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The Daily 202: The GOP's invisible agenda

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THE HONEYMOON IS OVER:

--Trump's window to score early legislative victories is sinking as Congress's summer recess nears -- giving the president just two months to revive his health-care and tax efforts before lawmakers depart Capitol Hill for a long break. Damian Paletta and Mike DeBonis report: "White House officials said Tuesday that Trump has become increasingly incensed that legislation is bogging down in the Senate, something they blame on Democrats. Trump wrote on Twitter that the Senate should change its long-standing rules and 'switch to 51' votes to pass health-care changes and to vote on a tax bill instead of working to get 60 votes to end a potential filibuster. But the Senate is already trying to pass health-care and tax changes with just 51 votes, something it is unable to do because of splits within the GOP. Congress also faces an increasing number of legislative distractions that could further imperil Trump's agenda. There is a big divide among Republicans over whether they can vote to pass a budget resolution in the coming months ...

Each of these efforts has stalled either in the White House or the [GOP-led] Congress, but Trump has pinned much of the blame on Senate Democrats. But critics from both parties have said the lack of progress is a reflection in part of Trump's inability to marshal votes or persuade lawmakers to follow his lead. Trump 'is the least policy-aware, policy-knowledgeable, policy-driven president that I can remember, maybe that we've ever had,' said David Boaz, executive vice president of the Cato Institute, a libertarian think tank. "Most of the Republicans do have some kind of coherent framework through which they see things."