

Seething over Russia probe, Trump tears into ‘spygate’

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump has branded his latest attempt to discredit the special counsel’s Russia investigation as “spygate,” part of a newly invigorated strategy embraced by his Republican colleagues to raise suspicions about the probe that has dogged his presidency since the start.

Trump now is zeroing in on — and at times embellishing — reports that a longtime U.S. government informant approached members of his 2016 campaign during the presidential election in a possible bid to glean intelligence on Russian efforts to sway the election. He tweeted Wednesday morning that the FBI has been caught in a “major SPY scandal.”

Trump’s latest broadsides set the stage for an unusual decision by the White House to arrange a briefing about classified documents for just two Republican House members, both Trump allies, in a meeting expected Thursday, as Trump and his supporters in Congress press for information on the outside informant.

After Democratic complaints, the White House said late Wednesday that it would also give an additional briefing to group of lawmakers known as the “Gang of Eight” after the Memorial Day recess. That group includes the top Republicans and Democrats in each chamber and the top Republicans and Democrats on the House and Senate intelligence committees.

It remains unclear what, if any, spying was done. The White House has given no evidence to support Trump’s claim that



AP Photo/Evan Vucci

President Donald Trump sits at a roundtable event on immigration policy at Morrelly Homeland Security Center, Wednesday in Bethpage, N.Y.

the Obama administration was trying to spy on his 2016 campaign for political reasons. It’s long been known that the FBI was looking into Russian meddling during the campaign and that part of that inquiry touched on the Trump campaign’s contacts with Russian figures.

Trump has told confidants in recent days that the revelation of an informant was potential evidence that the upper echelon of federal law enforcement has conspired against him, according to three people familiar with his recent conversations but not authorized to discuss them publicly. Trump told one ally this week that he wanted “to brand” the informant a “spy,” believing the more nefarious term would resonate more in the media and with the public.

He went on to debut the term “Spygate” on Wednesday, despite its previous associations with a 2007 NFL scandal over videotaping coaches.

Democrats said Wednesday that the briefing — held

as special counsel Robert Mueller investigates Trump’s campaign and whether it was involved in Russian meddling in the U.S. election — was highly inappropriate and asked for the “Gang of Eight” briefing instead of Thursday’s GOP-only meeting. After negotiations with leaders on Capitol Hill Wednesday afternoon, White House spokesman Raj Shah announced the additional bipartisan meeting but said Thursday’s briefing would go on.

Some Senate Republicans have asked to be invited to the meeting as well, arguing that they should be included. Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley of Iowa, South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham and Texas Sen. John Cornyn made that request to White House Chief of Staff John Kelly on Tuesday.

Cornyn, the No. 2 Republican in the Senate, said Wednesday evening that they had not yet received a response.

The meeting scheduled for Thursday was encouraged by Trump and brokered by the White House. Expected attendees are FBI Director Christopher Wray, National Intelligence Director Dan Coats, Justice Department official Edward O’Callaghan, House Intelligence Committee Chairman Devin Nunes and House Oversight and Government Reform Chairman Trey Gowdy.

Nunes, an ardent Trump supporter, has been demanding information on an FBI source in the Russia investigation. And Trump took up the cause as the White House tries to combat the threat posed by Mueller’s investigation.

Judge: President can’t block critics on Twitter

By LARRY NEUMEISTER
Associated Press

NEW YORK — A federal judge ruled Wednesday that President Donald Trump is violating the First Amendment when he blocks critics on Twitter because of their political views.

U.S. District Judge Naomi Reice Buchwald in Manhattan stopped short in her written decision of ordering Trump or a subordinate to stop the practice of blocking critics from viewing his Twitter account, saying it was enough to point out that it was unconstitutional.

“A declaratory judgment should be sufficient, as no government official — including the President — is above the law, and all government officials are presumed to follow the law as has been declared,” Buchwald wrote.

The judge did not issue an order against Trump, and the plaintiffs did not ask for one. But in cases like this, plaintiffs can, in theory, go back and ask for such an order, and if it is not obeyed, the violator can be held in contempt.

Buchwald said she rejected the assertion that an injunction can never be lodged against the president but “nonetheless conclude that it is unnecessary to enter that legal thicket at this time.”

The case was brought last July by the Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University and seven individuals blocked by Trump after criticizing the Republican president.

Kerri Kupec, a spokeswoman for the Department of Justice, said in an email: “We respectfully disagree with the court’s decision and are considering our next steps.”

Jameel Jaffer, the Knight

“A declaratory judgment should be sufficient, as no government official — including the President — is above the law.”

— Naomi Reice Buchwald,
U.S. District Judge

Institute’s executive director, said in a release that his organization was pleased.

“The president’s practice of blocking critics on Twitter is pernicious and unconstitutional, and we hope this ruling will bring it to an end,” he said.

Comedian Dana Goldberg, who says she was blocked by the president but was not a plaintiff in the lawsuit, said she looks forward to getting access restored.

“As a comedian, I really feel like it’s my job right now to speak truth to power. I have a voice and a platform to use it, and I would rather challenge him on every false and misleading statement than stay silent. It will save me some time if I’m unblocked. I can just check his Twitter feed instead of Google his morning tirades,” she said.

The lawsuit was filed after Trump blocked some individuals from (at)realDonaldTrump, a 9-year-old Twitter account with over 50 million followers, after each of them tweeted a message critical of Trump or his policies in reply to a tweet he had sent.

Justice Department lawyers had argued it was Trump’s prerogative to block followers, no different from the president deciding in a room filled with people not to listen to some.

Buchwald ruled that the tweets were “governmental in nature.”

“The President presents the (at)realDonaldTrump account as being a presidential account as opposed to a personal account and, more importantly, uses the account to take actions that can be taken only by the President as President,” the judge said.

The judge noted that another defendant, Daniel Scavino — the White House’s social media director and an assistant to the president — can unblock those followers without the president needing to do it himself. The judge dismissed Sarah Huckabee Sanders as a defendant in the case after it was established she does not have access to Trump’s account.

Buchwald also said she recognized the impact on the individuals by Trump’s action was not “of the highest magnitude.” She said the First Amendment protects people even from trivial harm.

After a hearing this year, the judge had suggested that Trump mute rather than block some of his critics. At the time, a Justice Department attorney agreed that muting would enable Trump to avoid a tweet he doesn’t want to read.

Twitter users can block people, which prevents them from seeing the user’s feed while logged in. Or they can mute the person, which keeps the user from seeing that person’s tweets and reply messages in their feed.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON & EVENING

		12 PM	12:30	1 PM	1:30	2 PM	2:30	3 PM	3:30	4 PM	4:30	5 PM	5:30	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	
FOX	11	Paid Program	Paternity Court	Divorce Court	Paid Program	Judge Mathis		The People's Court		Two and a Half	Mom	Last Man St.	Last Man St.	Modern Family	Modern Family	2 Broke Girls	2 Broke Girls	Fright Club (N)	Showtime-Apollo "Finale" (SF) (N)	First at Ten (N)		35	Dateline		35	Mike & Molly
KPTV	3	12 O' News (N)		Wendy Williams		The Dr. Oz Show		People's Court		Judy	Judy	News (N)		News (N)		Feud	Feud	Fright Club (N)	The Apollo (N)	News (N)			News		Page Six	
KEPR	2	FunnyAsk	Bold & B.	The Talk (N)		Let's Make a Deal		Dr. Phil		Judge Judy	Judge Judy	News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	Inside Edition	The Big Bang	The Simpsons	The Big Bang	Young Sheldon	Mom	Life in Pieces		S.W.A.T. "Fences"	News (N)	35	Colbert
KOIN	19	News	B & B	The Talk (N)		The Doctors		Dr. Phil		KOIN 6 News (N)	News	News	News	News	News	Extra	ET	BigBang	Sheldon	Mom	Pieces		S.W.A.T. "Fences"	News	Colbert	
25	6	TMZ	Wilderness Vet	Days of Our Lives		The Wendy Williams Show		Daily Mail TV	Daily Mail TV	Ellen Amy Poehler, Nick Offerman	News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	Family Feud	Wheel (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	American Ninja Warrior (N)	Hollywood Game Night (N)				Red Nose Day (N)	News (N)	35	Tonight
KGW	8	News	Paid	Days of Our Lives		Portland Today		E.DeGeneres (N)		KGW News (N)	News	News	News	KGW News (N)	Cassidy	InsEd.	Amer.Ninja (N)	Game Night (N)					Red Nose Day (N)	News	Tonight	
42	4	The Chew		General Hospital		The Doctors		The Rachael Ray Show		The Dr. Oz Show	News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	Ent. Tonight	Extra						What Would You Do?	News (N) /05		Jimmy Kimmel
KATU	5	The Chew		General Hospital		Million?	Million?	Afternoon Live		KATU News (N)	News	News	News	KATU News (N)	Jeop. (N)	Wheel							You Do?	News	Kimmel	
31		Wonders "Can We Make Life?"	Test Kitchen	Knit and Crochet	Esmon-De Tech.	Pinka-Peter	Nature	Ready Jet Go!		Wild Kratts	Odd Squad	Arthur	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour (N)	Ten Day Belly Slimdown With Dr. Kellyann								Stage Four	Amanpour (N)		News
59	13	Painting / Travel	Real Food	A Chef's Life	Travel Det.	* Curious George 3: Back to the Jungle		Arthur		Odd Squad	Odd Squad	Wild Kratts	Wild Kratts	Travels Darley	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour (N)	Oregon Art Beat	Oregon Guide	Midsomer M. Murders	:45 Midsomer Murders				:35 Masterpiece Mystery! "Poirot: The Big Four"		

		12 PM	12:30	1 PM	1:30	2 PM	2:30	3 PM	3:30	4 PM	4:30	5 PM	5:30	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30		
A&E	52	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	Live PD								Live PD	Live PD	Live PD	Live PD	Live PD	Live PD	Live PD	Live PD	Live PD	Live PD	Live PD	LivePD		
AMC	60	★★★ Troy ('04, Action)	Orlando Bloom, Eric Bana, Brad Pitt.			:55 ★★★ 3:10 to Yuma	Russell Crowe.						:25 ★★★ Lara Croft: Tomb Raider					★★★★ I Am Number Four	Alex Pettyfer.					★★★★ Fantastic Four			
ANPL	24	Life at Vet U	My Cat From Hell			Pit Bull Parolees		Lone Star Law		North Woods Law		North Woods Law	NW Law "Hunting the Hunters" (N)				North Woods (N)	North Woods (N)	North Woods Law			North Woods Law	Lone Star Law				
CMT	43	Reba	Reba	Reba	Reba	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	★★★★ Smokey and the Bandit	Burt Reynolds.	★★★★ Smokey and the Bandit	Burt Reynolds.			Broken Skull Ch.					Pickler & Ben				
CNBC	72	Closing Bell				Fast Money		Mad Money		Shark Tank		Shark Tank	Leno Garage (N)			Jay Leno's Garage	Jay Leno "Rebels"					Jay Leno's Garage	Paid Program				
CNN	68	CNN Newsroom	The Lead			The Situation		The Situation		OutFront		A. Cooper 360	A. Cooper 360	CNN Tonight		CNN Tonight		A. Cooper 360		A. Cooper 360		A. Cooper 360		CNN Tonight			
DISC	51	Naked&Afraid XL	Naked&Afraid XL	Naked&Afraid XL	Naked&Afraid XL	Naked&Afraid XL	Naked&Afraid XL	Naked&Afraid XL	Naked&Afraid XL	Naked&Afraid XL	Naked&Afraid XL	Naked&Afraid XL	Naked&Afraid XL	Naked&Afraid XL	Naked and Afraid		To Be Announced						Naked and Afraid				
DISN	26	Mickey 'Puppy	Vamp	Vamp		TBA	TBA	Gravity	Gravity	DuckTal.	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	Gravity	Gravity	DuckTal.	Gravity	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA		
ESPN	33	NBA: The Jump (L)	SportsN	Highly?		Horn (N)	Interrupt	SportsCenter (N)		NCAA Softball Division I Tournament				NCAA Softball Division I Tournament				SportsCenter (N)	SportsCenter (N)	SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter (N)	SportsCenter (N)				
ESPN2	34	J & J (N)	OLines	Talk (L)		NFL Live (N)		Horn (N)	Interrupt	WNBA Basketball	L.A./Con. (L)			NCAA Softball Division I Tournament				Featured	SC at the Mic (L)	Horn		Interrupt	Nación ESPN (N)	Featured			
FNC	66	Shepard Smith	Your World			The Five		Special Report		The Story		Tucker Carlson	Hannity		Ingraham Angle			Fox News		Tucker Carlson		Hannity		Ingraham Angle			
FOOD	61	Cake	Cake	Pioneer	Pioneer	BeatPlay	BeatPlay	BeatPlay	BeatPlay	BeatPlay	BeatPlay	Chopped		Chopped		Chopped		Chopped		Chopped		BeatPlay	BeatPlay	BeatPlay	BeatPlay		
FREE	32	Reba	Reba	Middle	Middle	Middle	Middle	Middle	Middle	Middle	Middle	Middle	Middle	★★★★ Mulan ('98, Ani)	Ming-Na Wen.			Siren (N)		★★★★ Pocahontas	Irène Bédard.				The 700 Club		
FX	65	Mother	Mother	Mike&M.	Mike&M.	Mike&M.	Mike&M.	★★★★ Kick-Ass 2				★★★★ Furious 7 ('15, Act)	Paul Walker, Vin Diesel.					★★★★ Ride Along 2	Ice Cube.			★★★★ Ride Along ('14, Act/Com)	Ice Cube.				
GOLF	88	CHAMPS Golf	PGA Golf	Fort Worth Invitational (L)				PGA Golf Volvik Championship				Golf C.		PGA Golf Fort Worth Invitational Site: Colonial Country Club				CHAMPS Golf Senior PGA Championship							Golf Senior PGA Championship		
GSN	76	Million? Million?	The Chase			Feud	Feud	Feud	Feud	Feud	Feud	Feud	Feud	CashCb	CashCb	Feud	Feud	Reaction	Reaction	Reaction	Reaction	Baggage	Baggage	Baggage	Baggage		
HALL	87	Home and Family				★ Love Struck Café	Sarah Jane Morris.	★ Frozen in Love	Rachael Leigh Cook.			Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Middle	Middle	Middle	Middle	Middle	Middle	G. Girls	G. Girls		
HGTV	62	Fixer Upper	Flippers	Flippers	Flippers	Flippers	Flippers	Flippers	Flippers	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop		
HIST	50	Pawn S.	Pawn S.	Pawn S.	Pawn S.	Pawn S.	Pawn S.	Pawn S.	Pawn S.	Pawn S.	Pawn S.	Six		Swamp People		Swamp People		Swamp: Blood (N)		Swamp (N)		:05 Forged in Fire		:05 Swamp			
LIFE	29	I Survived ...	I Survived ...			I Survived ...		Grey's Anatomy		Grey's Anatomy		Grey's Anatomy	★★★★ First Daughter	Katie Holmes.			★★★★ We Are Marshall ('07, Spt)	Matthew McConaughey.					Little Women: LA				
NICK	27	PAW Machines	PAW	PAW	PAW	Sponge	Sponge	Sponge	Sponge	Loud H.	Loud H.	Loud H.	Loud H.	The Thundermans				★ The SpongeBob SquarePants M...		Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends		
ROOT	37	Pregame	MLB Baseball	Seattle Mariners at Oakland Athletics (L)		Pstgame		The Dan Patrick Show (N)						Pregame	MLB Baseball	Seattle Mariners at Oakland Athletics		Pstgame						Poker			
SPIKE	42	2½Men	2½Men	Rose.	Rose.	Rose.	Rose.	Rose.	Rose.	Mom	Mom	Mom	Mom	Mom	Mom	Mom	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends		
SYFY	67	CSI: Crime "Kitty"	★ Mad Max 2: The Road Warrior			★★★★ Saw II	Donnie Wahlberg.	★★★★ The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug	Martin Freeman.			★★★★ Captain America: The First Avenger						★★★★ Captain America: The First Avenger						Krypton			
TBS	59	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Am.Dad	Am.Dad	Am.Dad	Am.Dad	Fam.Guy	Fam.Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinf.		Seinf.				★★★★ The Hangover Part III	Conan (N)		
TCM	56	★★ Dick Tracy	:15 ★ Dick Tracy vs. Cue...			★ Dick Tracy's D...	:45 ★ Dick Tracy Meets ...			★★★★★ A Foreign Affair				:15 ★★★★★ The Spoilers				★★★★ Kismet	Marlene Dietrich.					★★ Manpower			
TLC	49	Hoarding	Hoarding	My 600-lb Life	My 600-lb Life	My 600-lb Life	My 600-lb Life	Lost in Transition		90 Day Fiancé	"Home Sweet Home?"			My 600-lb Life		My 600-lb Life	"Kandi and Brandi" (N)	Skin Tight (N)					My 600-lb Life				
TNT	57	Supernatural	Supernatural	Bones		Bones		Bones		NBA Pre-game		NBA Basketball	Playoffs G.S./Hou. (L)				Inside the NBA		Claws "Ambrosia"		LawOrder	"Strike"			NCIS:NO		
UNI	21	Notic.	Hoy			Como dice dicho		Simplemente		El gordo y la flaca		Primer impacto		P. Luche	Notic.	Rosa Guadalupe	El Rico y Lazaro	Papa a Toda		NCIS		NCIS "Neverland"			NCIS		
USA	58	Chicago P.D.	Chicago P.D.			NCIS "Endgame"		NCIS		NCIS "Ignition"		NCIS		NCIS		NCIS		NCIS "Troll"							NCIS		
WE	118	Law & Order: C.I.	Law:CI "Love Sick"			Law & Order: C.I.		Growing Up Hip H	Growing Up Hip H	Growing Up Hip H	Growing Up Hip H	Growing Up Hip H	Growing Up Hip H	Growing Up Hip H	Growing Up Hip H	Growing Up Hip H	Growing Up Hip H	Growing Up Hip H	Growing Up Hip H	Growing Up Hip H	Growing Up Hip H	Growing Up Hip H	Growing Up Hip H	Growing Up Hip H	Growing Up Hip H		
WGN		Blue Bloods	Blue Bloods			Blue Bloods		Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Rules	Rules
HBO	518	★★★ Sweet November				:10 ★★★★★ Dunkirk	Tom Hardy.	★ Dude, Where's My Car?		:35 ★★★★★ Crazy Heart	Jeff Bridges.	News		★★★★ Avatar ('09, Fant)	Zoe Saldana.			★★★★ Avatar ('09, Fant)	Zoe Saldana.				:45 Westworld		Sports		
HBO2	520	★ The 9th Life o...	[Fight			★★★★ Deepwater Horizon		:20 ★★★★★ Waitress	Keri Russell.	Serena		:40 ★★★★★ Logan ('17, Act)	Hugh Jackman.					The Deuce				:15 The Royal Wedding					
HBO3	521	★★★★ Garden State				:35 ★★★★★ Live by Night	Ben Affleck.	:50 A Dangerous Son		:20 ★★★★★ You've Got Mail ('98, Rom)	Meg Ryan.	:25 ★★ Snatched		★★★★ The Italian Job	Mark Wahlberg.			★★★★ The Italian Job	Mark Wahlberg.				★★★★ Live by Night				
MAX	549	★ The Fugitive				★★★★ Never Been Kissed		:50 ★★★★★ Four Christmases		:20 ★★★★★ Kiss Kiss Bang Bang		:05 ★★★★★ Romeo Must Die	Jet Li.	★★★★ Knight and Day ('10, Act)				★★★★ Knight and Day ('10, Act)				:55 ★★★★★ The Beach					
SHOW	578	★ 11:55				★ Get the Gringo		:35 ★★★★★ Push ('09, Thril)	Chris Evans.	★ Sleepless	Jamie Foxx.			TheCirc.	:45 ★★ Patriots Day ('16, Dra)	Mark Wahlberg.		Billions				Patrick Melrose	Gigolos	Billions			
STARZ	621	★★★★ Flyboys				:10 ★★ Flatliners ('17, Dra)	Ellen Page.	★ Underworld: Blood Wars		:35 ★★ Redemption		:20 ★★★★★ Rush Hour 2		:50 Vida		:25 ★★ Before I Go to Sleep						Vida	:10 Vida	Movie			
STZENC	644	Movie	:40 ★★ Paul Blart: Mall Cop			:15 ★★★★★ Eastern Promises		:55 ★★ Buffy the Vampire ...		:25 ★★★★★ Days of Thunder		:15 ★★★★★ Ferris Bueller's Day Off		★★★★ John Q Denzel	Washington.			★★★★ John Q Denzel	Washington.				★ Buffy the Va...				