

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Joe Pompeo - POLITICO Media
Sent: Mon 6/26/2017 9:37:53 AM
Subject: Morning Media: Donald Trump, David Pecker, Time Inc. — Preet podcast — Facebook goes Hollywood

By Joe Pompeo | 06/26/2017 05:35 AM EDT

With Alex Weprin

BIG DAVID PECKER PROFILE IN THIS WEEK'S NEW YORKER - Jeffrey Toobin reports on the longtime Trump pal and head of National Enquirer parent company American Media Inc. Scene: "As the meeting wound down ... Someone suggested a story about a video from Donald and Melania Trump's first overseas trip. ... When Donald reached for Melania's hand, she slapped it away with a sharp flick of her wrist. 'I didn't see that,' Pecker said, on the speakerphone. The half-dozen or so men in the room exchanged looks. One then noted that the footage of Melania's slap had received a good deal of attention. 'I didn't see that,' Pecker repeated, and the subject was dropped. ...

"Pecker and Trump have been friends for decades ... and Pecker acknowledges that his tabloids' coverage of Trump has a personal dimension. All Presidents seek to influence the media, but Trump enjoys unusual advantages in this regard. ... Unlike [Rupert] Murdoch, Pecker heads a fading and vaguely comic archetype of Americana ... But the impact of the tabloids, particularly their covers, remains substantial."

CONFIRMED: PECKER IS EYEING TIME INC. - I first reported this back in March, when Time Inc. was still entertaining several unsolicited bids for the company. A source familiar with the matter told me at the time that Pecker had asked his people to crunch some numbers to see what a potential acquisition of certain titles might look like. (Time Inc. stalwarts People, Entertainment Weekly and InStyle would add some firepower to Pecker's celebrity media empire, which also now includes Us Weekly.) As someone familiar with Pecker's thinking put it to me: "He's always had a hard-on for Time Inc."

Now, Toobin reports that "Pecker is ... considering expanding his business: he may bid to take over the financially strapped magazines of Time, Inc. ... Based on his stewardship of his own publications, Pecker would almost certainly direct those magazines, and the journalists who work for them, to advance the interests of the President and to damage those of his opponents --- which makes the story of the Enquirer and its chief executive a little more important and a little less funny."

No, seriously: "[T]he idea of Pecker as the leader of Time, Inc., like that of Trump as the President of the United States, has gone from preposterous to more than possible ... Pecker remains interested in running Time, Inc., with its stable of weeklies, including Time, Sports Illustrated, and the great prize, People. ... [T]hough it's not officially on the market, these sorts of auctions generally end, sooner or later, with a sale. ... Pecker couldn't buy Time, Inc., on his own, however. He would need ... a deep-pocketed partner, and he's looking to find one. 'I think that there's a huge opportunity,' Pecker said. ... Time and the other magazines would survive, as

the Enquirer does, as vehicles for Pecker's cultivation of his friend, the President."

I got in touch with Time Inc. last night, but they declined to comment. More: "[FEEDING THE BEAST: David Pecker's reign at the National Enquirer and the rise of Trump.](#)"

TIPS AND COMMENTS: jpompeo@politico.com / @joepompeo. **Morning Media** is edited by **Alex Weprin** (@alexweprin / aweprin@politico.com) and produced with writing/reporting help from **Cristiano Lima**. (clima@politico.com / @ludacristiano). [Archives](#). [Subscribe](#).

PREET BHARARA'S NEXT ACT - Four months after the Manhattan-based U.S. Attorney was fired by President Trump, "Mr. Bharara is becoming something of a media Renaissance man," [The New York times reports](#) . "On Monday, he will officially announce that he is joining his younger brother's media company, Some Spider Studios. ... Mr. Bharara will become an executive vice president at Some Spider, which Vinit Bharara started in 2014. ... The podcast, which is scheduled to begin airing in the coming months, will explore justice and fairness issues and provide in-depth analysis on legal cases. Mr. Bharara also expects to write articles for Some Spider's news and entertainment website, Cafe, and he and Vinit Bharara plan to introduce a conference, Cafe Con, next year."

CNN'S NEW RUSSIA RULES - [BuzzFeed Reports](#) : "CNN is imposing strict new publishing restrictions for online articles involving Russia after the network deleted a story and then issued a retraction late Friday, according to an internal email obtained by BuzzFeed News. The email went out at 11:21 a.m. on Saturday from Rich Barbieri, the CNNMoney executive editor, saying 'No one should publish any content involving Russia without coming to me and Jason,' a CNN vice president. 'This applied to social, video, editorial, and MoneyStream. No exceptions' ... The new restrictions also apply to other areas of the network -- not just CNNMoney, which wasn't involved with the article that was deleted and retracted."

MUST READS:

-- Frank Rich: "Just Wait: Watergate didn't become Watergate overnight, either." [[New York](#)]

-- "Obama's secret struggle to punish Russia for Putin's election assault" [[WaPo](#)]

-- "Europe has been working to expose Russian meddling for years" [[WaPo](#)]

-- "Why Grenfell Tower Burned: Regulators Put Cost Before Safety" [[NYT](#)]

-- "The secret lives of young IS fighters" [[BBC](#)]

REMINDER: AUSTIN TICE REMAINS MISSING IN SYRIA - [From Adam Goldman's story in Saturday's New York Times](#) : "In the early days of the Trump administration, national security officials began exploring ways to free Austin Tice, an American journalist and a former Marine officer believed to be held by the Syrian government. His case has frustrated investigators and diplomats since he disappeared while on assignment nearly five years ago. White House officials decided, because of the delicacy of the situation, to set up a back channel.

... [I]n early February, Mike Pompeo, the C.I.A. director, spoke on the phone with Ali Mamlouk, the head of Syria's National Security Bureau intelligence service ... Though Mr. Pompeo's discussion with Mr. Mamlouk prompted further communications that renewed hope that Mr. Tice would be freed, the operation fizzled out after the Syrian government's nerve gas attack in rebel-held northern Syria in April and the American missile strike in response."

REVOLVING DOOR: ProPublica's latest hire is Ken Armstrong, who joins as a senior reporter from fellow nonprofit outlet The Marshall Project. A collaboration he did with ProPublica's T. Christian Miller, about the hunt for a serial rapist, won the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for explanatory reporting. Armstrong also won a Pulitzer Prize for investigative reporting in 2012 when he was at The Seattle Times.

SOUND BITES:

-- "We got a P-U-S-S-Y grabber for president, and we are appalled. We can't figure this out. And one of the reasons ... we can't figure it out is because elite media, as he would call it, failed us." [[Phil Donahue](#)]

-- "Off camera briefing [today] because they are proud of their achievements and eager to be recorded publicly defending them." [[Glenn Thrush](#)]

THE HOLLYWOOD-IFICATION OF FACEBOOK - [From today's Wall Street Journal](#):

"The social-networking giant is talking to Hollywood studios and agencies about producing TV-quality shows with an eye toward launching original programming by late summer, people familiar with the matter said. In meetings with major talent agencies including Creative Artists Agency, United Talent Agency, William Morris Endeavor and International Creative Management Partners, Facebook has indicated it is willing to commit to production budgets as high as \$3 million per episode, people familiar with the situation say."

In other Facebook news: The company's latest olive branch to the journalism community is "Facebook Safety for Journalists, an initiative [involving] ... resources designed specifically for journalists to help them protect their accounts and themselves." [More details](#).

SOUNDTRACK: Bohemian Vendetta, "[Enough](#)"

EXTRAS:

-- Margaret Sullivan: "Trump won, and Amy Siskind started a list of changes. Now it's a sensation." [[WaPo](#)]

-- "The Politics (And Profits) Of Letting Trump Supporters Lie On Television" [[Bustle](#)]

-- Tomi Lahren "tells her story." [[Marie Claire](#)]

-- "At Cannes, advertisers are still hunting for an alternative to Google and Facebook" [[Recode](#)]

To view online:

<http://www.politico.com/media/tipsheets/morning-media/2017/06/26/donald-trump-david-pecker-time-inc-preet-podcast-facebook-goes-hollywood-001298>

To change your alert settings, please go to <https://secure.politico.com/settings>

This email was sent to jackson.ryan@epa.gov by: POLITICO, LLC 1000 Wilson Blvd.
Arlington, VA, 22209, USA

Please click [here](#) and follow the steps to unsubscribe.
