's Rodeo	Equestrian Nat.	Team Roping 3/3	Rural Eve. News	WesternSport	Cash Cowboys	Dude Ranch	Cowboy Moments	Product Showcase	

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