

# THREE THINGS: DAY 7, GET CARTER, SLAPP-ISH DEFENSE

Busy, busy, busy here, now running very late. Only have time for three quick things.



## DAY 7 and counting

U.S. income tax filings are due by midnight local time next Tuesday, April 18, the day before we ask where Trump's 2016 tax returns are in addition to previous years' returns.

Coincidentally, scientists may have gotten a snapshot of a black hole for the first time, though we won't know for a few months. We may have better luck looking to that void for Trump's tax returns.

## Get Carter

Carter Page, that is, not to be confused with the 1971 film character Jack Carter. You've surely heard since Tuesday night's reports that a FISA warrant was issued mid-2016 to allow the FBI to monitor Page's communications. You'll recall that Page was identified as U.S. contact "Male-1" in the 2015 Buryakov complaint. Russian spy Victor Podobnyy tried to recruit Page, who was intent on doing business with state-controlled energy company Gazprom. It was Page's relationship with both Gazprom and Russia which were touted as strengths when he joined the Trump campaign in March 2016 as an adviser. Page

had been both an investor and an adviser to Gazprom; with Gazprom being majority owned by the Russian government since 2005, Page's status under the Foreign Agents Registration Act has been fuzzy, though not as clear as Evgeny Buryakov or Victor Podobnyy. As of mid-2015, things did not look good for Gazprom – rough because of U.S. sanctions from 2014, and worse because of cannibalization of the domestic energy business by Rosneft. If Page was still invested in or committed to Gazprom, it's hard to see how he would not have been influenced by this Russian state-controlled business. He has said he sold his Gazprom stock, but details about timing aren't readily available.

And now, *Get Paul* – sorry, no movie of that name, but things are definitely heating up about the former Trump campaign manager Paul Manafort. He's registering as a foreign agent – a wee bit after the fact – conveniently after AP reported money received by his business linked with a black ledger produced last year. Do watch sourcing; not many names attached to the content. Are they leaked materials or are the sources unwilling to go public given how many Russians have suddenly taken to keeping on their backs, pining for the fjords?

#### Anthem SLAPPs breach victims

I'm not a lawyer, but looks to me like Anthem is using strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPP) against customers whose private health care data was exposed by a breach of Anthem's security. The health care insurer won court orders demanding examination of customers' computers to determine if any exposure was due not to Anthem's breach but to the customers' information security prior to the breach. Customers withdrew their suits against Anthem rather than subject their machines to examination. This sets a hideous precedent allowing greater sloppiness with information security which may only be reined in by shareholder suits and government intervention if HIPAA regulations were violated.

Nearly Day 6 o'clock. Do you know where your deductions are?