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Today's PLAYBOOK presented by Morgan Stanley

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By JAKE SHERMAN (sherman@politico.com; [@JakeSherman](https://twitter.com/JakeSherman)) and ANNA PALMER (anna@politico.com; [@apalmerdc](https://twitter.com/apalmerdc)) with DANIEL LIPPMAN (daniel@politico.com; [@dlippman](https://twitter.com/dlippman))

DRIVING THE DAY

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THE SHIFTING CONVERSATION -- The scent of jet fumes is particularly pronounced this morning. **PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP** and the Republican Congress leave Washington today after a disastrous stretch that saw an intraparty civil war start anew, and a health care bill collapse. ***Here are the dynamics to look out for.***

-- TRUMP GETS A BREAK . The president gets a few days to leave the Washington madness behind in Palm Beach. He flies there this morning. We expect the images and information from Trump's meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping will be tightly controlled. Trump will be away from Speaker Paul Ryan, flagging vote counts and the mess in D.C. When he gets back next week, he's the only voice in town -- the Capitol will be empty. That tends to favor the president.