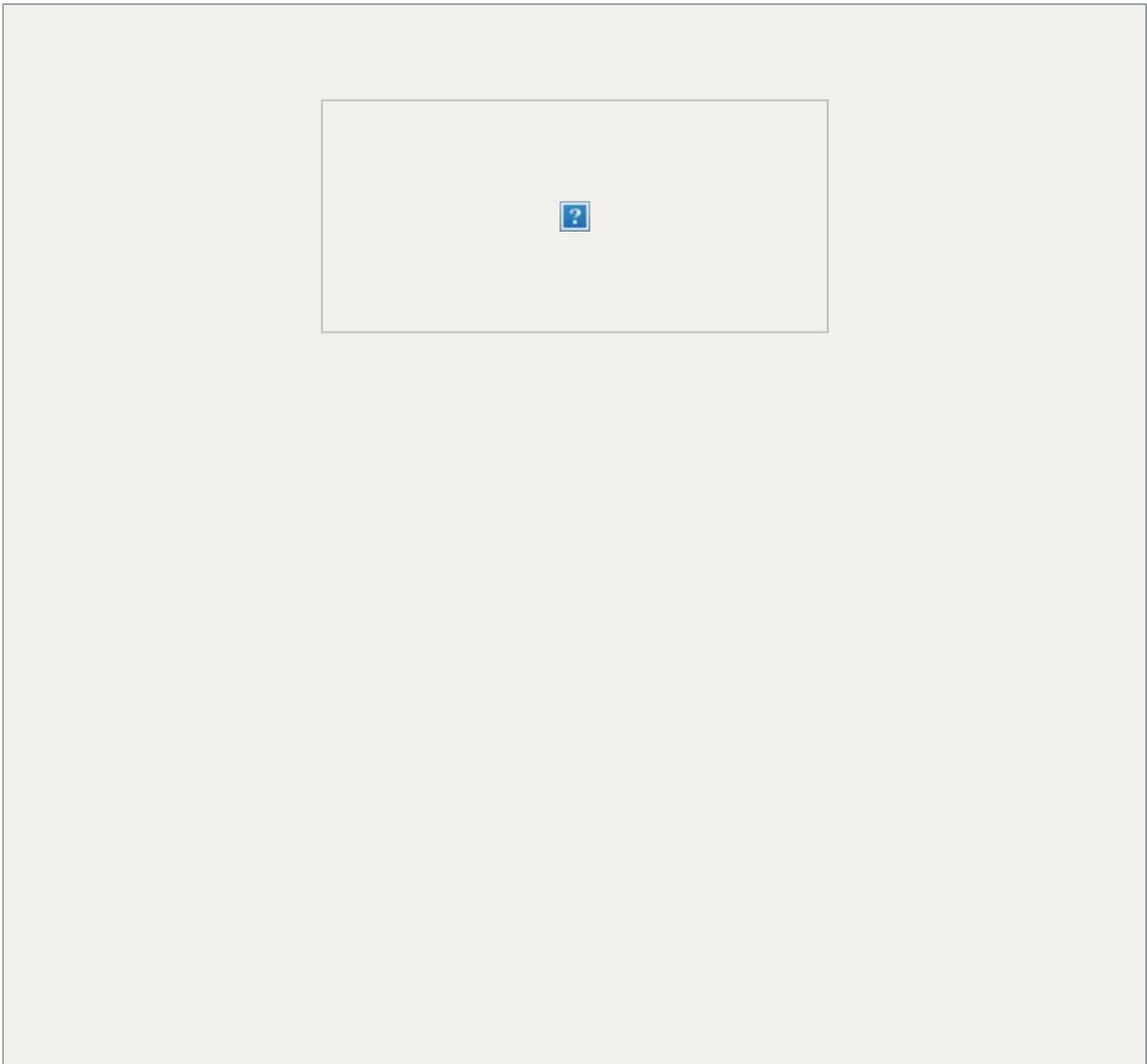


From: [Rick Dwyer](#)
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Subject: [EXTERNAL] Executive Insight Brief
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Ladies & Gentlemen,
Below please find this week's edition of *Executive Insight Brief* from The Roosevelt Group.

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May 2, 2025

Executive Insight Brief

Stay informed with The Roosevelt Group's Executive Insight Brief—your weekly roundup of key developments shaping federal policy, defense, and homeland security. Curated by our expert team, each issue delivers timely analysis and strategic context to help you stay ahead.

Notable Headlines

[Senate rejects resolution to stop tariffs in tie vote](#)

[Trump nominates Waltz to be UN ambassador](#)

[Democratic lawmakers call for review of Musk's role in Golden Dome missile defense shield](#)

[Justice Department sues Hawaii, Michigan over plans to sue fossil fuel](#)

View From The Hill

Congress returned in full force this week, with the House beginning various committee markups for pieces of President Trump's massive legislative agenda. The House Homeland Security Committee [voted](#) along party lines to allocate tens of billions of dollars towards completing a wall along the southern border, as well as border-related technology. The House Armed Services Committee also [approved](#) a massive \$150 billion in defense spending, with funds going towards Trump's Golden Dome missile defense project, weapons programs, servicemember quality of life, and bolstering the domestic defense industrial base. The Golden Dome initiative is set to receive \$25 billion, \$15 billion of which is geared towards new satellite technology and space-based sensors. The authorization also calls for \$33.7 billion for shipbuilding, \$12.9 billion for nuclear deterrence capabilities, \$20.4 billion for munitions, \$11.5 billion for military readiness, \$11.1 billion for Pacific deterrence, \$7.2 billion for new aircraft, \$4.5 billion for the B-21 bomber, and \$2 billion for military intelligence. Additionally, the committee's markup authorizes \$11.1 billion for the unfunded priorities list for U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, including \$2 billion for the Defense Innovation Unit. Combined with the already-existing budget for the Department of Defense, this new round of extra spending would put overall defense spending north of \$1 trillion for the first time in American history.

Amidst mounting economic anxiety as the administration exits its first hundred days, Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) [hinted](#) at a willingness to consider congressional action on tariffs, but only if a significant imbalance between executive and legislative branch perspectives emerged—something he declared would be a long way off. The top democrat on the House Oversight Committee, 75-year-old Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-VA), [announced](#) he was stepping down from his role on the committee this week and would not seek a 10th term in office in 2026, after receiving news of a reemergent cancer diagnosis. Connolly had only been named ranking member on the panel in January, after beating back a challenge by Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) in a race that became emblematic of the competing older and younger wings of the House Democratic Caucus.

Top House appropriations leader Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK) [expressed](#) frustration on Thursday over a cancelled meeting by the Director of the White House Office of Management and Budget, Russ Vought. The planned briefing of other senior appropriations leaders, known as "cardinals," was supposed to shed light for Capitol Hill on the upcoming budget request and planned funding cuts.

Former Sen. David Perdue (R-GA) was [confirmed](#) by the Senate this week to be the next U.S.

ambassador to China. The former GOP senator heads to Beijing amidst growing tension between the U.S. and the PRC over massive tariffs on Chinese imports, competing economic interests in Southeast Asia, fallout from Chinese state-linked cyber incursions into U.S. critical infrastructure, and overall military competition in the Indo-Pacific region.

Pentagon News

President Trump [ousted](#) National Security Adviser Mike Waltz on Thursday in a swift reshuffle of his inner circle, replacing him with Secretary of State Marco Rubio, marking the first time since the 1970s a single official will hold both posts simultaneously. Waltz, who has come under fire for mishandling sensitive discussions in a leaked Signal chat, is being nominated as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. The Signal blunder reportedly included mistakenly adding a journalist to a thread discussing a planned U.S. strike in Yemen, causing internal fallout.

The shake-up comes amid a broader purge across the National Security Council, with over 20 staffers dismissed since April following a list of “disloyal” officials handed to Trump by conservative activist Laura Loomer. Sources say Waltz’s hawkish views clashed with Trump’s preferences and that he failed to coordinate effectively across agencies. Waltz’s deputy and Asia expert Alex Wong was also removed.

Rubio’s dual appointment consolidates significant foreign policy power during a volatile period, as morale among national security staff hits new lows and concerns mount among U.S. allies over the administration’s direction.

At the same time, the Trump administration this week launched a dual-track partnership with Ukraine centered on economic leverage and postwar reconstruction. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent [announced](#) the creation of the “U.S.–Ukraine Reconstruction Investment Fund”, a joint initiative to channel American and Ukrainian resources into rebuilding Ukraine’s economy and infrastructure.

Alongside the fund, [Kyiv signed](#) a separate “mineral rights agreement” granting the U.S. a share of future revenues from critical resource projects—including lithium, titanium, and natural gas. The deal, finalized after tense negotiations and a near-breakdown in February, ties future U.S. military aid to Ukraine’s contribution of resource wealth, without requiring repayment for past assistance.

The agreements give Washington a direct stake in Ukraine’s recovery while blocking Russian-

linked entities from participating. Critics call it economic hardball; the administration says it's a path to peace through prosperity. Ukrainian lawmakers are expected to approve the deal in the coming weeks.

Next Week's Hearings

Armed Services Committee

U.S. House of Representatives

- 5/6, 3:00 PM - Hearing: Military Readiness for FY26
- 5/6, 3:30 PM - Hearing: Science Technology and Innovation Posture
- 5/7, 3:00 PM - Hearing: Nuclear Forces and Atomic Energy Defense Activities Programmatic Updates
- 5/7, 3:30 PM - Hearing: Update on Air Force Projection Forces Aviation Programs and Capabilities

U.S. Senate

- 5/6, 9:30 AM - Hearings to examine the nominations of Anthony Tata, of Florida, to be Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, and Katherine Sutton, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary, both of the Department of Defense.

Appropriations Committee

U.S. House of Representatives

- 5/6, 10:00 AM - Oversight Hearing – U.S. Department of the Treasury
- 5/6, 10:00 AM - Oversight Hearing – U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- 5/6, 2:00 PM - Oversight Hearing – The United States Air Force and Space Force
- 5/7, 10:00 AM - Budget Hearing – U.S. Department of Agriculture
- 5/7, 10:00 AM - Budget Hearing – U.S. Department of Energy
- 5/7, 10:00 AM - Oversight Hearing – The United States Army
- 5/7, 2:00 PM - Oversight Hearing – The Federal Emergency Management Agency
- 5/7, 2:00 PM - Budget Hearing – Fiscal Year 2026 Request for the Federal Bureau of

Investigation

- 5/8, 9:00 AM - Oversight Hearing – The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency

U.S. Senate

- 5/6, 10:00 AM - Hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2026 for Library of Congress and the Architect of the Capitol.
- 5/6, 10:30 AM - Hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2026 for the Department of Agriculture.
- 5/8, 9:00 AM - Hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2026 for the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
- 5/8, 10:00 AM - Hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2026 for the Department of Homeland Security.

Homeland Security Committee

U.S. House of Representatives

- 5/6, 10:00 AM - Hearing: Beijings Air Space and Maritime Surveillance from Cuba: A Growing Threat to the Homeland

U.S. Senate

None Scheduled



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