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From: Anna Palmer Jake Sherman Daniel Lippman
Sent: Tue 8/22/2017 5:03:14 PM
Subject: Playbook Power Briefing, presented by Chevron: MCCONNELL aligned super PAC slams 'Chemtrail Kelli' -- NIKKI HALEY said she had 'personal talk' with TRUMP after Charlottesville -- FIRST IN PLAYBOOK: KEVIN BRADY on tax reform

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Today's Playbook Power Briefing presented by Chevron

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Good Tuesday afternoon. THE SENATE LEADERSHIP FUND has cut a video branding Kelli Ward as "not conservative, just crazy ideas." **REMEMBER:** This is the Mitch McConnell aligned super PAC going after the candidate boosted by President Donald Trump. <http://bit.ly/2wv6VKb>

TALKER -- TONY FABRIZIO (@TonyFabrizioGOP) -- who did polling work for Donald Trump, tweets: "For all the D.C. beltway types wringing their hands about @POTUS and the GOP base. Republicans in Congress are the ones losing the base." **Poll image** <http://bit.ly/2w0gVbk>

-- **@akarl_smith:** "Hmmm. The DNC is going after Trump for his 'empty promises on border wall.'" <http://bit.ly/2inq5eZ>

THE SMARTEST MAN IN WASHINGTON -- "Abbe Lowell faces his toughest challenge yet in Menendez trial: The veteran defense attorney, who successfully defended John Edwards on campaign finance violations, is looking to help a sitting U.S. senator beat a slew of federal bribery charges," by Josh Gerstein: "Defense attorney Abbe Lowell, who has emerged as a fixture in criminal cases involving high-profile Washington politicians, is staring down one of his toughest challenges yet: helping a sitting United States senator beat a slew of federal bribery charges.

"The veteran white-collar Washington lawyer will travel to a Newark courtroom this week to helm the defense of New Jersey Sen. Robert Menendez. The 63-year-old Democrat faces corruption charges over his repeated interventions with the federal government on behalf of a Florida donor. It's familiar terrain for Lowell, who has successfully represented a roster of clients including Republican lobbyist Jack Abramoff, former Nevada Republican Sen. John Ensign, and New York state Senate Majority Leader Joe Bruno, and recently took on President Donald Trump's son-in-law and adviser Jared Kushner as a client in the ongoing Russia probe." <http://politi.co/2vVtJl6>

WHAT KEVIN BRADY, PAUL RYAN AND STEVEN MNUCHIN DON'T WANT TO

READ -- @RepPeteKing: "I agree with @newtgingrich that GOP must go first with tax cuts and not get bogged down in tax reform."

WHAT KEVIN BRADY WANTS YOU TO WATCH INSTEAD -- <http://bit.ly/2vaRFy1>

PREVIEWING TONIGHT'S RALLY -- "Trump to tout border wall -- well, fence -- in Yuma visit," by Ted Hesson: "President Donald Trump will travel Tuesday afternoon to Yuma, Ariz., which he'll say demonstrates the benefits of a border wall -- or, at least, border fencing. The visit could set the table for a legislative battle next month over whether to include border wall money in a spending bill that Congress must pass by Sept. 30 to keep the federal government funded. ... Trump will visit a Marine base in Yuma, where he'll get a tour of U.S. Customs and Border Protection equipment, including a Predator drone and a Border Patrol boat and surveillance truck. The president will then head into a closed-door briefing and later meet with Marines, according to an administration official." <http://nyti.ms/2v15Dwz>

BEHIND THE SCENES -- "Nikki Haley says she had 'personal' talk with Trump about Charlottesville," by Diamond Naga Siu: "Nikki Haley, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, said Tuesday that she had a 'personal conversation' with President Donald Trump about his response to the violent clashes at a white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, stating matter-of-factly that she would 'leave it at that.' 'Well, I had a personal conversation with the president about Charlottesville, and I will leave it at that,' Haley said on CNN. 'But I will tell you that there is no hate in this country. I know the pain that hate can cause, and we need to isolate haters, and we need to make sure that they know there is no place for them.'" <http://politi.co/2v1PVBe>

ANNIE KARNI SCOOP -- "Kushner in Middle East for peace talks": "While everyone was busy gazing into the solar eclipse on Monday, White House adviser Jared Kushner quietly snuck away to the Middle East for a trip that will take him to the Persian Gulf and Israel. Accompanying Kushner on Monday in the Gulf states were deputy National Security Adviser Dina Powell, and Middle East envoy Jason Greenblatt, a White House official said. ...

"[A] White House aide and an outside adviser familiar with the trip planning said Kushner departed on Sunday and is set to arrive in Israel Wednesday night for meetings on Thursday. The traveling American delegation was meeting with leaders from the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Qatar and Saudi Arabia in the days before." <http://politi.co/2wkuo09>

***** **A message from Chevron:** When an endangered butterfly was found near a Chevron refinery, we protected the habitat and still plant the only thing they eat-buckwheat. Watch the video: <http://politi.co/2ie5v0A> *****

TRUMP V. WASHINGTON -- "Is Anybody Home at HUD?: A long-harbored conservative dream - the 'dismantling of the administrative state' - is taking place under Secretary Ben Carson," by Alec MacGillis in New York Magazine: "To the extent that the

new leadership was providing any guidance at all, it was often actively discouraging initiative on the part of employees. Shortly after the inauguration, a directive came down requiring employees to get tenth-floor approval for any contacts outside the building - professional conferences, or even just meetings with other departments. Ann Marie Oliva, a highly regarded HUD veteran who'd been hired during the George W. Bush administration and was in charge of homeless and HIV programs, was barred from attending a big annual conference on housing and homelessness in Ohio because, she inferred, some of the other speakers there leaned left.

"The department leadership was also actively slowing down new initiatives simply by taking a very long time to give the necessary supervisory approvals for the development of surveys or program guidance. In some cases, this appeared to be the result of mere negligence and delay. In other cases, it appeared more willful. For one thing, there was the leadership's strong hang-up about all matters transgender-related. ...

"More upsetting for many ambitious civil servants than the scattered nays coming from the tenth floor, though, was the lack of direction, period. Virtually all the top political jobs below Carson remained vacant. Carson himself was barely to be seen - he never made the walk-through of the building customary of past new secretaries. 'It was just nothing,' said one career employee. 'I've never been so bored in my life. No agenda, nothing to move forward or push back against. Just nothing.'" <http://nym.ag/2vlnmE7>

-- **"'You're Fired' may be harder than Trump thinks when it comes to federal workers,"** by WaPo's Lisa Rein: "[T]he new political leadership in Washington is meeting resistance from powerful federal employee unions and finding that maneuvering around long-guaranteed civil service protections is not easy. This month an administrative board ordered a stay of the firing of the former director of the VA Medical Center in Washington, who had been removed from his post to an administrative job in April. An inspector general's probe found that patient health was endangered by managerial dysfunction. ...

"A case now playing out at the Patent and Trademark Office shows the complexities of carrying out Trump's mandate. After a three-year investigation, the office has moved recently to fire or suspend 18 of about two dozen employees in a clerical support unit that docket trademark applications, according to current and former agency staff and other government officials familiar with the case. One worker has been fired." <http://wapo.st/2vIJY78>

AFTER CHARLOTTESVILLE -- "Growing Up in the Shadow of the Confederacy," by The Atlantic's Vann Newkirk II: "Indeed, as the legends behind the statues revealed themselves to me, so another truth was revealed: that I lived in occupied territory. I did not belong in the society represented by the statues, even though my ancestors had tilled the land for centuries. I was at once, somehow, a thrall and an invader. It occurred to me that it is not possible to both worship at the altar of the Confederacy and fight for the liberation of people like me. That fact may seem obvious now, but for my white classmates who wore Confederate flag shirts to class, even as they assured me that 'I'm

not racist,' the idea that one could celebrate the heritage without the hate held currency. And I believe that even today, many of those old friends tell themselves just that."

<http://theatlntc/2vlzaWB>

BOB KRAFT WATCH -- USA TODAY: "Patriots gave President Trump Super Bowl ring as thank-you for White House visit" <https://usat.ly/2vm3Yqj>

AFTERNOON READS ...

-- **TOM RICKS: "The Book He Wasn't Supposed to Write: A best-selling author submits a draft to his editor. Hijinks ensue."** <http://theatlntc/2imAE1G>

-- **"Post Bail:** America's justice system runs on the exchange of money for freedom. Some say that's unfair. But can data fix it?" by NBC News' Jon Schuppe: "[A]llowing people to pay for their release has proved unfair to people who don't have much money. The poor are far more likely to get stuck in jail, which makes them far more likely to get fired from jobs, lose custody of children, plead guilty to something they didn't do, serve time in prison and suffer the lifelong consequences of a criminal conviction. Those who borrow from a bail bondsman often fall into crippling debt. At the same time, the wealthy can buy their way out of pretrial detention on just about any offense, including murder.

"The bald inequity of this system has triggered a national movement to eliminate bail altogether. But what to replace it with? In New Jersey, the answer is an algorithm, a mathematical formula to determine whether someone is likely to return to court for trial or get arrested again. ... Six months into this venture, New Jersey jails are already starting to empty, and the number of people locked up while awaiting trial has dropped.

"But it's also become clear that data is no wonder drug. The new system - driven by years of research involving hundreds of thousands of cases and requiring multimillion-dollar technology upgrades and the hiring of more judges, prosecutors and court workers - still produces contentious decisions about who deserves freedom and who does not." <http://nbcnews.to/2vl3n8z>

-- **RICH LOWRY**, whose birthday is today (<http://politi.co/2vlGzW7>), in **NATIONAL REVIEW -- "Yes, Work for Trump":** "Among the nation's elite, Trump is now a walking, talking version of the North Carolina transgender bathroom bill, which caused corporate America to boycott and shame the state into submission. CEOs increasingly don't want anything to do with Trump. Hollywood and representatives of the arts loathe him. And sports figures are leery. Trump is as personally radioactive as any president since Richard Nixon during his final descent.

"This can't be what a high-flying financier and movie producer like Steve Mnuchin signed up for. But any Trump official who doesn't think he is being forced to violate his personal conscience should stick it out. The presidency is an important institution, and whatever fantasies his enemies may have of a rapid ending to his tenure, Trump is president. He needs good advice and competent help. There are obviously limits to how

much he can be controlled, but he is susceptible to advice." <http://bit.ly/2vIA0Ts>

TODAY'S BEYOND THE BELTWAY -- Steve Lonegan running for Congress in NJ -- Rick Scott flubs talking points <http://politi.co/2vIJG0c>

VALLEY TALK -- "What's New in the iPhone 8," by Bloomberg's Mark Gurman
<https://bloom.bg/2vICmlq>

ENGAGED - Ryan Heath, senior correspondent at POLITICO Europe and author of Brussels Playbook, got engaged on Monday to **Zachery Bishop**, senior tech consultant at Cambre Associates. The couple met on Tinder three years ago this week. Ryan posts on Facebook: "Zach said 'yes.' Would have been an awkward climb down Machu Picchu mountain if he'd said no! No rush - expect a wedding sometime 2019." **Pic**
<http://bit.ly/2v2AIPE>

WEEKEND WEDDING -- Brian Davis, a managing director at Allen & Company, recently married **Cayla O'Connell**, entrepreneur in sustainable textiles and recently a brand manager at Earthbound Brands. They met through a mutual friend in NYC, who later officiated their ceremony in Ravello, Italy at the Team Room at Villa Cimbrone.
Pics <http://politi.co/2v214Mm> ... <http://politi.co/2w0fxp2>

***** **A message from Chevron** : This is a story about DOERS, butterflies, and buckwheat. In '75, the endangered El Segundo Blue butterfly was found near a Chevron refinery. We protected the habitat and planted the only thing they eat-buckwheat. We're still planting and keeping an eye on our littlest neighbor. Watch the video:
<http://politi.co/2ie5v0A> *****

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