

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Anna Palmer Jake Sherman Daniel Lippman
Sent: Wed 8/2/2017 5:08:59 PM
Subject: Playbook Power Briefing, presented by Morgan Stanley: TRUMP signs Russia sanctions bill, with complaints -- COMEY to release a book next spring -- DIANE BLACK to run for Tenn. governor

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

Today's Playbook Power Briefing presented by Morgan Stanley

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)), ZACH MONTELLARO (zmontellaro@politico.com; [@ZachMontellaro](https://twitter.com/ZachMontellaro))

Good Wednesday afternoon. BREAKING -- NBC 4'S SCOTT MACFARLANE (@MacFarlaneNews): "CAPITOL HILL ARREST: US Capitol Police report arresting person at Cannon Building after finding loaded handgun in suitcase at checkpoint"

SANCTIONS SIGNED -- "Trump signs bipartisan Russia sanctions bill," by Matt Nussbaum: "President Donald Trump on Wednesday signed a bipartisan bill placing new sanctions on Russia, but in a statement he claimed multiple aspects of the legislation violate the Constitution. In one of two statements released almost simultaneously Wednesday morning by the White House, Trump said he supports the law's efforts to crack down on the actions of Iran, North Korea and Russia. But the White House has complained about Congress' efforts to restrict Trump's ability to lift sanctions on Moscow.

"**In its haste to pass this legislation,** the Congress included a number of clearly unconstitutional provisions,' Trump said in one statement. 'My Administration particularly expects the Congress to refrain from using this flawed bill to hinder our important work with European allies to resolve the conflict in Ukraine, and from using it to hinder our efforts to address any unintended consequences it may have for American businesses, our friends, or our allies.' The president's second statement included a stepped-up defense of his own administration's foreign policy and input on the legislation. Trump said that 'despite its problems,' he had signed the bill 'for the sake of national unity.' The statement characterized the governments of Iran and North Korea as 'rogue regimes,' a label he did not apply to the Russian government." <http://politi.co/2u06Nxx>

-- THE LAST TWO LINES OF TRUMP'S SECOND STATEMENT: "I built a truly great company worth many billions of dollars. That is a big part of the reason I was elected. As President, I can make far better deals with foreign countries than Congress." ***The signing statement*** <http://bit.ly/2voPSrQ> ... ***The second statement*** <http://bit.ly/2voZDXI>

-- BUT, the U.S. government is comprised of three co-equal branches of government. So Congress has a say.

SENATE CLOSE TO GETTING OUT OF TOWN -- @seungminkim: "The smell of #jetfumes getting stronger in the Senate"

PRESIDENT TRUMP appeared with Sens. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) and David Perdue (R-Ga.) to announce his support for the RAISE Act, which curbs legal immigration. **TRUMP**, per TPM's Cameron Joseph, today's pooler: "As a candidate I campaigned on creating a merit-based immigration system that protects U.S. workers and taxpayers and that is why we are here today. Merit-based. The RAISE Act, R-A-I-S-E, the RAISE Act, will reduce poverty, increase wages and save taxpayers billions and billions of dollars. It will do this by changing the way the United States issues green cards to nationals from other countries." *The AP's Ken Thomas and Jill Colvin on the proposal*
<http://bit.ly/2vpehO5>

-- **THIS BILL** is exceedingly unlikely to pass the Senate. Our colleague Seung Min Kim understands immigration politics and the Senate better than anyone, and she tweeted: "Very very rough guess but I would think Cotton-Perdue bill gets around 30ish GOP votes on floor, no Dems"

***** **A message from Morgan Stanley** : Millennial investors are bringing increased attention to sustainable, responsible and impact investing-and it may be creating opportunities for investors of all ages. [Read more](#) about new sustainable investing portfolios with lower account minimums from Morgan Stanley. *****

CABINET SHUFFLE? -- "Trump Is Considering Perry for Homeland Security Chief," by Bloomberg's Jennifer A. Dlouhy and Jen Jacobs: "The Trump administration is considering Energy Secretary Rick Perry as one possible replacement for John Kelly at the Department of Homeland Security, according to three people familiar with the deliberations. Kelly became White House chief of staff on Monday, and President Donald Trump has not made a decision about who should succeed him as Homeland Security secretary. White House officials are considering others for the position in addition to Perry, the people said. They asked not to be identified discussing a personnel matter." <https://bloom.bg/2u06ov6>

-- **FLASHBACK, JULY 21, 2015: @realDonaldTrump:** "Rick Perry did an absolutely horrible job of securing the border. He should be ashamed of himself. Gov. Abbott has since been terrific."

THIS IS SOMETHING ...

-- **AP'S DAVID CRARY: " Boy Scouts: Top leaders didn't call Trump to praise speech":** The Boy Scouts denied Wednesday that the head of the youth organization called President Donald Trump to praise his recent, politically aggressive speech to its national jamboree. Trump told The Wall Street Journal in an interview published Wednesday, 'I got a call from the head of the Boy Scouts saying it was the greatest speech that was ever made to them, and they were very thankful.' Politico published the transcript of the interview.

"We are unaware of any such call," the Boy Scouts responded in a statement. It specified that neither of the organization's two top leaders -- President Randall Stephenson and Chief Scout Executive Mike Surbaugh -- had placed such a call. The White House had no immediate response to the Boy Scouts' denial."

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

-- CBS NEWS: "Mexican president denies calling Trump to praise border work" : "Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto is calling into question President Trump's most recent claims that the leader called him to praise his administration's work on the U.S.-Mexico border. As Mr. Trump welcomed his new Chief of Staff John Kelly to the Cabinet table on Monday, Mr. Trump took time to applaud the work Kelly had done during his time leading the Department of Homeland Security.

"At Homeland, what he has done has been nothing short of miraculous," Mr. Trump said of Kelly. He went on, saying, 'As you know, the border was a tremendous problem and they're close to 80 percent stoppage. And even the president of Mexico called me -- they said their southern border, very few people are coming because they know they're not going to get through our border, which is the ultimate compliment.'

"But Nieto denies that ever happened. In a statement released by the Mexican Foreign Ministry, Nieto 'has not recently spoken to President Donald Trump over the telephone.'" <http://cbsn.ws/2viC02M>

BOOK ALERT -- "James Comey has book deal, publication set for next spring," by the AP's Hillel Italie: "Flatiron Books told The Associated Press on Wednesday that Comey will write about everything from allegations of ties between Russia and Donald Trump's presidential campaign to the bureau's investigation into Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server. According to Flatiron, Comey will draw upon his career in government as he writes about 'good, ethical leadership' and how it influences 'sound decisions.' The book is currently untitled and scheduled for publication next spring." <http://bit.ly/2tZTm0D>

-- ANOTHER BITE: "Comey was represented by Matt Latimer and Keith Urbahn of Javelin. . Financial terms were not disclosed, but several publishers bid for the book and three officials with knowledge of the negotiations said the auction topped \$2 million. The officials asked not to be identified because [they] were not authorized to discuss the book."

THE TRUMP EFFECT -- BEN SCHRECKINGER'S latest in POLITICO Mag: **"Dog the Bounty Hunter Hits the Campaign Trail":** "I first encounter Dog the Bounty Hunter on a Sunday morning between services in a back room at the Christ Community Church in Cumming, a town of some 5,000 people about an hour's drive from Atlanta. His wife and fellow reality TV star is sitting in the corner with a sleeveless dress, and Dog-his real name is Duane Chapman-is pacing the room, a white shirt unbuttoned to the solar plexus, exposing his leathery chest. The couple sports matching, slightly-longer-than-

shoulder-length bleach-blond hair. They're here to support Michael Williams, a tall, broad-shouldered and clean-cut state senator who has launched a long-shot campaign to become Georgia's next governor. ...

"Now, he has enlisted the celebrity bounty hunter to campaign as his surrogate for the first half of the last week of July, criss-crossing the endless sprawl of the Atlanta suburbs. In between taking smoke breaks and naps, Dog is delivering sermons, filming ads, making fundraising calls and delivering a memorable stump speech in a hotel ballroom - all under the tutelage of his wife, Beth, the president of the National Bail Bondsman Association." <http://politi.co/2ujwU1D>

FOGGY BOTTOM WATCH -- "Tillerson spurns \$80 million to counter ISIS, Russian propaganda," by Nahal Toosi: "Secretary of State Rex Tillerson is resisting the pleas of State Department officials to spend nearly \$80 million allocated by Congress for fighting terrorist propaganda and Russian disinformation. It is highly unusual for a Cabinet secretary to turn down money for his department. But more than five months into his tenure, Tillerson has not issued a simple request for the money earmarked for the State Department's Global Engagement Center, \$60 million of which is now parked at the Pentagon. Another \$19.8 million sits untouched at the State Department as Tillerson's aides reject calls from career diplomats and members of Congress to put the money to work against America's adversaries. ...

"Current and former U.S. officials call it the latest example of a severe slowdown in department decision-making; of Tillerson's reliance on a coterie of political aides who distrust State's career staffers; and a casualty of President Donald Trump's intention to slash State's budget, which has Tillerson looking for ways to reshape the department and spend less money, not more. Sources cited another sensitive factor at play: Russia. One Tillerson aide, R.C. Hammond, suggested the money is unwelcome because any extra funding for programs to counter Russian media influence would anger Moscow, according to a former senior State Department official." <http://politi.co/2u43PME>

GAVEL SCRAMBLE -- "Budget chairwoman enters Tennessee governor's race," by The Hill's Niv Elis and Scott Wong: "Rep. Diane Black (R-Tenn.) officially threw her hat into the Tennessee governor's race on Wednesday, setting off a scramble to fill her position as chairman of the House Budget Committee. Under a GOP conference rule known as 'The Paul Ryan rule' that is named for the House Speaker, Black would have to step down from the chairmanship to run. Black could seek a waiver from the 2014 rule, but there is little enthusiasm for it among her Republican colleagues. ...

"Ohio Rep. Bill Johnson is already seeking Black's position. ... Other obvious choices from the committee may not put themselves in the running. Committee Vice Chair Rep. Todd Rokita (R-Ind.) is rumored to be eyeing a Senate run. Moving down the seniority list, Rep. Tom Cole (R-Okla.) and Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart (R-Fla.) have expressed reluctance to give up their powerful positions as appropriations subcommittee chairs, or 'cardinals,' for a shot at the budget gavel." <http://bit.ly/2u46pC4>

TOP ED -- MICAH ZENKO in Foreign Policy -- **"Donald Trump Is Pushing America's Special Forces Past the Breaking Point"**: "There is no reason to doubt that Trump will turn more and more to JSOC, just as his predecessors did, in pursuit of counterterrorism objectives. But this overreliance on lethal force is not just exhausting America's special operators; it is wholly insufficient to comprehensively confront the underlying causes of militancy and terrorism - a mantra Pentagon officials repeat when they all but beg Congress to adequately fund the State Department. But because JSOC is both "awesome" and piles up body counts, it will always remain the leading actor in the global war on terror. The natural question is whether any such war could be managed at some socially acceptable level or, indeed, will ever end." <http://atfp.co/2u3WZ9F>

TOP TWEETERS -- "This Is Probably The Only Story You Didn't Hear About First From Bradd Jaffy And Kyle Griffin," by BuzzFeed News' Steven Perlberg and Charlie Warzel: "Be it a press conference on Capitol Hill, cabinet meeting pool spray from the White House, Trump golf outing, or fiery segment on Morning Joe - you'll see it first from Jaffy or Griffin. When a reporter in the NBC News operation has an exclusive, [Bradd] Jaffy or [Kyle] Griffin are often first to post the relevant details. Between the two, they somehow manage to tweet virtually every piece of news and opinion of the day - from a fact check of that morning's controversial Trump tweet, to a late-night Washington Post or New York Times bombshell report - and always with plenty of screenshots.

"As news cycles grow faster and more overwhelming, Jaffy and Griffin have become feeds of record for obsessive political journalists and casual tweeters alike. Their relentless output, which, in a different environment, might have felt exhausting, is now a mooring force for a growing number who feel bombarded by breaking news and fear they might miss the next bombshell. The two are hardly the only journalists to tweet breaking news, to be sure. But in a presidency that plays out primarily over Twitter and cable news, Jaffy and Griffin were already in perfect position at Trump's media nexus with all the resources of the internet and a multi-national broadcast organization." <http://bzfd.it/2vpbHHL>

TRANSITIONS -- Lawrence Kluttz, communications director for Rep. David Price (D-N.C.) has been hired as the speechwriter for new Duke University president Vincent Price (no relation). He starts on August 10.

BONUS BIRTHDAY OF THE DAY: Stacia Deshishku, ABC News D.C. deputy bureau chief. How she's celebrating: "My family tradition, going back to the 70s in Houston, has been eating at Benihana. We celebrate all family birthdays watching culinary knife tossing and stuffing ourselves with fried rice. This year my sons Bennett and Grant will join me for more of the same!" Read her Playbook Plus Q&A: <http://politi.co/2u44LAq>

******* A message from Morgan Stanley :** According to Morgan Stanley research, 86% of Millennials-broadly defined as those born between the early 1980s and 2000-say they are interested in sustainable investing. They are also twice as likely to invest in a stock or a fund if sustainability is part of the value-creation thesis. With Millennials on track to become the largest demographic in America-by 2020, one in three U.S. adults will be a

Millennial-the growing interest in sustainable, responsible and impact investing cannot be ignored. However, most sustainable investing opportunities cater to individuals with significant wealth, while the next generation is still in its early earning years. The growing demand for impact investing solutions is driving change, and opportunities created with reduced account minimums for this audience are benefiting investors of all ages. [Read more from Morgan Stanley.](#) *****

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.
