

**To:** Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]  
**From:** Anna Palmer and Jake Sherman  
**Sent:** Thur 5/25/2017 5:09:07 PM  
**Subject:** Playbook Power Briefing, presented by the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD): RYAN says Gianforte should apologize, dodges on if Gianforte will be accepted in conference -- TRUMP's NATO critique -- TOM HANKS and MERYL STREEP visit WaPo

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

Today's Playbook Power Briefing presented by the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs  
(CAPD)  
05/25/2017 01:05 PM EDT

By ANNA PALMER ([anna@politico.com](mailto:anna@politico.com); [@apalmerdc](https://twitter.com/apalmerdc)), JAKE SHERMAN ([sherman@politico.com](mailto:sherman@politico.com); [@JakeSherman](https://twitter.com/JakeSherman)), 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))

**Good Thursday afternoon. SPEAKER PAUL RYAN** said that Greg Gianforte should apologize for allegedly body-slammng a reporter by his throat but stopped short of saying he should withdraw from the election, and Ryan dodged a question about whether he'll accept him into the House Republican Conference.

**"There is no time** where a physical altercation should occur with the press or just between human beings. ... Should the gentleman apologize? Yes, I think he should apologize. ... There's no call for this. ... The people of the state of Montana are going to decide today who they will going to send to Congress."

-- **JAKE ASKED** if he will be accepted into the House GOP Conference: "The choice will be made by the people of Montana. I do not think this is acceptable behavior. But the choice will be made by the people of Montana."

**IF YOU HADN'T HEARD**, it is Election Day in Montana's special election between Gianforte, the Republican (and alleged body-slammer), and Democrat Rob Quist. Gianforte has canceled his scheduled appearance on MSNBC, the network announced. Polls close at 10 p.m. Eastern time and Montana's secretary of state will post the results. <http://bit.ly/2r0He0t>

-- **@MatthewNussbaum**: "Pence campaigned in Montana for Gianforte & recorded a robo call. Today, his office is not responding to whether he stands by endorsement." ...  
**@SteveDaines**: "Greg Gianforte needs to apologize."

-- **FROM GABE DEBENEDETTI** on the ground in **HELENA, MONTANA** -- **"GOP keeping distance from Gianforte in Montana special election"**  
<http://politi.co/2rZmOSQ>

**JOE LIEBERMAN** has withdrawn from consideration for FBI director, citing the "appearance of a conflict of interest." **More from WSJ's Rebecca Ballhaus**

<http://on.wsj.com/2rZp3pm> ... **The letter** <http://bit.ly/2qnYqcD>

**TRUMP'S DAY IN EUROPE** -- President Trump has kept busy since his meetings with European leaders this morning. He first met with new French President Emmanuel Macron and had a fairly intense handshake, according to WaPo's Philip Rucker, today's pooler: "They shook hands for an extended period of time. Each president gripped the other's hand with considerable intensity, their knuckles turning white and their jaws clenching and faces tightening." The pair then had a working lunch.

**TRUMP** then departed for the new NATO headquarters in Brussels at 3:59 p.m. local time. Trump and the other NATO leaders helped unveil two memorials at the new NATO HQ -- a chunk of the Berlin Wall and a piece of twisted metal from the North Tower of the World Trade Center. Per NYT's Mark Landler, another one of the day's poolers: "The section of the Wall commemorates the founding principles of NATO during the Cold War. The twisted steel commemorates Article 5, the commitment to mutual defense, invoked after the 9/11 attacks." Trump gave a speech in which he harshly criticized NATO members for not living up to a commitment to spend a certain percentage of their budget on defense.

**THE MOMENT EVERYONE IS TALKING ABOUT -- POTUS said that "I have been very, very direct** with Secretary Stoltenberg and members of the alliance in saying that NATO members must finally contribute their fair share and meet their financial obligations" and that it was unfair to American taxpayers. Mark says that during Trump's remarks, "the assembled leaders stole sidelong glances at each other. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada stared straight ahead." **More from CNN's Jeremy Diamond in Brussels** <http://cnn.it/2rZ8VnY>

-- **@RosieGray**: "Trump talked about 'the commitments that bind us together.' Did not explicitly endorse Article 5"

**AFTER THE SPEECHES** the leaders gathered for a photo opp, where Trump did not interact with the gathered leaders. Per Phil: "Some of the leaders interacted with one another on stage, but not Trump. He stood silently, shifting his stance at moments and looking around. ... Trump smiled for a brief moment, but otherwise kept a serious, perhaps even stern, expression on his face for the duration of the photo opp." The group then headed outside for another ceremony marking the transfer of the headquarters from the Belgian government to NATO.

\*\*\*\*\* **A message from the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD):** As list prices for brand drugs continue to rise, employers are partnering with PBMs to keep drug costs under control. In fact, every dollar an employer invests in a PBM service returns six dollars in savings. Learn more at [www.affordableprescriptiondrugs.org](http://www.affordableprescriptiondrugs.org). \*\*\*\*\*

**ALSO IN EUROPE -- "How Obama not so subtly undercuts Trump,"** by Isaac Dove: "When they realized Barack Obama was going to be in Berlin the same day President Donald Trump was going to be in Brussels, Angela Merkel was the one who

called the White House to break the news.

**"The German chancellor had invited Obama** to the event in front of the Brandenburg Gate last year, before the election. Officially part of a multi-day gathering sponsored by the Protestant church in Germany focused on youth and highlighting an exchange program between Berlin and Chicago, it was really about letting Obama boost his friend ahead of her fall re-election campaign and begin the international phase of his own post-presidency.

**"But, as soon as he accepted earlier this year,** it also became an integral piece of Obama's approach to Trump: present the contrast by continuing to pop up, push back on the sense that Trump's winning while barely saying a word explicitly about him. The only request the former president's aides made of the organizers of the Berlin event was it not be structured as an Obama versus Trump debate. Other than that, they said, 'the conversation can go where it will.'" <http://politi.co/2r0BSSX>

**LEAKY SHIP -- "May to confront Trump as UK police stop sharing attack information with U.S.,"** by Reuters' Kate Holton and Andrew Yates: "British police stopped sharing information about the Manchester suicide bombing with the United States on Thursday after leaks to U.S. media that police said had risked compromising their investigations. Prime Minister Theresa May said she would tell U.S. President Donald Trump that intelligence shared between their two countries had to remain secure, in a rare public show of dissatisfaction with Britain's closest security ally." <http://reut.rs/2r0xsf5>

-- **PRESIDENT TRUMP** issued a statement on the leaks: "The alleged leaks coming out of government agencies are deeply troubling. These leaks have been going on for a long time and my Administration will get to the bottom of this. The leaks of sensitive information pose a grave threat to our national security. I am asking the Department of Justice and other relevant agencies to launch a complete review of this matter, and if appropriate, the culprit should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. There is no relationship we cherish more than the Special Relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom."

**SIDELINED** -- Rep. Elijah Cummings' (D-Md.) office announced that the congressman had "minimally invasive" surgery yesterday at John Hopkins Hospital to treat aortic stenosis. Per the release: "The Congressman will remain in the hospital for a few days and will return to his normal schedule thereafter."

**HMM ... -- "How Alleged Russian Hacker Teamed Up With Florida GOP Operative,"** by WSJ's Alexandra Berzon and Rob Barry: "The hacking spree that upended the presidential election wasn't limited to Democratic National Committee memos and Clinton-aide emails posted on websites. The hacker also privately sent Democratic voter-turnout analyses to a Republican political operative in Florida named Aaron Nevins. Learning that hacker 'Guccifer 2.0' had tapped into a Democratic committee that helps House candidates, Mr. Nevins wrote to the hacker to say: 'Feel free to send any Florida

based information.'

**"Ten days later, Mr. Nevins received 2.5 gigabytes** of Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee documents, some of which he posted on a blog called HelloFLA.com that he ran using a pseudonym. Soon after, the hacker sent a link to the blog article to Roger Stone, a longtime informal adviser to then-candidate Donald Trump, along with Mr. Nevins' analysis of the hacked data." <http://on.wsj.com/2r0IHEg>

**AFTERNOON READ -- "Anyone . . . with a pulse': How a Russia-friendly adviser found his way into the Trump campaign,"** by WaPo's Tom Hamburger and Ros Helderman: "[W]hen Carter Page, an international businessman with an office near Trump Tower, turned up at campaign headquarters, former officials recall, Trump aides were quick to make him feel welcome. A top Trump adviser, Sam Clovis, employed what campaign aides now acknowledge was their go-to vetting process - a quick Google search - to check out the newcomer. He seemed to have the right qualifications, according to former campaign officials - head of an energy investment firm, business degree from New York University, doctorate from the University of London. Page was in. He joined a new Trump campaign national security advisory group, and, in late March 2016, the candidate pointed to Page, among others, as evidence of a foreign policy team with gravitas.

**"But what the Google search had not shown** was that Page had been on the FBI's radar since at least 2013, when Russian officials allegedly attempted to use him to get information about the energy business. ... 'Everyone did their best, but there was not as much vetting as there could have been,' former campaign manager Corey Lewandowski said. Another longtime campaign official put it this way: 'Anyone who came to us with a pulse, a résumé and seemed legit would be welcomed.' 'We were not exactly making due diligence the highest priority,' another campaign veteran added." <http://wapo.st/2rZeOkO>

**TRUMP INC. -- "A Top Mar-A-Lago Employee Is Quietly Doing Government Work For Trump's Foreign Trip,"** by BuzzFeed News' Tarini Parti: "A top Mar-a-Lago employee is also working for the government to help prepare for President Trump's visit to Taormina, Italy, for the G-7 Summit - an unconventional arrangement that further blurs the line between the president's business empire and the White House. Heather Rinkus, the guest reception manager at Trump's 'Winter White House,' is working with the president's advance and logistics team, while Trump's exclusive club, Mar-a-Lago, closes for the summer. She has an official White House email and government-issued phone, two sources familiar with Rinkus's trip told BuzzFeed News.

**"An administration source confirmed** to BuzzFeed News on Wednesday that Rinkus was officially listed as an advance associate for the Taormina leg of the trip and had government-issued blackberry and email." <http://bzfd.it/2r1a157>

**SCOOPS FROM ALL OUTLETS -- "Jared Kushner and Ivanka Trump Failed to Disclose Their Multimillion-Dollar Art Collection,"** by artnet News' Christian Erin-

Madsen, Jeremy Olds, Renata Mosci and Sam Bloch: "Since their wedding in 2009, Jared Kushner and Ivanka Trump have amassed a formidable collection of contemporary art. The walls of the couple's \$4 million Park Avenue condo are filled with works by both blue-chip and emerging artists, including Alex Israel, Dan Colen, Nate Lowman, Alex Da Corte, and David Ostrowski. ... Yet in required financial disclosures, Kushner, a senior advisor and son-in-law to President Trump, failed to report the couple's art collection. (Trump, who also holds an unpaid title in her father's administration, is considered covered by Kushner's disclosures because they are married.)

**"The omission stands in contrast to disclosures** from other senior members of the Trump administration. In recent months, Trump's top cabinet picks have revealed considerable art holdings as part of required financial disclosures. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross disclosed an art collection worth at least \$50 million. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin revealed his stake in a \$14.7 million Willem de Kooning painting, plus other artworks.

**"Responding to an inquiry about the collection's exclusion** from Kushner's financial disclosures, a lawyer advising Kushner told artnet News that the art holdings would be added to a new version of his disclosure form. 'Mr. Kushner and Ms. Trump display their art for decorative purposes and have made only a single sale,' said the lawyer in a statement issued by the White House. 'To avoid any doubt, however, they will report their art collection.'" <http://artnt.cm/2r0BMuS>

**NEWSROOM VISITORS ON K STREET -- @DavidNakamura:** "Tom Hanks, and Spielberg, are sitting in on the @washingtonpost news meeting for upcoming movie on Pentagon Papers." <http://bit.ly/2rYqBA1> ... **@ngreenberg:** "Meryl Streep too"

**WHERE'S YOUR NYT "TRUTH" TOTE BAG?** The N.Y. Times is giving out tote bags with the slogan "Truth. It's more important now than ever" to friends of The Times and Times employees so that people can "show their support of our mission and the importance of independent journalism," according to a Times spokesman. The bags and pins that say "The truth is hard" were created for the launch of their new brand campaign in February and have also been distributed at conferences and college campuses. The N.Y. Times Store is also selling other products inspired by the ad campaign -- including framed copies of the main print ad. **See a pic** <http://politi.co/2qO9Nhd> ... **The store** <http://nyti.ms/2qnMEij>

**AT THE WORLD BANK -- "World Bank's Star Economist Is Sidelined in War Over Words,"** by Bloomberg's Andrew Mayeda: "The World Bank's chief economist has been stripped of his management duties after researchers rebelled against his efforts to make them communicate more clearly, including curbs on the written use of 'and.' Paul Romer is relinquishing oversight of the Development Economics Group, the research hub of the Washington-based development lender, according to an internal staff announcement seen by Bloomberg. ... Romer will remain chief economist." <https://bloom.bg/2qgm1k6>

**FOR YOUR RADAR -- MAPLE CHARM OFFENSIVE** -- per Mary Lee in this afternoon's Politico Influence: "Canadians are flooding the Hill to prime the landscape before intense negotiations begin on NAFTA. The Canadian American Business Council (whose members include Amazon, Boeing, ExxonMobil, Facebook, and PhRMA), the Business Council of Canada, and other groups are flooding the zone to build relationships and raise awareness on how integrated the American and Canadian economies are. "They're taking the president seriously when he says, 'we're going to rip up NAFTA,' said Maryscott Greenwood, CEO of the Canadian American Business Council and principal at the public policy firm Dentons. 'He's got their attention.'

**"According to the Canadian embassy,** there have been more than 100 visits to the U.S. and/or engagements in Canada with senior U.S. officials, including President Trump, 11 Cabinet members, over 150 members of Congress and over 35 governors, since POTUS' inauguration."

**REMEMBERING AL VECCHIONE** -- PBS NewsHour's Joshua Barajas: "Vecchione, a longtime bastion of public broadcasting programming and the first executive producer of 'The MacNeil/Lehrer Report,' died Wednesday morning at his Bethesda, Maryland, home. He had a short bout with lung cancer, his family confirmed. He was 86. For seven years, Vecchione helmed the 'Report,' and then, in 1983, he helped oversee the show's transition as it doubled its length from a half hour to a full 60 minutes. Renamed 'The MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour,' the extra time allowed the show to spend more time on a single story." <http://to.pbs.org/2r0lZw3>

**SPOTTED** last night at the seventh annual YoPAC event benefiting Rep. Kevin Yoder (R-Kan.) on the rooftop of the Willard Office Building, featuring Ed Lover of MTV Raps fame (the event had lots of "rap music and jungle juice," per a tipster): Reps. Adam Kinzinger (R-Ill.), Bill Huizenga (R-Mich.), Bill Shuster (R-Penn.), David Valadao (R-Calif.), Carlos Curbelo (R-Fla.), Dave Joyce (R-Ohio), Steve Scalise (R-La.), Greg Walden (R-Ore.), Andy Barr (R-Ky.), Steven Palazzo (R-Miss.), Duncan Hunter (R-Calif.), and Will Hurd (R-Texas), Nick Owens, Lenwood Brooks, Graham Hall, Chris Berardini, Thompson Moore, Alex Pfeiffer, Dan McCarthy, Jeff Strunk, Kyle Sanders, Mike Thompson and Vince Sampson.

**\*\*\*\*\* A message from the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD):** One in two Americans rely on their employers to provide health care benefits. So, employers partner with PBMs to provide access to effective medications at the most affordable price. PBMs drive savings in part by using clinical expertise to identify generic alternatives that achieve the same health outcomes for a lower price. With generics accounting for 89 percent of prescriptions filled in 2015, but only 27 percent of drug costs, that represents a savings of \$227 billion across the U.S. health care system in just one year. Learn more at [www.affordableprescriptiondrugs.org](http://www.affordableprescriptiondrugs.org). \*\*\*\*\*

**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/1HLKltF> ...

**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/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.

---