

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Anna Palmer Jake Sherman Daniel Lippman
Sent: Thur 8/17/2017 5:09:09 PM
Subject: Playbook Power Briefing, presented by the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD):
THE NEW GOP CIVIL WAR -- TRUMP attacks Flake, Graham -- Terror attack in BARCELONA --
BANNON re-ups with third interview

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

Today's Playbook Power Briefing presented by the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs
(CAPD)

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

BREAKING -- BARCELONA, Spain (AP) at 12:53 p.m.: "Police in Spain call Barcelona van incident a terror attack; local media report up to 13 dead." *The AP's updating story* <http://bit.ly/2wTeho1>

SIREN -- THE NEW CIVIL WAR: INSIDE THE MINDS OF TOP ESTABLISHMENT REPUBLICANS -- FROM JOSH HOLMES, the former chief of staff to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and the president of Cavalry: "If you took a time machine from ten years ago and arrived this week you would be forgiven for assuming Donald Trump was elected president as a Democrat on a platform of 'the south will rise again!'"

"**Trump is using the precious capital of the bully pulpit** to talk about confederate monuments in between savage attacks on fellow Republicans. Just think about that. Not tax reform. Not repeal and replace. Not North Korean nuclear capabilities. No focused critiques on extremely vulnerable Democrats who have opposed him at every possible turn.

"**The reality is that every time he attacks a Republican** he invites another member in good standing and another segment of the Republican party to abandon him. When you're eight months in and Republicans are all you have left, chipping away at the remaining few is a helluva strategy. The outpouring of critiques from within the GOP about the President's handling of Charlottesville could serve as a wake up call for the Administration, but if not, it could also be a Republican Party that begins to reassert an identity without Donald Trump."

WHAT JOSH IS TALKING ABOUT -- @realDonaldTrump: "Great to see that Dr. Kelli Ward is running against Flake Jeff Flake, who is WEAK on borders, crime and a non-factor in Senate. He's toxic!" ... "Sad to see the history and culture of our great country being ripped apart with the removal of our beautiful statues and monuments. You.....can't change history, but you can learn from it. Robert E Lee, Stonewall Jackson - who's next, Washington, Jefferson? So foolish! Also.....the beauty that is

being taken out of our cities, towns and parks will be greatly missed and never able to be comparably replaced!"

Good Thursday afternoon. A FRIENDLY REMINDER: We are taking "Playbook on the Road" this August. Send us a photo of yourself, or others reading Playbook during your travels this month and we will feature five photos every Friday. Participating Playbookers will automatically be entered into a drawing to win a signed cartoon by POLITICO's Pulitzer winning cartoonist Matt Wuerker. Email photos to Daniel at daniel@politico.com. Or, Tweet them to @playbookplus with the hashtag #PlaybookLoyal

BACK TO THE NEWS ... IT'S NOT SURPRISING that Trump doesn't want Flake to be reelected -- he has been vocally opposed to the president, his behavior and some of his policies. This is just the latest back-and-forth between the two in the last month. But calling for an incumbent senator's head from your own party is unprecedented. Flake has good relationships with his Senate colleagues and is a reliable Republican vote for Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. This type of intraparty pissing match in public is the exact type of thing McConnell hates. Expect Republican senators to link arms and back Flake.

-- **SENATE DEMOCRATS** will love this. It's like a free gift. It distracts the GOP and could force McConnell and other outside groups to spend millions of dollars in a costly primary tying up money that could be used elsewhere.

-- **@AliABCNews:** "The NRSC unequivocally supports Senator Flake in his reelection bid." - NRSC Chairman **@SenCoryGardner** ... **@SenJohnMcCain:** ".@JeffFlake is a principled legislator & always does what's right for the people of #AZ. Our state needs his leadership now more than ever."

HOUSE MINORITY LEADER NANCY PELOSI called for confederate statues to be removed from the Capitol. To review: Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.) said he will draft legislation to remove the statues.

-- **@scottwongDC :** "NEWS: @SpeakerRyan spox says removing Confederate statues from Capitol not up to Congress: 'These are decisions for those states to make'".

FLASHBACK -- "In Renovation of Golf Club, Donald Trump Also Dressed Up History," by NYT's Nicholas Fandos on Nov. 24, 2015: "When Donald J. Trump bought a fixer-upper golf club on Lowes Island here for \$13 million in 2009, he poured millions more into reconfiguring its two courses. ... But that wasn't enough. Mr. Trump also upgraded its place in history. Between the 14th hole and the 15th tee of one of the club's two courses, Mr. Trump installed a flagpole on a stone pedestal overlooking the Potomac, to which he affixed a plaque purportedly designating 'The River of Blood.'

"Many great American soldiers, both of the North and South, died at this spot,' the inscription reads. 'The casualties were so great that the water would turn red and thus

became known as 'The River of Blood.' ... Like many of Mr. Trump's claims, the inscription was evidently not fact-checked. 'No. Uh-uh. No way. Nothing like that ever happened there,' said Richard Gillespie, the executive director of the Mosby Heritage Area Association." <http://nyti.ms/2v4ZKDD>

***** **A message from the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD):** If you know only one fact about rising drug costs, know this one: drug makers set prices for prescription drugs. To help manage nearly double-digit price increases, employers, unions and government programs use PBMs to negotiate lower net prices to help curb costs for employers and patients. Learn more at affordableprescriptiondrugs.org *****

TRUMP is meeting with Florida Gov. Rick Scott and SBA Administrator Linda McMahon this afternoon at Trump National Golf Club. Pooler Maggie Haberman of the NYT writes that McMahon "will give an update to the president regarding the agency tax reform and deregulation initiative, per White House spokeswoman Lindsay Walters." Scott is also scheduled to meet with John Kelly.

GARY COHN also intends to stay in his role, per Maggie: "On background from a WH official, 'Nothing has changed. Gary is focused on his responsibilities as NEC Director and any reports to the contrary are 100% false'".

ALWAYS BE SPINNING -- "Steve Bannon says controversial interview with liberal magazine was GOOD for the White House because it 'drew fire away' from Trump," by The Daily Mail's David Martosko: "Bannon told DailyMail.com that his remarks 'drew fire away from POTUS,' meaning President Trump, and that he successfully 'changed the [media] narrative' with a single phone call. It's unclear if there has been any blowback in the West Wing from Bannon's unexpected on-the-record remarks to the magazine, which came in an unsolicited phone call on Wednesday." <http://dailym.ai/2v4TSu5>

-- **IT'S WORTH NOTING:** This is Bannon's third interview in 48 hours. It's almost as if he's doing a string of interviews on purpose! Also, he's taking a play straight of his boss's media playbook: flood the zone.

-- **LINDSEY WALTERS** told the pool that Bannon's comments in the American Prospect "speak for themselves," adding, "You're going to need to contact Steve Bannon for any further clarification," per Haberman.

-- **Yeganeh Torbat** i -- Reuters State Department reporter -- ([@yjtorbati](https://twitter.com/yjtorbati)): "Tillerson pointedly shakes Susan Thornton's hand before sitting down for meetings with Japanese defense/foreign ministers @StateDept".

--**THORNTON** is the acting head of East Asian and Pacific Affairs at the State Department who Bannon told the American Prospect he was going to get rid of.

SMART STORY -- NYT'S ALEX BURNS in PHOENIX -- "Southwest Rises as 2018

Senate Battleground": "Even before President Trump's rise, a pair of Western states foreshadowed some of the consuming clashes of his presidency: the tug of war between traditional conservatives and border-hawk nationalists, and the struggle for power between diverse, booming cities like Las Vegas and Phoenix, and far-flung rural precincts struggling to keep up.

"And in a season of political tumult, Nevada and Arizona have emerged anew as a defining battleground for both parties -- states that encapsulate the evolving politics of the Southwest and may control the balance of power in the Senate....

"The West looms just as large for Democrats, holding out a rare chance to pick up seats in the Senate. More than a dozen House seats are at stake across the broader region, including seats in Texas and California, along with a handful of governorships. Republicans hold a slim majority in the Senate, 52 seats to the Democrats' 48, but the 2018 political map is tilted heavily in their favor.

"Harry Reid, the former Democratic leader in the Senate, said the growing prominence of these states in 2018 portended a longer-term shift. For all the concern about Midwestern states that shifted toward Mr. Trump, it is the Sun Belt and interior West that are expected to gain population, House seats and electoral votes over the coming decades. 'The power has shifted in our country, west of the Mississippi,' Mr. Reid said in an interview. 'It started a couple of cycles ago, but now it's in full force.'" <http://nyti.ms/2uTuB6z>

TRUMP INC. -- "Gorsuch to headline event at Trump Hotel," by Matt Nussbaum: "Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch is slated to headline a September event at the Trump International Hotel. The 'Defending Freedom Luncheon,' hosted by the non-profit Fund for American Studies, is an invitation-only event to celebrate 'the constitutional framework that has protected our free society and made America exceptional,' according to the group's website. Gorsuch, whose appointment to the Supreme Court is considered to be among Trump's most significant accomplishment in the White House, will deliver the keynote address." <http://politi.co/2v5tqA9>

-- **"Cleveland Clinic pulls fundraiser from Mar-a-Lago,"** by Negassi Tesfamichael <http://politi.co/2v4OhUv>

ON THE BENCH -- "From Private Practice to Gorsuch Clerk to Senate Staff: A Denver Lawyer's Career Whirlwind," by National Law Journal's Tony Mauro: "In less than a year, Michael Davis went from managing a two-lawyer firm to clerking for Justice Neil Gorsuch to screening judicial nominations for Senate Republicans. 'I'm glad I did it,' Davis said in a recent interview, 'but it's not something that I sought.' ... Davis helped set up Gorsuch's office in the chambers of the late Justice Antonin Scalia, worked on opinions, and assisted in screening applicants for Gorsuch's staff. He also worked on recruiting Gorsuch clerks for the 2018 term, joking that future clerks 'better learn how to ski,' because Gorsuch clerk reunions take the form of an annual ski trip along with the clerks of Tenth Circuit Chief Judge Timothy Tymkovich. Gorsuch wouldn't be the first

justice to use athletics-based clerk screening. The late Chief Justice William Rehnquist picked his three clerks with an eye toward doubles tennis matches." *Behind a paywall* <http://bit.ly/2w49H8E>

TIMELY TRIP -- Sen. Ed Markey (D-Mass.) is leading a congressional delegation to China, Japan and Korea. The delegation will visit the China-North Korea border and the Korean DMZ. Sens. Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.) and Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.) and Reps. Ann Wagner (R-Mo.) and Carolyn Maloney (D-N.Y.). They're wheels up now and return late next week, according to a spokesperson.

-- **FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH:** Rep. Dana Rohrabacher's (R-Calif.) office says that he paid out of pocket for the trip that took him to see Julian Assange. "He's on his way to France to celebrate his 20th," a spokesman said.

AFTERNOON READ -- "How Militias Became the Private Police for White Supremacists," by Casey Michel in POLITICO Magazine: "Despite the militias' public statements of neutrality, evidence has mounted over the past six months that the militias have gravitated decisively toward one side in the street battles that have played out recently in cities across the country. Indeed, during these first months of Trump's presidency, these loose-knit organizations making up America's militia movement are losing their anti-government ideological purity as they grow increasingly close with a segment of the right-wing from which many in the recent past had generally kept their distance. Their presence as a private security force for an increasingly public coalition of white nationalist factions-Ku Klux Klan followers, neo-Nazis, and alt-right supporters-has transformed a movement that has already demonstrated a willingness to threaten violence." <http://politi.co/2v4JpP0>

Today's Beyond the Beltway -- Emails show close relationship between de Blasio and lobby shop -- LA Mayor Eric Garcetti will go to New Hampshire <http://politi.co/2v5zqZl>

MEDIAWATCH -- JOE POMPEO in VANITY FAIR -- "Can Oath, the arrange media marriage of Yahoo and AOL, avoid a rough divorce?": "The fancy digs and generous amenities may seem nice, but they won't necessarily aid in the biggest challenge surrounding Oath, which is not about whether two older assets can be rolled together in harmony. Instead, it seems to be about whether their corporate overlord can actually make use of them. Leaving aside the punishing economics of digital media, the \$4.5 billion question is how Verizon, which controls so many phones, can use the array of media now in its possession to boost the margins of a competitive wireless business. Furthermore, is there something within those media brands that's powerful and compelling enough for Verizon to preload it onto the home screen of its tens of millions of mobile devices?" <http://bit.ly/2v4Tqfi>

-- **"Man misidentified as Charlottesville driver had to flee home; plans to sue far-right sites,"** by CNN's Oliver Darcy <http://cnnmon.ie/2v589H0>

-- "Mic is laying off staff as it prepares for a pivot to video," by Business Insider's Maxwell Tani <http://read.bi/2v5jaYL>

SPOTTED: Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine) in first class on an American flight out of DCA to Portland last night.

***** **A message from the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD) :**

The high prices that drug makers set for prescription drugs can put financial strain on patients, employers, unions and others who provide health care coverage to more than 50 percent of Americans. Pharmacy benefit managers negotiate the lowest net price for prescriptions on behalf of employers, unions and government programs. But, as list prices - the starting point for those negotiations -- continue their nearly double-digit increases, the effects ripple throughout the system. The key to ensuring greater access and affordability lies in fostering greater competition. Facilitating faster reviews of generics and biosimilars, identifying off-patent drugs with little or no generic competition, and ending anti-competitive practices that keep safe, effective alternatives out of the market are also key to abating rising drug costs for patients. Learn more at 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/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 by: POLITICO, LLC 1000 Wilson Blvd. Arlington, VA, 22209, USA

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