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From: Hadas Gold - POLITICO Media
Sent: Fri 7/28/2017 10:28:09 AM
Subject: Morning Media: Scaramucci's tirade -- Healthcare's dramatic nightlong coverage -- N.Y. Times is failing up

By Hadas Gold | 07/28/2017 06:25 AM EDT

With Alex Weprin

SPLITSCREEN FRONT PAGE: This morning is one of those whiplash days between two major stories. The White House Communications Director's stunning interview, which in normal years would likely get him fired, and the Obamacare repeal's stunning failure during middle of the night votes.

IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY READ ANTHONY SCARAMUCCI'S NEW YORKER INTERVIEW, STOP RIGHT NOW AND READ IT. I unwittingly played a small part in making this story happen, since late Wednesday evening I contacted Scaramucci asking about President Trump's dinner with Sean Hannity, Bill Shine, and Scaramucci. Scaramucci asked "Can you tell me who told you that?" as though he was trying to get me to reveal my sources (which I would never do) but I simply notified him that the information had already been out there, pointing him to Ryan Lizza's tweets. Soon Scaramucci was calling Lizza and the rest is insane history.

-- **The key takeaway from the conversation:** Scaramucci thought leaking about a dinner was of paramount importance, to the point that he invoked Lizza's patriotism to try to get him to identify his source (he refused). "I ask these guys not to leak anything and they can't help themselves," he said. "You're an American citizen, this is a major catastrophe for the American country. So I'm asking you as an American patriot to give me a sense of who leaked it."

-- **Breitbart did not take kindly to Scaramucci's outburst**, perhaps because of the incredibly offensive things he said about Stephen Bannon. Their front page is covered with stories about this. "Move over President Donald Trump. You are yesterday's news. It seems like this is now The Anthony Scaramucci Show. And Trump better get used to it," the blistering Breitbart lead piece read, calling Scaramucci "drunk with power" who wasn't qualified to be communications director. Among the many noticeable lines: "His comments about Bannon also sound like someone falsely hating in another person what he secretly may hate about himself."

DEAR ANTHONY SCARAMUCCI, LET US DEFINE "LEAK" FOR YOU: Leak: /l??k/
verb a: to become known despite efforts at concealment confidential information leaked out. b: to be the source of an information leak (Thank you Merriam-Webster).

-- **What is not a leak? A public disclosure form** available to anyone who requests it, as my colleague Lorraine Woellert did on Tuesday, obtaining and publishing Scaramucci's financial disclosure form which he was required to file when he joined the government last month. The information is publicly available to anyone who asks.

-- Another thing that's not a leak, you yourself telling reporters that someone is going to be fired. On Tuesday [Scaramucci](#) told my colleague [Tara Palmeri](#) that Assistant Press Secretary Michael Short was going to be let go. But then he told other reporters that "the fact that you guys know about it before [Short] does really upsets me as a human being and as a Roman Catholic."

-- What is a leak then? Well it could be what Scaramucci did with Lizza. Lizza said Scaramucci did not request the conversation be off-the-record or on-background but it's clear that he thought it was at least somewhat private because he tweeted last night "I made a mistake in trusting a reporter. It won't happen again." Some people have suggested that Scaramucci, being new to Washington and politics, wasn't aware of the norms. But even if he *did* think he was talking privately, he initiated a phone call with someone he knew to be a reporter during which he was talking about internal feuds, trashing his colleagues, his own conversations with the president and that Priebus would be forced to resign soon. *That is leaking.*

Good morning and welcome to Morning Media! I always want to hear from you -- hgold@politico.com / [@Hadas_Gold](https://twitter.com/Hadas_Gold). **Morning Media** is edited by [Alex Weprin](#) ([@alexweprin](https://twitter.com/alexweprin) / aweprin@politico.com) and produced with writing/reporting help from [Cristiano Lima](#). (clima@politico.com / [@ludacristiano](https://twitter.com/ludacristiano)). [Archives](#). [Subscribe](#).

COVER: Check out [The New York Post's take](#) on the current situation in White House land, dubbing it "Survivor" with a tag line "Trump hates sessions. Scaramucci hates Priebus. Who will survive the administration that's become the biggest reality show on television?"

DESPITE SCARAMUCCI'S DRAMA, THE MOST IMPORTANT STORY LAST NIGHT WAS HEALTH CARE: Reporters were camped out at the Capitol through the morning as Senators held middle of the night votes, [which ultimately failed to do a "skinny" repeal of Obamacare](#) thanks to three Republicans who voted no, the most [stunning of which was Sen. John McCain](#). Late night votes like these in the Capitol are fascinating, including for the [moments on the Senate floor where reporters analyze every little body language move](#) (and sometimes [drop their notebooks](#) on a Senator's head by accident). We also got a lesson in the importance of regional reporters, when the [Alaska Dispatch](#) reported yesterday that the Trump administration, via Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke had threatened both Alaska senators by saying their state would be punished for their health care votes. Ultimately, Sen. Lisa Murkowski was one of the three Republican 'no' votes.

A TURKISH REPORTER ADMITTED TO NOT ACCURATELY QUOTING JARED KUSHNER, the president's son-in-law and advisor on all things. The story published on Thursday caused quite a stir, because in it Kushner supposedly said Turkish President Recep Erdogan "is making Turkey great again like [the] U.S. We watch his efforts with appreciation." But the [Daily Caller spoke with the reporter](#) who wrote the article, who said the conversation lasted one to two minutes and in it, the reporter admitted "He did not say that. I asked him, 'Do you think, Erdogan is making Turkey great again, like Trump' and he only said, 'Yeah, I think so.'"

-- This is a good time to remind everyone that Turkey is now the biggest jailer of journalists in the world right now. [Seventeen journalists and news executives are on trial this](#)

week facing charges of helping terrorists for among other things, "reporting and writing columns, quoting social media posts, and in some cases being in contact with members of the groups."

TWITTER FAILS TO GROW USERS via Bloomberg: "Twitter failed to attract more monthly users in the second quarter, spooking investors looking for evidence that the company is on a sustainable long-term growth path. The shares tumbled the most in nine months, even as quarterly revenue topped analysts' projections ... A long-term turnaround depends on Twitter expanding its audience."

"FOX & FRIENDS" TROLLS NY TIMES BY PAYING FOR FULL PAGE AD IN THE NY TIMES: Fox News took out a full page ad in Thursday's New York Times quoting Times' TV critic James Poniewozik's review of "Fox & Friends" last week. Poniewozik called it "the most powerful show in America," for having the largest influence on President Trump by acting like a "two-way mirror" (and like a children's show). Those full page ads don't come cheap, so in a way, Fox and The New York Times are in a mutually beneficial relationship. "They decided to move up market and support our journalism with that money," Times CEO Mark Thompson said on the company's earnings call Thursday. "We're pleased to have them."

RELATED: THE 'FAILING' NEW YORK TIMES IS FAILING UP: Revenue is up 9 percent and subscriptions growing 69 percent faster than same quarter last year, the newspaper announced. The stock, as Bloomberg's Joe Weisenthal noted, is now at its highest level since May, 2008.

SOUNDBITES: "We can't repeat what Scaramucci said about Steve Bannon, which if true, would make Bannon a gymnast." [Brian Williams]

"Members of the band Journey were just spotted in the White House briefing room. That is all." [Margaret Brennan]

SPOTTED: Sean Spicer at the Monkey Bar in New York City (co-owned by Trump nemesis and Vanity Fair editor Graydon Carter) on Wednesday evening, after he spent the day making the rounds meeting with the television networks. A tipster says he was in a booth in the bar area having dinner with an unidentified woman.

-- **Sinclair's Boris Epshteyn** standing outside the tower which houses POLITICO World HQ (and Boris' offices with Sinclair) speaking in Russian to an older gentleman (mid-late 50's) for several minutes. After the conversation concluded, the two exchanged a deep hug and a kiss on each cheek before the older gentleman hopped into a cab.

STEVE BANNON MAY BE VIOLATING FEDERAL LAW BY HAVING PRIVATE SPOKESPEOPLE, the Center for Public Integrity reports. Bannon has for months now had his own PR rep (Alexandra Preate) who collaborates with other White House officials on public messaging and responses to press inquiries though she is not employed by the government. "Trump's chief strategist is potentially violating the Antideficiency Act, which provides that federal employees 'may not accept voluntary services for [the] government or employ personal services exceeding that authorized by law.'" Read more here.

KASIE HUNT LIKELY GETTING HER OWN MSNBC SHOW -- The network's tireless chronicler of Capitol Hill is set to get her own Sunday evening show from 6pm to 8pm I reported yesterday. The show has no name and the deal isn't set in stone yet but it's likely to happen soon. Congrats Kasie (a POLITICO alumna!)

REVOLVING DOOR:

-- **This is a big one. Pulitzer Prize winning journalist James Risen** is taking a New York Times buyout. Risen has worked for the paper for more than two decades and has not only broken tons of news but also battled two administrations who have tried to compel him to reveal his sources. More from HuffPost here.

-- **And legendary New York Times book reviewer and Pulitzer Prize winner Michiko Kakutani is stepping down** from her post at the paper, our friend Joe Pompeo reports. [The Hive]

-- **Daily Caller Editor-in-Chief Vince Coglianesi is joining NewsTalk WMAL's "Mornings On The Mall"** morning show as a co-host. He'll step down as editor and become Editorial Director at the Daily Caller. **Geoffrey Ingersoll** will take the helm as editor-in-chief and **Rachel Stoltzfoos** will become managing editor. [WMAL]

-- **Greta Van Susteren**, the former Fox News anchor who departed MSNBC after a brief hosting stint, is joining the USC Annenberg Center on Communication Leadership & Policy as a senior fellow. [Newswise]

-- **Former DNC communications vet April Mellody is joining the Thrillist parent-company Group Nine Media** as head of corporate communications. [The Hollywood Reporter]

-- **The AP has tapped Alex Sanz as their new deputy director for newsgathering** in the Southern U.S. [AP]

-- **Cassie McNamara is leaving Media DC** to be a booking producer at MSNBC for Hardball starting on Monday.

TIL: A drawing of the New York City skyline by President Donald Trump's is being auctioned. Bidding starts at \$9,000 [NBC News]

EXTRAS:

-- Jeff Bezos, owner of the Washington Post (and Amazon) was briefly the world's richest man yesterday. [Bloomberg]

-- Stephen Colbert is producing an animated comedy show for Showtime, chronicling the misadventures of an a cartoon Donald Trump. [Variety]

-- Facebook wants to help news publishers sell subscriptions, but says it doesn't want a cut of the revenue. [[Recode](#)]

-- National Press Photographers Association writes a letter requesting the Capitol Hill Sergeant at Arms and Capitol Police review why telling blocking reporters on Capitol Hill and asking them to delete photos is not legal. [[NPPA](#)]

-- Sarah Palin's legal team want the internal communications of 20 New York Times reporters as part of her defamation lawsuit. [[CNN](#)]

-- Sarah Sanders is the first current mom to serve as White House Press Secretary. [[CNN](#)]

-- Jennifer Aniston and Reese Witherspoon are set to star in a series about TV morning shows. [[THR](#)]

-- Joshua Green's book about Stephen Bannon "The Devil's Bargain" has been optioned for a television series by Blumhouse, the same group that has rights to Gabriel Sherman's book on Roger Ailes. [[Deadline](#)]

To view online:

<http://www.politico.com/media/tipsheets/morning-media/2017/07/28/scaramuccis-tirade-healthcares-dramatic-nightlong-coverage-ny-times-is-failing-up-001320>

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