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Congressman Al Green Responds to Leader Nancy Pelosi's Impeachment Comments



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U.S., China launch trade talks to avert tariff war, economic damage

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The United States and China launch a second round of trade talks on Thursday to try to avert a damaging tariff war, with the Trump administration demanding a \$200 billion cut in China's U.S. trade surplus and greater protections for intellectual property.

U.S. President Donald Trump has threatened to impose up to \$150 billion in punitive tariffs to combat what he says is Beijing's misappropriation of U.S. technology through joint venture requirements and other policies. Beijing has threatened equal retaliation, including tariffs on some of its largest U.S. imports, including aircraft, soybeans and autos.

At talks in Beijing two weeks ago, both sides presented lengthy lists of demands, agreeing only to keep talking. The Trump administration sought a \$200 billion reduction in China's \$375 billion U.S. goods trade surplus, an end to joint venture requirements that it says coerce technology transfers from American companies and an end to subsidies for advanced technology industries under the "Made in China" 2025 program.

China demanded that Trump relax crushing restrictions imposed on Chinese telecommunications equipment maker ZTE Corp (000063.SZ)(0763.HK), and end restrictions on Chinese investments in the United States and sales of high-technology goods to China.

Trump on Sunday wrote on Twitter he would help put ZTE back in business after a Commerce Department ban cut off its supply of U.S. components, forcing it to suspend operations. In tweets on Wednesday, Trump linked ZTE's situation to a larger trade deal and said that Beijing has "much to give" Washington on trade, denying suggestions his administration was "folding" in negotiations with China.

"Nothing has happened with ZTE except as it pertains to the larger trade deal," Trump wrote on Twitter.

Top White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow told Fox Business Network on Thursday the discussion over ZTE



Container trucks drive past the container area at the Yangshan Deep Water Port, part of the newly announced Shanghai Free Trade Zone, south of Shanghai

was about re-examining the U.S. penalties, not waiving the enforcement action altogether.

"We have not seen China's demands yet, which should be few in that previous U.S. Administrations have done so poorly in negotiating," Trump wrote. "The U.S. has very little to give, because it has given so much over the years. China has much to give!"

Kudlow, in his interview with Fox, said the White House expected China to bring a proposal to the talks that would "extend the conversation and permit additional negotiations."

The discussions get underway with some drama as the White House's harshest China critic, Trump trade adviser Peter Na-

varro, was relegated to a supporting role amid a growing rift with U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin. Navarro will be present at the meetings, but the White House said they would be led by Mnuchin, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross and U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer. The Chinese side will be led by Vice Premier Liu He, the top economic adviser to Chinese President Xi Jinping. Navarro, author of the book "Death by China," has been a major advocate of punitive tariffs on Chinese goods. He attended the initial talks in Beijing but had an angry exchange with Mnuchin on the trip, a person familiar with the episode said.

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Applications for the Fall 2018 session at the HCC Alief Hayes Campus are being accepted until May 24, 2018. For more information, call us at (713) 718-8348 or visit us at www.hccs.edu/10ks-mallbiz.



Congressman Al Green Responds to Leader Nancy Pelosi's Impeachment Comments

(Houston, TX)— Congressman Al Green released the following statement regarding comments made by Leader Nancy Pelosi in the Dallas Morning News: "I take today's actions because I love my country and will not allow bigotry, translated into policy, emanating from the presidency to be trivialized as the President 'being a jerk.' "The May 11, 2018 edition of the Dallas Morning News quoted Leader Pelosi as

follows: 'We have elections. Go vote if it's a policy thing and a behavior thing. I don't know if you can get impeached for being a jerk, but if we did, this guy would be long gone. But that's not unifying.' "Reducing President Trump's hateful, harmful, bigoted policies to his "being a jerk"'



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Editor's Choice



A F15 is refuelled by a U.S Air Force KC-135 during a European Tanker Symposium from RAF Mildenhall



U.S. President Trump speaks to reporters as he meets with NATO Secretary General Stoltenberg at the White House in Washington



71st Cannes Film Festival - The amfAR's Cinema Against AIDS 2018 event - Arrivals - Antibes, France, May 17, 2018. Petra Nemcova takes a selfie as she arrives. REUTERS/Stephane Mahe



FILE PHOTO: A waiter carries glasses of beer during the opening day of Oktoberfest in Munich GERMANY-TRIAL/BEER



FILE PHOTO: Anti-establishment 5-Star Movement leader Luigi Di Maio gestures during a news conference at the Foreign Press Club in Rome



Royal fans wear masks of Britain's Prince Harry and Meghan Markle in Windsor



Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks to the Economic Club of New York



71st Cannes Film Festival - Screening of the film "Capernaum" (Capernaum) in competition - Red Carpet Arrivals - Cannes, France, May 17, 2018. A guest poses. REUTERS/Jean-Paul Pelissier



FILE PHOTO: Baby elephants play at the David Sheldrick Elephant Orphanage in the Nairobi National Park, near Nairobi

HOUSTON [April 19, 2018] – “Business of Diversity: Spotlight on Houston”, a 30-minute TV special featuring HCC Chancellor Cesar Maldonado and others, will aired Saturday, April 21 at 11:30 a.m. on KIAH-TV Channel 39, the CW Network.

The show looked at how some of the most prominent organizations in Houston address diversity and inclusion from a business standpoint. Chancellor Maldonado, Shell Oil External Relations Country Manager Marti Powers, H-E-B Diversity and Inclusion and Supplier Diversity Director James Harris and Greater Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau Vice President and CEO John Rolfe will appear alongside Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner to give insight on the topic.

“The Business of Diversity: Spotlight on Houston” is part of the City of Houston’s Diversity Month celebration. Misty Blue Media CEO Misty Starks and public relations veteran Phyllis J. Bailey are the executive producers. Former KHOU-TV morning news anchor Lily Jang is the show’s host.



With 2.3 million residents, Houston is the nation’s fourth largest city. Its residents speak 145 languages, and there are more than 10,000 restaurants representing over 70 countries. Houston was named America’s most diverse city in 2017, with Fort Bend County being the most diverse county in the nation. The Bayou City is also home to the second highest number of Fortune 1000 companies.

Visit businessofdiversity.com for video update of the show.



HCC Chancellor Maldonado Discussed Importance Of Diversity On Channel 39

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



HCC Chancellor Maldonado being interviewed on Channel 39.

About HCC

Houston Community College (HCC) is composed of 15 Centers of Excellence and numerous satellite centers that serve the diverse communities in the Greater Houston area by preparing individuals to live and work in an increasingly international and technological society. HCC is one of the country’s largest singly-accredited, open-admission, community colleges offering associate degrees, certificates, workforce training, and lifelong learning opportunities. To learn more, visit www.hccs.edu.



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Senators, almost all Democrats, voted 52 to 47 Wednesday for the reinstatement of "net neutrality" rules that were undone by the Federal Communications Commission in December 2017.

Democrats already seemed to have the votes to successfully restore the internet regulations, but Republican Sens. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska and John Kennedy of Louisiana put it over the top. Murkowski voted against classifying the internet as a Title II utility rather than a Title I — the crux of the net neutrality argument — in 2009, but has changed her tune as evident by her vote.

After initially having to vote Wednesday to move forward for debate, which passed narrowly 52-47, Senate Democratic leaders were able to muster enough "ayes" to overturn the FCC's more recent repeal of rules previously mandated under a different FCC makeup known as the Open Internet Order. That part of the legislative course was expected, however, the rest of the path forward for Massachusetts Democratic Sen. Edward Markey's Congressional Review Act (CRA) resolution is inauspicious to say the least, as its prospects for survival in the House and the president's desk is very unlikely.

The CRA is a legislative maneuver that allows for an official disapproval of a decision mandated by a federal agency with just a simple majority. Democrats (including two Independents) had been campaigning for one more Republican to join their fellow party member Sen. Susan Collins of Maine and the coalition to tip the scale to 51 of the 100 Senators required. Despite the lack of any concessions, they didn't need 51 because of Republican Sen. John McCain of Arizona's absence, leading some to believe they may have taken advantage of the veteran lawmaker's poor health. Nevertheless, McCain's unavailability didn't ultimately matter.



Control of the internet will go back into the hands of the federal government if the Senate's measure passes the House of Representatives.

Proponents of the CRA resolution say the 2015 rules are necessary for ensuring that broadband companies don't throttle or block internet access, nor splice such services into different tiers of payment.

"The internet should be kept free and open like our highways, accessible and affordable to every American, regardless of ability to pay," said Senate

U.S. Senate Successfully Votes To Reinstate Net Neutrality Rules— Measure Now Moves To The House

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



WASHINGTON, DC - MAY 15 (L-R) Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer (D-NY) and Sen. Greg Peters (D-MI) prepare to talk to reporters following the weekly Senate Democratic policy luncheon at the U.S. Capitol May 15, 2018 in Washington, DC. (Photo/Getty Images)

Minority Leader Chuck Schumer in a statement, echoing recent statements made on the floor. "The repeal of net neutrality is not only a blow to the average consumer, but it is a blow to public schools, rural Americans, communities of color and small businesses."

Despite such assertions, Democrats also know that regardless of the probability that Markey's bill won't go any further, it's key for galvanizing voters ahead of the 2018 midterm and 2020 elections — especially since it's a debate that has grown into hysterical proportions. Democratic Sen. Brian Schatz of Hawaii has said as much, stating that "it's really important for those of us who care about net neutrality to mobilize for 2018."

Petitioning the FCC and educating "friends via social media" is also important, "but in a representative democracy, the way to get policy changes is through elections," the legislator continued.

Schumer used his political stature to do so once again during the opening remarks of the deliberation.

"I would urge Americans, average Americans, young people, old people, everyone in between, small businesses, e-mail, call, write, visit your senator on the Republican side and urge them to preserve net neutrality," Schumer appealed. "It's only right. It's only fair, and it makes economic sense." (Courtesy dailycaller.com)

Related

"A Sweeping Act Of Deregulation"

In December 2017, the FCC Voted To Repeal Its Net Neutrality Rules



In a December 2017 ruling, the FCC voted to repeal its net neutrality rules – the idea that Internet service providers can't block or favor websites. This ruling was overturned by a vote in the U.S. Senate on May 15, 2018, that would effectively reinstate the federal government's Net Neutrality Rules. The measure will now move to the House of Representatives for a vote there.

Federal regulators voted in December 2017 to allow Internet providers to speed up service for websites they favor — and block or slow down others — in a decision repealing landmark Obama-era regulations overseeing broadband companies such as AT&T and Verizon. This move was struck down on Tuesday, May 15, 2018, when the U.S.

Senate successfully voted to reinstate the federal government's Net Neutrality Rules

The move by the Federal Communications Commission in 2017 to deregulate the telecom and cable industries was a prominent example of the policy shifts taking place in Washington under President Trump and a major setback for consumer groups, tech companies and Democrats who had lobbied heavily against the decision.

The 3-2 vote last December, which was along party lines, enabled the FCC's Republican chairman, Ajit Pai, to follow through on his promise to repeal the government's 2015 net neutrality rules, which required Internet providers to treat all websites, large and small, equally. The agency also rejected some of its own authority over the broadband industry in a bid to stymie future FCC officials who might seek to reverse the Republican-led ruling.



The result was a redrawing of the FCC's oversight powers, at a time of rapid transformation in the media and technology sectors.

The vote also cast a spotlight on Pai, once a little-known regulator, who has become one of the faces of deregulation in the Trump era. On the eve of the vote, Pai released a video that featured him dressed as Santa, wielding a lightsaber and clutching a fidget spinner to defend his decision to repeal the net neutrality rules and mock his critics.

"Within a generation, we have gone from email as the killer app to high-definition video streaming," Pai said Thursday, just before the vote. "Entrepreneurs and innovators guided the Internet far better than the heavy hand of government ever could have."

Consumers might not feel the effects of this decision right away. But eventually they could begin to see packages and pricing schemes that would steer them toward some content over others, critics of the FCC's vote argued.

For example, under the Obama-era rules, Verizon was not allowed to favor Yahoo and AOL, which it owns, by blocking Google or charging the search giant extra fees to connect to customers. Under the new rules, that type of behavior would be legal, as long as Verizon disclosed it.



Holiday wreath at the front door of the FCC in December 2017.

"You and I and everyone else who uses the Internet for personal use will see some changes in pricing models," wrote Glenn O'Donnell, an industry analyst at the research firm Forrester, in an email. "For most of us, I expect we will pay more. Service bundles (e.g., social media package, streaming video package) will likely be bolted on to basic transport for things like web surfing and email."

"For the last decade, we've been on a regulatory roller coaster," said Jack Nadler, a partner at the law firm Squire Patton Boggs. "We are likely looking at two or three more years of uncertainty. And then there is the 2020 presidential election, which could lead to yet another policy upheaval."

The FCC's decision eclipses what would have been considered middle-of-the-road conservative positions just a decade ago, said Jeffrey Blumenfeld, co-chair of the antitrust and trade regulation practice at the law firm Lowenstein Sandler.

"What we're seeing now is a dramatic change not just from the Obama administration, but even from the prior Republican administration," said Blumenfeld. (Courtesy <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article>)



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