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**From:** Anna Palmer Jake Sherman Daniel Lippman  
**Sent:** Wed 9/20/2017 5:10:49 PM  
**Subject:** Playbook Power Briefing, presented by UC Davis: TRUMP says he made up his mind on the Iran deal -- THE BIG SIX set to announce tax reform framework WEDNESDAY -- GRAHAM says health care bill will get vote next week -- BUZZ: Big changes at NFIB

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Today's Playbook Power Briefing presented by UC Davis

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**WE HEAR... -- THE BIG SIX** is set to to announce its tax reform framework next Wednesday, according to sources involved in the planning. Of course, the timing could change. But Wednesday is the plan as of now -- and our sources say they are likely to stick to it.

**FIRST IN PLAYBOOK -- DOWNTOWN BUZZ... BIG CHANGES AT NFIB** -- Nearly 20 staffers -- including many senior level employees in the communications and lobbying operation -- have exited the National Federation of Independent Businesses since Juanita Duggan took the helm in late 2015. Veteran NFIBers like Amanda Austin, vice president of government relations and media, Mark Garzone, senior vice president of marketing, and Steve Woods, senior vice president of state affairs, are among those who have departed.

**NFIB spokesman Jack Mozloom** said the changes are part of a "reorganization" Duggan began in 2016. "There have been some departures, but no more than is typical for any large organization that undergoes significant changes," Mozloom emailed. "Considering the organizational changes and a political environment that has changed dramatically since Mr. Danner's retirement, it's natural for talented employees to seek other opportunities, and it's just as natural for organizations and firms throughout Washington find top-level professionals at NFIB whom they can recruit." Duggan has also brought on several hires, including Catherine Michael, who heads a new public affairs department, David Addington, general counsel, and new top lobbyist John Kurrle.

**NEW -- BLOOMBERG'S STEVE DENNIS and SAHIL KAPUR: "GOP Health Bill Would End Guarantee That Sick People Won't Pay More":** "Under the latest Republican bill, states could get a waiver allowing insurers to charge people more if they or a dependent have a pre-existing condition, or if they get sick and want to keep their insurance. The key provision in the bill has vague language requiring a state to first show how it 'intends to maintain access to adequate and affordable health insurance coverage for individuals with pre-existing conditions.'" <https://bloom.bg/2faTpAO>

**BUSINESS INSIDER: "The new healthcare bill includes an 'Alaska Purchase' to woo a key senator"** <http://read.bi/2fj4MKD>

**THE MARCH TOWARD GRAHAM-CASSIDY -- SEN. LINDSEY GRAHAM (R-S.C.)** said his health care bill would get a vote on the Senate floor next week. No confirmation yet from Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.). **IF THIS BILL COMES TO A VOTE**, it's going to happen next week.

**EARLIER THIS MORNING ... -- BURGESS EVERETT (@burgessev):** "Things are getting testy. Graham and McCaskill had a driveby spat in the Senate, then Graham got chippy (a rarity) with reporters" ... ".@kasie asks about pre-existing. Graham: 'Where are you getting this garbage? Where are you getting this garbage? That's complete garbage'" ... **WAPO'S MIKE DEBONIS (@mikedebonis):** "Graham, Cassidy, Santorum leave McConnell ofc after 40 min meeting. 'We're inside the 5 yard line,' Graham says." ***By the way, they were within the five-yard line last time. Not saying they won't do it this time, just pointing that out.***

-- **"Kimmel, not Cassidy, is right on health care, analysts say,"** by Dan Diamond  
<http://politi.co/2wyiYH5>

**A POLITICO IN HAND -- @seungminkim:** ".@senorrhatch is a @politico reader"  
<http://bit.ly/2w6zr12>

**TRUMP AT THE U.N. --** The president said that he has made up his mind on whether or not to exit the Iran Deal, per our own Annie Karni, today's pooler. Trump told reporters "I'll let you know what the decision is." Trump also met with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas. Trump said that "I think we have a pretty good shot, maybe the best shot ever," at Middle East peace and that he "will do everything within my heart and within my soul to get that deal made."

-- **@maggieNYT :** "this was a favored tactic in the campaign to build suspense and it really never fails to get a headline"

**THE LATEST ON RUSSIA -- "Russians Appear to Use Facebook to Push Trump Rallies in 17 U.S. Cities,"** by The Daily Beast's Ben Collins, Gideon Resnick, Kevin Poulsen and Spencer Ackerman: "Suspected Russia propagandists on Facebook tried to organize more than a dozen pro-Trump rallies in Florida during last year's election, The Daily Beast has learned. The demonstrations -- at least one of which was promoted online by local pro-Trump activists -- brought dozens of supporters together in real life. They appear to be the first case of Russian provocateurs successfully mobilizing Americans over Facebook in direct support of Donald Trump.

**"The Aug. 20, 2016, events were** collectively called 'Florida Goes Trump!' and they were billed as a 'patriotic state-wide flash mob,' unfolding simultaneously in 17 different cities and towns in the battleground state. It's difficult to determine how many of those locations actually witnessed any turnout, in part because Facebook's recent deletion of

hundreds of Russian accounts hid much of the evidence. But videos and photos from two of the locations -- Fort Lauderdale and Coral Springs -- were reposted to a Facebook page run by the local Trump campaign chair, where they remain to this day." <http://thebea.st/2wz0Kp2>

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**ON THE PRESIDENT'S MIND -- @realDonaldTrump** at 6:14 a.m.: "Big meetings today at the United Nations. So many interesting leaders. America First will MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!" ... **at 6:40 a.m.:** "After allowing North Korea to research and build Nukes while Secretary of State (Bill C also), Crooked Hillary now criticizes." ... **at 7:00 a.m.:** "Thank you @foxandfriends - great show!" ...

... **at 8:09 a.m.:** "Rand Paul is a friend of mine but he is such a negative force when it comes to fixing healthcare. Graham-Cassidy Bill is GREAT! Ends Ocare!" ... **at 8:16 a.m.:** "I hope Republican Senators will vote for Graham-Cassidy and fulfill their promise to Repeal & Replace ObamaCare. Money direct to States!" ... **at 8:29 a.m.:** "Looking forward to Friday night in the Great State of Alabama. I am supporting 'Big' Luther Strange because he was so loyal & helpful to me!" ***The president also thanked and retweeted several supporters, including evangelical leader Franklin Graham***

-- **FORTUNE: "Here's What Ivanka and Melania Trump Are Doing at the United Nations"** <http://for.tn/2fzRA0K>

**IN THE COURTS -- "California sues to block Trump's border wall,"** by Josh Gerstein: "The State of California is suing to block President Donald Trump's plan to construct a wall along the U.S. border with Mexico, the top lawyer for the state told reporters Tuesday. The lawsuit set to be filed in federal court in San Diego will argue that the effort violates federal law and the Constitution by intruding on state authority, California Attorney General Xavier Becerra said.

**"They're violating the Tenth Amendment** and infringing on a lot of state laws, not just federal laws, that affect our state. At the same time, they're trying to do something that only Congress can do,' Becerra told journalists in Washington in advance of an official announcement he plans to make in San Diego Wednesday." <http://politi.co/2ypAXwT>

**SAVE THIS TAPE -- ASHLEY PARKER** interviews **NIKKI HALEY** in **GLAMOUR** -- Haley on speculation that she could be the next secretary of state: "I don't take it seriously. Secretary Tillerson is not going anywhere. I can vouch for that. He is where he is, he continues to be strong in how he handles foreign policy, and I continue to work well with him." <http://bit.ly/2xRN8p2>

**CYBER WAR -- New group of Iranian hackers linked to destructive malware,"** by WIRED's Andy Greenberg: "For more than five years, Iran has maintained a reputation as one of the most aggressive nations in the global arena of state-sponsored hacking, stealing data from corporate and government networks around the world, bombarding U.S. banks with cyberattacks, and most brazen of all, unleashing multiple waves of computer-crippling malware that hit tens of thousands of PCs across the Middle East. But amidst that noisy mayhem, one Iranian group has managed to quietly penetrate a broad series of targets around the world, until now evading the public eye. And while that group seems to have stuck to traditional spying so far, it may also be laying the groundwork for the next round of destructive attacks.

**"Security firm FireEye has released** new research into a group it calls Advanced Persistent Threat 33, attributing a prolific series of breaches of companies in the aerospace, defense, and petrochemical industries in countries as wide-ranging as Saudi Arabia, South Korea, and the US. While FireEye has closely tracked APT33 since May of last year, the security firm believes the group has been active since at least 2013, with firm evidence that it works on behalf of Iran's government. And though FireEye describes APT33's activities as largely focused on stealthy spying, they've also found links between it and a mysterious piece of data-destroying malware that security analysts have puzzled over since earlier this year." <http://bit.ly/2ypBe2C>

**THE ADMINISTRATION -- "At EPA, guarding the chief pulls agents from pursuing environmental crimes,"** by WaPo's Juliet Eilperin and Brady Dennis: "Scott Pruitt's round-the-clock personal security detail, which demands triple the manpower of his predecessors at the Environmental Protection Agency, has prompted officials to rotate in special agents from around the country who otherwise would be investigating environmental crimes. The EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance has summoned agents from various cities to serve two-week stints helping guard Pruitt in recent months. And while hiring in many departments is frozen, the agency has sought an exception to hire additional full-time staff to protect Pruitt." <http://wapo.st/2xvF50g>

**TRUMP'S MAN IN THE VALLEY -- "Is Trump mulling Peter Thiel for a top intelligence advisory post?"** by Adam Ciralsky in Vanity Fair: "According to two [White House sources], Thiel has been in discussions to become the chair of the lofty P.I.A.B.-- the President's Intelligence Advisory Board. This high-level intelligence post (previously held by Establishment figures such as Brent Scowcroft, Les Aspin, and Warren Rudman) independently monitors America's spy agencies and was established in 1956 to counsel the president. These two sources recounted that Thiel and the administration had been in the process of firming up the details of his role and staffing; then, in August, one of them texted me to say the offer to Thiel was now in limbo. Another White House source, however, told me in September that Thiel remains the president's choice to lead the P.I.A.B." <http://bit.ly/2wyGaFp>

**THE WALL -- "Trump Is Using Targeted Facebook Ads To Reassure Supporters He Will Build The Border Wall,"** by BuzzFeed's Craig Silverman: "President Donald

Trump is using targeted Facebook ads to reassure supporters that he still plans to build the border wall after his recent public comments caused many to question whether he would keep his promise. ... A White House spokesman told BuzzFeed News the ads are being run by the Trump campaign, and referred all questions to it. The Trump campaign did not respond to emails or phone messages about the ads. The ads are not visible on the timelines of the Trump or Pence Facebook pages. They are therefore so-called 'dark post ads' because they can only be seen by people the campaign chose to target with the message." <http://bzfd.it/2ypGOIR>

**KFILE SPECIALS -- "Trump judicial nominee said transgender children are part of 'Satan's plan', defended 'conversion therapy,'" by CNN's Chris Massie and Andrew Kaczynski: "In a pair of 2015 speeches, President Donald Trump's nominee for a federal judgeship in Texas described transgender children as evidence of 'Satan's plan,' lamented that states were banning conversion therapy and argued that sanctioning same-sex marriage would lead to polygamy and bestiality. Jeff Mateer, the current first assistant attorney general of Texas, was serving at the time as general counsel of the First Liberty Institute, a religious liberty advocacy group known before 2016 as the Liberty Institute." <http://cnn.it/2yqQv3x>**

**-- "Roy Moore's foundation shared a video in 2015 calling Obama a Muslim," by Kaczynski and Massie <http://cnn.it/2yqRyjZ>**

**"60 MINUTES" THIS SUNDAY -- LESLIE STAHL talks to Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) ... SCOTT PELLEY is in Houston, reporting on the damage from the hurricane.**

**COMING ATTRACTIONS -- The National Press Club's 5th annual Spelling Bee is on Sept. 26 from 7-11 p.m. at the National Press Club. Spelling for Congress is Reps. Virginia Foxx (R-N.C.), Don Beyer (D-Va.), Scott Peters (D-Calif.), Suzanne Bonamici (D-Ore.), Jamie Raskin (D-Md.) and Ted Deutch (D-Fla.). The press team is WaPo's Alexandra Petri, POLITICO's Seung Min Kim, Gallup's Art Swift (the reigning champ) and The Atlantic's Molly Ball. ESPN's Clinton Yates and WaPo's Kelsey Snell are MCing, with this year's Scripps National Spelling Bee winner Ananya Vinay as a guest judge. **Tickets \$25, all proceeds benefit NPC's Journalism Institute** <http://bit.ly/2yqfSIW>**

**CLICKER -- "An Immigrant's Path to Congress: Ruben Kihuen's First Year in Photos," by Roll Call's Bill Clark <http://bit.ly/2wycR5G>**

**TODAY'S BEYOND THE BELTWAY -- Hurricane Maria pounds Puerto Rico -- Handicapping Chicago's odds at landing Amazon's new HQ <http://politi.co/2ypD2c2>**

**--"Republican Andy Ogles' bid for Bob Corker's U.S. Senate seat to get \$4 million assist from Lee Beaman," by The Tennessean's Joel Ebert: <http://tnne.ws/2w6MteP>**

**BIG SALES -- "Clinton book has sold more than 300,000 copies," by the AP's Hillel Italie: "Clinton's book about her stunning loss in 2016 to Donald Trump sold more than**

300,000 copies in the combined formats of hardcover, e-book and audio, Simon & Schuster told The Associated Press on Wednesday. The book's hardcover sales of 168,000 was the highest opening for any nonfiction release in five years, according to NPD BookScan, which tracks around 85 percent of retail print sales." <http://bit.ly/2yrzarc>

**BIRTHDAY** -- Former Rep. Walt Minnick (D-Iowa) (h/t Former Rep. John Barrow (D-Ga.)).

**WELCOME TO THE WORLD** -- **Elizabeth Crow**, government relations director at the Nature Conservancy, and **Peter Crow**, a new product commercialization manager at 3M, recently welcomed Lee Howard Crow. **Pic** <http://bit.ly/2wG3MTL>

**NEW ON THE TWITTERS - CARLOS GUTIERREZ** finally joined Twitter (@carlosgutierrez) on Tuesday, getting a little help from Madeleine Albright. <http://bit.ly/2xejmKv>

\*\*\*\*\* **A message from UC Davis:** Ranked first in the world for veterinary medicine, UC Davis believes collaborating across disciplines in animal, human and environmental health is the best way to advance the health of all creatures great and small. Using this "One Health" approach to problem solving, our research - much of which is federally funded - is resulting in cost-saving, translatable treatments for cancer, breakthroughs in stem cell therapy, increased awareness and management of emerging zoonotic diseases, better protection for endangered species, and comprehensive responses to environmental crises like oil spills and floods. Learn more about UC Davis health innovation at [21stcentury.ucdavis.edu](http://21stcentury.ucdavis.edu). \*\*\*\*\*

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