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From: Anna Palmer Jake Sherman Daniel Lippman
Sent: Mon 11/27/2017 6:31:36 PM
Subject: Playbook Power Briefing, presented by PhRMA: DUELING CHIEFS at CFPB -- TRUMP to visit MISSOURI on Wednesday to sell tax plan -- RAND a YES on tax bill -- FLYNN faces scrutiny for 2015 trip to Egypt and Israel

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Today's Playbook Power Briefing presented by PhRMA

BULLETIN -- AP at 11:16 a.m.: "WASHINGTON (AP) - White House official: Trump will not campaign for embattled Alabama Senate candidate Roy Moore before Dec. 12 election."

-- **NEW ROY MOORE AD:** "Right Choice" <http://bit.ly/2ABqouW>

Good Monday afternoon. WHATTA TOWN! -- LORRAINE WOELLERT: "Confusion and chaos engulf consumer agency": "Two acting directors of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau showed up for work Monday, trading memos and warnings as a political showdown threw the embattled agency into confusion.

"White House budget director Mick Mulvaney, President Donald Trump's choice to temporarily lead the bureau, arrived at about 7:30 a.m. and settled into the CFPB director's office, where he read briefing books. His challenger for the job, CFPB Deputy Director Leandra English, was also in the building. English, former Director Richard Cordray's hand-picked replacement, sent the staff an emailed greeting shortly before 8 a.m. and signed it with the bureau's top title, acting director." <http://politi.co/2k4IQGa>

-- **REUTERS: "White House's Mulvaney tells CFPB staff to 'disregard' Leandra English: memo":** "Please disregard any instructions you receive from Ms. English in her presumed capacity as Acting Director,' Mulvaney wrote to staff in a memo seen by Reuters. 'If you receive additional communications from her today ... please inform the General Counsel.'" <http://reut.rs/2zsNeke>

-- **@chrisgeidner:** "Leandra English's CFPB case has been assigned to Judge Timothy J. Kelly, a Trump nominee who was confirmed to the bench in September."

SEN. AL FRANKEN on the Hill: "I know there are no magic words that I can say to regain your trust and I know that it's going to take time. I'm ready to start that process and it starts with going back to work today." Franken said he "will be open" to making the findings of the Ethics Committee investigation public.

ALWAYS BE SELLING -- "Trump to visit Missouri on Wednesday to promote tax

overhaul," by the Kansas City Star's Lindsay Wise and Jason Hancock: "The president is expected to discuss tax cuts during the visit to St. Charles Wednesday afternoon, the sources say. The White House has not yet publicly announced the trip. Trump last visited Missouri in August to launch his administration's push to overhaul the nation's tax code. The U.S. House has since passed its version of the bill, while the U.S. Senate is expected to vote on its version when lawmakers return from Thanksgiving recess."
<http://bit.ly/2k4EZru>

-- **WSJ's Siobhan Hughes and Greg Ip:** "'I don't know what the fix is going to be yet,' Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.) said in an interview on Monday, when asked whether he could yet support the tax bill. One of his arguments: That the government will lose a lot of money if pass-through businesses have an incentive to convert to C corporations, which are taxed separately from their owners.

"Mr. Johnson said he spoke with both President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence over the weekend, and that both shared his concern and 'agreed this is a problem to be fixed and we'll get it fixed.'" <http://on.wsj.com/2k1E1ML>

ON THE PRESIDENT'S MIND -- @realDonaldTrump at 9:04 a.m.: "We should have a contest as to which of the Networks, plus CNN and not including Fox, is the most dishonest, corrupt and/or distorted in its political coverage of your favorite President (me). They are all bad. Winner to receive the FAKE NEWS TROPHY!" ... **at 9:16 a.m.,** quote-tweeting a Dan Scavino tweet bashing "Morning Joe": "The good news is that their ratings are terrible, nobody cares!" ... **at 9:24 a.m.:** "The Tax Cut Bill is coming along very well, great support. With just a few changes, some mathematical, the middle class and job producers can get even more in actual dollars and savings and the pass through provision becomes simpler and really works well!"

RAND IS A YES ON THE TAX BILL -- FOX NEWS OP-ED: "Here's why I plan to vote for the Senate tax bill (and my colleagues should step up)": "This tax bill is a true test for my colleagues. I'm not getting everything I want -- far from it. But I've been immersed in this process. I've fought for and received major changes for the better -- and I plan to vote for this bill as it stands right now." <http://fxn.ws/2k3vAki>

-- **NEW DSCC AD** -- The DSCC has released a new ad on the GOP tax proposal called "Mailbox" which hammers Republicans for raising taxes on some middle-class families and what it would do to the state-and-local deduction. A DSCC spokesman told us that they're starting the ad on digital platforms "as a part of our ongoing six-figure buy in key states across country." <http://bit.ly/2jr9cx2>

MORE PROBLEMS FROM FLYNN -- "Michael Flynn's role in Middle Eastern nuclear project could compound legal issues," by WaPo's Michael Kranish, Tom Hamburger and Carol Leonnig: "In June 2015, retired lieutenant general Michael Flynn took a little-noticed trip to Egypt and Israel, paid for by a U.S. company he was advising. The company hoped to build more than two dozen nuclear plants in the region in partnership with Russian interests. Flynn's quiet involvement in that project -- and his

failure to disclose his ties to the effort -- could complicate the legal issues facing President Trump's former national security adviser, who has signaled he may be willing to cooperate with special counsel Robert S. Mueller III.

"Congressional Democrats say that Flynn may have violated federal law by failing to disclose the Middle Eastern trip in his security clearance renewal application in 2016. A top House Republican declined the Democrats' request for a congressional inquiry but referred the allegations to the special counsel." <http://wapo.st/2k1nZT5>

***** **A message from PhRMA: How much are hospitals marking up medicine prices?** According to new Moran Company analysis, hospitals mark up medicine prices nearly 500 percent. The analysis of 20 medicines also found a hospital is paid 2.5 times what the biopharmaceutical company, who brought the medicine to market, receives. Read more: <http://onphr.ma/2hSaqox> *****

ON THE WORLD STAGE -- "Angela Merkel's party backs coalition with Social Democrats," by POLITICO Europe's Emily Schultheis in Berlin: "Leaders of Angela Merkel's Christian Democrats agreed late Sunday to try to form a 'grand coalition' with the Social Democrats, following the failure of efforts to build a governing alliance with smaller parties. Christian Democratic Union (CDU) leaders said they wanted to renew the coalition between Germany's two biggest parties that governed for the past four years rather than form a minority government or call for a new general election. ...

"Immediately after suffering heavy losses in September's general election, SPD leaders declared the party was not available for another grand coalition and wanted to renew itself in opposition. However, under pressure after talks between Merkel's conservatives, the Greens and the liberal Free Democrats collapsed last week, SPD leader Martin Schulz said his party was open to discussions." <http://politi.co/2iaA2wK>

FAIRFIELD COUNTY UPDATE --"Tax-Hike Fears Trigger Talk of Exodus From Manhattan and Greenwich," by Bloomberg's Simone Foxman, Patrick Clark and Sridhar Natarajan: "By eliminating the deduction for most state and local taxes, an individual making a yearly salary of \$1,000,000 -- a figure not uncommon in the financial industry -- would owe the Internal Revenue Service an additional \$21,000, according to a preliminary analysis by accounting firm Marcum LLP. ... Goldman Sachs Group Inc. is estimating that New York City alone could lose as much as 4 percent of its top earners if the bill becomes law." <https://bloom.bg/2Ac4bTK>

VIDEO DU JOUR -- @FLOTUS: "The decorations are up! @WhiteHouse is ready to celebrate! Wishing you a Merry Christmas & joyous holiday season!" **1-min. video tour of the WH decorations and Melania** <http://bit.ly/2Aa3No1>

--@StephGrisham45: "This year's Gingerbread House I was baked w 300 lbs of dough & features @FLOTUS signature wreaths! #TimeHonoredTraditions". **Pic** <http://bit.ly/2k7tKip>

TODAY'S BEYOND THE BELTWAY -- Feinstein predicts another 'Year of the Woman' election -- Bob Menendez's veiled warning to Steve Fulop

<http://politi.co/2k68Pfh>

HMM -- Alex Seitz-Wald (@aseitzwald): "Inauguration crowds redux: Stock image in this pro-Trump group's ad appear to be from Obama's inauguration."

<http://bit.ly/2jrAMuh> ... **The ad from America First Policies** <http://bit.ly/2Bh44TH> ... **The stock picture** <https://istockphoto.to/2iatfmX>

MEDIAWATCH -- FINANCIAL TIMES -- "Meredith to cut hundreds of jobs at Time Inc:

Plan backed by billionaire Koch brothers will explore sale of leading titles," by Shannon Bond and James Fontanella-Khan in New York: "People briefed about Meredith's plans said there would be 'significant jobs cuts' after the companies are combined. They added that the Iowa-based publisher would explore the sale of some of Time Inc's best-known titles, including Time magazine and Sports Illustrated. Although Charles and David Koch, who backed the deal with \$650m in preferred equity, will not have any editorial or operational influence on Meredith's titles or seats on its board, they are expected to work with the publisher to ensure they get a good return on their investment, a person close to the family said. ...

"For them [the Koch brothers] this is a smart bet, a pure financial investment. They don't want to run magazines but they agreed to back the deal because Meredith has shown them a sound plan that includes significant job cuts,' said a person briefed on Meredith's takeover strategy. Steve Lombardo, a spokesman for Koch Industries, described the investment as 'passive', adding: 'We're basically acting as a bank here.'"

<http://on.ft.com/2k1Zntv>

--VAN JONES will get a one-hour prime-time program "The Van Jones Show," airing bimonthly on CNN starting in January.

SCOTT PRUITT UPDATE - "Scott Pruitt on a mission to change the culture of the EPA,"

by USA Today's Ledyard King: "Nearly a year into his tenure, Pruitt still feels the resistance from employees who have yet to buy into his message that the EPA ought to work more with business to find mutually acceptable solutions when it comes to public health. 'The most challenging thing that we encounter (at EPA) is this thinking, this attitude that we as a country have to choose between growth and jobs and being good stewards of our environment,' he recently told an audience at the conservative Federalist Society National Lawyers Convention. ... His many critics say that's code for giving the energy industry and other polluters carte blanche to maximize profit with little regard for environmental damage." <https://usat.ly/2hXAoDq>

DESSERT -- "Secrets of the Marvel Universe: After a decade of unprecedented success, Marvel Studios is at a pivotal moment: the looming farewell to some of its founding superheroes, and the rise of a new generation. Kevin Feige, the creative force behind the \$13 billion franchise and a slew of Marvel stars, discusses its precarious beginnings, stumbles, and ever-expanding empire," by Vanity Fair's Joanna Robinson

<http://bit.ly/2iaCNym>

TRANSITIONS -- Allison Schwartz is joining Dun & Bradstreet as their global leader of government affairs. She was previously at Intuit. ... **Kathryn McQuade** has joined Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's office as broadcast communications adviser. She previously worked for the House Republican Conference.

ENGAGED -- Jennifer Hatten, VP of the American Bankers Association's Health Savings Account Council, got engaged to **Joel Levesque**, CFO of Army Emergency Relief and a retired Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army, in a proposal Thanksgiving night in downtown D.C. "Jennifer is an alum of Huckabee 2008, NFIB and Tennessee Gov. Don Sundquist. The couple's first date was at Hank's Oyster Bar in Old Town Alexandria. They are planning to wed next year in Biddeford Pool, Maine." ***Pic - they are the couple on the right*** <http://bit.ly/2iU1VGv> (h/t Alice Stewart)

***** **A message from PhRMA:** According to new analysis from the Moran Company, hospitals mark up medicine prices, on average, nearly 500 percent. The analysis of 20 medicines also found a hospital is paid 2.5 times what the biopharmaceutical company, who brought the medicine to market, receives. While hospital markups lead to higher costs for patients, employers and payers, these markups are often overlooked in conversations about medicine costs. As the provider market continues to become more concentrated and the number of medicines being administered in hospital-owned facilities is growing, the amount hospitals mark up medicine prices needs greater scrutiny. <http://onphr.ma/2Ba0TOa> *****

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