

OFFICIALS TO LAY A \$1 BILLION FINE ON WELLS FARGO

REBUKE FOR LOAN ABUSE

Consumer Agency Shows Teeth While Trump Is Defanging It

By EMILY FLITTER
and GLENN THRUSH

Federal regulators are poised to impose a \$1 billion fine on Wells Fargo for years of selling unnecessary products to customers, the toughest action by the Trump administration against a major bank.

The penalty, part of an expected settlement on Friday between the bank and two regulators, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, will punish Wells Fargo for forcing customers to buy auto insurance policies they did not need and other misdeeds, according to four people briefed on the regulatory action.

It is the latest blow to Wells Fargo. For years it was regarded as one of the country's best-run banks, but lately it has been reeling from a string of self-inflicted crises.

President Trump has been especially vocal about holding Wells to account, taking to Twitter last year to warn that the bank could face stiff penalties. But he has been equally adamant about dismantling banking rules, part of a broader regulatory rollback.

The consumer bureau is carrying out both agendas. The agency's interim director, Mick Mulvaney, has pushed aggressively for the penalty against Wells. The consumer bureau's portion of the penalty is likely to represent the largest fine in its history.

Mr. Mulvaney is simultaneously working to defang the consumer bureau, an agency that

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Justice or Overkill?

Wells Fargo deserved to pay for its misdeeds, James B. Stewart writes. But will more punishment just hurt shareholders? Page B1.



CHUNG SUNG-JUN/GETTY IMAGES

Soldiers at the "truce village" of Panmunjom, where the North and South Korean leaders will meet for the first time on April 27.

AN OLIVE BRANCH BY NORTH KOREA IS VIEWED WARILY

KIM GIVES UP A DEMAND

Proposal to Tolerate U.S. Troops in South May Pressure Trump

By MARK LANDLER
and CHOE SANG-HUN

North Korea has dropped its demand that American troops be removed from South Korea as a condition for giving up its nuclear weapons, South Korea's president said Thursday in presenting the idea to the United States.

President Moon Jae-in portrayed the proposal as a concession on the eve of talks involving the two Koreas and the United States. The North has long demanded that the 28,500 American troops be withdrawn, citing their presence as a pretext to justify its pursuit of nuclear weapons.

But in Washington, the Trump administration privately dismissed the idea that it was a capitulation by the North because an American withdrawal from the South was never on the table. Mike Pompeo, the C.I.A. director whom President Trump secretly sent to Pyongyang two weeks ago to meet Kim Jong-un, the North Korean leader, did not ask him to take such a step, senior officials said.

The move could increase pressure on the United States to support negotiations between North and South Korea on a peace treaty that would end the Korean War. While Mr. Trump gave those talks his blessing this week, officials said his ultimate goal is to force North Korea to relinquish its nuclear program. A peace treaty, they said, should be signed only after the North has given up its weapons.

Mr. Trump has expressed excitement about his own planned

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BIG VOTE Mike Pompeo neared confirmation as secretary of state when Senator Heidi Heitkamp, a Democrat, backed him. PAGE A22

Marriage, a Path to Citizenship, Becomes a Road to Deportation

By VIVIAN YEE

They had shown the immigration officer their proof — the eight years of Facebook photos, their 5-year-old son's birth certificate, the letters from relatives and friends affirming their commitment — and now they were so close, Karah de Oliveira thought, so nearly a normal couple.

Thirteen years after her husband was ordered deported back to his native Brazil, the official recognition of their marriage would bring him within a few signatures of being able to call himself an American. With legal papers, they could buy a house and get a bank loan. He could board a plane. They could take their son to Disney World.

Then the officer reappeared.

"I've got some good news and some bad news," he said. "The good news is, I'm going to approve your application. Clearly, your marriage is real. The bad news is, ICE is here, and they want to speak with you."

ICE was Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the federal agency charged with arresting and deporting unauthorized immigrants — including, for the moment, Fabiano de Oliveira. In a back room of the immigration office in Lawrence, Mass., two agents were waiting with handcuffs. Her husband was apologizing, saying he was sorry for putting her through all of this.

Ms. de Oliveira kissed him

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Giuliani to Lend Legal Firepower As Trump's Team Adds Lawyers

By MAGGIE HABERMAN and MICHAEL S. SCHMIDT

Rudolph W. Giuliani, the former New York City mayor and long-time friend of President Trump, will join the president's legal team in an effort to "quickly" resolve the special counsel investigation into Russian election interference and possible ties to Trump associates.

Mr. Trump will also bring on Jane Serene Raskin and Martin R. Raskin, former federal prosecutors based in Florida, according to Mr. Trump's lawyer Jay Sekulow. Mr. Giuliani is himself a former federal prosecutor.

"The president said: 'Rudy is great. He has been my friend for a long time and wants to get this matter quickly resolved for the good of the country,'" Mr. Sekulow

said in a statement.

The three new lawyers give Mr. Trump a broader legal stable to rely on as he faces not just the special counsel, Robert S. Mueller III, but the threat of an investigation by federal prosecutors in Manhattan into the president's longtime personal lawyer and fixer, Michael D. Cohen. Federal agents raided Mr. Cohen's office and hotel room last week.

Mr. Trump has a difficult time retaining top-flight lawyers as the inquiries have increasingly unsettled him, and he has angrily chafed against his lawyers' legal strategies.

Mr. Trump and his associates believe the issues in New York

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MAN IN THE NEWS MIGUEL DÍAZ-CANEL BERMÚDEZ

Cuba's New Leader: Progressive, Hard-Liner, Enigma

By AZAM AHMED
and FRANCES ROBLES

HAVANA — As soon as Cuba and the Obama administration decided to restore diplomatic relations, decades of bitter stagnation began to give way. Embassies were being reopened. Americans streamed to the island. The curtain was suddenly pulled back from Cuba, a nation frozen out by the Cold War.

But one mystery remained: While nearly everyone knew of Cuba's president, Raúl Castro, his handpicked successor, Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez, was virtually unknown.

So when members of the United States Congress visited Cuba in early 2015, they peppered Mr. Díaz-Canel with questions: What did he think of the revolution that defined the island's politics and its place on the world stage?

"I was born in 1960, after the revolution," he told the group, according to lawmakers in the meeting. "I'm not the best person to answer your questions on



IRENE PEREZ/CUBADEBATE, VIA ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cuba's National Assembly elected Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez, left, on Thursday to succeed Raúl Castro, right, as president.

the subject."

Mr. Díaz-Canel, who became Cuba's new president on Thursday, the day before his 58th birthday, has spent his entire life

in the service of a revolution he did not fight.

Born one year after Fidel Castro's forces took control of the island, Mr. Díaz-Canel is the first

person outside the Castro dynasty to lead Cuba in decades.

He took the helm of government on Thursday morning to a standing ovation from the National Assembly, which elected him in a nearly unanimous vote. Mr. Castro embraced him, lifting the younger man's arm in triumph.

Mr. Díaz-Canel's slow and steady climb up the ranks of the bureaucracy has come through unflinching loyalty to the socialist cause — he "is not an upstart nor improvised," Mr. Castro has said — but he largely stayed behind the scenes until recent years.

Now, as leader, Mr. Díaz-Canel is suddenly taking on a difficult balancing act. Most expect him to be a president of continuity, especially because he arrives in the shadow of Raúl Castro, who will remain the head of the armed forces and the Communist Party, arguably Cuba's most powerful institutions.

But Mr. Díaz-Canel also has to figure out how to resuscitate the economy at a time when Presi-

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Case of Ex-F.B.I. Deputy Chief Is Sent for Possible Prosecution

This article is by Adam Goldman,
Katie Benner and Alexandra Alter.

WASHINGTON — Federal prosecutors are examining whether they have sufficient evidence to open a criminal investigation into Andrew G. McCabe, the former F.B.I. deputy director, his lawyer said on Thursday, after a Justice Department inspector general report repeatedly faulted him for misleading investigators.

The inquiry is certain to add to an already corrosive atmosphere pitting Mr. McCabe and other current and former law enforcement officials against President Trump. The president has accused them of concocting a baseless investigation into possible links between his associates and Russia's election interference.

The inspector general referred his findings on Mr. McCabe to prosecutors in the United States attorney's office for the District of Columbia in recent weeks, according to Mr. McCabe's lawyer, Michael R. Bromwich, who called the step unjustified and stressed that the White House should not inter-



AL DRAGO/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Andrew G. McCabe

fere in an independent law enforcement investigation.

"We are confident that, unless there is inappropriate pressure from high levels of the administration, the U.S. attorney's office will conclude that it should decline to prosecute," Mr. Bromwich said.

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MEMOS The Justice Department sent Congress redacted copies of memos James B. Comey wrote about the president. PAGE A20

INTERNATIONAL A4-13

Mission Not So Certain

A Pentagon report said allied missile strikes last week set back Syria's chemical weapons program but were unlikely to put an end to attacks. PAGE A8

NATIONAL A14-22

No Charges in Prince's Death

The authorities in Minnesota said that no one would be prosecuted in the musician's death from fentanyl. A doctor will pay a civil settlement. PAGE A17

NEW YORK A23-27

'Crazy High' Tolls

Fees like the \$17 to cross the Verrazano Bridge are a symbol of glaring inequities in the transportation system. The tolls are getting a closer look. PAGE A23

SPORTSFRIDAY B9-13

Armstrong Settles Fraud Case

The cyclist Lance Armstrong, accused of defrauding the U.S. Postal Service by doping while under its sponsorship, will pay the government \$5 million. PAGE B9

EDITORIAL, OP-ED A30-31

Senator Cory Gardner PAGE A31



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