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## Notes From Inside The Beltway

### HUD

**Carson Off To Rough Start:** No HUD secretary in recent memory has faced a more rocky beginning than Dr. Ben Carson. The Senate kept Carson's nomination bottled up for more than a month following the inauguration of President Donald Trump. Since then, Carson has been besieged by housing advocates pleading with him to at least keep HUD funding at current levels at a time when the administration wants to cut \$6 billion from what advocates claim is starvation support – compared to what is actually needed to maintain the department's minimum program requirements. Then, on April 12, in the middle of a tour of Miami's crumbling public housing stock, Carson suffers the ultimate embarrassment that highlighted HUD's neglect of public housing maintenance -- he became stuck in a public housing elevator for 15 minutes before being rescued by firefighters. By HUD's own account, the nation's public housing supply is \$26 billion behind in basic maintenance needs and that estimate is already six years old.

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