

DAY 34: FRANKLY, WE HAVE A LOT RIGHT NOW

Still shaking my head over Trump's interview with Tucker Carlson. While asked about evidence supporting Trump's claim that President Obama wiretapped him, Trump said, "Frankly, we have a lot right now."

Bring it, buddy. And with less bullshit because frankly, we have a lot right now.

While you're at it, bring your tax returns as evidence you're not violating the Emoluments Clause or in bed with Russia.

Reminder: you've got 34 days until we expect to see a 2016 income tax return.

Non-Tax Return Stuff:

UK's PM Theresa May denies Indy Ref 2.0 before Brexit – When you need a break from American leadership stupidity, just take a look at May. Here's an unforced error of hubris and hypocrisy; telling the Scots they can't have a vote to leave the UK after the UK had a vote to leave the EU is just asking for the Scots to hold a referendum on their own. Nicola Sturgeon has already rebutted, calling May's block "undemocratic."

Fed Chair Yellen said, "The data have not notably strengthened" after rate hike – Between increases in energy and health costs not offset by decreases in food and apparel costs, the consumer price index rose 2.7% over the last 12 months. Private sector compensation only rose 2.2% over the same period. Consumer spending has been lackluster and businesses are not investing. The post-crash boom is petering out and nothing this administration or Congress is doing will help. A billionaire can only buy so many condos and yachts to keep the economy afloat, and workers can't buy much on their chicken feed minimum wage at part-time jobs while they have to budget for increasing health

care expenses. (I should point out here that the CPI detailed report won't be produced after June 2017 thanks to Trump's diktats. How convenient.)

Trump tells Michigan auto workers he's fighting for their jobs – Sure he is. This guy is fricking clueless about manufacturing (ex: Carrier in Indiana) including the automotive industry. Detroit's cheese is being eaten by entirely new entrants who don't worry about emissions standards and whose mileage concerns are of an entirely different nature. After decades of Detroit's inadequate R&D sunk into battery-powered vehicles combined with vacillating leadership on the future of fossil-fueled combustion engines, Michigan's auto industry is now battling for market share with companies like Tesla, while Tesla is already seeing new competition emerge like Lucid Motors. Tesla and Lucid are both located in the U.S. Meanwhile, Trump's budget plans revealed today are a shiv in Michigan's back; why live and work here if the lakes aren't clean, schools are underfunded, mass transit is suppressed?

Dispatcher punished in Tamir Rice case – What a bunch of crap. The officer who had the ultimate final and mortal power in Tamir Rice's case – shooting Rice in seconds after arrival at the playground – should have been criminally prosecuted. Meanwhile, a dispatcher who never saw the victim or the scene of the shooting was suspended.

I feel awful now, after reading so much about Trump and writing about that last piece. Treat this like an open thread though I can't look in again until I do something positive to get the Trumpish off me.