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From: Anna Palmer Jake Sherman Daniel Lippman
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Subject: Playbook Power Briefing, presented by Postmates: TRUMP meets PUTIN -- What the Hill thinks of CRUZ and MIKE LEE -- Job growth speeds up in June

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Today's Playbook Power Briefing presented by Postmates

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BEHIND THE SCENES -- WHAT MANY THINK OF TED CRUZ AND MIKE LEE -- In Playbook this morning we talked about Ted Cruz's Obamacare plan, which is to allow insurers to sell non-Obamacare compliant plans (the details: <http://politi.co/2sNfAX0>). Top Senate Republican sources are truly pessimistic about this working. They tell us they believe this bill would practically end pre-existing condition coverage -- which would make the measure a nonstarter for many in the conference. But they're letting this play out, so conservatives can't say they were screwed in the process.

NYT's JENNIFER STEINHAUER (NOTE: THIS IS REALLY FUN) -- SENATORS' HOBBIES -- "Beekeeper, Baker, Photographer ... Senator?" "PATRICK J. TOOMEY, REPUBLICAN OF PENNSYLVANIA Beekeeper ... JONI ERNST, REPUBLICAN OF IOWA Ruck Marching ... SUSAN COLLINS, REPUBLICAN OF MAINE Perfecting the Blueberry Muffin ... ANGUS KING, INDEPENDENT OF MAINE Amateur Photographer ... HEIDI HEITKAMP, DEMOCRAT OF NORTH DAKOTA Certified Pilates Instructor ... CHRIS COONS, DEMOCRAT OF DELAWARE Performing Wedding Ceremonies ... DEBBIE STABENOW, DEMOCRAT OF MICHIGAN Pianist" <http://nyti.ms/2tUJHvd>

Good Friday afternoon. THE NEWS OUT OF THE PUTIN-TRUMP BILAT -- "HAMBURG, Germany (AP) - AP sources: US, Russia prepared to announce cease-fire in southwest Syria starting Sunday."

SPEAKING OF THE MEETING ... It lasted for more than two hours. **PUTIN** and **TRUMP** briefly addressed reporters before their meeting today at the G20. Trump's comments, per pooler Abby Phillip of WaPo: "President Putin and I have been discussing various things and I think it's going very well. ... We look forward to a lot of very positive things happening for Russia, and for the United States and for everybody concerned. And it's an honor to be with you." Putin also spoke through a translator: "We spoke over the phone with you several times on a very important bilateral ... But phone conversations are never enough definitely. ... I'm delighted to be able to meet you personally Mr. President. And I hope, as you have said, our meeting will yield positive result."

The pair shook hands and President Trump ignored questions from reporters on if he would address Russia's meddling in the election during the bilateral meeting. More details, from Abby: "As the pool left the room, Trump leaned in and said something to Putin, who chuckled."

MORE FROM THE G20 SUMMIT -- "Trump says Mexico should 'absolutely' pay for border wall," by Jake Lahut: "Mexico should 'absolutely' pay for the border wall between the United States and its southern neighbor, President Donald Trump said Friday during his meeting with his Mexican counterpart, Enrique Peña Nieto. On the sidelines of the G-20 summit in Hamburg, Germany, an Associated Press reporter asked Trump, "Do you still want Mexico to pay for the wall?"

"The president responded, 'absolutely,' according to a pool report. Trump praised Nieto as his 'friend,' despite the Mexican president canceling what was supposed to be one of the administration's first White House guest visits. ... Through a translator, Nieto said he hopes Mexico and the United States will have a 'flowing dialogue.'"

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

-- "Trump: 'Everyone' at G-20 talking about Podesta not giving server to authorities," by Louis Nelson: "At this week's G-20 summit in Germany, one subject the world's most powerful leaders are discussing is why Democrat Hillary Clinton's campaign chairman did not cooperate with U.S. intelligence and law enforcement officials as they investigated cyberattacks against the [DNC], President Donald Trump wrote on Twitter Friday morning. 'Everyone here is talking about why John Podesta refused to give the DNC server to the FBI and the CIA. Disgraceful!' Trump wrote on Twitter Friday morning. He did not explain why Podesta, who did not work for the DNC, would have been responsible for its email server."

PODESTA, who wrote on Twitter, that he was on a cross-country road trip with his wife, responded to Trump later Friday morning in a series of posts to his own account.

-- "Pulled in for a pit stop in E. Fairmont W. Va. to see that our whack job POTUS @realDonaldTrump is tweeting about me at the G20....Get a grip man, the Russians committed a crime when they stole my emails to help get you elected President.... Maybe you might try to find a way to mention that to President Putin ... BTW, I had nothing to do with the DNC. ... God only knows what you'll be raving about on twitter by the time we get to Utah. ... Dude, get your head in the game. You're representing the US at the G20." <http://politi.co/2tULCQI>

***** **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> *****

JOBS BUMP -- "Job growth sped up in June," by Marianne LeVine and Timothy

Noah: "Job growth rebounded in June, giving a boost to President Donald Trump and momentarily soothing worries that the economy might be slowing down. The economy added 222,000 jobs in June, the Labor Department reported Friday, up from 152,000 in May, an upward revision from the previous estimate of 138,000.

"Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta hailed 'this month's robust job creation' in a written statement and noted there was 'moderate wage growth,' striking a more cautious note on the economy than Trump has of late. Average hourly private-sector earnings, at \$26.25, were up 2.5 percent over the year. The strong job growth number comes as forecasters have been fretting about slowing GDP growth, a weakening dollar, and falling auto sales. Balanced against these have been strong performance by the stock market and low gas prices. A slight uptick in the unemployment rate in June to 4.4 percent, up from May's 4.3 percent, was too small to be significant. Labor force participation, at 62.8 percent, was essentially unchanged and remains low by historic measures." <http://politi.co/2tTSxsY>

2020 ALREADY? -- "How not to primary Donald Trump," by McClatchy DC's Katie Glueck: "If there's a path for a Republican to challenge Donald Trump, it doesn't run through Iowa. Sen. Ben Sasse's foray this weekend into the first-in-the-nation caucus state has already sparked chatter about a potential 2020 GOP primary to unseat Trump. But Iowa's top operatives say there's no appetite, today, to see any Republican take on the president. ...

"That hasn't stopped Sasse, and his possible ambitions, from attracting attention in Iowa and nationwide, notably as Trump's disapproval rating hovers around 60 percent and a smattering of Republicans around the country speak openly of their hopes for a run from someone like the Nebraska senator. ... Yet despite Trump's myriad challenges and the angst his Twitter account causes in Washington, he remains so strong in conservative corners of Trump-friendly states, including Iowa, that party leaders, operatives and grassroots activists say there is no serious on-the-ground discussion of a 2020 challenge at this point." <http://bit.ly/2uS4n4c>

AFTERNOON READ -- JAMES FALLOWS' LATEST -- "How American Presidents Used to Speak Overseas," in The Atlantic: "Is America an idea? Or is it a specific "people" or ethnic group? On the diverging answers to that question turn some of the biggest disputes in U.S. history. Our current president began his trip to Europe with a speech in Poland that minimized the role of ideals in American identity, and maximized the importance of what he called 'civilization' but which boils down to ties of ethnicity and blood.

"From Donald Trump this cannot be a great surprise, given the support he has courted and the American groups he has derogated during his time on the public stage. But for a president of the United States it still counts as a notable, even shocking departure. A president's role when traveling has, until now, been to speak for the American idea. ... At least when speaking to the world, American presidents have emphasized an expanded 'us.' All men are created equal. Every man is a German. Ich

bin ein Berliner. Our realities in America have always been flawed, but our idea is in principle limitless. Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free. Trump gave grace-note nods to goals of liberty and free expression. Mainly, though, he spoke not about an expanded us but instead about us and them."
<http://theatin.tc/2tUCDOY>

TODAY'S BEYOND THE BELTWAY -- Kamala Harris generates national headlines -- Illinois has a budget <http://politi.co/2tUNBUH>

MEDIAWATCH -- "Fusion is planning to rebrand under a new name: Splinter," by Business Insider's Maxwell Tani: "The site formerly known as Fusion.net is rebranding as a site tentatively called Splinter. Four Gizmodo Media Group (GMG) sources familiar with the decision say Fusion is set to roll out a version of its new name some time in July, although it is unclear whether it will be named Splinter, or a similar acronym. ... A GMG source cautioned that the name "Splinter" could still be subject to change, since Univision hasn't seemed to secure the domain name Splinter.com yet."
<http://read.bi/2tUJc3X>

-- **TONIGHT ON WASHINGTON WEEK:** Bob Costa will talk foreign policy with NYT's Peter Baker, Reuters' Yeganeh Torbati, BuzzFeed News' Nancy Youssef and the Los Angeles Times' Doyle McManus.

-- **SUNDAY PREVIEW:** Chuck Todd will have an exclusive interview with former CIA Director John Brennan Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press."

SPOTTED: Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) on a tour at the Navel Acadmy in Annapolis today <http://bit.ly/2tUr0rh>

WELCOME TO THE WORLD -- Kristene Blake, director of administration for Speaker Ryan and **Nate Blake**, senior professional staff member for the House Rules Committee, email friends and family: "It is my pleasure to introduce you to the newest member of our family, Amelia Ann Blake. Amelia gets her name from her Great-Great Titi Emmy Estremera, and her Great-Great Grandmother Ann McCaffery. She checked in on [Wednesday] at 4:38 p.m. and is 20.5 inches long weighing 6lbs 14 oz. Amelia and Mom are doing great. Lawrence and Eloisa are excited to meet her and even made a short welcome video." **Pic** <http://bit.ly/2sOURIG> ... **13-second video**
<http://bit.ly/2tQL7Ha>

WEEKEND WEDDING - Alyssa Gendron, who works in finance at POLITICO, recently married **Erik Fields**, a town employee in Marblehead, Massachusetts. They met in middle school in their hometown of Swampscott, Massachusetts - although they didn't start dating until after college about 15 years later. They got married at Lake Shore Park in Gilford, New Hampshire. **Pic** <http://bit.ly/2uR511B>

***** **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> *****

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