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From: Hadas Gold - POLITICO Media
Sent: Thur 7/27/2017 9:44:24 AM
Subject: Morning Media: Sean Spicer's next (dance?) steps -- Fox Newsers at the White House -- Local coverage may be hurting ACA repeal and replace

By Hadas Gold | 07/27/2017 05:42 AM EDT

With Alex Weprin and Cristiano Lima

SEAN SPICER TO DANCE WITH THE STARS? Maybe! Yesterday Tara Palmeri and I started getting tips that the ABC reality show was interested in Spicer joining their next season. The New York Post scooped us but we soon followed with our own version. We also learned that multiple agencies are fighting to rep Spicer, but that he hasn't signed on with anyone yet. Spicer didn't respond to our request for comment and ABC said they don't comment on casting.

-- Spicer also made the rounds at the "Fake News" media to kick the tires about possible jobs. We know he talked to ABC News, CBS, NBC and Fox. No one would comment about the meetings, but Fox has previously said they talk to "all the major players" and another source said ABC News doesn't seem that interested in hiring him. CNN publicly said last week they weren't interested. Another network source warned that networks would be smart to take a meeting with Spicer because he'd be a big interview get as well.

TOP FOX NEWSERS WERE AT THE WHITE HOUSE YESTERDAY -- Sean Hannity, Kimberly Guilfoyle and former Fox News president Bill Shine dined with the president, first lady and Anthony Scaramucci, Ryan Lizza reported last night. Scaramucci is a former Fox contributor and was on Hannity's show last night. He's also said to be personally close to Shine, who as we all know is very close to Hannity. CNN's Dylan Byers added that Kimberly Guilfoyle was also at the dinner -- she was once in talks to join the White House at one point, though she recently signed a long term contract with the channel.

-- So why was Shine there? The recently ousted Fox News president does have time on his hands since leaving the network in May. Could he be angling for a White House job? Scaramucci has previously floated the idea of a daily administration "television" broadcast at 7 a.m., complete with a desk on the White House lawn, and Shine sure would have the credentials for such a job. Or maybe he could get another position, perhaps a loftier gig like an ambassadorship? Or perhaps as Undersecretary for Public Diplomacy, the position former Fox News chief Roger Ailes was rumored to be in the running for months ago?

Related: Thanks to Scaramucci's financial disclosure, which my colleague Lorraine Woellert obtained yesterday, we learned he made \$88,461 as a contributor for Fox Business. (Scaramucci is not happy about that financial disclosure being leaked and late last night said he wants the FBI and DOJ to look into Chief of Staff Reince Priebus for leaking).

Tucker Carlson also made an appearance at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave yesterday. A tipster pinged me on Wednesday afternoon to tell me they spotted Carlson at the White House gates checking in with security at the gate used to enter the West Wing. As I went searching for why,

Vice President Mike Pence tweeted that he had been interviewed by Carlson. A few minutes later, Fox News announced that the Pence interview would air on Wednesday evening and had just been filmed in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building. Sources tell me after his interview in EEOB Carlson made the rounds in the West Wing.

Good morning and welcome to Morning Media! I always want to hear from you -- hgold@politico.com / [@Hadas_Gold](https://twitter.com/Hadas_Gold). **Morning Media** is edited by **Alex Weprin** ([@alexweprin](https://twitter.com/alexweprin) / aweprin@politico.com) and produced with writing/reporting help from **Cristiano Lima**. (clima@politico.com / [@ludacristiano](https://twitter.com/ludacristiano)). [Archives](#). [Subscribe](#).

IS MATT DRUDGE THROWING WARNING SHOTS AT TRUMP? That's what [CNN's Oliver Darcy reported](#) yesterday: "Over the past several weeks, Drudge's website has covered the White House with a more critical eye, more frequently drawing attention to news not exactly flattering to the president." Darcy also reports Drudge is at the White House "all the time" but that he's starting to grow "impatient" with the president.

FORMER BREITBART SPOX SAYS THEY'RE NOT FULLY DEFENDING ATTORNEY GENERAL JEFF SESSIONS, Kurt Bardella wrote in an op-ed yesterday. Bardella said he knows from experience what it's like when Breitbart goes to #war over someone or something, and their coverage of Sessions' issues with Trump recently aren't it. While they've been plenty critical of the president for harping on one of his most important cabinet secretaries (and his first Senate endorsement), Bardella says the "full-tilt combat with Breitbart" doesn't look like those few articles. "Substitute Donald Trump with any other political figure, and I guarantee you these relentless, one-sided attacks against Sessions would be met with all-out open warfare, not warnings that 'Sessions could endanger the administration and the split the critical coalition that helped Trump to the presidency.'"

LOCAL MEDIA MAY BE HELPING TO KILL THE REPEAL AND REPLACE OF OBAMACARE. Local media still has a big influence on voters, and the [Wesleyan Media Project](#) has been tracking local coverage of the healthcare debate, which they say may be contributing to the backlash some Senators are getting from their constituents. One thing they've found is that coverage of the repeal and replace has focused on the policies, what might substantially change and what would be lost. Drafting the bill behind closed doors caused local coverage to fall dramatically, they found.

-- This all plays into the White House's increasing efforts to connect with media outside of the national bubble. I told you last week how local affiliates from Washington and New York met with the White House to discuss coverage and how they could book more administration people. **Earlier this week the White House invited 19 talk radio hosts -- all from the conservative leaning Salem Media Group -- to broadcast live from the White House**, and made many high-ranking administration officials available for interviews including top White House officials like Seb Gorka and Kellyanne Conway, as well as EPA administrator Scott Pruitt, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, HUD Secretary Ben Carson, Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao, Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross, Chief Economic Advisor Gary Cohn, Communications Director Anthony Scaramucci and SBA Administrator Linda McMahon.

POLL: 45% OF REPUBLICAN VOTERS SUPPORT CLOSING 'BIASED OR INACCURATE' OUTLETS: President Donald Trump isn't alone in his disdain for the so-called "fake news media." A new [The Economist/YouGov poll](#) found that 45 percent of Republicans support "permitting the courts to shut down news media outlets for publishing or broadcasting stories that are biased or inaccurate," highlighting the ongoing tension between the party and the press. Yet neither the media nor the Republican president came out with favorable views with the population at large, with a plurality of Americans disapproving of the way each one is treating the other. And for prominent outlets -- like The New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, Fox News and MSNBC -- trustworthiness ratings were down slightly across the board from two months ago, showing a continued erosion of faith in the media.

SOUNDBITE: "At the Pentagon, the first of the three tweets raised fears that the president was getting ready to announce strikes on North Korea or some other military action." [[BuzzFeed](#)]

BEN SHAPIRO, ADAM CAROLLA TO TESTIFY ON CAPITOL HILL for a hearing about free speech on college campuses. Per my colleagues at Morning Education, conservative commentator Shapiro will talk about the concept of "micro-aggressions" which he says have been used to justify violence against speakers who voice views that some find offensive. "All of this destroys free speech, he writes. "But just as importantly, it turns students into snowflakes, craven and pathetic, looking for an excuse to be offended so they can earn points in the intersectional Olympics and then use those points as a club with which to beat opponents."

-- **Comedian Carolla will rail against "safe spaces" on campuses.** "Instead of fostering the development of young adults, colleges are providing coloring books, play-doh, puppies, and stuffed animals," the testimony says. "It's basically your four-year-old daughter's bedroom where one can shut out the challenges and facts of the outside world. Providing this bubble wrapped type of education does not prepare the next generation for the challenges of life. It prepares them for failure."

NIEMAN HAS AN IMPORTANT REPORT ON MOTHERS IN MEDIA: "If news organizations want to attract and retain millennial journalists, newsrooms must better meet the needs of parents with young children-and create better work-life balance for everyone." Read it [here](#).

REVOLVING DOOR:

-- The San Francisco Chronicle's 98-year-old science editor David Perlman [is retiring](#) after nearly seven decades (!)

--Former NBC "Today" anchor Ann Curry [will return to TV](#) with a show on PBS, "We'll Meet Again."

TIL: Energy Secretary Rick Perry was duped by a Russian radio prankster duo who spoke with Perry for 22 minutes as they impersonated the prime minister of Ukraine. [[Washington Post](#)]

EXTRAS:

-- New York Times' Bret Stephens says the White House Director of Social Media lied about him unmasking the name of a CIA agent, and hasn't corrected it. [[New York Times](#)]

-- Viacom has dropped out of the bidding for Food Network and HGTV owner Scripps Networks, leaving Discovery Communications as the only possible suitor. [[Reuters](#)]

-- A Breitbart editor said his Twitter account was briefly suspended. [[Facebook](#)]

-- "Megyn Kelly Today" will be the name of the former Fox News anchor's morning program on NBC. [[Page Six](#)]

-- In op-ed published by his own outlet, Michael Bloomberg blasted Trump's transgender ban for offending "on both moral and practical grounds, in both style and substance. [[Bloomberg](#)]

-- Trump may be "failing" as president but he's succeeding as reality television. [[BuzzFeed](#)]

-- Cheddar is forging partnerships with local TV offering stations one- to two-minute market updates each day on a taped and live basis. [[Poynter](#)]

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