

Often scammers present themselves as the IRS and trick people into sending them money and personal information. As technology advances so do the scammers. The IRS warned of a sophisticated phone scam targeting taxpayers, including recent immigrants, which has been making the rounds throughout the country. Scammers claim to be IRS employees, using fake names and bogus IRS identification badge numbers. They may know a lot about their targets, and they usually alter the caller ID to make it look like the IRS is calling.

Victims are told they owe money to the IRS and it must be paid promptly through a gift card or wire transfer. Victims may be threatened with arrest, deportation or suspension of a business or driver's license. In many cases, the caller becomes hostile and insulting. If the phone isn't answered, the scammers often leave an "urgent" callback request. Scared and confused, many victims comply with the scammers request out of fear of the repercussions.

The "Justice for Victims of IRS Scams and Identity Theft Act of 2018," requires the Department of Justice and the Department of Treasury to report to Congress the efforts to combat the serious identity theft problem. The bill requires the DOJ to report on the status of prosecutions of identity theft crimes. It asked for recommendations regarding how this crime is committed, how to improve collaboration with other federal agencies, and how to improve law enforcement deterrence and prevention of such offenses. It also requires the Department of Treasury to provide a report detailing its current efforts to assist in the prosecution of identity theft where the criminal impersonates IRS personnel and the resources they need to facilitate the prosecution of these offenses. This information will provide a helpful insight into how our law enforcement agencies are addressing the problem and what Congress can do to help improve the results.

We need to ensure that Americans are being protected from these con artists who target and terrify Americans and that these thieves are held accountable for their criminal activity. That is why I support H.R. 2905, "Justice for Victims of IRS Scams and Identity Theft Act of 2018."

Mr. Speaker, in closing I want to emphasize how important it is that we take important measures to protect against all forms of identity theft.

Identity theft can occur in many settings. It can occur in public places where criminals watch you from a nearby location as you punch in your credit card number or listen in on your conversation if you give your credit-card number over the telephone. It can also occur if you receive applications for "pre-approved" credit cards in the mail but discard them without tearing up the enclosed materials. Many people's information is stolen when they respond to spam emails that promise them some benefit but requests identifying data. In some cases, criminals reportedly have used computer technology to steal large amounts of personal data.

With enough identifying information about an individual, a criminal can take over that individual's identity to conduct a wide range of crimes. False applications for loans and credit cards, fraudulent withdrawals from bank accounts, fraudulent use of telephone calling cards, or online accounts. The consequences

of identity theft can be severe and can leave a person with no funds to pay for everyday living costs. Identity fraud can have a significant effect on your credit history. If an identity thief uses your existing credit or applies for new credit, this could leave a footprint of debt or missed payments on your credit report. Even if the criminal applies for credit and is rejected this can still have a negative effect on your credit history as each application for credit is recorded.

It is with these concerns in mind that we act on this legislation today. I support this bill and encourage my colleagues to do the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BACON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2905, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### MOVING AMERICANS PRIVACY PROTECTION ACT

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4403) to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to protect personally identifiable information, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4403

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Moving Americans Privacy Protection Act".

##### SEC. 2. PROTECTION OF PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 431(c)(2) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1431(c)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

"(2)(A) The information listed in paragraph (1) shall not be available for public disclosure if—

"(i) the Secretary of the Treasury makes an affirmative finding on a shipment-by-shipment basis that disclosure is likely to pose a threat of personal injury or property damage; or

"(ii) the information is exempt under the provisions of section 552(b)(1) of title 5, United States Code.

"(B) The Secretary shall ensure that any personally identifiable information, including Social Security account numbers and passport numbers, is removed from any manifest signed, produced, delivered, or electronically transmitted under this section before access to the manifest is provided to the public."

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date that is 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. REICHERT) and the

gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4403, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to speak today in support of H.R. 4403, the Moving Americans Privacy Protection Act, a bipartisan, commonsense bill, authorized by Congressman JEFF DENHAM and gentleman BILL PASCRELL. It was favorably reported out of the Ways and Means Committee by a voice vote last week.

This legislation will help put an end to the inadvertent disclosure of personally identifiable information, such as Social Security numbers and passport numbers that are transmitted on certain shipment documents to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

CBP, as it is called, is required by law to make certain shipment data available to the public, but that information should not include personally identifiable information which may be erroneously included on shipment documents by carriers.

CBP maintains procedures for individuals to request confidential treatment for their personal information, but that process is slow. Plus, individuals probably would not seek confidential treatment if they don't realize that their personal information was included on shipment documents in the first place.

Even if the release of such information is unintended, Federal agencies should not be putting Americans at risk for identity theft, credit card fraud, and unwanted solicitations. We can, and should, do more to protect Americans from such risks and hold Federal agencies accountable.

This legislation would do just that by requiring CBP to ensure that such personal information is no longer disclosed.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman DENHAM and my good friend, Congressman PASCRELL, the ranking member on the Subcommittee on Trade, for introducing this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting this bipartisan bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I speak today in support of the Moving Americans Privacy Protection Act, which would require that U.S. Customs and Border Protection ensures that personally identifiable information is not publicly disclosed during an international household move.

Customs is currently required to adequately protect personally identifiable information that is provided on, among other things, international shipping documents. In order to fulfill this mandate, Customs currently maintains procedures that allow shippers to request confidential treatment of certain information.

However, it can often take Customs several months to make a determination on such a request. Some determinations are not even made until after the information has already been publicly disclosed. That is the problem.

As a result, personally identifiable information has been mistakenly disclosed to the public. This impact has been acutely felt by U.S. civil servants and military personnel, which make up a large percentage of international household moves.

Disclosing this information has increased the risks that individuals may be the victims of identity theft and credit card fraud.

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In my view, the current system at Customs is not working as well as it could or should.

I also do not believe that individuals should bear the burden of making a proactive request to Customs to ensure that their personally identifiable information is not publicly disclosed. We should be able to expect that our government will protect such sensitive information.

This bill is intended to rectify the problems by mandating that Customs put in place a proactive system that will prevent personally identifiable information from being made public.

I call on my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation that has support on both sides of the aisle.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. DENHAM), the coauthor of this legislation.

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman REICHERT of the Subcommittee on Trade for yielding and for his work on this important issue.

Protecting Americans' personally identifiable information has been hotly debated in the Halls of Congress this month. Last week, we debated appropriate limitations on private companies' access, use, and distribution of private data.

This week in the House, we are moving a package of bills to improve the Federal Government's use of Americans' data to ensure that the government is doing everything to keep its citizens safe.

Private companies should not be selling personal information without consent, but unequivocally, the Federal Government should not be selling the personal information of its citizens and armed services members.

I introduced H.R. 4403, the Moving Americans Privacy Protection Act, to

ensure that Federal agencies are taking the necessary extra step of removing Social Security numbers, passport numbers, and ID numbers from shipping information.

Currently, the Customs and Border Protection agency is not taking this step.

In absence of this action, when Americans move internationally, their information may be erroneously made public online.

Representatives from the Department of Defense, Department of State, the DEA, and FBI, and others have heard from their employees on numerous occasions that their information has been found for sale on the internet through the manifest disclosure process.

Annual Department of Defense moves alone are enormous in scope, with roughly 600,000 servicemembers and their families moving every year, of which 200,000 of those are going international.

In 2014 and 2015, the Army's Surface Deployment and Distribution Command issued separate advisories alerting servicemembers to this issue.

We must do a better job of protecting our armed servicemembers who are making a sacrifice to wear the cloth of this great Nation.

I want to be clear that there is merit to shipping and cargo statistics. We need to make them available for economic trend analysis, but that does not mean that we put our citizens and Armed Forces at risk in the process.

The manifest disclosure process should not be repealed. The CBP should be required to remove the sensitive data.

Chairman BRADY and Chairman REICHERT have identified this issue and unanimously reported the bill out of the committee last week. It is good governance and bipartisan legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colead, Congressman PASCRELL, for his work on this bill, and I urge its passage.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time. I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. Speaker, today is tax day, as if you didn't know that, and newly filed FEC reports show that the President's campaign paid his businesses \$150,000 in the first quarter of this year, including \$68,000 to the Trump Hotel in D.C., and \$58,000 for rent.

Lobbyists in foreign governments continue to spend money at these hotels. We have no way of verifying what that income looks like or where it is coming from.

Candidate Trump said on the campaign trail: "My whole life I have been greedy, greedy, greedy. I have grabbed all the money I could get. I am so greedy."

Since the election, we have witnessed not just his own conflicts of self-enrichment at taxpayers' expense, but petty graft from members of his Cabi-

net and his administration, lavish travel on military jets and first-class tickets for personal reasons, and expensive office decorations. Lobbyists have been welcomed into agencies to write their own regulations.

His campaign and White House is filled with the ranks of people who already have pleaded guilty; Michael Flynn, who sold his connections to Russia and Turkish dictators while working for Mr. Trump; and so many other associates and their connections to foreign governments as leverage, and that is potentially a conflict of interest.

Bribery and grift might have a place in a crime family, but it has no place in the Office of the President or in the Congress of the United States, and this Congress has been absolutely derelict and complicit in the unprecedented conflicts of this Presidency.

Since February of 2017, I have been calling on the chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means to request the President's tax returns, which he has the authority to do under section 6103 of the Tax Code. I have called up resolutions. Eighteen times the committee and this House have voted against seeing the President's tax returns. Why?

Why did the President support giving rich people and corporations a giant tax cut? Why is he letting Wall Street and Big Oil write their own rules? Why are his children still running his company? Why has he not divested, as he was told to do by the ethics commissioner?

President Trump seems to have an unhealthy admiration for authoritarian leaders. He seems to have a vision of turning America into an economy and government run by his own greedy and connected circle of oligarchs. But subverting our democracy for personal gain while Congress looks the other way is poisonous to our republic and our democracy and it is an anthem to our values.

Today is tax day, the 452nd day of Mr. Trump's Presidency and the 452nd day this Congress has let him off the hook.

I call on the chairman of Ways and Means to stop delaying and get Mr. Trump's tax returns now, like every other President for the past several decades. The American people demand it. We owe it to our democracy to shed light on his conflicts.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD an article from New York magazine.

[From New York Magazine, April 1, 2018]

501 DAYS IN SWAMPLAND

(By Joy Crane and Nick Tabor, Introduction by David Cay Johnston)

On the day he took the oath of office, Donald Trump delivered two messages about what to expect from his administration. First came the lofty promise of his inaugural address. "The forgotten men and women of our country will be forgotten no longer," he vowed. "For too long, a small group in our nation's capital has reaped the rewards of government while the people have borne the

cost. Washington flourished—but the people did not share in its wealth.”

The second message, which Trump delivered without speaking a word, was aimed at a much smaller, but very rich, audience. As the new president's motorcade left the Capitol, rolling past knots of supporters and protesters, it suddenly stopped three blocks short of the White House. Trump, the First Lady, and the rest of his family got out of their limos and took a three-minute turn in the middle of Pennsylvania Avenue.

This was no random spot. The very first place Trump headed after being sworn in—his true destination all along, in a sense—was the Old Post Office and Clock Tower, which only 12 days before the election had been repurposed as the Trump International Hotel Washington. The elegant granite structure, whose architectural character Trump had promised to preserve, was now besmirched by a gaudy, faux-gold sign bearing his name. The carefully choreographed stop sent a clear signal to the foreign governments, lobbyists, and corporate interests keen on currying favor in Washington.

Oil companies, mining interests, insurance executives, foreign diplomats, and defense contractors all rushed to book their annual conferences at Trump's hotels and resorts, where Cabinet members graciously addressed them. After hiking the nightly rate to \$653—32 percent higher than other local luxury hotels—Trump collected \$2 million in profits from the property during his first three months in office. By last August, the hotel's bar and restaurant had hauled in another \$8 million in revenue. And although Trump has pledged to give away any money his hotels earn from foreign governments, the plan contains a lucrative loophole: Employees at his hotels admit that they make no effort to identify guests who represent other countries, meaning that much of the foreign money spent at Trump's properties flows directly into his own pockets. On March 28, a federal judge allowed a lawsuit to go forward that charges Trump with violating the Constitution by accepting money from foreign governments at his D.C. hotel.

In fact, although Trump refuses to disclose the details of his myriad business operations, he continues to enjoy access to every dime he makes as president. Instead of setting up a blind trust to avoid conflicts of interest, as other presidents have done, Trump put his two grown sons in charge of his more than 500 business entities. His sons regularly brief Trump about how the enterprises are doing. What's more, only 15 days after this “eyes wide open” trust was set up, Trump amended the fine print to allow him to take money out of the operation any time he pleases. The loophole, buried on page 161 of the 166-page form, stipulates that any “net income or principal” can be distributed to Trump “at his request.” Far from putting his wealth in a blind trust, Trump asked the public for its blind trust, effectively sticking his money in a piggy bank in Don Jr.'s room that he is free to raid at any hour of the day or night.

Trump's children are working hard to cash in on his time in office—especially with foreign investors. At taxpayer expense, they have flown to Uruguay, the Dominican Republic, Dubai, and India in search of licensing and real-estate deals, trading on the president's influence in exchange for investments. But the biggest complication of Trump's presidency—and the one he works hardest to keep secret—is the way his entire business operation is mired in massive debt. Rather than being independently wealthy, public records show, Trump and the business partnerships in which he is a leading investor owe big banks and foreign governments at least \$2.3 billion—far more than his disclosure reports indicate. His largest single

loan—for nearly \$1 billion—is from a syndicate assembled by Goldman Sachs that includes the state-owned Bank of China. If either Trump or Jared Kushner, who tried to shake down Qatar's finance minister for a loan, winds up needing to negotiate new terms on his ballooning debt, America could find itself being dictated to by a foreign government—all because the White House, thanks to Trump's business model, has become a true House of Cards.

What follows is 501 days of official corruption, from small-time graft and brazen influence peddling to full-blown raids on the federal Treasury. But as even this initial glimpse makes clear, Trump isn't draining the swamp—he's monetizing it.—David Cay Johnston

#### TRUMP'S HOTEL IN D.C.

2016

12/7 Diplomats from Bahrain move the country's National Day celebration from the Ritz-Carlton to the ballroom at the Trump International Hotel in Washington, D.C.

2017

1/20 A watchdog group calls on the General Services Administration, a federal agency, to stop leasing the Old Post Office to Trump for use as the hotel. The agency's ethics division, which reports to Trump, rules that the \$180 million deal is fine.

1/23 Saudi Arabia holds a bash at the hotel after renting rooms for lobbyists for five months. Trump's haul: \$270,000.

2/25 The Kuwaiti Embassy, reportedly pressured by the Trump Organization, moves its National Day celebration from the Four Seasons to Trump's hotel.

3/1 The National Railroad Construction and Maintenance Association hosts a dinner at the hotel, drenched in Trump-branded coffee and wine.

3/22 The American Petroleum Institute holds its board meeting at Trump's hotel, where it meets with EPA chief Scott Pruitt. A month later, Pruitt suspends drilling regulations.

5/1 Rates at the hotel jump to \$653 per night, a price hike of 60 percent since Trump's election.

5/21 A Turkish government council holds its annual conference at the hotel. The group's chair founded the company that paid \$530,000 to former national-security adviser Michael Flynn for lobbying work.

7/17 E-cigarette-makers hold their annual conference at the hotel. Ten days later, the FDA announces it will delay federal oversight of e-cigarettes until 2022.

8/11 A federal agency accidentally posts the hotel's Q1 profits: \$2 million.

9/13 Staffers for Linda McMahon, head of the Small Business Administration, try to cover up the fact that she addressed a business lobbying event at the hotel, avoiding images of hotel signs bearing Trump's name when posting photos of the event on Twitter.

9/28 The Fund for American Studies, a conservative organization, hosts a lunch at the hotel. The keynote speaker, Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch, thanks Trump's staff for helping him get confirmed.

10/4 At its annual board meeting, the National Mining Association is addressed by three Cabinet members: Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta, and Energy Secretary Rick Perry. “Coal is fighting back,” Perry exults over breakfast with the country's top mining executives. “Clearly the president wants to revive, not revile, this vital resource.” Five days later, the Trump administration announces the repeal of Obama's Clean Power Plan, which would have encouraged states to replace coal with wind and solar energy. The plan would have cut climate-warming pollu-

tion from coal plants by a third and saved taxpayers and consumers as much as \$93 billion a year. The venue for the mining board's meeting: the Trump International Hotel in Washington, D.C.

10/5 A commercial real-estate trade association hosts an awards gala at Trump's hotel, sponsored by a roster of prominent lobbying agents.

10/11 The American Legislative Exchange Council, a powerful conservative lobbying group with ties to the Koch brothers, announces that the venue for its 45th-anniversary gala will be Trump's hotel. The group requests corporate sponsorships of up to \$100,000.

2018

3/5 The Independent Petroleum Association of America holds a three-day lobbying event at the hotel.

3/28 A federal judge declines to stop a lawsuit that accuses Trump of violating the Constitution by accepting money from foreign governments at his hotel.

#### MAR-A-LAGO

“The ornate Jazz Age house was designed with Old-World Spanish, Venetian, and Portuguese influences.”—From a state department promo online

2016

12/31 Mar-a-Lago hosts a New Year's Eve party with Trump, priced at \$525 a ticket. His take for the night: \$400,000.

2017

1/1 The resort quietly doubles its initiation fee to \$200,000—a potential haul of \$2 million. In return, club members get access to the president on a par with White House officials.

4/4 The State Department runs an online promotion for Mar-a-Lago, which is also picked up by embassy websites in England and Albania.

4/6 Trump and Ivanka meet with Chinese president Xi Jinping at Mar-a-Lago. That same day, China approves trademarks for three of Ivanka's brands.

6/16 Financial-disclosure filings show that Trump's revenues from the resort soared by 25 percent during his presidential run.

7/17 The administration increases the allotment of H2-B visas for foreign workers. Within days, Mar-a-Lago applies for 76 of the new visas—even though a local jobs agency has 5,100 applicants qualified to fill the openings.

11/10 The Republican Attorneys General Association, which has spent more than \$75,000 at Trump's properties in five months, holds a reception at Mar-a-Lago. It later forms a “working group” to partner with the Trump administration to roll back environmental protections.

12/9 Oxbow Carbon, a major energy company that would benefit from the Keystone XL pipeline, holds its annual holiday gala at Mar-a-Lago.

12/31 Trump boosts ticket prices for his New Year's Eve bash to \$750. Taxpayers foot the \$26,000 bill for lights, generators, and tent rental.

2018

1/9 The Trump administration opens offshore drilling in all but one state: Florida, where oil and gas exploration could hurt business at Mar-a-Lago.

2/18 Reports reveal that Trump regularly solicits input from Mar-a-Lago members on everything from gun control to Jared Kushner's favorability.

2/26 An Israel-focused charity, the Truth About Israel, relocates its gala to Mar-a-Lago in appreciation of the president's support for Israel.

#### TRUMP'S OTHER PROPERTIES & INVESTMENTS

2016

11/14 In a call with Argentina's president, Mauricio Macri, Trump reportedly pushes for

approval to build a Trump Tower in downtown Buenos Aires Ivanka Trump, who oversees the family business with her brothers, sits in on the call.

2017

1/24 Trump signs an executive order to fast-track the Dakota Access Pipeline. He claims to have sold the stock he owns in the pipeline's builders—as much as \$300,000—but offers no proof.

1/27 Trump issues the travel ban but leaves off Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Egypt—countries where he has significant business interests. His company was paid as much as \$10 million for use of his name on a tower in Istanbul, and he registered eight new businesses in Saudi Arabia during his campaign.

2/3 Trump, who owned as much as \$5 million in bank stocks in 2016, orders the Treasury secretary to consider ways to roll back regulations on banks. The value of bank stocks soars nearly 30 percent during his first year in office.

2/14 Trump, who owned stock in large oil companies, allows oil companies to hide the payments they make to foreign governments in exchange for extraction rights. The move comes only two months after ExxonMobil, which lobbied for the concession, donated \$500,000 to Trump's inauguration.

2/21 Angela Chen, a consultant with ties to China's ruling elite, buys a \$16 million penthouse in a Trump-owned property.

2/28 Trump, who owns 12 golf courses in the U.S., rolls back a rule that limits water pollution by golf courses.

4/29 Overriding diplomatic concerns, Trump invites Philippines president Rodrigo Duterte to the White House. To gain favor with Trump, Duterte had appointed the president's partner on the Trump Tower in Manila as his economic envoy to the U.S.

5/7 The Metals Service Center Institute, which is pushing the Commerce Department for steel tariffs, holds its annual conference at Trump's resort in Miami.

5/16 The Republican Governors Association holds a conference at Trump's golf club in Miami, where members strategize with corporate executives over how to persuade the new administration to dismantle environmental regulations and enact other business-friendly moves. Trump's take for the conference: \$400,000.

5/19 Trump proposes slashing HUD's budget—but retains a subsidy that has poured more than \$490 million into a housing complex in Brooklyn where Trump has a financial stake.

6/16 Lynne Patton, an event planner and friend of the Trump family with no experience in housing, is put in charge of the HUD region covering New York and New Jersey—giving her a senior position in the agency that disburses federal subsidies to a Brooklyn housing complex from which Trump made \$5 million in 2016. (Patton recused herself from matters involving the complex, after a congressional committee sent a letter to HUD.)\*

8/2 Activists protest against JPMorgan Chase, which lobbied to slash the corporate tax rate while paying Trump \$1.5 million a year in rent at one of his office buildings.

9/19 Report reveals that the Pentagon spends \$130,000 a month in rent at Trump Tower—more than twice as much as other tenants.

10/9 Trump International Hotel in Chicago hosts a two-day conference for the manufacturing industry.

10/10 An insurance-industry trade association holds its four-day annual conference at Trump's resort in Miami.

10/16 GEO Group, the nation's largest for-profit prison company, holds its annual conference at the Trump National Doral. The

company poured \$450,000 into Trump's campaign and inauguration after Obama announced plans to end all federal contracts with private prisons. GEO also hired two of Jeff Sessions's former aides, plus a former Trump Organization employee, as lobbyists. The investment paid off: A month after Trump took office, he ended the ban on private prisons. GEO received a \$110 million contract to build a new immigration jail in Texas, plus \$44 million a year to operate it. Earlier this year, the federal Bureau of Prisons announced it would slash some 6,000 jobs and transfer more inmates to private facilities.

10/18 Defense contractor L3 Technologies holds its annual meeting at Trump National Doral. L3 depends on government largesse for 84 percent of its revenue.

10/19 In a break with tradition, Trump personally interviews candidates for U.S. attorney in the districts that cover most of his business dealings. For the New York position, he ultimately chooses one of his campaign donors.

11/7 Trump hawks his golf course during a major speech to South Korea's legislature.

11/8 A payday-lender lobbying group announces it will hold its 2018 annual conference at the Trump National Doral. Two months later, the administration announces it is considering scrapping a rule that requires payday lenders to stop taking advantage of clients who cannot pay off their loans.

2018

1/2 A judge rules that Starrett City, a housing complex in Brooklyn that Trump owns a stake in, can be sold to private developers. The sale is expected to net Trump \$14 million after the administration approves it.\*

2/21 Mississippi awards \$6 million in tax breaks to a new Trump-branded hotel.

#### FAMILY & FRIENDS

"The company and policy and government are completely separated. We have built an unbelievable wall in between the two."—Eric Trump

2016

11/13 While appearing on 60 Minutes to discuss her father's election, Ivanka Trump wears a \$10,800 bracelet from her jewelry company. After the interview, the company sends out a "style alert" promoting the bracelet to reporters.

12/6 Firm founded by Melania Trump's friend and adviser Stephanie Winston Wolkoff receives \$26 million for helping plan the inauguration.

2017

1/5 Eric Trump jets to Uruguay to check on an unfinished Trump condo tower. The trip costs taxpayers \$97,830.

2/5 Eric Trump spends \$200,000 in taxpayer money to jet to the Dominican Republic to push for a Trump-branded project. The deal—which would put Trump's name on 17 high-rises—violates a Dominican height limit for new resorts. It also breaks Trump's vow not to seek overseas deals during his presidency. The Dominican president personally approves the high-rises. "Here in the palace, the president's thoughts are that this U.S. president is angry and we better not get in his way," a former Dominican ambassador explains. "We don't want to cross him."

2/6 Melania's lawyers, suing a British paper for libel, argue its reporting ruined her "once-in-a-lifetime opportunity" to monetize her position as First Lady by cashing in on "multi-million-dollar business relationships."

2/9 Kellyanne Conway offers "free commercial" for Ivanka's clothing line on Fox News. "Go buy it today, everybody." Trump refuses to discipline her, defying recommendation of his own ethics agency.

2/18 Taxpayers pay \$16,000 to provide security for Eric Trump and Donald Jr. during their trip to open a Trump-branded golf course in Dubai. The event is invitation-only.

3/3 Jared Kushner meets with the CEO of Citigroup, which is lobbying to loosen financial regulations. Citigroup subsequently lends Kushner's company \$325 million to develop a group of office buildings in Brooklyn.

3/9 Kushner fails to disclose his ownership of Cadre, a real-estate start-up. The firm's value shot up by millions of dollars after he entered the White House.

3/20 Eric's wife posts a photo on Instagram of the family's weeklong ski vacation in Aspen. Taxpayers were charged \$330,000 for security details and another \$200,000 for luxury lodgings.

3/20 Ivanka, refusing to place her assets in a blind trust, sets up shop in the West Wing.

4/24 Kushner's family tries to broker funding for his real-estate ventures with Qatar's finance minister. The minister declines. A month later, Kushner supports diplomatic actions against Qatar.

5/4 State Department and Voice of America promote Ivanka's book *Women Who Work*.

5/5 Trump extends fast-track visas for foreigners who invest \$500,000 in U.S. properties. The next day, Kushner's sister promises visas to Chinese investors if they put \$500,000 into the family's properties in New Jersey.

5/17 Kushner's company is subpoenaed by federal prosecutors and the SEC for its promotion of the investment-for-visa program.

7/21 CNN finds that even after his family business apologizes for name-dropping Kushner at a marketing event in Beijing, it highlights his White House role in an online sales pitch to Chinese investors.

10/3 Kushner fined \$200 for missing a disclosure deadline. To date, he has been forced to change his disclosure form 39 times for failing to mention potential conflicts of interest.

10/4 ProPublica investigation reveals that after Manhattan DA Cyrus Vance dropped a criminal investigation against Donald Jr. and Ivanka, their attorney arranged a fundraiser on Vance's behalf, donating \$32,000 himself and raising at least \$9,000 more.

11/1 Apollo Global Management lends Kushner's real-estate company \$184 million—triple the size of its average loan—after meeting with him in the White House six weeks later, the SEC drops investigation into Apollo's finances.

12/3 Kushner is exposed for failing to disclose that his family's foundation—which he led for nine years—funded an illegal Israeli settlement on the West Bank. Just before Trump took office, Kushner tried to sway a U.N. vote against an anti-settlement resolution.

2018

2/20 Donald Jr. tours India to sell Trump-branded homes; several newspapers run an ad promising a "conversation and dinner" with him—for an additional fee of \$30,000.

#### OFFICIALS & THEIR PALS

"We are going to send the special interests packing."—Donald Trump

2017

1/19 During his confirmation as Treasury secretary, Steven Mnuchin fails to disclose a hedge fund he registered in the Cayman Islands to avoid paying federal taxes—the very thing he is supposed to collect as Treasury secretary.

1/24 During his confirmation as secretary of Health and Human Services, Tom Price fails to disclose an insider deal he got on \$520,000 in stock in a biotech company. As secretary, he will be in a position to approve a drug the company has developed.

2/9 Reports reveal that a top White House aide, Chris Liddell, participated in meetings between Trump and the CEOs of 18 companies in which he held large amounts of stock—a possible criminal offense. The companies included Lockheed Martin, Walmart, JPMorgan Chase, and Dow Chemical.

3/16 Congressional investigators reveal that Trump's former national-security adviser Michael Flynn—who wanted to “rip up” American sanctions on Russia—failed to report \$45,000 in fees he received from the Russian state media outlet RT.

4/14 The White House stops releasing logs of visitors, concealing trips made by lobbyists and corporate executives. In Trump's first two months alone, by one estimate, more than 500 executives and foreign leaders made unrecorded visits to the White House.

6/29 HUD Secretary Ben Carson tours Baltimore—accompanied by prospective business associates being courted by his son. One administrator on the tour later offers Carson's daughter-in-law a contract worth \$500,000.

11/5 New reports reveal that during his confirmation hearings, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross failed to disclose that a shipping firm he owns a stake in has close ties to Vladimir Putin's son-in-law. His new job puts him in charge of American trade policy with Russia.

12/18 Under pressure from watchdogs, EPA chief Scott Pruitt terminates a \$120,000 contract for a firm he has worked with in the past to dig up information on EPA staffers who had criticized him or his policies.

12/22 “You all just got a lot richer,” Trump tells wealthy patrons at Mar-a-Lago hours after signing a massive tax giveaway to the superrich. The bill saved Trump \$15 million in taxes and Jared Kushner \$12 million. It also enriched much of Trump's inner circle—including Linda McMahon, Betsy DeVos, Steven Mnuchin, and Rex Tillerson.

2018

1/12 Performant Financial is one of only two companies awarded \$400 million in contracts from the Education Department to collect on defaulted student loans. One notable former investor in Performant: Education Secretary Betsy DeVos.

1/31 CDC chief Brenda Fitzgerald is forced to resign over her purchase of stock in one of the world's largest tobacco companies. She bought the shares a month after taking over the agency tasked with reducing tobacco use.

2/1 William Emanuel, a Trump appointee to the National Labor Relations Board, is investigated for a possible ethics violation after he votes on a case involving his former law firm. His tie-breaking vote would have made it harder for employees at franchises like McDonald's to hold their parent companies accountable for labor-law violations, but the decision is thrown out because of his conflict of interest.

3/29 ABC News reports that EPA chief Pruitt spent much of his first year in Washington living in a townhouse co-owned by the wife of J. Steven Hart, a top energy lobbyist. Hart lobbied the EPA on several policies last year, including coal regulations and limits on air pollution.

#### LOBBYIST & OTHER SLEAZE

“We're going to end the government corruption, and we're going to drain the swamp in Washington, D.C.”—Donald Trump

2017

1/17 Scott Mason, a key member of Trump's transition team, returns to lobbying—one of nine transition-team members to violate Trump's pledge that he would bar such revolving-door moves for at least six months. One of Mason's clients, Peabody Energy, later helps dream up a coal-industry bailout promoted by Energy Secretary Rick Perry.

1/23 Trump appoints Jeffrey Wood, a lobbyist for a coal polluter, to prosecute environmental crimes like coal pollution.

2/6 Lauren Maddox, who guided Betsy DeVos through her confirmation process for Education secretary, is hired by a for-profit law school to help restore its access to federal student loans. After paying \$130,000 in lobbying fees, the school gets its wish: The Education Department agrees to reconsider its eligibility for millions in loans.

2/27 Billionaire Carl Icahn, an unpaid adviser to Trump, submits a regulatory proposal that would raise the value of his investment in an oil refinery. During Trump's first six weeks in office, Icahn makes an extra \$60 million on the deal.

4/12 Marcus Peacock, a policy expert in Trump's budget office, takes a job lobbying the budget office for the Business Roundtable, which represents zoo of America's largest corporations. Trump makes no move to enforce the five-year moratorium he vowed to place on such revolving-door moves.

5/19 Trump nominates K. T. McFarland, adviser who once siphoned off \$14,000 in campaign funds for “personal use,” as ambassador to Singapore.

8/1 A top aide to EPA chief Scott Pruitt, who oversees federal grants worth hundreds of millions of dollars, receives permission to work as a consultant for private clients. Despite his influence over public policy, the identities of his clients will be kept secret.

8/15 Two Trump campaign operatives register a new lobbying firm, Turnberry Solutions, named after the Scottish town where Trump owns a golf club. Its first client, Elio Motors, hires it to help obtain government handouts.

10/17 Whitefish Energy, a Montana firm that employed the son of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, is awarded \$300 million in a no-bid federal contract to restore storm-battered Puerto Rico.

10/26 Trump nominates J. Steven Gardner, a coal-industry consultant, to oversee enforcement of strip-mining regulations. The Senate winds up rejecting the nomination.

11/8 Kirstjen Nielsen, Trump's pick to head the Department of Homeland Security, was guided through her confirmation by a lobbyist whose clients compete for DHS contracts. Privatizing the “sherpa” role in confirmations—work long performed by government staffers—opens up a brazen new frontier in corruption. The lobbyist, Thad Binge, oversaw the drafting of official policy memos and was included on emails between the DHS and the White House, enabling him to exploit internal information for private gain. Among Binge's clients is an Israeli defense contractor being paid \$145 million by DHS to build part of Trump's “virtual wall” along the Mexican border.

12/6 A photographer at the Department of Energy is fired after leaking a photo that shows Rick Perry receiving a confidential “action plan” from a coal magnate in March. The plan is a blueprint for the coal-industry bailout that Perry announced in September.

2018

1/12 Trump gives Kenneth Allen, a former mining executive who still profits from coal sales to the Tennessee Valley Authority, a seat on the TVA board.

1/29 Alex Azar, a former lobbyist who worked his way up to the presidency of a drug company, is sworn in as secretary of Health and Human Services. Azar, whose company hiked the price of insulin and other drugs under his watch, is now in charge of making drugs more affordable.

2/12 Carl Icahn, who served as an unpaid adviser to Trump, sells \$30 million in steel stocks just before Trump announces tariffs on steel imports.

2/18 Dina Powell, who advised Trump on foreign policy, returns to Goldman Sachs only two months after leaving the White House. At Goldman, she will focus on “enhancing the firm's relationships” with some of the same foreign governments she advised Trump on.

3/2 Trump nominates Peter Wright, an attorney for Dow Chemical, to lead the EPA's regulation of chemical spills. Dow has 100 polluted sites that Wright would be in charge of cleaning up.

PETTY GRAFT

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2/28 The State Department spends \$15,000 in taxpayer money for the grand opening of a Trump hotel in Vancouver, an event attended by Eric, Tiffany, and Donald Jr.

4/14 Trump jets to Mar-a-Lago via Air Force One at a cost to taxpayers of \$142,380 per hour. For years, Trump heckled President Obama for taking vacations and golfing trips at government expense. If elected, he vowed, he would “rarely leave the White House, because there's so much work to be done.” In fact, during his first three months in office, Trump's taxpayer-funded flights to his private properties exceeded \$20 million—on track to quickly surpass the amount Obama spent on travel during his eight years in office. Trump made more than 90 visits to his golf courses and played almost twice as much golf as Obama. His family joined in, requiring Secret Service agents to rack up an extra 4,054 days of taxpayer-funded travel to keep up.

5/16 Rick Perry and his staffers take a private Jet to a small-business forum in Kansas City, at a cost to taxpayers of \$35,000, rather than taking a nonstop flight to the airport 45 minutes away from the event.

6/2 David Shulkin's chief of staff falsifies an email to suggest that the VA secretary needed to travel to Europe to receive an award. Shulkin's 11-day trip with his wife, most of which was devoted to sightseeing, cost taxpayers \$122,344.

6/7 Scott Pruitt, the EPA chief, spends \$36,000 in taxpayer money to take a military plane to New York.

6/24 Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin marries Louise Linton and requests a military plane for their honeymoon to Europe—at a cost to taxpayers of \$25,000 per hour.

6/26 Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke spends \$12,375 in taxpayer money to fly home aboard a private flight from Las Vegas, where he hung out with a hockey team owned by his biggest campaign donor.

7/7 Zinke uses \$6,250 in taxpayer money for a helicopter flight from Virginia to Washington, D.C.—a three-hour car ride—for a horse-riding date with Mike Pence.

8/4 HHS Secretary Tom Price takes a private jet at taxpayer expense to St. Simons Island, an exclusive resort where he owns land. The trip, like many of the 26 flights Price took on corporate jets, could have been accomplished with a routine commercial flight.

8/21 Mnuchin and his wife travel to Kentucky aboard a government plane, at a cost to taxpayers of \$33,000, to watch the solar eclipse.

8/30 EPA chief Pruitt spends \$43,000 to build a soundproof phone booth in his office, enabling him to hold secret conversations with lobbyists and corporate executives. The Government Accountability Office is investigating whether the move violated agency spending rules.

9/29 HHS Secretary Price is forced to resign over the nearly \$1 million in taxpayer money he spent taking military planes and private jets, often to visit family and friends.

2018

2/27 HUD Secretary Ben Carson spends \$196,000 on a dinette set and lounge furniture,

exceeding the \$5,000 legal limit for office improvements.

3/7 Zinke spends \$139,000 to renovate his office doors at Interior.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, while I respect my good friend's right to voice his opinion and I respect the fact that he shared that information with us, I am disappointed, however, that he chose this moment to make those comments.

This is a bipartisan bill. In fact, last week, in the Ways and Means Committee, the information and the comments shared by members on both sides of the aisle were ideas that were shared that were bipartisan in nature. The bill was talked about in a positive way, and it was my hope today that we could have that same congeniality on the floor today rather than take a left turn into the land of the President's taxes, because today we are talking about Americans and the need to protect their identity, and I think that is what Americans want to hear, is how is Congress able to help them today.

So from this side of the aisle today, Mr. Speaker, we are focused on just that. We are focused on passing H.R. 4403, the Moving Americans Privacy Protection Act.

It is a straightforward, common-sense, and once again I will say it, bipartisan, unusual in this day and age, but true in this case.

It puts an end to the inadvertent disclosure of personally identifiable information contained on shipment documents to CBP and holds the agency accountable.

The American people want to know that we are doing this kind of work.

This is a good piece of legislation that protects their identification, and helps the CBP and Congress by giving the language to Congress to hold the CBP accountable.

We are committed to providing legislative solutions that help protect Americans from having their identities stolen, and this bill does just that.

I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting this bipartisan bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. REICHERT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4403, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

# REQUIRING NOTICE FROM SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY IN CASE OF A TAXPAYER ASSISTANCE CENTER CLOSURE

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5440) to require notice from the Secretary of the Treasury in the case of any closure of a Taxpayer Assistance Center, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5440

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

## SECTION 1. NOTICE FROM IRS REGARDING CLOSURE OF TAXPAYER ASSISTANCE CENTERS.

Not later than 90 days before the date that a proposed closure of a Taxpayer Assistance Center would take effect, the Secretary of the Treasury (or the Secretary's delegate) shall—

(1) make publicly available (including by non-electronic means) a notice which—

(A) identifies the Taxpayer Assistance Center proposed for closure and the date of such proposed closure, and

(B) identifies the relevant alternative sources of taxpayer assistance which may be utilized by taxpayers affected by such proposed closure, and

(2) submit to Congress a written report that includes—

(A) the information included in the notice described in paragraph (1),

(B) the reasons for such proposed closure, and

(C) such other information as the Secretary may determine appropriate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Kansas.

### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 5440, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Kansas?

There was no objection.

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, Taxpayer Assistance Centers, or TACs, are taxpayer service facilities operated by the IRS across the country. In 2017, more than 350 TAC locations provided face-to-face services to more than 3.2 million taxpayers.

TACs can assist taxpayers in making payments, answering questions about their account, and other services. These offices provide valuable services for taxpayers to assist them in fulfilling their tax responsibilities. TAC employees are often the only face taxpayers see in their routine interactions with the IRS.

As the IRS has moved more services online, the agency has made numerous

changes to the operations of TACs. Last year, all TACs nationwide moved to an appointment system that drastically cut down on wait times.

H.R. 5440 provides important improvements and transparency for the millions of taxpayers who visit TACs every year. This important bill ensures that impacted communities are provided at least 90 days notice prior to the closure of a TAC.

Late last year, the TAC in Huntsville, Alabama, closed suddenly. This closure created problems for taxpayers right at the start of filing season.

□ 1330

Local taxpayers did not know that the office had closed, with some driving 50 miles to the TAC, only to find a sign on the door directing them to another office 70 miles away. As you can imagine, this can be incredibly disruptive for all taxpayers, but particularly those in rural areas. Fortunately, last month, the office recently reopened, albeit at significantly reduced hours.

The requisite 90 days' advance public notice under this bill is required to be both through online means, but also nonelectronic means as well. This can be accomplished through the use of local news or radio, posting notice at the local library, or other methods. This notice must provide information on alternative ways for taxpayers to obtain assistance.

Today, ensuring the IRS can address the needs of taxpayers wherever they are is critically important, while the IRS needs flexibility to allocate scarce resources. This bill marks an important step to providing transparency for those impacted.

I would like to thank my colleagues, Congresswoman KAREN HANDEL and Congressman TOM O'HALLERAN, for their time and attention on this important issue.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as we recognize tax day today, it is fitting that we advance a bill that recognizes Taxpayer Assistance Centers are the primary face of the Internal Revenue Service in local communities.

H.R. 5440 was jointly introduced by Representative KAREN HANDEL from Georgia and Representative TOM O'HALLERAN from Arizona. It simply requires public and congressional notification prior to any closures of these critical centers.

Taxpayer Assistance Centers, or TACs, provide in-person help to taxpayers on a wide range of issues, including making payments, resolving questions, and authenticating identity. They are IRS employees who know the law and provide high-caliber assistance locally.

In fiscal year 2017, TACs served approximately 3.2 million taxpayers, down from 4.3 million served the prior