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**From:** Anna Palmer Jake Sherman Daniel Lippman  
**Sent:** Mon 9/18/2017 5:02:54 PM  
**Subject:** Playbook Power Briefing, presented by UC Davis: FIRST IN PLAYBOOK: ALYSSA FARAH to team PENCE as press secy -- THE MATH on the Graham-Cassidy Obamacare bill -- TRUMP makes his U.N. debut -- OBAMA gives speeches to Wall Street -- FLYNN sets up defense fund

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Today's Playbook Power Briefing presented by UC Davis

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**Good Monday afternoon.** Anna is live RIGHT NOW at the Concordia Summit in New York, moderating a panel with David Axelrod and Tim Phillips. *Tune in* <http://politi.co/2xKFFSe>

**NEWS -- FIRST IN PLAYBOOK -- ALYSSA FARAH**, a top adviser to the House Freedom Caucus, is leaving Capitol Hill to work as press secretary to **VP MIKE PENCE. FARAH**, who has worked for the HFC during the chairmanships of Reps. Jim Jordan (R-Ohio) and Mark Meadows (R-N.C.), helped grow the conservative group from a ragtag group of lawmakers to a force in the House of Representatives. She'll give Pence a critical bridge to the Hill, as the Trump administration girds for several high-profile legislative pushes. Christina Mandreucci is joining Pence's team as director of regional media. ... **Matt Nussbaum and Jake's write up** <http://politi.co/2yksA5K>

**TRUMP'S U.N. DEBUT -- AP's DARLENE SUPERVILLE and JONATHAN LEMIRE** at the U.N.: "President Donald Trump made his debut at the United Nations on Monday, using his first moments at the world body to urge the 193-nation organization to reduce bureaucracy and costs while more clearly defining its mission around the world.

**"But while Trump chastised the United Nations** -- an organization he sharply criticized as a candidate for president for its spiraling costs -- he said the United States would 'pledge to be partners in your work' in order to make the U.N. 'a more effective force' for peace across the globe." <http://bit.ly/2wpGZQA>

-- **TRUMP** opened his speech by talking about Trump World Tower, which is located across the street from the United Nations: "I actually saw great potential right across the street, to be honest with you. And it was only for the reason that the United Nations was here that that turned out to be such a successful project."

-- **ANITA KUMAR** of McClatchy, today's pooler, says Trump spoke as he exited the U.N.: "I think the main message is 'make the United Nations Great.' Not again, 'make the United Nations great.' Such tremendous potential, and I think we'll be able to do

this."

**THE GRAHAM-CASSIDY BILL -- @randpaul:** "Graham/Cassidy keeps Obamacare and tells the states to run it. No thanks. ... No [conservative] should vote for a rebranded trillion dollar spending program just because it adds some block grants. ... Keeping 90% of Obamacare is not ok and it's not what we ran on. Conservatives should say no."

-- **THE MATH.** If Rand is a no, two more no votes kills this bill. Sen. Susan Collins (R-Me.) is believed to be a no, according to our colleagues Burgess Everett and Josh Dawsey. The Congressional Budget Office has not yet scored the bill. **SENATE GOP INSIDERS** tell us that all eyes are on the Graham-Cassidy proposal, as the bipartisan effort -- driven by Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) and Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.) -- does not have as much support from the White House and House leaders.

-- **@BenjySarlin:** "McCain tells @GarrettHaake he wants bipartisan bill with wks of hearings. BUT may 'reluctantly' back Graham-Cassidy if AZ Gov approves" **Remember: McCain said he voted against the health care bill last time because of the process.**

-- **ALERT:** Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs hearing next Monday: "Block Grants: How States Can Reduce Health Care Costs" <http://bit.ly/2xfVrJP>

-- **"Dems demand full CBO analysis of Obamacare repeal plan,"** by Heather Caygle <http://politi.co/2xKel7v>

**FOR GOOD MEASURE -- SENATE LEADERSHIP FUND,** the super PAC backed by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, just disclosed \$144,177 in mailings in support of Sen. Luther Strange in Alabama.

**WHEN YOU PUT IT THIS WAY ... -- CNN'S MANU RAJU (@mkraju):** "Ty Cobb this month: Rails on reporter in late-night, on-record emails; fooled by prankster; gossips loudly about Russia probe at restaurant".

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**THE LATEST ON RUSSIA -- "Legal defense fund set up for Michael Flynn,"** by Louis Nelson: "The family of former White House national security adviser Michael Flynn has set up a legal defense fund for him, soliciting donations to ease the "tremendous financial burden" from the ongoing investigations into his actions and the 2016 presidential campaign. 'The enormous expense of attorneys' fees and other related expenses far exceed their ability to pay,' Flynn's brother and sister said in a statement emailed to reporters early Monday. 'To help ensure that he can defend himself, we have

set up a legal defense fund, and we are asking Mike's supporters, veterans, and all people of goodwill to contribute whatever amount they can to this fund.' The fund will not accept donations from foreign governments, nor will it accept money from the Trump campaign or the Trump Organization." <http://politi.co/2xKT9np>

**44'S NEW GIG -- "Obama Goes From White House to Wall Street in Less Than One Year,"** by Bloomberg's Max Abelson: "Last month ... Barack Obama spoke in New York to clients of Northern Trust Corp. for about \$400,000, a person familiar with his appearance said. Last week, he reminisced about the White House for Carlyle Group LP, one of the world's biggest private equity firms, according to two people who were there. Next week, he'll give a keynote speech at investment bank Cantor Fitzgerald LP's health-care conference.

**"Obama is coming to Wall Street** less than a year after leaving the White House, following a path that's well trod and well paid. While he can't run for president, he continues to be an influential voice in a party torn between celebrating and vilifying corporate power. His new work with banks might suggest which side of the debate he'll be on and disappoint anyone expecting him to avoid a trap that snared Clinton. Or, as some of his executive friends see it, he's just a private citizen giving a few paid speeches to other successful people while writing his next book. ...

**"Since leaving office,** Obama has delivered public and private speeches that are 'true to his values,' Kevin Lewis, a spokesman for the former president, said in an email. 'His paid speeches in part have allowed President Obama to contribute \$2 million to Chicago programs offering job training and employment opportunities to low-income youth.'" <https://bloom.bg/2xKMw4D>

**ON PARIS -- "Top White House aide seeks to clarify U.S. stance on Paris deal,"** by Andrew Restuccia and Kalina Oroschakoff: "During a breakfast meeting in New York City on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly, White House National Economic Council Director Gary Cohn sought to clarify the U.S. stance after a report that the Trump administration planned to remain in the pact sparked global confusion.

**"Cohn told about a dozen** international energy ministers that the U.S. was prepared to withdraw if it doesn't secure better terms, according to two people present at the meeting who asked for anonymity to discuss the private huddle. The sources added that Cohn offered few details on what precisely the U.S. wants, but stressed that the administration wants to continue engaging with other countries on energy and climate issues broadly." <http://politi.co/2xLA1Wx>

**FOIA WATCH -- "Governments turn tables by suing public records requesters,"** by the AP's Ryan Foley: "Government bodies are increasingly turning the tables on citizens who seek public records that might be embarrassing or legally sensitive. Instead of granting or denying their requests, a growing number of school districts, municipalities and state agencies have filed lawsuits against people making the requests -- taxpayers, government watchdogs and journalists who must then pursue the records in court at

their own expense.

**"The lawsuits generally ask judges** to rule that the records being sought do not have to be divulged. They name the requesters as defendants but do not seek damage awards. Still, the recent trend has alarmed freedom-of-information advocates, who say it's becoming a new way for governments to hide information, delay disclosure and intimidate critics." <http://bit.ly/2xKqpLw>

**HOW SPICER TOOK HOLLYWOOD -- CNN's Brian Stelter:** "The Emmys surprise came together just a few days before Sunday's telecast. Colbert wondered aloud if Spicer might play along, and one of his 'Late Show' producers then pitched it, according to a source with firsthand knowledge of the skit. Spicer was already in Los Angeles for Kimmel's show last Wednesday. He briefly flew back east, to his home near Washington, then returned to Los Angeles for a secret dress rehearsal before the broadcast. The auditorium was almost entirely emptied before Spicer practiced his lines, the source said, so that his participation wouldn't leak ahead of time. ...

**"Both sources who spoke with CNN** on Monday morning marveled at the way Spicer was mobbed by Emmys attendees both at the awards show and at the parties afterward. 'He could barely eat at the Governor's Ball, he was so popular,' one of the sources said." <http://cnnmon.ie/2xJsYNS>

**TODAY'S BEYOND THE BELTWAY -- Menendez trial moves slowly -- Illinois A.G. makes surprise announcement that she won't seek reelection**  
<http://politi.co/2xLkPZr>

**TRUMP'S CABINET: JUST LIKE US -- "U.S. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos' 163-foot yacht docked in Milwaukee":** "Boats this big always get attention in Milwaukee, and even more so when they belong to a member of President Donald Trump's cabinet. SeaQuest, a 163-foot, \$40 million yacht, belongs to Dick and Betsy DeVos of Michigan. Betsy DeVos is the U.S. secretary of education. A Department of Education spokesperson said DeVos is not in Milwaukee and has no plans to be in the area, and that some other family must be using the boat.

**"The department's website shows that last week** she was scheduled to visit six Western and Midwestern states as part of her Rethink School tour. There was no activity around the boat, and no clear sign anyone was on board Sunday morning." <http://bit.ly/2y9yA0j>

**BUSINESS BURST -- "Equifax Stock Sales Are the Focus of U.S. Criminal Probe,"** by Bloomberg's Tom Schoenberg and Anders Melin: "The U.S. Justice Department has opened a criminal investigation into whether top officials at Equifax Inc. violated insider trading laws when they sold stock before the company disclosed that it had been hacked, according to people familiar with the investigation. Prosecutors are looking at the stock sales by Equifax Chief Financial Officer John Gamble; President of U.S. Information Solutions Joseph Loughran; and President of Workforce Solutions Rodolfo

Ploder, said two people, who asked not to be named because the probe is confidential."  
<https://bloom.bg/2woRfc5>

**MEDIAWATCH -- CNN'S OLIVER DARCY and DYLAN BYERS SCOOP: "Meghan McCain in talks to join 'The View'"** <http://cnmmon.ie/2w33DKs>

-- **PROVIDENCE JOURNAL -- "WJAR forced to run pro-Trump programs,"** by Jacqueline Tempera: <http://bit.ly/2wpS3gz>

-- **NYT'S FRANK BRUNI** is now a CNN contributor.

**TRANSITIONS -- Keith Gilkes**, a former aide to Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, officially launched his own public affairs firm Platform Communications. It is headquartered in Madison, Wisconsin. **Brian Reisinger** was named VP of the firm. He previously was founder and president of Hilltop Strategies and was comms director for the 2016 Ron Johnson campaign. ... **Anthony Gardner** has joined Sidley Austin as senior counsel. He was previously U.S. ambassador to the EU. ... **Adam Lowenstein** is moving to the U.K. to work for EY's Beacon Institute in London. He was previously speechwriter and strategic communications adviser for Sen. Chris Coons (D-Del.).

**WELCOME TO THE WORLD -- Jeff Orzechowski**, alum of former Rep. Candice Miller (R-Mich.)'s office and House Admin, and **Alicia Orzechowski** "welcomed their second child into the world while he's on leave for the Robert Bosch fellowship in Germany. Helena AnnMarie was born a healthy 3.4kg (7lbs, 8oz) at 12:44 a.m. Central European Time in Berlin on Sept. 13. Mom and baby are doing great. Big brother Hudson (2), on the other hand, hasn't decided what to make of all this."

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