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Trump vows executive order requiring 'free speech' at colleges



Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

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## Trump slams Mueller probe, mocks Sessions and Comey

OXON HILL, Md. (Reuters) - President Donald Trump on Saturday attacked U.S. Special Counsel Robert Mueller ahead of his report on alleged Russia collusion by the Trump campaign in 2016 and said his political opponents were "trying to take me out with bullshit."

In a speech that lasted more than two hours — his longest since taking office two years ago — Trump also vented about Democrats, a proposed "green new deal," illegal immigrants and criticism of his North Korea summit, while voicing optimism about his own re-election prospects in 2020. Addressing a cheering audience at the annual Conservative Political Action Conference in Oxon Hill, Maryland, Trump veered off-script to launch a tirade about events that led to the Russia investigation.

He mocked his former attorney general, Jeff Sessions, and former FBI Director James Comey, both of whom Trump fired.

U.S. President Donald Trump speaks at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) annual meeting at National Harbor near Washington, U.S., March 2, 2019. REUTERS/Yuri Gripas

"We're waiting for a report by people who weren't elected," Trump said of the Mueller report, which is widely expected to be handed over to Attorney General William Barr in the coming days.

Deputy attorney general Rod Rosenstein appointed Mueller in May 2017 to take over the Russia investigation after Trump fired Comey, whose agency had led the probe initially. Rosenstein is expected to step down by mid-March.

Swarms of young adults stood to applaud Trump in the packed hotel ballroom where he spoke, at times breaking into chants like "Trump is our Man" and "We Love You."

Trump said Comey was Mueller's "best friend," and implied Comey should have been fired before Trump took office.

"Unfortunately, you put the wrong people in a couple of positions and they leave people for a long time that shouldn't be there and all of a sudden they are trying to take you out with bullshit, okay?" Trump said.

"Now Robert Mueller never received a vote and neither did the person who appointed him," he added.

Trump still has made no move to fire Mueller, a Republican and respected former FBI director who has conducted his investigation with utmost secrecy.

Trump also mocked the Southern accent of Sessions and criticized him for recusing himself from the Russia probe. In November, Trump fired Sessions, a former U.S. senator from Alabama who was among the first Republican lawmakers to back Trump's presidential bid.

Trump's face perspired as he lashed out at critics after a stressful week during which his former lawyer Michael Cohen accused the president in congressional testimony of breaking the law. Also, the president concluded a summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Hanoi without reaching a denuclearization deal.

VERBATIM: Schiff says Cohen back on March 6

The White House has rejected Cohen's allegations and on Saturday, Trump said his talks with Kim were productive and could lead to an agreement in which other, unspecified nations provide aid to Pyongyang.

Trump addressed criticism from the parents of Otto Warmbier, an American student who died after 17 months in a North Korean prison. They had complained when Trump said at a Hanoi news conference that he believed Kim had nothing to do with Warmbier's death.

"I love Otto," Trump said, but added he was trying to maintain "a delicate balance" with the North Koreans as he attempts to coax them into giving up their nuclear program.

Trump ridiculed a Democratic "green new deal" plan to fight climate change, pointing to provisions such as reducing airplane flights or eating less beef.



U.S. President Donald Trump speaks at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) annual meeting at National Harbor near Washington, U.S., March 2, 2019. REUTERS/Yuri Gripas

## Bernie Sanders gets personal as he hits the 2020 campaign trail

(Reuters) - Democratic presidential contender Bernie Sanders showed a more personal side as he hit the 2020 campaign trail for the first time on Saturday, describing the struggles of his working class youth and how it helped shape his progressive politics.

U.S. Presidential Candidate and Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders greets supporters after a rally at Brooklyn College in New York, United States March 2, 2019. REUTERS/Andrew Kelly  
At a rally in Brooklyn, near the New York City neighborhood where he grew up in a small, rent-controlled apartment, Sanders contrasted his spare upbringing with Republican President Donald Trump's privileged youth as the son of a New York real estate developer.

"My experience as a kid, living in a family that struggled economically, powerfully influenced my life and my values," Sanders said at a campaign kickoff rally at Brooklyn College, where he once attended classes.

"Unlike Donald Trump, who shut down the government and left 800,000 federal employees without income to pay the bills, I know what it's like to be in a family that lives paycheck to

paycheck," he said.

The U.S. senator from Vermont rarely talked about his personal history during his first run for the White House in 2016 against eventual Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton, focusing almost exclusively on his policy plans to rein in Wall Street and reduce income inequality.

But the new approach for Sanders, the son of a Jewish immigrant from Poland, was a recognition of the need to find a way to stand out in a crowded and diverse field of 2020 Democratic contenders, including five of his fellow senators.

Sanders also did not highlight his Jewish faith during his 2016 run. But in Brooklyn he described his father's journey to escape poverty and anti-Semitism, and said his father's family eventually was "wiped out" by the Nazis.

"As we launch this campaign for president, you deserve to know where I come from — because family history heavily influences the values that we adopt as adults," Sanders told cheering supporters in Brooklyn.

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## Trump vows executive order requiring 'free speech' at colleges

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. President Donald Trump said on Saturday he would soon sign an executive order requiring American universities and colleges to maintain "free speech" on campuses and threatened that schools not complying could lose federal research funds.

U.S. President Donald Trump speaks at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) annual meeting at National Harbor near Washington, U.S., March 2, 2019. REUTERS/Yuri Gripas

Trump made his remarks at the annual Conservative Political Action Conference after bringing to the stage Hayden Williams, a conservative activist who was punched at the University of California, Berkeley, last month while recruiting students for a conservative group.

"Today, I am proud to announce that I will be very soon signing an executive order requiring colleges and universities to support free speech if they want federal research funds," Trump said.

If universities do not comply "it will be very costly," he said. The U.S. government awards universities more than \$30 billion annually in research funds.

The White House did not immediately respond a request for comment on details of the order.

Freedom of speech is enshrined in the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

It is not the first time that Trump, who has repeatedly lashed out at the media with cries of "fake news" and has called current defamation laws "a sham and a disgrace," has threatened retaliatory action related to free speech. Last September, he suggested in a tweet that the license of television networks could be at risk, though he offered no specifics in his tweet, which singled out NBC.

Broadcast networks do not receive general licenses, but they do hold licenses from the Federal Communications

Commission for individual local stations they own.

In 2017, FCC Chairman Ajit Pai said the agency does not have authority to revoke broadcast licenses over editorial decisions. "I believe in the First Amendment," said Pai, whom Trump appointed as the FCC chair.

Trump on Saturday suggested that Williams sue the man who punched him and also "sue the college, the university. And maybe sue the state." He suggested that Williams was going to be "a very wealthy young man."

Trump slams Mueller probe at CPAC. If universities "want our dollars — and we give to them by the billions — they have to allow people like Hayden and many other great young people and old people to speak — free speech," Trump said.

Trump administration officials have suggested that the rights of speakers on college campuses have been trampled by student protesters who find their views offensive and suggested conservatives have been unfairly targeted.

The U.S. Justice Department filed a statement of interest in 2018 in a free speech lawsuit filed against the University of California, Berkeley, accusing the school of discriminating against speakers with conservative



U.S. President Donald Trump hugs American flag at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) annual meeting at National Harbor near Washington, U.S., March 2, 2019. REUTERS/Yuri Gripas TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY

views. In a settlement announced in December, the university will modify its procedures for handling "major events," which typically draw hundreds of people, and agreed not to charge "security" fees for a variety of activities, including lectures and speeches. It will also pay \$70,000 to cover legal costs of the Berkeley College Repub-

licans and the Tennessee-based Young America's Foundation.

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# Editor's Choice



The motorcade of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un leaves following his meeting with U.S. President Donald Trump during the second U.S.-North Korea summit in Hanoi, Vietnam



U.S. President Donald Trump departs after speaking at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) annual meeting at National Harbor in Oxon Hill, Maryland



U.S. President Donald Trump speaks at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) annual meeting at National Harbor in Oxon Hill, Maryland



Brazil's former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva arrives at the headquarters where he is serving a prison sentence after attending the funeral of his 7-year-old grandson, in Curitiba



U.S. Presidential Candidate and Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders speaks at a rally in New York



Supporters watch as U.S. Presidential Candidate and Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders arrives for a rally in New York



Models present creations by designer Nadege Vanhee-Cybulski as part of her Fall/Winter 2019-2020 women's ready-to-wear collection show for fashion house Hermes during Paris Fashion Week in Paris, France, March 2, 2019. REUTERS/Stephane Mahe



Mar 2, 2019; Chester, PA, USA; Philadelphia Union forward Fafa Picault (9) chases a loose ball against Toronto FC during the first half at Talen Energy Stadium. Mandatory Credit: Bill Streicher-USA TODAY Sports



**Judge Sides With Texas Landowners**  
**Over High-Speed Rail Issue**

**Court Ruling May Derail Plans**  
**For Texas High Speed Railroad**

A judge has sided with Texas landowners who pushed back against the prospect of being forced to sell their land for a proposed high-speed rail line connecting Houston and Dallas. Leon County Judge Deborah Evans ruled this month that Texas Central Railway doesn't have the authority to force landowners to sell or provide access to their properties for its planned 200-mph (320-kph) bullet train, the Houston Chronicle reported.

The ruling centers on whether the company is a railroad, which backers say entitles them to access property through eminent domain. The privately funded project would use Japanese bullet trains to transport riders between the two cities in 90 minutes, and the estimated cost is \$12 billion to \$15 billion.



"Texas has long allowed survey access by railroads like Texas Central, pipelines, electrical lines and other industries that provide for a public good and a strong economy," the company said.

Texas Central Railway is a privately-funded high-speed rail line that wants to build a rail line to connect Houston and Dallas, turning a four and one-half hour drive into a ninety minute ride. But a judge's ruling could have major implications for the proposed high-speed rail line. The ruling could prevent the rail line's developers from using eminent domain to acquire land for the project. For the past few years, Texas Central Railway has been laying the groundwork for this massive



Texas Central Railway says the trip from Houston to Dallas would take only 90 minutes.

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

project. While it's received support from officials in the two cities, that's not the case in the rural areas along the train's proposed route. Many landowners say they don't want a rail line slicing through their property.

(Courtesy Texas Central Railway) Texas Central Railway has argued that, as a railroad, they'd be able to use eminent domain when landowners didn't want to sell their land voluntarily. But a couple weeks ago a Leon County Judge ruled Texas Central isn't a railroad. That ruling came in the case of a Leon County couple who sued after the company wanted to survey on their property. Blake Beckham is the couple's attorney.

"This project cannot be finished

without eminent domain and the project is completely off-track," explained Beckham. "The project is stymied and I don't believe it will ever be built."



Rep. Ben Leman, (R) Texas District 13. (Photo/Texas Tribune) Former Grimes County Judge Ben Leman applauds the ruling. Leman is now a state representative, and says he's pushing for legislation to clarify who can use eminent domain.

"In no way, shape, or form should a private entity be able to falsely claim to have the power of eminent domain," stated Leman. "And then under that false pretense be able to terrorize and threaten hundreds if not thousands of landowners."



This photo taken in 2018 shows a utility corridor which runs through Freestone County, Texas, near Fairfield, in a small community of Cotton Gin. Texas Central Partners is planning to build its 240-mile high-speed rail line between Houston and Dallas along the corridor. (Courtesy HOUSTON CHRONICLE)

Texas Central issued a statement saying they plan to appeal the ruling, and also believes Texas law does give them the authority to access and survey private property... and to acquire it by eminent domain. There's been no construction on the high-speed rail line as of yet and it is still under environmental review. (Courtesy <https://www.redriverradio.org> and <https://www.star-telegram.com>)



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