The Early 202

SCOOP — Schiff makes moves in race to replace Pelosi

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Analysis by Leigh Ann Caldwell and Theodoric Meyer
with research by Tobi Raji

Good morning, Early Birds. Tonight is the **Congressional Baseball Game**. Will the climate activists still protest now that **Sen. Joe Manchin** (D-W.Va.) has agreed to add climate to their reconciliation bill? Thanks for waking up with us. Tips: earlytips@washpost.com.

In today's edition … The Manchin-Schumer shocker … **Biden** to speak with **Xi** and tensions build around **Pelosi's potential trip to Taiwan** … New endorsements from **Democratic Majority for Israel**'s super PAC … **What we're watching**: GDP numbers … but first …

On the Hill

SCOOP: Adam Schiff is exploring a bid for top House Democrat

The shadow campaign to lead House Democrats next year has been underway for months — and in many ways years — as a new generation of leaders quietly makes a play for the top positions. But an eleventh-hour push by **Rep. Adam Schiff** (D-Calif.) in recent weeks has taken Democrats by surprise and raised questions about how the caucus wants to mirror the diversity that makes up its party's base, **Marianna Sotomayor** and **Leigh Ann** report.

Schiff, who gained notoriety investigating Russia's involvement in the 2016 election before leading the first impeachment of President Donald Trump, **is exploring a bid to lead the House Democratic caucus if Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) retires after the midterm elections**, according to more than a dozen House members and top aides who have spoken directly with the congressman.

- **If he can amass enough interest in his candidacy, Schiff would upend a race that was considered largely set**, challenging a variety of Democrats gunning for the top spot, including possibly **Majority Leader Steny H. Hoyer** (D-Md.) and **Rep.**

James E. Clyburn (D-S.C.), and **Rep. Hakeem Jeffries** (D-N.Y.), who has positioned himself among members as Pelosi's heir apparent and represents a new generation of Democrats.

Schiff's overtures, which began in earnest earlier this year, have focused on consolidating support among his home base, the expansive California delegation, according to members of that group. And though he has not made an explicit ask for endorsements, he is gauging members' interest and planting the seed that leading the caucus is his goal.

Schiff has also reached out to members in a variety of key blocs in the vast Democratic caucus, including the minority tri-caucuses made up of the powerful **Congressional Black Caucus**, the **Congressional Hispanic Caucus** and the **Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus**. He has also reached out to the ideological factions within the Democratic caucus: both the large **Progressive Caucus** and the centrist **New Democrat Coalition**, of which he is a member, according to several people with knowledge of the outreach.

Schiff's trial balloon has been met with surprise and skepticism that he could earn enough support to win, according to several lawmakers. Jeffries, for example, has spent years assembling broad support among the House Democratic caucus.

- "I told (Schiff) I thought it would be a difficult thing because of the lead that Hakeem has," said one member of the California delegation, who had spoken with Schiff.

And while the California delegation is a powerful bloc, often sticking together in party leadership votes, its response to his outreach has been tepid, according to several members. Several are unsure Schiff can make the necessary inroads.

When asked about Schiff's desire to seek the top spot in leadership, spokeswoman **Cate Hurley** said his "time and energy are focused" on reelecting Democrats.

Pursuit of the CBC

Schiff's pursuit of leadership was a topic of conversation this past weekend at a Congressional Black Caucus fundraiser in New York City, according to multiple people in attendance. One person said lawmakers, including several from the New York and California delegations, were "infuriated" that anyone mulling a run for leadership would consider splintering the caucus.

"Anyone whose strategy is that they're going to split the CBC is going to fail," the person said.

What does Schiff offer?

Schiff is a prolific fundraiser, which is a necessary requirement for the leader of the party. He has hired political fundraiser **Bruce Kieloch**, who Pelosi uses for the House Majority PAC. He has $19 million cash on hand in his personal campaign account and his leadership PAC has raised $7 million this year for candidates and the DCCC, according to FEC filings.

Several Democratic members said they are thankful for the intense work he's put in over the years, but note a leadership position takes a different type of work: years of visiting member districts, fundraising on their behalf, countless dinners with colleagues, getting to know the names of spouses and children, and learning a member's struggles and strengths.

Build Back Better is BACK… but don't call it that

Well that was unexpected.

Five hours after the Senate passed the semiconductor chips manufacturing bill, **Sen. Joe Manchin III** (D-W.Va.) dropped a bombshell, saying that he and **Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer** (D-N.Y.) had agreed on a bill to address climate change, lower health care costs and reduce the deficit. It's a "massive potential breakthrough for President Biden's long-stalled economic agenda," our colleague **Tony Romm** reports.

- "Under the deal, Schumer secured Manchin's support for roughly $433 billion in new spending, most of which is focused on climate change and clean energy production — the largest such investment in U.S. history," Tony adds.

It's now called the **Inflation Reduction Act of 2022.**

Schumer, in a statement to reporters Wednesday night, said he expects to be able to have the package ready for a vote next week. Senate Democrats will also meet this morning to discuss the new agreement.

Sen. Kyrsten Sinema (D-Ariz.) hasn't yet stated her position, but in his statement Schumer implied her support when he thanked Manchin for reaching an agreement "that can earn the support of all 50 Senate Democrats."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) endorsed the proposal, writing to her colleagues: "This agreement is a victory for America's families and for protecting our planet."

"It's like two brothers from different mothers, I guess. He gets pissed off, I get pissed off, and we'll go back and forth," Manchin told Politico's **Burgess Everett** and **Marianne LeVine**.