

THREE THINGS: NOT-SO-NEUTRAL, DAY 2 AND READING

This house was occupied by outside forces this long holiday weekend, obstructing output. Hope your weekend was similarly occupied by loved ones. Here's three things for today.

It's Day 2, Donald

At least 150 Tax March rallies across the country on Saturday reflected the public's opinion about Trump's tax returns – he must disclose them. Predictable locations participated, like New York City, but when red state cities and towns

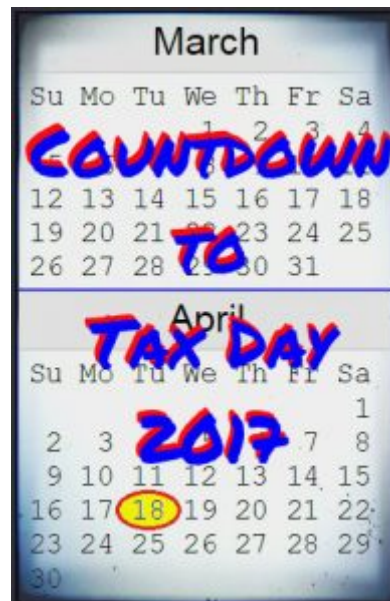
like Florida's West Palm Beach have marches it's an indicator.

Where are your tax returns, Trump? And don't give us the "under audit" excuse yet again like you did through Spicer this afternoon. All previous presidents have been automatically audited while in office and still disclosed their returns. Nor are we going to buy your administration's trash talk about the Tax Marches; we know what's up with organized white supremacist provokatsiya.

Projection, much?

Net-not-so-Neutral

The big guys in technology – Apple, Facebook, Google, Microsoft, Netflix, Twitter, more – are slowly stirring from their post-inauguration torpor on net neutrality and the threat to their businesses non-neutrality poses. Their industry group, the Internet Association, expressed their



concerns last week to the Federal Communications Commission about the FCC Chair Ajit Pai's intent to kill net neutrality regulations established under the Obama administration.

Kind of slow on the uptake, dudes. Could have seen this coming based on Pai's anti-neutrality stance when he served as an FCC commissioner. Also could have easily predicted Pai's position based on the current administration's drive against regulations.

And Pai's move to reduce FCC oversight of the internet by shifting it to the Federal Trade Commission is a ~~blowjob~~ gift for the telcos – in spite of the fact more communications travel over the internet, a move to the FTC reduces exposure of communications to existing communications regulations. This does not serve the public's interest.

There's an alternate tack members of the Internet Association could take, if a little pricey and radical: they could simply buy the telcos. Google could acquire AT&T which has been a major PITA obstructing competition from Google Fiber. Apple could just buy Verizon for iPhone service and Facebook could snap up CenturyLink. The Internet Association could take on a role as mediator addressing traffic issues between them.

And then let's see what happens to reducing regulation and net neutrality. Of course this creates an entirely new set of challenges with regard to privacy, but I'd rather move toward regulations to address them under FCC. (And I'd really rather digital morons like Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner (R-WI) had nothing to do with the intersection of privacy and technology when he clearly doesn't grasp the internet *is* telecommunications deserving the same privacy as landlines.)

Speaking of acquisitions, there's speculation Apple could buy Disney which includes ABC and other content subsidiaries like ESPN. Looks like wishful thinking right now on part of analysts, but if FCC's Pai continues shredding net

neutrality, it makes more sense for Apple (and other internet companies) to snap up companies which make content, cutting out carriers or forcing them to pay for Apple's content.

Longreads

Here's a few things worth your time during a commute or lunch hour this week:

A look at the end of Gaullism as France approaches its election.

Essay: Friendship as a Civic Democratic Practice – that's little d democratic here; Ivy Schweitzer asks if we can't look to our friendships to fix our national political schism. (Me? On a limited basis; I can't be friends with Nazis.)

Marc Ambinder on U.S. government continuity – worth a read, but I've long had a nasty feeling continuity plans were changed because of 9/11 and they're in a classified executive order if I'm right.

Interesting look at impact of open-source citizen investigations on Russian disinformation – focal point of this analysis is the doomed 2014 Malaysian Air flight MH17.

Those should keep you busy. Day 1 ahead – last day to file income taxes without penalty or file for an extension. Time, tide, and taxes wait for no man, Trump.