



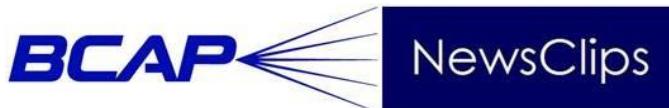
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February 10, 2020

**Bloomberg**  
Senator Wants DOJ to Absorb FTC to Tackle Big Tech Firms

Trump administration officials, increasingly intent on preventing Chinese global technological domination, keep floating the idea that the U.S. government should take a more direct hand in running next-generation 5G wireless networks. But the notion isn't terribly popular — not even within the administration.

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On Thursday, Attorney General William Barr said the U.S. government should consider taking a “controlling stake” in the European companies Nokia and Ericsson to thwart the global ambitions of China-based Huawei, which holds a leading share of the market for 5G wireless equipment. The federal government could do so directly or via a consortium of U.S. companies and private investors, Barr said.

**Philadelphia Inquirer**  
What it's like to be a Democrat in the reddest county in Pennsylvania

The backlash didn't take long. In an interview on CNBC Friday, Vice President Mike Pence said "the best way forward" on 5G relies on private enterprise, not government takeovers. The Federal Communications Commission, which regulates the nation's airwaves, already plans to auction off additional radio spectrum for 5G. "That's the plan the president has endorsed," Pence said. Later on Friday, Trump economic adviser Larry Kudlow also argued against the idea, telling reporters at the White House that "the U.S. government is not in the business of buying companies, whether they're domestic or foreign." Trump has not tweeted about the proposal.

**PA Post**  
Casey: Democrats need to do a better job engaging rural voters

Depending on how you count it, Barr's speech is the second or third time people in Trump's administration or 2020 campaign have suggested direct federal involvement in 5G networks, which boast faster speeds and promise a variety of new applications. Barr suggested in his speech that 5G speeds will turn wireless networks into “the central nervous system of the next generation of internet, called the ‘Industrial Internet,’” with potentially dramatic economic consequences.

**Philadelphia Inquirer Pennsylvania**  
Democrats who won Republican districts on how to beat Trump in 2020

**Pittsburgh Post-Gazette**  
**Editorial: Making vote relevant – Pennsylvania considers an earlier presidential primary**

**Washington Post**  
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**Philadelphia Inquirer**  
**Thousands of Pennsylvanians gave money to more than one 2020 candidate. See what that overlap looks like.**

In 2018, leaked National Security Council documents [obtained by Axios](#) proposed a U.S. government-built 5G network. That plan went nowhere. Then in 2019, members of Trump's reelection team [offered up an idea](#), first reported by Politico, to create a new "wholesale" 5G network run under government contract that would provide bandwidth to network operators on an as-needed basis. Trump himself repudiated that notion after criticism from industry and other government officials, telling reporters that 5G remains "private-sector driven and private-sector led."

Barr's speech, however, appears to be the first time a member of the Trump administration has publicly endorsed direct U.S. government ownership of 5G suppliers. The specific steps he suggested carry echoes of "[industrial policy](#)," which calls for a level of government involvement in the free market anathema to many economists and, at least previously, most Republican politicians. The idea enjoyed brief U.S. popularity in the 1980s amid fears that Japan's government-backed companies were destroying the U.S. technology industry. It then subsided as American tech companies surged ahead in the 1990s. Critics of free trade frequently note that China and Europe still run their own industrial policies.

Barr argued that Huawei — and, by extension, the Chinese government — stands to dominate the "industrial internet" and reap the economic rewards unless the U.S. and its allies take quick, dramatic and unprecedented action. Huawei is the world's largest maker of telecom equipment. "I would call that crazy," Michael Thelander, CEO of telecom consultancy Signals Research Group, said of Barr's idea of taking over European equipment companies. For the government to effectively take over a corporate entity "doesn't sound like a very Republican position," he said.

AT&T CEO Randall Stephenson criticized Barr's idea of a government stake in private companies during a CNBC interview, and said that investing in software would help get around the need for Huawei. The Trump administration has positioned the transition to 5G [as a race](#), particularly with China. It has cast Huawei as a de facto arm of the Chinese government that could enable global espionage. Huawei has denied these allegations. Despite its global footprint, Huawei has been largely absent from the U.S. since 2012, when a congressional panel warned phone carriers to avoid Huawei.

The U.S. government has also taken steps to try to [excise Huawei](#) from small and rural wireless networks that still rely on its equipment, and has pressured allies to kick Huawei out of their telecom networks. "There's a certain amount of desperation here as the U.S. government tries to figure out what do on 5G," said Washington lawyer David Hanke, a former GOP congressional aide. Hanke, however, said Barr's suggestion might be "the least-worst option" for dealing with Huawei, since the alternative would be permanent Chinese domination of the global market for 5G technology.

Huawei has grown in Asia, Europe and Africa, helped by its dramatically lower prices, said Roger Entner, a telecom expert with Recon Analytics. Nokia and Ericsson have lost some market share along the way. Any acquisition of a majority stake in Ericsson or Nokia by an American company, let alone the U.S. government, would likely draw close scrutiny by European governments and EU regulators.

Some European nations have also suggested setting up regional champions that could compete with U.S. and Chinese giants.

The U.S. has other alternatives. A bipartisan group of senators have [proposed a bill](#) to invest \$1 billion in Western alternatives to Huawei and ZTE, another Chinese telecom-equipment maker, by focusing on software. Kudlow also said [in a recent interview with the Wall Street Journal](#) that the administration was working with U.S. tech and telecom companies to develop software that could help reduce the need for Huawei's equipment. Barr dismissed that approach Thursday, calling it "pie in the sky" that could take a decade or more to implement. Telecom experts say it could be ready much sooner.

The U.S. could also support research and development at the European companies, said James Lewis, director of the Technology Policy Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. He noted that Nokia and Ericsson are both big employers in the U.S. The FCC declined to comment on Barr's remarks. Democratic FCC commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel said in a statement that discord over 5G policy showed that the Trump administration doesn't have a plan to "secure our 5G future." Ericsson and Nokia did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Barr held bonds issued by Nokia as of December 2018, but he was required to sell them along with dozens of other holdings when he became attorney general last year, according to financial disclosure reports filed with a federal ethics agency. He has worked in the telecom field as general counsel for Verizon, which he left in 2008. – *Associated Press*

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I called Amish country a few days ago. It was tricky. I wanted to know why Democrats in Lancaster County had recently forced out the leader of their local party. How in the world could this be anything but bad news for Democrats trying to win the White House through battleground Pennsylvania? "It's been brewing for quite some time," said outgoing chair JoAnn Hentz, 68, a retired educator who spent 10 years as vice chair and, more recently, leader of the party. Hentz was forced to resign by newer members of the party who want to more aggressively court the conservative county's moderate Democrats and independents.

"There was no compromise," she said. "It was either leave, or ..." She added: "It's new leadership. Let *them* pull the party together." Ouch.

Lancaster County is important to both political parties vying for the White House: Republicans have sought to turn its typically disengaged [Amish farmers into Donald Trumpsters](#). Democrats, fueled by newcomers energized by antipathy toward the president, have been flipping local GOP seats with their own enlivened grassroots maneuvering, even though this is majority-GOP turf just west of the much-ado-blue Philadelphia suburbs.

Blood on the floor in a Democratic skirmish, and [making headlines in the local paper](#) the same week as the Iowa caucus vote-counting debacle that showed astounding Democratic Party chaos at the presidential primary level. This doesn't seem ideal. Maybe, though, it will work?

High Democratic turnout this year in Lancaster County could send as many as 10,000 new votes (by one operative's estimate) to the party's presidential favorite that weren't there in 2016. Considering Trump won Pennsylvania by only 44,000 votes over Hillary Clinton in 2016, that's quite a chunk of change. Already, progressives boosted turnout in an unlikely outsider congressional campaign two years ago by Jess King, even as she lost to incumbent Rep. Lloyd Smucker.

This county is so crucial, historically, that presidential candidates from both parties have visited in election years. So what went down ahead of Hentz's resignation in late January? Apparently, an irreconcilable divide in outlook and strategy between Old Guard and New Guard. The New Guard see this short-term turmoil as necessary to make immediate and long-term strides toward turning this red county purple.

That's how one of the key figures in the coup, Ismail Smith-Wade-El, explained it to me. The 30-year-old Lancaster City Council president and party vice chair said this fight with the outgoing chair was about embracing new strategies to make leaps forward. "I'm gonna speak broadly here," said Smith-Wade-El, a Carnegie Mellon University grad who is in his third year as an elected councilman. "We believe that our former leadership was not maintaining internal and external relationships the way that they should have been maintained, and was not either welcoming the energy or the strategy that this party needs to move forward."

This type of clash is not unique to Lancaster County's Democrats. It has been playing out to some extent, also, in Southeastern Pennsylvania since the election of Trump sparked a surge of engagement by newly energized Democratic grassroots foot soldiers. Those newcomers have helped win elections across the suburbs of Philadelphia since 2017. Many are women, previously uninvolved in the party. They challenged Republicans even for seats that Democrats had not run for previously, making Republicans spend money and break a sweat. They flipped historically Republican Delaware, Chester, and Bucks Counties.

They have forced Republican retirements at the state legislative level, which is giving Democrats hope of winning the state House of Representatives this fall and having a say in the drawing of legislative district boundaries. The sweat equity and outrage of these newcomers have rebuilt the Democratic grassroots organizations on the local level, and in most cases establishment leaders have welcomed them. But they have demanded clout.

The party for years leading up to Trump's Pennsylvania upset over Clinton in 2016 had devoted most of its resources to races for president, governor, and the U.S. Senate. Meanwhile, it became the minority party in both state legislative chambers. On the local level, turnout suffered as the party became zombielike. In Lancaster County, the newcomers want the party to push with audacious field operations a message of health care and economic equity even in communities that are moderate or conservative. The incoming new party chair, Diane Topakian, is a longtime labor organizer.

Even in deeply conservative towns "like Gap and Elizabethtown," Smith-Wade-El said, they are asking "about what we can be doing to

persuade and reach out to voters in more rural parts of the county. We have to be willing to listen to them." The other vice chair central to the leadership change, 34-year-old Mary Auker-Endres, agreed when we spoke Friday that maybe this wasn't the greatest timing for turmoil, given what's at stake this year. But she says all systems are now go for aggressive electoral gains in November.

The Manheim native, for example, is running two Democratic state legislative challengers in heavily Republican districts. "We all recognized that 2020 is an absolutely must-win year for Democrats," Auker-Endres said. "If we want to see our values reflected for maybe the next decade or more, this is the year we absolutely have to win and we need everybody to be able to work together well." If only not for that bloody little clash. – *Philadelphia Inquirer*



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