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From: Anna Palmer Jake Sherman Daniel Lippman
Sent: Wed 7/19/2017 5:04:36 PM
Subject: Playbook Power Briefing: TRUMP claims states not sending data to voter fraud commission are hiding something -- SEAN SPICER speaks to CBN -- POTUS' last-ditch lunch to save Obamacare repeal

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BULLETIN -- "WASHINGTON (AP) - Trump says senators shouldn't leave town for August recess without action on health care overhaul."

Good Wednesday afternoon. PRESIDENT TRUMP dropped in on the first meeting of the presidential advisory commission on election integrity. Trump slammed states that aren't sending data. The president addressing the commission: "If any state does not want to share this information, one has to wonder what they are worried about. And I ask the vice president, I ask the commission, what are they worried about? There's something. There always is."

-- **@MatthewNussbaum:** "The voter fraud commission will cost \$500,000 -- \$250K this year and next, per VP's office." **Matt's story** <http://politi.co/2vCRETh>

THE PRESIDENT, AND HIS POLICY -- "Trump's wall: The inside story of how the president crafts immigration policy," by WaPo's Ashley Parker, David Nakamura and Phil Rucker: "Trump is torn over how to address the status of the younger immigrants who were brought to the country illegally by their parents, colloquially known as 'Dreamers,' who were protected by President Barack Obama's administration. Debate about the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy aimed at this group has been among the most robust - and inconclusive -- in Trump's White House.

"By contrast, Trump is far more certain about the wall. The structure could change in design or function -- he vowed to build a much longer and higher wall during the campaign -- but his security argument for it has remained constant."
<http://wapo.st/2vjvMwR>

DEPT. OF POLITICS -- "Criticize Trump at your peril, Republican candidates. Just ask Kim Guadagno," by the Star Ledger's Matt Arco and Claude Brodesser-Akner: "Already trailing badly in the polls, Republican gubernatorial candidate Kim Guadagno has been hit with another devastating 1-2 punch: She's lost the confidence of a pair of deep-pocketed GOP groups that spend big on governor's races, NJ Advance Media has learned.

"The Republican National Committee, which is controlled by President Donald Trump, views the lieutenant governor as someone who hasn't been loyal to the president and officials there see her race as a losing cause, according to two sources familiar with the RNC's plans. The sources requested anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly. The Republican Governors Association, a nationwide group formed with the sole purpose of electing GOP governors, has invested minimally in New Jersey and currently has no plans to change course, sources say.

"The other hit for Guadagno comes right here in New Jersey, where Gov. Chris Christie's top fundraisers privately say they are sitting out the race because, in part, she's been deemed disloyal to the governor after criticizing him on several issues, including his stay at the governor's beach house during the state shutdown."

<http://bit.ly/2tfDk2k>

SNEAK PEEK -- FROM THE WHITE HOUSE -- @realDonaldTrump at 8:30 a.m.: "I will be having lunch at the White House today with Republican Senators concerning healthcare. They MUST keep their promise to America!" ... **at 8:46 a.m.:** "The Republicans never discuss how good their healthcare bill is, & it will get even better at lunchtime. The Dems scream death as OCare dies!"

-- **FOR THE RECORD:** Senate Republicans don't expect much to happen at this meeting.

HEAD SNAP -- TRUMP IS ALL OVER THE PLACE -- In the past few days, Trump has suggested several different tactics to deal with the health care law. He said to repeal it now, replace it later. After it failed, he said Republicans should let Obamacare fail and force Democrats to the negotiating table. Today he's signaling he will get with Republicans to make the bill better over lunch.

-- **"Top Trump campaign aides met with Lee on health care,"** by Burgess Everett: "Former Trump campaign aides Corey Lewandowski and David Bossie met with Sen. Mike Lee to talk health care on Tuesday, a source familiar with the conversations confirmed. The two former top Trump campaign officials tried to convince the conservative Utah Republican to reverse course on his opposition to the latest Obamacare replacement bill written by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. Lee restated his opposition to the current draft of the bill and his support for his amendment, the Consumer Freedom Act, which was not included. But the conversation was productive, the source said." <http://politi.co/2u9SVDg>

DAVID BRODY'S NEW SHOW: CBN's "FAITH NATION" -- SEAN SPICER SPEAKS! --

BRODY: "Sean, I want to ask you about the press briefings. Do you want to set the record straight a little bit? You were must-see TV. You're like the Seinfeld of TV news, or TV politics. Give us the sense of how you decide there what's going to be on-camera and off-camera. What's the mechanism there?"

SPICER: "There's a lot of factors that go into it every day, David. Obviously, one of the

things that gets overblown as you know, you're here quite often, is that we brief every day. And the question is, I think for some individuals, they want everything on camera every day. As you know today the president is going to have several events on camera. He's going to have the pool involved. So on days he's going to be doing a big event and making major policy initiatives, it's obviously much more important to have the president's voice carry the day. So, we'll engage with reporters throughout the day. One of the things that sometimes people don't appreciate the way that they get it is we are here very early in the morning, we stay very late at night.

"We stay very engaged with the press all day long doing interviews like this, communicating with the press. And we do a briefing every single day. I think for a lot of folks, they're more interested in getting the clip to put on the internet, to put on their news and we're interested in making sure that we communicate with the American people, that we give the press an opportunity to get their questions answered but we're not here to make it a spectacle either. We want to make sure that we do things that are informative and helpful to get the president's message out, to answer the key questions. So on days that he's talking in particular we're going to make sure that we let his voice carry the day." **Link** <http://bit.ly/2uJaUSP>

THE CLUB FOR GROWTH announced that it will make the Senate's upcoming vote on advancing the 2015 repeal bill a key vote for its scorecard and launched a website with Tea Party Patriots slamming Republican senators not backing the bill as "Obamacare repeal traitors." <http://bit.ly/2vCABAM>

CONSEQUENCES? -- "GOP repeal foes face blowback," by Alex Isenstadt and Gabe Debenedetti: "Senior GOP officials spent much of Tuesday surveying the anger and frustration within their own party and taking calls from bitterly disappointed contributors, some of whom threatened to turn off the cash spigot. Senators who refused to support the bill, the party officials predicted, would see their fundraising take an immediate hit. Texas businessman Doug Deason, a Trump backer and the son of billionaire Darwin Deason, said he and other major GOP donors were warming to the idea of funding primary challenges to senators who had opposed the health care bill. There was growing frustration, he said, over the failure to advance the president's agenda.

"In a text message referring to three senators - Sens. Susan Collins, Jeff Flake and Shelley Moore Capito - who played a role in sinking the bill, Deason ripped 'the spineless Republican members from Maine, Arizona and West Virginia who seem to believe that Obamacare is actually succeeding.' He added: 'It will be disappointing to see these three lose their reelection campaigns to Democrats - unless we can find better candidates to run in the primary races against them.'" <http://politi.co/2vCffDn>

THIS IS UNUSUAL -- @ericawerner: "Sen Rubio currently has a three-member security detail. This is not normally the case."

ATTENTION TRAVELERS -- "Mexico says electronic device checks on U.S. flights start today," by CNN's Euan McKirdy and Daniel Silva Fernandez: "Passengers on

flights from Mexico to the United States can expect longer security checks starting Wednesday -- part of a larger U.S. push for extra scrutiny for inbound flights worldwide. Airlines in Mexico will now subject passengers on direct U.S.-bound flights to extra security checks for portable electronic devices larger than a phone, Mexico's civil aviation authority said. ... Devices that passengers take with them into the cabin will be subjected to safety checks and should be presented separately from the rest of the luggage, and without a cover or any other protection, the authority said."

<http://cnn.it/2vCfvm5>

SWAMP CHECK -- "Trump's stark priorities in funding and cutting are keenly felt by federal workforce," by WaPo's Lisa Rein: "Where Trump is putting resources and priorities, many employees describe a sense of validation and optimism. Where he is dismissive of their mission and their value as public servants, they are anxious, discouraged and sometimes hostile. And in offices where the White House envisions severe budget cuts and has set in motion buyouts, early-retirement offers and possible layoffs, civil servants are ill at ease, their futures uncertain. Amid this upheaval, employees have kept the government humming. Social Security checks are still going out, and the Labor Department is still enforcing wage and hourly pay laws. But in some offices, employees say there is little direction from above and few initiatives underway.

"After just six months, it is too early to gauge the impact of the Trump administration's zeal to shrink the size and reach of government. Congress controls not only spending, but also in many cases whether the White House actually can eliminate agencies and programs. But this much seems clear: Across the far flung bureaucracy, employees are either on edge or waiting with high expectations for the change Trump promised, with few, it seems, weighing in at neutral." <http://wapo.st/2vC6wRJ>

POLITICO EUROPE -- "Moscow spooks return to Hungary, raising NATO hackles," by Lili Bayer: "[O]fficials from allied countries say Russia increasingly sees Hungary as an operational backdoor into Europe. 'There is tremendous concern that Russia is basically using Hungary as an intel forward operating base in NATO and the EU,' said a former official at the U.S. Embassy in Budapest, who spoke on condition of anonymity. Western officials say Russian intelligence agencies have boosted their presence over the past few years in Hungary, which is a member of Europe's border-free Schengen zone, to launch a variety of intelligence and sabotage operations in the EU. 'Back in 2014-2015 [the Russians] went from maybe 50-100 intelligence officers up to 300 plus' in Hungary, said the former embassy official." <http://politi.co/2uHP6qA>

TODAY'S BEYOND THE BELTWAY -- The most competitive California congressional races -- Rahm Emanuel is in Europe <http://politi.co/2vCdfuR>

OUT MAGAZINE has its Power 50 list out, highlighting "individuals who are working to make a positive impact on LGBTQ culture, beyond simply being at the pinnacle of their field/professions." Rachel Maddow, Anderson Cooper, ACLU director Anthony Romero, Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.), Tim Cook, Deray Mckesson, Reps. Jared Polis (D-Colo.), David Cicilline (D-R.I.) and Mark Takano (D-Calif.), Glenn Greenwald, HRC

president Chad Griffin, Don Lemon and more all make the list <http://bit.ly/2uCKpNK>

NEW SCALIA BOOK -- Crown Forum announced that they're publishing a collection of the late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia's speeches, edited by his youngest son, Christopher Scalia, and Edward Whelan, one of his former clerks. The book is scheduled to be released Oct. 3 and has a foreword from Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. **The release** <http://politi.co/2uCMjxT> ... **The cover** <http://bit.ly/2uCqsXy>

HISTORY LESSON -- CARLOS LOZADA in WaPo, "Samuel Huntington, a prophet for the Trump era": "Huntington, like Trump, wanted America to be great, and came to long for a restoration of values and identity that he believed made the country not just great but a nation apart. However, if that path involves closing ourselves off, demonizing newcomers and demanding cultural fealty, then how different are we, really, from anywhere else? The central agony of the Trump era is that rather than becoming great, America is becoming unexceptional. And that's not a clash of civilizations. It's a civilization crashing." <http://wapo.st/2vBWJer>

MEDIAWATCH -- Wendy Benjaminson has been named the national news editor for beats at the AP. She was most recently interim bureau chief for the AP in D.C.

DESSERT -- "2 new Harry Potter books set to be published in October," from the AP <http://bit.ly/2uCBTyw>

TRANSITIONS -- Kristina Baum, the comms director for the House Science, Space and Technology Committee, will be the new chief spokeswoman for Chevron Phillips Chemical.

WELCOME TO THE WORLD - David Stewart, staff director at House Ways and Means, and **Betsy Stewart**, VP at the Business Roundtable, email family and friends: "We're delighted to introduce you to our new daughter, Penelope (Poppy) Shea Stewart. She was born on [Tuesday] at 2:25 p.m. and weighs 7 pounds 7 ounces. Betsy and Poppy are both doing fantastic. And Big Sister Grace is excited and attentive to her baby sister already too." **Pic** <http://bit.ly/2uzdAlm>

SPOTTED at last night's home opener for the Washington Kastles, D.C.'s indoor tennis team: Mark and Sally Ein, Matt Dornic, Tammy Haddad, Evan Ryan, Tony Blinken, Phil Deutch, Steve Clemons, Margaret Carlson.

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