

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Anna Palmer Jake Sherman Daniel Lippman
Sent: Tue 6/20/2017 5:08:30 PM
Subject: Playbook Power Briefing, presented by Starbucks: SIX HOURS until polls close in Georgia -- Senate health care bill could come THURSDAY -- SPICER to hold an ON-CAMERA briefing at 1:30 p.m. -- Senate GOP plans for a JULY vote for the debt ceiling

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Today's Playbook Power Briefing presented by Starbucks

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Good Tuesday afternoon. A REMINDER: Polls close tonight in Georgia at 7 p.m. and the earliest preliminary results are expected around 7:30 p.m. Our colleague Elena Schneider has seven things to watch in tonight's election, including how high turnout will go and how it will affect the national stage <http://politi.co/2sP0qce> ... **Geographic places to watch in Georgia's Sixth, from Scott Bland and our interactive news team** <http://politi.co/2tp9oRV>

PRESIDENT TRUMP weighed in this morning on Otto Warmbier's death during a pool spray with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko. "It's a disgrace what happened to Otto. It's a total disgrace what happened to Otto. It should never, ever be allowed to happen. And frankly, if he were brought home sooner, I think the results would have been a lot different." Trump ignored shouted questions on any potential tapes on conversations with James Comey or an investigation, per pooler Emily Ngo of Newsday.

IT'S COMING! -- "Sen. Corker expects GOP Obamacare repeal bill will be made public Thursday," by Louis Nelson: "Sen. Bob Corker has not yet seen the healthcare legislation currently being crafted by his Republican colleagues, the Tennessee lawmaker said Tuesday, but he expects to get his hands on it Thursday and looks forward 'to diving into that substance' of the bill. ... Corker told MSNBC's 'Morning Joe' that he expects the legislation to be made public on Thursday and for a vote to take place roughly a week later. The process, which has not included hearings before the relevant Senate committees, is not what Corker would have preferred, he said. But he still intends to judge the legislation based on its merits." <http://politi.co/2sOEDZk>

-- **@pdmcleod:** "Just in! Orrin Hatch tells me that Mitch McConnell told him the health bill is coming Thursday. This matches what Sen. Corker said today." ...

@SeungMinKim: "Like we told you yesterday, @SenateDems officially shut down Senate committee business by invoking two hour rule. No hearings rest of day ... One hearing this blocks is a Judiciary hearing on criminal/congressional probes, featuring former Sen Carl Levin (now back in Michigan)"

THEN -- @JohnCornyn on Jan. 7, 2010: "The people have a right to know what is happening behind closed doors with secret HC negotiations" ...

NOW -- @PhilMattingly, today: ".@JohnCornyn: 'There's nothing happening in secret here. In the fullness of time, we'll all see the product we've been working on.'"

MARK YOUR CALENDARS -- "Senate GOP plans July debt ceiling vote," by Burgess Everett: "Senate Republicans are planning for a July vote to raise the debt ceiling, according to senators and aides. Though the Treasury Department has said that Congress can likely wait until September to avoid default, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and his lieutenants are increasingly disposed to clearing the Senate's plate as much as possible before heading home for August recess. That would also likely mean decoupling the debt ceiling from a potential government shutdown fight in September.

"It's not clear what exactly such a bill would look like, but members of both parties are interested in a broad spending deal that would avoid the blunt budget cuts of sequestration. A clean debt ceiling increase may be a problem for a GOP majority filled with fiscal conservatives. 'I'd like to see that done earlier,' said Senate Majority Whip John Cornyn of Texas when asked about lifting the debt ceiling in September. ... Republican Senate staffers were provided new schedule guidance on Monday laying out that the preferred debt deadline is before the August break." <http://politi.co/2tphwBB>

***** **A message from Starbucks:** In 2014, Starbucks created the College Achievement Plan to give our partners (employees) the opportunity to earn a college degree from Arizona State University, tuition free. In three years, 710 Starbucks partners have graduated, thousands more are enrolled, and our goal is to help 25,000 partners graduate by 2025: <http://sbux.co/2sboQ3G> *****

STRANGE BEDFELLOWS -- "ExxonMobil Lends Its Support to a Carbon Tax Proposal," by NYT's John Schwartz: "ExxonMobil, other oil companies and a number of other corporate giants [announced] on Tuesday that they are supporting a plan to tax carbon emissions that was put forth this year by a group of Republican elder statesmen. The group, the Climate Leadership Council, unveiled a 'conservative climate solution' in February that would fight global warming by taxing greenhouse gas emissions and returning the money to taxpayers as a 'climate dividend.' ... Exxon Mobil, BP, Royal Dutch Shell and Total S.A. ... publicly back[ed] the plan on Tuesday. ... The plan's Republican authors include James A. Baker III and George P. Shultz, both former secretaries of state, and Henry M. Paulson Jr., a former secretary of the Treasury." <http://nyti.ms/2sxqdR8>

-- **@GroverNorquist:** "A Carbon Tax is a Value Added Tax (VAT) on training wheels. A Carbon Tax will morph into a VAT over time--and USA will become France."

BACK ON CAMERA -- After initially saying there would be no briefing today, the White House announced that **SEAN SPICER** will be behind the podium for an on-camera

press briefing at 1:30 p.m.

-- **When THE ATLANTIC'S ROSIE GRAY** asked Steve Bannon why briefings are now regularly held off-camera, Bannon responded that "Sean got fatter" in a text and did not answer her followups. Rosie's story was published before today's press briefing was announced. <http://theatlantic.com/story/steve-bannon-rosie-gray/>

WHAT TECH TOLD TRUMP -- "Tim Cook told Trump tech employees are 'nervous' about immigration," by CNBC's Eamon Javers: "Behind the scenes at the White House tech CEO meeting, Apple CEO Tim Cook told President Donald Trump that technology employees are 'nervous' about the administration's approach to immigration, according to a source familiar with the exchange. The source said the president told the CEOs on Monday that the Senate's health-care bill needs 'more heart.' That would be a second known instance of the president criticizing the GOP bill in private meetings.

"To that, the source said, Cook replied that the immigration approach by the administration also 'needs more heart.' Cook cited the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, which is under review by the Trump administration. He also said people in tech and their co-workers were nervous about their status, and added that it 'would be great' if the president could 'send them a signal.' According to the source, Trump replied that he wants to see comprehensive immigration reform and urged the CEOs to call their senators and congressmen to push for it." <http://cnb.cx/2tp3mRh>

DEVELOPING OVERSEAS -- "U.S. shoots down another pro-regime drone in Syria," by CNN's Ryan Browne and Barbara Starr: "A U.S. F-15E fighter jet shot down a pro-Syrian regime drone near At Tanf, Syria, on Monday, two U.S. officials told CNN, the third downing of a pro-regime aircraft this month. The drone was downed just outside the 55 kilometer de-confliction zone, according to the officials. It was an Iranian-made Shahed 129 and was thought to be armed and in firing range of US troops." <http://cnn.it/2sONaeM>

-- **"Russian fighter flies within feet of US recon plane over Baltic Sea,"** by Stars and Stripes' John Vandiver: "A Russian fighter flew within 'several feet' of a U.S. reconnaissance plane operating Monday over the Baltic Sea, a close military encounter that comes just one day after the U.S. Navy shot down a Syrian warplane. 'Due to the high rate of closure speed and poor control of the (Russian) aircraft during the intercept, this interaction was determined to be unsafe,' said Capt. Joseph Alonso, a U.S. European Command spokesman.

"Russian intercepts of U.S. aircraft around the Baltic Sea have become almost routine in light of increased tensions between Moscow and NATO, which also frequently scrambles fighters to monitor Russian aircraft. In most cases such incidents are deemed business as usual, with planes keeping a safe distance from one another. ... EUCOM said an Air Force RC-135 was flying in international airspace when a Russian Sukhoi Su-27 Flanker flew within 'several feet' of the American jet." <http://bit.ly/2tp7CjG>

ATTN. JARED -- "Ground broken for first new West Bank settlement in 25 years," by Times of Israel's Sue Surkes and Jacob Magid: "The new settlement, to be known as Amichai, is to accommodate residents of the illegal Amona outpost, which was evacuated in February in line with court orders because it was built on private Palestinian land. 'Today, ground works began, as I promised, for the establishment of the new community for the residents of Amona,' the prime minister tweeted. 'After decades, I have the privilege to be the prime minister who is building a new community in Judea and Samaria.'" <http://bit.ly/2tpbkcU>

-- **THERE IS AN INTERESTING** political dynamic at play. President Donald Trump's administration wants to strike a peace deal in Israel and the Palestinian territories, which will inevitably include freezing some settlement constructions. Benjamin Netanyahu has to contend with a right wing, which -- generally speaking -- does not want to stop building in the West Bank.

OBAMA ALUMNI -- FORMER AG ERIC HOLDER to Yahoo News: He said his goal is "to lead the legal resistance to Donald Trump's agenda - and perhaps even run against the president in 2020." <https://yhoo.it/2rMihHS>

VALLEYWATCH -- "Leaked recording: Inside Apple's global war on leakers," by The Outline's William Turton: "A recording of an internal briefing at Apple earlier this month obtained by The Outline sheds new light on how far the most valuable company in the world will go to prevent leaks about new products. The briefing, titled 'Stopping Leakers - Keeping Confidential at Apple,' was led by Director of Global Security David Rice, Director of Worldwide Investigations Lee Freedman, and Jenny Hubbert, who works on the Global Security communications and training team.

"**According to the hour-long presentation,** Apple's Global Security team employs an undisclosed number of investigators around the world to prevent information from reaching competitors, counterfeiters, and the press, as well as hunt down the source when leaks do occur. Some of these investigators have previously worked at U.S. intelligence agencies like the National Security Agency, law enforcement agencies like the FBI and the U.S. Secret Service, and in the U.S. military. The briefing, which offers a revealing window into the company's obsession with secrecy, was the first of many Apple is planning to host for employees. In it, Rice and Freedman speak candidly about Apple's efforts to prevent leaks, discuss how previous leakers got caught, and take questions from the approximately 100 attendees." <http://bit.ly/2sPbrBx>

AFTERNOON READ -- BEN SCHRECKINGER in POLITICO Magazine, "**Jill Stein Isn't Sorry**": "Democrats are still fuming about the role the Green Party nominee may have played in electing Donald Trump-who as president has celebrated the coal industry, promised to pull the United States out of the world's most important climate agreement and refused to even say whether he believes global warming is real. All of that should be anathema to a party whose founding principles include a commitment to 'ecological wisdom.'

"So does Stein, with the benefit of hindsight, have any regrets? 'I don't think so,' she tells me by phone from her home in Lexington, Massachusetts. Decrying 'fake news,' citing the 'sabotage of Bernie Sanders' and talking up the 'tremendous' campaign she could have run with more money, Stein is projecting a Trump-worthy level of defiance. 'I consider it a great honor that the party and our prior campaign for president is suddenly being attacked outside of an election season,' she says." <http://politi.co/2sPcAJp>

MEDIAWATCH -- **Joe DeReal** is joining the New York Times as a national correspondent based in Los Angeles later this year. He is currently at WaPo and is a POLITICO alum. ... **Hanna Trudo** is joining National Journal's Hotline as a staff writer. She is currently a senior producer at POLITICO.

-- **Bloomberg announces** that their European headquarters in the City of London is close to completion and will open in the fall. 4,000 employees will work in the building once completed. <https://bloom.bg/2tp8uVu>

TRANSITIONS -- Former Rep. **Kendrick Meek** (D-Fla.) has joined King & Spalding as a senior adviser in their government advocacy and public policy group. ... Former VA Secretary **Bob McDonald** has joined the Partnership for Public Service's board of directors ... **Robert Roche** joined the board of directors for the Center for a New American Security. He is the founder and president of Roche Enterprises.

WELCOME TO THE WORLD -- **Beth Lester Sidhu**, COO of the Stagwell Group and a Politico alum, and **Naveen Sidhu**, VP of development and planning for WTS International, post on Facebook: "And baby makes 4. Eden Kaur Arora Sidhu, born 6-17-17. Big sister Caia is delighted. Everyone else is tired but happy." **Pic** <http://politi.co/2tpbRMb>

-- **Kyle Miller**, external affairs representative at Dominion Energy and a Senate EPW and Inhofe alum, and **Melanie Miller**, teacher at Sts. Joseph and John School in Strongsville, Ohio, welcomed Everett Dallas Miller on Saturday. **Pic** <http://bit.ly/2swHFyt>

***** **A message from Starbucks:** Student loan debt is almost two times the size of credit card debt - totaling \$1.31 trillion. At Starbucks, we created the College Achievement Plan to give baristas the opportunity to earn a tuition-free college degree from Arizona State University. In just three years, 710 Starbucks partners (employees) have graduated, thousands more are enrolled, and our goal is to help 25,000 partners graduate by 2025. Learn more: <http://sbux.co/2sboQ3G> *****

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