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Gary Cohn resigning as top White House economic adviser

The National Economic Council director disagreed with the president on tariffs.

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Off Message

Dems vow to go after Republican governors 'kowtowing' to Trump.

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McConnell denies that he slowed Obama's Russia response

Senate majority leader pushes back at charges that he single-handedly diluted a bipartisan push for states to safeguard their election systems.

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Matt Wuerker

The cartoonist's daily take on the world of politics.

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BRETT COOMER/HOUSTON CHRONICLE VIA AP

Texans go to the polls

Voters queue up at St. Anne's Roman Catholic Church in Houston on Tuesday for the Lone Star State's primary election for local, state and federal offices. Observers think the primary, the first of 2018, may give an early indication of how the November midterms will go. FOR FULL COVERAGE, GO TO POLITICO.COM.

Bank deregulation bill advanced in Senate as Dems break ranks

BY ZACHARY WARMBRODT

Sixteen Senate Democrats ignored warnings from progressives and joined Republicans on Tuesday to advance a wide-ranging deregulation bill that lawmakers are expected to pass in the coming days. The Senate voted to begin debate on the bill in a 67-32 vote, opening the door to the first major overhaul of banking regulations since Democrats enacted the Dodd-Frank law in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis.

A deep rift among Democrats over banking industry oversight will be on full display on the Senate floor over the coming days, expos-

ing to voters a clash of progressives and centrists that has been building for several years.

"The people in Congress may have forgotten the crash 10 years ago, but I guarantee that people across this country have not forgotten the pain that these giant banks caused," Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) said as she sought to rally her colleagues against the White House-backed bill. "They do not want to see Congress move toward deregulating these banks."

The core team of moderate Democrats that has been working to pass the legislation for years

Deregulation on page 14



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

Sen. Elizabeth Warren accused lawmakers of backing a regulatory overhaul because of years of sustained bank lobbying since the enactment of the Dodd-Frank law.

Red-state Dems see upside to Trump's tariffs

The trade crackdown could help incumbent senators the GOP is working hardest to defeat

BY ELANA SCHOR

Some of the biggest cheerleaders of Donald Trump's trade crackdown happen to be the very Democratic senators his party is gunning to defeat in November.

As Republicans howl that new tariffs could cause an economic meltdown, a handful of Rust Belt Democrats are giving the president a rare serving of praise. His stance could give the trio — Sens. Sherrod Brown of Ohio, Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Bob Casey of Pennsylvania, all top GOP targets — a chance to tout their bipartisan credentials and defend their home-state metals industries all at once.

"I'm happy to see action being taken," Casey said in an interview,

acknowledging that his alignment with Trump "doesn't happen that often."

The remarks from Casey, echoed by Brown and Manchin, highlight one of the rare instances since Trump took office that has upended traditional partisan allegiances. Republicans and business groups are pleading with Trump to step back from the ledge and warning that his tariffs plan — 25 percent on imported steel and 10 percent on aluminum — could wipe out the benefits of the GOP's tax cuts, and then some. The policy "could metastasize into a larger trade war," Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) said Tuesday.

Trade on page 12

Doug Collins makes play for judiciary chairmanship

BY RACHAEL BADE

Rep. Doug Collins is quietly laying the groundwork to run for House judiciary chairman next year, buttonholing colleagues who choose panel chairs and showcasing his legislative acumen.

The conservative Georgia Republican is the first to officially jump in for the powerful post, which will be open with the retirement of Chairman Bob Goodlatte (R-Va.) at the end of the year. Col-

lins has notified leadership of his intention to run, and he's going public with his sales pitch.

While Collins is not next in line in seniority on the panel, the significant number of departures on the committee and his close ties to GOP leaders give Collins a strong shot at the job, according to senior Republican sources.

"The best thing I can offer is my work ethic and to make sure that

Collins on page 13



Secretary Zinke:

Offshore drilling is not the answer.

America's tourism, fishing & recreation industries rely on clean coasts.

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#ProtectOurCoast FROM OIL SPILLS

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