

**To:** Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]  
**From:** Anna Palmer Jake Sherman Daniel Lippman  
**Sent:** Thur 9/7/2017 5:17:37 PM  
**Subject:** Playbook Power Briefing, presented by Hewlett Packard Enterprise: What DON JR. said on the Hill about his meeting -- TRUMP floated axing debt ceiling votes -- RYAN throws cold water on POTUS' tax cut goal -- GRAYDON CARTER to step down from VANITY FAIR

[View online version](#) | Add [politicoplaybook@politico.com](mailto:politicoplaybook@politico.com) to your address book.

Today's Playbook Power Briefing presented by Hewlett Packard Enterprise

By JAKE SHERMAN ([sherman@politico.com](mailto:sherman@politico.com); [@JakeSherman](https://twitter.com/JakeSherman)), ANNA PALMER ([anna@politico.com](mailto:anna@politico.com); [@apalmerdc](https://twitter.com/apalmerdc)), DANIEL LIPPMAN ([daniel@politico.com](mailto:daniel@politico.com); [@dlippman](https://twitter.com/dlippman)), ZACH MONTELLARO ([zmontellaro@politico.com](mailto:zmontellaro@politico.com); [@ZachMontellaro](https://twitter.com/ZachMontellaro))

**BIG N.Y.T. SCOOP -- "Graydon Carter to End 25-Year Run as Vanity Fair's Editor,"** by NYT's Michael M. Grynbaum: "Graydon Carter, the editor of Vanity Fair, plans to step down from the magazine in December after a 25-year tenure, leaving the role that established him as a ringmaster of the glittery spheres of Hollywood, Washington and Manhattan media. ... 'I want to leave while the magazine is on top,' Mr. Carter, 68, said in an interview on Wednesday at the kitchen table of his West Village townhouse. 'I want to leave while it's in vibrant shape, both in the digital realm and the print realm. And I wanted to have a third act -- and I thought, time is precious.'

**"For now, he said, his post-Vanity Fair plans** involve a six-month 'garden leave' (his phrase; Mr. Carter is fond of Britishisms) and a rented home in Provence. He has 'the rough architecture' of a future project in mind, perhaps involving new forms of storytelling, but he demurred on the details. 'I'm not a big announcer,' Mr. Carter said, tortoiseshell glasses in hand. 'Best to fail quietly at the beginning of something rather than make grand pronouncements.'" <http://nyti.ms/2xdykk1>

**--VANITY FAIR'S DAVID KAMP -- "The Years With Graydon:** 'This is the best job you're ever going to have': "Oh, bittersweet day: the Grexit is upon us. Among those of us who have worked with Graydon Carter for a long time, the thought has lingered uncomfortably in the back of our minds that he might someday snap shut his laptop, pull on his Anderson & Sheppard overcoat, and get on with the rest of his life, leaving Vanity Fair behind." <http://bit.ly/2xRdKDi>

**Happy Thursday afternoon.** Don't forget to join us tonight at Georgetown, where Jake and Anna moderate a panel with GU's 2017 fellows class. The event starts at 4:15 p.m. <http://bit.ly/2xcK5Y8>

**AT THIS POINT,** you have to imagine that the House will have to stay in session late Friday or Saturday to pass the debt limit/Harvey/government funding bill. **PRESIDENT TRUMP** spoke to **PAUL RYAN, MITCH MCCONNELL, CHUCK SCHUMER** and **NANCY PELOSI.**

**TRUMP TAKES TO THE PHONES -- "Upbeat Trump raves to Schumer, Pelosi about news coverage of their deal,"** by Josh Dawsey: "[I]n calls with Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi Thursday morning, Trump raved about the positive news coverage it had received, according to people familiar with the calls, and he seemed very pleased with his decision. Trump specifically mentioned TV segments praising the deal and indicated he'd been watching in a call with Schumer, two people said. And he was jovial in a call with Pelosi and agreed to send a tweet she asked for about the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, these people said, while also mentioning the attention the deal had gotten. He indicated to both leaders he would be willing to work together again.

**"He seemed super upbeat,"** one person familiar with the calls said. Another person familiar with the calls said Trump told Pelosi and Schumer their coverage was great, too. Pelosi herself bragged that she had gotten results after asking him to tweet reassurances that Dreamers shouldn't worry about being deported over the next six months while lawmakers try to secure a DACA fix. 'I was telling my colleagues, 'This is what I asked the president to do,' and boom boom boom, the tweet appeared,' she said at a news conference Thursday." <http://politi.co/2xdBrca>

-- **@realDonaldTrump:** "For all of those (DACA) that are concerned about your status during the 6 month period, you have nothing to worry about - No action!"

**FOR THE RECORD** -- A memo released by the Department of Homeland Security on Monday says that DHS is not accepting any new applications and that renewal requests must be received by October 5, both within the "6 month period." ***The memo*** <http://bit.ly/2xduGXX>

**HMM... -- "Trump suggested scrapping future debt ceiling votes to congressional leaders,"** by Josh Dawsey and Burgess Everett: "President Donald Trump suggested to congressional leaders on Wednesday morning that votes to raise the debt ceiling could be done away with altogether, according to three people familiar with the conversation. In a meeting with GOP and Democratic leaders, in which Trump sided with the Democrats on a fiscal deal to raise the debt ceiling, the president said he believes the votes are unproductive, those people said. Many lawmakers dread the vote, particularly Republicans, some of whom disagree with attempts to raise the debt ceiling without major fiscal reforms." <http://politi.co/2xdiaav>

-- **WAPO:** **"Trump, Schumer agree to pursue plan to repeal the debt ceiling,"** by Damian Paletta and Ashley Parker: Trump and Schumer discussed the idea Wednesday during an Oval Office meeting. Schumer, Trump, and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D.-Calif.) agreed to work together over the next several months to see if they can finalize a plan, which would need to be approved by Congress. One of the people familiar described it as a 'gentlemen's agreement.' ...

**"The President encouraged Congressional leaders** to find a more permanent

solution to the debt ceiling so the vote is not so frequently politicized,' said White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders." <http://wapo.st/2gO6leK>

**FLASHBACK: ONE OF THE BIG PROPONENTS FOR DEBT CEILING FIGHTS:** VP -- then Congressman -- Mike Pence. *Some examples:*

-- **PENCE** on 4/8/11 on Fox News' "Hannity": "I think this little battle does have implications for the major battles over the budget, over the debt ceiling, over all the dramatic reforms of federal programs that are being contemplated today and are necessary to restore fiscal sanity to Washington, D.C."

-- **PENCE** on 4/10/11: "I will not support an increase in the debt ceiling without real and meaningful changes in spending in the short-term and in the long-term. We've got to change the way we spend the people's money."

-- **PENCE** on "Morning Joe" on 6/1/11: "I voted against it, Joe. The American people are tired of this era of runaway federal spending in Washington, D.C. I was glad to see an overwhelming and bipartisan majority reject what the White House had originally called for which was a clean vote on the debt ceiling."

-- **PENCE** on 7/8/11: "We've got an opportunity to cut spending now in real meaningful ways, perhaps even cut taxes and cap spending going forward, and I also believe and I'm going to take a stand, that we should not increase the debt ceiling unless we make such an increase contingent on sending a Balanced Budget Amendment to the states for ratification."

-- **PENCE** on 7/12/11: "If President Obama wants to raise the debt ceiling, he should recognize that it's his responsibility, it's his problem and come to the Congress and ask us to step forward and help him solve that problem by cutting spending now, capping spending and sending a Balanced Budget Amendment to the states."

**CANCELING THE DEBT LIMIT WOULD** have to be part of a large-scale agreement. It's hard to see this passing as a standalone. **OH YEAH:** Paul Ryan is opposed to this.

**ONE TAKEAWAY FROM THIS WEEK**, from Republicans directly involved the debt limit negotiations ...**NOBODY SPEAKS FOR TRUMP BUT TRUMP**. This is a big problem, because dozens and dozens of conversations happen every week between leaders in both parties and the president. In the case of the debt limit, Trump's aides and Cabinet members were aware of the Hill's plan for an 18-month lift. The president did what he wanted.

**FOR YOUR RADAR -- "Freedom Caucus Members Frustrated With GOP Leaders on Agenda,"** by Bloomberg's Billy House and Erik Wasson: <https://bloom.bg/2xdEMaW>

\*\*\*\*\* **A message from Hewlett Packard Enterprise:** How are Hewlett Packard Enterprise's supercomputers helping create the future in science, medicine and national

security? Learn more: [hpe.com/supercomputing](http://hpe.com/supercomputing) \*\*\*\*\*

**WHAT DON JR. SAID ON THE HILL -- NYT's MAGGIE HABERMAN and MATT APUZZO -- "Trump Jr. Says He Wanted Russian Dirt to Determine Clinton's 'Fitness' for Office":** "Donald Trump Jr. told Senate investigators on Thursday that he set up a June 2016 meeting with a Russian lawyer because he was intrigued that she might have damaging information about Hillary Clinton, saying it was important to learn about Mrs. Clinton's 'fitness' to be president. But nothing came of the Trump Tower meeting, he said, and he was adamant that he never colluded with the Russian government's campaign to disrupt last year's presidential election.

**"In a prepared statement during** an interview with Senate Judiciary Committee investigators, the younger Mr. Trump said he was initially conflicted when he heard that the lawyer, Natalia Veselnitskaya, might have damaging information about Mrs. Clinton. Despite his interest, he said, he always intended to consult with his own lawyers about the propriety of using any information that Ms. Veselnitskaya, who has ties to the Kremlin, gave him at the meeting. A copy of Mr. Trump's statement was obtained by The New York Times.

**"The acknowledgment by the president's eldest son** that he intended to seek legal counsel after the meeting suggests that he knew, or at least suspected, that accepting potentially damaging information about a rival campaign from a foreign country raised thorny legal issues. 'To the extent they had information concerning the fitness, character or qualifications of a presidential candidate, I believed that I should at least hear them out,' he said. 'Depending on what, if any, information they had, I could then consult with counsel to make an informed decision as to whether to give it further consideration.'" <http://nyti.ms/2wLII5h>

**THE SPEAKER SPEAKS -- "Ryan Said Trump Wanted to Avoid Partisan Fight in Wake of Hurricanes,"** by NYT's Alan Rappeport: "Speaker Paul D. Ryan on Thursday said that he understood President Trump's motivation for reaching a deal with Democrats over Hurricane Harvey aid, the budget and the debt ceiling but acknowledged that he continues to think it could be risky for the economy. 'What the president didn't want to do is have some partisan fight in the middle of the response to this,' Mr. Ryan said, referring to the hurricane, during a live interview with The New York Times. 'He wanted to make sure we had a bipartisan moment.' ...

**"It was not the only difference of opinion** between Mr. Ryan and Mr. Trump. Mr. Ryan also suggested that Mr. Trump's proposed corporate tax rate of 15 percent was unrealistic. He said that getting the corporate tax rate to the mid to low 20 percent range was more likely and would make American businesses more competitive with those around the world. 'He obviously wants to push that as low as possible,' Mr. Ryan said. 'At the end of the day we have to make these numbers work.'" <http://nyti.ms/2xdfd9R>

**ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES -- "DeVos to ramp Obama-era schools sexual assault policy,"** by Benjamin Wermund: "The Trump administration will rewrite an Obama-era

schools directive on sexual assault in an effort to balance the rights of victims and the accused, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos announced Thursday. The Obama guidance for the first time pushed school district, college and university leaders to combat sexual harassment, including sexual violence, saying they were required to do so under Title IX, a federal law that prohibits sex discrimination. ...

**"The Trump administration will revamp** the guidance through a rule-making process that likely will take months, DeVos said during a speech at George Mason University in which she blasted the current guidance for undermining the due process rights of those accused of sexual assault or harassment. She said the administration will give all sides a chance to deliver their opinions on how it should move forward."

<http://politi.co/2xe6e8v>

**INTERESTING DETAIL** from Elise Labott's profile of **NIKKI HALEY** in CNN's State magazine: "Nikki Haley was under consideration to become Donald Trump's secretary of state when she flew to New York to meet the President-elect for the first time since his election victory. The South Carolina governor was torn. The baggage from the 2016 campaign -- she supported Marco Rubio in her state's all-important presidential primary and later backed Ted Cruz -- didn't suddenly evaporate for Trump, who never forgets a slight.

**"But there was something more fundamental** that bothered her: Her resume. Yes, Haley traveled abroad as governor and she was successful in bringing business into the state. But none of that could prepare her to lead American diplomacy in a world where North Korea was becoming more aggressive, the crisis in Syria was deepening, Venezuela was succumbing to a dictator and the war in Afghanistan showed no sign of easing. She told Trump no. 'I'm very aware of when things are right and when they are not,' she told me during an extensive interview recently. 'I just thought he could find someone better.'" <http://cnn.it/2xdG1am>

**BANNON'S BIG CBS INTERVIEW -- "Bannon breaks with Trump on DACA: Conservatives 'are not happy with this',"** by Louis Nelson: "Former White House chief strategist Steve Bannon said he doesn't agree with President Donald Trump's decision to end the DACA program and blasted the Catholic Church's support for undocumented immigrants because 'they need illegal aliens to fill the churches.'

**"The Catholic Church has been terrible about this.** The bishops have been terrible about this. By the way, you know why. You know why. Because [they're] unable to really - to come to grips with the problems in the church, they need illegal aliens,' Bannon told CBS' Charlie Rose in an interview, excerpts of which were broadcast Thursday on 'CBS This Morning.' ... Bannon told Rose that he disagreed with Trump's decision this week to rescind the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, which grants work permits to undocumented immigrants who were brought to the U.S. as minors. But he also expressed empathy for the president, who said he struggled with what to do about the so-called Dreamers who enrolled in DACA and whom Trump had pledged to treat with 'great heart.'

**"Look what he did on DACA** the other day. OK, I don't agree with that DACA decision, but I understand how he struggled with it. I understand how he's giving a possibility of a legislative thing,' Bannon said in his interview, which will be broadcast Sunday night on CBS' '60 Minutes.' 'And he said even last night in a tweet, even a tweet, he would rethink it. Trust me, the guys on the far right, the guys on the conservative side, are not happy with this.'" <http://politi.co/2xe0hso> ... **Video from CBS** <http://cbsn.ws/2xd8w85>

-- **"Bannon to Gary Cohn: Resign if you don't like what Trump is doing,"** by Louis Nelson <http://politi.co/2xdT5MR>

**GREAT QUOTE -- ROSE:** "So how do you want to be perceived, you today? Because you have a media image." **BANNON:** "The media image, I think, is pretty accurate. I'm a street fighter."

**AT FOGGY BOTTOM -- M.I.A. -- "Where's Rex? U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley steps in as America's de facto diplomat-in-chief,"** by Foreign Policy's Robbie Gramer and Dan De Luce: "Haley's high profile on pressing international issues, including Iran and North Korea, [has] raised fresh questions about the influence and political future of the secretary of state. Tillerson has been strangely absent from the public spotlight, even amid mounting tensions with North Korea, and Haley has stepped in to fill the void." <http://atfp.co/2j4yKDa>

**FIRST IN PLAYBOOK --** A new DACA letter from former education secretaries is getting sent to Hill leadership today. It's a bipartisan letter and has two former Bush education secretaries joining the Democrats. <http://politi.co/2xduXK9>

**PLAYBOOK INTERVIEW:** London Playbook Author Jack Blanchard

Jack Blanchard, the former political editor of the Daily Mirror, launched the newest Playbook this week -- our London edition. Blanchard gained fame at the Daily Mirror for a report investigating 25 former cabinet ministers who now worked in sectors they used to oversee. He's also a regular contributor to Sky News and the BBC -- and a Liverpool fan. "As you'd expect people working in Westminster are extremely busy, and they need a quick and digestible read in the morning that instantly brings them up to speed on the day ahead - along with some insider knowledge that only we can provide," he told us.

**HOW THERESA MAY IS DOING:** "Rarely has any prime minister's stock fallen so far so quickly. When May called the general election in April she did so because she was 25% ahead in the polls could do no wrong. Seven weeks and one disastrous campaign later, she had lost her majority in Parliament and now cuts a very diminished figure. Since the vote she has started to build up a new team in Downing Street which is slowly improving her position - but it's hard to find anyone who doesn't think she has been fatally weakened. Most MPs and observers think she will be gone within two years."

**TRUMP AND THE U.K.:** "Generally the U.K. is utterly bemused by President Trump. Clearly he is a very different type of figure to anyone we have seen as president before. His somewhat erratic nature is making diplomacy quite difficult for Downing Street and the Foreign Office, as it is hard to predict how he will react to any given situation. But there is a strong feeling that whoever is president, America is and will always remain our very closest ally. The priority for any prime minister is to maintain that positive relationship -- regardless of who is in the White House. I don't think that will change."

**HOW BREXIT IS GOING:** "The most interesting thing about Brexit from a domestic point of view is the way it is tearing down old political boundaries in a way we haven't seen here for a long time. Both main parties are very divided on the issue, and so new alliances are being built between politicians who previously would have been sworn enemies. The referendum has triggered something of a realignment in British politics from the old left/right division, and we don't yet know where it will end up."

**HOW THE U.K.-EU RELATIONSHIP HAS CHANGED SINCE BREXIT:**"Dramatically. We have gone from being close partners to adversaries around the negotiating table. Relations are definitely strained and as the Brexit talks continue there seems to be a huge chasm between how the two sides perceive the situation. One would expect that eventually the differences will be ironed out and a new relationship will emerge but right now it is not great." *Today's edition* <http://politi.co/2gP5tvI> ... **Subscribe to London Playbook** <http://politi.co/2xfDPuK>

**TA-NEHISI COATES'** latest in **THE ATLANTIC** -- "**The First White President:** The foundation of Donald Trump's presidency is the negation of Barack Obama's legacy": "To Trump, whiteness is neither notional nor symbolic but is the very core of his power. In this, Trump is not singular. But whereas his forebears carried whiteness like an ancestral talisman, Trump cracked the glowing amulet open, releasing its eldritch energies. The repercussions are striking: Trump is the first president to have served in no public capacity before ascending to his perch. But more telling, Trump is also the first president to have publicly affirmed that his daughter is a 'piece of ass.' The mind seizes trying to imagine a black man extolling the virtues of sexual assault on tape ('When you're a star, they let you do it'), fending off multiple accusations of such assaults, immersed in multiple lawsuits for allegedly fraudulent business dealings, exhorting his followers to violence, and then strolling into the White House. ... Trump truly is something new -- the first president whose entire political existence hinges on the fact of a black president. And so it will not suffice to say that Trump is a white man like all the others who rose to become president. He must be called by his rightful honorific -- America's first white president." <http://theatlantic.com/2017/07/20/trump-white-president/>

**BUSINESS BURST -- BILL COHAN in Vanity Fair, "Jamie Dimon's \$13 Billion Secret -- Revealed":** "Four years ago, JPMorgan Chase reached a then-record settlement with the Department of Justice after, among other things, the bank received a copy of a U.S. attorney's draft complaint documenting its alleged role in underwriting fraudulent securities in the years leading up to the 2008 financial crisis. Following the bank's \$13 billion financial agreement, the draft complaint was never filed. Then the

bank paid another settlement to prevent a separate legal case from potentially unearthing it. The contents of the draft complaint have long been a financial-crisis mystery, a Great White Whale of a document. At least until now." <http://bit.ly/2wat5N7>

**2020 PREVIEW? -- "Emails show clash between Trump appointees and Facebook over Zuckerberg glacier visit,"** by WaPo's Lisa Rein: "When Facebook's communications chief approached the National Park Service to ask the agency to show company founder Mark Zuckerberg how the warming climate is melting ice sheets at Glacier National Park, scientists, park rangers and public affairs staff were giddy with excitement. ... But their eagerness to accommodate Zuckerberg on his high-profile tour quickly turned into a high-wire scramble for Park Service staffers, as political appointees at the Interior Department, the Park Service's parent agency, demanded that they walk back their generosity, according to documents The Washington Post obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request.

**"The Trump administration was far less keen** on Zuckerberg -- who has been increasingly vocal in his criticism of the president -- and apparently balked at giving him the red-carpet treatment that national parks often roll out for lawmakers, potential donors and dignitaries. ... Negotiations between political appointees and the Park Service and Geological Survey unfolded over weeks, with the discussions reaching senior officials at each agency. Interior officials told the Park Service to minimize its planning and moved at one point to cancel the Facebook chief executive's July 15 tour altogether, the newly released emails show." <http://wapo.st/2wLrW0G>

**AFTERNOON READ -- "Why Jeff Sessions' Recycled Crime-Fighting Strategy Is Doomed to Fail,"** by Mark Obbie in POLITICO Magazine: "The Trump Justice Department has pushed a variety of strategies for reducing violent crime. But the tool that Sessions prefers, the one he calls the 'excellent model,' is to steer more gun-crime cases to federal court, where offenders face an average of six years in prison, compared with the lighter punishments that can result from state convictions -- in Missouri, for instance, gun offenders charged under state laws generally get probation. Sessions has instructed his U.S. attorneys to step up their gun-case loads, and they are heeding his mandate: In the second quarter of this year, federal firearms prosecutions jumped 23 percent over the same period in 2016. ...

**"But Sessions is dramatically overselling** the effectiveness of his prosecution-heavy prescription, those who study gun violence say. Researchers, in fact, long ago concluded that the long prison sentences and elevated incarceration rates that result from increasing federal prosecutions have scant influence on violent crime rates. And St. Louis is a signal example of why Sessions' strategy does not work as he promises." <http://politi.co/2wLySuE>

**MEDIAWATCH -- EMILY CADEI** to McClatchy's D.C. bureau -- Kristin Roberts to email the staff this afternoon: "Emily Cadei is our new Washington Correspondent for the Sacramento Bee. Emily comes to the Bee and McClatchy from Newsweek ... Emily [previously] worked at CQ Roll Call and has been published by CNN, Foreign Policy,

Fortune and The New Republic."

**WELCOME TO THE WORLD - Mallery Tenore Tarpley**, assistant director of the Knight Center for Journalism in the Americas at UT Austin and a Poynter alum, and Troy **Troy Tarpley**, a certified anesthesiologist assistant at Baylor Scott & White Hospital in Round Rock, Texas, post on Facebook: "Meet Tucker William Tarpley, born at 1:25 p.m. [Wednesday], exactly 19 months after Madelyn. He's a healthy 7 pounds, 2 ounces and 20 inches long. Troy and I are already so in love with him!" *Pics* <http://politi.co/2wM9d55> ... <http://politi.co/2gOBSIZ>

\*\*\*\*\* **A message from Hewlett Packard Enterprise:** A nation's strength is increasingly measured by its technical prowess. As the designer and builder of more supercomputers than any other company in the world, Hewlett Packard Enterprise is proud to lead the way in one of the future's most important technologies. Visit [hpe.com/supercomputing](http://hpe.com/supercomputing) to learn more about how Hewlett Packard Enterprise's supercomputers are helping create the future in science, medicine and national security.  
\*\*\*\*\*

**SUBSCRIBE** to the Playbook family: **POLITICO Playbook** <http://politi.co/1M75UbX> ... **New York Playbook** <http://politi.co/1ON8bqW> ... **Florida Playbook** <http://politi.co/1OypFe9> ... **New Jersey Playbook** <http://politi.co/1HLKItF> ... **Massachusetts Playbook** <http://politi.co/1Nhtq5v> ... **Illinois Playbook** <http://politi.co/1N7u5sb> ... **California Playbook** <http://politi.co/2bLvcPI> ... **Brussels Playbook** <http://politi.co/1FZeLcw> ... **All our political and policy tipsheets** <http://politi.co/1M75UbX>  
[View online](#)

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

---

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

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

---