**News review March 31st to April 7th**

**Slide 2 – Trump 3rd term???**

https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/donald-trump/trump-third-term-white-house-methods-rcna198752

**Trump won’t rule out seeking a third term in the White House, and tells NBC News ‘there are methods’ for doing so.**

President Donald Trump said in a Sunday-morning phone call to reporter Kristen Welker for NBC, that he was “not joking” about a third term, adding that “it is far too early to think about it.”

Trump did not rule out the possibility of seeking a third term in the White House, which is prohibited by the Constitution under the 22nd Amendment, saying in an exclusive interview with NBC News that there were methods for doing so and clarifying that he was “not joking.”

“A lot of people want me to do it,” Trump said, referring to his allies. “But, I mean, I basically tell them we have a long way to go, you know, it’s very early in the administration.”

NBC News asked about a possible scenario in which Vice President JD Vance would run for office and then pass the role to Trump. Trump responded that “that’s one” method.

“But there are others, too,” Trump added.

Amending the Constitution to abolish the two-term limit would be exceedingly difficult, requiring either a two-thirds vote of Congress or two-thirds of the states agreeing to call a constitutional convention to propose changes. Either route would then require ratification from three-quarters of the states.

**Slide 3 – Wisconsin Supreme Court election**

A liberal candidate for a pivotal seat on the Wisconsin Supreme Court, Susan Crawford, overcame $25 million in spending from Elon Musk and defeated her conservative opponent on Tuesday, The Associated Press reported, in a contest that became a kind of referendum on Mr. Musk and his slashing of the federal government.

With turnout extraordinarily high for a spring election in an off year, Judge Susan Crawford handily beat Judge Brad Schimel, who ran on his loyalty to President Trump and was aided by Mr. Musk, the president’s billionaire policy aide.

Mr. Musk not only poured money into the race but also campaigned personally in the state, even donning a cheesehead. But his starring role seemed to inflame Democratic anger against him even more than it helped Judge Schimel.

The barrage of spending in the race may nearly double the previous record for a single judicial election. With about 95 percent of the vote counted on Tuesday evening, Judge Crawford held a lead of roughly 9 points.

“Today, Wisconsinites fended off an unprecedented attack on our democracy, our fair elections and our Supreme Court,” she said in her victory speech on Tuesday night. “Wisconsin stood up and said loudly that justice does not have a price. Our courts are not for sale.” She also stated she ‘never imagined she would be taking on the richest man in the world’ in this election.

The result of this election triggered a kind reminder made by Trump that Musk might be leaving his government role soon, as he was officially employed for the DOGE for 130 days only. Trump also specified that Musk has a company to run. Tesla sales have fallen by 13% since the beginning of Trump’s presidency and Tesla cars have recently been the victims of vandalism and violence.

**Slide 4 – Signalgate**

From the Guardian

Donald Trump fired six national security council staffers after a fraught meeting in the Oval Office where the far-right activist Laura Loomer presented opposition research against a number of staffers that she said showed they were disloyal to the US president.

The firings encompassed four staffers who were fired overnight, after the meeting, and two who were removed over the weekend. It created the extraordinary situation where Loomer appeared to have more influence than the national security adviser, Mike Waltz, over the National Security Council and undercut Waltz in having aides axed under him.

Loomer brought a booklet of papers laying out the perceived disloyalty of about a dozen staffers, including Waltz’s principal deputy, Alex Wong, to the meeting.

The fired officials included Brian Walsh, the senior director for intelligence who previously worked for now secretary of state Marco Rubio on the Senate intelligence committee; Thomas Boodry, the senior director for legislative affairs who previously served as Waltz’s legislative director in Congress; and Maggie Dougherty, the senior director for international organizations.

While the firings appeared arbitrary, one of the people said that the White House looked through Loomer’s opposition research and verified parts of it. Ultimately, it found that one NSC official had recently criticized Trump on social media and others had ties to Republican establishment figures like the senators John McCain and Mitch McConnell, whom Trump despises.

In the days since Waltz inadvertently added a journalist from the Atlantic to a Signal group chat, where the defense secretary Pete Hegseth shared updates about a US military strike against the Houthis in Yemen, Loomer suggested Wong and other career NSC officials were trying to sabotage Trump by causing a scandal.

Waltz’s political enemies point out that Waltz survived the Signal chat episode principally because Trump was unwilling to give the news media a victory, and not because of his confidence in Waltz. Trump had stated he would not fire people over ‘fake news’ or a ‘witch hunt’.

The Pentagone has launched an investigation in the Signal scandal.

**Slide 5 – Layoffs**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has begun eliminating some 10,000 jobs as announced by HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.—a staggering shrinkage of the department’s workforce and consolidation of programs that some former officials and others warned would decimate U.S. life sciences activity, from academic research to industry drug development and regulation to public health oversight.

The 10,000 jobs being eliminated include 3,500 positions at the FDA, 2,400 at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and 1,200 at the NIH. Another 300 positions will also be eliminated at the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. HHS has said the job cuts and its restructuring of operations will save $1.8 billion a year, eliminate bureaucracy and waste, and enhance the agencies’ ability to conduct essential functions.

The staffers being dismissed received their notices in their email inboxes, saying they would be placed on administrative leave with no access to their building

**Slide 6 – El Salvador deportations debate**

Civil rights groups are raising questions about the case, among others, of a Venezuelan man deported from the US to El Salvador. The Trump Administration says Franco Caraballo is a gang member - even though he has no criminal record. It's just one case of US authorities sending allegedly innocent migrants to a Salvadorian mega-prison known for human rights violations.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UykD8sWilL4

Another angle of the debate about mass deportations is the impact of such deportations on farmworkers, who are mostly undocumented workers and stand for the backbone of the American food supply.

**Slide 7 – Tik Tok**

New YorkCNN

President Donald Trump announced on Friday that he will again postpone enforcement of the TikTok sale-or-ban law for 75 days. The delay comes after Trump’s tariff announcement derailed a deal that had been set to transfer control of the app’s US operations to American ownership.

“My Administration has been working very hard on a Deal to SAVE TIKTOK, and we have made tremendous progress. The deal requires more work to ensure all necessary approvals are signed,” Trump said in a post on Truth Social. Trump on Friday signed an executive order formalizing the delay in enforcement.

The announcement came just one day before the ban was set to go into effect, after Trump delayed it by an initial 75 days when he took office in January.

**Slide 8 – Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PzWfNzl8GwM

Nasa astronauts Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams described what's strange about being back on Earth after so long in orbit.

The duo's eight-day mission to the International Space Station became a nine-month space odyssey after their Boeing Starliner had technical problems.

They finally returned to Earth on 19 March aboard the SpaceX Dragon, which splashed down in the ocean off the coast of Florida. Starliner astronauts Butch Wilmore and Sunita Williams, speaking out at a news conference for the first time since returning to Earth after an extended 286-day stay in space, said they did not blame Boeing for the spacecraft problems that effectively stranded them aboard the International Space Station.

In fact, asked if he would fly again aboard the Starliner, Wilmore said, "Yes, because we're going to rectify all the issues that we encountered. We're going to fix them. We're going to make it work. Boeing is completely committed. NASA is completely committed, and with that, I'd get on in a heartbeat."

Wilmore and Williams’ repeatedly extended mission generated enormous attention in the wake of problems with Starliner, NASA's decision three months after launch to keep them in orbit until this year, and comments from President Trump claiming the astronauts had been "abandoned" in space by the Biden administration.

Williams denied feeling "abandoned" or "stuck" during an interview with CBS News in February, saying she was "honored ... to be here and a part of the team" doing "world-class science." They said much of the same on Monday. But they avoided answering questions about the political aspects of the mission.

Wilmore and Williams returned to Earth on March 18, accompanied by two outgoing station fliers who were wrapping up their own six-month stay aboard the lab. The Starliner astronauts, like all returning station fliers, began physical therapy back at the Johnson Space Center to help them readjust to gravity.

They both looked fit and were in obviously good spirits talking with reporters. In fact, Williams said she went for a 3-mile run on Sunday.

**Slide 9 – Trump tariffs**

https://www.bbc.com/news/live/ce3qnyr7y94t

**2 April:**The US president announced a 10% "baseline" tariff on all imports to the US, coming into effect on 5 April. Higher custom tariffs on roughly 60 countries, dubbed the "worst offenders", are to go into effect on 9 April.

Trump called this ‘Liberation Day’. These sweeping tariffs are supposed to be the equivalent of half the taxes the US has to pay on foreign goods, in Trump’s words, they aim at ‘levelling the playing field’. In his cardboard billboard presentation, which did make communication critics cringe, Trump hinted at the fact that these measures were an act of kindness and generosity, given the rest of the world was ripping off the US with their own tariffs.

Increases range from 10% to 25% depending on the goods and the countries at stake.

Tariffs are to be collected at port entries.

**Slide 10 – Reactions and consequences**

The formula used for Trump’s tariff calculation sparked criticism amongst Democrats, some Republicans and economists.

Democrats have deemed April 2nd as ‘recession day’. Shares have fallen sharply on the stock market, especially for companies such as Apple and Nike, which are great importers.

Markets melted down in the days following Trump’s announcement with major losses for NASDAQ, Dow Jones and S&P 500.

Trump has since stated he was willing to negotiate if countries have smthg to offer (for instance China being willing to sell Tik Tok).

Retaliatory measures are to be announced against the US across the world. Mark Carney, the Canadian PM, has already announced retaliation on the auto industry.

Anthony Albanese stated that the 10 % tariff imposed to Australia was ‘not the act of a friend’.

Starmer’s government stated that ‘globalisation is over’.

Stellantis paused plants in Mexico and Canada and announced the temporary layoff of 900 workers in the US.

Anxiety about the unstable market is growing.

Examples of what to expect: the price of smartphones could increase by up to 54%, dishwashers by up to 20% and 46% for footwear (CNBC)

World leaders were stunned by the announcement and economic leaders are expected to meet to discuss a plan of action.

The global markets lost 5 trillion dollars in the first 48 hours following the announcement.

Stock markets were sent tumbling across the globe.

JPMorgan Chase said a recession likely to drive unemployment up to 5.3% in the US was to be expected. Slow economic growth and lower corporate profits are also in the balance.

Risks of a recession were raised to 45% on Monday according to Goldman Sachs.

Consumers in the US are rushing to stock coffee beans and other products. Manufacturers are also stocking up, despite warnings not to give way to panic.

Jerome Powell, the FED chair, warned about rising prices to come.

Waves of protests erupted against Trump’s administration and Musk’s DOGE decisions. 1,200 demonstrations took place across the US on Saturday.

In the meantime, Trump was seen playing golf in Florida.

**Slide 11 – Primark’s boss quits**

Primark boss Paul Marchant has resigned following an allegation by a woman about "his behaviour towards her in a social environment".

Associated British Foods (ABF), which owns Primark, said following an investigation by external lawyers, Mr Marchant "acknowledged his error of judgement and accepts that his actions fell below the standards expected" by the business.

Mr Marchant co-operated with the investigation and apologised to the individual, said ABF.

The Primark boss had also been involved in a previous incident involving "inappropriate communication", ABF later confirmed.

The company said that incident had been investigated "some time ago" and that "proportionate action" had been taken.

ABF declined to provide any further details, including whether the incidents involved colleagues or individuals from outside the company. A spokesperson told the BBC this was to protect their identities as much as possible.

**Slide 12 – Adolescence**

From the Associated Press

The makers of hit Netflix show “Adolescence ” have sparked a conversation in Britain and beyond on how to protect children from violent misogyny and other harmful content on social media.

Now they have the ear of British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, who welcomed the filmmakers to Downing Street for talks on child protection. Starmer’s office said he backed an initiative by Netflix to stream the drama series for free to secondary schools across the country, so that as many teens as possible can watch it.

The show, filmed in England, explores the difficult questions that arise when a 13-year-old boy is accused of the fatal stabbing of a girl in his school — and how much social media interactions, that are largely impenetrable to parents and teachers, may have played a part.

Starmer said it was difficult watching the drama with his 14-year-old daughter and 16-year-old son. But showing the drama widely in schools will “help students better understand the impact of misogyny, dangers of online radicalization and the importance of healthy relationships,” his office said.

**Slide 13 – Nato and Ireland**

From the Economist

In 1949, when America’s ambassador handed Ireland’s foreign minister an invitation to join NATO, the answer was a polite no. Ireland wanted no part of an alliance including Britain, its former coloniser, which it blamed for dividing the isle into a mainly Protestant, British north and a Catholic, independent south. In later decades the Irish were leery of being dragged into America’s global crusade against communism or, more recently, its “war on terror”. Neither chimed well with Ireland’s generally anti-colonialist foreign policy.

Today joining the alliance has different connotations: it is a matter of protecting Europe from Russian aggression. Simon Harris, Ireland’s defence minister, is pushing for dramatic policy changes. In March he proposed a law to remove the so-called “triple lock”, a three-step process governing military involvement overseas. Under the lock, any foreign intervention must be approved by the government, the Dáil (the Irish parliament’s lower house) and the un Security Council. Lifting the requirement for un approval could ultimately move Ireland closer to NATO. (…)

More openness to joining NATO might help achieve one of Sinn Féin’s lasting goals: unification between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Under the Good Friday Agreement, which brought peace to Northern Ireland in 1998, the province’s secretary of state should call a referendum on unification (commonly called a border poll) whenever it seems likely to pass. Changing demography and surveys suggest this could be only a matter of time. There are now more people in Northern Ireland with a Catholic background than with a Protestant one. Support for unification is increasing steadily: a poll by the *Irish Times* in 2022 found 50% against unification and 27% in favour; in 2024 the numbers were 48% and 34% respectively. Protestants are growing increasingly open-minded, with polls finding they are not wild about the notion but could live with it. Most Protestants would want a united Ireland to be in NATO. Northern Irish Catholics, too, are much more likely to back membership than are Irish down south. Joining NATO might help overcome reluctance to unification among those most opposed to it. (…)

The south’s economy is strong, with unemployment near its lowest levels ever. Meanwhile, Northern Irelanders see less and less value in staying in Britain. The north’s economy is poor: wages and GDP growth are below the United Kingdom’s average. The Brexit deal struck with the European Union in 2023 keeps the province in the EU’s single market for goods anyway.

Poll numbers notwithstanding, it will be years before unification reaches the agenda. Sinn Féin wants a border poll before 2030. Other parties, in Britain and Ireland, are less eager. But like NATO membership, it is a possibility many in Ireland are starting to take seriously.

**Slide 14 – Australian election**

From the Economist

Australia’s campaign season is officially open, following weeks of speculation. The Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, has set May 3rd for the general election. He hopes to become the first Prime Minister in recent years to serve two consecutive terms, following a convincing win for his (social-democratic) Labor Party in 2022 against the (conservative) Liberal-led ruling coalition. The race is too close to call.

Mr Albanese’s chance of keeping his job looks higher than it did a few months ago. Then the Liberal leader, Peter Dutton, was landing punches over inflation, a listless economy and high housing costs (Sydney has the most unaffordable housing in the English-speaking world bar Hong Kong). Above all, Mr Dutton attacked Labor on high immigration. Yet the economy has since turned a corner, the government thinks. In February the central bank cut interest rates at last. The budget that the Treasurer, Jim Chalmers, unveiled on March 25th proposed modest cuts in taxes, throwing the tax-cutting Liberals off-balance.

**Slide 15 – Elsewhere in the meantime**

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