

**To:** Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]  
**From:** Anna Palmer Jake Sherman Daniel Lippman  
**Sent:** Thur 7/6/2017 5:07:36 PM  
**Subject:** Playbook Power Briefing, presented by Postmates: TRUMP meets MERKEL, will dine with MOON and ABE -- How TV networks try to get around bad ratings -- BANNON ally leaves NSC -- SPOTTED: Pence at 'Sound of Music' at Kennedy Center

[View online version](#) | Add [politicoplaybook@politico.com](mailto:politicoplaybook@politico.com) to your address book.

Today's Playbook Power Briefing presented by Postmates

By ANNA PALMER ([anna@politico.com](mailto:anna@politico.com); [@apalmerdc](https://twitter.com/apalmerdc)), JAKE SHERMAN ([sherman@politico.com](mailto:sherman@politico.com); [@JakeSherman](https://twitter.com/JakeSherman)), DANIEL LIPPMAN ([daniel@politico.com](mailto:daniel@politico.com); [@dlippman](https://twitter.com/dlippman)), ZACH MONTELLARO ([zmontellaro@politico.com](mailto:zmontellaro@politico.com); [@ZachMontellaro](https://twitter.com/ZachMontellaro))

**Good Thursday afternoon. THE PRESIDENT** is in Hamburg, Germany. He posed with German Chancellor Angela Merkel for a brief pool spray, shook hands for the camera and chatted a little bit past noon Eastern time. The pair will have meetings throughout the afternoon, and Trump will later dine with South Korean President Moon Jae-in and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

**WHAT TRUMP IS FACING -- THE NEW ALLIANCE -- "China Sees Opening Left by Trump in Europe, and Quietly Steps In,"** by NYT's Steven Erlanger in London: "[T]he leader of the world's other superpower, Xi Jinping of China, will also be in Hamburg, Germany, ready to slip quietly into the widening gap between Mr. Trump and longtime European allies and to position Beijing as the globe's newest, biggest defender of a multilateral, rules-based system.

**"Mr. Xi will have just concluded a state visit with Germany,** including bilateral meetings and a small dinner Tuesday night in Berlin with the summit host, Chancellor Angela Merkel, who has made no secret of her differences with Mr. Trump. Having helped Ms. Merkel open the Berlin Zoo's new \$10 million panda garden (complete with two new Chinese pandas), and watched a German-Chinese youth soccer match, Mr. Xi will have already made a mark. He has cemented his closeness to Germany and Ms. Merkel, the woman many consider not just the most important leader in Europe, but also the reluctant, de facto leader of the West.

**"The election of Trump has facilitated China's aims in Europe,"** said Angela Stanzel, an Asia scholar at the European Council on Foreign Relations in Berlin. 'Trump facilitates China's narrative of being the new defender of multilateralism and especially global free trade, and China sees Germany as defending that, too, as a kind of sidekick,' she added. 'And it fits into the Chinese idea of creating an alternative leadership to the United States.'" <http://nyti.ms/2sQdG2Y>

-- **@PhilipRucker:** "Trump to talk North Korea strategy at dinner tonight with Abe & Moon. Not included: Xi. On purpose, so China feels heat, per diplo source."

**ATTN @ADVANCEGUYNOTES -- BUZZFEED -- "President Trump Apparently Couldn't Find A Hotel To Book For The G20 Summit,"** by Marcus Engert: "White House officials apparently waited too long to book accommodations for President Trump, leaving him without a hotel in Hamburg, Germany, as world leaders converge for the G20 summit.

Organizers announced the scheduled summit in February 2016, which requires 9,000 hotel rooms to accommodate world leaders, their sizable staffs, and security details.

**"The Hamburger Abendblatt, a local news outlet,** reported that the US government wanted to accommodate Trump in the Four Seasons, but it was already booked. In fact, it turns out that every luxury hotel in Hamburg was reportedly booked by the time the Americans called, leaving Trump, who is associated with an empire of hotel properties, scrambling for a place to stay. Several weeks ago there were even rumors Trump might have to sleep in Berlin and have to fly to Hamburg via helicopter." <http://bzfd.it/2tQdBkf>

**-- "Bannon Ally Leaves White House As McMaster Consolidates Power: Former Breitbart writer Tera Dahl has exited the National Security Council in a blow to Trump's nationalist wing,"** by BuzzFeed's John Hudson: "As rival factions inside the White House continue to battle over urgent foreign policy decisions, a key ally of Donald Trump's chief strategist Stephen Bannon is leaving the National Security Council, BuzzFeed News has learned.

**"Tera Dahl, deputy chief of staff at the NSC** and a former columnist for Breitbart, is being reassigned to a position outside of the White House, three people familiar with the decision told BuzzFeed News. The move frees up National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster to install another staffer of his choosing in his drive to reshape the NSC to his liking. 'Tera Dahl has done exemplary work both on the transition and in the first months of the Trump administration getting the National Security Council staffed up and running from the chief of staff's office,' White House spokesman Michael Anton said. 'It was always her intent to move into a policy role once this task was completed.'" <http://bzfd.it/2uuzCmz>

**POLITICO EUROPE 'MOST INFLUENTIAL' IN EUROPE -- POLITICO EUROPE** has the highest readership rate and is the most influential news outlet in Europe, according to a ComRes survey of EU influencers, including members of parliament, aides and "Brussels opinion formers." Our colleagues across the pond beat out the BBC, the Financial Times, the Economist, NYT and WSJ, among others. <http://politi.co/2tV6VSA>

**\*\*\*\*\* A message from Postmates:** Operating in over 200 cities across the United States - Postmates is an innovative, on-demand logistics platform, transforming the way goods move around towns by enabling anyone to have anything delivered to their door step within minutes, and driving over \$1B in goods and merchandise across its platform in 2017. <https://postmates.com> \*\*\*\*\*

**THIS COULD BE PROBLEMATIC -- THE LATEST ON HEALTH CARE -- "Senate Obamacare repeal vote unlikely next week,"** by Burgess Everett and Josh Dawsey: "Senate Republicans are highly unlikely to vote next week to repeal Obamacare and are tentatively preparing for a vote in approximately two weeks, according to senators and officials on Capitol Hill and in the White House. The Congressional Budget Office is reviewing legislative language sent by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell; the Senate parliamentarian must weigh in on controversial proposals; and GOP leaders still have not forged a bill that can get 50 votes. Those factors are likely to push the pivotal roll call closer to the end of July than immediately after the July 4 recess. 'There's a lot of moving pieces. My sense is the week of the 17th is when we start moving on it,' Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) said in an interview Thursday morning. ...

**"A White House official said** there would be no health care vote next week and that the White House and Senate Republicans would consider nominations on the floor until the health care vote is ready. Republican leaders in the House and Senate originally hoped for a repeal vote as early as January. A spokesman for McConnell said no final decision has been made. ... Work is also beginning on lifting the debt limit, according to the administration and Hill Republicans. That vote may be held immediately before the long August recess if health care has been dealt with by the end of the month, though it could slip to September if the Treasury Department offers reassurances to Hill leaders that such a timeline would work." <http://politi.co/2sQbWXH>

-- **"Hoeven hears criticism of Senate health care overhaul,"** by Forum News Service's Andrew Haffner: "The national health care debate came home Wednesday afternoon at a roundtable with Sen. John Hoeven (R-N.D.), at Altru Hospital in Grand Forks. ... Hoeven himself said he "doesn't support the bill as it stands," but said the Senate is moving through a process that he believed would better meet its goal of improving access to health care and addressing premium rates." <http://bit.ly/2tViLMx>

-- **DAVE WEIGEL (@daveweigel)** at Sen. Jerry Moran's (R-Kan.) town hall: "Moran referring to GOP task; 'Repair, replace, whatever language people are using.' Doesn't say 'repeal.'"

**OOPS -- "Watch Poland's First Lady Pass By President Trump's First Attempt at a Handshake,"** by TIME's Alana Abramson <http://ti.me/2tVAUK2>

**POLITICO PRO BREAKING NEWS ALERT:** "Eighteen states and the District of Columbia have filed suit against Education Secretary Betsy DeVos over her delay of regulations meant to provide new protections for federal student loan borrowers, particularly those at for-profit colleges.

**"The lawsuit, led by Massachusetts** and joined by 18 other Democratic attorneys general, accuses DeVos of illegally delaying the regulations, which were finalized by the Obama administration and had been set to take effect on July 1. The rules made it easier for defrauded student loan borrowers to have their loans forgiven. They also prohibited colleges from requiring students to resolve complaints through arbitration

rather than in court."

**WSJ MIDDAY SCOOP -- "White House Limits Pentagon on Afghan Troop Level:**

After Trump let generals decide number of forces, confidential memo put initial cap at 3,900," by Dion Nissenbaum: "The memo, sent to a small group of administration officials from national security adviser Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster -- said that the president would let Defense Secretary Jim Mattis send no more than 3,900 troops to Afghanistan without coming back to confer with the White House, according to people familiar with the document. The conflicting messages reflect divisions that have surfaced in the Trump administration as it tries to develop a comprehensive new strategy for Afghanistan, amid concerns about diving back into a 16-year-old conflict that has claimed more than 2,400 American lives and cost the U.S. \$2.4 trillion. Mr. Mattis said he hopes to present a plan to the White House by mid-July that will give the U.S.-led coalition the forces it needs to blunt Taliban momentum." <http://on.wsj.com/2uuuUF6>

**BEING THERE -- "At least 101 shot, 15 killed during violent Fourth of July**

**weekend in Chicago,"** by CBS' Adrianna Diaz in Chicago: "To see the violence for ourselves, CBS News spent Tuesday night with Tim White, a former gang leader who now works to stop violence in the streets. 'We're on our way to a murder scene,' White said. 'We gotta turn those lights on.' We rushed to the site of the murder, a liquor store on Chicago's West Side. As police sealed off the crime scene, it was too much for some to bear. We learned that just after midnight, two people were shot in one of the alleys. You could see a body on the sidewalk that police covered with a blanket. The body laid there for hours as police continued their investigation." <http://cbsn.ws/2tkJwsp>

**AFTERNOON READ -- NEW NYT MAG COVER STORY -- "How the Death of a Muslim Recruit Revealed a Culture of Brutality in the Marines:**

Recruits at Parris Island have been subjected to severe hazing, far beyond that experienced in other U.S. military boot camps. Is this really the only way to create a warrior?" by Janet Reitman <http://nyti.ms/2utT56w> ... *The cover* <http://bit.ly/2utEmsh>

**WSJ A-HED -- FUN LUNCHTIME READ -- "In TV Ratings Game, Networks Try to**

**Disguise Bad News from Nielsen:** They misspell shows to fool the firm's automated system into ignoring broadcasts on nights with few viewers; 'NBC Nitely News,'" by Joe Flint: " Boosting TV ratings is easy for networks that don't mind playing dumb. In a game largely sanctioned by TV-ratings firm Nielsen, television networks try to hide their shows' poor performances on any given night by forgetting how to spell. That explains the appearance of 'NBC Nitely News,' which apparently aired on the Friday of Memorial Day weekend this year, when a lot of people were away from their TVs. The retitling of 'NBC Nightly News' fooled Nielsen's automated system, which listed 'Nitely' as a separate show.

**"Hiding the May 26 program from Nielsen dramatically improved** the show's average viewership that week. Instead of falling further behind first-place rival 'ABC World News Tonight,' NBC news narrowed the gap. Walt Disney Co.'s ABC declined to comment. The network, though, groused last month when NBC News intentionally

misspelled an entire week of 'Nightly News' broadcasts. Altogether, NBC, which is ranked second behind ABC in ratings, has played the misspell card 14 times since the start of the 2016-17 television season last fall." <http://on.wsj.com/2stLmE8>

**REMEMBER HARRY? -- "Rosen officially announces Senate bid, says Reid encouraged her to run,"** by The Nevada Independent's Megan Messerly: "Democratic Rep. Jacky Rosen announced today she is officially running for U.S. Senate, culminating weeks of deliberations that - once again - began with a phone call from Nevada's political godfather Harry Reid. The freshman congresswoman told The Nevada Independent Wednesday evening that she will not seek re-election to her seat in Nevada's 3rd Congressional District but will instead pursue a bid against Republican Sen. Dean Heller ...

**"Rosen, 59, said that Reid reached out** to her at the end of May and asked her to consider running for Senate. The longtime Democratic senator also encouraged Rosen, a former software programmer and synagogue president, to run for Congress in 2016. 'He told me to think about it and that's what I did when I came home to talk to my husband,' Rosen said." <http://bit.ly/2uu71a6>

**TRANSITIONS -- Lauren Zelt**, a senior vice president at FP1 Strategies, is signing on as a campaign manager for Independent Women's Voice. (h/t Morning Score) ... **Annabelle Timsit** started today as an editorial fellow at The Atlantic. She's a Politico Magazine alum and former research assistant at the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security. ... **Darrin Sobin** has been named the new chief programs officer of the D.C. Bar, starting on July 24. He was previously Washington D.C.'s first director of government ethics.

**SPOTTED --** Vice President Mike Pence at last night's showing of "The Sound of Music" at the Kennedy Center.

\*\*\*\*\* **A message from Postmates:** With its fleet of Postmates earning taxable incomes, the capital generated through the mobile application is being reinvested in the economy to do everything from pay down debt, to start a small business, or even enroll in college classes. As On Demand platforms shape the future of work, Postmates applauds legislation aimed at experimenting with portable benefits models, and calls for new federal and local skill-based investments to account for the impact of automation on the workforce. <https://postmates.com> \*\*\*\*\*

**SUBSCRIBE** to the Playbook family: **POLITICO Playbook** <http://politi.co/1M75UbX> ... **New York Playbook** <http://politi.co/1ON8bqW> ... **Florida Playbook** <http://politi.co/1OypFe9> ... **New Jersey Playbook** <http://politi.co/1HLKItF> ... **Massachusetts Playbook** <http://politi.co/1Nhtq5v> ... **Illinois Playbook** <http://politi.co/1N7u5sb> ... **California Playbook** <http://politi.co/2bLvcPI> ... **Brussels Playbook** <http://politi.co/1FZeLcw> ... **All our political and policy tipsheets** <http://politi.co/1M75UbX>  
[View online](#)

**To change your alert settings, please go to <https://secure.politico.com/settings/settings>**

---

This email was sent to jackson.ryan@epa.gov by: POLITICO, LLC 1000 Wilson Blvd.  
Arlington, VA, 22209, USA

Please click [here](#) and follow the steps to unsubscribe.

---