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Phone: 512-476-0082

Email: vil3202@aol.com

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RAPPIN' Thomas Wyatt

THE SMOKE

For now, I guess the question is, "Is Donald Trump for real; or is he blowing smoke, again?"

As you may have heard, President-Elect Trump is spinning that same oldie, but goodie, 'Tariffs make the world go 'round'.

And it's getting a lot of air-time, too.

We have one side singing the tune like a sweet melody while the other side keeps turning it off.

However, Trump hasn't taken office yet. He can say whatever he wants. But if I were you, and there is something you really need or want, I would get it now. Let's face it. Just about everything we consume as Americans is imported. That's about anything from food to auto parts. And this is the exact scenario I fought against during my last semester at John H. Reagan High School in '86. But that's another story altogether.

The fact is, if the so-called tariffs that Trump is proposing goes through, you might not be able to afford those items you require. Or, you might not be willing to pay the cost knowing how much cheaper the items were before the imposed tariffs took place.

And Trump doesn't hold all the cards here either. He can stack the deck with his own little minions all he wants. However, the Joker on the table is the U.S. Senate. Ladies and gentleman, despite the disarray that chamber seems to be in; the U.S. Senate is no joke. They basically blackmailed Rep. Matt Gaetz into submitting his withdrawal from the U.S. District Attorney position Trump nominated him for. And let's not even talk about Trump's nominee for Secretary of Defense, Pete Hegseth. There's no way he'll be able to stand up to that congressional mafia's questioning.

The world is already preparing for the Trump Tariffs. There are more threats of retaliation toward Trump than Sean 'Diddy' Combs has expressed to his prosecutors' witnesses.

It's Black Friday. What are you going to do? Are you going all-in on those fantastic sales? Or, will you hold on to that money in case the cost of groceries skyrockets next year?

Either way, make the best of your day. I, for one, still believe Trump is blowing smoke; But, I'm saving my money; because I like to eat.

TARIFFS

Talk Is Cheap!



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by Savannah Kuchar | USA TODAY

WASHINGTON, D.C. - President-elect Donald Trump has threatened U.S. trade partners with steep tariffs, prompting backlash and anxiety about higher prices for American consumers.

Trump on Monday vowed to sign an executive order when he takes office in January implementing a 25% tariff "essentially a tax or fee" on all imported goods from Mexico and Canada, and a 10% tariff against China.

"This Tariff will remain in effect until such time as Drugs, in particular Fentanyl, and all Illegal Aliens stop this Invasion of our Country!" Trump wrote in a post on Truth Social, calling out America's bordering countries. "Both Mexico and Canada have the absolute right and power to easily solve this long simmering problem."

In a second post, Trump said tariffs on Chinese goods are also an effort to curb "the massive amounts of drugs, in particular Fentanyl, being sent into the United States."

Tariffs were a central piece of Trump's economic agenda while campaigning for president in 2024, promising what he called a domestic "manufacturing renaissance." Yet economists have warned his plan could also lead to higher inflation and interest rates.

Here's what to know about the proposed tariffs, potential price effects and which goods could be most impacted.

How do tariffs work?

The idea behind tariffs is to drive up the price of imported goods, encouraging U.S. companies and consumers to opt for American-made products.

Trump waged trade threats in his first administration, too, escalating trade tensions with China

by placing tariffs on billions of dollars of Chinese-made goods. President Joe Biden kept many of these fees in place and added tariffs on other Chinese imports, including electric vehicles and semiconductors.

Now returning to the White House, Trump is promising even more aggressive tariffs against multiple countries.

But it won't be China, Mexico, Canada or other countries directly footing the bill.

Importers pay the extra costs to buy those international goods, then typically pass the burden on to consumers in the form of raised prices. Meaning, Americans could expect to start paying more at the grocery store, department store and elsewhere.

The Peterson Institute for International Economics, a nonpartisan think tank, reported in August that the average American household may end up spending an additional \$2,600 or more a year.

What does the US import from Mexico and Canada? What could cost more?

Trump's proposed tariffs could impact the price tag for a variety of products.

Oil is the top import from Canada to the U.S., according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. The U.S. also imports billions worth of wood and paper from its northern neighbor, which if slapped with a 25% tariff could have wide-ranging effects on products such as printed books and industries like housing construction.

Electronics are among the bulk of goods sent from China to U.S. each year. Other popular Chinese-made imports include textiles, furniture and toys.

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INSIDE



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Trump picks anti-vaccine doctor to head NIH. See CRITIC Page 3



Only Black hire in Trump cabinet comes with 'Red Flag'. See HUD Page 7

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