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Castle-like mansion in Southlake, Texas going to auction



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House panel chairman gives IRS April 23 deadline on Trump taxes

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. congressional Democrats on Saturday headed for a showdown with the Internal Revenue Service over President Donald Trump's tax returns, setting a new hard deadline of April 23 for the federal tax agency to hand the documents over to lawmakers. In an April 13 letter that appeared to move Democrats closer to a federal court battle against the Trump administration, House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Richard Neal warned the IRS that failure to comply with his request for six years of Trump's individual and business returns by April 23 would be interpreted as a denial. The Trump administration has already missed an initial April 10 deadline for obtaining the tax records, which Neal first set when he made his request on April 3. Democrats based their request on the panel's jurisdiction over IRS enforcement of the tax laws against U.S. presidents. As Ways and Means chairman, Neal is the only lawmaker in the House of Representatives authorized to request individual tax information under a federal law that says that the Treasury, which oversees the IRS, "shall furnish" the data. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said he has consulted with the White House and Department of Justice about Trump's tax returns and raised questions about the scope of the committee's authority. Republicans have condemned the request as an overreach that could "weaponize" confidential taxpayer data, while the White House has said the documents will "never" be turned over.

"Those concerns lack merit. Moreover, judicial precedent commands that none of the concerns raised can legitimately be used to deny the committee's request," Neal told IRS Commissioner Charles Rettig in the letter.



FILE PHOTO: U.S. President Donald Trump talks to reporters as he departs for travel to Texas from the White House in Washington, U.S., April 10, 2019. REUTERS/Kevin Lamarque

Pelosi slams Trump over attack on Muslim congresswoman using 9/11 images

(Reuters) - U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi criticized President Donald Trump on Saturday for a Twitter post that used 9/11 imagery while suggesting Democratic congresswoman Ilhan Omar, a Muslim, was dismissive of the New York attacks. "The memory of 9/11 is sacred ground, and any discussion of it must be done with reverence," Pelosi said in a statement posted on Twitter. "The President shouldn't use the painful images of 9/11 for a political attack." On Friday, Trump tweeted a video suggesting that Omar, a Democratic U.S. representative from Minnesota, was dismissive of the Sept. 11 attacks. The video spliced news footage of 9/11 with a clip from a speech Omar gave last month in which she described the terror attack as "some people did something." The Trump tweet included the words "WE WILL NEVER FORGET!" In Omar's speech, given to a Muslim civil rights and advocacy group, she said Muslims had "lived with the discomfort of being a second-class citizen and, frankly, I'm tired of it, and every single Muslim in this country should be tired of it." Omar said the advocacy group recognized that "some people did something and that all of us were starting to lose access to our civil liberties."



House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) addresses the North America's Building Trades Unions (NABTU) 2019 legislative conference in Washington, U.S., April 9, 2019. REUTERS/Jeenah Moon

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Global finance officials say risks to growth skewed to downside

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Global financial officials on Saturday said risks to worldwide economic growth were "tilted to the downside" due to factors such as trade tensions, policy uncertainty and the sudden tightening of financial conditions.

Central bank governors and other global finance officials sit for a group photo at the IMF and World Bank's 2019 Annual Spring Meetings, in Washington, April 13, 2019. REUTERS/James Lawler Duggan

The higher risks are presenting themselves against a backdrop of limited policy space, historically high debt levels and heightened financial vulnerabilities, officials said in the joint communique of the International Monetary Fund's steering committee.

The statement from the International Monetary and Financial Committee, or IMFC, was released at the spring meetings of the IMF and World Bank in Washington. Earlier this week, the IMF cut its global growth outlook for the third time in six months.

IMF chief calls for central bank accountability, communication

The world economy will likely grow 3.3 percent this year, the slowest expansion since 2016 and 0.2 percentage points below the global lender's estimate from January.

The IMFC urged the world's central banks to form monetary policy aimed at ensuring that inflation remains on track toward targets and that expectations for price increases remain anchored. "Central bank decisions need to remain well communicated and data-dependent," it said.

The committee also said fiscal policy should be

flexible and growth-friendly, but should be mindful of debt sustainability.

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Growth is projected to firm up in 2020, it said.

In Europe, many of the global factors weighing on growth appear to be waning, keeping alive expectations for a recovery in the second half of the year, European Central Bank President Mario Draghi said.

But he also warned that factors that undermine confidence, including the risk of a hard Brexit and a global trade war, continue to "loom large," putting growth at risk.

Elevated trade tensions have been a central talking point at the IMF and World Bank meetings this week and have been widely cited as a primary driver behind the weakening of the global economy.

Earlier, China took a swipe at U.S. President Donald Trump's "America First" policies that have sparked a trade dispute between the world's two largest economies, including tit-for-tat tariffs on hundreds of billions of dollars of goods.

"The protectionism of some countries has harmed mutual trust among countries, limited the scope for multilateral cooperation, and impeded the willingness to achieve it," Chen Yulu, a vice governor at the People's Bank of China (PBOC), said in a statement to the IMFC.



Central bank governors and other global finance officials sit for a group photo at the IMF and World Bank's 2019 Annual Spring Meetings, in Washington, April 13, 2019. REUTERS/James Lawler Duggan

"Unilateralism and protectionism can only exacerbate domestic imbalances and impair necessary structural adjustments, which can negatively affect the countries concerned as well as global growth," he said.



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Editor's Choice



An Armed Forces of Malta patrol boat carrying migrants who were stranded on the German NGO Sea-Eye migrant rescue ship Alan Kurdi arrives at its base in Marsamxett Harbour



Family members and relatives chant slogans during a protest to condemn the yesterday's blast at vegetable market, in Quetta,



Ice Hockey - 2019 Women's IIHF World Championship



Demonstrators protest against Serbia's President Aleksandar Vucic and his government, in Belgrade



People participate in the "Via Crucis" re-enactment in preparation for Good Friday celebrations in Luque



Demonstrators protest against Serbia's President Aleksandar Vucic and his government, in Belgrade



Soccer Football - Premier League - Fulham v Everton - Craven Cottage, London, Britain - April 13, 2019 Fulham fans REUTERS/Ian Walton EDITORIAL



Super Lig - Besiktas v Istanbul Basaksehir F.K.

The Titanic II Will Set Sail In 2022 And Follow The Original Voyage Plans From 1912

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

You will officially be able to set sail aboard the Titanic II in 2022! The official replica of the original ship will be setting off for its two-week maiden voyage in 2022 and will follow the original 1912 voyage plans. The ship will feature the same exact cabin layout and will sail from Dubai to Southampton, England and then to New York. This means it will be embarking on the same North Atlantic route which brought many original Titanic passengers to their death on April 12th, 1912.

Construction of the replica ship only recently resumed after a financial dispute that held up the \$500 million project for a few years. The replica will carry about 2,400 passengers (almost the same amount as the original ship) and, to many passengers' relief, it will have modern navigation and safety features aboard.



Titanic – 1912 from the original video footage / YouTube

After the maiden voyage is complete (and let's hope this time it actually gets complete) the Titanic II will embark on other global routes. Blue Line chairman Clive Palmer has opened up about the other possible routes the ship may take on.

"The ship will follow the original journey, carrying passengers from Southampton to New York, but she will also circumnavigate the globe, inspiring and enchanting people while attracting unrivaled attention, intrigue and mystery in every port she visits," Palmer said in an interview with MSN.



Titanic – 1912 from the original video footage / YouTube



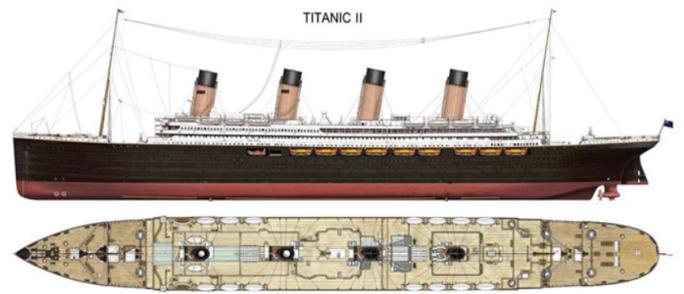
The original project was suspended for years due to Palmer's flagship company 'being in dispute with Chinese Government owned Citic Limited over the non-payment of hundreds of millions of dollars of royalties owed to Palmer companies', according to the Blue Star Line website.

"Citic Limited was just exporting millions of dollars of Mineralogy resources and refusing to pay for them," Palmer stated on the financial situation.

sparked a great deal of mystery, debate, and conspiracies over the last several decades. Some of the major myths and legends include the ship originally being regarded as 'unsinkable' due to the White Star Line previously declaring her as such. The safety features onboard were highly emphasized and it was heavily publicized that sinking accidents were highly unlikely.



Additionally, in 1936, a radio operator named Gordon Cosgrave claimed to have received long-delayed echo SOS messages from the Titanic 24 years after they were sent out. One of the more famous stories is that of the Titanic ship's band and their final tune ironically being "Nearer, My God, to Thee". More information here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=STnELo90K5o



The original Titanic ship of 1912 has (Courtesy doyouremember.com)

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The President Chose To Sign His Energy Executive Orders In Texas

Trump Signs Executive Orders To Boost Energy Industry

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



President Donald Trump signs executive orders (Photo on left) and displays one of two executive orders he signed at the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) International Training Center, Wednesday, April 10, 2019, in Crosby (Photo on right).

Amid cheers and applause, President Donald Trump on Wednesday signed a pair of executive orders designed to boost the oil and gas industry. Speaking at the International Union of Operating Engineers training center in Crosby, Trump told a crowd of roughly 300 people that the “era of job-killing regulations is over.”

The two orders were drafted to help with pipeline construction from New England to the Mexico border.



President Donald Trump speaks to IUOE members at the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) International Training Center, 905 Foley Rd. in Crosby, Texas, Wednesday, April 10, 2019.

Trump was greeted by thousands of supporters who lined the streets of Crosby to catch a glimpse of him and his motorcade. Trump landed shortly before 3 p.m. at Ellington Joint Reserve Base, where he was welcomed by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott.

“With the help of the people in this room, the United States is now the number one producer of oil and gas in the world,” Trump said. After the signing, Trump was in route to a private fundraiser at the Lone Star Flight Museum in southeast Houston.



President Donald Trump (photo on bottom) speaks at the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) International Training Center Wednesday, as crowds greet him with cheers, April 10, 2019 in Crosby.

Related

Trump to order EPA to review pipeline permitting, amid state blockades



U.S. President Donald Trump at a rally in Grand Rapids, Michigan last month. Trump went to Houston Wednesday, where he signed executive orders aimed at speeding pipeline construction.

WASHINGTON - President Donald Trump is signed an executive order directing EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler to review the agency’s permitting processes to speed up the construction of natural gas pipelines, a senior White House official said.

The president signed that and another order streamlining permitting for cross-border infrastructure projects such as the Keystone XL pipeline during a visit to Houston Wednesday, where the president he spoke at the International Union of Operating Engineers International Training and Education Center in Crosby.

The order will direct staff at the Environmental Protection Agency to review the regulatory language by which states are granted authority over pipeline projects under the Clean Water Act, which limits activities that might pollute U.S. waterways, according to

the official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe internal White House conversations.



“We’re not trying to take away power from the states, but we’re making sure their actions comply with the law,” the White House official said.

The action on pipelines is part of a sprawling executive order addressing the nation’s energy infrastructure, as Trump seeks to expand what he likes to call “American energy dominance.”

Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao will be directed to find ways to ease the transportation of LNG by rail tank cars. The Departments of Agriculture, Commerce and Interior will need to review utilities’ ability to construct power lines across private land.



Pipeline protest during the Obama administration.

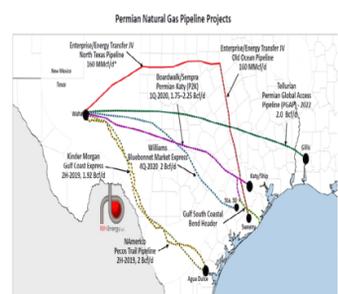
With climate change forecasts by scientists growing increasingly dire, Trump is fighting against a growing concern among

Americans about the risks of continued greenhouse gas emissions. Fossil fuels such as oil, coal and natural gas are major sources of those emissions.

Environmental activists have taken to the nation’s courthouses to block pipelines and other infrastructure aiding the transportation of fossil fuels.

“This executive order is nothing but an attempt to trample people’s rights to protect their air, water, and climate from polluting oil and gas pipelines,” Rachel Rye Butler, a campaigner with Greenpeace said in a statement Monday, following early reports of Trump’s plans.

The delays have riled pipeline executives, who have urged Trump to assert federal authority over interstate pipelines.



Texas Pipeline Map

In February, Dan Dinges, CEO of the Houston energy company Cabot Oil and Gas, criticized the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for not doing more to get pipeline construction moving. Cabot is a partner in one delayed pipeline through New York. In January the Western Governors’ Association wrote a letter to Trump, warning him that any move to reduce state authority under the Clean Water Act would “inflict serious harm to the division of state and federal authorities established by Congress.”

“We urge you to direct federal agencies to reject any changes to agency rules, guidance, or policy that may diminish, impair, or subordinate states’ well-established sovereign and statutory authorities to protect water quality within their boundaries,” the letter read. (Courtesy chron.com)

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