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From: Anna Palmer Jake Sherman Daniel Lippman
Sent: Tue 12/5/2017 6:07:36 PM
Subject: Playbook Power Briefing, presented by PhRMA: JOHN CONYERS RESIGNS -- The latest on funding the government -- The COST of the MUELLER probe -- TRUMP tells Middle Eastern leaders U.S. will recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital

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Today's Playbook Power Briefing presented by PhRMA

Good Tuesday afternoon. SPOTTED LAST NIGHT: JARED KUSHNER having dinner with **MICK MULVANEY** at the Tabard Inn. Jared ordered chicken. He was "very enthusiastic" about the dish, according to our tipster.

WATCH ANNA at this afternoon's Women Rule sessions, where she will moderate a panel with women entrepreneurs including Audrey Gelman of The Wing, Camille Hearst of Kit and Laurie Fabiano of the Tory Burch Foundation and hold a one-on-one conversation with Kellyanne Conway. **Livestream** <http://politi.co/2nuAbNE>

JOHN CONYERS HAS RESIGNED -- "John Conyers retires after 53 years in office amid sexual harassment claims," by the Detroit Free Press's Kathleen Gray and Todd Spangler: "Facing a rising chorus of voices demanding he step down because of sexual harassment claims, U.S. Rep. John Conyers Jr., D-Detroit, on Tuesday retired from the seat he has held for more than five decades, a swift and crushing fall from grace for a civil rights icon and the longest-serving active member of Congress.

"Saying he was finalizing his plans for retirement, Conyers added he would endorse his son, John Conyers III, to replace him Congress, potentially setting up a fight between him and his cousin, state Sen. Ian Conyers, in a special election to be called by the governor." <http://on.freep.com/2BLuaPN>

-- **ALASKA REPUBLICAN REP. DON YOUNG** is now the dean of the House. He assumed office in 1973, after Nick Begich died in a plane crash with then-House Majority Leader Hale Boggs.

GREAT SCOOP -- "Kihuen aides seek new jobs after sexual harassment accusation," by Heather Caygle: "Rep. Ruben Kihuen's chief of staff is trying to find jobs for several staff members amid calls from top Democrats that Kihuen step down after an accusation he sexually harassed a campaign staffer last year. Peter Koltak, Kihuen's chief of staff, circulated an email to other Democratic offices Tuesday morning with the resumes for what appears to be most, if not all, of the D.C. office staff. 'I'm hoping to place them all here pretty quickly in other offices,' Koltak wrote in the email, obtained by POLITICO." <http://politi.co/2km0EM9>

THE COST OF ROBERT MUELLER'S PROBE: \$3,213,695 through Sept. 30. *The*

DOJ's report on the cost <http://bit.ly/2BHTaaB>

GOVERNMENT FUNDING DELAYED -- VOTE DELAYED FROM WEDNESDAY TO THURSDAY -- JENNIFER SCHOLTES and SARAH FERRIS: "House GOP leaders Tuesday decided to hold tight for now on their plan to fund the government until Dec. 22, to the chagrin of fiscal hardliners pushing for a Dec. 30 deadline.

"In a closed-door Republican Conference meeting, House Speaker Paul Ryan made the case for the pre-Christmas vote, according to lawmakers in the room. Later Tuesday, though, Republicans said the bill would not be taken up by the Rules Committee until Wednesday, instead of Tuesday afternoon as previously planned. A floor vote now is not expected until Thursday, as whipping continues.

"Government funding expires on Friday. House Republicans plan on a stopgap spending bill, though it's still unclear if there will be the Democratic support needed in the Senate and a Thursday House vote will make the timeline for Senate action even tighter." <http://politi.co/2BLODni>

-- FISSURES REMAIN: Rep. Mark Meadows (R-N.C.) and many members of the House Freedom Caucus want a stop-gap funding bill to run until Dec. 30. They think they will lose leverage if they set the funding deadline to Dec. 22.

PAGING NANCY PELOSI -- @cspan: ".@RepAlGreen: 'Tomorrow we will be Articles of Impeachment to the floor of the Congress of the United States of America for a vote.'"

WATCH THIS CASE -- "Supreme Court seems divided in case of baker who refused to create a wedding cake for a same-sex couple," by Robert Barnes and Ann Marimow: "The Supreme Court seemed closely divided Tuesday over whether the First Amendment protects a Colorado baker from creating a wedding cake for a same-sex couple, with Justice Anthony M. Kennedy likely to cast the deciding vote. During a nearly 90-minute oral argument, Kennedy gave both sides reason for hope and concern. He worried that ruling for the baker would allow shops to put up window signs saying they refused to provide wedding services for same-sex couples. But he also said that Colorado had been 'neither tolerant nor respectful' of the baker's religious convictions." <http://wapo.st/2kmlxWz>

ON THE WORLD STAGE -- "U.S. to Recognize Jerusalem as Israel's Capital, Trump Says, Alarming Middle East Leaders," by NYT's Mark Landler and David Halbfinger: "President Trump told Israeli and Arab leaders on Tuesday that he plans to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, a symbolically fraught move that would upend decades of American policy and upset efforts to broker peace between Israel and the Palestinians. ... Palestinian officials said Mr. Trump told the president of the Palestinian Authority, Mahmoud Abbas, that the United States would move the embassy to Jerusalem. Jordan said the president gave a similar message to King Abdullah II.

"American officials, however, said such a move could not occur immediately for

logistical reasons, given the lack of facilities to house the embassy staff. As a result, Mr. Trump is expected to sign a national security waiver that would authorize the administration to keep it in Tel Aviv for an additional six months." <http://nyti.ms/2krPDcp>

-- "**Russia labels Voice of America and 8 other U.S. media 'foreign agents'.**" by CNN's Jethro Mullen: "Russia is labeling nine U.S. government-backed news outlets -- including Voice of America -- as foreign agents. ... Russia's Justice Ministry designated the nine outlets, which also include Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, as foreign agents, the country's state-run news agency Tass reported Tuesday. The announcement comes less than a month after the production company behind the American version of the Russian state-funded network RT was forced to register as a foreign agent with the U.S. Department of Justice." <http://cnnmon.ie/2knunnW>

SMOOTH SAILING FOR POWELL -- "Banking Committee approves Powell as Fed chair, with only Warren opposed," by Victoria Guida: "The Senate Banking Committee voted 22-1 on Tuesday to approve the nomination of Jerome Powell as chairman of the Federal Reserve board. ... Sen. John Kennedy (R-La.) said his vote shouldn't be taken as an 'automatic yes' on the Senate floor. During Powell's confirmation hearing, Kennedy raised worries that the nominee hadn't done enough to ease rules on community banks during his time on the Fed board. Powell's nomination will now move to the full Senate." <http://politi.co/2BKt3je>

***** **A message from PhRMA:** A medicine's path from the biopharmaceutical company to the patient involves many entities across the supply chain. A new report examines how money flows through this system - which includes wholesalers, pharmacy benefit managers, pharmacies and insurers - and how that impacts what patients pay at the pharmacy. Read more. <http://onphr.ma/2kgd6Nu> *****

TRUTH BOMB -- Conservative economist **STEPHEN MOORE** to Bloomberg's **SAHIL KAPUR** on the tax bill: "It's death to Democrats ... They go after state and local taxes, which weakens public employee unions. They go after university endowments, and universities have become play pens of the left. And getting rid of the mandate is to eventually dismantle Obamacare." <https://bloom.bg/2BK1SF8>

YEAR-END NUMBERS FROM TWITTER -- Top tweeted U.S. elected officials: 1. @RealDonaldTrump ... 2. @VP ... 3. @SpeakerRyan ... 4. @BarackObama ... 5. @TedLieu ... 6. @SenJohnMcCain ... 7. @SenWarren ... 8. @SenateMajLdr 9. ... @SenSanders ... 10. @SenSchumer ... **Top tweeted news outlets and the top tweeted journalist/commentator at each:** 1. @FoxNews -- @SeanHannity ... 2. @CNN -- @JakeTapper ... 3. @NYTimes -- @MaggieNYT ... 4. @MSNBC -- @JoyAnnReid ... 5. @WashingtonPost -- @Fahrenheit ... 6. @TheHill -- @JoeConchaTV ... 7. @NBCNews -- @BraddJaffy ... 8. @ABC -- @GStephanopoulos ... 9. @POLITICO -- @ddiamond ... 10. @AP -- @ZekeJMiller ...

... Most tweeted activism hashtags in the U.S.: 1. #Resist ... 2. #MAGA ... 3. #ImpeachTrump ... 4. #TrumpTrain ... 5. #WomensMarch ... 6. #NotMyPresident ... 7.

#BlackLivesMatter ... 8. #NoDAPL ... 9. #TakeAKnee ... 10. #BoycottNFL

HMM... -- "Trump science job nominees missing advanced science degrees," by the AP's Seth Borenstein: "Of 43 Trump administration nominees in science-related positions - including two for Health and Human Services secretary -- almost 60 percent did not have a master's degree or a doctorate in a science or health field, according to an Associated Press analysis. For their immediate predecessors in the Obama administration, it was almost the opposite: more than 60 percent had advanced science degrees. The AP analyzed 65 Senate-confirmable positions that deal with science and environment, many of which haven't been filled yet after 10 months. The analysis focused on earned degrees, not life experience." <http://bit.ly/2nwtSJU>

TODAY'S BEYOND THE BELTWAY -- California lawmaker accused of sexual misconduct -- New York prepares to fight tax bill <http://politi.co/2klpCv1>

PLAY BALL? -- "Barton Wants to Keep Managing GOP Baseball Team," by Roll Call's Griffin Connolly <http://bit.ly/2BGnkLb>

HOLLYWOODLAND -- "Disney and Fox are closing in on deal, could be announced next week - Sources," by CNBC's David Faber: "Disney and Twenty-First Century Fox are closing in on a deal, and it could come as soon as next week, according to sources familiar with the matter. CNBC has been reporting that Disney has held talks with the Rupert Murdoch-controlled media company to acquire its studio and television production assets, leaving Fox with its news and sports assets. Fox is also talking with CNBC parent company Comcast, but the talks with Disney have progressed more significantly." <http://cnb.cx/2koqGOP>

MEDIAWATCH -- STEVE BANNON is returning as a regular host, along with Alex Marlow, of the morning radio show "Breitbart News Daily" on SiriusXM's Patriot channel, the network announced today.

--"How brands secretly buy their way into Forbes, Fast Company, and HuffPost stories," by Jon Christian in The Outline: "In late October, TechCrunch editor-at-large John Biggs noticed a Facebook Messenger request from someone he didn't know, a man named Varun Satyam. When Biggs accepted the request, Satyam introduced himself as a marketer for technology startups. He was looking for coverage of some clients, he said, and he was willing to pay Biggs to write about them. It was a bold opening move, and an unethical proposition for any journalist who wants to retain their credibility. But Biggs wasn't surprised. He estimates that he receives two or three similar offers each month, and he doesn't take them seriously.

"'They're stupid,' said Biggs. 'Organic press is far more effective and anyone with a brain can see through them.' But solicitations like Satyam's may be more successful than Biggs is aware. Interviews with more than two dozen marketers, journalists, and others familiar with similar pay-for-play offers revealed a dubious corner of online publishing in which publicists, ranging from individuals like Satyam to medium-sized

"digital marketing firms" that blur traditional lines between advertising and public relations, quietly pay off journalists to promote their clients in articles that make no mention of the financial arrangement." <http://bit.ly/2BKzumf>

-- **From Michael Calderone** in this morning's Morning Media: "Trump has often suggested that members of the media be sued for their work -- now, if anyone ever follows through against Fox News Radio White House correspondent Jon Decker, he'll at least be able to save some money on representation. Decker was sworn in Monday to the D.C. bar, making him, so far as Morning Media knows, the only lawyer in the White House press corps."

-- **MONICA DRAKE** has been elevated to assistant managing editor at The New York Times. She previously ran the paper's travel section.

SPOTTED: Tom Perez on an American Airlines flight this morning from DCA to Pittsburgh

TRANSITIONS -- Risa Lavizzo-Mourey and **Michael Steele** have joined the border of directors of the Bipartisan Policy Center. ... **Grace Stuntz** will serve as health policy director, **Bob Moran** will serve as education policy director, and **Andy Banducci** will serve as labor and pensions policy director for the majority staff on the Senate HELP committee.

WEEKEND WEDDING -- Craig Brownstein, an Edelman alum now at the World Resources Institute, on Sunday married **Doug Johnson**, a broadcaster at Voice of America. They met in 1996 while both were working at C-SPAN. "It was at our favorite pizza spot on 14th Street, Vetri, and one of our very best friends, David Greer, was the officiant. It caught the restaurant staff completely by surprise and they treated us to champagne, desserts and plenty of hugs." *Pic* <http://politi.co/2ip5hke> ... *The rings* <http://politi.co/2BMs2aw>

BONUS BIRTHDAY: Paige Handley, research associate at Senate Majority PAC (hat tip: Justine Turner, who was on time)

***** **A message from PhRMA:** In the competitive marketplace for medicines, negotiations between pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) and biopharmaceutical companies result in substantial rebates and fees. According to a new report, in many cases, this system often creates incentives for PBMs to prefer medicines with higher list prices and higher rebates. Read more about how money flows through the supply chain here: <http://onphr.ma/2kgd6Nu> *****

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