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To:
Date: 1/20/2017 8:13:05 AM
Subject: Clips – Friday, January 20, 2017

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Governor Nikki Haley, United Nations News:

Washington Post: Trump spokesman: Democrats are hurting 'continuity of government' by slow-walking Cabinet confirmations

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-politics/wp/2017/01/19/trump-spokesman-democrats-are-hurting-continuity-of-government-by-slow-walking-cabinet-confirmations/?utm_term=.2210b40a500f

John Wagner

A spokesman for President-elect Donald Trump chided Senate Democrats on Thursday for not preparing to confirm several of what he called Trump's "consensus" Cabinet nominees more quickly. "The Democratic leadership is not working with us to ensure continuity of government," incoming White House press secretary Sean Spicer told reporters at a morning briefing.

Note: But Spicer argued that there are others who could be confirmed promptly, citing three in particular: South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley for ambassador to the United Nations; Elaine Chao, who previously served as labor secretary, for transportation secretary; and Ben Carson, a retired neurosurgeon, for secretary of housing and urban development.

The State: Here's how Trump could affect South Carolina

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article127421069.html#storylink=cpy>

President-elect Donald Trump has proposed sweeping changes in immigration, foreign trade, infrastructure spending and many other issues. His proposals could affect South Carolina's economy, the state's military bases and the political landscape.

Jobs: South Carolina's job base is led by manufacturing, tourism and agriculture. Trump's stand on immigration — making it more difficult for foreign workers to enter the country and perhaps even expelling illegal workers — could hurt the farming, hospitality and construction industries, which are dependent on foreign workers.

Trade: South Carolina is the leading manufacturer and exporter of tires in the U.S., and the state also makes a wide variety of products from luxury cars to airliners. Most of those goods are sold overseas.

Politics: Before he has even taken office, Trump has had a powerful impact on the political landscape in the Palmetto State. His nomination of Gov. Nikki Haley as United Nations ambassador has set off a domino effect.

Infrastructure: According to his website, Trump wants to create a "visionary plan" for a system of roads, bridges and other infrastructure "that would make President Dwight D. Eisenhower" proud. As president, Eisenhower was a major advocate for the nation's interstate system.

USA Today: Trump jokes: 'Highest IQ of any Cabinet ever'

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/onpolitics/2017/01/19/trump-jokes-highest-iq-any-cabinet-ever/96782314/>

Donovan Slack

President-elect Donald Trump attended a luncheon with several of his Cabinet picks Thursday, and it seemed he just couldn't help but gush about them. He name-checked South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, his choice to be ambassador to the United Nations. "We're going to send her over to speak to China; We're going to send her over to speak to everybody," Trump said.

CNN: Trump's spokesman on Cabinet: 'It's not just about skin color or ethnic heritage'

<http://www.cnn.com/2017/01/19/politics/donald-trump-cabinet-diversity-sean-spicer/>

Eugene Scott

Incoming White House spokesman Sean Spicer defended President-elect Donald Trump's commitment to diversity, saying that highlight the fact that the new Cabinet will be the first in 30 years without a Latino is "a very narrow way to look at it."

Note: Trump also tapped Nikki Haley, the Indian-American governor of South Carolina, to serve as UN ambassador, which is a Cabinet-rank post, but not an official member of the Cabinet.

Politico: Senate Dems will only allow two Trump nominees to be confirmed on Day One
<http://www.politico.com/story/2017/01/trump-nominee-confirmations-day-one-233846>

Seung Min Kim

Less than 24 hours before Donald Trump is formally sworn in as the 45th president, the Senate plunged into a partisan war over who'll get confirmed for his Cabinet on the first day of his presidency. Senate Democrats are prepared to allow two of Donald Trump's Cabinet nominees to be confirmed on Day One — but for them, that's where the senatorial comity ends.

Note: At the same time, Republicans are broadening their wish list of Day One nominees to other Cabinet hopefuls, including Ben Carson to lead the Department of Housing and Urban Development and Nikki Haley to be the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

S.C. General Assembly News:

The State: Proposal to ban drones near SC prisons and jails advances to Senate floor
<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article127430144.html#storylink=cpy>

Cynthia Roldan

A bill that would ban drones from flying near the state's prison and jails continues to advance in the Legislature, after receiving approval by a second Senate panel on Thursday. The proposal has received resounding support from legislators, who say it's a must to keep the state's prisons safe.

Post and Courier: Panel sends bill banning drones near prisons to Senate floor
http://www.postandcourier.com/politics/panel-sends-bill-banning-drones-near-prisons-to-senate-floor/article_ecf2d2f8-de56-11e6-a05f-637ebd3a2b66.html

Maya T. Prabhu

South Carolina is one step closer to outlawing the use of drones near the state's prisons and jails after a panel of lawmakers Thursday sent the bill to the Senate floor. If approved, it would be a misdemeanor to fly a drone within 500 feet of, or 250 feet above, a prison or detention center.

The State: SC roads more deadly than war, agency says, outlining safety plan
<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article127439174.html#storylink=cpy>

Cassie Cope

Nearly 1,000 people — 975 — died on S.C. roads last year. Those deaths are more than the highest death toll in a single year during Operation Iraqi Freedom — 961 coalition military deaths in 2007 — and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan — 711 deaths in 2010, according to the Iraq Coalition Casualty Count.

Associated Press: DOT's top priority is making deadliest stretches safer
<https://apnews.com/6329514de2cd4e5799a4690b8a04acee>

State transportation officials say their top priority for additional money is making South Carolina's deadliest stretches of highway safer. Transportation Secretary Christy Hall said Thursday it will take \$50 million a year over a decade just to make safety improvements to the state's "worst of the worst" stretches.

WIS: SCDOT looks to improve deadly rural roads
<http://www.wistv.com/story/34304311/scdot-looks-to-improve-deadly-rural-roads>

Chad Mills

Outside Lewis Shealy's Lexington County restaurant, traffic on Highway 302 is almost constantly humming. "302 and 6 run together for a two-mile stretch right through here. Pulling out of this stop sign, every week there's at least a small accident or a close call. Every month or so there's a bad accident," he said.

WIS: 'Blueprint' for road funding would raise gas tax, generate \$600M for roads
<http://www.wistv.com/story/34301281/blueprint-for-road-funding-would-raise-gas-tax-generate-600m-for-roads>

Ashleigh Holland

A new plan to fix South Carolina's crumbling roads would pump new state dollars into road repairs. The plan would create hundreds of millions of dollars, but some of that would come from raising the state's gas tax. The state's crumbling roads are being blamed for some of the near-thousand highway fatalities last year.

The State: Senate panel approves tougher penalties for police-dog killers

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article127414279.html#storylink=cpy>

Avery G. Wilks

An S.C. Senate panel on Thursday approved increasing penalties for hurting police dogs or horses. Another vote, tentatively for next week, could send Hyco's Law to the Senate floor.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Post and Courier: Haley stars while others struggle

http://www.postandcourier.com/opinion/editorials/haley-stars-while-others-struggle/article_d5f2202e-de9a-11e6-b53a-afd215717072.html

Editorial

While many Trump Cabinet nominees faced openly hostile questioning this week, South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley won bipartisan applause when the Senate Foreign Relations Committee held a hearing Wednesday on her nomination to be United States ambassador to the United Nations. And with good reason.

Post and Courier: Not everyone in the choir is singing from the same page

http://www.postandcourier.com/columnists/hicks-column-not-everyone-in-the-choir-is-singing-from/article_bd28f2d2-dd89-11e6-8512-33040812b0f6.html

Brian Hicks

Republicans have waited a long time for this day. Well, 10 years. This afternoon, the GOP will control both houses of Congress and the White House for the first time since early 2007.

Hands on the wheel: The real question here is how this independence and the occasional bursts of loyal opposition affects our Washington delegation. It probably won't make much difference in D.C. – Gov. Nikki Haley was as rough on Trump as Graham and she's going to wind up in the Cabinet.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

Post and Courier: South Carolina colleagues in Congress stand behind Trump budget pick Rep. Mick Mulvaney despite tax problems

http://www.postandcourier.com/politics/s-c-s-u-s-senators-standing-behind-mulvaney-in/article_983055aa-de5c-11e6-831b-8be36f9a4186.html

Emma Dumain

U.S. Sens. Lindsey Graham and Tim Scott still support U.S. Rep. Mick Mulvaney for White House budget director after revelations surfaced the Republican lawmaker failed to pay more than \$15,000 in taxes for child care services more than a decade ago.

CNN: Republican lawmaker: Hard questioning of Mulvaney and Price is fair game

<http://www.cnn.com/2017/01/19/politics/pete-sessions-taxes-senate-confirmations/>

Eugene Scott

Rep. Pete Sessions said it is fair game for senators to inquire about whether Donald Trump Cabinet pick Mick Mulvaney failed to pay thousands in taxes. "The American people need to know that we are following the law and we expect them to also -- even if it extends the process," the Texas Republican told CNN's Chris Cuomo Thursday on "New Day."

ABC News: Conservatives Could Be 'Equally Unhappy' With Trump, Sen. Tim Scott Says

<http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/conservatives-equally-unhappy-trump-sen-tim-scott/story?id=44896086>

Ryan Struyk

Sen. Tim Scott has a word of warning for fellow Republicans on the eve on Donald Trump's Inauguration: Get ready for the "unpredictable." "He did not run, in my opinion, as a conservative," Scott told ABC News' Jonathan Karl and Rick Klein on the "Powerhouse Politics" podcast.

Post and Courier: U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn to attend inauguration: 'We all have roles to play'

http://www.postandcourier.com/politics/u-s-rep-jim-clyburn-to-attend-inauguration-we-all/article_6d267c8e-de86-11e6-a3d7-5f8cd87eab9b.html

Emma Dumain

Democratic U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn will attend the presidential inauguration Friday, despite plans from several dozen of his colleagues to boycott the festivities. The South Carolina lawmaker and highest-ranking black legislator on Capitol Hill told reporters Thursday he felt an obligation to go to Donald Trump's

swearing-in ceremony and luncheon as a member of House Democratic leadership.

Greenville News: U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn will attend Trump Inauguration

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2017/01/19/us-rep-jim-clyburn-attend-trump-inauguration/96797236/>

Nathaniel Cary

U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn plans to attend Friday's inauguration of President-elect Donald Trump, despite plans by some of his Democratic colleagues in the House of Representatives to boycott the event, according to his office. Clyburn is the third-highest ranking Democrat in the House and the highest-ranking black legislator in Congress.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: Machinists union: Boeing workers in North Charleston to be given vote on organized labor

http://www.postandcourier.com/business/machinists-union-boeing-workers-in-north-charleston-to-be-given/article_5a091bb4-def6-11e6-b4d1-6bbef1446bf8.html

David Wren

Officials with the International Association of Machinists on Friday confirmed they will file a petition to hold a union election at Boeing Co.'s North Charleston facilities, giving roughly 2,850 workers a say in whether they want to be represented by organized labor.

Local News:

Sun News: Here's how much a property tax increase will cost homeowners

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/education/article127562664.html#storylink=cpy>

Christian Boschult

The Horry County School Board's finance committee on Monday met to discuss how much money a tax increase would generate as well as the amount of funds that could be generated through bonds. "I think it was more of an information session," said Chief Financial Officer John Gardner.