

RELEASE IN PART  
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**From:** sbwhoep[redacted]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 12, 2010 9:34 AM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** Fwd: POLITICO Playbook, presented by Washington's NewsChannel 8: To deprive Dems of an issue, Boehner would compromise on tax-cut extension -- NYT softens Boehner wording after aide complains -- Maureen Dowd's sister, Peggy, may switch from Obama to RO...

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**ROBERT GIBBS (@PressSec) tweets on the NYT front-pager on House Republican Leader John Boehner:** “Headline says it all...A G.O.P. Leader Tightly Bound to Lobbyists <http://nyti.ms/bxbF4D> ... Don't forget this handy clip & save graphic of ‘K Street Cabinet’ (black & white photo doesn't do that tan justice!) <http://nyti.ms/9n1wVp>”

**BOEHNER taped “Face the Nation” yesterday from West Chester, Ohio:**

**Bob Schieffer:** “I want to make sure I heard what you said correctly: you’re saying that you are willing to vote for those middle class tax cuts, even though the bill will not include ... extending the tax cuts for the upper bracket American.”

**Rep. Boehner:** “Bob, we don’t know what the bill’s going to say, alright? If the only option I have is to vote for those at 250 and below, of course I’m going to do that. But I’m going to do everything I can to fight to make sure that we extend the current tax rates for all Americans.”

**A Boehner aide reads between the lines:** “Despite what Obama says, Republicans are not holding middle-class tax cuts hostage and we're not going to let him get away with those types of false claims. Our focus remains on getting bipartisan support for a freeze on all current rates, because that is what is best for the economy and small business job creation. Boehner's words were calculated to deprive Obama of the ability to continue making those false claims, and as a result we are in a better position rhetorically to pressure more Democrats to support a full freeze.”

**AN INSTANT CLASSIC:**

**Schieffer:** “Mr. Boehner, I’m going to ask you this question because I’m not objective about this - I'm a cancer survivor, I used to be a heavy smoker. Do you still smoke?”

**Boehner:** “I do.”

**Schieffer:** “You have taken \$340,000 from the tobacco industry. They've been the largest contributor to your political campaigns over the year. How do you square that with the fact that cigarette smoking is the leading cause of preventable deaths in this country, 435,000 people, their deaths are linked to cancer, that's 1 in 5. How do you justify that in your own mind?”

**Boehner:** “Bob, tobacco is a legal product in America. The American people have a right to decide for themselves whether they want to partake or not. There are lots of things that we deal with and come in contact with every day, from alcohol to food to cigarettes, a lot of the things that aren't good for our health. But the American people ought to have the right to make those decisions on their own.” ...

**Schieffer:** “If you should become Speaker, you could set a good example for the country by saying, ‘I'm going to stop smoking.’ Maybe you could get the President, I understand he smokes too, maybe the two of you could find a way to try to stop smoking. That'd be kind of a good thing, wouldn't it?”

**| Boehner:** "Bob, I appreciate your suggestion."

-----Original Message-----

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**Boehner:** "Bob, I appreciate your suggestion."

**\*\* A message from Washington's NewsChannel 8:** Comcast has hired a vast army of lobbyists to rush through the largest media merger in American history. The Comcast/NBC monopoly would present serious problems for local news in communities across our country. Washington's decision makers must resist the

B6

pressure from Comcast and take the necessary time to carefully review this controversial merger to protect the public interest. \*\*

**SPOTTED** -- Saturday joggers: Sunlen Miller spotted at 18th and Columbia. Lizzie O'Leary at Connecticut and T.

**BIRTHDAYS** – CBS News' irreplaceable Capitol Hill Producer Jill Jackson (hat tips Kurt Bardella, Joe Brettell) ... Henry Waxman ... Sam Brownback ... Politics Daily's Matt Lewis ... (h/ts Patrick Gavin).

**TOMORROW: Jim Angle**

**SLIDE SHOW: The First Lady and Laura Bush embrace yesterday in Shanksville, Pa. Philly Inquirer:**

“Michelle Obama and Laura Bush led the ceremony on a windswept mountaintop Saturday commemorating the ninth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, which also marked a turning point in the evolution of the Flight 93 crash site from a scarred landscape to national memorial park.” <http://yhoo.it/b29QPM>

**TECH BLOGS:** Apple may rush out new iPad version for holidays. <http://bit.ly/aBj31P>

**GAME CHANGE: 2012 OFF TO SLOW START – GOP heavyweights hold back, freezing field compared to past cycles -- Jonathan Martin and Ben Smith:**

“[T]he primary is on track to start later, and more cautiously, than it has in the recent past. In the fall of 2006, Mitt Romney and John McCain were openly battling over endorsements from Republican operatives, donors and even county sheriffs in the early primary states. The two men beat a well-worn path to New Hampshire, South Carolina, and especially Iowa, where they had to watch their step to avoid tripping over Democratic hopefuls like John Edwards and Evan Bayh. But at the same point four years later, as the 2010 election enters the home stretch, top-tier Republican presidential contenders are hesitant to set foot in the states that kick off the presidential campaign process, let alone issue press releases touting their latest gets there.

--“[The] **GOP nominating contest is shaping up ... as a game of chicken** ... Romney, Sarah Palin, Haley Barbour, Mitch Daniels and a few other ambitious figures are largely eyeing each other while publicly holding back, leaving Tim Pawlenty as the only mainstream Republican trudging down the traditional, early path ... Together, they're all making a mockery of the conventional wisdom about the longer and longer arcs that modern White House campaigns demand. ... There are three main reasons for the delay: The intense focus on the 2010 midterms; the risks of starting too early; and, especially for the best-prepared candidate, Romney, a paralyzing fear of failure in Iowa. In a sense, the incentives this year are reversed: candidates have better reasons to publicly hold off on declaring their candidacy than to try to gain an early foothold.”

<http://bit.ly/an4YW0>

**STORY DU JOUR – N.Y. Times A1, 1 col. at the fold, “G.O.P. Leader Tightly Bound to Lobbyists,” by Eric Lipton:** “Mr. Boehner ... maintains especially tight ties with a circle of lobbyists and former aides representing some of the nation’s biggest businesses ... They have contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars to his campaigns, provided him with rides on their corporate jets, socialized with him at luxury golf resorts and waterfront bashes and are now leading fund-raising efforts for his Boehner for Speaker campaign, which is soliciting checks of up to \$37,800 each, the maximum allowed. Some of the lobbyists readily acknowledge routinely seeking his office’s help — calling the congressman and his aides as often as several times a week.”

<http://nyti.ms/asBs02>

--**BOEHNER OFFICE REBUTTAL:** “Setting the Record Straight: The New York Times' Misleading Attack on Boehner”: “There is no surer sign that the liberal establishment is threatened by Leader Boehner than the story that will appear in ... [The] New York Times.” <http://bit.ly/94Tq4D>

--**A BOEHNER AIDE:** “Boehner’s positions on the issues he cited are longstanding, and are obviously not the result of one lobbyist’s influence. The fact that any reporter would believe or write that Boehner’s opposition to a ‘cap and trade’ national energy tax, for example, is 1) recent, or 2) the result of one lobbyist’s influence is ridiculous.”

--**BEHIND THE CURTAIN:** Byron York documents changes the NYT made AFTER the story posted: “Boehner spokesman Michael Steel says he received a fact-checking email from Times reporter Eric Lipton Friday evening asking if Boehner did in fact oppose the cap on greenhouse gases, the tax change for hedge fund executives, the debit card fee cap, and increased fees on oil and gas companies. ‘Yes, that is correct,’ Steel responded to Lipton, adding ‘I can tell you why, if you care.’ Steel says he received no further notes from Lipton. Steel says Boehner has long held those positions and does not hold them as a result of lobbying. Hours after the email exchange, the Times story was published online, with the statement from the lobbyist that he had

'won' Boehner's backing on those matters. After Boehner's aides complained, ... [t]he statement that a lobbyist 'won' Boehner's backing was changed to one in which a lobbyist 'sought' Boehner's backing. That's a rather critical change. The Times also added Boehner's defense that these were long-held positions."

<http://bit.ly/dewsnU>

**--RATES JUST WENT UP -- GRAPHIC WITH LIPTON STORY -- "Boehner's K Street Cabinet: Some of the lobbyists and public affairs consultants with tight links to Representative John A. Boehner:**

<http://nyti.ms/cHYFOy>

**"FORMER AIDES:** John Fish, Reynolds American (Tobacco); Teresa Fish, Electronic Industries Alliance (Electronics); Sam Geduldig, Clark Lytle & Geduldig (Financial services, telecommunications); Terry Holt, HDMK (Health care, energy); Marc Lampkin, Quinn Gillespie & Associates (Financial services, energy, telecommunications); Kevin Madden\*, Jim Dyke & Associates (Public affairs, political consulting); Greg Maurer, UPS.

**"LONGTIME ASSOCIATES AND FRIENDS:** Gary Andres, Dutko Worldwide (Manufacturing, health care, shipping); Sue Andres, Union Pacific; Samuel J. Baptista, The Baptista Group (Financial services); Michael Boland\*, Dome Advisors (Financial services); James Boland, Sundquist Anthony LLC (Waste management, financial services); Nicholas E. Calio Citigroup (Financial services); Donald Danner, National Federation of Independent Business; Bruce Gates Altria (Tobacco); Mark Isakowitz, Fierce, Isakowitz and Blalock (Telecommunications, health care, energy); Drew Maloney, Ogilvy Government Relations (energy, pharmaceuticals, finance); Bill Paxon, Akin Gump (Manufacturing, gambling); Dirk Van Dongen, National Association of Wholesaler- Distributors.

**"\*Not registered as a lobbyist, but works in the political consulting business."** <http://nyti.ms/cHYFOy>

**TOP TWEETS:**

**--Washingtonian editor Garrett M. Graff (@vermontgmg):** "At Opening Night for the Opera. Down my row are Justices Ginsburg and Kagan. Ginsburg has a large piece of anti-Fenty lit in her handbag."

**--@LarrySabato:** "USA has pop of 300m+. At least 1 million are nuts. All have been encouraged to seek fame via outrageous actions, thx to FL feeding frenzy."

**TOP STORY – NYT col. 1, "Afghan Security Growing Worse, Aid Groups Say," by Rod Nordland, in Kabul:** "Large parts of the country that were once completely safe, like most of the northern provinces, now have a substantial Taliban presence ... The worsening security comes as the Obama administration is under increasing pressure to show results to maintain public support for the war, and raises serious concerns about whether the country can hold legitimate nationwide elections for Parliament next Saturday. Unarmed government employees can no longer travel safely in 30 percent of the country's 368 districts, according to published United Nations estimates ... The number of insurgent attacks has increased significantly ... American military officials say the increased level of violence is related to the rise in the number of its forces here. The last 2,000 of 30,000 new American troops are expected to arrive in the next week or two, military officials say. The result is more military operations, they say, and more opportunities for the insurgents to attack coalition forces." <http://nyti.ms/bImb8E>

**--DOYLE McMANUS, in L.A. Times "Opinion" section, "High-level doubts on Afghanistan: Former officials who once supported the war are now questioning it's worth the cost":** "The doubters include Richard N. Haass, president of the Council on Foreign Relations, the closest thing the United States has to an official 'foreign policy establishment'; Leslie H. Gelb, his predecessor; and Robert D. Blackwill, a former aide to President George W. Bush. 'The current strategy isn't working, and it's costing roughly \$100 billion a year,' Haass, a former aide to then-Secretary of State Colin L. Powell, told me last week. 'It's time for a major recalibration: not an immediate withdrawal but a significant scaling down of our ambitions.' And last week, a group of 46 foreign policy experts issued a joint report arguing that the goal of building a unified, stable Afghanistan is beyond the ability of the United States, and unnecessary to boot. The panel, the Afghanistan Study Group, included both longtime critics of the war and some who supported U.S. policy until recently. ... They cite three main reasons for their escalating pessimism. The first: setbacks (including a major offensive in Kandahar that was scheduled to be in full swing by now but is only getting underway). Next: Afghan President Hamid Karzai's failure to support a U.S.-sponsored anti-corruption campaign. And finally, there's that \$100-billion annual price tag. ... [A]s Obama approaches a December review of his strategy in Afghanistan, the debate is noticeably opening up, driven in part by the weight of that \$100-billion cost." <http://lat.ms/9XfkyC>

**9 YEARS AGO THIS MORNING, the WP lede, by Michael Grunwald:** “Terrorists unleashed an astonishing air assault on America's military and financial power centers yesterday morning, hijacking four commercial jets and then crashing them into the World Trade Center in New York, the Pentagon and the Pennsylvania countryside.”

**TOM BROKAW, 9/11/01, as he watched the second tower fall, live on NBC's air:** “Manhattan has been changed. Terrorists have declared war ... This is war.”

#### **WHERE WERE YOU ON 9/11?**

--**Robert Gibbs (@PressSec) tweets:** “Just drove by the Pentagon...remember the smoke coming from it nine yrs ago...thinking of all those we lost that day here and in NY and PA.”

--**Howard Wolfson:** “Was on the 7am train from NYC to DC. We were the last train into Union Station before it was evacuated. Got off the train and was instructed to run out of the building. Discovered hundreds of staffers streaming out of the Senate office buildings towards us. All of the cabs lined up waiting for fares had their radios on and their windows open. I heard the buildings collapse that way. I connected with my wife who was in NYC and prayed for the people I had worked with many years before on the 103rd floor of the WTC.”

--**Karen Finney:** “Saw the first plane from 6th Ave and 11th in NYC - got on what was the last #2 train to stop at Wall Street headed to the NYC Board of Education (where I worked at the time). Will never forget the black smoke that flooded the train car as people ran in; then spent the and night working with the schools Chancellor trying to assess situation in seven schools around ground zero and how to get 1.1 million kids home safely, knowing that in some cases their parent might not be coming home. Quite a shocker to step out of the subway in Brooklyn. Like 5 minutes later, the towers come down.”

#### **TOP TALKERS:**

**MAUREEN DOWD, “When Peggy Left Barry: Plus ça change, plus c’est la même chose”:** “One of the independent voters Obama will be trying to charm over the next two years is my sister, Peggy, a formerly ardent Obamian (a Republican who changed spots to vote for Obama). ... Despite being a Washington native, Peggy believed that the dazzling young newcomer could change Washington. But she has lost a lot of faith now, saying she might vote for Mitt Romney over Obama if Romney is the Republican nominee in 2012. (Sarah Palin shouldn’t count on her vote though. In Peggy’s words, ‘Are you nuts?’) Peggy thinks the president has done fine managing W.’s messes in Iraq and Afghanistan. And she lights up at the mention of his vice president, Joe Biden. But she thinks Obama has to get ‘a backbone’ if he wants to lure her back to the fold. ... While Obama’s out in the country trying to save Congressional Democrats, he should also think about how he’s going to save himself. <http://nyti.ms/92Dudr>

**FRANK RICH, “Time for This Big Dog to Bite Back: The Democrats’ obituaries may yet prove premature.”:** “On Labor Day, the fighting Obama abruptly re-emerged, a far cry from the man whose Oval Office address on Iraq days earlier was about as persuasive as a hostage video. ... For a guy facing a tidal wave, the president was so ebullient, you had to wonder if he knew something we didn’t. Maybe he simply read the unabridged poll numbers ... Those numbers are hardly as monochromatic as advertised. Obama’s approval rating, for months a consistent (not imploding) 45-ish percent, still makes him arguably America’s most popular national politician. The polls also continue to show that, while both political parties are despised, Democrats are slightly less despised than Republicans. ... In a second forceful speech last week, delivered outside Cleveland, Obama titillated the political press by calling out Boehner by name eight times. But though Boehner is a nice soft target ... he’s merely a front-man. Obama must also call out the powerful interests who are pulling the G.O.P.’s strings (and filling its coffers), whether on Wall Street or in Big Oil or any other sector where special interests are aligned against reform in the public interest. If Obama can speak lucidly about a subject as thorny as race, he can surely do a far more specific job of telling the story of how we got to this economic impasse.” <http://nyti.ms/bgjS89>

**WEEK AHEAD – “Pope to warn of dangers of secular society” -- The (London) Sunday Telegraph:** “THE POPE will this week urge the Government to protect religious freedoms to allow Christians to follow their beliefs [during a British tour and state visit, Thursday to Saturday]. In a speech to political and religious leaders in Westminster Hall, the Pontiff will deliver a thinly veiled attack on the perceived liberal direction of the country. ... Senior Roman Catholic sources said his message would be seen as a criticism of the introduction of equality laws that have impinged on the freedom of religious groups, although he will not

directly refer to government policy. A number of Christians have lost their jobs or faced disciplinary action for practising their faith at work by wearing a crucifix or sharing their views on biblical teaching.”

**MEDIAWATCH – “Bret Baier is the new face of Election Night coverage at Fox News: 40-year-old reporter part of a new generation of political news anchors,” by Baltimore Sun’s David Zurawik:** “Baier steps up this fall as lead political news anchor on Election Night replacing Brit Hume, who moved after the 2008 elections to the role of senior political analyst. Given the way Fox News has come to lead in ratings for coverage of political events since CNN’s glory days during the presidential campaign of 2008, Baier’s ascension makes for a significant changing of the guard in broadcast journalism. The seat he now occupies in Fox’s Washington studios is one of the most influential in American political life — a fact not lost on the boyish-looking anchorman who turned 40 on Aug. 4, which also is President Barack Obama’s birthday. ... He has been invited for the first time in his career to moderate a televised debate — a role more often reserved for the likes of Jim Lehrer or Bob Schieffer of public and network TV. This one will be held Oct. 4 in Hartford, Conn., in a hotly contested race between Democrat Richard Blumenthal and Republican Linda McMahon for a U.S. Senate seat. ...

**“As for his hour of news from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. weeknights [‘Special Report], Baier almost doubles the combined audience of his competitors on CNN and MSNBC.** So far this year, ‘Special Report’ has an average nightly audience of 2,107,000 in viewers — compared with 604,000 for ‘The Ed Show’ on MSNBC and 545,000 for Wolf Blitzer’s ‘Situation Room’ on CNN. ... Michael Clemente, senior vice president at Fox News, says the foundation laid down by Hume has played a crucial role in Baier’s success. ‘Brit Hume had the legacy with the audience — a legacy that went back to his days with ABC News,’ Clemente says. ‘So why has it worked with Bret? First of all, the transition was handled well; Bret filled in quite a bit as Brit was winding down. But people make a judgment pretty quickly, and I think they judged Bret as being an honest, fair and smart reporter. And it wasn’t like pulling some guy out of thin air who had just been a news reader on some local station.’ ... [Baier:] ‘You know the Fox Atlanta bureau that I joined in 1998 — that started in my apartment in Atlanta with a fax machine and a cell phone. That was the bureau. And I still have that sense of us being that startup that is still trying to make it all come together.’” <http://bit.ly/apgxA2>

**SPORTS BLINK – COLLEGE FOOTBALL – AP: “Ohio State and Oklahoma won their BCS championship game rematches** and showed that a couple of former powerhouses from the Sunshine State are not quite ready to return to elite status. Behind the running of Terrelle Pryor and a ball-hawking defense, the second-ranked Buckeyes beat No. 12 Miami 36-24 on Saturday at the Horseshoe in Columbus. ... In Norman, Okla., Landry Jones bounced back from a sluggish opener and led the 10th-ranked Sooners to an easy 47-17 victory over No. 17 Florida State.”

**--“USC hangs on for a 17-14 victory over Virginia,” by L.A. Times’ Gary Klein:** “USC’s defense is not as bad as it looked in the opener, the offense not nearly as good. Those were the immediate impressions Trojans fans came away with Saturday night at the Coliseum after the 16th-ranked Trojans’ 17-14 victory over Virginia. The undisciplined style that resulted in multiple costly penalties? That remained consistent as the Trojans improved to 2-0 under first-year Coach Lane Kiffin. Quarterback Matt Barkley passed for two touchdowns late in the first half and, though the defense gave up a last-minute touchdown, the Trojans earned a harder-than-expected victory over the Cavaliers, a near three-touchdown underdog playing their first game in California. ‘I’m extremely disappointed with our performance,’ Kiffin said. ‘That’s the most miserable 2-0 locker room I’ve ever been in, which is good. I think our players understand.’” <http://lat.ms/99w6au>

**--ESPN TODAY – From release – “ESPN’s NFL studio shows return in earnest ... for Kickoff Weekend ...** Chris Berman, recipient of the Pro Football Hall of Fame’s 2010 Pete Rozelle Radio-Television Award, returns for his 25<sup>th</sup> season as host of the Emmy Award-winning *Sunday NFL Countdown presented by IBM* (11 a.m.), where he will be joined by analysts Cris Carter, Mike Ditka, Tom Jackson, Keyshawn Johnson and Chris Mortensen, and Insider Adam Scheffer for the two-hour weekly NFL preview show. After the games, Berman and Jackson will be joined by John Saunders and Trent Dilfer throughout the season during the 7 p.m.

*SportsCenter* to review all the day's action. Berman and Jackson will team up again at 11 p.m. for '*The Blitz*' on *SportsCenter*."

**\*\* A message from Washington's NewsChannel 8:** If the Comcast and NBC merger is rushed through the process, our country risks losing a powerful part of our democracy -- locally-owned, independent voices in markets where Comcast/NBC will control both access to the home and multiple channels of news. Dropping the independent news voice won't serve the consumer. It will only serve the interests of Comcast which would also own the other news channels. Please make sure that any merger approval serves the public interest and protects the local news consumers you represent. Don't let Comcast ram this monopoly merger through the review process. \*\*