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From: Anna Palmer and Jake Sherman
Sent: Tue 5/30/2017 5:02:52 PM
Subject: Playbook Power Briefing, presented by Morgan Stanley: Why the GOP thinks Trump's theory of the case is flawed -- TRUMP calls for nuclear option in Senate -- JERRY SPRINGER mulling run for Ohio governor -- BUFFY WICKS jumping into politics

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Today's Playbook Power Briefing presented by Morgan Stanley
05/30/2017 01:00 PM EDT

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Good Tuesday afternoon.

WHY REPUBLICANS THINK TRUMP'S THEORY OF THE CASE IS FLAWED --

President Donald Trump is increasingly itching to be surrounded by campaign-style aides, as evidenced by Mike Dubke's departure, Corey Lewandowski and David Bossie's resurgence and talk of a "war room" structure. There are those in the White House who are spooked by Trump's decision making, and are certain this is a mistake. **TRUMP'S** presidential campaign was predicated on -- and amplified by -- his willingness to break stuff and lash out at his party. The presidency is a different beast, and starting fights -- which is what the campaign did, occasionally -- is not a helpful instinct, Republicans we've spoken to say.

IF YOU'RE A REPUBLICAN , here's what might worry you, according to several Republicans both in the administration and dealing with the administration: the president either is not paying attention, or does not understand the simple basics of what his party is trying to do with control of the White House and both chambers of Congress. Trump tweeted: "The U.S. Senate should switch to 51 votes, immediately, and get Healthcare and TAX CUTS approved, fast and easy. Dems would do it, no doubt!" **WELL...** Actually, tax reform and health care are proceeding on reconciliation rules, which only require 51 votes for passage. AND Republicans on Capitol Hill don't want a simple tax cut. They want tax reform. And yesterday, Trump said the tax process was ahead of schedule. That's not what it sounds like this morning. AND McConnell said there aren't 50 Republicans to repeal and replace the health care law.

TOP TWEETS -- @anniekarni : "Spicer is back to being comms director and press secretary, until everything is sorted out." ... **@DylanByers**: "Source tells me Trump could never get over Dubke saying that "there is no Trump doctrine" in a meeting that was leaked to Politico in April." ***The April POLITICO story, from Shane Goldmacher***
<http://politi.co/2rjPusB>

-- **SPICER** will be back behind the podium today at 2 p.m.

--WHAT DUBKE WILL DO NEXT -- Daniel Lippman and Alex Isenstadt: "Dubke, who spoke with POLITICO as he drove into the White House early Tuesday morning, said he expects to go back to Black Rock Group, his communications and public affairs firm. ... In a notoriously leak-prone White House, Dubke told POLITICO he was surprised that the news of his planned departure took 12 days to leak out. ... Trump told friends in recent weeks that he was unhappy with Dubke -- and that he wondered why he never seemed to get positive press anymore." <http://politi.co/2qx4U9V>

ATTENTION TRAVELERS -- "US tells EU: No laptop ban," by Cathy Buyck: "The U.S. today opted not to introduce a ban on bringing laptops into the cabins of flights to the U.S. from Europe, sources told POLITICO. 'No ban,' a Commission official said. 'Both sides have agreed to intensify technical talks and try to find a common solution.'" <http://politi.co/2sijYZo>

SCOOP: MCCASKILL'S CANCUN ADVENTURE -- Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.) paid more than \$15,000 for Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) and Sen. Jon Tester (D-Mont.) and their spouses to spend a few days in Cancun in February 2016. Recently filed financial disclosure documents show McCaskill paid \$8,235.11 for Schumer and his wife to travel, stay and eat in Mexico, and \$7,410.27 for Tester and his wife to take the trip. Schumer traveled from Dallas and returned to Houston, Schumer's wife traveled from New York and Tester and his wife from Great Falls, Montana.

ON RUSSIA -- "Sources: Russians discussed potentially 'derogatory' information about Trump and associates during campaign," by CNN's Pamela Brown, Jim Sciutto and Dana Bash: "Russian government officials discussed having potentially 'derogatory' information about then-presidential candidate Donald Trump and some of his top aides in conversations intercepted by U.S. intelligence during the 2016 election, according to two former intelligence officials and a congressional source.

"One source described the information as financial in nature and said the discussion centered on whether the Russians had leverage over Trump's inner circle. The source said the intercepted communications suggested to U.S. intelligence that Russians believed 'they had the ability to influence the administration through the derogatory information.' But the sources, privy to the descriptions of the communications written by U.S. intelligence, cautioned the Russian claims to one another 'could have been exaggerated or even made up' as part of a disinformation campaign that the Russians did during the election. ...

"None of the sources would say which specific Trump aides were discussed. One of the officials said the intelligence report masked the American names but it was clear the conversations revolved around the Trump campaign team. Another source would not give more specifics, citing the classified nature of the information. ... A White House spokesman told CNN: 'This is yet another round of false and unverified claims made by anonymous sources to smear the President. The reality is, a review of the President's income from the last ten years showed he had virtually no financial ties at all. There

appears to be no limit to which the President's political opponents will go to perpetuate this false narrative, including illegally leaking classified material. All this does is play into the hands of our adversaries and put our country at risk." <http://cnn.it/2shIFoR>

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TRUMP'S TWEETS -- @realDonaldTrump at 6:40 a.m.: "We have a MASSIVE trade deficit with Germany, plus they pay FAR LESS than they should on NATO & military. Very bad for U.S. This will change" ... **at 7:04 a.m.:** "Russian officials must be laughing at the U.S. & how a lame excuse for why the Dems lost the election has taken over the Fake News." ... **at 9:59 a.m.:** "The U.S. Senate should switch to 51 votes, immediately, and get Healthcare and TAX CUTS approved, fast and easy. Dems would do it, no doubt!"

-- **@jdawsey1:** "Trump hates anonymous 'sources.' But he just re-tweeted a Fox News story, with no byline and one anonymous source, that defends Kushner."

OKAY -- "Democrats are pushing an unlikely source - Jerry Springer - to run for governor in Ohio," by Business Insider's Allan Smith and Maxwell Tani: "Influential Ohio Democrats are pushing former Cincinnati mayor and daytime TV host Jerry Springer to run for Ohio governor in 2018, more than half-a-dozen Democrats familiar with the race told Business Insider. Many said Springer, who sought the Democratic nomination for governor of Ohio in 1982 and remains active in state politics, could be a good fit for the current political climate. ...

"Those discussing a possible run with the talk-show host include former Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland, who ran for Senate last year, said Tim Burke, the Hamilton County Democratic Party chairman. And several Democrats said recent conversations with Springer, as well as his schedule, suggested he seemed to be more seriously interested in running this time than in years past. ... Strickland confirmed to Business Insider that he had discussed a potential run with Springer. He said he has also spoken with candidates such as Dayton mayor Nan Whaley, former state representative Connie Pillich, and the former state Senate minority leader, Joe Schiavoni."
<http://read.bi/2shG8Lm>

NEWT'S NEXT ACT -- "Speaker of the House of Trump," by The Atlantic's McKay Coppins: "Even as the unique brand of politics that Trump championed in the campaign has been all but sapped of meaning in the early months of his presidency, an ever-growing number of opportunists and stakeholders has emerged to compete for the mantle of Trumpism's premier public intellectual. Arguably no one has pursued that title more aggressively than Gingrich. ...

"Total energy,' he told me when I asked what he admired about Trump. '[He's] more

energetic than any president since Theodore Roosevelt.' And then: 'It's not an accident that he put Andrew Jackson in the Oval Office. He identifies with Andrew Jackson as a disruptive figure.' Laudatory talk like this is not surprising coming from Gingrich, who spent much of the 2016 campaign as a Trump surrogate, and much of the post-campaign as a quasi-authorized Trump biographer (his forthcoming book includes a foreword by Eric Trump). More notable, perhaps, is his analysis of the president's weaknesses. Trump is 'too restless,' Gingrich told me, and 'not introspective.' Though he possesses great talent for marketing, he lacks either the desire or the ability to persuade his constituents through education." <http://theatl.in.tc/2shYb4b>

OBAMA ALUMNI -- BUFFY WICKS, one of the architects of the 2008 and 2012 Obama campaigns' grassroots organization, is jumping into politics. She's running for a California Assembly seat in the East Bay, one of the bluest in the state. More from our California Playbook colleagues Carla Marinucci and David Siders: "With 18 months until the 2018 elections, Wicks' entry into politics comes at a time when Obama himself is calling on young Democratic activists to revitalize their party and step forward to run for office. And it also comes as women's groups have expressed concern about the dismal numbers of women in the California State legislature -- now at just 22 percent, a 20-year low. And only 5 percent are women with young children. ...

"I think November was a turning point for me,' Wicks told POLITICO on Monday. 'President Trump was elected, and he goes against everything I believe in -- especially coming off my time in the Obama years. ... It was a big awakening for me, in terms of the kind of country we want our baby to grow up in. We have the opportunity to drive for a set of bold policies that are going to help people -- and I'm uniquely situated, with my background in political organizing, to lead that fight.' **Why she's one to watch:** Wicks has a vast and loyal network of political friends and contacts developed from her work on the Obama campaign -- including Obama himself -- and her impressive skills in grassroots organizing and knowledge of fundraising could make her formidable in future state politics." <http://politi.co/2rjxJda>

TODAY'S BEYOND THE BELTWAY -- Multiple bidders emerge for Chicago Sun-Times -- NYC Puerto Rican Day Parade surrounded in controversy
<http://politi.co/2rjECei>

DEEP DIVE -- "Uber, But for Meltdowns: Sexual harassment, corporate-espionage charges, taking advantage of drivers: The company that practically courts bad PR is in an existential crisis," by Reeves Wiedeman in NYMag: "When Kalanick got to Palo Alto, he told the assembled engineers that, seven years after the app launched, it was time for ... Uber [to] become not simply a better place to work but 'the most just place to work in the world.' In a blue V-neck sweater over a white undershirt, Kalanick cited Harriet Tubman, Gandhi, and Martin Luther King Jr. as inspirations ...

"Coming from Kalanick, who is described by even his supporters as an 'a***hole,' the talk sounded forced ('I talk a lot about justice - I'm just about it'), especially when he put up a photograph on a projector screen of the Fearless Girl statue that had recently been

installed in downtown Manhattan, across from the Wall Street bull. 'When I saw it, I was inspired,' Kalanick said. He wanted Uber's employees, especially its women, to 'be that fierce girl standing up to the bull,' while adding that he intended to make Uber a place that 'doesn't have bulls all over the freaking place.' He sat back as the crowd applauded." <http://slct.al/2rRdc04>

PROBLEMATIC -- "Forest Service women: We faced assault, mistreatment, retaliation if we complained," by McClatchy DC's Michael Doyle: "Female Forest Service workers in California reported enduring sexual misconduct, harassment and a fear of retaliation if they complained, according to a previously unreleased study obtained by McClatchy under the Freedom of Information Act.

"While many Forest Service employees voiced general satisfaction with their workplaces, women were much more likely than men to identify serious problems in the 2015 survey. Their grievances spanned a wide range, from misdeeds to mismanagement, and they echoed complaints lodged by women in the military and other federal agencies." <http://bit.ly/2shsyHG>

AFTERNOON READ -- "Schmucks Like Us," by National Review's Kevin Williamson: "Maybe you haven't behaved the way Tiger Woods does -- but how many Playboy models do you have on speed-dial? How many of them were calling you at the peak of your career or slightly thereafter? Maybe you lead a more virtuous life. Maybe you just lead a smaller one. It is difficult to say without being tested. And that may be why we love the ritual public denunciation of fallen idols. If we convince ourselves that they are monsters and moral outliers, then we do not have to face the much more terrifying possibility that they are schmucks like us - and that we are schmucks like them." <http://bit.ly/2shSOC3>

PLAYBOOK METRO SECTION -- POPVILLE: "Whoa - Politics and Prose coming to Union Market this Fall!!!" <http://bit.ly/2qwnHWL>

TRANSITIONS -- Eric Sutton has joined FP1 Strategies as a SVP of public affairs. He previously was VP of corporate relations at Transurban and VP at Weber Shandwick - Powell Tate. <http://politi.co/2rkddJe>

WEEKEND WEDDING - Jake Goldman, VP of comms at Vice Media and former deputy press secretary for NYC Mayor Mike Bloomberg, on Saturday married **Roni Pelleg**, account manager for product migration at GrubHub. The wedding, planned by Leah Weinberg, was at 501 Union in Brooklyn. They met in Israel where she living and completing her masters at the time; he was doing advance work for Bloomberg. Pool report: "People traveled far and wide from Australia, Israel, the UK and even the Upper East Side to partake in the open bar, chair lifting and hours of dancing. [Jake's] brother Ben went to the bodega just ahead of the ceremony to buy jalapenos because 'what's a wedding without spicy margaritas?'" The couple is heading to Sicily today for their honeymoon. **Pic by Carmel Geoghegan** <http://bit.ly/2qxy9cy> ... **Josh Dawsey's Instapic** <http://bit.ly/2qv9IRj>

SPOTTED: Alex Detrick, Paul Cafiero, Josh Dawsey, and lots of Bloomberg alums (both City Hall and others from the campaign): Patrick Muncie, Matt Gorton, Mark Botnick, Barbara Morgan, Ryan Whalen, Kathryn Oliver, Lauren Passalacqua, Xavier Stewart, Katherine Oliver, Korinne Kubena, Nick Martin, Ben Lee and Danny Hatem.

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