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## LAWMAKERS NOT SOLD ON TRUMP'S 'FAIR COMPROMISE' ON IMMIGRATION

*Concerns also raised about paying for infrastructure plan that the president discussed in State of the Union speech*

By Peter Nicholas  
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President Donald Trump's call for lawmakers to embrace what he termed a compromise proposal on immigration got a chilly reaction Wednesday from both Democrats and Republicans, who are struggling to make progress in their negotiations.

In his State of the Union speech Tuesday night, Mr. Trump highlighted the details of his plan, which include funding for a wall on the southern border, offering a path to citizenship for 1.8 million people brought to the country illegally when they were young, limiting a family-based migration program and ending the diversity visa lottery.

In his speech, Mr. Trump said the proposal "should be supported by both parties as a fair compromise, one where nobody gets everything they want, but where our country gets the critical reforms it needs and must have."

He also emphasized protecting victims of crimes committed by people living in the country illegally, a framing that rankles many who say it unfairly portrays immigrants as criminals.

Lawmakers have been struggling to find a consensus on immigration, a volatile issue that touched off a three-day government shutdown earlier this month. With another spending deadline coming up next month, a shutdown replay looms unless lawmakers strike an immigration deal. Moreover, protections for young undocumented immigrants brought to the country as children, dubbed Dreamers, start to expire in March unless Congress passes legislation extending them.

"I think we are nowhere" on immigration, said Rep. Jackie Speier (D., Calif.) on CNN.

Ms. Speier said that "compromise is possible, but you don't say, 'This is the compromise.' You sit down and negotiate."

Sen. Joe Manchin (D., W. Va.) said on MSNBC's "Morning Joe" that the president has "managed with his proposal right now to tee off both the far right and the far left."

A major sticking point among Republicans is how the Trump administration will deal with Dreamers. The president has said he wants to protect them and has proposed a path to citizenship, which is unpopular with many conservative lawmakers.

Sen. Marco Rubio (R., Fla.), said that lawmakers need to develop a "Plan B" in the event Mr. Trump's proposal fails.

"There are a number of my colleagues that are against a pathway to citizenship," Mr. Rubio told Fox News. "They're fine with potential legalization, but not a pathway. So we've got some issues to work through, which is why I say we have to have a Plan B."

Mr. Trump also touted his infrastructure ambitions during the speech, remarks that drew bipartisan applause. He is calling on Congress to pass a bill that would underwrite a program to repair the nation's roads, bridges and ports, relying on a blend of state and local government funding along with private investment that would add up to \$1.5 trillion.

The concept has bipartisan support, but some lawmakers raised concerns about the cost of the federal government's share.

"The question is how are you going to pay for it?" said Sen. John Cornyn (R., Texas). "You tell me how we can pay for it and I'll tell you what we can do."

Aside from calling for major, bipartisan deals on infrastructure and immigration, Mr. Trump also lauded the improving economy and rising stock market, but warned about continuing threats from North Korea.

Mr. Trump steered clear of direct attacks on political opponents, while holding open the possibility of bipartisan cooperation in an era that he dubbed "our new American moment" for rebuilding the country culturally and economically.

"Tonight, I call upon all of us to set aside our differences, to seek out common ground and to summon the unity we need to deliver for the people," Mr. Trump said.

Republicans lauded Mr. Trump's performance while Democrats dismissed it as showmanship.

Rep. Michelle Lujan Grisham (D., N.M.), chairwoman of the Hispanic caucus, called the address more of a "campaign speech" and "less like a speech by an executive."

Newt Gingrich, the former Republican House speaker and a Trump ally, said the president needs to capitalize on the speech and avoid sending out distracting tweets that bury the message.

Speaking to Fox News, Mr. Gingrich said: "The most important thing he could do is stay on message at least through the Sunday talk shows" and "avoid all temptations to go off and tweet about something irrelevant."

As of midmorning Wednesday, Mr. Trump hadn't tweeted.