

**White House Daily Briefing
October 24, 2018**

Three Articles to Read

Target CEO says the US consumer is as strong as ever: 'They're seeing wages rise'

Target CEO Brian Cornell sees no change in how Americans feel about their finances, standing by the bold call he made on CNBC in August about the "consumer environment" being the best he's ever seen. <https://www.cnbc.com/2018/10/24/target-ceo-still-sees-us-consumers-feeling-as-good-as-ever.html>

Trump meets with top brass, renews threat to send troops to the border

There were more stars on the shoulders of last night's guests at the White House than you can see at the average Hollywood premiere. President Trump hosted his top four-star generals and admirals including all the Joint Chiefs and all the combatant commanders from around the globe. The nearly two dozen guests included civilian leaders Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and his deputy Patrick Shanahan, but everyone else was in dress uniform. <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/trump-meets-with-top-brass-renews-threat-to-send-troops-to-the-border>

U.S. Takes Diplomatic Action Against Saudis Believed Tied to Journalist's Killing

The U.S. has taken diplomatic action against 21 Saudi officials believed connected with the killing of dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi, a public expression of disapproval that came as the kingdom's powerful crown prince appeared at an investment conference that opened under a cloud. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/turkeys-erdogan-saudi-journalist-was-murdered-1540287925>

Things to Know

CONGRESSIONAL democrats WANT TO TAKE MONEY FROM HARDWORKING AMERICANS TO FUND FAILED SOCIALIST POLICIES

"From the Soviet Union to Cuba to Venezuela, wherever true socialism or communism has been adopted, it has delivered anguish and devastation and failure." – President Donald J. Trump

DESTRUCTIVE ECONOMIC POLICIES: Under socialist economic policies, Americans can expect their incomes to fall and their economic freedom to vanish.

- Radical Congressional Democrats are pushing the socialist policies of “Medicare for All,” high tax rates, and “free” public services, while ignoring the huge cost of these policies.
- Families earning the average annual wage of \$60,588 would be taxed up to \$5,000 more per year, after cash transfers, if the United States adopted the tax and transfer policies of Nordic countries that Congressional Democrats often tout.
- Socialism’s higher taxes (including on businesses) and controls on factors of production lead to a loss of economic freedom that has devastating consequences for production.
 - Replacing United States policies with highly socialist ones, like in Venezuela, would reduce real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by at least 40 percent in the long run.

“MEDICARE FOR ALL” IS RADICAL AND DANGEROUS: The Democrats’ socialist “Medicare for All” plan would devastate the American healthcare market and lead to higher taxes.

- The Democrats’ disastrous “Medicare for All” plan distributes healthcare for “free,” by creating a government monopoly on healthcare markets and setting all prices paid to suppliers.
 - Under this policy, doctors, hospitals, and pharmaceutical companies would have no choice but to accept whatever the government decides to pay for their services.
 - Consumers, likewise, would have no choice but to use government-directed options.
- The high taxes needed to fund “Medicare for All” would lead to a decline in household incomes of \$17,000 annually after taxes and healthcare expenditures, a 19 percent decline.
- Without higher taxes, funding the Democrats’ plan would require cuts to half of the Federal budget as it stands today wrecking Medicaid, Social Security, and traditional Medicare.
- Evidence on the effectiveness of single-payer systems suggests that a “Medicare for All” plan would reduce the longevity and health of Americans, despite greater insurance coverage.

A DUBIOUS LEGACY: Socialist policies have a long legacy of failure across the world.

- The legacy of countries that have implemented large-scale socialist policies is one of failed policies, misery, and death.
- Even in less-extreme cases, socialist policies have reduced standards of living.

- Socialist countries like Maoist China, Cuba, and the Soviet Union seized control of agriculture wrecking their food production and causing tens of millions of deaths by starvation.
- Venezuela's socialist experiment has been a complete failure. Today, Venezuelans are beset by out-of-control inflation, lack of basic resources, and rampant crime, starvation, and death.
- Research suggests that even Nordic countries, who are often pointed to as examples of successful socialist experiments, have been hurt by their use of socialist policies:
 - The living standards of Nordic countries are at least 15 percent lower than in the United States, despite the abundance of "free" government services.
 - If the United States had adopted Nordic-like policies in the 1970s, then our real GDP would be almost 20 percent lower today.