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From: Anna Palmer Jake Sherman Daniel Lippman
Sent: Wed 11/22/2017 6:02:55 PM
Subject: Playbook Power Briefing, presented by the Peter G. Peterson Foundation: TRUMP at one of his golf courses today -- CNN says P.R. HURRICANE death toll at least nine times higher than official count -- POLITICO/MC Poll: Voters want Franken to resign

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Today's Playbook Power Briefing presented by the Peter G. Peterson Foundation

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Good Wednesday afternoon. SPOTTED: Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke wearing jeans in coach on an Alaska Airlines flight this morning from DCA to LAX. He was carrying a copy of "Rough Riders: Theodore Roosevelt, His Cowboy Regiment, and the Immortal Charge Up San Juan Hill," and is on his way to "float on a boat" in Santa Barbara, he told us. ... **Sen. Ted Cruz** (R-Texas) hanging out in the lounge area of the Avila Bay Athletic Club in Avila Beach, California.

MUST READ -- HUGH HEWITT interviews **HILLARY CLINTON -- *Transcript and audio*** <http://bit.ly/2iNUcgC> **HUGH** tried to end the interview, and Clinton said: "Well you know, Hugh, I'm really enjoying this. I can go for a few more minutes, if you want to."

VALLEY TALK -- "Facebook to inform users of content they saw from Russian trolls," by John Hendel: "Facebook announced Wednesday it will unveil a tool by year's end allowing users to learn of any Facebook or Instagram contact they may have had with Russian internet trolls leading up to and following the 2016 U.S. election.

"The social media giant 'will soon be creating a portal to enable people on Facebook to learn which of the Internet Research Agency Facebook Pages or Instagram accounts they may have liked or followed between January 2015 and August 2017,' it said in a blog post Wednesday. 'This tool will be available for use by the end of the year in the Facebook Help Center.' The Internet Research Agency is a St. Petersburg, Russia-based firm with ties to that country's government." <http://politi.co/2iG2HqP>

-- FCC Chair Ajit Pai's full order on dismantling Obama-era net neutrality rules <http://bit.ly/2iHGWXr>

PROGRAMMING NOTE: Power Briefing will be off tomorrow and Friday. As always, expect Playbook in your inbox in the morning.

NEW POLITICO/MORNING CONSULT POLL -- "Poll: Half think Franken should resign," by Steve Shepard: "A majority of voters think the Senate Ethics Committee

should investigate Sen. Al Franken (D-Minn.), and half think Franken should resign from the Senate, according to a new POLITICO/Morning Consult poll.

"The poll was conducted after radio personality Leeann Tweeden alleged that Franken groped her in 2006, prior to his Senate tenure -- but before a second woman, Lindsay Menz, said that Franken touched her inappropriately while he was a senator in 2010. Still, 66 percent of voters said the ethics panel should probe Franken's conduct, while only 15 percent think the committee should not look into the matter. Fully 50 percent of voters think Franken, who has served in the Senate since 2009, should resign, and 22 percent think he should not resign.

"The Franken results, though, underscore a partisan divide in how voters view allegations of sexual misconduct against political figures. Democratic voters are more likely to find allegations against Democrats credible and endorse significant punishments than Republican voters are when it comes to allegations against GOP lawmakers and candidates." <http://politi.co/2iHLt1>

-- **"Poll: Plurality supports House tax plan, but many expect to pay more,"** by Toby Eckert: "A plurality of voters supports the tax overhaul the House passed last week, though many also believe it will raise their taxes, according to a new POLITICO/Morning Consult poll. Based on what they've seen, read or heard about the bill, 39 percent of those surveyed said they 'strongly' or 'somewhat' support it, while 31 percent oppose it and the rest are undecided. Support ticked up to 41 percent and opposition dropped to 29 percent after respondents were told about key details of the plan.

"However, 36 percent expect to pay more federal, state and local taxes under the plan, despite Republicans touting it as a tax cut for most Americans. Twenty percent say it would lower their taxes and 19 percent say they would stay about the same. Twenty-five percent weren't sure what affect it would have on them or offered no opinion." <http://politi.co/2iH3pUq>

BIG STORY -- CNN's John D. Sutter, Leyla Santiago and Khushbu Shah: "We surveyed 112 Puerto Rican funeral homes to check the accuracy of the hurricane death toll. This is what we found": In general, 'indirect' hurricane deaths -- in which a person likely would be alive if not for the storm and its aftermath -- should be part of the official death toll, according to Puerto Rico's Department of Public Safety, which oversees the count. The list of 55 deaths attributed to the hurricane includes ones from heart attacks and suicides that were precipitated by a storm that shook even the sturdiest of the 3.4 million American citizens who live on this Caribbean island. ...

"Those funeral homes identified 499 deaths in the month after the storm -- September 20 to October 19 -- which they say were related to Hurricane Maria and its aftermath. That's nine times the official death toll. And, again, it represents only about half of funeral homes." <http://cnn.it/2hKjKa4>

HUH? -- @DavidWright_CNN: ".@JohnBerman: 'Are you saying Gary Cohn faked a

bad connection to get the president off the phone?' @SenatorCarper: 'Well, I wouldn't -- I don't want to throw him under the bus, but yes.' (@CNNnewsroom)" ... "White House spokesperson tells @CNN: 'Senator Carper's claim is completely false. Gary Cohn left the room and continued to speak with the President privately for several minutes before they concluded the call.'" **Video** <http://bit.ly/2B35DEE>

DETROIT NEWS -- "Nassar pleads guilty to raping underage gymnasts," by Kim Kozlowski: "For the first time, a disgraced Michigan State University and USA Gymnastics doctor admitted Wednesday that he sexually assaulted girls under the guise of a medical treatment.

"Larry Nassar, 54, made the admission when he pleaded guilty to seven counts of first-degree criminal sexual conduct in Ingham County Circuit Court as many of his other alleged victims stood in the courtroom and watched. Nassar plans to plead guilty to three counts of first-degree criminal sexual conduct in Eaton County court next Wednesday, avoiding a trial that was set for Dec. 4, Michigan Assistant Attorney General Angela Povilaitis said Wednesday. This brings the the total to 10 first-degree criminal sexual conduct counts involving nine victims.

"Each of the counts is punishable by 25 to 40 years in prison. All victims can give impact statements at Nassar's sentencing, including 125 victims who reported incidents to Michigan State University. Nassar agreed to lifetime electronic monitoring as part of the plea deal." <http://detne.ws/2jNYZyG>

PRESIDENT TRUMP is at the Trump International Golf Club in West Palm Beach today, per pooler Ali Schmitz of USA Today Network.

POOL REPORTS DU JOUR -- From WaPo's Jenna Johnson **at 7:56 a.m.:** "Lindsay Walters briefly addressed the pool and said that the president has been briefed on the Navy aircraft crash. She also said that the president plans to make a number of calls his week, especially related to tax reform, and that the White House will provide readouts of those calls. Otherwise, she expects a 'low-key day.' ... **at 8:06 a.m.:** "A correction to the earlier pool report: While the White House communications staff expects the press pool to have a 'low-key day,' the president will NOT have a low-key day and has a full schedule of meetings and phone calls."

***** **A message from the Peter G. Peterson Foundation:** As Washington debates tax reform, there's talk of tax cuts that will give trillions of dollars back to American taxpayers. That sounds great. But if these tax cuts aren't paid for, future generations will be stuck with the bill. Congress, tax reform should grow the economy. Not the debt. www.pgpf.org/tax-reform. *****

DAILY MAIL -- "Steve Bannon's Navy Seal security guard lunged at 5ft 2in author and had to be 'calmed down by the ex-Trump strategist' after she snipped 'I hope you get what you deserve' as they rode in a hotel elevator together"
<http://dailym.ai/2mRM4Nb>

ON THE WORLD STAGE -- "U.S. declares 'ethnic cleansing' against Rohingya in Myanmar," by the AP's Josh Lederman: "The United States declared the ongoing violence against Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar to be 'ethnic cleansing' on Wednesday, putting more pressure on the country's military to halt a brutal crackdown that has sent more than 600,000 refugees flooding over the border to Bangladesh. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson blamed Myanmar's security forces and 'local vigilantes' for what he called 'intolerable suffering' by the Rohingya. Although the military has blamed Rohingya insurgents for setting off the crisis, Tillerson said that 'no provocation can justify the horrendous atrocities that have ensued.'" <http://bit.ly/2B2Wzzy>

-- "'Butcher Of Bosnia' Ratko Mladic Guilty Of Genocide, Crimes Against Humanity," by NPR's Teri Schultz: "On Wednesday morning, judges at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in The Hague handed down a guilty verdict for one count of genocide, five counts of crimes against humanity and four counts of violations of the laws or customs of war, out of the 11 counts against 74-year-old Ratko Mladic, for his role as a general in the Yugoslav army and chief of staff of the Army of Republika Srpska, the ethnically Serb entity in Bosnia.

"The three-judge panel found him not guilty on one of the two counts of genocide and sentenced him to life imprisonment. ... In a summary of the verdict, Judge Alphons Orié said the crimes 'rank among the most heinous known to humankind, and include genocide and extermination as a crime against humanity.'" <http://n.pr/2iGCqsb>

ATTENTION TRAVELERS -- "With TSA on the ropes, holiday travel may be a bear," by Stephanie Beasley: "The Transportation Security Administration has bad news for tens of millions of Thanksgiving holiday travelers: Lines at airports may be even longer than usual as the agency tries once again to plug security holes in its baggage screening.

"TSA is scrambling to respond to yet another damning investigation of its screening effectiveness, for the second time in little more than two years. And the agency is already phasing in revised security procedures -- including those for passengers' electronic devices -- that could cause 'a slight increase in wait times,' new TSA Administrator David Pekoske said in an interview. 'The procedure is new,' Pekoske said. 'It's new to passengers. It's somewhat new to our screeners.'" <http://politi.co/2ildVev>

-- FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH: DCA was pretty easy this morning.

PROTECTING THE PRESIDENT -- "Coast Guard encountered more than 1,200 boats during Trump's 2017 stays," by the Palm Beach Post's Eliot Kleinberg: "More than 1,200 boaters off Palm Beach County had their day interrupted earlier this year by an encounter with a Coast Guard boat letting them know they'd gotten a little too close to the president of the United States. As President Trump returned to South Florida on Tuesday evening for the long Thanksgiving weekend, the first of potentially several winter visits, the Coast Guard activated its security zones, which stay in place through

late Sunday." <http://bit.ly/2B2aUMs>

IT BEGINS ... -- "Congressional Black Caucus member: Conyers should step down as top Dem on House panel," by CNN's Juana Summers: "Rep. Gregory Meeks, a New York Democrat and a member of the Congressional Black Caucus, said Wednesday that his colleague Rep. John Conyers of Michigan should leave his post as the top Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee as he is the subject of a House Ethics Committee investigation.

"No one is exempt from bad behavior, and I think that he's agreed and I clearly see where Leader Pelosi has said there will be an immediate ethics committee, a review,' Meeks told CNN's John Berman and Poppy Harlow. 'I really think that probably the appropriate thing right now is that he should step down as the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee and be subject to this ethics investigation.'" <http://cnn.it/2B3jTNv>

MARK YOUR CALENDAR -- POLITICO is partnering with women-led businesses in the D.C.-metro area to offer a full week of exclusive perks in conjunction with the 5th annual Women Rule Summit! Join the fun at participating businesses during Women Rule Week (Nov. 27 - Dec. 1) for exclusive deals (<http://politi.co/2zbbyXM>) and tweet using #WomenRule for a chance to win two free tickets to the Summit on Dec. 5.

-- NEW WOMEN RULE PODCAST -- Anna talks with Cindi Leive who is in her 16th and final year at the helm of Glamour, which has been consumed with discussion of sexual misconduct. And even as she leaves her post, Leive is still talking about it: from Joe Biden's handling of Anita Hill's testimony to Leive's own desire to interview President Trump about "his history -- or non-history -- of sexual assault." Hear Leive weigh in on her legacy at the helm of Glamour, what she wishes she'd done differently and what's next for the departing editor-in-chief in this week's Women Rule podcast. <http://politi.co/2iH7ZIH>

AFTERNOON READS -- "Anita Hill and her 1991 congressional defenders to Joe Biden: You were part of the problem," by WaPo's Annys Shin and Libby Casey: "Now, in the wake of the Harvey Weinstein sexual-assault scandal, Biden has faced renewed scrutiny over Hill's treatment during the 1991 hearings. At an event hosted by Glamour magazine on Nov. 13, he said he was 'so sorry' for what she went through. A few days later, at our gathering -- which was set up for a forthcoming issue of The Washington Post Magazine, in which we're asking a number of political and cultural figures to revisit their roles in seminal Washington moments -- Hill said 'some part of Biden's recent remarks was a real apology, 'but I still don't think it takes ownership of his role in what happened.' ... Over the course of a 90-minute conversation moderated by Post reporter Libby Casey, Hill spoke about her experiences testifying, and the lawmakers talked about their advocacy for Hill." <http://wapo.st/2B3TnDV>

-- JUST POSTED: JASON ZENGERLE in the N.Y. Times Magazine, **"The Voices in Blue America's Head:** For years, liberals have tried, and failed, to create their own version of conservative talk radio. Has Crooked Media finally figured it out?": "More than

1,600 political podcasts -- most of them anti-Trump - have appeared since the 2016 election, according to RawVoice, a podcast hosting and analytics company. 'Pod Save America,' with nearly 120 million downloads to date, is the undisputed king of the field. ... With a shoestring budget and no organizational backing, its hosts seem to have created something that liberals have spent almost two decades, and hundreds of millions of dollars, futilely searching for: the left's answer to conservative talk radio.

"... **[A]ssuming standard industry rates**, Crooked Media is most likely bringing in at least \$50,000 in advertising revenue for each episode of 'Pod Save America' -- which at two episodes a week is about \$5 million a year. That has allowed the company to turn away the many investors who have approached it." <http://nyti.ms/2B2u05e>

FUN VIDEO -- The Senate Republican Conference has released a Thanksgiving-themed video titled "The Pardoned Turkey" featuring Sen. Tim Scott (R-S.C.) and Senate Republican Conference Chair Sen. John Thune (R-S.D.). **1-min. video**
<http://bit.ly/2zbK3x7>

THE YEAR-END LISTS BEGIN - "The Top 10 Non-Fiction Books of 2017 ," by Time's Claire Howorth: "10. 'The Vanity Fair Diaries,' Tina Brown ... 9. 'The Evangelicals,' Frances Fitzgerald ... 8. 'The Meaning of Michelle,' Veronica Chambers ... 7. 'Blind Spot,' Teju Cole ... 6. 'Hunger,' Roxane Gay ... 5. 'The Rules Do Not Apply,' Ariel Levy ... 4. 'Homo Deus,' Yuval Noah Harari ... 3. 'Killers of the Flower Moon,' David Grann ... 2. 'We Were Eight Years in Power,' Ta-Nehisi Coates ... 1. 'What Happened,' Hillary Clinton." <http://ti.me/2zYlyqL>

TRANSITIONS -- Cindy Cerquitella has been named executive director of America's Future Foundation and **Richard Lorenc** has been named chairman of the board. ... **Cassie Boehm** is joining the Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of America as manager of advocacy communications. She was previously Rep. Tom Rice's (R-S.C.) communications director. ... **Matt Dailer** has been promoted to political strategy director at the RNC. He was previously national field director. Dailer's deputy **Carrie Brown** will be promoted to national field director

WELCOME TO THE WORLD - Abby McCloskey, an economist and founder of McCloskey Policy and a Rick Perry, Jeb and AEI alum, and **David McCloskey**, an engagement manager at McKinsey, email friends and family: "We are thrilled to announce the arrival of Leo David McCloskey, born on a beautiful November 20th in Dallas and weighing in at 7 lbs 3 oz. Leo and Abby are doing great. Miles was also excited by his little brother's arrival and enjoyed some quality time with him [Monday] night at the hospital." **Pic** <http://politi.co/2AncGM1>

***** **A message from the Peter G. Peterson Foundation:** Washington is debating tax reform. There's talk of substantial tax cuts that will give trillions of dollars back to American taxpayers. That sounds great. But if these tax cuts aren't paid for, future generations will be stuck with the bill. Congress is right to pursue tax reform - the code is outdated, complex and unfair. Tax reform done right should be permanent, because

businesses and individuals need certainty to plan and invest. It should be based on realistic, independent projections and assumptions about the effect on our economy and our fiscal outlook. And it should enjoy bipartisan support, so that it's durable over time. Lawmakers should use the valuable opportunity presented by tax reform both to improve our fiscal outlook and strengthen the economy at the same time. Congress, tax reform should grow the economy. Not the debt. Learn more at www.pgpf.org/tax-reform.

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