**Scott Pruitt’s Ethics Criticized by Ethics-Challenged White House**

* For EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, going to the White House must feel a little like going to the wood shed.
* Reports indicate the White House, personified by White House Chief of Staff John Kelly and White House Council Don McGahn, are not pleased with Pruitt’s questioning of science and unethical behavior.
* First, [Kelly pulled the plug](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/09/climate/pruitt-red-team-climate-debate-kelly.html) on Pruitt’s long-rumored “red team-blue team” exercise to undermine climate science. Pruitt had grand plans, including a nationally televised show. The White House, even with its obsession with television ratings, canceled the project before the pilot was complete.
* Then McGahn, the White House Counsel for the most ethics-challenged White House since the Nixon Administration, brought Pruitt in to help him with “[creating a culture of compliance](https://www.cnn.com/2018/03/09/politics/cabinet-secretaries-ethical-behavior/index.html)" on ethics within his office.  McGahn has obviously tired of reading headlines that have stretched on for months about Scott Pruitt’s taxpayer-funded first class travel habits and his excessive spending on secret phone booths and upgrades to his personal office.
* We always thought Scott Pruitt was extreme. But now, it appears even this White House is uncomfortable with his deep-seated climate denial and ethics-challenged behavior. That’s saying something since the president is the Climate Denier in Chief and the administration has been under investigation by a special counsel for nearly a year. If this White House is uncomfortable, how should the rest of us feel?