

THREE THINGS: BIG DAY, BIG TOP

[NB: Check the byline, thanks. /~Rayne]

It's going to be a big day under the big top. Attorney General Bill Barr has planned quite the circus, beginning right now with his so-called press conference. But first, three things, one of which includes hygiene for the day ahead.

~ 3 ~

Let's face it: it's Maundy Thursday, the weather in West Palm Beach is supposed to be partly sunny tomorrow and Saturday, and sunny on Easter Sunday. Which means Trump will likely be on Air Force One this afternoon, winging his way to Mar-a-Lago and the promise of golf at one of his courses because that's about all he can focus on for more than the time it takes to send a tweet.

This is likely why he wants to award the Presidential Medal of Freedom to golfer Tiger Woods after winning his latest green jacket at The Masters this past weekend. Trump said,

Spoke to @TigerWoods to congratulate him on the great victory he had in yesterday's @TheMasters, & to inform him that because of his incredible Success & Comeback in Sports (Golf) and, more importantly, LIFE, I will be presenting him with the PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM!

— Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump)
April 15, 2019

So shallow and self-centered, recognizing a fellow marital cheat and a golfing buddy, one who designed a Trump-branded golf course in Dubai.

And yet par for this pathetic hole.

~ 2 ~

I don't write often about Trump-Russia because it's Marcy's beat – there's little she hasn't scrutinized and picked apart during the course of the Special Counsel's investigation. But this one thing has stuck in my craw, especially after all the hubbub this past week about Julian Assange's removal from the Ecuadoran embassy and arrest by Metropolitan Police-UK.

It's in this email exchange from October 2016, about WikiLeaks' 10th anniversary when Assange was supposed to have made a big announcement and didn't. The following

Tuesday, October 4, 2016

FROM: Steve Bannon

TO: Roger Stone

EMAIL:

What was that this morning???

Tuesday, October 4, 2016

FROM: Roger Stone

TO: Steve Bannon

EMAIL:

Fear. Serious security concern. He thinks they are going to kill him and the London police are standing done.

However –a load every week going forward.

Roger stone

Tuesday, October 4, 2016

FROM: Steve Bannon

TO: Roger Stone

EMAIL:

He didn't cut deal w/ clintons???

Why did former Trump campaign chief executive and former White House adviser Steve Bannon express surprise that Assange hadn't cut a deal with the Clintons?

Was it a given that Assange would have attempted to extort money from one or both of the Clintons to halt the release of hacked emails?

Why would Bannon in particular have thought this? Was it common knowledge in certain circles that Assange would use blackmail? Or has blackmail been one of the other unaddressed methods by which targets have been compromised and evidence simply hasn't been shared because it's classified?

Did Special Counsel's Office ask any member of the Clinton campaign or Bill Clinton or any Clinton family support staff whether they had been contacted about hacked materials in an attempt to extort money or performance from them?

It seemed like odd hyperbole at the time in early August 2016 that Assange would accuse Hillary Clinton of electoral extortion, claiming she tried to scare the electorate into voting for her. But was it really a form of projection to muddle possible leaks about other extortion attempts? (Yes, the source at that link above is a right-wing outlet, but that's the point: they carried water for this effort.)

Ecuadoran official said they are investigating whether Assange attempted to blackmail President Moreno. It looks more like a pattern of behavior based on WikiLeaks' handling of Vault 7 and if Bannon's email assumed an earlier attempt on the Clintons

~ 1 ~

Okay, I'll skip a third non-Barr report item because we're all a little short on patience. If you need something to preoccupy your time you can focus on taking action.

See Celeste_pewter's Twitter thread for calls you can make, or check her TinyLetter site; once again she's done the heavy lifting and prepared scripts for you.

She's also laid out the anticipated schedule today for AG Barr's three-ring circus:

9:30 AM: Barr and Rosenstein will hold a press conference on Mueller report

(Mueller not in attendance)

10:30 AM (approx): Trump will issue a rebuttal

11:00 – 12:00 PM: DOJ will provide hard copies of the report to Congress

TBD: Trump MAY give a press conference at this point

2:00 PM (approximate): Report posted on special counsel website
(<https://www.justice.gov/sco>)

I'm setting up a list in my Twitter account to follow folks for analysis and feedback on the Trump-Russia investigation including today's Barr report.

(And yes, I'm calling it the 'Barr report' because the method of its reception will have been substantially shaped by Barr.)

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Lastly, the matter of hygiene: this site will be busy. Trolling may be heavy depending on what's visible in the report and what is pointed out by Marcy in particular. If the site bogs down, please be patient.

If necessary, reach one of us via Twitter though you may not get an immediate response because we're going to be busy.

Moderation will be firm and aggressive. We don't have time for temper tantrums, trolling, or for internecine squabbles.

Keep all off topic discussion to this thread; if it gets too deep, like more than 200 comments, I will open a new thread for off topic material. Posts Marcy opens related to the report should remain on topic.

This is going to be a long day. Pace yourselves. Drink water regularly. Take a break from social media when you're getting worked up. Digest this pile of elephant one bite at a time.

We have plenty of time after the circus's acts have finished to sweep up and dig through the animal poo they leave behind.

This is an open thread.