

TEA PARTY PATRIOTS ACTION



WEEKLY REPORT FROM WASHINGTON

August 17, 2020

CALENDAR:

The Senate is no longer going to pretend to be in a period of morning business. Instead, it has joined the House in recess.

Members of the Senate have been told they will not vote again until the week of September 8.

Members of the House received word this morning that the House will be back in session on Saturday, August 22, for a vote.

INVESTIGATING THE INVESTIGATORS:

A development of some note on the matter of investigating the investigators: On Friday, we learned that Kevin Clinesmith – the former FBI lawyer who fabricated evidence against former Trump campaign volunteer Carter Page to provide documentary support for the FBI’s FISA warrant application against Page, and lost his job when that was later revealed – is expected to plead guilty to one count of making a false statement. This is the first indictment and the first guilty plea brought by U.S. Attorney John Durham in his investigation of the origins and the propriety of the FBI’s “Crossfire Hurricane” investigation of the Trump campaign.

MAIL-IN BALLOTING/USPS RELIEF:

On Saturday afternoon, House Democrats held a conference call to discuss the matter of the U.S. Postal Service. Senior House Democrats apparently believe it would be politically beneficial to them to bring the House back into session for the purpose of passing legislation protecting the USPS from making changes to its operations or level of service.

On Sunday, Speaker Pelosi let them know via a Dear Colleague letter that the House will be coming back sometime later this week to act on such legislation. The exact timing was not revealed on that call, but it was revealed on a conference call this morning – the House will come back to vote on Saturday, August 22, apparently so as not to interfere with television coverage of the Democratic National Convention.

The current plan is to vote on a bill called the “Delivering for America Act,” offered by Oversight and Reform Committee Chairwoman Carolyn Maloney. That bill prohibits the Postal Service from implementing any changes to operations or level of service it had in place on January 1, 2020

CORONAVIRUS RELIEF:

There is absolutely nothing to report on progress on the coronavirus relief negotiations, because there were no coronavirus relief bill negotiations last week. And it does not seem there will be any in-person meetings any time soon.

So all we have to report is that, asked at her weekly news briefing when she anticipates picking up the discussions again, Speaker Pelosi responded, “I don’t know. When they’re ready, when they come in with \$2 trillion.”

So Speaker Pelosi has set the floor at \$2 trillion, which is twice as much as the Senate GOP bill allows for. Unless Republicans are willing to BEGIN the negotiations by agreeing to spend twice as much as they think is necessary – and which, remember, is just the floor for further negotiations – there will be no further negotiations.

Don’t hold your breath. This stalemate is going to go on for a while longer – and, despite the Speaker’s insistence a week ago that she wants very much to keep the negotiations separate and distinct, I would not be at all surprised to see the coronavirus relief bill negotiations wrapped into the end-of-the-fiscal-year spending bill negotiations. Because we all know Congress never works quite so well as when it’s operating under a deadline – like the end of the fiscal year on September 30.

KAMALA HARRIS FOR VEEP:

Last Tuesday, Joe Biden made history by announcing Kamala Harris as his choice for the Democrat nomination for vice president. She becomes the first Black woman and the first south Asian to be nominated to a national ticket by one of the two major parties. And she becomes the first Democrat from west of the Mississippi River ever to be nominated to a national ticket, if you can believe that.

I’ve put a lot of articles on Kamala Harris in the Suggested Reading, for those who are so inclined.

SUGGESTED READING

JENNY BETH MARTIN/TEA PARTY PATRIOTS:

[CNS News: Jenny Beth Martin: From Believing Accusers to Felons Voting, Here Are My Harris Questions for Biden](#)

[Townhall: Jenny Beth Martin: The Left's School Choice Conundrum](#)

[CSN News: Conservatives On Biden-Harris: 'Staunchly Pro-Abortion And Anti-Religious Liberty'](#)

[Steve Gruber: Jenny Beth Martin, Biden's VP Pick Is Irrelevant, He's Already Made A Deal With The Far Left](#)

[CTLN: School Reopening Tough Test for Community](#)

SCHEDULE:

[WE: House Will Be Mostly Absent Until Mid-November](#)

[Axios: McConnell Announces Senate Will Adjourn Until Sept. 8](#)

BIG TECH BIAS:

[Salt Lake Tribune: Utah Senator Mike Lee Goes After Google, Says Its Search Function Is Biased Against Conservatives](#)

INVESTIGATING THE INVESTIGATORS:

[Politico: Ron Johnson Says Committee Republicans Blocking Comey, Brennan Subpoenas](#)

[Politico: Besieged On All Sides, Ron Johnson Says His Probe 'Would Certainly' Help Trump Win Reelection](#)

[Hill: GOP Senator Draws Fire from All Sides on Biden, Obama-Era Probes](#)

[NYT: Ex-FBI Lawyer Expected To Plead Guilty in Review of Russia Inquiry](#)

[Federalist: Kevin Clinesmith, Corrupt FBI Attorney Who Falsified Carter Page FISA Warrant, Expected To Plead Guilty](#)

[NRO: McCarthy: Connecting Dots in Clinesmith's Russiagate Guilty Plea](#)

[Hill: Turley: Despite the Guilty Plea, Democrats Still Denounce This 'Instigation of Investigators'](#)

MAIL-IN BALLOTING/USPS RELIEF:

[Tweet: Manu Raju: House schedule discussions under way](#)

[CNN: Democrats Seriously Considering Bringing House Back into Session Next Week over USPS Issues](#)

[Politico: Pelosi Weighs Bringing House Back Early To Address Postal Service Crisis](#)

[RC: The 2020 Fight over the Postal Service Underscores Its Long-Unaddressed Challenges](#)

[WSJ: The Post Office's Problem Isn't Trump](#)

[WFB: Nevada Sent More Than 200K Mail-In Primary Ballots to Wrong Addresses](#)

CORONAVIRUS RELIEF:

[WaPo: White House's Meadows Drew A Hard Line During Relief Talks, Challenging Democrats' Approach](#)

[Politico: Blame Game In High Gear As COVID Relief Talks Stall](#)

[NYT: 925 Quarantined For Covid. Is This A Successful School Reopening?](#)

[Politico: Negotiators 'Miles Apart' On COVID Funding, With Little Hope For Deal Until September](#)

[Fox News: Pelosi Says No Coronavirus Relief Talks Until Republicans Agree To \\$2 Trillion Price Tag](#)

[Townhall: Betsy DeVos Not Concerned By New Polls Sour On Reopening Schools](#)

[Politico: Standoff Over COVID Relief Could Drag Into September](#)

KAMALA HARRIS FOR VEEP:

[NYT: Biden's VP Pick Is Said To Be Imminent](#)

[WaPo: In Picking Harris, Biden Makes History And Plays It Safe](#)

[AP: How Biden Chose Harris: Inside His Search For A Running Mate](#)

[SFC: Why Kamala Harris Was Picked As Joe Biden's Running Mate](#)

[SFC: Kamala Harris Made Headlines For Decades In California Public Office. Here Are Some Highlights](#)

[The Blaze: 'Tulsi' Trends On Twitter As Users Reminisce About How Kamala Harris' Presidential Run Ended](#)

[Politico: How Kamala Harris Outflanked Her Skeptics To Become Biden's VP Pick](#)

[Politico: Team Trump Assails 'Phony Kamala', While Privately Acknowledging Her Appeal](#)

[WSJ: Kamala Harris's First Campaign –](#)

[WSJ: Getting To Know Kamala Harris](#)

MISCELLANEOUS:

[NYT: Biden, Seizing On Masks As A Campaign Issue, Calls For A Mandate](#)

[WSJ: Israel-UAE Pact Sealed After Months Of Furtive Talks Among Envoys Trusted By Their Leaders](#)

[NYT: Opinion: A Geopolitical Earthquake Just Hit The Mideast](#)

[NY MAG: The Most Tremendous Reelection Campaign in American History Ever](#)