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## **POLITICO Playbook: Hasset predicts double-digit unemployment in November**

By **JAKE SHERMAN** and **ANNA PALMER** | 05/24/2020 11:07 AM EDT

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Presented by 

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### **DRIVING THE DAY**

**THE NYT FRONT EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT: "U.S. DEATHS NEAR 100,000, AN INCALCULABLE LOSS" ... *The accompanying interactive***

**JOE BIDEN'S CAMPAIGN** has already cut a split-screen video of President **DONALD TRUMP** playing golf and various scenes from around the Covid-racked country. ***The 30-second video, which had 2 million views as of Sunday morning***

**THE PRESIDENT** about **BIDEN**, to **SHARYL ATTKISSON** on "**FULL MEASURE**": **TRUMP** on **JOE BIDEN'S** best attribute: "I would've said experience but he doesn't really have experience because I don't think he remembers what he did yesterday, so how is that experience?" ... *His weakest point: "He's not mentally sharp enough to be president."* ***The full interview***

-- **N.Y. DAILY NEWS: “Don plays golf as U.S. deaths from COVID near 100,000: WHAT A PUTTS!”**

**THE PRESIDENT** is at his country club in Virginia this morning.

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### **SUNDAY BEST ...**

-- **YOWZA! ... KEVIN HASSETT to DANA BASH on CNN’S “STATE OF THE UNION”: BASH:** “Do you think it's possible that unemployment will be in double digits in November?” **HASSETT:** “Yes, I do. But I think that all the signs of economic recovery are going to be raging everywhere. And the only thing we're going to really be debating, as economists, is, are we going to get back to where we were, or is it going to be kind of a long haul to get there?”

-- **MARGARET BRENNAN** spoke to National Security Adviser **ROBERT O’BRIEN:** **O’BRIEN:** “Well, the G-7 summit, if it happens in person and we think it will, will take place at the end of June. So we're- I think we're getting very close to the peak, if we're not at the peak already in Washington and if the situation permits it and we think it will, we'd love to have the G-7 in- in person. I think the G-7 leaders would love to meet in person and not do a video conference. So the president extended the invitation and so far we've had a great response. The logistics- we'll make sure everybody is tested. We'll make sure that it's a safe environment if the leaders can come here. But we'd love to host them in Washington.”

**BRENNAN:** “So end of June, no longer June 10th for the G-7?” **O’BRIEN:** “No, I think we'd be looking at the end of June at this point, just because the logistics of bringing in so many world leaders with their- their security details and- and planning for the event. So I think it would be later in June. But again, it's a chance for the leaders of the democracies of the- of the free enterprise countries to get together and decide how to get their economies reopened and how we can work together to make sure that we all come out of this COVID crisis and bring back health and peace and prosperity for our peoples.”

-- **MARTHA RADDATZ** spoke to **DR. DEBORAH BIRX** on **ABC'S "This Week"**:

**RADDATZ:** "And Dr. Birx, Dr. Fauci says it is inevitable that there will be a second wave of COVID-19, but President Trump says, we are not going to close the country if there is a second wave. Is that the right approach?"

**BIRX:** "I think we're trying to learn right now very carefully about how you reopen safely. You know, we act like we've actually done this before and besides 1918 and 1919, we've not ever closed parts of America, and even then, the whole country wasn't closed."

**"We're trying to understand during this period of coming out** of the closure, how do we maintain openness and safety? And I think that's what we're going to be learning through May, June and July."

**"And also, I want to be very clear to the American people** -- we're preparing for that potential fall issue, both in PPE, which is protective devices both in ventilators, stockpiles and ensuring that we're really pushing on therapeutics and vaccine developments so we can be ready if the virus does come back in a significant way."

**RADDATZ:** "But you don't see the country closing down again?" **BIRX:** "It's difficult to tell and I really am data-driven, so I'm collecting data right now about whether governors and whether states and whether communities are able to open safely."

-- **CHRIS WALLACE** also had **BIRX** on **"FOX NEWS SUNDAY"**: **WALLACE:** "Do you wish -- I understand it's a special case -- he's a -- everybody around him has been tested and obviously he is on television but both from a safety point of view and from a public messaging point of view, do you wish the president wore a mask in public?"

**BIRX:** "Well, the president did wear a mask while he was less than six feet in an occasion where that was important over -- I think when he was traveling last week. I think he -- I'm not with him every day and every moment so I don't know if he can maintain social distance. I've asked everybody independently to really make sure that you're wearing a mask if you can't maintain the six feet. I'm assuming that in a majority of cases he's able to maintain that six feet distance."

-- **AND WHAT HAPPENS TO THE TRADE DEAL? ... CHUCK TODD** had **O'BRIEN** on **NBC'S "MEET THE PRESS"**: **TODD:** "You know, over the last six months when these demonstrations began, the President was in negotiations on a big trade agreement with Xi and China. And during that time, he himself, never really got tough, never stood up in support of the demonstrators. Others in the administration did but he

was careful, and a lot of reporting said he didn't want to upset the trade deal. Did that turn out to be a mistake?

**O'BRIEN:** “No, I don't think it was a mistake. We want good relations with China and with the Chinese people, but unfortunately, we're seeing just action after action by the Chinese Communist Party that makes it difficult. And with respect to the trade deal, we'll see if they live up to it, but we're dealing in a new world now with corona. They unleashed a virus on the world that's destroyed trillions of dollars in American economic wealth that we're having to spend to keep our economy alive, to keep Americans afloat during this virus. So we're in a, we're in a very different world. The cover-up that they did of the virus is going to go down in history along with Chernobyl. We'll see an HBO special about 10 or 15 years from now, and so we're in a different place with China as we speak today, Chuck.”

**TV TONIGHT ... KASIE'S BDAY SHOW: MSNBC's "Kasie D.C.":** Rep. Cheri Bustos (D-Ill.)... Michigan's Democratic Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist ... Richard Carmona... David Jolly.

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**Good Sunday morning.**

**SNEAK PEEK .... THE PRESIDENT'S WEEK: Monday: THE PRESIDENT** and first lady will lay a wreath at Arlington and then go to Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine in Baltimore. **Tuesday: TRUMP** will participate in a ceremonial swearing in of **JOHN RATCLIFFE** as the director of national intelligence. He will also speak about “Senior Savings Model - Protecting Americans with Diabetes.” **Wednesday: THE PRESIDENT** is flying to Florida to visit the Kennedy Space Center. **Thursday: THE PRESIDENT** will attend a hurricane briefing.

**WHAT AMERICA IS READING: Birmingham (Ala.) News: “IS A CO-WORKER'S COVID-19 ANY OF YOUR BUSINESS” ... Arizona Republic: “We will win' against COVID-19: Hard-hit Navajo Nation confronts the coronavirus crisi” ... L.A. Times: “Little shared grief as deaths near 100,000” ...**

**... S. Fla. Sun Sentinel: “Coronavirus tax breaks off target” ... The State (Columbia, S.C.): “24 SC donors defect from Graham” ...**

**THE VOTE REPORT ... NYT: “Trump Sows Doubt on Voting. It Keeps Some People Up at Night,”** by Reid Epstein: “In October, President Trump declares a state of emergency in major cities in battleground states, like Milwaukee and Detroit, banning polling places from opening.

**“A week before the election, Attorney General William P. Barr** announces a criminal investigation into the Democratic presidential nominee, Joseph R. Biden Jr.

**“After Mr. Biden wins a narrow Electoral College victory,** Mr. Trump refuses to accept the results, won’t leave the White House and declines to allow the Biden transition team customary access to agencies before the Jan. 20 inauguration.

**“Far-fetched conspiracy theories? Not to a group of worst-case** scenario planners – mostly Democrats, but some anti-Trump Republicans as well – who have been gaming out various doomsday options for the 2020 presidential election. Outraged by Mr. Trump and fearful that he might try to disrupt the campaign before, during and after Election Day, they are engaged in a process that began in the realm of science fiction but has nudged closer to reality as Mr. Trump and his administration abandon longstanding political norms.”

**-- WAPO: “The pandemic has already altered how tens of millions of Americans can cast their ballots this year,”** by Elise Viebeck: “In a watershed moment for American voting, nearly 30 states have changed rules or practices for this year’s primaries or the general election in response to the public health threat posed by covid-19, according to a tally by The Washington Post. The new policies affect roughly 86.6 million registered voters – including more than 40 million people who now have the temporary right to cast an absentee ballot because of the virus.”

**THE PRESIDENT** at 10:08 a.m.: “The United States cannot have all Mail In Ballots. It will be the greatest Rigged Election in history. People grab them from mailboxes, print thousands of forgeries and “force” people to sign. Also, forge names. Some absentee OK, when necessary. Trying to use Covid for this Scam!”

**HOLLY OTTERBEIN** in Philadelphia: **“Key swing state warns of November election crisis”:** “Pennsylvania could determine the presidency. But it might not be clear for days who won the state on Nov. 3.

**“Election officials throughout the critical battleground**, which is implementing no-excuse mail-in voting for the first time ever amid a pandemic, say they are unlikely to finish counting those ballots the night of the general election. If the race is close enough — like it was in 2016, when Donald Trump carried the state by only 44,000 votes — that could mean the status of one of the nation’s biggest swing states could remain up in the air long past Election Day.

**“My nightmare is that on Election Day in November**, you're waiting for Montgomery County's results to declare Pennsylvania to declare who wins the White House,’ said Montgomery County Commissioner Ken Lawrence, a Democrat who chairs the Board of Elections there. “The reality is that all of our counties are going to be in that same situation, and it will take a while to actually count the ballots.”

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**THE STATE OF I.G.S: WAPO’S SEUNG MIN KIM: “Grassley’s challenge to self-appointed role as defender of inspectors general: Trump”:** “Grassley is facing the stiffest challenge of his nearly four-decade Senate career to his self-appointed role as a champion of inspectors general: a president from his own party who has made clear that he has no use for internal government watchdogs and no hesitation to get rid of those he considers disloyal.

**“Grassley says he resents Democrats questioning** his dedication to protecting these government officials. But so far amid Trump’s rapid-fire dismissals of the watchdogs, he has refrained from taking aggressive action beyond sending carefully worded letters that don’t appear to have had much, if any, impact on Trump’s attitude or actions toward inspectors general.

**“The 86-year-old Grassley is coming under criticism** that on protecting government watchdogs in the Trump era, he’s all bark and no bite. In a virtual roundtable in Wisconsin last week, former vice president Joe Biden, the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, argued that Republicans had abandoned their long-standing defense of inspectors general and singled out Grassley.

**“They were strongly, strongly, strongly supportive** of these independent inspector generals, starting with Chairman Grassley and others. Where are they? Why aren’t they speaking up about this? It really bothers me — bothers me a lot,’ Biden said.

**“Grassley’s response is that he is precisely the same man** Biden knew when both men served in the Senate. ‘Unfortunately, a lot of Democrats question my record on this issue, and you’ve been seeing here in the last couple of weeks,’ Grassley said in an interview with The Washington Post last week. ‘They do that when it’s politically convenient, and I quite honestly resent that.’”

**-- KYLE CHENEY: “Trump’s drive against watchdogs faces constitutional reckoning”:** “Interviews with a dozen constitutional experts, former inspectors general, lawmakers and aides suggest that, even absent the upcoming Supreme Court ruling, any efforts to block Trump from ousting inspectors general would be on unsettled constitutional terrain. And lawmakers’ ambitious efforts could force a reckoning over the entire system of internal watchdogs.

**“Trump’s aggressive push to diminish the independence** of inspectors general has alarmed Democrats and some Republicans who have long defended them as the last bulwark against administrative waste and misconduct. Previous presidents have bristled at internal watchdogs’ scrutiny but have rarely mounted such a broad-based, politically-driven campaign to chill their efforts.”

**GRENNEL SAYS AUF WIEDERSEHN: “U.S. ambassador to Germany reportedly stepping down,”** by Thibault Larger

**ELENA SCHNEIDER: “Black activists warn Biden: Don’t pick Klobuchar as VP”:** “[M]ore than a dozen black and Latino strategists and activists warned in interviews that selecting Klobuchar would not help Biden excite black voters -- and might have the opposite effect. Klobuchar would ‘risk losing the very base the Democrats need to win,’ said Aimee Allison, founder of She the People, which promotes women of color in politics. They pointed to her poor performance among non-white voters during the presidential primary, as well as her record as a prosecutor in Minnesota.”

**JAMES ARKIN: “Why Democrats think they can turn an Iowa Senate seat blue”:** “The party is placing a surprisingly large bet on the real estate executive to take on first-term GOP Sen. Joni Ernst in a bid to expand their path back to the Senate majority. If Greenfield wins the June 2 primary, she’ll face Ernst in a state that’s turned against Democrats since 2012, when Barack Obama carried it for the second time.

**“The closing weeks before the primary have brought a flurry of activity:** Democrats’ leading super PAC has already spent \$6 million on television ads to boost the previously unknown Greenfield’s positive image, and another super PAC is spending \$1 million attacking one of her opponents. The intervention has rankled the other Democratic candidates, who say the Washington establishment is trying to smother their chances.”

**THE PRESIDENT’S SUNDAY:** Nothing on the schedule.

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#### **PLAYBOOK READS**

**WAPO: “Federal judge hires high-powered D.C. attorney to defend his actions in Flynn case,”** by Carol Leonnig and Spencer Hsu: “The federal judge who refused a Justice Department request to immediately drop the prosecution of former Trump adviser Michael Flynn has hired a high-profile trial lawyer to argue his reasons for investigating whether dismissing the case is legally or ethically appropriate.

**“In a rare step that adds to this criminal case’s already unusual path,** U.S. District Judge Emmet G. Sullivan has retained Beth Wilkinson to represent him in defending his decision to a federal appeals court in Washington, according to a person familiar with the hire who spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter. The U.S. District Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit is now examining the judge’s actions and the larger case against Flynn after lawyers for President Trump’s former national security adviser asked the court to force Sullivan to toss Flynn’s guilty plea.

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**ZACH WARMBRODT: “Treasury, SBA fall short of employers' goals in new small business loan rules”:** “The Trump administration released long-awaited rules on how government-backed small business loans can be forgiven, but they fall far short of what employers and lawmakers are demanding for the popular program.

**“The Small Business Administration and Treasury Department** quietly published the rules late Friday after weeks of public outcry for further guidance on the so-called Paycheck Protection Program, which offers businesses low-interest loans that can be forgiven if borrowers maintain their payrolls amid the pandemic.

**“But the forgiveness requirements align with previous SBA and Treasury** guidelines and don't offer the kind of changes that a growing chorus of businesses are

seeking to make it easier for them to avoid being saddled with the debt.”

**REUTERS: “In Oklahoma pork-packing town, COVID stirs fear, faith and sorrow,”** by Andrew Hay and Andy Sullivan

**LONG READ ... BEN SCHRECKINGER and MONA ZHANG: “Lavish Parties, Greedy Pols and Panic Rooms: How the ‘Apple of Pot’ Collapsed”**

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**ENGAGED -- Fred Brown**, a VP at Dezenhall Resources and an RNC alum, and **Rebecca Schieber**, a campaign consultant at Targeted Victory and a Carly Fiorina alum, got engaged last weekend. He proposed by the water on Lake Anna in Virginia. **Pic**

**WELCOME TO THE WORLD -- David Gray**, senior manager for government relations at the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society, and **Lisa Allen**, who works in strategic comms at NASA, welcomed Juliet Marie Gray on Wednesday. She came in at 8 lbs and 20.5 inches. **Pic**

**BIRTHDAYS:** Rep. Steve Cohen (D-Tenn.) is 71 ... Rep. Doug Lamborn (R-Colo.) is 66 ... Kasie Hunt, NBC News Capitol Hill correspondent and host of MSNBC’s “Kasie DC” ... former Rep. Charlie Dent (R-Pa.), now a senior policy adviser at DLA Piper and CNN contributor, is 6-0 ... Giovanna Gray Lockhart is 4-0 ... DOE’s Dan Horning ... Rory Cooper, managing director at Purple Strategies ... Eric Schwerin ... Sara Olson ... Randall Whitestone, head of comms and public affairs at D.E. Shaw (h/t Dick Keil) ... NPR’s Tom Bowman ... Mark Bescher, U.S. government affairs lead at Mondelēz International ... Chelsea Koski, EVP at Signal Group ... Emily Holman ... Craig Singleton, director of intelligence for Heyrick Research, who’s celebrating in Lake Lure, N.C. (h/t wife Lindsay) ...

... **Ben Milakofsky**, COS at the National September 11 Memorial & Museum, is 36 ... Damon Wilson, EVP of the Atlantic Council ... Jane Mosbacher Morris (h/ts Ben Chang) ... David Adelman ... Sarah Pavlus ... Goldman Sachs’ Sophie Mussafer (h/t Dina Powell McCormick) ... Uzbekistani PM Abdulla Aripov is 59 ... Bob Franken ... former Connecticut Gov. John Rowland is 63 ... Deborah Hart Strober ... Herbert Wachtell is 88 ... Meredith

Ritchie ... Madeleine O'Connor is 3-0 ... Edelman's Sarah Miller ... Jason Wallace ... Henock Dory ... Fred DuVal ... Bloomberg's Alisa Parenti ... Tom Maher ... Rana Abtar ... Natasha Lawrence ... Debby Goldberg, director of development and alumni relations for the Schwarzman Scholars program ... Daniel Zingale ... Kevin Tierney (h/ts Teresa Vilmain)

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