

KING Television

January 1, 2017 through March 31, 2017

Quarterly Programming Providing the
Most Significant Treatment of Community Issues

1st QUARTER 2017

Special Programs

Community

KING 5 News Special Best Investigative Stories

01/01/17 9:00-10:00pm

A look back at last year's best stories from the award-winning KING 5 News Investigators unit.

Urban Gardening with Ciscoe

01/02/17 1:30-2:00pm

Amid booming population and construction in Seattle, gardening guru Ciscoe Morris explores the Emerald City's focus on green space.

KING 5 Inauguration Special (Live)

01/20/17 7:30-8:00pm

KING 5 highlights the inauguration events of Donald Trump, the 45th President of the United States.

KING 5 Healthlink Special "Health Innovations Impacting Kids Worldwide"

01/26/17 7:30-8:00pm

02/18/17 7:30-8:00pm (re-broadcast)

Seattle Children's is a leading medical facility in the Northwest, helping children in countless ways. It is also on the forefront of medical research, helping children around the globe. In this special program, hosts Amity Addrissi and Jean Enersen will showcase several new medical techniques and treatments that are making a difference. Including a special device helping infants with palate deformities receive proper nutrition; See how immunotherapy is helping treat cancer, and potentially other diseases such

as lupus and diabetes; Meet two pediatric neurogeneticists from Seattle Children's who are unlocking new information about the Zika virus and microcephaly. We will also take a closer look at a new type of diet developed at Seattle Children's that is showing success for kids with IBD.

KING 5 News Special "Prisoners in Their Own Land"

02/18/17 7:00-7:30pm

A KING 5 News half hour special titled "Prisoners in Their Own Land - Return to Minidoka" marked the 75th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066 and how it has affected people here in Western Washington ever since. It capped five days of news stories aired in the 6:30 and 10 p.m. newscasts showing the historic effects of the order in Western Washington. EO 9066 authorized the forced removal and incarceration without due process of 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast during World War II (13,000 from Washington State). We talk to survivors of the Minidoka Concentration Camp as they return to Idaho on a pilgrimage. We also recount what happened to folks when they returned from camp, their fight for redress, their courage as soldiers and resisters and lessons learned.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Major PSA Campaigns

The following list represents those campaigns KING 5 took on as official community partnerships. The airtime was donated and in most cases, production of the spot was donated by KING 5 Television:

- Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Walk 106 spots \$22,260 value
- March of Dimes/March for Babies 4 spots \$ 840 value

The Leukemia/Lymphoma Society “Big Climb”

A dedicated group of eight KING 5 staff participated in the annual “Big Climb” of the Columbia Center in downtown Seattle. The event raises money and awareness of blood cancers. The group was the tenth largest fundraising group with a total of \$9,565.

'NEW DAY NORTHWEST' Issues and Programs Report

1st QUARTER, 2017

JANUARY THROUGH MARCH

All segments are in-studio and average 7:00 total running time

HEALTH

Explanation of King County's new restaurant safety ratings, 1-18-2017

Prenatal genetic testing with a reproductive endocrinologist, 1-25-2017

ARTS

Kindie rockers Recess Monkey performs live, talks about recent first Grammy nomination, 1-19-2017

Def Jam alt-rock singer/songwriter Troi Irons performs, 3-2-2017

SENIORS

Changing careers after fifty and finding fulfillment, 2-14-2017

New non-surgical therapies for peripheral neuropathy, 2-22-2017

CHILDREN-FAMILIES

The art of puppeteering for families, 1-10-2017

Mental health and resilience for babies and children, breakthrough research about recovering from adverse childhood events, 1-11-2017

ENVIRONMENT

Wildlife sanctuary birds from an Arlington care center, how we can preserve and nurture the environment to keep the birds healthy and thriving, 1-5-2017

African violets and using organic fertilizer with gardening guru Ciscoe Morris, 1-9-2017

EDUCATION

A new anthology of writings about politics by teens from across the country, 1-18-2017

Motivational speaker and author Dwayne Bryant talks about 'intelligent peacekeeping,' teaching young people to deescalate encounters with one another, police, and community, 1-30-2017

TRANSPORTATION

Why we have so much traffic, and how to navigate it through technology, with the Seattle Transportation blog, 3-1-2017

'EVENING' Issues and Programs Report

1st QUARTER 2017

JANUARY THROUGH MARCH

Stories about: HEALTH, ARTS, ANIMALS, ENVIRONMENT, SENIORS, EDUCATION, CHILDREN/FAMILIES, TRANSPORTATION

January 2017

1/4/17 Parkinson's Boxing 2:30

1/4/17 Young Dog Photog 2:00

1/4/17 Youth Rescue 1:30

1/5/17 YSL Exhibit 1:30

1/6/17 Cascadia Art Museum 2:20

1/9/17 Puget Sound Goat Rescue 2:30

1/11/17 Autistic Actor 2:35

1/11/17 Fences, August Wilson 2:00

1/11/17 Monster Truck Twins 2:40

1/11/17 Woven Light Artist 1:30

1/12/17 National Geographic Photography exhibit 2:00

1/17/17 Botanical Artist 2:00

1/17/17 Motorcycle Light Jacket 2:10

1/18/17 Painting Horse 2:25

1/18/17 Sherwood Press 2:40

1/19/17 Fitness Blender 2:45

1/19/17 Sled Dogs 2:00

1/24/19 King and I 1:30

1/27/17 Dog Food Truck 2:00

1/30/17 Fishing Lure Kid 1:30

1/31/17 Children's Film Festival Pacer 1:00

February 2017

2/1/17 Seattle Museum Month 2:00
2/2/17 Pet Rescue Pot Grower 2:50
2/3/17 Pug Photog 1:50
2/6/17 Apartment Chickens 2:10
2/7/17 Port Townsend Autistic Cheerleader 2:50
2/10/17 Salt Water Spa 2:00
2/10/17 Field Trip Friday: Trampolines 2/10/17
2/14/17 Broth Bar 2:00
2/16/17 Giant Pen Artist 1:40
2/20/17 IV Hangover Cure 2:40
2/10/17 Octopus Release 1:30
2/13/17 Dare Dever Aerialist 2:00
2/27/17 Cirque Luzia #1 2:00

March 2017

3/1/17 Cirque Luzia #2 2:30
3/1/17 Girl Scout Cookie Fashions 2:25
3/2/17 Cirque Luzia #3 1:30
3/3/17 Cirque Luzia #4
3/3/17 Seattle Bike Show 1:30
3/6/17 Infant Massage 2:00
3/6/17 Melodic Caring Project :45
3/7/17 Divine Ammunition Exhibit 1:30
3/7/17 Tacoma Graffiti Artist 2:15
3/7/17 Baby Otters :45
3/8/17 Obedience Pig 2:34
3/13/17 Goose Dog 2:30
3/13/17 Small Talk #1 2:00

March 2017 (Continued)

- 3/15/17 Youtube Fashion Twins 2:35
- 3/16/17 Blue Thunder Callbacks 2:40
- 3/17/17 Seattle Children's Cast Artist 2:45
- 3/20/17 Bunnies for Birthdays 2:00
- 3/21/17 Dean Wong Photog. 2:30
- 3/21/17 Ugly Baby Shower Art
- 3/22/17 Start it Up: Health Special 30:00
- 3/23/17 Truffle Hunters 3:00
- 3/24/17 Moisture Festival Acrobats 2:30
- 3/24/17 Polar Bear Photog 1:30
- 3/27/17 Cirque Luzia Puppeteers 2:00
- 3/28/17 Drawnk 2:30
- 3/29/17 Mushroom Artist 2:34
- 3/30/17 Cat Cosplay 2:00
- 3/30/17 Lego Photographer 1:50
- 3/31/17 Cirque Luzia Costumes 2:00
- 3/31/17 24 Hour Comic Book Challenge

KING5 NEWS Issues and Programs Report
1st QUARTER 2017

JANUARY THROUGH MARCH

EDUCATION

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 1/14/17, 2:37

An Everett mother who couldn't find a school to suit her son's needs opened her own. She thought students would flock to the school, but only a handful have. Unless the school gets about \$50,000 dollars in donations or a few more students in the coming weeks the school may have to close for good.

Morning KING 5 News, 3/4/17, 1:20

The students at White Center Elementary School are offered a free nutritious breakfast in the first 15 minutes of their day. The results have been that the students are able to focus on the subjects and are not complaining about being hungry.

KING 5 News at 4:00PM, 3/5/17, 1: 20

Dozens of Washington's top CEO's and education leaders are pressuring lawmakers to pay for computer classes in our schools.

It is predicted that 20,000 new jobs in our state will require computer science knowledge.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 3/14/17, 2:00

Seattle University hold a class for 500 middle school girls from all over the state of Washington in science, math and engineering. The program is called expanding your horizons and introduces the young women to education and career opportunities in these fields.

KING 5 News at 6:30PM, 3/24/17, 4:45

Increasing numbers of studies show that freeway pollutants can have harmful effects on people up to 500 feet from the roadway. This is especially a concern for students who attend schools that are close to freeways. A UW pediatric health specialist says kids with higher traffic exposure have more respiratory infections, they miss school and their parents have to miss work to take care of them.

Morning KING 5 News, 3/25/17, 2:30

The state has upgraded the standard GED test for the first time in about a decade. The education leaders say that this new higher standard sets people up to be successful after they have their GED in hand and ultimately that is what this is about.

SENIOR CITIZENS

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 1/27/17, 1:35

The Meals on Wheels organization is delivering emergency survival gear to the elderly. They are given enough supplies to make it for three days.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 1/30/17, 2:16

Engineers at Florida University are coming up with ideas to turn homes into “smart” residences for seniors. To allow the elderly a comfortable living environment such things as doors, hallways and entry ways must be oversized. The AARP has a website that is devoted on tips on turning a regular home into a “smart house”.

HEALTH

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 1/2/17, 2:15

News research shows you should be eating more dark leafy

greens. Kale is one example of vegetable that contain more than 100 percent of vitamins a, c and k to improve bone health and skin elasticity.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 1/2/17, 1:49

The yearly warning to remind folks that carbon monoxide monitors must be placed in specific places in your house in order to work properly and save you from the toxic fumes.

Morning KING 5 News, 1/5/17, 1:10

A flu outbreak in our state has claimed the lives of seven people.

Although this year’s vaccine is not exactly targeting the strain that is going around, it can certainly make illness less severe. Doctors are still advising that you get a flu shot.

Morning KING 5 News, 1/6/17, 2:20

The state has banned so-called „warehousing“ of mentally ill patients in regular hospitals because there was no room in treatment facilities. The state mental health care facilities are now able to keep people from suffering on the street and being a harm to themselves or others.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 1/6/17, 2:46

To determine whether your child may be dyslexic check the signs. Make sure they have no trouble rhyming or have difficulty learning the alphabet or don't like to read.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 1/7/17, 2:05

Researchers are attempting to develop a vaccine for Malaria using mosquito venom.

Morning KING 5 News, 1/7/17, 1:40

Marijuana has been used effectively in children to eliminate or at least control seizures.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 1/8/17, 1:37

Hip resurfacing is a procedure that leaves the patient's own normal bone and just places a metal surface over the cap of it, sort of like capping a tooth. One year after the operation, patients who had resurfacing were less likely to limp, had less thigh pain and were able to return to impact sports.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 1/9/17, 1:51

Researchers have found that stroke patients can improve the functions they have lost by playing video games.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 1/12/17, 1:36

For those suffering from peripheral artery disease or pad, a narrowing of the arteries in the leg there is new hope. A drug coated balloon not only opens the artery but also delivers a chemotherapy drug directly the vessel wall to prevent scar tissue. Unlike stents, which can twist and break in the leg, this procedure can be done over and over again.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 1/13/17, 1:46

A wet wrap therapy seems to help some patients that have eczema. First, soak in a lukewarm bath for about 20 minutes, then apply lotion or medicated cream to the skin surface and cover with wet cloths

with a dry layer of clothing on top. Stay in this cocoon-like state for two hours. This process may be repeated several times a day.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 1/14/17, 2:04

Apostherapy was developed in Israel in the 1990's with the goal to retrain the brain and muscles to walk in a way that takes pressure off painful areas. It doesn't require specific exercises, instead custom mechanical pods are placed on the bottom of shoes to re-align the patient's knees, hips and back. Patients swear by the results they experience.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 1/15/17, 2:26

Migraine sufferers are turning to therapy for help in controlling their pain. Therapy does not necessarily cure migraines but it can help patients identify and avoid patterns and triggers. It also helps patients deal with the stress of having so much pain which can migraines to get worse.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 1/15/17, 1:15

Some senior care facilities are taking extra precautions is shielding their patients from the spread of the flu. Meals are now served in their rooms as opposed to the dining areas.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 1/16/17, 1:37

National surveys tell us that people that exercise drink as much or more than people that don't exercise. Binge drinking soon after an intense workout can have a negative effect on muscle recovery.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 1/19/17, 1:51

More evidence that even if we workout, sitting around the rest of the time puts our health at risk. A study shows that sitting time was associated with a higher risk of all causes of mortality, heart disease mortality, cancer mortality and diabetes, independent of exercise.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM 1/20/17, 2:48

When a baby does not respond to CPR a seamless transition to life support ECMO is next. Doctors and Children's hospital have a very expensive real-life doll to practice this procedure over and over so the team is ready when the real crisis arises.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 1/20/17, 2:02

Seattle Fire Stations are being tested for the MERSA virus. Because the virus has been found not only at the stations but also affecting the firemen themselves, rules are being changed on equipment decontamination and placement when returning from runs.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 1/21/17, 2:57

The Virginia Mason Hospital has discovered that one of its medical instruments was infected with the superbug C-R-E. There have been eleven patients that have died and the cause of their death may be the superbug C-R-E.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 1/23/17, 1:54

You can lose weight by doing yoga exercises.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 1/25/17, 2:20

Studies are showing that the group of people that most desperately need the HPV vaccine are children and teenagers.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 1/28/17, 1:50

A doctor has come up with a way for men to find out their risk for both low and high grade prostate cancer by entering some information into an online calculator for free.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 1/29/17, 1:58

Being treated with steroids for certain medical conditions can increase the odds of developing osteoporosis. To prevent this condition doctors supplementing with Vitamin D, calcium and regular weight-bearing exercise.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 2/2/17, 1:51

Researchers are working on a device that when placed on a deaf person's tongue allows them to process sound.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM 2/3/17, 1:58

In non-alcoholic fatty liver disease the liver becomes swollen with fat. The condition is on the rise in children. The overwhelming proven therapy for this whether it is a child we're talking about or an adult is healthy weight loss.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 2/4/17, 1:11

People who have been vaccinated for measles between 1957 and 1971 have a new way to find out whether they have enough antibodies to avoid getting the disease. A simple blood test can be taken and the results are back within three to five days.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 2/5/15, 1:42

There is research being done on a pill that will burn body fat and reduce cholesterol. Fexaramine doesn't dissolve into the blood stream creating less side effects like hearts issues for example. If the drug passes all of the tests it may be available in about seven years.

KING 5 News at 4:00PM, 2/9/17, 3:30

Dr. Wendy Sue Swanson, the Mama doc, discusses measles and the importance of getting vaccinated.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 2/9/17, 2:04

Studies have now found that the vast majority of people who are put on statins, about 75 percent of them, are not put on them because they have vascular disease, but because they have risk factors. Those factors can be reduced by eating a Mediterranean diet, exercising, reducing stress, maintaining a normal weight and not smoking.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 2/9/17, 1:40

Technicians in the Kineta Biotech lab in Seattle are not seeking a vaccine that can address a multitude of viruses, they are developing a drug that lets your body defeat them all. This anti-viral drug acts like an antibiotic. It is a drug you can take after you get sick to get better faster, a drug that doesn't depend on vaccines but can enhance them. A drug that makes your system stronger.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 2/10/17, 1:48

More than 150 thousand Americans suffer from chronic severe heart failure. There are only about 2,100 donor hearts available each year, so L-VADS remain an important treatment option. The LOVAD relieves symptoms such as being constantly tired or short of breath. It also lets the heart recover function by giving it a chance to rest.

Morning KING 5 News, 2/11/17, 3:00

Dr. Wendy Sue Swanson, the Mama doc, answers the most asked questions about vaccinating your children against diseases.

KING 5 News at 4:00PM, 2/11/17, 1:01

People come to Vashon Island to escape the mainstream of the mainland. It's a place where folks prefer a more natural way of life especially when it comes to medicine.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 2/11/17, 4:00

Representative June Robinson of Everett and Representative Joe Schmick of Colfax discuss a bill in the legislature that would no longer allow parents to exempt their children from vaccines for personal reasons. Nearly 20 percent of the school age children are not vaccinated against measles, among the highest in the state.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 2/11/17, 2:14

Winter allergy season has arrived. If you have cold like symptoms that have lasted longer than seven days you may be allergic to dust mites, molds or pet dander.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 2/12/17, 1:47

The current measles outbreak is causing quite a discussion about the importance of vaccines. The vaccine hesitant population is very different from vaccine refusing. Being hesitant boils down to one thing, the fear of the unknown. The hope is that people can allow their logic to bring them to a place where they can see that their decision, like many other decisions ends up affecting an entire population.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 2/13/17, 2:20

A dietician says eating more colorful vegetables and along with eating less of the processed food that harms our health is a way to prevent type 2 diabetes. Processed meats include hot dogs and deli meats should be avoided along with white bread, white flour, white pasta, pastries and baked goods.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 2/16/17, 1:53

Foods to eat to avoid the flu should contain vitamin a – c – d and e. Also look for foods with zinc, which include most of your proteins and grains. In addition focus on probiotics such as yogurt. It contains a bacteria that fights away the bad germs in your body.

KING 5 News at 4:00 & 5:00PM, 2/17/17, 1:15

The Clallam County Health Department has asked that the students at Olympic Christian School that have not been vaccinated for measles say home for the next ten days. This in response to the outbreak of that disease in that county.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 2/17/17, 1:44

Children with conditions that force them to stay in the hospital for long periods of time can be helped by the aid of the “virtual rock star”. A music therapist sets the stage and enables the patients to star in their own rock video. This helps with respiration, the deep breathing through singing and the dancing, more movement which is great for the body.

4PM KING 5 News, 2/18/17, 1:30

Now that Lent is upon us we are reminded of the healthy ways to fast.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 2/19/17, 2:10

According to the American Society of Plastic Surgeons there has been a 310 percent increase in men getting Botox injections compared to a decade ago.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 2/20/17, 2:30

Pregnancy can create pain in the low back area, sciatica, neck and head. That pain is caused by the hormone relaxing ligaments while muscles in the body tighten. The first line of defense is a pregnancy-specific adjustment, making sure the pelvis is completely aligned. Next is a series of exercises to stretch and strengthen worn ligaments and muscles. That is followed by muscle relaxation on a hydrobed and then a pregnancy massage.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 2/22/17, 2:18

For those allergic to peanuts, wearing a peanut patch over a long period of time can be the way to eventually rid the body of the life-threatening effects of the nut. The patch has a peanut substance on one side that is in direct contact with the skin and it is changed every day. Early test results show that after time the patient can tolerate small amounts of peanuts. This is considered a breakthrough.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 2/23/17, 2:15

The UW Medical is now using CT scanners that emit less radiation than the old models at least 60 to 80 percent less. The new scanner is especially beneficial to those who need multiple scans and for younger patients.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 2/24/17, 2:40

It is not just calcium but vitamin D that helps make bones. From the day you're born until you're 35 you make more bones than you dissolve and from 35 on, you dissolve more bone than you make. Not getting enough Vitamin D has also implicated a number of other health issues including multiple sclerosis, heart disease, diabetes, some cancers and memory loss.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 2/25/17, 1:58

A new battery powered headband called the Celfaly is a device that applies electrical stimulation to certain nerves across the forehead. Over time this repeated stimulation of the nerves makes them less likely to send the signals that generate migraine headaches.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 2/26/17, 1:63

Soup broth made from beef, pork and poultry bones with a little cider vinegar which helps pull out a little extra collagen and produces extra flavor are becoming very popular. Enthusiasts say it helps muscle, stomach and skin health.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 2/27/17, 1:48

There is a new electric wheelchair on the market that is designed for off-road use. It is equipped with a gun rack and a fishing pole holder.

Morning KING 5 News, 3/2/17, 3:00

Dr. Emily Cooper talks about why diets don't work, primarily they wind up impacting your metabolism which throws your hormones out of whack and ends up, often, having the opposite effect to what is intended. That's why you so often gain the weight right back and more.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 3/2/17, 2:15

Scientists at Northeastern University have discovered an antibiotic that looks to be effective at killing deadly pathogens like MRSA and tuberculosis. Even more promising is that those pathogens weren't able to develop a resistance to the antibiotic.

Morning KING 5 News, 3/3/17, 1:30

Obesity is not considered a medical disease. We need to understand that this is a complex condition and diets and exercise don't solve it for the majority of people and in fact often make it worse according to Dr. Emily Cooper.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 3/3/17, 1:40

Bellingham Washington is considered the thinnest city because the majority of their population is in the normal weight range. Reason for this include the wide range of athletic activities that the area provides and the abundance of grocers focusing on healthy living.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 3/3/17, 2:15

While coffee, drugs and alcohol can be considered as addictions, other things can be thought of as soft addictions. A case in point would be compulsive habits such as exercise and the obsession over each point lost.

Morning KING 5 News, 3/4/17, 1:40

Dr. Emily Cooper explains why fad diets can sometimes cause weight gain instead of weight loss.

Morning KING 5 News, 3/5/17, 3:00

Dr. Emily Cooper on sleep and its effects on metabolism.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 3/6/17, 2:40

Some foods just have bad reputations eggs and potatoes are two examples. There was never a study that showed that an egg yolk raised cholesterol levels. Potatoes may be starch heavy but they also contain a lot of nutritious elements.

KING 5 News at 4:00PM, 3/6/17, 1:30

The Washington State Legislature is considering a bill that would allow persons without a dental background to handle non-dental part of the practices. Some dentist's fear that this law might allow corporations to dictate what procedures dentists could use on their patients.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 3/6/17, 1:40

Rounding the week of stories on obesity, Dr. Emily Cooper reveals the best ways to take off that excess weight.

KING 5 News at 6:30PM, 3/6/17, 2:02

Team Fatties – a group of people who are not just overweight, they are men and women who are just flabby, some are battling illness, other have eating disorders. But they are all getting healthier, bettering themselves and with the support that has eluded them for so long. Feeding and strengthening their spirits is one goal of this group.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 3/6/17, 1:55

The American Heart Association says if you set a goal of dropping 10-percent of your body weight, for most that's 15 to 25 pounds you are strengthening your heart. By losing just that amount, blood pressure decreases by five millimeters. This reduces your heart attack risk by 25 percent.

KING 5 News at 4:00PM, 3/9/17, 2:30

The antibiotic Levaquin is the brand name for a drug called levofloxacin. The drug caused tendinopathy and peripheral neuropathy, in other words nerve damage. The FDA's own stats show that 1200 people have died and nearly 100 thousand have had side effects from this drug.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 3/10/17, 2:10

Adults who don't sleep well get groggy during the daytime; kids have the opposite reaction, so are more likely to be misdiagnosed. There's a huge diagnostic overlap between children who have sleep difficulties with ADHD, so that child may be mislabeled as having ADHD.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 3/11/17, 2:00

In this state it is now legal to use medical marijuana to treat post- traumatic stress disorder.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 3/11/17, 2:00

Near death experiences typically occur during times of crisis, including near drowning, surgery or severe illness. They all seem to share the same elements. Things like having a sense of being lifted out of your body, feeling extreme peace and seeing deceased relatives. Researchers believe that near death experiences occur when a person's consciousness or awareness separates from their physical body.

Morning KING 5 News, 3/12/17, 2:30

A new documentary focuses on a project that assists those suffering from PTSD. Too many of our veterans deal with homelessness, substance abuse, domestic violence issues and depression and they don't know that there is a solution. This program outlines ways these individuals can get the help they need.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 3/12/17, 2:00

A person dealing with schizophrenia can suffer from hallucinations and hearing voices in their heads. After a patient has been diagnosed with the condition it is important that he receives medication and therapy. The next step in the recovery process involves an app on the patient's cell phone that allows a physician to monitor patients with psychosis and to contact that person if there is any sign of trouble.

KING 5 News at 6:30PM, 3/12/17, 2:30

Huskies for Suicide Prevention and Awareness is a student run group focused on reducing stigma, providing resources and helping peers with stress management and mental illness.

KING 5 News at 4:00PM, 3/13/17, 1:16

Tumwater school district is expanding the physical education program by providing classes in bicycle riding. The hope is that the students will develop the habit of using this mode of transportation not only to and from the school but also other adventures.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 3/16/17, 2:00

A recent study reveals mastectomy rates for early cancers are on the rise. Experts aren't sure why but one reason may be that women are getting more breast M-R-I's.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 3/17/17, 1:35

A doctor is leading a study looking at how children with autism spectrum disorder play and interact with typically developing kids. They need to understand what things help them to interact but also what things are getting in the way of being able to play with others. To test this, researchers took saliva samples with kids with A-S-D to measure the stress hormone cortisol. The higher the cortisol means the less motivated the child is to play with the other kids.

KING 5 News at 5:0PM, 3/18/17, 1:35

Some people dealing with sleep apnea and have given up on the C-PAP mask which pushes air into the airways by using high pressure. The Inspire is an implantable device that can sense when a sleeping person stops breathing at the same time it sends a signal to the battery to stimulate the tongue to move it forward so that the patient is able to continue to breathe normally.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 3/19/17, 1:45

Some people don't like that effect of muscle aches when taking a cholesterol reducing statin drug. Not comes an alternative treatment called P-C-S-K-9 inhibitors. This drug blocks the action of a key protein in the body. That protein is called P-C-S-K-9, which allows the liver to clear cholesterol from the blood and the cholesterol levels drop in the blood

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 3/20/17, 2:00

Bodybuilders and other athletes are turning to breast milk to enhance their physique.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 3/23/17, 1:50

A new tool has been developed to assist doctor performing brain surgery. It is called surgical theater; a 3-D imaging technique that allows the surgeon to look deep inside the brain before surgery to see the problem areas much better than he will even see them during surgery. With this information he can plan a road map for the procedure.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM 3/24/17, 2:10

Recent research show female athletes get just many, if not more, concussions as males. Doctors are still trying to figure out why girls are more susceptible, it could be hormones, weaker neck muscles or simply they are more likely to report the condition.

ENVIRONMENT/ANIMALS

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 2/11/17, 1:57

Scientists are tracking the wolverine population beginning near the Canadian border and finding that the animals are thriving and growing in our state as far south as Cle Elum.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 3/6/17, 1:40

Acidic water eats holes in shellfish. For shellfish larvae, they'll die if they can't form a shell. There is a contest of sorts pitting 16 teams against each other to create a cheap instrument to measure acid levels around the world.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 3/26/17, 1:45

Blurs and halos in vision are signs of cataracts, which occur when the lens gets cloudy. There is a new lens that can be used that will give the patients both near and distance vision.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 3/27/17, 1:54

The University of Rochester is now testing a pill form of a vaccine for the HIV virus. Doctors say this approach has the potential to protect against multiple types of H-I-V with no shots.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 3/30/17, 2:00

Heart patients can now have an implantable device that monitors the condition of the heart, wirelessly sending data from their home to a doctor. This will allow the patients to stay out of the hospital and potentially reduce visits to the clinic so that they can spend more time at home.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 3/31/17, 2:20

A rare autoimmune disease called Scleroderma is a skin disease that causes the skin to harden. In children, it can be a big issue because children are still growing so that hard skin can prevent normal development of their limbs and can prevent normal development of their joints. There is no known cure and doctors do not know what causes it.

CHILDREN /YOUTH/FAMILIES

Morning KING 5 News, 1/4/17, 4:57

Pierce County opens the Youth and Young Adult Crisis Center and Emergency Shelter. A recent study has shown that nearly 500 youth and young adult are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

Morning KING 5 News, 1/7/17, 1:40

Marijuana has been used effectively in children to eliminate or at least control seizures.

KING 5 News at 4:00PM, 2/11/17, 1:35

The Coupeville Elementary school “lunch ladies” check the students on every Friday to make sure that have enough to eat on the weekend. The Meals 2 Kids program delivers food packs containing breakfast, lunch, snacks, drinks and fruit to teachers who discreetly distribute them to the kids when they head home on Friday afternoon. They gave away more than 12,000 of them last year alone.

KING 5 News at 6:30PM, 2/17/17, 4:01

There are more than 32,000 homeless children who manage to attend school in Washington. That is an increase of more than 50% in just 5 years. A bill in the legislature would allow 15 grants of half a million dollars each to connect school districts with homeless housing.

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 3/4/17, 1:50

Parents should never tell children to clean their plate but allow them to decide with their body it full. There should also be no good or bad foods. Just because a food may be loaded with fat and sugar doesn't be you can't every eat it, the child should be taught that you eat those foods in moderation.

Morning KING 5 News, 3/26/17, 3:30

The Seattle School District has released the results of the health survey for middle and high school students. Indication are that some students are using certain drugs more and fewer kids are having sex.

ECONOMY

KING 5 News at 5:00PM, 1/8/17, 1:47

A recent study has found that Washington State's outdoor recreation industry generates over 200 thousand jobs and about 21 billion dollars to our economy.

KING 5 News at 6:00PM, 1/8/17, 1:50

The Northwest Multiple Listing Service reports prices of Homes in the Tacoma area have increased nearly 10 percent over the past year. That amount is almost double the increase compared to neighboring King and Thurston counties.

2017 1ST QUARTER MEET THE PRESS TOPICS

Chuck Todd is NBC News Political Director and the moderator of "Meet the Press," the flagship Sunday Morning public affairs program and longest-running broadcast in television history.

"Meet the Press" is seen on the NBC Television Network from 9-10 a.m. ET in most markets. In New York City and Washington D.C., the broadcast is seen from 10:30-11:30 a.m. ET.

The program re-airs on MSNBC Sunday afternoons at 2 p.m. ET/11 a.m. PT and again at 2 a.m. ET/11 p.m. PT and 4 a.m. ET/1 a.m. PT Monday. At these times, "Meet The Press" will also air on SIRIUS channel 90 and XM channel 120.

Please check local listings or the "Meet the Press" website (<http://www.nbcnews.com/meet-the-press>) for television and radio broadcast times in your area or to get transcripts of the show. Follow us on Twitter @MeetThePress and @NBCNewsPR.

TRUMP AND THE MEDIA – THIS SUNDAY ON A SPECIAL EDITION OF “MEET THE PRESS WITH CHUCK TODD”

HOW THEIR PAPERS COVERED PRESIDENT-ELECT DONALD TRUMP & THE FUTURE OF JOURNALISM

Gerard Baker

Editor-in-Chief, The Wall Street Journal

Dean Bacquet

Executive Editor, The New York Times

—

HOW THE OVAL OFFICE WILL HANDLE THE MEDIA

Ari Flesicher

Former White House Press Secretary to President George W. Bush; President, Ari Flesicher Communications

Joe Lockhart

Former White House Press Secretary to President Bill Clinton; Executive Vice President of Communications, National Football League

Nicolle Wallace

Former Director of Communications to President George W. Bush; NBC News Political Analyst and Author, “Madam President”

—

REPORTING ON PRESIDENT-ELECT DONALD TRUMP

Claire Atkinson

Media Reporter, The New York Post

Hal Boedeker

Television Critic, Orlando Sentinel

David Folkenflik

Media Correspondent, NPR; Author, “Murdoch’s World”

Gabe Sherman

National Affairs Editor, New York Magazine; Author, “The Loudest Voice in the Room”

—

PLUS:

Insights from NBC News 2016 Campaign Embeds

MTP EXCLUSIVES: GRAHAM: AGENCIES LOOKING INTO POSSIBLE MOSCOW/CAMPAIGN COORDINATION; CARTER ON FLORIDA SHOOTER/PTSD: “MENTAL WOUNDS ARE VERY REAL”

EXCLUSIVE: Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.): “Tillerson's relationship with Putin personally and Russia has raised concerns with me” EXCLUSIVE: Defense Sec. Ash Carter: In Syria and Iraq, Russia hasn’t “done anything against ISIL... Virtually zero” Kellyanne Conway: Russia “did not succeed” in disrupting American democracy

Jan. 8, 2016 -- “I believe that it’s happening,” said **Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.)** in an exclusive interview with “Meet the Press moderator Chuck Todd when asked if there are still active investigations to determine coordination between Moscow and President-elect Trump’s presidential campaign.

Sen. Graham was joined by **Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz)**; both are members of the Armed Services Committee and toured the Baltic States over the holidays.

Ahead of Tillerson's confirmation hearing this week, Sen. McCain told Todd that he still has doubts when it comes to Trump's State Department pick: "Tillerson's relationship with Putin personally and Russia has raised concerns with me. I met with him. I still have additional questions." Sen. Graham added: "Mr. Tillerson's got to convince me and I think other members of the body that he sees Russia as a disruptive force, that he sees Putin as undermining democracy all over the world, not just in our back yard." Watch the full exclusive interview with both senators: <http://nbcnews.to/2iS2saL>.

U.S. Secretary of Defense Ash Carter also exclusively joined this morning's network broadcast, reacting to Friday's tragic Ft. Lauderdale shooting: "It matters a great deal to me that we take care of wounded warriors. And the mental wounds are very real." He addressed Russia's role in eliminating ISIS in Syria and Iraq, characterizing their efforts as "virtually zero." Watch his full interview: <http://nbcnews.to/2iS3uDN>.

Kellyanne Conway, counselor to President-elect Trump, told Todd that Russia "did not succeed" in interfering with American democracy, adding "There is no evidence that Russia succeeded in any alleged attempt to disrupt this democracy or in fact to influence the election results." Watch her full interview: <http://nbcnews.to/2iS2mzV>.

Also joining the show for insight and analysis were **David Brooks** of The New York Times, former Maryland Rep. **Donna Edwards**, NBC News' **Andrea Mitchell** and CNBC's **Rick Santelli**.

Tune in to MSNBC's "MTP Daily" weekdays at 5 p.m. ET, and [sign up for NBC News' "First Read" newsletter](#) for more insight from Chuck Todd throughout the week.

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###

Full transcript of the program is below; other videos from this morning's network broadcast include:

- Graham: Anyone Celebrating Russian Interference is a 'Political Hack' <http://nbcnews.to/2iSbp3Q>
- Graham: Trump 'Should Make Russia Pay a Price' <http://nbcnews.to/2iI4ijk>
- McCain on Tillerson Nomination: Concerns Remain, But 'I Feel Better' <http://nbcnews.to/2iS5tbc>
- McCain on Obama's Legacy <http://nbcnews.to/2iRSEzD>
- On Fort Lauderdale Shooter, Defense Sec. Says We Need to Learn More <http://nbcnews.to/2iS4vvA>
- Data Download: The Challenge of Repealing Obamacare Without Replacement <http://nbcnews.to/2iS1iw7>
- Panel Debates Whether Russian Hacks Are Partisan <http://nbcnews.to/2iSbQeA>
- comPRESSed: Watch "Meet the Press" in Less Than Two Minutes <http://nbcnews.to/2iS7wvO>

MTP EXCLUSIVE: REP. LEWIS ON TRUMP GOING TO SELMA: 'MAYBE HE WOULD LEARN SOMETHING, MAYBE HE WOULD GET RELIGION,' BUT 'I WOULD NOT INVITE HIM TO COME'

EXCLUSIVE: Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.) on Trump: “I Don’t See This President-Elect as a Legitimate President” Trump Chief of Staff Reince Priebus on New Reporting of Possible Press Corps Eviction from White House: “That Hasn’t Been Determined” EXCLUSIVE: Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) Says She’s “Not Yet” Ready to Call for FBI Director Comey to Be Fired

JAN. 15, 2017 -- [“I would not invite him to come.”](#) civil rights icon **Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.)** exclusively told “Meet the Press” moderator Chuck Todd when asked if he would take President-elect Donald Trump to Selma, Ala., where he led the historic marches to Montgomery in 1965.

“Well, by going to Selma, like President Bush, President Clinton, President Obama, maybe he would learn something. Maybe he would get religion,” added Rep. Lewis in the exclusive sit-down. “I wouldn’t try to do anything to prevent him from coming.”

The Georgia representative also exclusively told Todd that he doesn’t [“see the President-elect as a legitimate president.”](#)

Reince Priebus, chief of staff to President-elect Donald Trump, responded to Lewis and called on President Obama for action: “It’s irresponsible for John Lewis, historic as he is, to have done this. And the other piece of this, Chuck, is that Barack Obama should step up, as well, and call it what it is.”

Priebus also addressed new reporting that the Trump administration may evict the press corps from the White House, telling Todd: [“That hasn’t been determined.”](#) He also raised the idea of “quadrupling the amount of reporters that can cover” the White House briefings.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein (Calif.), ranking Democrat on the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, exclusively joined this morning’s network broadcast, noting that “the inspector general’s report is critical” in F.B.I. Director Comey retaining his position. On if she’s ready to call for Comey to be fired, the California senator replied, “Not yet.”

Joining “Meet the Press” for insight and analysis this morning were The New York Times’ **Helene Cooper**, The Atlantic’s **Jeffrey Goldberg**, National Review’s **Rich Lowry** and AEI’s **Danielle Pletka**.

NBC News and MSNBC will deliver wall-to-wall [coverage of the inauguration of President-elect Donald Trump](#) this Friday, Jan. 20. Coverage begins at 7 a.m. ET as **Matt Lauer** co-hosts “TODAY” live from Washington, D.C. on Friday morning, with **Al Roker**, “Meet the Press” moderator and NBC News political director **Chuck Todd** and NBC News analyst **Nicolle Wallace**.

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Full transcript of the program is below; other videos from this morning’s network broadcast include:

- Full Interview with Rep. John Lewis: <http://nbcnews.to/2jy771u>
- Full Interview with Reince Priebus: <http://nbcnews.to/2jnuWvC>
- Full Interview with Sen. Dianne Feinstein: <http://nbcnews.to/2jnDuCt>

- Sen. Feinstein: Russian Hacking, Disinformation Began Years Before Election <http://nbcnews.to/2jyw4tJ>
- Rep. Lewis Calls for Special Commission to Investigate Russian Interference <http://nbcnews.to/2jyki2L>
- BuzzFeed Editor: We Have Obligation to Be 'Honest and Transparent' <http://nbcnews.to/2jnGMpw>
- Post Game: Chuck's Take: The John Lewis Interview <http://nbcnews.to/2jyao12>
- #comPRESSed: Watch "Meet the Press" in Two Minutes <http://nbcnews.to/2jnhkhi>

MTP: "OUR PRESS. SEC GAVE ALTERNATIVE FACTS" ON INAUGURAL CROWD SIZE, SAYS KELLYANNE CONWAY TO CHUCK TODD

Conway: "There's no way to really quantify crowds" Tom Barrack, Adviser to the President: "I gave him the information" on inaugural crowd size PLUS: Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (N.Y.): "There seemed to be a backtracking" with Pompeo on waterboarding

JANUARY 22, 2017 -- "Sean Spicer, our press secretary, gave alternative facts," **Kellyanne Conway, counselor to President Donald Trump**, said this morning on "Meet the Press," after Spicer said yesterday that President Trump's inauguration on Friday was the "largest audience to ever witness an inauguration. Period."

"Alternative facts are not facts," moderator Chuck Todd replied. "They're falsehoods."

Conway told Todd: "I don't think you can prove those numbers one way or the other. There's no way to really quantify crowds." Watch the exchange: <http://nbcnews.to/2iR5cZu>.

Tom Barrack, adviser to the president, said that for Trump, "it wasn't about the numbers, it wasn't about the size" in terms of the inauguration crowd. The issue for Trump was "showing a disparity between my success as a president on the first day and our past president, who he has great respect for, on his first day."

"I gave him the information" about inaugural crowd size, said Barrack. Watch: <http://nbcnews.to/2iRcNXP>.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (N.Y.) addressed the delay in the nomination of Rep. Mike Pompeo (R-Kansas) for C.I.A Director: "It just came out yesterday that Mike Pompeo might consider going against water-boarding.... in the questions that just came back Friday he said he'd consult some of the experts. There seemed to be a backtracking."

"It'll get voted on tomorrow," added Sen. Schumer. Watch the full interview: <http://nbcnews.to/2iRo76g>.

Radio talk show host **Hugh Hewitt**, POLITICO's **Eliana Johnson**, MSNBC's **Chris Matthews** and NBC News' **Kristen Welker** joined the show for additional insight and analysis.

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Full transcript of the program is below; other videos from this morning's network broadcast include:

- Full Interview with Kellyanne Conway <http://nbcnews.to/2iRgFrM>
- Full Interview with Adviser Tom Barrack <http://nbcnews.to/2iRgFrM>
- Conway Calls Feud with Intel Community 'Lies' <http://nbcnews.to/2iRbt7v>
- Two Days in Washington: From Trump's Inauguration to Worldwide Rallies <http://nbcnews.to/2kfr7FN>
- Post Game: White House Correspondent Kristen Welker Dives into the New Administration's Relationship with the Press <http://nbcnews.to/2kfHTo6>
- comPRESSED: Watch "Meet the Press" in Less Than Two Minutes <http://nbcnews.to/2kftB7g>

MTP: TRUMP CHIEF OF STAFF: 'EXEC. ORDER DOESN'T AFFECT GREEN CARD HOLDERS MOVING FORWARD,' 'DON'T REGRET' W.H. HOLOCAUST STATEMENT LANGUAGE

EXCLUSIVE: Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Va.) counters Priebus: "It does affect green card holders, and they're being caught up in it" PLUS: Kaine on White House Holocaust Remembrance Statement: "This is what Holocaust denial is" "Meet the Press," Longest-Running Show on Television, Kicks Off 70th Anniversary Yearlong Celebration

JAN. 29, 2016 -- Reince Priebus, chief of staff to President Donald Trump, told "Meet the Press" moderator Chuck Todd that the president's executive order temporarily restricting entry to the U.S. from seven Muslim-majority countries ["doesn't affect green card holders moving forward."](#)

Priebus also addressed the White House's statement on International Holocaust Remembrance Day and criticism for its omission that the Holocaust was about eradicating the Jewish people: ["I don't regret the words."](#)

Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Va.) exclusively joined the program and [reacted to Priebus' interview](#): "He demonstrated complete confusion about what the order did because he went back and forth in the interview with you over whether it did or did not affect green card holders. It does affect green card holders and they're being caught up in it."

On the executive order, Kaine said, "The irony is not lost on me that it was issued the same day as the White House issued their Holocaust Remembrance Day proclamation that unlike any previous administration removed all reference to Jews." He added: "This is what Holocaust denial is."

The network broadcast - the longest running television show in history - kicked off its 70th anniversary today ahead of its yearlong celebration. [Watch 70 years of "Meet the Press" in 70 seconds.](#)

NBC News Special Correspondent Tom Brokaw, joined Todd in celebration of the show's 70th anniversary kick off, [discussing his memories from "Meet the Press" and his history with President Nixon.](#) Tune in tonight to ["Tom Brokaw at NBC News: The First 50 Years,"](#) a two-hour primetime special beginning at 9 p.m. ET.

Also joining the show for insight and analysis were presidential historian **Doris Kearns Goodwin**, The New York Times' **Tom Friedman**, former RNC Chair **Michael Steele**, and The Wall Street Journal's **Kimberley Strassel**.

For more from moderator Chuck Todd throughout the week, watch [MSNBC's "MTP Daily"](#) weekdays at 5 p.m., and [subscribe to "1947: The Meet The Press Podcast"](#) for on-demand interviews.

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Full transcript of the program is below; other videos from this morning's network broadcast include:

- Full Interview with Reince Priebus: <http://nbcnews.to/2kgo6YW>
- Full Interview with Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Va.) <http://nbcnews.to/2kkgLJ0>
- #comPRESSed: "Meet the Press" in Less Than Two Minutes <http://nbcnews.to/2kqgtva>
- Post Game: Donald Trump Takes the Bully Pulpit <http://nbcnews.to/2kBOjiE>
- First Read: Chaos Defines Trump's First Week in Office <http://nbcnews.to/2kBSB9E>
- California Attorney General Xavier Becerra: I Will Find Ways to Stop Trump's Wall <http://nbcnews.to/2kC02h6>

MTP: VP PENCE ON PUTIN & TRUMP QUESTIONING U.S. INNOCENCE: 'I DON'T ACCEPT THAT IT'S A MORAL EQUIVALENCY'; 'COMMON INTEREST WITH RUSSIA' TO FIGHT ISIS

EXCLUSIVE: House Minority Leader Pelosi on future party leadership: "Right now we need experience" EXCLUSIVE: House Speaker Ryan acknowledges Iran deal to stay in place: "A lot of that toothpaste is already out of the tube" EXCLUSIVE: Ryan on more troops overseas: "We must destroy ISIS in Syria... That objective must be accomplished"

FEB. 5, 2017 -- Vice President Mike Pence supports President Trump's position towards Russian President Vladimir Putin, telling "Meet the Press" moderator Chuck Todd this morning that "President Trump has been willing to be critical of our country's actions in the past" and that "we have a common interest with Russia" to destroy ISIS.

Pence [responded to a Fox News interview excerpt](#) in which Trump questions our country's innocence in response to Putin's characterization as a killer; when asked if there is a moral equivalency in this, Pence said, "no, not in the least." Later in the interview, he added, "I don't accept that it's a moral equivalency. I really don't, Chuck."

When it comes to U.S. relations with Russia, Pence said that Trump has been clear that "maybe it's not going to work out. But I think he's absolutely determined."

In an exclusive, on-set interview, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) [responded to calls for new leadership in the party](#), telling Todd: "We have plenty of room for all kinds of leadership at every level. Right now we need experience as well as new leadership."

Pelosi also called for an F.B.I. investigation into the president's connections with Russia. "I want to know what the Russians have on Donald Trump," she said.

House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) joined Todd for an exclusive interview Friday on Capitol Hill, [acknowledging the Iran deal will stay in place](#): “I don't think you're going to go back and reconstitute the multilateral sanctions that were in place.”

The speaker also responded to the possibility of sending more troops into Syria to fight ISIS: “It’s in our vital national security interest. We must destroy ISIS in Syria. That objective must be accomplished.”

Plus: All three guests on “Meet the Press” [weighed in on tonight’s N.F.L. Super Bowl](#), and with the Green Bay Packers out, [Speaker Ryan put the odds](#) on the New England Patriots.

Republican strategist Alex Castellanos, NBC News’ Andrea Mitchell, AEI’s Danielle Pletka and PBS’ Tavis Smiley also joined the show for insight and analysis.

For more from moderator Chuck Todd throughout the week, watch [MSNBC’s “MTP Daily”](#) weekdays at 5 p.m., and [subscribe to “1947: The Meet The Press Podcast”](#) for on-demand interviews.

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Full transcript of the program is below; other videos from this morning’s network broadcast include:

Full Interview with Vice President Mike Pence <http://nbcnews.to/2lc4JP7>

Full Interview with House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi <http://nbcnews.to/2lcmiP1>

Full Interview with House Speaker Paul Ryan <http://nbcnews.to/2lc1lpA>

Pence: President ‘Has Every Right to Criticize’ Other Branches <http://nbcnews.to/2lc7dgm>

Ryan: Republicans Still Committed to ‘Repeal and Replace’ Obamacare Strategy <http://nbcnews.to/2lctDxW>

Ryan: ‘Polarization’ Can Be Healed Despite Sustained Protests <http://nbcnews.to/2lcm3DB>

Beer & Gaga: Super Bowl Reveals Political Divisions <http://nbcnews.to/2lceofg>

Mike Murphy: A Never-Trumper Offers Advice for Democrats <http://nbcnews.to/2lcr3YP>

Post Game: Where Does Rex Tillerson Begin at the State Department? <http://nbcnews.to/2lcfh0y>

comPRESSed: Watch “Meet the Press” in Less Than Two Minutes <http://nbcnews.to/2lclZ6P>

NBC News - Meet The Press

"2.5.2017"

CHUCK TODD:

This Sunday, confrontation and chaos. The fight over President Trump's travel ban. The president vows to get the restrictions reinstated after a judge temporarily blocks them, calling the ruling ridiculous, and tweeting about "this

so-called judge." But what are travelers supposed to do now? Plus, President Trump's head-spinning week: a Supreme Court pick.

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP:

Outstanding legal skills, a brilliant mind, tremendous discipline, and has earned bipartisan support.

CHUCK TODD:

Putting Iran on notice, softening his support for new Israeli settlements, and holding testy talks with allies Mexico and Australia.

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP:

When you hear about the tough phone calls I'm having, don't worry about it.

CHUCK TODD:

We have an all-star lineup of guests this morning: Vice President Mike Pence, Speaker of the House Paul Ryan, and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi. Finally, this Super Bowl Sunday, how everything has become political, right down to the beer you drink while watching the game.

Joining me for insight and analysis are Andrea Mitchell of NBC News, Tavis Smiley, host of the Tavis Smiley Show on PBS, Republican strategist Alex Castellanos and Danielle Pletka of The American Enterprise Institute. Pence, Ryan, Pelosi, a packed house. Welcome to Super Bowl Sunday, it's Meet the Press.

CHUCK TODD:

Good morning. And a happy Super Bowl Sunday to everyone. Saturdays are becoming protest Saturdays under President Trump. For the third weekend in a row, thousands of people rallied in cities across the country. Once again, in opposition to President Trump. This week's issue: the travel ban, targeted mainly at Muslims.

The Trump administration moved to get the travel restrictions immediately reinstated. But overnight, a Federal Appeals Court temporarily denied that request, instead calling for a full hearing on Monday. Here's what the president had to say at a Red Cross gala last night at Mar-a-Lago.

The president had a lot to say yesterday before that, mainly on Twitter. One example: "When a country is no longer able to say who can and who cannot come in and out, especially for reasons of safety and security, big trouble." Well, the president has taken great pains to deny his travel restrictions amount to a Muslim ban. Four times yesterday, he did refer to his policy as a "ban" in tweets. Two weeks into the Trump presidency, we're learning the answer to the campaign riddle: should we take Donald Trump literally or seriously? The answer appears to be: both.

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP:

The world is in trouble. But we're going to straighten it out, okay?

CHUCK TODD:

Donald Trump is lashing out, tweeting on Saturday: "The opinion of this so-called judge, which he essentially takes law enforcement away from our country is ridiculous and will be overturned." Federal judge James Robart, appointed to the bench by George W. Bush, explained his decision blocking Mr. Trump's travel ban on Friday night.

HON. JAMES ROBART:

The state has met its burden of demonstrating that it faces immediate and irreparable injury.

CHUCK TODD:

Visas issued before the executive order have once again been declared valid for now. The travel ban confusion in the latest twist in a chaotic week and has even long-time U.S. allies asking, "Can the world handle Donald Trump style diplomacy?"

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP:

When you hear about the tough phone calls I'm having, don't worry about it.

CHUCK TODD:

President Trump is aggressive, tangling with long-time U.S. allies Mexico and Australia.

BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN:

Don't hang up--

CHUCK TODD:

On tour in Melbourne, Australia, Bruce Springsteen didn't pull any punches.

BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN:

We stand before you, embarrassed Americans tonight. (CHUCKLE)

CHUCK TODD:

And neither did Republicans on Capitol Hill.

(BEGIN TAPE)

SEN. LINDSEY GRAHAM:

If politics is music, the president was off-key.

(END TAPE)

(BEGIN TAPE)

SEN JOHN McCAIN:

This, in my view, was an unnecessary and, frankly, harmful open dispute.

(END TAPE)

CHUCK TODD:

President Trump can be unexpected, warning Israel that new settlement construction may not be helpful in achieving peace. Or ambiguous: his administration, led by National Security Advisor Michael Flynn, is ratcheting up its rhetoric on Iran.

MICHAEL FLYNN:

We are officially putting Iran on notice.

CHUCK TODD:

And levying new sanctions to punish Iran for its ballistic missile tests.

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP:

They're not behaving.

CHUCK TODD:

But refusing to say whether the Trump Administration will keep the Iran nuclear deal intact. And there are mixed messages to Russia, as President Putin tests Mr. Trump in Eastern Ukraine. Amid continuing protests and confusion around the world, and even at his own doorstep, the president is defending his aggressive approach to foreign policy, reiterating, once again, in the video address--

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP:

From now on, it's going to be America first.

(END TAPE)

CHUCK TODD:

And joining me now is the vice president of the United States, Mike Pence. Mr. Vice President, thanks for coming in.

VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE:

Yeah, good to see you, Chuck.

CHUCK TODD:

Let me start with the overnight developments and the ban. We have now had-- there's ten different suits in various courts.

VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE:

Right.

CHUCK TODD:

Obviously, the big one now is the one in Washington State. Let me ask you the question this way. And I know you're pursuing an appeal to this decision.

VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE:

We are.

CHUCK TODD:

Is it time to sort of cut bait and say, "You know what? Rescind the order. Go through Congress." Because there is support for the idea, but the specifics appear to be a challenge for you. Any thought of essentially rescinding and trying again?

VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE:

From the outset of his campaign for president, and the outset of this administration, President Trump has made it clear. He's going to put the safety and security of the American people first. And using a list of countries that the Obama administration and the Congress have certified were compromised by terrorist influence, seven different countries, permanently suspending immigration from Syria and suspending, for a set period of time in the remaining six countries, is consistent with the President's commitment to do just that. We're very confident the

President's operating within his authority as president, both under the constitution, and under clear statutory law. That's what's so frustrating about the decision--

CHUCK TODD:

Well, in all honesty, though--

VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE:

--by the Washington judge.

CHUCK TODD:

--the statutory law is confusing. Because there is the one--

VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE:

Not really, Chuck. Not really--

CHUCK TODD:

--that you're referring to in 1952, but there's the one that was passed in the '60s that seems that some people believe makes this unconstitutional.

VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE:

Well, look, when you have people as diverse as Alan Dershowitz and Jonathan Turley, who have acknowledged the merits of the President's action under the constitution and the law, I think it speaks for itself. We're very confident that we're going to prevail. We'll accomplish the stay and will win the case on the merits. But again, the focus here is on the safety and security--

CHUCK TODD:

Well--

VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE:

--of the American people.

CHUCK TODD:

And that's why my question on the idea of sort of pulling it. Because if this is a concern, and this is something that you can't wait, you and I both know, the court system's going to take a while. This could take weeks, maybe months. Why not do this in a way where you have proper consultations with different departments? There was a part of this that many Republicans in Congress believe it was done hastily. You have an opportunity to now do a do-over. Why not?

VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE:

Yeah. It was not done hastily. There may have been some leaders on Capitol Hill that were not informed in the usual niceties of Washington D.C.. But look, we live in a very dangerous world. The reality is there the people around the globe who have inspired violence here in the homeland.

We just saw in the basement of the Louvre a machete-wielding terrorist from Egypt that came into that country. I mean the American people know that the threats that we face are real and they elected President Donald Trump for many reasons. But one of them was for us to rethink our immigration policies relative to ensuring that people

who represent a threat to our families and communities don't come into this country. We'll continue to press that. And we remain very confident that the President's actions are on solid constitutional and legal grounds.

CHUCK TODD:

Well, let me take you at your word on that. You just brought up the Louvre issue. You noted that the person came through from Egypt.

VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE:

Right.

CHUCK TODD:

But on this travel ban, no Egypt, no Saudi Arabia.

VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE:

Right.

CHUCK TODD:

No Pakistan, no Afghanistan. That is-- if this is your concern, then why weren't those countries included? It does feel as if it's sort of-- it was more done because you wanted that Obama talking point.

VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE:

Well, no. It was done because both the Congress and the prior administration identified seven countries, one in Syria, torn asunder by civil war, and the other six that lack-- here's the issue. As Secretary Kelly said so well in that press conference.

The issue is these are countries that do not have the internal systems in place so that we can be confident today that, when people present themselves for access to the United States, that they are who they say they are. Now, there's a 30-day review underway. There's a temporary suspension. We're going to work with those remaining six countries to make recommendations for ways that they can enhance.

But the other countries that you mentioned-- the United States, our policy has been that we're confident that, when someone comes from that country, that they are, in fact, who they say they are. But this is, again, this is really about the safety and security of the American people. It is not a religious ban. It is a--

CHUCK TODD:

But did the president confuse things--

VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE:

It is a ban of people coming into this country from countries for which we cannot be confident that they don't represent a threat.

CHUCK TODD:

But did the president undermine your case here on the religious ban when he told the Christian Broadcasting Network that they would prioritize Christians?

VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE:

Well, I think the president was reflecting on the fact that Christians who have faced persecution across the wider Middle East have not been treated--

CHUCK TODD:

But that's-- So it's a religious test.

VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE:

--oftentimes the same as others. And it's not a religious test. I know--

CHUCK TODD:

I mean but--

VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE:

--people have been straining to do that.

CHUCK TODD:

No--

VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE:

It identified seven countries, irrespective of the religious composition of those countries, seven countries have been compromised by terrorism. And I got to tell you, look, we respect the right of every American to be heard in protest, online, their messages. And that's what freedom looks like. And that's what freedom sounds like.

But I truly do believe that a majority of the American people are grateful that we have a president who's willing to take decisive action, use the authority he has under the constitution and the law to pause with regard to these seven countries, and rethink the way that we admit people to America.

CHUCK TODD:

So you don't accept the notion that you guys did this a little too hastily and a little sloppy?

VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE:

We live in a dangerous world. I think the American people welcome a president as decisive and as action-oriented as President Trump.

CHUCK TODD:

I want to ask you about the President's criticism, he called him a "so-called judge."

VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE:

Yeah.

CHUCK TODD:

That is the leader of the executive branch saying-- you know, that made a lot of people uncomfortable. I know your answer is, "Hey, this is Donald Trump. People need to get used to it." But there is a tendency here to just not take criticism constructively or seriously. He accused Chuck Schumer of having fake tears. It's like any time he gets some sort of critique, he wants to demonify them, you know, make them go away. Is that healthy?

VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE:

Well, look, the president of the United States has every right to criticize the other two branches of government. And we have a long tradition of that in this country. But I think--

CHUCK TODD:

But is this a constructive way to do it?

VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE:

I think people find it very refreshing that they not only understand this president's mind but they understand how he feels about things. He expresses himself in a unique way. And again, the judge's actions, look, the judge's actions in this case in Washington, which are at odds with the federal district court judge in Boston, who upheld the constitutionality of the president's actions, the judge's actions in this case, making decisions about American foreign policy and national security, it's just very frustrating to the president, to our whole administration, to millions of Americans who want to see judges that will uphold the law and recognize--

CHUCK TODD:

Well, all he did was put a pause.

VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE:

--the authority the president of the United States has under the constitution to manage who comes into this country.

CHUCK TODD:

Well, all he did was put a pause. But on this issue of criticism, I found something you said about President Obama seven years ago. Take a listen.

(BEGIN TAPE)

MIKE PENCE:

This president has shown an unusual interest in commenting on his critics in the media and here on Capitol Hill. The American people don't want to hear the president's reflections and commentary on criticism.

(END TAPE)

CHUCK TODD:

Look, and I know that when one person's party's in power, the other party says things like that. But that is what Congressman Mike Pence thought of when presidents got too caught up in their criticisms. Should the president take the advice of Congressman Mike Pence?

VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE:

Well, my hair's the same color as it was back then. But, you know, I've learned a lot. I've learned a lot about--

CHUCK TODD:

You think this--

VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE:

Sure, the prerogative presidents have to be able to respond to their critics. Look, the president of the United States represents all the American people. And in President Donald Trump, just like his predecessor, he's going to

exercise the prerogative to criticize other branches of government when he thinks that they're not acting in a way that's consistent with the best interests of the American people.

CHUCK TODD:

All right. I got to ask you to respond to something, an excerpt of the Super Bowl interview the President's doing about Vladimir Putin. Here it is.

(BEGIN TAPE)

BILL O'REILLY:

Do you respect Putin?

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP:

I do respect him. Will I get along with him? I have no idea. It's very possible I won't.

BILL O'REILLY:

He's a killer, though. Putin's a killer.

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP:

There are a lot of killers. We get a lot of killers. What, you think our country's so innocent?

(END TAPE)

CHUCK TODD:

Moral equivalency?

VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE:

No.

CHUCK TODD:

Is there a moral equivalency there? What was that, Mr. Vice President?

VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE:

No, not in the least. Not in the least. I mean look, President Trump has been willing to be critical of our country's actions in the past. And-- But what you're hearing there is a determination by the president of the United States to not let semantics or the arguments of the past get in the way of exploring the ability to work together with Russia and with President Putin in the days ahead--

CHUCK TODD:

But--

VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE:

--specifically, if you played the rest of that interview--

CHUCK TODD:

Yeah.

VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE:

--he said he didn't know if we would be able to get along with him better. But the president's top priority is to hunt down and destroy ISIS at its source. We have a common interest with Russia to do that. The president's made it very clear he doesn't know whether he'll have--

CHUCK TODD:

But are you--

VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE:

--better relationship with Russia.

CHUCK TODD:

I mean you know the Putin record here. Let me just put it up here. Obviously, a former KGB agent, in itself, an institution of mass killings. What he's done to fund and promote the separatists in Eastern Ukraine, proxy wars that he's gotten involved in that, of course, ended up in the killing of innocent passengers on MH17. Then there's the list of mysterious deaths that are Putin-related. This is not something-- what American leader has done something similar? That's what the president seemed to say there.

VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE:

No, that's not what the president said in the least.

CHUCK TODD:

Then why can't he say a negative thing about Vladimir Putin?

VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE:

Well, he has expressed himself in the campaign, an election that he won, that he was determined to go forward and see whether or not we might be able to start anew in a relationship with Russia. I mean the president has said many times if we got along with Russia better, that would be a good thing for the world. If we were able to work with Russia to hunt down and destroy ISIS and confront radical Islamic terrorism, that would be a good thing.

And what you have in President Trump is someone who is not going to look in the rear view mirror so much as looking out the windshield. But he's also made it very clear, Chuck, maybe not, maybe it's not going to work out. But I think he's absolutely determined. He had a productive conversation with President Putin.

CHUCK TODD:

Okay.

VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE:

He spoke to the Ukrainian President Poroshenko yesterday about the need to maintain the ceasefire. He's going to continue to engage these world leaders. He's going to put America first. And he's going to look, as he always does, for a way that we can move forward and make a deal that will advance the interests of the United States.

CHUCK TODD:

Are you comfortable with using those same words to describe Vladimir Putin?

VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE:

Well, using what words?

CHUCK TODD:

That, basically, you know, "Yeah, he's a bad guy, but we've done some bad things, too." Are you comfortable with that moral equivalency?

VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE:

Again, I don't accept that it's a moral equivalency. I really don't, Chuck.

CHUCK TODD:

You think he misspoke?

VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE:

I-- no. I truly believe-- look, President Trump has been critical of American policy in the past. And I expect he's always going to continue to be candid with the American people. But what you have in this president is an absolute determination to re-engage the world. I see it in the telephone calls with world leaders. We saw it when Prime Minister May came. But it's to re-engage world leaders on American interests, to bring American strength back to the world stage.

CHUCK TODD:

Okay.

VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE:

And President Donald Trump, people know that here's someone who knows how to put a deal together.

CHUCK TODD:

Right.

VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE:

And if he can make a deal with Russia or other countries that's going to advance the security of the American people and advance the interests of peace in the world, we're going to look to do that.

CHUCK TODD:

All right. Vice President Pence, I'm going to leave it there. I know you're about to go to the Super Bowl. Do you have a rooting interest?

VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE:

You know, the Indianapolis Colts are not there. So I'll be on neutral ground. But no, it's going to be a great game.

CHUCK TODD:

Well then--

VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE:

We're going to be very humble to have the opportunity to travel with a couple of America's heroes that we'll be able to bring down to the Super Bowl today.

CHUCK TODD:

And I know we're all looking forward to seeing former President Bush toss that coin.

VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE:

Oh, yeah.

CHUCK TODD:

That'll be great to see.

VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE:

Yeah, what a blessing.

CHUCK TODD:

All right. Mr. Vice President, thanks for coming in and sharing your views. I appreciate it.

VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE:

Thanks, Chuck.

CHUCK TODD: Coming up, two very different perspectives on the first two weeks of the Trump presidency: the current Speaker of the House, Paul Ryan, and the former speaker and now minority leader, Nancy Pelosi.

COMMERCIAL BREAK

CHUCK TODD:

Welcome back. Panel is here: Tavis Smiley, host of The Tavis Smiley Show on PBS, Danielle Pletka of The American Enterprise Institute, Andrea Mitchell, NBC News, chief foreign affairs correspondent, and Republican strategist Alex Castellanos. Welcome, everybody. Andrea, where does this stand? Where's this headed?

ANDREA MITCHELL:

Well, possibly, for a constitutional crisis. But I think not, because overnight, the administration, State Department, Homeland, agreed with lifting the ban as it applied to people who had been restricted. And they are following the judge's order. Now this judge is likely, you know, the appeals court has to weigh in. This could end up in the Supreme Court. There's a long process. I think the problem that Donald Trump is creating for himself is a political one. By tweeting the "so-called judge," and by criticizing the judiciary, he is raising the bar. He's making it more difficult for a very credible nominee to the Supreme Court in his confirmation hearings. Now, what you're going to have is another pretext, not just Merrick Garland, which they believe is a real pretext, for Democrats to challenge this nominee on every aspect of the separation of powers, and whether or not he agrees with the president who has nominated him.

CHUCK TODD:

Danielle, should they be cutting bait here? I mean isn't this an opportunity, if they want to do it, basically, do a do-over?

DANIELLE PLETKA:

I don't think this is the kind of administration that wants to do a do-over. And to be perfectly fair, I don't think Barack Obama would have taken a do-over, either. I think they're going to let this process play out and hopefully use the time that's available to them to put the thought and the process in that they didn't put in before. Because the problem here is not actually one of substance. Barack Obama did many of the things that are actually in this

executive order. It's all about the how. It's not necessarily about the what. Whether it's the tweeting, or it's the judge, or it's Russia, or it's this immigration stuff, it's actually all about style, not about substance.

CHUCK TODD:

You buy that? All style?

TAVIS SMILEY:

I think it's about style and substance. It's a bit of both, number one. Number two, I'm from Indiana, as you know, and I saw the vice president in the green room, so we chatted. And I like him as a person. But it's tough to sit there and watch him twist like a pretzel to try to defend a presidency that is clearly so unprincipled on these issues, number one.

Number two, I would take exception to one thing. I think you're probably right, Chuck, it is not a moral equivalency, but it is, to my mind, an immoral equivalency. Which is to say that Dr. King was a frequent guest on this very program. And 50 years ago in April of this year, in his "beyond Vietnam" speech, used these words. He called America "the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today." So it's not a moral equivalency, it's an immoral equivalency. And on this one issue, President Trump is right, that we are not a perfect country. Now, Vladimir Putin's a bad guy. But I'm not ever going to get into a situation where I'm trying to defend all that America has done. So your question was, "What has the president done?" Maybe not the president, but the apparatus of the American military state, we could have that conversation.

CHUCK TODD:

Still, do you want to be defending Putin?

ALEX CASTELLANOS:

Well, I think you see a president here that sees a very different geopolitical arrangement.

CHUCK TODD:

Oh, yes he does.

ALEX CASTELLANOS:

I think this president sees that China is the new Russia, not Russia. And he sees a different geometry. And there may be opportunities where Russian interests and ours align.

CHUCK TODD:

Yes.

ALEX CASTELLANOS:

And that's why I think you see him changing here. But, you know, we're judging Donald Trump, I think, differently than we should. We're saying, "Oh my god, Donald Trump is unpredictable." Well, we had a very predictable president for eight years. And it led to an unpredictable and uncertain world. Donald Trump's unpredictability in these matters, on one hand, he pushes Putin back--

CHUCK TODD:

Right.

ALEX CASTELLANOS:

--saying, "You want an arms race? You got one."

CHUCK TODD:

Right.

ALEX CASTELLANOS:

On the other hand, there are times we can work together. You're seeing, I think, that Donald Trump's unpredictability is a form of deterrence. It keeps bad people a step back--

TAVIS SMILEY:

It's not unpredictability, it's being unprincipled, Alex. Those are two very different things.

ALEX CASTELLANOS:

No, I think that's-- no, I think he's very clear in his principles.

ANDREA MITCHELL:

I think part of it is that facts matter. And the way they rolled this out, where they did not, despite all their claims to the contrary, they did not listen to the experts at the Pentagon and at Homeland. If they had left out the ban on visa holders and green card holders and legitimate people, they wouldn't have had this problem. But the other issue is, even on Putin, to say what he said about Putin to Bill O'Reilly is extraordinary. You've got a man now in the hospital who had just recovered from extreme organ failure, who is now clearly poisoned, in a Moscow hospital. You've got so many instances, not just individual, but on a large scale. And to ignore that and to say, "Well, he'll help us against ISIS," how is he helping us against ISIS when he is not bombing ISIS targets, he is bombing the legitimate opposition to Assad? And when he's using Iranians and propping up Iran? The president doesn't seem to understand these alliances.

CHUCK TODD:

Go ahead.

DANIELLE PLETKA:

You're not going to get me to disagree with you on a lot of these things. But let us separate out what's happened in the last week from the things that Donald Trump has said. If, in the first week of the Trump presidency he had put in place a-- let's not call it a travel ban-- but he had limited the immigration from certain countries and put in what he calls "extreme--

ANDREA MITCHELL:

He keeps calling it a ban, despite denials--

TAVIS SMILEY:

It is a ban, Danielle, it is.

DANIELLE PLETKA:

I don't think that's a relevant discussion. And I have established that I'm not a fan of this. The point here is that it is the way they do everything. If Donald Trump hadn't said that, is it okay to say, "You know what? I want to start fresh with Vladimir Putin. Maybe he can help us beat ISIS." Obama did that. The problem is not any of the substantive things, it's how they do them.

CHUCK TODD:

Is it they? I think we'll pause it here.

DANIELLE PLETKA:

Well, that may be.

CHUCK TODD:

But the question: is it they? Or is it him?

DANIELLE PLETKA:

Is it him?

CHUCK TODD:

And I think that we will save for the next time we bring you guys back in a few minutes. But when we come back, we're going to hear from top players on both sides of the political aisle from Congress, Speaker of the House Paul Ryan and one of his predecessors: House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi.

COMMERCIAL BREAK

CHUCK TODD:

Welcome back. Late last night, I reached out to Speaker of the House Paul Ryan about that federal judge's order blocking the enforcement of President Trump's immigration restriction. Speaker Ryan's office provided Meet The Press with this statement saying in part, "What's important is his administration is complying with the ruling and taking the proper steps to resolve the issue quickly. This is our system of divided government, and I'm confident that when the process runs its course the order will be upheld." On Friday I sat down with Speaker Ryan on Capitol Hill and at the time he said the President's policy did not amount to a ban but that its implementation could have been handled better. He agreed with President Trump that some travel restrictions are needed. And we also talked about a broad range of subjects, beginning with whether he'd like to get out of the Iran nuclear deal.

(BEGIN TAPE)

SPEAKER PAUL RYAN:

I never supported the deal in the first place. I thought it was a huge mistake. But the multilateral sanctions are done. So--

CHUCK TODD:

Done meaning you're not going to be able to put that back together--

SPEAKER PAUL RYAN:

Yeah, I don't think you're going to go back and reconstitute the multilateral sanctions that were in place.

CHUCK TODD:

Should we try, though?

SPEAKER PAUL RYAN:

So, I don't think we-- I think we should expend our effort where it can pay off the most. And that's why I think what they're doing now does make a lot of sense. So I think the key is to rigorously enforce this deal. But also,

remember, they're testing ballistic missiles. They're still the largest state sponsor of terrorism in the world. Human rights abuses galore.

And so those are where I think we also need to ratchet up sanctions. I think what this administration is doing, which I agree with, is saying, "We have a new administration, and we're going to hold you, Iran, to account." This last administration did not do that. This new administration needs to do that. And I think that's what you're getting here.

CHUCK TODD:

Where is the line here? Are you concerned that Iran might retaliate, and suddenly we're a part of the proxy war in Yemen? I mean--

SPEAKER PAUL RYAN:

But look what they were doing, we're appeasing them already. So it couldn't get worse--

CHUCK TODD:

You thought too much appeasement--

SPEAKER PAUL RYAN:

--yeah, it couldn't get any worse than what we already had. So I think they need to know that they're going to be held to account. Because if left-- If we don't do that, then they're going to go off and do all these other things. Remember, they are a belligerent force in the Middle East. Look at what they're trying to do to destabilize the region with all their proxies. Look at what they're doing to finance terrorism, their human rights abuses, testing ballistic missiles. You see they write on the side of their ballistic missiles in Hebrew, Farsi and English, "Death to Israel and death to America." This is not a peaceful nation.

CHUCK TODD:

You were tough on candidate Trump.

SPEAKER PAUL RYAN:

Yeah, we had our--

CHUCK TODD:

Let's make no--

SPEAKER PAUL RYAN:

--we had our share of disagreements.

CHUCK TODD:

You had your-- But more of it has to do with, you just sort of have two different outlooks. When the president fired the assistant attorney general, he said she betrayed the Department of Justice. The point is he takes a very negative tone. You don't. Is that something that you think over time is going to hurt the Republican party?

SPEAKER PAUL RYAN:

Well, we've always had different kinds of Republicans throughout our party. It's a big tent party. You know me, I'm kind of a happy warrior, Jack Kemp conservative.

CHUCK TODD:

Jack Kemp wouldn't have described America's inner cities as American carnage.

SPEAKER PAUL RYAN:

Yeah, no. I mean, neither would I. I think, really, what matters at the end of the day are the results. What I'm focused on Chuck, is not, I'm not going on Twitter and seeing what the latest tweet was. I'm not turning on the TV. I'm focused on delivering results. We ran on specific reforms, specific solutions that we believe will improve people's lives. That's why we're here. That's why people gave us these jobs and this responsibility.

And so really, what I'm focused on is that. Get the policies done. Make good on our promises and reforms, to make people's lives better in this country, whether it's prosperity or peace and security. And what, at the end of the day, matters so that we will have a successful Republican president, a successful Republican party, if that's the base of your question, are the results of this party that has been given this great responsibility.

CHUCK TODD:

Is there, I guess is there a point where you just feel as if, that, you know what, this is moving too harshly? That given he was elected in such a divided country, that he has not--

SPEAKER PAUL RYAN:

Yeah.

CHUCK TODD:

--has he done enough to try to heal division? And I know that you can play some of this and say, "Okay, the other side isn't accepting defeat." But has he done enough to--

SPEAKER PAUL RYAN:

I think he's just going to feel--

CHUCK TODD:

--be big in his victory?

SPEAKER PAUL RYAN:

I think he's going to feel his way through this. And look, what I'm excited about is that he wants to hit the ground running, and he wants, he's very much a man of action. And we have conversations at 11 o'clock at night on policy matters.

CHUCK TODD:

Yeah, but are protest Saturdays sustainable in this country? Is this a sustainable political environment?

SPEAKER PAUL RYAN:

Well, we can get to the Left in a minute. He's hit the ground running extremely hard. He's doing a lot. And there's a lot that needs to be done. What I'm excited about is how ambitious he wants to be on following through on the promises that we made in the campaign, so that we can execute these good ideas and these policies. That's what's going to matter.

All the division, the polarization in America, I think a lot of it can be healed if we get people back to work. If we help get people out of poverty. If we keep us safe. If we get faster economic growth and more jobs and higher

wages. If we can fix these problems that are solvable in this country, that's what's going to matter at the end of the day.

CHUCK TODD:

I can't believe I'm going to use the words "very quick" and "healthcare" in the same sentence, 'cause it's an impossibility. But I have noticed, a lot of people have noticed, whether it's Lamar Alexander who's on Senate Health Committee, yourself the other day, "repair" is a new buzzword. And if you look at some of the replacement bills that are out there, there are lots-- good chunks of Obamacare that stay alive. Is that where this is headed? That it's going to be some hybrid of a big chunk of Obamacare--

SPEAKER PAUL RYAN:

Yeah.

CHUCK TODD:

--whatever it looks like?

SPEAKER PAUL RYAN:

No, I think there's-- I don't know what happened, but maybe somewhere in the press this kind of got crosswise. If you're going to repair the American health care system, and fix its problems, you have to repeal Obamacare and replace it with something better. Patient-centered health care. And that is how you repair this health care system. I think somewhere along the line, there was a misco--

CHUCK TODD:

This wasn't a way to condition the public that--

SPEAKER PAUL RYAN:

Yeah, somewhere along the line there was confusion that we were going to take the Obamacare architecture and, you know, tinker at the margins and repair it. You can't. It is a collapsing law. Five states have one plan to choose from. A third of all the counties in America have one plan to choose from. 70 percent of all counties in America have one or two plans to choose from. That's a monopoly or a duopoly. Premiums are going up double digits. Deductibles are so high, doesn't even feel like you have health insurance. So the law is literally in the middle of a collapse. And it's our duty as representatives of our constituents, of the American people, to step in front of this crash and rescue people from this collapsing health care system, and replace it with something better.

(END TAPE)

CHUCK TODD:

That was Speaker Paul Ryan. And you can see the complete interview on Meet-The-Press-NBC-dot-com. Let me turn to the Democrats now. I'm joined by the former Speaker of the House and the current Democratic leader in the House, Nancy Pelosi. Madam Leader, welcome back to Meet the Press.

NANCY PELOSI:

My pleasure to be here on Super Bowl Sunday.

CHUCK TODD:

Super Bowl Sunday. Let me ask you first on the travel ban here. Would you at all be willing to work with the Trump administration on legislation that if they asked the Congress to essentially come up with something that would

allow for some temporary suspension, some new vetting, would you be willing to work with the administration on something like that?

NANCY PELOSI:

We take an oath to protect and defend the Constitution and the American people and, as long as we're honoring the Constitution, we're willing to work. Now, as President Obama did in 2011, we always have to subject our vetting to scrutiny to see if it's working. But that doesn't mean we institute an unconstitutional, immoral ban on Muslims coming into the country.

But what's interesting to me is this is kind of a diversionary tactic. You heard the Speaker talk about jobs and what did we expect? What was the election about? The election was about improving the lives of the American people, about the future, about jobs,

CHUCK TODD:

Right.

NANCY PELOSI:

--financial stability and the rest. Where is their initiative for that? So when they don't do something they have a diversionary tactic: a Muslim ban. When that isn't working, they move up the appointment of a justice of the Supreme Court. Let me just contrast it to President Obama. President Obama on the steps of the Capitol, eight years ago, said "I call for swift, bold action now to create jobs and to educate our kids for the jobs of the 21st century."

CHUCK TODD:

Well, he is two weeks in. You don't say he's not doing that.

NANCY PELOSI:

No, but let me--

CHUCK TODD:

They would make the argument they've done something.

NANCY PELOSI:

Let me give the timetable.

CHUCK TODD:

Very quickly. Okay.

NANCY PELOSI:

Let me give the time table. One week and one day later, the Congress passed the ARRA: the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act. A week or so later, the Senate passed the bill on the 17th of September, the congress - the president signed a bill that created or saved 3.5-4 million jobs. That was the initiative of the president for jobs. Where is their initiative?

So in order to deflect from not doing that - they're doing a travel ban, which is not making the American people safe, that is unconstitutional and even undermines --

CHUCK TODD:

All right.

NANCY PELOSI: -- what the evangelicals call - evangelicals call - the crown jewel of humanitarianism of America: our refugee resettlement program.

CHUCK TODD:

Let me ask you, though, about the role the Democratic Party should be playing overall. I want to play something Elizabeth Warren said yesterday in a speech in Baltimore. Take a listen.

(BEGIN TAPE)

ELIZABETH WARREN:

America elected Donald Trump. And, yeah, the Russians helped. And, yeah, the FBI director helped. And, yeah, he lost the popular vote by three million votes. But we cannot let ourselves off the hook so easily, not as progressives, not as Democrats. The excuses end now.

(END TAPE)

CHUCK TODD:

How do you respond to her? Because you were just making a case that the Obama administration and the Democrats were in charge were being responsive. Elizabeth Warren is saying, "No, the Democrats weren't." What do you say to her?

NANCY PELOSI:

Well, I think she went further to say that it wasn't about what we have done, it's how we did not message it. And that is some--

CHUCK TODD:

No, but she said no. She actually said the opposite. It's not about a new set of talking points.

NANCY PELOSI:

No, that's--

CHUCK TODD:

It's actually about policies that aren't working for those folks enough.

NANCY PELOSI:

Well, but they have. Let's see the record. The record is that-- what did we do? We bailed out the auto industry, saving so many jobs, millions, when you take the indirect increase in jobs in that area. The Republicans, at the time, said this would be interfering with the free market system if we bailed out the auto industry. They were on their heels. They're now on top of the world.

But let me just go back to the first part of the Senator's statement. I want to know what the Russians have on Donald Trump. I think we have to have an investigation by the F.B.I. into his financial, personal and political connections to Russia.

CHUCK TODD:

Okay.

NANCY PELOSI:

And we want to see his tax returns so we can have truth--

CHUCK TODD:

Right.

NANCY PELOSI:

--in the relationship between Putin, whom he admires, and Donald Trump.

CHUCK TODD:

But I want to go back to the issue of Democrats having lost touch with the rust belt, with a lot of voters in there that used to be-- and I guess I want to ask it this way, which is does the Democratic Party need new leaders to touch base on this stuff? Whether it's Hillary Clinton, yourself, Chuck Schumer, you've all been in power a long time. And there was a rejection of that in the 2016 election. Do you accept that?

NANCY PELOSI:

Well, we have plenty of room for all kinds of leadership at every level. Right now we need experience, as well as new leadership. And I was a new leader when I emerged myself. I'm all for that. But that's not the point. The point is who has the leverage? The American people had the impression, some, that Donald Trump was going to give them the leverage when he became president.

And what did he do right from the start is go right to his friends in Wall Street. And this is Super Bowl Sunday. So let's give a scorecard. Right away he said-- his people said they were going to overturn Dodd-Frank, that they were going to do away with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, that they were going to do away with the Fiduciary Rule, all of the things that protect consumers, retail investors, taxpayers.

They showed whose side that they were on. So they're about trickle-down economics. We're about trickle-up. We hope that all of us will be talking about a higher minimum wage. And that's the message we have to get across.

CHUCK TODD:

Is the Democratic Party strategy just obstruct the whole time? Is it to basically take that playbook that the Republicans use that politically, you could argue, was very successful?

NANCY PELOSI:

Well, I think that if we can talk about job creation and infrastructure legislation, that's a real infrastructure bill and not a tax break for his rich friends, then there's something we can talk about. If we can talk about work and family balance, about childcare and early childhood education, paid sick leave, let's see where we can find that.

But I want to make this point, Chuck, and it's very important. Because people say to me all the time, "How long will it take the Republicans to give up on Trump?" Trump's agenda is their agenda. They have voted over 60 times to overturn the Affordable Care Act. They vote almost every week in committee or on the floor in this past year to overturn Dodd-Frank and the aspects of it.

So they're very much in sync. It's Mitch McConnell and Speaker Ryan are very much in sync with the Trump agenda. So it's not a question of them saying how much longer will they put up with this? And for him to say "a so-called judge," it's one thing to criticize a decision, it's quite another thing to say, "a so-called judge."

CHUCK TODD:

I'm going to leave it right there. Nancy Pelosi, the House Democratic leader.

NANCY PELOSI:

So aren't you happy that President George Bush and Mrs. Bush are going to be the coin toss--

CHUCK TODD:

We are. And that's, I think, a lot of people are looking forward--

NANCY PELOSI:

It's a beautiful thing.

CHUCK TODD:

--looking forward to that.

NANCY PELOSI:

A beautiful thing.

CHUCK TODD:

You enjoy the Super Bowl, as well. Your rooting interest or no?

NANCY PELOSI:

My family's divided, so--

CHUCK TODD:

Fair enough. As the country is these days. All right, Nancy Pelosi--

NANCY PELOSI:

Thank you.

CHUCK TODD:

--thank you for coming in and sharing your views. When we come back, how even the Super Bowl, though, has been politicized, with one big exception.

COMMERCIAL BREAK

CHUCK TODD:

Welcome back. I have a Super Bowl Data Download edition for you. And this year even the big game is becoming politicized. Take the ad Budweiser plans to run, which depicts the story of its immigrant founder facing prejudice before achieving success. Democrats and republicans may see that ad differently.

12.6 percent of folks in the top 100 counties who voted for Clinton say they've had a Budweiser in the last 30 days. While the same is only true for 6.6 percent of people in the top 100 counties who voted for President Trump. Obviously Budweiser making a consumer decision with that ad. Now you got Lady Gaga, the halftime reporter, she's a big Hillary Clinton supporter. And who knows what she might say tonight.

But if there is one thing that's bringing the country together, apparently it's rooting against the Patriots - the evil empire, right? A recent PPP poll shows fans are pulling for the Falcons at a 2-1 margin, and here's good news it's across party lines. Just look at these numbers, 2-1 on each side.

Honestly, for me, I'm already looking ahead to Super Bowl 52, go Pack go.

When we come back, the coming fight over the Supreme Court. Will the Democrats filibuster the Gorsuch nomination, and will Republicans resort to the "nuclear option?"

COMMERCIAL BREAK

CHUCK TODD:

Back now with the panel, a lot to get to. I wanna do the Ryan interview and the Pelosi interview. First, on Ryan. This is somebody who's a, who is in that Trump sceptic category. Was never a "Never Trumper" but was never a Trump lover. He's now trying to find his way. How much patience does that chunk of the party have for President Trump, Alex?

ALEX CASTELLANOS:

He's appointed a cabinet that that chunk of the party is very happy with. He's taking action as far as keeping the country safe, the country's happy with. He's proposing tax cuts and deregulation, opening up the economy, which I think is the single biggest challenge that's going to renew this economy and get it going again. I think Republicans are very happy with the substance of everything Donald Trump is doing. Turning the big thousand-foot ship of state is not like turning a little business speed boat, you know? You rock the passengers, you can't do it quite as quickly. But I think Republicans, also they see that if the big red wall cracks, if any Republicans start to bail, then the whole thing may collapse.

CHUCK TODD:

But it's interesting, Republicans are getting more comfortable already hitting him. Marco Rubio and Liz Cheney this morning — Liz Cheney, now a member of Congress, by the way, from Wyoming, obviously daughter of the former vice president — both hitting the president hard over the Putin comments, Andrea.

ANDREA MITCHELL:

This Vladimir Putin comment is just, it doesn't hold up on substance and not on morality, and it is offensive to Democrats and Republicans, but you've got, I mean we haven't heard yet from McCain and Lindsey Graham I don't think since we've been sitting here.

CHUCK TODD:

Not yet.

ANDREA MITCHELL:

But you're going to hear a lot more about Russia.

ALEX CASTELLANOS:

Like many things, if I may, that Donald Trump says, there's context for it. And that is, this is a president who criticized America for being too expansionist, too many wars. He is less of an interventionist, less into occupations than predecessors.

ANDREA MITCHELL:

But you cannot forgive the murder --

ALEX CASTELLANOS:

It wasn't well-expressed, it wasn't well-expressed.

CHUCK TODD:

But Danielle, but let's talk --

DANIELLE PLETKA:

It was worse than not well-expressed.

CHUCK TODD:

Let's talk about the style issue, though. Some people, now everybody's gonna know, you were born in Australia.

DANIELLE PLETKA:

Yes.

CHUCK TODD:

So I'm going to make you our Australian expert here.

DANIELLE PLETKA:

Thank you.

CHUCK TODD:

Look, if you make the Australian people mad, there is actually a long-term issue here. If suddenly Australia decides China should be where we should lean as Australians, not the United States.

DANIELLE PLETKA:

Okay, first of all, let me sound my most Australian here, and say Australia's not going to turn to China. Australia and America are allies. And that's not going to change whether Turnbull is PM or Trump is president. That's not going to change. We have shared interests. I'm not worried about that. I don't think anybody would have said to Donald Trump that he is a terrible person if he had said, "Hey, I want to pause on this deal with Australia. I don't quite understand why Obama made it." Actually, frankly, I don't quite understand why Obama made it, either. But the problem was the leaked conversation. The problem was the way that Trump handled it. It wasn't just that he said that he wasn't interested in doing this and they were going to send over the Boston bomber. It was also that he said, "Worst conversation of the day." I mean gratuitous, unnecessary. But that's not going to affect the long-term relationship.

ANDREA MITCHELL:

Not? Really?

DANIELLE PLETKA:

No.

ANDREA MITCHELL:

Because the economic moves towards China are now really becoming very pronounced in Australia.

DANIELLE PLETKA:

I don't agree.

TAVIS SMILEY:

But what troubles me, Chuck, is that we, too many of us, that is, rushed to normalize a racist, sexist, classist campaign that he ran to win this office. And now we seem to be rushing to normalize a Supreme Court process that trampled on the Constitution just a year ago. But now it's just -- so now we're into this conversation about how should Democrats handle this. We're normalizing this too fast. We're normalizing a Muslim ban. We're normalizing a religious test. We're normalizing all the things that we've been talking about here today, Alex. And it troubles me, what this ultimately means for the future of this democracy if we continue in this town and beyond to normalize this kind of unrepentant behavior.

ALEX CASTELLANOS:

I think we have to put Tavis down as undecided here on some of these issues. Look, I think the criticism of Trump as a racist campaign is way beyond the mark. This is somebody-- I mean let's face it, the country-- look at what's happened in our inner cities. How much better did black America's lives get for the last eight years? It did not. How much better did our public schools get? They did not. So I would say while there are things Donald Trump should not have said, yes. But look at what has been done to this country--

TAVIS SMILEY:

I don't want to--

ALEX CASTELLANOS:

-- that's a reaction. I think that's a different kind of prejudice.

TAVIS SMILEY:

I don't want to re-litigate the campaign, number one. I don't want to take--

ALEX CASTELLANOS:

Now you don't. But I do.

TAVIS SMILEY:

But I don't want to take Chuck too far off-field. What I do want to say is that racism, sexism, classism, by any other definition, Alex, is the contestation of someone's humanity. And there are a whole lot of Americans who felt that during that campaign and are feeling it right now with the way we're normalizing this kind of nonsensical behavior.

ANDREA MITCHELL:

And that is a very pressure, Alex, on the Democrats --

ALEX CASTELLANOS:

No, if this had been a Muslim ban, he would have banned Saudi Arabia. He would have banned Indonesia. But he did not. These are unstable governments that we can't work with, and we don't know who's coming from these places.

CHUCK TODD:

All right, let me pause this very quickly, sneak in a commercial break. And we're going to come back and continue the conversation. Endgame, we are trying to get at the endgame of our conversation. But we may go an extra hour. But you won't. We'll be right back.

COMMERCIAL BREAK

CHUCK TODD:

Back now with endgame, and in some ways the conversation that Tavis and Alex, you guys were having leads me to the next issue which is, "How do the Democrats act as an opposition party, Tavis?" Is it all, I mean, the energy is not in Washington. The energy is not with Chuck Schumer and Nancy Pelosi. That's not personal to them but, you know, they have been around a while.

TAVIS SMILEY:

You asked Leader Pelosi a powerful question, great conversation by the way, when you asked her whether or not the Democratic strategy ought to be obstructionism, and what I was thinking was there is a distinct difference between obstructionism and living and governing by a set of immutable principles. So I don't see the Democratic strategy being one merely of obstructionism, and that is what we got from the Republicans on the Supreme Court nomination of Merrick Garland, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera. But there ought to be some principles on which you stand. Those principles, I think, were being played out in the streets by these Saturday protesters that you referenced earlier.

ANDREA MITCHELL:

The problem that they have is that they cannot defeat, they don't have the numbers, to defeat all of these nominees. So, they are trying to pick and choose those where they can pick up some support among Republicans. And they have to face the problem about the Supreme Court nomination. If they, if they go and filibuster, there is no question in my mind that Mitch McConnell will go nuclear--

TAVIS SMILEY:

Force it. Force it on them. They ought to force it--

ANDREA MITCHELL:

They have to figure this out. But the passion over Merrick Garland, and the way he was treated, the humiliation of never even giving him a meeting, no less a hearing, among these Republicans is not to be underestimated.

DANIELLE PLETKA:

But--

ALEX CASTELLANOS:

But, let's remember where all of this--

CHUCK TODD:

Go ahead, Danielle.

ALEX CASTELLANOS:

Go ahead, Danielle.

DANIELLE PLETKA:

Look, first of all, live by the sword, die by the sword.

ANDREA MITCHELL:

That's what I'm saying.

DANIELLE PLETKA:

That's number one. But it goes on both sides. And by the way, you think they're picking their battles? The Democratic leader in the Senate voted against the wife of the Republican leader, okay? Elaine Chao. What was that? Was that--

CHUCK TODD:

By the way, that's the first time--

DANIELLE PLETKA:

--picking and choosing your battles?

CHUCK TODD:

By the way, you bring this up, was the first time in the history of this country that a Transportation Secretary got opposition votes. I mean that shows you where we are--

DANIELLE PLETKA:

--gratuitous.

CHUCK TODD:

--a little bit.

ALEX CASTELLANOS:

I've--

DANIELLE PLETKA:

That's the problem, is that--

ANDREA MITCHELL:

I'm saying that there is--

DANIELLE PLETKA:

--as long as there's no--

ANDREA MITCHELL:

There is enormous pressure. I'm not going to underplay this. There were thousands of people outside Chuck Schumer's house in Brooklyn the other night.

CHUCK TODD:

Yeah.

ALEX CASTELLANOS:

And I--

ANDREA MITCHELL:

They are saying--

ALEX CASTELLANOS:

It is a dangerous thing for the--

DANIELLE PLETKA:

Right.

ALEX CASTELLANOS:

--Democratic Party.

ANDREA MITCHELL:

We are in a very dangerous place as a country when they can't pick and choose.

CHUCK TODD:

Is it dangerous? The Tea Party-- you could argue that what you--

ALEX CASTELLANOS:

Yeah.

CHUCK TODD:

--President Trump, Tea Party--

ALEX CASTELLANOS:

Hugely--

CHUCK TODD:

--straight line, right, Alex?

ALEX CASTELLANOS:

--dangerous. I was there for a lot of their--

CHUCK TODD:

You call it dangerous?

ALEX CASTELLANOS:

Very danger-- on this I agree with Tavis that you need to be for something. There's a new party of "no" in town, and it's the Democratic Party. I've been there, and I've seen where that leads. It shrinks you, it reduces your support. You lose the ability to inspire, unless-- and what is the problem? There's an old generation of Democratic leadership in this country that is hanging on by its fingernails. And if they cede the way, what comes next is a very left-leaning Democratic Party of Elizabeth Warren--

TAVIS SMILEY:

Fine.

ALEX CASTELLANOS:

--and Bernie Sanders that will get--

DANIELLE PLETKA:

That will never win.

ALEX CASTELLANOS:

--even smaller.

TAVIS SMILEY:

I find, Andrea, to your point--

ALEX CASTELLANOS:

And it will never win.

CHUCK TODD:

A lot of people thought Tea Partiers would never win.

TAVIS SMILEY:

I find myself quoting my grandfather all the time. There are some fights that ain't worth fighting, even if you win. But there are other fights you have to fight, even if you lose.

ANDREA MITCHELL:

I take your point, Tavis.

TAVIS SMILEY:

And they have to fight these fights.

ALEX CASTELLANOS:

And lose.

CHUCK TODD:

All right. There's the last words. Of sort, there it is--

ANDREA MITCHELL:

To be continued.

CHUCK TODD:

Okay, that's all for this Super Bowl Sunday. If I don't end this show, they'll never stop talking, right? By the way, pitchers and catchers report in about ten days. And you know what? The Wizards are pretty good, Washington. So if no football, go check out some of the Wizards' action. We'll be back next week. If it's Sunday, it's Meet the Press.

ANNOUNCER:

You can see more Endgame in Post Game on the MTP Facebook page.

* * *END OF TRANSCRIPT* * *

W.H. POLICY ADVISOR: VP POSSIBLY MISLED BY FLYNN IS “A SENSITIVE MATTER,” DEPORTATION IF UNDOCUMENTED WITH “ANYTHING FROM A MISDEMEANOR TO A FELONY”

MTP EXCLUSIVE: Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) says Trump immigration policies are “racist,” “based on anti-Muslim ideology” MTP EXCLUSIVE: Former Sen. Jim Webb (D-Va.) calls on Democrats to “do some real hard looks” on expanding and getting back the party’s core

FEB. 12, 2017 -- **Stephen Miller**, senior policy advisor to President Trump, told “Meet the Press” moderator Chuck Todd this morning that National Security Advisor Gen Mike Flynn possibly misleading the vice president on communication with Russia is [“a sensitive matter.”](#)

Miller, who played a key role in the president’s recent immigration order, [addressed the deportation of undocumented immigrants with criminal offenses](#): The order “describes a criminal offense which would typically mean anything from a misdemeanor to a felony.”

[In an exclusive interview this morning](#), **Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.)** addressed the White House’s immigration order, telling Todd that it is “based on anti-Muslim ideology, which are doing us enormous harm all over the world.”

[Addressing party reform and recent energy on the left](#), Sanders told Todd he wants “to open the doors of the Democratic Party to working people, to lower income people, to young people who have not felt welcome in the embrace” but drew the line against Tea Party similarities “because the Tea Party was essentially funded by the billionaire Koch brothers family.”

Former Sen. Jim Webb (D-Va.) [exclusively joined the program](#), telling Todd “the Democratic Party over the past five or six years has moved very far to the left” and that it has “got to do some real hard looks at whether or not they are going to expand and get back working people who used to be the core of their party.”

“You’ve lost white working people. You’ve lost flyover land,” remarked Webb of the party. The former Virginia senator, who would not discuss his vote for president, noted that he “did not endorse Hillary Clinton.”

BBC News’ **Katty Kay**, former **Gov. Pat McCrory (R-N.C.)**, The Washington Post’s **Eugene Robinson** and MSNBC’s **Greta Van Susteren** joined this morning’s roundtable for insight and analysis.

For more from moderator Chuck Todd throughout the week, watch [MSNBC’s “MTP Daily”](#) weekdays at 5 p.m., and [subscribe to “1947: The Meet The Press Podcast”](#) for on-demand interviews.

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Full transcript of the program is below; other videos from this morning’s network broadcast include:

- Former N.C. Governor: “Bathroom Bill” Protests “Selective Hypocrisy” <http://nbcnews.to/2l89zPA>

- Data Download: Pocketbooks Follow Politics, Nordstrom and L.L. Bean Ride Out Tweets <http://nbcnews.to/2kl7o76>
- comPRESSed: Watch "Meet the Press" in Less Than Two Minutes <http://nbcnews.to/2kkOVba>
- Post Game: Greta Van Susteren on North Korea, President Trump and Her "Lazy" Cats <http://nbcnews.to/2l8dEmZ>

NBC News - Meet The Press

"2.12.17"

Stephen Miller, Fmr. Sen. Jim Webb, Sen. Bernie Sanders, Greta Van Susteren, Fmr. Gov. Pat McCrory, Eugene Robinson, Katty Kay

(BEGIN TAPE)

CHUCK TODD:

This Sunday, immigration fight, President Trump's travel ban is struck down unanimously by a federal appeals court.

PRESIDENT TRUMP:

Courts seem to be so political.

CHUCK TODD:

But the president vows to fight on.

PRESIDENT TRUMP:

We'll win that battle. But we also have a lot of other options.

CHUCK TODD:

So what happens next? I'll ask President Trump's senior policy advisor, Stephen Miller. Plus Russian intrigue, after White House denials, national security advisor Mike Flynn concedes that, yes, he may have spoken to the Russians about Obama-era sanctions before Donald Trump became president.

PRESIDENT TRUMP:

I don't know about it. I haven't seen it.

CHUCK TODD:

Is Flynn's job already in danger? And hostile takeovers, angry posters jam Republican town halls. Have Democratic voters found their voice after the election? I'll talk to a leading progressive, Senator Bernie Sanders and a former senator, Jim Webb of Virginia, a Democrat who says the Trump victory may have been necessary for the political system. Joining me for insight and analysis are Katty Kay, anchor of the BBC's *World News America*, *Washington Post* columnist, Eugene Robinson, Greta Van Susteren, host of MSNBC's *For the Record*, and former North Carolina governor, Pat McCrory. Welcome to Sunday. It's Meet the Press.

ANNOUNCER:

From NBC News in Washington, the longest running show in television history celebrating its 70th year, this is *Meet the Press* with Chuck Todd.

(END TAPE)

CHUCK TODD:

Good Sunday morning. Sometimes it seems as though we're not in week three of the Trump presidency but year three. Consider what's happened in just the past few days. President Trump's travel ban was struck down unanimously by a federal appeals court. And the administration now says it may rewrite the order.

NBC News confirms that National Security Advisor Mike Flynn did, in fact, talk to Russia's ambassador about U.S. sanctions before President Trump took office, a possible violation of the law. The president attacked Nordstrom in a tweet for dropping part of his daughter, Ivanka's clothing line from its stores. Then his counselor, Kellyanne Conway, in trying to defend him ended up publicly rebuked for using the White House to promote Ivanka's products. Progressives took a page from the Tea Party confronting Republican lawmakers with angry crowds at town halls.

And then of course earlier this morning North Korea launched a ballistic missile, perhaps testing President Trump's resolve against Pyongyang early in his presidency. And as we've seen every Saturday of the Trump presidency so far thousands gathered across the country, this time in favor and in some cases against Planned Parenthood. All of this in just the last few days in this one week of the Trump presidency.

(BEGIN TAPE)

PRESIDENT TRUMP:

We'll win that battle. But we also have a lot of other options including just filing a brand new order on Monday.

CHUCK TODD:

For President Trump, it's been a week of setbacks and a series of self-inflicted wounds. In the courts, a ninth circuit court of appeals panel unanimously refused to reinstate his travel ban which even Mr. Trump's homeland security secretary says was rushed out. President Trump attacked the judiciary.

PRESIDENT TRUMP:

Courts seem to be so political.

CHUCK TODD:

Leading to a rebuke from his own Supreme Court nominee.

KELLY AYOTTE:

He feels strongly about the independence of judiciary. But he's also been very clear that he is not commenting on any specific case.

CHUCK TODD:

Now Mr. Trump says he is considering rewriting the travel ban altogether. And then there's Russia, after repeated denials, the White House acknowledged that national security advisor Michael Flynn could not be certain that he did not discuss U.S. sanctions against Russia with Russia's ambassador the month before Mr. Trump took office. U.S. intelligence sources tell NBC News he did. This contradicts the earlier claims of a parade of administration officials including the vice president.

VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE:

They did not discuss anything having to do with the United States' decision to expel diplomats or impose a censure against Russia.

REINCE PRIEBUS:

So the subject matter of sanctions or the actions taken by the Obama administration did not come up in the conversation.

CHUCK TODD:

On Air Force One Friday night, the president was asked about the reports on Flynn. And the president did not go out of his way to defend him or debunk the story.

PRESIDENT TRUMP:

I don't know about it. I haven't seen it. What report is that?

CHUCK TODD:

And then there's the family businesses. President Trump attacked Nordstrom for announcing it would no longer carry his daughter's shoe line, tweeting, "My daughter, Ivanka, has been treated so unfairly by Nordstrom. She is a great person, always pushing me to do the right thing. Terrible." That tweet could haunt the president legally. And his advisor, Kellyanne Conway, doubled down.

KELLYANNE CONWAY:

Go buy Ivanka's stuff is what I would tell you. I'm going to give a free commercial here.

CHUCK TODD:

That got the attention of Republican oversight chair Jason Chaffetz who chastised Conway. The president reportedly took umbrage at his own press secretary's response.

SEAN SPICER:

Kellyanne has been counseled.

CHUCK TODD:

Meanwhile around the country from Utah--

PROTESTERS:

Do your job. Do your job.

CHUCK TODD:

--to California, Tennessee, Ohio, to Kentucky--

PROTESTERS:

Mitch is a chicken.

CHUCK TODD:

And Georgia.

PROTESTERS:

Shame. Shame. Shame.

CHUCK TODD:

Republican lawmakers are facing large, hostile audiences at town hall events. An early indication that Trump's opposition is energized. Even some Trump voters who support his policy are questioning the president's tactics.

JIM WIDMEYER:

We don't always agree with the way he presents things. But we definitely are on board with his agenda.

TOM WIDMEYER:

We have people in our family who are like that. You love them to death and you go, "Oh, did he just say that?"

(END TAPE)

CHUCK TODD:

And joining me now is Stephen Miller. He's the senior policy adviser to President Trump and he played a key role in the drafting of the partial travel ban. And he joins me now. Mr. Miller, welcome to Meet the Press.

STEPHEN MILLER:

Hey good to be here, Chuck.

CHUCK TODD:

Let me start with the decision by the ninth circuit and the president himself saying to reporters that a new order may be drafted. Is that what you and others are doing right now, drafting a new order since essentially the ninth circuit seemed to give you a road map of how to draw up something slightly more narrow that would accomplish your goal.

STEPHEN MILLER:

Well we're considering all of our options right now Chuck. That includes: you can continue the appeal in the ninth. You can seek an emergency stay at the Supreme Court. You can have a trial hearing on the merits at the district level. Or you can take in en banc for the emergency hearing also at the ninth circuit and yes, you could pursue additional executive actions. The bottom line is that we are pursuing every single possible action to keep our country safe from terrorism and I also want to be clear we've heard a lot of talk about how all the branches of government are equal. That's the point. They are equal. There's no such thing as judicial supremacy. What the judges did, both at the ninth and at the district level was to take power for themselves that belongs squarely in the hands of the president of the United States.

CHUCK TODD:

Well you say that very definitively, but obviously there isn't an agreed upon that. Why are you so confident that, for instance, that you believe there is a 1952 law that gives the president the power to decide who can come in and out of this country on a temporary basis. Why do you believe that law supersedes 1965's which says you cannot essentially decide on who comes in based on origin?

STEPHEN MILLER:

That's a great question and I'll answer it in full. First of all, we know that the 1952 law you're referring to is 212(f) 8 U.S.C. 1182(f) because if it didn't have controlling supremacy between those two clauses that would mean, Chuck, that during a time of war that the president of the United States couldn't suspend admissions from the very country they were at war with. So obviously that's the controlling clause.

Secondly, this is not a decision based upon national origins. It's a decision based upon security conditions in those countries. Syria is a disaster zone. Libya is in ruins. Yemen has a massive resurgent terrorism movement. These are decisions based upon the ability of those countries to cooperate with our intelligence services.

As you know, Chuck, this was a decision made in 2015 and '16 in terms of designating these countries. We simply took that intelligence assessment and we took firm action to restrict entry. And the bottom line is the president of the United States, both under his Article 2 foreign powers, under the 1952 statute has the power to control who enters our country. And you know and I know that no foreign national living in Yemen or any other country has a constitutional right to demand entry into our country.

CHUCK TODD:

Look, I understand that. But I guess I go back to if you do that, if this was about the security of the country, why wasn't Afghanistan, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, I can keep going down the list, where we have had foreign nationals from those countries that I've listed attempt terrorist acts in this country?

STEPHEN MILLER:

Well, that's a great question. First of all, 72 individuals according to the Center for Immigration Studies have been implicated in terroristic activity in the United States who hail from those seven nations. Point one. Point two, the security determination about those countries is based upon an assessment of the threat they present today and going into the future. The security situation in Libya, Yemen, Syria and other countries designated are squarely different today than they were in, say, 2001 or 2005 or 2010.

CHUCK TODD:

But San Bernardino--

STEPHEN MILLER:

So while it's absolutely true--

CHUCK TODD:

--but Mr. Miller, but San Bernardino happened, the whole point of the president's, as a candidate, the whole point of this idea at the time of a full Muslim ban and then he has since tapered it back was in response to San Bernardino where the spouse came from Saudi Arabia, of Pakistan origin.

STEPHEN MILLER:

Well, you're 100%--

CHUCK TODD:

Neither--

STEPHEN MILLER:

--well, first of all--

CHUCK TODD:

--neither country on your list.

STEPHEN MILLER:

--you're 100% correct. You're 100% correct that the San Bernardino incident demonstrated the profound degree to which our immigration system is vulnerable to terrorism. And the F.B.I. has information right now that would clearly indicate the extent to which massive numbers of court cases are happening and have happened all over our country relating to terrorist infiltration of our immigration system.

But if you look at the executive order, what it spells out is a 90-day period to put in place extreme vetting across the board. So the first seven countries are based upon our determination about the security conditions in those countries and their ability to cooperate with us.

But there's a 30-day period where new security measures are promulgated and a 60-day compliance period. And, Chuck, I will be glad to come back on your show when that's done and walk you through how we've kept our country safe across the board from individuals coming into our country who don't share our values and who don't love our people.

CHUCK TODD:

Well, it's interesting you say about sharing values in this vetting process. I want to ask this, number one, are you going to make public the new vetting procedures?

STEPHEN MILLER:

Well, first of all, I'll suppose there will be aspects of those that will be public. And I'm sure that for reasons of national security there'll be aspects of those that won't be. I mean, obviously if you're engaged in a

vetting procedure of a foreign national in a dangerous region, you don't want them to have a road map for everything they should say and do to get around those procedures. We don't want to forecast all of that.

But there are obviously elements of it that would be part of routine, online forms that everybody could see. So it just depends. But I think the important thing is this, 80 million people traveled into the United States last year through the airports, seaports or land ports. We, as a sovereign nation have the right to impose basic restrictions on entry to ensure our security, our quality of life, our economic and financial well-being.

And the bottom line, the bottom line is that a district judge, a district judge in Seattle cannot make immigration law for the United States, cannot give foreign nationals and foreign countries rights they do not have, and cannot prevent the president of the United States from suspending the admission of refugees from Syria.

CHUCK TODD:

Well, let me go to the issue of immigration as a whole. Do you believe there's too much legal immigration in this country?

STEPHEN MILLER:

I believe that we should have a program in which American workers are given jobs first. The president campaigned on this. It's an issue where the labor unions agree with us. It's an issue where many Democrat members of Congress agree with us. If you have an open job in this country, a U.S. citizen or existing legal permanent resident ought to have the ability to make the first application for that job.

The problem is and the way the media covers this issue, present company excluded, is they don't spend enough time talking about the well-being of the 300 million people here today. U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents, many of whom are living in poverty, many of whom haven't seen wage growth in 20, 30 years.

And it's time we talked about them, their needs, their families and their concerns. And yes, we'll have a lawful immigration system. And we'll enrich and benefit our country. But the president has made clear he believes that should be a merit-based system where individuals coming into the country bring the kinds of benefits economically that will grow our economy and help lift up wages for everybody.

CHUCK TODD:

But you didn't answer the question. Do you and the president believe there's too much legal immigration?

STEPHEN MILLER:

I think that I look forward to us rolling out immigration reforms. And I'll be able to announce very clearly when we do that what those do. I think that my views on this issue have been well-discussed and well-publicized. And I'd love to have a conversation with you to get into them in great detail.

Where we're focused right now is two things, protecting the security of our country through interior enforcement and through screening of entrance. And additionally, by ensuring that before a job is given to a foreign national, that job is offered first to an American worker, either a legal permanent resident or a U.S. citizen.

CHUCK TODD:

Well, I'm going to ask about what appears to be an immigration enforcement surge that has taken place over the last week. And it goes to the other executive order that had to do with immigration that was signed. When, what is-- How do you define a criminal act by an undocumented immigrant in this country? Is the, just being undocumented here illegally, is that enough of a criminal act to get you deported under this order?

STEPHEN MILLER:

The order describes a criminal offense which would typically mean anything from a misdemeanor to a felony. In particular, the emphasis is on crimes that threaten or endanger public safety. But as you well know you cannot order a federal law enforcement officer in ICE any more than you can in the F.B.I. or the DEA or the marshal service to ignore the laws of the United States.

It would be highly unethical for me in the White House or anybody else to pick up the phone and call an ICE officer and say, "Well, when you encounter this particular felon we'd like you to pretend the law doesn't exist." But I can tell you right now there are enforcement actions happening all over this country in which gang members, drug dealers--

CHUCK TODD:

I understand.

STEPHEN MILLER:

--sex offenders--

CHUCK TODD:

I understand the h-- felons.

STEPHEN MILLER:

--are being swept up.

CHUCK TODD:

What about if the only crime they've committed was being here illegally? Is that enough to be deported?

STEPHEN MILLER:

Sean, an immigration-- I mean Chuck, an immigration judge makes those decisions. An ICE officer makes those decisions. I and the White House don't make those decisions.

CHUCK TODD:

So you've not--

STEPHEN MILLER:

If people don't like, if people don't like--

CHUCK TODD:

--told them to prioritize or, in either direction?

STEPHEN MILLER:

--if people don't like the immigration laws of the United States they can reform them. Our emphasis is on deporting and removing criminal aliens who pose a threat to public safety. And I just want to say this, there's been a lot of coverage in the news about the effects of these enforcement actions on people who are here illegally.

And that's an issue people are free to discuss. But what's more important and what should be discussed more is the lives that are being saved, Chuck. The American lives that are being saved because we're taking enforcement action. And when we didn't take those actions in the past, you have families like the Wilkerson family and the Root family and the Mendoza family who lost people they loved because we were more concerned about the effects of enforcement on people here illegally than on the well-being of lawful immigrants and U.S. citizens.

CHUCK TODD:

Okay, so it sounds to me as if you're saying there is no-- you did not tell ICE workers who to prioritize. And there is--

STEPHEN MILLER:

No that's not correct. I'm saying that I, in the White House, it would be improper for me to tell them to disengage from an enforcement action. The president has been clear, equivocal-- unequivocal and explicit in saying that we are going to focus on removing individuals who pose a threat to public safety including people who are gang members who have been charged with--

CHUCK TODD:

I understand that.

STEPHEN MILLER:

--criminal offenses, who have been multiple immigration violations, who have been deported and reentered. I have a question, what would you say, Chuck, what would you say to a family member who lost someone they loved because an illegal immigrant who'd been deported two times and had a misdemeanor conviction was allowed to come back into the country a third time because that wasn't deemed a priority and they lost someone they loved? Would you say, "Well, I'm sorry. It didn't meet our priority scale." We're going to focus on public safety and saving American lives and we will not apologize--

CHUCK TODD:

Mr. Miller--

STEPHEN MILLER:

--for that.

CHUCK TODD:

--before I let you go, does the president still have confidence in his national security advisor?

STEPHEN MILLER:

That's the question that I think you should ask the president, the question you should ask Reince, the chief of staff. I'm here today as a policy advisor. And my focus was on answering the policy questions that you have. General Flynn has served his country admirably. He is a three-star general. He's head of the defense intelligence agency. And I look forward to having more discussions about this in the future.

CHUCK TODD:

So the White House did not give you anything to say other than--

STEPHEN MILLER:

They did not give me--

CHUCK TODD:

--that on General Flynn?

STEPHEN MILLER:

--anything to say.

CHUCK TODD:

So you cannot say--

STEPHEN MILLER:

Asked and answered, Chuck.

CHUCK TODD:

--whether or not the president still has confidence in his national security advisor?

STEPHEN MILLER:

It's not for me to tell you what's in the president's mind. That's a question for the president--

CHUCK TODD:

Well, let me--

STEPHEN MILLER:

--that's a question for a chief of staff. Asked and answered, Chuck.

CHUCK TODD:

Let me ask you this, if you were caught misleading the vice president of the United States, would that be considered a fireable offense in the Trump White House?

STEPHEN MILLER:

It's not for me to answer hypotheticals. It wouldn't be responsible. It's a sensitive matter. General Flynn has served his country admirably. He served his country with distinction. And I look forward to having a conversation with you once you've had a chance to talk with the appropriate people in the White House who are dealing with this matter.

CHUCK TODD:

Stephen.

STEPHEN MILLER:

It would not be appropriate for me to speculate.

CHUCK TODD:

Stephen Miller, senior policy advisor to the president, thanks for coming on, sir.

STEPHEN MILLER:

Thank you.

CHUCK TODD:

Appreciate you sharing your views.

STEPHEN MILLER:

Thank you.

CHUCK TODD:

And joining me now is one of the leaders of the Democratic Party these days, though he's actually still not technically a member of the Democratic Party, it's Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont. Senator Sanders, welcome back to *Meet the Press*, sir.

SENATOR BERNIE SANDERS:

Good to be with you.

CHUCK TODD:

Let me start on this, the travel ban and immigration in general. And let me ask the question to you this way, do you think the current procedures that we have to vet refugees, to vet folks that are coming into this country, do you think it needs to be improved? Do you think it is a safety risk right now?

SENATOR BERNIE SANDERS:

Well, I think that the vetting mechanisms we have now are very, very strong. If anybody has an idea as to how we can make them stronger, let's go forward. I don't think there's any debate whether you're

progressive, conservative or anybody else that we want to keep the United States safe and we want to be 100% clear that anybody who comes into this country should not be coming into this country to do us harm.

But what you just heard Mr. Miller say is a shell game. While-- where there's a whole lot of discussion about the racist, in my view, immigration policies of the Trump administration which are based on anti-Muslim ideology, which are doing us enormous harm all over the world, something else is going on at the exact same moment.

And that President Trump is backtracking on every economic promise that he made to the American people when he told workers and senior citizens he was not going to cut social security, Medicare and Medicaid. So what's going on right now, we're talking a whole lot about immigration, he is appointing Wall Street bankers, the same people he told us he would oppose, to very high positions. Gary Cohn has gotten to \$250 million severance package from Goldman Sachs. He is now the main financial advisor. So we're talking a whole lot about dividing the American people up. We're supposed to hate Muslims. We're supposed to hate Latinos. We're supposed to hate blacks.

CHUCK TODD:

So you think all of this is--

SENATOR BERNIE SANDERS:

Meanwhile--

CHUCK TODD:

--a shiny, metal object? You think all of this is a shiny, metal object right now to distract the public, divide the public?

SENATOR BERNIE SANDERS:

You got it. You got it. Meanwhile, meanwhile he was going to clean the swamp. Remember that?

CHUCK TODD:

Uh-huh.

SENATOR BERNIE SANDERS:

Well, guess who's running the swamp right now? The same exact Wall Street guys from Goldman Sachs who were there in the past. So we're all talking about who do we hate tomorrow? Is it the Muslims? Is it Latinos? Who are we supposed to hate?

And let's remember that when Mr. Trump some years ago helped lead the birther effort to undermine the legitimacy of the first African-American president in our history. It was trying to divide us up. And what I say to the American people, stay focused. Stay focused. Do you want billionaires and Wall Street executives to be running this economy? Or do we want economic policies that work for working families and the middle class?

CHUCK TODD:

I want--

SENATOR BERNIE SANDERS:

Where is the discussion about raising the minimum wage to a living wage? Pay equity for women--

CHUCK TODD:

Let me ask you this, Senator, we've seen a lot of anti-Trump activism over the last three weeks. Once again, every Saturday of his presidency so far we've seen some protests. There's a lot of energy in the progressive movement. But there's a lot of debate about what Democrats should do about it. First of all, do you believe this is a Tea Party for the left? And, if so, what lessons did you learn in '09 that you think can be learned by the Democrats now?

SENATOR BERNIE SANDERS:

No, it's not a Tea Party because the Tea Party was essentially funded by the billionaire Koch brothers family. This is a spontaneous and grassroots uprising of the American people. And let me just mention to you, Chuck, you may be the first to hear this, on February 25th, two weeks from yesterday there is, in fact, going to be rallies all over this country.

And I think you're going to see people in conservative areas, in progressive areas asking the Republicans, "What are you going to do when you throw 20 million people off of health insurance? How many of them are going to die? What's your plan? What are you going to do when you raise prescription drug costs on average \$2,000 for senior citizens? Are you going to really repeal the protection against pre-existing conditions so that people who have cancer or heart disease will no longer be able to get insurance? You're going to throw kids off their parents' health insurance program?" Republicans are going to have to start answering those questions. And the American people are pretty clear, overwhelmingly they want to improve the Affordable Care Act. They do not want to simply repeal it.

CHUCK TODD:

All right. Let me ask you a question, some of your former staffers including Nick Brana has a Draft Bernie for a People's Party movement. Essentially they want to start a new political party. In this statement it said this, "Despite Bernie Sanders' monumental endeavor to bring people into the Democratic Party, people are leaving it by the millions. The collective efforts to reform the party cannot stem the tide of people who are going independent, let alone expand the Democratic base." What do you say to those efforts?

SENATOR BERNIE SANDERS:

Well, I say two things, right now we are in a pivotal moment in American history. We have a president who is delusional in many respects, a pathological liar, somebody who is trying to--

CHUCK TODD:

Those are strong words.

SENATOR BERNIE SANDERS:

--divide us up.

CHUCK TODD:

Can you work with--

SENATOR BERNIE SANDERS:

Those are strong words.

CHUCK TODD:

Can you work with a pathological liar?

SENATOR BERNIE SANDERS:

Well, it makes life very difficult, not just for me. And I don't mean, you know, I know it sounds, it is very harsh. But I think that's the truth. When somebody goes before you and the American people, say, "Three to five million people voted illegally in the last election," nobody believes that. There is not the scintilla of evidence.

What would you call that remark? It's a lie. It's a delusion. But second of all, to answer your question, I think what we need to do right now is focusing on bringing the American people together around a progressive agenda. American people want to raise the minimum wage. They want to rebuild our crumbling infrastructure. They want the wealthiest people in this country to start paying their fair share of taxes. They want the United States to join the rest of the industrialized world and guarantee health care to all people as a right.

CHUCK TODD:

So if the Democratic Party isn't that vehicle then you would support something like that? But you still believe the Democratic--

SENATOR BERNIE SANDERS:

No right now--

CHUCK TODD:

--Party is that vehicle?

SENATOR BERNIE SANDERS:

--right now, Chuck, I am working to bring fundamental reform to the Democratic Party, to open the doors of the Democratic Party to working people, to lower income people, to young people who have not felt welcome in the embrace of the Democratic Party.

CHUCK TODD:

All right, I got to leave it there. Senator Bernie Sanders, thanks for coming on and sharing your views, sir. Appreciate it. Coming up--

SENATOR BERNIE SANDERS:

Thank you.

CHUCK TODD:

--many on the left say the Democrats should oppose President Trump at every turn but not everyone agrees including one former Democratic senator who says there are some areas where maybe the two sides can work together.

COMMERCIAL BREAK

CHUCK TODD:

Welcome back, panel is here. Former North Carolina governor, Pat McCrory debuts on the panel, Katty Kay, anchor of BBC's *World News America*, Greta Van Susteren, host of MSNBC's *For the Record*, her first ever appearance right here on *Meet the Press* and Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist for the *Washington Post*, Eugene Robinson. So Greta, just don't make it your last.

GRETA VAN SUSTEREN:

It what--

CHUCK TODD:

Well, we'll find out at the end of the show whether this is your first or last appearance.

GRETA VAN SUSTEREN:

I don't know. It took 70 years. It took a long time.

EUGENE ROBINSON:

No pressure.

CHUCK TODD:

Very quickly I want to go to North Korea and then I want to go to the interviews that I had. Very quickly, you've been to North Korea numerous times. Your best read of the intent of this missile test, a test of Trump?

GRETA VAN SUSTEREN:

We're in trouble. North Korea's done five nuclear tests. Two were in the year 2016. And now we have the second test a ballistic missile. And we've got a situation where obviously this was done to rattle the president because the Prime Minister of Japan was here. No president's been able to handle this country. And this country is very paranoid and they don't like us. And it's terrifying where they're headed.

CHUCK TODD:

Yeah and I think we don't know yet how he'll respond. And I think all presidents get tested early it seems like these days by that. I want to go to what we just heard here on the travel ban and on immigration. It's been a rough week, Eugene, for him. And it seems like some of this really is more process than policy.

EUGENE ROBINSON:

Yeah, it's more process than politics. And it's the president's own reaction really to what he sees, apparently, as the illegitimacy of the federal judiciary or its ability to do what the judicial branch is supposed to do which is tell us, you know, interpret the law and tell us whether or not it's constitutional. And it was interesting to hear Stephen Miller say that, you know, one judge can't do this. One judge can't, you know, stop this huge thing the president do. In fact, he can. He did.

CHUCK TODD:

One judge does it a lot.

EUGENE ROBINSON:

It happens a lot.

CHUCK TODD:

Governor McCrory, you know about judges doing things. And one judge has a lot of power.

FMR. GOV. PAT MCCRORY:

Yeah.

CHUCK TODD:

But you look it here, you know, there's been a growing amount of conservative columnists who have been arguing that perhaps this is-- we've got a competency issue right now in the White House. Is that what you see?

FMR. GOV. PAT MCCRORY:

No I think what we see is a typical behavior of a new administration. Let's go back in history, the Clinton administration, remember all the t-shirts in the White House. People didn't know what they were doing. They made a lot of rookie mistakes. The Hillarycare had no idea about the communication or process of that.

The Obamacare, they didn't have an IT system on how to implement it, major, major breakdown in a major institution during the first three or four months of the Obama administration. We're seeing some breakdowns in process, the homeland security director admitted we made some mistakes.

I want to bring you back to what governors were saying six months ago and that is this, the F.B.I. told them and told the nation that the venting process was not acceptable, especially in countries like Syria that have a total breakdown of government.

The second thing that governors were saying was this that once the refugees came to the United States there was almost no communication with the F.B.I. or with government, state government, homeland security officials on where these immigrants go to. And that's a long-term security issue that I'm glad the Trump administration is dealing with.

CHUCK TODD:

Katty, what did you hear on the other part, the other order we talked about with Stephen Miller? On it seemed that he was dancing around whether there is a priority now on essentially deporting anybody who's committed a crime no matter the level of crime?

KATTY KAY:

He was really choosing his language carefully I thought on the question of whether being in the United States, in and of itself, constitutes enough of a crime to get you deported. Now one of the confusing things at the moment that's going on in this administration is trying to sort out what is new and different and really changing America? And what is political theatrics and what is language? Because we have so much and we're sort of at day 23. It feels like 230. I feel I'm 230. It's so much coming in.

CHUCK TODD:

Year three.

KATTY KAY:

Trying to sort out what is this quantifiably different from President Obama or have there just been a lot of stories in the press because immigrants are understandably, illegal immigrants, are afraid.

GRETA VAN SUSTEREN:

And--

KATTY KAY:

And so they're worried.

GRETA VAN SUSTEREN:

--and President Obama did deport--

--he did deport people who were here illegally, undocumented but who had not committed crimes. And what he did is he prioritized it because we have limited amount of resources.

KATTY KAY:

So what's different and what's not different--

GRETA VAN SUSTEREN:

Probably nothing. Probably nothing.

KATTY KAY:

--Stephen didn't clarify that.

CHUCK TODD:

Very quickly, what did you hear on Mike Flynn?

EUGENE ROBINSON:

Oh exactly. That's just what I was going to bring up. I heard a very sort of non-committal response on Flynn. The White House didn't give me anything to say on it. Ooh. Ooh.

FMR. GOV. PAT MCCRORY:

As a former governor, you depend upon your staff to give you direct, accurate, honest information, especially if as a governor or vice president you've got to defend it.

GRETA VAN SUSTEREN:

But he survives. He definitely survives because Jeremy Bash who worked in the Obama administration at the C.I.A. under Panetta said that he didn't have a problem with him talking to the Russian ambassador during the transition. The problem of course is what was said to Vice President Pence--

GRETA VAN SUSTEREN:

--but in this town, he'll survive.

CHUCK TODD:

It's not the crime, it's the cover up. Isn't that the famous --

KATTY KAY:

It makes it look like the president and the vice president don't know what's going on behind them. I think that's a very difficult position for Flynn to have put himself in.

EUGENE ROBINSON:

This White House is not given to understatement, right? And so now -- that was a very understated response.

FMR. GOV. PAT MCCRORY:

Pence has experience in this area as a former governor, former congressman I think this--

GRETA VAN SUSTEREN:

But this is a city of no consequences.

CHUCK TODD:

You think that this is up to Pence whether Flynn stays or goes.

FMR. GOV. PAT MCCRORY:

I think it's what we find out what he actually told Pence. And Pence depended upon accurate information and stuck his neck out for him.

CHUCK TODD:

He sure did. Very interesting. Alright, guys, I'm going to pause it here. You will be back, of course. But when I come back I'll be speaking with former senator Jim Webb who says the election of Donald Trump was a shock that maybe the political system needed. Remember, he's a Democrat.

COMMERCIAL BREAK

CHUCK TODD:

Welcome back, my next guest is part of a rare and dying breed, a centrist and a moderate. A moderate Democrat. Jim Webb was secretary of navy under Republican President Ronald Reagan. He voted for George W. Bush over Al Gore. But by 2006 he had switched parties to become a Democrat and he won a U.S. Senate seat in Virginia. Jim Webb takes a somewhat more optimistic view of the potential for a Trump presidency. And he joins me now, Senator Webb, welcome back to the show.

FMR SEN. JIM WEBB:

Well, nice to be here.

CHUCK TODD:

So let's put some context to your words when you wrote an op-ed right before, literally the day before the inauguration in the *Wall Street Journal*. And it was mostly on foreign policy where you were saying, "There's something about his election is a jolt the system needed or a shock that it needed." What -- explain.

FMR SEN. JIM WEBB:

Well, you know, in so many words here. I didn't say that the system needed a President Trump. But I've been saying for a long time that the system that we're operating under needs some sort of a, you would call it, jolt. You know, I think both parties have sort of gotten calcified.

And let's remember that if Hillary Clinton had won you would be seeing the same sort of activities that you're seeing now. They would just be focused on different things. There would be people out there saying she belonged in jail. There would be people talking about corruption. Turnstile government, et cetera, et cetera.

So what we're seeing playing out right now, first of all, as the governor mentioned this is a new administration, you know, getting its wheels under it. But at the same time, this is an attempt by President Trump to pull different types of people into the system from the old turnstile government. There's a lot of Republicans that are mad at him who are sitting out there in the think tanks thinking that they were going to come into a Republican administration.

And also he's got a payback I think that he feels strongly about in terms of the people who actually put him over, these voters that were alienated, were not voting. And these issues, controversial issues, that he's putting out in a wrong kind of forum I think are issues of credibility. On the Democrats, first of all, they're looking at 2018. And they don't have a message. They don't have a--

CHUCK TODD:

Speak to them as they, by the way.

FMR SEN. JIM WEBB:

--well, you know.

CHUCK TODD:

You don't say we. Is there a reason?

FMR SEN. JIM WEBB:

I'm not in the system right now as, you know, I'm over here with you right now--

CHUCK TODD:

Fair enough. Okay.

FMR SEN. JIM WEBB:

--bit of my life as a writer and a journalist. And it's a good place to be about making these observations.

CHUCK TODD:

Then welcome back. And finish the observation.

FMR SEN. JIM WEBB:

Well, you know, there is a campaign going on on the Hill, in the media, in the academia to personally discredit not only Donald Trump but the people who are around him. And, you know, the end result of this really is try and to slow down the process, by the way. You and I were talking a minute ago about the confirmation process, it's slow it down so that by 18 when the Democrats are very vulnerable particularly in the Senate they will not be a record of accomplishment that they can run against.

And at the same time the Democratic Party over the past five or six years has moved very far to the left. You know, when you can't have a Jefferson/Jackson dinner which was the primary, you know, celebratory event of the Democratic Party for years because Jefferson and Jackson were slaveholders, they were also great American in their day, something just different has happened to the Democratic Party.

CHUCK TODD:

You think that they're too focused on identity politics?

FMR SEN. JIM WEBB:

Well, I think that the message that has been shaped by the Democratic Party has been shaped toward identity politics. And they've lost the key part of their base, the people in, you know, my family history goes back to the Roosevelt Democrats, the people who believed that regardless of any of these identity segments you need to have a voice in a quarters of power for those who have no voice. And we've lost that with the Democratic Party. I'm not saying the Republicans have it. But--

CHUCK TODD:

I was just going to say the center's been hollowed out. You can make an argument that the political center in both parties, because right now if you espouse that you were running for reelection, any Democrat were espousing what you just espoused which is, you know what, look, essentially you're saying, hey, start working with him a little bit, accept the fact that he's President, you'd get primaried. And you'd probably lose.

FMR SEN. JIM WEBB:

Well, true. Well, I don't know about--

CHUCK TODD:

I understand you, but I'm saying Democratic incumbent.

FMR SEN. JIM WEBB:

Generally, you know.

CHUCK TODD:

Fair enough.

FMR SEN. JIM WEBB:

That is a danger to people who would say those sorts of things. But the Democrats have not done the kind of self-reflection that they should have starting 2010. And I was talking about this in the '10 elections. You've lost white working people. You've lost flyover land.

And you saw in this election what happens when people get frustrated enough that they say, "I'm not going to take this aristocracy." You know, Bernie, good friend of mine. Bernie can talk about aristocracies all he wants. You know, the fact that you've made money doesn't make you a member of that philosophy. Look at Franklin Roosevelt. But there is an aristocracy now that pervades American politics. It's got to be broken somehow in both parties. And I think that's what the Trump message was that echoed so strongly in these flyover communities.

CHUCK TODD:

Let me ask you on the election, you stayed away from saying who you supported in the election. I know that Tim Kaine is somebody you have a lot of respect for. I can't imagine you didn't vote for him.

FMR SEN. JIM WEBB:

I voted for Tim Kaine for Senator.

CHUCK TODD:

For Senator. At the end of the day, are you comfortable with your vote, with whoever you voted for?

FMR SEN. JIM WEBB:

I'm comfortable for my vote and my vote is private to me. But at the same time, you know, I will say that I did not endorse Hillary Clinton. I had a lot of the concerns that, you know, people in my group that I've

grown up with have. And the Democratic Party's got to do some real, hard looks at whether or not they are going to expand and get back working people who used to be the core of their party.

CHUCK TODD:

Are you done with politics?

FMR SEN. JIM WEBB:

I'm over here with you right now.

CHUCK TODD:

All right. I will leave it there. Senator Jim Webb apparently coming back to the journalism world. We'd welcome you back--

FMR SEN. JIM WEBB:

Thank you.

CHUCK TODD:

For sure. Anyway, thanks for coming on. Coming up, voting with your wallet. When President Trump praised L.L.Bean last month people in many red states started buying L.L.Bean while traffic from loyal blue states dropped. Turns out, not an isolated incident. Nordstrom was next. And this may be the start of a trend. That's after the break.

COMMERCIAL BREAK

(BEGIN TAPE)

CHUCK TODD:

And we are back, data download time. Are the choices we make with our credit cards becoming just as political as the ones we make at the ballot box? In the early days of the Trump era that may be the case. As we noted earlier, President Trump criticized Nordstrom for dropping his daughter, Ivanka's, line from its stores, claiming she was treated, quote, "Unfairly and it was terrible."

Nordstrom said it didn't drop parts of the line over politics but over simply poor performance. And to prove their decision correct the president's criticism isn't hurting Nordstrom's bottom line. If anything it has helped proving it was a good business decision. Traffic to the Nordstrom website went up 28 percent the day of the President's tweet. And Nordstrom's stock closed up 4.1 percent the same day. It may not be surprising given Nordstrom's customer base. According to Simmons Research both Nordstrom and Nordstrom Rack are in the top ten list of stores where people who describe themselves as liberal shop.

In fact, folks living in the top 100 counties that voted for Hillary Clinton are more than twice as likely to shop at Nordstrom than the average American. And folks living in Trump's top 100 counties, they didn't shop at Nordstrom at all.

And then there's the L.L.Bean episode. When Mr. Trump praised the company, the seven states that typically produce the most traffic to L.L.Bean's website saw drops in traffic almost across the board. A lot of blue states there. While the seven states with the least traffic to the site almost all went up by a lot.

Quite a few red states there. Many of those trends did reverse themselves, by the way, the following week.

Still, big picture. Americans cast their ballots in November. But guess what? They're still voting. Only this time they're doing so with their wallets. When we come back those town hall protests against Republicans. Are we seeing the beginning of a tea movement on the left?

(END TAPE)

COMMERCIAL BREAK

(BEGIN TAPE)

PROTESTERS:
Do your job. Do your job. Do your job.

(END TAPE)

CHUCK TODD:

Welcome back, these are scenes from town halls, that was suburban Salt Lake City, Utah, Greensboro, Georgia, the chants of "do your job" in Salt Lake City came from, came after Republican Congressman Jason Chaffetz, the chairman of the house oversight committee told the gathering that President Trump is exempt from conflict of interest laws, which is true.

Chaffetz was one of a number of Republicans this week who got a taste of what Tea Party supporters did to Democrats in 2009. And guys, we just saw, Katty, sort of the two visions of where the Democratic Party should go in Bernie Sanders and Jim Webb.

KATTY KAY:

Yeah, this is Georgia and Utah we're looking at pictures from, right?

CHUCK TODD:

That's right. Yeah.

KATTY KAY:

And the Democrats, the base there even is furious. They are trying to drag the leadership to the left. But that puts Democrats who are in red states who are up for reelection in an incredibly difficult position. Take someone like Claire McCaskill who openly says, "I'm in a bind. I don't know what to do. And that doesn't happen to me very often." Because if she goes with her base and then she loses the election and she's at 47%--

EUGENE ROBINSON:

Right.

KATTY KAY:

--approval--

FMR. GOV. PAT MCCRORY:

Follow the money.

KATTY KAY:

--then they have a problem in the Senate more broadly.

EUGENE ROBINSON:

Well, look, but the party is going to the left. I mean, that's, you know, you see what's happening out there. You see these protests every week. It has really sort of energized the Democratic sort of coalition in the way that, frankly--

KATTY KAY:

--half a dozen--

EUGENE ROBINSON:

--in the way that the Tea Party did on the right.

FMR. GOV. PAT MCCRORY:

Follow the money. Follow the money. You know, Senator Sanders mentioned the money going to the Tea Party. The money is going to the Bernie Sanders wing. Do you think all these protests are not being paid?

GRETA VAN SUSTEREN:

But the thing is--

CHUCK TODD:

Can I just say-- By the way, everybody always thinks--

EUGENE ROBINSON:

But paid protests--

FMR. GOV. PAT MCCRORY:

It takes money to coordinate these protests.

GRETA VAN SUSTEREN:

No it doesn't. It takes the internet. It takes the internet to coordinate. But, you know what, this is political--

FMR. GOV. PAT MCCRORY:

No, it takes money.

GRETA VAN SUSTEREN:

--but I think Senator Webb was right in when he spoke to you. I think he's saying that the Democratic Party is committing political suicide.

FMR. GOV. PAT MCCRORY:

I agree.

GRETA VAN SUSTEREN:

He talked about how the Jefferson/Jackson dinners, about the Democratic Party moving too far to the left, that they've lost the white working people which Vice President Biden also said. That, and he didn't even endorse Hillary Clinton, the senator, he told you. And he said that the Democratic Party is ignoring the flyover states, which, by the way, I'm from a flyover state, I might say. But I think that they should listen to Kaine because I don't--

FMR. GOV. PAT MCCRORY:

I do too.

GRETA VAN SUSTEREN:

--I mean, to Webb.

FMR. GOV. PAT MCCRORY:

But there's an evisceration--

KATTY KAY:

But the counterargument is they have to keep the protests. They don't feel, from the left, that they are going to get anything from this administration. There is going to be no area in which they're going to compromise. And therefore they want to keep the protests up on the street and they want to keep the pressure on the government that way.

FMR. GOV. PAT MCCRORY:

But there's an evisceration, but the left wants to eviscerate Donald Trump. And anyone purged around--

GRETA VAN SUSTEREN:

But, do you know what, but the thing is I think the American people are just--

FMR. GOV. PAT MCCRORY:

--even Tom Brady, the New England Patriots' owner--

CHUCK TODD:

By the way, this is very familiar to me. It is what the Tea Party message was about President Obama--

EUGENE ROBINSON:

As if the Tea Party didn't want to eviscerate--

CHUCK TODD:

And by the way--

EUGENE ROBINSON:

--Barack Obama?

CHUCK TODD:

--politically, it was successful.

EUGENE ROBINSON:

Yes, that's the thing.

CHUCK TODD:

But for governing, this is not.

KATTY KAY:

What did Republicans lose over the last eight years by being obstructionist? Not very much.

CHUCK TODD:

The 2012 presidential election, I would argue.

EUGENE ROBINSON:

But that's all.

KATTY KAY:

But they--

EUGENE ROBINSON:

And they've won every other level. And that's the next step for this, you know, Democratic kind of like the Tea Party movement. For the protest movement, this is start winning at the local level, the grassroots level.

CHUCK TODD:

But let me ask you this--

EUGENE ROBINSON:

State legislative--

CHUCK TODD:

And governor, I want you to have last word on this, it's something we discussed in break which is your party pulled you to the right. All right? There's plenty of evidence that says that in some of these things that hit you and cost you your reelection were not things that were priorities for you. But it was priorities for your base. You couldn't-- you felt like you couldn't fight your base. What's your advice to the Democrats?

FMR. GOV. PAT MCCRORY:

I think Elizabeth Warren's doing the same thing to the Democratic Party. I think some of the left-wing protesters, the coordination of a lot of left-wing groups are pulling the entire party to the left. And I agree with the senator that there is a purging.

I mean, look at even the Nordstrom's issue with Trump's daughter where those sales are going down because there was pressure on them not to buy that product. The pressure right now on people even attaching themselves to the president and impacting their business is so strong that it's a heck of a campaign. Whether that's a long-term strategy, I don't think it is. It's not a good one.

CHUCK TODD:

We'll be-- We're going to come back. We're going to take a quick break. End Game and a debate over what defines freedom in America. Very provocative piece by Andrew Sullivan.

ANNOUNCER:

Coming up, *Meet the Press* End Game and Post Game brought to you by Boeing, always working to build something better.

COMMERCIAL BREAK

ANNOUNCER:

Meet the Press end-game is brought to you by Boeing, always working to build something better.

CHUCK TODD:

Back now with end game. And we have such a good conversation the panel is still talking. But I'm going to throw another little thing to you guys and let you have at it. Andrew Sullivan, very provocative in *New York Magazine*, this excerpt here. "Free society means being free of those who rule over you, to do the things you care about, your passions, your pastimes, your love. To exult in the blessed space where politics doesn't intervene. In that sense it seems to me we are already living in a country with markedly less freedom than we did a month ago." His larger argument being, Greta, that if we're thinking about politics all the time it must mean we're fearing our freedoms are being taken away. What do you say to that?

GRETA VAN SUSTEREN:

Well, look, there are some freedoms that are taken away. When I went to college we fought for the first amendment. Now you go to college you've got these safe spaces. I mean, I think there are, I mean,

there's something, there are sort of curbs on our rights. But I think we'll get through it. We've had rousing battles before in history. We'll get through it. And, you know, I like a robust debate.

CHUCK TODD:

National emergency is also another phrase that Andrew Sullivan.

EUGENE ROBINSON:

Yeah.

CHUCK TODD:

Eugene?

EUGENE ROBINSON:

Yeah, and there's a feeling among I think a lot of people that there's a national emergency. President Trump basically says it, you know, "I alone can fix it. Everything's going to hell." And people who oppose President Trump feel his presidency is an emergency. As these executive orders come out in this flurry of, you know, ten things every day.

KATTY KAY:

I wonder whether the question isn't whether this is going to normalize. We all feel overwhelmed, the country I think feels overwhelmed and exhausted by the amount that's been going on. And some of this is a learning process. You get elected as a populist precisely because you don't know much about government. That's what appeals to people.

CHUCK TODD:

That's right.

KATTY KAY:

Then you have an incredible learning curve when you come in, not just populist movements here. But this is a lesson for France and Holland and the U.K. as well. And the question I think is can you have that insurgency in the populism and normal functioning government for people?

CHUCK TODD:

Sustainable.

KATTY KAY:

And I think we don't know yet.

CHUCK TODD:

Sustainable way--

FMR. GOV. PAT MCCRORY:

Well, that's going to be in the details. Like Bernie Sanders talked about Obamacare. What are the changes? By the way, I'm probably the first panelist to ever be on Cobra Insurance because I recently lost--

KATTY KAY:

I'm on Cobra--

FMR. GOV. PAT MCCRORY:

Are you on Cobra? I've got 16 months. But now I'm looking at how much does insurance cost under Obamacare. It is extremely expensive. This is going to be an extremely complex issue that moves beyond populism.

GRETA VAN SUSTEREN:

But, you know, what the secret--

EUGENE ROBINSON:

Did you set up on Exchange?

FMR. GOV. PAT MCCRORY:

I'm staying on Cobra as long as I can. That's \$1,100 a month. And for a middle class family that's a lot per year, of net-income coming out of your pocket.

GRETA VAN SUSTEREN:

The interesting thing about Obamacare is that the Republicans fought it when it was passed because it gave so much power to the secretary of HHS, Sebelius. And enormous, there's, like, 2,200 to 2,500 references within this statute. Well, now the shoe's on the other foot. Now a Republican HHS secretary can do so much.

CHUCK TODD:

Governor, before I let you go, NBA All-Star weekend is not going to be in North Carolina next weekend, okay? It does have to do with the bill you signed, HB2 hadn't been repealed yet. And I want to get, you and I have had a back and forth on this, do you now look back on it and wish you hadn't signed it?

FMR. GOV. PAT MCCRORY:

No. But I'm very concerned about this Orwellian purging of cities and states. The Super Bowl was just played in Houston, Texas where they have the exact same law as North Carolina. And yet there was no boycott of the Super Bowl.

CHUCK TODD:

The NFL has said they may take the Super Bowl. It's hinted they could take the Super Bowl away from Houston.

FMR. GOV. PAT MCCRORY:

Well, they played it this week and had absolutely no problems in Houston, Texas. The NCAA played in Houston, Texas last year. No problems whatsoever. So there's a little selective hypocrisy right now in our country on which issues we're going to boycott and which issues are we not going to boycott.

CHUCK TODD:

I am out of--

KATTY KAY:

Market forces.

CHUCK TODD:

--time.

FMR. GOV. PAT MCCRORY:

Market forces. No doubt about it.

CHUCK TODD:

Thank you all. That's all we have for today. We'll be back next week. I hope you took my advice on the Wizards. I told you. See? They're paying off. It's a good bandwagon to jump on. If it's Sunday it's *Meet the Press*.

ANNOUNCER:

You can see more end-game and post-game sponsored by Boeing on the *Meet the Press* Facebook page.

* * *END OF TRANSCRIPT* * *

MTP: TRUMP CHIEF OF STAFF: “WE DON’T KNOW OF ANY CONTACTS WITH RUSSIAN AGENTS,” “WE DON’T HAVE PROBLEMS IN THE WEST WING”

PLUS: Reince Priebus: Learned We Were Misled by Gen. Flynn “Sometime After January 27th”
EXCLUSIVE: Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.): “More Hope Than Belief” That Congress Can Investigate Trump If Necessary
EXCLUSIVE: McCain: Dictators “Get Started by Suppressing a Free Press”
EXCLUSIVE: Former Defense Sec. & Former CIA Director Leon Panetta: Fireable Offense “Any Time an Intelligence Agency Withholds Vital Information to the President”

FEB. 19, 2017 -- In an interview this morning on NBC News' "Meet the Press," **Reince Priebus, chief of staff to President Trump**, responded to recent reports of Trump's campaign aides having repeated contact with Russian intelligence agents, telling moderator Chuck Todd: "We don't know of any contacts with Russian agents."

When asked about a potential problem with leaks in the White House, Priebus replied, [“We don’t have problems in the West Wing.”](#)

Priebus also said he did not know he had been misled by National Security Advisor Michael Flynn until [“sometime after January 27th.”](#) Flynn “maintained the fact that he never talked to the Russian ambassador about sanctions,” said Priebus. “It turned more or less into a conversation about whether or not he was being honest with us and the vice president.” [Watch the full interview.](#)

Senator John McCain (R-Ariz.) exclusively joined the show from Germany, where he is attending the Munich Security Conference. McCain told Todd that he has [“more hope than belief”](#) when it comes to the ability of Congress to investigate the president thoroughly if necessary.

[He also reacted to President Trump’s tweet on Friday](#) calling the news media “the enemy of the American people”: Dictators “get started by suppressing free press. In other words, a consolidation of power when you look at history, the first thing that dictators do is shut down the press.”

“I’m not saying that President Trump is trying to be a dictator. I’m just saying we need to learn the lessons of history,” the senator added. [Watch the full interview.](#)

Former Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, who has also served as a director of the Central Intelligence Agency, exclusively addressed the president’s relationship with the intelligence community: “The last thing they need is to have a president who questions their patriotism to this country and to him.”

[He told Todd that](#) “any time an intelligence agency withholds vital information to the president or withholds any key information to the president, that’s a violation of their oath.” [Watch the full interview.](#)

The New York Times’ **David Brooks**, former **Rep. Donna Edwards (D-Md.)**, radio talk show host **Hugh Hewitt** and The Cook Political Report’s **Amy Walter** joined the “Meet the Press” roundtable for insight this morning.

[Read the full transcript of this morning’s “Meet the Press.”](#)

For more from moderator Chuck Todd throughout the week, watch [MSNBC’s “MTP Daily”](#) weekdays at 5 p.m., and [subscribe to “1947: The Meet The Press Podcast”](#) for on-demand interviews.

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MTP EXCLUSIVE: COTTON: “NO CREDIBLE EVIDENCE OF THESE CONTACTS” BETWEEN TRUMP CAMPAIGN & RUSSIA, SAYS AG SESSIONS CAN MAKE CALL FOR SPECIAL PROSECUTOR

EXCLUSIVE: Cotton on ACA: “When we repeal Obamacare, we have to get it right” EXCLUSIVE: Colorado Gov. Hickenlooper: “I’m getting close” to supporting marijuana legalization NEW NBC NEWS/WSJ POLL: President Trump Holds Record Low Approval Rating

FEB. 26, 2017 -- **Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.)** exclusively joined “Meet the Press” this morning and [disagreed with the call from Rep. Darrell Issa \(R-Calif.\) for a special prosecutor](#) to investigate Russian interference in the election: “There’s no allegations of any crime occurring ... If we get down that road, that’s a decision that Attorney General Sessions can make at the time.”

“There’s no credible evidence of these contacts beyond anonymous sources in the media,” added Cotton.

The senator also [reinforced the party’s promise to repeal the Affordable Care Act](#) - not repair it: “Republicans won big victories because we promised to repeal Obamacare and to fix our healthcare system once and for all ... It would not be keeping faith with the American people if we did not keep our word from those last elections.” [Watch the full interview.](#)

In an exclusive interview with moderator Chuck Todd, **Gov. John Hickenlooper (D-Colo.)** said [he doesn’t think it’s a clear-cut case](#) for the federal government to shut down recreational marijuana businesses: “Our voters passed it 55-45. It’s in our constitution ... It’s a sovereignty. The states have a sovereignty.”

The governor, who originally opposed marijuana legalization, noted he’s “getting close” to supporting it. [Watch the full interview.](#)

Democratic National Committee Chair Tom Perez, elected just yesterday, told Todd that voters heard the party’s 2016 message as “Vote for us because we’re not him.” “There’s an acute understanding that where we fell short is that we didn’t invest enough in those state parties,” said Perez. “We have to underscore that economic message.” [Watch the full interview.](#)

President Trump’s job approval rating stands at just 44 percent -- a record low for a newly inaugurated commander-in-chief -- according to [new NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll numbers](#) debuted on the broadcast this morning.

[Read the full transcript](#) of this morning’s “Meet the Press.” Miss the show? [Catch up in less than two minutes.](#)

For more from moderator Chuck Todd throughout the week, watch [MSNBC’s “MTP Daily”](#) weekdays at 5 p.m., and [subscribe to “1947: The Meet The Press Podcast”](#) for on-demand interviews.

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MTP EXCLUSIVE: FMR. DNI CLAPPER: ‘NO SUCH WIRETAP ACTIVITY MOUNTED AGAINST’ TRUMP, ‘NO EVIDENCE OF SUCH COLLUSION’ BETWEEN TRUMP CAMPAIGN & RUSSIA

EXCLUSIVE: Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) on Intel Committee’s Russia Investigation: “I have some doubts about Chairman Burr” Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) on the president’s wiretapping claims: [“I’ve never heard that allegation made before by anybody”](#)

MARCH 5, 2017 -- In an exclusive interview with “Meet the Press” moderator Chuck Todd, **former Director of National Intelligence James Clapper** addressed recent tweets from President Trump alleging wiretapping by President Obama during the 2016 campaign: “For the part of the national security apparatus that I oversaw as DNI, there was no such wiretap activity mounted against the president-elect at the time, or as a candidate, or against his campaign.”

[“I can deny”](#) the existence of any FISA court order for surveillance of Trump Tower, the former director added.

Clapper told Todd that, in the intelligence report released in January concluding Russian interference in the 2016 election, [“we had no evidence of such collusion”](#) between the Trump campaign and Russia, but “this could have unfolded or become available in the time since I left the government.”

In another exclusive interview this morning, **Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.)** said that he has [“some doubts about Chairman Burr,”](#) calling for a special prosecutor to look into possible Trump campaign ties with Russia. On the wiretapping allegations, Schumer noted: “President Obama has flatly denied that he has done this. [And either way, Chuck, the president's in trouble.”](#)

Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) reacted to the wiretapping claims as well, telling Todd: [“I've never heard that allegation made before by anybody.”](#) I've never seen anything about that anywhere before. But again, the president put that out there, and now the White House will have to answer as to exactly what he was referring to.” The Florida senator was not ready to call for a special prosecutor like Schumer: “ I certainly don't think we're at that point at this moment.”

[This morning's roundtable](#) was comprised of Democratic pollster **Cornell Belcher**, The New York Times' **Tom Friedman**, AEI's **Danielle Pletka** and The Wall Street Journal's **Kimberley Strassel**, who discussed the allegations of collusion between the president's campaign and Russia.

[Read the full transcript](#) of this morning's “Meet the Press.”

For more from moderator Chuck Todd throughout the week, watch [MSNBC's “MTP Daily”](#) weekdays at 5 p.m., and [subscribe to “1947: The Meet The Press Podcast”](#) for on-demand interviews.

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MTP EXCLUSIVES: HHS SEC. PRICE: “NOBODY WILL BE WORSE OFF FINANCIALLY” UNDER GOP PLAN, OHIO GOV. KASICH: TRUMP “VERY OPEN TO COMPROMISE” ON AHCA

PLUS: HHS Sec. Price: “Great opportunity to increase coverage over where we are right now” under new GOP healthcare plan ALSO: Gov. Kasich confident AHCA will get to the Senate: “Where I hope they will make improvements” SUNDAY EXCLUSIVE: Former HHS Sec. Sebelius: New GOP plan “does serious damage to the whole marketplace theory”

MARCH 12, 2017 -- [“Nobody will be worse off financially”](#) under the Republican Party’s new healthcare bill once it’s enacted, said **Health and Human Services Sec. Tom Price** to “Meet the Press” moderator Chuck Todd this morning in an exclusive interview.

He continued: “We have a great opportunity to increase coverage over where we are right now.” Price also rejected recent criticism calling the plan “Obamacare Lite,” telling Todd “absolutely not.” [Watch the full interview.](#)

Former Health and Human Services Sec. Kathleen Sebelius exclusively joined the network broadcast, telling Todd that she’s “not exactly sure what the goal is” of the GOP’s proposed plan, also known as the American Health Care Act (AHCA). [“This does serious damage to the whole marketplace theory,”](#) she said. “Companies will flee given the uncertainty and the likelihood this quickly becomes a high risk pool.” [Watch the full interview.](#)

Gov. John Kasich (R-Ohio) exclusively told Todd that President Trump is [“very open to compromise”](#) on the AHCA and has “no doubt he’d be flexible.” Kasich said he believes the bill will get to the Senate, “and that’s where I hope they will make improvements.” [Watch the full interview.](#)

The New York Times’ **David Brooks** and **Helene Cooper**, Democratic strategist **Stephanie Cutter** and CNBC’s **Rick Santelli** joined this morning’s roundtable for additional insight and analysis, where they also [discussed Trump’s takes on jobs reports before and after winning office.](#)

[Read the full transcript of this morning’s “Meet the Press.”](#)

[Heading to SXSW?](#) Check out Chuck Todd discuss whether big data is destroying the U.S. political system with party strategists Cornell Belcher and Sara Fagen.

For more from moderator Chuck Todd throughout the week, [watch MSNBC’s “MTP Daily”](#) weekdays at 5 p.m., and [subscribe to the “1947: The Meet The Press Podcast”](#) for on-demand interviews.

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MTP EXCLUSIVE: RANKING DEM INTEL MEMBER REP. SCHIFF: 'THERE WAS CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE OF COLLUSION' BETWEEN TRUMP CAMPAIGN AND RUSSIA

PLUS: OMB Director Mick Mulvaney: “We won’t be able to balance the budget this year” SUNDAY EXCLUSIVE: Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Calif.): Trump wiretapping claims are “just patently false” SUNDAY EXCLUSIVE: Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine): Trump “owes us that explanation” on wiretapping claims

MARCH 19, 2017 -- Ahead of tomorrow’s House Intelligence Committee hearing on Russian interference in the 2016 election, **Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Calif.)** told “Meet the Press” moderator exclusively that [“at the outset of the investigation, there was circumstantial evidence of collusion”](#) between President Trump’s campaign and Russia.

Rep. Schiff, the ranking member on the House Intelligence Committee, called Trump's wiretapping claims "patently false" and said he expects FBI Director Comey to say that definitely in tomorrow's hearing. [Watch the full, exclusive interview.](#)

Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine), a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, also joined the program exclusively, telling Todd that she doesn't "know the basis for President Trump's assertion" about being wiretapped. ["I wish he would explain to us on the Intelligence Committee and to the American people. And I do believe he owes us that explanation."](#) she added. [Watch the full, exclusive interview.](#)

Mick Mulvaney, director of the Office of Management and Budget, told Todd that he thought "the thing with Angela Merkel" was "sort of tongue in cheek."

Mulvaney addressed the administration's proposed budget and said that "we won't be able to balance the budget this year." He also [addressed the debt ceiling](#) and noted a timeline of possibly mid-May for a proposed balanced budget with the administration's next focuses on tax reform (following health care reform) and infrastructure "around summer or early fall." [Watch the full interview.](#)

Yamiche Alcindor of The New York Times, **Robert Costa** of The Washington Post, **Katty Kay** of the BBC and syndicated columnist **George F. Will** joined this morning's roundtable for insight and analysis.

[Read the full transcript of this morning's "Meet the Press."](#)

For more from moderator Chuck Todd throughout the week, [watch MSNBC's "MTP Daily"](#) weekdays at 5 p.m., and [subscribe to the "1947: The Meet The Press Podcast"](#) for on-demand interviews.

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MTP EXCLUSIVE: BUDGET CHIEF MULVANEY SAYS AHCA FAILED BECAUSE 'WASHINGTON WON,' 'NEVER ONCE HAVE I SEEN [TRUMP] BLAME PAUL RYAN'

EXCLUSIVE: OMB Director Mulvaney on Trump's Fox News' "Judge Jeanine" tweet: "I'm not sure what that was about last night" EXCLUSIVE: Virginia Sen. Mark Warner (D): "Totally mystified by what Mr. Nunes has said" PLUS: Warner: "I was very disappointed" with SCOTUS nominee Gorsuch's answers EXCLUSIVE: California Gov. Jerry Brown (D) on proposed border wall: "We're not going to bring stupid lawsuits ... We'll do the right, human, and I would even say Christian thing"

MARCH 26, 2017 -- "What happened is that Washington won," said **Mick Mulvaney, director of the Office of Management and Budget**, exclusively to "Meet the Press" moderator Chuck Todd about the failure of the Republican-proposed healthcare bill.

["Washington was a lot more broken than President Trump thought that it was,"](#) added Mulvaney. "Is the Republican Party capable of governing? I know the man in the White House is capable of governing."

Mulvaney also commented on the president's Saturday tweet promoting Fox News' "Judge Jeanine" program, which advocated for Speaker Ryan to step down: "I have spent more time within the last week with the president of the United States than I ever thought I would ... Never once have I seen him blame Paul Ryan. So I'm not sure what that was about last night." [Watch the full interview.](#)

Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah) and **Rep. Charlie Dent (R-Pa.)** exclusively joined this morning's broadcast together to discuss how House Republicans pulled the GOP plan to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act this week. Lee told Todd that "[they could have gotten to a deal.](#)" There were a few things they could have added to the bill that could have brought enough people into the bill to vote for it so that it would have passed." Dent addressed how the ACA is "a national healthcare architecture now" and that "we're going to have to work with it to try to make this system better ... that debate has already been settled." [Watch the full interview.](#)

In an exclusive interview this morning, **Sen. Mark Warner (D-Va.), vice chair of the Senate Intelligence Committee**, said he was "totally mystified by what Mr. Nunes has said" about raw intelligence reports that may confirm that there was inadvertent surveillance of folks connected to Trump's campaign. "I don't think Mr. Schiff even knows today what those documents are." Warner added that he's "open" to an independent commission to investigate possible collusion.

On Supreme Court nominee Neil Gorsuch, Warner told Todd that he has "not made a decision yet" on whether to filibuster the vote, but he "was not pleased with his answers, both I got personally or at the committee level." [Watch the full interview.](#)

Todd spoke with **Gov. Jerry Brown (D-Calif.)** exclusively earlier this week for an interview airing this morning on the program and this week on MSNBC. On the proposed border wall, Brown said, "We're not going to bring stupid lawsuits or be running to the courthouse every day ... We'll do the right human, and I would even say Christian thing, from my point of view. You don't treat human beings like that." Brown also addressed "the beginning of the end" of Arnold Schwarzenegger's governorship, infrastructure for Silicon Valley and more. [Watch the full interview.](#)

NBC News' **Tom Brokaw**, radio talk show host **Hugh Hewitt**, POLITICO's **Eliana Johnson** and MSNBC's **Joy Ann Reid** joined the "Meet the Press" roundtable for insight and analysis this morning.

[Read the full transcript of this morning's "Meet the Press."](#)

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