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'F*** business' BoJo a bit more pally as he chases speaking gigs

WHEN there's the prospect of a huge pile of cash, Boris "f*** business" Johnson suddenly wants to be friends again with the City. The former Foreign Secretary is being touted out to investment banks for speaking engagements, Spy hears. Agents at JLA, who describe the ex-London Mayor (pictured) as "one of the most captivating political speakers of his

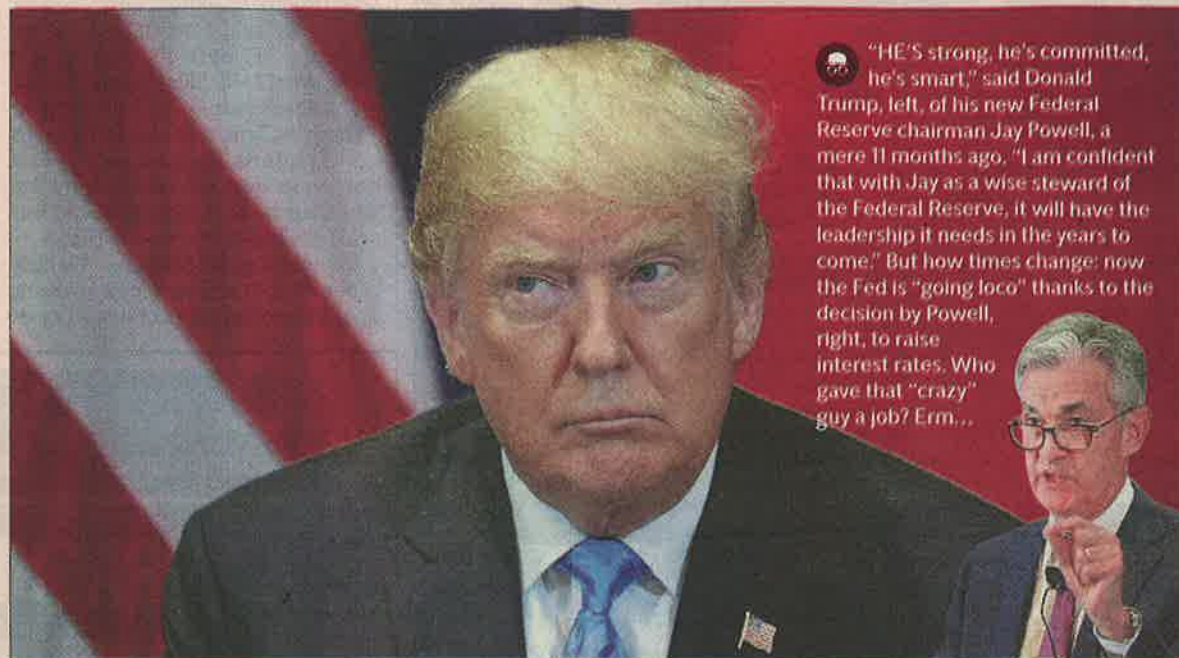


generation", are tapping up the Square Mile's finest to see if they would book the blond mop top. BoJo could earn over £25,000 for his time, particularly if he's ranked in the same category as another ex-Foreign Secretary William Hague, who is also on JLA's books. The City will surely welcome him with open arms...

A FRESH round of sanctions against Russia from the US after the Novichok attacks in Salisbury hasn't stopped a big bet on Vladimir Putin's regime by Californian firefighters and police officers. It turns out that the California Public Employees' Retirement System, or Calpers, had about \$460 million (£350 million) invested in Russian government bonds as of the end of June, up more than 8% in the past year. California is now Russia's 10th

biggest foreign creditor. Funny old world.

ESTATE agent Glentree's Trevor Abrahmsohn pulls no punches: "If a Jeremy Corbyn-led government were ever to gain power, the exodus of wealth creators from the UK will be less of a brain drain and more of a lobotomy." As a man who does plenty of business on The Bishops Avenue "billionaires' row", he's got more reason to fear than most.



"HE'S strong, he's committed, he's smart," said Donald Trump, left, of his new Federal Reserve chairman Jay Powell, a mere 11 months ago. "I am confident that with Jay as a wise steward of the Federal Reserve, it will have the leadership it needs in the years to come." But how times change: now the Fed is "going loco" thanks to the decision by Powell, right, to raise interest rates. Who gave that "crazy" guy a job? Erm...

Spotting financial irregularities is a piece of cake

SHOULD entrepreneur Luke Johnson have been caught on the hop by the "significant and potentially fraudulent" accounting irregularities at fast-crumbling cake-seller Patisserie Valerie? A trawl through his columns over the past few years suggest not. Johnson told his Sunday Times readers last year that "different firms with which I'm involved have experienced a burnt-

out vehicle, a robbery, and a minor fraud".

In March 2015 he told us that he "was also a part-owner of a construction company where a subcontractor conspired with management to overbill for work". "Ultimately it is almost impossible to legislate against every manipulation of trading or accounting," he opined in September. You said it.

SPY bumped into a Tory MP at the Progress 1000 bash this week and thought it a perfect opportunity to get the inside track on the likely outcome of Brexit negotiations and any deal being passed by parliament. So what's going to happen? "F*** knows," says our man.

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