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Today's POLITICO Playbook presented by Starbucks

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## DRIVING THE DAY

**Good Tuesday morning.**

**FIRST IN PLAYBOOK:** There has been a lot of chatter about the White House searching for talent these days. **AN EXAMPLE** of who the White House is trying to recruit: the Trump administration recently approached **SCOTT JENNINGS** to gauge his interest in a senior role, according to multiple people familiar with the discussions. Jennings is a confidant to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, was a special assistant to President George W. Bush and now is a principal at RunSwitch PR in Louisville, Kentucky. He's a frequent Trump defender on cable TV. The White House offered him a job but he turned it down last week. **THIS IS A SERIOUS EFFORT** to bring in high-level operatives with applicable experience -- something the White House has shied away from, traditionally. Jennings declined to comment. The White House didn't respond to a request for comment.

**INSIDE THE WHITE HOUSE -- "Spicer searching for candidates to take over White House briefing,"** by Tara Palmeri: "White House press secretary Sean Spicer is leading a search for his own replacement at the briefing room podium as part of a larger plan to shake up the White House communications operations, according to two

people with knowledge of the effort. Last week, Spicer and White House chief of staff Reince Priebus reached out to Fox News personality Laura Ingraham about the role of press secretary and Daily Mail editor David Martosko about the role of communications director, according to a White House official. Spicer and Priebus have had preliminary discussions with Ingraham and interviewed Martosko."

<http://politi.co/2tGoT6X>

-- **IF THE WHITE HOUSE** is phasing out the daily on-camera press briefing -- as it appears to be -- Spicer's job switch seems quite natural. **ONE BAD SIGN:** The White House does not have an on-camera or off-camera press briefing today. This could be bad for the White House, as it will be far more difficult for them to drive a message and respond to questions, and it's bad for democracy, because the public has grown accustomed to reporters quizzing the administration in a public setting. In short, it is a problem for everyone. The White House even forbade journalists from broadcasting audio from yesterday's off-camera session.

-- **BY THE WAY...** The White House has been whispering about staff shake ups for months. We'll believe it when we see it.

**WHERE THINGS STAND IN GEORGIA -- "Georgia special election comes to a messy end,"** by Gabe Debenedetti in Marietta, Georgia: <http://politi.co/2rLwmVR>

**GEORGIA 6TH BRAIN DUMP -- WHAT THE INSIDERS ARE SAYING ON ELECTION DAY ...**

-- **FROM A DEMOCRAT INVOLVED IN THE RACE:** "This race is truly too close to call best guess is that Ossoff gets between 48-51 percent. He's consistently led in the polling and we have an advantage in the early vote, but GOP turnout (or lack thereof) will drive the day. On that note, it's clear that the Republicans have learned from their near-loss in the primary and are actually running a field program, and the extent to which last week's shooting of Rep. [Steve] Scalise will bring Republicans home is also unknown.

**"We are playing to win,** but it's important to keep in mind that the difference between a 51 percent win for Ossoff and 49 percent loss is that Georgia gets another Democratic Congressman. Nationally, either result is a huge problem for House Republicans in 2018, given where GA-06 sits on the GOP-held map in terms of competitiveness."

-- **FROM A REPUBLICAN INVOLVED IN THE RACE:** "Stock up on coffee. Poised to