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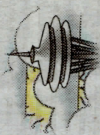


WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2017

The Seattle Times

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At rally, Trump rips media for sowing discord

SPEECH IN PHOENIX

**President defends
Charlottesville remarks,
hints at Arpaio pardon**

By **MARK LANDLER**
and **MAGGIE HABERMAN**
The New York Times

PHOENIX — President Donald Trump, stung by days of criticism that he sowed racial division in the United States after deadly clashes in Charlottesville, Virginia, accused the news media Tuesday of misrepresenting what he insisted was his prompt, unequivocal condemnation of bigotry and hatred.

After declaring, "What happened in Charlottesville strikes at the core of America," Trump delivered a lengthy, aggrieved defense of his statements after the violence that left one person dead and the nation reeling at the images of swastikas in Thomas Jefferson's hometown.

Removing his statements about the violence from his jacket pocket, Trump ticked off a list of racist groups that he had been urged to explicitly

See > **TRUMP, A5**

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< Trump

FROM A1

denounce, and ultimately did two days later. But he said the news media quoted him selectively, accused him of responding too late, and ignored his message of unity.

"I hit 'em with neo-Nazi. I hit them with everything. I got the white supremacists, the neo-Nazi. I got them all in there, Let's see. KKK, we have KKK," Trump said sardonically Tuesday of a statement he issued two days after the Aug. 12 clashes, after being faulted for failing to condemn those groups in his initial response.

Trump also implied that he planned to pardon Joe Arpaio, the former sheriff of Maricopa County, Arizona, who became a national symbol of the crackdown on undocumented immigrants with round-'em-up searches that landed him in legal trouble.

"Was Sheriff Joe convicted for doing his job?" Trump asked to wild whoops and cheers.

Of a pardon, he said: "I won't do it tonight because I don't want to cause any controversy. I'll make a prediction: I think he's going to be just fine."

In an angry, unbridled and unscripted performance that rivaled the most sulfurous rallies of his presidential campaign, Trump sought to deflect the anger toward him against the news media, suggesting the media, not him, was responsible for deepening divisions in the country.

"It's time to expose the crooked media deceptions," Trump said. He added, "They're very dishonest people."

"The only people giving a platform to these hate groups is the media itself and the fake news," he said.

Returning repeatedly to Charlottesville, he said the media failed to focus on anarchists, who he said

Trump accused the media of “trying to take away our history and our heritage,” an apparent reference to the debate over removing statues to heroes of the Confederacy, which prompted the rally by neo-Nazis and white supremacists in Charlottesville.

The president singled out a familiar list of malefactors — from the “failing New York Times,” which he said erroneously had apologized for its coverage of the 2016 election, to CNN and The Washington Post, which he described as a lobbying arm for Amazon, the Seattle-based company controlled by the paper’s owner, Jeff Bezos.

Pointing repeatedly to the cameras in the middle of a cavernous convention center, Trump whipped the crowd into fevered chants of “CNN Sucks.”

Members of the audience shouted epithets at reporters, some demanding that they stop tormenting the president with questions about his ties to Russia.

The list of people in Arizona on Trump’s enemies list includes both of the state’s Republican senators: Jeff Flake, a longtime nemesis whom Trump has described as “toxic,” not to mention a “flake;” and John McCain, who cast the decisive Republican vote to dash Trump’s effort to repeal Barack Obama’s Affordable Care Act in the Senate.

His voice thick with sarcasm, Trump said he had been instructed not to mention either of them by name. Of Flake, he said, “nobody knows who the hell he is.” Of McCain, he repeated over and over, “one vote” that cost Republicans health care.

Trump recited a familiar litany of complaints about lawless immigrants and naive trade deals. But aside from a reference to renegotiating the North American Free Trade Agreement with Canada and Mexico — he said he expected he would have to terminate the accord first — the speech was light on policy specifics.

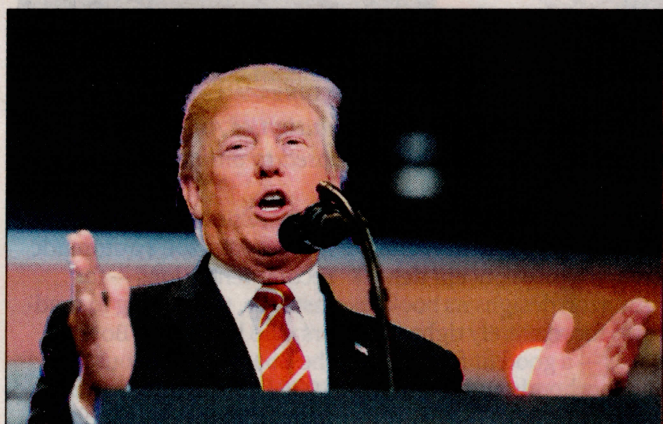
At another point, he heralded the arrival of clean coal plants, adding,

“They are taking out coal,



MATT YORK / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Protesters yell after Phoenix police used tear gas outside the Phoenix Convention Center on Tuesday in Phoenix.



ALEX BRANDON / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Donald Trump abandoned the expected theme of national unity at his speech in Phoenix.

they are going to clean it" — which is not how clean coal plants function.

Trump also said little about foreign policy, offering only a bare summary of the Afghanistan policy that he unveiled Monday night, and suggesting that North Korea's dictator, Kim Jong Un, had retreated in the face of Trump's threats of military action against him.

The forum drew scores of protesters and fanned fears of arousing more of the ugly

nativist sentiments that exploded more than a week ago in Charlottesville.

Outside the sprawling convention center, the scene was a tense caldron, with hundreds of supporters screaming at one another, chanting slogans and hoisting placards that said "Fire Trump" and "Fake President." Some voiced fears about the potential for the repeat of the violence that broke out in Charlottesville, while others griped about

“How did they get in here? They're supposed to be with the few people outside.”

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP
On protesters at speech

the 108-degree heat in Phoenix.

The day of noisy but largely peaceful protests of Trump's speech turned unruly late Tuesday as police fired pepper spray at crowds after someone apparently lobbed rocks and bottles at officers.

A cloudy haze enveloped the night sky outside the convention center where Trump had just wrapped up his speech as protesters and police clashed. People fled the scene coughing as the disturbance unfolded.

"People in the crowd have begun throwing rocks and bottles at police. They also dispersed some gas in the area," Phoenix police spokesman Jonathan Howard said, adding that officers responded with pepper

spray to "disperse the crowd."

For most of the day, Phoenix police had kept members of the two opposing groups behind barricades and apart on separate sides of the street. As a police helicopter hovered overhead, officers wearing riot gear and carrying rifles sauntered through the lane between the sides.

Trump spent the first 20 minutes of his speech defending his remarks about the racially tinged unrest. At one point, protesters interrupted his unscripted tirade.

"How did they get in here?" Trump said. "They're supposed to be with the few people outside."

Earlier Tuesday, Trump traveled to a sun-scorched

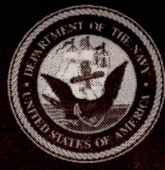
border post in southern Arizona to highlight determination to crack down on illegal border crossings from Mexico.

The president's first in the desert city of Yuma focused more on enforcement than rhetoric.

Venturing into a giant hangar, Trump met with Border Patrol officials who showed him a Predator drone, a helicopter and a boat used to patrol for illegal immigrants.

"What he's done so far has worked," Thomas Man, the acting director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, told reporters. "We need funding to make it permanent. We need to build a wall."

Information from The Associated Press is included in this article.



**The U.S. Navy
INVITES YOU TO PARTICIPATE
in the Northwest
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The U.S. Navy is preparing a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) to assess the potential environmental effects associated with ongoing future at-sea military readiness activities conducted within the Northwest Training and Testing (NWTTE) EIS/OEIS Study Area beyond 2020.

Public Involvement Opportunity

The Navy is requesting your comments on the social and economic impacts of the project. The analysis to be considered during the development of the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS. Comments will be accepted online at www.NWTTEIS.com, or by mail.

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Northwest
Attention: NWTTE Supplemental EIS/OEIS Project Manager
3730 North Charles Porter Ave., Building 3000
Oak Harbor, WA 98278-3500

All comments must be postmarked or received online by Sept. 21, 2017 for consideration in the development of the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS.