

INTRO

- IT'S THURSDAY; SEPTEMBER 24th; 2020
- EPISODE 0 – 2 – 1
- YOU'RE ABOUT TO GO DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE WITH JOE AND BRIAN
- I'M BRIAN
- WITH ME AS ALWAYS; SITTING WAY OVER THERE DOING THE SOCIAL DISTANCE THING, IS MY GOOD FRIEND JOE ...

DRINKS

AGENDA

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- GEORGE FLOYD UPDATE
- PELOSI MUST HOLD STOCK IN TWITTER
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- THIS WEEK IN SKULLDUGGERY - WHEN VIRTUE SIGNALING GOES WRONG
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GEORGE FLOYD UPDATE

END OF DAYS

Democrats' Armageddon option

Furious Democrats are considering total war — profound changes to two branches of government, and even adding stars to the flag — if Republicans jam through a Supreme Court nominee then lose control of the Senate.

On the table: Adding Supreme Court justices ... eliminating the Senate's 60-vote threshold to end filibusters ... and statehood for D.C. and Puerto Rico. "If he holds a vote in 2020, we pack the court in 2021," Rep. Joe Kennedy III (D-Mass.) tweeted.

Why it matters: Democrats are enraged by GOP hypocrisy of rushing through a new justice for President Trump after stalling President Obama's final nominee.

Dems aren't optimistic about blocking the nominee. But they have many ways of retaliating if they win Senate control — and are licking their chops about real movement on ideas that have been pushed futilely for decades.

For instance, the Constitution doesn't fix the number of justices, which could be changed by an act of Congress and the president's signature, according to the National Constitution Center.

On ABC's "This Week," George Stephanopoulos asked Speaker Pelosi about the possibility of impeaching President Trump or Attorney General Barr as a way to stall a Supreme Court confirmation in a post-election lame-duck session.

Pelosi replied: "Well, we have our options. We have arrows in our quiver that I'm not about to discuss right now."

Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer said on a call with his caucus yesterday, after a moment of silence for Justice Ginsburg:

If Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell "and Senate Republicans move forward with this, then nothing is off the table for next year."

Let's unpack what that means:

The most controversial of the proposed changes would be adding two more justices to the court. House Judiciary Chair Jerry Nadler tweeted yesterday: "If Sen. McConnell and @SenateGOP were to force through a nominee during the lame duck session — before a new Senate and President can take office — then the incoming Senate should immediately move to expand the Supreme Court."

Former Obama Attorney General Eric Holder backed the idea yesterday. When court expansion came up during Democratic primaries last year, Ginsburg said she was opposed.

At the funeral in July for Rep. John Lewis, President Obama called the filibuster rule — which requires a 60-vote supermajority, instead of a simple majority, to advance legislation — a "Jim Crow relic."

Trying to turn the federal district into a state would be a constitutional thicket, but Democrats are talking anew about pushing statehood for D.C. and Puerto Rico. Capturing the anything-goes spirit among Democrats amid the Supreme Court fight, one party strategist texted me: "Guam want in?"

The big picture: Many Democrats see the GOP's success at filling the federal judiciary with conservatives after Hillary Clinton's 2016 popular-vote win as a sign that the machine of democracy itself is broken, and they view these structural changes as fixes.

There's lots more Democrats can do if they win control of both the White House and Congress:

Obama previewed the progressive wish list at Lewis' funeral, including provisions of what Democrats are calling the John Lewis Voting Rights Act: automatic voter registration, "including former inmates who've earned their second chance," and making Election Day a national holiday.

Democratic primary candidate Andrew Yang proposed a constitutional amendment limiting justices to 18-year terms — an idea that resurfaced on MSNBC yesterday.

The other side: Josh Holmes, a former McConnell chief of staff who is president of the public-affairs firm Cavalry, told me:

"Why would a Republican be the least bit concerned with the threat of something they've already said they're going to do? ... They shot the hostage before the standoff."

P.S. Brian Fallon — executive director of the progressive group Demand Justice and a former top Schumer aide and Justice Department official — distilled the Democratic game plan:



Brian Fallon ✓
@brianefallon



1. Oppose Trump's nominee prior to the election, invoking the GOP's own rule from 2016.
2. Defeat Trump on Nov 3
3. Keep seat open until Biden takes office
4. If GOP rams Trump pick thru anyway, add seats to the Court

This is the play. There is no other play.

1:27 AM · Sep 19, 2020 · Twitter Web App

RIOTERS VS. PROTESTERS

More voters classify 'Black Lives Matter' demonstrations as riots, not protests: Poll

More voters consider Black Lives Matter demonstrations in three cities to be riots instead of protests, according to a Fox News poll released Sunday.

The poll found that 48% of likely voters viewed the demonstrations in New York, Portland, and Kenosha, Wisconsin, as riots, while 40% viewed the demonstrations as protests.

The poll also broke down views based on political affiliation, with 68% of Republicans calling the demonstrations riots. Only 30% of Democrats said the same.

Of the respondents, 39% blamed the violence on “left-wing radicals,” while 33% blamed “right-wing radicals.” Another 9% of respondents placed the blame on both sides.

The poll found that 52% of white voters called the demonstrations riots, but 62% of black voters and 48% of Hispanic voters viewed them as protests.

When it comes to bringing the country together, 54% of voters said they trust Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden. Only 40% said they trust President Trump to do the same.

The poll, conducted between Sept 7-10, randomly sampled 1,311 registered voters and 1,191 likely voters through phone and in-person interviews.

The three cities cited in the poll have become epicenters of unrest following the death of George Floyd in May.

Trump has denounced the riots repeatedly, including during the Republican National Convention when he said, "If the Democrat Party wants to stand with anarchists, agitators, rioters, looters, and flag burners, that is up to them. But I, as your president, will not be a part of it. The Republican Party will remain the voice of the patriotic heroes who keep America safe and salute the American flag."

Biden has also come out against violence, saying, "I condemn violence of every kind by anyone, whether on the Left or the Right. And I challenge Donald Trump to do the same."

PELOSI MUST HOLD STOCK IN TWITTER

Nancy Pelosi wonders how top Facebook employees can 'look themselves in the mirror' because they 'make money off of poison'

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Monday blasted Facebook executives and employees as "totally disreputable" over the prevalence of posts touting the right-wing conspiracy-theory movement QAnon.

Pelosi made the comments in an interview with Kara Swisher on the first episode of "Sway," Swisher's new podcast with The New York Times.

In the interview, Swisher brought up QAnon, the far-right conspiracy-theory movement popular among some of President Donald Trump's supporters that claims a group of society's elite, including leaders in the Democratic party, are conspiring to commit a variety of heinous crimes such as child sex trafficking.

While QAnon is said to have originated on the anonymous online message board 4chan, in recent months the posts have become more widespread on mainstream social-media sites like Twitter and Facebook. Both companies have announced plans to crack down on QAnon accounts.

Swisher asked Pelosi how much she held Facebook accountable for QAnon content appearing on the site. "I hold them very accountable," Pelosi responded.

Pelosi also brought up Facebook's role in the 2016 election, another time it was accused of insufficient moderation ahead of an election. The special counsel Robert Mueller found that Russian operatives significantly used Facebook in its campaign to interfere with the election.

"In 2016, when the Russians interfered in our election and rubles were coming in and they had to know that these were not on the level of American sites, they said, well, we never thought to look at that. So they played that role in that election," Pelosi said.

"I don't know how the Facebook board of directors or their top employees can look themselves in the mirror," she continued. "They have clearly chosen. Their business plan is to make money off of poison, and that's the path they have chosen to go."

A Facebook representative did not immediately respond to Business Insider's request for comment on Pelosi's remarks.

Pelosi also said she was looking at Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act, signed into law in 1996, which stipulates that companies that operate online forums, such as Facebook, cannot be considered publishers and therefore cannot be held liable for the content that appears on them.

It's not clear whether Pelosi would support a repeal of the law — she told Swisher that any action would have to be handled carefully so as not to hurt smaller platforms or endanger free speech but to ensure that Facebook is not being enabled to "just get rich at the expense of our democracy."

Section 230 may be one area where Pelosi and Trump agree. The provision has become a target of Trump's over the past several months, particularly after Twitter fact-checked his tweets in May. Trump

then signed an executive order that threatened to penalize social-media companies over allegations of bias against conservative users.

While Pelosi's comments about Facebook are her sharpest rebuke of the social network to date, she's spoken out about misinformation on the platform in the past. In January, Pelosi called Facebook "irresponsible" and accused the company of "schmoozing" the Trump administration. And in 2019, she ripped into Facebook over its refusal to take down a doctored video that appeared to show her slurring her words as if she were drunk.

"I think they have proven, by not taking down something they know is false, that they were willing enablers of the Russian interference in our election," Pelosi said at the time.

BREONNA TAYLOR BREAKDOWN

What We Know About Breonna Taylor's Case and Death

TRUMP ON MEGHAN

Donald Trump Insults Meghan Markle After Apparent Biden Endorsement

During a video discussion released with renowned feminist author Gloria Steinem, Meghan Markle hinted that she's backing Joe Biden for the presidency.

The Duchess of Sussex hopes that voting in November can "deliver change." During their discussion, voter intimidation and suppression came up, and Markle made it pretty clear what side she is on.

Steinem declared Markle as a Democrat during the chat, saying, "Really, we've been rescued by women of color in all of our recent elections because of a vote of conscience and compassion. The heart of the Democratic Party has been Black women, actually, and now there is a potential vice president who is Black and that's exciting."

Markle subsequently doesn't deny her American political affiliation, responding: "I'm so excited to see that kind of representation. You know, for me, being biracial, growing up, whether it was a doll or a person in office, you need to see someone who looks like you in some capacity."

This all didn't apparently sit well with Donald Trump, who, during a live news conference, was asked about Markle's comments and implied Biden endorsement.

"I'm not a fan of hers. I wish a lot of luck to Harry, he's going to need it," said the president.

- trump-on-meghan.mp3

WHEN VIRTUE SIGNALING GOES WRONG



Betsy DeVos Calls Princeton's Bluff: If You Really Are Racist, No More Federal Funding

Early this month, Princeton President Christopher Eisgruber went through the woke “anti-racist” rite of confession: he published a letter confessing the ongoing racism at his university under his leadership. Such confessions serve to prop up the ridiculous claim that any racial disparities are ipso facto proof of “institutional racism.” Claims like Eisgruber’s are less a confession of actual fact and more a rhetorical weapon to push Marxist critical race theory.

Yet the Department of Education (DOE) decided to call Princeton’s bluff. According to a letter obtained by The Washington Examiner, the DOE launched an investigation into the Ivy League university. Princeton, like other schools that receive federal funding, pledges to abide by certain federal laws in order to receive federal funding.

Since Eisgruber became president in 2013, Princeton has received more than \$75 million in federal Title IV taxpayer funds and the school “has repeatedly represented and warranted to the U.S. Department of Education Princeton’s compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964,” the

letter reads. “Title VI provides no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.”

“On September 2, 2020, you admitted Princeton’s educational program is and for decades has been racist,” the letter notes. “Among other things, you said ‘[r]acism and the damage it does to people of color persist at Princeton ...’ and ‘[r]acist assumptions...remain embedded in structures of the University itself.’”

“Because of racism, you announced race-based ‘diversity’ measures for hiring, procurement, teaching, fellowship, and research funding,” the letter adds.

“Based on its admitted racism, the U.S. Department of Education is concerned Princeton’s nondiscrimination and equal opportunity assurances in its Program Participation Agreements from at least 2013 to the present may have been false,” the letter explains. “Finally, the Department is further concerned Princeton’s many nondiscrimination and equal opportunity claims to students, parents, and consumers in the market for education certificates may have been false, misleading, and actionable substantial misrepresentations in violation of” U.S. law.

Therefore, the DOE is opening an investigation into Princeton and may end up removing funds from the university — and demanding Princeton pay back taxpayer funds it should not have received.

“Based on the facts, the Secretary of Education may consider measures against Princeton for false Program Participation Agreement nondiscrimination assurances, including an action to recover funds.”

TRUMP ON GINSBURG

Trump finds a new campaign message after Ruth Bader Ginsburg's death: 'Fill the seat'

MILWAUKEE — President Donald Trump capitalized on the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg Saturday night, using the now-open Supreme Court seat to rally his supporters as the president seeks to jolt his campaign in the final few weeks of an election that has shown him consistently running behind his Democratic opponent, Joe Biden.

"Article II of our Constitution says that the president shall nominate justices of the Supreme Court. I don't think it can be any more clear, can it? I don't think so," Trump said, speaking at an airport hangar in Fayetteville, North Carolina, as a crowd of supporters energetically chanted "Fill the seat!"

"I love that chant," Trump said. "There's a lot of genius in that chant."

For weeks, Trump had hit an increasingly predictable note on the campaign trail, focusing on "law and order" and depicting an unrecognizable portrait of a country rebounding from the coronavirus.

But the hyperbolic imagery of a country overrun by looters and untouched by the pandemic has not seemed to strike a winning chord with Americans. Trump has trailed Biden in national polls and key battleground state polls, including North Carolina where Biden leads by roughly one percentage points.

Trump, who opened his remarks by briefly remembering Ginsburg as a "legal giant," framed his desire to confirm a new justice before the January inauguration as "moral duty" to fulfill promises made to voters.

"I will be putting forth a nominee next week. It will be a woman," Trump announced. "We have numerous women on the list."

The Republican Party has been fiercely criticized by Democrats for taking a hypocritical approach to filling Ginsburg's seat. After the death of Justice Antonin Scalia in February of 2016, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., refused to consider President Barack Obama's nominee, arguing that it was too close to the election and voters should have a say. Now, just weeks before Election Day, McConnell plans to move ahead with Trump's nominee.

The Republican Party's 2016 stance could make it difficult for some GOP Senators facing tough re-elections to support Trump's nominee this close to the election. Trump sought to put pressure on those Senators Saturday night.

"What do you think Thom, Thom Tillis?," Trump asked the North Carolina Senator of his ability to nominate a Justice. Tillis has trailed his Democratic opponent in nearly every single poll and he is on record from 2016 saying that voters should have a say on the court.

"So we win an election, and those are the consequences," Trump said.

KANYE WEST

Kanye West's Perplexing Run as a Potential 2020 Spoiler

Kanye West wants to bring back prayer in schools, give more government support to religious groups and has even asked his campaign staff to refrain from "fornicating" outside of marriage, according to people aiding his candidacy.

Mr. West, the billionaire hip-hop artist and fashion mogul turned Christian revivalist, is not running for president, but "walking," as he puts it. He entered the race late and is not going to make the ballot in states including Florida, Texas and Michigan, but he will be on the ballot in others like Colorado, Minnesota and Iowa. Some Democrats fear he could be a spoiler, even if his political appeal is minuscule. Third-party candidacies don't need that many votes to make an impact, as Jill Stein showed in 2016 and Ralph Nader in 2000.

In calls and texts with The New York Times, and in other recent comments, Mr. West made clear he believes he will become president — eventually — but said almost nothing about what he actually wanted to do if elected. Indeed, Mr. West's curio candidacy has confused many fans and voters alike. His party is called the Birthday Party. His first piece of campaign art included pictures of that well-known populist Anna Wintour, the editor of Vogue, and of the actress Kirsten Dunst, who was puzzled. ("What's the message here," she tweeted, "and why am I apart of it?")

An inescapable element of Mr. West's candidacy is his bipolar disorder, which he has spoken about in the past. His wife, Kim Kardashian West, opened up about it for the first time days after Mr. West's only campaign appearance, in South Carolina, during which he broke down crying. Writing on Instagram, she called him a "brilliant but complicated person" who has to deal with "pressure and isolation that is heightened by his bipolar disorder."

TRANSGENDER-ISM REVISITED

Star Wars: Mandalorian star Gina Carano accused of ‘mocking trans people’ with ‘boop/bop/beep’ pronouns joke

Gina Carano, star of the Disney+ Star Wars spin-off The Mandalorian, has faced criticism from fans after making “transphobic” social media posts.

She had faced calls to add her pronouns to her Twitter biography (a common practise among transgender and cisgender social media users to help avoid misgendering).

However, in response to the demand, the actor added the words “boop/bop/beep” to her Twitter name, in apparent ridicule of the convention.

Defending her actions in a subsequent Tweet, Carano wrote: “They’re mad cuz I won’t put pronouns in my bio to show my support for trans lives. After months of harassing me in every way. I decided to put 3 VERY controversial words in my bio.. beep/bop/boop.”

“I’m not against trans lives at all. They need to find less abusive representation,” she added.

On Twitter, she recently said that Pedro Pascal, who plays The Mandalorian’s lead character, explained to her the purpose behind including pronouns in one’s biography.

“Yes, Pedro & I spoke & he helped me understand why people were putting them in their bios,” she wrote. “I didn’t know before but I do now. I won’t be putting them in my bio but good for all you who choose to.”

She also defended the joke, saying: “Beep/bop/boop has zero to do with mocking trans people & [everything] to do with exposing the bullying mentality of the mob that has taken over the voices of many genuine causes.”

However, many Star Wars fans still took offence at Carano’s actions, with some even calling for her removal from the series.

THIS WEEK IN SKULLDUGGERY

OUTRO

KEEP IT QUICK!!!