

open new offshore drilling areas," by Andrew Restuccia: "President Donald Trump will order the administration to take its first steps this week toward expanding oil and gas drilling in waters off the U.S. coast, according to a person familiar with Trump's plans. The president is planning to sign an executive order that will instruct the Interior Department to conduct a review of the areas currently available for offshore drilling and begin streamlining regulations governing offshore oil and gas development, according to the source. It's one of several executive orders that Trump will sign this week ahead of his 100th day in office. By Friday, Trump will have signed 32 executive orders, the most signed by a president in the first 100 days since World War II, according to the White House." <http://politi.co/2oD2Yus>

-- **REMEMBER WHEN** ... Republicans jumped all over Barack Obama for signing too many executive orders?

FOR YOUR RADAR -- "U.S. carrier group heads for Korean waters, China calls for restraint," by Reuters' Ben Blanchard and Ju-min Park in Beijing and Seoul: "Chinese President Xi Jinping called for all sides to exercise restraint on Monday in a call about North Korea with U.S. President Donald Trump, as Japan conducted joint drills with a U.S. aircraft carrier strike group headed for Korean waters. The carrier group was sent by Trump for exercises in waters off the Korean peninsula as a warning, amid growing fears North Korea could conduct another nuclear test soon in defiance of United Nations sanctions. Angered by the approach of the U.S. carrier group, a defiant North Korea said on Monday the deployment of the USS Carl Vinson was 'an extremely dangerous act by those who plan a nuclear war to invade the North.'" <http://reut.rs/2pWsJdZ>

--"**Carried away: The inside story of how the Carl Vinson's canceled port visit sparked a global crisis,"** by Navy Times' David B. Larter: <http://bit.ly/2q60OVm>

***** **A message from JPMorgan Chase & Co.:** "The private sector has not only a moral obligation but a vested interest to deliver for the public good," notes JPMorgan Chase Chairman and CEO Jamie Dimon. Business plays an important role in developing solutions that spur economic growth and benefit every American. Read more in the Annual Shareholder Letter <http://politi.co/2pLPbDG> *****

MAKING SENSE OF THE FRENCH ELECTIONS -- "6 takeaways from French election's first round," by POLITICO Europe's Pierre Briancon in Paris: "French voters chose centrist candidate Emmanuel Macron and the far-right National Front's

Marine Le Pen to compete for the presidency in May 7's runoff. With all votes now counted, Macron came first on 23.8 percent versus 21.5 percent for Le Pen. François Fillon, the mainstream conservative candidate of the Républicains party, and far-left firebrand Jean-Luc Mélenchon, gained 19.9 and 19.6 percent of the vote respectively.

"Here are six takeaways from Sunday's first round: 1. Change and renewal. ... 2. Populism beaten but not dead. ... 3. The parliamentary election campaign starts Monday. ... 4. The right without a leader. ... 5. Farewell to the Socialist Party. ... 6. Give it to the pollsters: they were right." <http://politi.co/2q5Xon6>

SPEAKING OF ELECTIONS -- "Republicans sound alarm on Trump's troubles ahead of 2018," by Alex Isenstadt: "Republicans say President Donald Trump needs to turn things around fast - or the GOP could pay dearly in 2018. With the party preparing to defend their congressional majorities in next year's midterms, senior Republicans are expressing early concern about Trump's lack of legislative accomplishments, his record-low approval ratings, and the overall dysfunction that's gripped his administration.

"The stumbles have drawn the attention of everyone from GOP mega-donor Sheldon Adelson, who funneled tens of millions of dollars into Trump's election and is relied upon to bankroll the party's House and Senate campaigns, to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who is privately warning colleagues about the perils of the coming election. Potential GOP candidates whom party leaders want to recruit are afraid of walking into a buzz saw, uncertain about what kind of political environment they'll be facing by the time the midterms come around - and what Trump's record will look like." <http://politi.co/2oBYHbO>

OBAMA IS BACK -- "Obama launches Chicago trip with visit to South Side job training group," by Chicago Tribune's Katherine Skiba: "Former President Barack Obama, on a two-day visit to Chicago that began Sunday, met privately with at-risk young men on the South Side to talk about gang violence, jobs skills and employment, a spokesman said. The meeting was with participants in a program created by Obama's longtime friend and former education secretary, Arne Duncan -- and signified a return to Obama's roots as a community organizer 30 years ago on the South Side. ...

"The behind-closed-doors meeting at the Youth Peace Center of Roseland ... was not publicized in advance and was not open to the media." <http://trib.in/2oXq3M1>

-- THE MAIN EVENT ... Obama will speak at the University of Chicago this morning at