

Social Justice Watch 0816

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Women in [#Belarus](#) have formed human chains to condemn a crackdown on protests, as demonstrations over the disputed election entered a fifth day.

Many dressed in white and carried flowers as they called for an end to police brutality.

Thousands of people have been arrested and at least two have died. We are with you, women of Belarus. Xx

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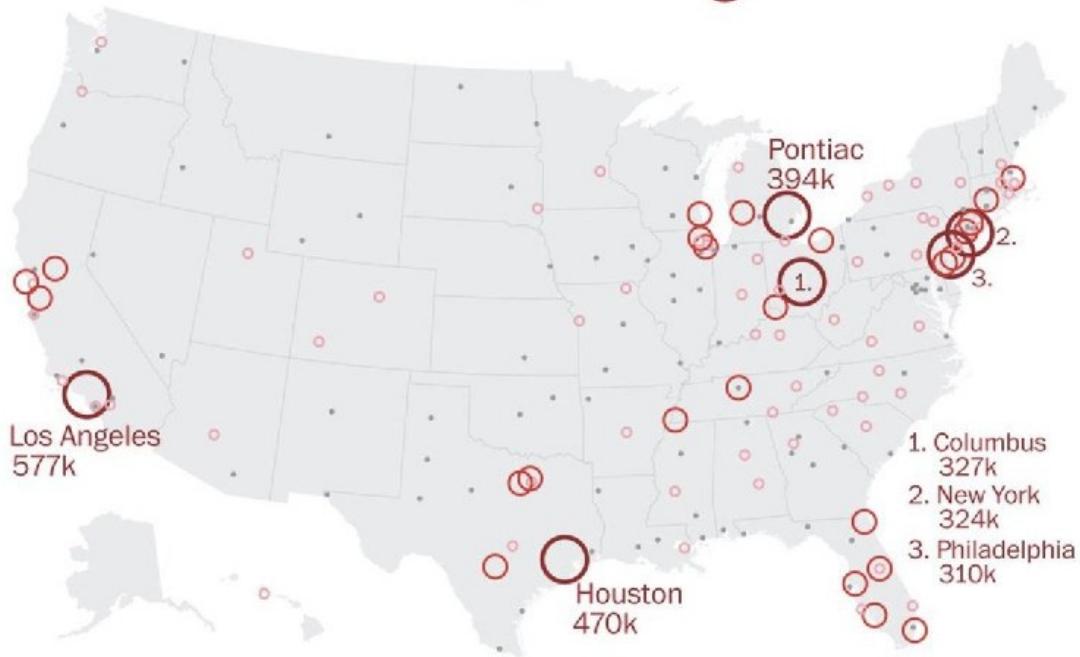


[source](#)

Postal Service reduction in sorting capacity

in pieces of mail per hour

- 100k or less
- 100-200k
- 200-300k
- 300k or more



Source: U.S. Postal Service

THE WASHINGTON POST

USPS data showing at least 671 USPS mail sorting machines have been removed across the country since June. Represents a reduction in national mail sorting capacity of 21.4 million pieces of mail per hour. [link](#) [source](#) [news](#)

Q Mr. President, you mentioned the Postal Service. We've seen some cutbacks. Is now the right time to be doing that? And is it going to be prepared for November? Would you think about doing any sort of actions on your own?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I didn't speak to the Postmaster General of the Post Office. I know this: He's a very good businessman. He's very successful. And I know he wants to make the Post Office at least somewhat lose a lot less money than -- they've lost so much money over the decade. Nobody has ever -- nothing loses money like the Post Office. And he wants to make it successful. He wants to make it so it can operate, so that you don't have to give it \$25 billion a year to sustain itself.

Just this past Sunday, Trump said he hadn't spoken to Postmaster General Louis DeJoy. But WH confirms the two met last week on Monday. A WH spokesman says it was a meeting to congratulate DeJoy on being confirmed. DeJoy was

confirmed in May. [link](#) [source](#)

Male behavior towards female gamers

See also: [Sexism in video gaming](#)

A 2015 study found that lower-skilled male players of [Halo 3](#) were more hostile towards teammates with a female voice, but behaved more submissively to players with a male voice. Higher-skilled male players, on the other hand, behaved more positively towards female players. The authors argued the male hostility towards female gamers in terms of [evolutionary psychology](#), writing, "female-initiated disruption of a male hierarchy incites hostile behaviour from poor performing males who stand to lose the most status".^[100]

[source](#)



Auschwitz 1942.
Chine 2020. [source](#)

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telegra.ph/Middlemarch-reissued-with-George-Eliots-real-name-08-13

Telegraph

Middlemarch reissued with George Eliot's real name

Novels written by women using male pen names have been reissued using the authors' actual names. The collection includes George Eliot's Middlemarch, which has been reissued under the author's real name, Mary Ann Evans, for the first time. The 25 titles have...

The connection between capital and police violence is clear: “Our communities face intense repression from the state because it is profitable.”

——Jackie Fielder is running for California State Senate in District 11 [source](#)

When Tucker Carlson founded The Daily Caller, he said he hoped it would serve as The New York Times of the right, a respectable and reputable source for reliable news, information, and analysis. That never came close to happening, and that speaks volumes about the US right. [source](#)

ICE guards ‘systematically’ sexually assault detainees with guards attacking victims in “blind spots” and telling them “no one would believe” them in ICE detention centers, which imprison 50,000 immigrants each year at a cost of \$2.7 billion to taxpayers. [link source](#)

The Texas Tribune

ICE guards ‘systematically’ sexually assault detainees in an El Pas...

Allegations include guards attacking victims in camera “blind spots” and telling

them that “no one would believe” them in ICE detention centers, which imprison about 50,000 immigrants each year at ...

<https://ed.ted.com/lessons/do-politics-make-us-irrational-jay-van-bavel>

TED-Ed

Do politics make us irrational? - Jay Van Bavel

Can someone’s political identity actually affect their ability to process information? The answer lies in a cognitive phenomenon known as partisanship. While identifying with social groups is an essential and healthy part of life, it can become a problem...

queer eye at its core is just giving people money and their lives improve. we should try that, as a society perhaps [source](#)

The American ambassador to Britain, Robert Wood Johnson IV, told multiple colleagues in February 2018 that President Trump had asked him to see if the British government could help steer the world-famous and lucrative British Open golf tournament to the Trump Turnberry resort in Scotland, according to three people with knowledge of the episode.

The ambassador’s deputy, Lewis A. Lukens, advised him not to do it, warning that it would be an unethical use of the presidency for private gain, these people said.

[telegra.ph/Trumps-Request-of-an-Ambassador-Get-the-British-Open-for-Me-08-15/](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/trumps-request-of-an-ambassador-get-the-british-open-for-me-08-15/)

Telegraph

Trump’s Request of an Ambassador: Get the British Open for Me

LONDON — The American ambassador to Britain, Robert Wood Johnson IV, told multiple colleagues in February 2018 that President Trump had asked him to see if the British government could help steer the world-famous and lucrative British Open golf tournament...

Washington Post: telegra.ph/Busy-work-08-16

Telegraph

Busy work

On the night of Aug. 6, President Trump was flying from Cleveland to New Jersey when he suddenly issued executive orders that would ban the social media video app TikTok and WeChat, China's largest messaging platform, from doing business in the United States....

telegra.ph/Dont-teach-your-kids-to-explore-gender--refuse-to-teach-them-gender-at-all-08-16

[This article may contain controversial topics.]

Telegraph

Don't teach your kids to 'explore gender' — refuse to teach them 'gender' at all
Embed from Getty Images Today, my son came inside to show me a caterpillar he had discovered in the yard. He was dressed in his typical fashion, which, today, meant a pink apron dress with butterflies over a teal shirt with a sparkly swan, topped with a spiked...

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Busy work

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On the night of Aug. 6, President Trump was flying from Cleveland to New Jersey when he suddenly issued executive orders that would ban the social media video app TikTok and WeChat, China's largest messaging platform, from doing business in the United States.

Corporate executives, lawyers and other officials found themselves scrambling to react to a policy that's part geopolitical escalation, part abuse of power — and, given the administration's track record, one that could be revoked at any time.

Paul Musgrave @profmusgrave is an assistant professor of political science at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

But the battle over TikTok and WeChat is part of a now-familiar story. The president or his loyalists threaten to upend some policy, institution or norm they know others will fight to defend. Issuing the challenge can be easy: a speech, a leak, a tweet or two, about immigration rules or education regulations or cutting taxes on the rich. In response, Trump's opponents must invest substantial time, money and effort to resist the proposal — otherwise, Trump wins by default.

Essentially, the administration has weaponized wasting everyone else's time.

It's a struggle between firefighters and a spree arsonist. The firefighters must stamp out every blaze, while the arsonist enjoys pouring accelerant, igniting a spark and sauntering off to start anew with kindling elsewhere. And the gradual exhaustion of the firefighters makes it likelier that they will someday fail to contain the flames.

Over the past several years, Trump and his loyalists have frequently managed to weaken and wear out those they see as enemies by proposing moves that cost the administration little. In these cases, the president often wins either by getting the policy he wants or by making his adversaries — among activists, nonprofits, lawyers, legislators, even business executives — spend disproportionately more

effort in response. This phenomenon, as much as the administration's overt malevolence and incompetence, has helped make the Trump era feel like a never-ending cycle. If it seems as if we are fighting the same battles over and over instead of making progress, that's because in many cases, we are.



President Trump addresses reporters at the White House on Wednesday. Even his most unrealistic policy proposals require time-consuming responses from opponents. (Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post)

Consider the recent fracas over visas for international students. Last month, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced that foreigners studying at U.S. colleges and universities would lose their visas if their schools suspended in-person instruction because of the pandemic. ICE's announcement, just weeks before the coronavirus-accelerated start of the fall semester, upset the plans of hundreds of universities and hundreds of thousands of foreign students.

The response was immediate. Dozens of states and universities filed lawsuits to block the rule. Outraged professors pledged to find ways around it. And then, eight days later, the crisis was over; the administration suddenly said that it was dropping the proposal.

By the usual measures of policy effectiveness — whether any laws passed or regulations changed — nothing happened. Yet the costs of “nothing” were immense. For a single university, analyzing the ICE rule’s effects and

determining a response could easily tie up tens of administrators for 10- or 12-hour days. Multiplied by the hundreds of universities affected, it's reasonable to believe that higher education spent tens or hundreds of thousands of staff hours coping with the rule (while schools were already beset by a public health crisis).

Even that is an underestimate: It doesn't count work done by others, like the state attorneys general or private lawyers representing universities, who labored to prepare lawsuits that required hundreds of pages of filings. And that's completely overlooking the emotional harm inflicted on international students facing a choice between infection and deportation. If Trump officials had specifically sought to waste universities' time, they could not have developed a more cost-effective strategy than dashing off a policy proposal that they later abandoned without a fight.

The administration has produced similar effects elsewhere, including in its immigration policy. Earlier this summer, a Supreme Court ruling preserved the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which protects undocumented immigrants who came to the United States as children, despite the administration's efforts to terminate it.

But the White House has been slow to comply with the court's judgment, announcing new restrictions on the program and subjecting it to a "comprehensive review." The groups that won the legal battle now face a choice: take the administration back to court to enforce the law, or give up on protecting DACA beneficiaries.

Once again, the administration has hit upon a low-cost way to make opponents spend time and energy. "If time is a political resource of value," Syracuse University professor Elizabeth Cohen said, "then anything you can do to force people to spend their time on what you want them to do, not the work they would want to do, is effective."

The executive orders Trump signed last weekend aimed at mitigating the economic effects of the pandemic are also likely to wind up wasting lots of people's time. The move upset negotiations at the federal level and piled up work for governors with actual responsibilities at the state level. Even the extension of unemployment benefits, which requires states to provide matching funds, will take months to set up. If, that is, courts or Congress don't block it first.



Supporters of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program demonstrate outside the Supreme Court on June 18. While the justices ruled against the administration's efforts to terminate DACA, Trump officials have been slow to comply with the judgment — and advocates must decide how to respond. (Alex Wroblewski/Bloomberg News)

Trump's haphazard policy shifts are so frequent that people often suggest there must be other motivations. Supposedly the administration announces wild new ideas out of nowhere — such as changing federal standards for shower heads, cutting capital gains taxes or staging the president's GOP convention speech at the Gettysburg battlefield — to distract from scandals or simply to troll its adversaries.

But the real-life effects go much further. The force of the government is often employed to grind away at the president's opponents and reshape society, even when his proposals end up going nowhere.

And those most affected are often those who are the most vulnerable. Sophisticates dismiss the administration's strategy of raising issues that can't go anywhere, like the president's repeated musings about eliminating birthright citizenship, as scare tactics. But that underrates how frightening it is to be threatened by an immensely powerful government. The administration said in 2017 that it would add a question to the census asking whether a respondent was a citizen, which could lead to an undercount of certain groups by making them

afraid to participate, thus skewing congressional apportionment in favor of Republicans. The Supreme Court turned back this effort in June 2019, but not before “civil servants in the census were forced to consider changing a survey instrument they had already spent years planning, reducing resources available for quality assurance and program integrity,” said Philip Rocco, an assistant professor of political science at Marquette University.

Even after his defeat in court, Trump now says he will prevent undocumented immigrants from being counted for congressional apportionment. The new memo means census officials will be forced to waste even more time and effort in planning to implement a policy that will probably be overturned — rather than working to get more responses to the survey.

It’s difficult to quantify these situations, but they seem ubiquitous. “I haven’t looked at a policy area in my research where you have not seen this dynamic,” Rocco says.

Unable to overturn the Affordable Care Act, for instance, the administration has used regulation and administrative slowdowns to weaken the law. So numerous are these attempts that the progressive Center on Budget and Policy Priorities maintains a “Sabotage Watch” blog. Now Trump claims he’ll soon sign an executive order to bar health insurance companies from denying coverage for preexisting conditions — which is already the law under the Affordable Care Act — ensuring that the entire exercise will waste time even if there’s nothing otherwise objectionable in the order.

And the administration has consistently blocked congressional oversight of Cares Act funding for pandemic-related initiatives like the Paycheck Protection Program — forcing lawmakers to spend time establishing their right to investigate such programs rather than, well, investigating them.

All this has led to lawsuits, inquiries and mountains of effort expended to counter Trump’s behavior, with the president and his supporters claiming it’s evidence of “Trump derangement syndrome.” The constant high-stakes fights keep activists, journalists and social media at a boil throughout the cycle of discovering, explaining and processing each new administration initiative. In extreme cases, these cycles can make it seem like a final showdown is at hand.

Yet catharsis never arrives. Some new crisis always comes along to cheat us of

even the illusion of finality. Inspector general after inspector general after U.S. attorney is fired, each dismissal somehow displacing the earlier outrages rather than compounding them. Impeachment segues into pandemic. Just cataloguing these battles is exhausting, which may explain why the Trump administration feels uniquely draining.

Of course, sometimes it can be good for a confrontation to end with a whimper, not a bang. No one should complain, for example, that the war scare earlier this year between the United States and Iran, sparked by the U.S. killing of Revolutionary Guard Corps Quds Force commander Qasem Soleimani, faded without escalating further. But even that apparent nonevent came with a human toll: the deaths of the 176 passengers and crew of Ukraine International Airlines Flight 752, shot down by Iranian air defenses at the height of the standoff.

If Trump loses in November, one of the hardest things will be figuring out how to calculate the cost — in time, energy and spirit — of all the disasters that never quite came to pass but still wasted our time. Someday, Americans who didn't live through it all may wonder what the fuss was about. *Why were you all so upset about Trump? There were elections, and he lost — it couldn't have been that bad.* And in that happiest world, we will be able to respond only that it took all our strength to make sure nothing big happened.

Nothing, in the end, was the best we could hope for.

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Don’t teach your kids to ‘explore gender’ — refuse to teach them ‘gender’ at all

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Embed from Getty Images

Today, my son came inside to show me a caterpillar he had discovered in the yard. He was dressed in his typical fashion, which, today, meant a pink apron dress with butterflies over a teal shirt with a sparkly swan, topped with a spiked bicycle helmet with Tyrannosaurus Rexes.

His mother and I have given our kids some range to explore their own interests and tastes. We welcome our son to enjoy wearing “pretty” clothes, like dresses or flower print pants, and we encourage our daughter’s sense of justice and fascination with marginalized heroes throughout history, from Ida B. Wells to Malala Yousafzai. We don’t do this because we want our kids to “explore gender,” but because we know that gender is a fiction and an imposition put upon girls and boys. We refuse to teach our children that some likes, dislikes, behaviours, colours, and pastimes are reserved for one sex or the other — we want them to transcend those barriers and find their own selves.

By allowing free exploration, our kids are less, rather than more, likely to have an interest in “transitioning” to the social roles of the opposite sex. Why would they bother, when they are free to combine their interests in dresses and superheroes, dolls and dinosaurs, pink and blue? There is no impetus to “change gender” if one is allowed access to the full range of human interests and behaviour.

These attitudes are clearly illustrated in the stories of transitioned children like Jazz Jennings, who authored a children’s picture book, *I Am Jazz*, expressing anger at not being allowed to wear dresses in public. In the book, Jennings defends transition as the solution to mismatched “gender” preferences, writing that, like other girls, “We like high heels and princess gowns,” adding, “I hardly

ever played with trucks or tools or superheroes, only princesses and mermaid costumes.” In a 2015 interview for *ABC News*, Jazz’s mother explains, “She liked anything sparkly, sparkly and pink. And she’s so feminine.” She adds that her child had always “acted like a girl.”

But there is more to the story.

If a young boy is interested in flowers and skirts but told those things are “for girls” — prevented from wearing dresses and playing with girls — that provides a strong incentive to say he is perhaps not a boy at all. If offered the idea of “transgender,” which would allow him to pursue his preferred hobbies and dress as he likes, why wouldn’t he choose that? A child knows nothing of the broader consequences of this adult ideology. Likewise, if a girl is told baseball and jeans are for boys, maybe she would then insist she is in fact a boy. Children say what they need to say to get what they want.

Unfortunately, for many of these children, their parents believe they must take these claims seriously. Transgenderism is everywhere in the media, and parents are told that if they deny their children’s claims to be the “opposite gender,” they are “transphobic,” abusive, and even endangering their children’s lives. But while these children gain access to the things they desire — toys, clothing, hobbies — they are still restricted. A transitioning boy might gain access to dolls and dresses, but only by renouncing all male-typed interests. A girl must embrace masculinity entirely to reject some aspects of femininity. Not only that, but these children may be put on a path to medical interventions, including puberty-blocking hormones and surgical “transition”, putting them at risk of infertility and preventing them from developing properly.

Of course, parents are hardly the only force pushing children into transgenderism. Some children will be quick to castigate their peers for falling outside the social boundaries imposed on the sexes. While, today, many kids are individually tolerant, it just takes one or two boys to rally others into condemning aberrant behaviour. Girls are still mocked as “lesbians” if they explore interests deeper than boys and refuse to partake in the beauty rituals of femininity. Boys are still expected to choose to play with other boys over girls — to be tough and reject “girly” things.

I witnessed this firsthand while I was volunteering in a preschool back in 2008. Halfway through the year, a new boy entered the classroom. He was kind and

considerate, and preferred to play with the girls, who were often much gentler. It didn't take long before he began to receive scorn from a couple boys for doing so, and by the end of the year he was "one of the boys." He learned to act aggressively towards girls and put them down to affirm his place, but he also seemed perpetually sad and it was clear he received no real pleasure from it.

In this case, a sensitive boy responded to peer bullying by joining them. Now, 12 years later, another possibility may have presented itself: transition. Today, this boy could have continued living as he liked if only he said he was "a girl." When children rigidly police one another on the basis of their sex and the stereotypes attached to that sex, a boy who prefers the company of girls might well see being a girl as a route toward social acceptance.

Growing up I was sometimes mistaken for gay, and although I did not experience much direct bullying, I was sensitive and lived in fear of it. When a classmate made fun of a bright turtleneck I was wearing, I reacted by toning down everything I wore. For a period of early adulthood I only wore identical grey t-shirts. Only now, in my late 30s, have I gotten comfortable wearing my favorite colours: indigo, lavender, and violet. Since I was little, I have preferred the presence of girls and, later, women — not least because they are less likely to police me for failing to adhere to masculinity in this way. I have at times wished I was female to escape these pressures and be part of a community where I could feel safe from them. Thankfully, I grew up during a time when this fantasy was not yet treated as a legitimate possibility.

We need children to know they have more options than accepting the box they are placed in or finding their way into the one they weren't. And we need to back kids up on their expressions of nonconformity without making it conditional upon "transition." If we really want kids to feel free to be themselves, we should do that, and not offer them only rigid, stereotyped categories or potentially dangerous "transitions" as a solution.

My daughter found one such option for herself. She reported to me that her kindergarten class had become divided along sex lines. Some of the girls rejected her because she had short hair, saying they didn't understand it, and the boys rejected her because she wore a dress. Her novel solution was to establish a group of five called the "Weird Weirders," for nonconforming kids who accepted each other for who they were. They worked to convince other kids to have positive feelings about difference, and some then joined the group. I am

very grateful to my friend Lierre Keith who offered further encouragement by providing members with custom T-shirts.

As my son prepares for kindergarten in the fall, I hope that we have provided what he needs to make it through okay. He is used to being mistaken for a girl, and has a prepared stock answer: “I’m a boy, I just like pink.” We’ve given him the confidence to combine his interests in being both “cool” and “pretty.” I can only hope that kids are still allowed to think flexibly enough to accept him for the sensitive and funny little boy that he is. “Inclusivity” and “acceptance” must exist outside the transgender narrative.

Owen Lloyd is a writer and parent living in Myrtle Creek, OR. He can be reached at



Guest Writer

One of Feminist Current's amazing guest writers.

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Middlemarch reissued with George Eliot's real name

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The Reclaim Her Name collection runs to 25 titles in all

Novels written by women using male pen names have been reissued using the authors' actual names.

The collection includes George Eliot's *Middlemarch*, which has been reissued under the author's real name, Mary Ann Evans, for the first time.

The 25 titles have been released to mark the 25th anniversary of the Women's Prize for Fiction.

The Reclaim Her Name library features newly commissioned cover artwork from female designers.

Other titles in the collection include *A Phantom Lover*, a gothic horror novel by Violet Paget published under the pen name Vernon Lee.

Also featured is *Indiana* by George Sand, the male pseudonym used by the 19th Century French novelist Amantine Aurore Dupin.



George Eliot portrait by François D'Albert Durade

Founder director of the Women's Prize for Fiction, Kate Mosse, said it was "a lovely way to celebrate" the award's 25th anniversary.

She said the initiative would continue a process of "empowering women, igniting conversations and ensuring they get the recognition they deserve".

Liz Petry, whose mother Anne's book *Marie of the Cabin Club* is featured in the collection, said she was "honoured" to have been approached.

"I'm incredibly proud of my mother's work and it excites me that her writing has been introduced to a new audience," she continued.

The full collection can be downloaded as free e-books from the website of Baileys, the Women's Prize for Fiction's sponsor.

Physical box sets will also be donated to selected libraries across the country.

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Trump's Request of an Ambassador: Get the British Open for Me

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Woody Johnson, the N.F.L. owner, Trump donor and ambassador to Britain, was warned not to get involved in trying to move the tournament to a Trump resort in Scotland, but he raised the idea anyway — and he failed.

LONDON — The American ambassador to Britain, Robert Wood Johnson IV, told multiple colleagues in February 2018 that President Trump had asked him to see if the British government could help steer the world-famous and lucrative British Open golf tournament to the Trump Turnberry resort in Scotland, according to three people with knowledge of the episode.

The ambassador's deputy, Lewis A. Lukens, advised him not to do it, warning that it would be an unethical use of the presidency for private gain, these people

said. But Mr. Johnson apparently felt pressured to try. A few weeks later, he raised the idea of Turnberry playing host to the Open with the secretary of state for Scotland, David Mundell.

In a brief interview last week, Mr. Mundell said it was “inappropriate” for him to discuss his dealings with Mr. Johnson and referred to a British government statement that said Mr. Johnson “made no request of Mr. Mundell regarding the British Open or any other sporting event.” The statement did not address whether the ambassador had broached the issue of Turnberry, which Mr. Trump bought in 2014, but none of the next four Opens are scheduled to be played there.

Still, the episode left Mr. Lukens and other diplomats deeply unsettled. Mr. Lukens, who served as the acting ambassador before Mr. Johnson arrived in November 2017, emailed officials at the State Department to tell them what had happened, colleagues said. A few months later, Mr. Johnson forced out Mr. Lukens, a career diplomat who had earlier served as ambassador to Senegal, shortly before his term was to end.

The White House declined to comment on Mr. Trump’s instructions to Mr. Johnson, as did the ambassador and the State Department.

Although Mr. Trump, as president, is exempt from a federal conflict of interest law that makes it a criminal offense to take part in “government matters that will affect your own personal financial interest,” the Constitution prohibits federal officials from accepting gifts, or “emoluments,” from foreign governments.

Experts on government ethics pointed to one potential violation of the emoluments clause that still may have been triggered by the president’s actions: The British or Scottish governments would most likely have to pay for security at the tournament, an event that would profit Mr. Trump.

It was not the first time the president tried to steer business to one of his properties. Last year, the White House chose the Trump National Doral resort in Miami as the site of a Group of 7 meeting. Mr. Trump backed off after it ignited a political storm, moving the meeting to Camp David before canceling it because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Mr. Trump also urged Vice President Mike Pence to stay at his family’s golf resort in Doonbeg, Ireland, last year during a visit, even though the vice

president's official business was on the other side of the country. That trip generated headlines for the golf club, but also controversy. And Mr. Trump has visited his family-owned golf courses more than 275 times since he took office, bringing reporters with him each time, ensuring that the resorts get ample news coverage.

The Trump International Hotel in Washington has done a brisk trade in guests, foreign and domestic, who are in town to lobby the federal government. Turnberry itself drew attention when the Pentagon acknowledged it had been sending troops to the resort while they were on overnight layovers at the nearby Glasgow Prestwick Airport.



But Mr. Trump and his children have struggled for more than a decade to attract professional golf tournaments to the family's 16 golf courses, knowing those events draw global television audiences and help drive traffic. They own most of the courses outright — as opposed to simply selling the family name, as is the case with several of their hotels and residential towers — and the courses generate about a third of the family's revenue, with tournaments seen as a crucial way to publicize them.

This has been particularly important for the two Trump resorts in Scotland and

one in Ireland, which have been losing money under Mr. Trump's ownership. Mr. Trump himself was intensely involved in promoting them before he was elected, regularly pushing golf writers and the editors of golf magazines to play with him, often after whisking them to Scotland on his private jet.

The losses at the British resorts have come even after the family made costly investments to build or upgrade their courses, including \$150 million at Turnberry. The most recent annual report for Turnberry shows it lost nearly \$1 million, on \$19 million in sales, in 2018.

But the campaign to recruit tournaments has been complicated by Mr. Trump's political ascent. Executives who run the Scottish Open, for example, said in 2017 that they would most likely not hold the tournament at the Trump family's Aberdeen golf resort, even after direct appeals by Mr. Trump.

"Politics aside, Trump would be an ideal venue — but you can't put politics aside," Martin Gilbert, the chief executive of Aberdeen Asset Management, which is the lead sponsor of the Scottish Open, told reporters.

As ambassador, Mr. Johnson has had to navigate Mr. Trump's up-and-down relations with British leaders. The president soured on the prime minister at the time, Theresa May, and berated her on trans-Atlantic phone calls. His relations with Prime Minister Boris Johnson, a like-minded populist, have been warmer, though Mr. Johnson has sometimes steered clear of Mr. Trump, who is deeply unpopular in Britain.

A prominent Republican donor, Ambassador Johnson initially supported Jeb Bush for the Republican nomination in 2016, but he later backed Mr. Trump, introducing him to other figures in the party's money circles. Enlisting Mr. Johnson as an emissary on behalf of his golf course was another way the president was looking for help furthering his financial interests.

Beyond the legal and ethical red flags, asking for such a favor from his host country would put Mr. Johnson in an untenable position as the emissary of the United States.

"It is diplomatic malpractice because once you do that, you put yourself in a compromised position," said Norman L. Eisen, who served as President Barack Obama's special counsel for ethics and later as his ambassador to the Czech Republic. "They can always say, 'Remember that time when you made that

suggestion.’ No experienced diplomat would do that.”

For Mr. Johnson, 73, London was a reward fit for the billionaire heir to the Johnson & Johnson pharmaceutical fortune. Formally known as the Court of St. James’s, the assignment is the plum of the diplomatic corps — one that comes with a palatial residence, Winfield House, and entree to the highest levels of British society.

Like many political appointees, Mr. Johnson had no diplomatic experience before arriving in London. Affable and well connected, he is known mainly for the nickname Woody and his ownership of the New York Jets, a perennially struggling N.F.L. franchise. His transition to leading a large embassy was bumpy.

Mr. Johnson’s throwback style has been criticized as offensive. There have been complaints that he complimented the appearances of female employees during staff meetings, and after interviewing a candidate to replace Mr. Lukens as deputy chief of mission, he asked a colleague whether she was Jewish.

The ambassador, colleagues said, forced out Mr. Lukens after hearing he gave a speech at a British university in which he told a positive anecdote about a visit Mr. Obama had made to Senegal in 2013, when Mr. Lukens was the envoy.

At least some of those complaints were raised with the department’s Office of the Inspector General last fall, when a team of investigators began a routine review of diplomatic operations at the embassy. The findings were submitted in February, and the complaints are expected to be included, according to one of the investigators. It is not clear why the review has not been made public.

Neither the State Department nor the embassy addressed the accusations, but the department said Mr. Johnson had led the embassy “honorably and professionally.” In a statement, it said, “We stand by Ambassador Johnson and look forward to him continuing to ensure our special relationship with the U.K. is strong.”

As for Mr. Trump’s request for help in getting the Open, it is not clear how much sway the British government would have had even if it had responded to Mr. Johnson’s hints. The tournament is run by the R&A, a golf association based at the Royal and Ancient Golf Club in St. Andrews, which is the British counterpart to the United States Golf Association.

A spokesman for the R&A, Mike Woodcock, said a committee selects the site from a pool of 10 courses in Scotland, England and Northern Ireland based on factors like the readiness of the course and public infrastructure.

“We haven’t received any approaches from the British government or the Scottish government about this,” he said.

Mark Landler reported from London, Lara Jakes from Washington and Maggie Haberman from New York. Eric Lipton contributed reporting from Washington.

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