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From: Anna Palmer Jake Sherman Daniel Lippman
Sent: Mon 8/14/2017 5:13:03 PM
Subject: Playbook Power Briefing, presented by the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD): TRUMP condemns KKK, white nationalists days later -- Pharmaceutical CEO quits presidential advisory panel over Charlottesville

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

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Good Monday afternoon. TRUMP SPEAKS! -- THE PRESIDENT: "To anyone who acted criminally in this weekend's racist violence, you will be held fully accountable. Justice will be delivered. As I said on Saturday, we condemn in the strongest possible terms this egregious display of hatred, bigotry and violence. It has no place in America. ... Racism is evil and those who cause violence in its name are criminals and thugs, including the KKK, neo-Nazis, white supremacists and other hate groups that are repugnant to everything we hold dear as Americans."

THE PRESIDENT tied his response to his campaign theme of law and order saying "as a candidate, I promised to restore law and order to our country, and our federal law enforcement agencies are following through on that pledge. We will spare no resource in fighting so that every American child can grow up free from violence and fear."

HE DID NOT call it terrorism.

WHAT EVERYONE IS TALKING ABOUT -- KENNETH FRAZIER, the CEO of pharmaceutical company Merck, quit Trump's advisory panel following the president's response to the violence from neo-Nazi and white supremacists in Charlottesville. Frazier, in a statement: "America's leaders must honor our fundamental values by clearly rejecting expressions of hatred, bigotry, and group supremacy, which run counter to the American ideal that all people are created equal."

-- **Less than an hour later**, the president angrily responded, tweeting "Now that Ken Frazier of Merck Pharma has resigned from President's Manufacturing Council, he will have more time to LOWER RIPOFF DRUG PRICES!" **More from STAT's Damian Garde** <http://bit.ly/2uCIL1d> ... **Frazier's full statement** <http://bit.ly/2uCFrBO>

TRUMP'S DEFENDERS -- "White House defends Trump as criticism mounts over Charlottesville response," by Louis Nelson: "Administration officials rushed to defend President Donald Trump's response to deadly violence over the weekend at a white

supremacist rally in Virginia, with his attorney general and vice president trying to deflect criticism that Trump should have been more forceful in denouncing the hate groups that marched in Charlottesville on Saturday.

"Attorney General Jeff Sessions, who appeared on all three network TV morning shows Monday, told 'CBS This Morning' that Trump's initial statement - which did not specifically mention white supremacists but blamed 'many sides' for violence - had actually 'condemned roundly' the ideology of hate groups. Vice President Mike Pence told NBC's 'Today' show that the president's remarks 'spoke into a national moment' with 'words that the American people needed to hear.'" <http://politi.co/2vTPUsI>

THE LATEST ON JAMES FIELDS -- "Charlottesville Suspect James Alex Fields Jr. Denied Bond at First Court Appearance," by NBC News' Marianna Sotomayor and Corky Siemaszko: "Dressed in a black and white prison jumpsuit, James Alex Fields Jr. appeared in a Charlottesville court room via video conference from the local jail and did not enter a plea in connection with the death of 32-year-old Heather Heyer at a 'Unite The Right' march Saturday.

'No sir,' Fields answered when Chief Judge Robert H. Downer Jr. asked him if he could afford a lawyer. The 20-year-old was assigned court-appointed attorney Charles Webber and given a August 25 return court date.

"Fields told the court he earns \$600 a week working for a private security company in Maumee, Ohio. During the 10-minute appearance, he mostly kept his head down and avoided looking directly into the camera. 'Yes sir,' Fields answered when Downer asked him if he understood everything that was said during the proceeding. Then Fields was marched back to his cell at the Albemarle-Charlottesville Regional Jail."

<http://bit.ly/2uCKq5H>

THIS ISN'T GOING AWAY -- "Virginia receives request for a September rally at the Robert E. Lee monument in Richmond," by the Richmond Times-Dispatch's Patrick Wilson and Michael O'Connor: "A Confederate heritage organization has asked the state for permission to gather Sept. 16 at Richmond's Robert E. Lee monument. The rally would come roughly a month after Saturday's white nationalist protest descended into violence in Charlottesville.

"The Department of General Services has received a request from Americans for Richmond Monument Preservation for a permit to hold an event at the Lee Monument on Monument Avenue, according to Dena Potter, an agency spokeswoman, who said the application is under review and has not been approved. Potter said the request was submitted by Bragdon Bowling - a former commander of the Virginia Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans." <http://bit.ly/2uCPBma>

******* 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 *****

RAMPED UP SECURITY -- "Powerful Venezuelan lawmaker may have issued death order against Rubio," by the Miami Herald's Patricia Mazzei: "One of Venezuela's most powerful leaders may have put out an order to kill Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, a fervent critic of the South American country's government, according to intelligence obtained by the U.S. last month.

"Though federal authorities couldn't be sure at the time if the uncorroborated threat was real, they took it seriously enough that Rubio has been guarded by a security detail for several weeks in both Washington and Miami. Believed to be behind the order: Diosdado Cabello, the influential former military chief and lawmaker from the ruling socialist party who has publicly feuded with Rubio." <http://hrlid.us/2uV33Nt>

-- **RUBIO** has been spotted with a Capitol Police detail recently.

RUSSIA UPDATE -- "Obama team was warned in 2014 about Russian interference," by Ali Watkins: "The Obama administration received multiple warnings from national security officials between 2014 and 2016 that the Kremlin was ramping up its intelligence operations and building disinformation networks it could use to disrupt the U.S. political system, according to more than half a dozen current and former officials.

"As early as 2014, the administration received a report that quoted a well-connected Russian source as saying that the Kremlin was building a disinformation arm that could be used to interfere in Western democracies. The report, according to an official familiar with it, included a quote from the Russian source telling U.S. officials in Moscow, 'You have no idea how extensive these networks are in Europe ... and in the U.S., Russia has penetrated media organizations, lobbying firms, political parties, governments and militaries in all of these places.'

"That report was circulated among the National Security Council, intelligence agencies and the State Department via secure email and cable in the spring of 2014 as part of a larger assessment of Russian intentions in Ukraine, the official said. There was no explicit warning of a threat to U.S. elections, but the official said some diplomats and national-security officials in Moscow felt the administration was too quick to dismiss the possibility that the Kremlin incursions could reach the United States." <http://politi.co/2uCR9MM>

SUSAN GLASSER'S LATEST -- "The GOP's Civil War Over Trump," in POLITICO Magazine: "For this week's Global Politico, we convened eight prominent Republicans to answer the rapidly proliferating questions about a GOP that seems increasingly at war with itself-and heard two starkly different stories about a party that might have won the White House and both houses of Congress but sounds at times like it's more on the verge of a nervous breakdown than a national takeover. From five top Washington

insiders like Heritage Action CEO Michael Needham, Republican Main Street Partnership chief Sarah Chamberlain, and former top advisers to 2016 candidates Marco Rubio and Jeb Bush, came increasingly pointed laments about Trump's 'lack of presidential leadership,' his bombastic party-bashing tweets, absence of a governing philosophy and political compass ruled by a 'collection of impulses' rather than a coherent strategy. ...

"It is just such thinking that infuriates Trump himself and his diehard backers, as was abundantly clear when I later interviewed for The Global Politico a second group that included strategist Roger Stone, a Trump friend and adviser of decades; Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach, an anti-immigration activist now heading a controversial national electoral commission for Trump; and Kentucky-based commentator Scottie Nell Hughes. Not only were they not chagrined by Trump's contentious first six months of his presidency, they urged him to get even more combative-against enemies within the GOP perhaps above all." <http://politi.co/2uCx8WG>

TODAY'S BEYOND THE BELTWAY -- Boston braces for Free Speech Rally -- Cuomo discusses congestion prices <http://politi.co/2uCFzl0>

-- **"Fluor Enterprises, Lane Construction on track to design, build Texas' proposed bullet train,"** by The Dallas Morning News' Claire Cardona
<http://bit.ly/2uCrwf6>

TRANSITIONS -- Meghan Rae Mitchum has joined WeWork as project manager for global security operations. She previously was a senior associate at Catalyst Partners and is an alum of the W.H. Council on Environmental Quality.

***** **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 *****

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