

**To:** Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]  
**From:** Anna Palmer Jake Sherman Daniel Lippman  
**Sent:** Tue 9/26/2017 5:04:34 PM  
**Subject:** Playbook Power Briefing, presented by Morgan Stanley: SCOOP FROM INSIDE THE ROOM: CORY BLISS says House GOP outside group will spend 100M to boost Republican agenda -- TRUMP to visit P.R. next week -- TAX REFORM could hit speed bump right out of the gate

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Today's Playbook Power Briefing presented by Morgan Stanley

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

**Good Tuesday afternoon. PLAYBOOK SCOOP -- CORY BLISS**, the Republican political operative who runs the American Action Network and Congressional Leadership Fund -- outside groups aligned with Speaker Paul Ryan -- attended a private House Republican Conference meeting this morning and said the group will spend \$100 million on promoting the GOP legislative agenda. The groups have already spent millions of dollars boosting the GOP tax reform effort. This comes just one day before House Republicans go to National Defense University to talk about their tax plan. That Bliss was able to attend a closed House GOP meeting and brief lawmakers on his spending offensive shows the close ties between the outside group and elected lawmakers.

**PRESIDENT TRUMP** said he will visit Puerto Rico on Tuesday, per The Hill's Jordan Fabian, today's pooler. He also said he may stop in the Virgin Islands.

-- **TRUMP ON PUERTO RICO** "The difference is this is an island sitting in the middle of an ocean. It's a big ocean, it's a very big ocean." <http://bit.ly/2xD0YdC>

**NOT AN ONION HEADLINE -- "Senate GOP weighs how to fail on Obamacare,"** by Seung Min Kim, Jen Haberkorn and Burgess Everett: "Senate Republicans are on track to fall short in their last-ditch attempt to repeal Obamacare this week -- now they're just debating how best to fail on their seven-year campaign pledge. With three GOP senators formally opposed to the latest bill to unravel the health care law, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) and his conference will mull whether to hold a vote that would be almost certain to go down on the Senate floor, according to senators and aides" <http://politi.co/2yFdhod>

-- **"Trump disappointed in 'so-called Republicans' over Obamacare repeal,"** by Nolan McCaskill: "President Donald Trump on Tuesday said he is 'disappointed in certain so-called Republicans.' Trump expressed displeasure at what will likely be another failed attempt by Senate Republicans to pass a repeal of former President Barack Obama's health care law.

'We'll see what happens,' Trump told reporters. ... 'We were very disappointed by a couple of senators,' Trump said Tuesday. 'Republican senators I must say. We were very disappointed that they would take the attitude that they did. We don't know why they did it - you can sort of figure that - but we'll see what happens.'

<http://politi.co/2xycQvU>

**N.K. TRIES TO DECODE TRUMP -- "North Korea seeks help from Republican analysts: 'What's up with Trump?,'"** by WaPo's Anna Fifield in Bern, Switzerland: "North Korean government officials have been quietly trying to arrange talks with Republican-linked analysts in Washington, in an apparent attempt to make sense of President Trump and his confusing messages to Kim Jong Un's regime. ... [T]o get a better understanding of American intentions, in the absence official diplomatic talks with the U.S. government, North Korea's mission to the United Nations invited Bruce Klingner, a former CIA analyst who is now the Heritage Foundation's top expert on North Korea, to visit Pyongyang for meetings. ... North Korean intermediaries have also approached [Douglas Paal](#), who served as an Asia expert on the national security councils of Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush, and is now vice president for studies at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace."

<http://wapo.st/2htNYl2>

**TV WARS** -- We reported in Playbook this morning that **NBC NEWS** is running an ad in the New York Times, among other places, touting its ratings. <http://politi.co/2fuPsL9>

**CNN** ran an ad in the Washington Post, noting it was the top-watched cable network in Washington. <http://politi.co/2yqkpnx>

**ABOUT TAX REFORM -- "Republicans agree to raise bottom tax rate, double standard deduction,"** by Axios' Jonathan Swan: "Top White House and GOP leaders have agreed to raise the lowest individual tax rate from 10 to 12 percent, paired with doubling the standard deduction, 5 senior Republicans tell us. Trump intends to sell the proposal tomorrow as a populist 'tax cut.' But as recently as yesterday top Republicans on Capitol Hill were nervous as they got word that Trump wasn't entirely thrilled with the product that had been hashed out in immense secrecy for weeks (with two members of his administration, Gary Cohn and Steven Mnuchin, working with GOP leaders.) ...

**"Republicans plan to collapse** the number of brackets from seven to three. The standard deduction would almost double to \$12,000 for a single filer and \$24,000 for married couples, meaning Trump can accurately argue that many more low income earners would pay no tax under his plan. As we previously reported, the top tax bracket would fall from 39.6% to 35%. ... Trump won't go into great detail when he talks about the tax plan tomorrow in Indiana, leaving plenty of negotiating room for the tax-writing committees in the House and Senate." <http://bit.ly/2yFPrZI>

-- **@RachaelMBade:** "NEWS- @VP will attend the House GOP tax reform retreat tomorrow, per birdie familiar w/the sked".

-- **CRITICAL STORY: "Trump's State-Tax Plan Could Cause Headaches for 52**

**Republican Lawmakers,"** by Bloomberg's Sahil Kapur: "President Donald Trump's promised tax overhaul may force dozens of Republican congressmen in states including New York and New Jersey into a politically damaging vote to repeal a \$1.3 trillion tax break their districts use heavily. But not if Representative Peter King of New York can help it. King, a Republican who represents Long Island, said he'll oppose any attempt to repeal the state and local tax deduction, calling it 'absolutely essential to my district.'

**"King is one of 52 Republicans** -- more than enough to scuttle any bill that lacks Democratic support -- who hail from districts that use the state tax deduction disproportionately. He thinks enough of those Republican colleagues will band together to keep its repeal out of any comprehensive tax legislation this fall, complicating GOP plans." <https://bloom.bg/2yEwKW8>

**ROGER STONE ON THE HILL -- "Trump Adviser Roger Stone Says Talk with Hacker Was 'Benign',"** by WSJ's Byron Tau: "Mr. Stone described his interactions with the entity known as Guccifer 2.0 as 'limited' and 'benign,' and he released screenshots of what appeared to be messages exchanged privately on the social-media platform Twitter . They show about a dozen messages Mr. Stone received from Guccifer 2.0 in August and September of 2016, as well as three messages he sent in response.

**"Mr. Stone, a veteran Republican operative** who advised Mr. Trump during last year's campaign, said he resented 'any allegation that I would collude with the oppressive Russian state to affect the outcome of the 2016 presidential election.' The material shows the conversation began in August 2016 after Mr. Stone wrote an article for the right-wing website Breitbart News in which he argued that Guccifer 2.0 wasn't a Russian asset but instead acted alone. The U.S. intelligence committee later assessed that the material released by Guccifer 2.0 had been pilfered by the Russian government." <http://on.wsj.com/2yDkwgx>

**JARED WATCH -- "Jared Kushner's lawyer, fooled by 'email prankster,' offers window into private email controversy,"** by Business Insider's Natasha Bertrand: "Top Washington lawyer Abbe Lowell engaged in an email exchange with a prankster posing as client Jared Kushner on Monday, at one point telling the prankster that he needed 'to see all emails' sent and received from a private email account the president's son-in-law had set up in December. ... On Monday, the prankster wrote to Lowell from the email address 'kushner.jared@mail.com' asking what he should do with 'some correspondence on my private email ... featuring adult content.' 'Can I remove these?' the prankster asked. 'Forwarded or received from WH officials?' Lowell wrote in response.

**"I think one was forwarded** from a White House official, we had discussed a shared interest of sorts. It was unsolicited. Then there are a handful more, but not from officials,' said the prankster, still posing as Kushner. 'I need to see I think all emails between you and WH (just for me and us),' Lowell wrote. 'We need to send any officials emails to your WH account. Not stuff like you asked about. None of those are going anywhere.' 'But we can bury it?' the prankster responded. 'I'm so embarrassed. It's fairly

specialist stuff, half naked women on a trampoline, standing on legoscenes, the tag for the movie was #standingOnTheLittlePeople :( Lowell replied: 'Don't delete. Don't send to anyone. Let's chat in a bit.'" <http://read.bi/2y6ZolG>

\*\*\*\*\* **A message from Morgan Stanley:** It's hard to think of an industry that won't be touched in some way by technological disruption over the next decade. Morgan Stanley Investment Management's Growth Team shares the big ideas and emerging trends that may have far-reaching implications for economies, industries, social behavior-and investors. [Read more.](#) \*\*\*\*\*

**SHAKING THE MONEY TREE -- VERONICA ESCOBAR**, the Democrat running to replace Rep. Beto O'Rourke who would be the first Hispanic woman elected to Congress from Texas, was in Washington last night to raise money for her congressional bid. Lobbyist Moses Mercado hosted Escobar at his home for the event, which raised \$30,000. **SPOTTED:** Dem Caucus Chair Joe Crowley (N.Y.), Dem Caucus Vice Chair Linda Sanchez (Calif.), Rep. Vicente Gonzalez (Texas), Rep. Gene Green (Texas) Marc Gonzales, Allen Chew, Karissa Willhite, Gordon Taylor and Dean Aguillen, John Meza, Adrian Saenz and José Luis Sanchez.

**NOT A REAL LAUNCH -- "Iran's supposed missile launch was fake, U.S. officials say,"** by Fox News' Lucas Tomlinson: "Iranian state television released video footage Friday claiming to show the launch of a new type of medium-range ballistic missile, a few hours after it was displayed during a military parade in Tehran. But it turns out Iran never fired a ballistic missile, sources say. The video released by the Iranians was more than seven months old -- dating back to a failed launch in late January, which resulted in the missile exploding shortly after liftoff, according to two U.S. officials." <http://fxn.ws/2yFUdX8>

-- **@realDonaldTrump** at 5:59 p.m. on Saturday, responding to initial reports of the launch: "Iran just test-fired a Ballistic Missile capable of reaching Israel.They are also working with North Korea.Not much of an agreement we have!"

**ON THE PRESIDENT'S MIND -- @realDonaldTrump** at 6:28 a.m.: "Ratings for NFL football are way down except before game starts, when people tune in to see whether or not our country will be disrespected!" ... **at 6:35 a.m.:** "The booing at the NFL football game last night, when the entire Dallas team dropped to its knees, was loudest I have ever heard. Great anger" ... **at 6:47 a.m.:** "But while Dallas dropped to its knees as a team, they all stood up for our National Anthem. Big progress being made-we all love our country!" ... **at 6:55 a.m.:** "Luther Strange has been shooting up in the Alabama polls since my endorsement. Finish the job - vote today for 'Big Luther.'"

... **at 7:14 a.m.:** "Great interview on @foxandfriends with the parents of Otto Warmbier: 1994 - 2017. Otto was tortured beyond belief by North Korea." ... **at 8:13 a.m.:** "Thank you to Carmen Yulin Cruz, the Mayor of San Juan, for your kind words on FEMA etc.We are working hard. Much food and water there/on way" ... **at 9:06 a.m.:** "The NFL has all sorts of rules and regulations. The only way out for them is to set a rule that you can't

kneel during our National Anthem!" ... **at 9:31 a.m.:** "ALABAMA, get out and vote for Luther Strange - he has proven to me that he will never let you down! #MAGA" ... **at 12:13 a.m.:** "Honored to welcome Republican and Democrat members of the House Ways and Means Committee to the White House today! #USA"

--**TEVI TROY** in POLITICO Magazine, "**How the National Anthem Got Tangled Up With American Sports**": <http://politi.co/2fOLg5M>

**BIG DATA -- DHS TO COLLECT SOCIAL MEDIA INFO FROM IMMIGRANTS --** BuzzFeed News' Adolfo Flores: "Federal officials are planning to collect social media information on all immigrants, including permanent residents and naturalized citizens, a move that has alarmed lawyers and privacy groups worried about how the information will be used. The Department of Homeland Security published the new rule in the Federal Register last week, saying it wants to include 'social media handles, aliases, associated identifiable information, and search results' as part of people's immigration file. The new requirement takes effect Oct. 18." <http://bzfd.it/2yEehJg>

**CLICKER -- "Exclusive Aerial Photos Capture Puerto Rico's Devastation:** Hurricane Maria flooded the island's coastal areas and blew apart homes inland" -- Dennis Manuel Rivera in NatGeo: *10 pix* <http://on.natgeo.com/2hwASje>

**NEW OFF MESSAGE -- ISAAC DOVERE** interviews **ROB REINER:** "Reiner's character on 'All in the Family,' Michael Stivic, was a liberal true believer who often clashed with his conservative father-in-law over his rants about blacks, 'commies' and hippies. In the four decades since the show went off the air, Reiner has taken up cause after liberal cause himself as a director and political activist.

"**His latest cause: Trump**, joining a Hollywood cast of thousands who are taking on the president. But with a cultural divide that in just the past week has seen Jimmy Kimmel, Steph Curry, LeBron James, the NFL and just about every speaker at the Emmys throw themselves into the political arena, Reiner says it's not the entertainers at fault." <http://politi.co/2yDVxcM> ... **Listen on iTunes** <http://apple.co/2yEsfe8>

**AFTERNOON READ -- "How Fake News Turned a Small Town Upside Down:** At the height of the 2016 election, exaggerated reports of a juvenile sex crime brought a media maelstrom to Twin Falls -- one the Idaho city still hasn't recovered from," by Caitlin Dickerson in NYT Mag <http://nyti.ms/2wQwLJf>

**BUSINESS BURST -- "Equifax CEO retires following an epic data breach affecting 143 million people,"** by CNBC's Liz Moyer: "Richard Smith, CEO and chairman of Equifax, retired following a data breach at the credit-reporting service that affected the personal information of 143 million people, according to the company. Smith became CEO and chairman in 2005 after spending 22 years at General Electric in senior roles in various divisions. He is to appear at a hearing of the Senate Banking Committee next month, where he is currently the only person scheduled to testify." <http://cnb.cx/2wRLrbh>

**SPORTS BLINK -- "FBI arrests four college basketball assistants on charges of fraud,"** by USA Today's Scott Gleeson "Four NCAA assistant basketball coaches were indicted in a fraud and corruption scheme -- which also included managers, financial advisers and representatives of a major international sportswear company -- by federal authorities on Tuesday. According to charging documents made public, the four coaches involved are Auburn assistant Chuck Person, Southern California assistant Tony Bland, Arizona assistant Emanuel Richardson and Oklahoma State assistant Lamont Evans." <https://usat.ly/2yEozJg>

**MEDIAWATCH -- Ezra Klein** is now editor-at-large at Vox. **Lauren Williams** was named Vox's new editor in chief and **Allison Rockey** was named the new executive editor and director of editorial strategy. **Klein's memo to staff** <http://bit.ly/2yF9QOn>

-- **DIGIDAY: "Axios is holding off on its high-end subscription product, for now":** "On Monday, at the Digiday Publishing Summit in Key Biscayne, Florida, Axios president and co-founder Roy Schwartz said that the company is putting its premium subscription product on hold while it builds out its brand. The high-end subscription product raised a lot of eyebrows within the media industry back in December 2016, when Axios CEO Jim VandeHei announced that Axios would launch a \$10,000 a year subscription product.

**"For the moment, we want to focus our resources** on building our brand because we have seen that once people start using Axios, they will love it and come back,' Schwartz said. 'We will launch our paid subscription model when we feel the timing makes sense.'" <http://bit.ly/2wTU3cy>

**WAPO PASSES 1 MILLION DIGITAL SUBSCRIBERS -- MICHAEL CALDERONE** writes in: "Publisher Fred Ryan informed staff Tuesday that the Post crossed the 1 million digital threshold, in addition to its base of print subscribers. 'Our growth has been exceptionally strong, with digital-only subscriptions more than doubling since January 1 this year,' Ryan wrote in a memo obtained by POLITICO's Michael Calderone. 'Digital-only subscriptions have more than tripled since last year at this time.'"

**SPOTTED --** Sen. Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.) sitting outside We The Pizza last night ... Ivanka Trump at Detroit Metropolitan Airport this morning <http://bit.ly/2yFLGU6>

**TRANSITIONS -- Lindsey Mask** has joined G2 Global Solutions as a communications specialist to support HHS's Office of Security and Strategic Information. ... **Patrick Brennan** has been promoted to COO at The Rockefeller Foundation. He was previously chief of staff.

\*\*\*\*\* **A message from Morgan Stanley** : Interested in the long-term investment opportunities that might arise from disruption? Morgan Stanley Investment Management Disruptive Change Researcher Stan Delaney shares five emerging trends that investors should watch over the next decade. "Disruptive change is so pervasive that our team

looks at all of our investments through a disruptive lens," says DeLaney "Our disruptive analysis effort is really about supporting the Growth Team's strategy of long-term investing, finding companies with a sustainable competitive advantage, and making sure that we aren't holding companies that could be left behind." These trends-spanning autonomous driving, machine learning, augmented reality and more-could have far-reaching implications for economies, industries and social behavior. [Read more.](#) \*\*\*\*\*

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