

World News Briefs

Obama Chides Senators to Vote on Court Pick

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama is challenging Republicans to live up to their avowed adherence for the Constitution and agree to vote on his nominee to replace the late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia. A key Republican is leaving the door open to taking the first step.



AP PHOTO/JIM MOORE, FILE

In this Oct. 20, 2015 file photo, Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia speaks at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. White House lawyers are scouring a life's worth of information about President Barack Obama's potential picks for the Supreme Court, ranging from the mundane to the intensely personal. In replacing the late Justice Antonin Scalia, the president could alter the balance of the court for decades, but only if he can get his nominee through Republicans in the Senate.

Despite widespread GOP insistence that he leave the decision to the next president, Obama said Tuesday he had no intention of abdicating his responsibilities before leaving office early next year. He chidingly told the Senate he

expects "them to do their job as well." "The Constitution is pretty clear about what's supposed to happen now," Obama said before returning to Washington from California.

Fallout from Scalia's unexpected death overshadowed Obama's two days of summitry with Southeast Asian leaders. Obama pledged to nominate a candidate "indisputably" qualified, but Republican leaders have threatened to refuse to hold hearings or a vote on his pick to replace the conservative Scalia.

Yet there were hints that at least some Republicans might come around. Senate Judiciary Chairman Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, said he would wait "until the nominee is made before I would make any decision" about holding hearings, boosting White House hopes for getting a third justice confirmed on Obama's watch.

GOP Candidates in High-Stakes Match in S.C.

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — Jeb Bush, John Kasich and Marco Rubio are locked in a high-stakes political chess match in South Carolina, strategically moving money and other campaign resources around in a bid to pull ahead in the Republican primary race — or at least keep their campaigns afloat if they don't.

The maneuvering comes as some Republican leaders fear Donald Trump or Ted Cruz will begin piling up the delegates needed to secure the nomination before one of the more traditional candidates can concentrate the support of voters turned off by the brash billionaire and fiery Texas senator, who so-called establishment Republicans



AP PHOTO/JEFF CHIU, FILE-POOL

In this Oct. 20, 2014 file-pool photo, Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor speaks at San Jose State University in San Jose, Calif. White House lawyers are scouring a life's worth of information about President Barack Obama's potential picks for the Supreme Court, ranging from the mundane to the intensely personal. In replacing the late Justice Antonin Scalia, the president could alter the balance of the court for decades, but only if he can get his nominee through Republicans in the Senate. All told, Sotomayor's questionnaire response totaled more than 5,000 pages.

believe could jeopardize the party's chances of winning in November's general election.

"We do need to get the field down to Trump, Cruz and somebody," said Henry Barbour, a Republican National Committee heavyweight from Mississippi. "New Hampshire tried, but it's clear as mud."

Indeed, the only thing that is clear heading into Saturday's South Carolina primary appears to be Trump's grip on the lead. Cruz, the winner of the Iowa caucuses, is expected to do well.

But the more mainstream lane populated by Bush, Kasich and Rubio is more jumbled. Bush's campaign now sees an opening to capitalize on Rubio's fifth-

place finish in New Hampshire, while Kasich's strong second-place showing there has given him reason to keep his campaign going. Rubio's team, meanwhile, is quietly confident that South Carolina will prove to be a comeback story for the Florida senator.

Apple Resisting Order to Share iPhone Information

WASHINGTON (AP) — Apple Inc. CEO Tim Cook says his company will fight a federal magistrate's order to hack its users in connection with the investigation of the San Bernardino, California shootings, asserting that would undermine encryption by creating a backdoor that could potentially be used on other future devices.

Cook's ferocious response, posted early Wednesday on the company's website, came after an order from U.S. Magistrate Judge Sheri Pym that Apple Inc. help the Obama administration break into an encrypted iPhone belonging to one of the shooters in the December attack.

The first-of-its-kind ruling was a significant victory for the Justice Department in a technology policy debate that pits digital privacy against national security interests.

Noting the order Tuesday from federal Magistrate Judge Sheri Pym in California, Cook said "this moment calls for public discussion, and we want our customers and people around the country to understand what is at stake."

Cook argued that the order "has implications far beyond the legal case at hand."

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