

Trump Fires 6
After Meeting
With Activist

Far-Right Figure’s Eye
on Security Council

This article is by Maggie Haberman, Jonathan Swan and Ken Bensinger.

WASHINGTON — President Trump fired six National Security Council officials after an extraordinary meeting in the Oval Office with the far-right activist Laura Loomer, who laid out a list of people she believed were disloyal to the president, U.S. officials said on Thursday.

The firings were described by one of the U.S. officials, who had direct knowledge of the matter. The decision came after Ms. Loomer vilified the staff members by name during the meeting on Wednesday, when she walked into the White House with a sheaf of papers attacking the character and loyalty of numerous N.S.C. officials. Michael Waltz, the national security adviser, joined later in the meeting and briefly defended some of his staff, though it was clear he had little if any power to protect their jobs.

It was a remarkable spectacle: Ms. Loomer, who has floated the baseless conspiracy theory that the Sept. 11 attacks were an “inside job” and is viewed as extreme even by some of Mr. Trump’s far-right allies, was apparently wielding more influence over the staff of the National Security Council than Mr. Waltz, who runs it.

The account of the White House meeting with Ms. Loomer and the subsequent firings is based on interviews with eight people with knowledge of the events. They asked for anonymity to discuss confidential meetings and conversations.

The people fired included Brian Walsh, the senior director for intelligence; Maggie Dougherty, the senior director for international organizations; and Thomas Boodry, the senior director for legislative affairs. None could be reached for comment.

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U.S. Threatens
School Funding
Over Diversity

By MICHAEL C. BENDER

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration threatened on Thursday to withhold federal funding from public schools unless state education officials verified the elimination of all programs that it said unfairly promoted diversity, equity and inclusion.

In a memo sent to top public education officials across the country, the Education Department said that funding for schools with high percentages of low-income students, known as Title I funding, was at risk pending compliance with the administration’s directive.

The memo included a certification letter that state and local school officials must sign and return to the department within 10 days, even as the administration has struggled to define which programs would violate its interpretation of civil rights laws. The move is the latest in a series of Education Department directives aimed at carrying out President Trump’s political agenda in the nation’s schools.

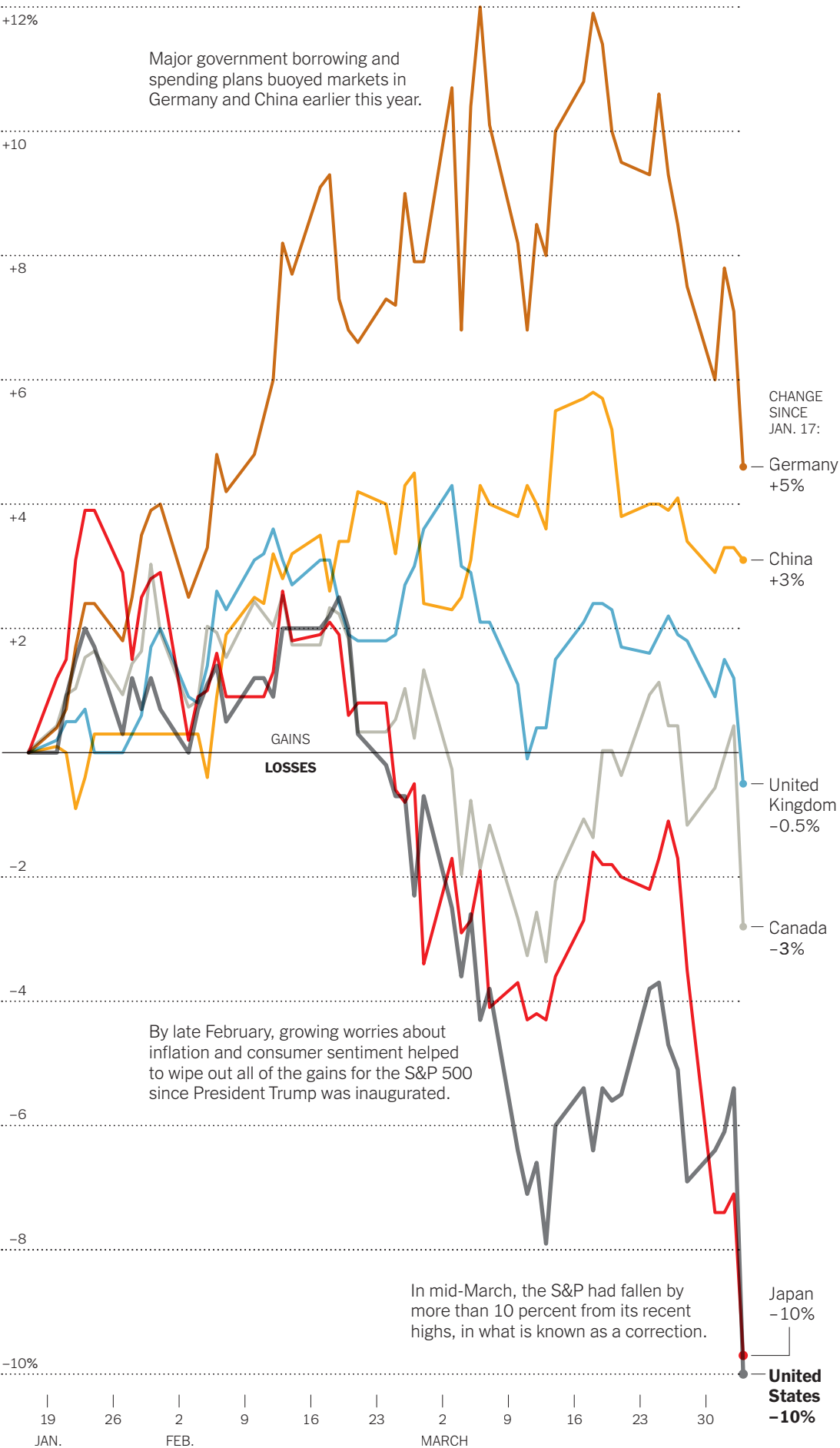
At her confirmation hearing in February, Education Secretary Linda McMahon said schools should be allowed to celebrate the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. But she was more circumspect when asked whether classes that focused on Black history ran afoul of Mr. Trump’s agenda and should

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TARIFF SHOCK WAVES CIRCLE THE GLOBE

Stock Markets Since Trump’s Inauguration

On-again, off-again tariffs and mass layoffs of federal workers fomented unease on Wall Street. Higher-than-expected tariffs announced on Wednesday caused global markets to shudder once again.



Turning Longtime
Grievance Into
Emergency

By ALAN RAPPEPORT

WASHINGTON — President Trump upended the international trading system this week with a blunt package of global tariffs, making the case that the United States faces a dire economic emergency as a result of trade imbalances with countries across the globe.

It’s a sentiment that Mr. Trump has expressed for decades, one that helped propel him to the presidency amid anger over lost manufacturing jobs and widening trade deficits. While the United States has the largest and strongest economy in the world, Mr. Trump — and many of his supporters — have long held the view that America has been ripped off by other countries and that tariffs are the answer to rectify decades of what they call unfair treatment that has shuttered factories, decimated communities and hurt workers.

“Every prediction our opponents made about trade for the last 30 years has been proven totally wrong,” Mr. Trump said on Wednesday, pointing to trade deals such as NAFTA and the Trans-Pacific Partnership as well as the tariffs he imposed during his first term. “We can’t do what we’ve been doing for the last 50 years.”

Since his days as a real estate developer in the 1980s, Mr. Trump has been railing against the trade and business practices of other countries that he found to be unfair. Back then, when Japan was a booming economic rival, Mr. Trump would assail its tactics.

“If you ever go to Japan right now, and try and sell something, forget about it, Oprah. Just forget about it,” Mr. Trump said, in a 1988 interview with Oprah Winfrey, adding, “They come over here, they sell their cars, their VCRs, they knock the hell out of our companies.”

This week he made good on his promise to try to force more companies to make their products in the United States. He punished trading partners with stiff tariffs, despite anxiety from economists, investors and businesses that his approach could send prices soaring and tip the economy into recession.

Mr. Trump imposed across-the-

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Markets Dive as
Countries Vow
Reprisal

This article is by Ana Swanson, Daisuke Wakabayashi and River Akira Davis.

WASHINGTON — The scale of President Trump’s global tariffs began to sink in on Thursday as stock markets fell sharply, countries warned of retaliation and American companies and consumers braced for the impact on their bottom lines and bank accounts.

The S&P 500 tumbled nearly 5 percent, the worst market sell-off since the early weeks of the coronavirus pandemic. Mr. Trump had said for weeks that he would impose “reciprocal tariffs” on allies and adversaries, but the tariffs announced on Wednesday, to take effect on Saturday, were far higher than experts had expected.

China, one of the countries hardest hit by the tariffs, vowed to take countermeasures to “safeguard its own rights and interests.” Its state media described the tariffs as “self-defeating bullying.”

South Korea convened an emergency task force and vowed to “pour all government resources to overcome a trade crisis.” In Brussels, Ursula von der Leyen, the European Commission president, said, “If you take on one of us, you take on all of us.” President Emmanuel Macron of France called on European companies to suspend all investments in the United States “until things have been clarified” over the tariffs.

Also on Thursday, tariffs Mr. Trump previously announced on automobiles and auto parts took effect, and the impact was immediate. Canada said it would match the 25 percent tariff with an equal one. Stellantis, which owns Jeep, Ram, Dodge and Chrysler, said it was temporarily halting production at a plant in Mexico and another in Canada.

Business groups, trade experts, economists, Democratic lawmakers and even a few Republicans swiftly denounced the tariffs on Thursday as an unnecessary drag on the economy. The effect on American wallets will be broad, as companies are expected to pass on at least some of the costs of the tariffs to customers.

Just a sampling of the products found in many American homes

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TURMOIL The S&P 500 plunged nearly 5 percent after Asian and European markets fell, intensifying fears of a global slowdown. PAGE B1

SKEPTICISM The president says “jobs and factories will come roaring back,” but the nation’s economy has been shaped by free trade. PAGE B1

Adams to Run as Independent,
Skirting Primary for 2nd Term

By EMMA G. FITZSIMMONS

Mayor Eric Adams of New York City said on Thursday that he would not run for re-election in the Democratic primary in June, an acknowledgment of the growing backlash against his embrace of President Trump and his record-low approval ratings.

Mr. Adams said he would instead run as an independent in the general election in November — an uphill battle in a city where Democrats outnumber Republicans by six to one.

His announcement comes a day after the five-count federal corruption indictment that he faced was dismissed by a judge, following the Trump Justice Department’s decision to abandon the prosecution.

Mr. Adams released a six-minute video saying that the case had made it difficult for him to run in the June 24 primary. He said that he was still a Democrat but that he would “appeal directly to all New Yorkers” as an independent in the general election.

In the video, Mr. Adams again denied the corruption allegations, but acknowledged that he had made mistakes.

“I know that the accusations leveled against me may have shaken your confidence in me and that you may rightly have questions about my conduct,” he said. “Let me be clear, although the charges against me were false, I trusted people that I should not have and I regret that.”

The collapse of the mayor’s primary campaign was a stunning setback for a charismatic leader who once called himself the “future of the Democratic Party.” But

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Deadly Storm Batters the South and Midwest

Dylon Davies with Skylar, his friend’s dog, after a tornado tore through Lake City, Ark. Page A20.

INTERNATIONAL A4-10

Fake Guru’s Bolivia Land Grab
The emissaries of a fugitive from India were deported after making 1,000-year deals with Indigenous groups. PAGE A4

Chinese Barges Send Message
A floating causeway could give China a way to land troops — and make a possible invasion of Taiwan easier. PAGE A7

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After Greenpeace’s Big Loss
A verdict in the hundreds of millions against the environmental group could chill free speech, which is likely to figure in an appeal. PAGE A11

F.D.A. Layoffs Could Be Costly
Trump cutbacks took in administrators, scientists in food and drug-testing labs, and policy experts who advance generic drug approvals. PAGE A15

Flash of ’70s in Subway Map
A redesigned map of the New York City system, the first in almost 50 years, is reminiscent of the Unimark map reviled by many traditionalists. PAGE A19

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Ellison Back in Spotlight
The co-founder of Oracle and friend of President Trump keeps emerging as a possible bidder for TikTok. PAGE B1

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Springsteen’s Speedball Pitcher
Joe DePugh, the teammate who inspired the Boss’s hit song “Glory Days,” a bittersweet anthem to their hard-scrabble childhoods, was 75. PAGE B12

World War II Decoder
Betty Webb, who helped decipher German messages at Britain’s top-secret Bletchley Park, was 101. PAGE B12

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A Stage for Truthfulness
In “Good Night, and Good Luck,” George Clooney makes Edward R. Murrow a paragon of sane journalism. PAGE C1

Where Her Universe Began
On the eve of Ruth Asawa’s posthumous retrospective, a visit to the artist’s home. Below, a work from 1961. PAGE C1

SPORTS B7-10

The Final, Missing Piece
UConn guard Paige Bueckers has done everything expected of a Huskies superstar except win a title. PAGE B7

Jets Flying Under the Radar
By tamping down the hoopla, Aaron Glenn, the team’s new coach, plans to establish a better culture. PAGE B10

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Pamela Paul PAGE A23